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FIRM TO CLOSE AFTER 146 YEARS

YET another old established St. Pancras firm is to close its doors. After being in business in the borough for 146 years Messrs. George Wailes & Co., Ltd., of 382-388, Euston-road, N.W.1, mechanical engineers, will be closing down next month and the stock and contents of their premises will be sold by auction on June 14.

The firm is one of the oldest members of the St. Pancras Chamber of Commerce and is the fifth old established firm in the borough to announce a decision in recent months to either close down or move to other areas.

Yesterday, the Managing Director, Mr. Rex Wailes, told a representative of this journal that the decision was made with reluctance and resulted from two main reasons.

The Reasons

One was the fact that the firm's premises occupy land required for the London County Council's road-widening scheme in Euston-road, and the council's decision to alter the zoning from industrial usage to West End development, which is to result in the whole area being re-developed as a single entity precluding separate development by individual freeholders.

The second reason given by Mr. Wailes was the effect of death duties on the estate of his father, the late Mr. R. P. Wailes.

The firm has a long and interesting history dating back to the time when the Euston-road, then known as the New Road, was being developed.

It was founded in approximately 1814 as C. & J. Rich on premises at 10, Palace-row, New Road and purchased as a going concern by Mr. Rex Wailes' grandfather Mr. George Wailes. The premises occupied the site of what is now 258, Euston-road.

In 1906 Mr. George Wailes retired and sold the premises; his son, the late Mr. R. P. Wailes then built the company's present premises at 382-388, Euston-road, building work being completed in 1908.

Specialized Work

The firm have always specialized in the manufacturing of industrial machinery made to special specification and has had extensive ramifications.

One branch of its business which made it particularly well-known throughout the world was the manufacturing of models and replicas of all types of machinery. Many of these working models are to be seen to-day in the Science Museum at South Kensington, S.W.7, and in many museums in the United States and other countries throughout the world.

During World War I and also in the last war the company was engaged wholly on war contract work and their reputation as highly skilled mechanical engineers enabled them to make a valuable contribution to both war efforts.

The news of the closing of George Wailes & Co. Ltd., was received with concern and regret this week at St. Pancras Town Hall and at the N.W.1, headquarters of the St. Pancras Chamber of Commerce.

'Nibbling Away'

Considerable concern has been expressed in recent months by both the council and the chamber at what has been termed "The nibbling away by the London County Council at the acreage of land in the borough scheduled for industrial development."

Under revized plans covering the second phase of the County of London Development plan land zones for industrial use has been whittled down from 155 to 98 acres.

Two deputations from the chamber have visited County Hall and examined plans of the London County Council's proposals, and representations have also been made to that body deploring the re-zoning proposals by both the St. Pancras Borough Council and the executive of the Chamber of Commerce.

Empire Gets A Reprieve

News of a reprieve for Finsbury Park Empire, N.4, came this week with the announcement from County Hall, Westminster Bridge-road, S.E.1, that the L.C.C. Town Planning Committee had rejected an application to demolish the theatre which closed a fortnight ago, and replace it with a multi-storey block of offices.

The application, which was made on behalf of an investment company, was turned down by the committee on the grounds that the loss of the theatre would be contrary to the council's policy, and that the area is zoned for residential use.

Council's Objection

Representations had been made to the L.C.C. by Islington Borough Council, who pointed out that the provision of extensive office accommodation at this busy junction would create a serious traffic hazard and add to the congestion already existing in the area.

Immediately the L.C.C. decision was made known, renewed efforts were made to get the theatre re-opened.

First piece of reassuring news came [illegible]

Among special favourites were George Robey, the first George Formby, Harry Weldon, Max Miller, Marie Lloyd and Hetty King.

The last conductor at the Finsbury Park Empire was Sydney Kaplan, who was the last-ever resident musical director at the old Holborn Empire prior to its closure in 1940.

Fewer Scouts And Cubs

Membership of the St. Pancras Boy Scouts' Association fell from 290 to 246 last year. Wolf cub membership also dropped from

INSULTS TO TOWN HALL STAFF

How members of St. Pancras Town Hall staff were insulted by telephone callers on May Day last year when the Labour controlled council decided to fly the Red Flag from the building in Euston-road, N.W.1, and how, more recently, other local government officers were molested when leaving during demonstrations against the Tory council's differential rents scheme, is disclosed in the current issue of a magazine published by the St. Pancras Branch of the National Association of Local Government Officers.

Editor of the magazine, Mr. C. D. Howkins, who is assisted by Mr. P. E. Woods, writes: "In St. Pancras, successive borough [illegible]

[illegible] Today' £82.1 This [illegible] * SU * Do [illegible]

saying that, ... the local government officer has his own private political opinions, but so long as he ensures that these in no way influence the discharge of his public duties he is entitled to expect that his position should be understood and respected by all parties."

Man In The Garden

In the early hours of Sunday morning a police dog surprised a man in the garden of a house in Agar-grove, N.W.1. The dog's handler called the dog "off guard" after the man had been able to give a satisfactory explanation for his presence

L.C.C. To Buy Local Property

In a statement issued this week from County Hall, Westminster Bridge-road, S.E.1, the London County Council say that they intend to acquire property in various parts of St. Pancras. They warn prospective purchasers of old houses to make full inquiries at County Hall or at St. Pancras Town Hall, Euston-road, N.W.1, to ensure whether any property they may be interested in is likely to be affected.

On Thursday of this week an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will conduct a public inquiry at St. Pancras Town Hall to hear objections to a decision taken by the London County Council to acquire by compulsory purchase nearly two acres of land in the Raglan-street, N.W.5, area of Kentish Town.

The site comprises 43 houses (including a public-house which closed down last year) and a vacant house with a garage, a vacant property without a garage and a four-storey factory. It is also proposed to secure the clearance of two other houses, the site of which is too small for satisfactory redevelopment.

About 62 families in all would be displaced from the land involved and the estimated cost of clearance, acquisition, appropriation or partial re-development is £62,450.

Two Appointed

Appointments made by the Minister of Health to the North-West Metropolitan Regional Board include Mr. Kenneth Robinson, Labour M.P. for St. Pancras North, and Dame Barbara Brooke.

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