

# The Grantham Journal,

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## SUNDAY GAMES IN GRANTHAM PARKS

### TOWN COUNCIL CARRY RESOLUTION BY SOLITARY VOTE

Councillor Mills: "I Think the Lord Himself Would Give It His Blessing"

### MEMBERS OBJECT TO ENCROACHMENT ON THE PEACE AND QUIET OF THE SABBATH

GRANTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, BY A MAJORITY OF ONLY ONE VOTE—11 TO 10—DECIDED TO ALLOW GAMES IN THE PARKS ON SUNDAYS. THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED, PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR G. MILLS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR W. GOODLIFE, WAS "THAT THE FACILITIES GRANTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE PLAYING OF GAMES ON WEEK-DAYS IN WYNDHAM PARK AND DYSART PARK SHOULD BE EXTENDED SO AS TO ALLOW OF THE PLAYING OF SUCH GAMES ON SUNDAYS."

to do both sports than himself. He did think, however, that Councillor Mills should have come more thoroughly into the matter. He thought also that the Parks Committee should have an opportunity of going into it. Because the difficulty problem of space, Councillor Dale pointed out the additional time and work involved in the development of the bowling greens, etc., and under the present circumstances the problem was considerably aggravated by the acute shortage of staff. He estimated that about 90 per cent of the caterers did not want the Parks Centre for Sunday games.

Councillor H. Hopkin declared that conditions were different today, and men were working all hours. They were not forced to make use of the parks on Sunday for games, etc., but if they were opened for such facilities they were available if they cared to make use of them.

Alderman Roberts-Lee said they must go to the Old Book where the Highgate Authority set down their mode of conduct for their journey through this life. He realized there was a lot to be said for the way the mover and seconder of the resolution had put the proposition, but there was very much more to be said in favour of Councillor Campbell's view. He imagined there were many more people who entered

venture to think that during raids on the town clock, we never know from one minute to another when we might be having them again, not one of us failed to ask God to protect us yet none of us are prepared to read God's word and break the Sabbath. I shall take my stand by the side of Councillor Campbell.

Councillor A. Roberts reminded the Council that he was the one who made the motion, and he was very gratified when the Council followed the lead he tried to give and rejected the proposal. When he proposed the Sunday opening of cinemas, it was challenged at the time as to the question of consistency, but later could be assured that any speech or remarks he made he had considered from every point of view. There was a vast difference between the two things. When the cinemas were opened on a Sunday, a lot of critics declared that the proprietors would be glad of the opportunity of making more money on a Sunday, but he (Councillor Roberts) stated then that the proprietors themselves were definitely opposed to Sunday opening, and he was glad that point had been made quite clear by Councillor Campbell from the proprietor's standpoint. Conditions, it was true, were altered,

### DEATH OF CAPTAIN BENNETT BROWN

Young Officer With A Distinguished Career

### FIGURED IN FRONT LINE FIGHTING

Was reached Grantham, on Wednesday, of the death on military duty of a member of a well-known local family, Captain Walter Bennett Brown, aged 22 years, of the North Staffordshire Regiment, only child of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Brown, 62, Harrowood, and grandson of Mr. J. O. Bennett, former editor of the "Grantham Journal".

Captain Brown was married only last July to Miss Mary Dunkley



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**in TILL WE MEET AGAIN**  
 Also  
**GAMBLING ON THE HIGH SEAS**  
 with WAYNE MORRIS  
 CONTINUOUS FROM 2.15 DOORS OPEN 2.15  
**MONDAY, MAY 11th - for 3 D**

Councillor A. Roberts reminded the Council that he was the one who, when the matter came before them last time, mostly strongly opposed it, and he was very gratified when the Council followed the lead he tried to give and rejected the proposal. When he proposed the Sunday opening of cinemas, he was challenged at the time as to the question of inconsistency, but they could be assured that any speech or remarks he made he had considered from every point of view. There was a vast difference between the two things. When the cinemas were opened on a Sunday, a lot of critics declared that the proprietors would be glad of the opportunity of making more money on a Sunday, but he (Councillor Roberts) stated then that the proprietors themselves were definitely opposed to Sunday opening, and he was glad that point had been made quite clear by Councillor Campbell from the proprietor's standpoint. Conditions, it was true, were altered, but not merely for munition workers but for everybody.

"I am speaking here quite boldly and frankly when I say that I work as many hours and as hard as any munition worker," declared Councillor Roberts. "I have to work every Sunday, and I have only had two days off from business since August, 1939." He pointed out that most munition workers had a tremendous lot more time off since August, 1939 than he had.

"I agree" he said, "I would rather see people playing bowls in Grant-ham parks than see thousands of cars tearing along the road to Skegness on Sundays, but I would rather see neither happening. We are eating into our English Sunday as fast as we can."

Pointing out the decadent effect upon nations which had given up Sabbath observance and Christian worship, Councillor Roberts cited such countries as France, corrupt, he said, from top to bottom, and Germany, a country which excelled in its facilities for games and exercise. Yet what did that do? It did not give them a different mental or spiritual outlook. There was only one thing which did, and that was the Gospel, for which the Sabbath stood. There were a tremendous lot of people in Grant-ham who looked forward in the summertime to a few hours of quiet and rest in the public parks—perhaps the one bright spot in the week—and if the Council opened

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them for games and that kind of thing they were robbing such people of those restful facilities. They might say "What about Sunday cinemas?" That was quite a different thing. People who went to the cinemas were not an offence to the people who did not go. Cinema patrons went inside for their enjoyment. They were not interfering with other type of enjoyment of people outside the cinema, and that was the difference. If the Council did grant Sunday games, etc. in the parks for those people who wanted them—and they might be quite wrong in their assessment of the people who did, they could not tell how many workers wanted them—it would be done at the expense of the other people.

It was declared Councillor Roberts, the most sensible and most Christian thing ever done to set aside one day apart from the general routine of life, and that was what he hoped they were going to preserve. Remarking that although he had the greatest possible objection to the resolution, Councillor Roberts declared there was only one possible condition on which he might agree and that was that it should be for the period of the war and thereafter it should be subject to confirmation or review year by year. But he was not sure he was going to support it even if they agreed to that amendment. "I am thinking of other people whose rights you are taking away" he said. Without trying to make the people who attended church appear to be better than those who did not, which would be a ridiculous thing to do—he realised they could not compel people to go to church, for there was no such thing as compulsory Christianity—there was such a thing as drifting into a life which was absolutely and totally devoid of any spiritual inspiration. "And that is the way we are going" added Councillor Roberts.