THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONERS PROPOSALS.

To the Editor of the Western Daily Press.

SIR,—In reference to your invitation to me to express my views upon these proposals, I beg to say that, so far as they affect the parish of Horfield, they have my full assent. I have not yet seen a full copy of the new Bill, and have read the "text of the contentious clauses" which appeared in your paper of the 25th ult. Reading the Commissioners' schemes by the light of this "text," it appears to me that the Commissioners propose to maintain the autonomy of the Local Board District of Horfield, with all its urban sanitary powers and responsibilities, doing no violence whatever to its existing arrangements and no injustice to its inhabitants. In fact the change, if any, will be little more than a change in name, so far as the ordinary administration of the local public business of the district is concerned. Instead of being called the "Horfield Local Board," the governing body will, under the proposed new arrangement, probably be called the "Horfield Urban District Council," or the "Urban District Council of Horfield." It may be that some change will be made in the method of electing the members of the governing body and, possibly, in the mode of qualification of the electors and the purposes of property; but these are matters of detail which are not at present before us. I am sure that a strong effort is being made by the Bristol people for the unification of the parliamentary and municipal area of the borough of Bristol to persuade the inhabitants of Horfield that if they desire it their district is not joined to Bristol it will, at any rate, lose its Government, and become an insignificant part of a large area, governed from the Council House or some other central point, with merely the right of sending one or more representative to this County Council. Such a proposal is the very opinion which I most strongly object to. According to your "text," the bill proposes that "urban districts shall be divided into county districts consisting of urban districts and parts of districts every existing urban sanitary district forming a separate district, and every rural sanitary district a rural district." The Horfield Local Board district is clearly a district of the former description (every existing urban sanitary district), and is also an existing parliamentary division (portion), of the new proposed urban county of Bristol. The Local Board district will become an "urban district," which, under the proposed scheme, will be governed by a District Council, consisting of a chairman and councillors elected by the inhabitants and incorporated. There is provided by the bill that the District Council "shall have transferred to them the powers, duties, &c.," of the existing local boards, together with certain other powers therein particularised, so that in the matter of jurisdiction and authority the new body will be entrusted instead of being taken away. The Horfield Local Board district will remain as it is, and will not be divided into county districts, or have its powers curtailed in any way. It will be free to send one or more representatives to the County Council, and will be for the transaction of business hitherto done by the Local Board at quarter sessions, and for the exercise of powers and duties now vested in the Board of Trade and the Local Government Board in London, and not for the purpose of giving any new powers to the Local Board. There has rest from time to time a great deal of what has appeared in your columns and in those of your contemporaries upon the general question involved in the scheme, and I am bound to say that, in my opinion, the suggested new scheme, which would result from uniting the municipal area of Bristol co-extensive with its parliamentary area, is unsupported, and are theoretical than practical. So far as Horfield and others are concerned, I have never yet met with any serious difference of opinion with regard to the manner in which it has been governed by the same sanitary authority as Bristol. No friction has ever existed between the two authorities, nor, as far as I am aware, has Horfield's authority ever found itself hampered by existence of the other. I am convinced that as the result of a good deal of observation, and of real effort, Horfield would not be governed more nearly so economically by the Bristol Authority as they are now by its local board, whose officials are well looked after, and are content with very moderate salaries. I am sure, too, that in preparing their scheme the Commissioners have recognised the useful position of the existing local boards, and the fact that many are very different now with regard to the districts just outside the city to what they were when early sanitary efforts were extended 50 years ago. There can be no Public Health Act in existence, no local government districts, no powers of enforcing sanitary improvements in the suburbs of Bristol, and I may add, considered that, with increasing population, they were becoming a menace to the health of the town into the city brought under civic control. But the condition of things has been altered greatly since then. From time to time, as necessity has arisen, local boards have been established, who have, in the main, dealt with and still deal with, in a satisfactory way the matters entrusted to their management (to the credit of which many years' experience of the Horfield by a now deceased member of the City Council), with much ability and discretion." This being so, I fail to see why any change in the existing arrangements should be interfered with, unless it could be shown that the existing authorities are not doing their duty; (2) that a centralised authority would be a more economical one; (3) that local boards are obsolete in the present state of things; (4) that real benefit would result to the whole of the consolidated area without injustice being done to any portion of it. Of these preliminaries, I submit, have not been shown. I admit that in one or two particulars the Bristol system has an addition to the sanitary appliances of the local boards, but these are not of such a character as to justify, by the present authorities, who are fully competent to deal with them, without further powers beyond such as they now possess, the rather revolutionary change which seeks invis provided for themselves the necessary area of combination by their own efforts. I should not be sorry myself to meet the views and wishes of those who would prefer them in the theoretical idea of "grand, united Bristol."

That the existing authorities have not neglected sanitary requirements is well evidenced by the records of their death rate, and if they have not adopted all the expensive methods and appliances used in larger and more pretentious bodies it has because they have not been required by the residents have been mostly of that section of the public to whom Alderman Naish referred when he said the Assistant Commissioner that "some people were content to travel third class in order that they might ride in a chaise."

The inhabitants in the municipal borough of that part of it lying without, though within the parliamentary area of Bristol, is not at present in any urban sanitary district, seems to me a step in the right direction, because they will have the powers exercised by the majority of the three local government districts of Horfield, Clifton, and St. George were at the time of the last census the primary ground for resisting their inclusion in the municipal borough of Bristol. It goes, though I think that, possibly, even then, the area was not so much to be dealt with as inclusion would be much too large for efficient and economical working of the municipal authority. And I believe it would result in a large increase of the rates, and of the present citizens as well as to the inhabitants of the suburbs, and, in the latter, as soon as they became citizens of Bristol and paid its city rates would certainly not be content with their present "third-class" accommodation, but would justly require the first-class accommodation which is supposed to be enjoyed by the inhabitants of the present municipal area. Instead of lightening the rates of the existing citizens by their pro rata proportion, would bring a heavy additional burden upon them. The present Bristol Council could not sustain the extent of roads in St. George's parish and Clifton, and, in the matter of paving, would be forced into anything like the state of repair in which the Horfield roads are kept by the Local Board.

With regard to the poor-law part of the scheme, I am not inclined to think that the proposed change so far as Horfield is concerned, would be found to be undesirable, but after reading in your paper of May the scheme framed by the Guardians of the St. George's Local Board yesterday, I see but little to find fault in. The Local Government Board will probably have to be fairly balanced by the existing Boards of Guardians.

The opinions here expressed are, of course, merely my own individual ideas as a ratepayer, both in Horfield and Bristol, and I am not aware that I am representing the views of the Horfield Local Board. Nothing from the latter which appears in your paper to-day, at any rate, in the case of the present Board, to hold somewhat opposite views to mine. What I have written is based upon the legal advice of the Board, before the Assistant Commissioner, on the matters of the scheme, as regards, or may be decided by how it shall then represented.

Yours obediently,
W. M. D. WATTS.

Nicholas Street, Bristol, 5th April, 1888.

SIR,—I have for 23 years sat at the Barton Regis Union as guardian of the poor for the parish of Stapleton, and during that period I have for 15 years been either chairman or vice-chairman of the board. It is, therefore, unnecessary for me to say that I have formed an opinion with regard to the working of the union and, moreover, feel somewhat sensitively any change which might work to its detriment. The alteration which is foreshadowed in the County Boundary Scheme is, if so as I can gather, is that the parishes of Clifton, Westbury (the in lying portion), the united districts of St. James and St. Paul, or, as we term it, "the District," and the in-lying portion of St. Philip's are to be removed from the Barton Regis Union and added to the district of Bristol, to be governed under the administration of the guardians of the poor of Bristol. This does not seem to me to be an equitable arrangement, neither can I look upon the removed parishes as of a corresponding character. The poor, whose maintenance and relief will be taken off our shoulders, will not absorb the money produced by the rates in question. There is at the present time, and there will certainly continue in the immediate future, a strong residue of the pauper and confirmed element of the city of Bristol to be immediately surrounding districts—namely, Stapleton and St. George—and to leave the Barton Regis Union without some of these, whilst removing the money-producing parishes, seems to me a great hardship, and one, moreover, which must of necessity weigh upon the agricultural districts which form so considerable an element in our union. Should Winterbourne, which at present a part of Barton Regis, is not self-supporting, and of the five parishes which it is proposed to add, four possess a relief list far in excess of the value of the assessments. Of the immediate neighbourhood of Bristol—that is, of Stapleton and St. George—I have no hesitation in saying as regards the number of poor, but it must also be borne in mind that there exists as much in the city renders them of so urban character, and their value is just now unfairly burdened for sanitary improvements. Such extra burdens as education, their only objection being to having the costs more equitably distributed, and the increased taxation will, moreover, probably increase the inducement to those who will be compelled to seek assistance from the guardians of the poor. Such hardships as these are, I think, the natural districts, and these certainly will not be inclined to fix objections for mutual or practical education in the secondary school at the Bristol Grammar School, seconded. Mr Blenkinsopp (Leeds) supported the original proposal. Mr Fitch (Leeds) moved as a part with Mr Bell's amendment. Mr Percy (East London) had similar views to Mr Bishop, and moved another amendment, which he withdrew in favour of that of Mr Bell. Mr Hobhouse also supported the latter. His amendment ran as follows:—"That in the opinion of this conference the curriculum in the elementary schools should provide for practical and useful knowledge, and lead up to, and form the basis of, technical instruction." Mr Clutterbuck seconded. Upon this Mr Bezza withdrew his amendment, and the original resolution was also withdrawn. Mr Fitch's amendment was then put as a substantive resolution, and was carried.

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APPLIED ART AT THE MERCHANT VENTURERS' SCHOOL.

An interesting collection of the works of students in the Art Department of the Merchant Venturers' School, Unity Street, was on view at that institution yesterday, prior to their removal to the Royal Society of Artists' Exhibition, for competition. The exhibition was specially important, from the fact that it furnishes another proof not only of the interest which is being taken in the study of the efficient superintendence of the art master, Mr John Weber, but also of the practical utility of the branch of what has been appropriately termed "applied art." The object of the department in view is explained, by implication, to be to train students for employment in the higher branches of manufactures and industries. In this respect there is evidently much room for usefulness. As on the occasion of the last exhibition, there is a large number of designs for wall papers, drawing, of exceptional merit. These might obviously be utilised with material advantage to the student and manufacturer alike. The same remark applies to the evident local talent in this direction has not yet received the encouragement it undoubtedly deserves. At the time, however, this support may, it may be anticipated, be forthcoming, as the interest which is being taken in the movement has been in operation. There are between sixty and seventy students, about the same number as last year, in the department, and the evidence of a considerable development. Among Mr Fisher's pupils are the Misses Bolton and Mr. Wm. B. Crack, schoolmaster of the Ashton Gate School, who contributes a number of designs which are highly creditable for manual or practical education in the secondary school at the Bristol Grammar School, seconded. Mr Blenkinsopp (Leeds) supported the original proposal. Mr Fitch (Leeds) moved as a part with Mr Bell's amendment. Mr Percy (East London) had similar views to Mr Bishop, and moved another amendment, which he withdrew in favour of that of Mr Bell. Mr Hobhouse also supported the latter. His amendment ran as follows:—"That in the opinion of this conference the curriculum in the elementary schools should provide for practical and useful knowledge, and lead up to, and form the basis of, technical instruction." Mr Clutterbuck seconded. Upon this Mr Bezza withdrew his amendment, and the original resolution was also withdrawn. Mr Fitch's amendment was then put as a substantive resolution, and was carried.

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If you wake in the morning with a bitter taste in the mouth, coated tongue, sick headache, or feverish, you may depend on it Carter's Little Liver Pills. Of all Chemists, is 1d. Small dose.

FAY'S PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA, a necessity for the Invalid and a luxury for the Epicure, is prepared with the purest and most delicate, made instantly with boiling water, and forms a delicious beverage. Sold in tins only, by grocers, &c. Ask for and insist upon getting FAY'S PURE COCOA for a genuine sample of the most delicious cup of cocoa ever tasted.

NO ANNOYANCE AND EXPENSE BEING.—All who are about to marry would do well to write for Mr. Rimmel's Book of Beauty, which will be sent free.

VARIABLE DISCOUNT FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white, or falling, or if you require anything in connection with it, it will positively restore in every case Grey or White Hair to its original colour without injury, and thereby completely do away with "Baldness." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on the head where the follicles are not decayed. Price 3s 6d.—Par-au-Oil to make the hair grow, 3s 6d. Sold by all Chemists. Wholesale Depot, 24, Farringdon Road, London.

FLORILINE.—FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.—A few drops of the liquid Floriline sprinkled on a wet tooth-brush produces a pleasant lather, which thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasitic growths, and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath. Sold by all Chemists, price 2s 6d. Floriline is a specially delightful and refreshing Fragrant Floriline being composed to part of honey and sweet herbs, is delicious to the taste, and is the greatest toilet discovery of the age. Price 2s 6d. of all Chemists and Perfumers. Wholesale Depot, 24, Farringdon Road, London.

NATIONAL UNION OF ELEMENTARY TEACHERS.

THE CHELTENHAM CONFERENCE.

The sixth and last session of the annual conference of the National Union of Elementary Teachers was held yesterday at Cheltenham. The president (Mr. W. J. Stanton) presided.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Mr Masters (Bristol) moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this conference technical education, properly so called, should find no place in elementary schools, the programme of which should provide for the teaching of those subjects which lead up and supply the basis of technical teaching. The conference is further of opinion that, under the existing conditions of education, no time can be made to spare without increasing the over-pressure which now exists." He thought that until a child had learned to handle his pencil, and to acquired some command over the muscles of its hands, so that he could get a line on paper, it would not be a profitable employment to teach it the branches of technical education. There was a great deal of science carving, and designing. Mr Cheare (Finsbury), in seconding, said that it was desirable the public should know that they were not opposed to technical education, their only objection being to having the costs more equitably distributed, and the increased taxation will, moreover, probably increase the inducement to those who will be compelled to seek assistance from the guardians of the poor. Such hardships as these are, I think, the natural districts, and these certainly will not be inclined to fix objections for mutual or practical education in the secondary school at the Bristol Grammar School, seconded. Mr Blenkinsopp (Leeds) supported the original proposal. Mr Fitch (Leeds) moved as a part with Mr Bell's amendment. Mr Percy (East London) had similar views to Mr Bishop, and moved another amendment, which he withdrew in favour of that of Mr Bell. Mr Hobhouse also supported the latter. His amendment ran as follows:—"That in the opinion of this conference the curriculum in the elementary schools should provide for practical and useful knowledge, and lead up to, and form the basis of, technical instruction." Mr Clutterbuck seconded. Upon this Mr Bezza withdrew his amendment, and the original resolution was also withdrawn. Mr Fitch's amendment was then put as a substantive resolution, and was carried.

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CLIFTON COLLEGE ATHLETIC SPORTS

Clifton College athletic sports began yesterday, and will be continued to-day. The contests were watched with interest by the fellow-students of the combatants, and by a few visitors. The starters were—Messrs. C. W. A. Tait, W. Fairbanks, W. H. S. Lazine, H. A. Jeffreys, H. Charles (Hawkins House), W. O. Mobsely and E. N. P. Moor; and stewards—Messrs. C. A. Bell, W. Bush, H. Ryves, H. W. Westhead, F. E. O. Russell-Roberts, and F. G. Cohen. The following was the day's programme:—

Throwing the Cricket Ball, open; prize given by Mr E. M. Baker:—F. Bell, 2nd house, 1; Boyle, 2; Cohen, 3; Wetherell, 97 yards 2 inches.

Flat Race, 100 yards, under 16; prize given by Mr A. M. J. S. Gwyn proposed, and Mr T. G. Eastman seconded:—Dodd, Grace, Third heat:—Hornidge, 2; Dodd, 3; Cooper tertius. Fourth heat:—I. Wetherell, 2; Rose, Final:—I. Boyle; 2, Hornidge, 3; Grace, 4. Won by Boyle; 2 yards.

Flat Race, 120 yards, open; prize given by Mr E. N. P. Moor:—Boyle, 1; Janion, 2; Richmond, 3. Second heat:—I. Norrington, 1; 2, Hitchings. Third heat:—I. Rowe, 2; Cohen. Final:—Boyle will be scratched to-day.

Flat Race, 100 yards; junior school; open; prize given by Mr Bonnet:—I. Pilkington; 2, Parsons.

Flat Race, 440 yards; prize given by the Rev. T. H. Brown:—I. Storr, 5 feet 2½ inches. Hooper one, and Hooper tied for second prize. Community the brothers Hooper tied again, and the senior beat the junior.

Hurdle Race, 120 yards, 10 flights, open; prize given by Mr W. W. Augustin:—First heat:—I. Rouse; 2, Bird-wood. Second heat:—I. Wetherell, 2; Rose. Third heat:—I. Crossley; 2, Field. Final:—I. Rose, 19 2-Secs. Won by 3 yards; 2, Crossley, 3, Wetherell. Time, 19 2-Secs. Won easily. Fourth heat:—I. Lang; 2, Hall. Fifth heat:—I. Hall, 2, Lang. Final:—I. Hall, 2, Lang. Won by 2 yards; 2 yards between second and third.

Hurdle Race, 220 yards, under 16; prize given by Mr J. E. Pearson:—First heat:—I. Boyle; 2, Cohen. Won by 60 secs. Won by 10 yards. Second heat:—I. Lakin; 2, Wetherell. Won by 2 yards. Third heat:—I. Dodd, 2, Bell. Won by 2 yards. Fourth heat:—I. Rose; 2, Grace. Won by 2 yards. Fifth heat:—I. Paston-Brown, 2, Rose. Won by 2 yards; 2 yards between second and third. Sixth heat:—I. Rose; 2, Thomas. Won by 2 yards. Seventh heat:—I. Wetherell, 2, Cohen. Won by 2 yards. Eighth heat:—I. Thomas; 2, Rose. Won by 2 yards; second and third. Final:—I. Rose, 32 2-Secs. Won by 2 yards; 2, Thomas, 3, Wetherell. Time, 34 2-Sec. Won by 2 yards; second and third.

Flat Race, junior school, under 12.—I. Inskip. Time, 14 1-5th secs.

200 yards, handicap, open; prize given by Mr J. G. Grenfell.—There were nearly 400 names sent in for this race, and though nothing like that number started, the competitors were very large preliminary heats. First heat—I. Boyle, 40 yards; 2, Bracher, 25 yards. Won by 2 yards. Second heat—I. Dodd, 27 yards; 2, Dalton, 60 yards. Won by three yards; easy second. Third heat—I. Good, 55 yards; 2, Harvey, 25 yards. Easily won; a slow race. Fourth heat—I. Lewis, 30 yards; 2, Landman, 55 yards. Won by half a yard; no second. Fifth heat—I. Paston-Brown, 25 yards; 2, Pilkington, 37 yards. Sixth heat—I. Rose, 48 yards; 2, Vivian, 37 yards. Won easily; a yard between second and third. Seventh heat—I. Watson, 55 yards; 2, Wilson, no, 30 yards. Won by a yard; easy second. The finals will be contested to-day.

The long Penalty Cup run took place on March 29th, the prize being given by Mr F. Burnside. The result was—1, Kitchin; 2, Exon; 3, Atchley; 4, Joly. The time occupied was 60mins. 30secs.; last year's time was 65mins. 15secs. The short Pumpole cup run, for the prize of Mr H. H. Bell, was won by Lawson; Rose tertis being second. Lawson arrived at the first fourth, but the three in front of him had gone by the wrong route, and were therefore disqualified.

BRISTOL GRAMMAR SCHOOL SPORTS.

The annual athletic sports in connection with the Bristol Grammar School were commenced yesterday afternoon in the School Field, Tyndall's Park, and, favoured with fine weather, attracted a very fair number of spectators. The president (Mr. H. R. Leighton) was president of the sports, and the officials were:—Judges, Rev. T. W. Openshaw and Dr. F. T. B. Bowles; starter, Mr. C. Cash; timekeepers, Messrs. H. A. G. Essery; starters, Rev. V. P. Wyatt and Mr. J. W. Weekes; umpires, Messrs. A. C. Fox, A. W. Just, N. Spencer, C. F. Lumsden, and G. L. Rentherton. The following was the programme to be explained, if needful. It is intended, in the first place, to send a thing for art-study and practice; and secondly, it is thought to be of considerable value to those who engage in the higher branches of manufactures and industries. In this respect there is evidently much room for usefulness. As on the occasion of the last exhibition, there is a large number of designs for wall papers, drawing, of exceptional merit. These might obviously be utilised with material advantage to the student and manufacturer alike. The same remark applies to the evident local talent in this direction has not yet received the encouragement it undoubtedly deserves. At the time, however, this support may, it may be anticipated, be forthcoming, as the interest which is being taken in the movement has been in operation. There are between sixty and seventy students, about the same number as last year, in the department, and the evidence of a considerable development. Among Mr Fisher's pupils are the Misses Bolton and Mr. Wm. B. Crack, schoolmaster of the Ashton Gate School, who contributes a number of designs which are highly creditable for manual or practical exercise of applied art for the secondary school at the Bristol Grammar School, and also gave a practical example of applied art for the secondary school at the Bristol Grammar School, and original designs in carving were shown by Miss Mary A. Wheeler, Miss Lilian James, Miss Jessie Bolton, Miss Ethel Thorne, Miss Margaret Nicholson, Miss Maud Brock, Miss Ethel Rodbard, Miss Mary Jones, Miss Ethelina Pinnet, Miss Edith Hughes, Mr. C. E. Hilton, and Mr. J. Cook. Mr. Weber, the head master, Mr. Herbert Russell, Mr. Preston Davis, Mr. Henry J. Hilton, Mr. Frederick Rolfe, and Mr. Arthur Rolfe, are standing this serious physical drawback, the lad, who has a fourteen years' apprenticeship before him, is said to be much of a tractable disposition, and likely to perform exceptionally good work. The exhibition was opened by Alderman Proctor, and the results are extremely creditable to the art master, Mr John Fisher.

Sufferers.—Rather resembling a New Mantle or Jacket should any Pain, Weakness, or Ache exist. Sold by Chemists, 1s 1½d. Strengthening Plasters.

Relief instantaneous. Sold by Chemists, 1s 1½d. Strengthening Plasters.

Worry Impossible.—Nearly applied in the Ashes-leaves Plasters