Staffordshire Advertiser
Saturday 20 July 1940

Heavy Fine for Light A fine of £10 was imposed by the Burslem magistrates on Monday on Jacob Ball, Chell Heath Farm. Tunstall. for displaying a light from his house during the black-out period. A police officer said he could see the light a distance of half-a-mile away, and when he called at the house it was some time before defendant got up from bed to answer the door. When he did so he became abusive and refused to give his name and address. The officer added that many complaints had been received about the light, and a number of men had threatened to smash in the windows of the house



# ASSIZE CIVIL ACTIONS

## Road Accident Damages

THE hearing of civil actions was resumed before Mr. Justice Hallett, at Staffordshire Assizes, on Monday.

Eleanor Wilson Parrington, a 78-years-old widow, 50, Westcliffe Road, Bournemouth, brought an action to recover damages in respect of personal injuries resulting from the alleged negligent driving of a motor-car by James Heath, a farmer—the defendant in the action—whose address was given as the Littleton Arms Hotel, Penkridge.

A counter-claim was brought by Heath in respect of personal injuries.

Mr. H. A. Tucker, who appeared for the plaintiff, said that on the morning of June 12, 1939, Mrs. Parrington was being driven in her Rolls-Royce car from Stafford in the direction of Penkridge at a speed of about 40 miles per hour. A chauffeur, named Taylor, was driving the car, and a man named Redman was sitting by his side. Mrs. Parrington was sitting in the back of the car, with a glass screen in front of her. When the car was only 30 feet away, it was alleged that Heath drove a car out of Lower Drayton Lane, which was on the other vehicle's near side, in a negligent manner on to the centre of the main road without stopping to look for on-coming traffic. He hesitated a little and then went across on to his nearside facing towards Stafford. Taylor had applied his brakes, and as the road was wet and greasy, the back of the car skidded round towards its offside, and collided with Heath's car. The impact occurred when plaintiff's car was just over the centre of the road following the skid.

Mrs. Parrington, said counsel, was thrown forward and sustained a contusion on the head, a double fracture of the left thumb, and shock. Heath sustained five broken ribs on the right side, general abrasions, and shock. Subject to liability, special damages had been agreed at £42 11s. for Mrs. Parrington, and £37 6s. for Heath.

Evidence was given by Fredk. Taylor, the chauffeur, who, in cross-examination, denied that defendant's car was on its correct side when the impact occurred.

John Store Redman, architect to Messrs. John Joule and Son, Stone, who was a passenger in the plaintiff's car, stated that they were travelling on their correct side of the road at a speed of about 40 miles per hour. Defendant's car came out of the side road at about 10 to 12 miles per hour. He did not hesitate, nor did he sound his horn. As he got on towards the crown of the road, however, defendant hesitated momentarily, and witness was of the opinion that had he gone straight on the Rolls car would have missed him.

Defendant stated that he stopped his car at the junction of the lane and main road and looked in both directions. Three cars were coming from the direction of Penkridge, and he waited for them to pass. He was about halfway across the road when he saw plaintiff's car about 100 yards away. On reaching his near-side of the road, witness pulled up because he noticed that the other car was beginning to skid.

In reply to his Lordship, witness said he saw no reason for the skid. There was plenty of room for the other car to pass.

In cross-examination, witness said he sounded his horn as he approached the main road.

Albert Heath, who was a passenger in defendant's car, corroborated.

Giving judgment, his Lordship said it was an unsatisfactory case. He had the evidence of both drivers and their passengers, but there was no independent evidence. All four witnesses had struck him as being absolutely honest, and they had tried to give the picture as they believed it to be. There would be judgment for plaintiff on the claim and for defendant on the counter-claim. There would be a set-off in regard to costs.

### KILLED BY 'BUS

The Potteries Motor Traction Co., Ltd., were defendants in an action brought by William Poole, 28, Lower Hadderidge, Burslem, to recover damages in respect of the death of his infant son Joseph Wm. Poole, who was killed in a street accident on the night of December 22, 1939. The father was suing as administrator of the estate.

Mr. J. F. Bourke appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant company was represented by Mr. Ryder Richardson.

Mr. Bourke said the boy, who was 14 years of age at the time of the accident, was employed as an errand boy and was earning 15s. per week. He was a promising boy, and thought highly of by his employers, who today would have been paying him 30s. per week. The boy gave the whole of his earnings to his mother. About 7-30 on the evening of December 22, said counsel, the deceased who was accompanied by another boy, was riding his bicycle along Pinnox Street, Tunstall. Poole was riding on the outside, and occupying a position on the edge of the strip of tarmac which ran along the centre of Pinnox Street. Both bicycles were well lighted. The evening was damp, and the road surface greasy.

The defendant's 'bus, said counsel, was following about four yards behind the cyclists, who had just come down an incline. They were getting to where the road was more or less level, when the deceased's machine suddenly skidded, and he was thrown on to the road. The 'bus was unable to stop and came over the boy. The front wheel of the 'bus caught the bicycle and dragged it a distance of 21 feet. One of the rear wheels passed over the boy's head and killed him. Counsel added that there was no complaint regarding the 'bus's position on the road. The defendants said they were not to blame, and that it was an inevitable accident.

His Lordship: What do you say? Is the negligence driving too fast and too near?—Yes.

Roy Petie, 6, Robinson Avenue, Smallthorne, who was cycling with Poole, stated that the 'bus had been following them, and as they approached the corner immediately before the accident, it got closer to them.

Asked how close the 'bus was to them, witness replied that they were silhouetted by the 'bus lights. He agreed that if Poole had not skidded there would have been no accident.

Herbert Holt Wood, the driver of the 'bus involved in the accident, stated that as he was approaching the junction of Scotia Road and Pinnox Street, he was proposing to overtake the cyclists and pulled over slightly. The road was absolutely clear, and in the ordinary course of events, he would have passed safely. Witness was about four feet away from the boy, and on the point of pulling out to pass when the rear wheel of the cyclist went from under the rider, and he disappeared in front of the centre of the 'bus. He applied both brakes and stopped the 'bus, and on getting out, he found that one of the rear wheels was holding the boy. Witness drove the 'bus forward in order to release him.

Mr. Bourke: Was it a proper thing for you to get as near as four feet to this boy on this night?—I had got to be pretty close to him to pass him.

Counsel: Why?—Because he was riding near the centre of the road on the edge of the tarmac.

Giving judgment, his Lordship said plaintiff could not succeed unless he established to his (the Judge's) satisfaction firstly, that the defendant's driver was guilty of negligence, and, secondly, that such negligence caused the death of the deceased boy. He thought that in the black-out it would take a fraction of time for the driver of the 'bus to realize what had happened. He (the Judge) was not satisfied that if the 'bus had been travelling at little more than a walking pace it could have avoided running over someone who fell off a bicycle in front of it. The 'bus was travelling at a perfectly moderate speed. It was getting near to the cyclist because the driver was minded to overtake. Without preliminary warning the cyclist fell off his machine by reason of a skid, right in the path of the 'bus, and he did not think there was negligence on the part of the 'bus driver. There would, therefore, be judgment for the defendants, with costs.

### DAMAGES FOR LOST LIMB

A young man who was discharged from the Royal Air Force in consequence of injuries received in a road accident on the Derby Road at Brailsford on May 6, 1939, brought an action to recover damages from Allen Dale, Statham Street, Macclesfield. The plaintiff was Peter Louis Magnier, No. 2 The Banks, Rudyard, near Leek, and Alexander Whyte McLellan, 107, Park Dale Road, Nottingham, who was also involved in the accident, was brought in as a third party in the action.

Mr. J. F. Bourke appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. Ryder Richardson represented Dale, and Mr. D. Gerrard and Mr. E. R. Guest were for McLellan.

Outlining the facts, Mr. Bourke mentioned that at the time of the accident Magnier was a first-class aircraftman in the R.A.F. He was riding a motor-cycle, and on taking a left-hand bend he was overtaken by the defendant Dale, who was also riding a motor-cycle, in circumstances which, he (counsel), said were negligent. Defendant took the bend far too wide and was unable to avoid a motor-car, which was being driven by McLellan in the opposite direction. Dale was thrown complete with his machine into the air and then against the plaintiff, who was about three feet from the near side. It was also his (counsel's) contention that McLellan was negligent, because in taking the bend he was either over the crown of the road or too far from his correct side.

Describing the injuries resulting from the accident, counsel said Dale had both of his legs fractured, and Magnier sustained a compound fracture of the right leg. The limb was subsequently amputated and Magnier's health was completely shattered. He was discharged from the Royal Air Force in April, but had since obtained work as an aero engine inspector.

Magnier gave evidence, and in reply to Mr. Gerrard stated that Dale was travelling at about 40 miles per hour when he overtook him and collided with McLellan's car.

Thomas Marsden, Exchange Street, Macclesfield, stated that on the day of the accident he was on his way to Donnington Races with Dale and another motor-cyclist. As McLellan's car passed witness, he noticed that their machines had attracted the attention of the driver. On looking back, witness saw that McLellan had gone over the crown of the road, and he was in that position when his car collided with Dale's machine.

Giving evidence, Dale stated that as the car approached him, the driver, McLellan, was looking back over his shoulder. The car came over the crown of the road and collided with witness's machine.

McLellan stated at no time was he away from his correct side of the road. He passed two motor-cyclists, and first apprehended trouble when he saw Dale approaching about 30 yards away. The motor-cyclist came over the crown of the road in a wide sweep, and witness applied the brakes of his car. Dale had his head down, and did not look up until he was only four or five yards away from the car, which he attempted to avoid by cutting in to his correct side.

Henry Gibbons, who was a passenger in the car, stated that the motor-cyclist was not looking where he was going. When he saw the car he attempted to swerve back to his own side, but failed.

### USEFUL PHOTOGRAPHS

When a police officer in the Derbyshire Police Force proved certain photographs which he had taken at the scene of the accident, his Lordship inquired whether it was the practice of the Derby police to take photographs.

Witness replied in the negative, and explained that he borrowed the camera from a nearby cottage.

His Lordship said he was wondering whether the Derbyshire County Council had introduced the practice. The photographs were very good ones and very useful to the case.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff against the defendant Dale for £1,167 15s. and costs. Judgment was also given for McLellan against plaintiff, and Dale was ordered to pay Magnier's costs.

### TUNSTALL BUSINESS MAN'S CLAIM

Arising out of a motoring accident on December 23, 1938, John Baxter (70), 1, Oakhill Avenue, High Lane, Burslem, and Harry James (45), 16, Gordon Road, Sandyford, Tunstall, brought an action to recover damages in respect of personal injuries from John Eccleston, The Grange, Inskip, near Preston, and Roland Eccleston, Iddon House Farm, Charnock Richard.

Mr. J. F Bourke appeared for plaintiffs, and defendants were represented by Mr. E. R. Guest.

Liability was admitted and Mr. Bourke intimated to his Lordship that the case would turn entirely on the medical evidence.

The plaintiff Baxter, a builders' merchant, trading as John Baxter and Sons (Tunstall) Ltd., stated that the accident out of which the action had arisen occurred between Wigan and Preston. He was sitting in the back of the car, the driver of which was the plaintiff James. As the result of a head-on collision he was thrown forward against the glass partition. He sustained a cut over the left eye which required 11 stitches, and five stitches were put in another cut at the back of the head. Before the accident he was active in his business, and was able to play a full round of golf. Since the accident he had been unable to walk to his office, and he was only able to play a little golf.

Dr. Kingsley Inman stated that before the accident plaintiff was in good health. He was a competent, methodical man in every way. Since the accident, however, he had become "a little bit fussy," lacked concentration, and his memory had become poor. He now suffered from anginal attacks and was unable to hurry. His expectation of life had been shortened very considerably.

The plaintiff, James, stated that as the result of the impact his knees were thrown forward into the steering column, and the injury sustained made it impossible for him to follow his employment as a lorry-driver. He was also unable to lift heavy weights, and after he had been working for four or five hours his knees began to ache.

Mr. Paul Bernard Roth, surgeon, stated that the lower part of both knee caps had been broken, and, in his opinion, it would not be possible for plaintiff to drive heavy lorries.

Called for the defence, Dr. A. W. Gill stated that many people of the age of 70 got a mild angina condition without shock. As regarded James's injury, he did not think the fractures were of serious moment. There was a full range of movement of the knee joints.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff Baxter against defendants for £350, and judgment for the plaintiff James for £407 19s. 6d.

### DAMAGES FOR BOY PLAINTIFF

His Lordship approved a settlement for the payment of £1,400 damages in an action brought by Thomas Murray (an infant) suing through his father, Thomas Murray, 11, Hawthorne Street, Cobridge. The defendants were A. Taylor and Co., The Cooperage, Hine Street, Hanley.

Mr. J. F. Bourke (for plaintiff) said the plaintiff was 15 years of age when the accident occurred on July 5, 1939. He was working on a jointing machine at the defendant's works, when his left hand got caught in the blades and was very badly injured.

Mr. A. J. Long, K.C., with Mr. H. A. Tucker appeared for the defendants.

Agreed damages at £500 were sanctioned by his Lordship in a claim brought by Harold Davies, Newcastle-under-Lyme, against Robert Knowles, Brailsford, near Berby.

The action arose out of a road accident which occurred at Sandyford, near Stone, when plaintiff's motor-cycle was involved in a collision with defendant's motor-car. Plaintiff's right leg was badly injured.

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

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## WOLSTANTON FAMILY RENDERED HOMELESS

### Early-Morning Escape From Fire

A Wolstanton man and his wife and their seven children escaped in their night attire and took refuge in an air-raid shelter when an outbreak of fire gutted their home early on Sunday morning.

The premises involved were 31, Ellison Street, Wolstanton, a semi-detached house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. E. Pointon and their family, the youngest member of whom is two years old. Mrs. Pointon told a reporter that she and her husband and their youngest child were asleep in the front bedroom when she was roused by the smell of smoke. She woke her husband, and together they made an examination of the house and found the living room at the rear well alight. Returning upstairs they removed five of their children sleeping in the back bedroom, and then went to rescue their eldest daughter, aged 14, who is ill and was in another bedroom. The eldest daughter was carried down in a blanket by her father, and fainted on the way.

Mrs. Pointon said her husband's clothes were in the kitchen, where the fire apparently started, and he was left with nothing but his night-clothes, and the children also had only their sleeping clothes. The children were taken to an air-raid shelter, and by this time it was impossible to return to the house and get any clothes. Neighbours, however, had been roused, and they took the children in.

On the alarm being given, members of the Newcastle Fire Brigade from headquarters and from the Wolstanton station turned out, and found the house ablaze in all but one room. The flames, however, were prevented from reaching this room—the front room downstairs—and the brigade also averted the spread of the fire to the adjoining house. The furniture in the front room downstairs was saved, but the rest of the house's contents were destroyed.

## COST OF LIVING

### 6 Per Cent. Food Increase in Month

The official cost-of-living figure on July 1, 1940, was 87 points above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 81 points at June 1, 1940, states the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The rise of 6 points (from 181 to 187—the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to rather more than 3 per cent.

For food alone the index of July 1 was 68 points above the level of July, 1914—showing a rise of 10 points or over 6 per cent. since June 1, 1940, when the figure was 58 points above the level of July, 1914.

The rise in the index figure at July 1 was mainly due to the substantial increase in the average price of potatoes resulting from the partial displacement of old potatoes by the new crop at higher prices and to increases in the prices of milk. There were also increases in the average prices of eggs and fish.

As regards potatoes, the Food Ministry explains, a sharp rise in prices is usually experienced at this season, when old potatoes cease to be available and new potatoes take their place. This year the rise was accentuated by the prolonged drought and by the interruption of normal supplies of imported new potatoes. Prices are now falling, and harvest prospects for main crop potatoes, which are entirely home-produced, are good.

The rise in the price of milk is the first, apart from normal seasonal changes, which has occurred since the outbreak of war. Prices to producers have, however, been considerably increased, and costs of distribution are also higher. Although the price to ordinary consumers has now risen, the Ministry draws attention to the scheme for providing milk for children attending school and the scheme for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age. The Ministry is anxious that full advantage should be taken of the latter scheme. Those wishing to participate should apply for the necessary form to the milk officer at their local food office.

## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME NOTES

### Housewives' Service: Sunday Strollers: Teachers' War Bonus

NEWCASTLE housewives will not wish to lag behind the women in Stoke-on-Trent who are being asked to play a further part in civil defence work.

Women throughout the city—in common with those in many other areas of the country—are enrolling in a scheme known as the Housewives' Service, which is designed to augment the existing A.R.P. measures. The service is organized by the W.V.S., and its members undertake to shelter casualties in their houses pending the arrival of services; to assist in the provision of hot water and hot drinks in case of need; to give shelter to children playing in the street who cannot reach home in time, and to place buckets of water outside their doors immediately an air-raid warning is given, for use by the wardens in initial fire-fighting. It is the aim of the organizers that members of the service—which will work in close co-operation with the air-raid wardens' organization—shall be enlisted in each street.

On the face of it, the scheme might seem to conflict with a cardinal point in the instructions of the Ministry of Home Security to the public in the event of air-raids—that all persons not actually engaged in A.R.P. work shall take cover—but in practice the service which members undertake to give entails little outdoor work while at the same time affording a practical and friendly link between the public and the official civil defence workers.

In any case, experience in many parts of the country has shown that men and women of all classes, whether in uniform or not, are only too willing to render these services to their fellows and the children in time of emergency; he would indeed be lacking both in feeling and civic duty, who was unwilling to shelter the injured until the ambulance arrived, or refused to give refuge to children playing in the street.

THERE will be many anxious to support the Chamber of Trade's request for Sunday cinemas in the borough, and they will all regret that, in consequence of a decision last year, the matter cannot be discussed by the Watch Committee until a request for such facilities is received from the military authorities.

Sunday evening strollers present no less a problem in Newcastle than they do in the large industrial centres, and the need for a solution becomes even more urgent as the second blacked-out winter of the war approaches. Some provision is already made in the form of recreational and rest facilities at the Municipal Hall, at the Higherland Methodist Schoolroom by the Y.M.C.A., and by certain of the churches on their own premises, for the benefit of Service-men who may find themselves in the town; but not all choose to spend their Sunday evenings in this fashion, with the result that a proportion of uniforms is to be found among those who wander aimlessly through the streets or lounge in shop doorways.

Last winter the Rector of Hanley solved a similar problem in his own parish—where the Sunday evening problem is even more acute—by organizing socials, and it had been hoped that this splendid example might be followed in Newcastle. Perhaps the local clergy—who, naturally, have always shown themselves anxious to help in solving social problems—will rise to the occasion before winter sets in. Since Newcastle is not a garrison town, it is improbable that any request for Sunday cinemas will come from the military authorities. Surely, then, this is a first-class opportunity for the churches to make a contribution to the national well-being?

If sermons prove unattractive, why should not the clergy sponsor socials or cinema shows? Strict Sabbatarians might object, but it would at least be an attempt to defeat the moral danger to which the crowds of youths and girls who throng the streets are nightly exposed.

THE Burnham Committee's recommendation of a six per cent. war bonus for teachers receiving £5 a week or less, has yet to be considered by the Newcastle Education Committee, but it will probably be the subject of a report at the next meeting on Tuesday week.

The recommendation will not become operative until the organizations of teachers and authorities represented on the Burnham Committee have given their consent, and it is subject to the agreement of the Board of Education. The former condition, I understand, may very well prevent the recommendation from being carried into effect; many teachers find the proposal unacceptable on the ground that the majority of their number to whom it would apply have joined, or are about to join, the Forces, and that merely the younger women in the profession would benefit.

There seems to be a snag here.

H.J.P.

## BUTT LANE

### COLLIERY WORKER'S DAMAGES

An award by consent for £250 damages and costs was made by Judge Finnemore at Newcastle County Court on Tuesday to Frank Pone (60), datallerer, 101, Congleton Road, Butt Lane, in full settlement of a claim which he brought against the Bignall Hill Colliery Co., Ltd., respecting an accident while in their employ on April 6. Paintiff, who claimed in respect of total incapacity, stated that he was chopping a post with an axe when a chip of wood flew up and struck him in the left eye, following which he had suffered from double vision.

## A TALE OF TWO CITIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

"That's a coincidence, too," the guard mused, "for I made the same of it myself."

Jerry, left alone in the mist and darkness, dismounted meanwhile, not only to ease his spent horse, but to wipe the mud from his face, and to shake the wet out of his hat-brim, which might be capable of holding about half a gallon. After standing, with the bridle over his heavily-splashed arm, until the wheels of the mail were no longer within hearing, and the night was quite still again, he turned to walk down the hill.

"After that there gallop from Temple Bar, old lady, I won't trust your forelegs till I get you on the level," said this hoarse messenger, glancing at his mare. "'Recalled to life.' That's a Blazing strange message. Much of that wouldn't do for you, Jerry, I say, Jerry! You'd be in a Blazing bad way, if recalling to life was to come into fashion, Jerry!"

### CHAPTER III

### THE NIGHT SHADOWS

A WONDERFUL fact to reflect upon that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other. A solemn consideration when I enter a great city by night, that every one of those darkly-clustered houses encloses its own secret; that every room in every one of them encloses its own secret; that every beating heart in the hundreds of thousands of breasts there, is in some of its imaginings, a secret, to the heart nearest it! Something of the awfulness, even of Death itself, is referable to this. No more can I turn the leaves of this dear book that I loved, and vainly hope in time to read it all. No more can I look into the depths of this unfathomable water, wherein, as momentary lights glanced into it, I have had glimpses of buried treasure and other things submerged. It was appointed that the book should shut with a spring, for ever and for ever, when I had read but a page. It was appointed that the water should be locked in an eternal frost, when the light was playing on its surface, and I stood in ignorance on the shore. My friend is dead, my neighbour is dead, my love, the darling of my soul, is dead; it is the inexorable consolidation and perpetuation of the secret that was always in that individuality, and which I shall carry in mind to my life's end. In any of the burial-places in this city through which I pass, is there a sleeper more inscrutable than its busy inhabitants are, in the innermost personality, to me, or than I am to them!

As to this, his natural and not to be alienated inheritance, the messenger on horseback had exactly the same possession as the King, the first Minister of State, or the richest merchant in London. So with the three passengers shut up in the narrow compass of one lumbering old mail-coach; they were mysteries to one another, as complete as if each had been in his own coach and six, or his own coach and sixty, with the breadth of a county between him and the next.

The messengers rode back at an ale-houses by the way to drink, but exercising a tendency to keep his own counsel, and to keep his hat cocked over his eyes. He had eyes that assorted very well with that decoration, being of a surface black, with no depth in the colour of form, and much too near together—as if they were afraid of being found out in something singly, if they kept too far apart. They had a sinister expression, under an old cocked-hat like a three-cornered spittoon, and over a great muffler for the chin and throat, which descended nearly to the wearer's knees. When he stopped for drink, he moved this muffler with his left hand, only while he poured his liquor in with his right; as soon as that was done, he muffled again.

"No, Jerry, no!" said the messenger, harping on one theme as he rode. "It wouldn't do for you, Jerry. Jerry, you honest tradesman, it wouldn't suit your line of business! Recalled——! Bust me if I don't think he'd been a-drinking!"

His message perplexed his mind to that degree that he was fain, several times, to take off his hat to scratch his head. Except on the crown, which was raggedly bald, he had stiff, black hair, standing jaggedly all over it, and growing downhill almost to his broad, blunt nose. It was so like smith's work, so much more like the top of a strongly-spiked wall than a head of hair, that the best of players at leap-frog might have declined him, as the most dangerous man in the world to go over.

While he trotted back with the message he was to deliver to the night watchman in his box at the door of Tellson's Bank, by Temple Bar, who was to deliver it to greater authorities within, the shadows of the night took such shapes to him as arose out of the message, and took such shapes to the mare as arose out of her private topics of uneasiness. They seemed to be numerous, for she shied at every shadow on the road.

What time the mail-coach lumbered, jolted, rattled, and bumped upon its tedious way, with its three fellow-inscrutables inside. To whom, likewise, the shadows of the night revealed themselves in the forms their dozing eyes and wandering thoughts suggested.

Tellson's Bank had a run upon it in the mail. As the Bank passenger—with an arm drawn through the leathern strap, which did what lay in it to keep him from pounding against the next passenger, and driving him into his corner, whenever the coach got a special jolt—nodded in his place with half-shut eyes, the little coach windows, and the coach lamp dimly gleaming through them, and the bulky bundle of opposite passenger, became the Bank, and did a great stroke of business. The rattle of the harness was the chink of money, and more drafts were honoured in five minutes than even Tellson's, with all its foreign and home connexion, ever paid in thrice the time. Then the strong-rooms underground at Tellson's, with such of their valuable stores and secrets as were known to the passenger (and it was not a little that he knew about them), opened before him, and he went in among them with the great keys and the feebly-burning candle, and found them safe, and strong, and sound, and still, just as he had last seen them.

But, though the Bank was almost always with him, and though the coach (in a confused way, like the presence of pain under an opiate) was always with him, there was another current of impression that never ceased to run all through the night. He was on his way to dig some one out of a grave.

Now, which of the multitude of faces that showed themselves before him was the true face of the buried person, the shadows of the night did not indicate; but they were all the faces of a man of five-and-forty by years, and they differed principally in the passions they expressed, and in the ghastliness of their worn and wasted state. Pride, contempt, defiance, stubbornness, submission, lamentation, succeeded one another; so did varieties of sunken cheek, cadaverous colour, emaciated hands and fingers. But the face was in the main one face, and every head was prematurely white. A hundred times the dozing passenger inquired of this spectre:

"Buried how long?"

The answer was always the same: "Almost eighteen years."

"You had abandoned all hope of being dug out?"

"Long ago."

"You know that your are recalled to life?"

"They tell me so."

"I hope you care to live?"

"I can't say."

"Shall I show her to you? Will you come and see her?"

The answers to this question were various and contradictory. Sometimes the broken reply was, "Wait!" It would kill me if I saw her too soon." Sometimes it was given in a tender rain of tears, and then it was, "Take me to her." Sometimes it was staring and bewildered, and then it was, "I don't know her. I don't understand."

After such imaginary discourse, the passenger in his fancy would dig, and dig, dig—now with a spade, now with a great key, now with his hands—to dig this wretched creature out. Got out at last, with earth hanging about his face and hair, he would suddenly fall away to dust. The passenger would then start to himself, and lower the window, to get the reality of mist and rain on his cheek.

Yet, even when his eyes were opened on the mist and rain, on the moving patch of light from the lamps, and the hedge at the roadside retreating by jerks, the night shadows outside the coach would fall into the train of the night shadows within. The real Banking-house by Temple Bar, the real business of the past day, the real strong-rooms, the real express sent after him, and the real message returned, would all be there.

Out of the midst of them the ghostly face would rise, and he would accost it again.

"Buried how long?"

"Almost eighteen years."

"I hope you care to live?"

"I can't say."

Dig—dig—dig—until an impatient movement from one of the two passengers would admonish him to pull up the window, draw his arm securely through the leathern strap, and speculate upon the two slumbering forms, until his mind lost its hold of them, and they again slid away into the Bank and the grave.

"Buried how long?"

"Almost eighteen years."

"You had abandoned all hope of being dug out?"

"Long ago."

The words were still in his hearing as just spoken—distinctly in his hearing as ever spoken words had been in his life—when the weary passenger started to the consciousness of daylight, and found that the shadows of the night were gone.

He lowered the window, and looked out at the rising sun. There was a ridge of ploughed land, with a plough upon it where it had been left last night when the horses were unyoked; beyond, a quiet coppice wood, in which many leaves of burning red and golden yellow still remained upon the trees. Though the earth was cold and wet, the sky was clear, and the sun rose bright, placid, and beautiful.

"Eighteen years!" said the passenger, looking at the sun. "Gracious Creator of Day! To be buried alive for eighteen years!"

TO BE CONTINUED

## UNLICENSED MONEYLENDER

### Heavy Penalty on Longton Woman

Allegations that she had loaned money at rates varying between 1,000 and 5,000 per cent. per annum were made at Longton Police Court on Monday against Clara Barker (53), 287, Uttoxeter Road, Normacot, a pottery operative, when she was summoned for carrying on business as a money-lender without a certificate enabling her to do so.

Prosecuting, Mr. M. G. Whittome, of the Customs and Excise Department, said it came to the knowledge of the authorities that defendant was carrying on business as a moneylender, though she had never applied for a certificate under the Moneylenders Act. The evidence, he thought, showed that Mrs. Barker was probably the last person in the whole of the North of England who would ever be given a certificate authorizing her to hold a licence. It was alleged that she had loaned money at rates which varied between 1,000 and 5,000 per cent. per annum. That might sound incredible, but it did not sound so bad when 10s. was borrowed on a Thursday and £1 repaid on the following Thursday. That was 100 per cent. per week. Many of the loans were on the system of maxims, and that was comparatively lenient interest, working out at about 2,000 per cent. per annum.

### "TERROR TO DISTRICT"

Mr. Whittome proceeded to say that Mrs. Barker had become a kind of terror to the district. All the women who borrowed money from her were poor, and two of them had their husbands serving in H.M. Forces. Week after week, sometimes for years on end, defendant had been lending money at that colossal rate of interest and had used every conceivable means of threatening the women to make them pay it back with interest. Every one of the witnesses had faithfully paid back every penny borrowed and the whole of the interest.

Mr. Whittome added that under the Moneylenders Act any interest over 48 per cent. was deemed to be harsh and unconscionable unless it could be proved that there was some special risk.

Evidence bearing out Mr. Whittome's statement was given by Mrs. Charlotte Collier, 112, High Street, Longton, wife of an Army corporal; Mrs. Jane Dalton, 109, Heathcote Road, Longton; Mrs. Sarah Agnes Dimmock, Arthur Street, Longton; Mrs. May Flaherty, King Street, Longton; Mrs. Ethel Sharpe, Sandon Road, Meir; and Mrs. H. Upton. The witnesses Collier, Dalton, and Flaherty detailed alleged threats uttered by Mrs. Barker.

P.c. Handley said that when he interviewed the defendant she said she was not a moneylender, but ran maxims, for which she was entitled to charge a penny in the shilling a week.

Defendant gave evidence denying that she was a moneylender, and saying that what the witnesses had said about her was untrue. She could not read or write, and in running the clubs she trusted to the honesty of her customers. She was employed as a potters' caster, earning between £2 and £3 a week, and she had an invalid husband.

The Bench imposed a total fine of £52, and the Chairman (Miss Coghlan) announced that if the money was not paid within a month she would have to go to prison for six months.

## MILITARY BOOKS FOR L.D.V.

Messrs. Gale and Polden, of Aldershot, the well-known publishers of military books, call attention to a series of publications for Local Defence Volunteers. The series (prices in all cases are moderate) includes various books on the rifle and its use, machine-guns, the pistol, map reading, reconnoitring, signalling, etc. Messrs. Gale and Polden, who, as everybody who has served in the Army knows, have a unique reputation in the publication of Service manuals, will be pleased to send a catalogue of their military publications on request.

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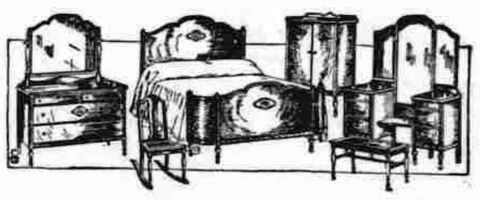

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## "FIVE TOWNS" NEWS

### Councillor Resigns

For business reasons, Mr. A. E. Holdcroft, who has represented one of the Burslem wards on the Stoke-on-Trent City Council for the past 4½ years, has resigned from the Council, and the Committee of the Municipal Association — the organization of the Independents — has nominated Mr. E. B. Radford, Bluestone House, High Lane, Burslem, to succeed him. The new member is a pottery traveller by profession.

### Stipendiary's Warning.

A warning that future offenders would be more severely dealt with was given by the Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. R. Macgregor Clarkson) at Hanley on Monday, when fining Charles Whatoff French Tomlinson, 39, Queen's Terrace, Northwood, 10s. with 10s. 6d. costs for having used a supply of water for other than domestic purposes. Defendant pleaded guilty. Mr. C. E. Herbert, prosecuting for the Potteries Water Board, said on the evening of June 20 defendant was seen watering his back garden, using a 2½-gallon watering can, which he refilled a number of times, and afterwards he was found to be watering the garden at the front of his house, where he had three buckets full of clean water ready for use. Mr. Herbert said as the offence was committed before the general warning to consumers, issued on June 24, the Board did not press for a heavy penalty.

### Founder's Day

There was a large attendance of members of the Old Longtonian Association connected with Longton High School at the second annual Founder's Commemoration service, held at St. James's Parish Church, Longton, at the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. H. T. Samuel). An inspiring sermon was preached by the Vicar of Dresden (the Rev. B. Paton Jones), a member of the association, who, in the course of his remarks, stressed the need at the present time of maintaining the ideals which prompted the founding of the school. Longton High School, formerly known as the Longton Endowed School, was founded by John Bourne in 1763, and two members of the family—Mrs. H. M. Bourne, Hilderstone Hall, and Mrs. G. Candy, Walton House, Stone—wrote to the President of the Association (Miss D. M. Fletcher) regretting their inability to attend the service to represent the family.

### A "Green Room" Story

An incident at a local bank was related at Longton Police Court on Monday, when Leonard Fenton (34), no fixed abode, pleaded not guilty to attempting to obtain money by false pretences from Mr. Douglas Percy Taylor, manager of the Longton branch of the Midland Bank. It was stated that the defendant, giving his name as Shaw, went to Mr. Taylor in the bank and said he wished to borrow 8s. 6d. until the end of the week to pay his fares to a colliery where he had obtained employment. When Mr. Taylor picked up the telephone directory and told defendant to wait, he left the bank with the excuse that he would be back in twenty minutes, but he failed to return. It was subsequently discovered that his story about his work at the colliery was not true. Defendant was sent to prison for three months on this charge and a further three months for obtaining 5s. from James Malcolm Blackwell, manager of Gestetner, Ltd., Hanley.

### 50 Years In Diocese

A mural tablet to perpetuate the memory of the late Preb. Charles Codling, is to be dedicated at St. James's Parish Church, Longton, on July 28, by Preb. J. G. Hamlet, rector of Norton-in-the-Moors. Preb. Codling had spent close on 50 years in the diocese of Lichfield. He was rector of Longton from 1903 to 1931, when he went to Draycott, being succeeded at Longton by the Rev. H. T. Samuel.

### Gave Escort the Slip

A 19-years-old girl named Florence Jane Whiston, of no fixed abode, was ordered to be remanded in custody for a week at Hanley Police Court on Tuesday, when she appeared on a warrant for breach of recognizances. The girl was before the Court on the previous day charged with stealing a watch belonging to her uncle, with whom she had been living, and the Bench adjourned the case sine die on condition that she consented to live in a home selected for her by the probation officer (Miss Bagnall). On the way to the P.A.C. Institution, in charge of Miss Bagnall, the girl ran away and was later found sleeping in an outhouse in Hanley. It was stated that the girl was before the Court last week charged with stealing a coat and was sent to a hostel, but she ran away and subsequently stole the watch. The girl was warned that if she did not behave herself she might have to go to Borstal.

### Heavy Fine for Light

A fine of £10 was imposed by the Burslem magistrates on Monday on Jacob Ball, Chell Heath Farm, Tunstall, for displaying a light from his house during the black-out period. A police officer said he could see the light a distance of half-a-mile away, and when he called at the house it was some time before defendant got up from bed to answer the door. When he did so he became abusive and refused to give his name and address. The officer added that many complaints had been received about the light, and a number of men had threatened to smash in the windows of the house.

### Games Week

Under the auspices of the Stoke-on-Trent Youth Committee, in co-operation with the Central Council of Recreative Physical Training, a Games Week was organized on the ground of the Port Vale F.C. at Hanley. Each evening several hundred adults and juveniles from all parts of the city participated in games and recreative exercises and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Among the coaches who offered their services were Mr. J. Vallance and Mr. W. Kirkham, the former well known local footballers, Mr. A. B. Hollowood (the Burslem and Staffordshire county cricketer), Mr. G. A. H. Williams (Stone and Kent county hockey player), Mr. E. D. Dennis, and Mr. J. Grainger (former Aston Villa footballer).

## CINEMA SHOWS ON SUNDAY

### Request by Newcastle Traders

The question of whether, in the present exceptional circumstances,