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Proposal to Cut Expenditure on Roads Rejected

A PROPOSAL that a cut of £20,000 should be made in the estimated expenditure for next year on unclassified roads in Hampshire was rejected by the County Roads and Bridges Committee at Winchester yesterday.

Estimates before the Committee showed that it was expected to spend £1,625,055 on the county roads next year compared to £1,563,750 in the estimates for the current year. Income was shown as £788,780, an increase over the current years of £26,380, making a charge to the county rate of £836,275. This is an increase over the current year of £34,925.

Reporting to the Committee, Brigadier A. C. Hughes said the estimates for the coming year had been discussed and approved by the Roads Finance Sub-Committee, but since then there had been a development. In view of increased estimated expenditure in all departments, a large increase in the County Rate was feared, and he had been asked if it was possible to effect some saving.

Any saving that could be made could only come from the unclassified roads, and he felt a suitable amount to offer would be a cut of £20,000. It was hoped to receive extra grants from the Ministry of Transport of £50,000 during the year, and if any part of that amount was not forthcoming he thought it only fair that the amount saved by the county as a result should be allowed to the roads.

A LOSING FIGHT

Chairman of the County Council and of its Finance Committee, Sir Charles Chute said the fight to cut down the net costs to the rates had been a losing one for years, and one so far as the Education Committee was concerned they just could not compete with. He knew some counties treated their Roads Committees much worse than Hampshire did.

They were making an effort to keep the rates down to what they were last year and it might be that the Finance Committee would have to ask them to accept a reduction.

Chairman of the committee, Sir Demoke White said he did not think the committee would be doing its duty if they accepted the proposed cut. If any money had to be foregone it was always the unclassified roads which carried the burden.

TOO LITTLE SPENT

Over the past five years they had not spent nearly enough on unclassified roads. In 1950-51 a sum of £185,650 had been spent, in 1951-52 a sum of £219,500, the same amout was spent in 1952-53, and in 1953-54. In the current year £218,500 was estimated and for next year they estimated the same amount.

They carried out work on 21.5 miles of unclassified roads each year of a total mileage of 1,419 and an additional 42 miles of streets. That meant a mile of road was re-surfaced once in every 66 years.

In answer to Sir Charles Chute, the Surveyor said to re-surface unclassified roads cost about £2,000 a mile, and they had allowed for attention to 20 miles during the coming year. If they accepted the cut, it would reduce that mileage by half.

ECONOMIZE ELSEWHERE

Mr. R. A. Hayter felt there was a great deal of room for economy in other departments of the County Council. If there was any economy to be made, it always came back to the roads.

The increasing use of unclassified roads by many types of vehicle was stressed by other members of the committee, but Mr. C. F. Reynolds felt that a survey of unclassified roads should be made to see if any could be re-classified.

The committee approved a resolution by Lieut.-Col. C. Newton-Davis that the estimates should go forward to the Finance Committee without revision.

DIPHTHERIA AT HULL

Two cases of diphtheria, the first for five years, have been confirmed at Hull.

What if it is mid-January? The sun is shining on the huts at Eastney, so a game is on, with the sun-huts used as a dollshouse. — E.N. 4323.

U. SERVICES' WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

(By LANSDOWNE)

THOUGH the Navy take ten of their best players for the match against Blackheath, the United Services are still able to field a side against the Wasps at the Officers' Ground on Saturday which includes no newcomers to the first team.

The only player in the Services team who has not played previously this season is J. P. England—and he was last season's captain of the Services and the Navy.

He recently came out of his premature retirement for a few matches with the "A" side, but is now needed by the first team.

Fly-half M. J. Fox and hooker A. K. Doray have played once each—against Bedford on New Year's Day. The rest of the team have made at least five first-team appearances.

In the centre, R. Laughton returns for his first match since the encounter against Oxford University in October. His partner is G. Hitchens, fly-half before Christmas and a centre in the match at Richmond.

BELOW STRENGTH

The "A" team, who travel to London to meet the Honourable Artillery Company, are below strength and include two newcomers to the club in the pack.

They are O. P. Woodroffe, who won a Blue at Cambridge in 1952, and R. Pugsley, a Welsh forward stationed with the R.A.O.C. at Hilsea.

J. Jacobsen, the first-team hooker, is at sea, and wing-forward P. Williams dislocated a thumb in the match against Devonport Services last Saturday.

Selected teams—

United Services (v. Wasps): P. N. Fenner, B. G. Pattrick, T. A. F. Hitchens, R. J. Laughton, A. S. Bater, M. J. Fox, B. H. Mead, J. D. Graham (capt.), A. K. Doray, R. L. Horlock, F. Sisia, J. P. England, J. R. Stephenson, D. G. Sanders, I. Jago.

United Services 'A' (v. HAC): G. Jackson, K. Leppard, D. J. Bradby, R. Hogg, M. J. P. Gunning, W. N. Woodley, H. P. Jones, G. Broome, J. Flattery, J. Van Os (capt.), B. Hall, J. S. Harrison, R. Pugsley, H. E. Morris, O. P. Woodroffe.

MR. A. E. MATTHEWS

Mr. A. E. Matthews, the 85-year-old actor, who has a cold was stated to be much better to-day. His doctor, however, will not allow him to return to his part in a London play.

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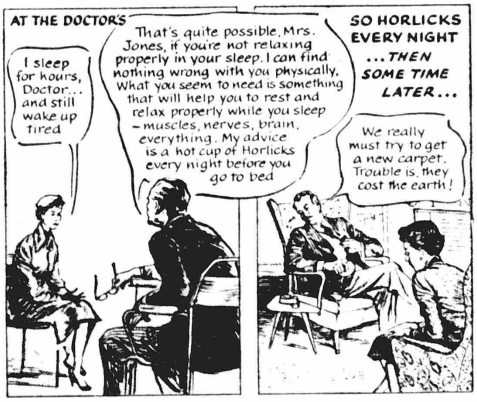
Winter's Tale



TO-DAY'S CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. [illegible] the builder's men to be seated (three words) (4, 3, 7). 6. Let's follow him to get some medicine, perhaps (5). 8. [illegible] and lords may flourish, or may flute (Gilbertian) (6). 10. Mount Kenya is the first (6). 11. Includes behind the Iron Curtain (4). 12. [illegible] (5). 13. Third time lucky (anag.) (5). 14. Pass on (6). 17. Pass in the reply (anag.) (4). 18. Ten marks for this type of window (4). 21. The pits give protection covering the girl (6). 22. Found this girl for a bird (3). 23. Come out it and you haven't got (5).

CLUES DOWN

1. Across or a bad drain (3). 2. Her legs sometimes are (3). 3. Hers's small choice (3). 4. Poison [illegible] taming of the Shrew (6). 5. Hand on this room (4). 6. Cost, so it can give you a bite (2). 9. Vehicle, or one who trails actors (10). 9. Going like 17 across (6). 12. Gave beer for something to drink (8). 14. [illegible] in the matter of the heartbeat, beat back (7). 16. Exists after this if you have 15 across (6). 20. Prohibitive power much exercised by 11 across (4).

Solution To-morrow

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across. 1. Take a chair. 7. Tab. 8. Princes. 10. Gardener. 11. U.S.S.R. 12. Corner. 15. Degree. 17. Asps. 18. Casement. 21. Bramble. 22. Ann. 23. Second-best.

Down. 1. Tabor. 2. Kippered. 3. Apples. 4. Heir. 5. Incisor. 6. Stage-coach. 9. Serpentine. 13. Beverage. 14. Remiss. 16. Passed. 19. Exact. 20. Veto.

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