

**MR. F. A. S. SEWELL
RETIRING**

**Thirty-Four Years at
Bedford School**

After thirty-four years' service on the staff of the Bedford School, Mr. F. A. S. Sewell, who played cricket for Cambridge University in 1901 and 1902 and for Bedfordshire County over twenty years ago, is retiring at the end of this term. He has been doing part-time work at the School since Christmas, 1941, the time of his official retirement.

Educated at Weymouth College and St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, Mr. Sewell took a Third Class in the Classical Tripos. In 1902 he became classical master at Wellingborough School, where he remained for seven years, leaving to take up a similar post at Rotherham Grammar School in 1909. In May of the following year he joined the staff of Bedford School. From 1919 to 1925 he commanded the School contingent of the O.T.C.

From 1925 to 1939 Mr. Sewell was Housemaster of "Ashfield". With Mrs. Sewell, a daughter of the late Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, of Kettering, taking a lively care of the domestic side, the House gained during that period a well-deserved reputation for good feeding, health and tone.

Mr. Sewell will be long remembered in cricket circles for his many fine performances on the field. He was an extremely clever slow bowler and an attractive batsman. His father, the Rev. A. Sewell, of Harnham, Salisbury, who is 102 years of age, is still active.

THE VETERAN IN CRICKET

S. P. Keech's Long Career Recalled

It is a paradox of cricket that the veteran is so often the best example of the game's youthful spirit. Largely because of his zest for cricket he arrives at the stage of declining power almost imperceptibly. Maybe his eye is not so keen as once it was; his fingers no longer impart a spin that makes the pitched ball spit viciously away from its line of flight; and in the field he has lost the quickness that makes a catch out of the hardest chance. But these things escape all but the most observant of us. He still has much to give to the loveliest of games. Tried temperament and ripe experience may enable him to stand his ground when the side's innings is falling into ruin around him; or to capture a wicket at the critical moment. So he remains active among cricketers until nature is abused by his exertions—and he does not outstay his welcome. With truth it has been said that a cricketer never really grows old.

Sidney Poole Keech, whose identity the more readily will spring to readers' minds if I call him "Dollar", began playing club cricket with the Bedford Alma before the last war; so to record that in the season now ending he scored a couple of half-centuries for Bedford Town, reached other useful totals, and, when occasion demanded, bowled with all his old spirit, is to substantiate what I have written about the veteran in cricket. "Dollar" has the healthy look of a man who has sought and found his pleasures on cricket's sunlit fields during these many summers past. He began the 1944 season by watching a match from a pavilion seat and saying to all-comers, "I'm too old to play." Doubtless he will try this self-deception again next year. But I suspect that not until the young men return from the wars to home and cricket will "Dollar" lay aside his willow blade once and for all.

FOR COUNTY AT THREE GAMES

A fine all-round sportsman, Sid Keech is nevertheless a modest man who declined to help me in preparing this article, and I have had to delve at random into *The Bedfordshire Times* files for information about his achievements. So obviously the picture presented here is incomplete. Undoubtedly cricket has been his best game, but he and his great friend and Queen's Works clubmate, Stanley Harris, share a unique distinction. They played for Bedfordshire at three games—cricket, football, and hockey. What a splendid contribution Queen's Works made to County cricket, at the time when Keech and Harris were in their prime! Under the captaincy of Tetley, and later of Golding, there were Keech, Harris, Johnny Ratcliffe, Basil Rogers (afterwards a professional for Glamorgan), "Wicker" Childs, H. Faulkner, and Alec Pacey, all of whom did well in the Bedfordshire side.

So far as I am able to ascertain, "Dollar's" best season in County cricket was 1931, when he finished fourth in the Bedfordshire batting averages and was second at bowling with 12 wickets for under 13 runs apiece. He reached the peak of his form that year in a match memorable for the recovery Bedfordshire made against

Cambridgeshire. He took five for 65 in Cambridgeshire's first innings of 197. At the tea interval on the first day Bedfordshire had lost six batsmen and scored only 57 runs. Then Queen's Works came to the rescue. Keech (32) and Harris (17) together put on 51, and the batting side made 125. In Cambridgeshire's second knock (173) Keech's figures were four for 38, so that mainly through his work Bedfordshire were able to make a gallant attempt to win the match; they required 245 runs, and at the finish they were 225 for nine.

Another rescue innings played by Sid Keech in the same season was when the County fared badly against Buckinghamshire, whose bowling seems always to be the skeleton in Bedfordshire's cupboard. In reply to a total of 252, the Bedfordshire players had lost seven batsmen by the time 60 runs were up, but Keech (18) and A. B. Poole (57) weathered the storm until close of play. Rain caused the game to be abandoned on the second day.

OFF FIRST-CLASS BOWLERS

The highest score made by "Dollar" for the County appears to have been his 61 (including ten boundary hits) against Sir Julien Cahn's XI in 1934. It was the highest in the Bedfordshire innings, and made off such bowlers as Peebles and Morkel. From the bowling point of view, Keech's memories of that match cannot be amongst his happiest. He and his colleagues in the County's attack suffered terrible affliction. Sir Julien declared at 445 for four, and his side won by an innings. "Dollar" played a handsome part in the same season in Bedfordshire's fine victory by four wickets over Buckinghamshire. In their second innings Buckinghamshire were out for 114, Keech bowling 14 overs, six of which were maidens, and taking four for 29. Scoring 24 not out, he had the satisfaction of making the winning hit.

"Dollar" has always been a fast scorer, and even to-day he makes some younger batsmen look pedestrian by comparison. He made several centuries in club cricket, and his performances for Queen's Works year after year placed on him the stamp of one of local cricket's finest all-rounders between the two wars.

Sid Keech played at outside-left for Bedford Town F.C. in a period, soon after the last war, when the Club's standard of performance was probably higher than it has been at any time since then. I find in the 1922 file of *The Bedfordshire Times* the opinion that the Eagles' attack was the strongest in the Northants. League, whose championship the team came within an ace of winning. Those with memories long enough will recall the grand forwards of those days—Elderton, Keech, Toseland, Lucas, and Sparrow. "Dollar" was said to have played "a great game" against Chelsea—the Eagles lost a close encounter, 6-4—and when Bedford defeated Northampton Reserves 2-1 our critic wrote: "The man of the forward line was undoubtedly Keech; he was chiefly responsible for the scoring of Bedford's goals, and was generally there when wanted."

SOCCER TO HOCKEY

"Dollar" also played for Biggleswade, and then turned to hockey for his winter sport. It is remarkable how gifted some men are in any ball game they like to take up. Keech served Queen's Works Hockey XI so well at right-back that he was twice chosen for the County.

But those half-centuries in 1944 prompted me to write this article, and I will end on a

note concerning Sid Keech's cricket. A few weeks ago I saw him drop the simplest of catches, and, as cricketers will, his team-mates "pulled his leg" mercilessly. One advised him to get the umpire's permission to "take a sack out." And it occurred to me that here was the true measure of a fine sportsman's popularity. Only popular men have their legs pulled.

When the time comes there will be sadness in his leaving. But if I had "Dollar's" memories of days in the sun I should be content and envy no man.

H. J. D.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN JOCELYN RADICE

Gallant and Devoted War Service

The death is announced of Capt. Jocelyn Fuller Dalrymple Radice (Jo), eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Fulke Radice, of Bedford. He died last month on detached service during operations against the enemy.

Capt. Jocelyn Radice was the grandson of the late Canon Jocelyn Speck, of St. Paul's, Bedford, and he was born at St. Paul's Vicarage on 8th September 1918. He was educated at Cheam Preparatory School and at Marlborough College, where he was Head of his House. He was a keen rugger player (late Blackheath), and excelled at cricket and rowing, and his house became cock house for the college.

During his two years at Brasenose College, Oxford, he boxed for the University. When the war came and he volunteered for service he received the war-time B.A. degree, and this year his M.A. Being a member of the University Cavalry O.T.C. on the outbreak of war, he was posted as a cadet officer to the Equitation School at Weedon, with a commission in the Wiltshire Yeomanry; he later transferred to the Queen's Bays Royal Armoured Corps and went with the Regiment to the Middle East.

A MISSION TO RUSSIA

In November 1941 Capt. Radice went with a mission to the Russian Army, returning to his regiment to take part in all the Eighth Army desert campaigns. He was wounded in the Battle of Knightsbridge. Returning to the desert in time to take part in the Battle of El Alamein, he received further wounds, but recovered to take part in all the heavy fighting of the North African campaign with the division which took Tunisia.

Capt. Jocelyn Radice, with the permission of his Colonel, then volunteered for special work in the Middle East. Volunteers then being required for another theatre of war, Capt. Radice again offered himself and gave his life while engaged in this service.

Capt. Radice's second brother, Capt. Henry L. T. Radice, of the Gloucestershire Regiment, is in the Far East and has been away for three years, taking part in the Burma campaign and in the fighting retreat out of Burma. The youngest brother is a cadet R.A.F.V.R., and is on his way overseas to complete his training.

KILLED IN ACTION

Alec Cook, a Promising Rugby Player

By the death in action over France of Squadron-Leader Alec E. Cook, D.F.C., R.A.F., Coastal Command, Bedford Rugby Union Football Club loses another fine player. After winning the D.F.C., Squadron-Leader Cook trained Spitfire pilots for a time, but returned to operational duties, and recent exploits added to his reputation as a brave and skilful airman.

Attending Bedford School from 1927 to 1938, Alec Cook proved a great asset as a forward in the School XV, and showed promise of emulating his brother, J. G. Cook, the Bedford, East Midlands, and England forward. He played many fine games for the Town. At cricket he was a good all-rounder and in the last season before the war he played for Bedfordshire against Sir Julien Cahn's XI, Oxfordshire, and Cambridge-shire.

In August this year he led a very successful Mosquito attack on three enemy armed trawlers on the Gironde Estuary, North of Bordeaux, of which one was left on fire, another smoking, and the other badly damaged.

His eldest brother, Gilbert (the Rugby international), is in the Air Force, and two other brothers, Maurice and Phillip, are in the Army serving abroad. They are both Rugby players.