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GOLDEN WEDDING.

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Musselburgh News.
Friday, 9th January 1931.

LONDON LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Soviet Timber Camps.

The Prime Minister and his secretarial staff came very badly out of the exchange of letters with Commander Carlyon Bellairs, M.P., over the conditions in the Soviet timber camps. It is quite certain that both Miss Rosenberg and the Prime Minister himself knew very well what Commander Bellairs meant when, he referred to "our agent" in Poland and that they regarded it as tactical to assume that the Commander meant an agent of some anti-Russian society. The whole thing has been rather pointless, and the Prime Minister stands fairly accused of quite unnecessary rudeness to a fellow M.P.

Trade Disputes Bill.

A legal expert has been pointing out to me that the Trade Disputes Bill, as it stands at present, is quite meaningless for any court of law. The principle "ignoratio legis non exculpat" is a sound one in law, and if one admits that, the terms of the Bill are incomprehensible. For it provides that if a strike is called, it is not illegal until the matter has been considered by a court of law, and that only then may it be stopped if it is illegal. But any judge would be bound to point out that the strike was illegal from the first, and so he would have to choose between good law and the letter of the Bill.

M.P.'s and Evening Dress.

There are not many Labour M.P.'s now who hold strong views on the wearing of evening dress, and no doubt the colleagues of Mr Walter Ayles will think that he is making a song about nothing in refusing to attend a dinner given by the Bristol section of the Institute of Civil Engineers because he is required to wear evening dress. What Mr Ayles says about his hosts being concerned not with a "Member of Parliament, but with his clothes" is perfectly true of himself as well, for it is foolish to think that putting on a dinner jacket is important enough to make one enter a controversy.

Is A. J. C. Moderating?

It is extraordinary to see Mr A. J. Cook, who used to be so violent in his views, rebuking Mr George Harvey for his call to start a national strike. He is writing in the "New Leader" this week, and one might almost think that it is somebody else with the same name, for he is as moderate and cautious as Mr Ramsay MacDonald himself. Some time ago he was denounced by the Soviet authorities, and it must be admitted that he has taken right away from the wilder spirits of the trade union movement. His conversion to reason is a matter on which he should be congratulated.

Noise and Amusement.

Mr Aldous Huxley, in his much discussed preface to Mr Finer's book on democracy, makes a rather wild statement when he says that noise is an essential part of amusement. He is not very old, but quite old enough to remember the silent films, and he must surely have heard of those indoor games like chess and draughts, which can hardly be called uproarious. Indeed, he builds up an argument which one can see to be false the moment one analyses it. He starts with the assertion that it is "possible for noise to be so loud that one cannot hear oneself think." His next step is to the debatable one that "the aim of all amusements is to kill thought," and from there, by a perfect "non sequitur," he jumps to the conclusion "noise is an essential part of amusement."

Mat Keating.

At a recent gathering in the Devereux Arms, off Fleet Street, where old songs were being sung, Mat Keating, who was one of the Nationalists in Parliament from 1909 until 1918, was one of the outstanding figures. I had not seen him for years, but he was as full of life as ever, and obviously enjoying himself hugely. He sang several old music-hall songs himself, and no successful was he that he was awarded the first prize. Strangely enough, although he is as Irish as a music-hall Irishman and can sing "The Girl from County Clare" with a most delightful brogue, he was actually born in Wales.

J. G. Barnet's New Book.

It will be remembered that, when a young girl, along with her parents, Her Majesty the Queen paid a short visit to Loch Leven, which is described in Mr John Guthrie Barnet's book "The Life and Complete Works of Michael Bruce." The fact suggested that a copy of the volume, recently re-issued, should be sent to Her Majesty for her kind acceptance; and this having been done one of the secretaries of the Queen has sent to Mr Barnet "an expression of grateful and sincere thanks"; recognising "the high thought of the Life and Complete Works of Michael Bruce." The incident now recorded will doubtless excite in the minds of many a desire to read Mr Barnet's profoundly interesting volume.

TOWN TALK.

With the New Year holidays and excitement over, things are running normal again.

Those who knew "Jack" Keene, the Loretto cricket coach, learned with regret the news of his sudden death.

Captain Mackintosh, of Linkfield House, had a narrow escape from death in the Carlisle railway express disaster, in which three people were killed.

He was a passenger in the same carriage as one of the victims.

It would appear the Bogle Hole was once really a place associated with bogles or witches.

Women's skulls, with remains of charcoal embedded in them, have just been unearthed there.

It is supposed they are those of women who were burned to death for practising witchcraft.

Some interest has been created by town workmen the sawing branches of trees in the Mall and Eskside.

People collected, and scarcely had some of the branches fallen to the ground when there was a rush to secure them for firewood.

Man, woman, and child were to be seen busy sawing and chopping.

The keen frost at the beginning of the week enabled the Curling Club to hansel their electric light installation at the Monktonhall Pond and play by night.

Mr G. M. Colville, former assistant and interim registrar, has now been appointed registrar of Inveresk Parish in succession to Mr A. J. R. Neilson, retired.

The Musselburgh and Fisherrow Co-operative Society, Ltd., announce a big effort in aid of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Extension Fund.

It will take the form of a Burns entertainment contributed by artistes among the foremost on Edinburgh's concert platform.

The tickets are moderately priced for such a high standard interpretation of Burns' works, and there is no doubt but that the demand will be heavy.

All the proceeds from the concert are to be given to the Infirmary Fund, the Co-operative Society bearing every item of expenditure.

The British Linen Bank has opened a branch in High Street.

Mr Herbert Millar, Town Clerk, is the agent for the branch.

Two three-masted sailing boats have been busy unloading cargoes of china clay and rock salt at Fisherrow Harbour this week.

We learn on good authority that the surface-men at Carberry Tit, who were thrown idle from the 13th to the 29th October, are to receive unemployment benefit for that period.

SKULLS FOUND AT BOGLE HOLE.

When removing oil tanks from the depot at Bogle Hole, Musselburgh, workmen unearthed several skulls and other parts of human remains at a depth of about four feet from the surface of the ground. The remains of charcoal were also found amongst the skulls, which were apparently those of females, being narrow and smaller as compared to that of a man, and it is supposed that the skulls are the remains of women who were burned to death years ago as witches, or bogles as they were often termed. Thus the Bogle Hole, it would seem, received its name.

ROSLIN COLLIERY BATHS.

BASIS OF VALUATION.

At the Valuation Appeal Court on Tuesday before Lords Hunter, Sands, and Fleming, counsel were heard in an appeal for the Assessor of Midlothian relating to the valuation of the pithead baths recently erected at Roslin Colliery. The Assessor, proceeding upon the contractor's principle as the basis of valuation, assessed the annual value of the subjects at £100, being 1½ per cent. on the actual structural cost. In fixing so low a percentage, the Assessor took into account the purpose to which the subjects were to be put. The County Valuation Committee, however, preferred the method of valuation proposed by the Baths Committee, and assessed the subjects on the basis of 8s 6d per cubicle, giving an annual figure of £19 2s 6d. The Valuation Committee therefore sustained an appeal by the Baths Committee against the Assessor's valuation. The Assessor now appealed against the Valuation Committee's decision. He submitted that the figure he proposed was based on a comparison with other similar subjects in the county. For the Baths Committee it was contended that the Valuation Committee's decision ought to stand. The expenditure incurred in the erection of the baths was commercially unremunerative, having been incurred under the operations of social legislation. The baths existed for the comfort and material welfare of the colliery employees. In the circumstances it was reasonable that the subjects should be valued at 3 per cent. of the structural cost or at a cubicle rate of 8s 6d, which was the method hitherto adopted in the case of similar pithead baths in Lanarkshire.

The Court dismissed the appeal.

Lord Hunter said there was not material before the Court to enable it to come to a conclusion to interfere with the figure fixed by the Committee. In reaching that decision the Court was not laying down a new rule of the subjects by which such subjects ought to be valued. That rule might have to be laid down on some future occasion when material for its decision was before the Court.

The other Judges agreed.

The deportation of aliens convicted of any crime and a tightening of the alien deportation laws generally was recommended in the American Senate on Monday by Mr Doak, the Secretary of Labour.

With 26 tickets which he bought in Christmas draws and raffles, Mr George Charles Weston, of Bentley, near Doncaster, has won 17 prizes. Two years ago he won 25 prizes with 50 tickets.

LOCAL NEWS.

MUSIC SUCCESS.—At the recent examination held in Edinburgh by the London College of Music, Master Bertie Moffat gained a 1st Class Certificate for Plandyed Plaine in the Elementary Division. He is a pupil of Miss A. S. Archibald, A.L.C.M., Eskgreen.

FIRE. — Damage estimated at £200 was caused by an outbreak of fire about 6.30 on Saturday morning last at the joiner's premises at 10 to 12 Millhill, occupied by Mr Hugh Raitt. The fire was subdued by the local Fire Brigade after fully an hour's work.

MOTORIST FINED.—Admitting a charge of driving a motor vehicle in High Street, Musselburgh, while under the influence of drink, and colliding with and damaging another motor vehicle, John Burgon, junr., an Eyemouth fish merchant, was fined £12 at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday.

FRUIT HAWKER'S OFFENCE.—At the fortnightly sitting of the Police Court last Friday, Bailie Highley imposed a fine of 5/ upon Peter Yeaman (16), fruit hawker, 60 Campie Road, who pleaded guilty to a charge of allowing his horse and lorry to stand longer than necessary in North High Street. At the same court a penalty of 2/6 was imposed upon Joseph Morgan (16), wireworker, Joppa Salt Pans, for cycling after lighting-up time without lights.

NEW YEAR DRINK.—At a Police Court held on Saturday—Bailie Bourhill on the bench—Mary Drummond or M'Innes pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly in Fisherrow on Hogmanay night. Similar offences committed in High Street the night before were admitted by James Devlin, John M'Crae, and Mrs M'Crae. All four persons, who had no fixed residence, were admonished on giving promises to leave the town without delay.

BORDERERS' FUNCTION. — Close on 100 people attended a whist drive and dance held by the District Borderers' Association in Innes' Hall on New Year's night. For the whist Mr W. Millar was M.C., and Mrs Martin presented the prizes as follows:—Ladies—1, Mrs Martin; 2, Mrs Turnbull; most 6's, Mrs Stake; booby, Miss M. Gibson; lady playing as gent., Mrs J. Whitelaw. Gentlemen—1, Mr W. Robertson; 2, Mr W. Hosie; most 6's, Mr W. Wheatly; booby, Mr Stake; mystery awards, Mrs Henderson and Mr Wilson. Leatham's Orchestra provided the music for the dance, and Mr A. Romanes was M.C. At an interval songs were sung by Mr G. Martin.

GOLDEN WEDDING. — Mr and Mrs Colin Ramsay, who reside at 65 Eskside North, had have done so ever since coming to Musselburgh twenty-four years ago, have just celebrated their golden wedding. Both natives of Fifeshire, they were married at Halbeath on the 31st day of December 1880. Out of a family of nine, four sons and three daughters survive. They have twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and everyone of the four generations was present at a re-union in honour of the occasion, and presented Mr and Mrs Ramsay with a wallet of Treasury notes. Mr Ramsay worked for fifty-six years in the coal pits. He is now retired, and is in his seventy-fourth year. He has been an elder of North Park Church for the past twenty years. Mrs Ramsay is in her seventy-second year.

GUILD PRESENTATION. — The members of North Esk Church Young Men's Guild met on Saturday evening, when Mr Robt. Jenkinson, who had been secretary for the last four years but had to relinquish the post owing to his leaving for another business appointment at New Cumnock, was presented with a Waterman fountain pen and pencil. Mr Alves, the president, in making the presentation, referred to the splendid work which Mr Jenkinson had done, and in handing over the gift remarked that the pen would enable him to keep up a correspondence with the Guild and the pencil would be useful if the pen failed. Mr Jenkinson suitably replied. After tea, the toasts of the "King," "Guild and Kindred Associations" were proposed by the Rev. D. Duncan and Mr Alex. Innes, senr. The musical part of the programme was made up with community singing, selections on the violin and mandoline by Mr M'Gregor, and songs by Messrs Alex. Innes, Adam Innes, Alastair and Archibald Duncan, Edw. Morrison, and Alex. Williamson. Mr Jas. Jenkinson, at the close, proposed a vote of thanks to those who had helped in the evening's enjoyment, which was heartily responded to.

THE LATE MISS LOTHIAN.

On Sunday last, in the Congregational Church, reference was made by the minister, the Rev. R. Smith—to the death of Miss Lothian, one of the oldest inhabitants of Musselburgh. Mr Smith said that in the passing of Miss Lothian he felt that the church had lost its oldest member. She was a daughter of the manse, her father having held pastorates in St Andrews, Redcar, and Elgin. When along with her father she came to Musselburgh in 1861 she joined the Congregational Church here, and during that time her interest in the church had never flagged. Throughout a period when the membership was very small, and when to maintain the cause meant real sacrifice, she rendered invaluable service. And as, in more recent years, the numbers and influence of the church increased, her joy therein was evident to all. Miss Lothian was one of those who refuse to grow old. Retaining her faculties to the last practically unimpaired she was intensely interested in present day life and thought. She sympathised with all who sought after truth and followed where she could. Religion for her meant daily intercourse with the Unseen. She held fast to what was fundamental to the Christian faith, the central fact being, for her, the redeeming grace of God in Christ. She died on the morning of 1930 she conducted family worship as usual and shortly after midday slipped quietly away and as quietly entered the presence of her Lord and joined that great throng "who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Continuing, Mr Smith said he liked to refer to Miss Lothian as the Flower Lady. For many years she had supplied the flowers for the church service in the morning, for the monthly meeting of the church, a vote of thanks had been given to the donor of the flowers. The donor's name was never divulged, but they ought to know now that Miss Lothian, in many ways she was like the flowers she so passionately loved; and not least in that as the flowers turn towards the light so Miss Lothian turned her face towards the light of God's love. There was an old-world grace and beauty of character in her, and she was a continual source of encouragement and inspiration to those who knew her best. The fragrance of that life would linger long with them all and in the church she so much loved.

Mr T. Powell, who has died at Wellington, New Zealand, aged 90, saw active service in the Indian Mutiny.

Mr Alexander Beaton, a Paisley centenarian, died on Tuesday. He was a native of Skye, and celebrated his 100th birthday in October last, when he entertained his friends with Gaelic songs.

Henry Robinson, of Robert Street, Carlisle, sleeping by the fireside on a sofa, was awakened by his cat scratching his face early on Monday and found that a spark from the fire had set the bedclothes alight and the flames had reached his pillow.

SUDDEN DEATH OF LORETTO CRICKET COACH.

While travelling home to Musselburgh from England by the London-to-Edinburgh motor omnibus, Mr John Keene, professional cricket coach to Loretto School, died suddenly on Saturday evening.

Feeling unwell, he took a pill on the journey near to Pathhead, and the body was removed from the bus and conveyed to Musselburgh in the Dalkeith ambulance. Mr Keene, who had recently been in Canada, was returning home, accompanied by his wife and grandson, from a visit to his native Surrey.

In his cricket playing career he shone more as a bowler, and played several seasons for his home county, then Worcestershire, before becoming professional to the Grange Cricket Club, Edinburgh, which post he vacated ten years ago to take up the duties of coach at Loretto School. Deceased, who resided at 15 Links Place, Musselburgh, was 55 years of age.

BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR.

MUSSELBURGH'S WELCOME.

To those people who say that the advent of a new year is losing much of its old-time welcome and celebration in Scotland, Musselburgh folks, at least, give a strong contradiction. The welcome accorded in the "Honest Toun" to 1931 was, despite these depressing times, the best given a new year since, perhaps, the immediate post war years. During the last hours of 1930 and the first of the New Year the streets were unusually busy. At certain points, such as the Town Hall, the New Stone Bridge, and the Hayweights, crowds gathered, and as the town clock struck twelve and works' sirens sounded, announcing the passing of the old and the entrance of the new, cheers rent the air. Handshakes and good wishes followed, all fervently hoping that 1931 would be more prosperous than its predecessor. It surely could not be any worse, was a common enough remark. Then the crowds dispersed, some people bound direct for dances, others on first footing visits. Dwelling-houses all over the burgh displayed lights, so that if the occupants were not receiving first-footers they were apparently silent to fill the New Year calm in. Many people again brought in the New Year in the churches and missions, largely attended watch-night services being held in the Congregational and St Peter's Churches, the Scottish Coast Mission, and the Salvation Army Corps.

On New Year's morning, just after one's customary breakfast hour, the Trades Band, Pipe Band, and the Flute Band attached to the local Orangemen's Lodge, paraded the town, playing "A Guid New Year." Mr James Alexander, as band secretary, also secretary of the Scottish Amateur Bands' Association, made his forty-fifth New Year's morn appearance with the Trades Band.

New Year holidays at local mills and collieries extended over the first three days of the year, and on Thursday in particular there was a large exodus from the town to Edinburgh to partake of the varied entertainments. In the realm of sports, crowds were attracted to the football match at Easter Road and the pedestrian gala at Powderhall. Indoor entertainments were largely patronised, as also was the open-air carnival at Meadowbank, the weather, cold and dry, being in favour of the latter. For those people who preferred to stay away from the thick holiday crowds in the City, good holiday entertainment could be had at Musselburgh's own picture houses, where the performances were continuous from early afternoon.

MASONIC NIGHT RECORD.

A record gathering of 270 ladies and gentlemen attended a whist drive and dance held in the Masonic Halls last Friday evening by a Ladies' Committee of Lodge St John, Fisherrow, No. 112. The usual hall was unable to accommodate the guests, company at the whist, and about twenty tables had to be placed in the other hall. Another unusual feature was the fact that in the company men distinctly outnumbered women, which is contrary to the usual state of affairs at these functions, and several gentlemen had to play as ladies.

At the commencement of the whist drive Mr A. Macdonald, Lodge Secretary, wished all a happy and prosperous New Year, thanking them at the same time for their presence in such large numbers. Mr T. Ormiston was M.C., assisted by other willing members of committee.

Mr T. M'Cosh, R.W. Master of Lodge St John, in presenting the prizes, which were augmented in number and were of a seasonable nature, thanked all for their support of the series of whist drives and dances, and thus helping the Lodge Building Fund. They were at last seeing the turn of the tide. Their halls were letting much better, and in every way the Lodge was doing better, and he had no fear whatever that their Masonic home would in the near future be clear of debt.

Prize-winners. — Ladies — 1, Mrs D. French; 2, Mrs Wilson; 3, Mrs E. Young; 4, Miss A. Roberts; half-time, Mrs Cunningham; booby, Miss C. Allan; mystery, Miss E. Park. Gentlemen—1, Mr J. King; 2, Mr W. Davidson; 3, Mr J. Clark; 4, Mr R. Gibson; half-time, time, Mr P. Forrest; booby, Mr W. Brown; mystery, Mr J. Routledge; partner whist, Mr P. Forrest and Mr J. King (playing as lady).

Mr A. Macdonald moved a vote of thanks to Mr M'Cosh, also to the Ladies' Committee.

The carnival spirit was much in evidence at the dance, when Graham's Crescent Orchestra rendered the music, and Mrs Orr was M.C. Not only was the hall artistically decorated, but paper hats, streamers, balloons, and other novelties were distributed and added to the merriment. Prizes for a spot waltz were won by Miss Telfer and Mr Ritchie.

HAYWEIGHTS CINEMA.

A rather unusual story, "Should a Man Tell?" will be the principal attraction at the Hayweights Cinema for the first three evenings of the week. The story is woven round a man who, through an accident, develops an uncontrollable impulse to tell the truth. As can be imagined this desire to be truthful results in many unpleasantnesses for his friends, whom, one after another, he succeeds in antagonising. Left without a friend he at last is persuaded to undergo an operation which makes him normal once again. The picture promises to have a wide appeal, principally because of the unique nature of the story. Mady Christians is the star. "Wandering Girls," featuring Dorothy Revier, will also be screened. Love with its ups and downs, as Richard Arlen and the lovable Mary Brian can portray it, is the theme of "The Man I Love," which will be the special item on the programme for the latter three evenings of the week. Arlen plays the part of a handsome young boxer, who is loved by two women. He means honor, happiness, and love to the one; gaiety, mad revelry, and a delightful plaything to the other. One woman offers her heart and the other tempts with riches, luxury, and popularity. Both are beautiful, alluring and their conflicting charms tear his heart. He must choose between the two. The climax is of a most enthralling nature. "The Big Party," which deals with the romance of a shop girl and her boy friend, is also to be presented. Dainty Sue Carol heads a notable cast.

FORTY-SEVEN FEWER DEATHS.

INVERESK PARISH STATISTICS.

During the year just ended, 31st December, there were registered in the Parish of Inveresk (Musselburgh) 411 births, 190 deaths, and 125 marriages. The following shows how these figures compare with those of the previous year:—

	1929.	1930.
Births	396	411
Deaths	237	190
Marriages	120	125

It will be seen that while the number of births and marriages has risen slightly, the number of deaths has fallen considerably.

NEW REGISTRAR.

Mr George M. Colville has been appointed registrar of the Parish of Inveresk in succession to Mr J. R. Neilson, whose retirement after thirty-seven years' service was recently reported in these columns. Mr Frederick Pitts, who for some time has been a poor law clerk in the Public Assistance Office of the Inveresk Parish, has been appointed assistant registrar.

Mr Colville is well known in the town, and the announcement of his new appointment will be received with pleasure by his many friends. He is a prominent golfer, belonging to the Royal Musselburgh Club. During the war he served with the Royal Artillery, and was awarded the D.C.M. He has been assistant to Mr Neilson since 1914.

JUNIOR UNIONIST LEAGUE.

MUSSELBURGH.

A New Year carnival ball, held in the Masonic Hall, was carried out very successfully. A company of over 150 ladies and gentlemen entered into the festivities with the fullest enthusiasm. By midnight the fun was in full swing, the kindly spirit of friendship adding a charm to the wonderful mirth. Mr Ian Johnston carried out the duties of M.C. in a most efficient manner.

Presentations were made during the evening for the lemon touch dance to Miss T. Brown and Mr J. Cunningham, and for the spot waltz to Miss C. Mason and Mr David Irvine.

Music of an appropriate and seasonable character was rendered by the Georgian Band. Many old-fashioned dances were entered into with a vigorous spirit.

The meeting in Innes's Rooms on Wednesday evening carried out a very successful programme, when a large company listened to an address from Mr Alan Beaton. A most enjoyable musical evening was provided by the Tel Bitz Entertainers. Mrs R. Doig presided. Mr Beaton spoke at length on the principles which should govern the minds of all who went to record their vote at election time. Mr Alastair Duncan moved a vote of thanks to Mr Beaton, which was heartily given.

PORTOBELLO.

The Abercorn Lodge, in the Bath Street Hall, had a company of 100 ladies and gentlemen at their New Year whist drive and dance. Members of the committee were engaged during the afternoon in decorating the hall with great taste and preparing the eatables. Mr A. Nicol, Chairman of the League, carried out the duties of M.C. for the whist.

Mr Jas. Hamilton, the honorary secretary, presented the prizes as follows:—Ladies—1, Mrs G. Anderson; 2, Miss J. Locke; 3, Mrs Lodge. Gentlemen—1, Mr C. Campbell; 2, Mr A. S. Harley; 3, Mr Wood. Dancing continued till two o'clock, Mr J. Hamilton and Mr W. Elliott being M.C.'s.

In the small hall a whist drive was held for non-dancers, the winners being Miss Paxton and Mr Easson.

Miss Forbes, of Abbey Lodge, rendered two solos during the proceedings. Mr Johnstone's Jazz Band provided the music.

The Portobello League's social and dance in Bath Street Hall drew a good attendance of members. Mr W. Balfour Robb presided, and after the usual business had been carried through, dancing was continued till 1.30.

ABBEYHILL.

The Abbey League's weekly meeting in St Ann's Mount on Wednesday evening had a record attendance, and four new members were introduced. Miss Forbes, the vice-chairman, presided. The speaker was the League Secretary, Mr F. E. Kaulfuss, who gave an interesting address on the three principal parties in the country. He pointed out how Mr Lloyd George had from time to time made speeches which could only help on the destructive forces of Socialism and Communist doctrines of the extreme elements, and how Ramsay MacDonald was for years the most important leader of the I.L.P., which has worked without ceasing for destruction of industry by strikes and ca' canny in preparation for the abolition of private ownership of capital, and the establishment of Socialism. Mr Kaulfuss also stated that in every country where a Labour or Socialist Government held office, they soonest or later had arrived at the stage of bankruptcy and stagnation, with the workers in thousands looking for the jobs that had fled.

DAY AND NIGHT CURLING AT MONKTONHALL.

The keen frost which prevailed on Tuesday and Wednesday enabled members of the Musselburgh Curling Club to enjoy two days play at the roarin' game on their pond at Monktonhall. On this occasion the fall of darkness was not an end to the sport, as strong electric lights were switched on and play continued. The electric light was just recently installed to permit of evening curling and it was a very successful baptism which it received this week, the players expressing themselves as being highly pleased. Results of games played were:—D. Dickson, 8; R. Whitelaw, 6; Dr Laing, 6; G. M. Colville, 6.

CENTRAL PICTURE HOUSE.

"Under a Texas Moon," to be shown at the Central on Monday and the following two days, is something original in "outdoor" talkies and a hundred per cent entertainment. It is an excellently acted and produced story, with a romantic flavour, of a Mexican Don Juan. Arresting settings and some of the best colour yet seen are additional attractions. Frank Fay who has the role of Don Carlos is a man with a personality and he gives an irresistible, gay-hearted performance. His is one of the most attractive romantic roles seen for a long time, and gains in effect because he is not afraid of laughing at himself. He is the bravado but not the usual conceited hero of screen comedy. Raquel Torres, Myrna Kirby and Noah Beery are others who appear with success. The attraction for the latter part of the week is "The Ship from Shanghai," featuring Louis Wolheim, Conrad Nagel, Holmes Herbert, Kay Johnson, and Carmel Myers. This is an all-talking version of Dale Collins' novel "Ordeal," and ninety per cent of the picture was filmed on the high seas. It tells the story of a group of society people becalmed at sea, and prisoners of the Ship's steward, who has gone mad. It is replete with thrills, tense drama and tender romance.

Senor Leonidas Espado, candidate for the Brazilian National Assembly, was killed in an election fight.

WEDDING IN ST JAMES' CHURCH.

The marriage of Mr R. F. Dickson, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Dickson, Edinburgh, and Miss Christina MacLachlan, daughter of the late Mr Alex. MacLachlan and Mrs MacLachlan, Gatestone, Stanley Street, Portobello, was solemnised in St James' Parish Church on Wednesday afternoon. The Rev. R. L. Sneddon, M.A., officiated and Mr John Wilson, church organist, presided at the organ. The bride, given away by Mr John Dalton, wore a gown of ivory chiffon velvet, a juliet cap trimmed with orange blossom and pearls and Brussels lace, with a bouquet of lilies of the Nile. Miss Nan Wilson, as bridesmaid, was dressed in apricot georgette, the coatee being trimmed with fur to tone, and she carried tiger lilies. Miss Marjorie Robertson, niece of the bride (on a visit from Australia), wearing a pale blue crepe de chine frock with silver lace cap and carrying a Victorian posy, was trainbearer, with Master Ian Hamilton, nephew of the bridegroom, who wore a period suit of pale blue satin. Mr T. Stewart Purves, cousin of the bridegroom, was best man. Mr MacLachlan was attired in a black flowered chenille gown and coatee, and wore a black panne velvet hat. Mrs J. Dickson, mother of bridegroom, chose a navy blue georgette and lace frock and coatee and navy hat.

The ushers at the church were Messrs A. Hamilton, D. Beech, and C. Taylor. The 3rd East Edinburgh Pack of Wolf Cubs, in charge of the Cubmaster, Miss Jenny Linn, and Assistant Cubmaster, Miss M. Banks, formed a guard of honour. It is interesting to note that the bride has been for years an Assistant Cubmaster.

Sixty guests attended the reception at Seabeach House, and the bride left wearing a blue ensemble trimmed with grey fur, a blue hat to match, and grey lizard shoes.

The presents, numbering 70, included the bride's gift to bridegroom a gold wristlet watch; bridegroom's gift to bride, a crystal trinket set; Messrs Baillie & Gifford, W.S., a cheque; and from the staff, a canteen of cutlery; also a dress ring from Rovers, Scouts, and Cubs of the 3rd East Edinburgh (St James') Group. The bridesmaid received a dress ring and the trainbearers Bibles.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

During the Christmas and New Year season the Portobello Baptist Church and its many agencies have had a succession of happy events, Parties for Guides, Brownies, Sunday School Prizes, and other organisations; a large school soiree; the watch-night service on Hogmanay; a re-union communion service on January 4th; and the 17th New Year sermon delivered by the present pastor, Rev. D. Merrick Walker, B.N. The subject was, "My Contribution to 1931," and the text, "As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing and yet possessing all things." "Heaven's standards are altogether different to earth's," said the preacher. "A man's wealth is not what he has but what he is. And his ability to do the greatest good is his fullness of soul and the way which the Mind joins, but by what he accepts from God." It was intimated that the anniversary of the formation of the church and the settlement of the pastor would be held on Sunday and Monday. In the morning on Sunday the Rev. D. Merrick Walker will conduct a parade service, and in the evening Rev. Ernest Brown, M.P. for Leith, will speak. On Monday the soiree will be held.

FOR THE SICK.

The annual whist drive and dance organised throughout the year by the Straiton Whist Club for the funds of the Portobello and Joppa Sick Nursing Association was held in the Town Hall on New Year's night, when Mr Alex. Robertson, the hon. secretary and treasurer, superintended the proceedings. There was an attendance of 400. After the whist play was finished tea was served, and then Miss M. H. Thomson, the hon. secretary of the Sick Nursing Association, presented the prizes to the following winners:—Ladies—Special, Miss Kirk (a framed sketch of Joppa Pans, by Mr H. Lauder); 1, Mrs M'Dermid; 2, Miss Elma Ruxton; 3, Mrs Smibert; 4, Mrs Pearson; 5, Miss Janet Drysdale; 1st half, Miss A. Williamson; 2nd half, Mrs M'Donald; lucky number, Miss E. M. Nicholson; card number, Mrs Archibald; booby, Miss Vera Wilkinson. Gentlemen—1, Mr A. J. Kirk; 2, Mr J. Taylor; 3, Mr Joe Nolan; 4, Mr T. Faichney; 5, Mr A. Kilpatrick; 1st half, Mr J. Hunter; 2nd half, Mr Geo. Arnott; lucky number, Mr J. Stevenson; card number, Mr W. M. Peters; booby, Mr A. Fotheringham.

Mr Robertson, in the course of a few remarks, wished the company the compliments of the season, and extended a hearty welcome to all. He expressed the Club's thanks to all who had assisted in the successful outcome of the function. During the past six years the Club had raised £600 for charitable purposes, and he expected that £60 or £60 would be realised on this occasion. He concluded by thanking Miss Thomson for her services in presenting the prizes.

Rev. W. Lonie Fraser, M.A., Regent Street Church of Scotland, expressed the cordial thanks of the Sick Nursing Association for the Club's continued kindness in carrying through this annual function in aid of their funds, which showed the interest of the Club members in its work and gave the Portobello people the opportunity of supporting the Association and the work of Nurse Burke, who was so capable, energetic, and beloved. Mr Fraser specially thanked Mr Robertson and the Club Committee for their great efforts on behalf of the Association.

Among others present on the platform were Mrs Fraser, Mrs Cruttwell, Mrs Carmichael, and Mrs Peters, members of the Association.

Dancing was engaged in to the music of Jack Thomson's Windsor Orchestra, with Mr Robert Arnott as M.C. For those who did not dance a special whist drive was held on the platform, when the prizes were won by Mrs Beech, Mrs J. A. Watson, and Mrs F. Watson. Novelties were distributed, and the gathering had a right carnival appearance. Ices were served at an interval and much enjoyed.

BOXING.

Mr H. Bownas, Portobello, carried through another of his boxing promotions in the Music Hall, George Street, last Friday evening, when the audience were treated to an excellent programme. Boxing, however, does not appear to have the same wide appeal in Edinburgh as elsewhere, and this is most unfortunate, as the programmes arranged by Mr Bownas are invariably of the highest standard.

Owing to Johnny M'Millan, the Scottish feather-weight champion, having sailed for America, this title is now vacant and eliminating contests have been arranged. One of these concerns Peter Donaldson, Prestonpans, and Peter Cuthbertson, Dunfermline, and will take place under the auspices of Mr Bownas in the Music Hall on Monday, 2nd February. The other bout concerns Dave Barry, Hamilton, and M'Garry, Leith, and will be staged in Glasgow. The winners of these fights will then be matched for the title.

At the annual festival of the Scottish Mothers' Union and Girls' Friendly Society, held in St Mary's Church Hall, Haddington, on Monday night, Mrs W. P. Wilson, Haddington, was made the recipient of a handsome silver tray in recognition of her work as secretary of the Haddington Branch of the Mothers' Union for the past 11 years.

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