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**NEW VILLAGE CLUB FOR
DEDHAM. Opening by Sir John
Gorst, M.P.**

Yearning to keep abreast of the progressive spirit of the age, some of the more public-spirited inhabitants of the pretty village of Dedham thought there was one thing lacking in their beautiful oasis, viz., village club. This feeling, commendable all times gradually, but surely gaining ground, certain supporters of the movement made representation to the Vicar of the parish (Rev C. Alfred Jones), and he, acting with promptitude and showing characteristic public spirit, called an open meeting of parishioners in August last.

The unanimity of the meeting was gratifying it was unexpected, and from this time the project has developed until Monday evening, Jan. 16, saw the Village Club opened. The inhabitants owe a lasting debt of gratitude to their Vicar, who threw his whole heart and soul into the work from its inception its close. Other leading inhabitants, irrespective of party or creed—for the Dedham Village Club knows no politics—co-operated with him most willingly, and as the result of their efforts a capital site was acquired the south-east corner of Duchy Farm in the occupation of Mr Gooch, the necessary funds (as nearly as possible £200) having been raised by loan from the bankers and Guaranteed by the Vicar, Mr. Hamilton Lang, Mr. J. Medows Rodwell, and Mr Tremlett. The building itself has been erected by Messrs. Saunders and Son, and gives general satisfaction. The exterior is of galvanised iron, the inside is match-boarded, and

there are three rooms for reading and recreation.

On Monday evening, Jan. 16, the Club was declared open by Sir John Gorst, Q.C., M.P., in the presence of large company of villagers. The meeting, which was held in the largest room of the new premises, was presided over by the Rev. C. Alfred Jones (vicar), and among those present beside Sir John Gorst were Mr. J. Medows Hodwell, Dr. Ashwin, Mr. English, Mr. Cooper Fenn (Ardleigh), Mr. H. Clover, Mr. T. W. Scott, Mr. T. Mason, Mr. W.Saunders, Mr.Beaslin, Mr. Fairhead, Mr. Ray, etc.

The room was crowded, the attendance consisting mainly of working men. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said they would all congratulate Sir John Gorst on his return after a successful tour, and thank him for honouring Dedham by making there his first public appearance since his return. (Applause.) The Chairman sketched the circumstances under which the Club was first started, and said he took neither credit nor discredit to himself in connection with the matter. His path from the first had been a very clear one. The result of the parishioners' meeting was the building they now saw, and he ventured to say that the accommodation and the building altogether were very satisfactory. He hoped they would all pull together and that they would make the club a real success, because he was sure it supplied a real want. The Chairman then called upon Sir John Gorst to address the meeting. At the close of the meeting, the Chairman announced that Mr. Arthur Scott and Mr Page would. As provisional secretaries, take the names of intending members of te new club, and that a meeting to appoint a Committee and officers would be convened within a week.