SIDMOUTH'S BIG EVENT.

Minister of Health Opens Arcot Housing Estate.

NEW PLEASURE GROUND.

YESTERDAY'S CEREMONY.

Sidmouth's new housing estate, containing 70 houses built at a cost of about £45,000, at Arcot, a beautiful park on the north side of the town, was yesterday afternoon declared open by the Minister of Health (Mr. Neville Chamberlain), in the presence of a huge audience that included visitors from all parts of the county. Longpark Pleasure Ground, in which the ceremony took place, was also declared open by the Minister as a recreation ground for the use of the people of Sidmouth.

When the work of building the 70 houses on the Arcot Estate has been completed, Sidmouth will have spent a sum of more than £70,000 since 1915 in providing dwellings for working-class people of the town. The estate was purchased at a time when houses were badly needed, and also when the problem of repairing Sidmouth's sea-defence works was engaging the serious attention of the local Urban Council. To the credit of this body, the housing question was not allowed to sink into the background, and the scheme of building 70 houses at Arcot, which was the largest ever undertaken by the Council, was proceeded with. Fifty-three of the houses are parlour type and 17 non-parlour, and 40 have been completed and are occupied. The parlour houses are let at a rental of 9s 6d and non-parlour 8s, the tenant paying rates. The average cost of the houses, allowing for everything, is £635, towards which the Council receives a subsidy of £9 from the Exchequer. The total liability on the rates will be £4 10s for each house, and interim loan charges have also to be met.

The houses are built on a slope rising from the main Exeter–Sidmouth-road, and care has been taken to preserve as many trees as possible in the lay-out of the estate. Provision has also been made for open spaces on which shrubs and plants will be placed. Although all the houses are similar in design, there is a pleasing diversity in the colouring, and architecturally the buildings are very attractive. They are mostly of brick, and each has a bath-room on the ground floor adjoining the kitchen. In each has been installed a boiler for heating bath-water, which can also be used as a copper for laundry purposes. A novel feature is a new style of window in the houses. By means of a swivel, the windows can be revolved enabling them to be cleaned entirely from the inside. The whole of the stoves, grates, baths and ironmongery in the houses were supplied by Messrs. Otton and Sons, of Fore-street, Exeter.

Longpark pleasure ground, which is on the opposite side of the road to the Arcot Estate, was purchased by the Urban Council for £2,250, £500 each being given by Lady Lockyer, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Cropper, and Miss A. Leigh Browne. It will be laid out as a recreation ground and will be a pleasant adjunct to the housing estate across the road.

TOUR OF INSPECTION.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, who was at Plymouth yesterday, motored to Sidmouth with Sir Clive Morrison-Bell, M.P., Mr. H. A. Pickson (Vice-Chairman of the Urban Council), and Mr. P. H. Michelmore (Clerk). After taking the opportunity of seeing the new sea-wall, he paid a visit to the Sid Park-road houses, which were started by the Council in pre-war days. Arriving at Arcot he was shown over occupied and unoccupied houses, and, the tour concluded, he went to Longpark, where he was awaited by a large crowd. On the draped platform he was accompanied by Sir Clive Morrison-Bell and Lady Morrison-Bell, the Chairman (Mr. R. Field) and members of the Sidmouth Urban Council, Lieut.-Col. Stallard (Ministry of Transport), the Mayors of Okehampton and Lyme Regis, the Deputy-Mayor of Chard, Messrs. W. Lake, W. J. Coulton, and Strawbridge (Devon County Council), Mr. Brian Miller (Clerk to the Devon County Council), Mr. F. E. Simpson (Eastern Division County Surveyor), Dr. G. Adkins (County M.O.H.), Mr. J. Forward (Town Clerk of Chard), aid the Vicar of Sidmouth (the Rev. C. K. Woollcombe).

Other authorities represented were the Exeter City Council, the Borough Councils of Chard, Honiton, Tiverton, Lyme Regis, Okehampton, Yeovil, and Taunton; the Urban Councils of Budleigh Salterton, Crediton, Exmouth, Ottery St. Mary, Seaton, Dawlish, and Teignmouth; and the Rural District Councils of Axminster, Crediton, Honiton, and St. Thomas. Among the organisations represented at the ceremony were the Ancient Order of Foresters, the British Legion, the Church Lads' Brigade, the Sidmouth Infant Welfare Centre, the R.A.O.B., the Red Cross, the Sid Vale Association, the Girl Guides, and the Sidmouth Naval Comrades' Association. Schoolchildren lined the railings, and a programme of music was discoursed by the Sidmouth Town Band. The arrangements for the Minister's reception were made by a special Committee comprising the Chairman of the Urban Council, the Vice-Chairman (Mr. H. A. Pickson), the Chairman of the Housing Committee (Mr. E. Macdermid), the Surveyor (Mr. E. Blanchard), and the Deputy Clerk (Mr. R. Pickard).

Mr. Field, who presided, extended a warm welcome to the Minister, stating that the large attendance that day proved the interest which every thoughtful person felt in the movement for the betterment of housing conditions. That interest had been stimulated by Mr. Chamberlain's presence. Briefly outlining the schemes for the provision of houses in Sidmouth he recalled that in 1914 the Council bought land and erected 48 houses at an average cost per house of £239. By reason of the low cost of building and cheaply-borrowed money, this scheme was self-supporting. In 1919 the Council built 12 houses at Path Worlands at an average cost of £1,200, involving a charge upon the rates of £145 per annum. Still not satisfied, and urged by repeated representations by the late M.O.H. (Dr. J. Sheldon Withers) it was decided to embark upon a larger scheme if land could be obtained. The result was the Arcot Estate scheme of 70 houses, which cost approximately £635 each with the land. They were let at 9s 6d and 8s per week for parlour and non-parlour types respectively, and there followed an annual subsidy from the rates of £315 and from the national exchequer of £630. The Council had been fortunate in its choice of architect (Mr. R. W. Sampson)—(applause)—and he (the speaker) wished to recognise publicly the moral support which had encouraged them to go forward with what was somewhat of a revolutionary and certainly an evolutionary character. In addition to the annual charges upon the rates, the ratepayers had had to bear the interim loan charges, which was no less than £1,450, a heavy burden borne ungrudgingly. Happily there had been no occasion to impose directly an addition to the rates, and it was probable that when the new houses were all occupied a reduction in the rate would be made.

Mr. Field referred in conclusion to the Longpark pleasure ground, which was due largely to the philanthropy of four guests present that day. As circumstances permitted, it would be converted into the pleasure and play ground, for which it was dedicated. He trusted its rural charm would be preserved.

IN HUMOROUS MOOD.

Mr. Chamberlain, who was accorded a hearty reception, said he would like to begin by expressing his great gratification at seeing so large and so distinguished an audience present that afternoon upon an occasion, which, he thought, was historical for the town of Sidmouth. The Chairman had been good enough to express some appreciation of the fact that he (Mr. Chamberlain) had "snatched"—as he termed it—some hours from his duties at Westminster in order to come and perform that evening "Well, of course," continued Mr. Chamberlain, "tastes differ. Some people prefer to spend a pleasant afternoon in the open-air—others would rather be squabbling in a bear garden. (Laughter.- I don't say what my own preferences are. (Laughter.) I merely observe that I am not making any complaint." (Laughter.) He dare say they would realise that he got a good many invitations to open housing estates and other institutions with which his Department was connected. As a matter of fact, he kept two secretaries for the sole purpose of avoiding invitations of that kind. (Laughter.) They might wonder, therefore, how it was that he was there that day. Well, the fact was that they had a member there who had "got a way with him." (Laughter and applause.) Sir Clive Morrison-Bell had more than a way with him. "He keeps on coming at you, and, somehow or another, the case which he put up to me was so persuasive and so convincing that I really could not find it in my heart to refuse." (Laughter and applause.) If there was another consideration that weighed with him, besides the eloquence of Sir Clive Morrison-Bell, it was that it gave him an opportunity of showing that his Department's interest was not confined to those huge housing schemes such as were to be found in London or Birmingham, where they turned out 150 houses every week that went by, but that, wherever a local authority had set itself to solve its local problems, and adequately to make provision for the needs of its people, there the Minister was always ready and anxious to show his appreciation and his approval. (Applause.) Indeed, he must say that he thought Sidmouth could look back with satisfaction upon its housing record. Its problem might not be so big as those of some other places, but he thought Sidmouth would be justified in claiming that it had shown a foresight and persistence in well-doing that might well serve as an example to places with a larger population.

SIDMOUTH'S DIFFICULTIES.

He listened with a great deal of interest to Mr. Field's little history of the housing activities of the Council. There were not, he thought, many Urban District Councils that could say they began their housing work before the war. "You certainly, as Mr. Field said, were able to complete those early houses of yours at a cost which must make your mouths water to-day, but if you regret that you did not build two or three times as many as you did in those happy days," continued the speaker, "you, at any rate, have the consolation of thinking that there are a great many people who did not build at all then. As for those Addison houses—well, that is not a subject on which it is advisable for me to say very much—I will only remark that perhaps it was fortunate that the Ministry of Health decided to cut that scheme off when it did, and that you were not saddled with a larger number than is actually the case of those houses, which cost five times as much as they ought to have done. When the 1923 Act was passed he knew they made efforts to find some private enterprise that might help them under the terms of that scheme, and it was only when it appeared that no response was likely to be forthcoming from that quarter that the Urban Council made up its mind it must solve the problem itself. And so they started, after the difficulties that had been mentioned, upon the work, the approaching completion of which would give them that beautiful housing estate behind him. They had had to work against some difficulties, he knew. In spite of the wonderful natural advantages which Sidmouth enjoyed, and which brought so many visitors to it in the winter—he spoke as one who had been there before in the winter to get the advantage of the mildness of Sidmouth's climate and the restfulness of its wonderful parks—there was one disadvantage from which "landlubbers in the Midlands" did not suffer. Sidmouth had the sea to contend with, and the sea had been very much behaved to them. The sea had raided their roads, their houses, and their beach, and they had been put to a great deal of expense to drive back its incursions. "But you have persisted," continued Mr. Chamberlain, "and you have conquered; I understand Sidmouth now rules the waves." (Laughter and applause.)

TRIBUTE TO ARCHITECT.

But, while, perhaps, it was essential for them to solve that problem, he did consider that special credit was due to Sidmouth in that, having unexpected and heavy burdens upon it, it, notwithstanding, had not held its hand with regard to housing activities at the same time. They had been good enough to take him round and let him look at the new houses. He saw a good many housing estates, and he began to have quite the eye of the expert now. The first thing he liked was the general lay-out of the estate. He had seen many what should have been pleasant villages spoiled because they were not laid out with a view to harmonising with their surroundings. And, after all, even a new suburb of a town might have a character of its own, and might engage the affections of those who lived in it, if it was one that was pleasing to the eye. He was bound to say that he considered that the architect in laying out that estate had made the best use of the site and its material. (Applause.) Their houses each him as being particularly pleasing to look upon, and he could not help thinking that those who inhabited them were fortunate in having had such an opportunity, and that they would feel them to be really their homes. (Applause.) Then, for the houses themselves. It was not much use his paying compliments to the houses, if the people who could talk about them were those who were living in them, and, as far as he had been able to obtain opinions from them, they seemed to be very well satisfied, and he thought they would be very hard to please if they were not. (Applause.)

He rejoiced that while Sidmouth was able to point to a new housing suburb it was accompanying it with the provision of a new park and recreation ground, and it was highly creditable to the public spirit of the townspeople that such extraordinary assistance had been given in providing and maintaining for ever such an open space. He particularly commended the thoughtfulness of the donors in specifying that at least some part of the field should be set aside for children of school age, and that in due course it should be properly equipped for that purpose.

THE PARKKEEPERS' PARKS

"When I was young," proceeded the Minister, "the parks always seemed to me to be kept and maintained chiefly for the pleasure of park-keepers. (Laughter.) They were surrounded by palings not only unclimbable, but also impenetrable to the eye. (Laughter.) If you did manage to get inside you were faced with fierce and peremptory admonitions to keep off the grass. We have changed all that. I think, very much for the better to-day. We have recognised that young people, if they are to keep their minds as well as bodies healthy, must have healthy recreation and play, and it is not sufficient to allow them to look on at other people playing. They want help and assistance to enable them to play themselves. (Hear, hear.) This field might, perhaps, have been for the forethought of those responsible for its acquisition, been developed as a building estate, and those who live in these houses and Sidmouth would have had to go further off, perhaps too far, to reach conveniently their playground." The combination of a playground and a housing estate, he continued, was a happy one, and that was a happy day in the history of Sidmouth.

"You have made your contribution," said the Minister, "to that great work of housing the population of the country, which has been making such wonderful progress in the last few years. It is really difficult, perhaps, to realise what the change has been until one begins to go about the country and sees how houses are springing up here, there, and everywhere. The number of new houses built in 12 months rose from 36,000 in 1924 to 137,000 in 1925, to 173,000 in 1926, and in this present year, 1927, we believe it will actually reach the number of 217,000. (Applause.) If I am right in saying you have 1,500 houses in Sidmouth, then a simple mathematical calculation will show you that in the course of the present year we expect to build 145 Sidmouths in England and Wales. (Applause.) What that is going to mean to the country everyone can imagine for himself. I regard the provision of proper housing as one of the factors that is going to make for the greater health of the people, the business for which my Department exists. Housing is quite a separate department of my office, but it is really part of the same idea, because it is really one of the principal factors in improving and maintaining the physique of our population. Our birth rate is gradually diminishing. There are fewer children being born every year. Some people think that is a very good thing. I won't presume to express an opinion upon that. What I do say is that the important thing is every child that is born should have a reasonable start in life and have reasonable chance of becoming a healthy citizen, able to make its contribution to the common weal. One of the things that is going to help more than anything else is taking children out of those wretched, crowded, insanitary dwellings to which so many of them have been condemned in the past and putting them into new, fresh, airy, healthy cottages like those you have provided."

In conclusion, Mr. Chamberlain extended his warm congratulations and best wishes for the future of the Arcot housing estate and the Longpark pleasure ground, which he then declared open.

A MINISTER'S DEFENCES.

Sir Clive Morrison-Bell, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Neville Chamberlain for his address, said the latter was one of the busiest, and, he would like to add, one of the most efficient members in the present Administration. (Applause.) It was no figure of speech for him (Sir Clive) to say that Mr. Chamberlain was inundated with invitations to open housing schemes and to perform other duties every day of his life. It was not a figure of speech either to say he had two Secretaries "keeping people off" who were trying to get him to go and perform those functions. "I remember I had some difficulty in getting through the outer defences of Mr. Chamberlain," said Sir Clive, amid laughter. "I do not know whether I should have succeeded at all were it not for the fact that Ministers have unguarded moments. They cannot be surrounded by Secretaries in the Lobby." (Laughter.) Sir Clive said possibly it was not fair to a Minister to track him down in the Lobby, library, or smoking room, but if one wanted to secure the services of a Cabinet Minister one must not think about the fairness of the attack. "You must get him if you can." (Laughter.) Mr. Chamberlain had told him that afternoon would be a pleasant interlude in his day's work. "To-night he and I must go back to the 'bear garden,'" said Sir Clive, amid laughter, and feed the bears with, I hope, a good majority on the Government side." (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. J. G. H. Halse, in seconding, said he supposed there was no name with whom they associated public work more than that of Chamberlain. (Hear, hear.) He (the speaker) had been a member of the Council for 24 years, and was Chairman when the two earlier housing schemes were completed, and he was proud that a small town like Sidmouth with 9,600 inhabitants, should have built 132 houses for the working classes in the past few years. He doubted if there was a town in England of that size that had built such a proportion of working-class houses. He felt very much of the present-day unrest and discontent would vanish if people could be removed from slums and the horrible conditions in which they had to surround-ings like the Arcot Estate. (Applause.)

The vote was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Chamberlain, in reply, mentioned Mr. Halse's reference to local government work. "There is nothing in this country," he said, "I feel more proud about than our great system of local government, which develops individual initiative and ideals and gives public service with no reward except the satisfaction that comes from serving fellow-countrymen and fellow-citizens, and has, I think, been the envy of many less fortunate countries than our own."

"THE 'ARCOT' RAID."

On resuming his seat, Mr. Chamberlain, amid a great outburst of laughter, remarked, "When I go back and tell the Home Secretary about my Arcot raid I am sure he will be jealous of me."

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Field.

A prayer was said by the Vicar of Sidmouth, and two verses of "O God, our help in ages past" were sung. The Minister and guests were subsequently entertained to tea by the Chairman and members of the Urban Council. Mr. and Mrs. Trump gave the refreshments, and helpers, superintended by Miss Collins, included members of the Red Cross and Women's Branch of the British Legion. The school children were also given tea during the afternoon.

Large numbers of people inspected the demonstration house on the Arcot Estate.

LOTUS WEEK

May 23rd—28th.

We are making a Special Display this week of LOTUS and DELTA SHOES. Two examples are illustrated here. We suggest that this is a good opportunity to make your choice of Shoes for the summer.

Delta 253.
CHAMPAGNE GLACE KID. Trimmed Imitation Lizard and Russett Brown Kid.

Price 22/6

Delta 622.
PATENT STRAP. Cut-out sides. Neat design, with Medium Louis Heels.

Price 17/11

Charles,

LOTUS and DELTA AGENTS,

254, High Street, EXETER.

(CASTLE-STREET CORNER).

FOOTBALL.

Exeter City Signs Three More Players.

GOOD TRANSFERRED.

As hinted in the "Gazette" recently, Exeter City has secured the transfer of R. H. Kirk from Bristol City, a clever outside-left, who can also operate on the other wing. At the same time, Hugh Goog has been transferred to Bristol City. The players have been changed, but the Grecians had to pay a small balance. Kirk was discovered by Mr. Raisbeck when playing with Albion Rovers, and signed for Bristol in 1924. He played almost regularly for the first team, but last season received an injury and Rankin stepped into his place and stayed there, although not such a good player as Kirk. The latter is 25, tall, fast, elusive, and centres well. He should prove a great asset to the Club.

The City has also signed two other players in Thomas Holland, a goalkeeper who was transferred from Weymouth to Middlesbro last April, and Samuel Mason, a left half-back from Gillingham. Holland stands 6ft. 1in., weighs 12st. 7lb., is 24, and considered a skilled custodian. He refused the terms offered him by Middlesbro. Mason is 20 years old, stands 6ft., and weighs 12st., and went to the Kent Club from Peebles Rovers. He is a promising player, who might be just the man the Grecians want.

FUNERAL AT LYNTON.

LATE MR. J. TUCKER.

The funeral of the late Mr. James Tucker, of West Ilkerton Farm, Lynton, was marked by many signs of sympathy and regret. Deceased, who was 61 years of age, died after an illness lasting only six weeks. Lynton and the neighbourhood has lost a man who was of a noble character, pointed and direct in his remarks, and always expressed his opinion without fear or favour. Being a native of Parracombe, and having always resided in the neighbourhood, his knowledge of hunting—his favourite sport—was great. He was keen on the preservation of all kinds of sport. Deceased was a leading light of the Farmers' Union, who will greatly miss his valuable advice and assistance. He was also a manager of Barbrook school, and took an exceptionally keen interest in the Lynton and District Pony Show, being a member of the Committee and an ardent worker for its welfare. Mr. Tucker leaves a widow, two sons, and a daughter, to whom sympathy is extended in their bereavement. The interment took place at the Lynton cemetery, the officiating clergy being the Rev. C. S. Spock and the Rev. W. E. Lock. The principal mourners were Willie and Lily (son and daughter), George and Ada (son and daughter-in-law), J. Bland and Emily (son-in-law and sister-in-law), Willie and Annie (brother and sister-in-law), Ernest and Emma (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Harry (brother-in-law), Louie and Ernie (sister-in-law and nephew), Polly and Mabel (sister-in-law and nephew), Harry and Ethel (niece and nephew), Dorothy and Mervin (niece and nephew), and Edie and Sydney (niece and nephew).

Among others present were Colonel Negus, M.F.H. (Oare), Major Wilson (Lynton), Mr and Mrs H Mallet (Bath), Messrs H Medway, T Baker, H Palmer, W Sage, P Watts, W Priscott, C Vellacott, W Vellacott, J Vellacott, E Sedgebeer, F Ridd-Jones, T Reeves, R Rawle, and J Ridd-Jones (Braunton), J Tucker (Challacombe), H W Court, F Bray, C Bray, C H Smyth, H Lathom, F Burnell, and B Ellis (Oare), J P Pinn (Martinhoe), T Shopland and Miss Shopland, F Huxtable, Mrs and Miss Huxtable (Lyn Farm), Mrs W Milbridge, Mr J Smith, Mr J and Miss Ivy French (Brendon), Mr and Mrs Crocombe (Dean), Mr and Mrs Doubt, Mrs Davey, Mrs Hobbs, Mrs P Blackmore, Mrs Mellor and Mrs Totterdale, Miss A Bray (Parracombe), Messrs A J Harper, R Pugsley, E J Finch, J Jones, S Bale, H R Barton, J Squire (Bratton), C Balment (Kentisbury), and G Berry (Hunters' Inn). The bearers were Messrs H Berry, P Jones, J.P., J Perkins, W Pugsley, O Sanders, and J Tossell. There were many floral tributes.

COUNTRY DANCING.

SIDFORD COMPETITION.

A country dancing competition for cup and shield, open to teams from Women's Institutes, has been held in Sidford Hall. Seven teams entered, and comprised Sidford (holder of the cup), Ottery St. Mary, Woodbury, Newton Poppleford, Sidford Ford 1., Tipton St. John, and Uffculme (second team), Tipton St. John, and Uffculme. The competition was exceedingly keen, and a large number of spectators thoroughly enjoyed the display. The full award was as follows:—1 and cup, Ottery St. Mary, 86 points; 2 and shield, Woodbury, 84; 3, Newton Poppleford and Sid Ford 1., 85; 4, Tipton St. John and Uffculme, 84; 5, Sidford 1., 82. An official of the Somerset Federation of Country Dancing acted as judge, and the duties of M.C. were ably performed by Major Harvey, of Exeter. Excellent arrangements were made by a Committee of the Sidford Women's Institute, which also acted as hosts.

GOLF.

EXMOUTH LADIES v. EAST DEVON LADIES.

The first teams of these Clubs met at Exmouth, and the second teams at Budleigh Salterton. East Devon winning easily in each case. Scores:—

EXMOUTH I.

Miss Hunter	0
Miss Smith	0
Mrs Stevens	0
Miss Greenwell	½
Mrs Ross	0
Miss Lee	0
Miss P Thornton	0
	½

EAST DEVON I.

Mrs Hamilton, 2 and 1	1
Mrs B G Bennett, 2 up	1
Miss Longhurst, 2 and 1	1
Mrs Milford, 1 up	1
Mrs Dene, 1 up	1
Miss Oliver, 3 and 2	1
Miss Vigars, 4 and 2	1
	6½

EXMOUTH II.

Mrs Rice	0
Mrs V French	0
Miss Stamp	0
Miss Osmond	0
Mrs Wolff	0
Miss Shrubb	0
Mrs Gray	0
	0

EAST DEVON II.

Mrs Kitchen, 1 up	1
Mrs Leadley, 1 up	1
Miss Gurney, 3 and 2	1
Mrs Evans, 5 and 3	1
Miss Cox, 2 up	1
Mrs Burden, 4 and 3	1
Mrs Wright, 2 and 1	1
	7

HUNTING.

Dartmoor Hounds.

HARD DAY'S WORK.

Not for many a long year have I seen such a fine field out at a Totnes meet of these hounds as turned up on Saturday. Among a distinguished gathering were Mr. Cyril Maude and Mr. D Oyly Carte, and quite a number of visitors to South Devon. Unfortunately, sport was not of the high order, though the draw was anything but uneventful. Shortly after 3.30 Major G. E. Mott moved off with 16 couple of hounds and the whips, G. Foale (K.H.) and H. Foale. As an experiment he put to water further down than is customary, and began working up through the Dead Water, a short distance above Bidwell Foot. A quarter of a mile below the island the pack suddenly marked an otter on the right bank, and quickly put him off. Starlight was the first to hit him off, and soon the old hounds were swimming him down, and he was "chained" by an ex-Northern Counties M.O.H. as he passed under his nose. Finding the pressure great, he doubled back and returned to the hover, and once more the baying of the pack had him sewim. Cruising downwards, he made a sharp double, as afterwards transpired, and swam a long distance before coming up to vent. Hounds for a while were at a loss, but an upward cast was at length rewarded, for, on passing the Boat-house Copse they swam across to land him in a bolt, and old Clinker re-found him in a strong place. As he seemed disinclined to bolt, and in view of the coldness of the water, it was deemed inadvisable to risk a long swim in this heavy water so early in the season. So we wended our way upwards through the pretty park of Dartington Hall, with no note of hounds to encourage us until they reached the island below Staverton Weir, where they came to a good mark. Here, again, unfortunately, the fates were not on our side, as the hot entrance proved to be particularly small, and the terrier was unable to get up. The natural conclusion was that he was a cub, and in the end it was considered best to leave him.

Staverton Weirpool had been used by otters quite recently, and so had Hood Island above, but there was little sign of their having lately taken up their residence in Hood Weirpool. Between here and Buckfastleigh hounds had a feathering line on the rocks, but it did not appear to be very recent, and Kilbury Pool was drawn in utter silence. Here a brief halt was called for lunch, and as several of the field had left, the remainder of the pack were lifted to Dart Bridge, and put to water again above. The monks of Buckfast exhibited considerable interest in the proceedings as we passed through the Abbey grounds, but the draw progressed slowly to Hembury, and hopes were centred in Black Pool. And there we were delighted to realised, for hounds found no encouragement there, and so the day was brought to a conclusion, the pack being walked back to Buckfastleigh, whence they were conveyed back to Brent, on their kennels, arriving at the time of writing they have left the river temporary quarters at Callington, the hunting season ends with Saturday, the 28th inst., this week, while on Tuesday next Saturday is the last meet of the present month, and a highly popular one, takes place at Buckfastleigh Station at 3 o'clock.

"JOLLYBOY."

SIDBURY CONTESTS.

A competition, open to children of Sidbury school, for prizes given by Sir Charles Cave, for wild flowers, attracted over 100 competitors. Sir Charles acted as judge and awarded the prizes as follows:—Senior: 1, William Ivery; 2, Julie Bishop; h c, Olive Richards. Juniors: 1, May Hamlin; 2, Ivan Symons; h c, Brian Austis. Prizes for essays on "Ferrets Sports," given by the Sidmouth Auxiliary of the R.S.P.C.A., have been won by the following:—Seniors: 1, equal, Jessie Brown and Archie Pike; 2, equal, Reggie Pike and Eric Rogers. Juniors: 1, equal, Joan Scobie and Julie Bishop; 2, equal, Frank Hallett and Cissie Hamlin.

THE MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL CORN—Yesterday.

Wheat was a firm and dearer trade. Flour was officially advanced 6d, making straight runs 45s, ex-mill. Maize steady. Roller Plates, 5s 11d to 6s. Malats Foxanlam, 5s per central. Oats firm and in fair demand. Chilian mixed, 26s 9d to 27s. Barley scarce and nominal. Oatmeal was dearer. Rice favoured buyers: Thirds quietly steady. Beans firm, and peas quiet.

LITTLEHAM—Yesterday.

Messrs. Hussey and Son, Ltd., had on offer 15 fat and rearing calves, 18 store pigs, 200 sheep and lambs, and 6 cattle. Prices:—Fat heifers, £25 10s to £29; barrowers, £18; hoggs, 69s to 81s; fat lambs, 57s to 60s; ewes, up to 50s; fat calves, 64s to 80s; store pigs, 38s to 45s.

TIVERTON—Yesterday.

Fair supply and good demand for the best poultry. Chicken made 1s 4d to 1s 7d lb; ducklings, 1s 4d to 1s 6d; fowls, 9d to 10d; rabbits, 6d to 9d each; butter, 1s 3d lb; eggs, 10d dozen.

CULMSTOCK.

Messrs. Knowlman and Son had about 200 sheep, 50 fat beasts, 450 store bullocks, 40 fat calves, and 15 cows and calves on offer. A good clearance was effected at satisfactory prices. Single couples made up to 61s; 54s; fat hoggs, 75s 6d; fat lambs, up to 62s; fat heifers, up to £35; fat steers, up to £36 10s 6d; fat cows, up to £21; maiden heifers, up to £24 15s; two-year-old steers, up to £20; rearlings, up to £13.

BIDEFORD—Yesterday.

Best beef, 18s 6d per score; second ditto, 16s; stores, £17 to £22; cows and calves, up to £25; fat lambs, 1s 3d and 1s 3d lb; fat ewes, 6d; couples, 70s to 80s; bacon, 1s 3d lb; cream, 2s; eggs, 1s dozen; tomatoes, 1s 4d lb; gooseberries, 8d; strawberries, 2s 6d; cauliflowers, 2d to 4d each; cabbages, 3d; cucumbers, 7d; lettuce, 1d; onions, 1d.

At Axminster Sessions, before Mr. M. C. Gibb (in the chair) and other Magistrates, yesterday, Jean Tabham Warter, of Buckland St. Mary, was fined 16s, with 10s costs, for driving a car without a license on September 8th, 1926, to March 31st, 1927. For similar offences, Wm. Henry Reed and Arthur Turner, of Seaton, were each fined 15s. Ezra John Arthur, Axminster, fireman of a steam tractor, was fined 15s for not having a license on March 15th. Being stopped by P.C. Pearce in Trinity Square, Axminster, on the last certain day, the Chairman remarked that the bench held defendant's employer was really responsible. Edgar Baugh was fined 10s for riding a bicycle without a light in Lyme-road, Axminster.

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