

Earlsdon Independent

No. 100 - Established 1879

APRIL 1888

Price Twopence

LIBERAL AFFAIRS

VISIT OF MR. BALLANTINE, M.P.

Mr. S. W. Morris of 'The Poplars', President of the E.L.A., who officiated as Chairman at the Tea and Concert which took place on Monday, 7th March, has kindly furnished the following report. (A full report was given in the Coventry Herald the following day).

IMPORTANT MEETING AT THE BRITISH SCHOOL, CROMWELL STREET.

The room, tastefully decorated with red, white and blue drapery and large Chinese lanterns, was full to overflowing with local Liberals and Guests who had gathered to show their support for our new M.P., Mr. Walter Ballantine, our Guest of Honour.

The first part of the proceedings took the form of a public meeting, and after preliminary speeches and an introduction, Mr. Ballantine rose and addressed the company, who responded to his salient points with great enthusiasm.

He expressed his pleasure at once again addressing the Earlsdon Association, and thanked the members for their continuing loyalty and support. He then referred to the presence of ladies - what a deep interest they took in politics and what an influence they were capable of exciting at election times - if they chose. The Irish question naturally he considered the most pressing of the day, and, contrary to the shilly-shallying of the Tory Government, it was, in his opinion, capable of a straightforward solution - that proposed by Mr. Gladstone of 'Home Rule'! (Loud cheers by all!) He spoke at length of the Government's mishandling of meetings and demonstrations by Irish supporters in London, and quoted Mr. John Bright "....is there in the country any liberty but the toleration of the ruling classes?"

At the conclusion of Mr. Ballantine's speech, such was the ensuing enthusiasm, that it was some time before order could be restored and votes of thanks given.

The tea and entertainment, both of the highest quality, then followed, and at 10.00p.m. the National Anthem was heartily sung and everyone dispersed after a most rewarding and inspiring evening.

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W. H. BALLANTINE, ESQ., M.P.

TANSFIELD'S ROYAL CIRCUS

Pool Meadow



LAST DAY PERFORMANCE 7th April



Saturday Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

Evening at 7.30 p.m.

Admission 2s, 1s 6d and 3d.

Turpin's Ride to York at each performance.



DRESSMAKER

Very experienced in fitting, will make Costumes, Jackets, Mantles, etc. to Customers' requirements. Latest London Fashions and quality materials obtainable. Will also supply trimmings, Feathers, Ribbons, Flowers and Lace. Children's clothes a speciality.

Miss Caroline Rollason,
Clarendon Street.

KENILWORTH ROAD MYSTERY

At last the mystery of the battered hat, stick and gloves found last November at the Canley Lane corner of Kenilworth Road has been cleared up. It was disclosed, our Readers will remember, that they belonged to a Mr. Robert Manning, an employee of Mr. F. W. Poole, who is the owner of our Earlsdon Grocery Stores. Mr. Manning then unaccountably disappeared and naturally foul play was suspected. However, we are glad to report at last that he has been traced. For the past three months he has been in New York, where he has obtained a post and has just returned to this district to make arrangements to transfer to America with his wife, and to settle there permanently. He has given no explanation as to why his hat, gloves and stick came to be found on the Kenilworth Road, and we can only conclude that it was all a deliberate ruse in very questionable taste.

PROPOSED RAILWAY SCHEME

Contrary to our hopes the Railway Company has just informed us that they consider the construction of a street bridge from Grosvenor Road to replace the present iron foot-bridge to be impractical. The approach of Grosvenor Road being altogether too abrupt and steep, and on inspection this opinion would seem to be correct.

This is a distinct disappointment to many of us. We had hoped that a street bridge would provide a more direct route to the City for vehicular traffic across the Six Fields, than the present lengthy one across Styvechale Common to the Kenilworth/Warwick Roads.

The Company does undertake, however, to provide street bridges over the Earlsdon 'Jetty' if and when they might be required. Sadly, this matter must now, at least for the time being, be considered closed.

Mrs. Shufflebotham

We are pleased to report that our friend, Mrs. Margaret Shufflebotham of Canley Cottage, Whor Lane, has just been elected to the Education Committee of the Co-operative Society. She is the very first woman member of the Committee and we warmly congratulate her.

LAUNDRY. Good worker is available one or two days per week at Customer's convenience. Getting up fine linen a speciality. Miss Baker, Providence St.

GIRL, 13 or 14 years of age required as general servant. Must be hard worker, clean and of good character. Apply in writing to Mrs Danks, Brighton Villa, Moore Street.

MILK SUPPLIED. 1d. per pint, 3d. per quart. R. Nicholls, Providence St.

WATCHMAKING MATTERS

Monthly Report from Mr. White

There is little to report this month apart from the continuing trend, very disturbing to our craftsmen, towards more and more mechanisation. Mr. Rotherham tells me that by next year he intends his factory to be fully mechanised. It is the only possible way, he says, with the employment of more women, that we can hope to combat the continuing influx of cheap mass-produced watches from abroad. If we are not to go under - and this means the production of more and more cheaper watches - we must bite on the bullet and accept innovation.

Watch Cap Makers' Meeting

Mr. Furneaux wishes to bring to the attention of all interested parties that there will be a meeting of Journeymen Cap Makers, at their request, at the White Swan, Hill Street at 8.00p.m. prompt, on Thursday, 13th April.

As everyone in the trade is aware, there has been a great deal of dissatisfaction among the journeymen at their low rate of pay. They had obtained such meagre prices that it was morally impossible for them to obtain a respectable livelihood, and it is an indication of their high feeling that this unprecedented step is being taken. It is not usual for men in any branch of the industry to combine, but in this instance it may be that an Association will have to be formed, to enforce the higher rates on unwilling Masters, not by strike action it is emphasised, but merely to enforce a boycott.

Mr. Furneaux, who is noted for his fair dealing, and it is hoped other Masters and Manufacturers, will be prepared to meet the men at the above-mentioned meeting at which a better price, favourable to all concerned may be negotiated.

MR FRED POOLE

Tea, Colonial and Provision Merchant
19 and 20, Fleet Street and The Stores,
Moore St. Earlsdon.

Teas from Ceylon, India and China
Sauces, Pickles, Preserves from France
and Italy

Hams and Bacon from Wiltshire and
America

All Cheeses - from Gorgonzola,
Camembert, Cheddar, American
and Old Warwick
Danish Butter, Eggs, Potted and
Tinned Meats

Canned Salmon from N. West
Canada, fresh Herring from
Scotland

Huntley and Palmer Biscuits
New Zealand Mutton and Lamb

CORRESPONDENCE

EARLSDON CHILDREN AT SPON STREET SCHOOL

To the EDITOR of the EARLSDON INDEPENDENT.

Dear Sir, — A wrong impression might be conveyed by the remarks of two members of the Coventry School Board at their last meeting. These remarks went to show that 22 Earlsdon children and others from Mount Street and old Allesley Road were attending Spon Street School. Now I believe the 22 referred to children living in Mount Street and old Allesley Road, as no Earlsdon children have attended Spon Street School since the school here was opened. I should feel pleased if you would correct this, as it appears as if the people of this little district preferred Spon Street to their own school, on the registers of which the names of several City children are to be found.

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

TOM PEARSON,

Attendance Officer of Earlsdon School.
19th March 1888

SCHOOL BOARD SURPRISE ELECTION

While we hesitate to use the term 'scandal', the current events taking place involving our school are giving rise to more rumour and suspicion than any to have arisen during the whole 36 years of Earlsdon's history, and 'The Independent' regards it as a duty to put the plain facts before the public. Therefore, for the information of our readers, particularly those who until now have had no direct interest in our school, but who will now be forced to pay a yearly rate towards its upkeep, the background to the issue which has suddenly erupted is as follows:

The present committee of Messrs. Hulme, Walker, Masser, Mayo and Pearson, elected at an open meeting, have been administering the school ever since 1884, when they were given the responsibility of approaching the British School Commission for their backing in getting the school established. They then appointed a Master, Mr. C. C. Johnson, found and equipped the present premises in Cromwell Street, and raised funds to run it, mainly by local subscription. They had done all this willingly and competently and have continued to give their time and energies unstintingly ever since.

All was well for the first two years when the annual income was £240 to £250, but recently this income has dwindled drastically, until last year the voluntary revenue was a mere £35. (The children's pence, which of course fluctuates according to attendance, was a small addition to this).

The committee, crippled by this declining income, intimated to the Coventry Education Department last month that they could no longer be responsible for the carrying on of the school. Mr. Walker and Mr. Masser were so concerned that they even travelled to London to consult Mr. Cumin of the Central Education Department, to whom they described the desperate situation.

The surprise outcome of this meeting was an order from 'My Lords' issued to the Board of Guardians, informing them that henceforth the Earlsdon school would be their responsibility. They would be empowered, however, to raise a rate to finance it, and it was stipulated that a local Board be elected for its administration.

Naturally this has caused an outcry by many residents, who feel that a statutory rate, payable by all and sundry, is an imposition, and the remark made to me in the 'City Arms' last night "Why should I pay for other people's children to go to school when I've got none of my own?" is typical of many. The fear has also been expressed that it might furnish the City with an effective weapon for the future inclusion of the estate in the jurisdiction of the Council. "If we want to pay City rates, we would live in the City!"

Fortunately not everyone has reacted in this way. Many residents recognise that it is in the interests of all that children should be well educated, and since the school has been established under Mr. Johnson's care, the 100 or so children attending have been taught well and to the satisfaction of all, including H.M. Inspector, whose reports have been consistently favourable.

However, apart from the opposition to the principle of a general rate, another problem has arisen.

We have duly been informed that the election of our new School Board will take place on Easter Monday, 9th April, with nominations to be handed to the Clerk by Thursday last, 22nd March. It was naturally expected that the five Managers, in recognition of their dedication would be elected unopposed. This, however, has proved not to be the case!

On Thursday, half an hour before nominations closed, five new candidates, Messrs. Pike, Cole, Grinyer, Salmon and Waddington presented themselves at the Workhouse for nomination. When I questioned them, — they said they had come forward to prevent a practically self-elected Board from carrying on. No public meeting had been held for discussion of the matter, and they considered it their duty to see that some choice might be given to the electing public. They were only acting in the public's interest!

I then sought out the Chairman of the committee, — Mr. Hulme, who, in his usual forthright manner, responded to this information with "We were appointed by the subscribers four years ago, are they now saying that our work has been unsatisfactory? If they wanted to object to us in public, why had they not called a general meeting? We would have stated our case then as we do now, that it was impossible to carry on the school with such a meagre income, but it was as great a surprise to us as to anyone that 'My Lords' had chosen to take the action they had."

As to the new nominees, he said, at least one had never given a farthing towards the funds, and was a complete stranger to him, the oldest resident on the estate. The others were all competent men, but did they not trust the committee to continue their duties? He stated that he intends, with the approval of the other members, to call a meeting in the next few days to ask for a vote of confidence.

Unfortunately this meeting will be too late for a report to be included in this edition, but we of 'The Independent' have only one word for the new nominees — 'WITHDRAW!' and heal this rift which is opening up in our little community.

CRAVEN STREET POST OFFICE

Money order and Savings Bank business transacted at this Office from 9.00a.m. to 6.00p.m.
Stamps sold and letters registered up to 8.00p.m.
Parcels accepted up to 7.30p.m. Letter collections at 8.00a.m., 10.00a.m., 1.00p.m., 2.45p.m., 5.00p.m., 7.50p.m. and 9.30p.m.
Parcel collections at 8.00a.m., 10.00a.m., 1.00p.m., 6.00p.m. and 7.50p.m.

E. BEAUMONT, Receiver

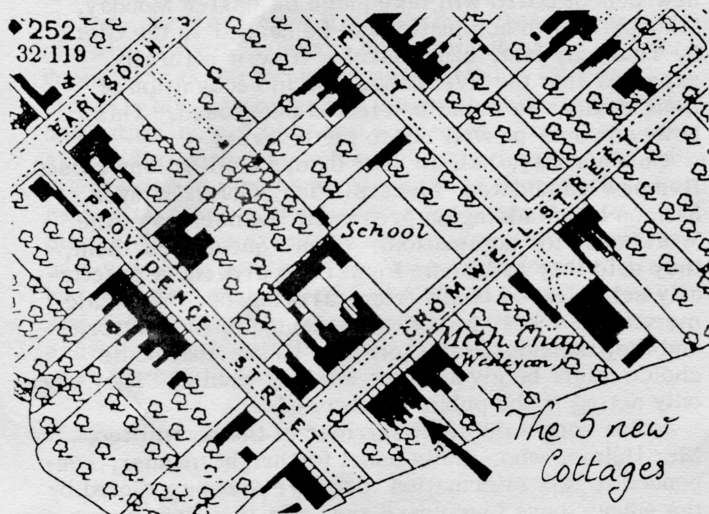
THE EARLSDON PROPERTY PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Report from Mr. Hulme

The erection of the five terraced houses for Mr. Waddington in Cromwell Street has been completed, — and indeed they are already in occupation. They conform well with the ideals of the Association and meet with general approval.

Mr. Peter Brain's proposed cottage on Moore Street also complies with the standard required and now awaits approval by the Rural Sanitary Authority.

Mr. Phillips, lessee of the Earlsdon Sewage Farm has again been requested to complete the repair of the surrounding fence begun last year. Fortunately, due to the low rainfall there has been no recurrence of the flooding problem and the sewers have amply coped with the outflow.



WATER SUPPLY

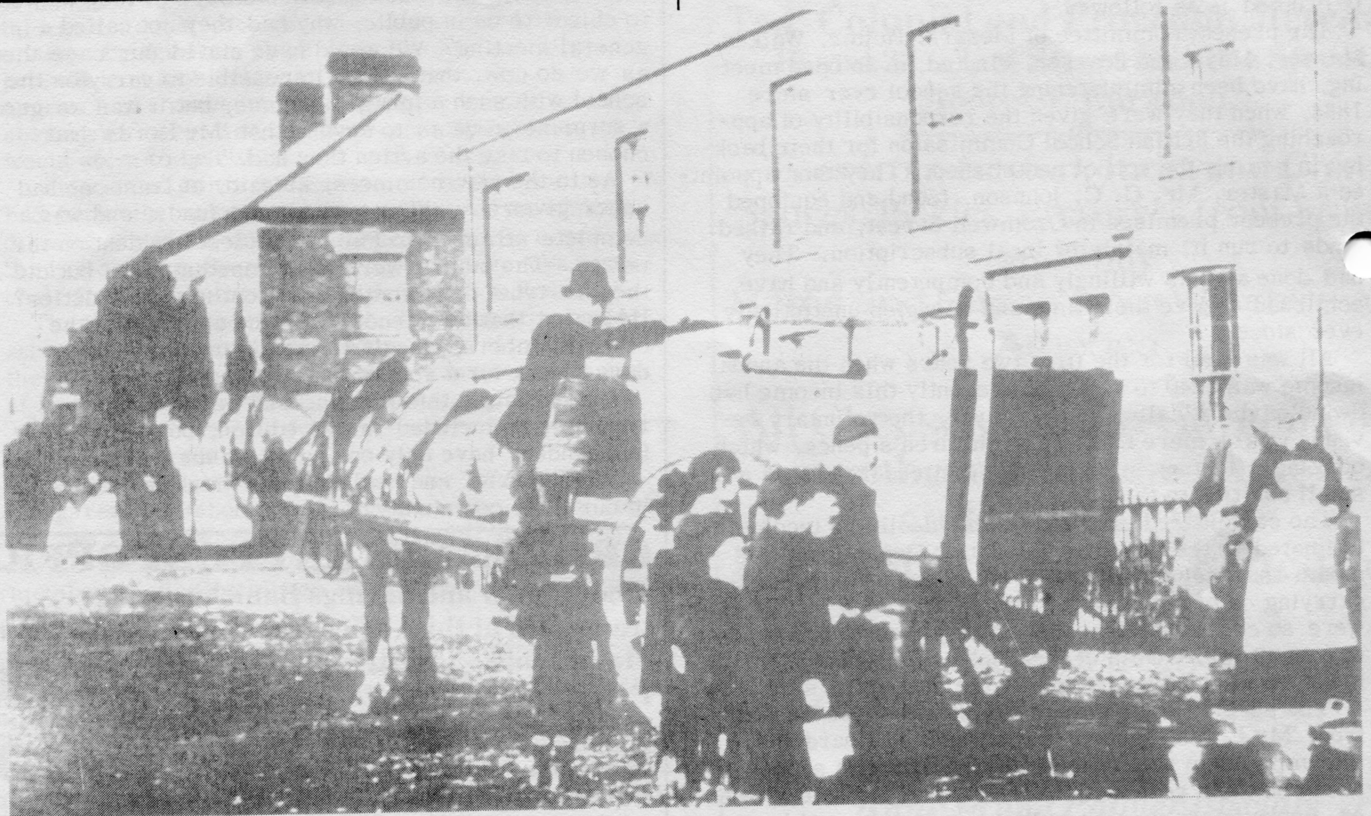
Problems in the Summer Ahead

Over the past few weeks so many people have commented on the abnormally dry winter we have just experienced, that I was prompted last Monday to consult Councillor Andrews of Davenport Road, the acknowledged expert in that field. He indeed confirmed that the rainfall had been only 10.8 inches since last October instead of the average 15 or so inches over the same period in the previous five years. This can only lead to greater problems in our area than ever previously experienced. There have always been difficulties in pumping our tap water up here from the Artesian Well at Spon End, and even when the Pumping Engine has been working efficiently our supply has been barely adequate, indeed has at times failed completely for hours at a time. The higher points of the Chapelfields area have only experienced occasional low pressure in their supply, and as a whole it seems adequately supplied, and the danger much less threatening than in Earlsdon.

Mr. Andrews explained that the extremely low rainfall has occasioned a fall in the level of the water table over the whole district, and consequently the demands on the Spon Street Well and its Pumps will inevitably be too heavy for the supply, particularly in the hot weather, and Earlsdon, being the highest point supplied, can expect to come off worst. It seems that in the coming months the watercart will be a constant, not merely an occasional, visitor to our streets.

Until such time as Earlsdon is Incorporated and we pay full City rates, we can expect the 'Powers that be' to show little interest in our predicament. Our only recourse at this present time seems to be to address a Memorial to the Rural Sanitary Authority, to engage their sympathy and interest. To this end, would readers please contact me to show their support.

E. J. Walker
Earlsdon Terrace



The services of the watercart have been required already this year.