

SWANBOURNE 12th August 1902

On Saturday morning divine service was held in the Parish Church, the Vicar, the Rev. F. R. B. Pinhorn, officiating, when the Coronation form of service was held. There was a good congregation. Owing to Lord and Lady Cotteslow attending the Coronation in Westminster Abbey the festivities were deferred till Tuesday, when they were characterised with much happiness and heartiness. Early in the morning a shower of rain fell, and doubts were entertained as to the atmospheric elements for the day, but in a short time the clouds rolled away and the weather was all that could be desired for the al fresco holiday.

The Swanbourne Brass Band, under the conductorship of Mr. Geo. Edwin, commenced parading the village at 11 o'clock, and the sun now shining forth with much brilliancy, a good number of the inhabitants accompanied the band in its perambulation. In the streets were a number of flags and streamers, whilst the front of the residence of Mr. Jesse Cox was an attractive picture, decorated with the motto, "God save the King." with tri-coloured bunting and lines of roses, and Chinese lanterns. At half past 12 the whole of the inhabitants, to the number of over 400, sat down to an excellent cold collation, supplied in a large canvas building erected in the Park to the north-west of Swanbourne House, by the committee, and in which the seating and tabling had been supplied by Mr. William Brooks. Grace was said by the Vicar, and the dinner was much enjoyed. At its close thanks were again offered and the company retired for the sports, which were at once commenced. They were of a most varied character, and whilst Mr. Colgrove, Mr. Kibble, and other farmers had charge of the stepping the chain event, in which there was a long entry and keen competition, the Vicar and Mr. Ramsay and others were busily engaged with the other events. In a tent near at hand Lady Cottesloe distributed Coronation medals to the children, and they were afterwards entertained with a number of races, in charge of their new schoolmaster, Mr. Bendall.

The sun shone forth with much warmth and everything presented the most cheerful aspect, and some of the events in the sports elicited considerable amusement and interest. Such sports are not of every day occurrence in this village, and consequently they were all the more appreciated. The needle and thread races, in which the competitors run a certain distance, thread a needle held by their partner, and then both run to the tape; the tugs of war were provocative of much cheering and were well contested; and the obstacle races, over wagon, beneath pig-nets, over the swinging bar, through suspended barrels, etc., were certainly as much enjoyed by the spectators as by the competitors. The band discoursed some excellent music, and it was highly appreciate'. As we have remarked on previous occasions, this band for a village like Swanbourne is an excellent one.

During the afternoon from 3 to 4 o'clock the gardens of Swanbourne House were thrown open. This was an exceptional treat, the flower beds being at the present time in the height of beauty, and they were much admired. The view from the south front of the mansion, too, stretches across a very extensive and exceedingly pretty country, at the present time enhanced by the ripened tint of the corn fields, here and there dotted amongst the greensward and the grey stone work of the surrounding village churches, backed by the hills in the far distance. At 5 o'clock, the company again assembled in the marquee and partook of tea, the wives of the farmers and tradesmen presiding at the tables. At the head table were Lord and Lady Cottesloe, Hon Mary Fremantle, Hon. Cecil Fremantle, Miss Ottway, Rev. F. R. B. and Mrs Pinhorn, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Collier. During the repast Lord Cottesloe rose and said they were enjoying a most beautiful day, but they must not forget they were celebrating the Coronation of the King. They were all shocked and surprised and grieved at the sudden illness which came upon his Majesty, and the news that he had to undergo a terrible operation in June, and now in

their relief from further anxiety they were equally glad to know that he had been actually crowned and received by the assembled multitude in Westminster Abbey and afterwards through London, and that his health was practically re-established in quite a short time -(cheers). He now gave them 'the health of King Edward the Seventh', and was sure they would all join in wishing him a long and prosperous and happy reign. "The King. God bless him!" It was received with loud cheering, which was repeated for the Queen - Lord Cottesloe, again rising, said he would ask the company to express their hearty thanks to the committee who had carried out all the arrangements of the day with such success (cheers). The committee had taken a very great deal of trouble, and he was sure all would admit that their efforts had been crowned with success. They had had the good fortune in being favoured with a very nice afternoon, and he knew they would desire to thank all the committee for making the arrangements and carrying them out with such satisfaction to everybody- (cheers). The company then retired from the marquee and the games resumed, and dancing was indulged in.

The committee included the following: The vicar, the Rev. F. R. B. Pinhorn (chairman), the Hon Cecil Fremantle (treasurer), Mr. Geo. White (secretary), Messrs. J. Ramsay, R. Ramsay, C. Colgrove, H. Colgrove, W. Kibble; T. Ash, H. Fairman, W.T. Young, W. G. Walker, W. Harding, Colgrove. J. Gadsden, J. Holdom, W. Holt, J. Cox, J. Phillips, J. Harding, W. G. Gurnett, E. Sheffield, J. Tattam, H. Dancer, J. Gadsden, jun., W. Brooks, J. Turvey, W. Price, C. Alderman, jun. The committee provided the whole of the viands (which were prepared by Mrs. Lee and Mrs. A. Pitkin) and also erected, an excellent canvas building of monster rick sheets, and the interior was tastefully decorated with flags and evergreen. Lord Cottesloe gave the handsome donation of £20 to the funds, and about £25 was collected in the parish. Tobacco, cigarettes and refreshments were distributed during the afternoon and evening, and it need hardly be added that the utmost enjoyment prevailed.

The following is the list of awards in the Sports, the prizes for which ranged from 7s. 6d. to 1s. and were handed to the winners at the close of each event. : Egg and spoon race., 1 Elsie Tompkins., 2. Mrs. Smith; boys race. 1 Jas. Colgrove, 2. Geo. Tompkins; ladies race. 1. Elsie Tompkins, 2. Lizzie, Gadsden; egg and spoon race, 1 Susie Gadsden, 2 C. Kibble; boys' race, 1 James Colgrove, 2 George Tompkins; girls' race 1. Hilda Colgrove, 2 Susie Gadsden; sack race. 1 A. Cleveland, 2 A. Tompkins; Threading the needle, 1 C. Ash and Miss Allen. 2 R. Ramsay and Miss Phillips; long jump, 1 F. Turvey 2. Geo. Jones; stepping the chain, 1: John Buckingham (correct), 2 Arthur Rowe, 3 W. Brooks; needle and thread! (No.2) 1 R. Tompkins and Miss Tompkins, 2 - Leach and Miss Wilmore. Hurdle race: 1st heat, 1 W. Colgrove, 2 Thos. Gadsden, 3 J. Colgrove; 2nd Heat, 1 Geo. Jones, 2 R. Tompkins; final, 1 T. Gadsden, 2 G. Jones, 3 R. Tompkins. High jump, W. Colgrove, 4ft: 7in., 2 G. Jones, 3 E. Tompkins; 100 yards flat race, 1. R. Colgrove, 2 G. Jones, 3 J. Colgrove; obstacle race (No.1), 1 W. Colgrove, 2 R. Tompkins, 3 T. Gadsden; half-mile. 1 R. Colgrove. 2 Geo. Jones, 3 W. Colgrove; sack race, 1 J. Colgrove, 2 W. Colgrove, 3 G. Jones; obstacle race, 1 J. Colgrove, 2 G. Jones, 3. R. Colgrove; tug-of-war (In teams of 8), winning-team, W. Young, W. Leach, T. Ash, G. Hendell, W, Harding, E. Harrod, N. Ash, A. Fairman