

**THE WELLESLEY COLLIERY BAND, FIFESHIRE****Conductor: Mr. Tom Proctor**

At the Annual Championship Contest of the Scottish Amateur Band Association held in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, Wellesley Colliery Band secured first prize, thereby winning the title of Champion Band of Scotland. The band was formed in June, 1919, and over 2,000 employees agreed to contribute each week from their wages towards the maintenance of the band. A new set of instruments were purchased, but after a number of years the officials replaced these with a complete set of "Boosey" instruments, including a set of "Hawkes" Artist Perfected Trombones. At the formation of the band all were experienced players who had been members of the late Methil Town Band. Mr. Robert Rimmer was appointed professional conductor and held that position for 10 years, when he resigned for health reasons. As a second section band many successes were achieved through his able tuition. The first year of the band they were registered as a third section combination by the S.A.B.A., but this was of a short stay. At the Summer Championship Contest at Bathgate on July 10th, 1920, by the S.A.B.A. for *second* and *third* section bands, Wellesley Colliery Band won two cups over both sections. At the second section championship held at Leith on October 6th, 1934, the band, under the conductorship of Mr. George Hawkins, gained second prize, Bathgate Public being first, which entitled both to be raised to the first section. The band now had the ambition to reach the top rung of the ladder, and for a number of years Mr. Herbert Bennet was the professional conductor. Many important engagements

were secured, such as broadcasts, etc., but most important of all was a week's engagement at the Glasgow "Empire Exhibition, 1938," which was an outstanding success and earned congratulations from many in Scotland and England. This year, 1944, marked the celebration of their 25th anniversary, and their success at contests this year. Under Mr. Tom Proctor (a Yorkshire man), a capable teacher and adjudicator, the band has made rapid strides. Three contests were held, viz.: Glasgow Charities, 3rd prize; Edinburgh Charities, 3rd prize; Scottish A. Band Association, 1st prize; and Championship of Scotland.

This photograph of the band was taken quite recently, and are the actual bandsmen who won the championship. The average age of the players is 21 years, therefore there is every prospect of further and even more important successes.