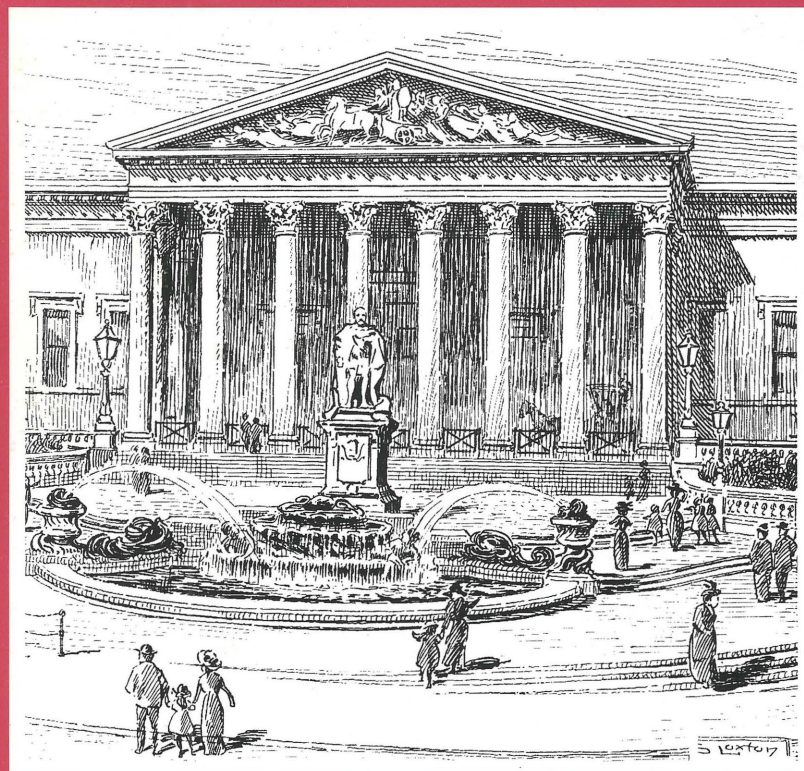


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BRISTOL 1901-1913



THE BRISTOL BRANCH OF THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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Bristol 1901-1913 is the one hundred and fourth pamphlet in this series.

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Cover illustration: The King Edward VII Memorial at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, by Samuel Loxton.
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**BRISTOL
1901-1913**

This is a collection of happenings during the early years of the twentieth century extracted, in the main, from the pages of the *Bristol Observer*. The compilation was prompted by the fact that the period covered by Latimer's *Annals* ends in 1900, but it does not aspire to his standards of scholarship. It is inevitable that the compiler's prejudices and predilections are not the same as Latimer's, but it is hoped, nevertheless, that the pamphlet will convey the flavour of Edwardian Bristol.

The period saw the deaths of two monarchs, the implementation of the Education and National Insurance Acts and the end of the war in South Africa. It was a period of unemployment but also one when a number of new buildings appeared on the scene, many of them financed by wealthy local benefactors. The activities of suffragettes, Protestant protesters (against the education rate and High Church practices) and temperance workers caught public attention. The new dock at Avonmouth was completed and actively promoted by the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Railways were developing, traffic problems were beginning to appear in the city and air travel becoming a possibility.

Illustrations of many of the events described will be found in Reece Winstone's *Bristol As It Was 1914-1900*.

1901

The new century began with severe gales and rainfall of unusual severity. Mina Road was flooded and impassable for pedestrians; this was due to the overflowing of a brook which drained water from Horfield and Redland and which passed from the back of Elton Road via Picton Street. There was also flooding in Stapleton Road near the Black Swan; the Malago overflowed and fields between Parson Street and St. John's Lane were submerged.

In January Messrs. E.S. & A. Robinson transferred the sum of £5,000 to trustees to endow a fund to help employees incapacitated by age or infirmity from continuing work.

The death of Queen Victoria later in the same month prompted a special meeting of the Council to pass a resolution of condolence. The proclamation of the new King was read at the Council House, Haymarket,

College Green and Queen Square. On the occasion of the Queen's funeral wreathes were laid at her statue on College Green and services were held in the Cathedral and the Colston Hall. In May a meeting of the Queen Victoria Memorial Fund was held and it was decided that one third of the funds raised should be sent to the national fund and the remainder used to increase the endowment of the Convalescent Home which had been opened by the Queen in 1899.

On 16 February a new mail service to Jamaica was inaugurated. *Port Morant* left Avonmouth travelling at a maximum speed of 15 to 17 knots; she carried 45 first class and 15 second class passengers. The vessel was specially built for the carriage of tropical fruit (bananas and pineapples) in refrigerated conditions and on her return voyage it was intended that she would carry some 800 tons of this cargo.

Two notable religious leaders died during the year. Rev. Urijah Thomas, the popular minister of Redland Park Congregational Church, died on 8 March aged 62. The Rt. Rev. William Robert Brownlow, Bishop of Clifton since 1894, died on 10 November aged 71. He had been domestic chaplain to Pope Pius IX in 1893 and was joint author of the English *Roma Soterranea* and an author of papers on 'Christian Antiquities' and 'Serfdom in Europe.'

In March the papers leading to the census were distributed. The results became known in June; the number of inhabited houses in the city was 58,412 (47,495 in 1891) and the total population was 328,842, an increase of 39,562 over the 1891 figure.

On 4 May the Commander in Chief Lord Roberts was enthusiastically received. On arrival at Temple Meads he inspected the newly formed 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. After lunch at the Council House he went to the Colston Hall where he opened a bazaar in aid of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. Whilst there he presented South African War Medals to A Battalion of the Royal Horse Artillery and inspected some 107 war veterans some of whom had been with him during his Indian campaign.

In June Mrs. Bramwell Booth attended the opening of a hotel for women provided by the Salvation Army at 76, Milk Street; the opening ceremony was performed by Miss Isabel A. Robinson. The hotel comprised a sitting and dining room and sleeping accommodation for 40 to 50 women at a charge of 3d per night. Attached was a steam laundry capable of turning out £40 worth of laundry per week; it was proposed that the laundry would be worked by 'free cases' (women who came for board and lodging in exchange for work for the hotel).

In the following month the New Streets Committee of Bristol Corporation opened five blocks of 'labourers' dwellings at Braggs Lane

in St. Phillips, Chapel Street in St. Phillips Marsh, and Millpond Street and Mina Road, Baptist Mills. The dwellings were divided into first class and second class, the former containing a living room and two bedrooms and the latter a living room and one bedroom; they were provided with an open kitchen grate with oven and a ventilated larder. At the rear there was a wash house with a coalhole, a WC fitted with a flushing tank and a water tap supplied from the company's mains. The dwellings were let at 4s 6d per week for three rooms and 3s 3d for two and the committee decided to give preference to tenants from the labouring class whose wages were from 16s 0d to 26s 0d per week; the number of occupants was restricted to five in the three rooms and to three in the two rooms; no lodgers were allowed.

The Bill authorising the Avonmouth Docks extension scheme received the Royal Assent on 17 August.

A number of employees of Bristol Tramway Company became dissatisfied with their conditions and some who expressed this were dismissed by the company. Some sought advice from the Gas Workers and General Labourers Union and in August, acting upon that advice, 450 of them handed in their notice. The notice was accepted by the company who started to recruit new drivers. There were daily public meetings of the ex-employees one of which was addressed by Ben Tillet. Despite attempts to negotiate and arrange conciliation the company remained adamant and the men were never re-employed. There were complaints that the newly recruited drivers caused an increasing number of accidents and the Corporation requested the Watch Committee to report upon accidents upon the tramways during the recent past. The Watch Committee reported on 8 October that during the period from 23 March until 13 August there had been 67 such accidents and for the period from 14 August until 30 September 75.

At the end of the year the Tramway Company arranged an entertainment for its employees at the Colston Hall. They arranged for the tramcars to stop running earlier than usual and a number of them were brought into the Centre in order to take the employees and their wives, mothers and sweethearts home afterwards. Close to 3,000 people sat down at 30 tables and 306 'loyalists' were given places of honour in the grand tier. The hall was decorated with banners reading 'Our Motto is Loyalty' and 'Success to the Directors' The occasion was paid for personally by George and Samuel White.

Sir Greville Smyth died in October. He was averse to public life and spent little time at Ashton Court.

In the same month a new Congregational Chapel at Brislington was dedicated at a service conducted by Rev. J. Roebuck. The architect was

Frank Wills and the builder William Cowlin and Son. The chapel was designed to seat 700 on the ground floor and 110 in an end gallery with a schoolroom for 150 children. The cost including the site was £4,000. The new Presbyterian church in Cranbrook Road was opened in October.

In November there was a disastrous fire at the boot factory belonging to Luke and Arthur Peacock in Blackhorse Road, Kingswood. The stock and premises were not fully insured and 7,000 to 8,000 pairs of boots wholly or partially completed were destroyed. The factory employed 400 hands and the fire was the fiercest in Kingswood for some years.

All Hallows Church, Easton was consecrated in the same month. The architects were Crisp and Oatley and the builder R. Wilkins & Son; the church was heated by warm air. There was provision for 800 worshippers.

1902

The year saw a number of protests against 'Romish' tendencies in Anglican churches organised by John Kensit the secretary of the Protestant Truth Society, who had gathered together a band of itinerant young preachers known as 'Wycliffites'. On Sunday 19 January, they interrupted the service at All Saints' Church, Clifton by standing during the Nicene Creed whilst the regular congregation knelt; after protesting against 'idolatry' they were ejected from the church. A few days afterwards there was a public meeting at the Blind Asylum Music Hall in Park Row presided over by Alderman J. Inskip who was supported by Kensit. Whilst conceding that the protesters had the highest motives Alderman Inskip condemned the preachers' conduct at All Saints'. Shortly afterwards there was a public open-air meeting in Knowle in reference to what was described as 'sham Popery' in Knowle. The meeting was interrupted by badinage followed by heated argument. In June there was a demonstration at the church of St. Simon, Warwick Road when there was shouting and hissing during the service and the police had to be called. One of the protesters, Henry Hamilton Newby, subsequently appeared before the Bristol magistrates who ordered him to pay £4 costs and find a surety for his good behaviour. He refused to pay the costs or to provide a surety and Judge Austin and W. Dove Wilcox, the magistrates, sentenced him to 14 days' imprisonment for 'riotous violent and indecent behaviour'.

A new dock had been constructed at Avonmouth in the 1870s but by the end of the century it had become apparent that it had to be enlarged. The Act authorising this development received the Royal Assent in August 1901; it authorised the extension of the city boundaries to take in parts of Shirehampton and Henbury and gave power to create

stock to the amount of £2,451,207 of which £1,428,885 was for the new dock. In February 1902 Sir John Aird, the builder of the Assouan Dam, signed a contract to build the dock for £1,394,512. The total area of the site was 250 acres and the dock was to be 30 acres in extent. There was to be a graving dock 850 feet long, 3,200 feet of quays and an entrance lock 850 feet by 85 feet and 36 feet deep at high water of ordinary neap tides. It was anticipated that vessels of 12,000 to 20,000 tons could be accommodated. The conditions of the contract were subsequently changed in some important respects. On 5 March the Prince of Wales cut the first sod. The Prince, accompanied by the Princess, arrived at Temple Meads from Badminton and drove through the city to Clifton Down Station. His arrival at Avonmouth was greeted by thousands of citizens and, after a prayer offered by the Bishop of Bristol (Dr. George Forrest Browne), the Prince set a steam navvy in motion which quickly filled a railway truck; he was afterwards presented with a silver model of the navvy. The Lord Mayor (Alderman C.E.L. Gardner) presided over a banquet given to some 500 to 600 visitors in one of the sheds in the old dock. The King had already given permission for the dock to be known as the 'Royal Edward.'

On 18 March a serious fire broke out in the premises of Christopher Thomas & Bros., soap manufacturers, in Broad Plain. One of the directors, William Mandeville Edwards, was injured and John Knight, a clerk, was killed by falling masonry. The damage amounted to between £20,000 and £30,000.

On 28 March Sir George Edwards died aged 83. He was one of the principals of Edwards, Ringer and Bigg of Redcliffe Street, tobacco manufacturers, and one of the founders of Bristol Stock Exchange. He was Mayor on four occasions, 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1886.

The 33rd annual conference of the National Union of Teachers was held in the Victoria Rooms in April. Harry Coward of Bristol was elected Vice-President.

In the same month Rev. Dr. George Burton of South Shields was appointed by the Vatican as Bishop of Clifton. His appointment came as a surprise to local Catholic circles as he was unknown in the city. He preached his first sermon in the pro-cathedral on 4 May.

The war in South Africa came to an end in May and there was public rejoicing on 1 June. In July the 3rd Active Service section of the Bristol Rifles returned. They were welcomed by the Lord Mayor at Temple Meads Station from where they marched to the Tramway Centre. A tramcar took the troops to Horfield Barracks where the section was disbanded. A week later the 2nd Active Service Company of the Royal Engineers led by Lieutenant Lambert returned and were similarly

welcomed by the Lord Mayor after which they marched to their headquarters in College Green. On the following Sunday the company attended a service at St. Mary Redcliffe.

The coronation of King Edward VII was planned to take place at the end of June and preparations for local celebrations in many parts of the city were put in hand earlier in the year. In March a circular was sent to all Stoke Bishop householders (not being employees) inviting them to a meeting at which a committee was formed. Subscriptions were raised and plans were made for an entertainment including the Volunteer Artillery Band, sports and medals for the children and teas for all. When news of the King's illness was received the committee had to cancel the arrangements and the event was postponed until August. It was evidently a success and resulted in a surplus of £21 16s 6d which was spent on the structure of the Village Hall.¹ Other local celebrations included a Coronation Breakfast at the Totterdown YMCA, a presentation of medals and sixpences to the children of Muller's Orphanage, services at the Cathedral and other churches and a mid-day service in the Colston Hall. There were teas and entertainments for the aged poor in many wards and much of the city was decorated and illuminated.

In August the directors of the Great Western Railway travelled on the newly constructed railway linking South Wales with London.

The question of Sunday trading was considered by the Council. A deputation of reverend gentlemen had made representations to the Watch Committee and the committee had also received a petition passed at a meeting of the Lord's Day Observance Society, the Bible Class Federation and the Bristol and District Christian Endeavour Union. The Town Clerk had made enquiries of other large towns and most of them replied that enforcement had occasioned hostile criticism and in some the Act was a dead letter. The committee nevertheless recommended that prosecutions should be considered but the matter was referred back by the Council in order that they may endeavour 'by letter or moral suasion to mitigate the evils of Sunday trading.' On 1 October the committee approved the text of a letter to be sent by the Lord Mayor seeking to persuade 'all those not engaged in distinctly necessary trades to suspend business on Sunday.'

Early on the morning of Monday 15 September 'Professor' William Finney proposed to dive headfirst from the Suspension Bridge into the River Avon. He was a noted high diver and related to two well-known tank performers who had appeared at the Bristol Musical Halls. He

claimed that he had already dived into the Thames from Tower Bridge. The Bristol police were aware of his intention and he was apprehended before he could make the attempt. He appeared before the magistrates later that day originally charged with attempting to commit suicide; the charge was reduced to that of 'wandering about on the Suspension Bridge and being there for an unlawful purpose.' Finney undertook not to repeat his attempt and was bound over to be of good behaviour for six months.

Following the incorporation of the Bedminster Union into that of Bristol, parts of the Barton Regis Union were also incorporated and the Eastville Workhouse was taken over by the Bristol Union. The Barton Regis Guardians were then required by the Local Government Board to provide a new workhouse. They purchased 13½ acres at Southmead upon which a new workhouse and infirmary was erected at a cost of £33,000. The foundation stone was laid by the Duchess of Beaufort on 18 September 1900. The new workhouse (to provide accommodation for the able-bodied aged and infirm poor of the union) was opened by Sir John Dorington, Chairman of Gloucestershire County Council, on 18 September.

In October the Bristol Musical Festival was held as a tribute to the soldiers who had fallen during the South African War. The event included a performance of the Berlioz *Requiem* and an evening concert by Paderewski, the celebrated Polish pianist.

1903

The year saw the implementation of the Education Act 1902, which completely reorganised the country's education system; responsibility for providing elementary, secondary and technical education was given to the local education authorities. The Act authorised the education authority to make grants to Church of England schools. Bristol Education Committee was established in February and held its first meeting in April; in the same month the final meeting of the school board took place. Non-conformists objected to paying a rate that was used to maintain denominationally managed schools; in February Lloyd George, whose slogan was 'Rome had been put on the rates', addressed a packed meeting of free churchmen held in the Colston Hall at which they very strongly condemned the provisions of the Act. At a meeting held in Broadmead schoolroom a similar protest was registered and the chairman of the meeting, Rev. D.J. Hiley announced that he would refuse to pay the education rate. In August a memorial from the Citizens League explained that they would refuse to pay any rate that was used to maintain schools at which a distinctive religious creed was taught. Later that month a number of passive resisters who had refused to pay the education rate appeared before the magistrates and explained that they

¹ The minute book is in Bristol Record Office 40532.

refused to pay for schools that were governed by the unelected; the court ordered them to pay the rate. In July a public meeting had been convened by Rev. H.J. Wilkins, the Vicar of Westbury-on-Trym, who proposed, unusually for an Anglican clergyman, that the County Council be asked to take over the local church school; he explained that the building was in a poor condition and that the necessary repairs were estimated to cost £5,000. His proposal was challenged by Messrs Frank Richardson and J.B.C. Burroughs, two local solicitors, who proposed an amendment to the effect that the school should continue as a Church of England School and the amendment was carried by a large majority.

In March the newly built Buckingham Hall in Hotwell Road, a mission connected with Buckingham Chapel in Clifton, was opened; it replaced the old hall built in 1877. The crowded opening meeting was presided over by Rev. Dr. Glover. The plans for the building, which provided seating for 500 people, were prepared by Oatley & Lawrence

Mr. W.R. Maby died in March. He was a notable local musician and music teacher and was for sometime bandmaster of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and the Bristol Rifle Corps. He was a member of the band that played for Queen Victoria when, as Princess Victoria, she stayed at Clifton.

In April two serious fires took place. A boot factory belonging to Aaron Peacock at Bank Road, Kingswood was destroyed together with the stock, which included a recent delivery of leather. The factory employed 150 hands and was only partially covered by insurance. On 1 April an even larger conflagration took place in the city when the premises of E.S. & A. Robinson at the junction of Victoria Street and Redcliffe Street were totally destroyed. The premises included a central tower and cupola and were a conspicuous sight when approaching from Bristol Bridge. The building contained a paper bag factory and stationery warehouse but the printing, bookbinding and envelope manufacturing departments in Victoria Street were not affected. There was a plucky and largely successful attempt to rescue the firm's books by Chief Officer Gott, Deputy Chief Constable Cann and the company's cashier Mr. Leigh. The adjoining wire works of Finch & Godwin in Redcliffe Street were also seriously damaged.

In April the magistrates, Major Rumsey and E.J. Shellard, heard a case of mutiny. The accused were Johann Nickelsen and Jens Jansen who had signed on as seamen on board the *Indiana* at Philadelphia. The ship sailed to Pensacola where the two men deserted. They were apprehended by the British Consul's marshal and placed in a local gaol. They were described there as being very mutinous and would not obey orders and the captain of the *Indiana* considered that it was not safe to

sail with them; they were therefore placed on board another vessel to Portishead. Jansen was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and Nickelsen to fourteen days.

In the same month Lord Avebury unveiled a tablet at 16 Caledonia Place to record the fact that the house had been the residence of Lord Macaulay.

In April Isaac Pow & Sons, boot manufacturers of Kingswood, were prosecuted by the Inspector of Factories. The firm was fined for the unauthorised deduction of money from employees' wages (an offence under the Truck Act) and for having sanitary arrangements in an unsatisfactory condition.

A tragic suicide took place in May when the popular headmaster of Kingswood Wesleyan School, Edward James Davies, shot himself. He was also a trustee of Soundwell Wesleyan Chapel.

There was another tragedy later in the same month at the County Ground, Ashley Down, during sports organised by Bristol Post Office Athletics Club. During the five mile motor bicycle race two competitors collided injuring eleven spectators; two children aged 3 and 14, were killed.

The jubilee of Bristol YMCA took place in June. The annual British Conference of the organisation was held at the local headquarters in St. James's Square and there was a foundation stone laying ceremony at Totterdown YMCA.

In the previous year a number of Bristol merchants had promoted a scheme for the Bristol, London and Southern Counties Railway with a capital of £6,000,000. It was envisaged that the line would run from Avonmouth to Waterloo via Trowbridge, Devizes, joining the London and South Western system a few miles west of Basingstoke. The Bill proposed the construction of a double-decked central station by the side of the Colston Hall, the lower deck for goods and the upper for passengers. Many ward meetings in favour of the Bill took place and the scheme was supported by the Corporation but was opposed in the House of Commons Committee by the London and South Western Railway and the Great Western Railway. The final hearing was held in July 1903 when the committee threw out the Bill because it was not satisfied that the capital could be raised.

The first passengers travelled on the new South Wales to London railway route in July. The work entailed in constructing the new line included 33 miles of track, 100 bridges, the construction of the Huckford viaduct at Winterbourne, the Chipping Sodbury tunnel, an immense embankment at Coalpit Heath and a new hotel at the Acton Turville end of Badminton village to replace the Portcullis.

At the Gloucester Assizes held in July ten men were charged with a riot at Berkeley. The confrontation arose from a labour dispute at

Sharpness Docks during the course of which some local men lost their jobs and were replaced by London dockers. There was a fight between the two groups and on the judge's direction the jury acquitted the three local men because they were defending themselves; the seven Londoners were each imprisoned for two months.

There was a meeting of the Westbury-on-Trym Parish Council in July to consider a proposal by Bristol Council to take over part of the parish. It was noted that the proposal was to take over Stoke Bishop but not the cottages in Westbury village. The meeting decided that there was no point in meeting a delegation from the city to discuss the matter.

John Latimer donated a manuscript volume of the charters and royal grants to the city since the time of Henry II. In July the Council acknowledged the gift with grateful thanks.

Two newly completed buildings were opened in August. The Stock Exchange founded in 1845, had commissioned Henry Williams as architect for its new premises in St. Nicholas Street; the builders were Cowlin & Son. The baths in Barton Hill which cost £17,000 were opened by the Lord Mayor. The bath measured 75' by 30' and there were 43 dressing boxes; the gallery had seats for 220 spectators.

Mark Whitwill died in August. He had joined his father in his business of ship owners in 1846. The firm had been founded in 1831 and its steamers carried goods to and from the USA and Canada. He was one of the promoters of Avonmouth Dock and a member of the School Board for 21 years, serving as its Vice-Chairman from 1871 to 1879 and Chairman from 1879 to 1892. Mr. Whitwill was a councillor from 1870 to 1891 and President of the Hospital for Sick Children.

On 10 September there was an unusually severe storm that caused havoc in the city and surrounding areas. A crane being erected in connection with the CWS building on Broad Quay was demolished, windows were blown in and telephone lines brought down. The Ship Inn in Deanery Road struck by lightning and trees on Durdham Down and at Siston and Warmley were damaged. There were floods in St. Philips Marsh, the manager's house at West Gloucestershire Water Company's premises at the Chase, Kingswood, was damaged and the roof and walls of sawmills in Bank Road, Kingswood brought down.

There was an invasion of clerics in October when the Church Congress, which lasted for a week, was held in the city. The Congress, formed about 50 years previously, was a recognised and established part of the deliberative process of the Church of England; it had previously been held in Bristol in 1864. There was an ecclesiastical art exhibition at the Rifle Drill Hall and exhibitions by the Church Missionary Society and the Church Army; Dr. Barnardo opened a new branch in Park Row.

Protestants protested against ritual tendencies. A procession of the clergy had to be abandoned owing to bad weather. The Congress sessions at the Colston Hall were presided over the Rt. Rev. Bishop Browne and considered missionary work, the increased role of laymen in reference to church matters (a proposal that was condemned by the English Church Union) and modern research with reference to scripture and the gospels.

Over the Christmas period there was a fire at the Corporation's electrical generating station at Temple Back resulting in the cessation of the civic supply of electricity to the city. It was thought that the incident was occasioned by an increased demand for power to light the seasonal illuminations. The directors of Bristol Tramway Company, who had their own generating station nearby, offered to put their surplus power at the Corporation's disposal. The offer was declined, as it was possible to switch over to the newly completed generator at Avon Bank.

1904

In January John Latimer died; until a few days before his death he had been editing his edition of Bristol's charters. He was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1824 and moved to Bristol in 1858. He edited the *Bristol Mercury* for 25 years and had been interested in local history from an early age. Of him it was said that 'nature appears to have given him a strong bent for jotting down events which, even when trivial, have their value in picturing the life of the age.'

In February Sir W.F. Butler commanding the Western District unveiled a South African War memorial at Bristol Grammar School and visited the Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans Association.

In the same month there was an assembly of temperance workers addressed by Lord Peel at which there was an emphatic demand for licensing reform.

During the year there were a number of sittings of the magistrates' court at which orders were made to distrain upon the goods of persons refusing to pay the education rate. There were also a number of public sales of the seized goods. At each court appearance and sale there were public statements made by those who refused to pay setting out their reasons for the refusal. George Cooke, a solicitor, often represented members of the Citizens League, an organisation of the protesters.

In March Bristol City Football Club left their ground at St. John's Lane and moved to Ashton Gate, the ground on which Bedminster FC formerly played.

In the following month a memorial was erected by the Clifton Improvement Committee at 2, Bellevue, Clifton Hill. It recorded the fact that between 1819 and 1824 the house had been the residence of Lord Lawrence of the Punjab and his brother Sir Henry Lawrence, defender of Lucknow.

The new art gallery and museum extension opened in May; the development was due to the generosity of Sir William Henry Wills who had provided the full costs of construction amounting to upwards of £40,000. The building was designed by Frank Wills and the builder was William Cowlin & Son. In June the Corporation debated whether to open the art gallery on Sundays. They had received objections from a number of organisations but, despite this, decided to open on 26 Sunday afternoons during the year.

In the same month there was an exhibition of animated photographs at the Colston Hall that was seen by a large number of visitors. The scenes depicted included actual fighting in Manchuria and the Niagara Falls; there were also some humorous pictures.

Notwithstanding the objections from Westbury-on-Trym Parish Council, the Bill to increase Bristol's boundaries to include the whole of Shirehampton and Westbury, part of Henbury and the upper part of Horfield was passed by the committee of the House of Lords at the end of May and received the Royal Assent on 15 August. The new boundaries resulted in an increase of 13,443 in the city's population. Another result of the change was that the Barton Regis Union ceased to exist.

In June the South African war memorial at Clifton College was unveiled by Lord Methuen. 43 old Cliftonians were killed during the conflict.

Later in the same month there was a fire in the engine house at Dean Lane colliery. Most of the men were absent for their annual outing but there were two men underground. They were eventually brought to the surface by other means.

The new wing at the Diocesan Training College at Fishponds was dedicated in June by the Bishop of Bristol. The work included the installation of several frescoes on the walls of the chapel. The architect was W.V. Gough and the builder C.A. Hayes.

The Annual General Council of the Federation of Trade Unions was held in the city in July. 80 delegates met under the presidency of Pete Curran of the Gas Workers and General Labourers Union. The conference thanked those Members of Parliament who had supported the Trades Disputes Bill and condemned the importation of cheap Chinese labour into South Africa.

In July HRH Princess Henry of Battenberg, the King's youngest sister, visited the city. She was formally welcomed at Temple Meads station and after lunch with the Lord Mayor she took the train from Clifton Down Station to Portishead where she laid the foundation stone of the new nautical school built to replace the old training ship *Formidable*. She was presented with a silver trowel by the architect Edward Gabriel.

Also in July the foundation stone of All Saints church, Fishponds was laid. The church had been built on land at Grove Road given by Miss Castle; it was designed by Lingen Barber & Son and built by Clark & Son.

In August the Bristol Guardians resolved to provide quarters for eight married couples at the Stapleton workhouse.

September marked the completion of the reconstruction of E.S. & A. Robinson's premises at the junction of Redcliffe Street and Victoria Street; the exterior appearance differed very little from that of the premises that were destroyed. The architects were Oatley & Lawrence and the builder William Cowlin & Son.

At the end of September the church of St. Aidan at Crews Hole was dedicated by the Bishop. The new parish comprised parts of the parishes of St. George and St. Michael, Two Mile Hill, and had a communicants' roll of 140. The church had a Sunday school with 300 pupils and a men's bible class of 50. The architect of the new building was Mr. Bodey.

In October there was an ingenious attempt to defraud the fledgling University College. A benefactor who wished to remain anonymous sent a bank note for £1,000 and the treasurer acknowledged its receipt in the press. A few days later he received a letter purporting to be from a Mr. Hartford claiming that he was the donor and had mistakenly sent the bank note for £1,000 whereas he should have sent one for £100 and requesting the return of the balance of £900. A detective was despatched to the address in London from which the letter had come and he arrested the sender Joseph Fitch who appeared before the Quarter Sessions at the end of the month and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

In October the Miners' Federation Conference was held at the Grand Hotel. There were 88 delegates who agreed that daily working hours (bank to bank) should be eight hours; they supported a motion that the Coal Mining (Employment) Bill should take precedence over all others and resolved that no child should be employed in a mine for more than eight hours in any 24. The delegates supported a resolution advocating the nationalisation of land, minerals, mines and railways.

Later in the same month the freedom of the city was presented to Sir W.H. Wills in recognition of his contribution to the city's commercial interests and his munificence. The presentation took place at a special meeting of the City Council and the freedom was housed in a casket of silver gilt made by the Bristol Goldsmiths' Alliance.

At the end of the month local miners expressed their dissatisfaction with the revised wages proposed by the employers. The offer was for a 2½% advance during the winter months (October to April) up to 31 December 1906. The miners decided to continue negotiations with the mine owners.

The result of the municipal elections held in November was the end of the Conservatives' predominance, which had lasted since 1836. Labour and Liberal councillors and aldermen numbered 42 and Conservatives 35.

The Cottage Homes at Downend, constructed for the Bristol Guardians, were opened in November by the Rt. Hon Walter Long, MP, President of the Local Government Board. 20 acres of land had been purchased from Sir Charles D. Cave in 1901 at the cost of £5,000. The premises comprised 14 semi-detached homes in a crescent, a porters' lodge, a convalescent home and a hall for general use. The cost of the building work (including fees) was £20,000 and the architects were La Trobe & Weston; the builder George Downs & Son.

As winter set in measures to combat unemployment were called for. The Council resolved to put in hand some additional works during the winter months. They decided to level some ground at Greenbank Cemetery and to repair sewers in Barton Hill, Pennywell Road, Denmark Street, Tankard's Close and Welsh Back. The measures prompted a public meeting that was held in the Horsefair presided over by E.H. Jarvis, the chairman of the Trades' Council, supported by W. Whitefield, the miners' agent, John Gregory, Frank Sheppard and J. Curle, the secretary of the Trades' Council. The meeting emphatically condemned the dilatory manner in which the committee of the Corporation had set in motion the works for the relief of the unemployed.

Samuel White of Bristol Tramways Company also offered assistance to unemployed painters. He had identified work that could be carried out during the colder months; there were posts that needed to be painted and, when the weather was not suitable for working outdoors, there was decorating to be done indoors. He stated that he could offer work to 100 unemployed guaranteed for the months of December, January and February; the pay would be £1 for a 40-hour week. The trade unions deprecated his proposal pointing out that the normal pay for a painter was 8½d per hour. Despite this condemnation some 800 men requested application forms within a few hours of the announcement being made.

On more than one occasion at the end of the year all parts of Bristol were enveloped in a dense fog. Traffic was virtually impossible; pedestrians had great difficulty in finding their way and most trains were late. Sport was affected; at the rugby match between Bath and Bristol at the County Ground the second half was played without the spectators (including the press) knowing what was going on.

William Perrin appeared before the Lawford's Gate magistrates charged with driving a locomotive at a greater speed than that allowed under the Locomotives Act. On 16 December he was driving at Warmley

Hill with a load of bricks at a speed of 4 mph whereas the permitted speed was 2 mph. When stopped he said, 'If I can't go more than 2 mph I might as well stay at home.' However, when he appeared before the justices, he undertook not to do it again and the magistrates let him off on payment of costs.

1905

In January a memorial tablet to John Latimer was unveiled in the north transept of the Cathedral.

Confidence in the probity of the local legal profession was dented at the winter assizes when two solicitors, in unconnected cases, pleaded guilty to crimes of dishonesty. John Frederick Murly (who was arrested in Australia) was sentenced to five years' penal servitude and William Frederick Langworthy to three years' penal servitude.

A mass meeting of postal workers chaired by H.W. Twiggs JP took place at Stuckey's restaurant at the beginning of February. The purpose was to protest at the failure of the Postmaster General to implement the pay rises recommended by the Bradford Commission.

On 15 February there was a ceremonial opening of the Art Gallery which had been completed for some time. Before the ceremony there was an interesting address on art matters by Professor Herkomer.

The memorial to the members of the Gloucestershire Regiment who were killed in action or died of disease during the South African War was unveiled by Lord Roberts in March. He was met by a Field Marshall's salute given by the band of the 2nd Gloucesters. The memorial stands outside the Victoria Rooms.

William Sturge died on 26 March in his 86th year. He was a surveyor and came from a well-known Quaker family. In his early years he had been involved in surveys of parishes under the Tithe Commutation Act 1836 and had also dealt with enclosure awards. Mr. Sturge was an expert in the purchase of land for railways and waterworks, was Land Steward to the Corporation and played a leading part in the formation of the Surveyors' Institution in 1868. He appeared many times before Parliamentary Committees on the promotion of public works.

In May the triennial conference of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union took place at the Shepherds' Hall in Old Market Street. Mr. W. Gorman the local organiser reported that in Bristol the Dockers' Union had fostered an amicable spirit with the employers and that it was the local practice that all disputes should be submitted to arbitration. Ben Tillett, who attended, suggested that unemployment was the result of the existence of monopoly and the burdens which the non-producing sections of the community imposed on

the industrial classes. The meeting resolved that a corollary of universal compulsory education was that the state should maintain children.

Another conference took place in the following month when the city was invaded by postmen whose confederation held its 14th annual meeting at the YMCA hall. Mr. W.H. Rogers of Bristol presided. The meeting expressed concern at the conditions of rural postmen who were not allowed a weekly half-holiday. Following the refusal to implement the recommendations of the Bradford Commission the meeting called for a select committee of the House of Commons to enquire into their grievances. The view was expressed that the low educational test for postmen entering the service was a cause of their failure to achieve an increase in wages.

At the end of May a memorial to William Wooldridge Fosbrooke, the distinguished comedian, was unveiled by James Macready Chute in Westbury churchyard.

In June the Library Committee considered a suggestion that betting news in newspapers in the reading room should be obliterated by a stamp covering the offending text with a black patch. Enquiries had been made of 153 libraries in other towns and it was found that of these 17 covered betting news in this manner. The committee rejected the suggestion by six votes to two.

In the same month the foundation stone was laid at Western College opposite Highbury Chapel. The college, which prepared young men for the Congregational ministry, was at the time in temporary accommodation having removed from Plymouth. The new building comprised lecture rooms, a library, dining hall, common room and an assembly hall. The architect was H. Dare Bryan and the builder Long & Sons.

The Bristol Carnival at Clifton Zoo was opened at the beginning of July by the Lord Mayor; the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort were present on the opening day. The carnival which lasted for six days was in aid of the Infirmary. In addition to the usual funfair attractions, visitors could see 'the Bristol Baron', a St. Bernards collecting dog lent by the Dogs' Home, and listen to music provided by Herr Kundt's performers and the Royal Artillery band from Portsmouth. Motor cars placed at the disposal of the Carnival Committee by their owners were available to take passengers on a programme of tours ranging from a circuit of the Downs to a country spin of considerable length. Two pavilions had been provided by the Coliseum and the Hippodrome, each seating about 1,000 and providing continuous entertainment of a high order from 3 until 11.30 p.m. At the close of the six days it was announced that the infirmary had been freed of its debt of £15,000 and that over 100,000 people had attended.

The attendance at Bristol cricket week, during which the county played the visiting Australian test team, had been affected by the popularity of the Bristol Carnival. The visitors batted first and scored 527; play was affected by rain but the county in their first innings only managed a total of 116. Forced to follow on, the county had reached 145 for one wicket at close of play on the last day.

A new school in Wick Road, Brislington was opened in July. The cost of the site was £2,593 and of its construction £12,377. The architects were Holbrow & Oaten.

In July the Wesleyan conference was held in Bristol and the delegates were welcomed by the Bishop of Bristol, the first occasion on which an Anglican bishop had done so. It was reported that the total membership of Bands of Hope had reached over 450,000 and that there were over 10,000 members of temperance societies. The conference deplored the employment of barmaids in public houses and the prevalence of betting and gambling and discussed the cause of Methodist union. It commented on the evils arising out of unemployment and supported efforts by the government to deal with this question. As a result of the Education Act 1902 some Wesleyan schools were having financial difficulties but the conference resolved to continue to maintain them. Pupils from Kingswood School, the sons of ministers, were welcomed at the conference.

In October a serious fire destroyed the premises of Lilley & Skinner, boot manufactures in King Square; the adjoining warehouse of Dickie Parsons & Co wholesale clothiers was also demolished. As a result of the conflagration some 500 people lost their employment. The fire also affected a number of cottages at the back of King Square and two elderly residents, one of whom was bedridden, in Charles Street had to be rescued by PC75 and a fireman. A local committee was set up to assist with the loss of furniture and effects by poor and homeless citizens.

At the beginning of the following month there was another serious fire at a warehouse in Colston Avenue occupied by Pickford & Co. which destroyed a quantity of goods stored there. The fire also affected the adjoining printing works belonging to Wright & Co. whose valuable machinery and stock were totally destroyed.

The Liberal Unionist Council meeting held in November at the Colston Hall was welcomed by John Wesley Hall, the President of the Liberal Unionist Association. He said that tariff reform was very much to the front in Bristol and that local Unionists regarded it as a great compliment that the city had been chosen as the first meeting place of the Council. The meeting was addressed by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who supported the view that 'we should have the powers of retaliation against those who treat us badly and the power of preference to those who treat

us well.' Joseph Chamberlain was unable to be present at the conference but came to Bristol and addressed an evening meeting, the theme of his speech being 'I wish no ill to foreign countries but I wish good to my own.'

In November Princess Henry of Battenberg accompanied by her daughter Princess Ena (who later became the Queen of Spain) visited the exhibition mounted by the Irish Industries Association at the Victoria Rooms; the expense of the exhibition was borne by Lady White, wife of Sir George White. The Princess then went on the veterans' headquarters in Orchard Street.

The new Labour Exchange and Employment Registry in Silver Street was opened at the end of November. On its opening 500 to 600 men were waiting outside to register. After three days some 1,500 had registered.

At the end of the year Sir W.H. Wills was elevated to the peerage and selected the title of Lord Winterstoke of Blagdon.

1906

The parliamentary election held in January resulted nationally in sweeping Liberal victories. In Bristol the results were:

<u>Bristol North</u> (held by the Liberals)	A. Birrell (L)	6953
	J.A. Foote (U)	<u>4011</u>
		<u>2942</u>

Bristol South (gained by the Liberals; it was twenty-two years since the constituency had been represented by a Liberal. Walter Long had the unenviable task of defending the importation of Chinese labourers into the Transvaal; his majority in 1900 was 611)

	Howell Davies (L)	7964
	Walter Long (C)	<u>5272</u>
		<u>2692</u>

Bristol East (held by the Liberals with a record majority)

	C.E. Hobhouse (L)	7935
	T.B. Johnston (C)	<u>3129</u>
		<u>4306</u>

Bristol West (held by Conservatives; in 1900 Sir Michael Hick-Beach had been returned unopposed)

	G.A. Gibbs (C)	4267
	T.J. Lennard (L)	<u>3902</u>
		<u>365</u>

In March the West of England Transport Co. inaugurated a new bus service to Tockington; the service left Colston Avenue at 2.42 p.m. The vehicle used was petrol driven, carried 34 passengers and had a maximum speed of 12 mph. Despite this limitation it reached Horfield

Barracks in 20 minutes. After waiting for 15 minutes at Almondsbury the bus was at Tockington by 3.45 and at Olveston by 4 o'clock. The proprietors hoped that the service would be able to carry milk and other produce to Bristol.

In the same month the Bristol Provision Trade Association was instrumental in establishing a new direct service between New Zealand and Avonmouth; the first voyage was undertaken by *SS Devon*. It was envisaged that the average passage time would be 40 days.

The city's Chief Constable, Henry Allbutt, suffered the embarrassment of appearing before the magistrates' court charged with allowing the chimney at his private residence to catch fire. He pleaded guilty and was fined half a crown. Later in the year the Watch Committee declined to accept his resignation and dismissed him from the service. His troubles were not over and in October there was a meeting of his creditors.

In March the Bristol Guardians considered a proposal that their aged inmates should be allowed to play cards. The proposal was lost by 15 votes to 34.

At the end of that month there was a serious fire at the boot and shoe factory belonging to J. & S. Derham in Barton Street, St. James. The premises were totally destroyed and some 450 employees temporarily made unemployed; the employer and a distress committee did their best to temper the hardship. Many occupiers of neighbouring houses were made homeless and Fireman Arthur Wade was killed by a collapsing wall. The company had originated in Wrington and moved to the city in 1854.

In April Cyril Norwood MA (Oxon) was appointed as headmaster of Bristol Grammar School in succession to R.L. Leighton.

In the following month the freedom of the city was conferred upon Lord St. Aldwyn. As Sir Michael Hicks-Beach he had been MP for East Gloucestershire for twenty-one years and for Bristol West for twenty years and had served as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Chief Secretary of Ireland, President of the Board of Trade and Secretary for the Colonies.

The new central library in Deanery Road was opened in June by Lord Winterstoke; its construction had been made possible by a bequest of £50,000 from the estate of Vincent Stuckey Lean. The architect, chosen after a competition, was Charles Henry Holden of the firm of Perry Adams. The opening ceremony took place in the reference library and Mr. G.R. Chapman's orchestra played an operatic selection during the assembly and after the speech making.

In July the 23rd annual congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute was held in Bristol. There were delegates representing local authorities, government departments and professional and scientific bodies. They discussed the problem of dust created by macadamised roads, consumption and the

health of factory workers, the unemployment problem with reference to the Bristol Distress Committee and milk supply.

On 30 July there was a gruesome discovery in a house in Dragon Road, Winterbourne. The Rev. Henry Alban Brown, a Congregational minister, employing an open razor, had killed his wife Maria Catherine and her sister Mary Elliott and had then committed suicide. The Misses Elliott had previously kept a school for young ladies in Clifton.

William Fraser of Peckham appeared before the justices at the beginning of August charged with driving a motor car at St. Augustine's Parade at a speed dangerous to the public; the constable estimated his speed at 15 mph. Fining him £5 and costs, the magistrate, Colonel Coates observed 'Some of you fellows are a perfect nuisance and a pest to society and don't care what you knock down and who you run over.' Mr. Fraser said that he only had £2 on him and asked for time to pay; the magistrate responded 'You will have to pay the fine or go to prison. People who keep these infernal things can afford to pay fines.'

The Ashton Vale Colliery closed in August and as a result 184 men were out of work. Helped by their union about 100 left the district to work in collieries and a few found work in pits in the Bristol area. About 60 to 70 remained unemployed and received financial assistance from the union.

The annual conference of the Band of Hope Union was held in the city in September and the delegates attended a festival at the Colston Hall to hear a choir of 600 voices conducted by George Cooke. The secretary reported that the juvenile movement comprised some 11,000 societies with about 90,000 members and that the whole juvenile temperance movement had over 29,000 societies and 3,500,000 members. He also observed that the new parliament contained 200 MPs who were total abstainers.

Also in September the Bristol Distress Committee considered reports from some of the people they helped to emigrate to Canada. The emigrants said that they had not experienced any difficulty in finding work and were glad that they had gone.

In October the Watch Committee recommended that the Deputy Chief Constable James Cann should be appointed as the new Chief Constable at an annual salary of £650 with an allowance of £100 for a horse.

On 4 October the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. A.J. Smith, opened the new Ashton swing bridge. The bridge had to provide facilities for pedestrians, vehicles and trains to cross between the Cumberland Basin and Ashton. It also had to have the ability to swing open quickly to allow masted vessels to pass up or down stream. The original estimated cost was £36,500 and the Great Western Railway agreed to pay a half share which was fixed at £18,250. When finally completed the actual cost was over

£70,000 and the railway company had to be asked to increase its contribution; it agreed to pay £22,000 leaving the city to fund the balance of nearly £50,000.

On 9 October the Merchant Venturers' Technical College in Unity Street was totally destroyed by fire. The Red Maids' School in Denmark Street was separated from the fire by Harvey's premises and the girls had to be roused from their beds ready to evacuate their school. By 4 a.m. the college was a pile of smouldering ruins.

The Wycliffite Crusaders were causing disturbances again in November when they entered All Saints Church in Pembroke Road and interrupted the holding of confessions which they considered to be an unlawful activity. They were ejected by the police and appeared before the magistrates charged with disorderly conduct. The justices bound them over to keep the peace but the protesters refused to enter into recognizances and were sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment. They appealed, unsuccessfully, to the High Court. Their supporters subsequently held a protest meeting in the Colston Hall presided over by Alderman James Inskip who, in his address, complained that the clerk to the justices had put impertinent questions to the protesters and that there was no need to ask them if their occupation was a paying one.

1907

At the beginning of the year four suffragettes were released from Holloway Prison; they had been sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment on 21 December for disorderly conduct in Parliament. They were welcomed by Christobel Pankhurst and entertained to breakfast at Anderton's Hotel. The youngest of the prisoners was Miss Ivy Heppel from Bristol and she was presented with flowers in the shape of an anchor bearing a message from Dr. C.F. Aked which read 'With sympathy, affection and admiration.'

On 5 February the annual demonstration of the Central Association for Stopping the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors was held in the larger Colston Hall. As well as the movement's supporters there were many members of the licensing trade and their supporters in the hall. The secretary reported that some 300 Members of Parliament supported the Sunday closing of licensed premises but the other speakers, including J.S. Fry, the Dean of Hereford and a Salvation Army brigadier, were unable to make themselves heard above the shouts of the audience. A few days later a temperance demonstration was held in the same hall but the police were better prepared and only ticket holders were allowed in. The audience was entertained by an organ recital by Mr. Riseley and the meeting was chaired by the Bishop. A resolution was proposed by Sir Thomas Whittaker MP and seconded by Henry Vivian MP to the effect

that wider powers should be given to localities to work out their own deliverance from intemperance; it was carried by a large majority.

On 21 March, without ceremony the extension of the tram line from the Centre to Filton was opened.

At the March meeting of the Distress Committee it was reported that an application had been made to the Local Government Board for a further payment of the parliamentary grant. The number of unemployed men registered was 416 skilled and 1,321 labourers. A number had been helped to find employment mostly with the local authority. The emigration sub-committee stated that they had selected 12 families (comprising 64 persons) for assisted emigration to Canada.

The May meeting of the Health Committee considered the municipal lodging house. Some members spoke strongly against municipal trading, noting that the house was losing upwards of £1,100 a year and commenting that the undertaking was an abuse of public funds. One member suggested that, whilst they were not permitted to sell the premises, they should investigate the possibility of letting it to a lodging house keeper or an organisation like the Salvation Army. The committee were subsequently advised that the Local Government Board had considered that they had no power to let the house.

In May the Colonial Prime Ministers assembled in London to meet Lord Elgin, the Colonial Secretary, and the Chamber of Commerce invited them to visit Bristol. Four of them accepted and the freedom of the city was granted to Sir Wilfrid Laurier of Canada, Sir Robert Bond of Newfoundland, Sir Joseph Ward of New Zealand and the Hon. F.R. Moore of Natal. The premiers and representatives of other colonies visited Avonmouth to see the new dock in course of construction and were enthusiastically welcomed by 500 school children.

Cossham Memorial Hospital at Lodge Hill, Kingswood, was opened in June by Augustine Birrell MP. The construction had been made possible by a bequest of £120,000 from Handel Cossham; his trustees spent £30,000 on building and equipping the hospital, which had 50 beds, and invested the balance in an endowment fund to maintain it. 700 guests attended the opening ceremony and tea and were entertained by Kingswood Evangel Silver Band and a large number of people went over the building in the evening. The committee had over 100 applications for the post of matron and appointed Miss Mann, the assistant matron at Gloucestershire County Hospital. The architect of the building was F. Bligh Bond FRIBA and the builders were A.J. Beavan and William Cowlin & Sons. Probably the hospital's first fatality was Oliver Bryant aged 20 who was killed in an accident at Hanham Colliery; the coroner held an inquest at the hospital on 20 June.

Also in June the Library Committee recorded that they had purchased John Latimer's copy of his *Annals* which was interleaved and contained manuscript notes by the compiler with a view, apparently, to a revised edition.

The death of Richard Reynolds in 1816 was recorded in Latimer's *Annals*. On 12 July the Lord Mayor unveiled a tablet to his memory at 7, St. James Square. The memorial was in bronze measuring 2'6" by 1'5"; the top portion was occupied by a head of the deceased and the inscription read: 'In memory of Richard Reynolds, distinguished philanthropist and benefactor of the poor. Born in Bristol November 1735: died September 1816. Interred in the Friends' Burial Ground at the Friars, Bristol. He resided in this house from 1804-1816.'

In August a new Petty Sessional Court House was opened at Henbury at the corner of the road leading to Hallen. It was envisaged that the court would sit once a month and would settle minor cases without the necessity of the parties travelling to Lawford's Gate.

In the same month Frederick Parker aged 13 pleaded guilty in Bristol Magistrates' Court to the theft of two razors from his former employer. It was said that he was penitent and the court read testimonials from the headmaster of Redcliffe Boys' School where he had been a pupil and from the superintendent of a Sunday School that he had attended. The magistrates said that they did not want to inflict something which would be a lasting stain on the boy's character but at the same time his offence was a deliberate one and they were going to punish him in a way he would remember. Before he left the court he would receive eight strokes of the birch, the father to be present at the time.

William Proctor Baker died on 17 August. His father founded a firm of corn merchants and Mr. Baker was connected with it until 1889 when it amalgamated with Messrs. Spillers. He was closely identified with civic life for nearly 40 years during which time he was an alderman. He was leader of the Conservative party and served as Mayor in 1871-2; he retired from the Council in 1901. He had a great interest in port improvement and was chairman of the Docks Committee for some years. Mr. Baker was a keen amateur musician and played the cello at the first Handel Festival at Crystal Palace. He was chairman of the first Musical Festival in 1873.

On 1 September there was a Trade Union demonstration to direct public attention to the Old Age Pensions movement and to the Unemployed Workmen's Bill then before Parliament. The demonstrators processed through the city's principal streets to the Ropewalk where there was a public meeting.

In September there was a dock strike at Antwerp and it was proposed to issue posters inviting men to apply for work there. After representations against strike breaking from the Dockers' Union the proposal was withdrawn.

On 10 September the first meeting of the Kingswood Arbitration Board was held. It comprised representatives from employers and workers and its purpose was to discuss wages in the boot and shoe trade in the district.

At the end of the month the President of the Chamber of Commerce invited nearly 3,000 visitors to inspect the progress of the construction of the new dock at Avonmouth; it was rapidly reaching the stage when it would be filled with water. There were visitors from the Midlands, Gloucester, South Wales, the western counties and London; eleven towns were represented by their mayor. Members of other chambers of commerce and journalists from some 50 newspapers were present. Avonmouth was *en fête* for the occasion, tea was served to the visitors and they were encouraged to wander around the docks.

In October the Council discussed the future of the Dutch House at the corner of Wine Street and High Street in connection with proposals for highway improvement. There had previously been an approved scheme to retain the architectural features while setting back the lower part of the premises to increase footpath width. One member proposed that the previous decision should be rescinded and that the New Streets Committee should be instructed to sell by auction such parts of the property as were not required for street improvement; he opined that the building was 'a monstrosity and should be removed.' His proposal was defeated.

On 30 October G.K. Chesterton gave an amusing and thoughtful address to the Bristol Centre of the Parents' National Educational Union, a body that aimed at interesting parents in educational subjects to encourage them to realise that they had responsibilities as well as teachers.

At the November municipal elections the Liberals lost four seats to the Conservatives. An Independent councillor who sat on the Conservative side lost his seat to the Labour candidate.

In the King's November Birthday Honours there was a baronetcy for Sir Herbert Ashman.

On Colston Day in November the societies held their usual celebrations. The Anchor Society held their dinner in the lesser Colston Hall and were addressed by the Prime Minister Sir Campbell Bannerman.

On 22 December there was a serious fire at King's Orchard, Queen Street, when the provender mill of Messrs Bodey Jerrim was extensively damaged.

1908

At the end of January the Social Democratic Federation held a meeting in the Haymarket to consider the unemployment situation. Prior to the meeting some 500 bags of food and cups of coffee were handed to the men who were addressed by Ernest Bevin of the Bristol Socialist Society. The meeting passed a resolution condemning the inaction of the government.

General Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, visited the city in February. He was given a civic reception and addressed a meeting at the Victoria Rooms.

In February the licensing justices heard an objection to the renewal of the licence of Rogers Brewery. The reason given was that the company employed canvassers who visited the homes of artisans and labourers during the daytime and sought orders from women whilst their husbands were at work. Mr. Wansbrough, who appeared for the objectors, told the bench that during the past year 328 women had been convicted of drunkenness and of those only two were on licensed premises. The magistrates decided that the evidence was not sufficient to justify a refusal to renew the licence.

In March there was a packed meeting at the Colston Hall in support of the Licensing Bill which aimed at putting restrictions upon the licensing trade and was then before Parliament. The Bill was subsequently rejected by the House of Lords.

Francis Gilmore Barnett died on 18 March whilst playing a round of golf at Failand. A solicitor by profession, he was one of the earliest pupils at Clifton College and was no doubt influenced by John Percival. He championed many working class causes and gave valuable help to the dockers and the cotton factory operatives during the strikes and demonstrations in 1889. He gave evidence to Royal Commission of Housing the Working Class and sat as an independent city councillor for some 20 years.

The City Council and the Chamber of Commerce were promoting the new dock at Avonmouth and in March the Hon. Thomas Price, Premier of South Australia, was invited to inspect the work in progress. He expressed himself satisfied with the arrangements for handling cargoes and with the cold storage facilities.

At the end of March the Education Committee resolved to provide school meals for some 1,000 necessitous pupils. When asked if teachers would eat with children, Alderman Elkins, the chairman, said that they would and observed that this would show that the dinners were such that no one need be afraid of having one.

At the beginning of April 31 clickers employed by G.B. Britton & Sons went on strike because they objected to the presence of five non-union men. The dispute was referred to the Kingswood Arbitration Board who unanimously decided that they should return to work.

On 14 April the Rev. J.S. Simon, President of the Wesleyan Conference, unveiled a tablet at 4, Charles Street, St. James's commemorating the Rev. Charles Wesley's residence there.

In May it was announced that the King and Queen would be visiting the city in July to open the new dock at Avonmouth. A committee was

formed to organise the event comprising Members of Parliament, representatives from the Council, the churches, the military, the Society of Merchant Venturers, the guardians, the municipal charities, education, the chamber of commerce, local offices of government departments, the police, the press, the trades council and other citizens. A fund was set up to decorate the route, to entertain the military on duty and to provide some form of enjoyment for school children.

In June two new freemen were installed. They were the Earl of Dudley, who had recently been appointed Governor General of Australia, and Lord Strathcona who represented Canada in the United Kingdom. No doubt it was hoped that the appointments would help to generate trade to the new dock.

In the summer of 1908 Mr. Freeman, a retired schoolmaster of Chipping Sodbury, completed an interesting self-imposed task. He had collected stamps and over the years had accumulated a surplus of several thousands of them. Some 18 months previously he had started to paper one of the rooms in his house with them; when completed there were said to be some 56,000 stamps on the walls.

The June Birthday Honours list included a knighthood for Alderman William Howell Davies. He was a leather merchant and had been President of the Chamber of Commerce in 1884. He was a Liberal councillor, chairman of the Docks Committee and Mayor in 1892. He became Member of Parliament for Bristol South in 1906.

In the same month Frederick George Cooke, the headmaster of Temple Colston School appeared before the magistrates charged with assaulting a pupil; the boy had been caned for talking in church the previous Sunday. The bench decided that the punishment was not proper and reasonable and fined him ten shillings and costs.

The royal visit took place on 9 July. The King and Queen, with Princess Victoria, had arrived by train the previous day and spent the night on the royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* which had been brought to Avonmouth. On the following day they travelled by train to Temple Meads and drove through the city. The party stopped at the Council House where the Lord Mayor (Alderman E.B. James) was knighted and went on through decorated streets to the Art Gallery for lunch. On Durdham Down the royal party stopped to hear 10,000 school children sing the National Anthem before travelling from Clifton Down to Avonmouth by train. Once there they boarded the royal yacht which then steamed into the new dock breaking a ribbon. Some 3,000 people then witnessed the King declare the dock open. The 'Skinner chair' was on the dais for the King's use; the chair was said to have belonged to Robert Skinner, Bishop of Bristol in 1636 and had been used by Prince

Albert at the launch of the *Great Britain* in 1843. Between £7,000 and £8,000 had been raised by the committee, a large portion of which was used to provide treats for the aged poor and children. The Suspension Bridge was illuminated but unfortunately rain caused a cancellation of the fireworks displays in Eastville and St. Andrew's Parks; they had to be postponed until the following week. The municipal lodging house reported a very large increase in occupancy during the period of the royal visit.

Several meetings to advance the cause of women's suffrage were held. 50 to 60 new recruits had been signed up and the organisation decided to retain its office in Queens Road. At the final rally on Durdham Down on 19 September the organisers had arranged seven platforms on lorries for the various speakers one of them being Christobel Pankhurst. There was a substantial police presence but, apart from some mild attempts to hamper the speakers, the event went off without incident.

At the end of the month the Sanitary and Improvement Committee of the Council decided to carry out works on Durdham Down and some street works together with the construction of Eastville Park lake to provide work for the unemployed.

On 5 October Sir Robert Symes died. He was a provision merchant and had been six times Mayor of the city. Sir Robert was for many years a churchwarden of Temple Church and one of the results of his connection with that parish was that, with the co-operation of the vicar, Rev. W. Hazledine, he persuaded the vestry not to renew the leases of five public houses in the parish so that the premises were converted into ordinary business premises. The police superintendent at the time commented that this act was equivalent to saving the work of 12 constables.

Later in the month the Bristol Right to Work Committee organised a public meeting in St. George's Park. The chairman Mr. A. Senington, supported by Ernest Bevin, announced that the Lord Mayor had agreed to receive a deputation from them.

Charles Townsend died on 4 November. He was a partner in the firm of Ferris & Co, chemists and druggists. He was a Liberal and a city councillor from 1872 until 1892 and an alderman from 1897. He was a Member of Parliament for Bristol North from 1892 until 1895 when he was defeated by Lewis Fry. Mr. Townsend was a Baptist and regularly attended Broadmead Chapel and latterly Tyndale Chapel, Whiteladies Road.

At the beginning of December the Distress Committee discussed the work in hand. The work at Eastville Park engaged 300 men for 17 weeks in two shifts of 150 men working for four days a week; the wages bill was estimated at £4,000. One of the committee members, Miss Wait,

said that over and over again she had been told that the work on Durdham Down was being done in a shilly-shallying half hearted way. The chairman, Alderman George Pearson, responded that as a rule he found that critics knew very little of what it was to dig for eight hours a day and that, if a few of them would try it for an hour, they would soon learn what it was like.

In December Lord Roberts visited the Art Gallery to unveil a scale model of Lucknow as it was at the time of the siege in 1857. The model had been presented by Mr. Heber Mardon.

On 8 December the provision of school dinners was inaugurated. Between 1,200 and 1,300 children were served from a central kitchen in the Ropewalk. The preparation was supervised by Mr. Rameskill from Manchester assisted by a staff of three who had been recruited locally. The meals were distributed in vehicles provided by tradespeople who took them to various local feeding depots. Orders for produce were placed locally.

In December the Lord Mayor opened the new Merrywood Secondary School. The school, which catered for 500 scholars of both sexes, was built by A.J. Colborne and the architect was H. Dare Bryan.

1909

The year started with a severe snowstorm that caused traffic problems in many areas but provided good tobogganing in Bridge Valley Road and Rownham Hill. It also provided work for 250 unemployed men who were engaged to clear the snow.

Old Age Pensions became payable at the beginning of the year and there was a rush at the post offices on the morning of the first day. Some 4,000 people in Bristol qualified as being over seventy years of age and in receipt of an annual income of less than £31 10s per annum.

At the January meeting of the Distress Committee Dr. Devis raised the question of unemployed women. It was reported that four charwomen had registered and the committee agreed that they should be recommended for employment by the Education Committee.

In January Agnes Venimore Godwin became a member of Mangotsfield Parish Council; this was the first appearance of a lady as a member of any of the councils adjacent to the city. Miss Godwin lived at Downend and was secretary of the Bristol Women's Total Abstinence Union.

In the same month the new school at Parson Street, Bedminster was opened by Dr. E.H. Cook, the chairman of the Education Committee. The school had two departments, a senior with provision for 500 pupils and a junior for 530. The cost of the building was in the region of £20,000, the architect was Henry Williams and the builder E. Walters & Son.

Gilbert Jessop was named as the new secretary of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club in January. This occasioned some surprise in the city as he was captain of the club, and an association of the two offices was practically unknown in county cricket circles.

Latimer records how in 1864 Sir Greville Smyth intended to sell a large portion of land in Leigh Woods for building purposes and that a number of public-spirited citizens formed the Leigh Woods Land Company to purchase the land. In January 1909 it was announced that George A. Wills intended to buy the land (which included Nightingale Valley) from the company and to transfer it to trustees for the enjoyment of the public. Mr. Wills later gave the sum of £4,000 for the maintenance of the woods.

Sir Frederick Wills died at Cannes on 18 February; he was a director of the Imperial Tobacco Company. A Liberal, he succeeded Lewis Fry as Member of Parliament for Bristol North from 1900 until 1906. Sir Frederick was a generous donor to Bristol University.

St. Albans church at Westbury Park opened at the end of March. It was designed by Rodway & Denning and built by R. Wilkins & Sons.

At the beginning of April Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith opened the Fenwick Richards wing at Bristol Grammar School. The plans had been prepared by Frank Wills and the builder was S. Martin & Son.

On 7 April there was a serious fire that destroyed a sawmills at Redcross Street belonging to William Brice & Co, cabinet makers. During the fire brigade's efforts to extinguish the blaze Fireman Albert Smith was killed by a falling roof.

On 14 April a remarkable contraption attracted the interest of a number of spectators at Broad Quay. It had wheels but some said it looked like an airship and others like a caravan. In fact it belonged to George M. Schillings, a champion long distance walker, who was said to be walking 20,000 miles for a wager, pulling the apparatus which he used as a shelter in which to rest. Mr. Schillings was over six feet in height and had one arm.

At the end of the same month the Education Committee agreed to employ some young people as pupil teachers provided they were residents of the city. The pay was £25 per annum for young men and £20 for young women.

The Bristol Band of Hope Union held its May Festival at the Colston Hall. A choir of 700 voices conducted by Mr. G.T. Cooke sang a number of choruses including 'Hark the Temperance Call'.

In May it was announced that William Cowlin & Son had secured the contract to construct the first cold storage warehouse on the island of Jamaica. It was sited at Kingston.

Empire Day was celebrated on 24 May. Flags were flown on many churches and public buildings and at each school there was an address on the rights and duties of citizenship. Four pupils and a teacher from each of 65 schools attended a ceremony at the Corn Exchange to receive a Union Jack from the Lady Mayoress.

H. Dare Bryan, the architect died on 25 May aged 41 years.

The Royal Charter was received by the University on 27 May.

In June the works of improvement affecting the Dutch House were completed; they were supervised by W.S. Skinner. It was desired to widen the footpath and a number of councillors took the view that the whole building should be demolished. However the views of the preservationists prevailed and the work, carried out by William Cowlin & Son, involved the preservation of the architectural features whilst setting back the ground floor frontage. An electric lift to all floors was installed.

On 24 June the rebuilt Merchant Venturers Technical College in Unity Street was dedicated by the Bishop of Bristol and formally opened by the Rt. Hon. Lord Reay.

In July 29 men who had escaped from Brentry Inebriates Home appeared before the Henbury Petty Sessional Court. There had been some dissatisfaction at the home because they had been expecting a reduction in their sentences following an amendment to the Inebriates Act; there were also complaints about the quality of the bread. As a consequence they refused to work and walked out of the premises. The magistrates sentenced each of them to one month's hard labour.

For a number of years there had been complaints about the lack of drainage provision in the Kingswood district, particularly with reference to the pollution of Siston and Warmley Brooks. Eventually the work was put in hand and completed in September 1909.

Two Bristol suffragettes were released from prison in September. Mrs. Arnold Willcox and Miss May Allen had been convicted of breaking windows at the Treasury when Mr. Asquith refused to receive Mrs. Pankhurst. They were sentenced to one month's imprisonment and whilst in prison they refused to wear prison uniform, kicked a wardress in self-defence and broke the cell windows; as a consequence they had to serve eight days' close confinement in the punishment cells and went on hunger strike for three days. On their return to Bristol there was a reception presided over by Miss Annie Kenny, the secretary of the Bristol branch of Women's Political and Social Union.

At the Bakers' and Confectioners' Exhibition held at the Agricultural Hall in London in September E. Luton of North Street, Ashton Gate, gained five first prizes out of a possible seven for white bread. The

baker had received a total of 120 cups, medals and diplomas and been five times champion of the United Kingdom.

In the evening of 22 September there was mild panic in Redland when an infuriated bull that had broken loose from a slaughter house in Wade Street appeared upon the scene. The beast knocked over a lady cyclist in Blackboy Hill but was eventually captured by Inspector Warburton and three constables.

In the same week there was a serious fire at the premises of the Bristol Distillery Company in Redcliffe Street where grain, malt and maize were stored. The premises were almost totally destroyed and adjoining buildings threatened. The fire was attended by the brigade using a fire float.

In October the sheriff, Mr. Stanley Badock, unveiled a tablet in the Cathedral recording the Rev. Sydney Smith's connection with the city; he was a canon from 1828 until 1831.

On 28 October there was a special meeting of the Council to confer honorary freedoms on Joseph Storrs Fry and Henry Overton Wills. The latter was unable to attend owing to ill health.

At the beginning of November the wife of Henry Allbutt, the former Chief Constable, was granted a decree of divorce. She told the court that he was heavily in debt at the time of their marriage and that she and her family gave him financial assistance on a number of occasions. She also complained that he drunk to excess and that in 1905 she had to nurse him whilst he was suffering from delirium tremens.

Winston Churchill came to the city in November to address the Anchor Society at the Colston Hall. On arrival at Temple Meads Theresa Garnett, a suffragette, struck him twice with a dog whip. She appeared before the justices together with Vera Wentworth, who broke a window at Bristol Liberal Club, Jessie Lawes who threw a stone from a tramcar to the Colston Hall and Mary Allen who broke a window at the office of the Board of Trade in Baldwin Street. They were all sentenced to one month's imprisonment without hard labour. Ellen Wines Pitman received two months' imprisonment for breaking a window at the Post Office in Small Street. During the following week Miss Christobel Pankhurst addressed a large meeting in the Colston Hall.

At the beginning of December Sir Ernest Shackleton visited the city and received a rousing reception when he spoke about the South Pole expedition of 1907-9. He was supported by Raymond Priestley, a Bristolian, who was a geologist and a member of the expedition.

In the same month John Edward King, the headmaster of Bedford Grammar School, was appointed as the new head of Clifton College in succession to the Rev. A.A. David who had been appointed as headmaster of Rugby School.

1910

The Bristol Distress Committee had commenced work on the Portishead Marine Lake using unemployed labour. They decided to continue with the work despite a protest from the Ratepayers' Association who objected on the grounds that the work was outside the city boundary, that the men did less work because the committee paid them for travelling time and that local residents (who contributed towards the cost) did not want it.

In January Charles Nicholls appeared before the magistrates charged with burglary at 15, York Place, a lodging house. They heard that the proprietress, Sarah Ann Williams, and her domestic, Florence Mary Fox, had discovered him in the house and beaten him with a hot water can to such an extent that he said 'Stop it - I've had enough' and he left the house with his boots under his arm but leaving his bowler hat behind him. The dented can was produced in court. The magistrates committed Nicholls for trial at the next assize.

A general election was held in the middle of January but there was no change of representation in the Bristol seats. The elected members were:

Bristol North	Augustine Birrell	Liberal
Bristol South	Sir W.H. Davies	Liberal
Bristol East	C.E. Hobhouse	Liberal
Bristol West	G.A. Gibbs	Conservative.

Members of the Kingswood Urban District Council protested to the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, Admiral Henry Christian, at the heavy handed policing during a meeting addressed by Walter Long, an ex-member of the government. They felt that the presence of 100 policemen was unnecessary and a stigma on the people of Kingswood.

In the same month the new Sefton Park School was opened without ceremony. The school had provision for ten classrooms and a central hall with accommodation for 500 senior (aged 10 to 14) and 500 junior (aged 5 to 9) boys and girls. The builder was G. Humphreys & Son and the successful competitive design was submitted by W.V. & A.R. Gough.

The new Labour Exchange operated by the Board of Trade situated in Victoria Street opened for business at the beginning of February. There was a large crowd of men waiting to register.

On 1 February there was a fire in the engine house at Easton Colliery caused by the fusing of an electric wire. Thanks to the prompt action of the manager, James Steele, most of the men were able to escape. However, three men, Joseph Gaynor of Bedminster, Benjamin Jacobs of Bedminster Down and Robert Bush of Soundwell, were on the far side of the engine house and lost their lives.

In February Sir George White founded the Bristol Aeroplane Co. Ltd., the Bristol Aviation Co., the British & Colonial Aeroplane Co. and the British & Colonial Aviation Co..

The three canvases painted by William Hogarth as an altar piece for St. Mary Redcliffe were sold in 1858 to Alderman Thomas Proctor on behalf of the Bristol Fine Art Academy (later the Royal West of England Academy) on condition that, in the event of their sale, the Vestry would receive one half of the proceeds. In February 1910 a sale was proposed to raise funds for the new Academy building but public opinion prevented the sale and the paintings were rolled up and stored.

Lady Smyth, the owner of the Dean Lane Colliery, which had recently closed down, arranged for the site to be cleared by unemployed men and in March she offered a five acre site to the city as recreation grounds.

In April there was further trouble at the Brentry Inebriates' Home when William Yonds appeared before the Lawford's Gate magistrates charged inciting a mutiny. He was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

The death of King Edward VII at the beginning of May prompted services at most churches and chapels. The Stock Exchange, theatres and the skating rink closed and some athletic meetings postponed.

During the first week of May two new railway lines opened. The line from Stoke Gifford to Avonmouth enabled trains to run directly from the GWR and MR joint line to Avonmouth dock. This gave the opportunity to run boat trains and it also carried goods traffic so as to relieve the pressure on the Clifton to Pilning route. The other line ran from Hallatrow to Limpley Stoke and was mainly used for goods traffic.

On 13 May in all schools under the responsibility of the Education Committee a memorial service for King Edward VII was held and at the same time the proclamation of King George V's accession was read. The proclamation was read publicly in the city on Saturday 14 May from a car of quaint design known as the 'proclamation car' drawn by four horses although it had originally been designed to be carried on poles on men's shoulders. It had been used previously to proclaim the peace of 1801 and the accessions of George IV in 1820, William IV in 1830 and Edward VII in 1901. The proclamation was read at the Council House and in the Haymarket, College Green and Queen Square. The King's funeral service was held on 21 May and on that day services were held in Bristol Cathedral and nearly all churches and chapels; a Free Church service was held in the Colston Hall.

Halley's Comet was visible during the month and a popular illustrated lecture on the subject was given in the Colston Hall by Sir Robert Ball LL.D., D.Sc., FRS.

Elizabeth Blackwell died in Scotland on 31 May. She was born in Bristol in 1821 and graduated in medicine in New York State in 1849, the first woman in the world to qualify and register as a doctor.

A party of German visitors interested in socio-religious matters came to the city in June. They were welcomed by the Lord Mayor and the Bishop of Bristol and inspected the YMCA and the Shaftesbury Crusade before being entertained to supper at the Grand Spa Hotel.

The Hon. A.A. Kirkpatrick, Agent General to South Australia, visited the city in July and viewed the docks at Avonmouth. Later in the same month Sir Thomas Robinson, Agent General to Queensland, made a similar visit.

In the same month a memorial tablet in Bristol Cathedral to Richard Hakluyt, a sixteenth century canon of the cathedral and a propagandist of colonial venturing, was unveiled; the ceremony was performed by Sir Clements Markham of the Royal Geographical Society.

In July some Bristol dock workers complained about the behaviour of two foremen and ceased working; they were then locked out. The management of the dock brought in some 130 men from other ports described as 'Federation men'. The dispute spread to all parts of Bristol and Avonmouth and other workers - crane men, checkers and weighmen - would not work with men who they regarded as strike breakers. Normal working was resumed when both sides agreed to set up an independent committee to enquire into the activities of the two foremen. The committee reported in September that they could find nothing against the two men and the dockers withdrew their complaints.

In September the Council agreed to purchase land to extend Avonview Cemetery. They also considered the construction of a crematorium but rejected the idea, not on principle but on financial grounds.

The Chemical and Physical Wing of Bristol University in Woodland Road was completed in September and opened by Lord Winterstoke, the University Chancellor, in November. The building cost upwards of £50,000, was built by Cowlin & Son and designed by Oatley & Lawrence.

In September the Canadian Northern Liner *Royal Edward* from Montreal docked at Avonmouth. On board were the returning Bristol Commercial Delegation who had been visiting Canada and the USA to promote the city. The vessel also carried a group of Canadian and American journalists who toured the city and surrounding region.

In the same month the Bristol Guardians considered a report that the introduction of the Old Age Pension had not brought about a decrease in applications for relief. One member spoke of an old man saying 'I don't want five shillings a week; I want an order for the workhouse'. Another commented that it showed that Poor Law was becoming more in touch with the people and that the Guardians had more humanity than in the old days.

The Law Society held its annual conference in Bristol in September. In his opening remarks the President, Henry James Johnson, referred to provisions made by the University for legal instruction under the Board of Legal Studies and expressed the hope that a Chair of Law would shortly be established.

The Coliseum in Park Row was opened by the Lady Mayoress in October. The premises were opened for inspection by the public and the management provided refreshments and music by a string band which was partly composed of lady instrumentalists. The ice rink had a skating area 360 feet by 100 feet and could also be adapted for public meetings or promenade concerts. Prices of admission were 6d for ladies and 9d for gentlemen and skaters.

In October the annual conference of the Church of England Men's Society considered the spread of pernicious literature, the opium traffic, the Athanasian Creed, safeguarding the British Sunday and the church's position on marriage and divorce.

The first congregation for admission to degrees in the University was held on 20 October. The occasion gave rise to some picturesque ceremonial and a display of good-humoured rowdiness by a large band of students amongst whom the members of the medical faculty were prominent.

Robert Pringle had been holding a series of moving picture shows at the Colston Hall and conceived the idea of using his own premises. When, in October, the magistrates considered his application to open a picture hall in Dolphin Street they could see no objection despite protests from adjoining shopkeepers. At the end of the year he opened premises in Dolphin Street and Bedminster Town Hall which then became known as Pringle's Picture House. There was a large audience at his new hall in Cromwell/Zetland Road to view such film as 'Edith's Avoirdupois', 'Daddy's Little Diddleums', and 'Incidents in the Life of Henry VIII'.

As a result of the miners' strike the Bristol Police Force was asked to send a contingent to South Wales. In the course of the disturbances at Tonypandy Inspector Rendell was felled by a piece of brick thrown at him and PC Roscoe had his thumb broken. In all ten members of the force were injured.

In November there was a successful flight of the Bristol biplane at Durdham Down. It was piloted by M. Testaud and flew at 150 to 200 feet; the longest flight lasted three hours and forty-five minutes.

On 16 November there was an accident at Deep Pit, Soundwell, when the winding rope, which pulled trams up an incline, snapped. 27 men were injured and three men (Sidney Smith of St. George, Albert Henley of Warmley and Charles Taylor of Fishponds) killed.

The dissolution of Parliament brought about another general election in December. The members returned by the Bristol constituencies were the same as those returned in the election held in January.

1911

Major Norton DSO, the trade commissioner for Australia, was entertained by the Lord Mayor. He was in England for the purpose of organising four depots for the importation of Australian produce.

The University acquired a playing field at Coombe Dingle in February thanks to a donation of £4,000 from Mr. George A. Wills. The field measured 12 acres and was laid out on the advice of Mr. John Spry, the head groundsman of the County Ground. Later in the year the University secured the services of Murch, the old Gloucestershire professional, as head groundsman and cricket coach. At the same time Mr. Wills provided further funds for the construction of a pavilion.

Lord Winterstoke (Sir William Henry Wills) died at the end of January. Politically, he was a Liberal and served as Member of Parliament for Coventry from 1880 until 1885 and for Bristol East from 1895 until 1900; he was made a Peer in 1905. Lord Winterstoke was Chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Company and a director of a number of other undertakings. He was a Congregationalist and a member of Penn Street Tabernacle and generously supported religious and educational charities particularly the University and the Municipal Art Gallery.

At the beginning of March it was announced that the new church of St. John's, the Causeway, Fishponds would be consecrated on Ascension Day. The land upon which it was constructed was donated by Captain Cottrell-Dormer. The building was designed to accommodate 530 persons; the architect was E.H. Lingen Barker and the builder W. Read of Fishponds.

The Coroner Mr. H.G. Doggett announced his intention to retire and in March the City Council considered whether or not to divide the city into two districts; they had a number of applications for the post. They subsequently decided not to have two districts and appointed his deputy Mr. A.E. Barker to succeed him.

The census was held on 31 March despite the opposition of some suffragettes. The objectors gathered in the houses of some activists who refused to admit the census takers or to complete the forms. The house of Miss Annie Kenney had a notice on the front door reading 'House full - no vote - no census'. The result of the census became known at the end of May; the population of Bristol was 357,059 (339,042 in 1901).

The Coliseum ice rink was sold by auction in April. The price fetched was £15,400 and the purchasers were the debenture holders of the Coliseum Company.

Dr. E.M. Grace died on 20 May at his home in Thornbury. He had been Coroner for the Thornbury division of Gloucestershire for upwards of forty years. Dr. Grace was a well-known cricketer and was a brilliant fielder at point and a successful round-arm bowler; he was secretary of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club for 39 years.

HMS Bristol, a cruiser, paid an official visit to Avonmouth in May. Various entertainments were arranged for the crew and the city presented the ship with an inscribed shield.

In June there was a visit by a number of Colonial Premiers having been invited by the Lord Mayor and the President of the Chamber of Commerce. Sir Joseph Ward (New Zealand), General Botha (South Africa), Sir E.P. Morris (Newfoundland) and the Hon Andrew Fisher (Australia) were entertained to a banquet at the Royal Hotel. In July Richard Grigg, HM Trade Commissioner in Canada, came to the city and was entertained by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Coronation of King George V was held in June and there were celebrations in the city despite the refusal of the justices to grant an extension of the licensing hours. Children assembled in their schools on 21 June and boxes of chocolates were distributed. The care of the aged poor was left to ward committees and two shillings a head was allowed for this; some of them received tickets for local butchers, bakers and grocers and they were all given canisters bearing the city's arms and portraits of the King and Queen. Hospital patients received chocolates and cards. The Lord Mayor was in London and the local procession was led by his deputy. It assembled at the Sea Walls and, before it set off on its route to the Council House, Territorials performed evolutions and a march past in the pouring rain. There were fireworks and bands playing in almost all the city's parks.

At the end of July the *Daily Mail* organised a Circuit of Britain Air Race with a prize of £10,000 for the winner and Filton Aerodrome was chosen as one of the staging posts. The race was won by M. Beaumont piloting a Blériot biplane; he narrowly beat a fellow Frenchman, M. Védrières, who lost valuable time when he landed two hundred yards from the official landing place at Filton on the wrong side of the railway line. None of the aviators entered to fly a 'Bristol' plane distinguished himself. Graham Gilmore had his aviator's licence suspended by the Royal Aero Club for dangerous flying over Henley Regatta and he could not start. Eric Gordon-England had engine trouble and gave up at Brooklands where the race had started. The biplane piloted by Collins Pizey broke the undercarriage whilst landing near Melton Mowbray and Howard Pixton's aircraft crashed near Harrogate. The event attracted great crowds, in numbers unprecedented in the parish's history, to watch the event at Filton.

A committee considering the question of a memorial to King Edward VII had already examined 20 sketches and selected that of Henry Poole of London who proposed a bronze statue 8'6" high, independent of the pedestal. In August they approved a scheme for the layout of the site near the Victoria Rooms as submitted by London architects Messrs. Lanchester & Rickards and agreed that the contractor should be George Humphreys & Sons.

In August there was a national strike of railway workers which, although of short duration, gave rise to strong feelings and spread briefly to affect local dockers and miners. In Bristol special constables were sworn in and troops deployed at Temple Meads Station. At Bedminster Down an angry crowd demonstrated outside a manned signal box and a baton charge by the police resulted; the box was badly damaged.

At the beginning of September a serious accident took place at Butcher's Hill, Stoke Bishop when a traction engine and two wagons became out of control. The wagons were carrying grain from Avonmouth to Brent Knoll and were crewed by three men, a driver, a fireman/steersman and a brakeman. The engine and the wagons overturned killing the fireman, Thomas Hawkins of Burnham-on-Sea, and injuring the two others.

Henry Overton Wills died on 3 September. He was a director of the Imperial Tobacco Company and many other undertakings and a generous benefactor to the University and the Bristol Convalescent Home. He was particularly interested in music and contributed substantially towards the costs of the organs in the Colston Hall and Bristol Cathedral.

In the middle of the month all the miners in the Bristol coalfield, some 2,000 men, went on strike in support of their claim for an extra 3d per day; the same increase had recently been awarded to the Somerset miners. The proprietors claimed that they could not afford to pay and offered to allow an independent arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade to inspect their books. The arbitrator confirmed the employers' claim but the strike continued, the men claiming that the high royalty payments paid by the employers prevented them from making a better offer. The strike ended in the middle of November when the miners accepted the offer of an increase which was less than the sum they had demanded. Although the men marched to meetings whilst the strike was on, there was no trouble and after they resumed work their agent received a letter from the Chief Constable expressing his appreciation of the way the strike had been conducted.

At the end of September the Red Maids' School moved from their premises in Denmark Street to Westbury-on-Trym where they occupied 'Burfield', a house that had been for many years the residence of Sir Robert Symes, together with new buildings that had been designed by Frank Wills and built by Stephens & Bastow.

Charles Bowles Hare died suddenly on 7 October whilst visiting an exhibition at the Coliseum. He was head of the firm of John Hare & Co. Ltd. manufacturers of paint, floorcloth and linoleum. He was a Conservative, a councillor from 1871 to 1896 and an alderman from 1896 until his death. Mr. Hare was Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers in 1876 and Sheriff in 1878.

Francis Brooke Girdlestone retired as General Manager and Secretary of the Docks and in November the Docks Committee appointed Dennis Ross-Johnson to replace him. The latter had been General Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway Company, which included the management of Madras Harbour.

At the end of November there was a recital at the Victoria Rooms by the cellist Pablo Casals.

1912

At the end of January there was a serious fire at a music warehouse belonging to Ernest Crichton in Regent Street, Clifton. Thousands of pounds worth of damage was done and a 24-year-old blind piano tuner called Charles Cornwallis Penrose of St. Werburgh's died in the conflagration.

At the beginning of February King George V and Queen Mary returned from their visit to India. The Lord Mayor was invited to join the party at Victoria Station to welcome their homecoming and there was a service at Bristol Cathedral to give thanks for their safe return.

On 16 February the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage held a demonstration in the Colston Hall. The meeting was addressed by Lord Cromer and Mr. C.E. Hobhouse, MP for Bristol East, and Mrs. Humphrey Ward congratulated the anti-suffrage movement in Bristol upon its growth since her last visit in 1908. There was uproar when Mrs. Dove Wilcox, a local suffragette, tried to ask a question but an attempt to remove her from the hall failed.

At the February Assize Ben Tillett had been summoned for jury service. He asked to be excused saying 'my business takes me to all parts of the country and I shall not be within one hundred miles on the day in question.' The judge was not impressed and fined him £5.

James McCready Chute, the manager of the Prince's Theatre died in February and his funeral was attended by many notable members of the theatrical profession. A large crowd gathered outside St. Paul's Church, Clifton, where the funeral service was held and police were necessary to regulate the numbers who congregated at College Green and the Tramways Centre to watch the funeral procession on its way to the cemetery.

A national strike of miners took place at the beginning of March and some 2,500 men stopped work in the Bristol coalfield resulting in a weekly loss of production of 10,000 tons. Strike pay amounting to 10/- per week plus 1/- for each child of married men was paid initially but a couple of weeks later the amount had to be reduced to 7/6. Rail services had to be drastically curtailed and many workpeople went on short time; the Bitton Paper Mill had to close because there was no coal to keep the machines going. The Salvation Army provided breakfasts for children in Bedminster and were feeding over 600 each day; meals were also being supplied at the Mission Hall in New Street, St. Jude's, and at the Grafton Street Hall, St. Philip's, where over 400 children were being fed. Out of work miners and shoemakers hewed coal from the base of two old quarries in a field off Charlton Road, Kingswood. A young man called William Burford died when searching for coal in a hole at Trooper's Hill St. George; the roof fell in and buried him. In April the Miners' Federation held a national ballot that resulted in a majority in favour of continuing the strike. In Bristol, where 60% of the men voted, 772 voted to return and 336 to remain on strike; the men returned to work when conditions in the pits made it possible. After the strike had ended the Sanitary Committee were able to resume normal street lighting that had been reduced during the strike; the reduction had resulted in a saving of £300.

The Bristol Distress Committee continued to arrange emigration for unemployed men and their families. In March the committee heard that 21 families had been booked to go at a total cost of £1291 14s 3d.

Passive resisters - those who refused to pay that part of the rate likely to be used for the maintenance of sectarian teaching in public elementary schools - continued to appear before the magistrates. The bench made orders that they should pay and their goods were distrained when they failed to do so. At the end of March a sale of distrained goods took place at the Vestry Hall in Pennywell Road.

The fourth organ to be installed at St. Mary Redcliffe Church was dedicated by the Bishop of Bristol on 21 April; it was built by Harrison and Harrison.

In the same month the Bristol Dispensary for the Prevention of Consumption at 4, Redcliffe Parade West was opened by the Lord Mayor.

The loss of the *Titanic* in April had its effects in Bristol; members of the crew and passengers from the city were on board. At the beginning of May a memorial service for Rev. John Bateman of Staple Hill, who was a passenger and who perished, was held at Evangel Mission, Two Mile Hill. One of the passengers who died was the well-known journalist W.T. Stead. Just before the ship sailed he wrote to a friend, Mr. R. Penny

of Bristol, '... I sincerely hope that none of the misfortunes which you seem to think may happen to myself and my wife will happen, but I will keep your letter and will write to you when I come back.'

The Recorder, Mr. E.J. Castle KC, died at the beginning of May and his place was taken by Dr. Blake Odgers KC.

The Bristol Royal Orpheus Glee Society were asked to perform at Buckingham Palace before the King, the Queen and Queen Alexandra on 30 May; they sang nine pieces including the National Anthem. The Society had previously entertained Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle in 1895.

In June King George V and Queen Mary came to the city principally to open the Edward VII Memorial Infirmary. From Temple Meads they drove to the Council House where the King knighted the Lord Mayor, Mr. Frank Wills. At the Infirmary the royal visitors were welcomed by the President of the Infirmary, Sir George White, and the building (architect H. Percy Adams, builder Frank N. Cowlin) was declared open. The weather was fine to begin with but by the time the royal procession reached Clifton it had started to rain; at Clifton College the head boy F.N. Tribe presented a loyal address. Some 66,500 commemorative medals had been ordered for presentation to all school children. During the royal visit several houses in Redland were broken into. The Mayor of Bath, Alderman Plowman, had his pocket picked whilst waiting on the platform at Temple Meads for the train to take him home; he lost a silver lever watch with a gold curb chain.

In August there was a successful flight of a Bristol monoplane by Lieutenant Detton of the German Flying Corps. He travelled 40 miles in 43 minutes.

Fred Jones of 166 City Road appeared before the magistrates in September charged with refusing to pay the legal fare on a tramcar. He boarded the car at the Tramway Centre to travel to Hotwells and tendered a halfpenny for a workman's fare whereas the full fare was a penny. He was carrying fishing tackle and an astute inspector questioned whether he was entitled to the reduced fare. Jones agreed that he was out of work but said that the purpose of his journey was to seek work and that only if he was unsuccessful would he be using the fishing tackle. The magistrates did not accept his explanation and fined him 5/- plus costs.

Following the introduction of National Insurance many friendly societies found that they were receiving resignations from their medical officers; the resignations were in support of the policy of the British Medical Association who objected to 'the unsatisfactory attitude of the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to the pay for treating nationally insured persons.' The Chancellor announced improved payments in October but these were still not acceptable to the medical profession.

In October Bristol's 'shoemaker poet' John Gregory received an honorary MA at Bristol University.

At the end of October Bristol Magistrates' Court heard the case of two taxi drivers, Sidney Bryant (employed by Bristol Tramway Co) and Frederick Madge (employed by Provincial Cab Co). They were both charged with driving in a manner dangerous to the public at the Tramway Centre. PC Jones told the court that the two cabs, one blue and the other red, approached a taxi stand from different directions and were racing to get there first; he estimated their speed at 15 mph. The drivers were each fined 20/- plus costs.

The municipal elections held at the beginning of November resulted in the loss of three seats by the Liberals, one to the Conservatives, one to Labour and the other to an Independent. The seats held were:

Liberals	37 (previously 40)
Labour	6 (previously 5)
Conservatives	42 (previously 41)
Independents	7 (previously 6).

In November Laurence Irving was presented with a tablet commemorating the fact that his father Sir Henry Irving had lived at 1, Wellington Place on the corner of Picton Street.

During the course of their meeting on 25 November the Docks Committee were told of a letter received from the War Office. The letter advised them that any request from German or other foreign nationals to inspect the docks or for the supply of information should be referred to the Army Council before being acceded to.

The construction of the Hippodrome was completed in December. The theatre had capacity for an audience of 2,000; the stage measured 60' in depth and could rise and fall at the touch of a lever. There was a tank capable of containing 70,000 gallons of water and 23 huge arc lights which required a separate source of electric power.

1913

There were negotiations between the Bristol Insurance Committee and members of the medical profession during Christmas week and terms were agreed. As a result, at the beginning of January, some 130 medical practitioners agreed to participate in medical service under the National Insurance Act.

Mr. James W. Arrowsmith died on 19 January. He was the publisher of *Three Men in a Boat*, *Prisoner of Zenda* and works by Rider Haggard and Marie Corelli and also some of Latimer's books, *Bristol Past and Present* by Taylor and Nicholls, and *Arrowsmith's Dictionary of Bristol*. He was one of the men whose action secured the County Ground at

Ashley Down for Gloucestershire County Cricket Club and played a part in the movement to erect the Cabot Tower and Colston's statue in Colston Avenue. His interest in the affairs of Bristol University led to the decision, in 1911, to name the tower in the University building in Tyndall's Park the Arrowsmith tower.

At the annual meeting of subscribers to Bristol Fine Arts Academy held in February it was announced that the King had agreed to become its patron and that it would be known as the Royal West of England Academy.

In the spring there was dissension at Bristol University prompted by the actions of Professor Gerthwohl, the head of the French department, who gave public expression of his criticism of the Senate in the press. He complained of the fact that Professor Cowl, Professor of English at the University College, had not been appointed when the University received its charter; he also recorded that lecturers' requests for increased remuneration had not been met due to shortage of funds and protested at the number of honorary degrees granted by the newly established University. He was supported by Miss Geraldine Hodgson, a lecturer in education and by T.R. Glover, Cambridge University's representative on the Council, who resigned. Questions about the dispute were asked in Parliament. Professor Gerthwohl appeared before the University Council in May and they confirmed the Senate's actions.

In March the Elementary Education Committee considered a report from school attendance officers who said that there was a serious interference with attendance of children at school in consequence of cinematograph shows being open during school hours. They requested that licences granted by the justices should stipulate that children of school age should not be admitted during school hours.

At the end of March Alice Mary Walters appeared before the magistrates summoned for keeping a dog without a licence. She told the court that she supported women's suffrage and that her refusal to pay was a protest against the Government. She refused to pay the fine and was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment.

Alderman J.W.S. Dix, the 'father' of Bristol City Council, died on 2 April. He was a Conservative, chairman of Clifton Union from 1859 until 1867 and a Bristol councillor from 1876 until he became an alderman in 1891. He was an energetic supporter of the scheme to remove the swing bridge at St. Augustine's and to form Colston Avenue and the gardens at the Tramway Centre. By profession Alderman Dix was a solicitor; he was chairman of Bristol Gas Company and had the distinction of having one of the company's locomotives named after him. He was cremated at Golder's Green and the ashes interred in the city.

The Hon. A.H. Peake, Premier of South Australia, visited the city in April. He attended a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss trade possibilities between Bristol and Australia. In May the Hon. W.A. Watts, Premier of Victoria, visited with a party of officials; they were particularly impressed by the cold storage facilities at Avonmouth designed to handle meat from Australia and New Zealand.

In April William Maberley Llewellyn trading as Llewellyn's Machine Company of King's Square was summoned for failure to pay his employees' National Insurance contributions. He told the court that he had put the money in a designated bank and would pay by cheque at any time but that he would not stick stamps on cards because he regarded the procedure as insanitary. The bench fined him 5/- and ordered him to pay the contributions.

In the following month the Bristol Distress Committee heard that the numbered of applicants was the lowest since the committee had been established in 1905. The numbers were:

1905/6	2900
1906/7	1772
1907/8	1392
1908/9	2967
1909/10	2175
1910/11	1188
1911/12	1030
1912/13	502 (120 skilled, 382 unskilled).

In June the new parish hall in Guinea Lane, Fishponds, built as a memorial to Hannah More, was opened by Mrs. H.H. Wills. The hall, also to be used as a Sunday School was designed by Maynard Froud and built by W.W.F. Read of Fishponds.

In the same month the Baths Committee decided to allow mixed bathing as an experiment for one hour on Wednesday evenings. Each lady had to be accompanied by a gentleman; this stipulation had to be reconsidered to accommodate fathers with several daughters. Sunday, 15 June was the year's hottest day the temperature reaching 79 degrees. Frederick Orchard of 25 Lawrence Street, Ashley Down, aged 7 years, was taken to hospital suffering from heat stroke. The hot weather continued and early in July Leonard Edwin Dyke of 52 Gatton Road, Mina Road, aged 5 died of sunstroke.

The number of vehicles with the registration mark AE registered in Bristol on 30 June was 3553 (1827 motor cars, 130 heavy motor cars and 1596 motor cycles).

King George V visited the city on 2 July in glorious weather. He arrived at Temple Meads and travelled in procession to the Victoria

Rooms where he unveiled the Edward VII statue. In Park Street, Mary Richardson, a suffragette, managed to throw a document into his carriage. Later the King visited the Royal Agricultural Society's Show on Durdham Down where he inspected local Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans.

Joseph Storrs Fry died on 7 July. He was born in Union Street in 1826 in one of the houses that later became incorporated in the immense factory bearing his family's name. He was a Quaker and known in the city for his philanthropy. Mr. Fry was presented with the freedom of the city in 1908.

In August there was a serious fire at the premises of Messrs. H.H. & S. Budgett, wholesale provision merchants, in Nelson Street and Bridewell Street. The damage amounted to some £20,000 and for some time the blaze made Rupert Street impassable.

In August it was reported that in the city there were 6,800 Old Age Pensioners under the National Insurance scheme and that the total amount paid to them was £84,116. The number of elderly persons receiving assistance from the Bristol Union were:

1910	672 indoor, 1637 outdoor
1911	604 indoor, 1498 outdoor
1912	498 indoor, 98 outdoor
1913	546 indoor, 93 outdoor.

A revival in shipbuilding took place at about this time. In September there was a vessel under construction in Charles Hills' shipyard that had a capacity of 1,500 tons; its length was 212', beam 33' and depth 14'6" and its speed would be eleven knots fully laden; it was lit by electric light. In the yard pneumatic driven machinery had been installed and the company was replacing gas with electricity for illumination.

Fred Little, proprietor of a postcard shop at 10, Old Market Street, was charged, in September, with exposing and offering for sale obscene and indecent postcards. Police Inspector Foley had seized 20,000 cards and the magistrates ordered that they should be destroyed. The bench did not accept Little's contention that the cards were not obscene and fined him five pounds and costs.

In October the Bristol Insurance Committee heard that Dr. Bertram Rogers as Medical Referee was 'doing good work at finding out those men who were malingering or not anxious to return to work.' Of the 100 men referred to him by Friendly Societies 34 were found to be fit for work, 43 were unfit and 23 did not attend.

The public examination in bankruptcy of Rev. W.H. Shaw, formerly Rector of Stapleton but then of Cheltenham, was heard in Cheltenham in October. The Official Receiver estimated his liabilities at £13,000, which were said to be due to Stock Exchange transactions and debts due

to moneylenders. Mr. Shaw did not appear and a warrant was issued for his arrest but the Official Receiver told the creditors that he was in Australia and anticipated that there would be some difficulty in executing the warrant.

The National Sunday School convention took place in the Victoria Rooms in October. The meeting paid tribute to J.S. Fry and it was reported that the King and Queen's deep interest in the work of the movement had brought about a distinct advance in the training of children. The work of missions to children in China and India was brought to the meeting's attention and the debt due to Sunday School teachers in all walks of life was acknowledged.

In the same month the Royal West of England Academy's premises were reopened after refurbishment, extension and decoration. The ceremony was performed by Miss Stancombe Wills who had recently purchased and presented to Bristol Art Gallery *The Vision of Endymion* by Sir Edward J. Poynter, President of the Royal Academy.

At the end of October the pavilion at the University sports ground was seriously damaged by fire and suffragette literature was found at the scene including one reading 'Business before pleasure. Hobhouse being responsible will pay. Release Mary Richardson'. University students later attacked the headquarters of the Women's Social and Political Union in Queens Road, burning the furniture outside in the road. In the middle of November a large house known as 'Begbrook' at Frenchay burned down despite the efforts of Mangotsfield Fire Brigade. Value of the damage was put at £3,000. Again, suffragette literature was found including a paper reading 'Birrell is coming. Rachel Pearce is still being tortured.'

Also at the end of the month a Congregational Chapel in Bridge Street was demolished to make way for new premises for Baker, Baker & Co. The congregation could be traced back to the ejection of 1662 and the chapel building itself was opened in 1786.

At the beginning of November Sarah Bernhardt appeared at the Hippodrome in *La Dame Aux Camélias*. To mark her visit to the city the Bristol Playgoers' Club entertained her to luncheon at the Royal Hotel; 150 people attended.

The new church of St. Ambrose, Whitehall was consecrated by the Bishop of Bristol at the end of November. The organ was built by T.W. Lewis of Bristol to a design of Grahame H. Wills. The building cost over £13,300 and there was seating for 700 persons. The architects were W.V. & A.R. Gough.

Following the marriage of Miss Hughes, there was a vacancy for the post of headmistress of Colston's Girls' School. In December the governors appointed Miss Beatrice Margaret Sparks, headmistress of Wisbech High School.

LORD MAYORS AND SHERIFFS

(The civic year ran from November)

1899/1900	Sir Herbert Ashman	George Alfred Wills
1900/1901	James Colthurst Godwin	Edward Burnet James
1901/1902	Charles Edward Ley Gardner	Francis Arden Close
1902/1903	Sir Robert Henry Symes	Joseph Weston-Stevens
1903/1904	Sir Robert Henry Symes	William Henry Greville Edwards
1904/1905	Edward Burnet James	Herbert Cary George Batten
1905/1906	Alfred John Smith	Henry Lorymer Riseley
1906/1907	Alfred John Smith	Henry Daniel
1907/1908	Edward Burnet James (knighted 1908)	Herbert Cary George Batten
1908/1909	Edward Robinson	Stanley Hugh Badock
1909/1910	Christopher Albert Hayes	George Riseley
1910/1911	Christopher Albert Hayes	George Riseley
1911/1912	Frank William Wills (knighted 1912)	Robert Edward Bush
1912/1913	Charles James Lowe	Thomas Joseph Lennard
1913/1914	John Swaish	Adam Cottam Castle

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