

A PAGE OF BRITISH NEWS FOR THE READERS OF THE DAILY BRITISH WHIG

Taller Than The Pony



Not many girls can say they are taller than their pony. This tiny Shetland was exhibited at the West County Agricultural Society's show at Margate, England, held recently.

PARISH CLERKS WILL FOLLOW OUT OLD CUSTOMS

Play Grace on Portable Organ Used to Lead Church Singing

FOUNDED IN 1233

Membership Confined to Nineteen Parishes in and Around London

In a fine old oak-panelled hall, cunningly concealed from inquisitive eyes in a maze of city offices and warehouses, a goodly company of parish clerks will dine together this week.

Before them will be roodly English fare—fish, Southdown saddle of mutton, poultry and pastries.

They will drink to "Our Departed Friends" in their three centuries old hall, and an old-time grace will be played before and after dinner on an organ of 1757 of the kind parish clerks used when they led the singing in church.

A parish clerk who is an organist will play the grace, and the other parish clerks will intone it, standing round the long, curiously-shaped wooden dining board.

RITUAL OF FEAST. Waiters will place the dishes on the table uncarved, tradition demanding that the carving must be done and the wine dispensed by certain of the company.

News of this dinner will still further puzzle the members of many people who have wondered at the meaning of the gold lettering, "Parish Clerks' Hall," on the door of a very narrow, fronted building in Silver street, just off Wood street, Chesham.

It is only when the Clerk of the Company, William James Mayhew, himself parish clerk for over 30 years at St. Bartholomew-the-Less, E.C., is there for an hour or so in the morning to deal with correspondence, or when the members of the Court of the Company are meeting or the parish clerks dining that the curious are able to satisfy their curiosity.

These inquirers are told that the Parish Clerks' Company, if little known, is one of the oldest and most honorable of the city companies. It was incorporated in 1233, and a charter was granted in 1442 to the Chief or Parish Clerks of the City of London.

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Woman's Memorial to All Animals in Their New Resting Place

The dead domestic pets of London are no longer laid to rest in the dog's cemetery in Hyde Park.

The new pet's cemetery is at Moleworth in the Hamlets of London, where the faithful Fidos and fond pussies sleep undisturbed by the roar and rumble of the omnibuses in Bayswater-road.

Six hundred tombstones have been already set up there in memory of devoted animals. One of the dogs is laid to rest in a marble mausoleum. It died in Italy, was embalmed, placed in a leaden coffin and brought to England for burial.

There is a mystery cross to the memory of all animals in the pet's cemetery. It was erected by a woman whose identity has never been disclosed.

American tourists and Colonial visitors are among the principal visitors to the dog's cemetery in Hyde Park.

The first tomb which the visitor sees as he passes through the gate is inscribed, "My Ruby Heart. For seven years we were such friends."

There is a monument to "Snow and Smut," two faithful black cats, one of which lived to the ripe old age of fifteen years.

TWICKENHAM IS NOW A BOROUGH

Great Celebration at Granting of Charter of Incorporation

Twickenham made merry when it received its Charter of Incorporation from the Home Office.

Marxism is the bane of the bells of William of Wykeham's Tower pealed forth, and fanfares of trumpets sounded as the first Mayor of Twickenham, Dr. J. B. Leeson, in scarlet robes and cocked hat passed with the precious charter through the town hall.

The blessing of a great assembly of people in the grounds of York House, which is to be the new borough's town hall. Among those present were Sir J. B. Leeson, who is a resident of the borough, and Sir W. Johnson-Hicks, who later, at the luncheon, proposed "Success to the Borough of Twickenham."

Sir W. Johnson-Hicks was besieged by women desirous of his signature to the souvenir programme and humbly observed: "I wish I dared sign my shorter name (J.H.)."

BOYS PULLED UP ROUNDHEAD SWORD

While playing near the walls of Pembroke Castle, schoolboys observed a handle protruding from the ground.

It tempted them to pull, and they brought out a Cromwellian sword, nearly a yard long.

The edges of the blade were still sharp, but the wooden part of the hilt had decayed, exposing an iron grip. The guard was of "basket" iron work.

A sword is believed to have been wielded by a Roundhead in an attack on the castle.

LINEAGE SEARCH TOLD VISITOR TOO MUCH OF HISTORY

Describing the history of the Borough of Holborn, at the annual meeting of the National Federation of Merchant Tailors in the Holborn Town Hall the Mayor said the archives were very complete.

An American, whose ancestors had formerly lived in the borough, wishing to trace his lineage, applied to the Town Hall.

"We found the name and residence exactly to the date he mentioned," said the Mayor, but against it was the entry "Absconded without paying the rates."

ENGINE IS STARTED BY SOUND OF VOICE

Radio Microphone Works Miracles With the Morse Key

MAJOR'S INVENTION

Proves That Shouting Would Ring Servants' Bell Automatically

Armed with a cabinet, from which protruded two metal branches like the antennae of a huge insect, a man has performed what seemed like miracles at the Model Engineers' Exhibition at Westminster.

He tapped out signals on a Morse key and, some distance away, two model trains began a race around a track.

Another signal and one train stopped. Further tape, and the tiny locomotives reversed, stopped and started at the will of the operator.

Major Raymond Phillips, a well-known wireless expert, was demonstrating the possibilities of wireless control. Above his miniature station were two more branching "antennae," and these, acting as an aerial, picked up the energy radiated by this spark transmitter and actuated the mechanism of the train through a relay system.

RINGING THE BELL. Equally wonderful was a demonstration of how the human voice can be used to operate electrical appliances.

Connecting up his train system to a speech apparatus he has evolved, Major Phillips gave a brisk command and the engines started once more on their journey.

These were then controlled by the voice. Major Phillips believes that upon these lines can be perfected apparatus which will be of great practical value.

"In a factory," he said, "a shout transmitted by the microphone would set the machinery automatically in motion. In a case of accident, the microphone might be used in reaching for the ordinary control lever or a push button. A shout of alarm, spontaneous and instant, would bring the machinery to a standstill in a moment."

Although shouting for the attendance of a servant may not seem dignified, the microphone showed how the microphone could be made to ring bells at a distance. With his spark transmitter he also played a wireless carillon.

LONDON KIDDIES SHOW CLEVERNESS

Touches of Genius in Arts and Crafts Exhibition

Are London children clever? At a three-days' exhibition of work by scholars in elementary schools, opened at the London Day Training College, Southampton-row, supplies the answer.

Here were shown hundreds of examples of work in arts and crafts that give evidence of both originality and skill. Weaving, lace-making, such as the painting by a very small boy—the work of a day—showing an L.C.C. tramcar coming round a bend. The child's eye for detail and imagination should take him far.

There were youthful demonstrators showing their prowess in pottery making, weaving, lace-making, toy manufacture and printing. Some of the things made by the boys and girls of the London schools include:

Furniture worthy of any home. A pair of wonderful raffia shoes for mother, made by two youngsters of 5-3 and 6-1-2.

A miniature grandfather clock. Pen and ink sketches and paintings. "FEEL AS GOOD AS ANYTHING"

The children as a whole love this practical work, which is what most of their school life. This is what some of them have to say.

Hefty Kolby, aged 11.—"Handwork is good for you because it makes your muscles grow."

Rosa Maclet, aged 12.—"I feel as good as anything when I am doing handicraft."

Sir George Hume, chairman of the L.C.C., opened the exhibition which is the first in connection with the London Schools' Guild of Arts and Crafts.

There was one room of exhibits in which child visitors showed a keenness in criticism something out of the ordinary. In that room was displayed the efforts of their teachers!

CHRISTMAS CHEER WAS TOO LIBERAL

Greenwich Guardians Are Surcharged for Extra Relief Given

Greenwich Board of Guardians has received written notice from the district auditor of a surcharge of £1,271 in respect of extra relief given to outdoor poor last Christmas week.

Payment is demanded within seven days, but some members declare their intention of going to prison rather than pay. An appeal is to be lodged.

The extra amount given was £s. for each adult and 2s. for each child. The auditor's view is that these amounts should have been 2s. 6d. for each adult and 1s. for each child.

FARMER FARMER'S FORTUNE WILL AID MIDDLE CLASS

Leaves £400,000 to Help Those Broken Down in Health

SHREWD INVESTOR

Bought Farm Holdings During Big Slump in Agriculture

The bulk of his fortune of £400,000 has been left for the benefit of indigent members of the upper middle or professional classes under the will of the late Samuel William Farmer, of The Manor House, Little Bedwyn, Wilts.

After various bequests to relatives, servants and an employee, he left instructions for the residue of his estate to be applied as to both capital and income for the benefit of persons of either sex, particularly of the upper-middle or professional classes, who, through ill-health or by reason of advancing years are incapable of earning their own livelihood, or for such educational purposes, or for the benefit of such hospitals, nursing or convalescent homes, or other similar charitable objects as my trustee may think fit.

Mr. Farmer followed the occupation of a farmer, but was interested in the medical profession. A disability, however, made it imperative for him to follow an open-air occupation, and he therefore joined his father, who farmed about 1,500 acres at Market Lavon, on the Wiltshire Downs.

FARMS 25,000 ACRES. Within a year his father died, and although only 20, and inexperienced, he decided to carry on the farm. Following the depression in agriculture in the closing years of the 70's and 80's, when many farms became derelict, he and his partners increased their holdings until they were farming about 25,000 acres. He was one of the first to realize the possibilities of milk production.

"It was not from farming that he made most of his money," said an old friend to a press representative. "By far the greater part of his wealth came from investments in the stock market."

He invested largely in American railways and bought shrewdly during the great slump in American securities in 1918.

RICH YOUNG MAN. "He valued money, not as a means of gratifying his personal tastes—he always lived in a curiously simple, unostentatious manner—but as a means of gaining influence and doing good."

"As he had no children, it became a source of anxiety to him how he ought to dispose of his large property. He held strong views on the harm done to a young man who inherits money and is not earning any by his own efforts, and his instinct was to help those who could not help themselves. During the war no one knows how much he actually gave to the sick and wounded."

Mr. Farmer was a generous contributor to the Agricultural Benevolent Institution, the Saverlake Hospital, the Royal United Kingdom Beneficial Association, the Dauntsey School. He had been an alderman of the Wiltshire County Council since its establishment in 1888.

ILL-FITTING BOOTS PREVENT TALKING

Doctor Over Sixty Covered 44 Miles in One Day

Forty-four miles in one day over rough roads at the age of 64 is the holiday walking record of Dr. Sir John Robertson, medical officer of health for Birmingham, while in Switzerland.

The majority of people are debarred, he says, from walking the greatest of all exercises through ill-fitting boots. He urges that boot salesmen should be so educated that they will see that customers are properly fitted.

He hopes to arrange demonstrations by people who know the anatomy of the foot and have a knowledge of the footgear worn by the working classes, to ensure that the people in most need of the best foot comfort shall have an opportunity of obtaining it.

£500,000 CONTRACT FOR BRITISH GOODS

London Engineers Head Rivals From America and Germany

The announcement that a £500,000 contract had been secured by Messrs. Braithwaite and Co., the Westminster engineers, was made by Mr. N. L. Anderson, the firm's representative overseas, on landing at Southampton from Buenos Ayres.

The order, he said, was for the supply of 10,000 tons of pipes for a water supply project at Rio Clara, Brazil, for the benefit of the city of Sao Paulo. The contract was obtained in face of keen competition from American and German firms.

All material is to be of British make, and the contract has to be completed in 18 months.

SKINFUL OF ROMAN COINS IN SANDPIT

Four hundred Roman coins were unearthed by chance by a man digging in a sand-pit 200 yards from the beach at Knot, East, Lancashire.

On moving a large boulder the man found the skin of an animal which fell to pieces when touched by the spade, revealing the heap of coins.

Golfers and passers-by helped themselves to the coins.

The spot where the coins were discovered is in a direct line with an artificial alcove, the origin and purpose of which has puzzled archaeologists.

DID BROTHER KEEP DEAD SISTER VIGIL?

Doctor Declares Woman Had Passed Away Three Months Ago

At an inquest at Norwich on Miss Jeanie Poygen, aged 61, daughter of the late Rev. James Poygen, who was stated by her brother to have died on the previous Sunday morning, the police surgeon gave it as his opinion that she had been dead for three months.

The brother said he had lived at the same address as his sister for 15 years. (Until May last year she was a healthy woman, but during the last six months she had been gradually getting weaker. She would not have medical attention. For some time she had slept downstairs, and he had looked after and bought her various things from the chemist.)

On Saturday she was extremely weak, and he sat up with her, and she died early on Sunday morning, and he buried her in the churchyard. The surgeon said the body was scantily clothed and very dirty.

The inquest was adjourned.

WHEN "DEAF AND DUMB" MAN SPOKE

Off-Convicted Man Forgot His Role When Police Arrested Him

After an absence of eight years, Thomas John Webb, returned to his home at Princeps street, Pembroke, apparently deaf and dumb through war injuries.

He spoke in Pembroke Dock Police Court, however, when he was charged under the Prevention of Crimes Act, 1913, with having written and sent a letter to a woman, pretending to be deaf and dumb, and in reply to written questions, wrote, "I have been blown up in air raid in London, and I have never been in England since. He also intimated that he had been blown up in France."

When arrested and charged he said, "I have nothing to say." The police had been in the hands of the police practically all the time, and had over 14 previous convictions. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

CHARWOMAN KNOWS HOW TO USE LEGACY

Takes First Real Holiday Then Provides for Old Age

Over £11,250 is to be divided between the former servant of Miss Park, W., who died last June, aged 82, leaving a fortune of £112,416.

Miss Clouston was the last survivor of the four daughters of the late Mr. Peter Clouston, a former Provost of Glasgow, and a friend of King Edward VII.

Legacies to servants range from £5,000 to "my faithful maid, Marie Christine Windfehr (with all her wearing apparel except furs), and £500 to Mrs. R. Dyett, the charwoman employed by me for a considerable time."

Mrs. Dyett told a press representative yesterday that she was using £50 of her legacy for a holiday at Southsea—"the first I shall have in my life," she added.

Fifty pounds I shall put in the bank to be ready for use in case of need, and with the other £200 I shall buy National Saving Certificates. I shall keep these for ten years, because I shall have more need of the money than now."

COAL STRIKE HOLDS UP BIG CONTRACT

LONDON, England.—A \$400,000 contract to supply 10,000 tons of iron pipes for the Cairo main drainage system has been secured, against keen continental competition, by the Staveley Coal and Iron Company, Limited, Chesterfield. The work cannot be started until a settlement of the coal stoppage enables the company to re-open its blast-furnaces.

"We have several large orders waiting for execution," said an official of the company yesterday, "but we must have a regular supply of coal before we can carry out our contracts."

HUGE TRUST FOR BIG LONDON STORE

Head of Selfridge Provides for Firm's Continuance After Death

"I regard my business as a great public trust. I want to leave all my affairs in order when I die, so that the business can go straight on. That is why I am forming a £2,000,000 trust to take over the share capital of the firm of Selfridge's."

This statement was made by Mr. Selfridge, founder of the great department stores, the shares in whose new trust were recently made available for subscription.

MAKING SURE. "I have been feeling for some time the necessity of making some such disposition," said Mr. Selfridge. "I want to know that whatever happens to me, the business which I have founded, and into which I have put so much of myself, will go on. I should like Selfridge's, naturally, to remain in the family, but I do not want to feel that if one of my descendants is weak and incapable of administration this great firm will go down with me. The trust provides against that."

In a letter to customers Mr. Selfridge writes: "My own fortune, of course, remains in these shares, and I have no possible thought of changing it or of ever retiring from active business."

JERSEY'S OLDEST CHURCH IN DANGER

Earthquake Shock Caused Cracks in Massive Walls

Brelade, Jersey's oldest church, is declared to be in imminent danger of falling in.

This is the result of the extension of cracks in the walls caused by a recent earthquake shock. The chapel, which stands in the churchyard of St. Brelade's Church, dates from the ninth or tenth century.

It is only 42 feet long and 18 wide, while the walls are nine feet high and three feet thick.

There are traces of ancient frescoes, the best preserved representing the Annunciation, thought to date from about 1300.

WILFUL OLD MAN BROKE LEG TWICE

A remarkable coincidence that led to a man's death was revealed at an inquest at Kendal on William Pearson, 62, of Kendal, Westmorland.

On September 13 last year, while gathering fruit in his orchard, Pearson was blown from a tree and broke his leg.

On the same date this year, while similarly engaged, a tree branch broke and he fell and fractured the same leg.

Returning a verdict of accidental death the coroner remarked that Pearson from all accounts was a wilful old man, who probably did things that nobody else would venture to do.

ANOTHER COAL CROP FOUND ON HIGHWAY

The discovery of a big crop of coal during excavations in connection with the construction of the new Birmingham to Wolverhampton road at Oldbury, Worcestershire, has provided a welcome supply for the inhabitants.

Miners and other unemployed workers are engaged in getting the fuel, which is being sold at prices varying from 2s. up to 3s. a cwt. Some hundreds of tons have already been sold.

NO SPECIAL PAY FOR AERIAL FLIGHTS NOW

Admiralty Fleet orders recently published state that all officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines may be ordered as necessary to make casual flights in aircraft in the course of their duties. No allowance or extra pay will be granted for such flights.

HUSBANDS FROM LONDON'S BEST NO PART IN CREED KNOWN CHARACTER OF "DEPENDENTS" IS ST. PAUL'S VERGER

People Who Mourn at Births and Rejoice at Funerals

NO GAMES GREAT MEMORY

Sect Founded 70 Years Ago Expresses Opinion That Day of Real Sermons Cobblers Oyer

Dressed in the fashion of 50 years ago, a young woman with a peach-like complexion, turquoise blue eyes, and nut-brown hair twisted round her head in innumerable small plaits, walked along a lane in the Sussex woad to attend a meeting at the Dependent Church.

She might have served as a model of a Dickens's heroine. She looked as if nature had designed her for love and laughter, with a dash of wistful tenderness and sentiment.

"I am not interested in theatres, picture houses, fashions, games, or men."

"When my day's work is done I devote my leisure to prayer and the service of others."

"I belong to the Dependents. We think it better that men and women should not marry. I am fond of children. But we think it better to incur the grave responsibility of bringing souls into the world."

"That is why we do not regard the birth of a child as an occasion for rejoicing."

"If we knew for certain that a baby would grow up in the love of God, we might think differently. But who knows the fate of the soul of a baby?"

With serious eyes the lovely young woman put this question with passion and sincerity. Then she bowed modestly, took the arm of another young woman, clothed like herself in a short, tight-fitting black jacket, long skirt, and black bonnet, and went on her way to church.

Lowwood is more than 10 miles from Horsham, the nearest town. But in this remote village were gathered together some 100 men and women from various parts of the county. They were here to take part in a special service that lasted three days.

This is possibly the most austere form of faith to be found outside of monasteries and convents.

A fine-looking Sussex farmer, with glowing red cheeks and nut-brown hair, the very man one would picture drinking from a pewter tankard in some old village inn, said that since he had become a Dependent he had experienced no desire for the pleasures of life.

"We put no bar on our members," he said. "They are not forbidden to play games, for instance. But none of us. We admit husbands and wives, but the unmarried who join us never wish to marry."

COBBLER FOUNDER. The Dependents were founded 70 years ago by John Sirwood, the village cobbler, who lies buried in the graveyard attached to the small brick and tile church. There are no headstones above the graves, but the resting place of the founder is marked with a small oak tree.

There are seven churches scattered throughout the country, but the head church is here, and the leader is Harry Aylward, who closed his village store recently for two days in order to devote himself to the long special service recently held.

I attended the section of the service which began at half-past two. Mr. Aylward, a large Bible in front of him, led in the singing of hymns with the congregation.

The Dependents believe music other than that of their own voices to be unseemly, and they sang hymns with great energy, but without any agreement as to the key.

POSTMASTER'S TRIBUTE. Lockwood is well accustomed to the austere men and women of their village who belong to this austere sect of the visiting Dependents.

"We have nothing but good to say of them," said the village postmaster. "They aren't always so mournful looking as you see them today. The chauffeur of the car which brought the writer from Morsham remarked: 'You should just see how they brighten up when there's a funeral. He had charge of a funeral party not long ago, and you would have thought it was a wedding, the way they laughed and sang.'"

BOY TAKES LONG WALK SEEKING JOB

Abnormal Appetite Was Only Sign of Week's Vain Pilgrimage

With boots badly worn, Herbert Strand, aged 14, has returned to his home in Gidson road, Battersea, S.W., after a week's absence.

With the idea of making his fortune at sea, Herbert tramped to Portsmouth, walking all through the night. Unsuccessful in his search for a berth, and with no money left, the boy soon found himself stranded, but he obtained money for food by peddling empty bottles left on the beach.

He then started for home. By day he tramped, and by night, as though he had neither coat nor mackintosh, he slept under the open sky. Only once was he able to obtain the shelter of a barn.

"But for his abnormal appetite," said Mrs. Strand yesterday, "he seems none the worse for his adventure."

FLANNELS UPSET COURT'S DIGNITY

When a defendant at Hove was called yesterday a young man entered the box attired in flannels, with a tennis shirt with a collar wide open.

The mayor asked why he came to the court in such a get-up. The defendant replied that he had forgotten that the summons was to be heard that day. The mayor said the case would be adjourned for an hour to allow the defendant an opportunity to come to the court dressed in a proper fashion.

Later defendant appeared attired in ordinary morning dress, and was fined a small amount for a motor car obstruction.

VICAR PUNISHES LITTER MAKERS

Picnickers Were Locked in Until They Cleared Up Rubbish

The Vicar of Ruislip, a picturesque spot between Uxbridge and Harrow, has taken emphatic action in an endeavor to stop the picnickers' "litter" nuisance.

He locked the gates of his grounds, shutting in five women who had entered without permission, and refused to let them out until they had cleared up a profusion of their crusts and other litter which they had left about after a picnic.

The women picked up the litter, but when the vicar opened the gates and let them out they calmly flung the rubbish on the road and walked away.

Picnic parties from London, the vicar complains, not only enter private grounds and pick flowers, but light fires in the fields and scatter litter broadcast wherever they have a meal in the open. When he points them to them that the litter is objectionable they reply with abuse.

BORN IN WORKHOUSE LIVES THERE STILL!

"Old Mary" Was First Baby in Dorking Poorhouse

"Old Mary," who was the first baby born in Dorking Workhouse when it was coming into being in 1841, has just celebrated her 85th birthday in the institution.

Except for a short period, she has been an inmate of the infirmary. Still active, with good eye-sight and hearing, Mary mothers the other inmates, and is an energetic helper in the infirmary.

"I have enjoyed all my 85 years," said Mary, "and have always been treated well. I look after some of the other inmates who do not possess of the health I am blessed with."

"When