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THE WOMAN'S VIEW.

Lawn Tennis.

Not so many years ago lawn tennis was regarded as an exclusive, rather aristocratic game. But few could play it unless they could belong to an expensive club, or had a garden big enough to contain a tennis lawn.

All that is changed. To-day most young folk who care to play the game, once dubbed the game of kings, can do so.

Coventry is particularly fortunate in the matter. It has a goodly number of courts belonging to the city, on which players may get a game for a few pence. There are several courts in the Memorial Park, there will be more in the near future; and a number of small parks and open spaces have tennis courts.

Many of the workshops, offices, and factories have private courts and clubs, so have churches, associations and societies for girls and youths.

Lawn tennis is a fine game. It provides exercise for the body and the brain; and trains the eye. It induces a spirit of comradeship, of standing by one's partner; and of courtesy.

Miss Helen Wills, the great American player, advises all players to consider and to practise their stroke, for, she says, no one can be a good player unless the stroke is correct. Miss Willis thinks that a young player may play every day if he or she wishes, providing the rule is made that the limit of games shall be two sets.

Two sets—no more. The strong young person, at the end of that time, will have a feeling that he would like to continue. Leaving the court while still keen and enthusiastic and untired, he will find his next day's playing even better.

One of the secrets of not going stale in tennis is moderation in daily play, says this American player; surely it is the secret of doing well in most games.

WASTE PAPERS.

When the daily papers are read, fold them smoothly, keep them clean, and save them. Look up all real magazines, periodicals, and books.

The Hospital Saturday Fund Committee, through its Waste Products Committee, are organising a collection of such things on behalf of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. When they are ready for collection, drop a post card to Mr. J. Perkins, 49, Hastings Road, and the Boy Scouts will collect the parcels.

PENSIONS

Yesterday morning I met an excited, happy woman. She confided to me the fact that she was sixty-five, and had that day received a paper about her old-age pension.

Special pensions under the Act have been paid already, but it does not really come into full force until January, 1928.

Under the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, pensions of ten shillings a week will be granted to insured persons, and to the wives of insured persons, when they attain the same age. The pensioner will be free to work if he or she desires to do so, and the fact that he or she may have an income from savings or any other source will not affect the pension.

It is estimated that 450,000 pensions of this class will be due for payment with the opening of the New Year.

Widows of insured persons will be paid ten shillings a week, and five shillings per week will be allowed for the eldest child and three shillings and sixpence for all other children.

Claim forms are being sent out to persons deemed eligible for pensions. The Ministry of Health anticipates that 20,000 of these claims will have to be scrutinised each week up to the end of the year.

The people specially benefiting under this Act are insured persons or the wives, widows, or orphans of insured persons. There are a vast number of people who do not come under the Act. Women's societies should look into this matter and see if they cannot help these other workers.

PRESS THE BUTTON.

At the annual lunch of the Electrical Association for Women (the chairman said the greatest possible benefit would be gained by the community by doing everything electrically. The drudgery in the home was proverbial, and electricity was the greatest labour-saver.

The house of the future would be full of electrical devices, to work which women would want some knowledge as to their use and application.

At the business meeting of the Association, presided over by Alderman Mrs. Hammer, the first woman Chairman of Hackney Electricity Committee, it was reported that at the request of the Headmistresses' Association a syllabus of simple electrical knowledge had been drawn up for introduction into domestic science centres, so that young people could gain a knowledge of electricity during their school life.

There are women who cannot even change an electric lamp, nor slip in an electric iron. It will be well for the women of the future if they can learn something about the use of electricity. For it is asserted that the all-electric house is coming.

A TURKISH ST. JOAN.

A rather remarkable lady, Halide Edib Hanon, is visiting our country. To this lady belongs the honour of being the first woman Cabinet Minister in the world. And yet she is a Turkish lady! We think of Turkey as having veiled women, almost slaves, victims of the harems. But the women of Turkey are becoming emancipated, educated, and enlightened. They have a woman in the Cabinet and she is visiting England.

EVE'S FINERY.

The other morning a mother was lecturing her daughter on the shortness of her skirts and the lowness of her bodice.

The girl laughed, and said:

Adam and Eve returned to earth
To view the creations of Mr. Worth;
Said Adam to Eve, "My dearest, dear,
Nothing has changed since we were here."

There certainly is one thing that has not changed through the ages, and that is the way that mothers object to young Eve's clothes.

We are told that this summer it is the various dress accessories that will really count. Frocks are to be plain; oh! yes, and short, but they are to be ornamented with belts, beads, bangles, flowers, embroidery of every description. Coloured beads are to be worn with the little summer frocks, and there is a rage for buttons.

Artificial flowers made of soft material, of kid, wool, chiffon, or velvet, are very popular. The thing to remember, said a dress expert to me, is that the flowers worn with a tailored or costume must look solid and stiff, but those for afternoon and evening frocks must be fluffy and feathery.

CREPELLA.

A favourite material for summer frocks is Crepella. It came over from Paris last year. It is warm enough for cool days and cool enough for hot days. It pleats well, drapes gracefully, and is most satisfactory in every way.

CHAPEAUX.

The newest millinery models seem to be of every size and shape, to be made of every kind of material. The small felt hats that have had such a long and triumphant reign are still with us. They are useful and comfortable, and easy to pack in a week-end case. But straw hats are coming in fashion, real hats with brims, not just inverted basins.

Some of the large crinoline straw hats with large brims are made to fit shingled heads and to show side curls, and these hats are very becoming.

In a large millinery establishment I saw hats having fashioned of many materials. In one room a girl was creating raffia hats. The shape was of plain material and flowers and fruits were worked on them with beautifully-coloured raffia. Another woman was crocheting hats in plain tricot stitch, and at another table very dainty looking hats were being fashioned of twisted paper. Girls are making such hats at home.

KITTY CLIVE.

All the players offered terms by Leicester City have now resigned, with the exception of Gibson. Brown's signature yesterday brought the total of players signed to 22.

COVENTRY EXTENSION.

County Council's Offer.

NO OBJECTION TO STONELEIGH ESTATE INCLUSION.

CLEAR CUT ISSUES WHICH REMAIN.

FIGHT OVER FOLESHILL R.D.C. AREA

[FROM OUR OWN REPRESENTATIVE.]

Towards the end of a dreary day's proceedings in the House of Lords yesterday the Hon. E. E. Charteris, K.C. (leading counsel for the Coventry Corporation) read a letter from the Warwickshire County Council which threw a totally new light upon the whole aspect of Coventry's Extension Scheme.

Though written as long ago as March 12th, the letter, which contained a clearly defined offer as to the territory which the County Council was prepared to concede, has not previously been made public. In effect the letter explained that the County Council is only opposing the annexation of the greater portion of the area which comes under the control of the Foleshill Rural District Council, including Foleshill, Exhall, Longford, Bedworth, Binley, Walsgrave, etc., but does not oppose the annexation of the land to the South and South-West. With the exception of that small piece of Stivichall which the Corporation has already agreed to relinquish, this means that there is now no dispute as to the Council's right to annex the Stoneleigh Estate.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNCIL'S LETTER.

The Warwickshire County Council's letter, signed by the Clerk (Mr. L. E. Stevens), is as under:

"The County Council have carefully considered the proposals of the Corporation to extend the boundaries of Coventry. The County Council recognise that some extension of the city boundaries is justified, but they are strongly of opinion that the proposals contained in the Bill extend the city boundaries so as to include large areas which, in the interests of local government, should not be included in the city.

"The County Council will not oppose the proposal of the Corporation to include the following areas: (1) The two parishes of the Coventry Rural District and the parishes of Stoke and Stoke Heath. These parishes can fairly be regarded as overspills from Coventry. (2) That part of the parish of Stivichall which the city has purchased for the purpose of a War Memorial Park. (3) That part of the parish of Stoneleigh west of the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway, and the part of the parish of Baxwell about to be added.

"The County Council recognise that some extension into the parish of Stoneleigh may be justified by the development of the city in this direction. Having regard to the fact that these portions of the two parishes are now dealt with as one sewage area, the County Council consider that it is in the interests of local government that this one should not be divided. But for this fact the County Council would oppose a proposal to include land in the city so large an area of undeveloped land.

"(4) That part of the parishes of Allesley and Coundon included in the map enclosed. The County Council consider this area should be severed into the city sewers, and that this would be an improvement in sanitary administration, which it would not be reasonable to expect to attain by means other than an extension of the city's boundaries.

"(5) The County Council will agree to an adjustment of the boundary between the city and the Parish of Foleshill at the north-east corner of the city so as to include in the city a portion of the Parish of Foleshill immediately south of the city's Gas Works. The County Council are willing to discuss the details of such adjustment with the City Council.

A CRITICISM.

"In withdrawing their opposition to the extension of the city so far as it affects the above-mentioned districts the County Council have assumed that the Corporation is prepared to carry out forthwith such works as are necessary to deal with the sewage of the city in a more satisfactory manner than has obtained for a long time past. But for this assumption the County Council would oppose any extension of the city boundaries so long as the arrangements for the disposal of the city sewage remain in their present state.

"The County Council hope that the Corporation will recognise that in making the proposals contained in this letter the County Council have endeavoured to meet fully the needs and aspirations of the Corporation for the expansion of their city, and to secure that all the areas affected by the proposal to the City shall be left with the form of local government which is best suited to their needs."

Commenting upon the letter, Mr. Charteris reminded the Committee that he had already dealt in great detail with the unusual difficulties faced by Coventry in dealing with the sewage disposal problem raised by a rapidly-growing population, and he had also explained the efforts made by the city to tackle the question. Counsel also drew their Lordships' attention to the proposed new scheme to take a sewer from Bedworth around the west side of Coventry, via Walsgrave, down to the Parish of Stivichall, a sewer which could be laid and operated by gravitation. It was perhaps more a matter for conjecture than discussion what might be the exact significance of the County Council's concessions. According to their point of view it might be taken as reasonableness on their part, or, on the other hand, it might signify the strength of the Corporation's case.

A ONE-DAY SPEECH.

Practically the whole of the day was devoted to Mr. Charteris's opening speech. The fairly large room in which the Bill is being considered is entirely dominated by a huge coloured map, which covers the greater portion of one of the walls. It's scale is 20 inches to one mile, and the most minute detail of the city and the proposed added areas is shown. The map dominates the proceedings, and an official with a long pointer illustrates practically every remark.

Counsel endeavoured to illustrate the strength of Coventry's case by showing that the old county of Coventry included practically the identical area of land which it was now proposed to confer, and he proved the "community of interest" between Coventry and its suburbs by showing the extent to which these neighbourhoods were inter-dependent upon the city. He gave statistics taken in 1921 showing that of the occupied persons in Bedworth 23.6 per cent. were employed in Coventry. At Exhall the figure was 28.3 per cent, and at Foleshill 47.4 per cent.

The speaker laid stress upon the extent to which most of the outlying areas were served by the Corporation's electricity, gas, water, tramways and buses, elementary schools, housing facilities, etc., and as a proof of the overcrowded state of the city showed that not only have a large number of factories and works (including a huge amount of Corporation property) been forced to build outside the city boundaries, but quite recently the Michelin Tyre Co. was unsuccessful in its quest of a 150 acres factory site in the city.

Explaining that the area which Coventry now proposed to annex was 17,646 acres, Mr. Charteris alluded to the fact that in such applications it was usually contended that the size of the area claimed was too great. The principle thing to aim at was that powers should ask for territory which, in the first place, was commensurate with their financial and administrative resources. Secondly, the main consideration was surely that there must be community of interest between the city and the area which it was proposed should be brought into the borough. Whether the whole of the area it was proposed to bring in was urban or not in character was a subsidiary question. If the application for an enlargement was allowed too long it became urbanised independent of the control of the authority into whose hands it must ultimately fall, and it was, therefore, desirable in some cases that territory which manifestly was more suitable for rural than actual management under the administration of the city for the purpose of its development being controlled along lines in harmony with those prevailing in the city.

When the committee rose at the conclusion of the day's hearing, Alderman Frank Snape was in the "witness-box." His task was the rather formidable one of confirming the main contentions of counsel over a wide range of subjects.

One's general impression was that the fight which must cause will be centred practically entirely on the question of land which comes under the control of the Foleshill Rural District Council, and there was a tendency on the part of the county to combine the issue in this subject.

ENGINEERS' WAGES.

The Demand for an Increase.

NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN.

PROCEEDINGS AT YESTERDAY'S CONFERENCE.

The adjourned conference of the Executives of the Engineering and Allied Employers' Federation with the Executives of the thirty trade unions having men working in the engineering shops on the wages question yesterday broke down. The conference was held at the Great Central Hotel, Marylebone. Proposals and counter-proposals were submitted from both sides, but all proved unacceptable, though the line of division between the parties was exceedingly narrow, amounting only to a difference of 6d. per week in the final negotiations.

THREE YEARS' OLD CLAIM.

The claim, which originally was for £1 per week increase, was in lodged nearly three years ago. The employers' last offer, made before the general strike and rejected by the unions, was an increase of 2s. 6d. on the war bonus, subject to modifications in the overtime and night-shift agreement. The unions have since pressed for an unconditional increase without specifying a definite amount.

Sir Alan Smith, in opening the proceedings, reviewed the economic position of the industry at considerable length. While there was some improvement in the state of trade, he said, and a number of orders had been booked, the improvement made was nothing like the extent to which employers had looked forward to, nor that which appeared to be believed from reports which had been published by the Press. It was a fact that the engineering industry was still suffering severely from the effects of the short general strike and the eight months' stoppage in the coal trade. Sir Allan said they stood at the parting of the ways in the engineering industry.

The unions' representatives considered the position in private.

It was agreed to report to the employers that their offer made previous to the general strike of an advance of 2s. 6d. per week conditional upon concessions on the nightshift and overtime clauses of the agreement was unanimously turned down by all the unions concerned; that there was now a substantial improvement in the engineering industry as compared with the position when that offer was made; and that they again appealed to the employers for the offer of an advance of wages of a definite amount.

EMPLOYERS RENEW OFFER.

This decision was communicated to Sir Alan Smith, who suggested that the matter had not been adequately considered, but he agreed to submit the decision to a joint conference in the afternoon.

On the resumption of the joint conference the employers renewed their offer of April, 1926, of an advance of 2s. 6d. per week as from 1st July, provided that the unions agree to certain conditions as to overtime and nightshift. This was considered separately by the union's executives and was unacceptable. The men's representatives said they were prepared to submit to their members for acceptance that an advance in wages of 5s. per week should be conceded in two instalments, the first 2s 6d. on 1st July, the second 2s. 6d. on 1st September.

This proposal failed to find acceptance by the employers, who submitted as an alternative an advance to plain time workers of 2s. per week on the war bonus as from 1st August, the wages to remain undisturbed for twelve months thereafter. The unions rejected this proposal also, and asked for a first advance of 2s. 6d. per week on 1st July to all workers without any conditions

This further proposal was unacceptable to the employers.

The men's representatives agreed that the negotiations had broken down, and decided to report to the various unions.

The Unions' Statement.

The proceedings yesterday lasted until 8 p.m., and the following statement was then made on behalf of the unions by Mr. J. T. Brownlie (Amalgamated Engineering Union):—

"Sir Allan Smith, for the employers, reviewed the general state of the industry and directed attention to the undesirability of adding to the burdens of the industry at the present time. He also stressed the fact that those workmen under a system of payment by results were enjoying higher earnings than the actual plain time workers, and appealed to the unions to assist in helping the industry to recover.

"The union retired and appointed a deputation to wait upon the employers and request a definite offer in accordance with the understanding arrived at at the previous conference. After due consideration the employers submitted the following proposal:—

(1) In response to the request of the unions for a definite offer, the employers are prepared to grant an increase of 2s. 6d. per week on the existing war bonus of 16., to take effect on July 1, 1927—provided that the unions agree—" where the overtime and nightshift agreement applies—

(a) Nightshift: Time and a quarter shall be paid for hours worked.

(b) Overtime on nightshift: Time and a half shall be paid for hours worked.

(c) Overtime on Dayshift: Time and a quarter shall be paid for the first two hours worked until the commencement of the following dayshift.

(2) The position and prospects of the industry shall be reviewed in July, 1928.

This proposal was duly considered by the representatives of the unions, and it was immediately recognised that it was identical in character to that submitted at the conference in April, 1926, and, owing to the conditions attached, was not acceptable.

"A counter-proposal was then submitted by the unions to the effect that an advance in wages should be conceded of 5s. in two instalments. This was considered by the employers and failed to find acceptance.

"The employers made the following alternative proposal:—

That we offer a special advance to plain time workers of 2s. per week on war bonus as from August 1, wages generally to remain undisturbed for twelve months thereafter.

This offer, after consideration by the unions, was found unacceptable, and the employers were informed accordingly. The conference concluded on basis of agreement having been arrived at."

No separate official statement was made by the employers.

"COVENTRY HERALD" PICTURES.

This week's issue of "The Coventry Herald," in addition to containing the news of the week in city and district, includes a number of interesting, and attractive illustrations. There is a photograph of the George Eliot Memorial Above constructed in the Gulson Library, Coventry, and opened yesterday by Sir Francis Newbigin. There are also pictures of the Coventry Education Committee's open-air school at Corley for physically-defective children, competitors in the motor and motor cycle speed trials at Gopsall Park on Saturday afternoon last form the subject of another illustration. The carpet of bluebells in Corley Wood, near Coventry, makes a picturesque sylvan photograph.

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