

Kent

These items were collected by Dr David Killingray and represent a few of the sources used in writing a book, A West Kent town in the long nineteenth century: risk and choice in the Sevenoaks area c.1780 – 1913, currently with a publisher

A pocket railway timetable, Sevenoaks 1877

Local landowners discussed a railway for Sevenoaks as early as 1824-25. The first line linking the town to London, built by the London, Chatham and Dover Co., opened in 1862; a more direct line from London to Sevenoaks and on to the coast, which required two major tunnels, was opened by the rival South Eastern Railway in 1868.

Collection of David Killingray.

Karl Marx, *Das Kapital* (1867)

Karl Marx, in *Das Kapital* (1867) used the report of the Sevenoaks Nuisances Removal Committee to draw attention to the harsh conditions in which the railway navvies lived and laboured. Sevenoaks is a hill town and both railway stations were located one mile north of the town. Railway time became important to travellers; clocks appeared in railway stations, and watches became a more important personal item to be carried daily.

Penguin edition, 1990, pp818-20

Sevenoaks Urban District Council, voting card, election 1914

Parish pump and local politics have always been vital in village and town life. The Urban District Councils created in 1894 offered new opportunities to local politicians and parties. Several 'Progressives' who argued for schools, improved sanitation, social housing, public parks, libraries, and leisure facilities, and reform of the poor law were elected to the Sevenoaks UDC, but change came slowly in the face of opposition from those who were 'pledged to economy', ie curbing the

rates. This polling card, issued by Jabez Mann, an unsuccessful candidate in 1914, belonged to Percyvall Bowen who marked the votes given to each candidate.

From the papers of Gwen Bowen, Halstead.

Arthur Hickmott, socialist draper of St John's Hill, Sevenoaks

In Sevenoaks, Arthur Hickmott, a draper and active Fabian, was elected on an Independent Labour Party ticket in 1894. Hickmott wrote Fabian pamphlets on agriculture and working-class housing. His slim volume of poems published in 1911, included 'An Adverse Vote' in which he describes the defeat of social welfare ideas in the Sevenoaks Urban District Council, his common experience. As socialists and anti-Imperialists, Hickmott and his wife Nellie actively opposed the South African war of 1899-1902

Original supplied by Justin Wilson, author of Revolutionary Tunbridge Wells (2018).

Manifesto of the Sevenoaks 'Passive Resistance Committee', 1902

National and local politics and religious allegiance merged in opposition to the Education Bill in 1902 which nonconformists argued was 'Rome on the Rates'. The strong Tory majority of the Sevenoaks constituency was drastically cut at the 1902 bye-election. Across the country nonconformists created the Passive Resistance Movement and refused to pay the 'portion of the Educational Rate' to support 'Denominational Schools'. Resisters in Sevenoaks were fined or had their property sequestrated for refusing to pay the full rate.

From the papers of Gwen Bowen, Halstead.

One-pound bank note of the Sevenoaks Bank, 1809

Banks played a growing role in local commercial activity through the nineteenth century. Local banks issued their own bank notes, which when they failed, as did the Sevenoaks Bank in the early 1820s, local investors lost out. George Valentine Hackleton, who signed this note, probably funded the Bank with money he won in the National Lottery. By the end of the century banking was better regulated and more reliable, with cheques commonly used in daily commercial transactions, as indicated by this cheque paid to William Bowen in 1905. By then the Kent town of Sidcup had several banks.

Collection of David Killingray.

‘To the Liberal Electors of the Western Sevenoaks Division of Kent’, 1885

A circular to his supporters from the unsuccessful Liberal Party candidate in the Parliamentary elections of 1885. The secret ballot was introduced in 1872. Property and income determined which men could vote. In 1885 the Sevenoaks Division of Kent had an adult population of c.130,000; the votes on the register numbered 11,098.

Collection of David Killingray.

Picture post cards

Pictorial post cards became a common means of communication by the late nineteenth century. The Sevenoaks printer, J. Salmon, was a pioneer in producing coloured postcards. These two, dating from the early 1900s, show Knole House as painted by local artist Charles Essenhigh Corke, and a hand coloured photograph of Seal Hollow Road. Both scenes remain little changed in 2019. NB. The message and date on the postcards may provide useful information

Collection of David Killingray.

Invoice for Peruvian guano, 1893

An invoice to Percyvall Bowen, a timber merchant and small farmer of Halstead, on the North downs, for Peruvian guano. The Peruvian trade in guano, accumulated bird droppings used as a natural fertilizer, boomed between 1840-70. Global trade, imperial ambitions, and foreign investment tied Peru's fortunes and misfortunes to buyers such as Bowen who used guano to grow soft fruits for the London market.

Papers of Gwen Bowen, Halstead.

Marathon race, coronation of Edward VII, Sevenoaks, 1902

Runners assemble near the Sevenoaks main railway station for the start of the Marathon race to celebrate Edward VII's coronation in 1902. This photograph was sent to the Sevenoaks Historical Society by a reader of the Society's website living in Canada. Migrants left West Kent to settle mainly in the white Dominions or the United States. Their descendants have kindly donated letter, artefacts, photographs and paintings relating to the town found when clearing the houses of elderly relatives.

Provided by a lady in Canada who was clearing her grandmother's home.

Painting, unknown artist

St Nicholas parish church and rectory, Sevenoaks, artists unknown, c.1831. The rectory (by Decimus Burton, 1831) had its own water supply. From 1714 to 1907 the Curteis family held the avowson (reputed to have been won in a card game!) and ministers were always family members. The 'warming-pan' practice of guarding the incumbency for a young son, ceased to be acceptable by mid-century, and in 1874 the archbishop, bishops, and the *Church Times* condemned the Curteis' for such behaviour.

Sourced by the son of a former rector of Sevenoaks.

Photograph, a party of African and European clergy at the Wilberforce Oak, Keston, Kent, 1873

The Wilberforce Oak, Keston, Kent, where Pitt, Grenville and Wilberforce agreed to bring a bill before Parliament to abolish the slave trade in 1787. It became a site of pilgrimage for Africans freed from slavery. Central in this photograph of 1873 is Bishop Samuel Crowther, consecrated the first black Anglican bishop in 1864. Eight years later he was the main speaker at a Diocesan meeting in Sevenoaks. The 2018 Black History Month was marked in the town library by two large boards displaying 'Black people in Sevenoaks since 1600'.

From David Killingray, 'Beneath the Wilberforce Oak, 1873' International Bulletin of Missionary Research, 21, 3 (1997), 111-15

Conservative political flyer, 2019

A Conservative flyer for the 2 May 2019 town council elections, Sevenoaks. This arrived through voters' doors when the minority Tory government was in disarray – Gavin Williamson, the Defence Secretary, had just been sacked, accused for betraying discussions of the National Security Council, and the local MP, Sir Michael Fallon, had earlier resigned office due to a minor scandal. The LOCAL disassociating from the NATIONAL!

Collection of David Killingray.

Ordnance Survey map, 1869, Hartslands

Hartlands, a working-class estate, Sevenoaks, 1869 OS Map. The area is the current laboratory for two historians analysing this greenfield site developed by a local builder, Daniel Grover, after 1840. By 1880 a further road with terraced houses had been added, and Hartslands was the most densely inhabited part of Sevenoaks with more than 900 people (Fifteen percent of the town's population on a thirteen acre site) living in what was effectively a separate village north of the town.

Copied from Sevenoaks Public Library

Photograph, c1883

Ann and Charles Bassett with their family, Seal, near Sevenoaks. Charles, an agricultural labourer became a skilled carpenter. He had radical ideas and with three of his sons when to London in 1884 to join the Kent contingent demonstrating for the extension of the franchise, 'five thousand men carrying hop poles with blue ribbon streamers attached'. His elder son, also Charles (with moustache), was a 'self-improver' with 'progressive' ideas; his career took him from a labourer to a handicrafts teacher.

Original supplied by a Bassett family member.

Photograph, c1890s

James German (1820-1900), born in Preston, where he was a youthful reforming Liberal mayor. He came to live in Sevenoaks in the late 1860s and was active in the town's politics. German repeatedly failed to become a Liberal MP. He understood how to use the local press and pressure groups, usefully deployed when largely single-handedly he brought the main drainage system to the town. Until recently ignored in histories of the town, no buildings or streets bear his name. Why?

Sevenoaks Public Library local collection

Rev. Thomas Curteis letter to Sir Robert Peel, 1842

Most inhabitants of west Kent in the 1830s-40s were poor, some desperately so. The centralised New Poor Law was designed to reduce expenditure on poor relief. This was opposed by local interests, including the rector of Sevenoaks, who argued in a 'letter' (a 46 page pamphlet!) to the prime minister that the parish offered a cheaper, more humane and better-informed system. The result was an overcrowded and badly run workhouse. The Law was enforced, and a new workhouse built at Chevening. It is now luxury apartments!

© *British Library*

Report of Parliamentary Select Committee, 1816

Between the 1770s and 1828 Peter Nouaille's water-driving silk mill at Greatness, north of Sevenoaks, employed more than 80 workers, mainly women and children. A snapshot of the labour conditions and the long hours worked is given by the report on the Parliamentary Select Committee of 1816. Increasingly through the nineteenth century the printed Parliamentary Papers include much information on local matters.

Parliamentary Papers are online.

***The Architect*, 18 July 1874**

Maywood House was designed by Sir Thomas Jackson for his friend James German. It occupied a five-acre site overlooking the Vale of Holmesdale. The journals *The Builder* and *The Architect* are useful sources for local historians.

'Riot' at Knole, June 1884

The weekly illustrated *Penny Pictorial News* sent an artist to cover the disturbances at Knole in June 1884. Mortimer, Lord Sackville, annoyed at Knole Park being used by all and sundry, placed barriers at the entrances to restrict passage, thus annoying local traders and many middle-class townspeople who regarded the Park as a local amenity. On two nights local people broke down the barriers...

You can read more on this in David Killingley, 'Rights, "riot", and ritual: The Knole Park access dispute, Sevenoaks, Kent, 1883-5', Rural History, 5, 1 (1994), 63-79.

***Sevenoaks Chronicle*, 4 January 1901**

Many national and local newspapers are now digitally indexed opening a research door unimaginable to previous generations of historians. The text that accompanied this cartoon in a Kent local newspaper at the start of the twentieth

century had much to say on how contemporaries regarded political, social, economic, and cultural affairs in the locality at the start of a new century.

See British Newspaper Archive, and other digitally indexed online sites.

A new political party 1919-20

The Middle Classes Union is unresearched. It was an anti-socialist response to the 1918 Representation of the People Act which extended the franchise to all working-class men and to some women, fuelled by a fear that ratepayers would bear the costs of post war social welfare and educational reforms. The MCU won some seats in the Sevenoaks UDC elections of 1920 and 1922, and then fade back into conservatism.

Sevenoaks Public Library local collection.

Who benefited from the slave trade and slavery?

This map of West Kent indicates the residences of those who lived within a ten-mile radius of Sevenoaks in the years 1800-40 and directly profited from the slave trade and slavery. They were either producers and dealers in goods that served or derived from the slave system. As the anti-slavery lobbies frequently stated, anyone who consumed sugar, rum, molasses, or tobacco grown from the sweat of slave labour participated in upholding this brutal system.

Local research plus the rich source material from the Slavery Compensation records in The National Archives.

Photographs, c1910

An artisanal family, James and Daisy Bolton and their three children of Bradbourne Road, Sevenoaks. In the inset photograph James Bolton, 'Sign Writer, Grainer and Marbler', is on the trestle working on a local public house, with his assistant. A skilled worker, James was able to buy his house.

Collection of David Killingray. These photographs came to Margaret Killingray, executor for the will of Alice Bolton.

SEVENOAKS
Postal and Telegraph

ARRANGEMENTS.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

The office is open to the Public at 7 a.m.
and closed at 9 p.m.

On Sundays from 7 to 10 a.m.
Letters must be posted on Sunday Nights
at 7.5 p.m.

The Telegraph Office is open from
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sundays 7 to 10 a.m.

Telegrams can be sent after the above
hours by payment of extra fees.

POSTAL SERVICE.
SEVENOAKS AND LONDON.

Letters posted by
9.30 a.m. 12 noon 3.25 p.m. 8.40 p.m.
are delivered in London about
12.0 noon 3 p.m. 5.30 p.m. 8 next morn.

Sevenoaks deliveries commence 7 a.m.
11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

F. H. HILLS.

Post Office, and next Door above,
begs to call the attention of the Public
to his stock of CHRISTMAS & NEW
YEAR'S CARDS of the best makers.
LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S BAGS
in variety.

And his large assortment of Presents for
NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

An inspection is respectfully solicited.

JOHN MORGAN,
COAL & CORN MERCHANT,
Riverhead, Sevenoaks.

COAL DEPOT, S.E. RAILWAY STATION.
Best Willand - - - - 20s per Ton.
Silkstone (best) - - - - 26s. "
Kitchen Coal - - - - 23s. "
Coal for Hop Drying and
Malting purposes - - }
Oven Coke

Terms Cash.

THE SEVENOAKS

THE
BIJOU
TIME TABLE,
FOR SEVENOAKS,

Embracing all the Railways.

JANUARY, 1877.

SEVENOAKS:

PUBLISHED BY F. H. HILLS,

HIGH STREET.

F. H. Hills, 1 door above Post Office.

WHITEHEAD & SONS,
Gold & Silver Smiths,
Watchmakers,
JEWELLERS AND OPTICIANS,
HIGH STREET, SEVENOAKS.

CLOCKS WOUND BY CONTRACT.
Repairs of every description by com-
petent Workmen.

Presentation Silver & Electro Pla-
ted Goods in great variety.

—301—

ESTABLISHED 1815.

Agents for Mr. Streeter, of 18 Bond St.,
London.

Agents to the Liverpool & London Fire
Insurance Office

The Briton Life Insurance Office, & the
Accident Insurance Office, Prospectus
and every information on application.

Karl Marx, Capital Vol. 1 (Eng. trans 1887,
Penguin edn, 1976)

2

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shavings – have an average of 3.3 persons to each, many have 5 and 6 persons to each, and some people, I am told, are absolutely without beds; they sleep in their ordinary clothes, on the bare boards – young men and women, married and unmarried, all together. I need scarcely add that many of these dwellings are dark, damp, dirty, stinking holes, utterly unfit for human habitations; they are the centres from which disease and death are distributed amongst those in better circumstances, who have allowed them thus to fester in our midst.⁶²

Bristol takes the third place after London in the misery of its dwellings. 'Bristol, where the blankest poverty and domestic misery abound in the wealthiest town of Europe.'⁶³

(c) The Nomadic Population

We now turn to a group of people whose origin is rural, but whose occupation is for the most part industrial. They are the light infantry of capital, thrown from one point to another according to its present needs. When they are not on the march they 'camp'. Nomadic labour is used for various building and draining works, for brick-making, lime-burning, railway-making, etc. A flying column of pestilence, it carries smallpox, typhus, cholera and scarlet fever into the places in whose neighbourhood it pitches its camp.⁶⁴ In undertakings which involve a large outlay of capital, such as railways etc., the contractor himself generally provides his army with wooden huts and so on, thus improvising villages which lack all sanitary arrangements, are outside the control of the local authorities, and are very profitable to the gentleman who is doing the contracting, for he exploits his workers in two directions at once – as soldiers of industry, and as tenants. Depending on whether the wooden hut contains one, two or three holes, its inhabitant, the navvy or whatever he may be, has to pay 2, 3 or 4 shillings a week.⁶⁵ One example will suffice. Dr Simon reports that in September 1864 the Chairman of the Nuisances Removal Committee of the parish of Sevenoaks sent the following denunciation to Sir George Grey, the Home Secretary: 'Small-pox cases were

62. *Public Health, Eighth Report*, 1866, p. 114.

63. *ibid.*, p. 50.

64. *Public Health, Seventh Report*, 1865, p. 18.

65. *ibid.*, p. 165.

The General Law of Capitalist Accumulation 819

rarely heard of in this parish until about twelve months ago. Shortly before that time, the works for a railway from Lewisham to Tunbridge were commenced here, and, in addition to the principal works being in the immediate neighbourhood of this town, here was also established the depot for the whole of the works, so that a large number of persons was of necessity employed here. As cottage accommodation could not be obtained for them all, huts were built in several places along the line of the works by the contractor, Mr Jay, for their especial occupation. These huts possessed no ventilation nor drainage, and, besides, were necessarily over-crowded, because each occupant had to accommodate lodgers, whatever the number in his own family might be, although there were only two rooms to each tenement. The consequences were, according to the medical report we received, that in the night-time these poor people were compelled to endure all the horror of suffocation to avoid the pestiferous smells arising from the filthy, stagnant water, and the privies close under their windows. Complaints were at length made to the Nuisances Removal Committee by a medical gentleman who had occasion to visit these huts, and he spoke of their condition as dwellings in the most severe terms, and he expressed his fears that some very serious consequences might ensue, unless some sanitary measures were adopted. About a year ago, Mr Jay promised to appropriate a hut, to which persons in his employ, who were suffering from contagious diseases, might at once be removed. He repeated that promise on the 23rd July last, but although since the date of the last promise there have been several cases of small-pox in his huts, and two deaths from the same disease, yet he has taken no steps whatever to carry out his promise. On the 9th September instant, Mr Kelson, surgeon, reported to me further cases of small-pox in the same huts, and he described their condition as most disgraceful. I should add, for your' (the Minister's) 'information that an isolated house, called the Pest-house, which is set apart for parishioners who might be suffering from infectious diseases, has been continually occupied by such patients for many months past, and is also now occupied; that in one family five children died from small-pox and fever; that from the 1st April to the 1st September this year, a period of five months, there have been no fewer than ten deaths from small-pox in the parish, four of them being in the huts already referred to; that it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of persons who have suffered from that disease

Sevenoaks Urban District Council Election
1914.

VOTE FOR
JABEZ MANN,
THE TRIED & PROVED CANDIDATE,
PLEDGED TO ECONOMY.

BENN.	-	-	-	-	461.
BLOMFIELD	-	-	-	-	832.
CAPLEN	-	-	-	-	42.
MANN	-				X381.
MARSHALL	-	-	-	-	522.
MOORE	-	-	-	-	298.
OWEN	-	-	-	-	499.
WHITE	-	-	-	-	436.

POLLING DAY, MONDAY, APRIL 6th, 1914.

Printed and Published by J. Salmon, High Street, Sevenoaks.

SONGS OF A SHOPMAN

BY

ARTHUR
HICKMOTT



One Shilling nett

An Adverse Vote

An Adverse Vote

I

THREE votes to eight! So ends an episode!
The ancient wrong doth still triumphant stand,
We strove to win the people back *their* land,
But Might once more with hard Injustice rode.

2

There sat the grey-beards, timid as of yore,
(Life's journey nearing to its utmost ridge)—
Hugging the bulging purse of privilege,
Trusting that wrong would reign for evermore.

3

We strove and lost. How smiled contented then
The younger men in all their class-bred pride,
And how the monied trader called "divide"—
And blest old sophistries with prompt "Amen!"

4

Ye powers that be, that hug Injustice close,
Hug on! Despite you all, Truth wins at last,
She scorns cobwebbed enactments of the past,
And we—false rest that spells enslaved repose.

MANIFESTO

OF THE

Sevenoaks Passive Resistance Committee.

On behalf of ourselves and many others who sympathise with the views herein expressed, we, the undersigned, desire to explain the action which, as Christian men, we feel bound in conscience to take, in refusing voluntarily to pay that portion of the new Education Rate which is levied for the support of Denominational Schools.

The educational system of the country has long inflicted great injustice upon the Nonconformists. A large proportion of the Schools of the nation have been placed entirely in the hands of clerical managers. Speaking generally, the public have been excluded from the control of these schools, and in many cases teaching has been given of a highly pernicious sacerdotal character.

Continues on next page

But, under the new Act, the cost of the religious instruction in these Denominational Schools becomes a direct charge upon the rates. Formerly, it could, with some show of reason, be said that the State paid only for the secular education, and that the sectarian teaching was provided from other sources. But in future the entire maintenance of these schools, including instruction which we repudiate as erroneous and destructive of Evangelical religion, is to be paid for out of public funds to which we are expected to contribute.

Let it be borne in mind that every Roman Catholic school in England can now claim to teach the doctrines of its Church at the public expense, and that many other schools, which are Romish in everything but the name, can demand the same support for teaching dogmas utterly opposed to the truths which, as New Testament Christians, we hold most dear. If this were simply a political injustice we might bear it until we could find a political remedy ; but as it is an attack upon our Evangelical religion, we are bound to meet it with the most unrelenting opposition. Our fathers were ready to endure imprisonment, social ostracism, and even death itself, to safeguard us against these very dangers, and now that we are asked to pay a rate for religious teaching which we conscientiously believe to be contrary to the Word of God and opposed to the best interests of the nation, we can make no reply, but to say, "WE WILL NOT SUBMIT."

As Christian citizens, we have always yielded a loyal obedience to the commands of the State, but when the civil power intrudes upon the domain of religion, we are compelled to adopt the alternative which the law provides and suffer the "spoiling of our goods" rather than be

false to the higher law of conscience and the truth of God. And we are convinced that in taking this course we not only uphold the authority of conscience and the integrity of our Protestant Faith, but also the principles of sound statesmanship, which demand that the education of the people shall be directly controlled by the people, and shall be free from all trace of sectarian bias.

(Signed) **JAMES CATTELL.**

B. I. GREENWOOD.

C. RUDGE.

A. WALKER.

Sevenoaks, June 1903.

TO THE LIBERAL ELECTORS OF THE WESTERN
OR SEVENOAKS DIVISION OF KENT.

FALLOWFIELD, CHISELHURST,
November 30th, 1885.

GENTLEMEN,

Accept my heartiest thanks for the enthusiastic support you have accorded me.

That I should have polled within seven hundred votes of the Conservative Candidate in the most Conservative county of England, might well be thought sufficient reward for any Liberal. But there is more than this to call forth my gratitude.

A band of voluntary workers have toiled for the success of the Liberal Cause with a systematic energy which has largely reduced the last Conservative majority, and shows that victory may be won on the next occasion.

And besides this, there have been a large number who, allowing personal friendship to overweigh considerations of my inexperience, have spared neither influence, time nor effort on my behalf.

We have fought together as a united party. Amongst my indefatigable supporters I can count Churchmen and Nonconformists, and Liberals of all shades of opinion.

It has been, as you know, our aim to contest this Election in the spirit of the great measure passed by the Liberal Government in 1883. I have asked for no single promise of a vote and have avoided even a suspicion of exercising undue influence upon any Elector. We have found out the few remaining imperfections in our organisation, and if the short space of time between this and the next Election be devoted to preparation for the new campaign, success is even now within sight.

I wish that I had better deserved the place of honour your generosity assigned me. I wish that I had been more worthy of the kindness lavished upon me; but I have tried, however imperfectly, to represent the great principles of the Liberal faith that unites us as one—a faith, the momentary defeat of which is but the presage of no distant victory.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Always faithfully yours,

PATTESON NICKALLS.

	Voters on the Register.	Highest Conservative Poll.	Highest Liberal Poll.	Conservative Majority.
1874	11,973	5,298	3,391	1,907
1880	14,873	6,412	4,859	1,553
1885	11,098	4,651	3,956	695

ms
Bridges, Egan & Bligh

No. R. 201547



Sidcup, Oct. 26 1905

Martin's Bank, Limited

SIDCUP.

Pay to Mr & Bowen

Three pounds

LONDON & COUNTY BANK CO. LTD.
SEVENOAKS.

or Order



£ 3. 9. 8

HEAD OFFICE, - 68, LOMBARD ST, LONDON, E.C.

A. S. Smith

1799 2. 18

1755 **Severnaks Bank** 1755

43



I promise to pay ^{to the Bearer} or bearer
 on Demand the sum of **One Pound** here or at
 Messrs. William Mutton & Co. Bankers London

Messrs. Mutton & Co. Bankers, London

Severnaks 25th Sept. 1804

For Will^m George & Co. Stationers John George

One

Ent^d & Co.

J. Mutton

OFFICE: MAGNIFIC BUILDINGS,
TONBRIDGE.

TONBRIDGE, KENT,

H. Bowen Esq

Oct 24th 1893

Haleshead, Evesham, Kent

Bought of **EDWARD BALL,**
GUANO, NITRATE OF SODA, AND CAKE MERCHANT,

SOLE AGENT IN KENT FOR

THE ANGLO-CONTINENTAL (late Ohlendorff's) GUANO WORKS,

IMPORTERS OF PERUVIAN GUANO FOR ALL COUNTRIES.

RAW PERUVIAN GUANO, PURE DISSOLVED BONES, SUPERPHOSPHATES, NITRATE OF SODA,
BONE MEAL and FLOUR, KAINIT, POTASH, SALTS, &c.

Terms:—NETT CASH.

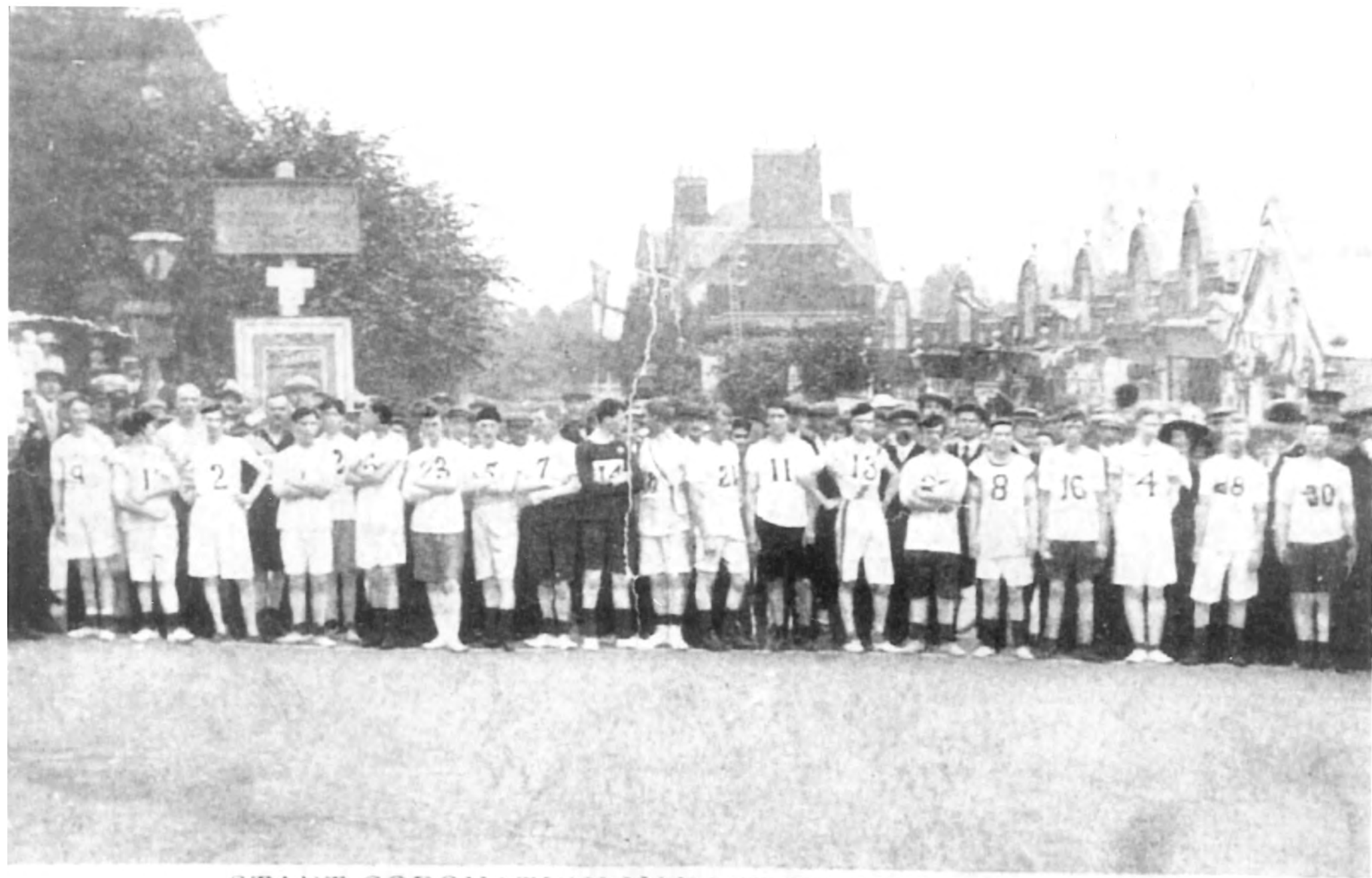
CHEQUES SHOULD BE CROSSED "LONDON AND COUNTY BANK, MAIDSTONE."

1893

March 20th To £4.2.1.7 of Peruvian Guano @ £10.10.0 per ton £43 4 3
Less 5/- per ton for cash

Received Cheque
Nett *£43 4 3*
for *Ed Ball*
R. H. H. H. H.

To Haleshead Station, E.R.



START CORONATION MARATHON RACE, SEVENOAKS.







SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Thursday
2
May

Don't let *Westminster's Mess* obscure *Sevenoaks' Success!...*

- ✓ Weekly bin collections
- ✓ Restoring the Environmental Park
- ✓ Protecting our Green Belt
- ✓ Supporting local shops & businesses
- ✓ Continuing The Stag's success
- ✓ Restoring the Bat & Ball Station
- ✓ Improving Kennedy Gardens allotments

Vote for your St John's Ward Conservatives

CHAKOWA Maxine
HOGARTH Roddy
RAIKES Simon

Conservative
Conservative
Conservative

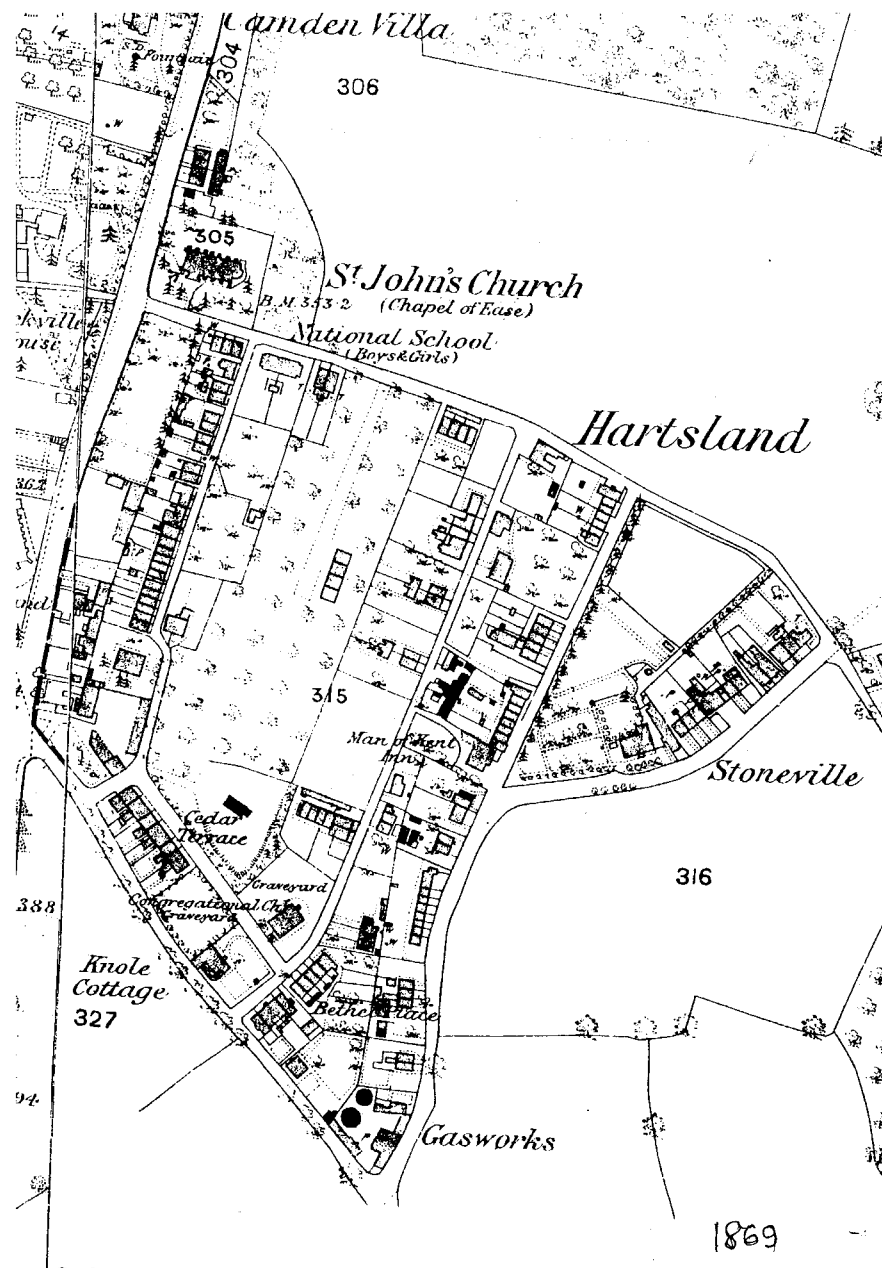


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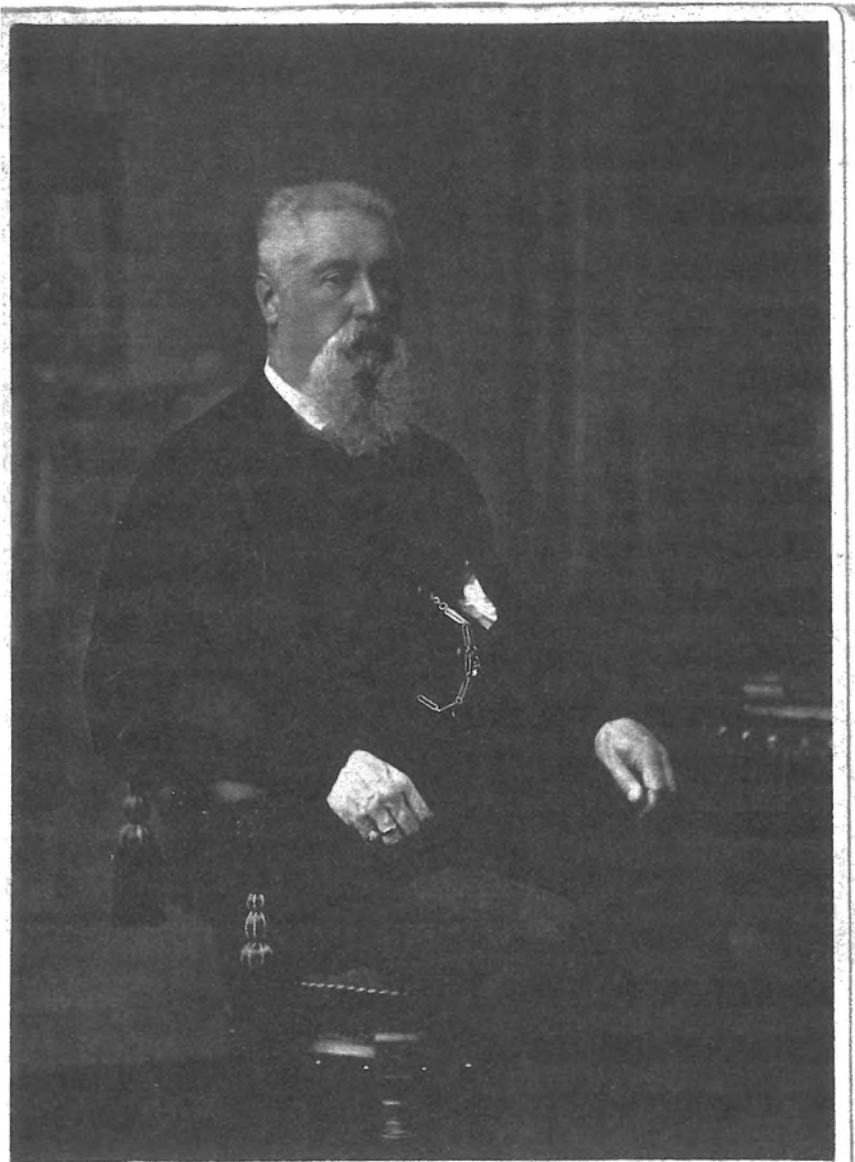
Printed by Jill Edwards on behalf of Maxine Chakows, Roddy Hogarth and Simon Rakes
at of Watmell House, Chesham Road, Chesham, TN13 2RY.
Printed by Sevenoaks Conservative Association, Watmell House,
Chesham Road, Chesham, TN13 2RY.
SU 001/16 25/04/10



**St John's Ward
Conservatives**







Sarony



SCARBOROUGH.

F436

A

LETTER

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR ROBERT PEEL, BART.

ON THE

PRINCIPLE AND OPERATION

OF THE

NEW POOR LAW.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

By THE REV. T. CURTEIS, A.M.,

RECTOR OF SEVENOAKS, KENT, CHAPLAIN OF SMALLHYTHE IN THE SAME COUNTY,
AND DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL AMHERST.

"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so
to them: for this is the law."—*Matt. vii. 12.*

"Shall we plant thorns in the path of misery? God forbid!"
Principles of Penal Law.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS,
STAMFORD STREET.

1842.

Price One Shilling.

Sevenoaks Union Workhouse, Chesham.



80 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE ON

James Puckett,
Esq.

employed in the manufactories; the motive of my answer is, that I conceive that better state of the children would arise from the order and discipline which is maintained in manufactories.

In point of fact, are the people of Congleton, generally speaking, orderly in their manners and conduct?—Taking it as a population generally, it is very fair in that respect, but I could not raise it to any higher eminence than the neighbouring townships; it is a fair and orderly town.

You have stated in the answer to the last question, that the moral condition of the people has generally improved within the last twenty years?—I think so, upon the whole.

From what cause has that improvement taken place?—It has arisen, as I have stated in my answer, from the effect of a certain degree of education which has pervaded that class of society, and which has rather raised them in their manners and conduct.

Have Sunday schools had any good effect at Congleton?—They certainly have had a very good effect.

Mr. Peter Noaille, called in, and Examined.

Mr.
Peter Noaille.

WHAT is your employment?—As a throwster and manufacturer of silk at Grentness, near Sevenoaks, in Kent.

How long have you been employed in silk-throwing?—About thirty years; I have known it from my infancy, but it has been principally under my management for thirty years.

What is the length, breadth, and height of the rooms in which the children are employed?—The length of the largest room is 140 feet, 40 feet wide, and it is about 10 feet high; that is, the lower room.

How many windows are there in the room, and how is the room ventilated?—It is surrounded with windows round one end to the other, with only a pillar between them, the windows open, and there are several doors in the building. The room over that is about 70 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 10 feet high; there is another room above that, which is the same length, the same width, and nearly the same height, it is in the roof of the building.

What is the greatest number employed in each room?—In the room below stairs there are about 25, in the room above that, there are about 40, and in the room above that, from 25 to 30.

At what temperature do you keep the rooms?—Between 54 and 60; we require no heat, and therefore it is generally the usual temperature of dwelling-houses; it is nearly upon an average, about 58.

What do you conceive to be the difference in the temperature of that room and children's schools?—I have no other mode of making a comparison but this; the room below, according to Dr. Bell's plan, will hold 993 children, at six feet for a child.

What number of persons do you employ in the building altogether?—At present I have not more than 80.

How many apprentices?—None.

At what age do you take children?—From six to seven and eight; we never refuse any body.

Why do you take them at so early an age?—They more easily acquire the facility of handling silk, and it is an advantage to themselves and their parents to take them at those early ages.

If you did not take children at that age, how would they be employed, do you suppose?—In running about the country, and in all sorts of mischief; at least such is the case with the children that I do not employ in the neighbourhood.

What number of hours are your children employed?—Including the dinner hour and their play hour, in the summer time they come at six in the morning and go away at six in the evening; and in the winter they come at eight and go away at eight.

Do you vary the number of hours according to their ages?—No; in the different departments they work together; in what we call the winding they all work together, and in the throwing they work together.

Do you conceive the employment of a silk-mill, or any part of it, to be laborious?—Not in the least; it consists wholly in opening the skeins of silk, and tying up the knots whenever it breaks; that is the whole labour attending it.

Do

Do you consider it as unhealthy?—Not in the least.

What attention do you pay to their instruction?—Every attention, I conceive, that is possible.

What attention do you pay to their morals?—The same, and have for years; and my father did so before me.

What attention do you pay to their going to public worship?—As far as I have any authority over them, I naturally induce them to go to church, which the majority of them do; there are many dissenters about me, and they go to chapels.

What daily instruction do you suppose those children would have, if you did not employ them?—Very little; there are some Sunday schools about; and there has, within these two years, been established a school at Sevenoaks, and one adjoining me upon Dr. Bell's plan, which has met with very great success: that is the only instruction which they would be able to have, except that given at my works.

If the hours of work were abridged, would their earnings be lessened?—Yes; my children do not work by the day; that is, not the whole of them; but they are paid for what they earn; I have established certain rules, which enable them to earn more or less, according to their industry.

If they were not employed by you, would the poor rate be affected?—Most undoubtedly; some two or three years ago I was under the necessity of stopping the manufactory to put a new water-wheel in, and I was engaged six months in that way, and during that time it fell very heavy on the parish, so much so, that in consequence of applications made to me by the parish officers and the parents, I paid them half what they otherwise would have earned, during the time the manufactory stood still.

Are you acquainted with the circumstances of any other silk-mills in your neighbourhood?—None; I stand alone; there is no other manufactory of that kind in the county.

How far is it from Sevenoaks?—A mile and a quarter.

What time is allowed the children to play?—They come at six, and at half past eight they have half an hour allowed for breakfast, with an allowance of ten minutes for them to collect in; at twelve o'clock they have the same time; and at four o'clock also the same time; the half an hour is the proper allowance, but the ten minutes gives them time to collect and come in.

Then, according to that calculation, children would be employed about ten hours and a half a day?—Yes.

Can you speak to the general health of the children?—I can, with great pleasure; I have not a sick person; there is no deformity, and no disease, except that there are a great many scrofulous families in the neighbourhood, and the children are infected.

You have said the children attend from six to six in the summer time, and their hours of refreshment amount to two?—It in fact amounts to two hours; it is half an hour three times a day, with ten minutes.

When you state that every attention is paid to morals, the Committee presume you mean that they have good examples set them?—Not only that, but I have established a school on Dr. Bell's plan, which my wife and family and myself all assist in, and by that means we have an opportunity of giving them that moral instruction which has been of great advantage indeed; I have not a person in my manufactory at present that I could object to in point of morals.

Would not young persons in the neighbourhood, of ages too young to be employed by you, have an opportunity of being benefited by your liberal plan of education?—Most undoubtedly; but I do not see why I should take the whole parish upon myself to instruct in that way.

Upon Dr. Bell's plan a great number can be instructed without much expense?—Most undoubtedly.

You were understood at first to say, you established the school for the benefit of the neighbourhood?—No, my own children; I mentioned that there were two schools in the neighbourhood; but this is confined to my own manufactory.

Are there two schools in the neighbourhood upon Dr. Bell's plan?—There are.

Would not the children, not employed by you, have an opportunity of being educated there?—Most undoubtedly; and they are of course.

Mr.
Peter Noddy.

What

Not more frequently than at Easter and Whitsuntide?—No; at those times we have an opportunity of repairing.

At Christmas, probably?—Only Christmas-day, particular fast-days, or any thing of that sort, of course they have holidays, but no holidays but to repair the wear and tear, which is very great.

Though the factory has no holiday for all its members more frequently than you have mentioned, it may not improbably be of a nature to permit of particular children being withdrawn occasionally from their work for a day or so?—Only in cases of illness, or that their parents particularly want them, and I never refuse a holiday in cases of that sort.

You said the attendance on the school was voluntary; do you find that it is general, or do some children fail to attend?—With very great difficulty I have persuaded them to attend; when I began it at first, I could not persuade above ten or a dozen; and I was fortunate enough, in the course of the year, to teach them every one to read; the consequence of which was, that I gave them a bible and prayer-book, which has induced a great number of others, and now my school amounts to about forty-seven.

Out of what number of children?—It is out of the whole number; I have some as old as forty that attend this school.

Is there any considerable number of children who, notwithstanding all the inducements you employ, do not choose to attend?—Yes; there are many even in the manufactory, and in my own village, for my people live upon my own premises.

You could not state any proportion of the children you employ who do not choose to attend?—I have mentioned forty-seven out of eighty.

That is the whole number of persons in the factory?—Yes.

But no more than half can be considered children?—Forty-seven out of the eighty attend school; I should suppose, that of children and young women there may be altogether about sixty that might attend if they chose, and it would be proper for them to attend.

How long do they usually prolong their attendance, for how many years?—It has only been established within these two years; I had people in the manufactory before that to teach those that chose to learn, but not finding that answer, I established a little school on Doctor Bell's plan, when certainly I met with very great success.

What do you find the state of morals among those who do not choose to attend school?—I am sorry to say that in my neighbourhood the morals are not so good as I could wish; and certainly the morals of my children are very much improved, and it is hourly gaining ground; there has a great alteration taken place in the neighbourhood within these last few years.

The few who do not choose to attend, are they chiefly young men or young women?—I employ no young men except carpenters; I have three or four young men employed in the manufactory, the rest are entirely women and children.

Can children in your works do a part of the business better than adults?—No, not in particular, if they have been brought up to it; it simply consists in winding, which any body may do whose fingers have been accustomed to that sort of business; I myself cannot do it so well as they can.

How long do the children continue in your factory before any of them leave it to go to other trades?—They seldom leave me unless they are bribed to leave me to go to any other manufactories, or to go to service.

Do you employ any boys?—No.

Edward John Littleton, Esq. a Member of the Committee, delivered in the following Paper, which was read.

“To the Committee of the Cotton Spinners and other Manufacturers at Manchester.

E. J. Littleton,
Esq.

“A REPORT obtained and made by Messrs. John Bott and Company, Cotton Spinners, of Tutbury in Staffordshire, in pursuance of the Secretary's Letter addressed to them, dated the 2d of April 1816.

“The village of Tutbury is situated on the banks of the Dove, about five miles from Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The parish, comprising

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“A REPORT obtained and made by Messrs. John Bolt and Company, Cotton Spinners, of Tutbury in Staffordshire, in pursuance of the Secretary's Letter addressed to them, dated the 2d of April 1816.

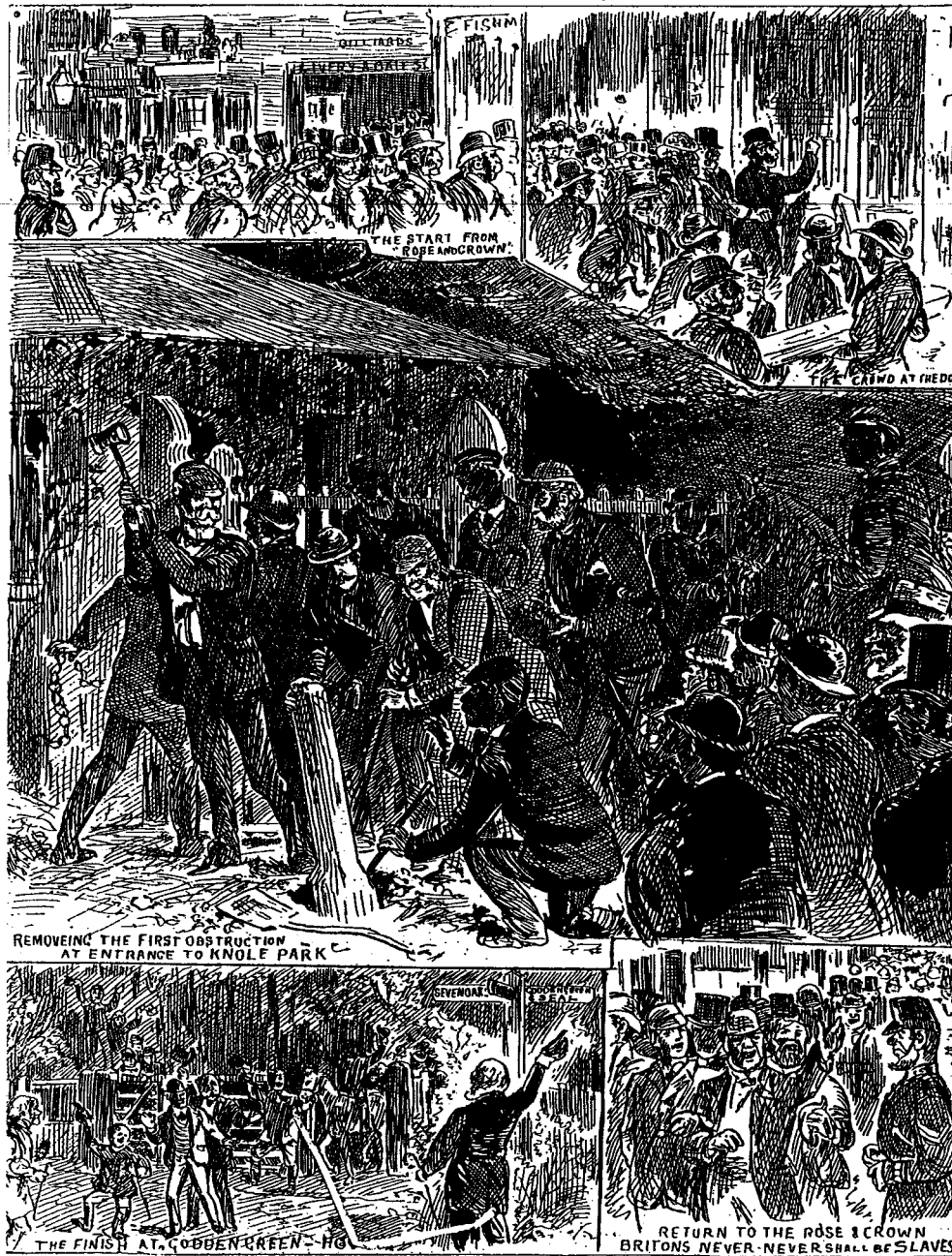
“The village of Tutbury is situated on the banks of the Dove, about five miles from Barton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The parish, comprising



Site Architect, July 18th 1874.

MAYWOOD HOUSE, SEVENOAKS.
T.G. JACKSON, ARCHITECT.

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Sevenoaks Chronicle and Kentish Advertiser - Friday 04 January 1901

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The Middle Classes Union

(SEVENOAKS BRANCH).

HON. SEC.: MR. T. A. GROSE,

(To whom all Communications should be addressed),

12, HITCHEN HATCH LANE,
SEVENOAKS.

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(CAPITAL & COUNTIES BRANCH).

Monday, March 22nd, 1920.

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM),

In accordance with the instructions of the last General Meeting, the Executive Committee has been very busy in connection with the forthcoming Council Elections. Meetings have been held almost every week. We have now five candidates in the field pledged to support the policy of the Union approved by the members recently. These candidates have issued an address and steps are being taken to publish this more widely.

I now invite your personal assistance at the forthcoming Election, and particularly on the polling day, Monday, March 29th. There are other candidates in the field for whom members may have the greatest personal respect, but every vote given to such candidates is nevertheless, a vote taken from the Middle Classes representatives.

I therefore ask you to vote solid for the five candidates who are standing as your nominees. Not only do I ask you to vote personally, but I would point out that your influence with others is of little less importance than your own vote. Take at least one other to the poll with you. If you can place a car or any other conveyance at the disposal of the Union on polling day, please let me know as soon as possible.

I would also take this opportunity of informing you that Sir Mark Collett has fixed the day of the poll as the day on which he will address members of the Union on the County rates. The meeting will be held after the poll closes, at 8.30 p.m., in the upper room at the Public Library.

I am, yours faithfully,

STANLEY COOPER.

