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Local Rotes.

[BY OUR LOOKER-ON.]

The fog-demon has very sorely afflicted us during the past two days. Traffic on road and footway was attended on Monday with real dangers and collisions—happily none of them serious, so far as I have been able to ascertain—were not infrequent and were not without a tinge of humour. If a blushing young maiden suddenly found herself unintentionally embraced by a crusty old bachelor, for whom "sweet seventeen" or "modest but winsome twenty-one" has teen" or "modest but winsome twenty-one" has no attraction, there were at once mutual and smiling apologies, and all was well. As I cau-tiously passed those trenches and manholes in Moffatt-street, South-street, and Queen-street which have been open double the time they ought to have been, I wondered how many burgesses, when trying to pass these kopies and chasms, used unparliamentary language under their breath as they rose to their feet and brushed the sticky dirt from their clothes and by friction sought to ease the pain of a bruised arm or sprained knee or ankle. So thick was the fog on Monday evening that even the flames of the flerce and destructive fire in King-street—so well handled by our Valunteer Fire Brigade—could handled by our Volunteer Fire Brigade-could not be seen fifty yards away. Fogs are always associated with the Mayors' Month. Our own Mayor can dislodge an obstructive chimney-pot and get a Bill through Parliament, and even turn the scale in an Aldermanic Election; but though he may be able to do these and other very excellent things, he does not appear to be able to switch off an out-door fog, however clever he may be at clearing an often be-fogged Council Chamber. I was very glad to see the fog clear away yesterday in time for the visit to Windsor of the King and Queen of Portugal. They would not have had a very favourable impression of the Thames Valley had their visit been 24 hours earlier.

Mr. A. Millar Inglis, in a letter in last Wednesday's Advertiser, questions the accuracy of some of my statements re the Secondary School for Girls about to be opened at the local Technical Institute. I had intended replying to Mr. Inglis in this column this week, but as he has since come forward as a candidate for Municipal honours, and each have no desire to write anything that and as I have no desire to write anything that might in any way prejudice his chances of gaining a seat on the local Council, I will withhold my reply until after the result of next Tuesday's polling has been declared.

The re-election of Mr. Councillor Benjamin Hobbis as Mayor for the current year has yielded general satisfaction. In Mr. Hobbis's hands the dignity of the office of Chief Magistrate of the Borough has been well sustained, and the town has never had cause to feel other than proud of its Mayor. He has conducted the debates in the Municipal Chamber with impartiality, and whilst exercising firmness has not been wanting in consideration, and has only "closured" members and discussions when he has considered the exigencies of the case and the progress of public business have demanded this course. At public and social functions the Mayor has excelled. A and social functions the Mayor has excelled. A good debater, a fluent and eloquent as well as an argumentative and often humorous speaker, he has brought the town over which he presides into prominence, as well as brought honour upon himself. The Maidenhead Town Council have done very wisely in securing for another year the invaluable services of Mr. Hobbis as Mayor, and the town owes no little gratitude to him for undertaking the operous and responsible duties undertaking the onerous and responsible duties for a second successive year.

The Mayor's Speech on the Municipal work of the year was a remarkable one. In length it established a record; in regard to detail it was exhaustive. It was delivered with that force and fervour characteristic of His Worship, and showed an unmistakeable grasp of Municipal work and

One topic incidentally touched upon by the Mayor I should like to emphasize, and that is the gratifying improvement effected on that former waste known as the Bear Meadow by Mr. Gude. Here is a case where the wilderness will soon be made to blossom as the rose. Quite a transformation has been effected by private enterprise, which cannot fail to assist in attracting visitors to the town, and the whole borough should feel in some measure under obligation to Mr. Gude for what he has done to the same measure under obligation to Mr. Gude for what he has done to make a very public un-attractive spot into an inviting and picturesque "Yes, it is all very well to say how much obliged to me you are, but why don't the Mayor and members of the Council, and also more of the better-class townsfolk, patronise my nightly entertainments. Here am I, trying to provide a entertainments. Here am I, trying to provide a good evening's amusement at considerable ex-pense, free from vulgarity and anything objection-able, but my best seats are often practically empty. I like their kind words and good wishes, but I should like their personal patronage better."
Why not a Corporation night at the New Pavilion, Mr. Gude?

Apropos of the Mayor's reference to the 'Illustrated Guide for Maidenhead," I have seen copies of some of the letters received from those who wrote for the Guide. A titled lady, impressed by the attractions of our district, impressed by the attractions of our district, wrote: "We propose taking a house there this summer." This is how a gentleman wrote from Highbury Grove:—"I beg to express to you my best thanks for your promptitude in sending me your official Guide of Maidenhead. I hope to have the pleasure of being able to spend a holiday in your charming town shortly, and I shall be pleased to recommend any of my friends to pay the town a visit." Another wrote from Middlesex:—"I understand your Council has had sex:—"I understand your Council has had printed a guide of the town. As a possible future resident, will you have the kindness to send me a copy, and also to inform me what the rates have been and are for the past three years, the price of electric light, and if you have any scheme for wiring on the hire-purchase system. Price of gas, also, and if there is any difference in the price of that used for cooking and lighting?

Is there a swimming - bath managed by the
Borough?" These are specimens of hundreds
of letters received by the Town Clerk and Mr. A.

J. Huckle (hon. sec.) last season. The Guides did
Maidenhead a vast amount of good, and should be re-issued in improved form early next year.

The election of two Aldermen last Wednesday The election of two Aldermen last wednesday will not soon be forgotten by those who were present. Ald, Silver's election was never in doubt and his return to office by practically an unani-mous vote ought once and for all to dispel the idea that among certain members of the Corpora-tion there was a desire to "kick out" the old Aldermen. Had Mr. Wm. Nicholson's health permitted a further term of service, he too would have been re-elected. Kindly, grateful feeling towards the venerable Aldermen is not the sole possession of any two or three members of the Council, as some might be led to suppose, and I was pleased that evidence of this was not wanting last Wednesday. Mr. Silver seemed quite to have renewed his youth, and as he addressed the Council and acknowledged the congratulations of his colleagues and friends he looked capable of many more years' service. I hope he may live and be well enough in health to be nominated for even a further term of Aldermanic service.

Mr. Wilton, of whose good progressive work the riverside and public street improvements supply striking testimony.

Anent Mr. J. E. Pearce's resignation, as the result of his prolonged stay abroad, it may in.
terest my readers to learn that Mr. Pearce sailed
from Sydney on the 26th ult. for Yokohama, where he hopes to spend some two months and then make for Calcutta. In a letter to the Town Clerk Mr. Pearce concludes: "I hope the Electric Light goes well and that the town has had a good season." He will be pleased to learn that his hopes are realised.

There is to be a bye-election next Tuesday to fill the vacancies caused on the Council by the election of Mr. Truscott as Alderman and the resignation of Mr. Pearce. There are five candidates, Messrs. C. Rockley, C. T. Chamberlain (each of whom polled well at the recent election), H. Rose, A. Millar Inglis and E. Bawden. One was not disposed to accept the candidature of the last-named as serious, but in his address Mr. Bawden makes it abundantly clear that he means business, and he is vigorously prosecuting his canvas. I hope that the ratepayers will also treat the election with that seriousness which responsible and efficient local government demands, and be extremely careful to select those two gentlemen who are most likely to serve the best interests of the town from the loftiest and best of motives.

ELECTION OF MAYOR. COUNCILLOR HOBBIS UNANIMOUSLY

RE-ELECTED. ABLE SPEECH BY THE MAYOR.

A YEAR'S RETROSPECT. ELECTION OF TWO ALDERMEN.

COMPLIMENT TO ALD. SILVER

A TIE FOR ALD. NICHOLSON'S SEAT. DRAMATIC SCENE.

COUNCILLOR TRUSCOTT PROMOTED TO THE ALDERMANIC BENCH.

THE WARDS QUESTION AGAIN.

The annual meeting of the Maidenhead Town Council was held at noon on Wednesday in the Town Hall, the principal business being the election of Mayor for cil was held at noon on Wednesday in the Town Hall, the principal business being the election of Mayor for the year ensuing. As in former years, the Surveyor (Mr. Percy Johns) had erected a raised baize-covered dais for the table and seats of the Mayor, Deputy-Mayor, and Town Clerk, and the Aldermen and Councillors, and the Aldermen and Councillors sat at a table below. There was a large attendance of burgesses, the hall being practically filled. The Mayoress (Mrs. Hobbis) was amongst those present. She was accompanied by Mrs. R. C. Davy. The following members of the Council were present during the proceedings:—The Mayor (Mr. Councillor B. Hobbis) wearing his robes and chain of office; the Deputy-Mayor (Mr. Councillor W. Grierson), Aldermen E. W. Mackie, R. Silver, and C. W. Cox; and Councillors J. Truscott, D. Wilton, W. F. Good, A. Upson, S. R. Langton, J. W. Walker, P. M. Lever, E. Hewitt, and P. Thompson. Others present included: The Town Clerk (Mr. J. Kick), the Surveyor (Mr. P. Johns), the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. H. Barford), the Education Secretary (Mr. J. B. Markham), the Borough Accountant (Mr. F. H. Russel), Mr. J. F. Simpson, J.P., Mr. H. J. Mount, J.P., Mr. E. R. Lovegrove, J. P., Colonel Sweny, R.M. L., the Rev. Wm. T. Gill, and Messrs. E. Tedman, J. Blumfield, A. Smith. F. W. Porter, T. Martin, Culforth, T. Ives, G. E. Whiteman, A. Blumfield, Bryant, F. Pymm, Blackmore, T. Lamb, H. Edwards, T. Choules, J. Burnham, Partio, F. J. C. Forss, F. Francis, C. Rockley, H. Shrimpton, H. Lawrence, T. Grabb, G. Loosley, C. T. Chamberlain, A. Webb, Ford, Harpwood, Flint, E. T. Biggs, J. Whitmore, H. Southgate, F. Jones, H. Wooldridge, Tompkins, A. Plum, T. W. Stuchbery, D. Bidmead, D. Ingamells, Walt. Gilroy, W. J. Elliott, W. Gilroy, T. Brett, R. Bawden, G. Mattingley, Mills Parker, A. E. Isaac, J. Wells, A. J. Huckle, S. Thompson, &c.

THE RECENT ELECTION. The Mayor, as Returning Officer, formally reported the election, on Nov. 1st, of Messrs. W. F. Good, P. Thompson, A. Upson, and W. Grierson as members of the Council. He added that he cordially welcomed back to the Council the three members who had been re-elected, and also Mr. Philip Thompson, who was a son of one who was during his lifetime respected by everyone in the town who knew him.—(Applause.)

COUNCILLOR UPSON PROPOSES THE

RE-ELECTION OF THE MAYOR. Mr. Upson rose amid applause and proposed that Mr. Councillor Benjamin Hobbis be elected Mayor for the ensuing year. He said that when elected to the chair twelve months ago, the Mayor made use of certain words containing a principle, which principle had manifestly actuated the Mayor throughout the year. Briefly, it was this—that our fellows had a definite claim upon each one of us, and that those who made self-gratification their only end were only half-men after all.—("Hear, hear.") The Mayor had not only preached that sermon to them, but he had practised it himself and carried it out during the year of his office.—(Applause.) What did this somewhat unusual re-election mean? So far as the members of the Council were concerned, it meant that so unusual had been the devotion of the Mayor to the work that they felt bound to offer the position to him again, saying in effect "You have done much work and done it so well, please go and do some more." chair twelve months ago, the Mayor made use of certo the work that they felt bound to other the position to him again, saying in effect "You have done much work and done it so well, please go and do some more."

—(Applause.) The resolution lower down on the agenda—of thanks to the Mayor for his past services—was considered, at the informal meeting recently held, to be quite superfluous. They really offered their sincerest thanks to the Mayor when they asked him for a second year to occupy the honourable position of Mayor of the Borough of Maidenhead, and consequently the special resolution of thanks was considered to be really unnecessary. The energy of the Mayor during his year of office had been abnormal. He seemed to thrive on work without any holidays.—(Laughter and applause.) The toil of getting over Maidenhead Bridge would have been enough for an ordinary man; but they had the Mayor daily inspecting the Free Library; threshing out the details of a new departure in the life and work of the Council in the appointment of professional Borough Accountants, ing the Free Library; threshing out the details of a new departure in the life and work of the Council in the appointment of professional Borough Accountants, which the Mayor himself initiated—("hear, hear")—as the result of which they were now in a most satisfactory position as regarded their system of finances; and then, because that was not enough, they found their Mayor appearing before the House of Lords in reference to their Electric Light Extension, and representing the Council there, in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, and appearing as the chief witness, and the Mayor had the estisfaction of seeing the Bill passed.—(Applause.) Then their Mayor had seen the Marlow-road improvement scheme through, and he had been considering flood-prevention schemes—both Mr. Grenfell's and Mr. Cooper's; he had been directing Secondary Education as a Governor of the Modern School; he had been toiling through the details of establishing a Girls 'Secondary School; he had been helping to form the new National Association of Education Committees, and he was glad to say that their Mayor was on the Council of the Association.—(Applause.) All these and many other things "too numerous to mention," as the auctioneers' catalogues said—(laughter)—the Mayor had done.—(Applause.) Once or twice some may have thought that his Worship had been guilty of sins of commission—municipally, he meant, of course—but he could not imagine the man who could rise up and say the Mayor had been guilty of sins of ommission.—(Laughter and applause.) If untiring energy, undannted zeal, and real abilities were qualities which went to make a good Mayor, then they had one in Mr. Councillor Benjamin Hobbis, who he now proposed should be re-elected Mayor of Maidenhead.—(Loud applause). MR. COUNCILLOR GOOD SECONDS.

even a further term of Aldermanic service.

MR. COUNCILLOR GOOD SECONDS.

Mr. Good said he had very great pleasure in rising to second the re-election of Mr. Councillor Hobbis as the sound of "Alderman Truscott." I suppose it is because the First City of the World has or had its "Alderman Truscott." And if London, why not Maidenhead? That Mr. Councillor Truscott's elevation to the "Aldermanic Bench" at Maidenhead was in accord with popular sentiment and feeling, was evidenced when the Mayor gave that fateful casting vote, and it has been demonstrated since. His Worship had an unthankful task. He had to choose between two very excellent Councillors, each of whom had served the town exactly the same number of years, and rendered the municipality excellent service, while both had passed "the Chair." In the Mayor's judgment, apparently, Mr. Truscott was best fitted for the seat vacated by Mr. Wm. Nichelson, and his vote was cast accordingly. I offer Alderman Truscott my hearty congratulations thereon, and to Mr. Councillor Wilton my sympathy in any disappointment he may feel, with the hope that the advent of wards at an early date may afford the Mayor that opportunity which he anticipated of giving his next vote for the elevation of considering that they had three very large or mande the possibility of costly litigation, probably the Mayor acted right and in what he considered the best interests of the Council and the town.—("Hear, hear.") They were also very greatly indebted to their Mayor for his services were so highly appreciated that he was invited to undertake the mayoralty for another year.—("Hear, hear.") They were also the considered that he was invited to undertake the mayoralty for another year.—("Hear, hear.") They were also very greatly indebted to their Mayor should have taken upon himself the onerous duty of engineering their floating.

and powerful companies opposing them in the House of Lords, they were grateful to the Mayor for the good service he rendered them.—(Applause). Then there was the Marlow-road corner. Though others had attempted to bring about this improvement for 25 years past, it was mainly through the Mayor's energy that the improvement had now been effected so quickly and brought about during his year of office. The whole of the Mayor's work had been of a progressive character, and he had endeavoured to see that the Council did not lag behind in its work and duties as some of their predecessors had done. He had very great pleasure in seconding the proposition and he hoped the Mayor's second year of office would be as successful as his first year had proved.—(Applause).

MR. COUNCILLOR TRUSCOTT SUPPORTS MK. COUNCILLOR TRUSCOTT SUPPORTS.

Mr. Truscott said that he quite agreed with what
Mr. Upson had said—that the best form in which
thanks could be presented to their Mayor was in his
unanimous re-election to the chair that day.—
(Applause). As one who supported the Mayor's reelection when the Council met in committee he had
pleasure in rising in public meeting and supporting
Mr. Upson's proposition, and he ventured to hope
that the year to come might be even more prosperous
and successful than the one which was now closing. seful than the one which was now closing.

JUNIOR MEMBER SUPPORTS. Mr. Philip Thompson said that as the junior member of the Council, it gave him pleasure that his maiden speech should be in support of the proposition so ably proposed and seconded, of thanks to the Mayor.—(Applause). He felt sure that being a youngster and rather fresh it would fall to the lot of the Mayor to drop the whip on to him when handling his team,—(laughter)—but there was no one that he would sooner sit and work under during his first year then the present Mayor.—(Applause). year than the present Mayor.—(Applause).

UNANIMOUS.

The Deputy-Mayor enquired if there were any other nominations for the position of Mayor, and there being no response, he put the proposition that Mr. Councillor Benjamin Hobbis be re-elected Mayor for the ensuing year, and it was carried unanimously amid loud applause from members of the Council and

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Mayor, who was received with renewed applause, said: You have conferred upon me the very greatest honour you could confer upon me, and during the coming year, if God gives me health and strength, I will try and do as well as in the past year, and as much better as I am able. I thank you.— (Loud applause.)

THE MAYOR "SWEARS."

In the presence of two Borough Justices — E. R. Lovegrove, Esq., and H. J. Mount, Esq.—the Mayor now took the usual oaths of allegiance, and made the customary declaration on taking office as Chief Magistrate and Mayor of the Borough. The signatures were appended of the senior Councillor (Mr. Wilton) and the junior Councillor (Mr. P. Thompson); also of Councillor I. Transcott and E. Hewitt. Councillor J. Truscott and E. Hewitt.



MR. COUNCILLOR B. HOBBIS

Alderman Cox said that he was extremely pleased to be able to propose "That the thanks of the Council be tendered to Mr. Councillor Hobbis for the able services rendered by him to the borough as Mayor during the past year, and for his courteous conduct in the chair."—(Applause.) He very heartily proposed this resolution, though it might seem superfluous, as Mr. Upson had said. If they had allowed the Mayor to go out of office, however, without according him a very heartly vote of thanks for his services during the past year, they would not have been doing what had always been done in the past.—("Hear, hear.") Wher a Mayor had concluded his year of office he had always received the thanks of the Council, and they should not depart from the usual custom though they were thanking the Mayor in the best possible way by re-electing him to office. It was an especial pleasure to him that morning to propose this vote of thanks, because he told their Mayor twelve months ago that he would have his hearty support during his year of office, and he thought he could look the Mayor full in the face that day and confidently ask him if he had not given him the support he promised.—("Hear, hear.") If that meeting were allowed to pass without a vote of thanks to their Mayor they might regret it afterwards, for under Providence it might happen that their Mayor would be called away from them, and then his friends would have nothing to show that his services were appreciated, and that he was thanked for his [work.—("Hear, hear.") In making this proposition he would tell the Mayor that he would again give him his most loyal support in the year to come.—(Applause.)

Mr. Hewitt said that it was with the very greatest VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR.

year to come.—(Applause.)

Mr. Hewitt said that it was with the very greatest Mr. Hewitt said that it was with the very greatest pleasure that he rose to second the vote of thanks moved by Ald. Cox. He agreed with Mr. Upson as to the energetic and able way in which the Mayor had carried out his duties during the past year. The Mayor never seemed to be tired; whether it was early in the morning or late at night, the Mayor was always about and at work, and the town ought to thank him for the many things he had taken in hand and carried to so spaces full an issue—(Annlane). His office. for the many things he had taken in hand and carried to so successful an issue.—(Applause.) His office during the year had not been altogether a bed of roses, but let them hope that the coming year would be an even more successful one, and more of a bed of roses for their Mayor than the past year had been.—("Hear, hear.") If in anything he had himself done during the year he had given any offence, it had only been in his over-zeal in the cause he espoused.—("Hear, hear.") He was sure the Council would give the Mayor every support during the coming year, and he had very great pleasure in seconding the vote of he had very great pleasure in seconding the vote of

the Mayor every support during the coming year, and he had very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks now proposed.—(Applause.)

Ald. Silver said he should like to support the proposition. The Mayor would remember that last year he (Ald. Silver) prophesied that if they elected him as Mayor he would prove an up-to-date Mayor, and would serve them well.—("Hear, hear.") This their Mayor had proved.—(Applause.) Mr. Hobbis did not know the meaning of the word "tired"; he was always at work for the town, and he believed he had attended all the Council and committee meetings during the year save one. As for home, he had never seen the Mayor there once since he had been in office.—(Laughter.) Their Mayor had risen to the highest point that any Mayor of Maidenhead had ever risen to—that of taking the chimney-pot off the "Two Brewers."—(Loud laughter and applause.) No-one else would have dared to do it.—(Laughter.) He had great pleasure in supporting the resolution.—(Applause.)

plause.)
The Deputy-Mayor put the resolution to the meeting and it was carried unanimously, and with hearty applause.

SPEECH BY THE MAYOR. THE YEAR'S MUNICIPAL WORK.

The Mayor, who was received with loud applause on rising to respond, thanked the Council from the bottom of his heart for all the kind things that had been said, and for the reception the resolution just passed had met with. He must express his gratitude, he said, to each member of the Council for the support thank had given him which had enabled them to do a they had given him, which had enabled them to do a vast amount of work and yet on no occasion had a Council meeting to be adjourned.—(Applause.) Next he must thank the staff. From the Town Clerk to the newest office boy he had been well supported by

THE PERMANENT STAFF. "(Applause.) They all knew he had adopted a stringing-up policy, and if he had occasioned earlier and regular breakfast hours anywhere, all were very glad.—(Laughter). He himself never felt so virtuous as he did at six o'clock some summer morning when he walked down Castle-hill wondering how people could be in bed such weather.—(Laughter and applause.) Next he must acknowledge the great assistance their local Press gave to their government. Their

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY gave much space to their reports, and in this way and by comments, rendered services to the Borough which only those constantly at the Town Hall could appreciate.—("Hear, hear.") They had had a busy year. An unpleasant enquiry into certain repairs that building opened the year; he hoped that all ill-feeling had subsided, and that only improved offices and a finely-decorated Town Hall remained.—

(Applause.) The Bridge Act and its attendant difficulties had been carried through, and he hoped and believed that the concluding proceedings would be settled satisfactorily to the Town.—(Applause.) The Library, thanks to Messrs. Carnegie and W. Nicholson, was open and already much appreciated.—(Applause.) A museum had been opened to receive the gifts of Mr. Arrowsmith's executors, Capt. Alleyne. Alderman Silver, and others.—(Applause.) Skilled accountants had been appointed to audit and present their accounts, a step which their magnitude demanded in the interest alike of the officers, the Council, and the ratepayers.—(Applause.) The danger had been taken out of the Marlow-road corner, and when the work on both sides of the road was completed a grand improvement would be manifested.—(Applause.) They had

Acquired The Freehold

Acquired the Freehold

of their fire-station, so their improvements to the property would not pass away from them.—(Applause.) A site had been secured for a Council elementary school, and Brock-lane school had been utilized as a temporary overflow for the late British School. Arrangements had also been made for a secondary school for girls, with a view, partly, to training teachers. Successful coursesof University Extension lectures were held fortnightly in that Hall, and would be continued after Christmas. Floods, which had checked building and depressed trade, had been considered, and both Mr. Cooper's local scheme and Mr. Grenfell's plan for the whole river were being examined.—(Applause.) A steam fire-engine had been secured for the town. Their own engine was delayed owing to the generous response which enabled them to order an engine larger than the stock size.—(Applause.) Private and public streets work had been carried out, and the neglected Boyne Hill, North Town, and Norfolk Park had received attention.—(Applause.) The sewage disposal works were developing, and electric power substituted for pumping. The foundations were out and the first bricks laid for ACQUIRED THE FREEHOLD

THE MORTUARY. Drainage at Belmont, North Town, and Moffatt-street had been taken in hand. The Cockmarsh dis-pute had ended most happily, and their two Moors and the Thicket would now be dealt with so as to add to the attractions of the district. Minor improveto the attractions of the district. Minor improvements in the shape of sanitary conveniences, exchange of offices, &c., had been carried out. Street-widenings had taken place in High-street, Boyne Hill, and Courthouse-lane, while surface-water flooding had been prevented in Oldfield-lane and Bridge-road. He had visited sewage-works at Cambridge and Southall, attended various meetings of the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Non-County Boroughs Association, the Public Health Institute, and the Association of Education Committees. Here he had met experts in all branches of municipal work and flad picked up valuable information. Their illustrated guide and poster had advertised the town and brought them both visitors and residents.—(Applause). The Bath-road was now a grand main thoroughfare, well lit; with the abolished toll-gate, improved Bridge-street, a tidy Moor, and well-kept banks, it gave motorists a good impression of the town.

ME. GUDE'S PRIVATE ENTERPRISE
in the Bear meadow deserved special recognition in
this connection.—(Applanee). He would like to see
the work continued and the Pond House deprived of
its pond, while the north banks on Castle Hill should
be made'to match the south.—(Applanee). Outside
Council work, pure and simple, they had had a successful life-boat launching; the Drill Hall was open
and there would soon be an up-to-date gymnasium;
fine schools had been opened at Boyne Hill; and relief had been carefully administered, in connection
with floods, by the Poor Box and Mrs. Lewis Hill's fund.
—(Applanee). He had attended prize-givings, bazaars
and meetings of all kinds. Much-needed resone work
had been inaugurated. At numerous concerts he had
experienced the hard work of sitting still for two
hours—(laughter)—and at many dinners he had had
opportunities of doing much more than was good for
hm.—(Laughter). Finally, on the Bench he and his
colleagues had tried to temper justice with mercy,
and few of their decisions had been the subject of
cavil.—(Applanee). Turning to work in hand, the
most urgent was MR. GUDE'S PRIVATE ENTERPRISE most urgent was

FLOOD-PREVENTION

and the Queen-street drainage. The provision of adequate police and court accommodation was being considered mainly by the County authority. The Bridge loan had to be negotiated and he hoped such terms would be secured as would ultimately make the Bridge property carry all the burden.—(Applause). Further, elementary school-accommodation must be provided after consultation with the County Council Education, other than elementary, for boys, girls and pupil teachers would have to be carefully considered. The public baths, approved in principle, must stand over a year unless a Carnegic came along to present a companion building in Ives-road. The Crescent Bridge, Bradley Bottom Crossing, and Town Hall exits would ultimately have to be dealt with and must not be lost sight of. Their winter's work, however, must be to continue to systematize. All their offices should be run like a Counting House or Merchant's office, while their horses and workmen should be handled as they would be if belonging to a builder or contractor.—(Applause). As Chairman of the Finance Committee he ought to say something on the subject of

THE BOROUGH FINANCES.
Led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and ex Prime Ministers, there was a great outcry on the sub-ject of Municipal loans and Municipal trading. When the liabilities of railway companies or huge industrial concerns were reported or when they took up fresh capital for extensions nothing was said. Everyone knew that when premises were re-built, or daily papers bought, the transactions were carried out by loan. No man, however rich kept money idle at his banker's n, however rich, kept money idle at his banker's The man who could take a box of securities and get a loan from his bank at a point above bank-rate was often the most solvent. It was all a question of security. The security Maidenhead Borough offered in ten years. Next a rateable value which, in a year had gone from £82,000 to £86,000. Then High-street shops made high rents and long prices when sold and building-land was held at from £1,000 to £1,500 per acre. All this showed that in spite of loans the value of the security increased. Before a loan was taken up 16 Councillors— NOT ALL FOOLS

Not all Fools
—approved, expert officials advised the step, and both Councillors and officials paid rates. The ratepayers had to assent and the Local Government Board had to be satisfied that the loan was required for an urgent public purpose. Lastly, a financier had to be found prepared to advance the money at 3 or 3½ per cent. Where was the private trader who could borrow at these rates?—This was conclusive testimony to the value of municipal securities. The slump in consols was easily explained—£38 lent to the Government today only yielded £2 10s. interest. Lent to the London County Council or to Maidenhead Corporation it would earn at least £3. Both the latter would repay one-thirtieth of the capital each year till cleared nt would earn at least £3. Both the latter would repay one-thirtieth of the capital each year till cleared and this made the municipal security equal to the imperial. Maidenhead had borrowed in all £114,000—of which £18,000, or nearly one-sixth, had been repaid, so £36,000 remained owing. Of this £35,000 had been put into electric light, £1,500 of which had been repaid OUT OF THE TAKINGS OF THE CONCERN.

The annual repayments for principal and interest amounted to £3,600. From this about £1,100 were The annual repayments for principal and interest amounted to £3,600. From this about £1,100 were paid out of the gross profits on electric light, leaving about £2,500, or an Sd. rate, to be paid by the burgesses. The men living in a house rented at £80, and rated at £60, therefore, paid £2 per annum, and the £15 a year rental, rated at £10, contributed 6s. Sd. or 1½ per week. For this they had their sewage and its disease germs removed, and a police and fire-station provided. A Town Hall and Municipal offices were also furnished, rent free, and they had good roads and paths. If the man paying £80 a year rent could not afford 9d. a week for these advantages all he could say was that he should be content with one at £75 or go and live on the Chilterns or the Berkshire Downs, or Salisbury Plain, where town sanitation was not provided.—(Laughter). He was watching the progress of the electric light undertaking. He believed it was as good a property as gas or water. The officers and staff were keenly interested in making it pay and if the Councillors acted as good directors it should pay, and ultimately relieve their rates. To be able to borrow at 3 and 3½ per cent., and to have an absolute monopoly of supply were great primary advantages. Their auditors would keep their accounts on the right lines and present to the ratepayers accounts showing the position ratepayers accounts showing the position AS ACCURATELY AS FIGURES COULD Do.

As Accurately as Figures Could Do.

The demand was increasing, but he thought they should stop further loans and extensions till profits had been actually realised, and not extend on prospects.—
("Hear, hear.") Let the outside consumers wait and press for supply. He did not think they should lay mains as baits.—(Applause.) On the question of sewage-disposal he had in the past expressed dissent from their practice. Lately he had been silent, and as long as the Thames Conservancy, the Local Government Board, and the Bray landowners, left them alone, he would say nothing, though, like a certain jackdaw he might think the more.—(Langhter.) He, however, had a shrewd suspicion that if he could furnish the Health Committee with a spare £10,000 however, had a shrewd suspicion that if he could furnish the Health Committee with a spare £10,000 which would not entail any charge on the rates, neither the Chairman nor the Works Manager would find it in their heart to return the money as not wanted.—(Laughter.) Education was a great privilege, and a great anxiety for the Council. Abundant evidence was at hand showing need for increased accommodation. He hoped, with Alderman Cox and Councillor Walker, to meet three intelligent County Councillors on Nov. 22nd, to see if joint action could be taken. If the majority found that

A SCHOOL AT PUNT HILL for 500 children, costing say £7,500, was needed for the 433 children living at Bray, Holyport, Ockwells, Cox Green, Tittle Row, Highway, Furze Platt, North Town, and Maidenhead Court, and now attending one or other of the six schools in the town, he should accept their decision. But he noticed the suggestion John Truscott.

from Reading re Cookham Rise was not viewed favourably at Cookham, and he did not think the extraordinary proposal for Punt Hill would commend itself to Bray and Cookham ratepayers. He thought these would prefer to pay Maidenhead the actual ascertained cost per child, including in the case of a new school their share of the cost of the building provided. In some way or other accommedation must be provided. ome way or other accommodation must be provide to relieve overcrowding and to find places for those queezed out.

SECONDARY TEACHING must also be provided for olever children and for the training of teachers. Existing private schools might be used partially for this purpose, but ultimately public secondary schools would have to be provided. It was an anxious time for private schools, and while It was an anxious time for private schools, and while the efficient ones would survive, the inefficient ones must go under. There was room for efficient private schools by the side of public schools, and the latter should be aided by public funds; but public money must carry some amount of supervision and inspec-tion, as was the case when voluntary elementary schools received Government grants.—("'Hear, hear.") tion, as was the case when voluntary elementary schools received Government grants.—("Hear, hear.") He believed there was great waste of money on education, and thought, startling as it might seem, that all children need not attend till age 14. At age 10 he would start a system of brain weighing, mind testing, and application measuring. Children who could only be fit for manual labour should be allowed to go to it before 14. The clever few who possessed not only capacity but also application, should be retained and sent to a secondary school and the university at the cost of the nation, for the brains of the people were a great national asset.—(Applause.) In all ages were a great national asset.—(Applause.) In all ages people of low degree had come into prominence in all departments of life and work. For everyone that had succeeded half-a-dozen had been kept back by the lack of the opportunity of education. If these views prevailed, good private schools would be needed, and they would no more succumb to the Act of 1902 than had horses been displaced by railways, bicycles, or motor-cars.—(Applause.) He had always been an ardent advocate of

WARDS. and strongly pressed for four, but he was strongly and strongly pressed for four, but he was strongly averse to increasing the number of the Council. Later on, if they enlarged the Borough, they might be compelled to enlarge their numbers. Inefficient Councils were so because they were too large, not too small—they wanted quality not quantity.—(Applause.) Reading had 60 councillors—an unwieldy body. Imagine 60 persons managing Huntley & Palmer's business, the Great Western Railway, a big bank, insurance office, or industrial concern! The idea was absurd. A few men able to give time, and able, as men of intellect and men of affairs, to judge of the big schemes which must be prepared by expert permanent officials were preferable. Nor could any councillor be other than all round responsible. He worked chiefly for highways, finance, and education, but if anything went wrong in the health or electric departments he was as responsible as was the chairman of either of went wrong in the health or electric departments he was as responsible as was the chairman of either of those committees.—("Hear, hear.") In conclusion, he must say bluntly that the government of a growing and up-to-date town like Maidenhead could not be carried on without money and a great deal of it and town-dwellers must be prepared to pay. They paid for their water and must pay for its purification, in order that it might return by way of the sea and the clouds to their water-taps.—(Laughter.) They paid for their coal and they must pay for the removal of the ashes. They kept their drives and gardens in beautiful order and they must pay for sweeping and scavenging the streets and roads of the town. They paid their doctor—at least he hoped they did—(laughter)—and they must pay for they must pay for

THE SANITATION OF THE POOR DISTRICTS THE SANITATION OF THE POOR DISTRICTS in order that disease might not spread to rich and poor alike. They paid their tradesmen, their lawyer, their architect, and they must pay the Municipal officers. The Council itself was unpaid, but without money they were as powerless as a certain ancient race were when called ucon to make bricks without straw. They undertook Municipal work because it was a pleasure to be of use to their town and generation, and because it was interesting to guide the progress and development of the town in the interest of their constituents;—the wage-parners. They were also constituents,—the wage-earners. They were also charged with the physical and mental training of the rising generation, and they had to safeguard the health and comfort of each and all.—(Loud applause.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR. The Mayor now formally re-appointed Mr. Councillor W. Grierson as his Deputy for the ensuing year, and added that he was very much obliged to Mr. Grierson for his services during the past year; he could not have had a better Deputy.—("Hear, hear.")



MR. COUNCILLOR W. GRIERSON (Re-appointed Deputy-Mayor).

ELECTION OF TWO ALDERMEN. ALDERMAN SILVER RE-ELECTED. MR. COUNCILLOR TRUSCOTT ELECTED AN ALDERMAN.

The next business was to elect two Aldermen. The The next business was to elect two Aldermen. The retiring Aldermen were: Mr. R. Silver, J.P., and Mr. W. Nicholson. The last-named expressed a wish—in a letter to Ald. Cox—not to be nominated for a further term owing to ill-health. Ald. Cox read the letter he had received, and the Council then proceeded to the election. Ald. Silver left the table and occupied a seat in the hall. All the other members of the Council present were entitled to year, and cosh mem. Council present were entitled to vote, and each mem ber voting had to sign and personally deliver to the Mayor a voting-paper containing the surnames and other names and places of abode and descriptions of other names and places of abode and descriptions of the persons—not more than two—for whom he voted. Councillor Lever was on the premises, but was so very unwell that he had not been able to enter the hall and take his seat. As it was known that the voting for one seat at least would be very close, Mr. Lever's absence caused some concern Lever's absence caused some concern. He was persuaded to enter the room and record his votes, and this he did, but immediately retired. He subsequently returned and took part in the closing business. When all the voting-papers had been delivered, the Mayor openly produced them and read them. The result was as follows:— FOR MR. R. SILVER (12). Councillor E. Hewitt,

J. Truscott,
Alderman E. W. Mackie,
Councillor P. M. Lever,
J. W. Walker,
Alderman C. W. Cox, Councillor A. Upson,
D. Wilton,
W. F. Good,
W. Grierson,
S. R. Langton,
B. Hobbis. FOR MR. J. TRUSCOTT (6). Councillor J. Truscott. P. M. Lever, J. W. Walker, A. Upson, P. Thompson, W. F. Good. FOR MR. D. WILTON (6). Councillor E. Hewitt,
Alderman E. W. Mackie,
C. W. Cox,
Councillor D. Wilton,
S. E. Langton,
W. Grierson.

Conneillor P. Thompson. Mr. Silver was re-elected Alderman by a practically Mr. Silver was re-elected Alderman by a practically unanimous vote, but it will be seen that for the second seat the voting was equal—6 for Mr. Wilton and 6 for Mr. Truscott. There was considerable excitement in the hall. The Mayor had not voted for either Mr. Truscott or Mr. Wilton, and no-one in the hall knowing definitely how his Worship was likely to vote, there was a good deal of uncertainty for whom his casting vote would be given. The Mayor rose amid absolute silence and much suppressed excitement, and absolute silence and much suppressed excitement, and absolute silence and much suppressed excitement, and said You will all feel for me, I am sure, in the very difficult position in which I am placed.—("Hear, hear.") I have to choose between two colleagues, whose good services to the town give them some claim to be elected as Aldermen. I had hoped that this difficult position would not have arisen, but looking at the matter all round, I feel I must give my vote for one of them, and to the other I promise my hearty support on the occasion of the next vacancy. I must record my vote on this occasion in favour of Councillor John Truscott.

FOR MR. W. F. GOOD (1).