

OPENING SCOTCHWELLS.

BRILLIANTLY SUCCESSFUL CEREMONIAL.

HAVERFORDWEST EN FETE.

CIVIC PROCESSION.

CROWDS OF DELIGHTED VISITORS.

Thousands of people flocked to Scotchwells yesterday. Haverfordwest was en fete. The streets of the ancient borough were lavishly decorated with flags and bunting and at the hour of the opening ceremony of the Scotchwell Walk, the streets were crowded with eager sight-seers from far and near. As everyone knows the formal opening of the Scotchwell Walk was the consummation of the labours of the Town Improvement Committee who have already expended over £300 and an incredible amount of individual time and labour on the town more particularly in the transformation of Scotchwells which is now one of the most beautiful and well-kept walks in the county. If the Town Improvement Committee had accomplished nothing else the names of the members deserve handing down to posterity for their recognition of the brilliant capabilities of Scotchwells as a pleasure resort, and for working far towards the transformation of what was merely a charming rural resort into one of the most beautiful pleasure grounds in the country. The generosity of Sir Charles and Lady Philipps and Mr. Louis Samson must also be born in mind.

On the other walks of the town the work of the Town Improvement Committee is too well known to need recapitulation here. It was appropriate therefore that the opening of Scotchwells should be accorded civil recognition and be marked by a fete and gala. It is scarcely wide of the mark also to state that the opening function was graced by Royal patronage, because a few days previous the swans presented to the town by His Majesty the King had arrived and yesterday the majestic birds formed an object of interest to all beholders. Yesterday's proceedings commenced with a civil procession from the Council Chamber to the Scotchwells Walk. First came the Band of the Boys' Brigade, under Hon. Instructor Pearce, followed by the Fire Brigade, under Captain Roberts and a detachment of police, under the Chief-constable, then came the members of the Town's Improvement Committee and other public bodies and then the Corporation, and the Mayor in his robes and chain of office flanked by the mace bearers and supported by the Town Clerk and the Medical Officer of Health. Amongst the members of the Town Council noticed present were the Mayor (Councillor T. H. Thomas), Alderman Tom Jones, Councillors Isaiah Reynolds, W. J. Jones, James Reynolds, George Davies, H. J. Rogers, George Davies, J. H. Bishop, G. H. Llewellyn, Messrs R. T. P. Williams (town clerk), Dr. Brigstocke (M.O.H.), W. Bevan (surveyor), F. J. Warren (accountant), Gibbon (gas manager), James (collector), C. Davies (auditor). The members of the Town Improvement Committee noticed present were the Rev. D. Akrell Jones (chairman), Messrs Sid J. Rees (hon. sec.), W. G. Rowlands (fete secretary), Jas Rees, J.P., Bissley Munt, F. Langford, T. Birt, D. Lloyd James, A. J. Wright, M. Phillips, T. Maddocks Phillips, Fred W. Lewis, Wm. John, George Davies (Prendergast), Sid Davies, W. E. Lewis, S. R. Evans, D. E. Thomas, C. S. Davies, Sid Evans, Wm. Thomas, Tom Davies, (Rev.) J. Phillips (Udmaston), Ll. Phillips, George Davies, Arthur Lewis, W. B. W. John, H. E. H. James, Ll. Brigstocke, John Evans, J. W. Phillips. Others noticed in the procession included Archdeacon Hilbers, Mr. W. Roch, Mr. W. Reynolds (High Street), F. P. Green (Perrots Trustees), S. W. Dawkins (Chairman Board of Guardians.)

The entrance to Scotchwells had been most lavishly decorated. Floral arches had been erected and everywhere hung with flags and bunting. The most admirable and adequate preparations had been made for the accommodation of a large crowd. Just outside the entrance gates a large platform had been erected from which the opening ceremony took place. The Mayor occupied the chair, and he was supported by the Chairman of the Improvements Committee (the Rev. D. Akrell Jones), the hon. sec. (Mr. Sidney Rees), the Town Clerk (Mr. R. T. P. Williams), the donor of the gates (Mr. T. Maddocks Phillips), Mr. Louis Samson and others.

The Secretary, on behalf of the Town Improvements Committee, called upon the chairman to give them a statement of the work and aims of the Committee.

The Rev. Akrell Jones said before he said anything on behalf of the Town Improvements Committee he should like to express their gratitude to Almighty God for giving them that ideally fine weather that afternoon. Most of them had been looking forward most anxiously, and hoping for a fine afternoon, so they returned their grateful thanks to God. He had been asked on behalf of the Town Improvement Committee, of which he had the honour to be chairman, to say a few words to them regarding the inception of the work of that committee, and the manner in which it had been undertaken. A year ago a little band of gentlemen, all lovers of Haverfordwest, and all interested in the preservation and improvement of their beautiful walks, formed themselves into a committee, which resulted in a towns meeting being convened. At that meeting a committee was organised of practical, energetic and representative gentlemen. The Towns Improvement Committee was a most capable, most useful and unanimous authority, and he had only to mention the names of a few gentlemen actively connected with it to show how representative the committee really was. As secretary of the executive committee they had Mr. Sidney J. Rees, and the secretaries of the various sub-committees were Messrs. Sidney Evans, Merchant Phillips, W. G. Rowlands, and William Thomas. They were in no sense of the word a body which came into conflict or opposition with any other representative authority in the town. They were determined that they would not undertake any work that came within the purview of the Town Council. That committee was in no sense the sword of Damocles suspended over any other public body. They did not do work which belonged properly to any other authority. The Committee having been inaugurated as he had described, at once determined to make an inspection of the public walks of the town and neighbourhood, and in this they were assisted with the expert advice of such gentlemen as Messrs. D. E. Thomas, W. Bevan, F. Langford, Tom Davies and George Davies. A scheme for the improvement of the walks of the town was drawn up and it was found that to cover the cost of the repair and reconstruction of the walks £600 was absolutely necessary. Accordingly an appeal was made for subscriptions, and with that generosity which characterized the public of Haverfordwest, the response was immediate and generous. They had been given in money the sum of £236 2s. 4d., and had received gifts of the estimated value of £78. He might say that in order to complete their work they still required a sum of nearly £64. He had every confidence that that money would be speedily forthcoming. There was another matter. They felt that it was not enough to put those paths in order, but that it was absolutely necessary that they should provide for their maintenance. They must take into consideration the question of someone who would be constantly engaged in repairing and watching over their property, in order to prevent the wanton mischief of which they had already had example. They could not pay the man so engaged less than £1 a week, so that in addition to the £64 still required, which he had already referred to, they would have to ask the public of Haverfordwest to continue to contribute not less than £50 a year. He could not conclude without testifying to the generosity of the gentleman who had rendered the improvement of Scotchwells possible. Mr. Louis Samson had spent nearly £30 on the improvement of that portion of the Scotchwells which did not come within the province of the committee. Sir Charles and Lady Philipps had most generously leased to them the land at Scotchwells at a rental of five shillings a year. And then their thanks were due to Mr. Thos. Maddocks Phillips, who had presented them with those beautiful gates. He had great pleasure on behalf of the Town Improvement Committee in presenting Mr. Thos. Maddocks Phillips with that key in the hope that it will be treasured, if not by his children, at any rate by his descendants, as a memorial of his generous gift and as a token of united gratitude. (Applause.)

The next ceremony was the unlocking of the handsome iron gates with a silver key which was performed by Mr. T. Maddocks Phillips, the generous donor who, after opening wide the gates said:—Fellow townsmen, I have great pleasure in presenting these gates to grace the entrance of one of the most charming of the numerous and beautiful walks we have in our town. I wish all happiness to those who pass through them and hope they will learn many lessons from nature which so wonderfully diffuses her gifts on these beautiful surroundings. (Applause.)

Mr. Wm. John said he had very great pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. T. Maddocks Phillips for his very generous gift to the town of those beautiful gates. He thought they would all agree with him that those gates were worthy of the walk, worthy of the town, and worthy of the donor, and he hoped that it was an example of generosity which would find many imitations in the years to come. They all hoped that Mr. T. Maddocks Phillips would live for many years to come where he had so substantially shown his love for the town of his adoption. He had also much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to those people who had subscribed so generously to the funds of the Improvements Committee. When the Town Improvement Committee was first inaugurated they scarcely hoped to raise more than £50, but by the generosity of the people of the town, and including the handsome donation from Sir John Perrot's Charity Trustees, they had raised considerably over £300, and the money was still coming in. In his opinion the very best form of patriotism was love for home. They had heard of people who were very much concerned about the welfare of the Empire, and were cold as to the welfare of the place to which they belonged. He did not think much of the patriotism of such people or of their sincerity. Patriotism like many other virtues began at home. The success which had crowned the efforts of the Town Improvement Committee was due to the generosity of their townspeople, and he wished them all health and happiness in the use of those beautiful walks. (Applause.)

Mr. D. E. Thomas in seconding, said he would not keep them very long from the good things which were in front of them. They, as a committee, thoroughly endorsed all the good things which had been said by the previous speaker about Mr. T. Maddocks Phillips, both on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the Town Improvement Committee. Mr. Phillips had given them those

gates, and what rendered his gift additionally acceptable, he gave them without being asked. (Applause.)

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and Mr. T. Maddocks Phillips briefly replied.

The Mayor said: As Mayor and representative of the people of Haverfordwest, it gives me much pleasure to be present in compliance with the Town Improvement Committee's kind invitation, and to propose that a very hearty vote of thanks be given to Sir Charles and Lady Philipps for their very generous gift of land here at Scotchwells at a nominal rent, and for the use and benefit of the townspeople. The connection between the noble House of Picton and this ancient borough has been long, close and uninterrupted, and many have been the services rendered by the head of the family to its inhabitants. This splendid tradition has been handed down to the present representative of the Picton family, and this gift of land by Sir Charles and Lady Philipps is only one further expression of their deep interest in all matters effecting the pleasure and welfare of the people in whose midst they have lived for so many years. (Applause.)

Mr. R. T. P. Williams in seconding, said a moment or so ago their worthy chairman was saying everything desirable about the Haverfordwest Improvement Committee. Everything the Improvement Committee did he said was carried out with perfect unanimity. His (the speakers) experience of public bodies was that the best work was done where they were not quite unanimous. He was a member of the Towns Improvement Committee, but he was not present when that autocratic assembly decreed that he should second that vote of thanks. He had always the greatest pleasure in seconding or supporting any proposition by the Mayor of Haverfordwest, and especially the occupant of the civic chair that year, and to Sir Chas. and Lady Philipps. Votes of thanks to Sir Chas. and Lady Philipps in connection with that borough were by no means rare. They had continuously shown their interest in the welfare and well being of the town. The town had received many benefits from the hands of Sir Charles and Lady Philipps. When persons were placed so highly as Sir Charles and Lady Philipps, it was the privilege of their high position with tact, discretion, and care, to discharge their responsibilities at all times. They were all thankful to Sir Charles and Lady Philipps for their latest benefaction. As he said a moment or two ago, the Town Improvement Committee deserved all the kind things the chairman had said about them. They had undertaken a work which was very necessary, and which no one seemed inclined to do, and had done it well. He cordially congratulated the chairman and the members of the committee upon the benefits they were conferring upon the town of Haverfordwest. The names of the benefactors of the town were handed down from generation to generation, and it was just possible that the names of one, or two, or three of the members of the committee might be mentioned by the townspeople in future years with Sir John Perrot. (Applause.)

The vote of thanks to Sir Charles and Lady Philipps was enthusiastically accorded.

Mr. Louis Samson said he had been requested by the Chairman of the Improvements Committee to say a few words. As far as possible one obeyed one's rector, so he was present that afternoon. He had been very much interested in their proceedings that afternoon, and he hoped that all who walked upon that walk would remember the royal donor of the King's swans, and that they would endeavour to comport themselves as would be worthy of the member of that mighty empire over which it was His Majesty's high privilege to reign. (Applause.)

Mr. Sidney Rees (hon. sec.) said it gives me great pleasure to give a brief statement of monies and gifts that have been received up to to-day. This also affords me an opportunity of thanking the inhabitants of the town for their very generous response to this fund. I also should include His Majesty the King for the gift of swans. The public are recognising the fact that we are doing a good work—a work that will be a boon to those who enjoy pleasant walks. I need hardly refer to the work that has already been accomplished, as this may be seen by those who visit our various walks. The Improvement Committee shrub, if I may be allowed to call it so, was planted about 11 months ago. It has flourished during the winter months, and is now bearing fruit; but in order to keep this plant in a strong and healthy state it requires a great deal of nourishment. I am thankful to say this nutriment has been flowing in from all quarters. We are living in hopes, Mr. Chairman, that this young tree will yet develop and spread its branches to other industries. I am glad to learn that our Corporation contemplates the letting of sites to foreign industrial firms to the benefit of the town and district. This is a step in the right direction, and we wish them every success. We are glad to see the Mayor and Town Council with us to-day, and I feel that the co-operation of public bodies such as these, working in harmony, would have a tendency of not only improving the town and raising it to a higher status, but eventually be the means of reducing the rates. This has been done in less than a year. I should like to thank the chairman for the very kind compliments he has paid the other sub-secretaries and myself. I feel that these thanks and compliments are due to other members of the committee, who have done far more work than the feeble services that I have rendered. The little share that I have taken has been a labour of pleasure and of love. The amount of money that has been received and promised to date is £236 10s. 11d. This includes £100 from Perrot's Trustees, and the following gifts:—Mr. T. M. Phillips, those beautiful gates; Mr. T. R. Dawkins, the gate at Crowhill; and also donors of beautiful seats, and many other gifts. The total value, as our chairman has just said, amounts to £310 10s. 11d. (Applause.)

The Band of the Wiltshire Regiment then played "God save the King" and the Welsh National Anthem at the conclusion of which the general public were admitted to the grounds.

Inside the gates the scene was brilliant in the extreme. The Band of the Wiltshire Regiment under Bandmaster Eden was one of the chief attractions. At the point where the temporary bandstand had been erected bridges had been thrown across the water connecting the upper middle and lower grounds. On one side there was a natural tier upon which hundreds of people listened to the Band. Whilst seats had been placed in a semi-circle around the lower portion of the ground. In the brilliant sunshine the gay uniforms of the Wiltshires, the summer costume of the ladies, and the flags and bunting, blended with the natural beauties of the scene into one of the most brilliant and picturesque ensembles ever witnessed in Haverfordwest. The programme of music was admirably discoursed by the Band of the Wiltshire Regiment during the afternoon and evening. Refreshments were served in a marquee during the afternoon and evening at popular prices. Altogether the opening of Scotchwells Walk was a most brilliant function, and must also have proved a great financial success.