

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY MAGAZINE

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GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY MAGAZINE



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THE RAILWAY GAZETTE—Read wherever there are Railways.

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE:

The 'Great Eastern Railway Magazine' was a staff magazine which the railway company first issued in January 1911. It continued to appear monthly until the end of 1926, by which time the old GER had long become a constituent part of the London and North Eastern Railway. Each year made up a volume, so there were 16 volumes in all.

Many of the articles were of contemporary railway interest or described parts of the region which the GER served. For example the 1913 volume included articles about the Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Department; the speeds of goods trains; Electric traction on railways; Norfolk tobacco; Thorpeness; 'The Dutch Fenland and our own'; and George Borrow's connections with East Anglia. All were fully illustrated with photographs.

The Jubilee Year of the Buntingford Branch.

By JAS. LOCK (Delivery Agent, Hadham).

The lack of communication between the north-eastern part of Hertfordshire was felt for a long time, and about the year 1872 special efforts were made to meet this by the formation of a company called the Ware, Hadham and Buntingford Railway, under the secretaryship of the late Mr. G. Muckle.

Application was made to Parliament and the necessary powers obtained, but some delay was occasioned by the necessity of a second application for a deviation from the original plan—which did away with a long and very steep gradient, thus bringing the line much nearer the main road at Hadham.

The line was begun at the Buntingford end, and as after a time it was found that the capital was insufficient to complete it assistance was obtained from the Great Eastern Railway. This was in 1872, and early in February 1873, a train conveying the chairman—Mr. Heatham Leve—and other



HADHAM STATION, 1911.

each way; nor were any altogether twenty-one—some up and eleven down; and a morning and afternoon goods-up and down—with an average of twenty-five trucks to each. There are two passing stations, Hadham and Buntingford.

During the fifty years, there has not been any really serious accident; no life has been lost except in one of two cases of suicide. This, considering the severe gradients—1 in 55 and 1 in 60 between Watford and Standon—shows a vast amount of care in the working. The worst thing happening to a train was the missing up of the last train in the great blizzard of January, 1894, the passengers having to remain in the train all night.

The first photograph is Hadham Station, taken a month or two ago; the second, the station in October, 1873; and the third, the road—a chestnut tree avenue—to the station.



HADHAM STATION IN 1873.

directors and officials of the Great Eastern Railway was run through from London to Buntingford to a meeting held there; and the writer of these notes and the producer of the three photographs was invited to ride in the train, being the first person to Hadham who was thus privileged to ride on the line.

Soon after this the line underwent the Government inspection, but the severe test imposed on one of the bridges near Buntingford caused a sinking, and a new bridge had to be built. This accomplished, and a second inspection over, the line was formally opened on July 20, 1873.

To show the benefit it has been to the district it may be mentioned that at the opening there were six passenger trains—three



THE ROAD TO HADHAM STATION.

G.E.R. Horse Parade.

The Hart Street Stables, Bethnal Green, which accommodate 2,000 horses, were on Monday, July 14th, on the occasion of the annual parade of



Photo by SUTTON WALKER STATION STAFF.

the horses which during the preceding twelve months had been best groomed and cared for by their respective curriers and vanguard. The Chairman, Lord Chand Haslemere, was present, accompanied by his son-in-law and daughter (Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Flower) and Mr. Wm. C. May the Goods Manager. The arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Synnott, the Horse Superintendent, and among those who attended were the District Goods Manager, Mr. H. E. Roper; the Locomotive Goods Agent, Mr. Eatherly; and the Chief Clerk of the Horse Department, Mr. F. Saward; the London Carriage Manager, and Mr. Ritchie, the Veterinary Surgeon, were unfortunately prevented by indisposition from attending, but the latter gentleman was represented by his assistant, Mr. Wm. Holliday, M.R.C.V.S.

The total number of the horses at the Company's London stables is about 1,200, and when one bears in mind their generally good condition and appearance it will be understood that the judges' task was by no means a light one. The prizes were awarded as follows:—

- Three Best Trotters, Currier Johnson and vanguard Page and Hedges.
- Four Best Trotters, Currier Johnson and vanguard Page and Hedges.
- Best Horse Stable—Currier Johnson and vanguard Page and Hedges.
- Best Currier—Currier Johnson and vanguard Page and Hedges.
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Cambridge Heath—Currier Johnson and vanguard Page and Hedges; and vanguard Page and Hedges.
Horse's Inn—Currier Johnson and vanguard Page and Hedges.
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At the conclusion of the parade some of the pasture teams and the single van horses were brought back, and Mrs. Hugh Flower made a further inspection for the purpose of awarding her own particular prizes for the best kept horses in each of these two classes. This was a somewhat difficult matter as uniformly well did all the animals look; but Mrs. Flower is a good judge, and after a thorough examination of horses and harness she declared the winners to be currier Tattingsham and vanguard Norman for horses Nos. 3070 and 1375, and currier Barnes and vanguard Eaker for horse No. 3115. The party then adjourned to the upper part of the stables, where the men were addressed by the Chairman who stated that the condition in which the horses were kept was a most gratifying sight and he should have much pleasure in telling his colleagues on the Board of Directors these facts.



overmen. Mrs. Flower said it had given her great pleasure to be present, and she thought it most remarkable that horses which had to go on to all

Like any staff magazine it also carried news of its employees and what they were doing. There were reports from the GER Musical Society and Cricket Club, for instance, as well as notes on presentations, retirements and deaths. From 1914 to 1918 came lists of staff who had enrolled in the armed forces, followed later by the names of those killed in action.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.
Sports Meeting at Romford.

On Saturday, August 23rd, the Athletic Association held a very successful sports meeting on the Romford Enclosure, and by including in the programme two open events identified it with the meeting which for many years took place on the County Cricket Ground at Leyton. The association is to be congratulated upon the manner in which the proceedings were conducted throughout, and it will be surprising if the meeting does not give considerable impetus



Photo by J. H. Huxley, South Department.

FEINER OF THE MILE.

The ground was fully decorated with bunting, and the Romford Town Band, under the conducting of Mr. J. H. Fawcett, late 49th Hussars, gave selections.

The numerous events attracted a quality number of competitors; there was much exciting racing, and in some instances, intense amusement. The team from Lowestoft again proved victorious in the tug-of-war competition. L. D. Carey is to be congratulated upon winning the obstacle race from scratch, and securing and place in the one-mile handicap. Walter Budge scored a very popular win in the 50 yards veterans' race; while B. Fields pulled himself against his more juvenile colleagues, and, despite his 45 years, finished 2nd in the 300 yards handicap for Association members. The feat of the two yards Open Handicap was productive of a most exciting finish, wherein B. Fildes of the Brighton Railway secured premier position by the narrow margin, while in the two yards open handicap J. Sykes, the Essex County half-mile champion, ran splendidly but just failed to catch A. S. Blanton on the post.

At the conclusion of the programme Mrs. Geo. C. Clark, wife of the chairman of the Association, presented prizes to the successful competitors.



Photo by J. E. Carter, Romford. THE VIGILANT COMPETITOR—AN ADMIRER TO OLYMPIC HONORS.

In Great Eastern athletes. A charming afternoon enabled the large throng of spectators to enjoy the sports under ideal conditions. Mr. W. J. Galloway was present and took great interest in the various events.



Photo by J. E. Carter, Romford. THE LOWESTOFT TEAM FULFILLING.

His friend—Mr. A. Cattermole, looking clerk at How Street for the past five years, was recently presented with a purse of money by the staff and



Mr. and Mrs. Cattermole, friends on the occasion of his marriage. The presentation was made by Mr. Harding (looking clerk), and the gift was suitably acknowledged by the recipient.

Yarnmouth.—The annual dinner of the Lane's Dept. staff and friends at Yarnmouth was held at the London Hotel, Market Place, on January 26th. Owing to illness Mr. W. Darroon, the foreman, was unable to be present, but Mr. J. Everett was a good substitute in the chair and was ably supported by Messrs. J. Hayhoe (in the vice-chair), W. Sutton, E. Jarvis, J. Fisher and H. Iron, most of whom passed Messrs. H. Postman, E. Sparks, E. Hawthorne, E. Burgess, C. Ditcham, E. Chamberlain, F. Adcock, A. Harpley and P. Millington in contributions to the musical programme. Mr. T. Quinlan rendering good service at the piano, Messrs. Burgess and Everett in connection with the toast of the evening, "Success to the Company," spoke in glowing terms of the manner in which the great difficulties occasioned by the road strike and the Epsom had been surmounted. Mr. E. Jarvis most ably carried out the duties of secretary.

OBITUARY.

Mr. J. J. Bence, for nearly 18 years a member of the Audit Office staff, passed away on his 73rd year on February 2nd, and was laid to rest at Enfield Cemetery in the presence of a number of his old colleagues. Mr. Bence entered the service of the Eastern Counties Railway in August, 1883, and retired on the Superannuation Fund about 42 years ago.

His tenure was largely devoted to furthering the interests of the Ancient Order of Foresters, with which he had been connected nearly half a century. For 32 years he held, with credit to himself and the satisfaction of the members, the post of secretary to the Court "Old Oak" and continued in office until stricken down with pleurisy and pneumonia which resulted in his death after a few days' illness.



Mr. J. J. Bence.

As announced in our last issue, the death of Mr. Charles A. Randall, stationmaster at Chesham Heath, occurred on 2nd February, in his forty-fourth year. Mr. Randall, who had been in the service for just over twenty-five years, was the son of Mr. C. Randall, a former district superintendent, and nephew of Mr. F. G. Randall, the present Superintendent of the Line. He commenced his railway career in December, 1887, as probationary clerk in the district superintendent's office at Liverpool Street, and remained there sixteen years, during the last seven of which he fulfilled the duties of chief clerk. Promoted to the position of stationmaster at Busey Grove in January, 1904, he was transferred to Chesham Heath in April, 1906.



Mr. C. A. Randall.

The funeral took place at the City of London Cemetery on 14th February, and was presided by a large number of railwaymen present, representative of all grades, notified to the extent to which he was held on leave, and amongst the numerous floral tributes were wreaths from the staff at Chesham Heath station, staff at Busey Grove station, city season ticket holders at Chesham Heath, stationmaster and clerks on the Southend branch, southern district stationmasters and relieving clerks, district superintendent and other staff, friends in superintendent's office, and staff of Park gate school.

The death of Mr. W. Carter, platelayer in the way and works department at Swavesey occurred on 2nd January. He entered the service in 1872, and retired on the Pension Fund in September, 1909.

The death of Mr. R. A. Sawyer was reported in our last issue as having taken place at Carlton Colville. This should have been Callishall.

A very well-known and highly respected member of the Goods Manager's staff passed away on 14th February, in the person of Mr. William C. Upson, who was born on January 27th, 1842. His youth was spent on the G.E.M. and on the Fleetland and Watton Railway serving under Mr. Ward, now Goods Agent at Yarnmouth. In October, 1879, he finally entered the service of the Great Eastern Railway, in the Goods Manager's Rates Office. His service with the company up to the time of his death was all performed in the Goods Manager's office. The funeral took place at Ilford Cemetery, and was attended by many of the deceased gentleman's friends and colleagues.

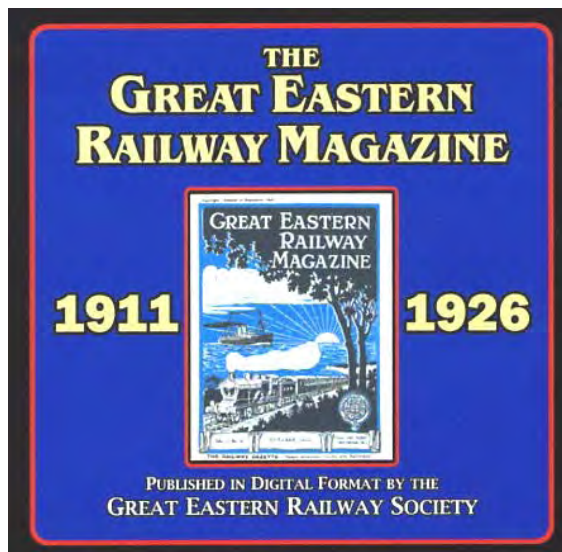


Mr. W. C. Upson.

Individual copies of the magazine or bound annual volumes occasionally become available via second hand outlets, but because of their scarcity and interest they fetch a high price.

WHAT THE GREAT EASTERN SOCIETY HAS DONE:

We have spent money raised from our Sales activities by commissioning a professional scan of all 16 volumes. This has converted them into Acrobat files, and in addition the use of optical character recognition software has for the first time ever made them all word-searchable.



HOW THIS EXERCISE CAN BENEFIT YOU:

- If your interest is in the GER itself, in railway or social history generally, or in local history relating to the region, you may wish to **purchase the files of the 16 volumes**. These are available as a professionally copied **double DVD** at what we hope is an affordable price. For Society members this is £10, for non-members £15 – still a tremendous bargain, surely? Both prices include P&P. Details of how to order a copy are given below.
- If you are researching your family history, your interest may be solely the **information** we have now made accessible rather than those 16 volumes themselves. To meet your needs far more economically, we are offering a search facility on your behalf – you will find the details on the genealogy page of this web site.

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You may print out this page, fill in the form below and post it off. Alternatively a letter is perfectly acceptable so long as it supplies the same information.

To Barry Jackson, 14 Quantock Close, Bedford MK41 9EW.

Please send me a copy of the double DVD containing files of the *Great Eastern Railway Magazine* for the years 1911 to 1926.

- I am a GER Society member. My membership number is (if you have it to hand). I enclose a cheque for £10 payable to GERS Publications.
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