

Besson's Brass Band Budget

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AND Military Metronome.

No. 34.

OCTOBER, 1909 (Published Quarterly).

One Penny.



BESSON & Co., Ltd.,

"Prototype" Musical Instrument Makers
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Open Notes.

WE have now completed the issue of Kneller Hall Souvenirs and have still a number available for distribution. The three sheets make a handsome picture, and form a record of the distinguished men who have been associated with the Institution since its formation. We shall be pleased to send the three sheets to anyone, on application accompanied by twopence to cover postage.

It is very gratifying to find Bands showing gratitude for public support accorded them by rendering, in return, assistance to other institutions which labour for the good of their community. We are glad to note that charity seldom calls in vain, so far as our Brass Bands are concerned. These remarks are suggested by a newspaper report which announces that the Stoneywood Works Band gave a Sacred Concert, under the leadership of Bandmaster W. D. Mitchell, on Sunday, September 19th, in aid of the District Nursing Association. They performed an admirable programme to a large and appreciative audience. It is in this way that Bands secure and retain the support and interest of their fellow townsmen. The Stoneywood Band appealed for and obtained the funds necessary to purchase a Besson set only a short time ago, and they are now fulfilling their promise to the contributors to repay with good music the generosity which enabled them to be equipped with the latest up-to-date instruments.

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CONTESTING is slowly, but surely, gaining a firm footing in the Western Shires, and it augurs well for the future of Southern and Western Bands that they are able to attract the general public in vast numbers to Band Contests. We notice a revival of contesting in Cornwall lately, and that several Bands seem keen on improvement. It is also good to see that old-time contestors are again coming to the front. The Camborne Town Band, we observe, is again in the field and recently won 1st Prize and Medals at St. Austell. Camborne are very old customers of ours and they have almost a Besson set, we believe. They were keen and successful

in contesting many years ago and we are glad to see the old spirit still survives. Camborne could do the movement much service, and at the same time replenish the Band fund, by organising a contest in Camborne next year. Try one, Mr. Rosevear.

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THE Pottery Towns will soon have a notable addition to their instrumental talent, Mr. Harry Bryan, the famous Cornet player, being about to settle in the musical town of Hanley as mine host of the Borough Hotel. We trust the bandsmen of Hanley will utilise Mr. Bryan's abilities. He is a beautiful performer, and has held the most important engagements in London. He was last winter Solo Cornet of the A.M.U. Military Band of 100 performers at the Coliseum Concerts, is Solo Cornet to Herr Gottlieb's Band at the various State functions in the Royal Palaces, has "starred" at the Queen's Hall Promenade Concerts, and filled many engagements with leading London Orchestras. Our desire is to drag Mr. Bryan back into the Brass Band movement—he is Yorkshire born, and that suffices to indicate that he is no stranger to the Brass Band movement. We hope it will soon compel his attention and enrol him in its ranks again.

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A CHATTY letter from our friend Mr. Frank Oates, of Wellington, N.Z., and some concert programmes he encloses disclose the fact that he is still busy with musical work. But why, why, Mr. Oates have you deserted the Brass Band fraternity for the milder delights of a String Orchestra? Still, we are pleased to hear he is highly successful, conducting an orchestra 38 strong, and capable of rendering high-class programmes.

A good idea—one we note in a Band paper, and the origin of which is credited to the Reading Mechanics' Band. It is a "handicap" competition for the Band members. Many Bands improve themselves greatly by running a series of competitions among their members during the winter months. The trouble is to draw in and interest the least capable players, who cannot always be induced to compete against their more advanced fellow members. Now we can see this difficulty overcome. The least advanced players are given points—sealed, we presume—to be added to the points awarded them by the judge, and thus they stand a chance of securing the stimulus of a prize. Of course, as they progress they will receive fewer and fewer handicap points, and ultimately may reach the happy position of giving instead of receiving. It is a distinctly good idea—viewed from the broad point that the object of these competitions is entirely the advancement of the Band as a whole.

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BIRMINGHAM CITY PRIZE BAND at Tamworth Contest secured two Firsts and all Specials with their Besson Set. Birmingham City gave a very fine performance and will doubtless be encouraged by their success to aim at even higher distinctions. Why is there no Birmingham representative at Belle Vue. Our Northfield friends seem resting, so why should not Birmingham City Band do battle for the honour of their City on that historic ground. We commend the suggestion to the Tamworth winners.

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ANNUAL OUTING of the Besson Employées. On Saturday, the 26th of June, the Foremen and the Workmen of Besson & Co's. Factories made an Excursion to Hastings—leaving London at 6.30 a.m., and returning at 11 p.m. The arrangements were made in an admirable and business-like manner by the Committee and Secretary, Mr. Bourne, and thanks to the foresight and method displayed by these gentlemen, and especially by Mr. Bourne, a most enjoyable day was spent and everything went off without a hitch. The party were photographed, fed, and personally conducted in brakes around lovely Hastings with occasional pauses for discussion. The dinner at "Ye Old Jenny Hind" Hotel was excellent. Mr. Harry Perry presided, and "The King," "The Firm," "Employées," and "Absent Shopmates" comprised the Toast List. The speeches were brief and were none the less appreciated on that account.

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We hear that the Band of the 18th Mounted Rifles, Winnipeg, which we equipped with Besson instruments, including "Enharmonic" Basses and Euphonion, were recently awarded 1st Prize at a contest they took part in, the judge specially noting their superior tone and tune. We congratulate the 18th on its success, and we hope it is but the forerunner of many like honours.

The

New Besson Catalogue.

"A THING of Beauty and a joy for ever" is a quotation which aptly describes our new Catalogue, but even that conveys only the least important features of the handsome book we have just issued. It is a valuable and informing book as well; containing, as it does, full and complete information concerning the products of our house, it is a book which should be in every Band Library for reference. It contains a clear description of the "Enharmonic" Valve System and an exposition of its advantages, together with illustrations of the various instruments which have been immensely improved by this system. This is an improvement which invites and will bear close investigation; no progressive Bandmaster or Bandsman should fail to put our clear claims to a test. The work also contains illustrations and particulars concerning all the Reed and Percussion instruments in general use, everything illustrated so clearly that a prospective buyer can actually examine any instrument in detail. The book is too costly and valuable to be scattered indiscriminately, but we will gladly forward one gratis and post free to anyone who applies for it. We hope every Band Secretary will see to it that his Band has this book before them, and will give every member an opportunity to examine its contents. It is a compendium of all that is latest and best in matters interesting to bandsmen.

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Besses' Colonial Tour.

SOUTH Africans, Australians, and New Zealanders are in for a musical treat from the fine Band which, under the famous name of Besses o' th' Barn Band, and with Mr. Alex. Owen at their head, is about to sail on another concerting tour around the world.

The Band has already been heard in Australia and New Zealand, and we need not urge those who heard them once to hear them again. They are sure to do so. There are also many in South Africa who know Besses of old, and to these also Besses need no commendation. But there be any of our readers in those parts of Britain over the seas who need the advice, we say to them "Hear Besses, and you will be more than delighted."

Australian and New Zealand admirers will miss many players who delighted them when Besses first visited those countries. But the new members are all first-class men—famous men on their respective instruments from leading British contesting Bands. Mr. Ryder (Cornet), Mr. Byers (Horn), late of Crosfield's, Mr. Adamson (Flugel), Mr. Garlick (Horn), and Mr. Weedall (Trombone), late of the Wingate's Temperance, Mr. Kerry

(Euphonion), who has been eminently successful as Besses Solo Euphonion since their return from Australia, and Mr. Calverley (Euphonion), late of Irwell Springs, are some of the principals who will be new to Antipodean audiences. All these are splendid players, and were shining lights in their respective Bands. Mr. Chris. Smith, the deputy conductor, is also a first-class musician who had attained considerable success as a professional Band teacher before he took up the position of Conductor with Besses.

With such material and such a Conductor as Mr. Owen, the Band is sure to delight all who have the good fortune to hear them, and incidentally the art of instrumental playing will be perfected owing to the examples set before Colonial Bands by such a first-class combination.

We hear that, again, the Band tours under contract to play a certain make of instruments, and much as we should like our readers abroad to hear the Band under conditions which permitted every member to play upon the make he preferred as giving himself the greatest satisfaction and his art the best results, we do not cavil at this arrangement. Presumably, the Band receives adequate remuneration, and the advertisers consider the investment profitable. Both points are none of our business—we are only concerned to mention that in this respect the Band does not represent the instrumentation of those famous Bands at home who bear their own expense of equipment, and therefore exercise a free choice. Even Besses, under those circumstances, played a Besson set throughout the period during which they rose from obscurity to fame.

Our last sale to Besses was on the morning of the memorable day when they appeared by Royal Command at Windsor Castle, and they paid us—as for all other instruments supplied by us—the same price as even the humblest Band pays for a Besson instrument.

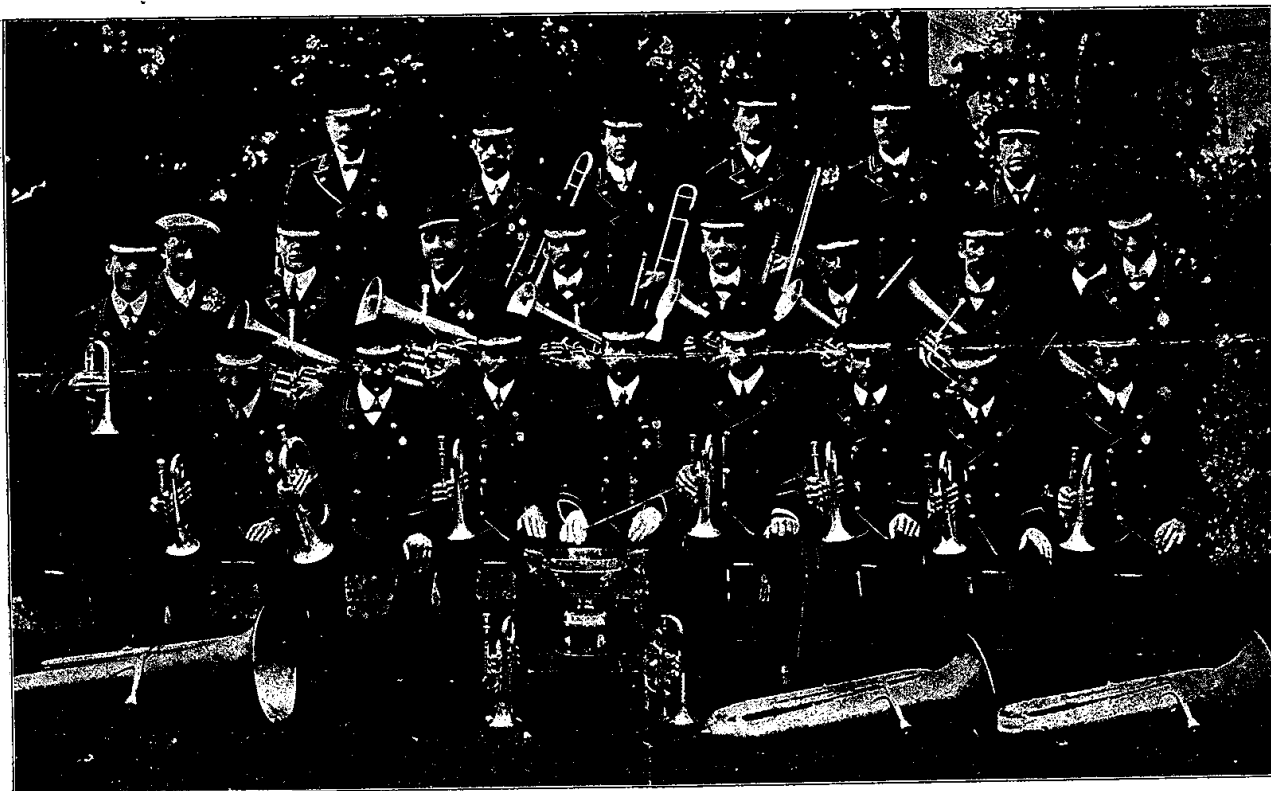
Having, in self-defence, made this point clear, we again urge all who can possibly get to hear Besses not to miss the opportunity, or they will long regret their loss, and to Mr. Owen and the Band we wish a pleasant and profitable tour, and a safe return of every member to old England.

"The two 'Aristo' Lamps we had from you six years ago have given every satisfaction and are still in working order. Please send me another, for which I enclose P.O."

BRITISH COLUMBIA. Wanted, good reed and brass players, particularly Clarionets and Cornets. Fine opening for young men of worth and character. Apply, B. C., c/o BESSON & Co., LTD., 196-198, Euston Road, London.

FOR SALE.—Cheap, Second-hand a set of 20 Military Lamps (Candle) in good condition. For particulars and price apply—BESSON & Co., LTD., 196-198, Euston Road, London.

XYLOPHONE, Second-hand, complete in Box, cost £2 10s. A Bargain, 35s. BESSON & Co., LTD., 196-198, Euston Road, London.



FODEN'S MOTOR WAGON WORKS BAND, SANDBACH.

Bandmaster Mr. E. WORMALD.
 Professional Conductor Mr. W. RIMMER.

Winners of the Belle Vue Championship Cup, and the Crystal Palace "Daily Telegraph" Cup, 1909.

WE are called upon to accord an unique tribute to the brilliant Band which has added lustre to the contesting season of 1909. Never before, we think, except perhaps in the case of the once famous Leeds Forge Band, has a combination risen so quickly to a front place among the best Bands of the Kingdom. And we may add that in no case has so famous a combination consisted of such remarkably young men.

As in the case of Leeds Forge, the position attained by this Band is due to the generous and enthusiastic support of one of our great manufacturers, a gentleman who, whilst possessing remarkable business ability and engaged in the organisation of a large manufacturing concern, is an ardent music lover and an active and munificent patron to the Band.

We refer to Mr. Foden, the founder of the firm of Foden's Ltd., Sandbach, whose motor waggons are known all over the world.

We made Mr. Foden's acquaintance in the Coronation year, when his generosity prompted him to provide the village Band with a Plated Besson set, Class A. We little thought then that he was establishing a Band which would create a record in the annals of Band contesting. The Band prospered, and Mr. Foden's interest and support knew no bounds. Last year the Band contested; it would now mean to survey

the field and gauge the strength of the front rankers. Last autumn a move was made with the openly avowed object of attaining supremacy among British Bands. There has been no luck or mere fluking about the rise of Foden's Band. It has been established most intelligently and thoroughly for the attainment of a specific end.

The Band has been organised and perfected with the same skill and care as the works with which they are connected. When the personnel of the Band—a first-class Bandmaster and equally first-class performers—left nothing more to be desired, Mr. W. Rimmer was engaged as professional Conductor. Their appearance in the contests of this year was awaited with much interest and considerable speculation. Whatever expectations were formed, we think they have been far exceeded, for few could have imagined that any Band could win the Belle Vue Championship in its first year of serious contesting. This is what this splendid combination has accomplished, and accomplished in such a brilliant and decisive manner as to leave no room for cavil.

The Band has attended all the leading English Contests of this year and scored at each one, the climax being reached when they captured at their first attempt the Belle Vue Championship on September 6th. We have referred to the youthfulness—in years—of this Band. Young as they are—the

Solo Cornet and the Solo Euphonion are both mere youths of 19—each one is a brilliant performer on his instrument, and it would be hard to find a better man for any place in the Band. With such talent and youth in the ranks, with a Bandmaster of the ability and experience of Mr. Wormald, a Conductor who is such an ornament to the profession, and such munificent patrons as Messrs. Foden, we look to this Band continuing to make musical history and to hold their own against the greatest of our Bands. On the other hand, we feel sure that their Lancashire and Yorkshire rivals will leave no stone unturned to wrest the Belle Vue Cup from the Cheshire Champions. Varying a famous phrase, we may say that "eternal vigilance is the price of pre-eminence" on the Contest field, but if Foden's Band bear this in mind we feel sure that their honours will not be easily despoiled.

To have attained the 2nd place for the Championship Contest at the Crystal Palace is a splendid confirmation of the high standard of efficiency attained by the Band.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY!—Beautifully finished, fine tone and perfectly tuned Clarionets, Eb, C, Bb, or A. 13 Keys, £2 7s. 6d. nett. 14 Keys (extra C sharp), £2 15s. nett. Although the prices of the Clarionets described above are so low, don't let this fact prejudice the instruments in your estimation. We are prepared to send the instrument for three days' trial at our own expense and risk to any *bona fide* Band, so that its value may be tested before actually ordering.

The Contests of 1909.

THE contesting season of 1909 is over in England, and it will be long remembered for the advent into the front rank—in a brilliant and surprising manner—of the Band of Foden's Motor Wagon Works. That it is composed of specially selected material is true, but even the most brilliant aggregation of individuals do not immediately become a first-class Band. Time is required to mould the individual characteristics, so that they may become a homogeneous whole, and that Mr. Rimmer has succeeded in doing this in so short a space of time is a high tribute to his skill and to the adaptiveness of the players.

We are glad to see another great Band added to those due to the generosity of large employers of labour. Even though less fortunate Bands may feel themselves at a disadvantage in competing with these, we are sure no contestor whose heart is in the right place but will wish a long continuance of the patronage they enjoy, and an increase in the number of these music-loving employers.

The well-established conductors have all met with a share of success, and the same may be said of the better known bands. Occasionally, both Conductors and Bands go down in a manner disconcerting to the ordinary listener, but they come up smiling after a bit, probably soothed by the reflection that this is an experience no one escapes in the long run. There is more credit gained and courage displayed in returning to the fight after an unexpected rebuff, than in continuing a long unbroken series of victories. It is the rebuff which a Band deems undeserved that brings their moral courage to the test. And, fortunately for contesting, the Bands are rarely found wanting in the eminently British characteristic of displaying real grit in adverse circumstances.

The principal Bands of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and we must now add Cheshire, are constantly before the eye of bandmen, but it is important—with a view to the rearing of future "crack" Bands—that there are others doing good work. All over the country we find rising Bands, and any Band which is rising, however humble its present position, has before it possibilities no one can foresee. It is not very ancient history to go back to the early struggles of several of the best Bands of to-day. We are glad to see a revival of the Quadrille Contests, for we think that this type of Contest, which seem confined almost wholly to Lancashire, has done immense service in teaching Bands some of the essential technique of Band playing, and in preparing them for higher tasks. We have seen fine Bands and fine Conductors emerge from that stage in Banding, and we have heard good musicians assert that the brilliancy, buoyancy and clever technique, typical of the best Lancashire Bands, have

been largely due to the early training received by their players in these Quadrille Contests.

However that may be, it is certain that many Bands have greatly improved through their patronage of these Contests during the last few years.

We are also glad to see that there is no likelihood of a dearth of good teachers for the future. The field continues to enlarge. For that reason, we shall need more teachers than ever, and, besides, teachers are not immortal. We could wish that some of them were, but, to them, like the rest of us, there comes a time when they are compelled to be more sparing of their energies, and sometimes they are removed from the scene prematurely, from the human point of view. It is well to feel that there is so much rising talent.

A superlatively good player is often times handicapped in his teaching career by the very fact that he looms so large as a player. It becomes a hard job for him to tear himself away from the many who seek his services as a performer, and it also takes a long time for Bands to see the teacher through the performer.

There are innumerable instances of this. Take Mr. W. Pollard, of Goodshaw. There is not a brass bandsman in the Kingdom who does not know him as a performer. But how many ever gave a thought to the work he has done at Goodshaw as a Bandmaster, quite apart from his playing? How many noticed that he recently appeared with five Bands at a Contest and captured four prizes?

Same with Mr. H. Scott. He is so superb as a performer, that he has remained far too long in that rôle, and should—and would long ago were he less gifted as a player—be teaching seven days a week. We hope to see men of great capacity like these—and there are many of them—devote themselves more to teaching, and it is a wise Band which keeps its eyes open and secures the advantage of linking itself with the fortunes of a rising star. When he is risen, he will never forget the means by which he rose. There is still much sentiment in life, thank goodness, and the life-long connections between Bands and teachers give ample evidence of it.

We wish well to each and every contesting Band. If they are not Besson players, we are still glad to see their efforts deserve reward. No one can say we ever gloried in the downfall of a non-Besson Band. We have been there, and have that fellow-feeling which compels sympathy with the failure of honest endeavour. Still, we frankly avow that we are specially pleased with the successes of Bands playing Besson instruments. We naturally feel that we have had some little hand in their success. Even a "Dreadnought" does not, in itself, rule the seas. But if ever the day comes when we shall render thanks to our gallant Tars for a glorious victory against an invading foe, we should certainly not forget that the designers

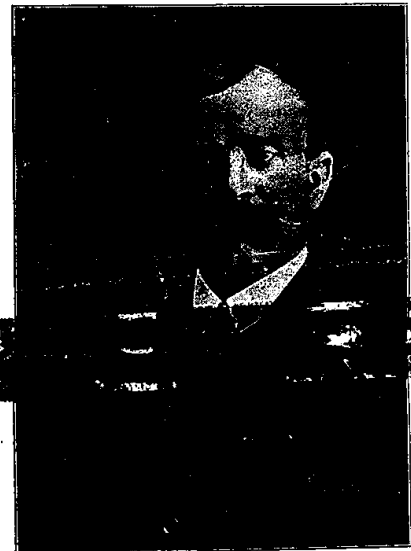
and constructors of our wonderful guardian ships are sharers in the glory.

The success of Besson equipped Bands has continued unabated during 1909. Reverting to the Fleet simile we may emphasise the point that there can be no standing still in life. A Fleet, a Band, a Manufacturer—all must progress or fall back relatively. Ours is a 70 years' history of strenuous efforts and unequalled success in the path of progress. Our perfection of Valve instruments—concentrated in the "Enharmonic" Valve instruments—leaves us absolute masters of the field, wherever choice is influenced by competition. There are very few high-class contesting Bands which are not either very largely, or wholly, users of Besson instruments, and, so far as honour may be shared by the makers of their instruments, we are honoured by the contest results of 1909. Space forbids anything like a complete list, but we may cite a few of the great Prize Bands of 1909 who are wholly, or mostly, equipped by us. We do not include any Band which merely plays a Besson instrument because it was won at a Contest—these are Bands which have bought Besson instruments, Bands which buy them because they are best and because they are worth the highest price commanded by any instruments in the world. We may add that there are plenty of cheaper makes which show a greater profit to the maker: we have gained our world-wide pre-eminence by sparing no expense in constructing our instruments as perfect as we know how, both musically and mechanically.

Well, here are a few of the Prize Bands of 1909 which we have equipped as described, and a few of their notable successes. We have space only to record a few 1st Prizes:—

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Stalybridge ... | ... 1st Pendleton Public |
| Westhoughton ... | ... 1st Stackstead's |
| Ilkley ... | ... 1st Gawthorpe |
| Millgate ... | ... 1st Water |
| Mountain Ash ... | ... *1st Perfection Soap Works |
| Mountain Ash ... | ... 1st Blaina |
| Rugby ... | ... 1st Kettering Rifles |
| Abergavenny... | ... *1st Perfection Soap Works |
| Brierfield ... | ... *1st Irwell Bank |
| Elsecar ... | ... 1st Brighouse and Rastrick |
| Gawthorpe ... | ... 1st Lee Mount |
| Ravenhead ... | ... 1st Penketh Tannery |
| Coppull ... | ... 1st Stacksteads |
| Coppull ... | ... 1st Horwich Old |
| Abbey Lakes ... | ... 1st Horwich Old |
| Guisboro' ... | ... 1st Guisboro' Priory |
| Felling ... | ... 1st St. Hilda |
| Blackrod ... | ... 1st Horwich Old |
| Radcliffe ... | ... 1st Horwich Old |
| Kilsyth ... | ... 1st Kilsyth Town |
| Darwen ... | ... *1st Perfection Soap Works |
| Birtley ... | ... 1st South Moor |
| Chasetown ... | ... 1st Willenhall Tem. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Earby *1st Irwell Bank | Pwllheli 1st Llanrug |
| Brechin *1st Forfar Instl. | Cardigan 1st Tycroes |
| Barrhead 1st Kelty and Blairadam | Wemyss *1st Dunnikier Colliery |
| Normanton 1st Birstall Old | Newburn 1st Brandon Colliery |
| Llangollen 1st Rhos | Queensbury 1st Lee Mount |
| Northfield 1st Birmingham City | Alderley Edge *1st Irwell Bank |
| Bishop Auckland *1st Willington Silver | Port Dinorwic 1st Cynfi |
| Howden-le-Wear *1st Willington Silver | Atherton 1st Horwich Old |
| Holmfirth 1st Holme | Mosley 1st Birstall Old |
| Cardiff 1st Maesteg Hibernia | Knighthon *1st Black Dike |
| Cardiff 1st Blaina | Fatfield 1st South Moor |
| West Stanley *1st Murton | St. Austell |
| Elkington 1st Birm | |
| Shewsbury *1st Perfection Soap Works | Kelloe 1st Irwell Old |
| Bromley 1st New Barnet | Kelloe 1st Houghton-le-Spring |
| Carnarvon 1st Nantlle Vale | Shotton 1st St. Hilda |
| Llandovery 1st Tycroes | Shotton 1st St. Hilda |
| Whitby *1st Dannemora | Crawshawbooth 1st Stacksteads |
| Huddersfield *1st Hebden Bridge | Belle Vue (Sept.) 1st Foden's Works |
| Stalybridge 1st Cleckheaton Victoria | Stanhope 1st St. Hilda |
| Chepstow 1st Willenhall Tem. | Mickley *1st Willington |
| New Brighton *1st Irwell Springs | Pontypridd 1st Maesteg Hibernia |
| Sterling 1st Arbroath Inst. | Do. 1st Tonypandy Hibernia |
| Shirebrook 1st Boot's Plaisance | Clown... .. 1st Rockingham Colliery |
| Camelon *1st Clydebank | Halifax 1st Lee Mount |
| Thorne 1st Cleckheaton Victoria | Auchinleck 1st Darvel |
| Worsboro' Dale 1st Rockingham Colliery | Methil *1st Dunnikier |
| Battle 1st Slaithwaite | Blairgowrie 1st Arbroath |
| Forfar *1st Clydebank | Portofello 1st Polton Mills |
| Wavertree 1st 4th West Lancs. | Morecambe *1st Irwell Bank |
| Lincoln *1st Goodshaw | |
| Dundee *1st Clydebank | |
| Shirebrook *1st Lincoln Malleable | |
| Musselburgh *1st Clydebank | |
| Kirkburton *1st Scapegoat Hill | |
| Stanley *1st Willington | |
| Hunwick 1st Brandon Colliery | |
| Bradford *1st Perfection Soap Works | |
| Brandon 1st St. Hilda | |
| Penshaw *1st Murton Colliery | |
| Bulwell 1st Hucknall Excelsior | |
| Thurlstone *1st Scapegoat Hill | |
| Halifax 1st King's Cross | |
| Blackheath 1st Birmingham City | |
| Manchester *1st Goodshaw | |
| Loughborough *1st Mansfield Colliery | |
| Benwell 1st Felling Colliery | |
| Malton 1st Cleckheaton Victoria | |
| Hexham 1st Spencer's Steel Works | |
| Hexham 1st Palmer's Works | |
| Ammanford 1st Tycroes | |
| South Pelaw *1st Willington | |
| Mansfield *1st Lincoln Malleable | |
| Grangetown 1st St Hilda | |
| Coombe Park 1st Berwick St. John | |
| Holywell 1st Connah's Quay | |



Mr. A. HAIGH, SOPRANO, BESSES O' TH' BARN BAND.

The Brass Band Budget "present" (this looks like an announcement of Mr. Frohmann or Mr. George Edwardes) a portrait of that distinguished instrumentalist, Mr. A. Haigh, the famous Soprano of Besses o' th' Barn Band, who has delighted the ears of two hemispheres by his artistic playing. Only those who have heard the pure, brilliant, singing quality of his tone, and the finish of his style and execution can realise what the Eb Soprano Cornet is capable of giving in the hand of an expert artist.

Mr. Haigh made his debut as a musician at the early age of nine, as a side drummer, and it is to be presumed that he was one of the first infant prodigies on that most useful and effective but limited instrument. With Sowerby Bridge Band he found wider scope for his abilities as third cornet, under the tuition of Mr. Walter Atkinson. With Norland Band, under the late Mr. Geo. Raine and the late Mr. Swift, he continued to acquire that style and experience which laid the foundation of his reputation to-day. Mr. Haigh, whilst playing second cornet with Norland, was taking private lessons from Mr. George Raine, and was at the same time serving his apprenticeship as an Iron Moulder.

For Norland Band he took the Soprano, and played it for this Band and for other Bands in the district, winning many Gold and Silver Medals, especially with the Copley and Skircoats Band, under Mr. Angus Holden.

During this period Mr. Haigh made a splendid record in competition with the leading Soprano players of the North.

He has played under Mr. Owen and Mr. Rimmer, and has, in short, had the finest training and experience obtainable.

For four years past he has been with Besses, going with them on their World's Tour and their concerts throughout the British Isles.

Only those who know what an exacting instrument the Soprano is can appreciate the true value of Mr. Haigh's splendid record.

We may add, in conclusion, that he has played a Besson Soprano from his earliest attempts, and is still faithful to his first love—believing that there is no other make to be compared to it.

CRYSTAL PALACE:—

- 1,000 Guinea Cup ... *1st Shaw
- Daily Telegraph Cup 1st Foden's
- Daily Express Shield 1st St. Hilda
- Daily Graphic Cup... 1st Boot's Plaisance
- Daily Mirror Cup ... 1st Marriners' Band

Those marked * have adopted "Enharmonic" Valve instruments. We are proud of such results, and when we repeat that this list is far from complete, and that nearly all the prizes other than the 1st also fell to Besson-equipped Bands, we think we may confidently base our claim for patronage on the results attained by users of our instruments.

Second-hand

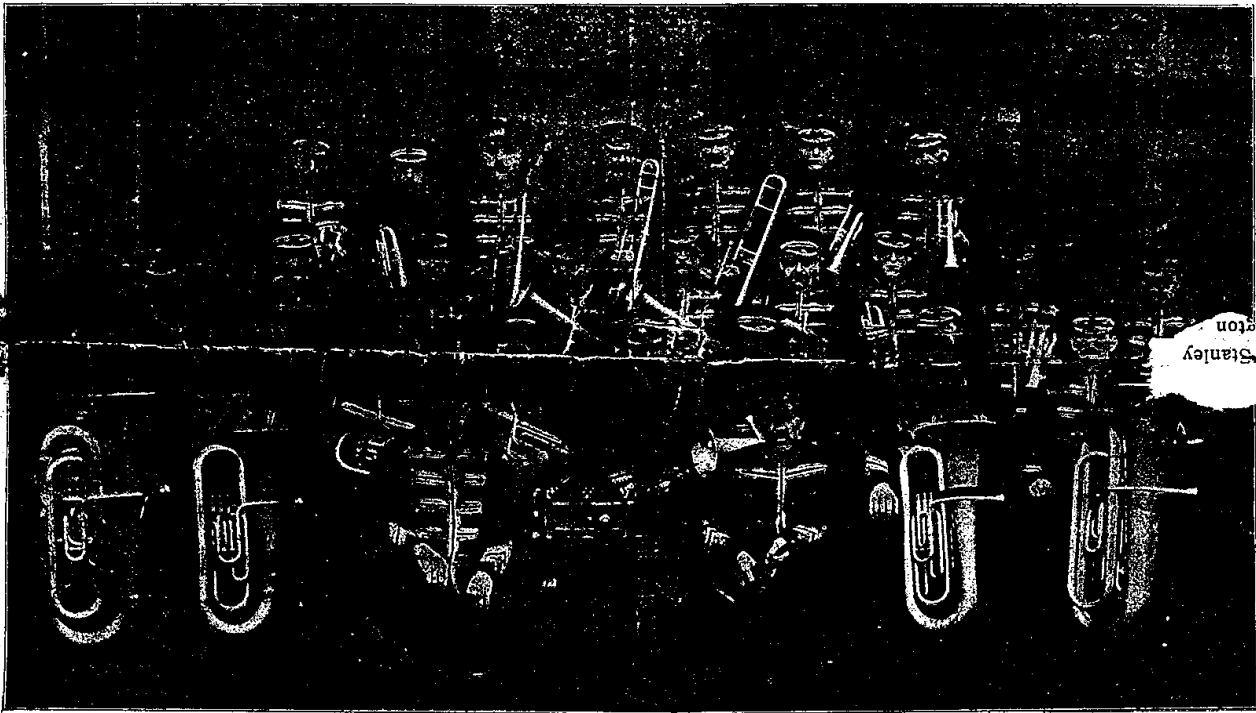
Instruments.

BRASS AND REED.

A large number of Second-hand Instruments always in Stock.

The quick turn-over of our Second-hand Stock makes it impossible for us to keep printed stock lists.

Intending buyers should therefore tell us which instruments they need, and quotations will be made by first post.



SHAW PRIZE BAND.

Bandmaster Mr. J. JENNINGS.
 Secretary Mr. J. W. STOTT.
 Professional Conductor Mr. W. RIMMER.

Winners of the Crystal Palace 1,000 Guinea Championship Cup, 1909.

YEAR after year it falls to our lot to honour the winners of the Crystal Palace 1,000 Guinea Championship Cup. Year after year we have had our eye on Shaw as more than likely winners, and year after year they have striven nobly to attain the distinction. Now they have succeeded, and no Band ever deserved success more than they.

The tenacity of purpose which characterises the men of our tight little island, and which has earned for them the sobriquet, "Boys of the Bulldog Breed," contributes largely to the success of our contesting Bands, and Shaw Band provides a striking instance of this. Their own national trait, year after year, has proved more than amply rewarded. They have never been out of the minute hand and grasp of the prize, and they have played consistently well and fate has dealt them many a keen disappointment. But they always came up smiling, and we believe that not a man in Shaw lost heart nor doubted that they would ultimately triumph. Not even their most disappointed rivals can deny that Shaw possesses a remarkable ability, that quality which, if it cannot command success, can do more—deserve it.

Shaw Band owe much to their indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Stott, to their popular Bandmaster and Solo Euphonion, Mr. J. Jennings; and to their no less popular and able Solo Cornet, Mr. C. Anderson—little, but extremely good. But they are no one-man Band. Every section is well filled from Cornets to Bases, and every man shares the glory of this, their greatest achievement.

Shaw is a progressive Band in all senses. They were one of the first Bands to secure a set of "Enharmonic" Valve Bases, and ever since the Bass playing of Shaw has been a great feature at all our leading Contests.

They are one of our premier brigades, and he has led them to many notable successes. In other achievements they have won the Belle Vue July Contest twice, in 1906 and 1907. At the Crystal Palace they were second in 1906, seventh in 1907, and fourth in 1908; so it will be seen that the culminating triumph of 1909 is but the climax of consistently good playing. Now that they have captured the top prize we confidently predict that any who aspire to dislodge them will need to realise that they have a tough task in prospect.

The March of Progress.

Mynydd-y-Garreg Band is a new one added to the excellent and progressive Bands of Carmarthenshire. In no part of the Kingdom has greater progress been made during the last few years than in the district known to bandsmen as West Wales, and, we may add, that nowhere is there a greater abundance of musical talent. We hope this new Band will in due course become one worthy of this musical county.

Artane Schools is one of the largest and best institutions of its kind in the district. It branches it touches the highest of efficiency. Years ago we equipped it with a class A set, and now we receive orders from the worthy brothers for some of the best we can make. The "Enharmonic" Euphonion receives a specially warm welcome. Mr. H. Lowe is one of the best of Ireland's many good musicians, and he is so pleased with the beautiful tone and perfect tune of this Euphonion that he will not be satisfied until he has also Baritones and Bases on

this system. Quite justifiably, too, for nothing can be too good for the rising stars of Old Ireland.

Largo Band organised a Bazaar which raised the fine sum of £300, and they favour us with an order for a plated set with "Enharmonic" Basses, and leather cases complete. The Band has excellent talent and will doubtless be heard on the contest field next year.

Alloa Band continue to add Besson to their instrumentation, acting on the advice of their talented Conductor, Mr. H. Muddiman. This time their order is for Baritone and Flugel Horn, Plated. The Band is steadily progressing, and, when trade improves, the Band is likely to repeat the triumphs of its palmiest days.

Dunikiel Colliery Band is a new Band recently started and using an old set as a temporary convenience. They are under the well-known Conductor, Mr. J. McCubrey, and already on the old instruments they have captured many prizes, including two Cups. They order a plated set with "Enharmonics," and we fully expect them to shine at the forthcoming S.A.B. Association Contest.

Lowca Colliery is a Cumberland Band under one of Mr. McCubrey's old pupils, Mr. Wm. Kerr, and they also order 12 Class A, being the moiety of a contemplated Besson set. A generous patron pays cash for these—which include "Enharmonic" Euphonion, and we hope to have balance of order soon.

Lumley Colliery and Township Band, a County Durham Band which has used a Besson set for 18 years, now order a new plated set of our Class A, and we hope the Band will have a long and prosperous career on this, their second Besson set.

Hamilton Palace Colliery Band has been doing very well on the Contest field, but feel there is more to be done. So they join the ranks of the S.A.B. Association and order 12 Plated and Engraved Class A as the first instalment of a Besson set. We congratulate the Band on their policy—that way progress lies.

Quarter Colliery Band has the good fortune to enjoy the service of Mr. Geo. Cornforth (late of the famous West Hartlepool Old Operatic Band) as Bandmaster, and they are making excellent progress and scoring on the Contest field. They order a few plated Cornets, Class A, and tell us they are highly pleased with them. We look for further orders to follow.

Blackhill St. Mary's Band is a resuscitated Band in County Durham. They played a Besson set 18 years ago and still they hold there is nothing to equal same. An order for Plated Set of our Class A emphasises the force of their appreciation. They have a generous friend in the Rev. Canon Gillow, and we trust his generosity will be repaid by a first-class Band resulting.

Benwhat Band, near Dalmellington, bought a Besson set some five years ago and now send it to be plated and engraved. We shall turn it out a thing of beauty, and as good as handsome.

Pentre Brass Band used to be a prominent contesting Welsh Band, but we have missed them from the field for some years. But it looks as if the old spirit were reviving, for they send us their Besson set to be thoroughly repaired. When they saw the renovated instruments they promptly ordered a complete set of Leather Cases—and although the instruments are ten years old they well deserve this protection.

Llanhilleth Band is one of which we hope to hear a lot about in the future. They are in one of the Monmouthshire Valleys which produces an astonishing number of good players to the acre. Mr. W. B. Watkins is Bandmaster, and with a new set of Class A with "Enharmonic" Basses, etc., we shall look for some good playing by this Band in the near future.

Berwick St. John Band, Salisbury, is striving to lead the West on to a higher state of efficiency. Mr. Stretch, the Bandmaster, has been a pioneer of progress in this district and is very pleased with the benefit resulting from the engagement of Mr. G. H. Wilson, Bristol, as professional instructor. We can quite understand this appreciation, for Mr. Wilson is a fine teacher and has learnt the best methods from such eminent men as the late Mr. Geo. Turner, of Hanley, and Mr. A. Owen. Mr. Wilson ought to be busy in the West.

Scarborough Boys' Brigade, thanks to the interest taken in them by their Officers and other local gentlemen, rejoice in the possession of a real Brass Band. A Besson set has been purchased and we think it will add to the interest and attraction of the Brigade to the Scarborough boys.

Linacre Wesleyan Band—which is largely indebted to the generous support of A. J. Walker, Esq.—has prospered very much since the acquisition of a Class A Besson set some years ago. The Band's efforts are now rewarded by having their set silver plated and engraved in our best style. We are glad to find this Mission Band so useful and so well appreciated.

Grindleton Band, situate near to Clitheroe, is a newly-formed Band, and starts auspiciously with a Besson set. Mr. Rd. Marsden, the veteran and highly-successful Band Conductor, is resident now in this his native village, and we hope the Band will succeed in enlisting his valuable assistance.

Black Dike Band is in finer form than ever, we are told, and Mr. Bower—who, by the way; tried and commended the very first "Enharmonics" we made—orders "Enharmonic" Euphonion and Baritone.

Mr. Bower is a man of few words, and what he says is always emphatic. "Enharmonic" Euphonion is superb," which is high praise from a Conductor of Mr. Bower's experience.

Eagley Mills Band, once a very prominent Lancashire contesting Band under Mr. Owen and the late Mr. Swift, is coming again. Mr. Ralph Kay has them in hand and they order the first moiety of a Besson set—and with "Enharmonic" Valves. Mr. Kay has played an ordinary Besson Euphonion with immense success, being one of the "stars" of his day. But it will be seen that he is alive to new ideas, and his adoption of the "Enharmonic" is proof that a real musician does not get hide-bound. Hope to see Eagley Mills in the front ranks again.

Willington Silver—a Besson Band—Bandmaster, Mr. Wright, have had a record year of contest successes—beginning the season by winning four first prizes in one day! Mr. Ord, Secretary, says they find the "Enharmonics" the best; that those they have create a desire for more, and they are raising funds specially for the purpose of increasing the "Enharmonic" contingent of their Band.

Mr. C. Chamberlain, the famous Horn Soloist, who has won scores of prizes in Solo and other Contests on his Besson Tenor Horn, has now decided to go in for French Horn playing professionally, and naturally he gives us ^{his} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~his~~ his name of our Orchestral Model Horns, which pleases him highly. Mr. Chamberlain has been staunch Besson throughout his career, and a trial he made of another make only served to make him more staunchly Besson than ever.

Luton Red Cross, the Champion Band of the South, continue renewing their Besson set. This time plated and engraved Flugel and Tenor Horns are added, the old Bessons passing doubtless to the junior Band, which we hear is prospering splendidly, so that Luton may well look for a continuance of their high efficiency. We hear that at Crystal Palace they played No. 1 and were placed next to the prizes, being well in front of many eminent Northern Bands. Bravo, Luton!

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Military Mems.

THE evacuation of Crete by the British troops, whilst an occasion of rejoicing to the islanders generally, appears not to have been an unmixed delight, for it was with the greatest regret, judging by accounts which have reached us, that they witnessed the departure of the popular Band of the Devons. Regt. Mr. Amers particularly endeared himself to the patriotic Candians by arranging for the Military Band one of their National Dances. In the leading Cretan paper this graceful act is alluded to in most grateful and enthusiastic terms. In fact, Mr. Amers' amiability, urbanity and good-will towards the Cretan people is contrasted with the general phlegmatic, cold and apathetic attitude of the other Englishmen.

In token of their regard for the Bandmaster and their appreciation of the Band, Mr. Amers received a very handsome silver-mounted stick.

The Devons are now at Malta and we have no doubt they will win equal appreciation there to that which they obtained in Crete.

Mr. Amers has composed a "Toast Book," arranged for both Military and Brass Band. This will, we feel sure, meet a long-felt want, and is sure of a ready sale. Mr. Amers, too, is a very clever Arranger and has done considerable work for some of the leading music publishers, although, with characteristic modesty, he does not always appear in connection with his work.

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THE Band of the Inniskillings is winning golden opinions amongst the music-loving Manx men and women. Mr. Watson Ramsay and his Band have created a most favourable impression, and have added to their laurels.

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On Sunday, 12th September, a massed Band performance was given at Curragh Camp, by the Bands of the 5th Division. There were 11 Bands, numbering about 450 performers. The programme, which is given below, was enjoyed in fine but chilly weather by hundreds of civilians from all parts, in addition to the thousands of troops on the Curragh. Gen. Pitcairn-Campbell was "At Home" to the farmers and land-holders of the surrounding district, who, with their families, enjoyed the most excellent tea provided for them in a half-dozen marquees.

At the conclusion of the performance Gen. Pitcairn-Campbell called the Bandmasters together and congratulated them on the excellency of the performance.

A high open-air church service was held on the Sunday morning, attended by about 3,000 troops. The officiating chaplain being the Rev. J. Beney, M.A.S.C.F., and the Bandmaster on duty, Mr. Wingrove, 2nd Essex Regt.

MASSED BANDS, 5TH DIVISION.

PROGRAMME.

- 1 March "Romaine" *Gounod*
Conductor—Mr. Robertson, R. Scots. Fus. (Dublin.)
- 2 Overture "Oberon" *Weber*
Conductor—Mr. Barwood, R. Berks. Regt. (Curragh.)
- 3 Selection "Faust (No. 2)" *Gounod*
Conductor—Mr. Wingrove, Essex Regt. (Dublin.)
- 4 Song "Killarney" *Balfe*
Conductor—Mr. Barry, Rifle Brig. (Belfast.)
- 5 Valse "L' Etoile Polaire" *Waldteufel*
Conductor—Mr. Eder, Viits. Regt. (Dublin.)
- 6 Selection "Cavalleria Rusticana" *Mascagni*
Conductor—Mr. Ramsey, Roy. Innis. Fus. (Dublin.)
- 7 "The Turkish Patrol" *Michaelis*
Conductor—Mr. Robertson, Roy. Scots. Fus. (Dublin.)
- 8 Overture "Solenelle 1812" *Tschaikowsky*
Conductor—Mr. Frayling, L. N. Lanc. Regt. (Curragh.)

GOD SAVE THE KING.

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THE Bands of the 14th Infantry Brigade gave a massed Band Concert at Tulfaris House on Sunday, Aug. 15th, a large number of visitors from the surrounding country being present by invitation of General Thorneycroft. They were treated to an excellent programme and could not be other than greatly delighted, and the General expressed his gratification at the excellence of the programme and its rendering. The Bands present were the 1st L. N. Lancashire, 1st R. Berkshire, 2nd Essex and 1st R. Highlanders Regiments, and Bandmasters Frayling, Barwood and Wingrove conducted the selections alternatively. The massed Band numbered some 140 performers, and the Fifes and Drums of each Regiment and the Pipes of the Black Watch gave performances between the various Band pieces.

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EARLY in September, during an interval in a most enjoyable concert at the Central Hall, Chatham, given by the Band of the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a pleasing little ceremony was performed, when Mr. McClurg was made the recipient of a gold-mounted Swan fountain pen and a handsome Bible on the occasion of his departure. The presentation of the pen was made by the Rev. G. Harland Raw, on behalf of the trustees of the Chatham Central Hall Wesleyan Mission as an expression of their appreciation of his kindness and courtesy. In handing the Bible to Mr. McClurg, Mr. W. Whittell, on behalf of the ministers and stewards, paid a high tribute to his sterling character, and spoke of the many ways in which he had helped the Mission during his stay in the town. On the Bible was the following inscription:—"Presented to Bandmaster J. McClurg, of the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, by the ministers and stewards of the Chatham Central Hall Wesleyan Mission, as a small token of their appreciation

of his manly character and helpfulness." In response to the speeches Mr. McClurg thanked them deeply for their kindness. Although he and the regiment were leaving Chatham they would continue in communication with them, and they hoped in years to come to again visit the town and that building.

Mr. McClurg has since retired from the Regiment and has been appointed to the Queen Victoria (Military) School at Dunblane. We wish him success in his new position. His successor to the Argyll and Sutherland Regiment has not yet been nominated.

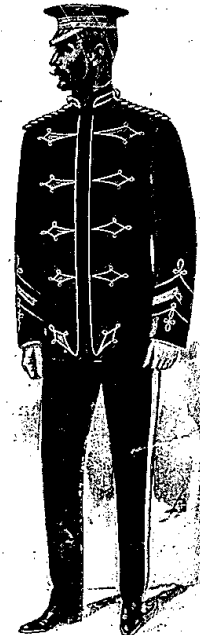
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WE are in receipt of the first number of "The Journal of the Leinster Regiment," a quarterly publication devoted to news and items of interest connected with the famous Leinsters. The first number is splendidly produced, the articles by various well-known soldiers deal with matters of special interest, the photographs are fine, and the news such as will interest all the Battalions of the Regiment. Finally, the printers have done their work in a very chaste and artistic manner. We wish success to "The Journal of the Leinsters," and think it will be welcomed in many circles other than those which it appeals to most directly.

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