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Reading Borough Council



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1714 - Thursday May 20th
 Dr Merrick, Mayor
 account reprinted in the Mercury
 Old Boundaries quoted, with many obsolete
 names.

See Cutting
 in Brown Rough
 leather Scrap Book
 of Berks 1884

1884 - September - W.J. Darter Mayor
 (Reading Mercury)
 Berks Scrap
 Book - as above



COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

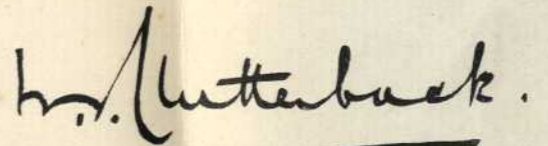
NOTICE OF PERAMBULATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:—

- (i.) That the Council of the above named Borough will on WEDNESDAY the 6th day of NOVEMBER, 1912, perambulate the boundary of the said Borough, as extended by the Reading (Extension) Order, 1911.
- (ii.) That such perambulation will commence at nine o'clock in the morning on the northern bank of the River Thames at a point indicated by a post which has been erected on the south eastern boundary of the Parish of Caversham and from which the Council will proceed in a northerly direction.
- (iii.) That if such perambulation be not completed on the said 6th day of November, the Council will proceed to complete it on Thursday the 7th day of November, 1912.

The Lords of all adjoining Manors and other persons interested in the matter of the said perambulation are hereby requested to take notice thereof.

DATED this 18th day of October, 1912.



Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office.
Town Hall, Reading.
2nd November 1912.



TERBUCK, TOWN CLERK.
Telephone No 118.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by the Mayor to inform you of the following arrangements which have been made for the forthcoming perambulation of the boundary of the Borough.

The summons to attend the Council Meeting which is to be held in the Council Chamber at 8-30 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday next, 6th instant, has already been sent to you.

The Council will proceed from the Council Chamber to the King's Meadow Recreation Ground and will be conveyed across the Thames in barges (which will be provided by the Thames Conservancy) to the point at which the perambulation will commence.

As stated in the notice of the perambulation this point is indicated by a post which has been erected at the south-eastern boundary of the Parish of Caversham. From this point the Council will proceed northward and will perambulate the boundary of the Parish of Caversham.

The south-western boundary of the Parish terminates in the middle of the river at a point situate somewhat to the east of the premises known as "Dunelm". From this point the boundary

Both of the parliamentary and municipal borough extends westward in the middle of the river as far as "Boombe Bank". From that point it extends along the southern bank of the river to a point near and to the west of the Roebuck Hotel.

It is intended that, if possible, arrangements shall be made for conveying the Council in barges from Mr. Fidler's landing stage to the Roebuck Hotel but the condition of the river may not admit of this, and if it does not they will be conveyed across the river and the perambulation will be continued along the towpath.

It is expected that the Roebuck Hotel will be reached about 1-30 o'clock p.m. where luncheon will be served. After luncheon the perambulation will be continued from the point of termination of the north-western boundary of the added part of Tilehurst to the point of termination of the south-western boundary of the added part of Theale.

It is proposed that the remainder of the boundary of the Borough shall be perambulated on the following day.

It is necessary that the approximate number of the members who will lunch at the Roebuck Hotel should be ascertained without delay in order that adequate arrangements may be made for their convenience and I am, therefore, desired to ask you to be so good as to let me know by return of post whether it is your intention to be present. For this purpose I enclose a stamped addressed post-card.

Faithfully yours,
Wm. Luttenbach.

Town Clerk.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

Perambulation of the Boundary of the
Borough, Wednesday, 6th November, 1912.

THIS TICKET entitles the holder to

LUNCHEON

at the "Roebuck Hotel," Tilehurst.

JOHN W. MARTIN, *Mayor.*

*N.B.—It is expected that the Hotel will be reached
at about 1.30 p.m.*

ONE has to search the municipal records of Reading for 25 years back to trace the last account of the perambulation of the borough boundaries, the quaint and picturesque ceremony which was carried out on Wednesday and Thursday to the very letter. "Beating the bounds" is a survival of the ancient Catholic practice of processions on the Rogation Days and has been observed by Reading Corporation for generations. As is the case with many lingering ties with bygone days, the custom has been rather neglected. Since 1861 the boundaries have been perambulated only three times—in 1874, during the mayoralty of the late Alderman A. Beale, in 1887, when the late Alderman A. Hill held office, and on Wednesday, when the Mayor and Corporation of the extended borough began a two days' trudge in order to fix boundary marks where necessary. By the incorporation of Caversham and Tilehurst, Reading was considerably enlarged, and is 25 miles round. For the whole of that distance the mace was carried strictly along the boundary line, which was in this way sufficiently maintained and it was never for a moment allowed to deviate from its course. To fulfil his mission faithfully and well the bearer of the glittering emblem of civic authority scrambled through bushes and trees and waded through ditches and ponds—in fact, penetrated wherever the line of demarcation was obstructed or obscured. At intervals the pedestrians halted to see a triangular post inscribed "Corporation of Reading, 1911," well and truly driven in the ground, and as they reached the boundaries members of the party were "bumped," the better presumably to impress their exact location! This was a quite unnecessary formality, but nevertheless highly essential in order to follow traditional usage. Naturally the operation invariably caused immense amusement to the participants and lookers-on, and speculation as to who would be the next victim of this harmless and time-honoured joke.

As 25 years had elapsed since the bounds were last beaten, the event excited much interest, and many public men and officials loyally responded to the Mayor's invitation to accompany him and the Sergeant-at-Mace (Mr. J. Cook) on their country tramp for some if not the whole of the day. The party included the Mayor (Alderman J. W. Martin), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor W. Frame),

nine, the procession being headed by twelve senior boys of the Reading Blue Coat School (in charge of Mr. W. C. Likeman), who furnished a sort of advance guard, carrying scout poles in place of the peeled willow rods ordered by tradition. Opposite Dean's Farm a barge was in waiting to convey the "pilgrims" to the Oxfordshire bank, while the Blue Coat boys—joyous at the prospect of a cross-country jaunt—clambered into a rowing boat. Once on the opposite shore the party began their perambulation in earnest. Excepting a run up the river for a mile and half the whole of the route lay through the country, and the scene was an ever-changing one. Wherever the boundary existed there went the mace-bearer shouldering the magic mace, which was carte blanche to property of all kinds—ploughland, pasture, stubble and copse. Two useful members of the party carried pairs of steps to enable the mace to be lifted over fences and hedges with becoming dignity and to let the more elderly and portly civic fathers make a careful passage of the barrier. It was a slow process, however, and agile and adventurous souls preferred to spring through a prickly hedge or scale a barbed wire fence—and grey-headed beaters surprised their companions by the endurance and activity they displayed, when a ditch or some other barrier was encountered. There were no feathered rambblers in Wednesday's proceedings. From Dean's Farm the procession wended its way to a neighbouring cottage, and the Mayor led the way down the garden path, reminding one of the lines

I am monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute.

From here the party climbed some palings into a field, where a halt was called for the first post to be affixed. The deed was soon done. A sinewy armed workman raised a heavy mallet and with nine hard raps firmly fixed the post to the approval of the Mayor, who also had to satisfy himself that each landmark in turn was tapped with the mace. Where the boundary line ran through water a workman in boots reaching to the thighs relieved Sergt. Cook of his mace and plodded along in water in some places knee deep.

Skirting the sewage farm and allotments of Lower Caversham, the party viewed the twelve and a half acres of land acquired from Mr. W. T. Crawshay for the purpose of allotments, and stepping over a water-logged meadow emerged in Lower Henley-road, to continue the journey along the drive of The Elms, the residence of Miss Susan Lovegrove. Here the fun began. Mr. Round tried to seize a Blue Coat boy and initiate him in the mysteries of bumping. The rest of the boys, however, turned on the attacker, and grabbing him by legs and shoulders, overpowered him after a hard struggle, and bumped him on the boundary posts to shouts of "One—two—three!" The party laughed heartily at the way the tables were turned, and scrambling to his feet with clothes smeared with mud Mr. Round took the joke in perfect good humour. Up and down hill the party still pushed forward, startling horses and cattle by their sudden invasion of rural quietness and causing the rustics to gape in wonder at the strange procession. An exciting incident occurred at a deep pond at Rose Hill. The mace had to

be borne over 12 or 15 yards of water on a small raft navigated by a man with a prong. Nott was entrusted with the mace and started on the hazardous voyage amid parodied farewells. The water was continually sweeping over the raft, and the rate of speed was hardly equal to that of an ocean liner, but after skilfully rounding a post labelled "Dangerous" the frail barque soon reached the opposite bank, and the suspense was over. "Give them a cheer!" cried the Mayor, as the macebearer stepped on terra firma with the precious plate, and there was a flattering response.

The next stage of the journey included the woods of Lady Maitland, the slopes of the Caversham and South Oxfordshire Golf Links, and further climbs and descents on the outskirts of Emmer Green, where many of the party heard for the first time those curious place names Bug's Bottom, Hell's Pit and Farthingsworth Green, which were traversed in swift succession. Eventually they struck Mapledurham soil, and from this point it was more or less a steady descent to the river, almost entirely over ploughfields, grass meadows and hedges. As the Deputy Mayor embarked on a capacious barge, reminding some of them of the pre-Elm Park days when patrons of the Reading F.C. matches were ferried across from East's boathouse. An exchange of witticisms, badinage and reminiscences made the hour's "run" pass quite pleasantly. At the Roebuck Hotel the barge discharged its heavy freight and the visitors joined the mace party, who had continued the perambulation as far as the old ferry and then crossed the railway line. The long, brisk morning's walk had set a sharp edge on the appetites of all and the luncheon given to some fifty guests by the Mayor was very welcome. Besides the loyal toast, his Worship proposed "Success to Reading," and acknowledged the services of Mr. Hilder and Mr. Walker, who he said were able lieutenants of the Borough Surveyor, and had shown great care and exactness in mapping out the boundary, and also the help of the Thames Conservancy officials (Captains Laurie and Mr. Hughes), and their workmen. They had had a good tramp, added the Mayor, and the bumping was quite friendly and goodly humoured. (Laughter.)

The toast was responded to by Alderman Milsom, who mentioned that he beat the bounds as a schoolboy 38 years ago, and by Councillor Trye, the new member for Tilehurst.

Proposing the health of the host, Alderman Parfitt spoke of the tact, discretion and goodwill the Mayor had shown since his election to office, and expressed the hope that his Worship would live to attend the next perambulation.

The Mayor, who was accorded musical honours, said that during his connection with the Council they had almost entirely refrained from indulging in personalities and mud-throwing. Might that long continue! They had sometimes differed very strongly, even with their intimate friends, but that was one of the charms of public life. His mayoralty was fast drawing to a close, but he would only be translated for a short period as Deputy Mayor. Whether he were Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or just an ordinary colleague it would be his greatest pleasure to work with them in a common cause, the benefit of their good old town and its inhabitants. (Applause.)

Lunch over, the party obeyed the mayoral command of "Forward all!" and plunged into Major Downing Fullerton's wood and reached Westwood Farm, where the boundary shaves the doorsteps of the house.

(Continued on page 9.)



BOARDING A RAFT TO CROSS ROSE HILL POND.

Mr. F. T. LITTLE, Mrs. LITTLE, who spoke as president of the Liverpool and District C.E. Union, a Mr. John Corke, a Brotherhood worker, all the representatives of Stanley Church, Liverpool. The Rev. John Stay, of Oxford, welcomed the new pastor on behalf of the Berks, South Oxon and South Bucks Congregational Union, and the Rev. J. W. Wick Armstrong as president of the Reading District Evangelical Free Church Federation, and finally came the turn of the pastor himself. Considering the lateness of the hour Mr. Rawlinson confined himself to a few words of thanks for the kind things that had been said of him, and the meeting closed with the Doxology and Benediction.

"THE ARCADIAN."

NEXT week Hart and Moreton's Co. pay return visit to the Royal County Theatre with the successful musical comedy, "The Arcadians." The company is a capable one, and includes Miss Mabel Funstan, the winsome little lady who plays "Sombra," and Mr. Walter Elagert.



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After a short formal meeting in the Council Chamber the Mayor and his civic colleagues, wearing stout boots and leggings, walked to the King's Meadows at twenty minutes to

nine, the procession being headed by twelve senior boys of the Reading Blue Coat School (in charge of Mr. W. C. Likeman), who furnished a sort of advance guard, carrying scout poles in place of the peeled willow rods ordered by tradition. Opposite Dean's Farm a barge was in waiting to convey the "pilgrims" to the Oxfordshire bank, while the Blue Coat boys—joyous at the prospect of a cross-country jaunt—clambered into a rowing boat. Once on the opposite shore the party began their perambulation in earnest. Excepting a run up the river for a mile and half the whole of the route lay through the country, and the scene was an ever-changing one. Wherever the boundary existed there went the mace-bearer shouldering the magic mace, which was carte blanche to property of all kinds—ploughland, pasture, stubble and copse. Two useful members of the party carried pairs of steps to enable the mace to be lifted over fences and hedges with becoming dignity and to let the more elderly and portly civic fathers make a careful passage of the barrier. It was a slow process, however, and agile and adventur-

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BOARDING A RAFT TO CROSS ROSE HILL POND.



Photos by]



A HALT AT THE ROEBUCK

Westwood Farm, where the boundary shaves the doorsteps of the house.

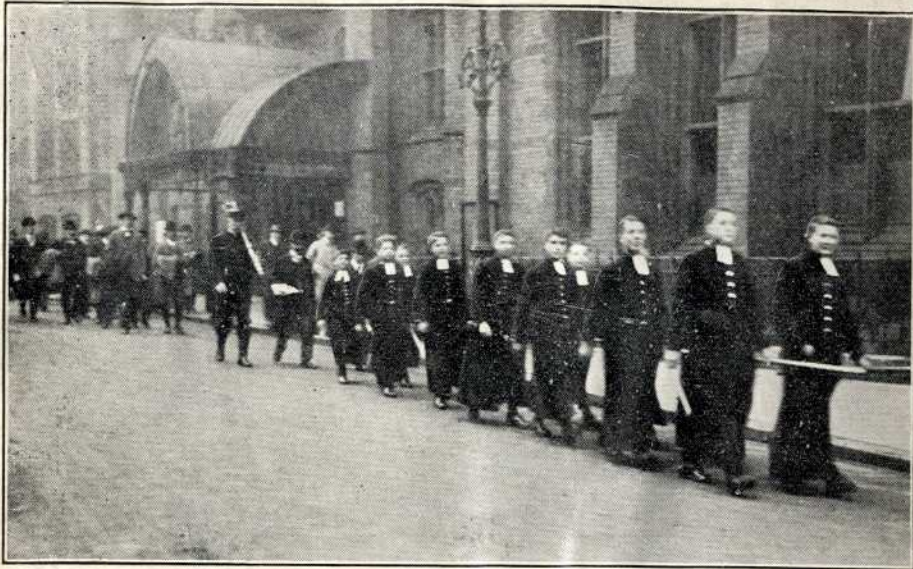
(Continued on page 9.)

neighbourhood. At the close of which Mr. T. Thorp, the senior resident, a number of brief addresses, the first to speak was the Rev. F. W. Newbury, who began the stream of congratulatory remarks followed by commending the church, which he soon acquired a pastor. He knew Mr. Newbury in Lancashire, and knew something of the work he had done in Liverpool. He brought a whiff of Lancashire air, and would be an earnest and able minister. The Rev. J. G. Strong, of London-road Presbyterian Church, the senior minister of the town, expressed

CRIMEA

IMPRESSIVE SCENE

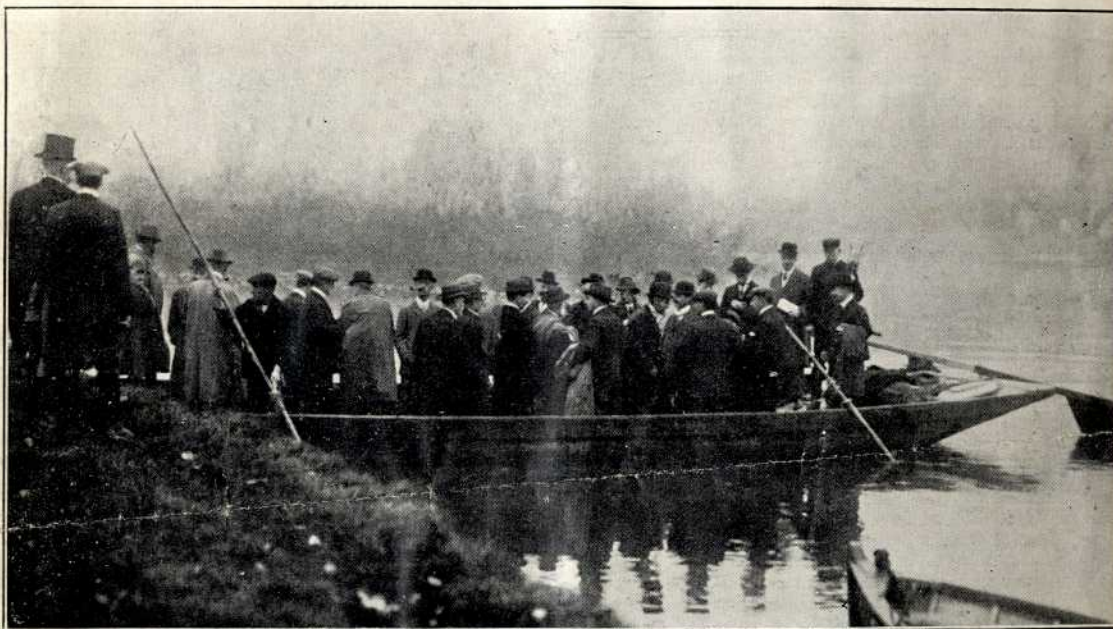
A "grand old man" was laid to rest in the Reading Cemetery on Saturday afternoon by the son of Pte. Parr Cox, who fought a mean war in the ranks of the 10th Hussars, ceased's regiment was originally stationed in India, but was drafted to the Crimea to be a cavalry. He died in Mill-lane last week of the age of 87. The old warrior had a long and distinguished military career, of whom uphold the military tradition of his family by serving in the Army. They are, R.M.L.I., Charles Cox, 3rd Grenadier Guards, William Cox, Oxon and Bucks L.L., and John Cox, Yeomanry. The last-named was a member of the Caversham and Reading



THE START OF THE PROCESSION.



SKIRTING BERRY BROOK AT LOWER CAVERSHAM.



CROSSING THE THAMES FROM KING'S MEADOWS.



AFFIXING ONE OF THE BOUNDARY MARKS.



ALDERMAN MASON "BUMPED" BY COUNCILLORS RABSON, MAKER AND DORMER, AND MESSRS. H. C. LOVE AND C. MOSS AT WESTWOOD FARM.



COUNCILLOR GIBBONS BEING "BUMPED" BY BLUE COAT BOYS.



THREE GENTLEMEN WHO BEAT THE BOUNDS 25 YEARS AGO.

THE PERAMBULATION OF THE BOROUGH BOUNDARIES.

[BY THE HEAD BOY.]

The first intimation we received as to the perambulation of the borough boundaries was from the "Reading Observer," from which we learnt that on previous occasions the Blue Coat boys had been invited, and had been "bumped." We wished to be invited, but we decided not to be "bumped" without exacting toll in return. So at a meeting we resolved that for every "Blue" who was "bumped" two members of the Corporation should have a similar attention. Twelve of the seniors received invitations from the Mayor, and we were delighted to go, and were determined to enjoy ourselves. In any case it meant two days out of school, and all the boys I know will endure much discomfort to secure that relief.

The perambulation itself has been so fully described that it is unnecessary for me to go into that, even if I were capable of doing justice to it. But perhaps the Editor will let me mention some of the incidents in which we of the Blue Coat School took part. When Bawden lagged behind he did so purposely, and Mr. C. F. Round fell into the trap that had been prepared for him.

We were "hired" by a Councillor (and the price paid was half a sovereign) to bump Mr. Verner, while Councillor Gibbons bore us so little a grudge for bumping his by no means light body that he gave us half a crown. How we wished he had paid us by weight! Mr. Harold Love was so very busy inciting others to bump us that we decided to give him a turn, and we repeated the dose a little later.

When the Mayor called for volunteers to cross the pond on the raft we had two disappointments—none of us were selected, and the man who was crossed in safety. When Ludlow was entrusted with the mace such a smile spread over his countenance that we have not yet been able to rub it off; and since Osborne (who was picked because of his lack of inches) held the mace while a photograph was being taken, he has acted as if Reading belongs to him.

We shall not readily forget our luncheon at Manor Farm. Our host, Councillor John Eighteen, was not there at the start, but we did not let that affect our appetites. And when he did come what a welcome he got! And how funny his speech was, and how we roared with laughter. He told us how he had lately driven round the farm with a friend, who had remarked that there were some weeds. "Dear me" (or words to that effect) remarked Mr. John, "this isn't the Forbury Gardens!" There were a good many bumpings after the luncheon, all of which were taken in good part. The final scene of the day took part in the Mayor's parlour, where we were thanked for our two days' attendance, and a current coin of the realm was transferred from the Mayor's pocket to ours. After our very pleasant experiences of the perambulation we wish the Corporation would make it a monthly affair, with a rehearsal every fortnight.

The names of the boys who attended the perambulation were: W. B. Terry, W. Moore, F. J. C. Ludlow, G. Spencer, O. W. Wilde, C. P. Ricketts, A. H. Goswell, A. R. Osborne, H. Bawden, L. L. Hyde, E. C. Bartlett, S. H. Bull, A. J. Murray and L. Ilingworth Butler. There also went from the school the Headmaster and Messrs. W. C. Likeman, J. E. Watson and G. A. Jones.

The scene was made memorable, however, for a personal incident. Alderman Mason, one of the representatives of Tilehurst, was suddenly seized by several colleagues and Blue Coat boys and bumped amid great merriment, which was renewed in even greater measure when the Blue Coat boys formed a similar plot against Councillor Gibbons, whom they frog-marched to the boundary post. Subsequently Councillor Venner was picked out for the compliment, and then the Mayor, who accepted it with gracious resignation. From Westwood House, the residence of the Countess of Eldon, the route lay over Chapel Hill, The Common and Church-lane, where at Park Cottage Mr. H. B. Blagrove, Lord of the Manor, came out to welcome the Mayor, to whom he was introduced by Mr. Alexander Way, agent of the extensive Blagrove Estate. Three cheers for the squire were given on the call of the Mayor, who led a deputation to Mr. W. Barningham. On reaching Bath-road via Calcot Park, the flying column turned into a footpath and passed Southcote Lodge, until recently the residence of Lord Saye and Sele, and near the boundary that was marked out in 1887. The signalling of an express caused a scramble over the level crossing, and at twenty minutes to five the party stood in Burghfield-road, where the Mayor said the day's march would end. The distance travelled was at least fifteen miles, and the day's performance compared most favourably with former perambulations. For instance, the Corporation records of 1721 state that the boundaries were beaten in May of that year, and the task occupied from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. The slowness of progress on that occasion seems to be explained by the subsequent note that the Mayor and Corporation were "regaled with good cheer" at intervals on the line of march! On Wednesday a good walking pace was set and maintained by the Mayor, who showed splendid "form," and his Worship was quite ready for duty on the following morning.

The whole of the southern border was followed. For the first part of the journey the land was more or less waterlogged, but on the ground above the Kennet Valley the going was fairly good and a capital muster completed the last stage, from the Kennet's mouth to Caversham Lock by barge. Bumping was again a popular diversion, and several public figures underwent the ordeal, among them the Mayor, Alderman Mason, Councillors J. Eighteen, J. Rabson and D. Egginton, the Chief Constable, the Farm Steward, the assistant Borough Engineer and the Highways Inspector.

Soon after the start the party crossed the Kennet and Avon Canal and were towed down the middle of the Kennet, finally entering Manor Farm, where Councillor J. Eighteen (chairman of the Farm Committee) had luncheon in waiting. Proposing "Success to the Borough of Reading," the Mayor remarked that they had done a worthy work in knowing their boundaries.

Councillor EGGINTON, in reply, said they had had a right royal time. He had never enjoyed himself so much on a Corporation outing.

Councillor RABSON paid a tribute to the excellent arrangements and faithful work on the part of the officials, and went on to express his regret that the Mayor's term of office was so soon to draw to a close. He had been struck during the perambulation by the amount of non-urban land. There was enough land for building purposes, and he hoped the time was not far distant when they would pull down their slums and put up good residences for the working people. (Applause.)

The health of Councillor Eighteen was drunk with musical honours on the call of the Mayor, and Mr. Eighteen tendered his thanks to Mr. Chettle, who had taken in hand the arrangements for the luncheon. He spoke in favour of continuing Manor Farm, and thought that they should not be forced to spend money on additional sewage works.

The MAYOR, whose health was proposed by Mr. Eighteen, thanked the Blue Coat boys, the officials who had planned the perambulation, particularly Mr. Hilder, Mr. Chettle, Sergt. Cook, and all those who had helped to make the perambulation a pleasure. He also referred to the good offices of the police.

After a look round Manor Farm the party set out for Whitley Wood, Cressingham Park and Whiteknights Park, where the chief incident of the perambulation occurred. The boundary line runs through the middle of Blandford Lodge, the residence of Captain Miller. The perambulators were equal to the occasion, however. Ladders were planted against the walls, and up these crept the civic fathers, who climbed on to the roof, and made a safe descent on the other side by ladders. A ramble in the Earley lanes, a walk across the railway and they were at the Kennet's mouth, where they completed a perambulation of 25 miles in a barge. It was now late in the afternoon, and the party, rather smaller than the one which set out on the Wednesday morning, arrived at the Municipal Buildings conscious of duty well done.

BEATING THE BOUNDS

READING'S COUNCILLORS "BUMPED" ANCIENT CUSTOM CAUSES AMUSEMENT

(By Our Special Commissioner.)

Wednesday was a memorable day in the municipal history of Reading, for the bounds of the extended borough at Caversham and Tilehurst were perambulated by members of the Reading Town Council in order that boundary marks should be fixed where necessary.

As enlarged Reading is now 25 miles round, but it is the portion recently added which was formally claimed on this occasion.

25 YEARS AGO.

It was 25 years ago since the last perambulation was made, in the time of Alderman Hill's mayoralty, but Reading has lately added considerably to itself, and engulfed outlying portions of the district, so that the old boundary marks are obsolete. Earlier perambulations of the borough took place in 1874 (during the mayoralty of Mr. A. Beale), and 1861. This year's "beating the bounds" was not expected to be so exciting as on previous occasions, when walls had to be scaled, but there were a few nice ditches to be traversed. Those who have persistently followed the mace on previous occasions have presented a pretty figure. In 1887 the party were scared by the appearance of a bull near Burghfield railway bridge.

THE ASSEMBLY.

The hour of 8.30 was fixed for the assembly at the Municipal Buildings, and there was a good muster of the members of the council at the formal proceedings which inaugurated the day. The mayor (Alderman J. W. Martin) presided, and the other members present were the deputy-mayor (Mr. W. Frame), Aldermen H. C. Dryland, T. Mason, and J. Milsom, Councillors F. W. Allwright, A. H. Bull, W. E. Butler, W. M. Colebrook, D. Egginton, S. Hayward, W. R. Howell, F. J. Lewis, A. J. Maker, T. Norris, J. Rabson, W. Rudland, P. A. Sarjeant, T. J. Stacey, L. G. Sutton, Capt. J. H. Trye, T. H. Turner, A. W. A. Webb, and the town clerk (Mr. W. S. Clutterbuck). It was a matter of regret that the day's proceedings began with a note of sadness, for the mayor reported that the borough surveyor (Mr. Bowen) had lost his son, who died in Egypt on the previous day. The mayor referred in sympathetic terms to Mr. Bowen's loss, and said this would prevent the borough surveyor from taking part in the proceedings. It was resolved to send Mr. Bowen a message of condolence from the council.

THE PROCESSION STARTS.

The council proceedings over, the procession formed up. At the head were thirteen Bluecoat Boys carrying staves and looking very delighted with the prospect of a good day's fun—not least the bumping on the new boundary-marks, in accordance with well-established precedent. The mace was carried by Sergt. Cook, who was one of those least to be envied. The members of the council walked four abreast. It is noteworthy that Alderman J. W. Martin was the only member of the council who assisted to "beat the bounds" in 1887, though Mr. Colebrook was in due succession to his father, who was then an alderman of the council. Mr. W. L. Hilder represented the borough surveyor. Everyone was in good humour, and determined to get the most fun possible out of the day off.

CROSSING THE RIVER.

The party, which numbered about sixty, proceeded along Valpy Street and Vastern Road to the King's Meadow Recreation Ground. Here a one-horse ferry boat and a dinghy were in readiness to take them across to the Oxfordshire side. The boats were lent by the Thames Conservancy, and were in charge of Mr. Hughes. They proceeded to Minett's Farm, where they landed.

From this point the council proceeded northward and perambulated the boundary of Caversham, there being a number of amusing incidents.

When Rose Hill was reached, great amusement was caused when it was

found that the mace had to be taken over a pond 12ft. deep on a raft about 4ft. square. The mayor called for volunteers, and several of the "mustard stockingites" replied, but eventually the sergeant-at-arms stepped on the frail raft, which sank until the water was up to his ankles. "Come off," cried the mayor; "you're too heavy." A man named Knott then took the mace, and amidst general laughter and applause the raft was slowly "poled" across the pond and cheers given when the mace was again on dry land. One of the Blue Coat boys then shouldered the mace for a good distance.

the company by a tortuous route—along which posts marked the boundary—proceeded to Mapledurham. Here in an orchard belonging to Miss Lovegrove, Mr. C. F. Round made an attempt to bump one of the Blue Coat boys, and after a hard tussle was bumped himself, to the merriment of the whole party. The crowd now numbered about 150. The party next proceeded to Cliff House, the residence of Mr. W. T. Hedges, of the "Chronicle." The members of the council, headed by the mayor (Mr. J. W. Martin), were received by Mrs. Hedges. Soon after Mr. Hedges arrived and welcomed the party. After refreshments had been partaken of, three cheers were heartily accorded Mrs. and Miss Hedges, the latter of whom was handed the mace.

The south-western boundary of the parish terminates in this

MIDDLE OF THE RIVER

at a point situate somewhat to the east of the premises known as "Danelm." From this point the boundary, both of the Parliamentary and municipal borough extends westward in the middle of the river as far as "Coombe Bank." From that point it extends along the southern bank of the river to a point near and to the west of the Roebuck Hotel.

After leaving the hospitable "Cliff House," the mayor and a number of councillors entered the launch "Lodden," whilst the majority got into a waiting barge. This had to be gained by going up a narrow plank, and when half-a-dozen or more were on together an ominous crack was heard, and a helter-skelter scramble made for the side of the barge. Two horses were hitched to a rope fastened to the barge, and with many a witticism the party slowly went up-river to The Roebuck. Just past Tilehurst station a passing tug was chartered, and things moved at a faster pace.

A regrettable incident occurred, Coun. Hayward being taken suddenly ill.

THE LUNCHEON

Lunch was served at The Roebuck.

Amongst those present at the dinner were Mr. F. W. Martin, Mr. W. S. Clutterbuck (town clerk), Alderman Parfitt, Councillors W. R. Howell, A. J. Maker, T. H. Turner, J. H. Trye, B. P. Gibbons, H. Watts, E. O. Farrer, Dr. Carmody, Mr. T. T. Sieh, Captain Henderson (chief constable), and Messrs. T. Chettle (manager of the farm), Leslie Walker (waterworks manager), and the following rate collectors: Messrs. F. Louch, P. E. Smart, H. P. Slatter, and E. J. Woodland, the registration clerk (Mr. H. J. Hobbs), the registrar of births and deaths (Mr. C. Moss), the assistant borough surveyor (Mr. Hilder), the roads inspector (Mr. J. Walker), and the borough accountant (Mr. Lund), Inspector Lickley, and others.

After luncheon and the loyal toast, the mayor gave "Success to the good old Borough of Reading." They had had a very good tramp, and their thanks were due to the Thames Conservancy, and he regretted that Captain Launce and Major Wheble had been unable to accept their hospitality (hear, hear). He thought great credit was reflected upon Mr. Hilder and Mr. Walker and

the staff of the borough surveyor and engineer, who carefully mapped out the boundary—not a very easy thing to do. He coupled with the toast the names of Alderman Milsom and Councillor Trye.

Alderman Milsom remarked that a good many years ago he and Mr. Charles Smith had "beaten the bounds," when Alderman Beale was mayor. Captain Trye briefly replied.

Alderman Parfitt gave "The Mayor." The mayor, who had been chairman of the Extension Committee and so successful in promoting the scheme, was deserving of great praise. He had successfully piloted the enlarged council at a time when the duty of mayor was very arduous.

The mayor's health was drunk with musical honours, and Mr. Martin replied.

PERAMBULATION RESUMED.

After lunch the civic fathers resumed the perambulation of the borough boundaries. Leaving the main road they ascended the footpath by Major Downing Fullerton's estate, and through sylvan glades, rich in autumnal foliage, to West Wood Road. Here the first amusing incident was experienced. In order to get into the road it was necessary for the perambulators to get over a hedge with the aid of ladders. At the Roebuck the party were joined by Mr. A. May, agent to the Blagrave Estate, over which the party traversed, and he rendered valuable assistance in defining the boundaries.

The party were in a merry mood, and incident after incident passed in quick succession. His worship the mayor, Councillor Venner, Mr. Mason, Mr. Mason, jun., and Mr. H. C. Love were in turn subjected to "bumping" with a dignity befitting their positions, but perhaps the spirits of the party never

ROSE HIGHER

than it did when they beheld the portly Ben Gibbons undergoing the ordeal, and surrendering to the right-hearted lads with a grace and a dignity quite in accordance with the spirit of the occasion. Thrice they were bumped and once for good luck. The best of good humour prevailed, and though the ceremony did not assume the exciting character of previous years it quite upheld the traditions of the borough.

The boundary line was rigidly observed, and at such places as Westwood Farm, where the boundary line goes right up to the doorstep of the house, the farm hands gazed at the civic procession with wonder as it passed by. Posts having been driven in the party proceeded to West Wood Grange, the residence of the Countess of Eldon, into the road, to Chapel Hill and "across country" to Birch Copse. Before reaching this spot a sportsman "walking up" partridge paused to ascertain the cause of the unwonted excitement near his well-stocked coverts. The going was now rather heavy. Enjoying their after-dinner cigar the foremost of the party, however, set

A HOT PACE

that spoke well for their powers of endurance. Soon the "field" began to spread out. Overcoats were a superfluous article of attire in negotiating the fences, ditches and hedges that thereabouts abounded, and the party had a striking demonstration of the difficulty of "haunting" a "wired country," for more than one individual came to grief over the impenetrable barbed wire that abounded everywhere. It was a sight for the gods to see civic dignitaries and justices of the peace scaling wire fences with an agility that was surprising, and the

UNDIGNIFIED FIGURES

they occasionally cut by coming into violent contact with terra firma adding to the general merriment.

Leaving the Reservoir on the left and

THE BARBED WIRE BEHIND,

the road to Tilehurst Church, much to the relief of many, was reached, the echoes of the wood by the reservoir resounding with the "Gone away" and "Hoicks" of those who imagined that they saw Reynard breaking covert.

On the road to Tilehurst Church the pace of the company assumed quite a martial tread. At Park Cottage, the residence of the general squire, Mr. H. B. Blagrave, a halt was called to enable the mayor to pay his compliments. The mayor and Mr. Blagrave exchanged greetings. Mr. Blagrave having wished the company good luck, and three cheers having been given for that gentleman, the mayoral party visited the residence of Mr. Barnsingham hard by to

"TEST THE WATER,"

as one of them rather humorously explained as they afterwards descended the lane into the Bath Road by the deer park. Just beyond the Horn and Castle the party left the Bath Road and proceeded along the footpath that leads to Calcot Pits, passing on the left Southcote Lodge, the residence until recently of Lord Saye and Sele, near the old boundary that was marked out in 1887, over the level crossing, where a mild ex-

citement was caused by the command to hurry up as the Cornish Riviera

EXPRESS WAS SIGNALLED!

—the party followed the Holy Brook to the railway bridge. From the distance the party, with the poles that had been of such valuable assistance to them in negotiating fences and other obstacles, looked more like huntsmen on the trail of an otter than civic dignitaries engaged in defining the borough boundaries. The Burghfield Road was reached. Here his worship acknowledged the assistance rendered by the Blue Coat boys, who, he said, had provided the

MOST PICTURESQUE

part of the day's proceedings. "Let me compliment you, my friends," he continued, addressing them, "on the way you have marched, from the smallest to the largest." Three cheers were given for the mayor.

THURSDAY'S MARCH.

The beating of the enlarged boundaries was taken up again at Wednesday's finishing point, Burghfield Bridge. Punctually at 10.30 the mayor had arrived, but there was a sad lapse on the part of Caversham, Tilehurst, and Reading councillors. Those persons present included Messrs. Hilder, Long and Walker (corporation officials), Alderman Mason, Councillors Egginton, Turner, Trye, Rabson and G. J. Lewis, Captain Henderson, Messrs. Butler and Likeman (Bluecoat School), Inspectors Lickley and Connor.

After crossing the canal the party entered a barge and negotiated the old Kennet river, now and again having perilous escapes from overhanging branches, until they reached the outskirts of Manor Farm.

After crossing and recrossing the Great Western railway track a rather interesting incident was mentioned, to the effect that two cottages on the outskirts of Manor Farm which should have been taken in by the Corporation in 1875, were inadvertently left out in the plans, and had been out ever since, and were now in the parish of Burghfield.

AT MANOR FARM.

Manor Farm was reached by a circuit just before twelve o'clock, and here a pleasant surprise awaited the party, for luncheon was all ready on the table. After waiting some time for Councillor John Eighteen, who was the host, the party sat down to luncheon, the mayor presiding. As luncheon was drawing to a close Councillor J. Eighteen, accompanied by Mr. Harry Childs, put in an appearance, and was lustily cheered. At the conclusion the mayor gave "Success to the borough of Reading," remarking that they had done a worthy work in knowing their boundaries. He coupled with the toast the names of Councillors Egginton and Rabson, whom he described as the orators of the council.

A RIGHT ROYAL TIME.

Councillor Egginton, in reply, thought they had had a right royal time. He had never enjoyed himself so much on a corporation outing. Corporation work was pleasant as a rule, but frequently tiring and boring. He had lived in Reading for 43 years, but this was the first time he had had the pluck to beat the bounds. He referred to the geniality of the mayor. He kept them in high spirits.

Councillor Rabson paid a tribute to the excellent arrangements and faithful work which had been put in by the officials. The task was a very difficult one, and would have been more so but for these arrangements (applause). He said a tribute to the Mayor, and thought that they should not be forced to spend money on additional sewage works. He gave the toast of the mayor.

In response, Mr. Martin said that Councillor Eighteen's remarks with regard to sewage works would have to be taken into consideration before any drastic change was made. He expressed his thanks to the Bluecoat boys, to the officials who had carefully planned the perambulation, and Mr. Hilder, who was certainly deserving of the utmost thanks, to Mr. Chettle, to Sergt. Cook (the mace bearer), and all those who had helped to make the perambulation a pleasure. He also referred to the good offices of the police.

One of the Bluecoat boys, Mr. Hilder, Mr. Chettle, Inspector Lickley, and Sergt. Cook replied.

The party went over Manor Farm, at the invitation of Mr. Eighteen, who remarked that it was not often that he had the pleasure of entertaining either councillors or the general public.

FINISHING THE DAY.

On leaving Manor Farm—after inspecting the piggeries—the company made straight across the corporation land to the Basingstoke Road. Hearty laughter was occasioned by the "bumping" of Councillor John Eighteen, Alderman Martin (for the second time), Captain Henderson, Councillor Egginton, Mr. Hilder, and Sergeant Cook. After Whiteknights Park and Fox Hill had been visited, a visit was made at The Three Tuns, then on to the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway Bridge to the mouth of the Kennet, and the party stepped on board a waiting barge and were poled to Caversham Lock. The Town Hall was soon reached, and Alderman Martin said how pleased he was to think he had so many adherents, and a proof of his (the mayor's) popularity were the cheers that greeted his remarks.

On the invitation of the mayor, the Bluecoat boys and the councillors present (Councillor E. O. Farrer had joined the party) adjourned to the mayor's parlour, where the Bluecoats received a memento of the occasion, and his worship expressed the hope that they would all be at the next "beating of the bounds."