THE RINGING WORLD

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THE CONFERENCE.

The Ringers' Conference is now on and the indications are that it is going to be a success. But whether it is or not depends on the average ringer. Some of our leaders have come forward readily and have willingly lent a helping hand. They are the men without whom little can be done in, or for, the Exercise, and they never fail.

But we hope the average readers will do their part too. We want to get an expression of opinion on all the topics to be brought forward from as wide a circle as possible. In that way a great deal of good will be done to the Exercise, not only in the immediate present by keeping up our spirits and our interest, but also in the future by preparing ourselves to meet the difficulties that will face us.

We are quite aware that though most men hold opinions and sometimes hold them strongly, they are not always prepared to put them into words. At the meetings of the Central Council, though perhaps sixty or eighty members are present, only a few actually speak. That does not mean that the rest are indifferent to the questions raised, or even that they do not influence the debates. When any matter of importance is debated the general feeling of the meeting, even when it is not vocal, can, and does in a subtle manner, affect the conclusion arrived at even before any vote is taken. It is here that our present Conference must fall short of the actual meeting together of men within a hall. Except that when the debate is closed, he can and we trust will send in his vote, a ringer has no means of making his influence felt except by sending in a written 'speech.' That he should do. He may not want to say much. Perhaps there is only a single point which can be expressed in almost a single sentence. But it may be a good point, and the sentence is worth writing.

If we may judge by appearances one or two items on the agenda should bring forth varied opinions and keen debates. There is the question of a National Association which has found so much favour in some quarters. We do not intend to prejudge the matter or to prophesy what the result will be, but obviously there is a great mass of opinion in the Exercise of men who would rather stay as we are. We hope they will not be content to sit still and trust to the dead weight of custom to prevent any radical changes. If they really believe the present organisation is the best, they should be prepared to defend it actively. And on the other hand, those who advocate a new order should not be content with generalities and vague hopes and promises, but should give us definite facts and figures to work on, facts and figures that can be tested and used.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Saturday, March 21, 1942, in Three Hours,
AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;
Tenor size 18 in A.

FRANK E. PERVIN	1-2	WILFRED WILLIAMS	7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS	3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN	9-10
ALBERT WALKER'...	5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN	11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Non-conducted.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sunday, March 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,
AT RESTORMEL, JANES LANE,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

MISS OLIVE D. HAIRS... ...	1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT	5-6
FRANK I. HAIRS	3-4	MRS. FRANK I. HAIRS	7-8

Conducted by FRANK I. HAIRS.

BOURNEMOUTH.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sunday, March 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT ST. PETER'S HALL,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 16 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILDS ...	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	3-4
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY ...	5-6		

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sunday, March 22, 1942, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor size 17 in A.

WALTER H. DOBBIE	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
BETTY SPICE...	3-4	DENNIS H. PARHAM	7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
First attempt for a peal by the ringer of 7-8, who was elected a member of the association before starting.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Monday, March 23, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

*MRS. J. THOMAS...	1-2	*JOHN THOMAS	5-6
GEORGE W. FLETCHER ...	3-4	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ...	7-8

Composed by J. HUNT. Conducted by MRS. G. W. FLETCHER.
* First peal in the method on handbells. First peal in method as conductor on handbells.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Friday, March 27, 1942, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
AT 48, HIGH STREET,
A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C sharp.

*G. EDMUND DRABBLE ...	1-2	*NORMAN W. FOX	7-8
†G. GORDON GRAHAM	3-4	*GORDON C. BRIGGS	9-10
*A. ROY FOX...	5-6	†PERCY J. JERVIS	11-12

Composed by E. MORRIS. Conducted by G. G. GRAHAM.
Witness—J. E. Bradshaw.
* First peal. † First peal 'in hand' and on 12 bells. First peal on twelve bells 'in hand' for the association. First handbell peal, first peal on more than six bells, and, as far as is known, the first peal ever by an entirely local band.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Tuesday, March 24, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. A. W. LLOYD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS KATHLEEN M. JOHNSON	1-2	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON	5-6
GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ...	3-4	*AUBREY W. LLOYD	7-8
JAMES HEMMING	9-10		

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.
Witness—George Simpson.
* First peal on ten bells. Rung as the annual peal for the association.

BOURNEMOUTH.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD
On Tuesday, March 24, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT 11, EXTON ROAD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 16 in C.

MISS FAITH M. CHILDS ...	1-2	MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4
FRANCIS S. WILSON	5-6		

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.
This was F. S. Wilson's 54th peal, 13 of which have been rung on handbells

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, March 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT 35, WOODSTOCK ROAD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 16 in B.

JAMES S. WEBB	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
BETTY SPICE...	3-4	HAROLD HOWSON...	7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
The ringer of 7-8 was elected a member of the association before starting.

A FALSE REPORT.

Recently we referred to a story about George Gross being caught up by his bell rope and badly damaged when peal ringing. Here is the account as given in 'The Annual Register' of April 28th, 1800:—

'A short time since eight members of the Society of Cumberland Youths made an attempt to ring 15,136 changes of Oxford triple bob on Edmonton church bells. It required upwards of ten hours' time to perform this task at 25 changes a minute. They had entered the ninth hour when an unlucky accident befell Mr. Gross the composer of the peal making an attempt to slacken his knee buckle his leg became entangled in the coil of the rope by which he was elevated to a considerable height, and thence falling upon his head, he broke his collarbone. Had it not been for this accident no doubt the feat would have been accomplished and the performers crowned with perpetual honours, as nothing to be compared with such an achievement of strength and skill can be found in the records of the campanalogical art.'

This account cannot be correct as it stands, and how much truth there is in it it is impossible to say. George Gross never composed a peal of Treble Bob Major so long as 15,136 changes, or if he did Shipway never heard of it, which is not likely. A broken collarbone does not take long to heal, but in February, 1800, Gross rang a peal, and on April 28th he called the 10,112 changes of Treble Bob at Enfield. Osborn did not believe the story and he probably made inquiries among some who were living when the attempt was supposed to have been made.

It is interesting to compare this tale with the other false report about Malachi Channon, who was a member of Gross' band.

DEATH OF AN OXFORD GUILD VETERAN.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild lost an old and valued member on March 17th in the person of Mr. John Bower, of Goring, Oxon, at the advanced age of 80 years. He was a fine ringer and a good striker and for many years was captain of the band, who for some years (before the new ring of eight bells were installed) were a very proficient Minor method company.

John Bower's great happiness as a ringer was when he took part in the first peal of Triples in the tower. A very fine teacher, he made many good ringers, and as 'a fine old English gentleman' will be much missed in the neighbourhood.

LIVES OF GREAT MEN.

MR. J. W. WASHBROOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter by Mr. Wolstencroft was most interesting, and Mr. Washbrook was certainly a genius besides being a great all-rounder. I remember him for his tours in Devon in the 90's, but at Arklow, Ireland, I had many chances to know him very well and saw him perform the feats so ably described by Mr. Wolstencroft. I called many touches for him to chime before services, and on several occasions he brought his violin to the belfry and played music composed by himself, which blended to the touch we were ringing.

I well remember the outstanding peal of May 26th, 1905, called by the late Rev. F. E. Robinson from the 7th. The conductor insisted that Washbrook should ring two bells, but Washbrook secured his own back two days later when he took the 7th, put Mr. Robinson on the 6th and called a peal of Stedman never previously rung containing all the 6-7's at backstroke.

Mr. Wolstencroft will forgive me if I correct an error. He says that Washbrook's second son Walter rang his first peal in December, 1905, at the age of 10 years 4 months, but I find that Walter rang his first peal of Stedman on October 23rd, 1905, and his age is given as 11. Washbrook had another son named Harry, who rang his first peal on September 11th, 1909, at the age of 12. In this peal Harry rang the 2nd, his father conducted on 3-4, his brother Walter rang the 5th and his eldest brother the 7th.

Not many weeks ago someone compared William Pye and James W. Washbrook, but I do not wish to make comparisons between two of our finest men. Rather let it be said that one was all the better for having known them both over many years. W. SHEPHERD.

LLANGYNDEYRNE CHURCH BELLS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—There are three bells in this Carmarthenshire church, as follows:—

'Thos. Lloyd of Alltycadno Esq 1679. Sole Deo Gloria. W.C.:T.C.'

'Risse Griffiths and Henry Vmphrey Churchwardens 1679. William and Thomas Coney Bellfounders: F.O.

'Peace and Good Neighbourhood. E.E. 1721.'

The last bell is from the Chepstow Foundry, and is one of the eight which Evan Evans cast in 1721. I cannot, however, find out who the Coneys are?

'Risse' should be 'Rhys,' which makes me think that they are English founders, and not used to Welsh spelling. H. B. Walters does not include the Coneys in his list of bellfounders. Does any reader know of any more bells by the Coneys? EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Carmarthen.

A LETTER FROM VANCOUVER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thought that during these strenuous times you might like to have a word from far away Vancouver to let you all know we are still carrying on in the belfry of the Holy Rosary Cathedral.

Yesterday, the 15th, was the 78th birthday of our oldest ringer, Mr. T. Silvester, and last Tuesday the 76th of J. Watts, and to do honour to them the band rang several touches. Not on the hand-bells, for out here, thank goodness, we can still ring and let the whole city enjoy being rung to church.

As usual, broadcasting was done on New Year's night. It lasted nearly 30 minutes and brought dozens of letters from Vancouver Island, other parts of Canada and the United States. They all came addressed directly to the bellringers, telling how they were enjoyed and hoping we would be spared to ring again another year.

After a long absence from the tower we have with us again Mr. George W. Foster, conductor of the first peal in Canada, on July 1st, 1911, who makes the journey from Port Haney, 30 miles away, every Sunday he can conveniently get away; and Mr. Mathew Bennett, who also took part in that somewhat historical performance.

Messrs. A. B. Lomas, Arthur King, George Roberts and William Sampson, of our band, are now and have been these past few years in Victoria, Vancouver, doing mostly Government work, and are temporarily forming part of the band at Christ Church Cathedral.

They visit us here occasionally, but we miss them very much and are looking to the day when they return to the old tower. And here's to the day when all the bells of England can ring out once more in their joyous peals for victory. A. C. LIMPUS.

208, Union Street, Vancouver, Canada.

FIRE BELL AT SHERBORNE ABBEY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The description of this bell by Major Hesse is quite correct. The bell was cast in 1653 by Robert Austen, of Sherborne, and the diameter is 2ft. 8¾in. He also cast the old 7th in the same year and the old 3rd in 1652. The inscription on the fire or 'panne' bell is:—

LORD QVNCH THE FVRIOUS FLAME. ARIS, RUN, HELP
PUT OUT THE SAME. I W I G 1653. R A.

A. A. HUGHES.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We are pleased to say that the Editor (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) continues to make progress—although only slow—towards recovery.

Owing to the further restrictions on newsprint, which periodically will require a reduction in the number of pages in 'The Ringing World,' it may on such occasions also be necessary to curtail the wording of notices of meetings.

The handbell peal of Bob Maximus rung at Eckington, Derbyshire, last Friday indicates what can be done by beginners with perseverance. For four of the band it was their first peal, while the other two, including the conductor, rang their first peal on twelve bells and 'in hand.' Incidentally it was also the first twelve-bell peal on handbells rung for the Yorkshire Association.

The peal of Stedman Cinques rung on March 21st at Birmingham was originally arranged to be conducted by the Ringing Master, Mr. F. E. Haynes, but at the last moment he was unable to turn up. The band, therefore, decided to ring the peal non-conducted and a good performance resulted.

Major F. A. Yorke, who returned to the Royal Artillery on the outbreak of war and has since been serving on fortress duty, has just been released from the Army, being well over age as judged by the new Army Order.

On March 29th, 1762, the College Youths rang 10,080 Grandsire Caters at Fulham, the first in the method over ten thousand with only ten men.

The first ten thousand in any method on any number was rung by the Norwich Scholars at St. Michael's, Coslany, on April 1st, 1727.

Fifty years ago to-day one peal, Court Bob Triples, was rung. Fifty years ago yesterday six peals were rung. They were Stedman Triples 1, College Single Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 2, Grandsire Caters 1.

William Pye called 15,072 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Erith on April 3rd, 1899. It was the longest peal in the method at the time.

On April 4th, 1904, William Willson called 11,008 changes in the same method, as a preliminary trial for the 17,104 he called at the same place on December 27th.

Ten years ago yesterday an 'All England Ringers' Rally' was held at the Croydon Foundry, when the great carillon for New York, with its 17-ton bourdon bell, was on view. More than three thousand people, including 2,700 ringers, were entertained by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston to tea, and speeches were made by distinguished persons, including the Bishops of Norwich and Croydon, the Mayor of Croydon and Mr. E. H. Lewis.

MORE FALSE PEALS.

YORKSHIRE INVESTIGATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Here are the particulars of a further four peals from the Yorkshire Association records which I have found to be false. I would like you to publish them in 'The Ringing World' so that a note can be made by those who own, or have access to, copies of our annual reports which record these performances.

To the five of our older members who will have their peal totals reduced in consequence I extend my sincere regrets.

No. 1,329. 5,120 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by William Sottanstall and rung at Lightcliffe on February 6th, 1904. This is a peal with the tenors parted. Repetitions occur in the 6th lead of the 8th course (treble 7-8 up), and the 9th lead of the 9th course (treble 7-8 down).

No. 1,292. 5,216 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by George H. Hardy and rung at Earlsheaton on October 24th, 1903. Repetitions occur at the Middle positions in the 5th and 10th courses.

No. 164. 5,376 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by Henry Johnson and rung at Staveley, Derbyshire, on October 31st, 1881. This is recorded as the first peal rung by members outside the county of York. Internal falseness—the 3rd and 5th leads of the 2nd, 3rd and 10th courses are respectively false with the 5th and 3rd leads of the 17th, 9th and 16th courses, with the treble in 5-6.

No. 148. 5,056 Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by James Lockwood and rung at Bingley on April 23rd, 1881. This peal is riddled with internal falseness. The 7th leads of the 5th and 6th courses are respectively false with the 7th leads of the 16th and 15th courses, treble in 1-2. The 7th and 6th leads of the 5th and 6th courses are respectively false with the 6th and 7th leads of the 16th and 15th courses, treble in 3-4. The 6th and 8th leads of the 5th and 15th courses are respectively false with the 6th and 4th leads of the 17th and 7th courses, treble in 5-6; and the 5th and 7th leads of the 5th and 15th courses are respectively false with the 5th and 3rd leads of the 20th and 10th courses, treble in 5-6.

WILLIAM, BARTON, Hon. Peal Secretary, Y.A.C.R.

'MARCH HARES' CELEBRATE.

On Tuesday, March 17th, in the belfry of the Parish Church, Beaconsfield, 1,260 Bob Major on handbells in 38 minutes: Harry Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, Vera Look 3-4, Walter Lee 5-6, Dorothy Fletcher 7-8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss V. Look, to the conductor, and to Mr. W. H. Fletcher.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON AFTER-WAR REHABILITATION.

(Debate on Mr. Price's motion continued from page 152.)

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform the Conference that all the gentlemen nominated last week have willingly agreed to serve on the committee. That, of course, does not preclude any other nominations, although it will be as well, I think, not to make the committee too cumbrous.

Mr. T. HARRIS (Shirehampton), continuing the discussion on Mr. Price's motion: If, as we are led to believe, we have a live Central Council, a committee as proposed by Mr. Price is not necessary. Such a committee could only recommend this or that. It will be willing workers that will be wanted, men who will derive as much pleasure from teaching a new recruit, and helping him through his first touch of Grandsire Doubles, as he would from ringing a peal of Stedman Cinques.

Rev. M. MELVILLE (Swindon): I wish, wholeheartedly, to support Mr. Price's motion with regard to the rehabilitation of ringing after the war. Your idea, Mr. Chairman, that each member of the proposed committee should compile his own suggestions and then forward them to the chairman of the committee could be augmented somewhat in a way which, I think, would prove valuable.

Even in these days of the ban a fair number of meetings continue to be held up and down the country, and with actual ringing impossible more time is found to discuss ringing matters at these meetings. I think it would be valuable if each meeting included on its agenda such a motion as we are now discussing, and then forward a synopsis of its findings to the chairman of the proposed committee. In this way we should get much more representative opinions of the whole ringing Exercise than we could hope to get from seven members of a committee. The committee could then consider these suggestions and incorporate them into their own report when they prepare it.

AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL.

Mr J. E. BAILEY (Dartford): Judging by the motion on the Conference agenda, the future of ringing in one sphere or another is the foremost thought in the minds of most ringers. The Conference gives all an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the best and quickest way to get going after the war. To appoint a committee at this stage, therefore, is, in my opinion, hardly fair to either the Conference or the men who are being asked to make suggestions. Several other motions are concerned with the future of the Exercise, so it would appear that we are to discuss this vitally important subject in conference, while a 'Brains Trust' is asked to do exactly the same thing at the same time in committee.

From the Conference discussions there are certain to come some fundamental ideas upon which it may be possible to plan a future course of action. It is only after hearing all shades of opinion that the general feeling of the Exercise can be judged.

I suggest, therefore, that the Conference be allowed to run its course and then a small committee make a grand summing up of the ideas and suggestions from which it should be possible to evolve a plan to get ringing going quickly and efficiently after the war.

Mr. A. DAVIS (Bournemouth): I am entirely in favour of such a move, as suggested in Mr. Price's motion, being made, but I do not envy the committee their task. The problem seems to me to revolve mainly around the ringer who is sufficiently skilled to be a good regular service ringer without having the keenness of an enthusiastic peal or a method ringer—those of our brothers who have been most adversely affected by the ban and will be most difficult to rally. I suggest to the committee that some of the very important people in this matter are the incumbents or other clergy who have charge of our bells and who can help vastly in the re-forming of the parochial bands of ringers.

Mr. W SHEPHERD (Addlestone): It is best that a committee be formed, but why not have a better basis of representation? Three from the London district out of seven is out of proportion when it is found that Surrey, Hants, Dorset and neighbouring counties are without a member. Regarding the choice of Middlesex and Oxford, both small counties, here again a change would prove useful by giving a seat to areas not represented. In the blitzed districts I should like to see consideration for Southampton, Plymouth or Hull, all of which suffered very badly.

I know how difficult such committees are to form, especially in these times, but is it not possible to have a representative of North, South, East and West of England with the addition of one from London as the basis on which to work? These could have the power to add youth and blitzed representatives or any other form of co-operation when needed.

Mr. Cullen says that if sufficient ringers are got into the towers the problem will solve itself. The real problem is how to retain those ringers when once you get them in the tower. Some advance according to plan, others lag behind, some lose interest when spring comes and will not be tied to a town or village when there is a chance of other attractions. Is it worth while trying two secretaries for each association or guild—one to deal with correspondence and finance, the other for organisation and relations matters? It may help to keep in better touch with Church and public.

Miss Brenda RICHARDSON (Sundridge, Kent): The proposition that a committee be formed to consider the best means of rehabilitating ringing when the war is over is certainly an excellent one, but I hope that, while such a committee considers this question and prepares a report, other ringers may be allowed to make their suggestions to the conference. We do not want to limit the field of enquiry to half a dozen men, however enthusiastic, experienced and representative they may be. Let the question be well discussed by the Conference, and then, when we pass to other matters, the committee will have some useful suggestions to follow up.

A PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER.

Mr. Cullen's suggestion about a public relations officer is good, and expresses an opinion, held, I think, by many ringers, that we must rouse a wider interest in our art. Accounts of meetings could be sent to the local press, and a press representative might be invited to such a gathering as the College Youths' annual dinner. A public relations officer would soon learn by experience how best to interest the public in ringing.

At least one district of one association is working out a scheme for co-operation between towers in the post-war days. In such a scheme four or more towers might arrange together that their total personnel should meet, both for practices and Sunday ringing, at each of the towers in turn. By this means each of four parishes would get good ringing one Sunday in four, instead of a half-hearted attempt at ringing every Sunday. The ringers also would be less likely to lose interest if they were sure of getting a good ring at each tower.

Whatever plans may be made we must remember that the successful execution of them depends on the ringers in every tower in the country. The old and experienced ones must be willing to teach, and the beginners must not be too proud to learn. The greatest hope for the future of ringing lies not in committees, though these must play their part, but in the small bands up and down the country where beginners are being taught now to handle a bell, and ring at least the standard methods 'in hand.' These are the bands who will carry the Exercise from the edge of the abyss of extinction to the summit of the mountain of strength and achievement.

The CHAIRMAN: May I interrupt here to make it plain that there is no intention to stifle discussion by the appointment of a committee? It will be of the greatest value to the committee to have before them all the views that can be obtained through this Conference. Indeed, it is only when the discussion on this subject is ended—and I hope we shall get many more opinions before that happens—that the motion for the appointment of the committee will be submitted to the Conference.

Mr. G. LEE (Wick, Littlehampton): I should like first of all to wish this Conference every success. While I am only a ringer in a small way, I trust a small suggestion I would like to make will not be found unwelcome. To get a stronger interest taken in change ringing, I have always thought there should be a different plan for beginners; something little better than local practice, which is very precarious as a rule, and the divisional monthly meetings. The local practice does not seem to possess the right spirit to produce a band of ringers Nine times out of ten it is impossible to get a practice on the same night in two consecutive weeks, and with a number of young ringers there seems to be lacking the lift over the stile, as I would like to call it. The result is that you can only get these beginners so far. With regard to the monthly association meetings, most of the older ringers do not attend with any idea of making them the kind of meetings I have in mind. While it cannot be said that they are indifferent to beginners, there is not the time to give to them. Perhaps when war is over some arrangement could be made in the matter, thus producing more ringers in bands in a shorter space of time. I trust that this suggestion has some value for discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: I have received notice of an amendment to the motion by the addition of the following words: 'Special consideration to be given to the idea of forming a National Association with this object in view.' It is to be moved by Mr. C. H. Kippin and seconded by Mr. F. W. Housden.

Readers are reminded that all contributions to the discussion are welcomed, but those relating to the present motion should reach 'The Ringing World' Office not later than Monday morning next.

ANCIENT BELLS.

In Denmark the law requires every bell founder to send to a Minister of Antiquities a rubbing of the inscription and some other particulars of every ancient bell which is sent to him to be recast. The State then has the right of purchasing the bell for the value of its metal, and many old bells have been bought and placed in museums. We do not suppose there has been any bell founding since the Germans occupied the country, and any bells taken down from church steeples are not very likely to go to Museums.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE MR. LINDOFF.

Ladies Help Win Competition for Striking.

The annual meeting of the Irish Association was held in St. Andrew's Hotel, Dublin, after lunch on St .Patrick's Day, March 17th, and was attended by 68 members from Arklow, Bray, Kilkenny, Waterford and three Dublin towers, viz., St. Patrick's Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral and St. George's. The president, the Very Rev. Leslie C. Stevenson, M.A., Dean of Waterford, was in the chair.

Among the guests were the Dean of St. Patrick's, the Dean of Christ Church, the Rev. Canon Campbell, Mrs. Leslie Stevenson, Messrs. W. B. Elliott and George Dukes, also the Rev. Chancellor G. D. Scott and Mr. W. Chamney, two original ringing members of the association, who attended the first meeting of the association in October, 1898.

Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. J. R. Crooks, Mr. William Pratt, hon. secretary of the Northern Branch, the St. Canice's Society, Kilkenny, Mount St. Alphonsus' and St. Mary's Societies, Limerick, and SS. Augustine and John's Society, Dublin.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS.

The Chairman, in his opening address, referred to the death last November of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, who was the only hon. secretary the association ever had. His 43 years of service in that office were an outstanding record. The Chairman referred to the first meeting of the association and said that when they came to choose a president they chose a Waterford man in the person of Richard R. Cherry, afterwards Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and when they came to elect a secretary, they found no better man than Gabriel Lindoff; this fact was borne out by his devotion to the work in laying the foundation and in the building up of the association to its present standard. The Chairman concluded by putting the following resolution to the meeting:—

'The members of the Irish Association of Change Ringers, assembled in annual meeting, place on record their profound sense of the loss sustained by the death last November of their hon. secretary, Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, who was the first and only secretary the association has had. For 43 years he held this position and it would be impossible to estimate what the association owes to him. They deeply appreciate the services he gave, and acknowledge with gratitude his life-long interest in the science of change ringing, of which he was a notable exponent. Alike as a composer and a practical ringer, Mr. Lindoff was pre-eminent. His death removes from the ringing world one whom all recognised as a master, a painstaking teacher and a true friend. To his son, the Irish Association of Change Ringers wish to convey this sincerest sympathy.'

The resolution was passed by the meeting standing in silence, on the proposition of Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.C., who said that when he was learning change ringing he could well remember going home with Mr. Lindoff, and the first thing 'Gay' would do on entering the house would be to take out his pipe and light it—he was very fond of his pipe—and then he would take out his pencil and write row after row of figures.

Mr. W. E. Lynch, who seconded the resolution, said that he agreed with all that was said, and referred to the wonderful tributes paid to Mr. Lindoff in 'The Ringing World' last November.

The annual report dealt mainly with the death of Gabriel Lindoff. Other points mentioned were: No peals were rung during 1941: most companies had lost members, some joined defence forces while others had to leave their homes in search of work, but, nevertheless, some recruits came along to fill up gaps and the bells still ring out the call of the righteous to worship and sinners to repentance. Two other members passed away during the year, viz., Capt. A. Tyrrell, Arklow, and William Bibby, Frodsham. The number of members now on the books is 234.

The balance sheet showed that the balance in the general fund had slightly decreased from £6 14s. 1d. to £6 8s. 4d. The amount received from subscriptions was £7 13s. 9d. In the Bell Repair Fund there is £64 13s. 11d.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

A resolution from Bray Society was passed by the meeting, which altered the rule for the time of ringing for the Shield Competition.

Christ Church Cathedral Society sent forward a resolution, which was passed by the meeting, that a committee meeting be held on the annual meeting day to enable country members to attend who live too far away to be present at ordinary committee meetings.

Bray was selected as the place for the next annual meeting, provided transport arrangements permitted. If travelling difficulties could be overcome, the committee are to decide if Waterford could be visited, following a representation from the latter society.

The elections of officers resulted as follows: President, Very Rev. F. Lewis-Crosby, B.D., Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin: hon. treasurer, Mr. David Gibson (Bray); Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy (St. Patrick's, Dublin).

As hon secretary, Mr. Fred E. Dukes, 23, Skreen Road, Dublin (St. George's, Dublin), was elected to succeed the late Mr. Lindoff.

(Continued in next column.)

DEATH OF BURBAGE SEXTON.

It is with regret that we record the death on March 19th of Mr. G. Dudley, of Burbage, Leicestershire, after a short illness, at the age of 69 years.

Deceased had been a ringer at the village church for 50 years and had been sexton for the last 20 years. He had rung nine peals, but his chief pleasure was when ringing for service, and he could always be relied upon to give his best. When the ban on ringing came he placed his handbells at the disposal of Mr. Ballard, and it was largely through Mr. Dudley's kindness that it has been possible to hold ringing together in the village.

Mr. Dudley was laid to rest on Monday, March 23rd, beneath the church he served and loved so well. A floral tribute was sent from his fellow ringers and also from the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association.

The deepest sympathy of his friends goes out to the widow and to the only son (Mr. P. Dudley, of Derby), who is well known amongst ringers. The deceased will be very hard to replace.

MOSCOW IN THE YEAR 1698.

In a book entitled 'Front Page News Once,' Mr. G. Bilainkin quotes 'A Short Article on Moscow' from 'The Post Boy' of January 20th-22nd, 1698:—

'The churches and houses of the persons of quality are built with stone and brick, and some of the chief churches are covered with gilt or copper or tin, having globes of the same metal on them, which renders the prospect very glorious. There is a bell raised on a tower in Moscow which weighs 176 tons (tuns), there being 200 tons of metal (mettal) allowed to the founder that cast it. The same is 24 ft. in height, the clapper is 21 ft. in length and weighs about seven tons.'

CAMPANOLOGY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Enclosed peal report from 'Hinckley Times and Gazette' might interest your readers. It is certainly the *record* handbell peal and longest of Grandsire Triples ever rung, 24 hours 44 minutes!

CAMPANOLOGY. — At Stedman, Sketchley Road, on Tuesday, members of the Midland Counties Association of Change Ringers rang a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes, in 24 hours 44 minutes, on handbells. The ringers were: 1 and 2, A. Jordon (Hinckley); 3 and 4, A. Ballard (Burbage); 5 and 6, F. K. Measures (Burbage): 7 and 8, Pte. W. J. Clough, R.A. (Burbage). The peal was composed by Mr. J. J. Parker and conducted by F. K. Measures. This is the first peal of Triples ever rung entirely by Hinckley district members of the association, and was arranged for Pte. Clough, who was home on leave. E. M.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Mr. Dukes thanked the members for the honour conferred on him, and said that he was taking office at the same age as Mr. Lindoff when the latter was elected in 1898. He would do his best to carry on the good work, but Mr. Lindoff had to build up the association and it is now for them to maintain the standard which had been set.

Nineteen new ringing members were elected.

The Ringers' Conference in 'The Ringing World' was commended to the interest of the members by the chairman and the hon. secretary. Both gentlemen spoke on its merits, and although some of the motions did not so far affect the Irish Association, a few, however, did. They said that anybody can take part in the discussions and they should stimulate a new interest in ringing circles.

The hon. secretary recommended members to purchase 'The Ringing World,' which was instructive as well as interesting. Articles appeared regularly and hints were often given by leading ringers.

Extracts from a letter from Mr. Sid Roper (Croydon) were read to the meeting. Reference was made to Mr. Lindoff, and good wishes extended to the members.

The Attendance Shield was won by Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, with 99.88 per cent. attendance for 1941. The shield was presented to Mr. W. E. Lynch for his society.

The Striking Competition was held at Christ Church Cathedral prior to the meeting, when five teams, viz., Arklow, Waterford (holders), St. Patrick's, Dublin, Christ Church, Dublin, and St. George's, Dublin, competed for the Murphy Cup. The judges, Messrs. J. B. Tough (Bray) and J. S. Gibb (Kilkenny), awarded the cup to St. George's, Dublin, which team included four lady ringers. St. Patrick's, Dublin, came second and Christ Church, Dublin, third. Mrs. F. E. Dukes received the cup on behalf of St. George's Society.

Votes of thanks were passed at the meeting to the judges of the Striking Competition, to the country teams for travelling long distances against great odds, and to the outgoing president for his conduct as chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman replied to the vote, and said he was very proud to be able to take part in the meeting and also to have been president of the association.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

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ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the committee will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, April 4th, at 4 p.m.—L. J. Clark, Gen. Sec., 36, Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 6th. General business meeting in College Hall at 3 p.m. prompt.—J. D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Sedgebarrow, Evesham.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Cambridge on Easter Monday. Ringing on the Seage apparatus at the Church of St. Mary the Great from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30.—K. Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — The annual meeting will be held at Newport on Easter Monday, April 6th. Meeting at 3 o'clock in St. Woolos' Church Hall.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Alteryn View, Newport, Mon.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 11th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting for the election of officers will be held at Norwich on Saturday, April 11th. St. Giles' bells and handbells in St. Peter Mancroft belfry from 2.30 p.m. Service, St. Peter Mancroft, 4.30. Tea in the County Restaurant, Davey Place, 5.15. Business meeting 5.45.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. —North and West District.—A combined meeting will be held at St. John's, Waterloo Road, S.E.1, Saturday, April 11th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4 and tea at 4.45 p.m. Handbells available before service and after tea. Tea will only be supplied to those who notify Mrs. E. E. Davis, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12, not later than April 8th. Please bring your own sugar.—T. J. Lock and G. W. Steere, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at ST. ALBANS on Saturday, April 11th. Service in the Cathedral 4 p.m., with address. Preacher: Canon Thorpe, Vicar of Watford. Tea at Waterend Barn 5.15 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by Thursday, April 9th. St. Peter's tower open at 2.30 p.m. for silent ringing and handbells. — G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — The general annual meeting will be at Leicester, Saturday, April 11th. Bells (silent) at Cathedral (12) and St. Margaret's (8) during afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., at Church House, by Cathedral. General meeting follows tea. In the evening a social is being arranged, particulars later. Names for tea must be sent to Mr. Perkins, 52, Landseer Road, Leicester, not later than April 8th, and note—**no names—no tea,** and this notice will be enforced.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church, on Saturday, April 11th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Schoolroom, followed by business meeting and handbell ringing. To assist in catering, please notify intention to be present not later than Wednesday, April 8th. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road,

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Burton Latimer on Saturday, April 11th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting afterwards. Tea provided only for those notifying previously. — H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Draycott on Saturday, April 11th, at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be provided for all who notify Mr. A. Hough, Ard-Na-Chree, Draycott, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, before April 8th. Handbells available and all ringers welcome.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.— The district annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, April 18th, at 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea at Walker Hall, The Green, for those who notify me by Wednesday previous. Please bring your own sugar. Handbells available for ringing. — T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Herts.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division. — A meeting of this division will be held at Earl's Colne on Saturday, April 18th. Handbells from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided only for those sending in their names by Wednesday, April 15th, to Mr. F. Ridgwell, Queen's Road, Earl's Colne, Essex. An opportunity to meet old friends; please come and make this a real success.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meetings at Guildford on Saturday, April 18th. Executive Committee meet at S. Nicolas' Vestry at 3 p.m. Service at S. Nicolas' 4 p.m. Tea at Ayers' Cafe (next S. Nicolas' Church) 5 p.m., followed by the annual general meetings of both the Guildford District and the Guild. Please send me numbers for tea by April 14th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

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