

Rothwell's Ancient Fair.

Proclamation by the Lord of the Mayor's
New Bailiff.

Early Morning crowds Witness Old Time Ceremonial.

MR. R. HALL, THE NEW BAILIFF, son of the late Bailiff. Mr. R. Hall proclaimed the Fair this year for the first time, mounted on a grey "charger" and attired in the regulation frock coat and silk hat.

In spite of the industrial trade dispute and transport difficulties, Rothwell's annual pleasure fair started merrily enough on Saturday evening. Glorious sunshine was again associated with the opening day, and thousands of people from a wide area visited Rothwell during the evening.

For some years past the amusements have been confined to the Market-place, but this year, notwithstanding the Transport difficulties, the fair is larger than ever, and not only is the Market Hill from the "Red Lion" to the "Bull" occupied, but also the Recreation Ground. In the Market-place crowd upon crowd of visitors eagerly mounted the "Golden Dragons" and the "Horses and Cockerels," which are run by electricity. The principal feature is the "Channel Tunnel Railway." This "super construction" fairly took the eye of everyone. In the course of its journey the train passes through a finely made tunnel. Dart boards, swing boats, shooting ranges, coconut shies, hooplas, football kickeries, donkey rides, and other attractions did a roaring trade, while Charles Thurston's Electric Scenic Railway racing motor cars, which had been erected on the Recreation Ground, did a lot of business.

Freak hunters found plenty of shows awaiting their patronage. The old buildings surrounding the Marketplace made a beautiful setting to an Old English Fair.

On Sunday evening the Rothwell streets were crowded, the char-a-bancs from Kettering and Desborough taking plenty of visitors.

THE PROCLAMATION

It is just a year since many people last got up so early in the morning as 5.30. On the last occasion the proclamation of Ye Anciente Rothwell Charter Fair was the cause of the unwonted early rising, and on Monday it was the same attraction which caused so many worthy folk of Rothwell and the neighbourhood to emulate the larks, if indeed the larks take heed of the Daylight Saving Bill.

Some considerable time before the commencement of the quaint and interesting ceremonies, visitors on cycle, motor cars, and foot began to flock into the town from all parts, Kettering and Desborough, especially, being well represented.

Seldom before had the weather proved more kind than on Monday, for though somewhat dull in the very early hours, the sun was

shining merrily by the time the ceremonies were fairly started, and when half the round of the town had been completed the original number of spectators - about six or seven hundred - had been very considerably augmented. As usual the ceremonies commenced promptly on the stroke of six, when, after the National Anthem had been played by the Albion Band, under the conductorship of Mr. F. Sharpe, the proclamation was declaimed in clear voice by Mr. R. Hall, the new bailiff, representing the Lord of the Manor, Major Cecil John Cockayne Mauncell.

THE NEW BAILIFF

Mr. R. Hall, who carried out his duties as bailiff for the first time, in a markedly successful manner, is the verger of the Parish Church, and is the son of the late Mr. J. Hall, the old bailiff and verger whose lamented death occurred twelve months last Easter. He would no doubt have taken his father's place on the last occasion of the proclamation had he not been in the Army until shortly before that date, so that his appointment as verger was not ratified until some eight or nine months ago.

The central figure of the proceedings, the Bailiff rides a white "charger," and attired in a frock coat and top hat holds his gilt-headed staff of office aloft as he reads the ancient Charter. The card from which the Bailiff reads, and which is suspended from his arm by ribbon has, by the way, been utilised for some generations dating back to the Victorian days, for the word "Queen" is displaced by

"King," and alterations appear in the name of the Lord of the Manor.

Preceding the Bailiff in the procession march the halberdiers carrying the eight staves, which have been used for the purpose since the days of William III. as shown by the initials upon them, namely "WR" whilst one bears the letters "VR," and other "GR".

In several instances, notably in front of the Vicarage, the quaint little ceremony ends with the National Anthem, and this year a halt was made at the War Memorial, where all stood silently whilst the band played "Rothwell," the piece arranged especially for the band by the old bandmaster, Mr. T. Hill.

THE PROCESSION

The route, of course, embraces the greater part of the "pubs." And until the licensing restrictions came into force, it was the custom for the tavern keepers to regale the halberdiers and bailiff with an unstinted supply of "ye good brown ale." This year, however, the supply of "throat lubricant" was not forthcoming.

The procession, after leaving the Manor House, wended its way a short distance down the Kettering road and back past the Manor House through the High Street and Bridge Street finishing up at the Glendon Road, whence the return was made by the same route, the crowd dispersing after "God Save the King," and final cheer for His Majesty and the Lord the Manor had been given at the starting point.

SUNDAY VISITORS

Quite an astonishing number of visitors were in the town on Sunday, and with the beautiful weather the streets were thronged throughout the day.

At 6 a.m. the bells of the Parish Church of Holy Trinity were gaily ringing, and a hour later the Salvation Army Band paraded the main streets.

In accordance with custom, too, the Albion Band delighted hundreds of people with most enjoyable renderings of popular music, the programme of the Sunday afternoon concert on the Bell Hill being especially enjoyable, including as it did, such favourites. "The Cornet, march: overture, Cordelia (Gilborne): "Memories of Beethoven" (G. H. Greenwood), and selections from Gounod's "Faust."

Not the least active organisation during this week-end, has been that for furthering the worthy cause of the Infant Welfare Centre and the Baby Week, under whose auspices great efforts have been made, including house-to-house collections and the sale of daisies.

THE SERVICES

Although the services at the Congregational and Wesleyan chapels contained no special features, the dedication festival at the Church of the Holy Trinity was notable for the Beautiful festive music. After two early celebrations of Holy Communion, the earlier service being taken by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Arthur Morley, and the latter by the Rev. A. Kingston, the Rev. A. Kingston gave a splendid address at the morning

service on "The Wings of the Cherubim".

The other notable features of the morning service were the "Te Deum," sung to a chant setting, the processional, "Hail, Festal Day", and Mendelssohn's "Cornelius March," as the voluntary.

Evensong was conducted by the Vicar, whose forceful sermon on "The Holy Trinity," was of high order indeed.

Mr. C. E. Bloodworth was again at the organ and the talented choir's rendition of Mendelssohn's beautiful anthem. "O, come, let us Worship," was a fine piece of work, tenor solos being admirably taken by Charles York. The canticle setting to the "Magnificat" was Harding in F, and the processional again "Hail, Festal Morn" and the recessional "One Church, One Faith, One Lord". Eminently appropriate, too, was the evening voluntary, Calkin's "Festive March". There were large congregations throughout the day.

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