

PUNCH & DIE

OCTOBER]

Aero Zipp Fasteners Limited Magazine

[1945

EDITORIAL

This is the second issue of *Punch & Die*. We started our magazine as an experiment to give people with something to say the chance to say it. Well, either you are very happy with things as they are, or else you are too shy to come forward and "let off steam" in public.

Let us once again assure you, you may submit anything for publication and your identity will be kept strictly confidential. Not so long ago we were approached by a fellow worker, who, criticised the Management rather severely. We jumped at the chance and asked our friend to put his criticism to paper and allow us to publish it. Then the usual thing happened. He blushed, fingered his tie nervously and said "Oh no, I could not do that." He was afraid that people might laugh at him (he had never before put his opinion in writing), or that the Management might not like it. It was just futile to assure him that if he wished, his name would not be mentioned. He was too shy. Generally our experience is, that we are *promised* contributions. Unfortunately, we cannot publish promises, and that it all we get.

We should like, though, to thank those of you who helped with the first issue and who also gave a hand with the second. But you must understand that this paper lives and dies with you. If there are no contributions from you soon, further editions are doubted.

A. BLOOMER

J. BACKER

(Editors).

* * *

APPRECIATION

We must congratulate Mr. Bright on the transformation he has made in the canteen. We realise that food is not easy to get these days, but we know that he will get over his difficulties with his "Bright" and breezy manner. Please keep up the good work.

THANKSGIVING WEEK

It is one of the blessings of mankind that he is able to forget the most tragic and painful experiences of life and remember only the lighter moments. This is a trait that is particularly marked in the average Briton.

On reading this you may remark, "and a good thing, too." Yet, considering that we have had two global wars in 25 years and lost the flower of our manhood of two generations, it behoves us all to consider this problem deeply and carefully, and endeavour, each in our own small way to avoid a further calamity like this, which with the invention of the atomic bomb, and the further advancement of science may well result in the complete destruction of all mankind.

We can all glory in the brave deeds of our men in the Forces, and feel proud of such epics as the "Battle of Britain," El Alamein, the sinking of the Graf Spee and Bismark. But this alone is poor consolation to the widows and children who are left behind and will indeed do little to build up and secure that free and prosperous Britain for which they died.

You may say, what can I, "the man in the street," do to avoid these awful wars? Well, while not advocating that "Might is right," it does seem to the writer that what the world needs most at the present time is a country that is strong enough, both morally and physically, to take the lead in determining and settling international affairs. What country in past history has proved itself more capable than our own Great Britain? However, we must remember that the past six years has meant a terrible strain and loss in men and material, and to make sure of our aim we must do everything in our power to save.

Now this is where you, the ordinary man, comes in. Shortly we shall be holding our own National Savings Thanksgiving Week. I would like you to realise that, although this may be the last Thanksgiving Week, it is by no means the least.

Money to rebuild and replace is needed now more than ever if we are to remain a leading power in the world, and to help in the preventing of all future wars.

Should our dream come true, we can well imagine the generations to come, walking around the museums and looking at models of our present day armaments and soldiers, and saying to their parents, "Why did they have these wars?"

I know that we have all given what we consider is our limit during the last six years; please, let me beg of you, even if it does hurt; it is more necessary now than ever. Remember, if we could have been near when that boy was dying in a shell hole, or crashing to earth in a blazing bomber, or sinking beneath the waves on a stricken ship. Who amongst us would not have given all his worldly possessions, if, by doing so, he could have saved but one of them? By sacrificing a little now, we can help to save their sons.

Remember, that the safety of National Savings is guaranteed by the Government and may be redeemed at any time; for Britain has had fourteen changes of Government since Savings were instituted, and never at any time have they been in danger.

"An OUNCE of help is worth a POUND of pity."

"Your POUND now will be worth an OUNCE of GOLD."

"OLD REMO."

* * *

AERO ZIPP FASTENERS— Present and Future.

Our present position is dominated by the switch over to civilian production. The end of the Japanese War has confronted us with many new problems.

- (1) Cancellation or reduction of Government Contracts.
- (2) Resulting employment difficulties.
- (3) Shortage of factory space.
- (4) Production programme.

1. A contract for 2,600,000 loops was cancelled. The tooling for this was just about to be completed, production would have started within a couple of weeks.

The contract for 395,000 Parachute Trays was reduced to 125,000, although we had previously been given to understand that this was a "storer contract" that would not be affected by the end of hostilities. At the time of this reduction we had delivered 80,000 and were producing at a rate of approximately 7,500 a week. It was decided to reduce the rate of production by gradual

transfer of labour so as to avoid a sudden termination of a major production line after six to seven weeks and a resulting redundancy of labour.

The only Government work that has not yet been affected is the anodising of aircraft components. A reduction or termination of these contracts would, however, not upset our plans as we have many inquiries for anodising and dyeing of civilian goods, and also intend to produce a number of articles which will require this treatment (see paragraph 4).

2. For the next few months, the Management considers the avoiding of labour redundancies its foremost task. It may be more economical to complete existing contracts at top speed, then release a number of employees and re-engage these or others only after new production lines are set up for operation. This method would be against the principles of the Directors and Management of our Company. We, therefore, shall do everything in our power to retain all employees who have worked with us during the hard years of war. It is obvious, that we can only succeed if the Planning Department and the toolroom get new jobs ready for production by the time the old jobs are completed. For this reason we increased our Planning staff and employed more skilled toolroom workers. Unless any more of our younger skilled men should be called up for the Forces without suitable replacements being available, we feel confident that we shall have no redundancies of labour, but shall increase employment by approximately 50 to 100 workers within the next half year.

3. The production programme of our Company (as outlined later) call for a considerable increase of factory space.

Whilst we were still under the impression that the Parachute Tray contract would not be reduced or cancelled, we contemplated acquiring some 6,000 square feet at the R.O.F., Hirwaun. This would have given us the additional space needed for commencing civilian production lines immediately. Now that the conditions have altered we find that the immediate requirements for space can be met in the existing premises and the "war-time" extension. We anticipate that the factory will be over-crowded soon but do not think that this will be serious enough to warrant the great expenditure and inconvenience of installing a branch factory approximately 20 miles away from the main premises. Furthermore, the installation and supervision of this factory would add to the problem of the Management and split the staff at a time when a concentrated effort is required to tackle the great task ahead.

An application has been made for an extension building of 18,000 square feet to our present factory. We undertook to vacate the Gauge and Plastic Factory, 6,000 square feet, when this building will be erected. The new building would consist (a) of a link between the new war-time extension and the main factory (6,000 sq. ft.) and (b) of an additional 12,000 feet covering the free ground between the main factory and the Fire Station. The present main factory covers 14,000 square feet, the war-time extension, 3,000 square feet, the canteen 2,000 square feet; thus, the total floor area after completion of the building programme will be approximately 37,000 square feet. We expect the building to be erected within approximately nine months.

In later issues of *Punch & Die* I shall write about our production programme listed below.

4. PRODUCTION PROGRAMME.

- A. Zipp's, types, quantities, quality, tape difficulties.
- B. Zipp machines, zipp components supply.
- C. Powder compacts, cigarette cases.
- D. Lighters.
- E. Cigarette-lighter combination case.
- F. Knitting needles.
- G. Press-buttons.

H. W. SAMOLEWITZ.

(To be continued).

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THE DESIGNER.

The designer bent across his board,
 Wonderful things in his head were stored,
 And he said as he rubbed his throbbing bean,
 "How can I make this thing tough to machine?"
 If this part here were only straight,
 I'm sure the thing would work first rate,
 But it would be so easy to turn and bore,
 It never would make the machinists sore,
 I'd better put in a right angle there,
 Then watch those babies tear their hair.
 Now I'll put the holes that hold the cap
 Way down in here where they're hard to tap.
 Now this piece won't work, I'll bet a tanner,
 For it can't be held in a chuck or spanner;
 It can't be drilled or it can't be ground,
 In fact the design is exceedingly sound."
 He looked again and cried, "At last,
 Success is mine, it can't even be cast."

OUR COLUMN—II.

Mr. PARKER INVESTIGATES.

Fresh from the successful conclusion of his quest into the mystery of the brief-cases, our Mr. Parker has been once again on the prowl—this time his mission has been to find out why so many of our colleagues prefer those master-pieces of elegance—corduroy trousers.

The answers given him, reports our investigator, rather indignantly, were by no means respectful, but they are set out below verbatim.

- (1) "Ask Captain Harrison."
- (2) "I'd look b——y fine coming to work in my underpants."
- (3) "Are you an agent of Messrs. Hawk?"
- (4) "Simple, my dear chap. 'Corduroy' is the French 'Cor-Du-Roi,' the Cord or Clothing of Kings. We wear only clothing to suit our status!" (Editor: Hmm!)
- (5) "A joblot was bought cheaply from the Labourer's Union. We had only to remove the string from below the knees."

ADVERTISEMENT.

With the employment by Messrs. Aero Zipp Fasteners Ltd., of three new toolmakers, the Management wish to announce that they have now immediate vacancies for two Assistant-Managers, two Foremen, three Progress-Chasers, two Inspectors, six Draughtsmen, and three planning and experimental Engineers.

PLAY.

Scene: Aero Zipp Main Factory Machine Room.
 Time: Lunch-break.

Two girls, one reading "Peg's Weekly," and one busily knitting tiny socks.

Curtain Rises.

First Girl on Hammer Machine to Second Girl on Hammer Machine: "I've told my husband and he was so terribly thrilled about it all, but I'm afraid to tell the Foreman."

Curtain Falls.

POEM.

I've read all the poetry in our first *Punch & Die*,
 Like the great George Washington, I just cannot lie.
 Though the efforts were good, to be perfectly frank,
 Lord! the metre and rhyme, they just simply stank.

OUR COLUMN—continued.*CONVERSATION PIECE.*

"All the crying in the world will not put that indention one Teeny bit back where it should be, Mr. K—."

FINALE.

To end on a serious note, Mr. Meitner has asked us to squash the disconcerting rumours floating about, that mysterious experiments have been going on behind his portals. He asks us to state definitely that he is NOT experimenting with a new type of Atomic Projectile, designed to cut off any future enemies' retreat. At present Mr. Meitner is fully occupied designing a new-type Zipp Fastener for sausages, so that discerning housewives can determine their contents without the necessity to purchase.

Au revoir.

"LAPIS."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS.

Dear Editors,

Having read all the minutes of the Social Club, and studied the post-war planning of the Management, I regret that never is there any mention of anything being done for us unfortunate owners of motor cars and motor cycles who are forced to leave their vehicles out in all weather and easily accessible to certain playboys. When the increases which have been promised are paid, the small space now at our disposal will be inadequate.

I'm sure our broad-minded Management would take this into consideration together with their post-war building plans.

"SWEEPER UP."

Dear Editors,

Would it be possible to send a copy of the Magazine to the lads who are about to join, and those who are already in the Forces, who once worked at A.Z.F. They would, I'm sure, be greatly appreciated by the boys.

W. E. JENKINS.

Dear Editors,

If stopping men talking is the only way to send production soaring, why waste years at College on Technical Training for an executive position? Wouldn't ten years in the Police Force suffice?

"JUST A WORKING MAN."

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT

By Our Correspondent.

Since the last issue of our magazine, several events have taken place which seem to show that the criticisms in this and other columns have found their way to the various organisers of these functions. I propose to deal with each event in turn.

The Social Club Committee seem to take their jobs seriously and their work has shown good results in many respects. The first activity organised by them was the "V.J." Dance which proved to be a singular success. That was mainly due to the fact that we had our own band in attendance who, although inexperienced and with only four nights of practice, were well received by the appreciative crowd of dancers. Well done, organisers and band; we are looking forward to the next dance on October 12th.

Next there was the Outing. Some 170 people took advantage of the firm's invitation to spend a day at Porthcawl at their expense. With proverbial A.Z.F. luck, we had sunshine practically all day and everybody had a good time.

In the last issue I mentioned a concert to be given by our choir coupled with a performance of a play by members of the A.Z.F. Drama Section. This event had to be cancelled owing to some unfortunate circumstances. Choir-practices are not very well attended and subsequently the work of this section is greatly hampered. Progress is very slow and we may have to wait some while yet for the first performance of our "silver-voiced" friends.

The Drama Section has found no end of difficulties. Our present stage is quite inadequate and it is practically impossible at the moment to obtain timber and cloth to build a decent stage.

And now to turn to Sports. A Skittle team has been entered in the "Upper Boat League" and we wish them best of luck and success. The same applies to our Table Tennis team who have once again joined the Trading Estate League.

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PROUD RECORD

Congratulations to Mr. Bert Lane of the Upper Boat Inn, who collected £474 in 3 years 4 months, for the Red Cross. We feel sure that this is a record any innkeeper would be proud of.

UNITY IS STRENGTH

The A.E.U. Shop Committee have requested the editors to allocate space in this and subsequent issues of the "Aero Zipp" Magazine for a series of articles on Trade Unionism, and the relationship of it between members and Management.

Recently a large number of employees of the "Aero Zipp" have become members of the A.E.U. It is to you, and those who have not yet made up their minds, that these remarks are made. Let us first consider the purpose and object of a trade union: primarily to raise the status of the workers and generally improve the condition in which they work. The A.E.U. also caters for such things as benefits in case of sickness, and unemployment, superannuation, education, etc.

Our Trade Union Officials and Representatives are now, and have been for a few years, recognised as an important factor in industry; especially has this been so during the war periods, but we must not forget the hard work and suffering endured by those before us to arrive at this stage.

Today, Unionism is more or less taken for granted. But, in the days when first workers began to fight for their rights, the laws and penalties restricting such organisations were severe. Our forefathers literally risked life itself, in their efforts to lay the foundations of Union principles. The smallest of privileges which we enjoy in our modern factories were gained against the might of the then all-powerful owners of industry.

These laws which restricted the rights of man were mainly made by the employers of that period. Under this system it was possible for workmen to be dismissed if they refused a wage "cut." But, should the employees make an effort to secure an increase they became liable to imprisonment or even deportation to an Australian convict settlement.

It was conditions such as these that compelled six Dorsetshire farm labourers to form the first agricultural workers' Union in 1833. They were imprisoned for demanding a fair wage, and after a trial, which was a travesty of justice, all six were sentenced to seven years' deportation to Botany Bay. Public indignation was so great that the Government at the time was forced to rescind their sentence; but not until they had completed two years of slavery. This is a typical example of the difficulties and discouragements which faced the early pioneers of Trade Unions. (One can have nothing but the greatest admiration for people such as these.) People who wonder why they should become Union members would do well to ponder on such things. Our present day shop stewards are more fortunate. They have no fear

of a one-way passage to Botany Bay when applying for district rates and recognised conditions.

The present day presents a different picture. Child exploitation has stopped, the 8½-hour day is almost universally adopted, the death rate due to industrial disease is declining, and generally working conditions are good. The trade unionist, instead of being classed as a criminal, is a vital factor in the build-up of any Democratic Country.

Works Managements now realise the value of co-operating with organised workers. In this manner, problems and dissatisfactions instead of remaining hidden cancers which sap the working spirit of the workpeople, can be brought forward to the Management by means of constitutional channels. Also Employers realising the advisability of Unionism, have formed their own "trade" unions, of which the Employers' Federation is one of the largest.

During this recent War, trade unions have co-operated with Employers to the fullest extent. Production committees are a product of this age. Necessity is still the mother of invention. Peace is equally as important as war, therefore production committees are as important to the present and future eras, as they were in the dark days of war. From that statement one might ask why Aero Zipp Fasteners never possessed a successful production committee. The fault has lain in the inability of Aero Zipp Fasteners and its employees to organise a union.

At the time of writing, the first steps are being taken to form a real Representative Production Committee, to which Management are giving their full support. This committee will be composed of equal numbers of staff and workers. To obtain results the participants should not only be intelligent enough to cope with production problems, but also have the courage to state their convictions clearly and to be unafraid of criticising those of the Management who might be present. The elected representatives will have plenty to discuss other than the quality of tea and biscuits.

It is known that our Management will encourage frankness and criticism. One thing that must not find its way into the Production Committee meetings is the ancient art of "passing the buck." This seems to be part of every factories' make up.

It is the responsibility of every worker to think hard before voting for his or her representative. Choose one for his qualities rather than the colour of his socks.

In the following articles it is the intention of the Shop Committee to comment on the activities of the A.Z.F. Production Committees and other things which are only made possible through Trade Unions.

WORKS COMMITTEE.

AROUND THE DEPARTMENTS

We are very sorry that we are unable to assist Mr. Bryant in any way. We know he is very worried about his ducks never laying. It appears to us that someone has been playing Ducks and Drakes with them.

The Planning Department has asked us to publish this request. Will all Toolmakers please mark all work out before drilling; and not lay the drawings on top of their work and drill through the drawings because, even they are not infallible and the holes on some drawings may be a thou. or so out.

We are all aware of the remarkable foresight so often displayed by Mr. Harding. But we think it is rather early for him to buy juvenile football clothes.

Being co-editor of a resistance paper in occupied territories, must have been "child's play" compared with trying to get this paper going. The Gestapo could's have been everywhere, but C.C. sure gets around.

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AUNT 'ENRIETTA'S 'ELPING 'AND CORNER

Girls! Have you any worries? Why not let Aunt 'Enrietta solve them for you.

The first problem to be solved is from "Blue Eyes" of the Plastic Department.

Dear Aunt 'Enrietta: Last week I went out with an American soldier and he took me in the woods. Did I do wrong?

A. 'E. replies: How should I know, I wasn't there.

(2) *Dear Aunt 'Enrietta:* When I first met my boy who works in Mr. Randall's Department, he was always happy and so full of life, but now he is beginning to look haggard and worn and everything is too much trouble. Does he want a change of job?

A. 'E. replies: No my dear, change of foreman.

(3) *Dear Aunt 'Enrietta:* I wake up tired every morning; everything is too much trouble and I simply dread the thought of another day at the factory and wish every morning that I could stay in bed.

A. 'E. replies: Then why the h——I don't you.

Mr. Meitner would like to state that any girl riding home to her lunch on his latest inventions will be severely reprimanded. There is no excuse for such a mistake because everyone can tell the difference between his machines and a "byke." All his machines are painted Red.

Mr. Salamon is at present drawing up a price list for the engraving of various articles at so much a letter. The quotations will be ready for our next issue. Cigarette cases (gold and silver) and all articles over £5 in value, will be accepted "Owners' Risk Only." The time taken being dependent on how long Mr. Samo will take between his daily rounds.

It has been proposed to hold a drama competition between the various departments. Mr. Salamon's is going to put on that well-known comedy, "Bits and Pieces," while the Gauge, under the direction of Mr. Howley, with Mr. Church as stage manager, are busy rehearsing the "Dumb Man of Manchester." The Planning Department is putting on "Trial and Error," their old favourite. Owing to the cancellation of many Government contracts the Management regret that they will be unable to produce their favourite play "Tons of Money." Further progress will be published in our later issues.

We regret that the article by Mr. Samo on "My Life as a Philanthropist," or "Why I never refuse a raise," has been inadvertently held over.

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SKITTLERS' CORNER

The Social Club has entered a team in the Upper Boat Skittle League. If any person wants to play, will he hand his name to Mr. G. Thomas of the Gauge Department.

It is hoped that this team will be even more successful than the Gauge Department's team which reached the 4th round of the knockout competition. A summary of matches and results will appear in the future issues.

NINE-PINS.

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TIT FOR TAT

Owing to the shortage of brief cases in the Cardiff and Whitchurch area, Lawyers have been observed carrying their briefs around in engineers' tool cabinets.

TECHNICALITIES

Any resemblance to any person employed in this factory is just too bad.

A small little man sat in his tiny office frantically twisting a piece of steel, first in one position, and then in another.

"I'm afraid it can't be done," he muttered to himself. "I think I'll get our Production Manager over first and explain the position."

Soon the well-known call, "Calling the Production Manager" was heard throughout the works, and after the twelfth call, in he strolled.

"I'm afraid this job can't be ground," said the foreman, although he was very loath to admit defeat.

"Why not?" said the P.M. "If you place it on a sine bar and clamp it, I think it should be alright, or I think we might get our new Jig and Tool Manager on the job. We'll see what he thinks."

Soon the call for the Jig and Tool Manager sounded throughout the works. Being new, he came after the first call; he hadn't quite mastered the technique of the job yet.

Into a huddle the three of them went, but success never came their way. The only hope now was the Planning and Research Department. Even the head of that department couldn't advise them at once. Then it was arranged that himself and his assistants would leave all their work and immediately give all their attention to this new problem.

Summer changed into Autumn, and Autumn lead to Winter's snow and still the problem had not been solved. It was the day after the 63rd person had written to the Local Paper claiming to have heard the first cuckoo, when the glad news came.

It would mean making 17 jigs and alterations to one of the grinding machines.

"Pretty expensive but I suppose it will be worth it. We had better notify the Works Manager," said the P.M.

Along they all trooped in Indian file to see the W.M. with the P.M. in the lead, holding the cause of the trouble tightly in his hand. After explaining all the whys and wherefores, it was decided the Head himself should be consulted.

Along they all trooped in Indian file once again, including the W.M., who had taken the lead and was now holding the job. The same explanations were once again explained, after which the Head asked them if anyone thought of seeing if the

grinders could do the job. They had to admit they hadn't thought of that. Calling one of the office girls the Head told her to ask the grinders if they could spare a little time from Union matters, and Magazine work, would they condescent to grind this job. Off went the girl, and was back again in five minutes.

"What did they say?" said the Head.

"They have done it," said the girl.

"Lucky for them," growled the W.M. "What do they think I'm paying them for, anyway?"

Finis.

OBSERVER.

* * *

MISCELLANEOUS SALES AND WANTS

Owing to alterations in design of machines in the Plastic Department, there are now a number of second-hand bicycles for sale.—Please apply Mr. Pinkus.

—
Pair of long trousers required suitable for work.—
E. Davies, Gauge Department.

—
Set of turners' tools for sale, or will exchange for a good laying duck.—Write K. Walters.

—
Periscope required, must be in good condition.—
Mr. Church, Gauge Department.

—
12-inch rule wanted by turner fed up with borrowing. Must be cheap.—Write or call Mr. Daniels, Gauge Department.

—
Ready Reckoner needed very urgent. Price no object.—Planning Department.

—
Pair of Corduroy Trousers needed to match new light brown brief case.—Mr. D. D. Stone, Inspection Department.

—
Toolmaker returning to his old trade of diamond mounting, would like to buy riding habit, complete with spurs.—M. Rose, Gauge Department.

—
A platform or large box, suitable for addressing meetings required immediately.—Please notify Shop Steward.

—
Wanted square ground, triangular parallels of 3 inches diameter, in block form. The total of all dimensions should not exceed +20°F., suitable for cracking $\frac{1}{2}$ " nuts. Offered in part exchange: three beautiful $\frac{5}{8}$ " nuts suitable for cracking above parallels.—Apply (Rubbish) Box 48.

AN EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE INVESTITURE

'Twas a fine sunny day, and as the train pulled into Paddington our thoughts were uplifted by the inspiring effect of the thousands of chimney pots, all scrubbed and decorated for this auspicious occasion. As the distinguished party alighted from the Royal Coach, specially lent for the occasion, the combined B.B.C., Northern, London Symphony and Boston Promenade Orchestras under the conductorship of the Left Hon. Sir Koon Bud Koppers blared into the strains of "Why was he born so beautiful" (Why was he born at all).

Amid the rousing cheers from the crowd, the Lord Mayor, Sir Jack Koppers, advanced towards the party with outstretched hand, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Patents and Inventions following behind. At this moment the crowd could be restrained no longer and burst forth with shouts of "We want our national hero, Bila, Bila, SPEECH!" He was obedient to the insistent cries and stepped on to the dais, which immediately gave way under his weight. From the debris, came the cries of "Sacramento, dis-blandish platform, I most invention make for de unbreakable platform." After this rousing reception, the party entered the waiting Royal Landau, drawn by the famous Windsor Greys, at the head of which rode the majestic figure—Lord Samso on a gaily bedecked donkey. At a flick of the whip the magnificent beast shot forward, so did Lord Samso, making a perfect landing on the part of his anatomy meant for such landings. Frank Harpio took full advantage of the situation and extricated Lord Samso from the donkey's legs, thus qualifying for the Royal Life Savers Medal.

The procession then proceeded, and as the carriage passed the gates of the palace, the Guards waved their busbys to the fine gentleman.

What an unforgettable sight, to see His Excellency take Bila by the arm, guiding him up to the platform. Then came the breathtaking moment when the Lord High Executioner pinned on to his breast the Gold Cross of the Order of Basic English. Bila, wiping the tears from his eyes said, "Thank you, my Master, you have a lovely smiling queen. Cheery, Beery!!" Then bowing and smiling to the spectators he was led away by Sir Edward Franklyn and his comrades who entertained him most generously to tea and bun at Lyons Corner House.

Thus ended the most outstanding Investiture of all time.

BIRTH OF THE BLUES.

It all started with some girls having a chat during working hours. It usually does. Enthusiasm flared up, then subsided, then died. That was before the annual holidays.

The scene now changes to a committee meeting on August 18th. We wanted to organise a dance, but the big question was: where to get a band and how to pay for it. There and then the decision was taken. We shall have our own band. And we were born.

We met for the first time on Thursday. Piano, Sax, Violin, and Drums, with one copy of music for each song. We were nervous and not at all sure of ourselves but we plodded on. On Monday we met again. A friend had been kind enough to bring some music for us from London, and there we sat and struggled with it. And so it went on every night that week. We were improving, yes, but would it be good enough for the dance? We wondered, but we had promised to play, and play we would!

And then came the day. We mounted the stage with very mixed feelings. And I expect we showed our anxieties. Friends came to give us encouraging words, telling us we would be alright. Oh! if only we could have believed it.

Well! now for it; let's go and strike up and let the devil take the hindmost—

Slowly the hall fills up. They are dancing, enjoying themselves, even clapping. We have found our confidence. We've done it! We really are playing as a band and what a thrill it is.

Thanks, everybody, for your friendly words and your kind reception.

We were born on August 18th, 1945, and we intend to live.

B. W.

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NO NAMES—NO SCOUTDRILL

Why did the grinders in the Gauge Department say, "Let's hope he treated the scouts better than he did us."

Articles accepted but not published in this issue, will be in the next.