STATHAM FESTIVAL.

All Records Broken By the Tenth Celebration.

LYMM MAY QUEEN CROWNED.

BRILLIANT SUNSHINE FAVOURS A BRILLIANT PROCESSION AND CEREMONY.

THE CHARACTERS.

The sudden spell of hot, sunny weather during Whitsuntide resulted on Monday in an unprecedented success for the tenth annual Statham Festival. The Festival was started by Councillor Frederick Lockyer, of the Hart Hotel, Statham, a lover of children, and enjoyed the unique distinction of being successfully continued throughout the war. The respected Councillor passed away last year after a long illness, but it has now been continued by his widow, Mrs. S. A. Lockyer, with the valuable assistance of their son, Mr. William Lockyer.

Last year's was particularly successful from the financial viewpoint, a credit balance of £91 7s. 3d. being increased to £93 8s., despite the fact that the expenditure amounted to £84 5s. 5d. At the same time no attempt is made to secure a profit, and the promoters would be quite content if the revenue just paid the expenses.

The festival commenced, as festivals will, with a fancy-costume and floral procession, plentifully bespringled with decorated furries drawn by horses lightly lent by the Barton Hall District Council. The leading character was Miss Fowler, who always takes part in the festival. Last year she appeared as Mary Ann; this year she wore a patchwork gown and large floral hat. There were three tableaux. In the foremost the Queen of the Fairies was surrounded by her court, who, arrayed in silvery-white white, with gauzy wings, represented a canopy of laburnum blossoms and foliage. A group, emblematic of the Allied nations, whose banners were freely displayed, was followed by a detachment of older children, who appeared to depict the same idea. The procession left Crossgreen, Stretford, at 2.30 p.m., and was followed along Booth's-hill and down Eagle-brow to Lymm. Crowds of sightseers evidently had to be greater than ever before in the history of the festival, even approaching the dimensions of the Lymm Flower Show, in fact.

Councillor H. Appleton, one of Statham's representatives on the local governing body and who throughout the day proved an indefatigable master of the ceremonies, delivered a brief address. He said that he was pleased to be able to be in his native ward that day as its representative. All owed a great debt to the late Councillor Lockyer's widow and family, who had been practically responsible for that day's festival, it having been their wish and desire that it should be continued in memory of the Councillor Lockyer, who had been a man held in high esteem in their little ward. He voiced the hope that all would do their best in the future to assist the widow and family in carrying that day's festival on, and succeeding in thanking all who had in any way—whether by subscriptions or otherwise—assisted in promoting the successful day's festival.

Mr. William Gregson, of 2, Oldfield-road, one of Statham's respected old inhabitants, also spoke briefly of the late Councillor and of his making the festival a success, and referred feelingly to the loss they had sustained in the death of Councillor Lockyer, who had always taken such a great interest in the festival.

The Morris dancers, in their gay-coloured ribbons and bells, gave a short performance. They included Mr. Edward Rowles, excellently disguised as "Old Tom Bowling," who, with themselves with great success. The Warrington Borough Band, conducted by Mr. Thomas Griffin, then played "The National Anthem," and the procession moved on. At Cross-brow, Statham, the Morris dancing was repeated.

AT THE FIELD.

Having passed through the bedagged village and arrived at the large field adjoining Statham Crossings, the procession broke up, and a very pretty scene was witnessed, representing the Welsh, Scotch, Garland and Morris dancers, Lymm footballers, fairies and other characters. Miss Annie Lockyer, who has acted as judge of the costumes, and the special prizes for the best were awarded as follows: "Butterfly" and "Butterfly" 2nd, Harold Clarke (Cap and Bells); 3rd, Vera Cooke (Little Boy Blue). Fairy dolls (dressed) 1st, Gladys Cooke; 2nd prize—chefly toys—and an orange, and a substantial tea in the Statham Schools. The old folk were also entertained to tea, the men receiving a gift of tobacco and each of the ladies a basket of fruit.

Both in the afternoon and in the evening, the costumed children entered the oval enclosure and went through a number of pretty dances, which they performed with perfect ease and grace. The Maypole was plaited amid applause, and both morning and afternoon dances were inbisited. For a second year, the children had been trained by Miss Lucy Hyde, assisted by Elsie Clarke. Last year these ladies each received an umbrella as a memento of their services; this year the gifts were real wristlet watches.

After these merrymakings, the band played and the children danced which means fun and in by a large concourse. Practically everybody stayed until nearly dusk, and as a result the other trains in the Warrington and Manchester directions were crowded to their utmost capacity on Tuesday. Last year was the congestion, it was scarcely possible to breathe in them.

THE CHARACTERS.

The following were the characters:—

Maypole Dancers.—B. Burrows, S. Atherton, J. Hunt, J. Hall, E. Cooke, E. Atherton, L. Wilkins, E. Gilberts, A. Brakforth, O. Clare, M. Riley, E. Atherton, M. Stretton, M. Hartley, Miss Hunt, I. Smith, M. Finney, M. Griffiths and E. Owen.

Scotch Dancers.—D. Clark, M. Bell, M. Lamming, Master Bell, A. Strithers and D. Hewitt.

Welsh Dancers.—A. Atherton, M. Bell, A. Field and C. Riley.

Handkerchief Dancers.—D. Clark, M. Bell, D. Hewitt, E. Sharples, A. Strathers, A. Bate, N. Brakforth and M. Lamming.

Garland Dancers.—C. Riley, A. Atherton, A. Field, A. Bate, E. Strathers, B. Burrows, E. Atherton, L. Bell, M. Bell, E. Gilberts, E. Sharples and L. Hill.

Fairies.—W. Moss, D. Strathers, D. Watts, G. Brickwater, L. Hartley, E. Hartley, L. Hartley and K. Cary.

Morris Dancers.—W. E. Rowles (old dame), E. Clare (accompanist), R. Clark, A. Riley, R. Hartley, F. Stirton, K. Lockyer, E. Wilbriley, J. Strathers, W. Watts, A. Strathers, E. Appleton, A. Massey, H. Taylor, G. Finney and H. Lugh.

Clown.—Miss Fowler (patchwork), E. Cooke (butterfly), V. Cooke (little boy blue), H. Clarke (cap and bells), and E. Leather and A. Alberton (teddy bears).

THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee for the Festival has been as follows:—Chairman, Mr. Wm. Lockyer; joint secretaries, Mrs. S. A. Lockyer and Mr. W. Lockyer; trainers, Mr. Edward Bowles, Misses Edith Wilbriley and Elsie Clarke; other members, Mrs. T. Appleton, Messrs. Charles Moss, R. Drinkwater, J. Finney, A. Massey, Edward Burkforth and Sam Wilbriley.

Photograph by Birtles. ROSE QUEEN ON LEFT, QUEEN LENA ADVANCING TO THE THRONE.

They crowned the Lymm May Queen on Thursday afternoon. This was the second May Festival held in the quaint old township since the European War, and it proved a huge success. There were hundreds of visitors from the directions of Manchester and Warrington, and although, during the morning, the weather had been dubious, the sun faithfully made its appearance after dinner, and fine weather prevailed throughout the procession and crowning ceremony. Towards tea-time there was a shower, and after that the sky became duller. Nevertheless the festival came off according to schedule with great distinction.

It commenced with a long and elaborate procession, which, as usual, assembled outside the Council Offices, Whitbarrow. It was of such proportions that throughout it took an hour passed before it was in marching order, after which it was unanimously voted to eclipse, in brilliancy, all predecessors.

A FINE PROCESSION.

The procession was headed by the police. Then came a detachment of the Heatley Troop of Boy-Scouts, which, on the occasion, was somewhat dark. Was unable to be present, and it was under the command of Troop-Leader E. Holt. Next came a lovely-looking and a picturesque character, "John Bull, Britannia and the Colonies", and after that a brilliant series of forty tableaux, including "The Gipsy Queen and her band," "The Allies," "The Seasons—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter—superbly effective, "A Red Cross Hospital Ward," "Nursery Rhymes—Little Boy Blue, "Where are you going to, my pretty maid?" "Pat-a-cake," "Baker's Man" and "Ding-dong Bell," "The Fairy Queen and her Court," "The Babes in the Wood," "Robin Hood and his Merry Men," and further "Nursery Rhymes—Little Jack Horner," "See-Saw, Margery Daw," and "Little Miss Muffet."

The band, which acquitted itself most creditably, was the Macclesfield Industrial School Military Band. It was followed by a medley of characters, those represented including cowgirls, jack-in-the-green, Joan of Arc, Napoleon, the daughter of the regiment, a country yokel, haymakers, a juvenile wedding, a Lord Admiral, Viscount Fetish, the three bears, Welsh girls, Scotch girls, statue dance girls, Mary quite contrary, Jack and Jill, Prince's in the Tower, a Puritan, Quaker girls, Queen of Flowers and her flower girls, the celebrated fun comedians "Laurie" Chaplin and "Patty" Arbuckle, teddy bears, King Charles, tambourine dancers, Red Cross nurses, Red Riding Hood, "Goodnight" girls in nightdresses and caps and carrying candles, Maypole dancers, Queens of Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs, jazz character, pierrette troupe, Dutch dancers, a cooler and his wife, a jockey, gollivogs, ex-Kaiser, nigger boys, Old Bill, Irishmen, fortune teller, wizard, the Prime Minister, Dick Whittington and his cat, fishermen, Chinamen, Arab, Grecian ladies, Italian girls, a brass band, soldier, Will Cathy-win, the white-eyed kaffir, and "Harvest."

APPROACH OF THE QUEEN.

These joyal subjects having passed, it was evident that the Queen herself was approaching, for next came the Judge, the Lord Chamberlain, the Court Jester, the earnest Bear Tamers, the first carriages, containing Maids of Honour, and the all-important Crown and Sceptre-bearers.

Applause heralded everywhere the appearance of the May Queen, and surely a more winsome Queen could not be found nowhere. She was Lena Kay, aged twelve, whose home is at Yew Tree-terrace, Heath Green. Last year a May Queen was elected from the Lymm School; and this year it was the turn of the Oughtrington School. As usual, the election was made by the scholars themselves, the voting taking place under the supervision of the head master, Mr. Harold Beech. Queen Lena received seventy-two votes, and the next on the list twenty-four; so the choice was a popular one. Queen Lena looked lovely. Her curly golden hair stirred by the breezes, she—as might be expected—was wreathed in sunny smiles. Her robe was of royal purple, trimmed with ermine, and she wore a magnificent bouquet of roses. She was accompanied in the landau only by her train-bearers, and on either side marched Lymm Girl Guides, under the command of Lieutenants Elsie M. Maires and F. E. Mercer. The Girl Guides are always to the fore at the festival, but this year they enjoyed a special distinction, for Queen Lena was one of their company, and of course preferred them to all others as her Guard of Honour.

A pleasing incident, as the procession made its way to the field, was the presentation to the Queen of a large box of chocolates by Miss Rose, daughter of Mr. Rowe, of Mallman's-road. Queen Lena also received a similar gift immediately after the crowning ceremony, from her fellow-Girl Guides.

QUEEN WINNIE OF THE ROSES.

So the Queen passed on; but at once there came another outburst of applause for her landau was followed by another, which was also flanked by a Girl Guides' Guard of Honour. In this carriage rode Winnie Hewitt, of Naylor's-cottages, Higher-lane, who was acclaimed Queen last year by the votes of her schoolmates at Lymm School, under the headmastership of Mr. Richard Oddie. The year of Queen Winnie's reign has been a happy one except for the fact that she has undergone a serious illness, from which she only recovered as a result of tender care and nursing. This year she filled the role of Rose Queen, and a very sweet picture she made in her brilliant scarlet robe, trimmed with fur, and she carrying a bouquet of roses. She was accompanied by her train-bearers and maids of honour, and acquitted herself with real dignity.

THE CROWNING CEREMONY.

Leaving Whitbarrow, the procession passed by Eagle-brow, to the ancient Cross, the route being everywhere lined with enthusiastic and admiring spectators. It continued along Cherry-lane, Heatley-road, Eine Tree-road and Cherry-lane, finally emerging on Booth's-hill. Its destination was the large field situated at the end of Mallman's-road, kindly lent by Mr. John Houghton. Last year the kindness of Mr. Houghton, the field by way of Mallman's-road, but this year, by the further kindness of Mr. Houghton, they were able to pass through his grounds. A hall had been made on Booth's-hill, and the first to enter the field were the band, who took up their position at the bottom end of the huge oval round which barriers had been erected, and near to the spacious wooden platform where stood the time-honoured Maypole and on which the dancers were to take place later. Next came the characters from the processions who rode on horseback—Napoleon, Joan of Arc, King Charles and others. The horses for the tableaux had been lent by the Urban District Council, but the remainder privately. These characters dismounted, and moved about the field. Then came the Scouts and the remainder of the merry-makers; finally Queen Lena and her retinue, and Queen Winnie with her retinue. They processed with stately mein to the bottom of the oval, and as they advanced made up the red-carpeted aisle leading to the throne and dais. Queen Lena bowing, there was another outbreak of loud applause. Meanwhile the band discoursed merry airs—the old-familiar tunes—on the greensward; and as soon as Her Majesty was seated, her retinue grouped around her, a troop of tiny girls, dressed in white, commenced the revelries with a dainty sword-dance.

Now to the throne advanced Arthur Leigh, chosen by the committee to be the crown-bearer. Every ten paces he knelt and bowed, the Queen acknowledging the homage by an inclination of the head. He reached the throne and held up the yellow silk cushion, from which the crown was taken and placed upon Queen Lena's head by Mrs. Jack Hinde, president of the Ladies' Committee. The crown-bearer remounted, and Jack Smith then come forward with similar state and presented the sceptre.

The revelries then went forward in full swing. A tasteful simultaneous fairy-dance, including Queen Winnie, was followed by Miss Annie Dinnis and Marjorie Lillicrap, of Urmston; and the remainder of the afternoon programme included a clever gymnastic display by the Hulme Lads' Club, comic interludes (Zylaco), solo dance by Miss Monica Dinnis and Marjorie Lillicrap, Dutch dance, and a comic football match—Lymm v. Oughtrington. Afterwards the band was to play for public dancing until dusk, a fitting termination to such a happy day. The programme of dance music was—Waltz dance (S. E. Henry); waltz, "La Premiere Fete" (H. Webbs); lancers, "Balmoral" (T. H. Wright); round dance, "Maxima" (W. F. Jones); waltz, "The Girl on the Film" (A. Mudge); quadrille, "Cinderella" (C. W. Filby); maxina, "Fairy Footsteps" (S. Dacre); lancers, "The Marching" (A. Winter); value, "Roses of Picardy" (H. Woods); and fox-trot, "See For Tennessee" (S. Douglas).

During the day there was a hidden treasure competition; and refreshments were obtainable on the field.

THE WORKERS.

The President of the Festival once again was the popular Councillor Sydney N. Dugdale; the vice-president, Mr. J. H. Brazendale; the secretary, Mr. James Webb; and the treasurer, Mr. E. D. Taylor.

Of the Ladies' Committee the president was Mrs. Jack Hinde, the secretary Mrs. S. N. Dugdale, and the committee Misses E. Barnes, H. Buckley, D. Davies, D. A. Davies, C. Hirst, M. Jolley, C. Lewis, F. Lush, G. W. M. Maires and Laura Barnes, Bertha Bradburn, Nellie Moston, Ethel Mudge, Ethel Hutton, Ellen Hutton, Martha Fray, Nellie Shepherd, Annie Harrison, Minnie Hanson, Maggie Beatty, Annie Leach, Ethel Lawson, Lucy Massey, Sarah Worrall, Nellie Willis, May Dixon and Norah Wood.

Tambourine Dancers.—Lois Moston, Sarah Millington, Martha Skidmore, Margaret Wakefield, Maggie Birks, Gladys Leigh, Annie Bell, Doris Wood, Tracy Jackson and Edith Brockett.

Photograph by Birtles. THE FESTIVAL OFFICIALS, COMMITTEE, AND DANCING-MISTRESS.

"BIRDS! BIRDS! BEAUTIFUL BIRDS!"

"And so the Plumage Bill, like the Dogs Bill, will come back to us," said Viscount Cecil in Westminster.

"Yes, it was not defeated; no, it was simply killed by being talked out, which means to the opponents to an unacceptable Bill talk on and talk, talk on and talk, talk on and talk until the clock indicates the time for division is now past. That such tactics should still be practised in the mother of parliaments is a reproach to parliamentary procedure. That assembly is no fit scene for posting retrogressive to practise in. Yet, in spite of the commendable work, well done—or two of unconventional, fearless pioneering—there still is need for the good of legislative decency and Christian progress.

"Birds! Birds! Beautiful Birds! Creatures of gay and lovely plumage done to a cruel, bloody death! Left in the hands of the merciless hunters, the merciless millinery trade, the triumph! to do violence to every law of reason and justice! to outrage every feeling of