



Mr. R. TAYLOR.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

THE facilities offered in the town are the equal of any town of similar size, and better than most. Almost every form of competitive Sport is well catered for, and finds many adherents, since the district has long been known for its sporting traditions.

The oldest organisation is Holcombe Hunt, which has a history going back several hundred years. Although no foxes remain in the district a good-sized pack of hounds is maintained for hare-

hunting. Meets are held each Wednesday and Saturday during the season and, in addition to the riders, has a big following on foot. The end of the season sees the Point-to-Point Races held about three miles from the town centre and must be one of the most popular fixtures of its kind, since it is estimated that the attendance has often exceeded 100,000 people.

Of modern games the oldest club is the Cricket Club, and the most prominent is the professional Association Football Club. The latter club, now in the Football League (Division II), was for many years in Division I, and has a fine playing record. Many famous players have graduated there, and, in winning the Football Association Cup, put up two records, one being the biggest final score and the other of scoring most goals without a goal against them. The ground at Gigg Lane is very convenient of access, has an excellent playing pitch, and can accommodate nearly 40,000 spectators.

The biggest Amateur Club is the Sports Club, which embraces the town Cricket, Hockey, Rugby Union, and Lawn Tennis Clubs. The ground is very spacious (about 14 acres), convenient to town, and is very well laid out. The Association Football Section has now gone to other quarters under separate control, but the pitch is sub-let to other clubs for mid-week and Saturday games.

The Cricket Section is the old Bury Cricket Club, which started about seventy years ago, and still fields three teams weekly. Club matches only are played, as no professional is now employed,

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although in past days many well-known personalities have been in its ranks. The Club has not a big following of spectators, but there is plenty of room for members to play the game.

Hockey turns out two gentlemen's teams and one ladies', and Rugby Union has two teams out weekly. Lawn Tennis is very popular and has ample room, with sixteen courts, half of red shale and half of grass, whilst the Section has facilities for Table Tennis in the winter.

Cricket has a big following in the local Amateur League and Sunday School League, covering about twenty clubs and twice as many teams.

The most popular sport is undoubtedly Association Football, and the highest class locally is played under Lancashire Amateur League control. The leading club is Bury Amateurs, started in 1920, being a revival of a pre-war club in the same League. Every possible honour in the League, as well as the Lancashire Amateur Cup, was attained, whilst a large number of players have been awarded County Caps. Three teams are fielded weekly, and the Bury Grammar School Old Boys, with four teams, and Old Burmunians (Secondary School Old Boys), with two teams, taking part in the various divisions of Lancashire Amateur League Football, offer plenty of scope for junior players, although the two latter clubs are restricted to boys who passed through the schools.

Other Juniors have openings in local Leagues styled "Amateur," "Sunday School," and "Workshops." There is a tremendous following of this class, as about fifty teams are fielded weekly by the clubs engaged. There is also a few clubs playing Tuesday Football to cater for shopkeepers, and a fair amount of success has been achieved by them.

Dozens of Boys' Clubs turn out to make use of Municipal Playing Fields and Recreation Grounds, where pitches are available. These same grounds cater for Lawn Tennis, Cricket and Bowling in the summer, so there is not lack of opportunity for anyone wanting a game.

Indoor pastimes are supported by both senior and junior players by the various clubs, with Billiards, Whist, Dominoes, Badminton, Table Tennis, Weight-lifting, Boxing and Wrestling.

Golf enthusiasts are well provided for, with three courses in the town and another at Greenmount (three miles out). The town courses are easily accessible, in good condition, and very sporty, since they are situate in the higher parts of the town. There is plenty of room for additional members, and the fees are not so high now as formerly, and particularly as entrance fees have been dropped in some clubs.

All the year round Sport is catered for by the Athletic Club, which covers Sprinting, Distance Running, Field Events, etc., in the summer, and Cross-country Running in the winter. The summer training is provided at the Sports Ground, Manchester Road, by arrangement with the Sports Club, and winter running takes place weekly from October to March from various places in the district. A Gymnasium Class is held weekly at the town headquarters, Sports Meetings are held in the summer, and Championships for Club Members are held, covering all ages as well as ladies.

The cost of joining a Club varies with the class, from, say, five guineas for a Golf Club, one guinea for good Cricket and Tennis, half-guinea for best class Amateur Football, down to 2/6 per year for some Football Clubs. This modest 2/6 per year is all that is charged by the Athletic Club for Sport all the year round. With

such facilities no person need hesitate, as a suitable club for any game can easily be found at moderate cost, and newcomers will be welcomed and made to feel at home in whatever class they wish to participate.

A Sport that has been revived is that of Cycling, and several clubs covering touring, road racing, etc., are available now in the district.

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BURY, LANCASHIRE

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES.

THE town of Bury can by no means be referred to as a musical centre, and yet it has never been without at least one Choral Society. There are records which go to prove that "The Messiah" was performed in Bury in 1769, and it is probably quite safe to say that this popular Oratorio has been given annually ever since. The tradition will be kept up this year by the Bury Athenaeum Musical Circle. The Society will have the assistance of a few instrumentalists from the Halle Orchestra. This Society is the only one now in Bury for the study and performance of choral works, and is also the only society which survived the tragic war years.

Before this time the Nonconformist Choral Union, under the conductorship of Dr. William Rigby, ran a very successful course for a number of years, and about this time some very successful concerts were given by the Bury Choral Society, under Mr. Fred Royle, F.R.C.O.

This latter society later merged itself into the Bury Athenaeum Musical Society which, also at that time, took under its wing the Orchestral Society founded by Mr. T. B. Marsden, a native of Bury, who was a flautist in the Hallé Orchestra. In this Orchestral Society many now well-known professional Orchestral players gained valuable experience. Mr. Marsden's early death was a great blow to this Society, and it would have come to an end but for the fact that we had then in Bury a very able amateur musician as curator of the Art Gallery and Librarian, Mr. Harry Townend. This gentleman had had a wide experience in Orchestral and Chamber Music in his native town of Bradford, and during his residence in Bury used all his spare time to help the citizens of the town to become musically-minded. The Musical Festival which flourished under his direction for so many years will still be remembered by many Bury people.

The year 1914 will never be forgotten by English people, and for Bury people it also records the fact that in June of that year Mr. Townend left to become curator of Aberdeen's Art Gallery—a position which he still holds. His departure and the terrible war

years that followed had an effect from which we have not yet recovered, and judging from the trend of things it does not appear that we ever shall.

The advent of wireless is turning most people into "listeners" instead of "doers." In this Bury is no exception.

With regard to the lighter side of music we have in Bury two Amateur Operatic Societies which give annual performances of light opera. The older Society, founded in 1901 and styled "The Bury Athenaeum Amateur Operatic Society," has raised nearly £7,000 for local charities—no mean achievement apart from all the pleasure its performances have afforded the Bury public. The Bury Lyric Amateur Operatic Society is comparatively a new organisation, but has already given several excellent shows and raised £170 for local charities, and also endowed a Cot in the Bury Infirmary.

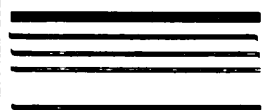
Both Societies are handicapped in having no theatre at their disposal; Bury, like most other towns, having gone over wholeheartedly to "pictures."

Drama would find no place in the lives of Bury people if it were not for the efforts of the Stage Society which, for several years now, has provided Bury with some very fine shows, ranging from Shakespeare to the most modern of modern plays.

MEN'S WEAR

- "CONSULATE" SHIRTS . . .
- "PESCO" UNDERWEAR . . .
- "CHILPRUFE" UNDERWEAR
- "FIRMABAND" NECKTIES .
- "LINCOLN BENNETT" HATS
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BURY AND THE ENGINEERING SIDE OF PAPER MANUFACTURE.

THE geographical position of Bury, combined with good water, was an inducement to the early makers of paper by machinery to start operations in this district. The growth of this industry has been continuous, the smaller mills growing and new mills being started until at present there are eleven mills in the neighbourhood, whose products go into every market of the world.

The manufacture of paper by machinery is a comparatively new industry. Prior to 1798 all paper was made by hand. In that year it was announced a method had been discovered in France whereby a sheet of paper could be made by machinery, and in 1803 the first machine was completed in this country. Since then great improvements have taken place and it is pleasing to note the men of Bury have played their part in raising the Art of Paper Making to its present high standard.

In the early days the industry was handicapped by indifferent machinery, very often crudely designed and built and not always suitable for the work required. This was inevitable in a new industry and a large amount of hard work was necessary before these difficulties were overcome.

Local engineering firms worked in close co-operation with the paper mill executives, anticipating their requirements and providing plant that firmly established the local paper trade.

The fame of Bury and Bury engineering firms rapidly spread over the whole paper-making world, and to-day there is no place where paper is made on a commercial basis in which the name of Bury and the names of Bury engineering firms are not only known but honoured.

Paper manufacture is a highly technical and complicated industry and the machinery used has to withstand severe working conditions. The building and designing of this machinery calls for engineering skill of the highest order.

This fact was realised by three Bury gentlemen who, in 1860, started building plant and traded under the name of Redfern, Bentley and Smith, and by another Bury gentleman who, in 1867, started in business trading under his own name—Charles Walmsley. The history of these two firms is a romance of modern industry. Shortly after the start of the older firm, Messrs. Redfern and Smith withdrew, leaving the business to be carried on by Mr. Daniel Bentley and others under the name of Bentley and Company. Later

Mr. Bentley was joined by Mr. John Broad Jackson and the firm became known as Bentley and Jackson. In 1894 the firm was transformed into a limited liability concern, the board of directors being Mr. John Bentley, chairman ; Mr. George Bentley and Mr. James Nuttall. The firm grew in importance, building paper-making plant not only for the British mills but for abroad, enjoying and deserving a world-wide reputation for excellence in design and workmanship.

Mr. Charles Walmsley, during this period, had also been building up a business. In 1876 he moved from his small works to a place in Elton, being joined by two brothers, James and William Kenyon, and trading under the style of Kenyon and Walmsley. Later, when the brothers Kenyon died, Mr. Walmsley was joined by Mr. Parks and traded under the name of Walmsley and Parks until, in 1891, the business was converted into a joint stock company under the style of Charles Walmsley & Co. Ltd. On the death of Mr. Walmsley, in 1915, his son-in-law, Mr. Walmsley-Wood, became Managing Director, which position he continued to hold until his death in 1917. Later Mr. Wolstenholme was appointed Managing Director and, in 1927, Mr. Wolstenholme, Mr. Adamson and Mr. Timpany acquired controlling interest in the company, and by their business ability, technical skill and integrity, further enhanced the name of "Walmsley," and made this name known and honoured in every country where paper is made by machinery.

In 1932 the firm of Bentley & Jackson Ltd. was acquired by Charles Walmsley & Co. Ltd., this bringing under one control the two firms who had done so much to raise the standard of engineering efficiency in paper manufacture.

In 1933 Charles Walmsley & Co. Ltd. was reconstructed financially, the name being changed to Walmsleys (Bury) Limited.

The progress made in the design of paper-making machinery may be judged from the following table :

Year.	Wire width of Machine.	Designed for a Speed of Paper in feet per min.
1899	... 148	... 400
1910	... 174	... 500
1914	... 204	... 800
1917	... 234	... 800
1922	... 230	... 800
1923	... 244	... 800
1924	... 36	... for Wembley
1926	... 232	... 1000
1928	... 262	... 1200
1934	... 320	... 1400
1935	... 228	... 1500