

Timeline for Saltaire Mill

The Sir James Roberts Years

Part 2 - 1904 to 1914

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16 March 1904⁶ –

A BRADFORD PERJURY CASE.

James Pichforth (25), dyer's labourer, was indicted for unlawfully and knowingly committing wilful and corrupt perjury, at Bradford, on the 26th October. Mr. Willerforce prosecuted.

It was stated that on the 13th October the Financial Corporation obtained judgment against the prisoner for £3 4s. On the day in question he went to the office of Mr. Chambers at the Bradford County Court, and swore in an affidavit in support of an application for an administration order that his wages were £1 4s. per week; whereas he earned £1 10s. per week at the Saltaire Mills.

The prisoner admitted that he under-stated his earnings in order to get off lightly.

Pichforth was given a good character, and it was understood that his employers would take him back again.

The Commissioner, in passing sentence of six weeks' imprisonment in the second division, said that perjury was a very serious offence.

(£1 10s is worth c£165 in 2016)

6 June 1904² –

SAD SUICIDE AT SHIPLEY.

Shipley had a sad case of suicide yesterday. Edward Smith (62), who was for many years employed as a spinning overlooker at Saltaire Mills, had for a long time past suffered from severe nervous debility.

About a month ago he gave up his home and went to live with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Hudson, at 25, Leyburn-grove, Shipley. At this address yesterday he hanged himself.

BRADFORD EXHIBITION.

BIG ATTENDANCES.

Again there was a very large attendance at the Bradford Exhibition on Saturday, the number that passed the turnstiles being 34,298, and though the weather during the week has been anything but what might be described as really favourable, being wet and cold some days, the total for the week is the third highest since the opening.

The figures of the weekly attendance are as follows:—

Week ending May 7th	78,051
Week ending May 14th	87,302
Week ending May 21st	74,986
Week ending June 4th	123,088
Week ending June 11th	85,635
Week ending June 18th	98,321

Total since opening..... 547,383

The Somalis continue to attract most attention, but all the side shows are being pretty well patronised, including the Naval Exhibition, despite the fact that some people have been trying to do it what harm they could by writing to the papers complaining.

Saturday was a charity day, when one of the items usually given at the gala promoted by the Workpeople's Committee was included in the programme. This was the Fire Brigade Competition, and it attracted a good deal of attention. The competing teams were—Harrogate Corporation, A team and B team; R. R. Gaunt and Sons Limited, Farsley; Saltaire Mills; Whetley Mills; Bingley Urban Council, A team and B team; New Lane Mills, A team and B team; Victoria Mills, Shipley; Silsden and Shipley District Council.

The times of the competing teams were:—Farsley, 53 sec.; Shipley, 44 1-5 sec.; Harrogate (A team), 46 1-5 sec.; Whetley Mills, 39 sec.; Bingley (A), 43 4-5 sec.; Bingley (B), 41 1-5 sec.; Saltaire, 39 sec.; Harrogate (A), 42 3-5 sec.; New Lane Mills (B), 46 4-5 sec.; Victoria Mills, 55 sec. Silsden went through the performance in 39 sec., but were penalised 5 sec. for an informality, making their time 44 sec. New Lane Mills (A) were disqualified for not striking the target, Saltaire and Whetley Mills tied for first place and had a deciding competition.

The final result of the competition was—1, Whetley Mills, 37 4-5 sec.; 2, Saltaire, 39 sec.; 3, Bingley (B), 41 1-5 sec.

27 July 1904² –

SALTAIRE HOSPITAL.

NOT RESTRICTED TO SALTAIRE MILLS.

Some two months ago the Governors of the Sir Titus Salt Charity, Shapley, applied to the Charity Commissioners for the interpretation of certain clauses in their trust deed, the object being to get an opinion as to whether the benefits of the funds devoted to pensions should only be participated in by poor people who had worked for the Saltaire firm or had been connected with Saltaire; or whether any person living within a radius of three miles from the hospital buildings was entitled to share in these pensions or was entitled to treatment in the hospital.

At a meeting of the Governors last night a reply was read from the Charity Commissioners stating that the benefits of the Charity are restricted to persons living within a radius of three miles from the hospital buildings, and are not confined to those persons within that area who have been connected with Saltaire, or who have worked at Saltaire Mills.

The Chairman of the Governors (Mr. James Roberts), upon whose proposition the opinion of the Charity Commissioners had been asked, expressed his entire dissent from the interpretation now given. It was entirely antagonistic to the intention of the founder of the charity, he contended, and he would not be a party to the administration of that charity in a manner so clearly in opposition to the wishes of the founder.

22 September 1904² –

Mr. William Middlebrook, one of the oldest and most respected inhabitants of Allerton, Bradford, died on September 22nd. It is said of him that he set running the first spindle at Saltaire. He was one of the first members of the Baptist Church at Allerton, and it was largely due to his energy that a new chapel was built in 1872, and freed from debt some few years later. For a long period he served as superintendent in the Sunday school, while he was a deacon of the church up to the time of his death. Aged 85.

(In 1861 William lived with his family at 46 George Street in Saltaire.)⁵