Ancient Order of Foresters.

Rockhampton United District.

Annual Easter Meeting at Barcaldine.

The panel at the foot of the arms of the Ancient Order of Foresters tells us that the Order was “established from time immemorial.” That may not be correct in fact, but doubtless the Order is a very ancient one, and perhaps existed at the time of the Britons before the Roman conquest. There is color given to this from the tradition that to be a member of a Court the candidate was handed a cudgel and picking out from the members an opponent, stood in a narrow ring with him and fought until he proved himself a man. There is not nowadays that robust means of procuring membership, but the square still exists in the centre of the floor in all Courts, but is used merely for a brother coming in after the Court opened to stand in and properly salute the Chief Ranger. In Sherwood Forest particularly, where the King’s deer were kept, Foresters were men who sought to prevent poaching, and in Epping, Dean, and other forests were doubtless Foresters, but it was at Sherwood such celebrities as King John himself, Friar Tuck and Little John held high revelry times. As years went on it was sought to provide means for a distressed member by making a little contribution at intervals, and from this comes the great Society of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows was established in much the same way. A number of cronies used to meet at an inn in Manchester, and acting upon a suggestion a penny was placed in a box for distress upon each occasion of meeting. Well, Courts of Forestry were formed in various parts of England, and eventually they became so numerous that Districts were formed, and once a year the representatives of Courts in each District met together and transacted business which tended to cement the brotherhood more closely together. Space will not permit of more than a brief outline of the rise of the A.O.F. Wherever Foresters migrated an attempt was made to establish a Court, and Courts were established in Australia in the earliest times. As enthusiastic Foresters went North and pioneered the country so did Forestry advance, and in the ’70’s Court “Robin Hood” was formed in Rockhampton, and has been a most successful Court since its inception. It was not, however, until 1886 that the Courts were gathered into a District and annual meetings held, the 30th of which has just successfully terminated at Barcaldine, the previous one being in 1907— if memory serves correctly. Like other Societies Forestry has had its ups and downs, not through any fault of the ardent men who established Courts, but chiefly through the lack of medical attendance and the migratory nature of the population. In our Central district Court Friar Tuck was established in the early ’80’s, and has been going strong since; its history is fully given elsewhere. After “Court Friar Tuck” had passed on to Barcaldine, “Court Pride of the Jordan” had a brief career; but there were not enough people to keep it going, and it failed. Bro. W. H. Bartlett tried to keep it alive. In Blackall a ladies Court, “Court Shamrock,” in which Bro. Bartlett also took a lively interest, was formed, but the members were too few to keep it going, and it was merged into “Court Little John,” which was established mainly through Bro. H. Bartlett’s agency. In the early days of Longreach, Bro. C. J. James, who then had interests in the town, established “Court Pride of the West.” It was for years a fine robust chap, but medical troubles of late years sadly crumpled it, and many members were lost. The District officers, with the assistance of a few enthusiastic members, purpose endeavoring to infuse some life into it presently. Bro. Harry
some life into it presently. Bro. Harry Bigges, also a Friar Tuck man, opened Court. "Pride of Lower Barcoo" at Lancaster; the Court is a small one but kept alive by a few enthusiasts. Time will not allow us, even if space permitted, to go into further detail, much as it would be appreciated by Foresters and members of Friendly Societies generally, but we must get to business.

**Official Welcome.**

It was through the persistent efforts of Bro. E. C. Scott, Court Friar Tuck delegate to Bundaberg last year, that Barcaldine was chosen for the Easter meeting of 1917, and although the journey was long and expensive a number of Courts determined to send their own delegates. However, at the last moment several of the Court members have been unable to attend, and left respectively. Mr. W. D. James presided at the piano during the evening, and songs were rendered by several of those present between the speeches, which were all unusually interesting, and we regret having to slightly abbreviate the less important—if we should say that, for all were important.

After Bro. Gibbs (D.C.R.) had proposed the usual loyal toast, which was heartily honored, Bro. J. Leyland proposed "The Rockhampton United District." He was very sorry to say that it was rather a weighty subject in very weak hands. He extended a very hearty welcome to the District Officers and delegates. They all knew that the District was originally established to give benefits to some of the Courts which were in rather a weak state, especially as regards the funeral benefit. No doubt had it not been for the united efforts of the District some of the Courts would probably have gone under, but with the assistance of the stronger Courts they managed to pull through. As regarded Court "Friar Tuck," which he had the honor of representing, they were in a very strong position at the time the District was formed, and it was only after argument that they decided to join the District. He was very glad himself that they did so, because, being a rich Court, they could afford to give assistance to Courts in a poorer state. (Hear, hear.) He had the honor of being one of the members appointed to revise the rules and regulations of the Order, i.e., of the United District, in 1900, and these were really formed on a good basis. He was pleased to see so many old faces present that evening—friends he had met years ago, and particularly Bro. George Kerr, P.C.R. He was initiated some 32 years ago in Court "Friar Tuck" by Bro. Kerr, and was almost immediately put into the Secretarship, or something, for the time being, under the tuition of Bro. Kerr. Had it not been for Bro. Kerr Court "Friar Tuck" would have been out of existence long ago; he was the backbone of the Court at that time, and he knew Bro. Kerr had Court "Friar Tuck" at his heart ever since. He was also pleased to see Bro. Whitehead, whom he met in Bundaberg, Bro. Hawdon, too, their Chief Secretary, devoted a tremendous lot of time to the Courts. He invited the brethren to heartily drink the health of the Rockhampton District Officers. (Applause.)

Bro. Gibbs, on behalf of the United District officers, thanked Bro. Leyland for his hearty welcome. They may not have suited everyone in their endeavors to please all, but they had done their best. (Applause.)

Bro. Giring thanked them for the magnificent reception that had been accorded them. The brethren of Court "Friar Tuck" were to be congratulated. He trusted that the holding of this meeting in Barcaldine would be the means of increasing the membership of Court "Friar Tuck." He wished the Court every success in future. (Applause.)

Bro. Horton said he was very much struck with Barcaldine, and the manner in which the town was laid out. The trees added to the beautification of the place, also the good water supply, which they had not in Rockhampton, and electric light. He had risen in office as a juvenile, and he urged all the members to go...
whole of the Courts enrolled as branches of the District. Many Courts to-day would not have been in existence if they had had to pay the funeral donations as well as the sick pay that the rules made them liable for. During their last quinquennial period their funeral donations had amounted to £230; in the previous quinquennial period they had paid £1640, so that the percentage of increase was 25 per cent. during the five years over the previous period. In some cases there had been no deaths in one Court; in others all the deceased had been in excess of the deaths allowed. The Sick Fund was subject to a poll upon it, because the responsibility was borne by every Court comprising the District, and it only affected the surplus in the year the deaths took place. Unfortunately what with the war and other experiences their membership during the past five years had not maintained its position. Nearly the whole of the Societies were in the same boat. Many of them, he regretted to say, did not admit it, but on actual examination of their books it would be found that every Society has failed in membership during the last five years. There had been a drain on the young men overseas throughout the Commonwealth by enlistments, but they were all in duty bound to do their utmost for the Empire, and none of them regretted the doing of a good turn to the front. (Applause.) They were proud of the enlistments of the Foresters of their District in the service of the Empire. Whereas in some Courts the average enlistments had not been as high as others. He instanced
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Mr. Whitehead: Oh, that’s funny. (Laughter.) But compared with different places he had travelled to in Southern and Western Queensland Barcaldine was a beautiful place. (Applause.) He thanked them for the way they had received the visitors, and assured them if they came to Longreach they would also have a good time as Barcaldine was extending to them. (Applause.)

Bro. Kroning thanked the brethren of Court "Friar Tuck" very heartily for the honor they had extended to them as visitors and delegates. This was his first visit to the town, and he could say the remarks which had fallen from previous speakers were quite correct. He could also state that he was the oldest District officer of the Rockhampton United District. He helped to form that District. Before it actually was formed he was Treasurer for and on behalf of the Rockhampton District, and also after the opening. He stated that he became District Chief Ranger in the latter part of 89 or beginning of 87, and he could assure them the remarks which had fallen from their worthy District Secretary regarding the benefit of the different branches of the Order joining the District were the greatest help that any could get. He did not think there was any need for him to go over the remarks which had been made regarding those benefits, only simply to say that it was to the advantage of the Order to join the District. He said he was proud to be amongst them and assist at the meeting to be held on Monday, and do his best for and on behalf of the Court he represented. He hoped to see some of the members of Court "Friar Tuck" in Rockhampton at their meetings of Court "Robin Hood," and they would get a reception second to none that any other Society could give visiting brethren. He again thanked them all for the hearty reception they had given the delegates that night and that afternoon. (Applause.)

Bro. Bartlett, on behalf of Court "Little John," Blackall, returned thanks. He related how Bro. Scott had worked for Barcaldine as Bundaberg with success. He was pleased to note that on that occasion Bro. Kerr, representing Tambo, was disfranchised as well as he was. (Laughter.) The speaker thought those District meetings were excellent, not only as regarded the joiality and entertainment part, but the mingling of opinions must tend to greatly benefit the members. He dealt at length on the handicap to a delegate when he was given hard and fast instructions when attending a District meeting, and he strongly urged the allowing of delegates to use their own discretion, and giving them a free hand, which did not know what was useful for his Court he had no right to be appointed. The respective Courts should have full confidence in him.

(Applause.) Mr. Bartlett mentioned he had been to different functions and had always received a cordial reception. The last time he was in Rockhampton he rested and had carried away very pleasing recollections of his visit, and what he had seen of things already, so he knew he would carry away better recollections this time, although there were no faults on the previous occasion. As regarded his own Court the speaker said that at one time it had a larger membership than Court "Friar Tuck," but lately, owing to some unforeseen circumstances, their membership had dwindled down, and new Court "Friar Tuck" holds the lead...
certain things for nothing!’ [Mr. Kerr, of course, referring to the Employers’ Liability in the matter of compensation, &c., and Longman.] He then went on to see the ladies present that night. His two daughters were lady Foresters in Brisbane, and he used all his influence with either male or female to induce them to join a Society, and he always endeavored to impress upon them to join the Society to which he belonged, because he maintained that if any member of a Society did not think his Society was the pre-eminent Society he ought not to be in it. (Applause.) The word ‘sympathy’ expressed the interest they took in each other. His memory was led back to the time when there was no Forestry in Court north of Brisbane. It would be 40 years on 1st June next since he landed in Rockhampton as a newcomer. He then had the experience that when looking into every face it was of a stranger. He knew no man or woman in Queensland. He made friends in Rockhampton, and some of them were lost to him still. He had a kindly regard for Rockhampton. After a time Court 'Friar Tuck' at Emerald. In those days there was no hope for the working man in Court 'Friar Tuck'. He was the first working man who got through the chairs in Court 'Friar Tuck.' They were ruled by gentlemen, and they (the gentlemen) made a mess of things, and the working men had to come in. They had a secretary, who could name, who was connected with the accounts and accounts on the Central line, but he got drunk and the books got drunk (laughter). He (Mr. Kerr) had to go and get the books from that man, make out statements, summonses, so as to get the members to go to the meetings. Court ‘Friar Tuck’ was then in a very low financial position, also in regard to members. They had three years in existence before they had an audit. Past Chief Ranger George Crocker, however, pulled them together again. As the line shifted along they transferred to Bogantungan. More trouble was experienced, and one night’s takings could not be accounted for. They then were the responsible person—and he was known to many present that evening—but when the circumstances were brought to his mind, he knew that the Treasurer was not responsible; it was the Chief Ranger who took the money from the night, but the Treasurer had paid it. That was the late Bro. Hyden. He could not name the defaulting Chief Ranger. They came to Pine Hill, then to Jericho, and then from Jericho it was shifted to Barcaldine. There was a man who wanted to give some honor to that night. When he was in Emerald at the last District Meeting at that place, he especially went over to see him—Brother Tommy Atkins. (Applause.) Brother Tom Atkins, who was a guard, did much good work for Court ‘Friar Tuck.’ He had known him collect from between 200 and 250 before quarter night all along the line. He had done great work for Forestry, and he was very sorry that the old man was not having more pleasant times in his later years. They sometimes forgot the pioneers. They were unfortunate at the start about their secretaries, but they eventually secured two ideal secretaries in Brother Richard Haskin, who looked after the finances; all credit and honor was due him. When he saw that Bro. Haskin was leaving, he had a good deal to say to him, but he was pleased to say that Court ‘Friar Tuck’ had an excellent Secretary in Bro. C. F. Lloyd, who had endeavored to keep the Court together. (Applause.) While he was a

Lloyd Jones, who had endeavored to keep the Court together. (Applause.) While he was a member of the Legislative Assembly the electorate he represented had the largest number of Foresters Courts in Queensland. There were five Courts in the Barcoo electorate—Tamborine, Blackall, Barcaldine, Jericho, and Isisford. The one at Jericho had closed. He attempted to start a sixth, but did not succeed. He was called away on other duties, and it was never accomplished. But if he had not believed that Forestry was the best Society, and the Society with which he had been associated all his life, he would not have endeavored to push it ahead as he had done. (Applause.) The delegates had been telling them that at a previous District Meeting he was very disappointed in not getting Tamborine for the place of holding this meeting. He had his instructions—this was their delegate—and he had started to hold there. He had been to Bundaberg that he had been too late. He should have been there the day before. The members were all pledged—(laughter)—but he made a good fight for it. Although he was beaten, there was no prouder brother than he when he knew the delegates were to be held in Barcaldine. He could never forget his old associations with Court ‘Friar Tuck,’ and those with whom he had been associated in days gone by. He was glad to see that the boys of the old brigade were sticking to the old Court. (Hear, hear.) It was a happy thing to see they were in a good financial position, but he had belonged to a Court in the Old Country, and he knew the advantages to be derived from a United District, so they joined the Rockhampton United District. Court ‘Friar Tuck’ had a very hard struggle in the matter of doctors. They had one—a Dr. X, who was in regard to members, and they might as well have—a (Voice: An old woman.—(Great laughter).) Mr. Kerr, sitting at the lady delegates present, explained that the ladies understood that in all companies when anything was said present company was expected. Eventually they got permission from Rockhampton to allow a Mr. Thomas, a chemist, to act as their doctor, and he could say that while Mr. Thomas was acting as their doctor the Court never had a death; he knew every man on the line, and he never passed a candidate who was not of a healthy and strong constitution—(laughter). He passed a fair number, too. When he looked at the Honor Board, and noted the names thereon, the idea struck him what an old fellow he was getting; how many had followed after him. He had not the opportunity of visiting the Court for a number of years; he visited a Court in South Brisbane, but he wanted to thank the members of Court ‘Friar Tuck’ for the splendid report—is that the right word, Bro. Whitehead?—Bro. Whitehead: It is not past yet.—(laughter)—they had prepared that night. He was pleased because he wanted to see the honor of Court ‘Friar Tuck’ upheld. He was one—although not shown on the Deputation as a foundation member—who entered it from the very first and took an active part in the work. And he took it because he believed in it, and therefore when Bro. Leyland gave him any praise, he forgave himself. Bro. Scott, Morgan, Moody—all had taken an active interest in the Court. Bro. Moody and he were auditors on one occasion, and he remembered one audit; they were a half-penny out, and Bro. Moody would not sign the balance sheets until the whole of the money was accounted for. That showed the finances were looked after in those days—and they

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The toast was heartily honored.

Bro. Baden said he had been deputed to respond on behalf of the ladies, and he raised the opportunity of expressing the Executive's regret that they were not successful at having more lady representation at this meeting. It was desirable that the representation be as large as possible at District meetings in order to get a proper voice in regard to any matters brought forward. They had been used to seeing large gatherings of ladies at their meetings and they added a good tone to the proceedings. They (the men) were held in check, as it were, and had to be careful what they said. When they were in Bundaberg last Easter, promises were made, which had not been kept, that there would be a very large representation of Sisters at this meeting. Therefore, he thought it a matter for regret that they were unable to get that large representation, and the Executive, when they found that probably only one lady, and she doubtful unless some others came with her, would be present, managed to induce two others to come so that there would be lady representation at the meeting. He cordially endorsed Bro. Jones' remarks in regard to the women's work in the present war, and he was sure that when the records of the war were prepared they would show that the success was in a great measure due to the work put into it by the women of Australia and the Empire. (Applause.) Therefore, on behalf of the ladies, he extended their heartfelt thanks for the kind remarks of Bro. Loyland Jones, and he trusted they would always be able to have some lady representation at their annual meetings. (Applause.)

Bro. O. J. James, P.C.R., proposed an Absent Members. He said in the old days he remembered it was once on a toast list that the absent members would respond to the toast—(laugh)—but to-day in proposing the toast they did it with a certain amount of sorrow, and yet with a great deal of pride, because they thought of a lot of their boys who were fighting for them at the front. Court "Friar Tuck" had some 115 members, and about 10 (reading list of names) had gone to the front. As Financial Secretary of the Oddfellows he could say there were a dozen members of that Society who had gone to the front, and he believed the Hibernians had some two or three. He would ask them to picture to themselves what those boys were doing; they were doing their little bit, perhaps sacrificing their lives for their country. It was very different to the old toast of "Absent Friends," because these may be out of the town at their vocations, etc. They did not know that this war was going to end. They could not tell yet. The thing was far from being a -title. They had sent forward a fair share of young fellows. There were people who thought these functions should not be held while the war was on. Still they must not be sorrowful over it, because they, as Britons, were ever in a righteous war, and God save Australia getting into the hands of the Hun. So in proposing the toast, he did it with a certain amount of sorrow, and yet pride, that they had sent some of their best youth away to fight their battles. He would ask them to honor the toast all -ly and solemnly, hoping that their boys would all come back again. (Applause.)

The toast was honored in silence.

"The Press" was in the hands of Bro. E. C. Scott, and he regretted it was not in more capable hands. However, they were all agreed
Mr. W. D. James thanked them very sincerely for the manner in which they had honored the toast of "The Press," so ably, if briefly, proposed by Rev E. C. Scott. He also thanked the members of Court "Friers Tuck" for their special invitation to be present at the dinner of welcome to the visiting district officers and delegates of the R.U.P. Foresters. Having been a Friendly Society member for the past 16 years he was quite conversant with the many benefits to be derived from these splendid institutions, and that night he had listened with much pleasure to the various speeches delivered, and had thoroughly appreciated the harmonious spirit which marked the evening's proceedings. (Applause.) Now the Press, although it was usually placed at the foot of the toast list as a gathering of that description, was by no means the least in importance, but it always had the honor of being included in a toast list, particularly more as a compliment to the gentleman of the Press who were officially present on the respective occasion. "The Press" was a big word, and dealt with, and one could not do full justice to it in the short time available at the end of a gathering of that kind. Therefore, there was only time to hint, as it were, at the present progress the Press had made during the past couple of centuries. It was now 350 years ago—1662—that the first regular newspaper was printed. That was called the "News of the Present Week," and its issue synchronised with the memorable Thirty Years War. All Britain was on the alert for information, and the newspaper was published to give Britons the latest particularities of that great Continental struggle; but now travelled very slowly in those days. Of course, previous to that there were news pamphlets, but there were no records to show that these had any fixed time of publication. How different it was to-day, when the news was quickly flashed everywhere. Newspapers, press agencies, telegraph, telephone, cable, submarine, and that miracle wireless—all were employed to satisfy the craving public for details of the world's happenings. By these inventions of the genius of mankind people in the remotest districts were able during that long period, and almost as quickly as the citizens of the metropolis, and when one contemplated the vast distances over which news was electrically transmitted nowadays, one was in a manner in which news had to be gathered in the 16th and 17th centuries it needed no great stretch of the imagination to realise the marvelous growth of the great struggles for freedom the early newspaper proprietors had in England, when the Press was commercially censored and confined, but which, when the unfortunate proprietors, upon the least pretext whatever, were heavily fined, imprisoned, and often sent to the pillories; and it was actually not until 1895 that the complete freedom of the Press was established, when Parliament finally opened its doors to registered newspapers. (Applause.) The law of libel imposed a certain amount of restraint upon the Liberty of the Press. The Press was a power in the land—when the newspapers were not in the hands of the public, but in the hands of the proprietors, the fact its influence was felt in every walk of life—commercially, industrially, socially, and politically.

"go" for many years to come, although all three were getting on in years. (Brer. bear.) The "Western Champion" had progressed during that long period, and the proprietors hoped it would continue to progress and be the champion of their local and district interests. (Applause.) In the office at the present moment was the original hand press on which the "Champion" was printed 38 years ago, but it had long ago given way to a large printing machine; the old press was now used for "proofs," and it did its duty well. He would also add, and that was the first public notification of the fact—that during the next couple of weeks they hoped to have installed one of the latest models "Linotypes." (Applause.) That was on the way now, and he was pleased to say that when the machine was in position the "Champion" would be thoroughly up-to-date in that respect.---[Mr. Kerr: Good old "Champion." He thought he was quite right in saying that machine would be the only Linotype outside of Brisbane driven direct by electric motor—thanks to the Barcaldine Council's electric scheme. That electric motor was on the machine, in those days one must be up-to-date to be progressive—and that was their motto. (Applause.) As time was getting on, he would conclude his
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—and that was the motor. (Applause.) As time was getting on he would conclude. He hoped the Press would continue to prosper and flourish—it could do much good, and perhaps something if it chose such policy, much harm also. The progress of the Press was interwoven with the advancement of Australian nationalism. The Press's services to the nation and to individuals were never more pronounced than they were to-day, and unsaited praise was due to the men who were supplying, in the first instance, the news of the titanic struggle— he referred to the reporters at the front. The influence of the Press had brought them into the closest relationships with those great nations whose soldiers and sailors were fighting shoulder to shoulder with their own brave troops in the face of common danger. There was but little doubt that those relationships would have a far-reaching effect, and would offer opportunities to statesmen to "take occasion by the hand and make the bounds of freedom wider yet." And when victory was finally theirs, as they all prayed and sincerely believed it would be—although the cost of human life would be great—it was from the Pressmen that the glad news of that victory would be flashed and given to the far distant countries of the world. He trusted the work of the officers and delegates would have a most enjoyable visit to Barcaldine, and he hoped their deliberations at the conference on Monday would be of much mutual benefit to all connected with the Foresters' Society. (Applause.)

Bro. Bawdon remarked that he regretted to note that the toast of Court "Friar Tuck" had apparently been omitted from the toast list, and he proposed the delegates drink barmers to Court "Friar Tuck," coupled with the names of P.C.R. Bro. Leyland and their excellent secretary, Bro. Lloyd-Jones, P.C.R.

The toast was drunk with musical honors.

Bro. Leyland acknowledged the toast, and said it gave him great pleasure to know that they had enjoyed themselves so far. It also gave him very great pleasure to hear the praises which were bestowed on the town. (Applause.)

Bro. Lloyd-Jones also expressed his thanks for the way the toast of Court "Friar Tuck" had been drunk. He was quite aware that a secretary's bill was not all beer and skittles, and he often had to tread a path of thorns. Bro. Jones referred to the spasmodic and unsatisfactory manner in which some members paid their contributions—irregular and in varying amounts, which gave him much work and probably entailed errors, no matter how careful one may be. He exhorted Bro. R. C. Scott to be Secretary before he (Bro. Jones) took it up, and also his great interest in the Court. Bro. Jones had been a Forester some six years now, and he had never known Bro. Scott to miss a meeting. (Applause.) He paid a tribute to P.C.R. Leyland, who no doubt was an excellent past and present officer. (Applause.)

Bro. Stiblington explained at length how many members had to make irregular payments of their contributions. Some had to go away to the bush, perhaps for a long period, and before they go they might give the Secretary a "fire" or so, and then they knew they will be kept good. It was hard sometimes for members out here to make regular payments; it was very different to the city Courts.

The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the "National Anthem" concluded a most enjoyable and harmonious evening.

Sunday's Proceedings.

Many of the visitors did not sleep in there was the novelty of the topic arabis baths to enjoy, and the mineralised waters evidently gave much pleasure. After breakfast several went to Church, but nearly the whole party were all over the residential portion of the town like a lot of bees, for the morning was too beautiful to stay indoors.

The visitors were looking forward to the motor drive in the afternoon, for many had not seen what the great pastoral country was like. At 2:30 seven cars, driven by Bro. J. Layland, W. W. Whiteshead, D. Stubbards, G. Mencham and Messrs. W. Curtis, M. Vitchie, C. Dobson, drove to the Shire Hall, and a little later the string of cars moved for the 8-mile waterhole. The trip was a bit dusty, but nevertheless enjoyable, there being a fine breeze blowing. Upon arrival refreshments were paraken of, and after a blow and a chat, a return was made, and a pull up at the watering when water was put into the radiators, and a quick trip made across the downs to Westbourne, returning home at about 6 o'clock. The Committee were thanked for their thoughtfulness in providing such a delightful little outing.

In the evening St. Peter's Church of England was visited. This was the first time a Friendly Society had attended Church in regalia. The service was bright, as it should be on Easter Day. The Rev. J. W. A. MacAlister, M.A., preached a special sermon for the occasion.

After breakfast on Monday morning several took advantage to run down to McLaughlin's store, to witness shearing and cooking.