

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORMED

### WHAT IT CAN DO

#### Well-Attended Inaugural Meeting

A meeting to form a chamber of Commerce for Welwyn Garden City was held at the Bridge Hall on Friday afternoon last week, when, in spite of the thunderstorm, there was a very good attendance. Dr. L. T. M. Gray (Chairman of the Urban District Council, was voted to the Chair.

Mr. F. J. Osborn (Industrial Manager of Welwyn Garden City) stated that the meeting had been convened by Messrs. A. E. Odle (Dawnay and Sons Ltd.), E. L. Wallace (Shredded Wheat), L. H. Crump (Welwyn Foundry), W. H. Close (Welwyn Garden City Laundry), T. C. Lemmens (Welwyn Stores) and himself. Notice of the meeting had been sent to the manufacturers, traders, and professional people in the City. The objects of the Chambers would be somewhat as follows:—To promote and advance commerce and industry generally, and in particular those of Welwyn Garden City; to exchange views on all questions connected with industry and commerce, and to express and give effect to the opinions of the business community on such questions; to promote, support or oppose governmental measures affecting commerce or industry; to undertake by arbitration the settlement of commercial or business disputes; to collect and distribute statistical and other information relating to commerce and industry; to promote and advance commercial and technical education; to promote and support measures having for their object the improvement and development of Welwyn Garden City.

A resolution forming the Chamber, and that all persons and companies interested directly or indirectly in the various branches of trade, commerce, manufactures, and the professions in Welwyn Garden City, should be eligible for membership, subject to acceptance by the Council of the Chamber, was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. F. Murphy (Murphy Radio), and carried unanimously.

The annual subscription was fixed as follows:—For firms employing less than 12 persons, 10s. 6d.; £1 1s., for firms employing more than 12 and less than 30 persons; and £2 2s. for firms employing more than 30 persons.

It was decided to appoint a provisional Council of seven to prepare a draft constitution and rules. Mr. Murphy suggested that on the Council should be a representative of the firms engaged in making goods for supply to the general market outside the Garden City; and Mr. Osborn said he was anxious that the Chamber should not be run by the Company; that was the last thing he wanted.

Eventually 14 were nominated for the Provisional Council, the following being elected:—Messrs. Osborn, Odle, James Gray (Shredded Wheat), Dr. L. T. M. Gray, Mr. D. G. Petrie (Young, Osmond and Young Ltd.), Major Close and Major Lemmens.

Sir Theodore Chambers informed the meeting that arrangements were being made for a luncheon on Friday, July 5, at which Sir Basil Blackett, who was now Chairman of the Cables Company, had agreed to speak on industrial decentralisation with special reference to the growth of factory development at Welwyn Garden City, and suggested that it would be a good opportunity to inaugurate the Chamber of Commerce. This suggestion was cordially accepted, and the Chairman said it would be an extraordinarily good jumping-off ground for the Chamber.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Dr. Gray for presiding.

## A Night Out Through the Fields and Lanes

The annual all-night ramble organised by the Educational Association, in co-operation with the Hertfordshire branch of the B.E.N.A., and the Students' Union, becomes more popular each year. Between fifty and sixty persons gathered outside the Stores on Saturday at 11 p.m. prepared to forego, or at least to postpone a night's rest for the pleasure of a long night tramp through the fields and

burnt our sandwich papers and put out our fire, we started for home by the light of the moon, which at last put in a belated appearance.

### Nature Awakes

It is difficult to say what part of so wholly enjoyable a night was the most appreciated, but perhaps the two hours which now followed should be given first.



The Welwyn Ramblers

(Times Flashlight Photograph)

lanes, with supper (or breakfast), round a roaring camp fire in a woodland clearing.

The route chosen by the leader, Mr. W. R. Hughes, whose knowledge of the local byways is unrivalled, led through Black Fan, then followed the course of the Mimram to Tewin Mill; thence, northward past Queen Hoo Hall to Clibbon's Post, returning by Tewin village and church, and home via Digswell.

The party divided into two sections for the first stage, with an agreement to reunite at the Mill, and, notwithstanding that group No. 2 narrowly escaped premature burial in the excavations of Black Fan, and later, nearly came to grief in the river, the reunion was safely accomplished. Then began the more exciting part of the journey. Roads were left behind, and by unfrequented lanes, half-forgotten field paths, and indeed at times by no path at all, we arrived at Queen Hoo having met no one other than a prowling policeman who, concluding that our intentions were less criminal than foolish, allowed us to go on our way.

### The Family Ghost

In a field facing the Hall, some thoughtful farmer had provided a huge heap of clean straw, and here at 1.30 a.m., on Sunday morning, fifty-eight ramblers lay resting, whilst Hughes, whose knowledge of the countryside is apparently equalled only by his fund of local legends, told the story of the old manor house—its associations with Queen Elizabeth and its supposed connection with the genesis of the Waverley novels. The story included, of course, a family ghost, and a dim light, appearing momentarily at one of the front windows, supplied the finishing touch of realism.

A further short walk brought us to Clibbon's Post. Here again a story was forthcoming, including the gruesome details which the occasion demanded. The Post however produced more than a story, for a search behind it revealed kettles, cups, tea, sugar and milk—the latter (dare we confess it?) in the official Welwyn Garden City Dairy bottles.

Camp was quickly made in a clearing in the woods near by, and for an hour or more we talked, feasted and sang whilst the sparks roared upward amongst the tree tops; then, just after 3 a.m., having, like all good ramblers,

will not easily be forgotten—the scent of newly-opened hawthorne blossom, soaked in dew, and all the other elusive odours of dawn; the pauses to listen for the first awakening bird; and later, as daylight slowly supervened, the full volume of bird song such as can be heard only at daybreak in May.

Whilst the size of the party inevitably tended to obscure to some extent the original educational motive by turning the excursion into a jolly midnight picnic, it was still possible to give some little attention to the "noises of the night." Nightingales were everywhere, and from 11 p.m. onwards we heard them continuously, until their voices merged in the general morning chorus. The less musical note of the nightjar too was persistent. A cuckoo called at exactly 2 a.m., but general opinion held him to be a late reveller rather than an early riser. The lark maintained his reputation as the first bird of the morning, being in full song at 3.30. He was followed a few minutes later by swallows or martins, chattering close overhead, but invisible in the half light. Next, a blackbird sang; then a thrush, then a robin and a yellowhammer, and in a comparatively short time the whole bird world was awake.

Another joint ramble, led by Dr. C. H. Booth, will be held on Sunday. Route—the Lea Valley and Hatfield Park. Meet outside the Stores at 11.30 a.m.—bring lunch; tea will be arranged for.

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### Draw Result

The result of the Welwyn Garden City Mutual Subscription Fund will be announced at a Smoking Concert to be held at the Bridge Hall on Saturday at 7.30 p.m.

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