

Friday August 7th 1914 (Issue 1170)

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THE WORLD WAR

SIR EDWARD GREY ON GREAT BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE

FLEET AND ARMY MOBILISED

The mobilisation of the Navy was completed at four a.m. on Monday. The mobilisation of the Army and embodiment of the Territorials were at once proceeded with. On Sunday Sir Edward Grey gave the French Ambassador the following assurance:

"If the German fleet comes into the Channel, or through the North Sea, to undertake hostile operations against the French coast or shipping, we will give France all the assistance in our power."

This announcement was made by Sir Edward Grey in the course of his very grave speech to the House of Commons on Monday. The news reaching London early was of the gravest description. Following close upon the German invasion of Luxemburg came news of the violation of Belgian neutrality, after Germany had offered to Belgium an entente if she would consent to give facilities for the passage of German troops through the country, a proposal which was refused. To accept it, said the Belgian reply, would be to sacrifice the honour of the nation. Belgium further stated her resolve to repel aggression by every possible means.

The statement of Sir Edward Grey with regard to the attitude to be taken up by Great Britain was awaited with the keenest anxiety. The atmosphere in the crowded House of Commons was tense with excitement. The Foreign Secretary said the policy of peace so far as the Great Powers of Europe was concerned had failed. The House was now free to decide what the British attitude would be. He assured the House that in the present crisis, up to Sunday, the Government had given no promise to any country of anything more than diplomatic support.

France was involved in the dispute between Austria-Hungary and Serbia because of her obligations and honour under a definite alliance with Russia. The obligation of honour could not apply in the same way to us. How far our friendship with France entailed obligations, let every man look into his heart and judge for himself. He would speak personally for himself. The French fleet was in the Mediterranean, and the northern and western coasts of France were absolutely undefended. The French fleet had been concentrated there because of her friendship with us. His own feeling was this:

"If a foreign fleet, engaged in a war which France has not sought and in which she is not the aggressor, comes down the English Channel and bombards and batters the undefended coasts of France, we cannot stand aside."

Were we to say nothing as to what France should do with her fleet in the Mediterranean and leave her northern and western coasts absolutely unprotected at the mercy of the German fleet?

They were in the presence of a European conflagration, the consequences of which no one could foresee. If Italy departed from her attitude of neutrality because she considered the war an aggressive one, what would be the position in the Mediterranean? No one could say that in the course of the next few weeks the neutrality of Great Britain might not expose her to the most appalling risks. They were sounded as to whether a guarantee after the war as to the integrity of Belgium would content them.

GERMANY'S OFFER

He understood that the German Government would be prepared if we would pledge ourselves to neutrality to agree that its Fleet would not attack the northern coast of France. He only heard that shortly before he came to the House, but it was far too narrow an engagement.

There was a more serious consideration, becoming more serious every hour, and that was the question of neutrality of Belgium. It was most important to know whether the French and German Governments were prepared to respect the neutrality of Belgium, and he addressed a Note to Paris and Berlin. The French Government said they would do so, but the German Foreign Minister said he could not give a reply, as it would disclose part of their plan of campaign.

From the news he had received he did not know how accurate it was that Germany had offered friendly relations to Belgium on condition that the passage of troops was facilitated. If it were the case that there had been anything in the nature of an ultimatum to Belgium asking her to compromise her neutrality, her independence was gone, and if her independence went the independence of Holland would follow.

Now he must ask the House from the point of view of British interests to consider what might be at stake. And what would be our position if France was beaten in a struggle for life and death and lost her position as a Great Power and became subordinate to a Power greater than herself, and if Belgium also fell under the same dominating influence, and then Holland and Denmark?

“IF WE RAN AWAY – “

It was stated that we might stand aside, husband our resources, and whatever happened intervene in the end and put things right. If, in a crisis like this, we ran away from our obligations of honour and interest with regard to the Belgium treaty, he doubted whether, whatever material force we might have at the end, it would be of very much value in the face of the respect we should have lost. If we were engaged in war we should suffer but little more than if we stood aside. We were going to suffer terribly in this war whether this country were at peace or war. Foreign trade was going to stop. He put the question of Belgium hypothetically, but if the facts turned out as they had reached them at present it was quite clear there was an obligation on this country to do its utmost to prevent the consequences to which those facts would lead.

He thought it was due to the House to say that we had taken no engagement yet with regard to sending an expeditionary force out of the country. The mobilisation of the fleet had taken place. But we had not yet taken any engagement, because the Government felt that with our enormous responsibilities in India and other parts of the world, and with all the unknown factors, we must be very careful until we knew how we stood. We must be prepared – and we are prepared – for the consequences of using all the strength we had in the present crisis.

At any moment – they knew not how soon – we might have to defend ourselves and take our part. If we shrank from using all the forces in our power, we would sacrifice our respect and our good name in Europe, and at the same time not escape the serious economic consequences.

UNITED IRELAND

Mr Redmond, who was received with great cheering, said there was a possibility of history repeating itself. In 1778, at the end of the disastrous American War, when it might be said that the military power in this country was almost at its lowest ebb, the shores of Ireland were threatened with invasion. Then 100,000 Irish volunteers sprang into existence for the purpose of defending those shores. To-day there were in Ireland two large bodies of volunteers, one in the North and another in the South. He said to the Government that they might withdraw every one of their troops from Ireland. Ireland would be defended by her armed sons from foreign invasion, and for that purpose the armed Catholics in the South would be only too glad to join arms with the Protestant Ulstermen. Was it too much to hope that out of this situation a result might spring which would be good not merely for the Empire but for the future welfare and integrity of the Irish nation?

OUR FOOD SUPPLY

NO JUSTIFICATION FOR PANIC PRICES

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has stated officially that this year's wheat crop of the United Kingdom is grown on an acreage 4 per cent greater than last year, and that the yield will be above the average. It is estimated that the crop will be not less than 7,000,000 quarters. After deductions for seed and taking stocks into account – on which an inquiry conducted by the Board has just been completed – there is now in this country sufficient wheat to supply the whole population for about four months. This allows for the normal rate of consumption, and it is irrespective of all future imports from abroad.

A reassuring statement on behalf of the Government has been made by Mr Runciman in regard to our food supplies. Sir Richard Cooper, M.P., had given private notice of a question asking the Prime Minister if the Government was prepared with a scheme for the protection of the people in every part of the country against exorbitant prices of food being artificially created by speculators and trusts, and for the purpose of preventing unnecessary wastage in consumption; and if so, did he contemplate putting such a scheme into operation. Mr Runciman, replying for Mr Asquith, wrote:

“The matters to which the hon. baronet refers have long been under the careful consideration of the Committee of Imperial Defence, and plans have been prepared for safeguarding the regular supply and distribution of food-stuffs. Detailed arrangements for carrying out these plans in the light of the present situation are engaging the attention of a Committee of the Cabinet in consultation with the departments concerned. Meanwhile it is desirable that I should state emphatically that there are abundant supplies available, and that there is no justification whatever for panic prices.”

BANK HOLIDAY IN LONDON

Many Londoners spent Bank Holiday in Whitehall and the Mall, or round about Buckingham Palace. The crowds gathered in Whitehall cheered lustily every prominent politician who was recognised. Mr Winston Churchill and the Prime Minister had specially hearty receptions. Outside Buckingham Palace there was also a great crowd. When Prince John was seen at a window there was cheering again and again, and the young Prince, obviously delighted, waved his handkerchief.

The enthusiasm reached its height when the King and Queen left Buckingham Palace in an open carriage about twenty minutes past four in the afternoon. Their progress along the Mall was a royal one in the most popular sense of the word. The King and Queen received another ovation on their return to the Palace, while the Prince of Wales, who came on foot, was surrounded by the cheering crowd, and it was only with difficulty that a way was made for him.

Waterloo Station presented an animated appearance on Monday morning for it was thronged with Naval Reservists answering the mobilisation order. Similar scenes were witnessed at Victoria and other stations as the naval men left for various ports.

THE MONEY CRISIS

Drastic action was taken by the Government on Monday to deal with the grave financial situation. In the House of Commons, Mr Lloyd George introduced a Moratorium Bill – entitled the “Postponement of Payments Act” – and the measure was passed through all its stages in the afternoon sitting. The House of Lords also dealt with it expeditiously, and the Bill received the Royal Assent in the evening. The extension of the Bank Holiday for three days was also announced in order to enable the Banks to adjust themselves to the changed conditions. The extension, however, applies only to banks.

Meanwhile the Post Office announces discontinuance of withdrawals by telegraph from savings bank. The Moratorium Bill authorises postponement of any bill of exchange or negotiable instrument or any other payment in pursuance of any contract to such extent for such time and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the King’s Proclamation.

NAVY SERVICE EXTENDED

In response to the call, the men of the Royal Navy Reserve have travelled from all parts of the country to the naval depots. A special supplement to the “London Gazette,” published on Monday contained proclamations by the King calling out the men of the Royal Navy Reserve and Royal Fleet Reserve and the officers and men of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. The officers of the Royal Naval Reserve are also called up. A proclamation is also issued dealing with the question of extending the services of time-expired men of the Royal Navy. Under this proclamation:

‘All classes of men now serving in Our Navy, whose term of service may be expired or may expire while this proclamation shall continue in force, shall be required to serve for a period of five years from the expiration of their respective terms of service if their services be so long required.’

It was announced on Monday that Scotland Yard have issued notices calling up the police reserves. The object of this is to fill the places of the 1,000 officers and men who have already been detailed for special duties, and to fill the places of the men who have been called up owing to the mobilisation of the Naval Reserve.

HELP FROM THE DOMINIONS

Our Overseas Dominions and Colonies are rallying round England at this time of crisis. They have sent messages to the Imperial Government, containing offers of money and men to uphold the honour and supremacy of the Empire to which they belong.

In Canada, regiment after regiment has asked to be allowed to volunteer its units, and between 40,000 and 50,000 Canadians have offered their services.

"There is no lack of Australian volunteers," says Mr Cook, the Federal Premier. *"If the Motherland is at war, so are we."* The Government of Australia has decided, in the event of war, to place the Australian fleet under the control of the British Admiralty. It also offers, in the event of war, an expeditionary force of 20,000 men, of any suggested composition, for any destination desired by the Imperial Government; the cost of the dispatch and maintenance of this force to be borne by the Commonwealth. The Minister of Defence has ordered a partial military mobilisation.

Proclamations have been issued placing the New Zealand naval forces under control of the British Government, and also calling up the Naval Reserves. The defence authorities have taken control of the principal ports as a precautionary measure.

NAVY IN THE NORTH SEA

Our Home Fleets have now been completely mobilised. The First Fleet, always with full complements, was ready; the Second Fleet was soon in line by taking on board the small proportion of the Immediate Reserve required, and the Third Fleet has now been mobilised by drafting into the ships the men of the several classes of the Fleet Reserve, Royal Naval Reserve, and Volunteer Reserve.

Every effective vessel is at sea or ready for sea, and there are nine squadrons of Dreadnoughts or pre-Dreadnoughts, besides the cruiser squadrons and flotillas and auxiliaries attached. In the North Sea the British superiority over Germany is very marked. We can place in line forty-two battleships and battle-cruisers, as compared with the German's twenty-five or twenty-eight if the new ships are included. Besides battleships and battle-cruisers, we can place in the North Sea 100 other cruisers, 250 destroyers, and seventy-five submarines.

BALTIC NAVAL FIGHT

A battle was fought off the Aland Islands in the Baltic on Sunday between the German and Russian fleets. The Russians were driven back and took refuge in the Gulf of Finland. The Aland Islands, an archipelago stretching from the Swedish coast to Finland, are now in the occupation of German troops. This is an important success for Germany. The possession of the Aland Islands opens her way to Finland, and she has now a base from which to operate against St. Petersburg.

BRITISH SHIPS SEIZED

With regard to the reported seizure by Germany of two British vessels, the German Embassy states the facts are as follows:

The Wilson liner, *Castro* was in the Kiel Canal, and was ordered by the German authorities to proceed to Hamburg for military reasons, as it was not desirable that any commercial vessel should be in the canal at present.

As regards the second case, the Government had purchased coal shipped for Germany to a private firm, and the order was given for the ship to proceed to Hamburg with her cargo. It was solely a matter of changing her destination. In both cases there was no intention whatever of interfering with the property of the vessels. It was simply a police measure.

FRANCE INVADED

A denial was issued by Germany on Monday of the statements that her troops had crossed the French frontier. The German Ambassador, Prince Licknevsky, declared that up to Monday morning not a single German soldier had been on French soil, while there were several reports about French troops crossing the German frontier.

From German sources it was stated that a French aviator had thrown bombs over Nuremburg on Sunday, while on Saturday night French aviators were seen over the Rhine provinces. A story was told of French officers in German uniforms crossing from Belgium into Germany by motor cars.

From the French side it is stated that on Sunday a German patrol entered French territory and came into collision with a French force near Jencherai. The officer in command of the Germans killed one of the French soldiers, and was himself slain by one of the dead man's comrades.

A fairly strong force of German cavalry advanced on Sunday morning towards Suaree, situated to the south-east of Belfort, three kilometres from the frontier. They seized the horses, which has been requisitioned by the Mayor of the commune, and captured the men in charge, who were compelled to lead the animals to the frontier.

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AT WAR WITH GERMANY

SUMMARY REJECTION OF BRITISH ULTIMATUM

GERMANS IN BELGIUM

Great Britain is at war with Germany.

The declaration was made by Great Britain at seven o'clock on Tuesday night, following the summary rejection by Germany of a British ultimatum to which an answer was demanded by midnight. Great Britain's action followed promptly upon Germany's declaration of war upon France and Belgium and the receipt of official news that the German troops had invaded Belgium territory.

Germany, in alliance with Austria-Hungary, is now at war with Great Britain, France, Russia and Belgium, while Austria is at war with Servia. Proclamations of war were signed at Buckingham Palace at a meeting of the Privy Council on Tuesday night.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

On Tuesday in the House of Commons, Mr Asquith made the announcement that an ultimatum with respect to the neutrality of Belgium had been presented to Germany. Mr Asquith, who was received with general cheers, said:

"In conformity with the statement of policy which was made by my right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary yesterday, a telegram was sent early this morning by him to our Ambassador in Berlin. It was to this effect:

The King of the Belgians has made an appeal to his Majesty the King for diplomatic intervention on behalf of Belgium. His Majesty's Government are also informed that the German Government has delivered to the Belgian Government a Note proposing friendly neutrality for maintaining a free passage through Belgium territory, and promising to maintain the independence and integrity of the kingdom and its possessions at the conclusion of peace, but threatening in refusal to treat Belgium as an enemy. An answer was requested within twelve hours. We also understand Belgium has categorically refused this as a flagrant violation of the laws of nations. His Majesty's Government are bound to protest against this violation of a treaty to which Germany is a party in common with us, and must request an assurance that the demand made upon Belgium will not be proceeded with and that her neutrality shall be respected by Germany.

We asked for an immediate reply."

“BY FORCE OF ARMS”

We received this morning from our Minister at Brussels the following telegram:

The German Minister has this morning addressed a Note to the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that, as the Belgian Government had declined the well-intentioned proposals submitted to them by the Imperial Government, the latter, deeply to their regret, is compelled to carry out, if necessary by force of arms, the measures considered indispensable in view of the French menace.

Simultaneously, or almost immediately afterwards, we received from the Belgian Legation here in London the following telegram from the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs:

General Staff announce that territory has been violated at Gemmenich, near Aix-le-Chapelle. Subsequent information tends to show the German force has penetrated still further into German territory.

THE GERMAN REPLY

We also received this morning from the German Ambassador here a telegram sent to him by the German Foreign Secretary, and communicated by the Ambassador to us, which is in these terms:

Please dispel any mistrust that may subsist on the part of the British Government with regard to our intention by repeating most positively the formal assurance that even in the case of armed conflict with Belgium, Germany will under no pretence whatever, annex Belgian territory. The sincerity of this declaration is borne out by the fact that we have solemnly pledged our word to Holland strictly to respect her neutrality. It is obvious we could not profitably annex Belgian territory without making at the same time territorial acquisitions at the expense of Holland.

Please impress upon Sir Edward Grey that the German army could not be exposed to French attack across Belgium, which was the plan, according to absolutely unimpeachable information. Germany has consequently to disregard Belgian neutrality, it being to her a question of life and death to prevent the French advance.

That is the end of the communication. I have to add this on behalf of his Majesty's Government:

We cannot regard this as in any sense a satisfactory communication. We have in reply to it repeated the request we made last week to the German Government that they should give us the same assurance in regard to Belgian neutrality as was given to us and Belgium by France last week, and we have asked that the reply to that request – a satisfactory answer to the telegram of this morning which I have read to the House – should be given before midnight.

AMBASSADOR HANDED HIS PASSPORT

Soon after midnight on Tuesday the following statement was issued from the Foreign Office:

Owing to the summary rejection by the German Government of the request made by his Majesty's Government for assurances that the neutrality of Belgium would be respected, his Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin has received his passports, and his Majesty's Government has declared to the German Government that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Germany as from 11 p.m. on August 4.

GREAT BATTLE IN BELGIUM

BELGIANS BEAT BACK GERMAN ARMY

Belgium is offering a splendid resistance to the German advance, and have driven back from Liege a vastly superior force. Telegraphing on Wednesday from Brussels, the “Daily Chronicle” correspondent says:

Fierce fighting has been going on all round Liege. At four o'clock the Germans who had been trying to storm the forts, were repulsed everywhere. All Germans who succeeded in passing between the forts were killed, the Belgians behaving with great gallantry. The attack on the forts was not renewed. The Germans are said

to have behaved in the most brutal fashion to the people of Vise. Several of the civilians were shot in cold blood, and the town was burnt. The strength of the German force attacking Liege is put at 80,000, while the Belgians had 25,000.

The German losses are said to have been considerable, while those of the Belgians were slight. The "Daily News" correspondent says the Belgian troops have given a splendid example of bravery, discipline, and courage. He states that the Germans constructed on Tuesday a temporary bridge to replace that at Vise which was destroyed by the Belgian engineers on Monday. As soon as the temporary bridge was finished it was destroyed by the Belgian artillery. A brilliant feat by a Belgian aviator is recorded. A German aeroplane flying above Liege was attacked by a Belgian, who dashed his machine straight into that of the German, cutting the aeroplane of the latter in two.

GERMAN LOSSES 3,500

A further account of the fighting in Belgium is given by the "Chronicle's" special correspondent at Amsterdam. Telegraphing early on Thursday he says:

"I have learned the following details from Maastricht concerning the German attack on Vise:-

The German infantry arrived before the place in motor-cars, and were followed by cavalry. Already the bridges had been blown up by the Belgians, but the Germans made pontoons. These in turn were destroyed by the Belgian guns and aviator's bombs. When the Germans approached the village they were received with hot rifle fire. In this several women and civilian villagers took part, and in consequence when the Germans took the village they seized and executed seventy villagers who, though not in uniform, had taken part in the firing. They also set fire to the place.

Among the German wounded who were taken to Maastricht in motor-cars many expressed disappointment and discouragement, which seemed to be general, at the unexpected strength of the opposition of the Belgians. No fewer than 3,500 Germans were killed or wounded before Vise, it is declared.

A party of Germans are posted near the Dutch frontier to shoot down deserters fleeing to Maastricht. It is also reported that the wounded say that their officers were under the impression that they were fighting with French troops, and had no idea they were in Belgium. There is great praise in Holland for the plucky Belgian resistance, and a determination to resist by force any German attempt to cross Dutch Limburg on their way to Belgium."

The official announcement says that 25,000 Belgians were engaged against 40,000 Germans. 80,000 French troops are now co-operating with the Belgians on the Belgian-German frontier.

NAVAL WARFARE BEGUN

GERMAN MINE-LAYER SUNK

It was reported on Wednesday that a German Dreadnought and cruiser had been captured in the Mediterranean, and that another German cruiser had been sunk. The news came from a French source, and up to Thursday morning had not been confirmed, though it is officially announced that the French have captured one German cruiser. On Wednesday there were many rumours of a North Sea battle between the British and German fleets but the only official news announced by the Admiralty on Wednesday night was the following:

The commander of the torpedo flotilla reports that his Majesty's ship Amphion and the Third Torpedo Flotilla have sunk the German mine-layer Konigin Luise at noon today (Wednesday).

The Konigin Luise is a passenger vessel of the Hamburg-America Line, of 2,163 tons gross tonnage, speed 20 knots, specially fitted as a mine layer.

The affair probably took place off the Dutch coast as it had been rumoured that the Third Destroyer Flotilla had been engaged with mine-layers there. The laying of mines in shallow and commercial waters is a form of warfare against which Great Britain has consistently set her face. At the Hague however, Germany opposed the imposition of any restrictions in the matter.

MANY GERMAN SHIPS SEIZED

As soon as war was declared on Tuesday night British authorities began to detain German merchant vessels in many ports, and many have been declared prizes of war. The most important capture was that of the Hamburg-Amerika steamer *Belgia*, which had on board foodstuffs valued at between £100,000 and £200,000, as well as 73 German Reservists. She was on a voyage from Boston for Hamburg when she was captured in the Bristol Channel early on Wednesday morning by the Newport Dock master, Captain Cutcliffe, and a dozen armed policemen and brought into Newport docks. No resistance was offered.

Early on Wednesday morning police officers boarded the steamship *Marie Leonhardt*, a cargo steamer of 2,500 tons laden with flour, which was lying at Nicholson's Wharf near London Bridge. Other German boats detained are as follows:

Blyth: - Three steamers, *Gemma*, *Ostprussen*, and *Hands Otto*, in hands of police.

Leith: - *Otto* and *Adolph*, the latter having loaded coal.

Walton, near Warrington: - *Dryad*, with timber for Sweden.

Tyne: - *Albert Clement*.

West Hartlepool: - *Denebola*, with cargo of pit props.

Hull: - *Lucinda* and *Levenson*, of *Fleusburg*, and others captured and crews made prisoners of war.

Foynes, near Limerick: - *Terpischore*, bound for Hamburg.

Gibraltar: - *Emir* and *Adolf* brought in. *Emir* belongs to German Naval Reserve.

Bristol – *Elfreida*. Captain and crew detained.

Several other vessels have been seized in the South Welsh ports and one at Dunstan, Newcastle, while the German coal steamer *Porto* was captured by a French gunboat and taken to St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

FOREIGN SHIPS FOR OUR NAVY

The Admiralty have taken over the two battleships, one completed and the other shortly due for completion, which had been ordered in this country by the Turkish Government, and the two destroyer-leaders ordered by the Government of Chile. The two battleships will receive the names *Agincourt* and *Erin*, and the destroyer-leaders will be called *Faulkner* and *Broke* after two famous naval officers.

THE NAVY

OUR "SURE SHIELD": THE KING'S MESSAGE

The following message has been addressed by his Majesty the King to Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, who has assumed supreme command of the Home Fleet:

"At this grave moment in our national history I send to you, and through you to the officers and men of the fleets of which you have assumed command, the assurance of my confidence that under your direction they will revive and renew the old glories of the Royal Navy, and prove once again the sure shield of Britain and of her Empire in the hour of trial."

GEORGE, RI

The above message has been communicated to the senior naval officers of all stations outside of home waters.

NEW HEADS OF ARMY AND NAVY

Vice-Admiral Sir John Jellicoe has been appointed to the supreme command of the Home Fleet.

Field-Marshal Sir John French has been re-appointed to his former position of Inspector-General of the Forces, which he resigned some time ago.

Sir John Jellicoe has been Second Sea Lord since December, 1912, and it was known several months ago that he had been selected to succeed Admiral Callaghan. He has had a most distinguished career, having served in the Egyptian war and in China. He was wrecked in 1893 in the Victoria, but was saved after sinking, and severely wounded at Peitsang. Among his many decorations is one conferred by the Kaiser. He is fifty-five, and has been described as the Roberts and Kitchener of the Navy. In the Navy he is known as "J.J."

Rear-Admiral Charles E. Madden has been appointed Chief of Staff to Admiral Jellicoe. He has been Rear-Admiral commanding the Third Cruiser Squadron since 1912; prior to that he commanded the Home Fleet, and he has also been Fourth Sea Lord.

LORD KITCHENER WAR MINISTER

Earl Kitchener has been appointed Secretary of State for War with a seat in the Cabinet. In consequence of the pressure of other duties the Prime Minister has been compelled to give up the office. The King has approved the appointment of Lord Kitchener as his successor.

SCENES IN LONDON

NATIONAL ANTHEM AT THE PALACE

Extraordinary scenes of enthusiasm were witnessed in London on Tuesday night. In anticipation of the receipt of Germany's reply, huge crowds gathered in Whitehall and outside Buckingham Palace. A Privy Council at the Palace was preceded by a concentration of ministers at Downing Street, and each was loudly cheered as he entered the Premier's official residence.

Not since the Boer War have such crowds been seen in London, and Whitehall, the Mall, and Trafalgar Square were all packed with excited throngs. The enthusiasm culminated outside Buckingham Palace. A lady came out of the palace and announced that war had been declared.

This was received with tremendous cheering, which grew into a deafening roar when King George, Queen Mary, and the Prince of Wales appeared on the balcony shortly after eleven o'clock. The great space in front of the Palace was packed with a dense mass of excited people, many of whom had clambered on to the Victoria Memorial.

As if by general accord, the cheers gave way to the singing of the National Anthem, which was taken up lustily by the whole throng. For fully five minutes the Royal party remained on the balcony. They retired amidst a perfect storm of cheering, and although the crowd subsequently began to melt away, thousands remained.

GOVERNMENT TAKES RAILWAYS

An Order in Council has been made declaring that the Government has taken control over the railroads in Great Britain. This control will be exercised through an executive committee composed of general managers of railways, which has been formed for some time and has prepared plans.

Although the railway facilities for other than naval and military purposes may for a time be somewhat restricted, the effect of the use of the powers will be to co-ordinate the demands on the railways of the civil communities with those necessary to meet the special requirements of the naval and military authorities. More normal conditions will in due course be restored, and it is hoped that the public will recognise the necessity for the special conditions and will in the general interest accommodate themselves to the inconvenience involved.

Mr H. A. Walker, general manager of the L. and S. W. Railway, who is acting chairman of the executive committee of managers, has issued a statement pointing out that Government control is for the purpose of ensuring that the railways, locomotives, rolling stock, and staff shall be used as one complete unit in the best interests of the State for the movement of troops, stores, and food supplies.

The official chairman of the committee is the President of the Board of Trade, and the railway secretary is Mr Gilbert S. Szlumper. It may be necessary to discontinue at short notice a portion of the advertised service, or

to close certain of the lines against ordinary traffic. Under these circumstances no responsibility can be accepted for any delay or loss that may arise.

GRAVE NEWS THIS MORNING

BRITISH CRUISER SUNK AND 130 LIVES LOST

Grave news is to hand this morning. Yesterday it was intimated in Brussels and Berlin that the German troops in their attack on Liege the previous day lost 8,000 men, a number of prisoners, and seven guns. About 1,200 Germans were wounded in an unsuccessful attack on Liege on Wednesday night. Fighting in the neighbourhood continues. News from other areas in Europe in which fighting is proceeding is lacking. There is no official news of the naval battle believed to be proceeding in the North Sea, but the Admiralty announced last night that the British cruiser Amphion struck a mine yesterday morning and was sunk, 130 lives being lost.

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COALVILLE AND THE WAR

LIBERAL DEMONSTRATION AT BOSWORTH PARK POSTPONED

LOCAL AMBULANCE MEN CALLED UPON

KEEN INTEREST IN THE CAMPAIGN

The people of Coalville and District, as in other places are showing deep concern at the serious turn which events on the Continent have taken and during the week the war has been the main topic of conversation. Each morning, the newspaper shops have been besieged by many, anxious to learn the latest news and all the copies of the evening papers arriving in the town have been quickly bought up.

Moving about the town one hears various opinions expressed. All reasonable people regret, of course, that things have come to such a pass, and while there are some who contend that England should have held aloof from the fray, there are others who express different views and consider it an opportune time to "have a go" at Germany and so curb her ambitions. "A smashing blow to Germany is one of the best things that could happen" was the remark of one well known resident, "it would go a long way towards preserving European peace in future and save England some of the increasing millions being spent on the navy."

It seems a deplorable thing however, that international differences should have to be settled in this barbaric way. Possibly when millions of money have been squandered and the blood of thousands of fellow creatures has been shed, the originators will realise that it was all a horrible mistake. Below will be found a few interesting items showing the effect which the war is having upon this district.

COALVILLE MEN'S ADULT SCHOOL FOR PEACE

Telegrams were sent from the Coalville Men's Adult School on Sunday morning to Sir Edward Grey, Sir Maurice Levy and the Hon. H. D. McLaren as follows:

"In grave crisis for humanity and christianity the Coalville Men's Adult School strongly supports your efforts of peace."

The president of the school, (Mr B. B. Prewitt) made reference to the war in his opening remarks and a suitable lesson from the Psalms was read. It was decided to offer the free use of the hall for any public meeting which might be held on the matter.

Reference was also made on Sunday to the course of events by the preachers at churches and chapels in the district.

DESFORD MEN FAVOUR NEUTRALITY

The following resolution was passed by the Sunday Morning Adult School at Desford:-

"That this Adult School deeply deplores the war spirit now prevalent in Europe, and whilst jealous of the honour of our country sees no valid reason for our interference and conscious of the irreparable injury, in every direction, a war, whether successful or otherwise must inflict on our people, respectfully calls upon the Government to maintain an absolute neutrality during the crisis."

MASS MEETING AT SHEPSHED

After the services at places of worship in Shepshed, a mass meeting was held in the Bull Ring on Sunday night. Mr E. Harriman presided, and amongst those present were the vicar, and Revs. Pope and Foley.

Councillor Mee proposed a resolution that the men and women of Shepshed deeply deplored the news of war on the Continent, and urge the Government to use every effort to promote England's neutrality, and to urge their influence in the interests of peace.

Councillor Nelson seconded a vigorous speech, and the resolution was carried unanimously, and a copy ordered to be sent to Sir Edward Grey.

AN APPEAL TO MOTORISTS

All owners of motor-cars, motor-cycles, and mechanically propelled vehicles who are prepared to offer their services in the defence of their country are invited to send their names and addresses together with particulars of their vehicles, to Mr R. Sutton Clifford, jun., who is preparing a list on behalf of the Leicestershire Automobile Club, to forward to the War Office.

All motor owners in this district, whether members of the Club or not, are urgently invited to co-operate. Motor cyclists may be particularly useful. The particulars required are as follows:-

Maker's description and year of manufacture.
Type of body, with seating or carrying capacity
Name of driver
Telegraphic address (where instructions are to be sent)
Telephone number (if any)

These particulars should be sent to R. Sutton Clifford, jun., Solicitor, Loughborough

TERRITORIALS RETURN FROM CAMP

The several units comprising the Leicester and County territorial forces returned to Leicester on Monday evening having been in camp only one day. The main body had commenced their annual training at the brigade camp near Bridlington, and keen disappointment, tempered with some excitement as to immediate possibilities was felt when the order reached them calling upon them to return to head-quarters.

A considerable number of men belonging to the Naval Reserve left Leicester on Sunday in response to the mobilisation order.

LOCAL POLICE AFFECTED

Scotland Yard have called up the police reserves to fill the places of reservists and men specially detailed. The police in the Coalville and Ashby District who were to have leave, have been informed that this is cancelled for the time being.

BOSWORTH LIBERAL DEMONSTRATION POSTPONED

Owing to the war, the Liberal Demonstration which was to have been held in Bosworth Park to-morrow, when the Hon. H. D. and Mrs McLaren were to have given addresses has been postponed.

LEICESTERSHIRE CORONER AND NATIONAL RESERVE

Mr H. J. Deane, coroner, of Loughborough, wore the badge of the National Reserve at an inquest held at Ashby on Wednesday. He was formerly in the Loughborough Company, and is amongst a number of Loughborough National Reserve who have volunteered for service with the Territorials and passed the necessary medical examination of fitness.

MR A. T. SHARP CALLED UP

Mr A. T. Sharp, the Leicestershire amateur cricketer, was on Wednesday morning called up for service with the Territorial Forces, and left Northampton about eleven o'clock.

Mr Sharp was formerly an officer connected with the Gunnery Section of the Territorials, and only recently resigned his commission. In view of the present crisis he volunteered his services a day or two ago, and the War Office accepted his offer. Mr Sharp, being reinstated in his old rank and receiving a telegram to that effect on Wednesday morning. Leicestershire in consequence had one wicket less in the concluding stage of their match with Northants on Wednesday.

COALVILLE POLICEMEN FOR THE WAR

The police force includes several army reserve men, and some of the local constables have been called up. These included P.C. Heggs (Ashby), P.C. Durrands (Coalville) and P.C. Henson (New Swannington) who were all formerly in the Guards, and P.C. Granger of the 17th Leicestershire Regiment. They left for headquarters on Wednesday.

IBSTOCK RESERVISTS

About twenty reservists have been called up from Ibstock, including Police Constable Butler, and several leave behind wives and families.

TERRITORIALS MOBILISED

The call came to the Territorials on Tuesday night. Several of the local members were enjoying a night at the Coalville Electric Theatre and the proprietor (Mr Johnson) having received news of the order, threw a notice upon the screen that all Territorials were requested to leave for the railway station at once. A good number left for Ashby on Tuesday night, and others on Wednesday morning. Other troops including the mounted brigade from Hugglescote, also left Coalville Station on Wednesday, these departures being witnessed by large and enthusiastic holiday crowds.

Mr Waldron, caretaker at the Swannington Isolation Hospital, was among the reservists who left on Wednesday.

CALL TO COALVILLE AMBULANCE MEN

There was considerable excitement in Coalville on Sunday night, a large crowd assembling to witness the departure by the 9:20 train of several Coalville ambulance men. They were Corporal A. C. Chandler, Privates Moreton, J. Bland, E. Curtis, and J. Mulrooney. Supt. Scott gave the call to Mr Mulrooney while he was in church. On Tuesday morning Corporal Slatter and Private G. Reason also left Coalville. The men all journeyed to Devonport being members of the Royal Naval Sick Berth Reserve, and it is understood that they have been placed on three different war vessels which are now on active service in the North Sea. Their duties will consist of rendering first aid to the wounded. One of the men left behind a wife and ten children.

On Tuesday afternoon there was an indication of serious developments by a telegram received by Supt. Scott from headquarters enquiring how many names he could give of ambulance men not belonging to the Royal Naval Sick Berth Reserve who would join an expeditionary force at once. Mr Scott, and other officers of the brigade, were busy during the afternoon going round getting names. It was stated that the men would be required to join the R.A.M.C. for one year, the rate of pay being 4/- per day. If not wanted so long, they would receive two months pay on discharge.

NO CHEAP TICKETS

Notices were posted at the Coalville M.R. Station on Wednesday that from that date the issue of excursion and cheap tickets, except workmen's tickets, would be cancelled, until further notice. The L. and N. W. Co. had posted similar notices two days earlier. It was intimated that cheap tickets issued prior to that date would be allowed to be used up to the date they covered for returning. People going to Leicester from Coalville on Wednesday found that they had to pay ordinary fare, market tickets being among those cancelled.

COALVILLE CO-OP HORSES FOR THE FRONT

Eleven of the Coalville Co-Operative Society's horses were selected on Wednesday by army officers for use in the war.



COALVILLE FOOD PRICES

Reports from various parts of the country are to hand as to the increase of food prices, but it is urged that there is no cause for panic. Tradesmen who are rushing the prices up unduly are said to be taking a mean advantage of the crisis. Enquiries yesterday at the Coalville Co-Operative Stores which supply about 5,000 families in the district elicited the fact that no increase in the price of bread was anticipated at present. The price is now 5 1/2d for a 4-lb loaf, the same as in Leicester, where a halfpenny has been put on, the price having been 5d up to this week. Reports state that a further 1d advance is to be made at Leicester on Monday next, but this is not anticipated at Coalville. The Coalville stores on Wednesday raised butter 1d per lb., and sugar one farthing per pound. To assist the committee, the members are asked to buy just their weekly supplies, and not try to lay in large stocks. They have stopped the sale of flour in bulk. This applies also to the tradesmen generally. People should keep their heads, and go along as usual. To buy large quantities and deplete the tradesmen's stocks, while there is a shortage in supplies only means likely hardships for many of the poorer classes during the next few weeks.

ASHBY CONSERVATIVE GATHERING CANCELLED

There was to have been a large gathering of Conservatives from the Coalville and Ashby area on August 19th at the Manor House grounds, Ashby, where Mr and Mrs A. E. Hawley are temporarily in residence, but owing to the war the event has been cancelled.

ARMY CAPTAIN'S STRIKING LETTER TO SWANNINGTON CONSERVATIVES

Captain Brazier-Creagh was to have addressed a Conservative meeting at Swannington on Wednesday, but wrote the following letter:-

"Mr dear Lady Beaumont, - Your letter of the 1st inst. has been forwarded here, and under the present circumstances, you will perceive that being on military service it is impossible for me to speak at your fete on 5th August. Things look very serious, and I do not know where I may be sent to do duty for my country, but I do hope we shall give Germany a thrashing for bringing this uncalled war upon us. She could have stopped Austria, and referred the Servian question to the Hague for arbitration. Luckily, we were never better

prepared for war than at the present moment, and if only our navy makes scrap-iron of the German fleet at the bottom of the North or Baltic Sea, all will be well. Politics ought to be barred, and all should unite and join ranks against our enemies and support the united forces of the empire in this critical period. – Yours very sincerely, F. C. Brazier-Creagh.”

COALVILLE BANKS CLOSED

The Coalville banks in accordance with the Royal Proclamation, affecting the banks all over the country, remained closed from Saturday to this (Friday) morning. One or two instances have been heard of, of Coalville men becoming a little panic stricken, and drawing their money from the banks on Friday and Saturday, but one of the local bank officials assured us that there was no need to be alarmed. The banks of the country, he said, would take advantage of the extra holidays to make adequate provision for any contingencies that may arise.

EXCITEMENT AT LOUGHBOROUGH

Loughborough has never witnessed such exciting scenes as were witnessed throughout Wednesday. The town was full of territorials, all the companies attached to the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment having been drafted in to await orders. The local company was billeted in the various schools while the outside companies were billeted at the hotels. The yeomanry were also located in the town.

A most memorable scene was witnessed in the afternoon, when the Loughborough Company, headed by the battalion band, marched from the Drill Hall to the Parish Church to deposit their colours, which were carried by Lieutenants Vincent and Barradell.

FORTY LEICESTER TOURISTS AT DUSSELDORF

News came to hand on Wednesday evening that a party of tourists from Leicester are held up in Germany. The party in question consists of about forty people who, on Thursday last, left Leicester by the 4:40 train on the Midland Railway for Dusseldorf, Germany, via Harwich. They booked their passage as the Leicester Education Party, while they also termed themselves the German Peace Party. It was expected that they would be in Leicester again on Tuesday, but as they have not arrived, and as nothing have been heard of them, it is assumed that they have been held up.

REPORT OF HARVEST PROSPECTS

Reports just received from the Crop Reporters of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries throughout the country show that the wheat crop is forward and that the yield per acre will be well over the average. The harvest has commenced in the southern counties. Barley has improved during the past month and will probably be up to the average. Oats are a fair crop, but peas are not quite so good. The potato crop is very strong and healthy, and there will be a full supply, without any addition from imports, for a whole year's consumption. The root crops look well but require rain.

The apple crop especially in the districts where it is chiefly grown is considerably above the average while the crop of pears is even more satisfactory.

LEICESTER BRIDEGROOM CALLED TO THE GERMAN COLOURS

A young German, residing in Leicester, has been placed in an awkward predicament as a result of the European war. The patriotism of the German is something to marvel at, but it is surely trying his patriotism too far when he receives a command on the eve of his marriage.

The German, in Leicester, had completed his arrangements to marry Miss Coting, a waitress at the Turkey Café, during the holiday week, when from Germany came the 'cammando' stating that he must go to the Fatherland either on Monday night or Tuesday morning.

The prospective bridegroom naturally decided to respond to his country's call, but this did not interfere with the actual celebration of the marriage. The ceremony was fixed for Bank Holiday Monday, and as shown above, the bridegroom was compelled almost immediately afterwards to join the German troops.

CROWDS AT ASHBY

Crowds of people in the Ashby streets discussed the war news. The Territorial Company, the A (Hastings) Company 5th Leicestershire assembled at the Armoury, Rifle Range Road, on Wednesday morning where a medical examination of the men was made by Dr. Logan. They were billeted in Ashby on Wednesday. Time-expired men are being asked to rejoin, and application will be made to headquarters. Lieutenant Reginald Hastings is in command of the Territorials in the absence of Lieutenant Hassall, who has reported himself at Loughborough (the headquarters), along with Lieutenants Moore, Burnett, Lawton, and R. D. Farmer. Mr Thomas E. Jesson, who was formerly in command of the Hastings Company has offered his services to the War Office.

WANTED 1000 BOY SCOUTS

Mr Hugh Goodacre, Commissioner of the Boy Scouts for Leicestershire, has received a telegram from the Chief-Scout, General Baden-Powell, who makes an appeal for 1,000 Scouts to aid the local or civil defence authorities in such duties as collecting and distributing information re supplies, billeting, guarding culverts and telegraphs, assisting post offices, police, fire brigades, ambulances and poor relief distribution. Scout Masters in Leicester and district are, therefore, asked to collect and forward to the secretary, 2, New Walk, Leicester, the name and addresses of boys willing to act, and to give nature of employment and address of employer. Names in Coalville should be sent to Mr Frank Goddard.

RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES FORGOTTEN

On Sunday night a special service of intercession was held at Peterborough Cathedral. It was addressed by the Dean and was attended by the Mayor and Corporation, clergy and Nonconformist ministers, and a large body of the general public.

ROBBING THE POOR

Great indignation is being expressed in many parts of London, says the "Telegraph," at the selfish action of some well-to-do people in buying up inordinately large stocks of provisions for their own private use. They thus drive up prices and directly cause a scarcity. In one of the districts near Regent's Park it is said there is now little left for the poor to buy. Even the small shops have been cleared out of bacon, flour and all kinds of provisions.

SECURING CANADIAN WHEAT

It officially stated that the Government will guarantee war risks on wheat and flour shipped or to be shipped from Atlantic or Canadian ports to the United Kingdom under existing contracts, a list of these contracts to be supplied within 48 hours, premiums to be paid by the importer, and to be charged by him against the eventual receiver.

It is understood that this step is being taken with the view of securing 8,000,000 qrs. of Canadian wheat.

FLOUR 40s PER SACK

Millers from Durham, Yorkshire, and the Midlands decided at Hull on Monday to advance the price of flour to 40s per sack.

FLOUR PRICES REDUCED AT HULL

At a meeting of millers at Hull on Wednesday, the price of flour was reduced from 40/- to 35/- per 20st sack.

HEALTH INSURANCE OF RESERVISTS AND TERRITORIALS

Contributions during embodied service will be reduced at Army Rate of 3d per week, 11/2d of which will be deducted from pay. They will be paid on special Army (B) Cards supplied by Military Authorities.

As regards ordinary cards for current half-year, reservists should fill in the name of the society and branch (if any) and deposit cards at Military Depot in the box provided for the purpose. Territorials should send their

cards to their societies writing across them the word "Territorial." Cards left in custody of employers should be kept until further notice unless claimed by the man.

During the embodied service any claim to maternity benefit should be made by the wife to the approved society, or, in the case of deposit contributors to the Insurance Committee, in the ordinary way.

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HOW A DESERTER WAS DETECTED AT IBSTOCK

At Hinckley on Tuesday, John Gregory, collier, Ibstock, was charged with being a deserter from the 3rd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, whilst stationed at Bloemfontein, since June 19th, 1906. P.C. Screamon said defendant went to Ibstock last November, and witness hearing that he had been in the army had been expecting him to be called up as a reservist. Defendant was remanded to await an escort.

LOUGHBOROUGH BOY SCOUTS

The scouts in the Loughborough district from 14 years of age, have been mobilised, and they are now guarding bridges and public works. The Loughborough companies of the Church Lads' Brigade have offered their services for similar work. Several of the older members of the brigade have joined the territorials.

POST OFFICES TO CIRCULATE SUNDAY NEWS

It is officially announced that the Postmaster-General has decided to distribute every Sunday morning during the war a digest of telegrams supplied by the Admiralty and the War Office Press Bureau. The message will be exhibited at all telegraph offices which are open on Sunday morning, and will also be distributed to telephone exchanges so as to be available for subscribers and callers.

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TERRITORIAL CHURCH PARADE AT LOUGHBOROUGH

The 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment paraded on Sunday afternoon for Divine service in the Queen's Park. The various companies marched from their stations in the schools. The Loughborough headquarters company assembled at the Drill Hall, and met in the Market Place, from whence, headed by the battalion band, a move was made to the park. The battalion formed up in three sides of a square, the drums were grouped in the centre, and the service opened with the singing of the hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers." After the prayers, Canon Blakeney, the senior battalion chaplain, gave an address from Ecclesiastes, c3, v8, "A time of war."

There were thousands of people present.

AN APPEAL TO ADULT SCHOOL MEN

A letter from the National Council of Adult Schools was read at the Coalville Men's Adult School and at all schools throughout the country on Sunday morning. In the letter, a lengthy one, the following suggestions were made.

(1) The preservation of a peaceable spirit is a matter of vital importance. Everyone may contribute to the common welfare by restraint and control of speech and conduct. Let us do all we can to avert the disgrace of "mafficking," of yielding to "loud thanksgivings over slaughtered men," and of giving way to the "war-fever," and let us study to live up to all that is implied in the term "Christian courtesy."

(2) The treatment of foreigners amongst us. There are thousands of men and women living amongst us who may be of foreign birth, bearing foreign names, or who may not have become naturalised in our country. It is

very important that all such persons be the object of special care and consideration at this time. Though guiltless of all offence, they may be made the subjects of unworthy attack and ill-treatment. We urge our members to seek opportunities for aiding and protecting them, and offering them such kindnesses and courtesies as are possible.

(3) The work of relief for sufferers and of the organisation of production and distribution. There is evidence that this is being undertaken thoroughly and on an extensive scale by the Government, but in every city, town, and village, there will be urgent need for co-operation by individuals. All who are able should volunteer to take what part they can in this service of compassion, each working in his or her district or sphere. Faithful service is true patriotism.

(In connection with the National Relief Fund about to be raised in the name of the Prince of Wales, mayors and chairman of local authorities are to form committees and organise the work of relief. Immediately any local announcement is made, all who are able should report themselves at their municipal offices, stating exactly what time and service they are able to offer.)

(4) Readiness for organised efforts in favour of a speedy settlement as opportunities offer. In every country there are men and women working and praying for peace, for this is not a "people's war." The great work is for international friendship carried on in recent years by our own and other movements has not been fruitless. The men and women in Germany who but a few weeks since welcomed our folk into their homes, or who have been honoured guests in our homes, can have no enmity for us. In every country in Europe there is a great body of goodwill towards the people of other nations, and on this fact we must build our hope. Though at the moment the voices of these people are drowned in war cries, it will not be long before they are able to make themselves heard, and there will be many in that day who will gladly receive their message of peace and goodwill. On our part we must be ready to take our share in efforts for peace the moment an opportunity occurs.

LETTERS FROM COALVILLE M.P.'s

Letters were read on Sunday morning by Mr B. B. Drewett at the Coalville Men's Adult School, from the Hon. H. D. McLaren, M.P. and Sir Maurice Levy, M.P. in reply to telegrams sent the previous Sunday before England was involved in the war and urging efforts for peace.

The letters were as follows:

House of Commons, August 3rd, 1914.

Dear Sir, I thank you for your telegram from the Men's Adult School, I shall continue to do all I can to promote peace, but I fear the attitude and actions of Germany will render it practically impossible for us to stand aside. It will be a terrible calamity if we should be involved and every effort is being made to avert such a disaster without sacrificing our interests. I am yours faithfully.

Maurice Levy.

The President, Men's Adult School, Coalville.

69, Eaton Place, London, S.W., 4th August, 1914.

Dear Sir, I am in receipt of the Resolution which you send me with which I entirely agree. I feel convinced that the Government has used every possible effort to preserve peace and I assure you that all Members of the House of Commons, of every party, view with the gravest concern and sorrow the outbreak of war. I am, yours faithfully.

H. D. McLaren
The Secretary, The Adult School, Coalville.

PRESIDENT OF COALVILLE WOMEN'S ADULT SCHOOL

Mrs Walter Moss, president of the Coalville Women's Adult School, who holds the St. John Ambulance Certificate, gave in her name on Monday as a nurse for service in connection with the war. On Sunday

afternoon at the Women's School, Mrs Moss gave an interesting address dealing with the war and showing the geographical positions.

COALVILLE NATIONAL RESERVES

Quite a busy scene was witnessed in Hotel Street, Coalville, on Friday night when the commander of the local National Reserves, Capt. Stevenson, of Ashby, attended to enrol names of volunteers for service. There was a capital response and the same experience is being met with in all the parishes which Capt. Stevenson is visiting this week. Up to Monday, after visiting Coalville, Ashby, Swannington and Ibstock the Captain had enrolled 170 names. The national reservists are invited to join one of two classes. The first class is for men under 42 years of age who have served in the army or territorial forces. If they pass a medical examination they are eligible for foreign service, and on being passed receive a bounty of £10, with pay according to rank and marriage allowance on receiving their kit. Class two is for men between the ages of 42 and 50 whose services will be utilised for home defence and they are offered £5 bounty, pay according to rank, etc.

SHEPSHED TERRITORIALS LEAVE

An unprecedented scene was witnessed at Shepshed on Friday afternoon, when the 'G' or Shepshed Company of the 5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment left under orders from the War Office. The company which was over a hundred strong, was in command of Capt. Blane, and formed up in a field adjoining Belton Street. When the order was given to march the Shepshed bands took the lead, and played along the route to the Ashby Road for Loughborough. Large crowds assembled at every point to witness the departure.

QUEEN MARY'S APPEAL

HER MAJESTY'S NEEDLEWORK GUILD

Queen Mary has issued the following appeal:

I appeal to all the presidents of the Needlework Guilds throughout the British Isles to organise a large collection of garments for those who will suffer on account of the war, and I appeal to all women who are in a position to do so to aid the guilds with their work.

Garments will be of service to the soldiers, sailors, and territorials, to their families, to the military, in naval hospitals and to those among the poorer classes of the population who will suffer from any distress that may arise.

I hope that the guild will co-operate with the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, with the Red Cross Society, who the organising of working parties among their schemes, the Territorial Associations, Soldiers' and Sailors' and Sailors' Families Associations, and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society.

The most useful garments for soldiers and sailors on active service are: Flannel shirts, socks, sweaters, and cardigan jackets. For the naval and military hospitals: Night-shirts, pyjamas, flannel bed-jackets, and bed socks which would be distributed by the British Red Cross Society.

Large numbers of all the ordinary garments for women and children will be required. Those intended for wives and children of soldiers, sailors, and territorials will be distributed with the help of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association and of the Territorial Associations, through whom every possible assistance will be rendered to the families of those called to service in the reserve and territorial battalions.

Those garments intended for persons suffering from distress owing to unemployment should be sent to the Committee for the Prevention and Relief of Distress which are being formed by the Mayors and Provosts, and the Chairmen of the County Councils and larger Urban District Councils. These committees will give all forms of assistance to persons who stand in need of it, and it is important that they should have information, of all the help, of whatever kind, given in their districts.

I have arranged that all work by my Guilds in London shall be received at Friary Court, St. James Palace, and distributed from there to the various associations.

I trust that the presidents of the guilds all over the country will follow my example and co-operate with the local officers of the same organisations and arrange with them for the local distribution of the garments.

It should be remembered that all flannel garments should be sent in a large size, and suitable paper patterns can be obtained from Butterick, 175 Regent Street.

Anyone who is willing to assist in this work can obtain on application the name and address of the president of their local Needlework Guild.

All letters and parcels to be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Friary Court, St. James Palace, S.W. and should be marked Q.M.N.G.

(Signed)
Mary R.

PAPER MONEY AT COALVILLE

Paper money has been in circulation in Coalville and District since Saturday. The paper money consists of £1 and 10s notes and postal orders without counterfoil or poundage fee. Instances of some Coalville tradesmen refusing paper money have come to notice, but this will doubtless be remedied as they get used to the system.

As an example of how the system works, a gentlemen went into a Post Office in Leicester for a postal order for 6s 6d. He expected to receive in change 3s in silver and 5d in copper. Instead he was handed a 3s 6d postal order – no poundage being charged for the order he bought. But he also wanted 6d worth of stamps. He went to the stamp counter and tendering the 3s 6d order, received as change, a 2s 6d order and a 6d order.

Still without coppers he boarded a tramcar, and tendered the 6d order for his fare. The conductor at first demurred, but assured that it was legal tender and that the passenger had absolutely no change, took it. The paper money system undoubtedly is somewhat inconvenient, but it is astonishing how soon traders and the public get used to it.

FOOTBALL AND THE WAR

THE SECRETARY OF THE F.A. ON THE SITUATION

In view of the opinions expressed by Mr Lacey, the secretary of the M.C.C., that he felt no good purpose can be served at the present time by cancelling matches unless the services of those engaged in cricket, who have military training, can in any way be utilised in their "country's service", a 'Daily News' representative interviewed Mr F. J. Wall, the secretary of the Football Association, in regard to the coming opening of the season.

Mr Wall, who did not speak officially, said he personally thought it was best for matters to take their normal course. It was in the best interests of the country that the games should go on. As it was, a large number of football players have returned to the Army and Navy, and several thousands are now under arms with their territorial regiments.

The games will not only provide a pastime for the men who have not had military training and for whom the Government could not probably find profitable employment, but they will provide a pleasant occupation for those who are not in the position to take up arms, and thus help to keep us as cheerful a tone as possible in the country.

Above all the football will be the means of providing, he hoped, large sums of money to assist the sufferers through the war. The practice matches in August in the past have provided upwards of £5,000 yearly, and he trusted that this years' receipts would go to the relief funds.

As for the F.A. itself, Mr Wall would give no opinion beyond stating that *"the point has not been overlooked."*

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BEAUMONT RIFLE CLUB

Men of the National Reserve, and others, who have signed on for service with the Territorials or other Corps are invited to attend at the Rifle Range, Sinope, on Saturday, August 15th at 2:30 pm for instruction in the use of the rifle, and for target practice. – Ammunition free.

The undersigned will be glad to have the names of those likely to attend.

C. W. H. Gutteridge, 5, Hotel Street.

A SUGGESTION

Sir, In the present stress when surely all available help will be needed for the relief of our wounded soldiers, it may be thought presumptuous to suggest that those in whose hands the power is vested might be free to place Broom Leys at the disposal of the Government for use as a Military Hospital and that the large supplies of material generously given by the public in the Urban area might be retained for use in the manner stated. I am informed that the Leicester Hospital is abundantly supplied with material. Why not keep local gifts for local purposes, especially when one bears in mind that the district is a poor one and many of those who have already given may not be in a position to again do so. I offer the above suggestion hoping that someone who is more influential than the writer may take up and carry the idea through successfully.

Yours faithfully

A Resident

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Many people in Coalville and District who had anticipated spending a holiday at the seaside during the next few weeks have cancelled their arrangements and will forego the holiday this year. Such a course is not unwise for several reasons. One factor is the curtailed railway facilities by the suspension of cheap tickets; then there is the increased cost of living at the seaside to say nothing of the feeling of unrest which exists, particularly along the east coast. A Coalville gentleman who returned from Yarmouth on Friday states that the parade is in entire darkness every night and there was considerable difficulty in getting provisions. Reports from other resorts on the east coast are to a similar effect. The reason for keeping the places in darkness as much as possible is quite obvious in the present state of affairs. The serious course which events have taken during the last few weeks also counter-acts the holiday feeling and there are many who deem it advisable to save as much of their cash as possible in view of hardships which may yet have to be faced. At the same time one sympathises with seaside residents who make their living largely by catering for visitors. Just now is their harvest time, but in many instances their rooms are empty and they are among the people who will be heavily hit.

The war spirit has everywhere reached a very high pitch. A strict censorship is rightly being kept upon the Press, but the reports that have filtered through have been read with deepest interest, and anxiety, for the latest news has been intense. Never has there been so much excitement in the streets, and even the stirring scenes there witnessed have been surpassed by the mobilization of our citizen soldiers and the departure of reservists to rejoin their regiments. In this district as everywhere throughout the land, a deep feeling of patriotism is being manifested. This feeling is not a mere surface sentiment, but a deeply rooted conviction. Territorials, Yeomanry, and Reservists, have responded to the call to arms with promptitude. Ambulance men, nurses, and people of all classes have proffered their services in a war thrust upon us and taken up in order "to vindicate the principle that small nationalities are not to be crushed in defiance of international good faith at the arbitrary will of a strong and over-mastering power." We have taken up the sword in a just and righteous cause, after strenuous and untiring efforts for peace had failed.

But we must not disguise from ourselves the fact that great sacrifices will be needed. It is a vast undertaking we are embarked upon and all the resources of the nation and the Empire will be invoked to ensure success. Inspired by the splendid example of the Mother Country, whose sons are flocking to answer Lord Kitchener's call for another half a million men, the Dominions and India are offering help with a patriotism that proves how real and enduring is the tie that binds the Empire together. And for those who are unable to take up arms there is work to do. We can all do something to mitigate distress and suffering. We can supply comforts for the wounded, and we can help the families of those who have been called away to join the colours. The National Fund inaugurated by the Prince of Wales affords an opportunity which will be embraced by all who realise the pressing duty cast upon them. Our soldiers and sailors will loyally perform their task, let us see to it that we do ours.

It is inevitable that war should have a disastrous effect on all branches of industry. The inability to replenish stocks, or to ship consignments to the Continent, must lead to short time in many industries, and eventually to complete stoppages in some of them. Russia, Germany and France are large customers of ours, and a state of war necessarily stops business with these markets. Cotton-spinning, hosiery, engineering and other works are bound to suffer, and with the impoverishment of vast multitudes of people, whose purchasing power is restricted the home trade will be affected. In these circumstances the rise in the prices of food can only be viewed with some anxiety. No condemnation is too great for the middleman, who taking advantage of the country's adversity demands exorbitant prices for the necessaries of life: and no less reprehensible is the practice of those selfish householders who make a rush on the provision shops and lay in stores sufficient to sustain a family during a long siege. There is absolutely no real cause for panic in regard to the matter. The Government is making adequate arrangements for securing our food supplies by sea, and it is believed that their co-operation with distributors will prevent the cornering of food, and help to keep down prices.

There has been no "commandeering" of farmers' horses for the war according to information received by us from Mr T. E. Jesson, who with Mr F. Spencer and Mr F. C. Stevenson, have been making purchases for the war office. Of course, several farmers have supplied horses, but it was in cases where they were willing to sell, and the work has been carried on in such a way as not to inconvenience farmers in their harvesting operations. Mr Jesson informed the writer on Tuesday, the demand for horses, both for transport and riding, has now been fully met. There were several more horses they could have in the district, he said, but no more were wanted at present.

Parents of young children will know what a keen interest is being taken in the war by the youngsters even though they do not understand it, and in this connection a rather pretty story has been brought to our notice this week. It was to the effect that a certain little Coalville chap, only six years old, on being put to bed, surprised his mother by concluding his prayers, entirely on his own initiative with these words "And God bless all the poor little boys and girls whose daddas have gone to the war." It was this spirit which prompted such a capital response to the invitations to a meeting in the Coalville Council Chamber on Wednesday evening to consider the steps to be taken locally to alleviate any distress which may be caused by the war. Pending the decision of a large meeting to be held in Leicester on Saturday, there being a desire to act uniformly throughout the county, not much progress could be made at the meeting, but the right tone prevailed and it is apparent that Coalville people will not be found lacking in their duty upon this matter. We anticipate a crowded meeting at the Adult School Hall next Wednesday night and that there will be a generous response from this district to the appeals which are being, and will be, made.

The Boy Scouts of the district have had a busy time in Coalville, Hugglescote, Whitwick, and Ellistown this week in collecting articles which have been given for equipping of a county hospital in connection with the war. Ladies first went round taking promises and the boys collected the articles with drays and other conveyances which were kindly lent for the occasion by various tradesmen. There was an extremely generous response all over the district, the articles contributed varying from fully equipped beds down to a few pieces of linen, while money was also freely given in subscriptions ranging from £3 3s to one penny. In addition to the many articles about £17 was subscribed in Whitwick and a similar amount at Coalville, while Hugglescote and Ellistown also did well, nearly £20 being obtained at the latter place. Mrs J. J. Sharp had charge of the arrangements at Whitwick, Mrs H. R. Brown at Coalville, Mrs Meredith and Mrs Fellows at Hugglescote and Mrs R. Blower at Ellistown.

THE WAR AND A WEDDING

COALVILLE BRIDEGROOM CALLED UP

The marriage was quietly celebrated at St. Peter's Church, Leicester, on 6th inst., of Lucy May, youngest daughter of Mrs Powell, 4 Brookhouse Street, Leicester, to Mr Ernest W. Hurst, second son of Mr W. Hurst of Forest Road, Coalville. The wedding was to have originally taken place in October, but the bridegroom who saw service in the Boer War having been called up for the war from the National Reserve on the 5th, it was decided that it should take place at once and a licence was obtained through the good office of the surrogate, Rev. Lethbridge, of St. Peter's and the registrar, Mr Flude.

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WHITWICK AND THE HOSPITAL

LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE MAJOR

Mrs J. J. Sharp this morning informs us that she has received the following letter from Major Harrison:

*5th Northern General Hospital, Victoria Road, Leicester.
Aug 13th.*

Dear Mrs Sharp,

I should like to thank you, and through you, the inhabitants of Whitwick and the district, for the most prompt and generous response that you and they have made to my appeal on behalf of the Base Hospital. The assistance received from you and indeed from all quarters has greatly facilitated the equipment of the hospital, and will render it available for the reception of the wounded at an earlier date than would have been otherwise possible. Believe me.

Yours Sincerely

*Louis K. Harrison,
O.C. 5th Northern General Hospital*

Mrs Sharp adds that she wishes to thank most heartily all who have worked so magnificently and so promptly in getting these goods together. The number of articles sent was upwards of 5,000 from Belton, Bagworth, Ellistown, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Osgathorpe, and Whitwick, and there will be another large consignment from Coalville, including contributions from Coleorton, Ravenstone and Swannington.

GERMANS ARRESTED IN LEICESTER

Up to Saturday afternoon, the Leicester police had arrested about 100 German aliens resident in the town and handed them over to the military. They are being confined to the Corn Exchange under a guard of territorials. The arrested men include several well-known German residents. They are all being treated with courtesy and well fed.

About a dozen Germans were arrested in Derby and handed over to the military authorities for registration under the new Aliens Order. This formality complied with, they were released.

AID FOR SOLDIERS AND WIVES AND DEPENDANTS

A public meeting is to be at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester, at noon, on Saturday next, under the presidency of the Duke of Rutland to consider the urgent necessity of raising funds in aid of sailors and soldiers, including reservists, and those dependant upon them. Clergymen and ministers of religion are asked to have collections made for this purpose in their respective places of worship, and that merchants,

manufacturers, traders and others will be asked to subscribe and organise subscriptions in aid of the Prince of Wales' Fund. If specifically desired the donation can be given to General Fund to be dealt with by the committee at its discretion, or to any of the Central Funds administered by the various Soldiers' and Sailors' Societies. Cheques may be sent to Mr W. J. Freer, 10, New Street, Leicester, or may be paid into Parr's Bank, Leicester.

LOCAL APPEAL TO EQUIP HOSPITAL

The following copy of a notice sent out to the Coalville and District places of worship by Mr L. L. Baldwin, on Sunday morning:

"The 5th Northern General Hospital of 520 beds is being mobilised in Leicester at the Old County Asylum, which is being prepared for it. A great opportunity is thus afforded to the inhabitants of Leicestershire of showing their patriotism by sending money or any of the following articles:- Mattresses, pillows, and cases, sheets, blankets, counterpanes, old linen, dusters, glass cloths, floor cloths, towels (bath or hand), handkerchiefs, socks, bed slippers, bed socks, table cloths, shirts (day or night), vests, drawers, etc. A local committee has been formed and ladies will make a house visitation soliciting promises tomorrow (Monday). On Wednesday, Boy Scouts will call for parcels and convey them to the Council Chamber, Coalville, which will be the receiving centre."

100,000 MEN

FORMATION OF THE SECOND ARMY

LORD KITCHENER'S CIRCULAR

The following circular has been issued to Lords-Lieutenant of Counties and Chairman of the Territorial Force County Associations.

War Office, London, S.W.
August 7th, 1914.

Sir, In the present grave emergency, the War Office looks, with the utmost confidence to you for a continuance of the invaluable help which you have given in the past. I, therefore, desire to invite your co-operation in the work of raising the additional number of irregular troops required at once for this army.

It is intended to enlist, as soon as possible, 100,000 men, and I would ask you to use your great local influence, and that of the Territorial Associations, to secure these necessary recruits as soon as possible. The men will be accommodated in camps, established at or near the existing regular depots, to which intending recruits may be sent, the camp nearest the place from which they are drawn being selected.

No responsibility for clothing or equipping the men will devolve upon the County Associations. This will be arranged by the military authorities. Members of the territorial force may be enlisted, provided they fulfil the prescribed conditions, as to age and physical fitness. Territorial force units that are at full strength will not recruit additional men until the 100,000 men are provided, but should any of their numbers desire to join the regular forces now being raised, their places in the territorial unit should be filled as soon as possible by men desirous of joining the territorial force only and not the regular army. Territorial units available for foreign service will naturally not be affected by this recruiting of regular troops.

Such is the general outline of the scheme, in the furtherance of which you are desired to co-operate as far as possible. It is not an ordinary appeal from the army for recruits, but the formation of a second army, and it is hoped that you will be able to assist in meeting the men in every way in your power.

I am sir, your obedient servant.

Kitchener.

THE CHIEF SCOUT'S MESSAGES

Colonel Sir R. S. S. Baden-Powell has issued the following messages:-

"I am confident of one thing, and that is that all ranks will pull together with the greatest cordiality and energy on this unique occasion for doing a valuable work for our King and country."

"It is most desirable that scouts should assist in gathering the harvest quickly and safely, as a number of men generally engaged in this duty will not be available, and at the present time it is absolutely essential that this should be done with a view to securing this important section of the food supply of the nation."

TOWN'S MEETING TO BE CALLED

TWO THOUSAND POUNDS WANTED FROM THIS DISTRICT

A largely attended and influential meeting, called by circular by Mr L. L. Baldwin on the initiation of Mrs J. J. Sharp, was held at the Coalville Council Chamber on Wednesday evening to consider the steps to be taken locally to relieve any distress which may be caused by the war.

There were present Mrs J. J. Sharp, Canon Broughton, Father O'Reilly, the Rev. F. Pickbourne, Messrs W. Sheffield, T. J. Hay, Dr. Atkinson, W. Lindley, W. Hurst, W. Eames, J. W. West, J. Husband, A. Wilkins, S. W. Brown, B. B. Drewett, R. J. Brown, J. W. Farmer, B. G. Hale, J. J. Sharp, R. G. Cresswell, J. W. Eagles, W. Hatchett, T. W. Bourne, G. F. Burton, W. Lander, C. W. Brown, C. Bradshaw, H. Mills, E. Hanson, M. Tyler, T. I. McCarthy, H. R. Brown, S. West, James Smith, T. Kirkham, L. L. Baldwin, R. Blower, S. Armson, S. T. Boam, C. Coleman, W. G. Wheatley, F. Storer, Dr. Meredith, F. Wootton, J. Johnson, E. Hawthorn, and others.

Mr R. Blower, chairman of the Urban Council, was voted to the chair, and in opening the meeting, said he was sure he was expressing the feelings of them all when he said he regretted the cause which had called them together. They had all hoped that the time had arrived when differences between nations would be settled without resorting to such barbarous methods, but he trusted that out of this dark cloud light would come. (Hear, hear.) He invited suggestions.

Mrs Sharp said it was the first time they had met together since this terrible war was thrust upon them and they all felt they must do their best for those left at home while those on whom they were dependant were engaged in upholding their country's cause. They had to preserve a sacred heritage, which was the greatest Empire that the world had ever known, they would not consider they had finished until they had sacrificed the last drop of blood, if necessary, in fighting for it. Some days ago she saw Mr Baldwin and asked what they might do and he was only too pleased to undertake the calling of that meeting. Her idea was to have a big patriotic concert to start a fund, as they did during the Boer War. They had a great result then, and she had no doubt that they would have a greater one on this occasion. But since those notices were sent out several things had happened. They had seen in the papers that a national fund had been opened. She had seen the Mayor of Leicester and he thought it would be best for them to send subscriptions direct to the National Fund, as they could deal directly with the fund and get direct communication when they were needing money. So many funds were started by newspapers and others during the Boer War that there was considerable overlapping and some families received six or seven times more than they would have done had the men been at home. They wanted to prevent that if possible this time and she thought they could do that by having only one fund. The Mayor of Leicester had promised to come to their concert and she hoped to get other influential patrons. If they gave their money to this fund it would be the same as sending it to London. She had already received the following promises, Mr G. F. Burton £10, Mrs Everard, sen., £5 and her husband and herself £5. That was just a start (Applause.)

The Chairman then read a letter from Ald. T. Cope, stating that the Local Government Board had requested him to establish a County Committee, whose function would be to consider the needs of the localities and co-ordinate such relief as might be required. He (Mr Blower) was asked to act on the Committee and a meeting was to be held in Leicester on Saturday. He had wondered whether it would not be wise to wait until after that meeting and see whether there could be uniformity of action throughout the county.

Mr J. W. West said he thought they might discuss ways and means of getting money but wait till after Saturday before deciding what to do with it. Dr. Atkinson enquired whether this was for the Urban district only, or whether the surrounding parishes would be included.

The Chairman said Mr Cope asked him who was chairman of the Ashby Board of Guardians and who was a suitable person to represent the largest trade union in the district. He gave the names of Mr William Sheffield and Mr Lovett. It was evident that Mr Cope was trying to make the committee as representative as possible.

Mr J. J. Sharp moved that the appointment of a relief committee be deferred until after the meeting on Saturday and this was seconded by Father O'Reilly and carried.

The Chairman said they should now decide as to the concert. Mrs Sharp had a promise from the Mayor of Leicester to come over in a fortnight. Canon Broughton said that while not wishing to disagree with Mrs Sharp he thought the concert would be best postponed for a time. While fighting was going on as it was, they did not feel like concerts. Mr J. W. West concurred.

Mrs Sharp said she thought that by acting at once they were likely to get more money. They had the first concert in the county during the Boer War and got a lot of money. She considered that singing of patriotic songs was quite in accordance with what was going on. They wanted to be inspired at times like these. However, she did not mind. It was for the meeting to decide.

Mr R. G. Cresswell asked whether the concert would be by local performers. He did not think the arrangements could be made in a fortnight. Mrs Sharp said she had invited Mr F. Storer to the meeting that night and perhaps he could give them some idea.

Mr Storer said that if the meeting decided to have a concert he would be only too pleased to do all he could (hear, hear), but he thought they would find it enormously difficult to arrange a concert of any description in a fortnight's time. Canon Broughton moved that the question of holding a concert be postponed. Mr W. Eames seconded. He said he agreed with Mrs Sharp that they wanted to be as cheerful as possible under the circumstances but he thought it was an inopportune time to have a concert, and he was hoping that Mrs Sharp would find that she would get more money by asking for subscriptions than by having a concert. The organising of a large concert meant money, and subscriptions could be collected free of expense. But his objection was chiefly from the sentiments point of view. He did not think the present was the right time to be having concerts. Mr Sharp said he associated with them though he did not agree as to sentiment. In London and other towns the theatres were continually open and it was done to keep the people in a cheerful condition. He agreed with Canon Broughton however, that the concert might be postponed for a little time. They could 'wait and see'.

Mr Kirkham, manager of the Coalville Olympia Theatre, said the lessee, Mr McDonald, would only be too pleased to place the theatre at their disposal for a concert (cheers.) They would have good and suitable films dealing with the war in a few weeks' time, which should stimulate their young men to follow the example of those who had gone to do their best for their country, he could promise the committee the use of these and the theatre machinery, and he was sure that the artists would also give their services, making other items in the programme. There were several good bands, quartet parties and choirs in the district and he thought they would have no difficulty in getting up a good concert at a minimum cost. On behalf of his employer, Mr McDonald, he assured the meeting that he would be only too pleased to help all he could. (Cheers.)

Mrs Sharp said the manager of the Leicester Palace had told her that they could also have the pick of the Palace artists and he would send them. Mr Kirkham said they were not opening the Olympia until August 31st. Mrs Sharp asked how many the Olympia would hold. Mr Kirkham said there was seating accommodation for between 1400 and 1500, while another 200 or 300 could be in the promenade. They would undertake the sale of tickets in their box office and help in any way they could.

Father O'Reilly said the last concert they had did not take a fortnight to arrange. Mr Sharp said it was not a question of time. The Chairman said that whichever way the vote went, he was sure they all appreciated Mrs Sharp's offer, and he hoped she would not take it the wrong way. (Hear, hear.) They all also appreciated the offer of Mr McDonald. (Applause.) The postponement of the concert was agreed to.

Mr W. Lindley said Mrs Sharp would be at liberty to organise a concert later on if she chose. Whatever committed was elected they would not object to Mrs Sharp handing over £200 to £300 to them. ("No" and laughter).

Mrs Sharp asked whether it would be wise to open a subscription list at that meeting. Mr Lindley said they did not know yet what they were to subscribe to. Mr Sharp said they might let that stand over till after the meeting at Leicester. Mr Hay said they had to arrange for the next meeting.

Mr Lindley said the next should be a public meeting and everybody given a chance to come. They did not want sixpences on this occasion from anyone who could afford more. They would want from that district at least £2,000, because this war would last twelve months and was going to cause serious inconvenience.

Mr Drewett said the Adult School Hall was available, free of cost, for any of their meetings. (Hear, hear.) He had been pleased to see such a splendid response to the invitations to the meeting. Mr Lindley moved that the offer be accepted with thanks and a public meeting be called in the Adult School Hall. Posters should be issued giving everybody a chance to attend if they wished.

It was suggested that the meeting be next Wednesday night. Mr Hale said it seemed to him that it would be best for that meeting to re-assemble and formulate some scheme to submit to a public meeting. To call a meeting before they had a plan of campaign seemed a round-about way to him. They would have such a lot of people to consult and would have difficulty in arriving at a decision.

Mr Lindley said his view was to elect a committee from the public meeting. He was not invited to the meeting that night. He had only heard of it that afternoon. Mr Drewett moved that a small committee be appointed to meet immediately after the Leicester meeting and prepare a report for the public meeting. Dr. Atkinson seconded.

Mr Hale said he agreed that, after they had expressed their views, the public meeting should form a committee. Mr Drewett said his idea was to have a small committee to make suggestions to the Wednesday night meeting. This was carried.

The following were elected as the committee: Mr and Mrs J. J. Sharp, Father O'Reilly, Dr. Meredith, Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. W. Lindley, B. B. Drewett, B. G. Hale, F. Hawthorn, L. L. Baldwin, W. Eames, W. Hatchett, J. W. Farmer, T. J. Hay, T. Kirkham and G. F. Burton.

Mr West remarked that the meeting at Leicester would not be private. Mr Cope asked him to take as many as possible. They would go as his friends.

Mr Lindley: *And guests?* (Laughter.)

It was decided that the committee appointed meet in the Council Chamber on Monday night at 7.30 to consider suggestions for the public meeting on Wednesday night also fixed for 7.30 in the Adult School Hall.

Mrs Sharp suggested the meeting might be announced in the pulpits at places of worship on Sunday. Father O'Reilly said he would do that. Canon Broughton added that collections were being made everywhere next Sunday.

The Chairman: *Yes, and it will be a good time to mention a thing like this.*

Mr Mills asked whether they were aware of any cases of distress in the district at the present time. He knew of two naval reservists of St. Saviour's Road and Owen Street, Coalville, having gone, 1 leaving a wife and 5 children, and the other a wife and ten children. Up to the present they had had nothing from the Government whatever. At the meeting on Saturday, these cases might be mentioned. No doubt there were others in a similar position and it would be advisable to relieve such cases as soon as possible.

Mrs Sharp said she was sorry to hear that. She was the soldiers' friend for this district having been appointed during the Boer War, and she had kept it on ever since. Things were somewhat in a state of chaos at present, but she was in communication with Major Craig, of the head office in London. If the names were given to her she would see that they were attended to.

Mr Baldwin said one of the men was in the employ of the Urban Council who were paying his wages for the next month. Mr Mills said that was so, but they had had no communication from the war office. In the other case they were getting nothing. Mr Baldwin said the Council employee's family could not be in distress, unless they had been in distress all the time, as they were receiving the man's wages.

Mr Lindley: *And he would have the £5 mobilisation fee.*

Mr Mills said there was a wife and ten children in the other case.

Mr Hay: *No, our man has ten children. That is why we give him his wages.*

Mr Drewett said he took it that all cases would be registered, but he knew that there were people who were being pinched just now. A woman he knew had been left with four children. They were getting a little, but needed help until something official was done. If they could find out such cases and relieve them it would be well.

Mr Lindley quoted a case in which there had been an addition to the family since the man went away. That was a deserving case. Dr. Meredith said he had been asked in regard to cases at Bagworth who were the authorities that should give relief. One woman whose husband went at four hours notice had received nothing. He would give the names to Mrs Sharp.

The Chairman said these were reminders that there was need for immediate action. He was sure there were those around with sympathetic hearts enough to see that no one suffered between then and next Wednesday. Dr. Atkinson said people might register at once.

Mr Drewitt said it would help matters if all who knew of cases would give the names to Mrs Sharp. Mr Lindley said Mrs Sharp had not the money. He suggested that the Press be asked to inform people that they send in their names and addresses and number and ages of their children.

The Chairman said that in some cases employers were still paying the wages and all circumstances wanted enquiring into. The Press were asked to invite the people concerned to send in all particulars to Mrs Blower at the Council offices.

Canon Broughton said a lady had suggested to him that they might get Broom Leys for a Convalescent Home. Mr Lindley said that question had better not be brought up at that meeting.

Canon Broughton: *It would be a splendid place for that.*

The Chairman: *You have made the suggestion and Mr Lindley won't forget it.*

Mr R. G. Cresswell said he had a house empty at Ravenstone and had offered that. (Hear, hear). In closing the meeting the chairman said he hoped the spirit which had been manifested would be maintained as long as it was required. (Hear, hear).

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LOCAL TERRITORIALS

DEPARTURE FROM LOUGHBOROUGH

A CIVIC SEND-OFF

The 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, 879 strong including Coalville and Ashby men, which has been mobilising in Loughborough, left the town on Tuesday afternoon to join their brigade at the concentration camp. Precisely where this is was not officially announced, but it is believed to be Belper. All that was known when the battalion left Loughborough was that it was going to Derby, where it would receive further orders as to destination. A splendid send-off was given to the men, both civic and popular. The battalion assembled in the Market Place, the pavements on each side of which were densely packed with townspeople. All the factories and works in the town were closed temporarily to allow the employees to witness the departure of the battalion. The Imperial Yeomanry still in the town were on parade in the square to join in the farewell.

The Chief Constable of the County, Mr E. Holmes, was present, and a strong force of police under Supt. Agar kept the square clear.

On a platform erected on one side of the square were the Mayor (Alderman Thomas Mayo), the Rev. Canon Pitts, Rev. J. Hurler, the Town Clerk (Mr H. Perkins), and several representatives of public bodies. The battalion was drawn up in companies facing this, and his worship addressing them, said:-

“Officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Fifth Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, I am called upon to-day to give you an official send-off, and wish you God speed. I must first congratulate you upon your soldierly appearance – you look like business. This is not the first time in capacity of Mayor that this duty has fallen upon me. In 1900 I sent off a contingent to South Africa and I trust you may be as fortunate as they for I believe everyone returned in two or three years – I was Mayor when they returned and went to Wigston Barracks, and they were most of them there, one or two turning up afterwards. My friends, you have a great duty to perform and I am confident you will uphold the great traditions of the Leicestershire’s, who have done such noble deeds in the past. In our war with South Africa the wives and families left here were looked after to the best of our abilities. Rest assured the same will be done again. Now, my men, remember your motto must be to trust in God to protect you, and give you back to us. This will be the prayer of the people of Leicestershire. Good-bye. I hope to see you back again, and give you a welcome home.”

Lieut-Col. Jones, the commanding officer, on behalf of the battalion, replied with the words: “Mr Mayor, and Loughborough, we thank you.” The Mayor then shook hands with the commanding and other officers, and the battalion was given marching orders, the crowds cheering and waving hats and flags and handkerchiefs, with great enthusiasm as the men who looked very fit and steady marched off. Two mounted members of the county Constabulary led the way to the Midland Station, and the battalion band headed the battalion. All along Church Gate, Sparrow Hill, and Nottingham Road the route was thronged with townspeople, and the vicinity of the station was absolutely packed. As the two trains were filled and left the station ringing cheers were raised.

THE BATTALION’S THANKS TO THE TOWN

The Mayor of Loughborough received the following letter on Tuesday morning:-

Headquarters 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment
Drill Hall
Loughborough
11th August 1914

Dear Mr Mayor, Before leaving Loughborough to join our brigade on behalf of the officers of the 5th Leicestershire Regiment, I would thank you as the representative of Loughborough and our host for the kindness we have received while here as your visitors. One and all from the highest official to the humblest inhabitant, have been unfailing in their courtesy to us. It has made our work easy and we leave Loughborough regretfully, though fit and ready for any task to which we may be set. I am, dear Mr Mayor, yours truly.

*C. H. Jones, Lieut-Col
Cmdg. 5th Leicestershire Regt.*

To his Worship, the Mayor of Loughborough

IBSTOCK RESERVES

In connection with the enrolment of the National Reserve, Captain Stevenson attended at the Hastings Arms Hotel on Sunday evening last when upwards of 15 young men enlisted. Subsequent to these proceedings, a special service was held in the Ibstock Parish Church conducted by the Rector the Rev. S. Flood, M.A. Special psalms and prayers were sung and chanted. No address was given.

LOCAL RUGGERITES RESPONDING TO THE CALL

It is gratifying to note that large numbers of local Rugby football players are joining the colours. In view of the formation of a second army and possible contingencies Mr S. C. Parker, hon. secretary Leicestershire Rugby Union, would be glad if any local Ruggerite who is desirous of volunteering his services "for the period of the war" will communicate and register the name and address with him at 2, Newarke Street, Leicester.

Arrangements can then be made so that all Ruggerites so volunteering can be examined and tested in a body, and efforts be made to draft them one or more companies according to the volume of the response. By this method the "esprit de corps" that is so noticeable on and off the playing field amongst Ruggerites may be maintained amongst various units.

LOCAL COMMITTEE FORMED AT IBSTOCK

A meeting was held at the Rectory on Monday afternoon last of ladies representative of the various denominations in the parish to form a Central Committee for Ibstock in connection with the Leicester Emergency Hospital. The parish was divided into districts which has been canvassed for suitable articles for anticipated use at the hospital during the War. Mrs Flood was supported President and Mrs J. T. Jacques secretary and treasurer.

GERMAN PRISONERS LEAVE LEICESTER

Shortly before three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon a party of Germans, six in number, who have for some days past been 'housed' at the Corn Exchange as prisoners of war, left there under an armed escort of four Territorials with a sergeant in charge. They proceeded across the Market Place and up the London Road to the Midland Railway Station. When near the General Post Office a few small boys betrayed excitement, but otherwise the procession was viewed calmly by the passers-by. On arrival at the station the party were allowed to converse with friends until the departure of the train. The captives as a whole appeared to be in fairly good spirits. It is understood that they will ultimately be conveyed to York.

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LEICESTERSHIRE PATRIOTIC FUND

On Saturday afternoon the Duke of Rutland presided over an influentially attended county meeting at Leicester, convened with the subject of considering the urgent necessity of raising funds in aid of the families of the soldiers and sailors and the reservists and territorials at the war. Among those present were the Duchess of Rutland, the Countess of Landsborough, Sir Maurice Levy, Bart., and M.P., and Lady Levy, Mr J. W. Logan, M.P., Sir Arthur Hazlerigg, Bart., Sir John and Lady Rolleston, Sir Herbert Marshall, Sir A. Fayre, Mr L. T. Topham (High Sheriff), the Mayor of Leicester (Mr Frear), Mr T. Cope, the Mayor of Loughborough (Ald. Mayo). etc.

The Duke of Rutland in the course of a short speech, said they had arrived at a crucial situation with reference to the future welfare of the country. Their national existence depended on what might occur in the next few weeks. The war they had been forced to take part in had not been through any desire of aggression, or power, or to obtain further internal possessions. Sir Edward Grey did all in his power to avert war, but failed. Germany counted on the weakness of a smaller state, and on the weakness of England. In both cases, he was grievously mistaken. The war had had the effect in this country of sinking all differences – political, social, and labour – and England was determined to see this matter through to the end. He hoped she would not lay down her arms until Germany was taught that she could not rule the world by the force of arms. (Applause) In conclusion, his Grace expressed the hope the Leicester, Loughborough and the county would not go back upon their traditions for generosity. (Applause)

The High Sheriff (Mr Topham) moved a resolution, pledging the meeting to raise funds by every means in its power for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund. He said it behoved them to remove from the minds of

those who were fighting their battles any feeling of anxiety as to the welfare and interests of those dependant upon them. (Hear, hear.)

The Mayor of Leicester seconded.

Ald. Dalglish, Chairman of the Leicestershire Territorial Association, expressed himself in favour of the county keeping the money instead of remitting it to London. The Chairman, replying to some question at this point, said the Prince of Wales's Fund did not deal with hospital work, so far as he knew. The wives of those serving in the war would receive help from the fund. Mr Cope said he had been requested by the Local Government Board to form a County Committee for the purpose of dealing with distress, and doing anything possible to prevent unemployment.

Mr Frear said that a certain amount of money had already been received by the Prince of Wales's Fund, but not enough to deal with 700 and 800 cases in the town and county. Fortunately they had money subscribed for the purpose, and were able to pay out £500 to the widows and dependants of those who had gone to the front.

Eventually, it was agreed that the donations should be given to the local patriotic fund to be dealt with by the committee at their discretion.

MORE MOTOR CARS WANTED

The Leicestershire Automobile club have been asked to obtain motor-cars to convey the wounded on arrival from the Leicester Midland Station to the 5th Northern General Hospital (the County Asylum). This of course, a purely voluntary service, but it is one which the club feels assured a large number of Leicester car owners will only be to ready and willing to help.

It is anticipated that a sufficient number will send in their names to enable a rota to be formed, and, this being so, it would only entail the car being held in readiness for a few hours each week, with the possibility of never being called on at all. No infectious or contagious cases will be carried.

Those cars on the rota will be given as much notice as possible (probably not less than three or four hours). Motorists who, for business or other reasons, have been prevented from voluntarily offering their cars for service, either with the expeditionary force or for home service, will welcome this opportunity of assisting, especially as the cars are not likely to be required for more than an hour or two. Those willing to lend cars are asked to notify Mr R. Sutton Clifford jnr., solicitor, Loughborough, who is making all arrangements on behalf of the club.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY

The Leicestershire Branch of the British Red Cross Society is organising working parties throughout the country to make useful garments (according to the Red Cross Society pattern). These garments will be forwarded in batches to the headquarters in London for despatch to the front and various centres where they will be needed.

Information as to the formation of working parties in the county may be had from the Hon. Mrs Packe, Prestwold Hall, Loughborough, to whom all donations for the Red Cross Society may be sent. Funds are urgently needed.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

On Saturday about thirty troop and transport trains passed through Coalville Midland Station and were witnessed by large cheering crowds. To facilitate the movement of the troops, goods traffic on the line was temporarily suspended.

In these stirring times curious rumours get about and one has to be careful in giving credence to what is heard from time to time. This has been amply testified by silly reports which have been circulated in Coalville and district during the last few days. It has been necessary for the Coalville Motor 'Bus and Garage

Company to issue notices offering a reward for information as to who was circulating a false report that the company were employing German drivers of their 'buses, while a well-known Coalville tradesman has had to take a similar step to stop the extraordinary and unfounded rumour that he was of German nationality. After the steps that have been taken, it is hoped that no more will be heard of such nonsense.

The collections at Coalville Christ Church on Sunday last were for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund and on Tuesday, Mr T. Goacher (church warden) forwarded a cheque for £8 made payable to the Prince. Mr S. W. West, one of the Whitwick Church wardens, forwarded on Monday a cheque for £3 5s 6d, the amount of the Whitwick collections. Collections were made at most of the other parish churches in the district and the amounts forwarded in due course, at Ibstock Church the sum realised was £10 and at Hugglescote Church £8 15s 4d.

It is interesting to note that the people of Coalville and District are now getting into working order in regard of the relief of distress which it is believed must eventually be experienced in connection with the war. The meeting in the Adult School Hall on Wednesday night was largely attended and of a very enthusiastic character and though there were slight differences of opinion, it was apparent that all were anxious to do their best for the object for which the meeting had been called. A central committee for the district was formed and a local committee for each parish will be elected at meetings to be held within the next few days, after which the organised work of collecting funds will be got in hand. We have no doubt as to there being a generous response.

The suggestion made by Canon Broughton at a meeting in the Coalville Council Chamber last week that Broom Leys would make a good hospital for wounded soldiers has not fallen on deaf ears and in another part of this issue we publish correspondence which has passed between Mr Walter Lindley and the Duke of Rutland showing that the Whitwick Colliery Company have generously decided to allow the use of the building for that object. The company have gone one more than this and have added to their kindly action by agreeing to supply coal free to the hospital and also continue to employ a gardener to keep the grounds in order. If any of our soldiers are wounded and are brought to Broom Leys, it is hoped that in such charming surroundings and with the bracing forest air they may soon be nursed back to convalescence.

Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth, Bart., formerly of Garendon Hall, has given £10,000 to the Countess of Dudley towards forming the fund for the voluntary hospital for war service organised by her and accepted by the War Office. Sir Robert has promised to act as chairman of the committee. His son, who is in the 9th Lancers, is now on active service.

It has been pointed out to us in reference to what transpired at the Coalville meeting on Wednesday night as to the appointment of treasurer for the local war distress relief fund, that the London City and Midland Bank in Leicester is receiving the contributions being made to the Mayor's Fund, and Mr W. T. Williams, the manager of the Coalville branch of the bank, states that he will be pleased to receive subscriptions at the Coalville bank, and sub-offices, which will be paid into the bank at Leicester for the Mayor's fund, and acknowledged in the local press.

It is gratifying to learn in regard to some Coalville men who have gone to the war that for a time, at any rate, their employers are paying their wages. Although the wives and children of such men will receive pay from the Government or through the National fund, the machinery cannot be got into operation all at once and but for the kind action of employers and others there may be some temporary suffering. This was shown by one or two cases mentioned in the Ashby Board of Guardians' meeting on Saturday. The cases we have heard of in which the employers are continuing to pay wages are the Coalville Urban District Council and the Co-Operative Society. The Council are paying full wages for a month to the wives of two employees who are engaged in their country's service, and the Co-Operative Society are paying the woman 15s a week for a month though her husband had only been in the Society's employ a fortnight when he was called away.

There are few trades that have not been affected by the war in one way or another, and from a local point of view it is interesting to note how the coal trade stands in this critical time. With the object of ascertaining this a representative of the "Coalville Times" has been making enquiries at several local collieries this week. A

rumour has been going about that the pits were getting short of timber used for sprags and props and that they might have to cease work unless fresh supplies could be obtained. Enquiries made of officials at the Whitwick, South Leicester, Nailstone, and other pits show that the difficulty is likely to be a real one unless the position improves soon. At each of these collieries named they have in a supply of timber at present sufficient to last for about a month and fresh supplies which would carry them on another month or six weeks are expected, but there is a difficulty in getting the railways to carry the timber. Moreover, merchants have taken the war as a reason for breaking their contracts and any timber that is being purchased now is costing 40 per cent above the contract price. Another difficulty being experienced by the collieries is a shortage of railway wagons and they are unable to get the coal away, though in the words of a South Leicester Colliery official, "*We are full of orders,*" and for this reason the pits have been at play several days when they would have been working. In the event of the shortage of timber becoming more acute, there is a proposal to arrange for the importation of Canadian timber, though this would add considerably to the expense. It is to be hoped that ample supplies will be available, otherwise it seems as though colliers will only be making two or three days a week through the winter months.

The directors of Whitwick Colliery Co., at a meeting yesterday afternoon, decided to make allowances of 10/- per week to the wives of all their workmen who had been called to serve their country and 2/- a week for each child under 14 years of age, with coal free.

DO YOU KNOW

That boy scouts are guarding railway tunnels between Coalville and Leicester?

That Coalville Flower Show has been abandoned for this year on account of the war?

That a retiring collection at the Coalville London Road Baptist Church on Sunday night realised £3 2s for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund?

That six members of the nursing staff of the Leicester Royal Infirmary left Leicester on Monday morning for duty in the Queen Alexandra Nursing Service?

That Mr W. C. Stevens (Swepstone) and Mr H. A. Scott (Cadeby) were in Coalville on Tuesday inspecting horses with a view to purchase for the war office authorities?

That Shepshed has formed a society of ladies to provide articles for wounded soldiers, Mrs T. Nell and Mrs C. Griffin being appointed hon. treasurers, and Miss Alice Merriman, hon. secretary?

That among many places in Leicestershire offered as temporary hospitals or convalescent homes for the sick and wounded are Thornton Vicarage, by Mrs H. R. Cooper, and Ravenstone House, by Mr R. G. Cresswell?

STRANDED SCHOOL TEACHERS

The Leicester schools re-open next Monday, but it is by no means certain that they will be equipped with their full staff of teachers for quite a number are stranded in Switzerland and various parts of the Continent. Amongst these are Miss C. Lever, of Moat Road School, and Miss Stevens, of Melbourne Road School, who left on the 24th July for a fortnight's tour, and have not been able to get back at present. Letters received from Miss Lever showed that until the end of the first week in August she had no knowledge of the war, and after that no message was received until Monday, when a postcard got through after a journey of nine days. This contained bare information: 'We do not know when we shall be able to leave. The Consul at Berne will arrange a train for the English. We have received neither letters nor news. All goes well.' This was written in French, and instructions were given that the reply must also be in French. Miss Lever is the daughter of Mr W. H. Lever, the headmaster of Ingle Street School.

GLEN PARVA BARRACKS

At Glen Parva Barracks, about one hundred recruits per day are joining Kitchener's Army. About 100 left for Aldershot on Wednesday for musketry training.

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Applications are desired from suitable men to make good the vacancies in the Coalville Section of the above Brigade caused by the absence of some members serving in the war, and the removal of other members from the district.

Four firemen are required, who should live in the neighbourhood surrounding the Fire Station which is situated in Highfield Street. Conditions of membership and particulars of drill and fire attendance allowances can be obtained from the undersigned to whom all applications should be forwarded.

(Signed) Thomas Elsworth, Captain.

Waterworks Testing Office, Highfields Street, Coalville. August 1914.

TERRITORIAL ASSOCIATION'S THANKS

Dear Sir, The Territorial Associations of Leicestershire and Rutland wish to thank the manufacturers and tradespeople of the counties for the splendid manner in which they have worked to supply the various articles required for mobilisation by the Territorial troops of the Borough of Leicester, and the counties of Leicester and Rutland. In not a single instance were the words 'No,' or 'Can't' said, though the demands were heavy and urgent. It is greatly due to the assistance given that the progress of mobilisation worked as smoothly as it did.

Yours faithfully,
R. Dalglish
Chairman of Joint Committee

AMBULANCE WORK

Dr. Archibald has met with a great success in his scheme for men for ambulance work. Over 50 men have given in their names to be taught first aid work, by the doctor. These are prepared to attend to the wounded if the necessity arises. Many of the volunteers are men who hold certificates gained in connection with colliery examinations.

FOR THE HOSPITAL

The Bagworth people readily responded to the appeal for funds and gifts towards the temporary fitting up of the Leicester Hospital for the wounded soldiers. Upwards of 100 parcels of goods were collected and about £9 / 10 / 0 in money and 2 complete beds. We understand there are other ladies in the village who are making up goods to be sent on later.

UNREGISTERED GERMAN AT LEICESTER

A German electrical engineer, named Johann Friederich Gaus, 30, no fixed abode, was charged before the Leicester County Magistrates on Friday with being an alien enemy within the meaning of the Aliens Registration Order 1914, and failing to register himself.

The evidence showed that when the defendant was arrested, at Oadby, on Thursday, he was found to have in his possession, an atlas, pocket-box, a new pair of wire cutters, and several other tools, an insulator tape, rubber solution, a map, a daily newspaper, and other papers and documents.

Defendant, who had no firearms, said when charged, that he did not know he had to register himself. The magistrates remanded him.

ASHBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of this council was held at Ashby on Saturday, Mr T. Varnham presiding. There were also present the Rev. C. T. Moore, Dr. Atkinson, Messrs W. Gascoigne, J. W. Fowler, W. Massey, J. Pargetter, S. Stanley, J. T. Bradshaw, and W. Ramsell, with the clerk (Mr George Farmer), sanitary inspector (Mr S. Turner) and highways surveyor (Mr F. Horbury).

WAR ITEMS

The Chairman said he had been invited to serve on the Patriotic Committee at Leicester and had implied that he was willing to do so, though not able to attend the meeting in Leicester that day. Mr Turner reported that the caretaker of the Swannington Isolation Hospital had been called for military service, but they would try to carry things on as usual at the hospital.

SHEPshed RESIDENTS ON THE COUNCIL

EXCITING EXPERIENCES

Miss May Amos, daughter of Mr F. Amos, of Field Street, Shepshed, gives an account of a much-looked-forward to holiday in Switzerland, which was abruptly terminated through the Continental war cloud. Leaving home on July 24th with a relative they arrived at Les Avants, where they stayed for a week. On July 31st, when near Lake Geneva, they first heard rumours of war, and were quickly informed that no English money would be taken. They had no other money to pay hotel bills with, and 20 francs were offered for a sovereign instead of 25. However, some friends at Geneva came to the rescue, and after five hours on the Sunday they managed to get a passport to Paris, at which city they arrived at 5 pm on Monday, August 3rd. Trams and railways were at a standstill, so far as the general public were concerned, and they had to while away the time by walking about Paris. They were eventually informed at Messrs Cook and Sons' Office that a boat would leave Calais at 20 minutes past 10 on Tuesday evening. They were, however, taken to Bologne, and reached British shores about 2 o'clock on Wednesday, and arrived at Shepshed later in the day. Miss Amos is a schoolmistress at the Lomond Grove School, Camberwell.

Mr Joseph Chapman, of Ivy Dene, Sparrow Hill, Shepshed, has had a never-to-be-forgotten experience on the Continent. Some time ago he came in touch with a German who was staying in Shepshed while fixing some machinery at a hosiery factory. They became close friends, and attended the Men's Adult School. The result of the friendship was an invitation to Mr Chapman to spend his holiday at the home of his friend at Chemnitz, which was accepted, and on Thursday, July 30th Mr Chapman set out for his destination. He arrived safely on the Saturday following and was received with the greatest kindness by his host and family. On Sunday, whilst out for a walk Government orders were rapidly distributed, with the result that his friend chartered a motor, and took Mr Chapman to the British Consul in order to get him if possible, safely away. German officials acted in a most insulting manner, and more so if possible, to the German himself than to his friend the Englishman. The parting between the two was of a most pathetic character, the German completely breaking down at the treatment meted out to his friend. Arrived at the station Mr Chapman produced his tickets to the stationmaster, who flung them across the hall. Picking them up, however, he hastened across the platform and boarded the train which was the last out. Before reaching Holland they were twice held up, first for about one and a half hours and next for three hours. Included in the train were about 100 English and Hollanders. Eventually they reached Holland and made for a hotel, where their famished appetites were refreshed. In the end Mr Chapman got through to Harwich by Tuesday night, and reached his home in Shepshed on Wednesday.

WAR AND WORK

EMPLOYERS' APPEAL TO TRADERS AND THE PUBLIC

"You are anxious to help at this crisis in our history. The wage-earner will be in want of help. Employment is what he will want to provide his daily wants.

"Employment means wages – wages requires money. Money for wages can only come from work done for wages.

"Wage paying manufacturing trades must soon cease unless orders for work and payment for work are forthcoming to the utmost.

"No worker will be discharged as long as money is available for wages. Help at this hour by giving orders to the utmost.

"Help by paying promptly and readily for work already done, work now in hand, and work to be done hereafter. If you pay your accounts your creditors will pay theirs, and those who owe you money, will pay you. There will be no starving people on the rates. You will have truly served your country in the hour of need.

This appeal is made on behalf of the printing trades of the United Kingdom by the Federation of Master Printers.

LEICESTER YEOMANRY AND HORSE ARTILLERY

The Leicestershire Royal Horse Artillery paraded on the Filbert Street Recreation Ground, Leicester early on Thursday morning and subsequently left for the town for their appointed destination. Large crowds lined the streets and cheered the men of the battery as they rode through the town.

Curiously enough, two old political opponents are associated in the command of the Leicestershire Battery, namely Major W. B. Du Pre and Captain Elliot Crawshay-Williams, who was formerly a lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery. The men wore their complete war accoutrement, and in the great heat which prevailed it was anticipated that the march would be a trying one.

The Leicester squadron of the Yeomanry (Prince Alberts' Own) also left Leicester on Thursday morning, under the command of Lieut-Col. Evans Freke, among the officers being Captain C. N. Newton, a prominent rider of steeplechasers at Croxton Park, Southwell, and Melton hunt meetings. The men looked exceedingly fit, and were heartily cheered en route by the populace.

THE ADULT SCHOOL PEACE TRIP TO GERMANY

INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

The following, which appeared in Monday's "Leicester Daily Post" from the leader of the Adult School Party on their recent German trip, Mr F. Merttens, will be read with interest:

Sir, - There seems to be some mishapprehension in the Rothley and Leicester districts with regard to my position. May I quite briefly and simply explain it? I ceased to be a German subject in the year 1869. I have never served, nor am I liable to serve in the German Army. I emigrated with the consent of the Prussian Government, which means that I can never again expect any protection or assistance from any German Government. I was a British subject before the bulk of the people in Leicestershire were born. I have lived and worked 42 years in England.

I have always deplored and condemned the arrogant and aggressive spirit of the Prussian military party, which has provoked our intervention in this lamentable war. I hate all warfare as a negation of Christianity and the cause of infinite, undeserved, and profitless suffering. But my sympathies are with England. I stand

by her with all my heart and all I have in her hour of need: I hope for the success of her cause and a speedy end to this unhappy and fratricidal war, and I pray that no feelings of hatred and bitterness may survive in the hearts of the two peoples.

I venture to plead, not for myself but for others here and elsewhere of German birth but English sympathies, whose position is even more painful than my own, and who may surely with confidence, claim generous treatment at the hands of a generous people.

Yours faithfully
F. Merttens.
Rothley, August 15th, 1914.

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THE NEW HOSPITAL

RAPID CONVERSION OF THE OLD COUNTY ASYLUM

Of all the preparations made in connection with the war there is no department more important than that which may be needed for the care and medical treatment of the sick and wounded. It is now well-known that the Old County Asylum, adjoining the Victoria Park, has been obtained by the R.A.M.C. as a hospital, and at the present moment the various blocks of buildings are in the hands of the mechanic, bricklayer, carpenter, and painter, who are fast making it look like a modern hospital.

The circumstances leading to the Asylum being utilised as a mobilisation hospital are interesting. A few years ago, Mr S. Perkins Pick the well-known local architect made plans for adapting the technical school, Alderman Newton's School, and the Wyggeston Boys' School to army hospital purposes (from which it may be assumed that what has now happened was devised a few years ago by the military authorities). These plans were approved by the War Office. About a fortnight ago, when the British foreign policy was at a high tension, it was felt that the old Asylum buildings, which for the past seven years have been in a state of desuetude, would be a much better place than the Corps could hope to get by the adaptation of the other buildings. The Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils, as owners of the buildings, generously agreed to lend them for hospital purposes free from rent.

Major L. K. Harrison, the officer commanding the R.A.M.C., and his staff, then speedily go to work on the process of transfiguration. The necessary alterations are being carried on a perfect organisation and a wonderful concentration of purpose from the highest to the lowest in the ranks, and a remarkable change has already taken place. What were, less than a fortnight ago, rooms void of everything save dust, are now spick and span as a permanent infirmary, with nice clean, comfortable beds arranged in "apple-pie" order. The wards that once sheltered the mentally afflicted have been brought into conformity with modern ideas of hospital treatment and these wards surround, as it were, a central block which will be used for administrative purposes.

It is impossible to go the round of the buildings, and not notice the great care and foresight which has been shown in the conversion of the asylum into a hospital. The nurses, officials, and staff generally will be comfortably housed: nothing has been spared in the preparation for culinary operations, surgical accommodation and an operating theatre and an X-ray room have been provided.

It will take some time to complete the alterations, but when the last brush has been wielded, Leicester will have a splendidly equipped hospital and the erstwhile asylum will stand as a remarkable monument of a work which for its nobility has no superior.

When finished the hospital will have accommodation for 520 beds, quite apart from the staff quarters. It is expected that by the end of the week there will be about 400 beds in the hospital.

THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS

IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING OVERLAPPING

A circular has been addressed from the Local Government Board to chairmen of County Councils, Lord Mayors, Mayors, and chairmen of Urban District Councils with reference to the local representative committees who are dealing with distress arising from the war. The Board consider it important, in order to prevent overlapping, that all funds should, in the first instance be merged into the National Relief Fund. Local committees should endeavour, as far as practicable, to confine the assistance which they may afford to the persons ordinarily resident in their areas: but no such restriction should be allowed to interfere with the due mobility of labour.

The circular proceeds: "*While it is desirable that the committee should make their arrangements as complete as possible and consider, in consultation with the local authorities and other bodies, what schemes should be prepared for dealing with exceptional distress, should it unfortunately arise, it is important that relief works should not be opened or recourse had to the distribution of relief funds until other means of dealing with distress have proved to be inadequate.*"

COALVILLE'S EFFORT FOR THE WAR RELIEF FUND

ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC MEETING

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FORMED

There was a large and representative gathering including a good number of ladies, at a public meeting in the Coalville Adult School Hall on Wednesday evening, convened to consider the steps to be taken to relieve any distress which may be caused in Coalville and District as a consequence of the war.

Mr R. Blower, chairman of the Urban District Council, presided, supported on the platform by Mrs J. J. Sharp, Canon Broughton, the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, Messrs W. Sheffield, J. W. West, W. Lindley, W. Hurst, J. W. Farmer, and L. L. Baldwin.

The Chairman expressed pleasure at seeing such a response to the posters calling the meeting. They all regretted the cause of these meetings, but they had the consolation of knowing that they were not responsible for it. (Cheers). It had been caused by a nation which by sheer weight and irrespective of treaties, wanted to subjugate the smaller nations; and as Englishmen they would have been lacking in their duty had they not taken the part they had. Possibly some of their soldiers who had left these shores had gone never to return again, and those at home must see that they did their duty to dear ones who had been left in their care. (Hear, hear). They must not think they had reached a stage of the campaign when they could see results. They were only on the fringe of one of the great battles in history, and they should be prepared for the worst, at the same time keeping as calm as possible, and raising all the money they could for those in need. (Cheers). It was such a great question that they could not allow a particle of party spirit to intervene. (Cheers). It had been forced upon them. Sir Edward Grey (Cheers), had done all he could to avoid it and it was for the people to do the best they could in the position in which they were placed. He was sure that Coalville and District would maintain its traditions for generosity in a good cause. Thousands would be dependant on the relief fund and a million pounds would soon filter away. He would like to see the needs met and the fund be never less than a million. It would mean great sacrifices which he hoped they would prepared to make. The district allotted to them was the Coalville Urban District with Bardon Hill, Ravenstone with Snibstone and Swannington and a committee of 20 was suggested to represent that district to ascertain who was in need and to administer the fund. Eleven other ladies and gentlemen, through having been invited by Alderman Cope to join the County Committee, would also be on the committee. It was suggested that the committee be made up of four for each ward in the Coalville Urban District, three for Ravenstone, three for Swannington and two for Bardon Hill. As the bills calling that meeting had not been circulated in the three outside parishes named, it was suggested that the representatives for those three parishes be elected at a meeting called for the purpose, but the representatives for the urban district might be elected that night. It was also suggested that Messrs L. L. Baldwin and J. W. Farmer be elected hon. secs., and the manager of Lloyd's Bank (Mr J. Husband) be treasurer to whom any subscriptions might be paid by any who may not hand their contribution to members of the committee. He warned the public against giving money to any persons who were not authorised to collect. Their might be people who were mean enough – he hoped they

were very few – to take advantage of the position. The 11 ex-officio members on the committee would be Mrs J. J. Sharp, Canon Broughton, Messrs W. Lindley, M. McCarthy, W. Hurst, T. Jesson, L. Lovett, B. G. Hale, R. Blower, W. Sheffield, and J. W. West. The committees which were elected would have power to gather a band of helpers round them to assist in the work which had to be done.

Mr C. W. Brown suggested that the committee should be representative of all classes.

The Chairman said that was the reason for leaving the selection to the public meeting. When the committees were appointed, they would call meetings in their parishes to elect larger committees, but only those elected as suggested that night would be on the Coalville Central Committee.

Mr F. Griffin asked whether all money collected would be sent to the Prince of Wales's Fund.

The Chairman said that was so. Messrs J. W. West and L. Lovett were the Coalville representatives on the executive at Leicester and an estimate of the needs of the district for a month ahead had to be given to the Leicester executive, so there was need to get to work at once.

Mr G. Brooks suggested that three of the Coalville four should be working men as they knew the needs of the poor.

The Chairman said that they must not think of classes. In this business they were all workers on the common ground of brotherhood. There were to be no aristocrats in this great object, which had brought them all to the same level. (Cheers). It was for the meeting to elect whom they thought had the greatest hearts and the best capacity for getting money. (Cheers).

Mr Smith (Belvoir Road) said that if they were all one the rich would get off the backs of the working classes and give up the profits they were making out of them. (Cries of "sit down"). He held that the workers should be represented on the committee and not called in to do the graft. (Repeated cries of "Sit down").

The Chairman read a circular letter from the Local Government Board suggesting how the committee should be formed, adding that Mr Cope had called the committee as instructed by the Local Government Board, no man had a greater admiration for Mr Cope than he (the chairman) had. (Cheers). Mr Cope was most fair and had invited representatives of all classes on the committee. Mr Cope asked him who would be a good man to represent the workers and he gave the name of Mr Levi Lovett, who represented one of the largest unions in the country. Mr Lovett had been brought right to the front and placed on the Leicester executive. (Hear, hear).

Mr Lovett: *That is so.*

He repeated there was no room for party feeling. They all had one object and they would all work amicably together.

The appointment of Messrs L. L. Baldwin and J. W. Farmer as joint hon. secs., was carried with applause and in the regard to the appointment of treasurer it was suggested by Dr. Hamilton that the managers of all the local banks be treasurers. The Chairman said the idea was to have one fund.

Mr Drewett said nobody was going to get anything out of it so it did not matter. He moved the appointment of Mr Husband. Mr Cook seconded. Mr A. Lockwood moved that payments be made at all the banks. Dr. Hamilton seconded. Mr W. Lindley said they could not have three treasurers but only one.

Mr Lockwood: *You have two secretaries* (Laughter).

Mr Lindley: *If you had thought about it you would not have made that remark.*

Mr Lockwood: *I don't know.*

Mr Lindley said they must have one bank to draw cheques on. The other banks could receive subscriptions. Mr Lockwood still held that three treasurers would be better. The chairman said he was glad Mr Lockwood was so optimistic as to think the response would be such as to require three treasurers.

Mr R. J. Brown (manager of Notts. Bank) said he thought one treasurer would be sufficient. The banks did not wish to make anything out of it but assist all they could. As far as he was concerned he would be pleased to receive money, if desired, and hand it over to the treasurer. Mr W. T. Wilkins (manager of the London City and Midland Bank) endorsed this and said he should be pleased to receive subscriptions and hand them over to the treasurer. The chairman asked whether Mr Lockwood pressed his resolution in the face of these statements. Mr Lockwood agreed to withdraw his motion adding that he only thought too much was coming from the platform. The Chairman said they had merely done what they were asked to do.

A question was asked by Mr Oliver whether the money was not to go to the fund of which the Prince of Wales was treasurer. The Chairman said that was so, but they wanted a treasurer for local purposes and all money paid in Coalville and district they wanted to go through the county fund credited to this district. Eventually the appointment of Mr J. Husband as treasurer was agreed to.

Several nominations were then made for the four Coalville places on the committee and the Chairman said they had better decide whether the committee altogether should consist of 20 as recommended. Mr Darby moved that this be so. Mr Smith nominated that all those nominated be on the committee. Mr Drewett said this was only really for the executive committee. A larger committee would be appointed for each parish afterwards. The resolution to restrict the committee to 20 was carried.

The four elected for Coalville were: Miss McKernon (Capt of the Salvation Army), Messrs W. Eames, A. Lockwood, and C. W. Brown; Hugglescote, Mrs Meredith, Dr. Wykes, Messrs B. B. Drewett and F. Griffin; Whitwick, the Rev. T. W. Walters, Father O'Reilly, Messrs T. W. Bourne and G. F. Burton.

The Chairman pointed out that those who had been nominated and not elected need not feel disappointed as there would be plenty of room for them when the larger committees were appointed for each parish. Public meetings would be held in those parishes as soon as possible. The Chairman intimated that subscriptions might be paid in at once to any of the banks. Mr Taylor thought collecting cards should be issued at once. Mr McCarthy said the district committees would appoint collectors and allot to them certain districts so as to cover the whole of the parishes. Mr Lindley said no one had authority to collect money unless appointed. On the motion of Mr West, a vote of thanks was accorded the chairman and the meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

BROOM LEYS AS A HOSPITAL

GENEROUS OFFER BY THE WHITWICK COLLIERY COMPANY

The charming residence on the Forest Road near Coalville, known as Broom Leys, occupied for some years by the late Mr H. R. Mansfield, from whom it was purchased by the Whitwick Colliery Company, has been generously offered by the company to the county authorities for use as a hospital during the war. This interesting information is conveyed in correspondence which has passed between Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., secretary of the company and His Grace the Duke of Rutland of which the following is a copy:

Coalville, August 14th,

My Lord Duke, I beg to enclose you particulars of Broom Leys House, Coalville, - the property of the Whitwick Colliery Company - and I have great pleasure in informing you that I am instructed by my directors to place this house and grounds at your disposal for use as a hospital during this lamentable war. The house is at present vacant and unfurnished, otherwise it is in perfect condition and ready for immediate possession; the use of it is offered free of charge, this company undertaking to retain the gardener and maintain the grounds as at present, and also to provide all coals required for the house during the term of its occupation for hospital purposes. I can assure you that my directors will be exceedingly pleased if this house can be found to be of any use to the country. I hope to attend your meeting in Leicester tomorrow (Saturday), and should be glad to have a word with you on the subject if you will kindly give me the opportunity. As your movements just now are no doubt uncertain I am sending a copy of this letter under cover to Mr Freer. - I beg to subscribe myself, your grace's most obedient servant, p.p. the Whitwick Colliery Company.

Walter Lindley
Commercial Manager and Secretary

The reply was as follows:

Stanton Woodhouse, Rowsley, Derbyshire, August 16th, 1914.

Mr dear sir, - I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter on the 14th inst., in which you offer, on behalf of the Whitwick Colliery Company, the use of Broom Leys House as a hospital for county use during the war. I will at once forward your communication to the proper authorities, who, I am confident, will feel as grateful for this generous offer as does yours very truly.

Rutland
Ld. Lt.

I trust you will tender my personal thanks to your directors for their most valuable and kindly thought.

“R”.

THE 5TH NORTHERN HOSPITAL

COALVILLE'S CONTRIBUTION

The Local Committee wishes to thank the Coalville public who so promptly and generously responded to the appeal for the above object, and particularly to thank the members of the Co-Operative Womens' Guild and the local troop of boy scouts for their great assistance.

Several thousands of articles were sent in to Leicester on Saturday last, including 208 sheets, 53 blankets, 247 shirts, 388 pillow slips, 112 pairs of stockings and socks, 154 towels, parcels of surgical bandages, 5 fully equipped beds, a large number of bedsteads and mattresses, 51 pillows, an invalid chair, 100 pants, vests and bedjackets, large box of bedsocks, mufflers and slippers, and several hundredweights of old linen, floorcloths, dusters, etc., and parcels of sundries. £17/14/7 was also collected in the various districts at the same time in amounts varying from £3/3/0 to a penny, and other subscriptions have since come in. This money will be spent in making articles for the hospital as required.

(Signed) Mrs A. A. Brown, Hon. Secretary; Mr L. L. Baldwin, Chairman.

Major Harrison acknowledged the receipt of these supplies in the following letter:

*5th Northern General Hospital, R.A.M.C. (T)
Leicester, August 16th, 1914.*

Dear Sir, - Very many thanks for your letter and the assistance you have given me in collecting material for the hospital. It is gratifying to find such a universal spirit of patriotism prevailing amongst all classes, and I hope you will convey my sincere thanks to your many willing helpers.

Stock-taking is now in progress, and until that is over we shall not know our deficiencies. We have started a patient's fund for the purchase of greater comforts for the patients and nurses, and contributions to that will be very welcome. – Again thanking you, I remain, yours sincerely.

Louis K. Harrison
Major R.A.M.C. (T).

IBSTOCK

The collections taken at the Parish Church and the Baptist Chapel, on Sunday last, were in aid of the National Relief Fund, and the British Red Cross Society respectively.

The various places of worship in Ibstock have been open and free to the public throughout the week, for private prayer on behalf of our soldiers and sailors, and the welfare of the country at this critical time.

Patriotic Committee – The Rev. S. Flood presided over this meeting and explained in full detail the proposed working of the Central Committees in the alleviation of distress. Mr Jacques detailed the objects of the scheme and explained suggested methods of raising funds.

Parade and Gala – A meeting was held on Wednesday when Mr W. Eggington presided, and gave the report of the County Committee and explained thoroughly the scheme proposed to deal with the dependants of those who had been called upon to defend our country, and also stated the fund was intended to assist other necessitous cases of privation due to the war.

Mr Dunstan proposed and Mr Flood seconded that we place on record our best thanks for their excellent services in the cause of the Infirmary Parade. Mr Eggington and E. W. Mee suitably responded.

SHACKERSTONE

On Sunday last special intercessory services for the success of the naval and military forces in the war were held in the Parish Church. The vicar (the Rev. W. H. Neep) conducted the services. Collections were made on behalf of the National Relief Fund, and totalled £5/1/0. Two young men of the village who have enlisted for the war, left on Tuesday morning for the Wigston Barracks to enter upon their training for active service.

THORNBOROUGH PUBLICAN'S PATRIOTISM

ONE-HANDED MAN VOLUNTEERS FOR SERVICE

There has been a striking example in the Coalville district this week of the splendid manner in which old service men are responding to their country's call.

Mr Frank Palmer, landlord of the Queen's Head Inn, Thornborough, near Coalville, is a naval pensioner. He was formerly an engine-room artificer on board H.M.S. Pioneer, but two years ago when in New Zealand he had the grievous misfortune to lose his right hand. Whilst he was at work in the vessel's engine room, a chain broke allowing a heavy block to fall on his right hand which was severed, well above the wrist.

Notwithstanding this physical disability, Mr Palmer volunteered for service, and on Saturday morning received a message from Chatham to come at once. Eager and ready to render assistance to his country in her hour of need, Mr Palmer, without delay, proceeded to Chatham, but in view of his previous accident, was informed that his services would not be required at present and he returned home.

Should the necessity arise he is quite willing to assist in any way he can. Mr Palmer is a son of the late Mr Maurice Palmer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville.

THRINGSTONE

Parish Church – The preacher at the Parish Church on Sunday night was the Rev. H. Gee Clark, vicar of Shepshed, and the collection was for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund. The vicar of Thringstone, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, preached at Shepshed Church where the collection was for the same object.

WHITWICK MAN RETURNS FROM AUSTRALIA

AN EVENTFUL VOYAGE

CHASED BY GERMAN WARSHIPS

Mr H. Allgood, son of Mr H. Allgood, painter and decorator, of Whitwick, arrived home on Monday night from Australia, and has since been seen by a representative of the paper to whom he related some interesting and exciting incidents of the voyage.

Mr Allgood sailed from Sydney on July 6th, on the R.M.S. Osterley, of the Oriental Line. The first they heard of the war was when they reached the Red Sea, a message to that effect then being received by wireless and posted on the notice board in the mess room, subsequent messages being conveyed to the passengers in a similar manner. But the first actual sign of war was observed when the ship reached Port Said, where some 30 or 40 German and Austrian ships were being detained. All these ships had been compelled to take

down their wireless apparatus. Two days after leaving Port Said, said Mr Allgood, their vessel received a call by wireless which the skipper suspected as coming from a German ship and he refused to answer. The call was repeated, being in the nature of an inquiry as to who they were and where they were. No answer was given, but it was subsequently ascertained that the enquiry was from a German warship which was now giving chase to the liner. *"It was a most exciting time,"* said Mr Allgood.

"They followed and got to within 20 miles of us, when we ran into Malta, instead of going to Taranto or Naples, having gone 60 miles out of our course."

The vessel reached Gibraltar safely, though Mr Allgood said that for three nights they steamed without lights, passengers not being allowed even to strike a match, and for the rest of the journey home they only carried mast head lights and lights in the cabin, no deck light being allowed.

Continuing his narrative, Mr Allgood said that after the liner left Malta, the Germans again took up the chase, and there was great cheering, and dipping of flags when they met ships of the French fleet which drove off their pursuers, who got away to the Dardenelles. At Gibraltar they observed some 60 or 70 German and Austrian liners which were being held up as prizes. One of the naval officers told him that one of the German merchant ships, the night before, had tried to get through the straits, but were discovered by the search-lights, it then being found that the vessel was flying a white flag and had its funnels painted a different colour. The captain was ordered to heave to but kept going, and a torpedo boat gave chase. The latter was fired on, but secured its prize and when brought back to Gibraltar, the body of the ship was found to be loaded with shells. The "Osterley" stayed at Gibraltar about 14 hours during which time she had to take down her wireless apparatus, for what reason, Mr Allgood did not know, but it was installed again before leaving for England. After leaving Gibraltar they frequently saw French and English warships, which several times bore down upon the liner making close scrutiny, and after being satisfied that it was a British ship the men of war saluted and passed on – an indication that Britain has her watch-dogs on the seas. The same thing happened as they proceeded along the channel, search-lights being frequently thrown upon them. Along the south coast numerous military camps were noticed and there was one at the mouth of the Thames.

The liner berthed at Tilbury docks on Monday and Mr Allgood at once proceeded to his home at Whitwick. He is a married man, and with his wife, a niece of Mr Oliver Burton, of Leicester Road, he left Whitwick for Australia three years last Easter. All the time he has worked in Sydney as a painter and decorator.

Asked whether he liked Colonial life and whether he intended to return, Mr Allgood said he liked it very much, but as to returning he was at present undecided.

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THE FOX HUNTING SEASON

It is understood to have been declared that most of the Leicestershire packs should begin cub hunting at the usual time in order to reduce, as far as possible, the number of foxes in the country, and so minimise the damage to farmers from the loss of poultry; but it is extremely doubtful whether hunting, in the ordinary way, can be carried on during the coming season.

The horses commandeered by the Army authorities have seriously depleted the studs throughout the country, while many of the regular followers of the several packs will be engaged in the serious business of war. The committee of the Masters of Foxhounds Association have passed a resolution, in which they recognise that under the present circumstances regular hunting will be impossible, but that it would be most prejudicial to the country in general if it were allowed to lapse altogether. They therefore recommend that cub hunting should take place and continue as long as necessary, in order to kill as many foxes as possible, but that hunting should not be looked upon from a sporting point of view until the war is over.

JAPAN DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

The Press Bureau in London on Sunday afternoon issued the following:-

4.35 pm

The Imperial Government of Japan has declared that a state of war exists between Japan and Germany.

A LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICER LIEUT-GEN. W. P. POULTENEY AT THE FRONT IN COMMAND OF THE THIRD ARMY CORPS

An officer whose fortunes in the war will be closely followed in the Midlands is Lieut-Gen. W. P. Poulteney, C.B., D.S.O., who has command of the Third Army Corps of the British Expeditionary Force. Gen. W. P. Poulteney is the youngest son of the Rev. R. T. Poulteney, of Ashley Rectory, Market Harborough. He was born in May 1861, and was educated at Chatham and Eton. He joined the Oxfordshire Militia from which in April, 1881, he passed into the Scots Guards. He has had a distinguished military career.

ABSENTEE FROM THE ARMY THORNTON MAN CHARGED AT HINCKLEY

Walter Herbert Wright (22), collier, of Thornton, was charged before Mr W. H. Bott, at the Hinckley Police Court on Monday with being an absentee from the Leicestershire Regiment since Friday last.

P.C. Hall stated that on Monday last, prisoner and another man went from Thornton to join the army at Glen Parva. He saw prisoner again on Friday, and having questioned him, told him he suspected him of being an absentee without leave. Prisoner admitted he was, giving as his reason, the excuse that he had a bad knee. Witness apprehended him. Prisoner, who admitted the offence, gave no reason for absencing himself, and could not say why he joined. He was ordered to be handed over to the authorities at Wigston.

HORSES FOR THE ARMY GOVERNMENT WARNING TO VENDORS

The Board of Agriculture on Tuesday night issued warnings to farmers and others against unauthorised persons seeking to obtain commission on the price paid for horses taken for the Government.

Farmers are informed that all impressing is done by constables, provided with magistrates warrant, without which the owners need not part with animals or vehicles, and they should insist upon seeing it. The voluntary sale and purchase of horses will, of course, now continue in the ordinary course of business.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The Clerk to the Coalville Urban District Council, Mr T. E. Jesson, of Ashby, who is gazetted as Captain to the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, formerly commanded the Ashby (Hastings) Company, and volunteered for active service when the war broke out. He is expecting to join his regiment. Lieut. H. S. Hassall, who is gazetted Captain has been in command of Ashby Company since mobilisation but is at present on the sick list, at home in Ashby.

Water supply is of vital importance to any town, and while any interference with the works at Coalville is not anticipated, one never knows what might happen in these stirring times and it will be reassuring to know that

the engineer, Mr L. L. Baldwin, backed by the Urban Council, is taking no risks. Both the waterworks and the reservoir area are constantly being guarded and it is interesting to know that the patrols are armed. A notice issued by Mr Baldwin invites volunteers to assist in the work and there should be no lack of reliable helpers. While our soldiers are fighting bravely at the front, there are many ways in which those left at home can render useful service to the community and this is one of them.

The officials of the Coalville Central Relief Committee have had a busy time during the last few days ascertaining and registering the names of men who have left the district in connection with the war and have wives and children dependant upon them. The work is proceeding in a methodical, and at the same time expeditious manner, and it is hoped that none will be missed. Already the names of over a hundred married men have been recorded and a rough estimate of the number of men from the Coalville area who are now serving their country in one capacity or another in connection with the war is between two and three hundred, which shows that the Coalville district according to its population had contributed a good quota. If there are any that have left dependants behind who have not yet been registered, it is urged that information should be given at the Coalville Council Chamber without delay.

Arrangements have been made for the Ashby Women's Working Party to meet several times weekly, the object being the making of garments for our soldiers. A class for instruction in nursing has been formed, with Dr. Logan as instructor.

County Cricket is still contesting for the supremacy, and the Football Associations are making preparations for the winter game, but the war is having a depressing effect upon sport generally. There are practically no shooting parties, and the fox will be little hunted this winter. Not a few of those who shoot, or ride to the hounds, will have serious duties to attend to, and it is suggested that farmers should be given a licence to shoot game and foxes. In the one case, to provide food, and in the other to keep down the numbers of foxes preying on their poultry. The war will have a paralysing effect on international sport for many years to come. All the nations were preparing for the Olympic games to be held in Berlin in 1916, but whatever happens in Europe, it is certain that there will be no Olympiad in the German capital for a generation to come. The German Government stands self-condemned before the world, and the nations will not readily resume social or business relationships with its people. In one particular respect the effect of war is not to be regretted. It has damped down the boxing boom and the revival of the prize-ring.

About seventy ladies of Coalville and District have volunteered their services to assist in the nursing of the wounded and they are being instructed in rendering first aid at classes being held in the Adult School Hall. The first examination under the auspices of the St. John's Ambulance Association will take place shortly and there will be about 30 candidates. Afterwards an examination in home nursing has to be passed. The position is quite voluntary and to the ladies who are accepted there will be no pay and they have to provide their own equipment. The number therefore, who anxious to serve shows a patriotic spirit among the ladies of Coalville and district which is very gratifying. Those who successfully pass the examinations will be retained for service in the hospitals in Leicestershire, but may be sent to other parts of the country if they desire it.

Mr W. Weaver, writing under date of 11th August, from Winnipeg, to his brother, Mr Frank Weaver of Bridge Road, Coalville, states that Winnipeg is wild with excitement in connection with the war. All French reservists had to sign on at Montreal by August 14th and some of them were leaving that night by the 5:50 train. He goes on to say that volunteers are joining by hundreds there. *"That German sausage,"* proceeds the writer, *"ought to be made to eat snails, frogs and rats like the French in 1870, at the siege of Paris. He has got big thoughts in his 'napper' like the Emperor Napoleon. I hope he will meet with the same result as Napoleon did in 1815. Hurrah! For plucky little Belgium; they are the heroes as yet."* Mr Weaver states that newspapers in Winnipeg are selling at 5 cent (2 1/2 d) each. He encloses a picture of some handsome new Y.M.C.A. buildings which have just been erected in Winnipeg, the subscription for membership of which is 12 dollars a year, or nearly £3 in English money.

Thirty members of the National Reserve (Class I) residing in Coalville and district, having offered themselves for active service left on Wednesday morning for training, 16 from Coalville, five from Thringstone, four from Whitwick, two from Heather, and one each from Swannington, Bardon Hill and Markfield. They were medically examined, passed and enrolled at the Coalville Labour Exchange on Monday night.

Some uncertainty appears to exist with regard to the re-opening of the public schools, and a number of the headmasters have been asked whether their schools will re-assemble as usual next month. The headmaster

of Charterhouse, as chairman of the committee of the Headmaster's Conference, has made the general announcement, on behalf of all the public schools, that there is nothing in the present situation and that nothing is foreseen in the future which should prevent term beginning as usual. We can certainly see no reason why school life should not be carried on under perfectly normal conditions, but this announcement will reassure those people who had doubt on the matter.

PATRIOTIC MEETING AT HUGGLESCOTE

LOCAL COMMITTEE FORMED

There was a capital attendance at a meeting at Hugglescote last night called to appoint a local committee for Hugglescote to deal with the distress arising in connection with the war.

Mr R. Blower presiding, explained how a Central Committee had been formed for the Coalville district and the immediate object of the meeting. He said there were two other funds – the Leicestershire Patriotic Fund, and Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Aid Association – from which relief would be given to the dependants of soldiers, and while the Prince of Wales' fund was also to meet that object, it was mainly to relieve distress caused to civilians. They knew that many industries were affected by the war, and there was a danger of the staple industry of that district – coal mining – suffering from a lack of timber. Other local trades were also likely to be affected. There were only two ways of alleviating distress, and those were by voluntary effort or appealing to the Board of Guardians. The feeling was that no one ought to be compelled to go to the Guardians because of the war (cheers) so he would ask those who were appointed collectors to impress on the people they called on that it was their duty to give. They ought to give all they could as a thank offering that the war was not being waged in their own land. (Hear, hear) He knew that some of the householders had been called on already for the hospital and there had been a splendid response. They would be interested to know that he visited the hospital recently and found that the preparations for the receipt of the wounded were well in hand. One hundred beds were ready and the arrangements were excellent and they should feel thankful that they were so prepared that what transpired during the Crimean War was not to be repeated as regards our wounded men (Cheers.) The matter was one in which there was no room for party or sectarian feeling but all could work together. He had been delighted to see the splendid feeling of unanimity which had been manifested and he hoped it would continue to exist throughout the war and not die down afterwards. (Cheers).

Mr Drewett said the collectors would call on some householders, doubtless, whose wages were already reduced in consequence of the state of affairs and they should not be over-pressed. He was sure all would do all they could. (Cheers.)

Mr Butterworth, in reply to a question, said he had the honour of representing the miners at a meeting of the masters and men in Leicester on Wednesday, and while he was not at liberty to divulge what had been done, he assured them that the miners and the colliery owners did not mean to be lacking in their duty in the matter. (Hear, hear.) Mr Drewett moved that a committee of 14 be appointed and this was carried. The following were elected:-

Mrs Blower, Mrs D. Taylor, Mrs C. W. Taylor, Messrs. W. Hatchett, C. Derry, T. Haywood, S. Armson, D. S. Moore, A. Jones, E. Darby, W. Fellows, J. Garratt, W. Andrews, and F. J. Wainwright.

The chairman said the committee had power to add to their number if they thought well. He added that he had been asked if the money collected locally was to be spent locally and he had tried to discourage that. If they had no so much distress in that district, they would all be the better for it. It was like a sick society. They would pay their contributions and would be most fortunate if they did not have to draw heavily on the fund. If they did not see much distress in the district they must not assume that there was none in other parts of the country.

Mr Jno. Taylor, asked how often collectors would go round, because a man who gave 10s and no more might not contribute so much as the colliers and other workmen who were contributing weekly to the fund. The chairman said they hoped the need to collect should impress on the people that the first contribution would not be the last they would be asked to give.

Mr Drewett said he hoped that would be noticed in the Press. The need was great and the collectors should point out that they might have to call three, four or half a dozen times.

The committee stayed behind after the meeting and Messrs. T. H. Hatchett and W. E. Canner were appointed joint hon. secs. of the committee, Mr B. B. Drewett chairman, and Mr F. Griffin, vice-chairman.

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LOCAL NEWS

Coalville Relief Committee: Mr F. S. Weaver has been appointed hon. secretary of the War Relief Committee for Coalville Parish and at a meeting of the Central Committee on Wednesday night, the parish was divided into 16 districts. The secretary was asked to write to the heads of denominations in the town asking them to appoint four collectors from each place of worship – two males and two females – and the local committee will be selected from these at a meeting next Tuesday night and the collectors allotted districts.

IBSTOCK PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE

A general meeting was held in the National Schools on Wednesday evening which was well attended and over which the Rev. S. Flood, M.A., presided. The chairman was supported by the Rev. J. W. Campbell, Dr. T. N. Wilson, Councillors W. Eggington, J.P., J. T. Jacques, E. W. Mee, and Mr W. Dunstan (schoolmaster), and Messrs. G. Thirby and J. Newman.

Mr Dunstan read the minutes which were confirmed and signed. The Rev. Flood said he would like to emphasise the kindly way everybody had acquiesced in the work of National Relief from the County Committee down to their local Committees and so far as they could see the miners would be willing to give their weekly subscriptions. They were also adopting the card system of collecting which would help the fund it would probably need. It may be months or years before they had finished with it. If the cards only brought in amounts made up of 3d or 5s it would be better as a regular weekly subsidy than a lump sum down, and by these weekly contributions, a sum of £25 per week or more was hoped to be raised. He had heard a rumour that what the men gave would be probably doubled by the masters and by that means they would raise a sum of which Ibstock could be proud. (Hear, hear.)

Mr J. T. Jacques gave the report of the Executive Committee and explained how the scheme of card collections would be worked. There were six parish committees, through whom all names would pass to the Central fund. The Executive Committee was comprised of 27 representatives including co-opted members who dealt with the work brought before them by the Patriotic Committee. Incidental expenses were to be borne by the members of the Executive so that every penny subscribed would be sent direct to the County Council Fund.

Mr Eggington seconding the adoption of the report said the card system was their own scheme and had been adopted by other Committees. They had sent some of their brethren to fight for them and it became them to see that none dependant upon them at home should lack anything. The war was not a flash in the pan, and he was afraid some brave volunteers would never return so that it made it very necessary that provision be maintained to help them for a long time. The fund was also intended to help the civil population as well as military dependants.

The report was then adopted.

Mr Dunstan proposed the adoption of the card system of collecting. He said this was a scheme which acted like a network throughout the country from the local committees right through the district and county committees up to the Central committee at London. All contributions should go through one channel to the central fund and distributed through one channel to the individual. In that was they simplified the work and secured more efficient distribution of monies collected. They had divided Ibstock into different areas and it was proposed a collector should leave a card at any home where they had not paid through a works contribution in order that everyone may have an opportunity of paying towards the fund.

The Rev. Campbell, in seconding, said he hoped the ladies would have an opportunity of taking part in that good work as from what he knew of them they were most anxious to do so.

The proposition was adopted.

In answer to Mr Forman, Mr Dunstan said that a County Council Committee had appointed as the committee for Ibstock the Rev. S. Flood, Rev. J. W. Campbell, Messrs. W. Eggington, J. T. Jacques, C. Watson, A. B. Emmerson, Dr. Wilson and W. Dunstan. The committee had also co-opted Messrs. Jabez Newman and George Thirby.

The following collectors were then appointed:- Messrs. H. Swingler, W. Newman, E. Hardy, W. Wallace,, J. Cartwright, G. Forrester, W. Ottey, T. Wyatt, J. Barnes, L. Hardy, A. Cooper, A. Hardy, E. Newbold, R. Kirton, R. West, G. Forman, C. Eggington, T. Capers, jun, J. J. Sparrow, and Mrs Campbell.

Mr Stevens kindly promised to receive the collectors' monies every Monday evening at the National School.

It was decided to invite the collieries to send their collections through the local committee.

The following collections were handed in:- Ibstock Wesleyan Chapel, per Mr W. Eggington £3; Ibstock Wesleyan Reform, per Mr F. Holmes £2; Stanton-under-Bardon Congregational Church, per Mr Gibson £1 10s.

COALVILLE ELECTRIC THEATRE

SPECIAL FILM

OUR DEFENDERS IN THE NORTH SEA

Being the first in a series of films we have booked specially produced in view of the present situation

Tuesday Morning 10:30

Every Evening 7:30

Saturdays 6:50 and 9

Children's Matinee at 2:30

Doors open half-hour earlier

3d. 4d and 6d (Num. & Res.)

Children 2d.

(The above advertisement appeared the week before – review appeared this week)

Another good one is "Our defenders in the North Sea," showing the dreadnoughts etc., manoeuvring. Much cheering greeted this picture, and the audience continually broke out in the singing of patriotic songs. Photographs were also shown of our Army and Navy leaders, which were also received with loud cheering, and on the appearance of the photograph of King George, the whole audience rose with one accord and sang the National Anthem.

DO YOU KNOW

That 44 men have joined the army from Whitwick and Thringstone?

That the Church collections on the 16th inst., swelled the National Relief Fund by £37, 673 14s 10d ?

That all railway authorities and steamship companies have been ordered by the Government not to transport pigeons?

That collections at Holy Trinity Church, Ashby, realised £27 11s 3d for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund?

That the four recruiting sergeants in Coalville and District have obtained nearly one hundred men for Lord Kitchener's new army?

That a series of working parties at Blackfordby have been arranged by Mrs Joyce for the making of garments for the sick and wounded in the war?

That as a result of the meeting of Shepshed women held last week, over £45 and a quantity of linen and other material has been collected on behalf of the Red Cross Society?

That the South Leicestershire and Snibston Collieries have just received a fresh supply of timber for props and sprags which will carry them on for several weeks?

That collection taken at the Ashby Congregational Chapel on Sunday in support of the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund realised £4 4s?

That two rural postman reservists, W. B. Hopkin and B. Ellis, attached to the Ashby Post Office, have been called up for service?

That the Beaumont Rifle Club has thrown open the Range on and after Monday next from 5 p.m. until dark, and will give free ammunition and the use of rifles to all who care to go down and practice shooting?

That the workmen of Messrs. Wooton Bros., engineers, Coalville, have decided to work two hours overtime weekly, and devote the money to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund?

That Messrs. Stableford's (Coalville) workmen have decided to work one hour per week and give their pay for the same, nearly £20, to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund?

That a collection at the practice match on the Coalville Town football ground on Saturday realised 16/8 for the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund, which is to be paid into the Coalville account?

That in respect of sixteen employees who have left home in connection with the war, the Nailstone Colliery Company have decided to pay the wives 10s per week each with 1s for each child under 14 years of age and free coal while the men are away?

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CHURCH PARADE AT LOUGHBOROUGH

A church parade of the Loughborough National Reserve took place on Sunday. The men paraded at the Drill Hall where they were met by the remaining company of the territorials under Lieut. Burder, the Church Lad's Brigade, and the Boy Scouts. The procession, headed by the combined C.L.B. and scouts band, when marched to the parish church; where the sermon was preached by the Rev. G. A. A. Finch on the words "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

COALVILLE CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED FOR SWANNINGTON, RAVENSTONE AND BARDON HILL

Meetings were held at the National Schools at Swannington, Ravenstone and Bardon Hill on Friday night to elect representatives of these parishes on the Coalville Central Relief Committee in accordance with the scheme laid before a public meeting in the Adult School Hall at Coalville last week.

Mr R. Blower, chairman of the Coalville Urban District Council, presided at each meeting, and was accompanied by Mr Walter Lindley, and the two secretaries, Messrs. L. L. Baldwin and J. W. Farmer. The meetings at Ravenstone and Swannington were attended by about 20 parishioners and at Bardon there were 50 present.

The chairman explained the object of the meeting and expressed regret at the necessity for it though he pointed that they all had a duty to perform. At the Bardon meeting, Mr J. Ward made a patriotic speech. The representatives elected on the committee were as follows:-

Swannington. Lady Beaumont, Capt. Deveraux, R. N. and Mr T. Atkins.
Ravenstone. Mr L. Fosbroke, Mr R. G. Cresswell, and Mr Hunt.
Bardon Hill. Mr J. Ward, J.P., and Mr R. B. Grant.

It was pointed out that a local committee might also be formed in each parish to facilitate the work.

RESERVISTS' KITS

A letter received by the Town Clerk of Nottingham from the War Office says it has recently been decided that the cost of carriage of reservists' kits to their homes should be borne by the public and not by the men and their wives, and instructions have now been issued to this effect to all concerned.

DESFORD

Defence Corps – A well attended meeting was held in the Council Schools, over which Major Kelly, R.A.M.C., presided, to discuss the formation of a Civil Defence Corps. After discussion, it was decided to form the corps. Major Kelly was appointed chief officer, with Mr F. H. Burdett as secretary, and Mr J. E. Dawson assistant secretary. It was decided to have drills twice a week. Amongst those present were Mr A. Pickard, C.C., Mr T. Kirkman, Mr W. Brand, and Mr F. Nutt.

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BATTRAM

Relief Committee Formed – A meeting was held in the Battram Council School on Tuesday for the purpose of forming a committee for that district to work for the National Relief Fund in connection with the committee formed at Ibstock. Mr William Eggerton presided and Mr W. Jacques of Ibstock, outlined what was proposed from Ibstock. Mr W. Dunstan also spoke. A large working committee was formed. Mr J. A. Hume was elected hon. secretary and Mr John Blower as representative on the Executive Committee at Ibstock.

ELLISTOWN

Effort for the Hospital. – A house to house collection was made in Ellistown, Battram, and Bagworth, for the 5th Northern Hospital at Leicester. About 240 parcels were received, these after being sorted and classified by order of the Hospital Authorities, were repaired where necessary by several ladies, who kindly gave their services for this; as well as for the collecting. A summary of the articles shows as follows:-

Bedsteads and mattresses 3, sheets 124, pillow cases 300, towels 172, shirts 107, night shirts 7, woollen shirts 12, pillows 27, blankets 31, counterpanes 18, draw sheets 51, handkerchiefs 39, tablecloths 12, stockings 6 pairs, socks 46, bed socks 7, vests 13, pants 5, cushions 3, rug 1, bedroom slippers 7 pairs, dusters 48, floor cloths 4 bundles, surgical lint etc, 1 bundle, bandages 1 bundle, old linen 12 bundles.

These were conveyed to the Hospital on Wednesday the 19th inst., in the Nailstone Colliery's steam lorry, kindly lent for the occasion. In addition a cheque value £23 7s 10d has also been sent to the hospital.

GRIFFYDAM

National Relief Fund. – On Sunday morning last, a combined effort to assist the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund was made by the Wesleyan and Wesleyan Reform Sunday School scholars and teachers at Griffydham, helped by the presence of a section of Coleorton Boy Scouts. The parties met at 9 a.m. in the playground of the Wesleyan day school where they were placed in marching order and then they paraded the village streets headed by the boy scouts under the control of Scoutmaster David Sporne, and a resident who has served his time under the British flag, wearing, it was noticed, his service medals. Following these came two elder boys carrying a banner bearing the inscription, "God save the King" and "Prince of Wales's Relief Fund". Next in order came the girls, followed by the boys, the teachers marching at intervals by the side of the procession. Halts were made at several houses on the route and appropriate hymns were sung. To four young ladies had been allotted the task of collecting, and armed with boxes, sealed with red, white

and blue paper, this work was very carefully carried out for upon reaching again the starting point and singing the National Anthem it was found that they had collected the handsome sum of £7.

BAGWORTH

Relief Committee. – A meeting in connection with the National Relief Fund was held in the Council Schoolroom on Tuesday evening, Mr J. Emmerson presiding. Mr J. C. Williams has been appointed secretary. The chairman remarked that the time had come when they and all take a part in the work and do their share. A Committee was chosen consisting of about 30 ladies and gentlemen. Three collectors were appointed to collect through the village, viz, Messrs. H. Cherry, H. Ball and T. H. Smith, to collect from any who are not working at the collieries. The collieries are making arrangements (owners and men) to decide what money should be levied each week towards the National Relief Fund.

War Distress. – A largely attended meeting was held in the Council School on Friday evening, Mr W. Eggington, J.P., C.C., presiding. He stated that the meeting was called to consider what steps should be taken to relieve the distress which might arise through the war. The chairman, Mr J. T. Jacques, and Mr W. Dunstan (Ibstock), and Mr J. Emmerson addressed the meeting. Mr Emmerson stated that about £9 and about 80 parcels of goods, and two complete beds had been sent from Bagworth to the Leicester Military Hospital. After some discussion it was decided to form a committee to work in conjunction with the National Relief Fund. Mr J. C. Williams was elected secretary.

SWEPSTONE DISTRICT AND THE WAR

RELIEF COMMITTEE FORMED

The county councillor for the Nailstone Division, Mr J. W. West, J.P., undertook to call a meeting for the formation of a relief committee in connection with the war, for the parishes in his division which were not included in the Coalville area, and the meeting was held at Swebstone on Tuesday night, there being an attendance of about 30, thoroughly representative of the several parishes. The invitations issued were to the clergy of each parish, the chairman and clerk of each parish council, rural district councillors, school master or mistress and, in parishes where there was no parish council, the overseers.

Sir William Abney presided and it was decided that all those invited be on the committee, to be known as the Swebstone Committee, with power to add a number of ladies.

Sir William Abney was appointed chairman of the committee, Mr W. Lambert, the Heather schoolmaster, hon. secretary, and Mr Illsley, of Parr's Bank, Ashby, treasurer. It was decided to form parish committees for collection purposes.

Votes of thanks to Sir William Abney for presiding and to Mr West for convening the meeting were passed.

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RELIEF OF DISTRESS

MEMORANDUM FOR GUIDANCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Local Government Board has issued a memorandum for the Guidance of the Local Committees for the Prevention and Relief of Distress, in which it is stated that the national organisation that has been set up for the purpose of dealing with any distress which may arise in consequence of the war is not intended to deal with cases of ordinary poverty.

While it may not always be possible to discriminate between ordinary distress and distress caused by the war, it is not intended that the local committees which have been constituted should supersede the poor law authorities. The committee is entrusted with the duty of co-ordinating all relief agencies in the locality with a view both to preventing overlapping and to seeing that cases which require assistance are not overlooked.

It is essential for these purposes that a register should be kept on the lines laid down in the Board's circular letter of August 17th.

Obviously the best way to provide for persons thrown out of their usual employment as a result of the war is to provide them with other work for wages. Wherever possible, such work should be work which is normally required to be taken in hand either by public authorities or private employers. It is only when these fail that recourse should be had to relief works. The Labour Exchanges have been instructed to co-operate with the committees in regard to this matter.

The committee should, so far as possible, use the existing agencies, such as the Labour Exchanges (in respect of the conditions of employment), and the poor law authorities, as to the possibility of expediting schemes of public utility, which might otherwise not be put in hand at the present moment.

Whatever work is undertaken by local authorities, whether it be normal work, or expedited work, it should in all possible cases be performed in the ordinary way by men specially suited to that class of work, and selected as such in the ordinary labour market, rather than by men selected from the register of applicants to the committee. The men engaged should be required to conform to the ordinary standards of competence in that class of work and should, of course, be paid wages in the ordinary way.

So far as possible applicants for assistance should be offered work which they can perform efficiently and no assistance from the relief fund should be offered to any person for whom suitable work is available. Single men, who, physically fit and within the prescribed ages for enlistment in the army, navy or territorial forces should not ordinarily receive assistance from the local committee until other applicants have been provided for.

Relief without work should only be given when no other means of assistance are available and so far as it may prove necessary in the last resort to provide relief without work, it must be recognised that the demands upon the funds available will in all probability be such as to make it impossible to do more than provide relief upon a minimum scale.

Food tickets on local shops are suggested in preference to grants of money.

LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE

Colonel W. A. Harrison, the officer commanding the 4th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, states that 4th Battalion to the extent of six companies has been accepted for foreign service if required.

It will be remembered that the whole battalion volunteered at full strength, but only six companies (which will form a unit) have been accepted on account of the number of recruits who have still to be trained.

Colonel Harrison is desirous of filling as soon as possible, the places of those who are unable to serve abroad owing to deficient physical development of youth, and the battalion now requires to be brought up to war establishment about 250 men, who are healthy and physically fit, and willing to do foreign service. Men who have had experience will, of course, be preferred. Recruits are also required for service at home. It is intended to use those men who are unable to accompany the Battalion as the nucleus of a battalion to be used for home defence.

The 5th Battalion has also been accepted on the same basis, and they too, will require more men.

SPORT AND THE WAR

At a meeting of the Burton Rugby Football Club on Monday evening it was decided to abandon the whole of the fixtures for the season. Mr S. H. Evershed, the old Rugby footballer and captain of the Derbyshire cricket team, stated that 37 members of the Rugby Club had decided to enlist. Footballers and others engaged in games had come in for some severe criticism, but they were going to show that they were ready to serve their King and country, and, if necessary, to lay down their lives.

Burton rowing men also held a meeting on Monday evening. It was reported that 30 members of the Burton Club would on Tuesday join the London Rifle Brigade. It was therefore decided to abandon the autumn scratch races.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES JOINING THE COLOURS

GREAT CENTRAL COMPANY'S IMPORTANT DECISION

The Great Central Railway Company have decided that all their single employees joining the colours will be treated as 'on leave', with pay, that their subscriptions to the super-annuation fund will be paid by the company, and that the men will continue to participate in the advance scales of pay until their return.

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A LEICESTERSHIRE ADMIRAL

Admiral Beatty's name was in everybody's mouth on Saturday and every Englishman was ready to pay tribute to the sterling qualities of his brilliant seamanship.

The Admiral is well known in Leicestershire. His residence is Brooksby Hall, Brooksby. Sir David is 43 years of age, and he is the youngest Rear-Admiral in the Navy. He commands the First Battle-Cruiser Squadron in the Lion. He won distinction and early promotion to the rank of commander by his services with the Nile gunboats in 1898 and further promotion two years later for gallantry in China. Since he reached flag-rank at the age of 39 he has been Naval Secretary to the First Lord. He took up his present command in March last year.

The Lion, the Admiral's flagship is one of our biggest cruisers, her tonnage being 26,350 and her horsepower 70,000, and being armed with eight 13.5 inch and sixteen 4 inch guns, besides smaller weapons.

Lady Beatty, who is well-known in Leicestershire, is a daughter of Mr Marshall Field, the Chicago millionaire, and there are two children, both boys of the marriage, which took place in 1901. She is an intimate friend of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, and while the latter is with the Red Cross in Belgium, Lady Beatty is working with great enthusiasm in London with the same object.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

EMPLOYEES AT THE WAR

The monthly meeting of this Council was held on Tuesday night. Mr R. Blower, J.P., presided and there were also present Messrs T. Y. Hay (vice-chairman), M. McCarthy, S. Perry, A. Lockwood, W. Sheffield, F. Griffin, S. Armson, J. W. Farmer, T. Kelly, W. Fellows, with the clerk (Mr T. E. Jesson), surveyor (Mr L. L. Baldwin), assistant surveyor (Mr G. F. Hurst), and gas works manager (Mr J. W. Eagles).

Highway Committee's Report

At a meeting of the Highways Committee the sub-committee appointed reported that they had purchased three horses from Mr Saddington of Measham, at a cost of £178. The surveyor reported that Messrs Bland and Morton, two of the Council's employees, had left for ambulance service in the navy, and the committee recommend that their wives be paid the full wages of the men for one month the matter then be considered, and also that they be written to that the Council appreciate their husbands' action and that there places be kept open for them.

The National Relief Fund

The clerk reported the receipt of a circular showing what was being done for the National Relief Fund by the Manchester Corporation employees with the suggestion that it might be useful to the Council. At Manchester, the Corporation employees receiving up to 10s per week were paying 1d per week; up to 20s, 3d per week; up to 30s, 6d per week; up to 40s, 9d per week, up to 50s, 1s per week, and up to 60s, 1s 3d per week. In regard to the officials weekly contributions were up to £200 per year, 2 3/4 per cent, up to £400, 3 per cent. The employees had signed a document agreeing to have these amounts deducted from their wages.

The Surveyor said this was being done also at Coalville. Collections were being made weekly and the first amount would be paid into the bank the next day. The figures were practically the same as at Manchester. When it was put to them every man immediately held his hand up in favour of it. Mr Kelly which fund the money was to be paid into.

The Surveyor: *The Prince of Wales's.*

Mr Kelly said there was some misunderstanding on the matter. The Surveyor said that as one of the secretaries to the Central Committee he could say that if anyone had any doubt they should pay that money into Lloyd's Bank at Coalville and the Coalville district would then get the credit for it. If it was paid to the Mayor of Leicester's Fund the town of Leicester would have the credit of it and if it was sent direct to Buckingham Palace the Coalville district would not have the credit for it.

Mr McCarthy said it was explained by the Chairman at the public meeting in the Adult School Hall a fortnight ago. As far as Whitwick was concerned every householder was to be visited systematically every week. Probably the same would be done at Hugglescote, Coalville, Ravenstone, Bardon and Swannington, which were in the district allotted to them. The Clerk said there was also a letter from Middlesborough stating that the Town Council there proposed to arrange a monster demonstration of the friendly societies, also a collection among public school children and choirs singing in the park at which collections would be made.

Mr McCarthy said that if people were going to be called upon at their houses every week they could not give in every other way. The Chairman said these suggestions should be sent to the Relief Committee and this was agreed to.

Letter from Mr Moreton

The Surveyor said he had received a letter from Mr F. Moreton, one of the Council's employees on board ship as an ambulance man. It was dated August 20th and Moreton thanked the Council for their letter which was forwarded to him on August 12th. He added that he was quite well. He regretted that he could not yet inform them of his rate of pay, as the paymaster had not yet been furnished with the particulars and had only advanced sums on account. He expressed hearty thanks to the Council for deciding to pay his wages for 4 weeks and for his leave of absence especially as it was taken without consent. He concluded: "I am very comfortably situated on this ship (no name given) in the sick berth and my health has considerably improved with the sea air and life on board."

Mr McCarthy: *Well done Frank.*

Mr Hay: *A very nice letter.*

Deputy Clerk Appointed

The Local Government Board wrote suggesting that the Council allow leave of absence to officers who were engaged in the naval or military service. Mr Sheffield said he hoped the Council would allow that, as was done at the Ashby Guardians' meeting on Saturday in the case of the clerk's son.

The Chairman said they knew that their clerk had volunteered, and as he might be called up at any time it would be necessary to appoint a deputy clerk pro tem. Mr Fellows moved the appointment of Mr J. F. Jesson (the clerk's brother) and this was seconded by Mr McCarthy and carried.

Mr Jesson thanked the Council.

A Wages Question

Mr Lockwood then mentioned the question as to continuing to pay the wages of the two employees at the war. Mr Fellows said it would not be legal, not being on the agenda. They could not take any business.

Mr Lockwood: *We have taken a lot*

Mr McCarthy: *They ruled me out at Leicester on general business (Laughter).*

Mr Lockwood said they could deal with it in a few minutes. Mr Fellows said they would have to discuss the men's private affairs and it should be taken in committee. In justice to everybody they had to get to know all they could and the surveyor had information which was of a semi-private nature and it was not right to discuss it publicly. (Hear, hear).

The Chairman said he was in the hands of the Council. He had not the least doubt but what every member would be ready to deal with the cases in the most generous manner whether it was taken to Council or committee.

Mr Farmer: *Has the Surveyor information yet as to what they are receiving?*

The Surveyor: *No, I have not.*

Mr Hay: *I can give it to you.*

Mr Farmer seconded Mr Lockwood's motion that the matter be taken in open Council. Mr Perry moved and Mr Griffin seconded that it be in committee and this was carried by seven votes to three.

The Council then went into committee.

PATRIOTIC MEETINGS AT SHEPSHED

RELIEF FUND STARTED

A most successful meeting convened by the Shepshed Urban Council was held on Thursday evening in the Council Schools. Mr C. Mee presided, and there were also on the platform the following members of the Council:

Messrs J. Harriman, C. B. Handford, C. H. Nelson, W. Tapp, W. Baker, W. Whitworth, S. Cook, B. Evans, A. Hubbard, and J. K. Blackburn. Mr H. Morris represented the Charley parish and Dr. Bell and Mr M. Smith (clerk to the council) were also present.

The Chairman explained the object of the meeting, which was to appoint a committee and raise funds for the relief of the distress caused by the war. (Hear, hear).

Mr J. Harriman said there would be many people in Shepshed who would require help and manufacturers and workpeople must do their best. He moved, *"That a fund be raised, and that the amount received be sent to the Prince of Wales's Fund."*

Mr M. Smith, at the request of the chairman, stated that he had wired to the hon. secretary of the Prince of Wales's Fund at Buckingham Palace for a ruling respecting the relief of distress from the Fund, and the reply was that it would be used for the families of soldiers, sailors and Territorials, and all others who suffered from industrial distress due to the war.

Mr H. Morris, in seconding the resolution, said he had pleasure in starting their list with £50 (Applause) and he was commissioned by his three daughters to put their names down for £5 each. (Applause) There would be more if required.

Mr Harriman offered £50 on behalf of Messrs J. and C. Harriman, and also more if required. (Applause) Other subscriptions included:

The Chairman £10, Messrs Whyte and Smith £25, the Trustees of Lambert's Charity £20, the total at the close of the meeting being £182. The resolution was carried unanimously. The Chairman said they would remember that the Co-operative Society had authorised their committee to spend up to 100 guineas, but it would be for the members to decide whether it will be given to the Prince of Wales's Fund.

Mr A. Hubbard moved that a committee be formed, the nucleus of which should be the Urban District Council, with power to co-opt on similar lines to the Coronation Committee. Mr C. G. Harriman seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously. The Chairman stated that they hoped to get as a first effort £500.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Matters discussed at the Coalville Urban Council meeting on Tuesday night for the most part related to the war and in all the decisions arrived at we think the Council will have the support of the public. The question as to continuing to pay the wages of employees who have gone to the war was taken in committee since matters relating to the men's private affairs had to be discussed, and we understand that the decision was to continue to pay until it was definitely ascertained that the men were receiving their full pay from the war office.

The National Relief Fund has decided to repay to Boards of Guardians the cost of poor relief granted since the outbreak of war to dependants of soldiers and sailors, including Territorials, who were not previously in receipt of such relief. The announcement is made by the Local Government Board which has instructed Guardians to inform recipients that the help is not to be treated as poor law relief, and to erase the names of recipients from their record.

Thirty of the ladies of Coalville and District who have offered their services as nurses and have been attending classes at the Adult School Hall, presented themselves for examination at the hall on Saturday. They were examined by Dr. Sevestre, of Leicester, and the result is highly satisfactory, 27 having passed. Other exams will be arranged as candidates are prepared. Those who are successful will have to pass a further examination in home nursing and will then be drafted to various hospitals in the county.

It seems probable that there will be a truce to municipal elections this year. Who will want to fight electoral battles, when our country is fighting for its very existence? The times are far too critical for party bickerings and petty municipal squabbles. At a crisis like this, the whole British Empire is one – a great united entity, animated by one purpose. Party feeling is hushed, individual opinions are submerged in a common patriotism. There would be something almost disloyal in party wrangling, when there is so much distress before us, so much disorganisation of industry, and much personal bereavement.

The Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund should benefit considerably by the efforts of a number of Coalville ladies to-day and Saturday by the sale of little flags, rosettes, etc. A large sale is anticipated and Saturday should be quite a "Prince's Day."

Recruiting at Coalville is proceeding satisfactorily. The officers in charge are Colour Sergts. Wain and Sharp and men are being enrolled daily at the Labour Exchange in Hotel Street. On Saturday last there were 19, Monday 6, Tuesday 6, Wednesday 4 and yesterday 17. Between the 12th and 27th of August, 80 men were enrolled in Coalville for Lord Kitchener's new army and the number to date from this district for the new army is 120.

During the week there have been some affecting scenes at Coalville Midland Station. Batches of men are leaving almost daily for Wigston Barracks and other destinations and have been given hearty send-offs by large crowds assembled, through the tears in the eyes of the women folk show the patriotic side to it all. "Are we down-hearted?" shouted a group of youths as the train moved off with them the other morning to which there was a loud resounding "No!"

The Ibstock recruiting meeting on Wednesday night was one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in the place. Thirty recruits were enrolled straight off and this number was largely increased when the Recruiting Sergeants paid another visit to the town last night.

At a recruiting meeting at Market Bosworth on Monday night, 19 recruits were enrolled, 15 from Bosworth, two Cadeby, and one each from Shenton and Barlestone. They left Coalville by the 11.45 express yesterday.

Mr J. W. Nunley, of London Road, Coalville, has contributed £5/5/0 to the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund through the local collectors.

The employees of Messrs Griffin Bros. at a meeting last Saturday, decided to work one hour per week, and give their pay to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, which is to be sent to the Coalville district account. Messrs P. R. Wood, H. Clamp and S. Marper were appointed committee.

Mrs J. J. Sharp, of the White House, Whitwick, desires to acknowledge the receipt for the 5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester, of 100 sheets, and 100 bed jackets from the parishes of Hugglescote, Ibstock, Ravenstone, and Whitwick, and also 100 sheets from Whitwick for the Leicester Red Cross Society, who require 200 more sheets. The 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment are urgently asking for shirts and socks, the sizes of the shirt collars to be 15, 16 and 16 1/2.

COALVILLE AND THE WAR

COLLECTORS APPOINTED

A meeting was held in the Adult School Hall, Coalville, on Tuesday night to appoint collectors for the Prince of Wales's War Relief Fund in Coalville parish. Mr J. West presided and members of the Central Committee present were Capt. McKennon, Messrs W. Hurst, W. Eames, W. Lindley, W. Sheffield, C. W. Brown, and L. L. Baldwin.

Mr F. S. Weaver (hon. sec.) reported that he had written to all places of worship requesting them to appoint four collectors and all had sent in names except Coalville Ebenezer Baptist Unitarian, Plymouth Brethren and the Cave Adullam Church.

Districts were mapped out and the following collectors appointed:

London Road, Fox and Goose to Baptist Chapel, Mrs Pickering and Mrs Goacher.
Cambridge and Charnwood Streets, Mr Beard and Mrs Merry.
Oxford and Bakewell Streets, Mrs Andrews and Mrs York.
Park Road, Mr T. Goacher and Mr Peck.
Victoria Road and Albert Road, Mr W. Clark and Mr A. Beasley.
Hermitage Road, Mammoth Street and Stone Row, Mr T. Goacher and Mr C. W. Brown.
Club Row, Victoria Hotel to the Charnwood Forest Laundry, Mr H. Cory and Mr E. Cory.
Hotel Street, High Street, and Mantle Lane, Mrs Clibbery and Mrs Rowell.
Ashby Road, Ravenstone Turn and Hoo Ash, Mrs Heighton and Mrs Sharman.
Margaret Street and Jackson Street, Mr and Mrs Overton.
Belvoir Road from Snibstone New Inn to Mr J. Atkins's, Mrs Hall and Mrs Fairbrother.
Bridge Road, Scotlands Road and Berrisford Street, Mr A. Wood and Mr Dooley.
Gutteridge Street, James Street and Vaughan Street, Mr Carey Brown and Mr D. Marston.
Melbourne Street and Owen Street, Mrs Savage and Mrs Boot.
Highfields Street and St. Saviour's Road. Mr L. Sheffield and Mr J. Sheffield.
Forest Road and Bardon Road, Mrs Burton and Mrs Holyoak.

The necessary cards and books were handed out to the collectors and it was left to them to arrange with the people as to whether they should call weekly or otherwise. Another meeting of the committee was fixed for next Tuesday night.

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Special services were held at Coalville United Methodist Church on Sunday conducted by the Rev. J. Proudfoot, of Loughborough, formerly of West Africa. The children and choir sang nicely under the direction of Mr J. W. Burton and the collections for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund realised £1 15s.

MOTOR ACCIDENT AT COALVILLE

BOY INJURED

A motor accident happened on in Belvoir Road, Coalville, about 6.30 on Monday night. Capt. Stevenson with Scout Master White, Scout Boot and Col-Sergt. Wain, were motoring to Market Bosworth to a recruiting meeting there, and when near the Halfway House, a lad named John Barber, aged about 11 years, son of John Barber, collier, residing near, ran across the road in front of the car and was knocked down. He

received injuries to his head and was attended by Dr. Wykes of Hugglescote, Scout Bagshaw in the meantime having rendered first aid.

RECRUITING AT IBSTOCK

ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC MEETING

ROUSING SPEECH BY MR C. A. MONTAGUE BARLOW M.P.

Ibstock was raised to a high pitch of patriotism on Wednesday night by a large mass meeting which had been convened by Capt. W. E. Stevenson, of Ashby, for recruiting purposes. The Picture Palace, an admirable building for the occasion, was kindly lent and it was packed with an enthusiastic and almost entirely male audience. The Coalville motor 'buses which had been commandeered by the War Office, brought up young men from surrounding parishes and prior to the opening of the meeting the main street of the town was crowded. The Picture Palace outside was a blaze of light, and flags were displayed, while the Ibstock Town Band enlivened the proceedings with patriotic airs. As the audience were taking their places, pictures of military and naval scenes were thrown on the screen, together with portraits of the King and Queen and other famous people and all were received with tremendous cheering.

Mr H. J. Ford, J.P., of Heather, presided at the meeting and was supported on the platform by Mr C. A. Montague Barlow, M.P., the principal speaker, Mrs F. Abel-Smith, (Coleorton Hall), Capt. Stevenson, the Rev. S. Flood, Dr. T. Nash Wilson, Mr M. Barlow, Mr W. Dunstan, Mr Thornton, Mr B. Wain and others.

The Chairman, who was cheered on rising, said they were passing through the greatest crisis in their history and were engaged in a life and death struggle for the supremacy of the British Empire. Every patriotic Englishman had looked with pride on the deeds of our army and navy in the past, and were indeed proud of what they were doing now. England would win the war. (Loud Applause.) They did not mean to sheath the sword until the German military tyrant had been put down. It was a terrible conflict they had been brought into, but they would conquer, and make those suffer who had brought all this trouble on the civilised world. (Cheers.)

Mr Barlow said he stood before them not as a politician but as an Englishman to appeal to them to do their duty in this great crisis. War was a terrible thing for all, especially for the poor innocent women and children. What was the position? As they knew, there were two great nations in the middle of Europe – Germany and Austria – with Russia on the right and England and France on the left and plucky little Belgium (applause) in between.

In 1911, in the Agadir crisis they had a warning as to the war which had come upon them. He would give four reasons why they were at war. Supposing they had stood aside and let Germany beat France? Germany would have absorbed Holland, Belgium and the North of France and would have captured the French fleet. And what then? It would have been turned on us and we should have had to bear the brunt of the whole battle without such splendid allies as we had. That was the first reason. The second reason was that by treaty obligations they were bound to protect the neutrality of Belgium. (Hear, hear.) Germany offered to take no French territory if England would stand aside, but when that was enquired into it was found that Germany meant to take the French Colonies – a most infamous proposal. The third reason, and a vital one, was that Germany meant them to be in the war. It had been planned for a long time, the idea of Germany thinking she could beat England and France and become the predominant power in Europe and in the world. The fourth reason, the highest of all, was that they were determined to show to the world that there was something higher than mere brute force – that there was such a thing as honour and justice among nations. (Applause.) Our position in the war, broadly looked at – they would have reverses of course – was a favourable one. They had never seen the navy mobilised so quickly. He had criticised Mr Winston Churchill in politics, but now regarded him as a strong man at the head of naval affairs who was determined to win. (Cheers) Then they had some fine allies and the neutrality of Italy, which was rather disturbing to the Germans.

Two good things they also had in this country were a fine harvest and an amazing unity of political opinion (Applause). He was a member of the opposition but he was pleased to say that they were all united on this question. Then they had the loyal support of the colonies and they were rallying to the old flag splendidly. (Cheers.) He was in Canada last autumn and spoke at meetings there, and he knew that they had their political differences, but in this conflict they had the united support of the colonies. They also had the approval of their action of the whole civilised world not engaged in the war. America was horrified at the German atrocities. They (the Germans) were practising things that were condemned in the middle ages, the

shooting of the wounded, shocking treatment of innocent women and children and other things. He went on to record some of the horrible actions of the Germans which he said were absolutely authenticated. They could believe anything of the Germans now. Men in that district were interested in mining and could they imagine anything more horrible than that when the Germans got to Mons and found that there were men in the mines, they shut down the mine. ("Brutes" and "Dirty Cowards") Then there was the burning of that beautiful city, Louvain. These acts had turned the whole of the civilised world against Germany. But he urged that it was the duty of Englishmen not to lose their heads. They would have disasters, but they must see to it that they were not wasteful in regard to money and food. He knew what splendid work the women were doing (Applause) in making garments and preparing to nurse the sick, but it was a meeting of men that night and he made an appeal to them as a man to a man. He had served ten years in the Territorials and now held a commission in the National Reserves, and he had offered his services to the War Office, but was told he was too old. The cry in the old days was "who's for the King?" And he would say that night, "who is for the King and country?" It was no use relying on the French, the Russians or the plucky little Belgians; they must rely on their own strength. The British army was as good now as ever. He spoke of brave deeds of the past – what of the holding of Ladysmith? (Applause) That was a glorious page in our history and he believed the same spirit prevailed today. But the only thing that would win this war was men, men, men, up to one million or two millions if necessary. They wanted to enrol men and the force which had the greatest claim upon them was the second 100,000 men Lord Kitchener was asking for. They would be trained and if necessary, the third hundred thousand, the fourth and fifth till Lord Kitchener cried 'Halt!' Who would be the first from that meeting?

A Voice: *Me.*

A remarkable scene followed; numerous other men responding to the call amidst tremendous cheering. "*Roll up*" said Mr Barlow, "*I should like to tell Sir Henry Rawlinson at the War Office that this was a record meeting. (Cheers) I have addressed meetings all over the country but never one where a better tone or greater enthusiasm has prevailed.*" (Cheers)

Capt. Stevenson: *We have 25 so far sir.*

Mr Barlow: *We want to double that.*

Proceeding he said that perhaps some others wanted to speak to their sweethearts first. He hoped the young ladies of Ibstock would have some influence that night and he was arranging for recruiting sergeants to come to the Ram Inn from 6 to 8 o'clock the next night (Thursday) and he hoped there would be a large attendance. (Cheers)

The Rev. E. Curling (Ellistown) said he wished to speak because his wife was Alsatian from that part which Germany robbed from France, and he knew the feeling there. He spoke of the contemptuous way the German officers treated the men and said he felt sure the Allies would win in spite of the way the German hordes were being brought up. They were confident of winning because they were fighting for right and justice and God was on their side. It was splendid that the Kaiser had been the means of showing the loyalty of India. (Cheers) They knew that Canada was loyal and the other colonies also, but they could hardly have anticipated India's millions showing that they wanted to fight for the King. Thank God for India. (Cheers).

Capt. Stevenson said he was recruiting officer for the district and they had passed over 600 names. (Cheers). That was the largest meeting he had held. He knew the stuff that Ibstock was made of and that was why he fixed on Ibstock. (Cheers). He expressed thanks to the Palace owners for the free use of the building and he urged the young men to come forward and let Ibstock top the list for the number of recruits in one evening. (Applause).

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem and cheers for the army and navy and the Ibstock men who had joined that night.

DO YOU KNOW?

That the application of the Coalville police to the owners of motor cars for use of the cars if needed has met with a splendid response?

That the Coalville 'buses were "commandeered" on Wednesday night to convey people to the recruiting meeting at Ibstock?

That the Coalville Women's Liberal Association have contributed five guineas to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund?

That a collection at the Coalville Wesleyan Church for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund realised £4/7/6?

That a public meeting is to be held Whitwick National School for recruiting purposes next Monday night?

That Ashby Hastings cannot go to Bagworth to play a Coalville League Football match tomorrow owing to six of their players having joined the army?

That Lord Aberconway and the Hon. H. D. McLaren, M.P., have each contributed one hundred guineas to the Leicester and Leicestershire Patriotic Fund?

That recruiting for the new army is proceeding satisfactorily at Coalville, 19 men having been sworn in on Saturday, and seven on Monday?

That owing to the war, Pegg's Green Football Club have written withdrawing from the first division of the Coalville Football League?

That parish constables in Coalville and district have been notified that they may be called upon at any time for special duty in connection with the war and must hold themselves in readiness?

That a number of first class police reserves were sworn in by Major Hatchett and Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Station on Monday take the place of policemen who have gone to the war?

That Mr A. Emmerson, of Bagworth, has taken temporary charge of the New Swannington Council Day School while the headmaster, Mr S. Leivers, is with the Territorials?

That the collection at Coalville Town Football Club's second practice match on the Wagon and Horses ground on Saturday realised 19/8 for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund?

That one of the officers on the light cruiser, "Amethyst," which was reported to have taken part in the North Sea battle, is Sub-Lieut. Rudolph H. E. M. P. De Lisle, son of Mr and Mrs E. M. P. De Lisle, of Garendon, and formerly of Gracedieu Warren?

That during the war, the vicar of Coalville (the Rev. S. Hosking) has offered to supply free of charge to the families of any men on active service, any certificate, birth, marriage, etc, as far as they may be obtainable from the Parish Church Registers?

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AGES OF ENLISTMENT

The War Office issued an army order on Sunday amending the conditions of enlistments for the regular army and Special Reserve, providing that certain selected men, who were non-commissioned officers in the regular army above the rank of sergeant at the time of discharge, may be accepted up to the age of 50 years; men who have served in the regular army, militia, special reserve, territorial, or volunteer forces for not less than one year, and discharged with a military character not less than fair, to the ages of 45 years; and men who have not previously served may be accepted may be accepted up to the ages of 19 and 35.

"I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT"

A LOUGHBOROUGH DESERTER

On Monday, at Loughborough, David Noel Page, 23, pleaded guilty to deserting from his regiment the Royal Field Artillery.

Detective-Sergeant Stapleton and P.C. Bramall visited the defendant's father's house in Toothill Road on Saturday night. Asked for his discharge papers the defendant said he had none. At the police station it was found that the deserter was gazetted as a deserter from Woolwich on November 5th last year. Defendant was handed over to an escort.

The presiding magistrate (Ald. W. Moss) to defendant: *I think you will volunteer now and be pleased to go back and fight for your country.*

Defendant: *No. I don't want to fight; I wish I had never joined the army.*

HOW RELATIVES MAY OBTAIN INFORMATION

A memorandum has been issued by the War Office to assist inquirers to obtain in the most direct manner information regarding soldiers at the front. It states:

"When information is received regarding the health or safety of an officer it is at once telegraphed from the War Office to his next-of-kin, to the Press, and the news agencies. Information received as to the health or safety of any soldier is communicated to the next-of-kin by the Military Record Office in which the man's history of service is kept."

ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS

WITH THE TERRITORIALS

The Clerk read a copy of an order from the Local Government Board providing for leave of absence for, and the payment of, substitutes for officers of Boards of Guardians serving with the forces. The Clerk added that the only case to which the order would apply was that of his son (Lieut. R. D. Farmer), and he asked the Board to allow him leave of absence from his office as deputy-clerk. The application was granted.

The Clerk: *Thank you very much.*

The Chairman: *I hope he will soon be back again.* (Hear, hear.)

LETTERS

"FARMER'S PATRIOTISM"

Sir, Might I trespass on your courtesy to print out a little fact that has, think, escaped observation, and that is that those farmers round Bagworth, Thornton and the surrounding parishes who have sons of eligible age for military purposes, physically fit, and with no responsibilities, will never have the pleasure of reading a glowing account of their sons' prowess in the present war. This seems a pity as I feel sure these fathers and sons must discuss the war news with feelings of patriotism – "farmers' patriotism" evidently. We now know the worth of "farmers' patriotism." These strapping farmers' sons have got in their harvest, and time must just now be hanging on their hands a bit, and yet the cowards prefer to stay at home, sneaking behind their sisters' or mothers' petticoats rather than take their place where "men" are.

I should like also to take this opportunity that I am refusing to sign on and find employment for any single men between 19 and 35. Might I ask for the co-operation of other colliery managers and employers of labour in the district?

Yours faithfully

J. E. Homer

NEW £1 AND 10S NOTES

The Treasury announces, in reply to enquiries that the size of the new £1 notes will be 5 15/16 inch, by 3 5/16 inch., and the new 10s note will probably be slightly smaller than that.

APPEAL TO LOUGHBOROUGH MEN

Within five days the Loughborough Town Hall has been crowded out, hundreds being unable to gain admission, for the purposes of recruiting both branches of the service. A meeting on Tuesday night was addressed by Major Toller, of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who appealed for a few trained men to fill up the ranks of the 5th Battalion for foreign service; others for Lord Kitchener's army; and the raising of the 7th Battalion for the county of Leicester territorials for home defence. Major Toller said they were at the head of any of the four regiments which were assembled in the Lincoln and Leicester Brigade, and he wanted Loughborough to help to keep them ahead.

Sir Maurice Levy, M.P., in appealing to the young men to enlist, urged them to play their part in fighting for the great victory of freedom and national spirit which we prayed, by the aid of the Almighty, might steadily be achieved for the nation. (Cheers)

Colonel Piercey and Messrs. Cartwright, W. C. Burder and F. A. Stenson also addressed the meeting.

COALVILLE VICAR AND THE WAR

FIGHTING WITH CLEAN HANDS

The Vicar of Coalville, writing in the September issue of the "Coalville Parish Magazine" states: Those who stay at home have a very difficult part to play, at a time like this. The weary waiting for news that is so slow in coming, puts a great tax upon our patience. It is more than likely that the cultivation of this very virtue of patience is one of the very best things for us. Every lesson that is worth learning is a hard lesson, and often, the harder the lesson, the better we are for learning it. Our waiting is but a very small thing compared with patience of those on active service in the field, who have not only been waiting, but have had the momentary expectation of being called into the grip of death.

The war, with all its initial crime, and subsequent horrors will be of immense benefit in some ways. One of the first was the sinking – at any rate for the present – all those nagging differences, which in a moment of crisis seem so very small and so very necessary. It put party out of politics, and showed that none were for a party, and all were for the state. It brought out the brotherliness of our great family from every corner of the globe, with offers of help in men and money, and has constrained our young manhood to come forward and offer itself for the country's need. Let us hope there is not a young man in Coalville of the proper age for service in the army in this emergency, and who has no home ties, who has not at least offered his services to his country. Let the men be men.

Perhaps the best side of the crisis for us will be the bringing us back to a sense of the seriousness of life and forcing us upon our knees in dependence upon God. Some of the writers upon current topics have described us as a "Nation at Prayer." And so it must be. If the war and the losses by the war bring us back to seriousness and prayer, we, as a nation, shall have an immense gain to set against the losses we are sure to sustain in one way and another.

And let us never forget that we can approach the Throne of Grace with clean hands as far as the war is concerned. As a nation we neither sought it nor desired it, and did our very best up to the last moment to avoid it.

We can very well ask God to give victory to us and our Allies, and to turn back the storm of tyranny projected by our enemies.

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LEICESTER TERRITORIALS

A ROSE DAY REALISES £280

On Saturday afternoon a draft of about 250 recruits who will make up the war strength of the 4th Leicester (Territorial) Battalion left Leicester to join their comrades at the present headquarters of the battalion near London. The contingent comprise a fine looking body of young fellows, having been selected from three times their number who desired to join. They were accompanied by about 60 additional young men who had entered the Officers' Training Corps, and who will probably enlist in batches of friends in their line regiments.

Capt. Bedingfield has sent a letter to the Leicester Football Club expressing appreciation of the kindness of the executive in placing the ground and club-house in Welford Place at the disposal of the military authorities for drilling purposes.

Recruiting in Leicester and the county for Lord Kitchener's army continues to be exceeding brisk. About 800 recruits left the depot at Wigston on Saturday, leaving 1,000 still at the barracks.

On Saturday, a Rose Day was held in Leicester on behalf of the Prince of Wales's Fund. Something like 14,000 blooms given to the Mayor by professional and other growers of roses were sold in the streets, and in the evening Councillor Frears announced that the sum of £280 had been added to the local fund.

ON THE SAME PLATFORM

HON. H. D. McCLAREN AND MR A. E. HAWLEY

AN APPEAL FOR RECRUITS

A large attended meeting was held at Hinckley on Thursday night for the purpose of obtaining recruits for the army. Mr George Kinton, J.P., presided, and was supported by Lady Huntingdon, Lady Kathleen Hastings, Hon. H. D. McClaren, Mr and Mrs A. E. Hawley, Mr Montague Barlow, M.P., and others.

The Chairman remarked on the magnificent response made in the town to the National Relief Fund, inaugurated about a fortnight ago, and which now reached a total exceeding £1,800. the first £1,000 had already been forwarded to Buckingham Palace. He expressed the hope that the response for men would be as generous.

Mr Montague Barlow recounted the reasons why England had to assist in this great European struggle. It was necessary in our own interests to do so; it was necessary for the neutrality of Belgium; and because of our treaty with France. It was not a sudden affair. It had been planned for 20 or 30 years, and it was necessary to crush the German military domination. He appealed strongly for recruits.

Lady Kathleen Hastings said never before had England been menaced by so great a peril as at the present. She appealed to the mothers, sisters and sweethearts to send their men to the war. The Chairman had referred to Lord Nelson's signal. They all knew what that was "England expects everyman will do his duty." She would go further than that and say, "Every man will do his duty." (Loud applause)

The Hon. H. D. McClaren said we had gone into this war with a clear conscience. The war was forced upon us, and we could not honourably avoid it. Had we done so we would have given Germany a chance to defeat France, and afterwards they would have attempted war against us, and we should have then been single-handed. Another thing was, if we want to see peace in Europe in future, we have got to come out victorious in this struggle, and so completely as to crush out the German military domination.

Mr A. E. Hawley expressed the pride it gave him being able to speak on the same platform as Mr McLaren. They had all to stick together now, sinking all differences for the common good, and so they must work until this terrible war was brought to a successful and victorious end. "*Are we downhearted?*" (Cries of "*No*".) Shall

we win? ("Yes"). They wanted men to train for the purpose of reinforcing the great army fighting so heroically at the front. They would fight to a successful and triumphant end, until our army and our Allies could proudly march through to Berlin, having crushed the Kaiser.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem led by the Hinckley Band, under the conductorship of Mr C. A. Whatmore. A number of recruits were subsequently enrolled.

COALVILLE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

£200 FOR THE NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

A special meeting of the members of the Coalville Co-operative Society was held at the Adult School Hall on Saturday evening to consider a contribution to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund in connection with the war. Mr John Bradley presided and the attendance was moderate.

The Chairman said that when they last met in that hall they did not expect having to be called together again so soon and especially for such an object. They all very much regretted the war, and the committee felt it only right that they should submit a proposal to the members to assist in helping the dependants of those who were fighting for their hearths and homes. He would not labour the question, as all were aware of the events which had transpired up to the present time, and he submitted the committee's proposal to them with every confidence of it being adopted. It was that they contribute £200 to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund and that it be taken from the reserve fund and made up by £50 per quarter until the whole had been repaid, and, further, that it be proportionately divided among the branches according to the amount of trade done. They knew that the various amounts would all go in one fund but they wanted to contribute through their own branches so that the local funds would get the credit of it. The proportion worked out as follows: Central £100, Ellistown £13, Hugglescote £15, Ibstock £20, Bagworth £20, Swannington £8, Thringstone £5 and Whitwick £20. That would amount to £155 in the Coalville area, outside which were Thringstone, Bagworth and Ibstock. The whole worked out at something like a 1/4d in the £ on the sales per quarter and he did not think they would feel it much or that it would lower the dividend. He asked someone to move the adoption of that suggestion or otherwise.

Mr Frank Cook said he regretted that no mention was made of the Belgian Fund, which he thought was most deserving. The Chairman said the Belgian Fund had not been inaugurated when the committee considered this. It had been mentioned among the committee since and possibly something would be done for the Belgian Fund but it could not be taken at the meeting that night, since it was a special meeting called to consider the other.

Mr J. P. Bennett said he questioned whether the term "relief fund" would not cover the Belgian Fund as well. Mr John Smith (Belvoir Road) said it was a different fund altogether.

Mr Bennett: *They are fighting for the same thing.*

Mr Smith said there were others besides the dependants of soldiers who wanted help – those who were thrown out of work. Mr Bennett said all such cases came under the National Relief Fund. The Chairman said the National Fund was stated in the minute and much as he sympathised with the Belgian Fund he could only take the one that night.

Mr H. Reesby said they could safely leave that to the committee. This meeting had been called to sanction a grant of £200, more or less, to the National Relief Fund. He hoped they would be unanimous in the matter and pointed out how Liberals, Conservatives, the Labour Party and all classes were working harmoniously together to further this fund.

Mr John Taylor asked whether any volunteers had gone from the Society's employees. The Chairman said there was one reservist who had only been in their employ for three weeks, but the committee made his wife a weekly grant for a month and would then reconsider it. He enquired of the baker that morning and ascertained that the young man was stationed at Bedford at present. Mr F. Cook moved that the committee's proposal be accepted. Mr Lane seconded and said he hoped the committee would further consider the case of an employee joining the colours.

The Chairman: *You can rely on the committee seeing that his wife and children don't suffer.* (Hear, hear)

Mr T. Hardy supported the resolution, remarking that it was as little as they could do. He would like it to have been more. It was a grave crisis and looked like lasting for a long time though in that he hoped they would be deceived. Some of them, himself included, were too old to assist with the army, but there had to be hewers of wood and drawers of water and they should all help in any way they could. That was a duty devolving upon every true Briton.

Mr G. W. Brown pointed out that the National Fund was to assist in all cases of distress, as well as the wives and dependants of soldiers and sailors. Mr John Smith held that the Government ought to pay the soldiers enough to make this charity unnecessary. If he were a soldier he would consider such charity as an insult and he would like to move that an expression of opinion go from that meeting that the Government should pay the soldiers a proper minimum wage.

The Chairman said they all had their own personal opinions, but at times like these they had to sink them. (Hear, hear). Mr Collins said the chairman had remarked that they would hardly feel the contribution of £200, so did not the committee think that they could not go a bit further?

The Chairman said that there might be the necessity to make a further contribution later on, though he hoped not. Mr John Taylor said that if any of the employees went he hoped the committee would impress on those left behind the necessity of seeing that their dependants did not lack in regard to wages. As co-operators they should look after their own first and give what help they could afterwards. In his opinion it was the workers who would have to look after the dependants of workers and see that they did not lack in any shape or form.

Mr Hardy said some employees were paying a certain percentage weekly. He did not think there was any fear for the present. The resolution was carried unanimously and the chairman said they were having a meeting of the employees in that room on Monday night to see what they would do.

MEETING OF THE EMPLOYEES

A meeting of the employees of the Coalville Co-operative Society was held in the Adult School Hall on Monday night to consider the steps to be taken to assist the National Relief Fund. Mr John Bradley presided and explained the object of the meeting. After some discussion the employees decided to make weekly contributions but that the amount should be voluntary. The manager, (Mr A. Lockwood) was asked to see each employee individually for them to state the amount they were prepared to give and that would be stopped from their wages each week and paid into the fund to the credit of the employees.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE "PALS" CORPS

An immediate and gratifying response is being made to this call, and scores of young men registering their names. The Corps is for Leicestershire athletes of every denomination who will form a battalion of their own, which will be attached to one of the Leicestershire Regiments. The primary advantage is that "Pals" will be enabled to serve together and thus ensure an "esprit de corps" that is so desirable. When recruited to strength, the whole body will be transferred to the military authorities, who will immediately deal with them in connection with Kitchener's Army. Names will be enrolled by Mr S. C. Packer, hon. secretary, 2, Newarke Street.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Some alarm was occasioned on Friday night to the patrols on watch at the Coalville Urban Council's reservoir on the Forest. One of them declares that about 2 o'clock in the morning he heard a motor cycle come up and stop at a certain point near the reservoir. Afterwards a noise was heard as of someone coming through the plantation towards the water, but ascertaining that the guards were alert, beat a hasty retreat.

The secretaries to the Coalville Central Relief Committee desire it to be known that mere applications for registration of the dependants of men who have joined the colours are not regarded as applications for relief. This is simply for the information of the Committee. If there are any cases of distress they should make application to the secretaries for relief without delay.

The Coalville Women Unionists' Association at a meeting on Tuesday night, presided over by Mrs W. Eames, decided on the motion of Mrs S. Brown, seconded by Mrs Pearson, to take £5 from the Association's funds and spend same on materials to be made up into garments by the members and friends for the children of soldiers and sailors in Coalville and district.

As a result of the sale of miniature flags and rosettes on Saturday last, Mrs J. H. Massey and Miss Lager have handed over to the local treasurer of the Prince of Wales's Fund the handsome sum of £31. The total receipts were £31/10/0 1/2 and as the promoters with one or two friends bore the expenses, 10s to the Leicester Infirmary in recognition of the loan of boxes was the only payment. Many thanks are due to the ladies who made such a successful sale, Mr Tebbutt for various kinds of assistance including the loan of a room for the use of the lady workers, to Mr H. F. Lamb who acted as despatch rider for the workers, and Mr Winchbank. The little effort was in every way successful, and such a satisfactory sum from an accumulation of coppers proves once again the truth of the old Scottish adage, "*Many a mickle mak's a muckle.*"

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15 of the employees of the Whitwick Granite Co., have joined the colours and the company are paying 10/- per week each to their wives and 1/- a week for each dependant child. The employees of the firm are working one hour per week for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund.

COALVILLE MAN WOUNDED

Private J. Goulson, son of Mr J. Goulson, photographer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, was wounded in the recent fighting and has now been discharged from hospital, arriving home last night. He is in the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

BELGIAN REFUGEES IN COALVILLE

STUDENT WHO FLED FROM LOUVAIN

GERMAN ATROCITIES – GRAPHICALLY DESCRIBED BY AN EYE-WITNESS

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Hearing that a number of Belgian refugees had yesterday, (Thursday) arrived at Coalville and were staying at the Convent, Forest Road, a representative of this paper last night called at the Convent, was courteously received by the Sisters and introduced to their guests, who were found to be a clergyman to the Roman Catholic Church and a student from the University of Louvain, both of Portuguese nationality, and also four little girls. The clergyman, the Rev. J. Magalhaes, was in Brussels at the time of the entry of the Germans, and the student, M. Manuel Macedo, was pursuing his studies at Louvain, when, with others, he had to flee for his life, but before leaving the city, witnessed some of the dastardly acts of the Germans upon which the whole civilised world looks with horror and disgust.

The interview was conducted in French, one of the Sisters' kindly acting as interpreter. The writer was informed that the Belgians at Louvain offered no resistance after the occupation of the town and the German troops had been there some time when the work of destruction was commenced. It was commenced at midnight, said M. Macedo, and the big guns made a terrible noise. By three o'clock in the morning several of the churches were on fire, including the famous Church of St. Peter. It was in the early hours of that memorable morning, he said, that he fled from Louvain, and reached a place known as Tervurean, a suburb of Brussels, famous for its museum of curios from the Congo. He went on to describe how several priests were arrested and made prisoners, and practically all their belongings stolen from them. Upon one of the priests was found a diary in which he had made a daily record of the doings in Louvain and the penalty for doing this was his life, for in the presence of other priests he was led out and shot by four German soldiers, and as he fell, grasping a crucifix in his hand another bullet was put through him by a German officer. Crowds of people were seen during the journey to Brussels, who were homeless, their houses having been burned; their belongings had all gone and they were practically starving. Included were many women and children. He also stated that bodies of German soldiers were being buried in heaps while groaning was still to be heard from some of them – buried alive. The carcasses of the horses were allowed to remain unburied, and the smell was awful.

Continuing his narrative, M. Macedo said the Germans were particularly cruel at Soignies. Arms of civilians were cut off in the Market Place, and even young girls were killed who refused to sacrifice their honour to the lowest of the German soldiers. In the course of his journey to Brussels, which he accomplished on foot, he was once arrested as a spy, but was able to satisfy the authorities, and was liberated.

Questioned as to the state of affairs in Brussels, the Rev. J. Magalhaes said the people were getting very short of food. Meat was very scarce, and the poorer classes were having to go to the Government houses asking for food. The Germans were taking all the corn they could from the Belgians and sending it to Germany. German soldiers he saw and conversed with in Brussels seemed very exhausted and were under the impression that they had got to within 20 miles of Paris – their objective. They were misled by their officers in this way, when they got to a place called Enghien, but there is a town of a similar name in Belgium, which they were told was the French town of that name. The German troops too, had the appearance of being very hungry, and with revolvers pointed at Belgians, demanded food. They saw 150 English prisoners at Enghien, there being also some Scotsmen, emphasising this by intimating that they were wearing kilts. They were in the charge of forty armed Germans, and appeared to be treated well. German marines were in Brussels, the soldiers evidently being wanted elsewhere. All men in Germany between the ages of 17 and 60 had been called up and most of the soldiers left in Brussels were elderly men, some of them being grey-headed.

On the helmets of all the German soldiers are inscribed the words, "God and Fatherland," and on the belts, "God is with us." The feeling of Belgians towards the British, the writer ascertained is splendid. The Belgians were a little disappointed that the French did not arrive to help them sooner and little French flags and emblems which were freely worn on the coats of the Belgians have now given place to similar English adornments. The faith of Belgium, and also indeed of France, in the British is very strong, and especially in the British navy. The Germans, it was stated, are not so much afraid of the English shooting as of the bayonet charges of which they have great dread.

The two refugees made their way from Brussels to Ostend mostly on foot and crossed to Folkestone on Wednesday. Owing to the danger from mines, the vessel proceeded along the coast from Ostend to Calais before heading for England. To-night (Friday) they leave for Liverpool to sail for Vigo in Spain. The four little girls, who are Brazilians, and were on their way to a boarding school in Switzerland, will stay at the Convent as boarders.

COALVILLE NATIONAL RESERVISTS OPTIMISM

HOW THE GERMAN PRISONERS ARE GUARDED

The following letter was received on Tuesday by Captain W. E. Stevenson from one of his first class National Reservists, Pte. James Peace, late of the Grenadier Guards.

No. 2347, Pte. J. Peace, A.C. Co., Kitchener's Army, Detingen Barracks, King's Royal Rifles, Blackwood Camp, Hampshire. – To Capt. W. E. Stevenson – Honoured Sir, I hope you will excuse the privilege I am taking, but I cannot help letting you know how we are getting on. I have got my old billet back again – company storeman. I have got to serve about 130 rifles out and I shall be glad when I can give them one each, they are a very serviceable weapon. We Leicestershire men have received our bounty, but we all sent it home to our wives. Your words, sir, have come true about the raw material we have got to put through it, but it will be the making of them. We have already got the boys quiet, they all get plenty of food. I have got about two loaves and about half a pound of beef left over from breakfast this morning, so we are all right so far. The C.O. says it will take six months to pull them through and I quite believe him. We have got about 2000 Germans in a compound close to us. They can't get away as there is a tangle of electric wire all around and if they go near it, it knocks them down and stuns them. We are all on the alert and sleep like a dog with one eye shut and the other open. Please give my kindest regards to all. You may possibly put this in the papers, if you do it will save me writing to my master, that is, Mr Hay, Whitwick Colliery. I trust things are all right at home. I now close with all due respect to you and yours and may our good cause win.

I remain your obedient soldier.

Private J. Peace

Leicester Regiment, Veteran Reserve

God save our King. Hurrah!

DO YOU KNOW?

That the local recruits for Kitchener's Army had a good send off from Ibstock on Monday?

That a flower show and concert are to be held at the Hugglescote Conservative Club tomorrow in aid of the National Relief Fund?

That we shall be pleased to publish letters received by local relatives from men who have left the district in connection with the war?

That Coalville Town Football Club committee have contributed £2 from their two practice matches to the local relief fund?

That R. A. C. Prevett, of Oxford University Training Corps, a Markfield man has been commissioned as second lieutenant in the 5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (supernumerary)?

That the directors of Croft Granite, Brick and Concrete Company have decided to make up the allowance to the wives of the men serving with the colours to 15s per week to those having children, and 12s where there are no children?

That the Earl of Harrington has decided to hand over the whole of the gate receipts at the Midland Hunt Show and Gymkhana, which is to be held on the island, close to Borrowash Railway Station on Saturday week, to the Belgian Relief Fund?

That the employees of Enderby and Stoney Stanton Granite Company at Huncote, Earl Shilton, Sapcote and Stoney Stanton, and Mountsorrel Granite Company at Stanton, have decided to contribute weekly to the Prince of Wales's Fund the companies doing the collecting?

SILEBY'S PATRIOTISM

The Senior League match arranged for Saturday between Sileby Victoria and Hinckley United was cancelled, owing to the 15 players of the first-named club having joined the colours.

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LOUGHBOROUGH SHOP ASSISTANTS AND THE RELIEF FUND

The shop assistants of Loughborough desirous of contributing to the Prince of Wales' Relief Fund held a meeting on Monday night and appointed a committee to get in subscriptions. Those earning 30s a week will contribute 6d per week; those receiving 20s, 3d; and those in receipt of 10s, 1d per week. There are 200 assistants, and it is anticipated that in six months at least £100 will be raised.

About 150 recruits – the majority from the Empress Works, Loughborough – left on Monday for Wigston, and were given an enthusiastic send-off by hundreds of people. The Empress Works were closed for an hour and a half in order to give the workmen an opportunity of seeing their colleagues off. The firm has given each man who has enlisted 50s, and promised to make each man's wages up to 18s a week. Mr Morris, the head of the firm, accompanied by one of his daughters, witnessed the departure of the men, and was cheered again and again.

GIFTS FOR OUR MEN

FREE CONVEYANCE OVER BRITISH LINES

The Railway Executive Committee announced that the railway companies in Great Britain have made arrangements that parcels of books, periodicals and clothing intended as gifts for His Majesty's fleet or expeditionary force, may be conveyed free of charge over the British railways to the various ports from which they will be despatched. Such free conveyance will be confined to packages despatched direct by properly constituted and recognised organisations, newspaper offices, etc. All packages must be plainly marked to show what they contain.

LETTER FROM A COALVILLE SOLDIER IN INDIA

ORDERS FOR THE FRONT

Mr Thomas Dooley, of 123, Margaret Street, Coalville, has recently received a letter from his soldier son, Tom, well-known in Coalville, who until receiving military orders in connection with the war, was in India.

Writing from Ranikhet, on August 8th, he says, "*We who are under the great Himilayas (though 6000 feet above the sea level) feel out of it at these times. We have wondered why England had not been drawn into it and discussed her responsibilities if she kept out. Last night, however, it came unofficially that England had declared war on Germany. I went round to see the telegraph man at our little post office two miles from where we live and I saw a copy of Mr Asquith's speech, dated August 2nd, but nothing official. He said the message came from Bombay and there could be little doubt about it. We are all ready here and expect to be sent at a few hours notice to Egypt or Malta. The troops here are anxious to go to the front, they do not seem satisfied to go to Egypt. Our General has left for headquarters and we are all in high spirits regarding the move nearer to operations. We heard last night that firing had been heard off Flamborough Head (Yorkshire) and so no doubt you people in England are getting a little anxious. But you can't be one bit more anxious or excited than we are here. The cable has been blocked for a day or more, so that we have not received any message through. The next thing we expect to hear is a conflict with the navy. How ripping! One thing is certain, and that is that Germany has bitten a piece too much this time and if England does not go in for all she is worth, then she ought to.*

Monday morning, August 10th. – We have had news of 24,000 German casualties on sea, and 30,000 on land, also heavy British losses. Yesterday, the order to mobilise was given. We were all medically inspected, had our bayonets sharpened and all packed up ready and now we are waiting orders as to where we are to go.

Tuesday August 11th. – We have got some news at last. We are all packed up and ready and are simply waiting for the transport to come and take our kit. By the time you receive this I hope to be in France. All our troops are in high spirits and we hope to make an impression on the Kaiser and his troops. I don't know after it is all over whether I shall be permitted to run across to England, being so close, anyhow I should like to see you all. We are hoping to have a ripping time and feel sure that will be a huge picnic, so Cheer Ho!"

Mr T. Dooley is a sergeant in the 2nd Leicesters'. Last March he was married to the Major's nurse maid.

HUGGLESCOTE AND THE RELIEF FUND

A meeting of the Hugglescote local committee was held on Wednesday last week in the National Schools. Mr B. B. Drewett, Chairman; Messrs L. L. Baldwin, and J. W. Farmer were present from the Central Committee.

It was decided to make a house to house collection throughout the Hugglescote Ward. All collectors are furnished with a proper authority on card and the public are asked to pay subscriptions only to those officially authorised to collect. The ward was divided up as follows:

North Street (upper), Mrs T. Hatter and Mrs G. Lander.
Forest Road (including Breech Road), Mrs T. Wells and Mrs F. Griffin.
North Street (lower), Mrs W. Meadows and Mrs C. W. Taylor.
Wilkins Lane, Mrs W. E. Canner and Mrs A. J. Canner.
Crescent Road, Mrs D. Taylor and Mrs Yorke.
Ashby Road, Mrs Meredith and Mrs T. Cooper.
Hall's Lane and Upper Main Street, Mrs Fellows and Mrs D. S. Moore.
Lower Main Street to Station, Miss Maggie Lander and Miss Mee.
The Green to Ibstock Road Bridge, Miss Hatchett and Mrs G. Taylor.
Donington (Lower), Miss Dowell and Mrs T. Weston.
Donington (Upper) and Standard Hill, Mrs C. Smith and Mrs M. Smith.
Outlying Farms, Messrs. B. B. Drewett and F. Griffin.

CORRESPONDENCE

"FARMERS' PATRIOTISM"

Sir, I should like to ask your correspondent, J. E. Homer, who writes under the above heading in your last issue, what he knows of farming and farm work?

Nothing, evidently, or he would not expose his ignorance by his remarks re farmers' sons, and "time hanging on their hands a bit" now the harvest is over. Therefore, they should be ordered by him, I suppose, to enlist. He is greatly mistaken if he thinks farmers' work finishes with the harvest, as many are already preparing the land for next year's wheat crop. Of course there are slackers and shirkers everywhere, even down a coal pit, and it is these he evidently has his eagle eye upon, and quite right too.

But to class all the farmers' sons of this district together and brand them as 'sneaks and cowards', because so far they have not volunteered, is to my mind, not only abominably unfair, but downright rude and ungentlemanly, and I feel I must protest against his cheap sneers and attempted sarcasm.

What about Lord Milner's advice to the British farmers to grow more wheat? How can they possibly do it if all their sons go to the front?

Who is to take their place?

No one in this neighbourhood at any rate, all thanks to the Colliery, even unskilled labour is at a premium. I suppose he would leave the Nation's bread to take care of itself. It is very nice and so easy to be patriotic and urge other people's sons to enlist when you have none of your own!

Yours faithfully,
"DESFORD"

Sir, I was rather amused to read Mr Homer's letter of last week on the above. Does he think farmers' sons have done all the work up for the year when the corn is gathered in? How about the next year's crop of wheat? Does the ground want no preparing; is there no thrashing to be done; is there no wheat to be put in so we may have bread for the people next year? I see the Board of Agriculture advises farmers to sow more wheat. How can that be done if farmers' sons join the army. I think they would be serving their country by doing all they can to ward off a famine. How many farmers' sons are there that cannot use rifle or gun if their country needs them. Where is Mr Homer? Is he sneaking behind his wife's petticoat or is he taking his place where "men" are? Why doesn't he set a good example by joining himself?

Yours etc.
"FARMER"

"YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU"

Sir, Will you please allow me a few lines in your paper. I think it is a proper thing for the Colliery Manager, Brick and Pipe Works Managers, and all the big works in this district as well as other districts, to tell all the strong and healthy young men that their services will not be required at their work as their country needs them (I am one of them and I am going this week so I know what I am talking about). The shop proprietors, too, ought to follow the example of the works managers, and tell their assistants that their country needs their services, and that there will be work for them when they come back. New Co-Operative Society, you are the largest employers round here, lead the way. Also all clerks that are eligible what are you doing? And young schoolmasters, your country needs you more than your pupils at the present time. School managers please tell your young assistants not to show the white feather. Ibstock has sent one, a senior science master from Marlow College. Hurry up all!

A YOUNG RECRUIT
Ibstock, Sept. 4th, 1914.

PRINCE OF WALES'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUNDS

UNAUTHORISED COLLECTORS

Sir, We shall be obliged if you will give publicity to the fact that no person is authorised to collect money for the above fund in the parishes of Bardon Hill, Coalville, Hugglescote, Ravenstone with Snibstone, Swannington, or Whitwick, unless he be furnished with an official Authorisation Card, bearing the signatures of the undersigned.

It has come to our knowledge that unauthorised collection has already taken place, and we strongly request the public to require to see the Authorisation Card of any person soliciting subscriptions for the Relief Funds, and further to instantly report to us any case of attempted unauthorised collection.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. FARMER and L. L. BALDWIN,
Joint Hon. Secs.
Coalville District Committee

COALVILLE RELIEF COMMITTEE

FIRST COLLECTION COMPLETED

A meeting of the Coalville Relief Committee was held at the Adult School Hall on Tuesday night when Mr J. W. West presided and there were present besides the collectors Messrs W. Lindley, W. Hurst, W. Eames, A. Lockwood, J. W. Farmer and L. L. Baldwin.

The collectors for all the districts but one reported that they had completed the first collection and the sums and receipts were handed in and checked. The total amount was £54 11s 9d and this was considered very good.

Mr D. Marston stated that in the district he found that the large majority of the people were already contributing to the fund through weekly sums being deducted from their wages by their employers and some had paid direct to the treasurer. Other collectors reported a similar experience.

Mr W. Lindley said it had been rumoured in Coalville that there were salaried men in connection with the administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund and he would like to contradict that. The Prince of Wales had undertaken to bear all the costs of administration and nobody was being paid for what they did in connection with the fund. (Hear, hear) Mr West said that Mr Brockington at Leicester had become secretary for the Soldiers' and Sailors Families' Aid Association and was not receiving a penny salary, neither were any of his staff assisting him.

Replying to Mr Lockwood, Mr Lindley said all cases at the collieries were being paid by the employers. The Committee were making enquiries as to cases of distress and the arrangements at Coalville were as far advanced as anywhere in the country.

The chairman said they were very grateful to the collectors for what they had done. In some instances the amounts contributed had been promised weekly, fortnightly and monthly and it was decided to hold the next meeting on the first Monday in October to pay in any further amounts.

LEICESTER MEN ON THE WRECKED CRUISER

Information has reached us that at least two Leicester men were on the ill-fated Pathfinder, which was sunk by a mine in the North Sea on Saturday.

One is the only son of Mr and Mrs Colley, 16 St. James Street, Humberstone Gate, who is 19 years of age and has been attached to the ship for two years. The other man is the son of Mrs Lane, 31, New Park Street.

COALVILLE MAN IN NAVAL DISASTER
ON BOARD THE "PATHFINDER"
WIDOWED MOTHER OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED
MESSAGE FROM THE KING

The grim realities of the great war proceeding on the Continent and in the North Sea are forcibly brought home to Coalville this week from the fact that one of its own sons is claimed as a victim – William Chambers, a sturdy young fellow, 22 years of age, whose widowed mother resides in Margaret Street.

Young Chambers was on board H.M.S. "Pathfinder" which is reported to have struck a mine on Saturday afternoon and was blown to atoms, the Coalville man being one of the two hundred odd brave fellows who are reported as missing. The sad news was received by Mrs Chambers in an official communication from the Admiralty by Monday afternoon's post, the letter reading as follows:

*Admiralty,
6th September, 1914*

Madam, I regret to have to inform you that information has reached this department that H.M.S. "Pathfinder" was sunk on the 5th inst., and that William Chambers, private official No. Chatham 17362 is reported as missing. In the event of any further news being received respecting him you will be informed as early as practicable. Any application which the next of kin, or legal representative may have to make in consequence of the foregoing information should be made to this department in a letter addressed to the Accountant General of the Navy, Admiralty, London, S.W. – I am, madam, your obedient servant.

ALFRED EYLES
Accountant General of the Navy

Mrs Mary Chambers
73, Margaret Street
Coalville
Leicester

The first intimation of the sad occurrence was received in the following message published by the Press Bureau at 11.15 on Saturday night:

The Admiralty announces that H.M.S. "Pathfinder," light cruiser, (Captain Francis Martin Leake), struck a mine today at 4.30 pm. about twenty miles off the East Coast, and foundered very rapidly. The loss of life has probably been heavy.

Mrs Chambers is the widow of the late Mr Josiah Chambers, who worked as a collier at the South Leicestershire pit and died a few years ago. Seen by a representative of this paper she stated that William was her eldest son and was 22 years of age. He enlisted in the Royal Marines while the coal strike was on two years last March, prior to which he had worked in the South Leicester No. 1 pit. He was at home on furlough last Easter.

Mrs Chambers was naturally quite overcome at the feared loss of her boy. She has four other children, two girls aged 19 and 9 and two boys, aged 12 and 5, three of them, therefore, being dependent. She received a further letter on Tuesday morning as follows:

*H.M.S.
September 6th, 1914*

Madam, I deeply regret to have to inform you that yesterday afternoon owing to H.M.S. "Pathfinder" being torpedoed by a German submarine, the former sank and William Chambers, private, who, it is believed was on board, is missing. Yours truly.

Commander.

This gives a somewhat different version as to how the vessel was lost, and it was confirmed by a further report yesterday which was passed by the Press Bureau. On Wednesday Mrs Chambers received the following communication:

Admiralty, Whitehall.

The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow.

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL



Further details show that the prevailing clear atmospheric conditions afforded every opportunity for witnessing the movements of war vessels fully 20 miles seawards, and several people report having seen the terrible disaster through telescopes.

The station officer at the St. Abbs' signalling station was first to make the official intimation that a warship had been blown up and he telephoned to the lifeboat officials to have the St. Abbs' motor lifeboat launched. This was instantly done, and following in the lifeboat's train were a number of steam and motor fishing boats, all of which dashed to the spot.

In his statement to Messrs. William Bertram and Shields, the hon. secretaries, Second coxswain Nisbet who was in charge says that on nearing the spot where the Pathfinder had been blown up he came upon an enormous stretch of wreckage. In fact, the water was densely strewn for about a mile and a half. This was of every conceivable description, and the most of it was little larger than a man's leg.

There were any number of seaman's jackets, caps, jerseys, boots, stockings, letters, photos and books which had been cast into the sea with the blowing up

of the warship. So terrible was the explosion that the Pathfinder was practically blown to pieces.

In about four minutes all trace of her was lost save her wreckage which was strewn over the waters. A sad memento of the disaster was the finding, floating on the water, of the ship's Bible, and the order of daily service from which the daily lessons were read by the chaplain or the captain.

The Pathfinder had been doing duty patrolling the East Coast, and only a few hours earlier was manoeuvring little more than a mile off St. Abb's Head. She was a 2,940 ton vessel, had a crew of 268, and was commanded by Captain Francis Leake. The disaster was observed by two of the officers doing duty at Cockburnspath. They saw the vessel through their field glasses emitting columns of smoke, and almost immediately afterwards the bow of the vessel was observed towering high out of the water. She went down with startling suddenness. From Dunbar the disaster was plainly seen by numerous officers doing duty along the coast.

Mr Fairburn, the coxswain of one of the lifeboats, saw the vessel shoot up a huge column of smoke and flame. The vessel sank four minutes afterwards. It has been gathered that about 90 of the wounded and dead, including several officers and the officer in command (Captain Leake), were picked up by torpedo destroyers previous to the arrival of the St. Abb's lifeboat and several fishing vessels. They were taken by sea to hospitals in the Firth, along with five or six corpses of sailors, by the torpedo destroyers.

It is believed that the number lost is 232. Survivors of the disaster were landed at Queensferry by the depot ship Tyne. It is officially stated that the Pathfinder's crew numbered 264, and that 58 survivors were picked up and transferred to the Tyne. Of those, 16 were wounded and four died on the way to Queensferry, where other wounded men were taken to the hospital.

ROSE FROM THE RANKS

ROYAL MESSAGE TO PARENTS OF LEICESTER MAN

The parents of Lieutenant J. H. L. Thompson, who live in Knighton Road, Leicester, have been informed that he was recently killed in action at the front. Immediately following the intimation, a message of sympathy was received from the King and Queen.

Lieutenant Thompson, who was about 35 years of age, was educated at the Wyggeston Boy's School, Leicester, and afterwards went to sea in the merchant service. On the outbreak of war in South Africa he volunteered as a ranker, and in 1905 was given a commission in the 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. It is believed that Lieutenant Thompson was killed at the battle of Mons.

MARKET BOSWORTH GUARDIANS

OFFICIALS JOIN THE COLOURS

At a meeting of the Market Bosworth Board of Guardians, on Wednesday afternoon, Mr R. A. Oswald Brown presiding, a letter was received from the Sedgefield Union urging that young able-bodied tramps now living on the community should be made to join the army and suggesting that the Local Government Board be asked to promote legislation to carry that into effect.

Mr Beecroft said they were men who would not work, Farmers could not get men for love or money. The Clerk: They come for a night and move on. If work is offered them they won't take it.

Mr Abell said the House Committee had instructed the Master to deal severely with any of that class.

Mr Beecroft: *There is plenty of work for them but they won't work.*

It was decided to support the Sedgefield Union resolution.

A letter was received from Mr W. A. Brockington, on behalf of the National Relief Committee, asking that the list of persons in receipt of relief from the Market Bosworth Union be forwarded to the secretaries of the District Committees as soon as these were formed. Particulars of the committees in the area would be forwarded as soon as ready.

It was reported that Joseph Perry, the porter at the workhouse, had joined the army and the house committee recommended that he be allowed leave of absence and the difference be made up between his salary and army pay. Also that George Jackson, an inmate, be appointed porter temporarily.

The clerk reported that his assistant, A. W. Palmer, had also joined the colours and he was keeping his place open for him.

RECRUITING AT WHITWICK

ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC MEETING

Great enthusiasm prevailed in Whitwick on Monday night on the occasion of a public meeting called for recruiting purposes. The Holy Cross Band paraded the streets playing patriotic airs and the meeting in the Church Schools was crowded. The building was nicely decorated with plants and flags and on the centre of the platform at the front was a photograph of Lord Kitchener.

The vicar (the Rev. T. W. Walters) presided and was supported on the platform by Mrs J. J. Sharp, Mrs Burkitt, Capt. Pritchard (organising secretary for the Leicestershire branch on the National Service League),

Capt. Stevenson (recruiting officer for the Ashby district), Father O'Reilly and others. The chairman announced that Lady Beaumont had telegraphed apologising for her inability to be present. Proceeding he said that this and other meetings throughout the county were indeed a call to arms, because this country found itself engaged in war in which millions of men were fighting. That night the British army was in the fighting line with the French army against a common foe. Unfortunately during the past fortnight those two armies had been pushed back until now they were near Paris. Ours was a small army but it was an exceedingly brave army. (Applause) It was composed of MEN. (Cheers) It was a pity it was such a small army and that they could not put there by the side of the magnificent French army, force of at least a million men. (Cheers) The reason the Germans were pushing them back was because they could put five to one against them. It was a pity to put it mildly. It was because of the smallness of numbers that they wanted more men. That was the call to arms which had rang throughout the land. Lord Kitchener had asked for 500,000. Would they get them? ("Yes"). Half a million seemed a lot to us but what was it compared with the German millions? Had the splendid spirit of patriotism in England lessened at all so that they could not get the men called for and that very soon? ("I think not") It was the English people who checked the ambition of Napoleon. In less than six months this country then raised an army of 400,000 men and all were volunteers, and the population at that time was less than one fifth what it was today. So how many ought we to raise in these days. ("Two million"). He agreed and if they were to emulate the spirit which existed in the days of Wellington they would have two million volunteers if necessary. (Cheers). They were not asked to do that yet, but he believed they would get the number asked for and more if necessary. (Cheers). He described scenes he recently witnessed in Gloucestershire on the departure of troops for the front, how the men called out, "*Are we downhearted?*", "*No!*" Also the singing of "*It's a long way to Tipperary.*" (Laughter). The men were making all sorts of jokes and were in the highest of spirits. They might have been going on some huge picnic instead of to one of the greatest battles the world had known. But that was the spirit –the spirit of calmness, of cheerfulness in this great crisis and a determination to uphold their just cause. (Cheers). The British soldier would not give in; they were not going to be defeated ("No"), they were not going to allow the Germans to come and over-ride them. ("Never"). But they must have men. (A voice: You can have me but I am 72.) – (Laughter and cheers).

Mr Best sang "The Old Brigade." Captain Pritchard said he was proud to be there to make an appeal for men for Lord Kitchener's army. What was Britain fighting for? To save her good name, to preserve her life and empire and for the freedom of the democracy of Europe. He spoke of how Germany had violated treaties and the aim of that country to dominate Europe. But we should win. (Applause and "we shall".) It would be a big and long struggle but we must win. (Applause). Reference to gallant little Belgium drew loud applause and the captain said that but for the brave soldiers of Belgium, the position would have been much more serious now. Belgium, however, had suffered greatly, towns and villages burned and women and children and wounded killed in cold blood. ("Shame") Germany's ambition was to overcome France and then attack England. Some people said we were drawn into the war unnecessarily, but he denied that. They could not honourably have stood aside. (Cheers) He had been working for years in support of Lord Roberts' scheme. (Cheers). He regretted that Lord Roberts' warning was not heeded, otherwise they would have had a million trained men now. But they had to face the position. They must have all the men Lord Kitchener asked for. He knew that some young men had mothers or other dependants upon them, but there were thousands who were not so placed and should respond to the call. He was ashamed ordinary Leicester young fellows idling about at the street corners. It was said that invasion of England was impossible while we had our navy. He agreed that our navy had done splendid work, but if the Germans took Paris – God forbid that they should – where would they next turn? He did not think the German army would get into England, but if they did, they would treat the women and children as they had done in Belgium. The colonies were responding splendidly and it was a reproach that the young men of this country had not come forward better than they had. They must not have the British flag pulled down and another put on our shores. (Cheers). He urged the young ladies to do their part and not have anything to do with a young man who was eligible and refused to serve his country. "*We want men*" he concluded, "*who will be the first?*"

"*I will,*" shouted a young fellow amidst applause as he made his way to the platform. "*Who will follow his example?*" asked the captain and several others followed. Mrs J. J. Sharp beautifully sang "There's a land".

Captain Stevenson, addressing the audience as "pals of Whitwick" said he had worked as recruiting officer from August 7th, Sundays as well, and he had found that the colliers were the lads for him. (Cheers). The chairman had said that the British army was a small one, but it took a lot of beating. (Cheers). When the history of the war came to be written they would find that the traditions of the British army had been upheld and that our soldiers were as brave today as ever they were. (Cheers). If Captain Pritchard was ashamed of Leicester he was not ashamed of Leicestershire. (Cheers). Up to last Thursday morning, he had passed 850

names. (Applause). He sent 98 off that morning. (Cheers). A tribute was paid to the Boy Scouts for their help and the captain then asked how many names they had taken that night.

The Sergeant: *Twelve.*

Capt. Stevenson: *We must double that.*

He went on to explain that new regulations had recently come out by which the men enlisting now would not be sent straight to barracks. They would be passed at Coalville and for that one day would be paid 1/9. Then they would return to their work until called upon and would be paid 6d per day – 3/6 per week. They would receive ten days' notice to join the colours. He also stated in the case of married men there was a separation allowance of 1/1 per day to the wife with 2d per day for each dependant child, also when Tommy was on active service, a third of his pay was stopped and sent to his wife. He was explaining this to a Coalville woman the other day and found in her case that it came to 15/4 per week. Her reply was that she had been married twelve years and had never received so much in any one week. (Laughter). She would be better off without him (renewed laughter) and his country would be better with him. The captain said he was offering them that plum. Who would be the next to accept it.

Others came up amidst cheers and the crowd took up the refrain "It's a long way to Tipperary" with great gusto. This was followed by "Hearts of Oak" by Mr J. W. West. The chairman said the number who had given their names that night was sixteen. (Cheers). He spoke of the enthusiasm of the colonies and the Indians and these would be fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Englishmen in Europe. It was excellent company to be in and if there were any more who wished to join the sixteen they might do so after the meeting.

Mr J. J. Sharp, proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, said that as one whose family had been connected with Whitwick for many years he could say that the men of Whitwick had never been called upon in vain in a good cause. (Cheers). When the unfortunate accident happened at Whitwick Colliery there was not a man in Whitwick who was not ready to go through poisonous gasses to save his comrades. The situation today was quite as serious, only on a much larger scale and he doubted not that there would be a splendid response from Whitwick. (Cheers). He called for three cheers for Captain Stevenson and Captain Pritchard, which were heartily given and were followed by three for Mrs Sharp.

Mr S. Perry, seconding, said he offered no objection to his son going and neither did Mr Sharp in the case of his son. (Cheers). They had the greatest of causes to fight for. It was supporting a valued and solemn treaty of nations. The Germans called it merely scrap of paper and had torn it to bits, but it was signed by the nations, and they were justified in upholding it. He would like to see the best blood of Whitwick represented on the battlefield in upholding the best cause that anyone ever fought for. (Cheers). The resolution was heartily accorded and Capt. Pritchard responding said he regarded it as a splendid meeting and he was grateful to them for the reception given him. Capt. Stevenson and the chairman also replied.

Mrs J. J. Sharp proposed a vote of thanks to the Holy Cross Band for their services. Their playing had the desired effect and she was pleased to see such a splendid meeting. War had many horrors but it affected the character of a nation. It brought out chivalry and they would come out heroes in the end. Mr Perry seconded and the vote having been heartily carried, Father O'Reilly (president) replied.

The Chairman called for three cheers for Whitwick men at the front and those who had enlisted that night, which were heartily given, and the meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem. "Are we down-hearted?" finally asked the Vicar. The response was a terrific "No!"

LEICESTERSHIRE MINERS AND THE RELIEF FUND

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

A meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, Coalville, on Friday night, of representatives of the Leicestershire Coal Owners' Association and the Leicestershire Miners' Association to consider the steps to be taken to contribute to the National Relief Fund. Mr E. D. Spencer, of Ellistown and Bagworth Collieries presided.

The miner's deputation, consisting of Messrs. L. Lovett (agent), T. Gowdridge (secretary), J. Wilton (chairman pro tem), J. Butterworth (Ellistown), S. Taylor (Bagworth), J. Moore (Nailstone), W. Goddard (Ibstock), C. Adcock (South Leicester), E. Wilton (Snibston), Geo. Brooks (Whitwick), George Wilton

(Coleorton) and T. Ladkin (Desford) stated that the matter had been considered at a special meeting of the Miners' Council, who made the following recommendations:

Chargemen in stalls and chargemen shifters should be considered as one class and he asked to agree to the following weekly amounts to be deducted from their wages (a) when four days or more are worked, 6d; (b) when less than four days are worked 3d.

Wagemen in stalls and shovelmen shifters over 21 years of age to be considered another class and asked to agree to the following weekly amounts being deducted from their wages (a) when four days or more are worked 4d; (b) when less than four days are worked 2d.

Banksmen and boys 2d per week.

The owners stated that they had not yet adopted a uniform system but they were giving support in different ways, and if the men agreed to those recommendations they (the owners) would do the clerical work and forward the money to the different districts in which the collieries were situated to be credited to the men's account.

It was also agreed that meetings be held at all the collieries not later than Tuesday at 3.30 pm. when the owners' and men's representatives would address the men on the subject. So far there appeared to be a unanimous desire on the part of both owners and workmen to do all they could for the relief of the dependants of those who had joined the colours and the meeting was of a harmonious nature.

MEETINGS OF THE COLLIERS

A meeting of the employees of the Whitwick Colliery was held on Tuesday afternoon in the colliery yard, to consider recommendations of the Council of Leicestershire Miners' Association as to the workers' contributions towards the National Relief Fund. Mr T. Y. Hay, manager of the colliery, presided, and was supported by Mr Walter Lindley, secretary and Mr George Brooks.

Mr Hay said that whether the war was long or short duration, the British had to win. They were not to be done down by the Germans. He believed the Leicestershire collieries would respond with contributions equal to the rest. Mr Lindley said it was going to be a severe war, but he was confident we were going to come out on top. Having stated the decision of the Whitwick Colliery Company to place Broomleys at disposal for the sick and wounded, and mentioned the company's weekly allowance of coal, he said he hoped they would be able to keep at work at the colliery. They were asked to give a subscription week by week to the fund and he appealed to them to do their duty as Britishers.

Mr George Brooks, said the coalowners had met the men's representatives with every help and sympathy in the matter. The undertaking of the Whitwick Colliery Company to collect the employees' contributions would save a lot of money. In the event of distress amongst miners through lack of timer or other cases, they would be asked to sacrifice their trade union funds first. He invited those not in the Miner's Union to help towards forwarding a good sum. The meeting agreed to the proposals.

A meeting was also held at the South Leicester Colliery on Tuesday afternoon and was addressed by Mr W. Hurst, Mr W. Eames, and others. The recommendations of the Council as to weekly contributions were agreed. At other pits meetings were also held and the proposal was agreed to.

WHITWICK RELIEF COMMITTEE

LIST OF COLLECTORS

The Whitwick collectors are getting to work this week and will report the result to a meeting of the committee next Monday night. Mr T. W. Bourne has been elected chairman of the committee, Mr H. T. Bastard, vice-chairman and Messrs. J. W. Eagles and J. S. West, joint hon. secretaries.

The following are the districts and the collectors appointed:

Hermitage Road and Green Lane, Miss Burkitt and Miss O'Reilly.

Silver Street, Miss Carr and Miss A. Henson.

Vicarage Street, Leicester Road and City of Dan, Mrs Toon and Mrs Bourne.

Upper Leicester Road, Mrs Walters, Mrs Adams and Mrs J. H. Robinson.
Castle Street, Parsonwood Hill, Hockley and Skinner's Lane, Mr H. T. Bastard and Mr Rice.
Cademan Street, Mr Downs and Mr T. Hull.
Loughborough Road, City of Three Waters and The Dumps, Miss Fletcher and Miss Bellamy.
Talbot Street and Whitwick Wood, Miss Waldrum and Miss A. Allgood.
Brooks Lane and School Lane, Mr W. G. Wheatley and Mr T. Ward.
North Street, Misses L. and G. Henson
Pares Hill, Church Lane, and Market Place, Mrs Dickens and Mrs H. Stinson.

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THE CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE AND THE WAR

A PATRIOTIC MOVE

The Church Lads' Brigade has already despatched no less than 5,000 of its officers, warrant officers, and elder lads to serve with the colours at this time of national peril. These are to be found here, there, and everywhere, up and down the country, and already, needless to say, at the front.

The governing body while deeply gratified by this splendid outburst of patriotism are ready now to embark upon a further move forward. In other words they have engaged during the past week in an endeavour to raise one or more Battalions for Lord Kitchener's new army, which will be composed entirely of former members of the Church Lads' Brigade between the ages of 19 and 35.

Their efforts have already met with amazing success. Although the steps hitherto taken have necessarily been of a tentative character only, the War Office has now without the slightest hesitation bestowed its hearty commendation upon the scheme and the staff at Headquarters of the C.L.B. has just received the official sanction for the formation of at least one Battalion.

Nothing could more clearly emphasise the really magnificent work for the country which the Church Lad's Brigade has been continuously carrying on during the last twenty years. Its primary object is of a religious nature it is true; none the less the military method adopted so far from being a mere playing at soldiers (as it has sometimes being disparagingly described) is proving itself today an obvious national asset, just at the very moment when such an asset is valuable beyond almost anything else.

Headquarters are already in possession of no less than 1,500 applications from ex-members of the C.L.B. who are keenly desirous of serving their King and country in this truly patriotic fashion. It is more than probable, however, that there are many other ex-members living in all parts of the British Isles who are as yet wholly ignorant of this new and important step on the part of their much loved C.L.B. Any such are kindly requested to place themselves in communication with as little delay as possible with the Rev. Jocelyn Perkins, Honorary Director of Special Services, Aldwych House, Catherine Street, Aldwych, London, W.C.

COALVILLE NATIONAL RESERVES ON SALISBURY PLAIN

A cheery letter from Salisbury Plain to a Coalville resident, written by a National Reservist who left Coalville with a party of 40 on 27th August, being the first batch to be sent away for active service, says that the party of eight of Coalville and district, who were moved from Wigston Barracks to Scarborough, and thence to the Plain, are still together at Tidworth. They are W. Gardiner, James Webster, A. Hull, G. White, J. Wilson, H. H. Richardson, E. Goodman and R. Rudkin. Acknowledging the receipt of a local newspaper, he said the eight "boys" were getting on well, and lived like fighting cocks – plenty for everyone. They were riding remounts and getting them ready for recruits. The horses were Irish, and some "funny brutes" amongst them. The eight Coalville and district men were attached to Hussars, and sleeping under canvas, twelve in a tent, "as happy as pigs in clover." A lot of men left the Plain on Wednesday, and were given a good send-off.

SOLDIERS AT SOUTH WIGSTON

1,000 BILLETED ON RESIDENTS

The residents of South Wigston had the unique experience on Saturday of having a thousand soldiers billeted on them. This step was apparently taken by the military authorities in order to make room for the daily increasing flow of recruits. The billeting was carried out satisfactorily with the assistance of Superintendent Bowley, of the County Police. The allowance made by the military authorities for each man is 2s per day for food and lodging. We understand that a number of the borough and county police are acting as drill instructors at the barracks, and that other duties connected with the training of these men are devolving upon them. On Saturday, no fewer than 800 of the men under training went on leave to see their friends. Large drafts of men are being frequently forwarded to military centres to be further "readied" for whatever duties they may be called upon to perform.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The War Office on Saturday night issued a notification that ex-non commissioned officers to any branch of His Majesty's forces who are more than 45 years of age, but likely to prove competent drill instructors, may be enlisted for service in the regular army for one year of the duration of the war, and will not be required to serve outside the United Kingdom unless voluntarily undertaking to do so.

There is a considerable conflict of opinion concerning the playing and watching of football while the nation has much more serious business on hand. "Business as usual" is the motto of the rulers of the great winter game, and it seems a sound common sense proposition, so long as it does not keep from the colours any considerable number of men who ought to be with them. Men who have a good moral and physical reason for being out of the combat cannot be blamed for seeking a little relaxation and few things are so well calculated to make one forget the horrors of war for a short space of time as an exciting game of football. Rest and change are essential to health in these strenuous days, and the Football Association pleads that it is rendering a service to the community by affording some diversion from the nerve strain of the war.

The War affects everything, you cannot get away from it and its effects. Boards of Guardians are now considering their estimates for the ensuing half-year have found it necessary to make special provision for the crisis by which the nation is faced. So far as is possible, the National Relief Fund is to be available, not only for assisting the dependants of soldiers and sailors, but also for relieving cases of distress arising from unemployment. Nevertheless Guardians will be called upon to increase their scale of relief in many cases. It is the custom of granting out relief, to take into account the amount of money going into a house, but the income of many widows will be reduced by the departure for the war of lodgers or others upon whom they have partially depended. In other cases where the woman is the breadwinner, her work has been affected, while in all instances, the purchasing power of money has been reduced by the increase in the price of provisions. Ratepayers may grumble at increases in the rates, but they seem inevitable in these abnormal times, and if we are as patriotic as we pretend to be, we must be prepared for sacrifices. There is one cheering feature in connection with the poor law, and that is, the diminution in the number of tramps, many of whom have been induced to enlist.

The response to Lord Kitchener's appeal for a new army has been splendid. There is no other word for it. In every part of the country, and from all classes, young men have rallied to the flag, in their thousands, and there is no doubt the country will get the other half million of men required. But it is necessary to utter a warning as to some of the methods employed to stimulate recruiting. It is well-intentioned but mistaken policy to call people cowards and shrinkers, or to resort to any form of moral compulsion. Place the dire need of the country fairly and squarely before young fellows, and they will respond, but the lash of compulsion or scorn is apt to rankle and do harm. Cases have been reported in which employers have threatened men with loss of employment if they do not join the colours. This is likely to defeat its object. Every man who is fit and free ought to seek the nearest recruiting station at once, and should be encouraged to do so, but to coerce or shame men is not the British way. All may not be equally free to follow their own impulses. We want our recruits to come forward in the spirit of free men – the spirit which already in this war has made a volunteer worth two or three German conscripts.

During the week, Coalville Salvation Army Band collected £1 10s for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund. The collection they are making next week is in connection with the harvest festival which they hope will not suffer on account of the war.

Mr Arthur Burton, a well-known musician, of Burton-on-Trent, and formerly of Hugglescote, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Staffordshire Territorials now stationed at Luton. They are expecting to go abroad shortly. Sergt. Burton visited his parents' house in Hugglescote last week end on the occasion of the wedding of his brother Ralph.

The recruiting meeting at Coalville on Wednesday night was a great success and it is interesting to know that 70 recruits were enrolled. It was evident from the statement of Capt. Stevenson that this district is doing its duty. The captain's area is a rather wide one embracing Ashby, Coalville, Market Bosworth and surrounding neighbourhood, but the fact that not including Wednesday night's batch, he had enlisted 1,100 recruits is very satisfactory. It was announced on Wednesday night that new regulations had come out by which young men enlisting now will be billeted at home and receive a payment of 3s per day – one guinea a week – and go through daily training in the locality. The number at the Olympia on Wednesday was swelled by the offers of local patriotic gentlemen. When five more were wanted to make 60, Mr Berry of Whitwick offered to give a sovereign to the National Relief Fund if the five were forthcoming. Six responded, and then Mr B. G. Hale observed, like a Salvation Army Officer would say they wanted nine more to make it 70, and he would give another sovereign. We understand that the number reached was 70. Capt. Jesson informed them that they would be drilled daily at Coalville for another month and after that go to Loughborough for another month and after that to Luton for a further four weeks and those who were keen and made good progress might then be drafted to the front, a remark which met with great cheers from the recruits.

DO YOU KNOW?

That Mrs Commons, of Club Row, Coalville, an old age pensioner, has two sons and three grandsons serving in the army?

That a number of the larger and improved £1 notes are expected to be ready during the first week of next month?

That the formal opening of the Hugglescote Working Men's Club, fixed for the 26th inst., has been postponed on account of the war?

That the children in the Coalville day school are being taught to sing the Marseilles, the French National Anthem?

That the 4th and 5th Battalions (Territorials) Leicestershire Regiment have volunteered for foreign service, and are expecting to go abroad very shortly?

That the Whitwick house to house collection of £18/11/2 for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund included £5 from Mr J. H. Robinson?

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LOCAL NEWS

Railwaymen and the War Relief Fund – Mr H. Lewis, Midland Railway stationmaster, presided on Sunday morning at a largely attended meeting of railwaymen at the station to consider the amount of weekly contributions to the Prince of Wales's Fund. The meeting unanimously agreed to a graduated scale of contributions. It was also resolved to ask that the railwaymen should have representation on the local Relief Committee.

IBSTOCK

Debating Society – The Ibstock Debating Society held a meeting in the Town Hall on Monday evening over which Mr W. Tyers presided. There was a fair attendance. The subject discussed was "The War," speeches being contributed by Messrs. W. Wallace, F. J. Newman, W. Newman, G. Forman, A. Cooper, and J. Neal. The debate next week is on "Prize Fighting."

CHURCH LAD'S BRIGADE

The Church Lad's Brigade has now, with the sanction of the War Office, completed its arrangements to raise a special battalion of its members and ex-members for the new army, enlisting is now taking place all over the country. It is to be a battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps of which His Majesty the King is Colonel-in-Chief, and Field Marshal Lord Glenfield (Governor and Commandant of the C.L.B.) is Colonel Commandant. Over 1,500 applications have already been made to join this battalion.

LETTER FROM A COALVILLE SOLDIER

Pte. Sam Allen, of the 3rd Leicestershire Regiment, writing to his father, Mr C. Allen, of Margaret Street, Coalville, from Purbrook Camp, Cosham, Hants, writes that they had two parades before breakfast, three after, and one after dinner, from which it would be gathered that they were being made efficient. They were on the first line of defence along the south coast and were informed that they would receive a medal for this if they got no further. There had been a few showers which made it a little uncomfortable under canvas but as they were soldiers they had to make the best of it. He was in a section whose ages ranged from 20 to 30 and the Sergeant Major had told them that they were the chaps who were likely to go to the front first. The first and second Leicesters had gone and they of the 3rd battalion were about 1,200 strong. They could stand in the camp at night and looking seawards, see a powerful searchlight swept over the sea. He did not know what his pay would be yet, as it was not settled, but he had received payments on account. He concludes by saying that they are not allowed out of the camp at night on account of the sentry, who stands no messing.

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COALVILLE SOLDIER IN THE BATTLE OF MONS

THRILLING EXPERIENCES

HOSPITALS BLOWN UP BY GERMANS

Looking and feeling very fit, and eager to return to the fray, Pte. J. E. Goulson, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and son of Mr J. Goulson, photographer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, is this week-end returning to Ayr, where the depot of his regiment is located, after having been discharged as convalescent from the London Hospital, and staying for a few days with his parents.

In an interview with a representative of this paper, Pte. Goulson described how he was wounded in the battle of Mons and gave an interesting account of some exciting experiences which fell to him, and his comrades.

Pte. Goulson was with the first Expeditionary Force to France, which, unknown to the world until this voyage, had been safely accomplished, proceeded via Southampton and Havre. On arrival at the latter place they were in camp for two days and then proceeded to a point up country by train. Then followed a few days marching which brought them into the neighbourhood of Mons where the first clash of arms between the British and Germans took place. *"As we marched through the villages,"* said Mr Goulson, *"we could tell things were getting serious by the pitiable condition of the women and children. All the men seemed to have gone to the war and those left behind appeared to be in great distress. It struck us then that we were not out for a joy day."*

Questioned as to how hostilities actually commenced, Pte. Goulson stated that on Saturday, August 22nd, they marched from Longville to Mons and then to Jemappes, where they took up a position in the afternoon and the same night a German aeroplane flew over the camp. They fired on this but failed to bring it down. Apparently it was in this manner that the British position was ascertained, for next morning, Sunday August 23, the Germans commenced their artillery fire. This was followed by the advance of the huge German army, and, said Mr Goulson, *"they got to within 300 yards of us, with a canal between. We held them there until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when after about six hours' fighting we had to retire. In the last few hours their artillery fire was very effective and the maxims began to mow them down a bit. Our artillery at this time had not come up. But our loss was not great until we started to retire. Up to that point not more than half a dozen men in my company had been hit, but as we started to retire we lost about 50 in ten minutes. The Germans also lost heavily. They came on in such close formation that it was absolutely impossible to miss them. We were on the left flank which the German tried to turn and so had the brunt of the fighting."*

Asked whether the German soldiers were good marksmen, Pte. Goulson said their rifle shooting was very poor, but the maxims did a lot of damage. Continuing the narrative, he said the Germans followed them through the town to a place called Framries and then on to Bavay, and it was here that the subject of our interview received a bullet wound in the right arm which necessitated his going into hospital.

By further questions, the writer ascertained that Pte. Goulson had one or two hair-breath escapes in the course of the campaign. At Jamappes, for instance, half a dozen men were resting in a house when a shell came and shattered the building to atoms. Only two of the six, one of whom was Pte. Goulson, emerged from the building alive. On another occasion, he was one of the six men of his company who got cut off from their regiment and lost their way. They were away from the main body all night and at one village where they called, they were told that a large party of Uhlans had passed through only minutes before. Of the six men, four were wounded, the other two who were drivers had no rifles. Fortunately with the coming of daylight they were able to ascertain the whereabouts of their own troops and joined them. Yet another narrow escape was when Pte. Goulson and others had been carrying some wounded soldiers into the field hospital. They had only just quitted the hospital when it was blown to smithereens by the German shell fire.

"They seemed to aim at hospitals and churches," added our informant. Pte. Goulson did not actually witness some of the more awful atrocities which the Germans are known to have committed, but he said that as they retired through the town of Jamappes most of the buildings were on fire and the Germans seemed to shoot everybody they came across. He saw thousands of refugees carrying all they could of their belongings and struggling to get away by the trains. Many of them were pitiable objects. The batch of wounded which included Pte. Goulson was brought to Rouen and travelled to London via Southampton.

The writer was pleased to hear that the Coalville soldier has now fully recovered from his injury and, as stated above, was ready and anxious to return to the scene of operations to strike another blow for his country and the righteous cause we are upholding. It may be added that it was not in the battle of Mons that Pte. Goulson received his baptism of fire. He had already been on active service in India, Burmah, and Africa.

On the declaration of war with Germany he was called up as a reservist.

RECRUITING AT COALVILLE
GREAT MEETING AT THE OLYMPIA
SEVENTY RECRUITS

Great enthusiasm was displayed at a meeting held in the Coalville Olympia on Wednesday night for recruiting purposes, the spacious building being packed with an audience of nearly 2,000 people.

The theatre was nicely decorated for the occasion with flags and some choice chrysanthemums lent by Mr J. Allread, of the Highfield's Nursery, adorned the front of the platform. Prior to the meeting the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band played patriotic airs in the street and those who arrived in time were treated to an excellent show of pictures and music by the theatre orchestra while the artistes appearing this week kindly agreed to forego their engagements for the night and gave their services free. Miss Flo Denton gave two excellent songs and was well received.

The Right Hon. Charles Booth presided and was supported on the platform by the Right Hon. H. D. and Mrs McLaren, Mr Montagu Barlow, M.P. for Salford, Mr and Mrs A. E. Hawley, and a large number of the leading residents of the town and neighbourhood.

The Chairman said that this great meeting and a thousand such meetings would be held all over England as a result of the combined action of the two great political parties. Not only were they holding these meetings but had placed their organisations to assist in recruiting. Those who could not go to the war recognised the debt they owed to those who had gone – the young, and the strong. Soldiering meant youth and strength. There was an idea that that had been done away with by machines and it was only a case of pressing the button but they realised that the young and strong were required to do their part and they appealed to the young to come forward in the hour of the nation's need. (Cheers).

Mr A. E. Hawley said first of all he would like to say how proud he was to again stand on the same platform as his friend the Right Hon. H. D. McLaren (cheers) and to see so many Liberals around him too. However much they differed in politics they now realised the necessity of working together until this war which had been forced upon us, was brought to an end.

Are we down-hearted? he asked.

A vociferous “No” was the reply.

Shall we win? To which the reply was an equally emphatic “Yes.”

Yes, they would win because win they must. They were fighting against a military despotism which was trying to crush them down. At the head of this military despotism there stood a mad blood-besotted Kaiser, who seemed to think it was his destiny, with his invincible army and navy, to override the world. The man was mad (hear, hear) quite mad, but like many another dangerous lunatic he was capable of doing much mischief before he was caught and bottled up. The people of Coalville had contributed well in money and labour for the sick and wounded and the dependants of their soldiers and sailors, and they had also given well of their sons. (Cheers). But Lord Kitchener (cheers) wanted more. Employers had to part with more of their work people and fathers and mothers had to part with their sons and they would do so. Now was their chance. The sooner they enlisted the sooner they would get their training and get to the front, the sooner they would get to Berlin. The sooner they got to Berlin, the sooner would Tommy return to take part in the peace rejoicings. (Cheers)

Mrs McLaren said it was with pleasure that she came again to Coalville, though it was in a serious crisis. They forgot all party differences at this time and united to meet a common foe. Peace was the greatest of all blessings. Without peace there was no progress, but there was a limit when peace ceased to be a virtue, and they were absolutely justified in going into this war to help Belgium, (cheers) and they must all do their best. Women could help as well as men by aiding the distressed. She was sure the men and women were responding nobly. Three things were essential to success in any cause – a heart to inspire, a head to contrive, and a hand to execute. In this war they had all three. They were inspired by the justice of their cause, in the Government they had the head to contrive, and in the army the hand to execute. But that hand wanted strengthening. She went on to refer to the German devastation, women and children starving and homeless, shot and bayoneted, churches given to the flames and great monuments of art destroyed for ever. That was German “culture.” To those who were fighting against this she would say, “Quit you like men, be strong.” And she assured them that the women would do their part. Go, and live forever in England’s grateful memory. She was no pessimist. They would win, but to do that they wanted all the help they could have. She was convinced that they would win, because she believed in the great English spirit. (Cheers) That spirit had helped them to win in the past and would carry them to victory today. In the words of Shakespeare

*England never did and never shall
Lie at the foot of a proud Conqueror.
Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them;
Nought can make us rue,
If England, to herself do prove but true.*

(Applause)

The Hon. H. D. McLaren spoke of the deeds of the navy and regretted that they had lost a Coalville man. The navy had suffered a few disasters, but had inflicted greater losses on the enemy, and would, he was convinced, wipe out the German navy if it came out. The army had also fulfilled its great traditions against great odds. (Cheers) War was the last thing they should resort to, but they were unanimous to a man in going into this war. It was not to gain more territory, but a matter of honour. They would have had to stand by and see treaties violated, France over-run and her fleet captured. They had to pursue the war to a successful conclusion and win it so thoroughly as to dictate their own terms of peace. They had to so break the German military power that it would never rise again. (Applause) They must put aside their differences of opinion in regard to politics. For that reason he was proud to be on the same platform as his friend, Mr Hawley, and Mr Barlow, a colleague of his in the House of Commons though on the other side. (Cheers) He was glad to think of the hundreds of recruits from Leicestershire and that Coalville had done so remarkably well. (Cheers) They not only honoured those who went but they wished them God speed and a safe return. (Applause)

Mr Montagu Barlow, M.P. said this was a splendid meeting. He had addressed meetings for recruiting purposes all over England and he did not think he had seen a finer meeting, not one animated by a finer spirit of patriotism. They all hated war and the suffering it entailed, but they realised what it would do if a German force was landed in this country. How was it that we were engaged in the biggest war that the world has ever seen? In the first place it was a war of self-defence. Supposing they had stood aside, as Germany thought we should, think what would have happened. Germany would have absorbed Belgium and Holland and taken over the French fleet which in a few years would have been turned against them. Then they would not have had the help of France. He next referred to the violation of the treaty by Germany in regard to Belgium neutrality and the terrible atrocities perpetrated on the Belgians as revealed by the report of a recent commission. He did not think there was now any doubt in the minds of any Englishman that Germany's object for years had been to crush England. It was all explained in a book written only two years ago by Von Bernhardt and he advised his hearers to get a copy and read it. But the highest reason of all for engaging in the war was that honour and justice among nations should prevail and not the principle that might was right. (Hear, hear). Englishmen believed in democratic government – the people governed by the people. The British Empire stood for equally fair treatment of the weak as well as the strong. Were these ideals being carried out by Germany today? (“No.”) It was for that reason they were at war and there was no doubt that England would emerge not only triumphant but stronger than before. (Cheers) The spirit of unity which had been referred to was being shown in the churches and other institutions and they wanted it in families. The women could do a good deal. A nation did not win without the help of the women and it was only by putting all they could into this war that they could hope to succeed. It might mean sacrifice and tears, but it was worth it. (Cheers) They also had a fine spirit of unity in the Colonies and it made them proud to think that they were Britishers. (Cheers). Then they had unanimity of opinion in the civilised world on their side. America agreed that England was justified in entering the war to uphold a righteous cause as compared with what Germany stood for. But if the women could do much the men could do more. The British fleet had safeguarded their food supplies and every morning they ought to thank God and the British Fleet for their breakfast. (Cheers) They must also win on land and for this they wanted men, men, men. He wanted them to come forward and show that the British race was as hardy and plucky as ever. He appealed to the audience. The old cry used to be, “Who’s for the King?” And he would say, “Who is for the King to-night?” He was sure there would a good response. (Cheers).

Capt. Stevenson proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers. As recruiting officer for the district he said he would like to congratulate Coalville on what had been done there already. Since August 7th, 1,100 names had passed through their books. (Applause) – 618 for Kitchener’s army and many more for the longer service. He referred to the assistance rendered by boy scouts and recruiting sergeants and said they were out for recruits that night. He wanted to get one hundred and believed he would do so. He also spoke of the help rendered by Capt. Jesson who, he said, was taking over a batch of 135 for the Territorials next morning. (Cheers) He thanked the lessee of the Olympia, the manager and staff for the use of that magnificent building for the meeting. It was a much bigger building in Coalville than at Ibstock, but there they had 58 recruits. They must double that that night. (Applause)

Mrs Hawley, seconding, said that since they last met in Coalville, history had been made and life had become a sadder and more serious business. They could not all go to the war, but as women they could send their men. She could not say that to them had she not a son in the army. (Cheers) He had joined as was serving as a private. (Cheers) Many goodbyes had been said during the last few weeks, but if they realised that the word “Goodbye” meant “God be with you” they would not mind the parting as much.

The resolution was heartily accorded.

Mr Barlow then asked recruits to come forward and several responded amidst applause, the audience singing “They are jolly good fellows.”

Mr Barlow made a further appeal, remarking that the number now was 35. If they made it up to 50 he would think it was a good meeting.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem and ultimately 68 recruits were enrolled and were sworn in by Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., assisted by Mr W. Lindley, J.P., and Mr J. W. West, J.P.

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COALVILLE WOMEN LIBERALS

LETTER OF THANKS FROM MRS ASQUITH

The secretary of the Coalville Women's Liberal Association, Mrs C. W. Brown, of London Road, Coalville, has received the following letter:

Mr dear friends, - I cannot tell you how splendid I think you have all been. The Prime Minister and I are amazed at the quantity of garments you have made for our wounded soldiers and sailors since my appeal. I am desired by Her Majesty the Queen to thank you from her personally. As your friend and president I thank you from my heart.

MARY W. ASQUITH

10, Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W.

A supplementary note states:

A rough estimate of the contents of the parcels already opened and dealt with at Downing Street is as follows:- 2,700 night shirts, 960 bed jackets and nightingales, many dozen operation stockings, and socks; besides day-shirts, helmets, body-belts, knee-caps, sheets, blankets, mackintosh rugs, pillow-cases, bandages, pocket-handkerchiefs, hot-water bottles, vaseline, boracic powder, lavender bags, etc.

There is no means of identifying the sender of one parcel of 100 beautiful night-shirts.

The parcels are still coming in.

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GOOD NEWS

MAJOR YATE AND LIEUT. THOMPSON NOT DEAD

PRISONERS OF WAR

The information conveyed in the casualty list issued on Saturday night, that both Major Yate (cousin of Colonel Yate, M.P.) and Lieut. J. H. L. Thompson, (son of Mr J. H. Thompson, of New Walk, Leicester), who had been previously reported killed, are alive, will be received with great relief and satisfaction. Both officers are now unofficially reported to be prisoners of war, although Lieut. Thompson is said to be wounded.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The casualty list shows that Sir Lucas Tooth's son, Captain D. K. Tooth, of the 9th Lancers, is among the officers killed. Sir Lucas Tooth is well-known in this district, having formerly resided at Garendon Hall.

According to a message received by us on Saturday from one of the wounded soldiers who have returned from the front, three of the soldiers from this locality who are in the fighting were quite well when their pal left and send greetings to all their old friends in Coalville and district. One was Owen Hallam, the Coalville Swifts' footballer, and the others, Sergt. Pepper from Bagworth, and "Snap" Reed from Bardon.

Between seventy and eighty of the Coalville Territorial recruits, who are being trained and billeted in the town, paraded on Sunday morning and attended service at Christ Church. The procession to church where the Vicar (the Rev. S. Hosking) preached, was led by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band and

the citizen soldiers afterwards marched back to Marlborough Square, where Capt. T. E. Jesson, before dismissing them complimented them on their smart appearance, and on the progress they were making in their training, and urged them to try and induce more of their friends to enlist.

Reports have been circulated in Coalville this week that Mr James Smith, the Coalville Town footballer, popularly known as "Smosh" has died in France, where he is serving with the army, but the report is not confirmed by enquires which have been made. Smith, with another Coalville footballer, W. Commons, accompanied the Army Ambulance Corps, and their many friends will hope that the report is not true and that both will be welcomed home again in due course.

Mrs J. J. Sharp, of Whitwick, has collected 100 flannel shirts and 150 pairs of socks from the parishes of Hugglescote, Ibstock, Ravenstone and Whitwick, and they have been forwarded to the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. More shirts are required and may be addressed to the officer commanding the battalion at Luton.

It is interesting to note that one of the Sisters in the Whitwick Convent has five brothers serving in the regular army, and there were formerly six, but one died in South Africa. All six went through the South African War and five are engaged in the present European campaign.

The members of the Leicester branch of the National League of Young Liberals have abandoned their programme of meetings already arranged, and have, instead set foot on ambulance classes for men and women, and a rifle club, while a committee has been formed to do what is possible to assist the war relief authorities of the town.

The war is costing over three quarters of a million daily, and whenever possible it is necessary to economise national resources, but this must not be done at the expense of the wives and dependants of those who have made the greatest of all sacrifices to serve their country. It is therefore satisfactory that a more liberal scale of allowance is to be made to soldiers' and sailors' families', and that the money is to be paid weekly through the Post Office. Not only wives and children are to be considered, but also needy mothers and sisters of unmarried men serving the Empire, and more generous pensions are to be granted disabled soldiers, and the widows of those who have fallen in the war. Poverty and hardships have too often been the lot of old soldiers and sailors, and their families, but we cannot, in this twentieth century, have "war on the cheap," when it comes to caring for disabled warriors, and the families of those who are fighting their country's battles.

Coalville continues to swell the ranks of the recruits for the Territorials and Lord Kitchener's army, and it is interesting to note that those in training locally are making good progress under Sergt. Instructor Stone. Drills and marches are the daily order and interested spectators who have watched the operations in fields off Hermitage Road, are agreed that the Coalville contingent promises to make a very smart one.

Miss Fanny Eggington, second daughter of Mr Thomas Eggington, Ibstock, has gone to the front as a Red Cross Nurse. She has been engaged at the Base Hospital ever since the war broke out as a nurse accompanying wounded soldiers to the various hospitals and has now volunteered to serve as a nurse on the battle field. Miss Eggington received training by a 3 years Fever Course at Old Swan, Liverpool, and a 3 years general training at Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester, from which she went as a sister to Phazackerby Hospital, Liverpool.

DO YOU KNOW?

That the Conservative Party of Leicester has decided, in view of the war, not to contest any of the municipal elections in November next provided the Liberal and Labour Parties follow a similar course?

That there has not been a sufficient number of applicants for service in the Leicestershire Athletes' Comrades' Corps to justify the hope that a full battalion is likely to be raised?

That Mr Thomas Earp, who for 16 years has been hon. secretary of the Coalville Town Football Club, has three sons, Fred, Amos and Joseph who have enlisted in Kitchener's army?

That the Royal Italian Circus, which is visiting Coalville tomorrow, will hand over to the local relief fund 25 per cent of the proceeds of the sale of tickets by Messrs. Wilkins and Son ("Coalville Times") and W. H. Russell, Messrs. Williamson Bros. newsagents, Belvoir Road?

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

To-day (Friday) – Before the Rev. C. T. Moore (in the chair), Major Hatchett, Mr J. Ward, Mr H. J. Ford and Mr J. W. West.

"German Fighter" at Whitwick

Robert Sharpe, farmer, Whitwick, was summoned for violent conduct at Whitwick, on September 8th. Defendant said he was guilty to the charge but "had great cause."

P.C. Grewcock said he saw defendant with his coat off fighting another man, who defendant said was a German. Witness had to lock the other man up. Defendant said the man told him he as a German fighter and had come to blow up Silver Street. He was a stranger. He threatened witness, calling him a dirty English cur, and then he (defendant) dropped the first "bomb" and the man knew it. *"I defended my own property,"* he said, *"and I defended Whitwick as well."*

The chairman: *Was the man a German?*

Defendant: *He said he was a German fighter.*

Arthur Isaacs, of Whitwick, said he heard the man threaten to blow up Silver Street, and also called witness an English cur.

Fined 5/6 and 12/6 costs or 7 days.

Defendant said it would mean that much short for the Prince of Wales' Fund. He hoped if the man came again that he would blow the place up. (Laughter).

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED IN FRANCE

NEWS RECEIVED YESTERDAY

News was received in Coalville yesterday that Mr Joseph Wardle, of the 4th Coldstream Guards, had been wounded in the fighting in France. The information was conveyed on one of the field service postcards, written from the battlefield by Wardle to his widowed mother, who resides at 52 Margaret Street, Coalville.

The card briefly stated:-

"I have been admitted to the hospital wounded, but I am going on well and hope to be discharged soon. I have received your letter. A letter follows at the first opportunity. – Joe."

Wardle has been three years in the Coldstream Guards and has seen service in Egypt. He is 25 years of age and is the third son of the late Mr Abraham Wardle, who was a collier employed at the South Leicestershire Colliery. His brother James is also in the army, being in the Grenadier Guards stationed in Surrey. Mrs Wardle has another son who joined the Territorials, but he has had to return home on account of his health.

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RECEPTION OF WOUNDED

MORE SOLDIERS ADMITTED TO LEICESTER HOSPITAL

Another Red Cross train, containing 125 wounded British soldiers, arrived at the Midland Station, Leicester, on Sunday afternoon, the men being afterwards conveyed in motor cars to the base hospital in Victoria Road. Early in the afternoon crowds began to assemble in the vicinity of the station, and when the train steamed in about half past four, London Road and the route to the hospital was lined with twenty or thirty thousand people.

The appearance of the first motor ambulance van, containing stretcher cases, was the signal for a tremendous cheer, which was taken up by the dense masses of people who thronged the main road. Of the total number arriving, 25 were stretcher cases, several poor fellows having arms or legs amputated. Others, were wounded in the head and limbs in a less serious manner, a large percentage of the wounds having been caused by splinters of shrapnel.

Despite their injuries and the fatigue consequent on the journey from Southampton, the "Tommies" were in the best of spirits and waved their caps in response to the people's cheers. Innumerable packets of cigarettes were thrown into the cars as they passed along, and were gratefully accepted by the soldiers.

On the front of the first car was a German officer's helmet, the proud possession of a badly wounded infantry sergeant, who had "captured" it in a fight near Namur. It had remained in his keeping ever since. The same sergeant was in the Battle of Mons, which he said, was undoubtedly a defeat of the British force, due to immense superiority of the enemy. He added, however, that the Germans were now tasting the bitterness of defeat, and were on the run. He spoke highly of the treatment of the English wounded in France, remarking "*The French people could not do enough for us, and provided all sorts of dainties for us.*"

One of the men while stating that he had seen no atrocities actually committed by the German soldiers, said he came across a R.A.M.C. man in hospital who had both his hands cut off while attending to wounded men in the field.

Another man, describing the fighting at Charleroi – called "Charley" by the soldiers – said the British captured 450 Germans, who came over to England in the same boat as the wounded on Sunday night. Four hundred rifles belonging to these men were burned. A bombardier of the R.F.A. speaking of the German artillery, said they were quick, but they did not know what they were shooting at. Their infantry battalions generally had 36 machine-guns, as compared to with four in an English battalion.

On arrival at the hospital the wounded men were received by Lieut-Colonel Harrison and given every attention.

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COALVILLE HOME WANTED FOR BELGIAN REFUGEES

REVELRY AND RUIN AT AERSCHOT

WHY THE GERMANS SPARED A CONVENT

Another party of Belgian refugees comprising thirteen nuns from a Convent in Aerschot have arrived at Coalville and are temporarily being found a home at the Convent of St. Dorothy on the Forest Road. To a representative of this paper, one of the Sisters who speaks fairly good English, told an interesting story showing that though they had not actually come to any bodily harm at the hands of German soldiers, they have had some exciting experiences.

The Convent occupied by the Sisterhood, so the writer was informed, is situated about a quarter of an hour's walk out of the town of Aerschot and for three weeks its occupants were entirely cut off from the outer world after the German soldiers had taken possession. Knowing that the town was occupied by the military they were afraid to leave the building and it was with the greatest difficulty that they obtained the necessaries for a bare existence. They knew very little of what was going on outside. "*We did not even know that the Pope had died,*" said the Sister.

But meanwhile there were stirring events at the Convent itself. First of all a number of Belgian soldiers were billeted there and when the Germans took possession of the town they suspected that the enemy were still in the Nunnery. With swords drawn, and revolvers in hand ready for use, German soldiers searched the

building thoroughly, compelling the Nuns to precede them as they entered each room. When water was demanded for the soldiers to drink, the Nuns were first made to drink to assure the Germans that it had not been poisoned.

Questioned as to the barbarities practised the German soldiers, the Sister said she could not verify these of her own knowledge, having, as above stated, been shut up in the Convent for three weeks, but from what she saw in leaving, she could quite believe what she had read in the papers since arriving in England.

The people of Belgium, she said, were in great distress. There were thousands of children without homes and who had lost their parents, many of whom had been killed in the war or murdered by the soldiers, and everywhere there was a great scarcity of food. The country had been made desolate and many people were anxious to leave. When they left on Saturday the Convent buildings were intact, but the town of Aerschot was practically razed to the ground, the bulk of the buildings have been burnt down. They were unable to bring along all their belongings. It was impossible to obtain a conveyance or a man to take their luggage to the station and they were obliged to leave with what they could themselves carry away. They travelled to Antwerp and met with no difficulties on the way, but at many points there were evidence of the devastation which has been wrought. They stayed at Antwerp for a day or so and found the place quiet, but preparations for its destruction were going on and they saw where the country had been flooded to hamper the movements of the enemy.

How the Convent escaped the fate of the other buildings in Aerschot in not being burnt to the ground proved to be a most interesting part of the story. The Sister stated that it was the property of a German lady, who had a son fighting in the German army, and on maps carried by the German soldiers, the Convent was marked as one of the buildings which was to be spared – an indication that the invasion of Belgium was no incidental occurrence but part of a carefully pre-arranged plan.

One day during the German occupation of Aerschot there were great doings at the Convent. It was the birthday of the Military Commander and the event was celebrated in right royal fashion. The Nuns were warned to make preparation for the feast and when they pleaded inability to provide the necessary provisions owing to the abnormal state of affairs, the officers intimated that they themselves would arrange that. And a sumptuous repast it was, at which champagne – possibly purloined from some Belgian cellar – flowed freely. The Sisters, under orders, had cut choice flowers from the gardens for the decoration of the tables and were compelled to wait hand and foot on their self-invited guests. Songs were given and toasts drank, and while these revelries were going on, the town of Aerschot only about half a mile away was being committed to flames at the hands of the invading soldiers.

To the credit of the German officers, be it said, the Sisters were not subjected to further indignities. They were warned, however, against what might be the result of any hospitality afforded to Belgian soldiers. As a matter of fact some of the latter did arrive at the Convent subsequently and the position of the Sisters, anxious to assist if they could, but with the Germans still not far away, may be better imagined than described. The Belgians desired to fix guns at the upper windows of the Convent, but on the urgent appeal of the Nuns refrained from doing so, and it was as well, perhaps, for the occupants that this was the case, as not long after the Belgians had quitted, another party of Germans paid a visit. Exciting times these for the forty odd occupants of the Nunnery.

Concluding, the Sister said they had to leave Belgium because they could not get food. Everywhere the people were starving and towns were in ruins. She saw many wounded soldiers being conveyed to hospitals and altogether it was a most pitiable sight.

The Sisters, the writer was informed, are of Portuguese nationality. The thirteen who have arrived at the Coalville Convent will stay there possibly till the end of the war, and they are looking round for a house in Coalville district to accommodate another 32 of the nuns who are at present in London.

RECRUITING MEETINGS AT THRINGSTONE AND BAGWORTH

Successful recruiting meetings were held on Wednesday night at Thringstone and Bagworth and the enthusiasm displayed was an indication of the great interest which the people are taking in the war and the desire of the young men to respond to their country's call.

THRINGSTONE

The meeting at Thringstone was held in the village hall and was largely attended. The Right Hon. Charles Booth presided and supporting him on the platform were Mrs Booth, the Vicar and Mrs Shrewsbury, Mr W. E. Porter of Loughborough, Captain Jesson, of Ashby, Mr A. Caurah, of Thringstone, and others. As an opening to the proceedings, Mr James Lawrence sang "Land of Hope and Glory."

The chairman went briefly into the history of Germany showing the formerly it was composed of various provinces, but in the time of Bismarck these were brought together as one great empire, and it was from that time that the German desire for world power had continued to grow. A scheme had been formulated and the Kaiser thought the present an opportune time to further the object. He failed to take into account, however, that he had not the genius of Bismarck to guide him, and he was also mistaken in supposing that England would not recognise the neutrality of Belgium and would take no action to maintain that. It was this that brought us into conflict. Even though it meant sacrifice, he urged the necessity for young fellows to rally round the flag and give of their best in their country's cause.

Mr Porter expressed regret at the loss of three cruisers in the North Sea reported that day and said it showed the determination of the enemy to achieve victory at all costs and by any means that lay in their power. They must be prepared for reverses, but they would win. (Cheers) England had many reserves yet that she could draw upon and the splendid response so far showed that the fine young men were prepared to respond to their country's call. It was their duty to do this. He went on to give particulars as to the rates of pay to the men and allowances to dependants and concluded by making an appeal for recruits. Any who enlisted in the territorials that night might not have to leave home for three, four or five months and would receive one guinea a week.

Capt. Jesson emphasised the needs of the army and enlarged on what Mr Porter had said in reference to the pay and also explained the allowances made in the case men joining the colours. The Rev. C. Shrewsbury (vicar) in the course of an excellent speech, said the heart and soul of the British people were in this war, and that was the force which would lead them to victory. (Cheers)

Mr A. Caurah also gave a patriotic address and during the meeting another song was "Fall in" by Mr J. W. Brotherhood. When the call for recruits was made several young fellows responded and in view of the large number which had previously gone from Thringstone the result of the meeting was considered satisfactory.

On the motion of Mr J. Winters, seconded by Mr H. Peters, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speakers, chairman, singers and the pianist (Mr W. Latham).

The proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

BAGWORTH

A pretty incident marked the opening of the Bagworth meeting. The motor car conveying the speakers was met in the village by a large number of school children, who formed themselves into a group and sung the National Anthem.

The meeting was held in the Council School and was largely attended, mostly by young men. Mr E. D. Spencer, consulting engineer of the Bagworth and Ellistown Collieries presided, and was supported by Col. German of Ashby, Capt. Stevenson (recruiting officer) and Mr Emmerson. Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Bagworth Brass Band played patriotic airs.

Col. German spoke of the cause of the war and emphasised the necessity for having a sufficiently large army in the field when peace was declared to be able to dictate terms which would be satisfactory according to the sacrifices we had made. He alluded to the German atrocities and the wanton damage being committed by the Kaiser's soldiers which it was the duty of civilised nations to check. A great surprise not only to the Kaiser, but to the whole world, had the splendid response of our colonies. From every quarter of the globe where the British flag flies, help had come for the mother country in the shape of food, money and men. It showed the determination of Britishers everywhere to uphold the dignity of their empire. That was the first meeting of any size that they had held in Bagworth, but he understood that Capt. Stevenson had visited the parish previously and had a good reception. He trusted that the young men of Bagworth would not be found lacking and that a good quota from that parish would respond to Lord Kitchener's appeal.

Capt. Stevenson also made an appeal pointing out what other parts of the district were doing. From the Ibstock meeting they had 78 recruits. (Cheers) They had the right material at Bagworth and he hoped they would come forward. (Cheers) Several recruits were sworn in.

Mr H. Cherry moved and Mr E. Weston seconded a vote of thanks to the chairman and speakers, which was heartily accorded and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

KING INSPECTS LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS

A VISIT TO LUTON

His Majesty the King visited Luton Hoo on Friday morning and inspected a representative body of Territorials from the North Midland Brigade, which includes the 4th Leicesters, now in training in Luton and district.

There was a considerable amount of secrecy about the arrangements, but according to the account of a correspondent in camp, the battalion paraded at 6.30 on Friday morning. Orders came late the previous night that the King would inspect the Leicester and Lincoln Brigade at Luton Hoo, and we were astir at 5 a.m. and all accoutrements were polished up and packs re-adjusted. It was very cold and windy when we reached our destination, and we had to jump about to keep warm, but it was an improvement on Thursday, when we got wet through.

His Majesty arrived at 10.30, the band of the 5th Leicesters playing the National Anthem, on the command "Royal Salute – present arms." His Majesty walked the whole length of the brigade, front and rear, accompanied by his staff. He was keenly interested in all he saw. The staff then lined up, and we marched off, the 4th Leicesters going by the King first. We went quite close to His Majesty, so we had a good view of our Sovereign, most of us for the first time. He wore the serviceable khaki. The Battalion, on reaching home, had rifle inspection and feet inspection.

Up to the present, 36,000 recruits have been enlisted in No. 6 district of the Northern Command, which comprises Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Staffs, Notts, and Derbyshire. Of these, Staffordshire supplies 14,000.

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IBSTOCK

DEBATING SOCIETY

The Ibstock Debating Society discussed the effect of the war upon Christianity at their meeting in the Town Hall on Monday last. Mr George Sparrow presided and all the members present took part in an animated discussion. Next week the subject for discussion is "Universal Military Training."

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

We learn that 14 men employed by the Cliff Hill Granite Company, Ltd., at their quarries have gone to serve their King and country. Two army reserve men and one naval reserve and eleven others have volunteered for Kitchener's Army (including Mr P. L. Preston, the son of the manager of the quarry.) The company are paying 10s a week to the wives at present.

It is understood that the offer by the Rev. Canon Martens of the White House, Shepshed, as a home for Belgian refugees has been accepted by a community of nuns numbering about 40. The accommodation is ample for that number. Originally these nuns left Portuguese territory for Belgium, which owing to the war they have been forced to leave though it is hoped only temporarily.

We understand that nearly 950 members of staff of Lloyds Bank Ltd., more than 21 percent of the whole, have, with the approval of the Directors, undertaken to serve with His Majesty's forces, and that their positions are being kept open for them until the end of the war without loss of seniority. Some temporary help has been secured by the Bank, but notwithstanding this, the remainder of the staff have of necessity been caused a considerable amount of extra work, which is being willingly rendered.

An excellent result has to be recorded of the flower show held on September 12th for the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund at the Hawley Conservative Institute, Hugglescote, a statement of accounts for which has just been completed by the treasurer, Mr W. Wood, the manager of the Institute. From the sale of flowers, fruits and vegetables, all of which were given by supporters the sum of £12/10/7 was realised, the sale of admission tickets brought in £7 10s, a skittle competition organised by Mr and Mrs Wood yielded £3, various supporters gave £2/2/6 and the sale of button holes by Mr Holt made £1, bringing the total receipts to £26/3/1. The expenses, including prize money, printing, etc., amounted to £3/19/6 leaving a balance for the relief fund of £22 3s 7d. The committee and organisers of the show are naturally gratified with the result and desire to thank the contributors to the show, Mr Edward Moore, for his services in selling the goods and all who in any way assisted towards the success of the effort.

A home defence corps was formed at Hinckley on Monday, the functions of which will be to assist the police, and guard railway lines, factories, public buildings and houses. About 120 men were enrolled.

The members of the Coalville Women Unionists Association have formed themselves into a working party and are busy making garments for sufferers in connection with the war.

Lieut. E. L. Musson, Manchester Regiment, reported wounded, is the son of Mr and Mrs W. A. Musson, of Ashby. Lieut. Musson was engaged in the operations in East Africa.

No fewer than 200 old boys of Desford Industrial School have gone to the war. One of the boys who has no friends, has made his will and sent it to the head teacher at the school. A large number of the boys trained at the school are also in the Navy.

DO YOU KNOW

That a Ravenstone soldier named Handford, is reported as having been wounded?

That a letter has been received from P.C. Durrands, late of Coalville, who is in the fighting in France, reporting well?

That the Coalville district subscriptions to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund now exceed one thousand pounds?

That Shepshed has so far contributed a total of 130 to the army in connection with the European crisis?

That a meeting of the Coalville collectors for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund is to be held next Monday night?

That P.C. Butler, of Ibstock, with the forces in France, who was believed to be missing – a similar name having appeared in the casualty list – has written to his wife stating that he is now attached to the 15th Hussars and is quite well?

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BRISK RECRUITING IN COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

A BUSY WEEK

The Recruiting Officer for the Coalville district, Capt. W. E. Stevenson, with Capt. Pritchard and other helpers has had a very busy week in obtaining men for the various branches of the services.

Another meeting was held at Ibstock on Monday morning in the Picture Palace kindly lent by Messrs. Wain. Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., of Coalville, presided and Capt. Pritchard and Capt. Stevenson gave stirring patriotic addresses to a good audience. Four more men were obtained for Kitchener's army and Capt. Stevenson congratulated Ibstock on having sent 52 from a recent meeting.

On Monday evening, a meeting was held in the Council Schools at Moira, Mr John Turner, J.P., presiding, addresses being given by the same speakers and there were six recruits enrolled.

The officers then went onto Measham where Mr J. Rice presided at a meeting in the schools, here 19 recruits were obtained.

GOOD MEETING AT SWANNINGTON

There was a capital attendance at a meeting held in the Swannington Church School on Wednesday evening. Captain Deverell presided and the chief speakers were Captain Pritchard and Captain Stevenson. Among those present were, Lady Beaumont, the vicar (the Rev. G. Robinson), Mrs W. Moss, Miss Johnson, Mr Levi Lovett, Mr J. W. Baldwin, and other well-known residents. A letter was read from the Hon. H. D. McLaren, M.P. regretting that he was unable to attend the meeting owing to a previous engagement in the North of England, and Mr A. E. Hawley wrote that his son having enlisted had thrown a lot of work on him and he found it impossible to get away.

The chairman said he regarded his position as chairman of that meeting as a great honour because he was a true patriot. The greatest honour was for one to serve, and, if necessary, die for his country. He did not speak as a novice, but as one who had served in the navy for half a century (cheers). He could not understand any young man failing to respond to the call at the present time. But they were not failing. They were proud of the young men and it made them glad they were Britons. They had a splendid meeting in Coalville recently when they got 72 recruits notwithstanding that many had gone before. There were many older men, himself among them, who only wished they could go. On the following day, however, he was going to Scotland to again take command of the ship which he left in order to that a man 15 years younger than himself might go to the front (cheers).

Captain Pritchard said they were in a grave crisis but they meant to win. They were fighting for the freedom of Europe. He alluded to the splendid defence of the plucky little Belgians (cheers), and went on to refer to the German atrocities. He had been sixteen years in India and could say that none of the lowest of tribes in India would stoop to things the Germans had done. Because Germany had been pushed back a bit they must not suppose the war was nearly over. It had hardly begun. The fiercest of the battle would be when they invaded Germany. Because they must get to Berlin and peace would be signed there (cheers). But to accomplish that they must have plenty of men. Assuming we were beaten, which God forbid, the atrocities perpetrated on the Belgians would be repeated with even greater ferocity, because the English were the people whom the German's hated most because it was England which had upset Germany's plans. The Kaiser spoke of our soldiers as "French's contemptible little army" and that they were to be wiped out, but they all knew the gallantry of our soldiers and the splendid manner in which they were waging this battle. Lord Kitchener had got the first 500,000 men, but had appealed for another half a million and he (the speaker) was sure he would get them, and another million if necessary. There were close of 5 million young men between the ages of 18 and 35 in this country and so Kitchener was asking now for only one in ten. He pointed to the splendid response of the Colonies and said he was sure the young men of England would not allow their kinsmen from over the seas to do their share. If they were true Englishmen they would say it was their duty to come forward to help the country to which they were proud to belong (cheers). They were in a similar position now to what they were a hundred years ago, when Napoleon was threatening the peace of Europe. It was England which saved the situation then, and, with God's help, England would do so again. (Cheers).

Captain Stevenson said he would gladly serve in the army himself but for his feeble eyesight on account of which no doctor would pass him but he was anxious to do what he could, and so on August 7th he was appointed recruiting officer for the Coalville district. Since then, over 1,100 names had been enrolled (cheers) He proceeded to speak of the terrible actions of the Germans, which he said were absolutely authenticated and unworthy of a civilised nation. They were recruiting this night for Kitchener's army and the Territorials. In Coalville alone they had enrolled 380 for Kitchener's army and over 700 in the whole district, (cheers). Kitchener's army came first, and he urged them to enlist for this branch of the service. It did not mean going straight to the front, like Germany was sending raw recruits into the firing line, but they would be

trained for about five months and made fit for the work. He would like to contradict a rumour going about the district that the food was bad. He had ample evidence that the food was good and plenty of it. There was no reason for any young man holding back. He had the word of all large employers in that district that the places of young men would be kept open for them on their return and from one large works not many miles from there he had taken over a hundred recruits on that understanding. Some mothers had talked to him about the boys going but he told them that if they had been living in Belgium and seen how the women and children were treated by the German soldiers, they would not hesitate a minute about parting with the lads. He then asked who was going to be the first to come forward.

One young fellow came to the front amidst applause and the Captain said he had no doubt others would follow in due course.

The Vicar, in the course of an able address, said students of German history of the last 40 years, had been forced to the conclusion that Germany's only idea was supremacy in Europe. England he went on, was fighting for her honour. They were pledged to uphold the neutrality of Belgium and to do what Gladstone, a man of peace, was prepared to go to war years ago. The German Chancellor said England would not go to war for a mere scrap of paper, but in that scrap of paper rested the honour of England. They were also fighting to show that might was not right and he believed that England was to be the chosen instrument for spreading Christianity among the nations. It was for that reason he appealed to the young men of England to go and uphold the honour of their country. (Cheers).

Mr H. Butler-Johnson, proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, said England had far more to lose in this war than Germany. Once we lost supremacy of the sea, ours would be a stricken country, and life would not be worth living. Mr J. Brewin seconded and the vote was heartily accepted.

The chairman reminded them that that day was the anniversary of the birthday of one of their greatest soldiers, Lord Roberts, (cheers) and he hoped that would be an inducement to more young men to enlist.

Capt. Pritchard moved, and Capt. Stevenson seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman which was also carried with acclamation.

The meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem and other recruits were afterwards enrolled.

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DIED FROM WOUNDS

MILITARY FUNERAL AT LEICESTER

The remains of Private W. Hodges, 4th Middlesex Regiment, who died at the 5th Northern Hospital, Leicester, were interred on Tuesday at the Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester. A large crowd assembled to watch the funeral, which was of a military character. The service was read by the chaplain, the Rev. W. C. Luxmore.

The coffin was covered with a Union Jack upon which was placed a wreath of lilies. Col. Harrison and a firing party from the 4th Leicesters followed the mourners, while in rear the band of the Leicester Gas Department played the Dead March in "Saul." At the conclusion of the service three volleys were fired over the grave, and the bugles sounded the "Last Post."

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ADVERTISEMENT

NEW BOOKS

A War Cookery Book for the sick and wounded, price 6d. Just issued. Published by Messrs. Werner Laurie, and Co., may be had at the "Times" Office, Coalville.

"A.B.C." Guide to the Great War compiled by Edmund B. D. Auvergne, South African Light Horse, 1s. May be had at the "Times" Office, Coalville.

"German Atrocities" by William LeQueux, 2d. Just published, may be had at the "Times" Office.

ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS

THE RELIEF OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS DEPENDANTS

Mr Varnham raised a question in regard to persons receiving relief who were having grants from the National Relief or Patriotic funds. He mentioned one case of a woman whose grandson had gone to the war. She was receiving 3/6 a week in relief and 7/6 from the patriotic fund, and he wondered whether they could not deal with these as special cases and give them a little more than the ordinary relief. The Clerk said that was clearly a case for the patriotic fund.

Mrs Pratt: *Hear, hear.*

The Clerk said the relief of 3/6 per week by the Guardians must be continued as before, but the loss sustained through her grandson going to the war should be made up from the Patriotic Fund. Mr Varnham asked whether it was laid down that relief should not be given to those who were receiving help from the fund. The Clerk said that any poor law relief given before should be continued. In other cases where they had not been receiving relief, they would be maintained from the funds.

Mr Varnham said that if it was necessary to give this woman who was receiving 3/6 per week from them, 7/6 per week from the Patriotic Fund, making 11s per week, how did their paupers live who only received 3s per week, which the relieving officer said was the average.

The Clerk said each case was treated on its merits whether they had sons who had gone to the front or not.

Mr Varnham: *Have we not information that we should deal generously with these dependants?*

The Clerk: *No. We give relief as before and any loss the family has sustained is provided for by the patriotic fund.*

Mr Varnham: *Not the Prince of Wales' Fund.*

The Clerk: *There is nothing to prevent them getting help from the Prince of Wales' Fund.*

Mr Parker said that unless these funds were carefully administered they would have people tying up their purse strings. If this woman was having 11s a week, how were the poor people going on with 3s per week? There would be severe criticisms in their villages if these people were to be better off than those who had not sent anybody to the war. Local committees should have before them a list of persons receiving relief from the Guardians and not give them the same amount from the funds as those who were receiving nothing at all. Some of them would be considerably better off than they ever had been. He knew a case of a married man who had gone to the front and his wife was receiving considerably more money than she did when her husband was at home. People round about could not understand why all this money from the different funds was going to the woman in addition to the man's pay and workmen were asking why they should give so much each week from their wages for people to receive more than they were receiving before the war. These funds wanted very careful handling, concluded Mr Parker, or they would see a reaction. Mr Riley said he thought the case in question was one for the Patriotic or Prince of Wales' Fund.

Mr Andrews: *But if she is receiving 3/6, that is not to be relaxed at all.*

The Clerk: *No; only any other loss is to be made up. The poor law relief is not to benefit by anything given by these funds.*

COALVILLE MEN IN THE FIRING LINE

INTERESTING LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

WHITWICK MAN EAGER TO CUT THE KAISER'S MOUSTACHE

FORMER WHITWICK SCOUT-MASTER WRITES

CONTRADICTING A RUMOUR

Private S. E. Perry, of the G Company of the Leicester Regiment, S.R. Purbrook, Fort Camp, near Portsmouth writing to his father, Councillor S. Perry, of Silver Street, Whitwick, says:

"I was surprised to learn that bad reports respecting the food, etc., at this camp had been going about in Whitwick. Let me say at once that there is absolutely no truth in the statements. There is plenty of good food issued out here every day and the officers look to it that every man gets his fair share. We are not by any means over worked and are practically free every night at five o'clock. We get bacon for breakfast every other morning (bread and butter and cheese other days), meat and potatoes every day for dinner, bread and butter and jam every day for tea and we always have plenty left for supper. Considering that we came up here prepared to suffer any hardships, or even death, for the sake of our King and country it is really surprising that we are treated so well. We each have two blankets, and despite the bitterly cold nights, manage to keep warm and to sleep well. The only grumbling which I hear in this camp is because we are not rushed off to Berlin to "cut the Kaiser's moustache." Hope you will contradict the untruthful reports if you hear anyone talking of them."

COALVILLE MAN AT THE FRONT

THINKS OF HIS POTATO CROP

A Coalville man who is a gunner in the Royal artillery in France, writing to his wife, counsels her to store up the allotment crop of potatoes, as he thought bread would be mighty dear as the result of the war. He had seen tons of corn spoiled and wasted. He was eager for home news, not knowing how things were going on in England, and he would enjoy a newspaper. Whilst keeping well (for which he thanked God), he did not know how long it would last, for they were having very wet weather, and got wet through every night. It was cold, too, and water ran underneath them when they tried to get any sleep. The weather conditions were bound to affect the troops.

He had met a chap he knew who worked at the South Leicester Colliery and who was serving in the Coldstream Guards. They were previously together on the Coalville Railway Station platform when leaving to join their regiments on being called to the colours. He wished he could have his Sunday meals at Coalville as in the past. He felt that he would be able to "*shift something*." Bread could not be purchased where he was, and the biscuits served out did not fill up very much. For two days they had had a lot of rain, and he had been wet to the skin. It was a bit rough when one had to sleep in wet clothes, but he hoped he would not feel the worse. "*Let us hope, please God, the war won't last long!*"

WITNESSED A BATTLE IN THE AIR

A NAILSTONE MAN AT THE FRONT

Herbert Bailiss (a reservist), son of Mr T. Bailiss of Nailstone, writing from France to his parents says:

"We are winning all along the line. If things go on like this, I think the war won't last long, as we seem to have bottled them up. I have just witnessed a war in the air. It was a sight never to be forgotten. We are smoking tea leaves and brown paper, as the Germans have looted all the villages round here, and "pinched" all the tobacco and eatables. We are having it stiff, but I don't mind as I think the end will be quicker, as we have got them on the move a treat. I cannot tell you where I am, although I should like to. We have some fine music here. I am on out-post duty, and the guns are banging away a treat."

ALWAYS ON THE MOVE

COALVILLE AMBULANCE MAN ON BOARD

The following is an interesting letter written by Mr J. Mulrooney, one of the Coalville Ambulance Men with the navy, to Father Degen.

Rev. Sir, - I have landed once more on the shores of England and I can tell you we all appreciate the pleasure, even if we only get a few hours' leave of absence. We take it in turns to go ashore and as there are about 800 of us on the ship, we are kept pretty busy all the time in catering for one another, because when one man gets off he must find somebody to fill his post during the time of absence. We have had beautiful weather ever since I came on this ship. I am sorry not to be able to send you any news, but we are not allowed to communicate even the names of places where we have been. You may take it from me that we are not idle; we are all the time on the move at sea looking out day and night for hostile craft. I do not think this war can last much longer. Our troops in France seem to be bringing matters to a head. England ought to be very thankful that this war has not reached her, like it has in Belgium, and for this we have to thank our navy which by its activity has prevented the enemy from attempting to make raids on the coasts of Britain.

With kindest regards to the Young Men's Class.

Yours sincerely
John Mulrooney

"Amphitrite" Devonport
September 26th, 1914.

SHORT OF CIGARETTES

Private Ben Clibbery, of the 1st Leicesters, son of Mr John Clibbery, Midland Railway engine-driver, of Coalville, writing under date September 18th, says he is all right and getting plenty of food, but "*there is not a fellow in the battalion who has got a whole cigarette.*" They were hanging on for the "tobacco ration."

SHELLS FLYING ABOUT WHOLESALE

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER'S EXPERIENCES

An interesting letter has been received by Mr A. E. Johnson, of Ashby Road, Coalville, Chairman of the Committee of the Coalville Town Football Club, from W. Scoon, who for the last two or three seasons has played for the Town. Scoon is in the 1st Guards Brigade and in the thick of the fighting.

He says they are not allowed to give names of places nor say much about what they were doing. They had been about five days at the place from which he wrote the letter and he adds:

"We started fighting straight away. At the present moment the shells are flying about wholesale. I think if we can shift them out of this it will mean a lot towards the finishing of the war and I shall not be sorry. I have seen enough war to last my life out and I would rather be playing football for the Town. By-the-way, how are they getting on this season? Shall I get a medal if I get back before the season is over? Please remember me to all the boys. Goodbye and good luck."

In a postscript, Scoon adds: "*Do you ever hear anything of "Smosh"? I don't think they would kill him if they hit him.*"

WHITWICK MAN IN HONG KONG

GERMAN SHIPS SUNK AND CAPTURED

A letter indicating how the German warships fared at Hong Kong has been received by Mr A. Hutchby, gardener to Mr J. J. Sharp, of the White House, Whitwick, from his son, Gunner G. L. Hutchby of the 88th Company R.G.A. stationed at Hong Kong.

He says he is in the best of health and expects they are having a lively time in England through the war with Germany. The letter proceeds: "We are also having a lively time out here in China. We did not hear anything about the war until August 4th, and then could hardly believe it, thinking it was only intended to see how long it would take us to get ready if war did break out. But on August 5th, the German fleet invaded Hong Kong about four o'clock in the morning. We sunk one battleship and captured two more. That was not so bad for a start, was it? And it was before the British fleet arrived here. But our battleships came into the harbour yesterday morning, so we are all right. I am on guard at the present moment on one of the German battleships that we captured, to see that none of them escape or try to kill themselves, as some of them have tried to jump overboard. I have just come off guard to have four hours' sleep and thought I would write a letter home as perhaps I shall not have the chance again for a few weeks, as I am expecting to be sent on to a British man-of-war to go to sea. Our regiment is trained to fight on battleships as well as on land and there is a rumour that the Germans are going to make another attack on Hong Kong. Of course, we shall be ready for them, and will make them sorry when they do come. There will be no German fleet when we have finished with them, at least round China way. I can not explain to you how we all felt in the battle when we captured the German ships. We were all very excited and eager to get at them. We have not heard much yet about the war, but are expecting news from England every day. Fred Swift is on one of the scout ships here. His ship is on guard about 20 miles outside the harbour, watching for more German ships."

He concludes by saying that he had not had any sleep for three days and three nights and he was glad now of the chance. He was anxious for papers to be sent out, which would be forwarded to his ship.



MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

THE BENEFIT OF BEING A SOLDIER

George Underwood, collier, Ibstock, was summoned by James Thorpe, game keeper, Nailstone, on September 12th. He pleaded guilty. The gamekeeper said the defendant was blackberrying and broke the fence in going through doing damage to the amount of 1s. Defendant intimated that he had joined the army.

The Chairman: *Have you been passed and accepted?*

Defendant: Yes.

The Chairman: *Then I think we must let you go and wish you luck and a safe return. It is a paltry offence.*

Prosecutor in reply to the Bench, said he did not wish to go on with the case. The costs were remitted.

COALVILLE TERRITORIALS AND THEIR INSTRUCTOR

PRESENTATION TO SERGT. STONE

An interesting little function took place at the Whitwick gymnasium on Monday night when Sergt-Instructor Stone, who has been instructing the Coalville Territorials, over a hundred strong, was presented with a handsome dressing case.

Pte. Bernard Hatter made the presentation on behalf of the company, and said how sorry they were to know, that Sergt-Instructor Stone was to leave them shortly. The recruits highly appreciated his services and extended their best wishes to him as to his future career.

Sergt-Instructor Stone, who was quite taken by surprise, expressed his thanks and congratulated the men on the splendid progress they had made in such a short time. He had heard many people remark how smart they looked and he agreed and assured them that any regiment would be proud of them.

The Sergeant is returning to his regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders, on orders from the War Office and expected to leave Whitwick to-day (Friday). As is well known, Sergeant-Instructor Stone has for the last few years been in charge at the Whitwick and District Gymnasium and School of Arms, founded by the Right Hon. Charles Booth.

NO GERMAN PRISONERS IN LEICESTER

The rumour having arisen that a batch of German prisoners was expected shortly in Leicester, and that arrangements were being made for their accommodation on the Oadby Racecourse, inquiries were made on Monday night when it was ascertained that no intimation of any such arrangements has been received by the police, nor have they heard of any likelihood of prisoners arriving at Leicester in the near future.

LEICESTER WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE

ALLOWANCES TO DEPENDANTS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS DISCONTINUED

A contemporary is informed by Councillor W. E. Hincks, chairman of the above-named committee that no further pay will be made to dependants of soldiers and sailors from the Prince of Wales's Fund. The committee has decided to stop the payments because of the increased Government allowances which commenced yesterday to the wives and families of soldiers and sailors. Special cases only will in future be dealt with by the committee.

ONE STRIPE FOR BOSWORTH WORKHOUSE PORTER

The porter of the Market Bosworth Workhouse, who recently joined Kitchener's Army, has been made a Lance-Corporal, and Mr A. W. Palmer, clerk to the Mr F. Bouskell, of Market Bosworth, who joined Kitchener's only three weeks ago is now a Corporal.

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RECRUITING MEETING AT ELLISTOWN

SPEECHES BY MR W. HURST, MR B. G. HALE, AND CAPT. STEVENSON

AN APPEAL TO YOUNG MEN

Under the auspices of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee a meeting was held in the Public Hall, Ellistown, on Thursday evening. Mr William Hurst presided, and he was supported by Mr B. Hale, J.P., and Capt. Stevenson.

While the company assembled, those already present heartily sang, "It's a long way to Tipperary" and "God Save the King."

The chairman said they were there to encourage recruiting. Lord Kitchener had asked for an additional 500,000 men and he understood that he had already got 300,000 towards that number. He appealed to others to come forward in this time of need. He said he was not asking more than his own family were doing. He had a son in the Engineers who expected to go any moment to France, who fought in the Boer War. Proceeding he said they were faced with such a crisis as they had not experienced since they toppled over that European humbug Napoleon. They were now fighting to uphold truth and honour, to uphold treaties which must not be regarded as mere scraps of paper. They were fighting to vindicate gallant little Belgium

whose cities had been ruthlessly destroyed and its population treated with brutality and slain, they were fighting to defend their ally, France, or more important still, to safeguard their own empire against the German menace. Germany fought by sowing mines in the sea, and by dressing their soldiers in the uniforms of dead British soldiers. The British were Christian, and they would fight as such. They would strike hard and often but after that would treat the unfortunate and defenceless with humanity. They had a glorious cause, their King and country called them. (Cheers)

Mr B. G. Hale said that if they did not fight in France for freedom and honour there was the danger that they moved here to fight in this country against the barbarous troops of the Kaiser. They were proud that it was known the whole world over that they (the British) fought as gentlemen. This had been proved by the response they had had from South Africa and India. The German Emperor had been deluded, but it was now undeceived. The people of the provinces of India were not only offering their services, but their wealth and resources. Canada and the other Dominions were also rallying round the old flag, and it was incumbent that the young men of this country should do the same. When they had a task to perform it was always wise to provide for every eventuality, and they should offer themselves in order to step into the breach if required. He would to God that he could go, but he was too old. Every man, whatever his age should, however, be prepared to make sacrifices. It would probably be a long affair. If they could tell the men fighting in the trenches that 600,000 more men were going out, did not his hearers think it would have an excellent moral effect, and had they not done splendidly? Were they not proud of their race? Let them all have the old spirit, *"God helping us, we will get through."* He was prepared to do all in his power, to the point of sacrifice. He said this not boastfully, but to make them realise the gravity of the cause. Would they not go and fight for the great cause – for right, justice and truth? Would they have a better cause? Ever since the world began had there been no better cause to fight for? When the war was over and the pages of history came to be written, this country, the greatest empire the world had ever seen would be looked up to as she had never been before. Those who read history would be proud that they bore the name of Britons. Gallant little Belgium need not have sacrificed herself as she had done, she was determined to uphold her neutrality which had been guaranteed by the other powers. That guarantee had been torn up by Germany. What would their wives think if they could tear up their marriage lines? If private undertakings were sacred how much more sacred were undertakings between nations. But for Belgium's gallant stand, Germany to-day would be in Paris, and this country would be in danger of invasion. In Westminster Cathedral and St. Paul's Cathedral they saw the memorials of their national heroes – men who had done their duty. Better to die fighting for a just cause on the battlefield, than to die miserable cowards at home. (Applause)

Captain Stevenson said he only wished as an old volunteer of 10 years' service that he could go, but owing to his eyesight, no doctor would pass him. But he was doing what he could by acting as a recruiting officer. Collier's were the lads for him. When 700 colliers from Glamorganshire joined Kitchener's army he said they were the finest men he had ever seen. Germany's aim was beyond Belgium and France, they aimed at this country and the colonies. The Kaiser was a blood-besotted Potsdam butcher. Many stories of the atrocities were true and he had proof of them. In Leicestershire there is a poor Belgian woman who had had both her arms cut off. She was standing near the ruins of her home when a priest came up and pleaded with her to fly from the Germans. She would not leave her children – a baby, and others aged 8 and 6. The German troops came up and bayoneted the priest and children aged 8 and 6. An officer cut off the woman's hands with his sword and threw the infant into the road. The officer and his men then galloped over the child. Did it not make their blood boil? They were going to put a stop to that. Kitchener was asking for a million men, and he had it on good authority that when he had got them he would ask for another million. Proceeding he said that Ellistown had sent many of its lads, but they wanted still more. If they had taken Lord Roberts' advice years ago and trained their young men this war would never have taken place. Proceeding, he said he wished to contradict the statement that Kitchener's Army were having poor food. He had many letters praising both the quality and quantity of the food. He had the authority of most of the employers of labour in the district to say that the places of the men enlisting would be kept open for them. From one place in the locality he had taken 118 men.

Names of recruits were taken at the close.

CRICKETERS IN THE ARMY
PLAYING THE OTHER GREAT GAME
LOCAL NOTABILITIES

A correspondent of the "Standard" has compiled a list of all cricketers now serving in the army and one of the most interesting things about it is that a dozen or so cricket captains out of the twenty figure in the list.

Essex is represented by 17, including J. W. H. T. Douglas, Rev. F. G. Gillingham, G. B. Davies, and C. D. McIver: Gloucester by among others C. O. H. Sewell, D. C. Robinson, M. A. Green, Grange and Dipper: Hampshire by 23, Kent 10, Lancashire 4, Middlesex 11, Somerset 7, Surrey 8, probably 11, Sussex 7, Warwick 14, Worcester 7 and Yorkshire 3.

Those who are serving from the Midland counties are:

LEICESTERSHIRE

Major Challenor, commanding 5th Leicestershire (Kitchener's Army).
A. T. Sharp, lieutenant, Leicestershire Territorials (Ashby Division).
H. Wright, first lieutenant, Loyal Lancashires
W. N. Riley, O.T.C.
G. H. Salmon, O.T.C.
W. W. Odell, City of Birmingham Battalion
G. B. F. Rudd, University and Public Schools Battalion
Astill, 4th Leicestershire Battalion Territorials
Shingler, 4th Leicestershire Battalion Territorials
Emmerson, 4th Leicestershire Battalion Territorials

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

P. Pearson-Gregory, lieutenant in the Guards
A. W. Carr, 5th Lancers
Gunn (W), jun. (John Gunn's son) King's Royal Rifles
Smith (J) (ground staff), King's Royal Rifles
Collins and Bowers (last year on the ground staff) have also joined

DERBYSHIRE

Captain Baggallay, 11th Hussars (already at front)
J. Chapman, Army Remount Department
N. M. Hughes-Hallett, in an infantry line regiment
W. T. Taylor (secretary), 1st City of Birmingham Battalion of Territorials
G. Curgenvin (secretary), cavalry regiment
G. L. Jackson
Root, Bracey, and Reader have sent in their names

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

T. E. Manning, captain Northants Yeomanry
N. J. Beers, Lovat's Scouts
B. White, Lord Kitchener's Army
R. C. Fowler (rejoined), commission in National Reserves
Wheeler, Lord Kitchener's Army

The Minor counties are also well to the fore with Devonshire 10, Herts. 4, Norfolk 12, Northumberland 7, and Suffolk 6.

TAKEN FOR SPIES

LEICESTERSHIRE MAN AND WIFE SHOT IN FRANCE

It is reported that Mr and Mrs D'Esterre, who for several years resided at Elmhurst, Melton Mowbray, and hunted with the local packs, have been shot whilst motoring in France. Mr D'Esterre was killed outright and his wife received four balls through her body, one through the arm, and one on the side of the knee. Although seriously wounded she is making favourable progress.

The report indicates that they were taken for spies, and, as has happened in England, anyone motoring on after challenged by sentries is liable to be shot at.

BELGIAN REFUGEES AT HATHERN

Mainly through the efforts of Ald. S. Wells and Dr. Bedford, a house has been found at Kegworth for a family of Belgian refugees. Several attended Mass at the Roman Catholic Mission Church, Hathern on Sunday.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Highways Committee recommended that in the case of Council men going on active service the difference between the amount they receive from the War Office and their usual wages be paid by the Council to their dependants.

LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY

A reserve regiment of the Leicester Yeomanry is being raised for Imperial and Home Defence. Reservists are eligible to join and all old Yeoman (under 45) and men who can ride are cordially invited to join.

Apply: Commanding Officer R. B. Muir, Major, N. M. Mounted Brigade Depot, Blue Boar Yard, Leicester.

Colonel E. M. P. de Lisle, Garendon Park, Loughborough.

Sergt-Major Harris, 96 Derby Road, Loughborough.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Arrangements have been completed in Ashby for the accommodation next week of twenty Belgian children (refugees), thirty townspeople having kindly undertaken to bear the cost of their maintenance. A large house has been placed by the Trustees of the Grammar School at the disposal of the local committee, and it is understood that the rental will be merely nominal.

Everyone was pleased to hear that the Prince of Wales, keenly anxious to prove his patriotism by serving his King and country in the present crisis, has been given a commission in the Grenadier Guards. The Prince of Wales was chatting the other day with one of his brother officers on the subject of the war, and quietly remarked: "*Well, there's one really good thing that will come from this war.*" "*Whatever's that?*" asked a rather astonished officer. "*Well*" replied the Prince with rather a pathetic little smile, "*I suppose I shan't have to marry one of those German princesses now!*"

Pte. J. G. Ward, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Ward, of High Street, Coalville, paid a visit to his parents last week end. He holds an appointment as assistant surveyor at Southend, but like all other loyal young men, responded to his country's call and joined the City of London Royal Fusiliers (Territorial Regiment) the whole of which has volunteered and been accepted for foreign service. The regiment is at present in London.

The Coalville Territorial recruits, now about 130 strong, marched to Hugglescote Parish Church on Sunday headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band. After service they marched back to Marlborough Square where they disbanded. Next Sunday morning they are to attend the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church and the Rev. T. Martin will be the preacher.

All who take any interest in Leicestershire football will be pleased to learn that Lieut. W. C. Clover, of Glen Parva, has been promoted captain. Capt. Clover has served for many years at Glen Parva on the staff of the 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, on the outbreak of war being transferred to Portsmouth. Capt. Clover took a real interest in football matters in the county, placing his services freely at the disposal of the local associations. As a referee he enjoyed a great reputation all over the country.

VISITS TO WOUNDED

RAILWAY PERMITS FOR FRIENDS IN DANGEROUS CASES

Speaking at the Fifth Northern Hospital, Leicester, in connection with the presentation by the Mayor and Mayoress of Leicester of large portraits of the King and Queen for the convalescent soldiers' mess room, Mr W. G. Gibbs, hon. secretary of the local committee which has provided literature and games for the wounded, made an interesting statement as to the issue of free railway tickets for the relatives of men dangerously wounded.

He said he thought it should be generally known that it was due to the Queen that this concession had been granted. As secretary to the Games' Committee having access to the wards, he had ventured to address her Majesty on the subject of railway facilities for relatives of the wounded, and he had just received permission to make public the substance of her Majesty's reply. Writing under date September 17th. Her Majesty intimated that it had been decided that journey money should be granted to the relatives of soldiers "*when the doctor certifies the wound or sickness is of a dangerous character.*" It was impossible at present to give more facilities for relatives to visit patients in the hospital, not only because of the pecuniary difficulties which presented themselves but also such visits in many instances proved detrimental to the recovery of the patient.

Mr Gibbs added that there had been a great deal of misapprehension with regard to the War Office notification since issued. There granted solely at the discretion of the officers was no general grant of journey money; it was commanding the various hospitals in respect of patients who were dangerously ill. He was sure the convalescents there, fortunately not needing the concessions for themselves, would nevertheless appreciate the boon it would be to relatives of stricken comrades. (Cheers)

MATCHES FOR THE TROOPS

INTERESTING GIFT BY KING AND QUEEN

The Press Bureau on Sunday night issued the following:

As a mark of their keen interest in the welfare and comfort of our troops, the King and Queen have been graciously pleased to present a large supply of matches for the use of the troops now serving at the front.

The Bureau announces that it is has now been decided to allow gifts of matches to be sent to the Expeditionary Force. Safety matches only should be sent, and they should be packed in sealed tin boxes, and forwarded, carriage paid, to the military forwarding officer, Southampton Docks, for transmission.

Their Majesty's gift will undoubtedly be keenly appreciated. In letters home many men at the front have referred to the scarcity of matches, and asked their friends to supply their need in this respect.

IBSTOCK COUNTY AREA

EXECUTIVE RELIEF COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting of the above committee was held at the Church of England Schools, Barlestone, on Thursday evening, October 1st. The Rev. S. Flood, M.A. presided. The Secretary announced that £10 has been placed to credit of Committee's account (No. 2) to meet urgent cases of civil distress, should any arise.

The hearty thanks of the Committee were extended to all who were so kindly assisting in the work and acknowledgement was gratefully accorded to the Colliery Owners who were making such generous grants weekly to the wives and children of soldiers and sailors at the front, and also to the official staffs of the collieries for their kindness in undertaking the clerical work of connected with the collection of the weekly contribution from employees. The question of refugees was discussed. Mr Pegg (Barlestone) announced the holding of a patriotic concert at Barlestone on October 31. It was decided that the organisation expenses (£4/2/3) up to September 10th be met by a levy on the executive members so that none of such expenses fall on the actual amount contributed by the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund.

DO YOU KNOW

That a drill hall is to be built shortly on the Ashby Road, Coalville?

That all the Leicestershire policemen are contributing weekly to the Relief Fund and the first instalment amounts to £50?

That up to date 2,379 applications for assistance and advice have been dealt with by the Leicester War Relief Committee?

That Mr G. H. Highfield, a former master at the Coalville Grammar School has joined the army?

That five members of the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church Choir and several scholars of the Sunday School have joined the army?

That P.C. Heggs, of Ashby, has been wounded while engaged with the Coldstream Guards in the fighting in France and is now in hospital in Lincoln?

That local members of the Territorial force have been made honorary members of the institute during their stay in Ashby-de-la-Zouch?

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ELLISTOWN

PARISH CHURCH

The harvest festival was commenced at the St. Christopher's Church last night, when the Rev. E. Leech, of Birmingham, was the preacher. The collection was for the Belgian Relief Fund.

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FORMER OSGATHORPE RECTOR IN BERLIN

An Englishman in Berlin who is holding his ground and doing his duty under difficult conditions is the Rev. H. Williams, chaplain of St. George's Church, the headquarters of the Anglican community. By special dispensation due to the fact that St. George's was founded by the late Empress Frederick and stands on royal property near the Kaiser's castle, no helmeted policeman attends Divine service there to see that the usual prayer for England is omitted. The prayer is omitted but in other English Churches in Germany a "Schutzmann" is stationed.

The Rev. H. Williams was formerly rector of Osgathorpe.

WAR ITEMS

Samuel Caldwell and Joseph Caldwell, nephews of Mr J. A. Swift, hosiery manufacturer, of Hathern, are both sergeants in the 9th Lancers, now at the front. They have written to Hathern stating that they are enjoying themselves but that they now know what war is. Their father, who is alive, served in the Zulu war with the 17th Lancers.

KIRBY MUXLOE MAN HAS SIX SONS IN THE ARMY

Corporal William Bury, now a boot and shoe maker, of Desford Lane, Kirby Muxloe, who served fourteen years in the 1st Gloucester Volunteer Regiment at Bristol, has six sons serving in the army, viz., Fred Bury, 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who received two medals with five clasps for service in the Boer War; Alfred Bury, Northamptonshire Regiment, one medal and five clasps, Boer War; Herbert Bury, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment; L Bury, 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment; W. T. Bury, 2nd Battalion Notts and Derbyshire Regiment; and C. Bury, Leicesters. All are privates.

LOUGHBOROUGH MAN KILLED

ONE OF A WIDOW'S SEVEN SONS IN THE ARMY

Mrs Ainsworth, a widow of 25 Freehold Street, Loughborough, who had all her seven sons serving with the colours – two of them fighting at the front in the Coldstream Guards – has received news that one, William, was killed in action on September 16th. He was married with two children.

BELGIAN REFUGEES NEAR LOUGHBOROUGH

Thirteen Belgian refugees, one elderly man and twelve women and children have arrived at Stanford-on-Soar, near Loughborough, where they have been housed by Mrs Peacock in the empty vicarage.

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WOUNDED IN LEICESTER HOSPITAL

EXTRAORDINARY CHEERFULNESS

Enquiries at the Leicester Base Hospital on Friday elicited the fact that the batch of wounded who arrived the previous day were fairly comfortable. Most of them passed a good night. There are, of course, a number of seriously wounded among them, there being 30 stretcher cases. The total number of wounded in the hospital is now 300.

Most of the wounds in the last batch were caused by shells, but there were a few bad gunshot wounds, and one man still had bullets in his leg. Only two or three sick cases, as distinguished from wounds were in the party.

The prominent feature about the men was their extraordinary cheerfulness. While they were being transferred from train to motor cars, they had quite a little informal tea party on the platform, a lot of the wounded sitting in chairs, drinking tea and smoking cigarettes, and they seemed to do this with as much enjoyment as if they had been at a Mayor's reception.

Those in charge made an apology for the smell of petrol from the waiting motor-cars, and one man laughed and said, "*That's not in it with the stink of 'Jack Johnson's.*" Another particular jolly chap, one of the stretcher cases, who was badly wounded in the leg, said nothing about his wound, but laughed heartily at anything that particularly caught his fancy and among other things strenuously objected to going inside a closed van. He recognised that he could not go in an ordinary motor car as that would not accommodate the stretcher, but he wanted to see the town and people on his way to the hospital, and suggested that they should place the stretcher on the roof of the car.

Among other matters thought of for the temporary relief of the wounded, it may be mentioned that the soldiers thoroughly appreciated the rugs and pillows provided for their comfort from train to hospital. These proved most valuable. Another little item was the walking sticks provided by the French for those who could limp about. These are of a standard pattern and very strong.

FRENCH SOLDIERS TRIBUTE TO A COALVILLE POLICEMAN

BURIED WITH MILITARY HONOURS

COALVILLE FOOTBALLERS COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY

MORE LOCAL MEN FOR THE FRONT

INTERESTING INTERVIEWS AND LETTERS

The splendid part which men from Coalville and district are taking in the great war becomes more and more apparent as the weeks roll by. In this issue we regret to have to record the death of another local soldier, Police-constable Henson, stationed at New-Swannington, who has died from wounds and been buried with military honours in France.

Letters received this week show how prominently Coalville footballers are figuring in the fray, and two of them have been commended for bravery. The report that "Smosh" Smith had been killed, is now, happily, proved beyond a doubt, to be untrue.

Four local soldiers from India who are bound for the front, left Coalville yesterday. An interesting interview with one of them appears below. It is rather remarkable how the men at the front are missing their "fags" and several make reference to this in the letters we publish this week.

CHRISTMAS DINNER IN BERLIN

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S OPTIMISM

LOCAL MEN FROM INDIA FOR THE FRONT

Four soldiers who have just arrived from India reached Coalville on Monday morning on four days' leave of absence, prior to re-joining their regiment which has orders for the front. They were Lance-Corpl. A. Wesson and Lance-Corpl. C. H. Wesson, brothers, sons of Mr Wesson, a Midland Railway fitter, residing in Margaret Street, Coalville. Pte. A. Concannon of Church Lane, Whitwick, and Pte. Hartshorne of Swannington. All are in the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters), who since arriving in this country have been encamped at Hursley Park, on Sir J. Cooper's estate near Winchester. The four named have all been in the army for some years.

In an interview with Lance-Corpl. A. Wesson, a representative of this paper learned that the whole regiment are in high spirits at the prospect of going to the front and are eager for the fray.

They left Bombay on September 3rd and landed at Plymouth on October 1st, the whole regiment comprising about 1100. These were all brought over in one transport, and came part of the way with Indian troops which were landed at Marseilles. In all, there were 26 troopships, and, escorted by the battleships, Wesson said it was a fine sight. The Indian troops are splendid, he said, and would strike terror into the hearts of the Germans. The Gurkhas, in particular, he considered a fine body of men and splendid fighters.

Wesson, who looked bronzed, said he had been two years at Bombay where it was very hot. He would have finished his time in the army next June, but was now continuing in the service. "*You are fond of army life?*" queried our reporter, "*Oh, yes,*" was the response, "*and we are all looking forward to getting to the front.*"

Questioned as to whether there had been any exciting incidents in Bombay, Wesson replied that the enemy had not made his appearance there but English vessels had brought in numerous German ships which had been captured and the British Tommies had been guarding them. His regiment, he went on to say, had been abroad for 16 years and went through the South African war. As far as they knew they were to leave England for the front sometime this month, and he believed that about 70,000 troops were leaving for the war.

"Kitchener means business," he added enthusiastically, "*and we have all been saying in our regiment that we shall have our Christmas dinner in Berlin. I'll send you a bit of pudding.*"

Referring again to the journey from India, Wesson said ten of the transports sailed from Bombay and the others joined them at Port Said. They sighted no hostile craft on the way but had the unique experience of witnessing a wreck. They saw a vessel disappear beneath the waves, but, happily, all the crew were saved. Apart from this, it was an uneventful journey. The dusky soldiers who had gone to the front were, he said, the flower of the Indian Army and would give a good account of themselves. It was pleasing to hear Wesson say how well the white soldiers got on with the dark men in the service of India. The Indian soldiers, he affirmed, would readily lay down their lives for the English soldiers.

Wesson is an old Coalville Athletic footballer, and has gained a good reputation at the game while in Bombay, having won several medals. Had things gone on in a normal way he would have completed his seven years in the army next June and intended playing for Coalville Town next season. He finds the English climate very chilly after Bombay, but said the army provided them with good warm clothing.

Before leaving Wesson, I assured him that readers of the "Coalville Times" wished him and his pals the best of luck, and that I should look out for that bit of pudding.

The four men left Coalville yesterday to rejoin their regiment at Winchester.

COALVILLE LAD'S ONLY COMPLAINT

CAN'T GET A WOODBINE

Mrs Davis, besides having a letter from "Smosh," has also received one this week from her only boy, Pte. William Henry Davis, No. 9088, of the Leicestershire Regiment, 1st Reinforcement Base.

He says:- *"Dear Mother, I write a line to you hoping to find you quite well, as it leaves me at present. I have seen Mr Chippendale and Reed and they are getting on all right. I have not had a Woodbine and we can't get any here, but we will make it all right when this is over. Could you try and send me a box of "fags." Get Lizzie and Jack to help you. I have heard that George had listed; have not seen "Smosh" yet. I can't put as much in this letter as I should like, because if I did the officer would rip it up. We dare not put our proper address, because of giving things away. I think this is all this time. Write back and send some "fags" with the letter. With best love and wishes from your loving son."*

William

P.S. I have seen P.C. Page up here. Goodbye to all.

Pte. Davis is the only son of Mrs Davis, who is a widow, her husband, Mr Isaac Davis having been dead for about ten years. A pathetic circumstance is that Mrs Davis has been bedridden for 18 years, her hands and arms having almost withered away, but when our reporter called she seemed wonderfully cheerful and was very pleased to have received the two letters here reproduced.



SWANNINGTON POLICEMAN'S DEATH AT THE FRONT

FRENCH SOLDIER'S SPLENDID TRIBUTE

NURSE'S TOUCHING LETTER

The saddest war news of the week, so far as this district is concerned, is that announcing the death of P.C. Henson, of the Coldstream Guards who was stationed at New Swannington. It was conveyed in a touching letter written by one of the hospital nurses to his brother, Mr John Henson, of 49, Woodgate, Loughborough, and was as follows:

"September 27th, - Dear Sir, I write to tell you the sad news of the death of your brother, Pte. L. Henson, of the Coldstream Guards, who was brought to this hospital on Wednesday September 23rd at night, with a shell wound. The piece of shell had passed through the lower part of his body and out through the lower part of his back. We did all we could for him, but there was little we could do, except keep him comfortable. He was very brave and patient, and passed away quietly at half past four on Friday, September 25th. He was conscious part of the time and told me you were the only near relation he had, and he was very pleased when we said we would let you know how he got on. He was buried this morning. The first part of the service was in our mortuary chapel. An English clergyman took the service and a company of French soldiers came and several of the members of staff of this hospital went to the service. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and on it was placed a laurel wreath and there was another wreath with the words, "Les souvenir Francais," given by some French soldiers. A company of French soldiers followed him to the grave and fired the last shots. It was a beautiful and impressive military funeral. If there is anything further that you wish to know or anything I can do for you, please write and ask me and I will do what I can."

Yours truly,

Grace Judge

P.C. Henson, who was a first-class army reservist, joined the Leicestershire Constabulary about nine months ago and he was the first policeman to be stationed at New Swannington, where he came in May last. By the painstaking and courteous and efficient manner in which he discharged his duties he had won the highest respect of the inhabitants in that short period and there is genuine and wide-spread regret that the war should have claimed him as one of its victims. He was a fine specimen of manhood, a total abstainer and of splendid physique, his military bearing being very apparent, and he bore an excellent character. He was a native of Loughborough. The deceased soldier was engaged to Miss Ida Stacey, whose mother is the wife of Mr Waterfield of the Duke of Newcastle Inn, Whitwick, and much sympathy is felt for the young lady in this sad occurrence.



JIM SMITH SAFE

WISHES TO BE REMEMBERED TO ALL OLD FRIENDS

In view of the reports that Jim Smith, the Coalville Town footballer, popularly known as "Smosh," had been killed, a letter received from him this week by Mrs Davis, of 157, Ashburton Road, Coalville has an especial interest.

Smith is a private, No. 3833, of the R.A.M.C. Fourth Cavalry, Field Ambulance, British Expeditionary Force, and he says, *"I write these few lines hoping to find you quite well, as it leaves me at present. I am going on all right. I have not seen Harry (Mrs Davis's son) yet. Is he out here? Will you tell me if my sister has left and if so send me her address. I hope you are going on all right. Remember me to Straw and Squires and tell them I should like one of Raffer's (pint of ale) now. Remember me to all old friends.*

P.S. Tell Bradder (the little boy) that this letter is from "Smosh." Good night all."

HAVING A BUSY TIME

ELLISTOWN MAN WITH THE RIFLE BRIGADE

Rifleman H. Lagoe, of Ellistown, with the fourth section, G Company, 6th Battalion, Rifle Brigade, stationed at Queenborough, Kent, writing to a friend, Mr A. Richardson, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, says they are very busy drilling night and day. They now have a captain attached to the company who is all right, but keeps them on the go.

Having expressed thanks for some cakes sent to him, which he enjoyed immensely, he says they are now having a lot better food, a change every day of some sort, and he was feeling pretty well. The letter continues: *"I do not sleep on the floor now, but on rocks. They are no more comfortable but I do not get the draught so much. We have all got heavy army boots and they feel like a ton weight at night when we have finished a day's drilling. We go on a ploughed field at night, skirmishing, and it is a bit rough, crawling on your stomach or hands and knees. I shall be glad when we have got uniforms. My clothes are beginning to look a bit on the shabby side, but I am not the only one. You ought to see some of the fellows; they have hardly got any trousers left. If we do not shave every day there is an extra drill to do. We are having short route marches now and they are all right; better than drilling."* He concludes by expressing thanks for a "Coalville Times" received this morning.

GOOD FOOD AT ALDERSHOT

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER'S TESTIMONY

In a letter to a Hugglescote friend, Mr A. Richardson, Pte. G. H. Wilcox, late of Ellistown, No. 13254 of the B Company 8th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, stationed at Bourley Camp, Aldershot, says *"We are getting on all right. We are having good food – ham and pudding for dinner, and butter and jam for tea, but we do nine hours drill a day and we have to be in by 8 o'clock, so we don't get much time to write. I am writing this in bed and the lights are out at nine o'clock. The nights are not like being at Ellistown. It is four miles to the nearest place and we can get nothing here but only letters. There are aeroplanes and airships flying about all day. I had never seen one until I came here. We all sleep in one camp. The boys ask me to remember them to you and wish you and Mrs Richardson the best of luck. It's a lot better here than at Wigston."*

COALVILLE NAVAL STOKER'S LETTER

Stoker T. W. Robinson, whose foster parents reside in Berrisford Street, Coalville, who was serving on the destroyer Cadmus at Shanghai, writes that he had no knowledge of the outbreak of war until the 6th August. The destroyer was ordered "straight away." Some German and Austrian ships were at once held up, and his vessel was commanded to hold itself in readiness to join the Japanese Fleet.

“NEARLY ALWAYS RAINING”

Pte. Jack Clibbery of the Leicesters, now in France, writing to his father Mr J. Clibbery, Midland Railway engine driver, of Coalville, says the weather is very bad, and it is nearly always raining. His brother, Ben, is serving in the same battalion, but in a different company. The postcard is dated September 24th.

COALVILLE SOLDIERS WOUNDED

FOUGHT AND FELL SIDE BY SIDE

Lying side by side in the hospital at Leicester are Pte. F. Wilson and Pte. Hancock, both of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, who were fighting together in France when they were wounded and were brought to the hospital together last week. Pte. Wilson's home is in Hotel Street, Coalville, and Pte. Hancock resides at Ravenstone. Both are married men.

Wilson received a bullet wound in the foot and Hancock was struck on the shoulder with a piece of shell. We were pleased to learn on enquiry yesterday that both men were doing well.

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER'S BRAVERY

RESCUED WOUNDED FRENCH SOLDIER

Private W. Commons, familiarly known in Coalville and district as “Merry Commons,” and who is serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the Expeditionary Force, writing to Mr John Sykes, of Hotel Street, said he was pleased to hear that Mr Sykes had a good time at Thringstone Wake. He (Commons) was at a different wake, where the shells were flying night and day. He continues: *“Well, I have had my name sent for bravery. There was a Frenchman hit by a shell, so me and “Smosh” got a stretcher and ran out, and fetched him to safety, and the shells were bursting all around us. But we have been lucky enough to miss them up to now. It isn't war out here; its murder.”*

Commons adds: *“It's like asking for gold out here to ask for a piece of writing-paper. You can get 5d a packet for Woodbines here. There's one thing, they are sending plenty of tobacco out for the troops. But I say ‘Roll on England’.”*

Commons, who lived at Club Row, Coalville, has figured in different football clubs, amongst them Whitwick Imperial and Coalville Swifts.

COALVILLE AMBULANCE MAN HOME AGAIN

EXPERIENCES ON A WARSHIP

One of the members of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, Pte. Mulrooney, of St. Saviour's Road, Coalville, who was called up for service in the Sick Berth Naval Reserve on the outbreak of war, returned home yesterday having been invalided home on account of ill health.

Seen by a representative of the paper yesterday, Pte. Mulrooney stated that he and Pte. Curtis, another Coalville man, had been stationed on board H.M.S. Cruiser Amphitrite, which is not in the war zone but is guarding trade routes off the Portuguese and Spanish coasts. There were three doctors, three St. John's Ambulance men and two sick berth attendants on board, Mulrooney being one of the latter. He has seen no actual hostilities but his ship has had one or two exciting chases of supposed hostile craft, showing how keenly our warships are guarding the seas. Several prizes in the shape of foreign ships were captured, 5 of these being laden with grain. One they took into Gibraltar and the others were sent to Devonport.

Mulrooney stated that Pte. F. Moreton, also of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade was on board H.M.S. Caesar.

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ASHBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

SURVEYOR JOINS THE FORCES

The Surveyor, Mr F. Horbury, intimated his desire to join the forces and asked the Council to allow him leave of absence.

The Chairman said he was sorry, but he knew that some of their best young men were joining the forces and it was their duty to do all they could do to help them. He felt that the Council would be losing a very valuable servant but they hoped it would not be for long. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that the duties surveyor had been carried on better and more to the satisfaction of the ratepayers since Mr Horbury came than it had ever been before. (Hear, hear.) The roads continued to improve and they hoped he would come back as soon as the King had done with him and that it would not be long. (Cheers.)

Major Hatchett moved and the Rev. C. T. Moore seconded that permission be given and this was carried.

The Chairman said they must decide the question of remuneration. They could not expect the surveyor to fight their battles on a shilling a day.

Major Hatchett moved that they pay Mr Horbury half his salary while he was away. Mr Pargetter said he seconded that with very great pleasure. Dr. Atkinson supporting it said it was the first time in his life that he felt that he was getting an old man. Really he did not feel any older than he did 20 years ago, but he was too old to be of service and he admired the young men who were going. (Cheers.) The resolution was carried.

Mr Horbury thanked the Council and said he hoped to come back all right. He had always met with the greatest kindness from the members and his association with the Council had been a happy time. He hoped to be able to come back and resume his duties in due course.

The Clerk was instructed to take steps to temporarily fill the post.

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LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS FOR THE FRONT

STATEMENT BY THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE

An important statement, received with interest and satisfaction in Leicester and the county, was made by the Duke of Devonshire at a recruiting meeting at Ilkeston on Monday night.

His Grace said he could state with authority that the North Midland Brigade of Territorials had had the honour of being selected to be the first Territorial Division to go to the front. It was necessary that the Territorial Force's strength should be maintained at home, for so long as the German fleet and the Zeppelins were in being we had realise that this country was not immune from invasion.

The phrase used by the Duke was that the North Midland Brigade would be "the first Territorial Division for the front as a Territorial Division." There are of course a number of Territorials already at the front in various capacities. It had been rumoured for some little time that the desire of the Leicestershire Territorials to proceed to the front was likely to be gratified at an early date, and the authoritative announcement of the Duke that the North Midland Brigade to which they are attached is honoured by the "first call" will be received with great enthusiasm.

Details are not at present available, and even if we had them it would be inadvisable in view of the policy of the War Office to state the strength of the forces, but it may be noted that attached to the North Midland Division are the 4th and 5th Battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment, as well as battalions of the Lincoln,

Staffordshire, Notts. and Derby Brigades, the North Midland Brigades of Royal Field Artillery, and Royal Engineers, Army Service Corps, R.A.M.C. and Clearing Hospital.

It is presumed that both sectors are referred to. Orders have been received to mobilise the North Midland Division of the Clearing Hospital, which has its headquarters at Leicester, and an appeal is being made for experienced cooks for this unit.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Notices have been posted in Coalville and district that every person who keeps homer pigeons must have a permit from the police, failing which they are liable to a heavy penalty. This regulation has been issued in consequence of aliens in this country using pigeons to carry messages to the enemy. There are many fanciers in this district who should, therefore, take note of what is required of them.

The number of Territorial recruits at Coalville continues to grow, and the company is now about 150 strong. They attended service at the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church on Sunday, the procession being headed by the Coalville Coronation Band. An appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. T. J. Martin. The men have not yet received the kharki uniform but they looked exceedingly smart and the good effects of the short training they have had are already apparent. Since Sergt. Instructor Stone left, the duties of instructor have been taken over by Sergt. Wain, one of the local recruiting officers. Next Sunday morning the recruits will attend service at the Ravenstone Parish Church.

At the moment 110 officers and 4,000 members and ex-members of the Church Lad's Brigade are serving in one branch or another of His Majesty's forces. Other are acting as orderlies and messengers, guarding waterworks, powder magazines, railway bridges, caring for refugees, providing ambulances, and stimulating recruiting. The brigade now has 7,000 members.

A resident of Ellistown, Mr Harper, who was reported missing from his home for some weeks, has, we are informed, now been traced. It is stated that he has enlisted in Kitchener's army at Birmingham.

One of the local school attendance officers, Mr J. Hugill, of Snibston, who was formerly a soldier, has proceeded to Aldershot to act as an instructor of recruits and his district has been divided among the other officers for the time being.

A large crowd at Shepshed on Tuesday night greeted 16 Belgian refugees, who have been placed in the White House, provided by the Rev. Canon Martens, who met them at Loughborough, and was accompanied by the Rev. Father Cams. A ladies committee prepared the rooms loans and gifts of furniture. A hot meal was ready for the guests on arrival.

DO YOU KNOW

That 110 men from the Whitwick Colliery have joined the forces?

That Pte. F. Moreton, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, on duty with the naval forces, has been promoted to the rank of corporal?

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FAREWELL TO COALVILLE RECRUITS

INTERESTING PRESENTATION

An interesting event took place in the Coalville Primitive Methodist School on Wednesday night in the form of a café social to bid farewell to some young men connected with the church who have joined the army. The programme included piano solos by Mrs J. R. Bennett, Miss Stillwell, and Miss Kirk, solos by Mrs Fisher, Miss S. Hayes and Mr Williamson. Mandolin solos by Miss D. Kendrick and recitations by Miss Shepherd and Miss A. Kendrick.

During the evening, Billies were presented to Messrs. G. Bennett, V. Kelham, G. Taylor, and S. Holmes, who have joined the army or territorials. Other recruits, J. W. Harper and S. Dodds, were presented with a Primitive Methodist hymnal. An enjoyable evening was spent.

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PATRIOTIC LEICESTER CITIZENS

TRAINING LEAGUE MEMBERS AT DRILL

More than 120 men put in an appearance at the initial drill of the Leicester Citizen's Training League, on the Leicestershire County Cricket Club ground on Monday. This may be regarded as an encouraging start. The commandant, Capt. R. M. Pritchard, addressed the men, congratulating them upon their appearance and bearing in Saturday's great procession. The League is for men over 35 years of age, and route marches and parades will be arranged, and badges provided shortly to every member. Enrolment is proceeding very briskly, over 200 additional names having been received since Saturday, and it is anticipated the present week will see the membership one thousand strong.

LEICESTER CORPORAL'S FEAT

TIMELY AID FOR A FRENCH LIEUTENANT

Lieut. Leon E. Pau, of the French Army, formerly employed in London, writing to his sister in England says:

"I am greatly indebted to the Coldstreams, and whenever you meet one in Purley, their depot is at Caterham, don't forget it is due to one of these brave men I owe my life. Speak to him and give him a cigarette and tell him a corporal and five of his men saved your brother's life.

I was alone on the outskirts of a forest making observations and watching one of our aeroplanes flying over a body of Germans when suddenly seven of the enemy jumped out of a well-concealed trench. I made an attempt to get away, when they fired at me. I fell and pretended I was wounded, when shots flew over my head from another direction. I saw the Germans run away, and the next minute the corporal, who told his name was William Taylor, and that he was a native of Leicester came running to me, followed by five men. He thought I was wounded.

He, it seems, was hiding, and was on the lookout for Germans, who he had seen lurking about on the summit of the hill. The incident certainly was the means of revealing the near presence of a considerable force of the enemy, who were shelled out of their position."

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COALVILLE AND THE RELIEF FUND

RESULT OF SECOND COLLECTION

A meeting of the Coalville collectors for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund was held in the Bridge Road Council School on Monday evening last week. Mr J. W. West presided and those present beside the collectors included Capt. McKernan, Messrs. L. L. Baldwin, W. Eames and A. Lockwood (of the Central Committee) and F. S. Weaver, hon. secretary.

The collectors paid in amounts received on the second house to house collection which totalled £37/5/8, including £10/5/0 already paid into the bank. The secretary said that made the total of the two collections £91/19/5. The chairman thought that was very good and said it justified the continued collecting.

Two resignations of collectors, Messrs. W. Clarke and A. Beasley for Albert and Victoria Street, were reported and three from the Coalville Ebenezer Baptist Church were appointed in their place, viz., Mrs Hardy, Miss F. Price and Mr E. Bettison.

The pastor of the Coalville Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Rev. W. H. Wills, wrote that the reason representatives from his church were not appointed in time for the first meeting of the committee was due to

a church meeting being held later and was not due to any lack of sympathy with the excellent object which the committee hand in hand.

It was decided to continue the collecting and the next meeting of the committee was fixed for the first Monday in November.

It may be explained that practically all the working people in Coalville and district are contributing to the fund at the various works, and the treasurer, Mr J. Husband, of Lloyd's Bank, Coalville, has already sent a cheque for £1,000 to the fund from the Coalville area.

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HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER REPORTED MISSING

Information was received on Wednesday by Mr W. Bonser, of 166, Thorpe Cottages, Crescent Road, Hugglescote, that his son, Pte. E. W. Bonser, No. 10318, of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, was listed as missing after an engagement on September 14th.

The letter, which is from the Colonel of the regiment states that "missing" does not necessarily mean that the soldier is killed or wounded. He may be an unwounded prisoner or temporarily separated from his regiment. Any further information will be sent as soon as it is received.



COALVILLE SOLDIER'S BIRTHDAY

Private G. Hiron, of the 1st Leicesters, writes from France stating that he is in good health. It would be his birthday on the 4th October, and he hoped his friends would have a celebration. The sun was very hot where the writer was, and fruit was very plentiful, especially grapes, which grew in fields. It was very cold at nights, but they did not grumble.

BOSWORTH MAN'S FOUR SONS SERVING THE KING

Mr T. C. Quincey, clerk to the Market Bosworth County Court, has three sons in Kitchener's Force and a fourth youth awaits orders. Mr Quincey has been 33 years in the county court office, and congratulations have been extended to him on the "patriotism of the Quinceys of historic Bosworth."

COALVILLE OFFICER FOR THE FRONT

Mr R. C. S. Jamie, of Coalville, as an ex-cadet of the Officer's Training Corps, on the outbreak of war applied for a commission in the regular forces, and has received a commission as second lieutenant in the Army Service Corps. He has been five weeks at Aldershot and Grove Park Depot and received orders for the front

on October 10th, being the first officer from the Coalville district to have this distinction. Mr Jamie is the elder son of Dr. R. W. Jamie, the Coalville Medical Officer of Health.

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICEMAN IN THE FIGHTING

COALVILLE CONSTABLE A PRISONER IN GERMANY

Sixteen members of the Leicestershire Constabulary have joined the forces, including four from Ashby-de-la-Zouch Petty Sessional Division. Of these four, one has been killed, and two wounded, these all being in the Coldstream Guards and the other P.C. Granger, is with the Leicesters in the fighting. The one killed is P.C. Henson and wounded P.C.'s Heggs, and Durrands. The latter, who was stationed at Coalville, has for some weeks been reported missing, but a letter has now been received from Durrands stating that he was wounded and taken prisoner by the Germans on September 17th. He was shot through the arm which was badly broken. He has been taken to Lefaugeren-lager, Doeberity, Germany, and he says he is allowed to receive and send letters but they must not contain any account or information respecting the war.

THRINGSTONE SOLDIER WELL

The Chairman of the House Committee of the Thringstone Club, Mr Stinson, has received a letter from one of the members, Mr Joseph West, who is with the forces in France stating that he is in good health and wishes to be remembered to all friends.

NEW CAPTAIN FOR COALVILLE TERRITORIALS

As Captain T. E. Jesson is expecting to go to the front with the 5th Battalion Leicester Territorials, Captain Vere Smith, has been appointed by the command of the Coalville Company. The new captain has been in the Indian Army and served through the South African War.

RECRUITING MEETING AT GRIFFYDAM

MR. J. SHIELD'S APPEAL TO SPORTING COLLIERS

SPEECH BY MR. T. Y. HAY

A meeting for recruiting purposes was held in the clubroom of the Wagon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Wednesday night. Mr J. Shields J.P. presided, and was supported by Mr T. Y. Hay (Coalville), Capt. Stevenson (Ashby), Mr W. Baldwin (Swannington) and Mr John Hay.

The chairman said there was no doubt that they were faced by the greatest crisis that this country had ever seen. They had not brought the war about, but having given their word to guarantee the neutrality of Belgium they were determined to keep their word. In spite of pessimism in some quarters, he felt that they were going on all right and they could place their entire confidence in Lord Kitchener and General French. He went on to refer to the German atrocities and said shooting was too good for such men. England had a big job and was fighting for their very existence. The call to arms had been nobly responded to and he was sure that the men of Griffydam and Thringstone would not fail. (Cheers) They had the poaching blood in them and the cock-fighting blood in them (laughter) and as sportsmen they would respond to Lord Kitchener's appeal. (Cheers)

Mr T. Y. Hay (manager of Whitwick Colliery) said that had he been told six months ago that he would be at Griffydam that night speaking at a recruiting meeting he would have laughed at it. People had believed that a European war was impossible. He went on to outline the causes of the war and said that throughout the Germans had not played the game. They had broken treaties and their word of honour. Germany asked if they were going to war over a scrap of paper, England's reply was that their word was their bond. The conduct of the Germans had been a disgrace to civilisation and they would have to give an account for it and would have to pay. Since the English troops landed on the Continent they had had to fight, and fight, and fight, and had excited the wonder of the world. But if they could have sent a few more hundred thousand men, they would not have had to retreat from Mons. The Germans had a reputation for cruelty. The Duke of Wellington in his day said they were "cruel devils." Considering the population of Great Britain he went on, they ought to have a larger army. He thanked God that they had an excellent navy. But for that they would

have stood in danger of a German invasion and then their women and children would receive the same treatment as had been meted out to the people of Belgium. Britain had taken her coat off and when she did that, she always won. They were determined to put a complete stop to the German menace. One hundred and ten employees of the Whitwick Colliery had responded to the call and the firm were giving the wives of the married men 10s a week and 2s for each child. (Hear, hear) He appealed to all to respond and they would never regret it.

The Chairman said the Territorials were delighted at the prospect of getting to work to tackle the Germans. Capt. Stevenson said that for two years he had commanded the National Reserves in that district and on August 6th the Reserve officers were called together and ordered to place the National Reserve in various divisions. He was appointed recruiting officer for that district and a large number of recruits had passed through his hands. Having referred to the Germans as savages, he said Great Britain was Germany's aim and if ever they got here the atrocities perpetrated in Belgium would be nothing to what would happen here. He had had word that Lord Kitchener would ask for another million men after he had got the first million, and if they did not respond they might be fetched. It was much better they should volunteer. He was recruiting for Kitchener's army and the Territorials. The Reserve 5th Battalion was about 700 strong, but they would have to reach 1000 strong and the other battalions too, before the service battalion could go abroad. So if they held back they were keeping the 5th from going on active service.

Several old soldiers came forward and volunteered for Kitchener's army and were sworn in.

Mr John Hay moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and appealed to the lads to distinguish themselves rather than be extinguished. Mr Shields responded and moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was heartily accorded.

Last night a similar meeting was held in the Whitwick Church Schools, Mr S. Perry presiding and the speakers were Mr T. Y. Hay and Capt. Stevenson.

LEICESTER RECRUITING

VISIT OF THE HIGHLAND PIPERS

Under the auspices of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee, there was a very successful demonstration on behalf of recruiting in Leicester on Saturday afternoon. The principal attraction was provided by the pipes and drums of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, whose band was brought down from London on the initiative of Mr Theodore Walker. A procession was formed in Granville Road and Regent Road, comprising the Highlanders' Band, 600 recruits of the new army, and the local territorial reserve, Leicester Imperial Band, Church Lad's Brigade, with band, 300 Boy Scouts, with bugle band, R.A.M.C. and transport, and the local citizens' corps.

Altogether, the procession made a brave array, and was heartily cheered by thousands of people as it passed through the main streets to the Leicester Football Ground, where a tremendous crowd, numbering nearly 20,000 people had assembled to witness the football match between the 4th Leicestershire Battalion (territorial) team from Luton and Mr T. Crumby's fifteen. Before play commenced, the massed bands played "God save the King" amid a scene of unbounded enthusiasm. The gate proceeds were in aid of the local patriotic fund.

The game was spiritedly contested, and ended in a win for Mr Crumby's team by 1 goal, 2 tries to 1 goal 1 try. In the evening there was another march through the streets with a torchlight tattoo on the Welford Road Ground.

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FIFTH NORTHERN HOSPITAL

THE PROVISION OF LITERATURE AND GAMES

A meeting of the Literature and Games Committee of the 5th Northern Hospital was held at the Central Library on Monday evening, when the Chairman, Councillor C. Squire, presented an interesting report, showing how the public had responded to the appeal. There had been sent to the Hospital, through the Committee, 1,416 magazines, 572 volumes of fiction, 136 miscellaneous games (besides the billiard-tables and bagatelle-boards already reported), 52 packs of cards, boxes of cigarettes, tobacco, and cigars, two gramophones with 53 records, several thousand postcards, four bookcases, and about 70 pictures, besides numerous gifts sent direct to the hospital. At the Central Library, as a reserve against future requirements, 1,500 magazines, 400 illustrated weeklies, etc, 516 bound volumes of fiction, 350 paper-covered novels, 240 games, and a small stock of playing cards, games etc.

Mr W. G. Gibbs, hon. secretary, reported that the literature, etc, was much appreciated by the wounded, and that the Mayor and Mayoress had given large steel-engraved portraits of the King and Queen for the soldiers' mess-room. There was now sufficient literature of all kinds except current magazines and illustrated weeklies.

Messrs. Mason and Sidwell (for the newsagents) stated that the supply of daily papers were kept up, and Mr Moody (tobacco trade) reported that up to date the following had been contributed by the trade in Leicester; 3800 cigarettes and 2 lbs weight of same, 9 lbs of tobacco, 250 cigars, besides pipes and playing cards.

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ALIENS' NAMES

NOT TO BE CHANGED

An addition to the Aliens Restriction Order has been issued which provides:

"An alien enemy shall not, after the twelfth day of October, nineteen hundred and fourteen, for any purpose assume or use, or purport to assume or use, or continue the assumption or use of any name other than that by which he was ordinarily known at the date of the commencement of the war.

Where an alien enemy carries on or purports or continues to carry on, or is a member or a partnership or firm which carries on or purports or continues to carry on any trade or business under any name other than that under which the trade or business was carried on at the date of the commencement of the war, he shall, for the purposes of this Order, be deemed to be using or purporting or continuing to use a name other than that by which he was ordinarily known at the date of the commencement of the war".

Nothing in this Article shall affect the right of a woman who after the commencement of the war marries an alien enemy to use the name which she acquires on her marriage.

PRAISE FOR LEICESTER BASE HOSPITAL

Amongst the wounded at the Leicester Base Hospital is Private M. Spillane, of the Irish Guards, and who is a Lincolnshire policeman. He is apparently very grateful for the treatment he is receiving. In a letter to the Chief Constable of the Lincoln Force he suggests that soldiers and officers, when leaving hospital, cured of their wounds, might dwell on the treatment they have received, and give the people looking after them a little bit of praise for the good work they are doing for the wounded. Night and day, he adds, those people were bringing men from the very brink of the grave.

RECRUITING MEETING AT MARKFIELD

STRONG APPEALS AND A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE

The schoolroom was crowded at a meeting held on Thursday evening to stimulate recruiting in the district. Mr T. W. Everard, who presided, and was supported by Mr A. Pickard, C.C., Captain Pritchard, Colonel Piercy, Mr Preston, and Dr. Fletcher.

The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Haynes, who is with the 4th Leicesters, appealing for immediate substantial help. Mr Everard said Markfield had done fairly well, but more men were wanted. Captain Pritchard made an earnest appeal, emphasising the fact that we were fighting for honour, freedom, humanity, our homes, hearths and our food supply. He eulogised the bravery of the Expeditionary Force, and insisted that we must not leave them – our own flesh and blood – outnumbered as they were. They must fill the reserve battalions to allow the 4th and 5th Battalions to go forward.

Mr A. Pickard said the gravity of the crisis was emphasised by the complexion of the platform. He had a right to appeal to them as he had two sons and five nephews who had responded to the call of their country. They were not fighting for gain, but he would prefer political death to dishonour. If we win, as please God we should, freedom and democracy would live and military autocracy would die; if we lost – which God forbid – the voluntary service which they were asked to render would be replaced by conscription. We wanted recruits to augment the Expeditionary Forces, to reward Belgium, and to make victory inevitable. What would their feelings be when the finger of scorn was pointed at them because they hung back in England's hour of trial?

Colonel Piercy said prevention was better than cure, and he appealed for men to come forward now. Mr Preston appealed as one whose only son had answered the call. Dr. Fletcher who went through the Boer War said there were few greater joys than the realisation of doing one's duty.

After the singing of the National Anthem a number of recruits were enrolled.

COALVILLE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

£50 VOTED TO THE BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The 129th quarterly meeting of the Coalville Working Men's Co-Operative Society was held in the Adult School Hall on Saturday night, Mr John Bradley presiding over a moderate attendance.

The secretary read the committee's report as follows: the Society's sales for the quarter ended September 26th, 1914, amount to £41,681/4/10, as compared with £38,346/15/0 1/2 in the corresponding quarter of last year, showing an increase of £3,334/9/9 1/2. The average trade per member amounts to £8/3/0. The net profit, after providing for all expenses of production and distribution, etc., amounts to £6,259/11/8, which we propose to distribute as follows: To dividend on £41,500 and 2/6 in the £, 5187/10/0; reserve fund, £200; children's gala fund, £30; depreciation Thringstone premises, £50; depreciation Whitwick cottages, £100; painting fund, £192; dividend equalisation fund, £500.

128 new members have been enrolled and 29 have withdrawn, leaving the present membership 5,113. The penny bank depositors number 4,390, and the amount to their credit is £9,885 2s 7d. The output of the Bakery is as follows; 290,526 4lb white loaves, 29,034 2lb Hovis and Confectionary value £1,848 (retail). The Butchery department have slaughtered cattle as follows: 107 beasts, 9 calves, 259 sheep, 43 lambs, 144 pigs. The percentage of purchases from the C.W.S. Ltd., and from other co-operative sources, as follows: Grocery 84.6; bakery 47.8; drapery 69.7; boots 78.3; tailoring 86.

We beg to inform our members that we are subscribers to the Midland Co-Operative Convalescent Fund and those of our members who may be recovering from sickness and who may wish to avail themselves the benefits of this fund are requested to fill up a form which may be obtained from the secretary. We have purchased a plot of land at Desford with the view of erecting a branch premises thereon and we hope by extending our operations in this quarter it will be to the benefit of the Society and the people of Desford generally. We ask you to sanction the sum of £10 being devoted for Christmas gifts for the troops

(Leicesters) serving at the front. The report and balance sheet were adopted. The auditors, Messrs. Appleby and Wood, reported that the Society's progress as evidenced by the report and balance sheet was very remarkable. The continued growth indicated the appreciation of the members of the benefits that the Society was able to extend to them. The sales during the last quarter showed an increase on the corresponding quarter of last year of £3,343/9/9 1/2 and comparing the twelve months' sales with the previous year there was an increase of £16,000. the Society was in a sound financial condition and well worthy of the confidence of the members. They expressed satisfaction with the way the books were kept and appreciation of the manner in which their requirements in connection with the audit were met. (Cheers)

The following donations were agreed to: £50 to the Belgian Relief Fund, £2 2s each to the N.S.P.C.C. and the Derby Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, and £1 1s to the Derby and District Blind Society.

An appeal was received from the International Co-Operative Alliance for a contribution towards a fund which was being raised to assist innocent aliens of German, Austrian and Hungarian nationality in this country, but the same was not entertained, a motion to give, being defeated by a majority of two votes.

The ballot for six members on the committee resulted as follows: Messrs S. Armson 103, C. E. Marston 99, George Swain 99, M. Armson 94, J. R. Bennett 90, and J. Lester 87, these being elected. A. Hook 62 and J. Newbury 58. All those elected were old members.

Mr J. Cato resigned the office of scrutineer and was succeeded by Mr O. Haywood. Mr T. Beadman gave notice to move at the quarterly meeting that all employees of the Society be members of a trade union.

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A SOLDIER'S ROMANCE

AN AMAZING MEETING IN LEICESTERSHIRE

A wounded soldier whom I met in the train (writes a correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian") told me of an extraordinary coincidence, which should be particularly interesting to those who are entertaining refugee Belgians. He was wounded in the early days of the war, and sent to one of the London hospitals for an operation, and having recovered was off to rejoin his regimental depot, hoping, he said, soon to go to the front again. He was Leicestershire born, but belonged to a Scottish regiment, like his father before him. His only living relative was a sister, whom he had not informed of his mishap, but who, seeing his name in the papers, came to London and got him to promise to visit her.

The lad had been greatly touched by the kindness of the Belgian women, and one incident in particular had made a great impression on him. "Our army was then on the run." He and some comrades had strayed from the main body, and for 48 hours had had nothing to eat except a turnip or two. They sat down on the roadside for a while, "far starved and done for." Their plight was discovered by a Belgian woman, who brought them bread, fruit and milk – all she had, in fact – and they went on their way like new men.

After leaving the hospital the lad went to his sisters' remote village in Leicestershire. Here the strangest thing befell, for there standing at a cottage door, the very woman who when he was hungry and thirsty had given him food and drink. She did not recognise him, but when with difficulty he explained matters she recollected perfectly the incident, which dwelt in his memory, though she did not seem to think she had done anything out of the ordinary.

It appeared that soon after the encounter in Belgium the woman, on the approach of the Germans had collected a few things, locked her cottage door, and like so many of her country folk, had fled to England, ultimately finding herself through some agency or other – she did not quite know how – in the Leicestershire cottage. What are the chances of so strange a meeting ever repeating itself?

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Two daughters of the Burgomaster of Ghent, with their children – Madame Feyrick and two daughters and Madame Drory, and her two sons – are staying with Sir Maurice and Lady Levy at Humberstone Hall

It was stated at Luton on Sunday with some definiteness that the Leicester Territorials are to proceed to the Continent on or about October 30th. The men are considerably excited and pleased at the prospect. The official orders to move are expected in a few days.

Pte. B. Devney, of the 2nd Yorkshires, has been visiting his home in Hermitage Road, Coalville, for a day or so after having been discharged from hospital. He took part in the battle of Mons and was shot through the arm. He returned to his regimental depot at Pontefract on Tuesday.

Nineteen Belgians, mostly children, arrived at Ashby on Friday, and are being accommodated at St. Helens (the old school) in Market Street. They will be maintained by a number of the local townspeople and the Urban Council have decided to levy no rates on the house while it is thus occupied. The Belgian flag was flying at the building on Saturday.

The Coalville Territorial recruits, now about 150 strong, marched to Ravenstone Church on Sunday morning, led by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rector, the Rev. S. Dowling. The marching of the company and their smart appearance caused much favourable comment among the crowd who witnessed the parade.

DO YOU KNOW

That Ashby Citizens' Corps had their first parade under Capt. Jesson on Wednesday?

That the Coalville Territorials have received ten days' notice to be prepared to leave the town for an unknown destination?

That fifty of the Coalville Territorial recruits have been selected to make up the 5th Battalion Leicestershire about to go abroad?

That £3 5s was realised from a whist drive for the Belgian Relief Fund at Bardon Hill last week?

That Mr F. Joyce, the Leicestershire amateur cricketer, has joined the colours as a dispatch rider?

That two whist drives for the Belgian Relief Fund at Coalville and Hugglescote unfortunately clash next Wednesday night?

That Mr Townson, who has been engaged in military work at Antwerp has just returned to Ashby-de-la-Zouch?

That Coalville P.S.A. and Ravenstone United are to play a match on the Central Ground tomorrow in aid of the war relief fund?

That a meeting of the Coalville ward collectors for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund is to be held at the Adult School Hall next Monday night?

That Capt. Hassall, of the Ashby Territorials, who underwent a serious operation after being invalided home from Luton, is making excellent progress?

That Hathern decided on Thursday night to provide a home and support a family of Belgian refugees, Mr H. Simpkin being appointed hon. secretary?

That Miss Walmsley, head mistress of Loughborough High School, has given her bungalow at Nanpantan for the use of some Belgians?

That the members of the Coalville Citizens' Corps will meet at nine o'clock on Sunday morning at the Midland Brick Works, Mantle Lane?

That inquiries are being made with a view to finding accommodation for about 50 Belgian refugees in a vacant building at Ibstock?

RECRUITING AT BELTON

A recruiting meeting arranged by Mr A. E. Seymour and Mr G. W. Lloyd James, the local party agents, in connection with the Leicestershire Recruiting Committee, was held in the schools at Belton on Saturday evening. There was a good attendance of inhabitants, but unfortunately the men of eligible age were conspicuous by their absence.

Mr C. B. Shakespear presided in the unavoidable absence of the Right Hon. Charles Booth. Patriotic speeches were delivered by Mr Ernest E. Wells, C.C., the Hon. Malcolm MacNaughten, Colonel Piercy, of Loughborough, and Captain Porter, who is the County Councillor for the division.

Only one man presented himself for enlistment to the recruiting sergeants at the close of the meeting, but the general feeling was that others had the intention of coming forward to show what Belton could do, in this crisis, and it is thus believed the meeting will not be barren of results.

ONE HUNDRED BELGIAN REFUGEES FOR COALVILLE

BROOM LEYS THEIR HOME

SPLENDID OFFER BY THE WHITWICK COLLIERY CO.

Arrangements are being made to accommodate 100 Belgian refugees at Coalville. The Whitwick Colliery Company have generously offered the free use of Broom Leys on the Forest Road, near Coalville, the residence formerly occupied by Mr H. R. Mansfield, who for some years represented the Spalding Division of Lincolnshire in Parliament. The Colliery Company, who purchased the building from Mr Mansfield, a few years ago, in addition to offering it for use free, have also decided to give coals free and retain the caretaker and his wife to maintain the beautiful grounds in order.

A committee has been formed representative of the whole district to deal with the matter and they are of the opinion that the building will provide comfortably for a party of one hundred distressed Belgians. It was estimated that to commence with, a sum of £250 would be required for the furnishing of the house and the secretary to the company, Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., together with Mr William Hurst, secretary to the South Leicestershire Colliery Company, have sent appeals to all the Colliery owners in the county with the result that promises of £25 each have already been received from the Ibstock, South Leicester and Ellistown Collieries, and similar replies are expected from others. The additional requirements for the furnishing fund it is hoped will be met in the district, the residents of which will also be asked to subscribe for the maintenance of one hundred refugees, which, it is estimated, will amount to about £30 a week.

It is a large and important scheme, but the committee are most enthusiastic and believe that Coalville and District will not be behind in extending hospitality to the unfortunate people of a country which is taking such a heroic part in the war.



HINCKLEY OFFER TO THE GOVERNMENT

The Hinckley Hospital Committee on Monday considered a communication from the War Office asking for information as to the number of hospital beds the committee could (if necessary) place at their disposal for cases of enteric fever, including medical and nursing services, and the charge per day per bed when in use. The committee offered the Government the new scarlet fever and the typhoid and diphtheria blocks, giving accommodation for 26 beds. It was decided to charge the Government what it would cost the committee.

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MR MACDONALD'S RECEPTION IN LEICESTER

A LIVELY MEETING

The meeting at the Leicester Corn Exchange on Sunday evening, when Mr Ramsey Macdonald, M.P., addressed his constituents, was of a very lively character. The hall was very quickly filled when the gates were opened at six o'clock, and hundreds were unable to gain admission. The senior member had to deal with many clamorous interruptions at the commencement of his speech, and at times his words must have been quite inaudible to the majority of the audience owing to the singing of "Rule Britannia" and other songs, but as he proceeded the volume of the active opposition diminished, and the removal of two of the ringleaders in the disturbance by the police had some effect, so that the member finished his address in comparative peace. He underwent considerable heckling at the close, but his answers were listened to fairly patiently.

Councillor J. W. Murby was in the chair, and was supported on the platform by Ald. Banton, Ald. Chaplin, Councillor Perkins, Councillor Reynolds, Councillor Adnitt, Councillor Sheriff, Councillor Salt, and Councillor Kenney.

In reply to one question, Mr Macdonald said this country could not have remained neutral with its present foreign policy; if there had been a democratic foreign policy the conditions which led the war would not have arisen.

Asked with regard to his assertion that after a certain stage Sir Edward Grey "deliberately worked to involve us in war", Mr Macdonald said further discussion of this question was only likely to be further garbled. He withdrew nothing. He referred his questioner to the White Paper, and when the time came for re-opening the whole matter and criticising the policy followed, it would be done. With reference to the use that was being made of it, he had felt "between the devil and the deep sea." He had either got to hold his tongue and allow all sorts of ideas, utterly erroneous, to go abroad, or he had got to speak and try to get the truth into the minds of the people. He had made the statement, and he left it there for Englishmen to work it out with the available documents in front of them.

In answer to a further question Mr Macdonald said he never said that Germany had done right in invading Belgium. He said on August 3rd that the Invasion of Belgium might be a cause of war. One of the difficulties was that that was not made sufficiently clear when the war-like negotiations started.

Scenes in the Market Place

A large crowd of men, women and children, assembled in the Market Place before and during the meeting, apparently attracted for the most part through curiosity. A few sections sang snatches of patriotic songs and "God save the King." Excellent order, was however, maintained. At the end of the meeting the crowd converged on the front and back entrance to the Exchange, but a strong body of police, under Supt. Carson, might it quite clear no horseplay would be allowed. Nearly one hundred constables were there on duty in and around the building, and Mr Macdonald left in a motor-car immediately after the meeting had ended by the back way, amid the jeers of those who were in the vicinity. His departure was only noticed by those in the immediate neighbourhood of the doorway and the close presence of a number of stalwart detectives and constables saved him from any attempt at violence, suggestions of which had from time to time been made by the rougher element in the crowd.

It is estimated that at one time the crowd numbered from ten to fifteen thousand people, the Market Place being practically filled. During the proceedings inside the Corn Exchange, a meeting was held in front of the archway, patriotic addresses being delivered by Mr Charles Pearse, Mr Percy Hagon, Mr J. Farnsworth, and others. During interludes the crowd sang the National Anthem and "Rule Britannia" by turns.

For a long time after the close of the meeting inside the building many thousands of people remained watching the exits, refusing to believe that Mr Macdonald had left. One or two rather ugly rushes were made in the direction of the side door, but thanks to the excellent dispositions of the police, any tendency to rowdiness was well kept in check. Despite the fact that the lights were put out, and the gates and doors locked a large number of people remained incredulous, and hung about the exits until nine o'clock, when they were cleared away by an inspector and two or three constables.

COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PATRIOTISM OF TEACHERS, STAFF AND OFFICIALS

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

A meeting of the Leicestershire Education Committee was held on Friday under the presidency of Alderman T. Cope, and during the transaction of business it was decided to place on record the names of those teachers, members of the office staff, and other officials, who had joined the colours, and an expression from the Committee, extolling this patriotism.

The Accounts and General Purposes Committee reported that they had authorised the Director of Education to make necessary and anticipatory arrangements in regard to school buildings, staffing etc., during the war. One of these is to place the services of school attendance officers, nurses and clerical staff, so far as required, at the disposal of the County Relief Committee, and to supply temporary vacancies in school attendance staff if necessary; and another was to pay full salary until August 31st; and afterwards, full salary with deduction of service pay, to all teachers and officials who are accepted for military service.

Alderman Cope proposed the adoption of the report, Alderman B. Hurst seconded, and it was agreed to. Afterwards Alderman Cope read out a list of the employees who had gone on military service. He said they were all men of experience and their services were urgently needed by the army. Thirty-six employees had gone to the front, including seven headmasters, 14 certified masters and four uncertified.

Mr C. Goodacre moved the acceptance of the Staffing Committee's report, which contained a reference to the Earl Shilton Roman Catholic School. "The question," the report said, "as to whether the committee can insist on the appointment of lay teachers does not arise as Nuns are lay teachers in the eyes of the law, and no objection could be lodged against their service in public elementary schools."

Mr C. Goodacre stated that 25 school teachers, including head teachers, certificated teachers and uncertificated teachers had joined the colours, which was of such historic interest that future generations, if confronted with similar trouble to that through which we are all now passing, might be fired with the same enthusiasm which has inspired the teachers today to do their duty. To mark their sense of their public spirit and patriotism he moved that a record of appreciation be embodied in the report, together with an acknowledgement of the loyal way teachers remaining are doing their work, so that the children shall not suffer.

Mr West paid a tribute to the splendid manner in which the office staff are working and, on his suggestion, it was agreed to include this in his resolution. Mr L. T. Topham suggested that an expression of appreciation should be recorded on behalf of the school attendance officers who have responded to the call of duty.

SEPARATION ALLOWANCES

WAR OFFICE EXPLANATION

The Press Bureau circulated on Saturday the following communiqué regarding separation allowances and allotments to soldiers' wives:

“The War Office wishes it to be generally understood that the order making an allotment by the soldier for the support of family compulsory is not withdrawn, but is temporarily suspended. In certain cases, when the soldier has objected to continue the full allotment, the wife has been invited to say whether she is content to accept what her husband is willing to give, and, if not, to state her means. If she is not content, inquiry will be made as to whether her income, without the full allotment, is up to the standard scale. Meanwhile the Paymaster has orders to pay the full allotment as soon as he hears to that effect, including anything that may have already been abated.”

All persons to whom women may apply are requested to explain this to them, and to secure the immediate return to the Paymaster of the form that was sent to the woman to fill up, so that there may be no delay in payment.

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COALVILLE'S PATRIOTISM

STIRRING APPEAL BY MR B. G. HALE AND CAPT. STEVENSON

CITIZENS' CORPS FORMED

ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC MEETING

A remarkably enthusiastic meeting was held at the Coalville Adult School Hall on Tuesday night, convened for the purpose of forming a Citizens' Corps for Coalville. The hall was packed and a high patriotic tone pervaded the meeting. There were stirring speeches by Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., who presided, and Capt. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer, and the response to the call exceeded all expectations.

The Chairman said they had met on a memorable occasion. They were engaged in one of the greatest wars the world had ever seen and he hoped it would be the worst the world would ever see (Hear, hear). There was a great probability that when this war came to an end, it would lead to greater faith in arbitration than had hitherto been felt. They were not there to discuss the causes of the war, with which they were all familiar. They all felt the gravity of the position and that it was the duty of every man to come forward now and say that he was willing to do all he could for the great cause for which they were fighting. They would agree with him when he said they were fighting for freedom, honour, for God, and civilisation. (Cheers) The words of the Prime Minister would appeal to them all. Mr Asquith said, *“Sooner than be a silent witness, which means in effect, a willing accomplice to the tragic triumph of force over law, and brutality over freedom, I would see this country of ours blotted out of the page of history.”* (Applause) He was sure the cause they had was one of the most just causes that ever provoked a war. He had in his hand copies of the dispatches which had passed between all the ambassadors on the great question, and if they read these, they would see that Sir Edward Grey (cheers) did all he could. When his persuasive powers failed they thanked God that he had the courage the supreme step to place them with their allies to uphold the cause of Belgium. They were all proud of Belgium. (Cheers) Had Germany had her way France also would now have been on her knees. Germany had been preparing for years to seize France and they thought this a good opportunity. Russia was not so well prepared as she might have been and England was engaged in a political struggle which Germany thought gave her a good chance. What a delusion! When they looked round and saw what Canada was doing (cheers); what New Zealand and Australia were doing (cheers); then our great empire of India (cheers). It made them blush almost to think that these countries so far away were doing so much – all that was in their power. The Princes of India had told the Government that their men and wealth could be drawn upon, and pleaded themselves to serve as privates, if necessary, in this great struggle. It was only a few years since they were fighting in South Africa almost to the death, but what were they doing now? It was true there had been a little trouble through German influence, but when they saw the thousands South Africa was sending they realised the great loyalty of that colony. And if all our colonies were doing all they could, were the men of this country doing all they could? They were there that night to appeal to the sympathy of the men of Coalville, to aid in recruiting, and if the dire necessity arose – he did not think it would – to defend their country themselves. It was essential that they should be on safe ground. They had better have a million too many men than a thousand too few. It was hardly necessary to ask them to review what had taken place in Belgium. Germany was one of the countries which attached its signature to the so-called scrap of paper guaranteeing Belgium's neutrality. Only a few days before the war, Germany gave an assurance to Belgium to uphold her neutrality and at the same time she was mobilising her army. Germany had not only violated

Belgium but when they thought of the women and children murdered, the beautiful buildings – the silent witness of centuries – wantonly blown down, they could not realise the object of the Germans except that it was to strike terror into the hearts of the people as the Huns of Attila did years ago. While they had done all this to Belgium they had no grievance with her. They had no great grievance against France or Russia, but against the Anglo-Saxon race they were intensely enraged. They had been jealous of our position for years and their aim was to depose us. If ever they set foot in this country the horrors of Belgium would be greatly magnified. He need not labour the question more, except to call attention to the heroism at the front shown by our men (Applause). When they read the papers and the soldiers' and sailors' letters and realised the heroic deeds done, it made them proud they were Englishmen. (Cheers) This country had been honoured the world over for centuries, but when the history of this war came to be written they would be thought of a great deal more – as the nation who in its greatness stood by the weak, and hesitated at no sacrifice to see that righteousness and justice prevailed. (Cheers) He hoped they would respond to the call that night. Were not this great country, their wives and daughters, and hearths and homes not worth fighting for? *"We must win this war,"* he declared emphatically, *"and we shall win."* (Applause) They must put that German despot, the Kaiser in his place (Cheers). They still had the old grit and courage. They could still put their backs to the wall and fight to the death in a cause they knew to be right. (Cheers) Things were looking brighter. They were gaining men every day and Germany must of necessity be getting weaker. Moreover the methods she had adopted had alienated all sympathy for her. It aroused the spirit of their men and made them fight like lions and it must make the "cultured" men of Germany hang their heads in shame. (Cheers)

Capt. Stevenson said that when he and the Chairman were comrades in the old volunteer company they little thought that they would ever be standing on a public platform appealing for recruits. But "the day" had come. If they had taken the advice of that fine old soldier Lord Roberts (cheers) six years ago, the position would have been very different. The young men would have been organised, they would have had millions ready, and this war would not have taken place. The object of the blood-besotted Kaiser and his hordes of savages was not Belgium or France. England was their aim, but they had been brought to a standstill. (cheers) They thought they were going to walk all over plucky little Belgium. The Belgians said today that they had lost everything but their courage and that they would never lose. (Cheers) He agreed that the atrocities of the Germans would be in England double what they had been in Belgium if once the British fleet was beaten. He did not think it would be, be they had to realise the position, though some young men thought more of a football match than they did of their country. But if they did not come the time would not be long before they would be fetched. One volunteer was worth a dozen pressed men. If they had to be fetched they would be labelled cowards for life. Leicestershire had not done its duty. Up to five o'clock last Wednesday week, Leicestershire had contributed 4,441 against Staffordshire 18,000 odd and Derbyshire 16,000. The Coalville area had sent 680 for Kitchener's army and Loughborough 702, so the rest of the county had not done well in proportion. He was there that night to recruit for the regular army or the Territorials, and he was also prepared to take the older men. At Hinckley they had 188 in the citizen's corps and at Ashby on Saturday night 57 names for the first batch. He was prepared to take the names, ages and addresses of men that night. Then the men would select a committee to arrange for the drills, where to drill and when. There were some old volunteers in Coalville ready to give their services as instructors. There were some young Territorials in Coalville – and he congratulated Coalville on their local company – who were willing to assist. They would be interested to know that 50 of the Coalville company of Territorials had been selected to make up the 5th Battalion for foreign service. (Applause) It was a great honour to the town of Coalville to supply that number. (Cheers) He asked for men for the citizens corps over 35 years of age, though it was not restricted to that age if there were some younger who could not join the forces. There were not many who could not give two nights a week for drill. Let them remember the words of Nelson, "England expects every man to do his duty." There were plenty of them over 40 who would do that and shame some of the younger fellows who were not responding as they should. He referred to the great interest Coalville took in the Boy Scouts and he would like publicly to thank the Coalville troop for the splendid service rendered in assisting the recruiting. (Cheers) If on the half-holiday the Citizen Corps had a march out headed by the Scouts Band it would be a great aid to recruiting. He asked them all not only to enrol themselves, but try to induce others to join. If any were not present that night who would like to join the corps, he would like it to be known that a scout will be daily at the recruiting office to take names. He said there was a great need for non-commissioned officers and he would like old soldiers in the district to have a few words with him. They might be of great service. (Cheers)

The Chairman then asked for volunteers. He said they would select their own committee. The times for drilling would be arranged as far as possible to be suitable to their convenience. Some would drill on Saturdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, but they wanted them all to do something. If anyone was in doubt on

any point, they would be pleased to answer questions. The words of Harold Begbie were very appropriate here, he said:

*“Why do they call, sonny, why do they call
For men who are brave and strong?
Is it nought to you if your country fall,
And Right is smashed by Wrong?
Is it footballs still, and the picture show
The pub and the betting odds
When your brothers stand to the tyrant’s blow
And England’s cause is God’s.”*

The Chairman added that he hoped there would be a large response.

An extraordinary scene followed, scores of men making their way to the ante room at the back where a number of boy scouts were kept busy for some time taking the names. Capt. Stevenson ultimately announced that the number enrolled for the Citizens’ Corps so far was 121 (loud applause). They had also three for Kitchener’s Army and one for the Territorials. (Cheers)

The Chairman said he had an apology from the Rev. A. Davis (Hugglescote) who stated that he was prepared to join the corps and do what he could to make it a success. (cheers) That made 122. (Cheers) He added that he would just like to say how proud he was that they enlisted 122 names. This should go forth in some way or other to the other centres and see if they can beat it. He continued, “I am proud of you. I think you have done honour to Coalville and your country, I thank you and anything I can do for this cause I will do it. I have placed myself in Capt. Stevenson’s hands and have been to one or two meetings, but this surpasses everything. It has been a great surprise to me and I am delighted. (Cheers) He then suggested the formation of a small committee and said he hoped they would select men who would do their utmost to make the corps a model to the county. (Cheers)

The following were selected: Dr. Vaughan, Messrs. B. G. Hale, C. W. H. Gutteridge, T. Lashmore, Jepson Turner, W. Hoults, and H. Swanwick.

Capt. Stevenson said the committee would meet and make arrangements for the drills, notice of which would be displayed outside the Labour Exchange. The Capt. proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman which was heartily accorded. Mr Hale having responded a memorable and most successful meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Last night, a recruiting meeting was held in the hall of the Hawley Institute, Hugglescote, Mr Hale and Capt. Stevenson again being the speakers. Mr R. Blower, J.P., C.C., presided.

SIR MAURICE LEVY’S APPEAL FOR RECRUITS

Speaking at a recruiting meeting at Kegworth on Wednesday night, Sir Maurice Levy said there were men who the country ought not to have been dragged into the war, but he had not yet found a single person who could show good cause for us not standing by France and Belgium. They must not let the war finish until the menace of militarism which had grown up in the German Empire was crushed for ever. They would have to make sacrifices, and the reward would be reaped by the future generations of the world. Year by year for the last half century Germany had cultivated the idea that she was destined to rule the world. They in England did not believe that, and he thought every man who read of the brutality and atrocities of the German Army would say that so long as they had one man alive they would resist the Germans ruling England. The brutality of the German had been so completely exposed that they now knew his character and they were determined not to stop until the house of Hohenzollern and Hapsburg were wiped off the face of the map. (Applause) That could not be done until the young men of the country responded to the call, and came forward to carry the war into the enemy’s country. The Germans were surprised at the resistance of the gallant Belgian army and at the quality of the French soldiers, but their greatest surprise was the extraordinary bravery of the British army, which had shown such valour that even the Germans would loath to call it “contemptible” again. The youth of the country had responded splendidly so far, but recruiting must be kept up. Canada, and other possessions had shown that they realised the seriousness of the situation, and had come to the aid of the mother country. They had a big task before them, but the task was one they

must accomplish, and the war must be carried on until Germany and Austria ceased to be military powers.
(Applause)

ALD. T. COPE ON THE WAR

CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY AT LEICESTER

In the course of his charge to the Grand Jury, at the Leicestershire Quarter Sessions on Tuesday, Mr Cope said they were meeting that day in very anxious and troubled times. They were engaged in possibly the greatest war that had ever been recorded in history, and they must expect, when engaged in a conflict of that nature, serious distress in the land both from the high prices which generally occurred in provisions of all kinds, and also from want of employment – and as a consequence a grave increase in crime. Thanks to their great navy and the noble hearts that were conducting it, they found that the prices of the necessaries of life were really not materially increased. The seas were still open to English ships, and the great work of transporting food, and of transporting those gallant troops who were coming to their aid, had gone on successfully and without interference from the enemy. Then, again, with regard to the unemployment in this country, at least he was able, as chairman of the National Relief Committee for this county, to say that speaking generally, it was by no means rife, for while in some industries there were cases of distress on the other hand there were trades which were really working more than full time. He believed they would be able to cope with all cases of distress, owing to the splendid manner in which the county had subscribed to the Prince of Wales's Fund. Another matter they had to dread was generally a large increase of serious crime. Although, in truth, the number of cases that day was rather more than they had recently been – he could not say their number was unprecedented – it would be his duty to tell them that the cases were really not of a serious character. He was thankful to say that the news from the seat of war continued hopeful, but they could not expect the war to be closed very soon; as they said: *"It's a long way to Berlin."* Such a war as this must make heavy calls upon their patriotism, their fortitude, and their powers of endurance. He was convinced that these calls would be fully and cheerfully met by all in this country, and he believed that with God's blessing, victory in the end would attend the Allies' cause. Then a fresh day would dawn, with peace, when the civilisations of the world would be able to continue the great march of social progress, free from the menace of an aggressive and tyrannous Germany.

INTERESTING LETTERS FROM COALVILLE AMBULANCE MEN

CRUISING IN THE ATLANTIC

Pte. E. Curtis of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade who is serving on a warship in the Sick Naval Berth Reserve, writes that this ship has been cruising in the South Atlantic and he is in the best of health. He asks to be remembered to all Brigade chums.

TWO CORPORALS "IN THE PINK"

DO THEIR OWN WASHING AND COOKING

Two more of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, Corpals. A. C. Chandler and F. Moreton, have written letters to friends in Coalville.

Chandler says that he and Moreton are serving on the same ship and they have not seen any of the others since reaching Devonport. He could not say where they were or what they were doing as they had to post their letters unsealed and were not allowed to give that information. He hopes all are well at Coalville, as it leaves him and Frank "in the pink." They were treated in the best possible way and had plenty of good food. They had no complaint. They were learning a great deal and hoped to be able to give a good report to the Brigade when they came back. When he returns he says he hopes they will all be able to work together in the old Brigade for many years to come. He goes on to say that he would much rather be on board a warship than in a hospital, though they were not able to receive and send letters as they would like. Since leaving Devonport, they had not set foot on land. He sends kind regards to Sergts. Green and Allen and says he wishes Green was with them. They wash their own clothes and Frank does the cooking.

“KEEP SMILING”

Corpl. W. Slatter, also of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, who was called up for naval duty on the outbreak of the war, has written to friends in Coalville in a very cheery strain. He says that when you are on board you never know when you are going to strike a mine and go to the bottom, but they were all prepared to take their luck and the password with them was “*Keep smiling.*” He says he is well and enjoys the work. He wishes to be remembered to all old friends at the Fox – Joe Burton, W. Harris and others.

COALVILLE MAN’S HURRIED VISIT HOME

Mr J. Bland, of Margaret Street, Coalville, an employee of the Urban District Council, and a member of the Coalville St. John’s Ambulance section, who in August joined as a Royal Naval Auxiliary sick berth reservist, arrived home on Monday night on 48 hours’ leave. He made a trip to Canada on H.M.S. -----, escorting the Canadian troops to England. Bland’s experiences have been varied and interesting. He was looking well and informed his friends that he was quite fit and enjoying the work.

A SPLENDID EXPERIENCE

CERTIFICATES FOR PROFICIENCY IN NURSING

Since being called up for service in the Naval Sick Berth Reserve on the outbreak of war, Pte. Frank Moreton, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, has been promoted to the rank of Corporal and in a letter he has just written to his friend he says he has heard of this and asks for confirmation. He is serving on the same ship as Corporal Chandler and says they are in the best of health. In fact, they have never felt better. They have ravenous appetites which are well appeased with everything of the best. They also are adding to their ambulance knowledge by this experience. Before leaving Coalville, they said they would be a credit to the Corps and he states that Jack and himself had been before the Fleet Surgeon that morning and had come out A1 for proficiency in sick berth routine and nursing, a certificate for which they will receive in due course. They were being instructed in a course of dispensing and the use of surgical instruments. Those who had not already joined the corps ought to do so, as it was one of the finest chances anyone could have of learning the business. “My word!” he says, “it has been an eye-opener for all ambulance men, whether naval or military, but I prefer the navy.” He sends kind regards to all old friends.

Moreton is an employee of the Coalville Urban Council in the waterworks department.

COALVILLE MAN THINKS OF HOME

WHILE IN THE TRENCHES WAITING FOR GERMANS

The Coalville Co-Operative Society’s head baker, Mr T. Grosort, has received a postcard (passed by the censor) from Mr H. Kilworth, who is with the first Leicesters at the front. Kilworth was the foreman confectioner at the stores before leaving for France. The card is dated October 12th and bears no address.

Mr Kilworth says he writes to let them know he is still in the land of the living. The reason he has not written sooner was that they had been on the move for about a month. They were alright, only could not get enough water and he had only a wash in the last three weeks, adding “So you will see we do not believe in wasting soap.” He goes on to enquire how things are in the bakehouse and says he often thinks about them all there as he lies in the trenches waiting for the Germans, and wonders what they are doing. He sends greetings to all his friends in the bakehouse. They have 24 hours in the trenches and 24 hours out.

Kilworth, who also formerly worked for Mr F. H. Deacon, has a wife and two children who reside in Albert Road.

COALVILLE FOOTBALLERS MEET AT THE FRONT

Gunner Sidney Hayward, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, who left Coalville early in August to go to the war, says in a letter to his wife at Margaret Street, Coalville, that a few days before he wrote he had seen Commons and “Smosh” Smith who played football for the Town Football Club. They were ambulance men at the front. He travelled with them to London, on leaving Coalville to join the colours. Hayward adds that the

nights are getting very cold and so were the days sometimes. They had not shifted from their position for a month, except when it *"got a bit too warm."* He was wanting shirts and socks, being anxious to change, because when they found time to wash their garments they had nothing to wear whilst they washed them. He had read in the paper that people in England were sending shirts for soldiers, so *"try and get someone to give you a shirt for me."* Haywood concludes his letter by saying, *"I am still well, thank God for it! and hope this war will have a speedy end, and that I shall live to see the end of it."* Haywood's wife has seven children, one having been born since the father left to go to the war.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S WIFE IN INDIA

PROUD OF HER HUSBAND

Mr and Mrs T. Dooley, of 122, Margaret Street, Coalville, have this week received letters from their son, Tom, who is a sergeant in the Leicestershire Regiment, and also from his wife. The latter is in India where the regiment was stationed before having orders to proceed to France.

Mrs Dooley writes that Tom has gone off to the war, the regiment having left India about a month ago, and she hopes it will not be long before they are back again. She proceeds: *"I really thought my heart would break when I parted from him, but, of course, mother, as a soldier's wife, I must pray and hope for the best. You would be proud of him, mother, if you saw him. He does work so hard and the men under him simply worship him."*

The writer adds that she hears they are all to be sent to England, but she would prefer to wait for Tom so that they might come over together. She is staying at the Major's house for a time and will send further news as she hears from her husband.

SERGT. DOOLEY'S OPTIMISM

In the letter written by Sergt. Dooley, he states that they have been a long time getting there, but they hoped to be *"in at the kill."* He supposed they would have to make haste as he heard that Germany had been asking the United States of America to try and secure peace proposals from the Allies. He imagined, however, that they would not be of such a nature that the Kaiser could accept. The sergeant goes on: *"No doubt the Germans will want some driving back to their capital from this side, but wait until we get there with these black faces – both cavalry and infantry. They are coming along, 8 boat loads in all, so you can imagine we shall increase the numbers by a few."* He finishes up by advising his mother and father to be of good cheer.

On a hurriedly written postcard received later, Sergt. Dooley says he is well, but is feeling the cold a bit. However, it was putting new life into one. He asks his friends to write regularly to his wife in India, as being left there practically alone, she will feel a little lonely.

LEICESTER MEN MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

The names of two Leicester men are among those mentioned in despatches by Field Marshal Sir John French, Lieut. A. G. Corah, Cyclist Company, Bedford Regiment, and Sergt. J. Squires, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

Lieut. Corah is the third son of Mr Alfred Corah, of Scruptoft Hall, Leicestershire, the well-known Leicester hosiery manufacturer. Sergt. Squires, who is wounded and in hospital in France, was a motor man in the employ of the Leicester Corporation.

EXPERIENCES OF A LEICESTER NURSE IN BELGIUM

TAKEN PRISONER BY THE GERMANS

RETURN TO THE ROYAL INFIRMARY

Sister Trotter, who went out to Belgium as a nurse soon after hostilities broke out, and was taken prisoner by the Germans on their occupation of Brussels, returned to the Leicester Royal Infirmary on Tuesday night after a most trying journey.

Mr C. J. Bond in a statement at a meeting of the Infirmary Board of Governors on Wednesday morning, said Sister Trotter was in good health and was now anxious to go to the front in France. The story she had to tell was most interesting. She was one of a party of St. John nurses who arrived in Brussels by the last train a few minutes before the occupation of the city by the Germans. She was taken prisoner by the Germans, and was called upon in that trying time to nurse both German and Belgian wounded. After considerable anxiety and hardship, through the kindly instrumentality of the American Consul, she was sent home with a small party of nurses. She was conducted by Germans by a most devious route through a portion of Germany and Belgium to Denmark, and shipped to England across the North Sea. He was sure they would congratulate Nurse Trotter on having come through such a long and anxious time.

ASHBY

THE TERRITORIAL RESERVE

The Territorials of the Reserve Battalion of the 5th Leicesters marched to Packington Church for service on Sunday. The Rev. A. Wood preached and the little church was crowded. The Scouts joined the company, whose smart step to the strains of "Tipperary," played by the Ashby Band, was commented upon. Before dismissal, Captain Stevenson addressed the company, and urged every man to do his best for recruiting.

LORD KITCHENER

INSPECTION OF NEW ARMY AT BELTON PARK

Lord Kitchener visited Grantham on Monday for an inspection of the camp of the 11th (Northern) Division of the new army at Belton Park. He travelled from London by special train, arriving at Grantham at 11:26 a.m.

Upon emerging from the station, Lord Kitchener was received with hearty cheers from a crowd numbering some 2,000 people. He entered a closed motor car with Lord Brownlow, and, followed by an open motor car, in which were staff officers, they motored to Belton Park. The route was thickly lined with spectators, who gave the field marshal a warm welcome.

Arriving at the entrance to the field at the top of Wheatman's Hill, in which are the tents of the Royal Army Medical Corps, the ordnance stores, and those of the Northumberland Fusiliers and the Lancashire Fusiliers, he mounted a horse reserved for him, and was again greeted by soldiers and civilians with great heartiness.

The Secretary for War had expressed the desire to see the various brigades in their own particular drill areas and at their ordinary day's duties. Accompanied by General Hammersley, Brigadier-General Lambton, Brigadier-General Gubbins, Major Duncan, the chief staff officer, and Captain Aiken (aide-de-camp to General Hammersley), Lord Kitchener rode down the line of the Northumberland Fusiliers, and inspected the miniature rifle ranges at the foot of Alma Wood and over the hill at Londonthorpe. He then passed through the camps of the Staffordshire Regiment, the Sherwood Foresters, and the Dorset Regiment. He examined the covered miniature range at the end of the latter's lines, and entering the park at the south-east end he saw the hundreds of huts erected and in course of erection which are to be used in the immediate future as quarters for the troops. Having seen the other huts in the neighbourhood of Bellemount, the field marshal proceeded to the various brigades areas. He watched the troops at drill, and was no doubt impressed with the appearance of the men and their smart drilling.

Lord Kitchener and the divisional staff had luncheon with Earl and Countess Brownlow at Belton House. Later in the afternoon the Secretary returned to London.

THE SPY DANGER

MANY WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE ARRESTED

Over 20 Germans and Austrians including three hotel waiters, were arrested at Coventry on Wednesday evening. In accordance with instructions from the Government, the Manchester police on Wednesday afternoon arrested in the city several hundred of German, Austrian and Hungarian aliens. Among them are many well-known men.

Reading detectives on Wednesday visited residences in the town believed or known to be wholly or in part occupied by Germans, and a number of arrests were made. Several of those taken into custody were well-known business people.

The Llangollen police on Wednesday afternoon arrested Germans who have for some time been on a visit to the Vale of Llangollen. One was arrested at the foot of Modgamelin, Owen Glendower's Central Hill Camp and another was discovered at Brynmaewr. At Merthyr on Wednesday police officers took in charge one Austrian and two German residents.

ARRESTS IN LEICESTER

On Wednesday acting upon instructions received from the Home Office, the Leicester police arrested 12 more Germans and Austrians residing in the town. They were taken to the Police Station for the night, and their friends were allowed to provide them with food. It is not yet known what is to be done with them, but in all probability they will be sent to one of their concentration camps. Those arrested form only a selection of the "alien enemies" registered in the town. They are all of them young men, who would be liable for military service if in their own country.

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LORD KITCHENER

ASKS FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF MEN

Lord Kitchener, in a letter read at a recruiting meeting at West Hartlepool on Friday night, expressed gratification at the splendid response of the Hartlepool's and surrounding villages to the appeal to their patriotism, and added:-

"Now we have had time to make proper arrangements at the depots and training centres for the reception of recruits, we can take considerably more than are coming forward at present.

We want many thousands of men both to complete the new battalions which are being formed, and also to provide reserves which will enable us to keep at full strength the armies we intend to put in the field. The number of men who have joined the army since the outbreak of war, is, in round figures, 620,000. This means that 380,000 are still required to meet the needs of the War Office. Of the 620,000, London has supplied 95,000."

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WOMEN CO-OPERATORS

RESOLUTION ON WAR ALLOWANCES

The Leicester District of the Women's Co-Operative Guild held their autumn conference at Melton Mowbray on Wednesday. Delegates from Leicester, Loughborough, Earl Shilton, Coalville, Barwell, Aylestone, and Melton branches attended.

An excellent address on the "Care of Maternity in time of War" was given by Mrs Coulson of Loughborough. Mrs Stein, of Birmingham, national secretary, gave a succinct review of what was being done in Birmingham. She urged that delegates should try to get at least an extra 3s grant now given by some citizen committees.

Comment upon the war allowances to wives and their children was very severe, and a resolution was passed unanimously urging that the Government should adequately provide for wives and dependants of soldiers and sailors and for men disabled in the war, and recommending a minimum of £1 a week for the

widow of every soldier or sailor killed, for the mother entirely dependant upon soldier or sailor killed and for the wife of every soldier or sailor permanently disabled by fighting.

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ALIEN SENTENCED IN LEICESTER

On Saturday, at the Leicester County Police Court, Albert Johannes Smith, otherwise Schmidt, labourer, was charged with being an alien enemy and failing to furnish the registration officer of the district with the prescribed particulars set out in the 'Alien's Restriction Order, 1914.' When a constable questioned defendant, he produced some ship's papers in which he was described as Schmidt, and other papers in the German language were found at his lodgings. Mrs Nichols, of Oadby, where defendant lodged, said that when he arrived there two years ago he said he was a German. Schmidt, who said he was born in Australia, was sentenced to four month's imprisonment.

DON'T TREAT SOLDIERS

LORD KITCHENER'S APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC

The Press Bureau issues the following: "The men who have recently joined the colours are doing their utmost to prepare themselves for active service with the least possible delay. This result can only be achieved if by hard work and strict sobriety they keep themselves thoroughly fit and healthy.

Lord Kitchener appeals to the public, both men and women, to help soldiers in their task. He begs everyone to avoid treating the men to drink, and to give them every assistance in resisting the temptations which are often placed before them.

Lord Kitchener suggests that in the neighbourhoods where soldiers are stationed, committees should be formed to educate public opinion on this subject, and bring home its importance to those who prevent our soldiers from being able to do their duty to their country in a thoroughly efficient manner."

NOVEL RECRUITING AT BURTON

Recruiting for the Staffordshire Territorials at Burton-on-Trent, having recently fallen away, Capt. A. J. Clay, as director of Messrs. Bass and Co., on Saturday made a tour of the firm's departments, delivering stirring speeches to the men. As a result, 37 names were handed in, the greater number being at once sworn in and passed by the doctors. Capt. Clay is seeking the permission of other large employers in the town to address their men.

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CHIT CHAT

In aid of the Belgian Relief Fund Messrs. Harry Chenrey and Charles Hensley collected the sum of £5 from the Desford Colliery employees on Friday afternoon. It had been decided by the Village Committee to have a voluntary collection, pending a decision being arrived at by the Miner's Association on what steps shall be taken towards rendering assistance to the Belgian refugees.

The Ashby Territorial Reserve Company, about 120 strong, attended service at the Baptist Church on Sunday morning. They were under the command of Captain Jesson, and were headed by the band. The boy scouts also attended. The Rev. J. Ellis preached an appropriate sermon, and the church was full.

The Coalville Territorial Reserve Company now about 170 strong, marched to Ibstock Parish Church on Sunday morning headed by the Coalville Coronation Band and their return to Coalville was witnessed by a large crowd of admirers. Before dismissing the men in Marlborough Square, Capt. Stevenson complimented them on their marching and said there were many young men in the crowd who should be in the ranks. If they did not join they might be fetched.

A Belgian man and wife and two children are being accommodated in Ravenstone in a home kindly offered by Miss Cresswell. The man has started work on the Snibston Farm. On Sunday all four attended service at the Ravenstone Parish Church. Another Belgian family are expected in Ravenstone.

A party of six Belgian refugees are staying in a house on Forest Side, Whitwick, kindly offered by Mr G. F. Burton. They are from Alost and all speak the Flemish language only.

A distinguished refugee from Belgium who was a judge in his own country, but is now a penniless recipient of charity in this country, says that many people in Belgium fear that the war will not end in a decisive victory, one way or the other, but that when the settlement comes, Belgium will be sacrificed and become a German province. When we look at devastated Belgium and watch parties of dazed and destitute refugees landing in this country, we can easily forgive the Belgians for taking a despondent view. But of one thing they may be assured, there will never be a settlement until the last German is driven out of Belgium, and that unhappy country is restored to her position of independence. Britain owes a great debt to Belgium. She is the richest and most happily placed of the allies, and she will never sheathe the sword until, as Mr T. P. O'Connor has said, *"Belgium is free, and reparation has been made to her, and until a treaty is made which is not a scrap of paper but a steel-clad fortress, behind which stand millions of British arms to defend it unto death."*

Many soldiers after continuous fighting at the front have been driven mad by the awful din and carnage of modern artillery fire, and it is not surprising that when men take to warfare with monster guns, wild animals take to flight. From German and Austrian forests wild bears, deer, goats and wildfowl, are retiring into Switzerland, but the wolf will probably not allow any of the disturbing factors of war to deter it from having the time of its life. The wolf is very far from being exterminated in Central Europe. It is even seen in some parts of France regularly every winter, and there are already reports from Russian Poland of large droves of wolves following the armies, and devouring the dead horses. In Belgium, and in Germany, the killed horses are turned to account as food for man, and horseflesh in some form or other figures in many of the prepared foods of the Fatherland. Germany in fact is celebrated for its sausages, as well as soldiers, and at a recent sausage exhibition in that country, 400 varieties were shown as coming from Westphalia alone.

Mr Neville Smith-Carrington has made a present of tobacco to every man in the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regt. at Luton including ambulance and machine gun sections and the signallers. The presentation consists of a neat box of tobacco and pasted inside the lid is a label. "Good Luck!" from Neville Smith-Carrington, Ashby Folville, Melton Mowbray. The tobacco was supplied by the tobacconists from Loughborough, Barrow, Castle Donington, Mountsorrel, Shepshed, and Whitwick. Mr Smith-Carrington has been unable to leave London for a month, his firm being so busily engaged in making munitions for war that seven days a week and three shifts of eight hours each are worked continuously.

In asking for collectors for the Belgian Relief Fund in London Road at the public meeting on Wednesday night, Mr Walter Lindley said the area was from the Fox and Goose to the Baptist Chapel – a good place to start from and a good place in which to finish.

The following is an exact copy of a composition on the war written by Geoffrey Fletcher, aged seven years of the Ellistown Infants School:

"The Kaiser began the war because he was so selfish. He wanted Belgium, France and England. He got in Belgium and set it on fire. The Belgians set fire to a lot of oil tanks and the Germans thought they had left it, then marched into it, when all at once the Belgians sprang out of their hiding places and killed a lot of Germans. There is a great fight on the Belgium coast. The Germans have sunk three British Cruisers. We have some of our battleships against the coast and there are great big guns on them. The British keep firing with the guns into the German trenches. The British Navy has captured a lot of German ships. The Kaiser was nearly captured. India are sending soldiers to help us."

The writing in large letters between lines is very good and it will be noted that there are only three mistakes in spelling.

Fifty of the Coalville Territorial recruits who have been selected to make up the 5th Battalion for France received their clothes yesterday preparatory to leaving for Luton to-day (Friday).

The Coalville Citizen Corps is now 135 strong, and the attendances at the drills in the Midland Brickyard, Mantle Lane, during the week have been excellent. The company is divided into squads with Sergeants Williams, Gutteridge and Spedding as instructors. Capt. Stevenson has been appointed captain of the corps.

IBSTOCK

DARK STREET

All the Ibstock street lamps were unlighted on Thursday night, due, not to fear of Zeppelins, but to the breaking of gas mains on the Hinckley and Melbourne roads, owing to which there was considerable leakage. The damage is supposed to have been caused by heavy traffic on the road. Several fractures of main pipes were discovered and repaired during the day.

DO YOU KNOW

That the Hugglescote Church Lads' Brigade attended service at St. Faith's Church last Sunday morning?

That wounded soldiers to the number of 150 arrived in Leicester on Monday evening, and were cheered through the streets?

That eight Belgians have been hospitably received this week at the Desford Industrial School?

That a son of Capt. Heygate – Lieut. C. R. Heygate, of the Yorkshire Light Infantry has been wounded?

That Gunner G. Spacey, writing to his wife of Margaret Street, Coalville, says he is going on all right and is still "on the track"?

That the Rector of Ravenstone (the Rev. S. Dowling) has two nephews in the Belgian army who were both in the siege of Antwerp?

That the monthly meeting of the Coalville Collectors for the Prince of Wales's Fund will be held at the Adult School on Monday night?

That Messrs. Stableford and Co., wagon builders, Coalville, have contributed one thousand pounds to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund?

That Capt. McKernan, of the Salvation Army (Coalville) will speak in the Adult School next Sunday night on "Volunteers Wanted"?

That Mr T. Jones, headmaster of the Thringstone Church School is one of the seven headmasters under the Leicestershire Education Committee, who have responded to their country's call?

That the motor delivery van of Mr J. Windebank, of Hugglescote, carrier between Coalville and Leicester, has been "commandeered" by the war office for transport work in France?

That Dr. Storr-Best, headmaster of the Coalville Grammar School, who speaks French fluently, has been rendering good service in Leicester and London as interpreter in connection with the arrival of Belgian refugees and has heard from them many harrowing stories?

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LOCAL NEWS

Reports of meeting of the Ibstock Patriotic Committee on Wednesday night, and the Coalville Belgian Refugees' Committee at Hugglescote last night, are unavoidably held over until next week.

The Coalville Boy Scouts were entertained at the Fox and Goose Hotel on Saturday night by a few friends who, like the rest of the public, greatly appreciate the efforts they have made in aiding recruiting.

The secretary of the Coalville Philharmonic Society, (Mr W. Hatchett) informs us that it has been decided to give a concert in aid of the Belgian Refugees' fund, and choristers in the district are being invited to assist.

A number of ladies will meet at the Coalville Christ Church School to-morrow (Saturday) night at six o'clock to arrange for making body belts and other comforts for the Coalville Territorials. The effort is not confined to Coalville, but covers the whole of the urban area, and any ladies interested are invited to attend.

COLLECTORS' MEETING

A meeting of the collectors for the Prince of Wales's fund was held at the Adult School on Monday evening. Mr W. Hurst presiding. The chief business was to consider the matter of collecting for the Belgian Relief Fund and twenty of the collectors decided to take on this extra work, it being left to the secretary (Mr F. S. Weaver) to get 14 more collectors for the vacant districts at the public meeting on Wednesday night.

WHIST DRIVE

About 200 people were present at a whist drive in the Christ Church School, on Wednesday evening organised by the Coalville Branch of the C.E.M.S. in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund. Messrs. J. W. Farmer, F. Goddard and S. W. Brown acted as M.C.'s and the following were the prize winners:-

Ladies, 1st Mrs L. L. Baldwin 181; 2nd Miss G. Wilson 176; mystery, Mrs Thompson 129:
Gents, 1st Mr A. Starkey 180; 2nd Mr G. Clarke 176; mystery, Mr E. Catlow 179:

Mrs Baldwin returned her prize for the benefit of the fund and it was sold, realising 3s. Mrs Thompson adopted a similar course and her prize was sold for 4/6. After a few remarks by the Vicar, a collection was made and realised 30s to purchase tobacco and chocolates for the 50 local Territorial recruits who leave for Luton today (Friday).

COALVILLE TERRITORIALS LEAVE THIS MORNING

ENTHUSIASTIC SEND-OFF

Fifty of the Territorial Reserves selected to make up the 5th Battalion at Luton left Coalville for that place by the 9 o'clock train this morning (Friday) amid scenes of great enthusiasm. The railway station, bridge, and approaches thereto, were crowded with hundreds of people, and the Coalville lads had a much hearty send-off. The crowd included the Vicar, curate and many of the leading residents of the town and district. The Territorials looked very smart in their new uniforms and before they left they found in their pockets packets of cigarettes and chocolates, a pleasant surprise which a number of Coalville ladies and gentlemen had thoughtfully prepared for them.

While waiting for the train they and the crowd sang "It's a long way to Tipperary" and other popular martial airs, and the train left amid ringing cheers.

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COALVILLE'S EFFORT FOR DISTRESSED BELGIANS

URGENT APPEAL FOR FUNDS

SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE DISTRICT

Considerable progress has been made during the week in connection with the scheme to provide for 100 Belgian Refugees at Broom Leys, Coalville. The committee have got to work and have received many excellent promises of support. The greatest task they have to face is the raising of the money, estimated at £30 to £35 per week, to maintain their guests after the house had been furnished, and a comfortable home provided for them, but judging by the enthusiasm displayed at several meetings held in the district during the past few days, it looks as though the money will be readily forthcoming. Appended are particulars of the meetings held.

GOOD RESPONSE AT RAVENSTONE

There was a good attendance at a meeting in the Ravenstone School on Monday night at which Major Hatchett, J.P., presided and Miss Hawthorn attended from the Central Committee. The Major and Mr J. W. West, J.P., spoke of the great sacrifices made by the Belgian people and the claims they had on the people of this country. Promises were made in the meeting amounting to £2 per week.

It was explained that a Belgian and his wife and two children were already living in Ravenstone at a house kindly offered by Miss Cresswell.

MEETING AT SWANNINGTON

A meeting was held at Swannington on Saturday night and was fairly well attended. Mr T. Atkins presided and was supported by Mr B. G. Hale and Mr Edgar Hawthorn, hon. sec to the Central Committee. The Chairman and Mr Hale gave addresses to what was evidently a sympathetic audience and it was intimated that collectors would come round.

STIRRING ADDRESSES AT WHITWICK

On Monday evening a well-attended meeting was held in the Church Schools, Whitwick. The Rev. T. W. Walters, M.A. Vicar, presided and he was supported by the Right Hon. Charles Booth, Mr W. Lindley, J.P., and Mr M. McCarthy, Mr T. W. Bourne, Mr J. Eagles, Mr M. Downes, Mr F. Burton, Mr J. S. West etc.

The Chairman said that a few months ago the little country of Belgium was one of the most prosperous on the Continent and had flourishing populous towns and cities. Suddenly war broke out and the Germans demanded a passage through the country. Belgium knew if they said "yes" it would probably mean an end to their independence, and so they said "no." The result of that was the Germans set their war machine in action, and to-day old world towns that had been a joy to travellers were blackened ruins; ancient monuments and architecture were in ruins, and the people had been crushed as well. The people in thousands had fled to France, to Holland and to this country. To-day the Belgians looked upon the people of this country as their best friends and the people of this country looked upon the Belgians as a grand and noble people. But for the stand they made at Liege, France would have been devastated, and the resistance they offered enabled France and England to prepare to meet Germany. At the same time Belgium was a desert. Some of their friends here had already done something to provide hospitality for some of these heroic people, but a committee representing the district was organising means for accommodating more of the unfortunate people. Considering what the Belgian resistance had meant for this country, they ought to do all they could in return.

Mr McCarthy said they knew pretty well what had happened, and the cruelties that had been enacted. He had received a letter from Father Parmenier, of Newhall, a Belgian, whose two brothers were in a large way of business and had lost everything. Before the war, Belgium had 7 1/2 million of prosperous people. He did not know how many would be left when the war was over. The Germans had been preparing for years. The war came to them in England like a thunderclap and they ought to thank God that they had gone on thus far so well. He felt that God was working for them in this fight for freedom and Christianity.

Mr Walter Lindley said that was one of the saddest occasions which he had had to come before a Whitwick audience. Belgian refugees, rich and poor alike were needing succour. There were 200,000 Belgian refugees in Holland who would be only too glad to come over to England if they could be accommodated. The most awful atrocities which the Germans had perpetrated were a scandal to the 20th century. Even barbarians had never perpetrated such atrocities. A gentleman had told him that he had seen two women without hands, and another gentleman had told him that a nurse he had known for 15 years had come back with both her hands cut off. The one nation the German Emperor wanted to crush was England. Proceeding, Mr Lindley said he believed that the German Emperor had climbed and climbed to the top of the ladder, and fallen over the other side. They must not minimise the task before them. It would probably take them till this time next year to overcome Germany. They must wait until they had driven the Germans off French and Belgian territory, and razed Krupps works at Essen to the ground. Then they could begin to talk about some reduction of armaments. The Coalville District Committee were hoping to get sufficient support to enable them to place one hundred refugees at Broom Leys. It was their duty and privilege and he believed it would be their pleasure to help them. They appealed for gifts or loans of furniture and household requisites, in

addition to vegetables etc., and weekly contributions towards the maintenance of these people. The collieries had already contributed £124, and unless they received gifts of furniture, etc., it would take at least £230 more to furnish the place. On the top of this there was the cost of maintenance, and in his opinion these refugees would require help for at least twelve months.

The Hon. Charles Booth said he had in the past been regarded as an alarmist, but he was happy to have on his side Lord Roberts. He heard from time to time of the careful and thorough preparation made by the Germans for the invasion of England, and many people believed that these preparations were simply academic, but he for one did not take that view, but that they looked to "the day," as their favourite toast implied, when they would invade this country. Although the war had not gone so favourably for the Germans as the Germans had hoped, they still believed they would be able to invade England. The present fighting was said to be the greatest fight of the war, and the Germans were making strenuous efforts to get to Calais. They believed that by an invasion of this country by Zeppelins it would make them shake in their shoes, that they would be frightened and give in. Of course the Germans did not know us as a people. The Belgians had done much more than he had ever hoped they could have done, and they should do all they could to help these people who had lost their all. He was trying a little experiment, and was expecting 6 Belgians at his place.

The Chairman said that Pte. Samuel Perry had written home that he had seen a Belgian Refugee landed at Portsmouth minus both arms, legs and one ear.

Mr T. W. Bourne moved a vote of thanks to the speakers and the Chairman and Mr Eagles seconded. Both made an eloquent appeal for support in the effort to support the Belgian Refugees. The vote was heartily accorded and the chairman and Mr Booth responded.

The chairman said that 23 volunteers were required to collect in that part of the district. Mr Lindley said it was important that the offers of furniture etc., should be to hand by the Central Committee at Coalville by Saturday as the Central Committee were meeting next week to decide what furniture it was necessary to purchase.

The singing of the National Anthem closed the proceedings.

GOOD MEETING AT HUGGLESCOTE

The Hugglescote meeting was held in the Church School on Monday night, when there was a capital attendance. Canon Broughton presided and was supported by Mr R. Blower, J.P. C.C., and Mr J. Husband (treasurer to the fund).

The Chairman said the whole thing of the war was a terrible tragedy. They pitied the men who were spending nights in the trenches. He heard from a relative of his on Saturday, and he said he had not had his clothes off for a month and his boots only twice, and that was not a nice thing for an English gentleman. But the greatest tragedy of the war was the plight of the unfortunate Belgians. He outlined the causes of the war – Germany's violation of a treaty – and what Belgium had suffered in consequence. They had been turned out of their homes and country. But for the plucky stand of the Belgians, the Germans would have reached Paris and the German Emperor possibly would now have been preparing for his Christmas dinner at Buckingham Palace. If ever they got to England he did not know what would happen. Possibly they would soon all have been made into German sausages. (Laughter) But, happily, they had been spared that. The unfortunate Belgians had now reached our hospitable shores and it was for the people of this country to succour them. There were many claims on them in connection with the war, but they could not ignore this. Coalville had embarked on a large scheme. He knew Broom Leys and agreed that one hundred might be accommodated there. It had been started on the suggestion of Mr Lindley and they knew that anything to which Mr Lindley put his hand he generally carried through. He (the Canon) thought they would want a £1000 and it was for all to do their little bit. They owed the Belgians a great debt and must do their best. (Cheers)

Mr R. Blower said no one could tell them half the sacrifice the Belgians had made. Who had those sacrifices been made for? Belgium had no quarrel with Germany and they might have allowed the Germans to go through and keep their country in peace as Holland was. But Belgium considered she had a duty to perform and they all knew the result. There were 150,000 refugees, in this country already. And if ever they went back, what would they go back to? Not to their homes because their homes had been burnt down and in

many cases their friends had gone. They remembered Nelson's words and he was sure they were all prepared to do their duty. The Canon had hinted that they were already doing much. He (the speaker) meant to be candid. He did not think they were doing much. Those who were contributing to the Prince of Wales's fund were not giving anything to benefit anyone but themselves. If work fell off and the need arose, they were giving to this fund so that they should not have to seek relief from the Guardians. He knew that some of the money was going to dependants of soldiers and sailors, but the fund was really to meet civil distress which might arise from the war. If the collieries of the district had to shut down owing to the war there would soon be a great deal of want and distress and in that case they would be entitled to relief from the Prince of Wales's Fund. So that by contributing to this fund they were really making provisions for themselves the same as they would in a sick club. He hoped none of them would have need in this district to draw on the fund, but he thought the facts he had stated should be made known and it should be pressed home that they were not helping the Belgians or contributing to the cost of the war. It would have been cheap to the Belgians if they could have given a few pence a week to get out of this business. Their sufferings were undecipherable. Besides the 150,000 already in this country there were another 150,000 waiting to come. And they had done all this for us. What were they prepared to do for the Belgians? If everybody in the district gave a half-penny per week it would meet the cost of maintaining two hundred. They should easily support one hundred. The Whitwick Colliery Company had acted handsomely towards the dependants of their employees who had gone to the war, and they had now gone further in offering Broom Leys for this object. Other colliery companies had been appealed to and the response was good. But the furnishing of the house was not such a great item as the maintenance of the refugees and the estimate was that it would take £30 a week. They expected the appeal to cover the urban area, with the parishes of Ibstock, Bagworth, Barlestone, Desford, Thornton, Swannington and Ravenstone, and he thought that £30 a week should be easily raised. The authorities had had plenty of applications to take ones and twos but there was a difficulty in breaking up a family and particularly as regards the language. It was much better for them to be placed in families or groups. The committee appealed for gifts of clothing, furniture, food and any articles that would help, as well as money. In addition to the Broom Leys scheme, Miss Cresswell had offered a house at Ravenstone where a family was already being cared for, and if they saw these people they would realise their need. He hoped the collectors would not meet with the statement that they (the people) were already contributing, but that all would do their best even to the point of sacrifice. This country was not out of the wood yet, though they hoped for the best. The Belgians had laid down their lives for their friends and no man had greater love than that. (Cheers)

The Chairman said the collectors would wait on them at their houses, but if any were prepared to say that night what they would do, it would be passed on to the committee. There was nothing else for them to do that night unless anyone would like to ask Mr Blower any questions.

None were asked and the meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

A report of the meeting held at Coalville will be found on page 8.

THE COUNTY'S GUESTS

It is requested by the War Refugees Committee in London that all offers of hospitality for War Refugees in the county should be made through the County Committee for National Relief.

Persons who have offered accommodation not yet occupied, should communicate either with the Secretary of their District Committee or with Mr W. A. Brockington, 33 Bowling Green Street, Leicester, Hon. Secretary to the County Committee for National Relief, by whom all particulars will be supplied immediately.

By the close of the present week, at least 250 War Refugees will have been accommodated through the County Committee, but more hospitality is urgently required.

A fund has been established to assist in the maintenance of the Refugees, and contributions should be sent direct to Mr Thomas Cope, Osbaston Hall, Market Bosworth.

BELGIAN REFUGEES AT SWADLINCOTE

BURGOMASTER'S STORY

Amongst the Belgian refugees at Swadlincote, Burton-on-Trent, is Mr. de Wolf, Burgomaster of Wespelaer, Louvain, who states that when the Germans entered that place they shot 16 persons, although none of the civilians had fired a shot. M. Vandeverne, and his two daughters, on opening their door, were fired upon, the older daughter, a school mistress and the father being killed. The younger daughter stayed in the cellar till the house had been gutted and an old couple, named Andries were burned to death. Their son and daughter-in-law, on trying to leave the house, were shot at and terribly injured. Five wounded soldiers were placed in a municipal councillor's house during the battle of August 25th, and tended by his wife and himself. Next morning the Germans set fire to the house, without giving notice, and the charred bodies of the five wounded still lie in the ruins.

BELGIAN BABY BORN IN LEICESTER

SON FOR A LIEGE REFUGEE

The first child of a Belgian refugee to be born in Leicester or Leicestershire, saw the light of day on Tuesday last at the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital, Causeway Lane, Leicester. The proud mother is Madame Earmaine Delrot, a young woman, who is a refugee from Liege.

The infant is described as a "beautiful boy."

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RAVENSTONE SOLDIER IN FOUR BATTLES

HOW 500 GERMANS PAID FOR THEIR TREACHERY

THRILLING EXPERIENCES

How 500 German soldiers paid dearly for an act of treachery was one of the incidents in a thrilling story told to our reporter by Pte. John Hancock, of the 1st Coldstream Guards, who went unscathed through three battles in France and fell in the fourth wounded in the shoulder from a piece of shell, in consequence of which he was removed to hospital and has since been invalided home.

Pte. Hancock is a son of Joseph Hancock, a fitter employed at Messers. Stableford and Co's wagon works at Coalville, himself an old soldier, and residing at Swannington Road, Ravenstone.

Young Hancock was three years in the Guards, leaving the regiment of July 2nd last and he had joined the Derby Borough Police Force, having only had a month's experience as a constable when he was recalled to the colours.

Recounting his experiences, he said he went to France with the first British Expeditionary Force, travelling from Aldershot to Havre, and then up country by train. The first battle in which he was engaged was at Mons, the actual fighting in which lasted 36 hours, though four days were occupied in the retreat. Mons was a coal-mining district and it was in the neighbourhood of collieries that the battle commenced on a Sunday. The British were entrenched and during the 36 hours that they held the Germans at bay, he said that the losses of the enemy were tremendous. They could see them dropping all over the place as they made their charges. The Germans got to within 200 yards and brilliant charges were made by the 9th Lancers and the Scots Greys. The Germans made their charges in solid formation, T shape, but their rifle fire was very inaccurate. They carried their rifles level with their hips and fired as they ran. The British losses were heaviest during the retreat. On September 6th in five or six hours, the Coldstreams had fifty men killed.

Hancock paid a high tribute to the valour of the British officers who, he said, were always prominent in the fray and many fell. He went on to describe how the Germans were driven over the Marne and the subsequent fighting on the Aisne. A thrilling experience was when Hancock with 50 of his regiment under

Lieut-Col. Ponsonby got cut off and had to creep back along a ditch nearly full of water, all the time under a heavy fire from the enemy. "*The shells were dropping all round,*" said the soldier, "*and splashing us with the mud.*" It was during this incident that the officer just named was wounded.

For periods as long as five successive days and nights, Hancock and his comrades were in the trenches and during the nine weeks he was at the front he never had his clothes off. He was wounded in the right shoulder by a piece of shell on September 19th and for eight hours lay unconscious in the trench. He was picked up and bandaged by another of the guards named Broadhurst, who by a peculiar coincidence comes from the same village, and these two, with Pte. Wilson of Coalville, were fighting side by side. Although it was unknown to each other, Hancock and Wilson were both wounded about the same time and were brought to England on the same ship, meeting at Southampton and the two warriors who had fought side by side in the trenches in France subsequently occupied beds side by side in the 5th Northern Hospital at Leicester. Broadhurst is still at the front.

Further questioned as to his experiences during the fighting Hancock had some exciting incidents to relate.

On one occasion, he said, the Northhamptons were sent out to bring in about 500 German soldiers who had lain down their arms and intimated that they desired to surrender. When the Germans saw the party coming to take them prisoners numbered only some 200, they quickly took up their guns again and started firing. The Northhamptons charged and the retreat of the Germans was cut off by the British machine-guns by which practically the whole of the five hundred were wiped out. The groaning of the wounded, said Hancock, was pitiable. One man of the Black Watch had both his legs shot off during the battle of the Aisne and implored his comrades to shoot him out of his misery. The poor fellow died shortly afterwards. When a number of soldiers were taking cover in a factory a German shell demolished a tall chimney which fell across the building killing five or six men. Hancock was one of those who escaped. He saw P.C. Henson (a Coalville policeman) several times in the fighting before he was killed and he also saw P.C. Durrands (another Coalville policeman) lying wounded between two trenches. Durrands is now a prisoner in Germany. Wilson received his wounds while crawling to a place, under a heavy fire to fill some water bottles for his comrades and himself. Hancock says he was in the trenches for five days at a stretch and it was raining nearly the whole time. Shells that dropped around cut the ground up throwing the dirt over them and in many places lay heaps of bodies of Germans. To anyone who had not seen it, he said, war was indescribable.

Hancock's statement that a good number of the Germans had a smattering of English and that he got into conversation with prisoners several times, led the writer to ask whether the Germans still thought that ours was "a contemptible little army."

His reply was that they have evidently altered their opinion now. But the Germans still retained the idea that they must win. They were frequently reiterating this and the British Tommies only laughed at them. But many of the Germans after being taken prisoner said they did not want to fight and remarked, "*The British shoot goot.*" The Germans, continued Hancock, could not stand the British charges, but generally fled.

But for the big guns they could not have held out as they did on the Aisne. A pitiable sight was to see the rows of English soldiers' graves, on which lay little crosses, made by their comrades out of the ammunition cases. But if the Germans were confident of winning, so were the English, he said. Every man was doing his bit and a splendid spirit prevailed among the troops.

Hancock's father, who was present at the interview, then related some of his experiences. He is a typical old soldier, who had fourteen years with the colours, eleven of which were spent in India. He went through the Afghan War under Lord Roberts and he went on to recall some of the thrilling incidents of that memorable campaign.

Hancock, junior, by-the-way, has been discharged from the hospital and is now at home regaining strength. He expects to return to the front, though this may be some weeks yet as at present he has lost the use of his shoulder, from which, while in the hospital, a piece of shell was extracted with the aid of X-rays.

RECRUITING IN CANADA

INTERESTING LETTER TO COALVILLE MAN

Mr Percy Stabler, the manager of Messrs. Worthington's Coalville branch shop, has just received an interesting letter from his brother Ernest in Canada showing how enthusiastic are the loyal Canadians in their desire to help the Mother country during this trying time.

Mr Stabler writes that by this time the Canadian volunteers will be in training over here and they are getting another 25,000 ready. The men belonging to Ontario who have joined (150) are all insured by the City, single men for 500 dollars, and married men up to 1,500, that is £100 to £300. Their pay is 5s per day, and the Government allow the reservists' and volunteers' wives £5 per month, according to the number of the family. The war fund is well patronised. In one town near here with 5,000 population, they raised 50,000 dollars, an average of nearly £2 per person and they are nearly all German-Canadians. All the railway employees here were asked if they would give one day's pay and only one I have heard of said he was hard up. The Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway hope to raise 200,000 dollars (£50,000).

HOME DEFENCE MEETING AT WHITWICK

CITIZEN CORPS FORMED

With a view to forming a Citizen Corps for home defence in Whitwick and Thringstone, a meeting was held at the Three Crowns Hotel, Whitwick, on Tuesday evening. Mr B. Berry presided and was supported by Capt. Stevenson, Lieut. Jamie, Mr S. Perry etc.

Mr Berry said they were all sorry to hear of the death of the landlord of that establishment (Mr Musson), and he asked the company to stand as a mark of sympathy.

This having been done, the Chairman said these were very serious days, more serious than some of them realised. They had to face a madman and his huge army. This madman had intended to capture Brussels, Calais and Paris. They had taken Brussels but had got little further. The Germans wanted to capture Calais and invade this country, so that they could serve us as they had done the people of Belgium.

Capt. Stevenson having explained why he was prevented from taking active service, stated that before the war he formed the Ashby and Coalville Corps of the National Reserve. He congratulated Whitwick district on the many lads sent to fight for their country. The Chairman had referred to the German madman; he called him the German Assassin – (A voice: *The Belgian Butcher*) – hear, hear. They had read of the horrors which the Belgian people had had to suffer. The people of this country would have to suffer more if ever the Germans got into this country. We thought that our fine navy was invincible and could not be defeated, Germany thought the same of their navy. They had been building it up against "The Day" which they had toasted and looked and prepared for in years gone by and it was wise that they should be prepared for all contingencies. He referred to the heroic behaviour of British troops in the war, and to the pluck and courage of men who kept the Union Jack flying. If they had followed the advice of Lord Roberts six years ago this war would never have taken place, because they would have had four million trained men. It rested with the men of Whitwick to help to protect this country. They wanted to form a Citizen's Corps for home defence, and they wanted the young men to join Kitchener's army. If the men did not come forward readily, then there would be conscription. When Lord Kitchener got his million men, he would ask for another million. This war would not be over this Christmas or the Christmas after. It would be a long affair. They had got to drive Germany out of France, out of Belgium, and right to Berlin. They had got to make it that the Germans would not be able to molest them again. They not only wanted men for Kitchener's army, but also for the Territorial Reserve. It was a great honour to the Coalville Company and they had been called on to supply a draft of 60 to strengthen the 5th Battalion at Luton. They had with them that night, Mr Jamie, an officer of the Coalville Company, and it was many years since Coalville had supplied an officer for the Territorials. When the National Reserve was first formed it was not recognised by the War Office, but in the hour of England's need, many of its members had gone again to serve their country. The same applied to the home defence corps. They wanted to be prepared for emergencies. At Coalville on Sunday 109 paraded for drill, and on Monday evening 88 presented themselves. There was a large employer of labour standing shoulder to shoulder with men in his employ. He regretted that there were men with strong sons who had not sent any to join the forces, although they could easily spare at least two. He explained in passing that the Citizen's Corps was not a back door for those who had not the grit to join Kitchener's army or the Territorials.

Proceeding, he said that some women had trouble over their separation allowances. If any who had difficulty came to see him any morning between 9 and 12 at the Labour Exchange he should be only too pleased to do all he could to put the matter right.

Mr H. G. W. Howe said that England expects every man to do his duty and that motto should be engrafted in the minds of everyone young and old, and in spite of his advancing years he was prepared to do all he could. The war was not yet before them, and peace would not be declared until they reach Berlin.

It was decided those who had given in their names should meet on Thursday evening to form a committee.

Lieut. Jamie proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was accorded and Mr Berry replied.

COALVILLE AND THE BELGIANS

AN EARNEST APPEAL

PUBLIC MEETING IN THE ADULT SCHOOL HALL

In support of the scheme for accommodating one hundred Belgian refugees at Broom Leys, a public meeting was held in the Coalville Adult School Hall on Wednesday night, when there was a fair attendance, the majority being ladies.

Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., presided, and was supported by Messrs. B. G. Hale, J.P., Mr B. B. Drewett, Mr Edgar Hawthorn, (hon. secretary to the Committee), and Mr F. S. Weaver, (hon. secretary of the Collecting Committee).

The Chairman said he was sorry that it was necessary to have to call a meeting of that sort. They were all aware of the object for which they had met. It was to see what Coalville was prepared to do for the unfortunate people of Belgium, who had been driven from the homes and country.

Mr B. G. Hale said it was common knowledge that the war was one of the most terrible in history and was being waged by Germany with a barbarism also unprecedented in history. He went on to allude to the causes of the war and said that England promised to stand by Belgium if she resisted the German invasion. They all knew what a gallant stand Belgium made. Nothing more heroic was recorded in the annals of civilisation (Cheers). They had learned with horror and disgust the devastation which followed in Belgium and from that they could picture what would happen if the enemy came to this country. There were thousands of Belgian people who lost their friends, their homes, their all. Thousands were seeking refuge on our shores and it was our duty to see that they were treated handsomely. That meeting was to appeal for funds to aid in this work. He hoped that every man and woman in this district would rise to the occasion. They knew that one hundred of the refugees were shortly coming to Broom Leys, which the Whitwick Colliery Company, in their generosity, had offered. (Cheers). These people could bring nothing with them, and they had no money. Their savings in the bank had been confiscated as well as money owing to them. He met a businessman the other day who had £10,000 owing him, but the Germans had sent him a bit of paper saying it had been invested in the war loan and he would probably receive interest on it. If Germany lost, as he prayed God she would, (applause) that man would lose that money. No sacrifice the English people could make would be too great to repay the debt of gratitude they owed to Belgium. (Cheers). It was estimated that £30 a week was required by the Coalville Committee and in a prosperous district like this he thought there should be no difficulty in getting the money and a bit over. This war had to be fought to a finish. If Germany won, England would become a third rate country at once and would lose all her colonies. He did not want to sound a pessimistic note. If it meant the last man we would win this war (cheers) and if they could not win it with the men they would call on the women, who he was sure would do their part also. (Cheers). There was never a more just war and this mission of mercy was one which should appeal to them all. (Cheers)

Mr B. B. Drewett said they had met for a specific purpose and he would like them to keep in mind the object they had in view. He questioned whether they fully realised yet the terrible sufferings which the Belgians had passed through, because they had not actually been brought face to face with it. For some reasons he was glad they had been spared seeing the terrible agonies which these people have passed through, but some of them were coming into our midst and it was being brought nearer home to them. He had been pleased with the meetings held at Hugglescote, Ellistown and other parts of the district, because he believed the hearts of the people had been touched, and that there would be a splendid response to the appeal which was being

made. There were thousands of refugees now in London, in the hotels, at the White City and other places, and the National Belgian Relief Committee had appealed to those in the country to help them. That was how the call came to Coalville. England had always been a haven of refuge for the oppressed. (Cheers) They had had refugees in the past but never on such a scale nor under such circumstances as on this occasion. The Belgians came to us realising that we owed them a debt of gratitude. But for the stand Belgium made in the early part of the war, the position now might have been very different. France was not ready; Russia was not ready; and England had to get her troops onto the Continent. Belgium gallantly held the invaders in check while these difficulties were overcome. Had his hearers ever thought of what might have happened had Germany seized Calais or Boulogne? It would not be long, he thought, before they got within striking distance of this country. He knew they had confidence in their navy, but they could not tell what might have happened. (Hear, hear.) England was worth defending. Despite all the grumbling, political squabbles and what not, there was no country which enjoyed more freedom, better laws and greater advantages. (Cheers) He went on to draw a picture of Belgium during the last few months, as city after city had been razed to the ground, the horrible carnage, women and girls outraged, and people half naked driven from their homes, whose only aim was England as they made for the coast with their little bundles containing all they had in the world. Thousands of them were now here and we had a duty to perform. He was sure all would do their part. Their young men had gone forth to uphold their country's honour and even in Coalville a local corps had been formed, so that there was no fear of invasion here now (laughter and cheers), but there was much to be done by those left at home. Had they yet made any sacrifice? Some of them were having a little money stopped from their weekly wages for the National Fund, but that was to meet any civil distress that arose and none of it went to the relief of the poor people they were considering that night. They had done nothing for these people yet and they now had a splendid opportunity. They were under a debt of obligation to the Whitwick Colliery Company and the Committee for doing what they had done. It was hoped to accommodate 100 at Broom Leys, and there were a number of refugees already at Ravenstone in a house offered by Miss Cresswell and at Whitwick in a house which Mr G. F. Burton had lent. He hoped they would have about 150 in the neighbourhood altogether. It was certain that the feat of Belgium would go down to history as one of the finest feats of arms ever performed, and if the people of Coalville and this country neglected their duty towards them, it would be to their eternal shame. (Applause).

The Chairman read an article in the "Times" dealing with the conditions under which thousands of refugees were living in this Holland. They were lodged in barges on the river, in carriages on railway sidings and in barns and sheds. There were 250,000 of them in Holland with their eyes turned to England waiting for ships to come and fetch them. Holland was doing splendidly, but the burden was too great for her to bear. Owing to the sneaking German spies, no refugees could be placed on the east or south coasts and so appeals were being made to the rest of the country. It was a unique opportunity in Coalville that they had a house which would comfortably accommodate one hundred people. They should be there within fourteen days, so the committee had a task in getting the house ready. They should have no difficulty in getting the necessary £30 a week. Two pence per week from each house in the area would do it. One glass of beer less for each house was what was required. He pointed out that the Prince of Wales's Fund was really a sick club in which they made provision for themselves. No appeal had previously been made for the Belgian refugees. He found it difficult at first to believe some of the stories of the German atrocities in Belgium but he had had the privilege of talking with 18 ladies at the Coalville Convent, next door to him. These ladies escaped from Belgium only bringing what they stood up in, and he asked them whether what they read in the papers was true. Their reply was that it was only too true. In fact, not half of what happened in Belgium had been recorded in the English papers. Two nurses had arrived in London with both their hands cut off. Huns had been seen marching through the streets in Belgian towns with babies stuck on their bayonets. ("Shame"). Let them imagine these things happening in England. Proceeding he said the committee wanted a continual £30 to £35 each week and they did not know how long it would last. Possibly for a year. They also wanted offers of furniture. They were not asking for clothing at present, they would want plenty of under clothing for women and children. He said there was some silly talk going about the district as to the religion of the Belgians. He did not care a snap of the finger for religious beliefs in this matter. The religion of Belgium was chiefly Roman Catholic but they had nothing to do with that. It was childish for anyone to say he would not help because the Belgians were Roman Catholics. They had a right to their own opinion and he hoped they would go back to their own country sometime. Concluding the chairman referred to an appeal he had received for a French relief fund and advised any others who received this appeal to leave it alone. He had his doubts about it and had sent it to Scotland Yard. If it was all right, all well and good, if not, it would be enquired into. He then asked for collectors for certain districts in which there were vacancies, some of the collectors for the Prince of Wales's fund having also agreed to collect for this object.

The collectors appointed were: London Road, Mrs Price and Miss Lindley; Park Road, Mrs Page and Mrs Savage; Hermitage Road, Mammoth Street, etc., Mrs Rimes and Mrs Culliff; Margaret Street and Jackson Street, Mrs and Miss Hale; Gutteridge Street, James Street and Vaughan Street, Mrs Reesby and Mrs Carr; Highfields Street and St. Saviour's Road, Mrs Allen and Mrs Wildgoose.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the chairman and speakers and the singing of the National Anthem. A similar meeting was held in the Ellistown School on Tuesday night and was well attended. The vicar, the Rev. F. Boothby presided and the speakers were Messrs. W. Hurst and Mr B. B. Drewett.

Reports of other meetings will be found on page 7.

ASHBY

SMOKING CONCERT

Mr H. W. Joyce, C.C., presided at a well-attended smoking concert, held at the Queen's Head Hotel, on Monday, with the object of promoting recruiting for the Territorial Company. Most of the members were present including Capt. Jesson, the officer commanding, who enlisted several recruits. Sergeant Crossley mentioned that the company numbered 121, and his reference to Driver Osborne (a Leicestershire man), having won the V.C., was received with cheers.

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BELGIAN REFUGEES

RELIEF COMMITTEE'S MEETING AT HUGGLESCOTE

On Thursday evening, last week, the committee for the Coalville and District Belgian Relief Fund met to report progress in their work. Mr B. B. Drewitt presided and a large number were present, every district being represented. The meeting had been arranged the previous Monday, it was thought desirable to postpone it until after the public meetings had been held in support of the fund. Minutes of last meeting were read by Mr W. Cannon and confirmed. The collectors are the same as appointed for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, and their reports were considered very satisfactory. A total of £20 1s 3d was handed in as the result of the first visit. The sum included several donations, amongst them being a contribution from the relatives of soldiers and sailors now in receipt of relief from the Soldier's and Sailor's Relief Committee through the local secretary, Mrs Wykes. The amounts promised for weekly contribution were then reported (taken at their minimum) and will probably stand at £8. In addition to promises in money a large number of gifts were reported including bedsteads, tables, utensils of various kinds – several weekly gifts of bread and in one case 10s worth of grocery per week, delivered at Broom Leys. After the reports had been presented, conversation on one or two matters ensued.

One collector asked what was to be said to a resident who express willingness to provide a home for a woman and child and who felt aggrieved and refused to contribute because no favourable reply had been received. It was pointed out that neither this Committee nor the Central one had the least power in the disposition of refugees, and that the tremendous weight of business to be transacted by the head Committee in London would be sufficient explanation of delayed correspondence; moreover for every reason homes where the Belgians could be located together are preferred, and in every way more desirable than scattering the people in small numbers. The foregoing report does not include the Ellistown district, which will be presented later.

It was decided that payments to the Prince of Wales's Fund, (the importance of which was specially emphasised) and the Belgian Relief Fund, be made to the secretaries every Thursday evening at 7.45.

THE NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

SCALES OF RELIEF

The following statement has been circulated by the Government Committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress in connection with the Prince of Wales's Fund.

Considerable variation exists among local representative committees in the giving of relief out of grants from the Prince of Wales's Fund and local funds administered in co-operation with it. Many requests have been received from committees for guidance with regard to the scale of relief to be adopted.

It has, therefore, been decided at a joint meeting of the Government Committee for the Protection and Relief of Distress and the Executive Committee of the Prince of Wales's Fund, to recommend scales to determine whether any minor modifications shall be introduced to meet local variations of circumstances.

It is to be understood that, in the application of the scale which is adopted, the principle must be observed that in every case relief granted shall be appreciably lower than wages. The following are the typical scales recommended:

	London		Outside London	
	s	d	s	d
One Adult	10	0	8	0
Two Adults	14	0	12	0
Each Additional Adult	4	6	4	6
Two Adults and 1 Child	15	6X	13	6X
Two Adults and 2 Children	17	0X	12	6X
Two Adults and 3 Children	18	6X	16	6X
Two Adults and 4 Children	20	0X	18	0X
One Adult and 1 Child	11	6X	9	6X
Each Additional Child	1	6X	1	6X
Maximum for 1 Household	20	0	18	0

X – Less 6d per week in respect of each child receiving meals at school.

In determining the amount of relief to be granted, all sources of income at present available to the household must be taken into consideration and must be deducted from the amount specified on the scale, but it is proposed that for this purpose income from savings (including sickness and unemployment benefit) should not be deducted except in so far as such income exceeds 5s a week.

LEICESTER RELIEF

LARGE DROP IN APPLICATIONS

It was reported on Monday that the number of applications to the Leicester War Relief Committee last week fell to less than one half those registered in the previous week, there being only 30 applications, as against 67. The greater part of these were soldiers' dependants who were in difficulty through not receiving their allowances. The number of military cases helped during the week was 178 and the amount spent £65, all due to shortage in allowances. The number of civil cases was 79, to whom £32 was paid. Since the committee was formed no fewer than 1,146 civil and 1,692 military cases have been relieved.

HOME DEFENCE AT HUGGLESCOTE

CITIZEN'S CORPS FORMED

A public meeting was held in the Hugglescote National School on Saturday night, to consider the proposed formation of a Citizen's Corps. Mr J. Lester presided and was supported by Capt. Stevenson, Lieut. Jamie and Councillors F. Griffin and S. Armson.

The Chairman said they all recognised the seriousness of the position, but England knew that every man would do his duty and also make himself fit to do it. He referred to the formation of a corps at Coalville and they thought it would be better to have a squad at Hugglescote rather than join Coalville, though it was not that they loved Coalville any the less. They considered they could do better by getting together at Hugglescote. He believed this movement as now recognised by the Government and their desire was to render themselves fit to take their part should the necessity arise. He was pleased to say that owing to the kindness of the Hugglescote Conservative Club and Institute they could have the large room for drill free of charge except on Monday and Wednesday evenings. (Cheers) He read a letter to that effect from the secretary to the company Mr E. Darby.

Mr F. Griffin said they were living in stirring times. England was going through such a crisis as she had never met with before. The arms and numbers of men pitted against them were without a parallel in the history of the world. So far they had not felt the effects of the war very much at Hugglescote, but they did not know how it would affect them as time went on. Kaiser Bill and his henchmen would do anything to cross the little streak of water with his horde of savages to get to this country and if that happened worse things would occur than they had read of as having happened in Belgium and France. He was sure that the citizens of Hugglescote would do their utmost and that the movement, when started, would go well. (Hear, hear)

Mr S. Armson said they had all read in the papers what had been taking place and they were well aware of the position. They were fighting a dirty foe and had to be prepared should the Germans get here. He had tried to picture what was transpiring on the Continent and what it would be like if it extended to England. It was the duty of every young man to serve his country in this crisis and older citizens must be prepared to make sacrifices for the country they all loved. The time had come when they should act and be prepared to meet any emergency that might arise. He had never seen a drill in his life and did not know what it was like, but he was prepared to take his coat off and go into it. (Hear, hear) He hoped there would be a good response and that they would all assist in what might prove to be one of the most important movements ever started in Hugglescote. (Cheers)

Captain Stevenson said this thing had been coming on for years and if the country six years ago had taken the advice of that fine old soldier, Lord Roberts (cheers) he believed they would not have this war because there were six million men in this country between the ages of 19 and 35 and they would then all have been trained and ready to take up arms. The age had now been raised to 38 which meant that they wanted more men. Lord Kitchener was appealing for another 100,000. He (the captain) had been speaking sharply to the youngsters of late, but he did not want them to be pressed into service and labelled a coward for the rest of their lives. But if they did not volunteer they might be fetched. He went on to allude to the plucky stand of the Belgians and the horrible deeds committed by the Germans. Warfare today was very different from what it was in the Boer War. It was now carried on not only on land and sea, but in the air and under the sea. It was a terrible thing but they had to prepare for the worst and make themselves fit to meet the enemy. Three years ago, he started the National Reserves in this district and some of the men were now rendering excellent service. He had no doubt that the Citizen Corps would prove as useful a body. It would be no use coming to Hugglescote at the last moment and asking a hundred men to do something if they were not prepared. Organisation was needed and they must drill and make themselves efficient. He was pleased at the way the movement had taken on. There were a thousand in the Citizen Corps in Leicester, 180 at Hinckley, 145 at Coalville and 145 at Ashby. (Cheers) He believed there would be a good company at Hugglescote. The war was a long way from being over. They could not expect our soldiers back again this Christmas or the next. They had to bring the Germans to their knees (cheers) and peace would have to be signed not in London or Paris, but in Berlin. (Cheers) Men over 35 were eligible to join the Citizens' Corps, but not under, except in circumstances as they would then be eligible for Kitchener's army or the Territorials. They would be required to drill two nights a week and as they advanced in proficiency he imagined many

interesting contests between the Hugglescote, Coalville and Whitwick corps when the light nights came on again. The Fox and Goose was an excellent ground and he anticipated much activity there next summer. The exceptions in which men under 35 could join the corps was those not medically fit to join the army, men in the second class National Reserves who might be called up at any time, or Government officials whose duties prevented them from joining the army. It must be strictly remembered that the Citizens' Corps was not a back way out for any young fellow not joining the army. He was sure that when the citizens had had a few drills and marches they would shame some of the youngsters who were holding back. After they had given in their names they should form a committee and fix those nights for drills a week so as to meet the convenience of them all. They would drill two nights a week and could then chose their nights. He referred to the 50 Coalville Territorials who left for Luton on Friday to join the 5th Battalion which was under 12 hours' notice to be ready to leave for some place they knew not where. They were as smart a lot of recruits as anyone could wish to see. (Cheers)

The Chairman said there were a few smart young men in Hugglescote who had joined the Territorial recruits and had not gone with the batch of 50 and some people had wondered why. He had made enquiries and found it was because they were so smart they were required at home to assist in the drilling of the recruits. (Cheers)

Capt. Stevenson and those young fellows were most eager to go, but they could not let all the smartest boys go and leave no one to assist the drill instructors. Those lads had remained as privates, but when the promotions came along they would have stripes on their arms as non-commissioned officers and he would be glad to congratulate them. (Cheers)

Questions were asked whether those who had joined at Coalville would be transferred to Hugglescote and the captain said they could. Mr C. Whatnall said a young married man with three or four children ought to be allowed to join the Citizens' Corps though under 35.

Capt. Stevenson said he agreed to a certain extent, but they had to draw a hard and fast line somewhere. He admitted it was hard on some. Under 35 men were eligible for Kitchener's army of the Territorials whether they were married or not. Provision was made for the wives and children.

It was pointed out by Mr Jennings that the age limit for Kitchener's army was now 38; why fix this at 35. Capt. Stevenson said 35 was the age when the Citizens' Corps commenced and they could not keep changing about.

Mr Boothby asked whether there was any limits as to height. Some of them were like Zaccheus, not very tall.

Capt. Stevenson said there was no restriction in regard to that.

It was decided on the motion of Mr W. E. Canner that a corps be formed and 21 names were enrolled. The following were appointed as a committee:

Messrs. F. Griffin, S. Armson, A. Griffin, J. Woods, W. Meadows, J. Lester and G. Langley.

CHIEF'S GENEROUS TRIBUTE

TO LEICESTERSHIRE CONSTABLES FALLEN AND INJURED

The "Police Chronicle" of October 30th, says: We have received the following letter, the fine spirit of which will be admired by all, from Mr Edward Holmes, the Chief Constable of Leicestershire.

"With respect to your letter of the 20th inst., I very gladly testify to the excellent qualities of my late Constable Leonard Henson, who, to the deep regret of all of us, lost his life in the discharge of his duty as a soldier in the early part of the war. He had only been with me five months, but showed every promise of being a comrade whom it would have been a constant pleasure to have amongst us. At the very last Bench he attended I complimented him on the fair spirit he manifested when giving evidence.

P.C. Heggs, who is wounded, and has recently been removed from Lincoln Hospital to a hospital at a private house near Grantham, will I sincerely hope, come back to us at the end of the war. Happily, none of the injuries he has received appear likely to prevent his resumption of police duty. I have, of course written to

him and told him how glad we shall all be when he is able to come back. His father is an old sergeant with me, and is very much respected by all.

A third constable of mine, P.C. Durrands, had his arm broken by a shot in the war and is now a prisoner in the hands of the Germans. He was a very smart man, most anxious to make himself acquainted with his police duties, and, judging by the progress he made during the eight months he had been with me, I had every hope that he would become a really useful and valuable member of the Force. Of course, I hope that he will come back when the war is over."

Yours truly
E. HOLMES
Chief Constable

APPLEBY

QUEEN MARY'S GUILD

Miss Elsie L. Moore, the energetic secretary of the local branch of the Queen Mary's Guild, invited the members to meet her in the Girl's School. In an eloquent address, she alluded to the necessity of working for those who were fighting our battles, and thanked the members for their enthusiastic support. The Guild has 100 members, and has already produced 212 garments. Each member was presented with a badge in the form of a brooch, the centre containing the flags of the Allies over the word "united."

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IBSTOCK PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE

The Ibstock Patriotic Committee held a general meeting in the National Schools on Wednesday evening, the Rev. S. Flood, M.A., (Rector) presiding. There were present the Rev. J. W. Campbell, Councillor W. Eggington, J.P., Messrs. F. Holmes, E. W. Mee, J. Bonser, J. Baxter, T. Wyatt, R. West, J. Goddard, W. Wallace, J. Buggins, Humble, F. J. Newman, and M. Armson.

Mr Dunstan reported that the total amount collected up to date from their district was £808/1/0 and in addition a voluntary collection was made at Ellistown and Desford on behalf of the Belgian refugees and realised at Ellistown £2 5s 0d and Desford £5. This had been remitted to the County Treasurer of the Belgian Relief Fund.

The question of providing for the Belgian Refugees was discussed and the opinion expressed that it was desirable to make an effort as a distinct district rather than amalgamate with the Coalville effort. Mr Dunstan reported that "Sefton" House, Barlestone, had been offered but they were still corresponding on the matter. The "White" House, the Town Hall and also the unused factory at Ibstock, had been under consideration, but difficulties were in the way of making use of them. In answer to a question Mr Dunstan said the County regulation was to the effect that effort should be made on behalf of the Belgian refugees and if the Local Committee had none to provide for in this district the amount collected should be remitted to the County Authority to go to the assistance of other districts having refugees in the county.

The Rev. Campbell suggested that there would not be so much enthusiasm shown if they did not have some refugees to work for in their midst. He thought the ladies who were at present working so hard were particularly anxious a house should be taken to accommodate some of the refugees wanting homes.

Mr Eggington agreed they should endeavour to do something as a district. They were certainly strong enough if they could only get a house. Although it would entail considerable work in looking after the poor people when they arrived he was prepared for one to do his utmost in the work.

The following resolution was then adopted on the proposition of the Rev. Campbell, seconded by Mr Baxter was: *"That this Committee asks the Executive Committee to consider the question of "Sefton" House or any other available house with a view to obtaining refugees in our district. If no house can be obtained the amount raised to be sent to the County Fund."*

The question of how the money was to be raised was then discussed and Messrs. Goddard and Wallace expressed the opinion that the effort should be a voluntary one instead of by levy. This was agreed.

ASHBY POLICE COURT

Saturday. – Before Mr George Moore (in the chair), Major Hatchett, Mr J. Hassall, and Mr George Brown.

A Territorial Elevated

Ernest Bingham (20), labourer, Ashby, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Ashby on October 26th. Supt. Lockton said this man was a Territorial and he had been to a concert where they sang patriotic songs and got a bit elated. He was a respectable youth and the captain had told witness that he had attended his drills well. Under the circumstances witness asked to be allowed to withdraw the case on payment of the costs. – Agreed. The costs were 6s.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The Ashby company of the Territorial Reserve marched to Blackfordby, on Sunday morning, and attended service at the parish church. The vicar, the Rev. B. Kenyon preached. Mr Wilsher, the organist, played "Britain's Volunteers" as a voluntary.

At a meeting at Markfield on Saturday, Mr Preston was appointed Chairman and Mr Prevett secretary of a local relief committee. Mr Lindley's appeal for Coalville's scheme to help Belgian refugees was favourably received.

Collections have been taken during the last two weeks at the Bagworth Colliery for the Belgian Refugees Fund. The two collections have reached a grand total of £12. Those responsible as collectors were Messrs. H. Hook, H. Percival, and J. Ward. This effort is in addition to the Prince of Wales's Fund and will be continued while the war lasts. We congratulate the workmen and hope other collieries will follow suite.

The Coalville Territorial recruits were joined by members of the Citizens' Corps for the church parade on Sunday morning. They met in Marlborough Square and marched to Whitwick Church, the Territorials being headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band, and the Citizens' by the Coalville Boy Scouts Band. Before dispersing them in Marlborough Square on their return, Capt. Stevenson highly complimented them on their marching and general appearance.

The three Belgian soldiers who died at the 5th Northern Hospital, Leicester, during the week-end were buried on Wednesday with military honours at the Welford Road Cemetery.

The following young men, who were connected with the Church Lads' Brigade, are reported to be serving their King and country either in the Territorials or regulars: W. T. Stinchcombe, J. Newbold, W. Newbold, O. Pratt, A. Crooks, W. Newberry, J. Knight, G. Straw, W. Attwood, W. Smith, C. H. Kirk, R. Glover, A. Ford, J. Summers, A. Dobney, B. Hatter, H. Thompson, J. R. Bowley, A. Choyce. In the navy are W. Clifford and in the Ambulance D. Newberry.

Though the Coalville Council meeting on Tuesday night was a short one, several interesting matters were dealt with, not the least prominent among which was the decision to supply water and gas free to Broom Leys while the Belgian refugees are in residence there. In this the Council will have the support of ratepayers who are themselves responding liberally to the appeal which is being made. Thanks to the liberality of the Whitwick Colliery Company and the Council, the refugees are now assured of a home with fire, light and water free, which form a considerable item. The furnishing is well in hand and there is no doubt that the necessary funds for the maintenance of the refugees will be forth-coming. On enquiry of the hon. secretary, Mr E. Hawthorn, yesterday, we were informed that it is not yet definitely known when Coalville's guests would arrive as the house was not quite in readiness.

A Leicester contemporary has been making some interesting comparisons in regard to recruiting showing that the villages and towns in the county have a good lead over the Borough of Leicester. It states: 'The little village of Gaddesby shows a marvellous degree of patriotism. Out of a population of 270 no less than 22

men have joined the colours since the outbreak of war, quite 8 per cent. If the great town of Leicester yielded anything like the same percentage she could nearly form an Army Corps of 20,000 men! Syston has sent 100 recruits out of the population of 3,000 and on the same pre portion Leicester ought to supply 8,000 recruits. The Coalville and Ashby districts have supplied 1,100 recruits out of 35,000 and on this basis Leicester's recruiting total should be nearly 7,000 instead of 5,600. Loughborough town has recruited nearly 700 men for all units out of a population of nearly 23,000, and had Leicester shown similar patriotism she could boast today of 6,300 recruits. Out of Hinckley's 12,838 people there have been 350 recruits, and here again, on the same percentage, Leicester would have been equal had she contributed 6,300 recruits. Even Melton beats Leicester hollow. The hunting centre has sent 356 recruits out of a population of 9,650. On this reckoning, Leicester alone should supply over 8,000 recruits.

Several of the Coalville friends of the fifty Territorial Reserves who left here for Luton last Friday have received letters which show that the men are in excellent spirits. Upon arrival at Luton they were allotted to various companies and were billeted at houses in the town, being supplied with warm blankets, and the food was stated to be good and plenty of it. It is just possible that they may have left Luton by now, as a letter received from one of them yesterday, stated they were mobilising on Wednesday and were expected to leave for an unknown destination. Since arriving at Luton on Friday they have had gun practice, several long marches and engaged in mimic warfare.

Mr Leonard Cripps, of the 4th Hussars, who was recently wounded in the ankle in the fighting in France, has returned home on leave. Mr Cripps is the son-in-law of Sir Matthew and Lady Joyce, of Abbot's Oak, Coalville, and 16, Great Cumberland Place. W.

There is nothing more to be proud of in Coalville at the present moment, says the Vicar of Coalville, in the Parish Magazine, than the company of nearly 200 young men who have volunteered to serve the country. And nothing is meaner than the superior (?) young men, whose skins are too precious for the job. We hear that some cannot go because their professional careers may suffer. What about the careers of those who have gone? Of one thing we may be sure. On the day when "Johnny comes marching home," one will be a hero, and the other a _____. Again, the hero will have infinitely better chance of employment, than the man with a precious and delicate skin. The day is gone by when any person will again look down on the man who went to the front!

DO YOU KNOW

That the Coalville Citizens' had a march out on Tuesday night?

That the members of the Hugglescote Citizens' Corps had their first parade on Tuesday night?

That the collectors for the Belgian Refugees Relief Fund will meet at the Adult School Hall every Monday night?

That the workmen of Cliffe Hill, Markfield, are contributing 3d each week to the National Relief Fund?

That Mr McCarthy, of New Swannington has received two Belgian boys (brothers) aged 10 and 6 from Antwerp?

That on Sunday, at St. Deny's Church, Ibstock, the bells were rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of those who had fallen in the war?

That Lieutenant-Colonel German, who retired from the command of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Territorial Regiment about 2 years ago, has been appointed second-in-command of the 5th (Reserve) Battalion?

That 33 recruits were enlisted at a meeting at the Coalville Olympia last night?

That the Coalville Bowling Club have decided not to hold their annual dinner this year owing to the war?

That the Women's Liberal Association are arranging for a whist drive at the Coalville Liberal Club on Wednesday week in aid of the fund for Belgian Refugees?

That the whist drive and dance organised by the Hugglescote Women Unionists at the Hawley Institute last week realised £19 13s 7 1/2d and was made up to £20 for the local Belgian Relief Fund?

That a collection at the Market Bosworth Agricultural Society's ploughing and hedge-cutting competitions at Osbaston last week realised £5 5s for the Prince of Wales's Fund?

That when Mr Peace, fruiterer, High Street, Coalville, opened a barrel of American apples yesterday he found on the paper covering the apples the following inscription in large type, "Let Great Britain win. H. R. E."

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COALVILLE SOLDIER AT THE FRONT

Private Sidney Haywood, a gunner serving in Garrison Artillery in France, writing from Rouen to his wife in Margaret Street, Coalville, says a relative in London wrote to him asking if he smoked cigarettes or tobacco. He answered that he did, but would prefer a change of clothing. He asked his wife to send a bottle of disinfectant, and hoped to keep clear of the "terrible diseases which are ravaging the enemy." He thought the enemy would fight to the last if their money and food could hold out.

IBSTOCK

A patriotic concert was held in the Picture Palace, Ibstock, in connection with the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund and the Belgian Relief Fund. There was a full house and a very good programme was rendered by Mr Walter Grocock, of Leicester, and his court jesters. At the close a usual vote of thanks was proposed by Councillor W. Eggington and seconded by the Rector, Rev. S. Flood, thanking the company for coming and giving their services free and also the Directors for the use of the Palace free.

COMFORTS FOR THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

AN APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

On Saturday evening last, a public meeting of ladies of the Coalville Recruiting District was held in the National Schools, Coalville, and there was a very representative gathering. Mr B. G. Hale presiding.

Mr Hale explained that the object of the meeting was to form some central organisation through which channel any gifts of clothing or comforts could be sent to the men who have joined the Colours from Coalville or any of the surrounding villages. It would be the business of this organisation to ascertain what the men required, and then to get the women of the district to provide these requirements. By working through the central organisation it would be assured that some men did not get more than they required whilst others were in want, and it was hoped that every woman in the district would help the organisation to show the men who are risking their lives for them, that the women do appreciate and value the sacrifices they are making to defend their hearths and homes.

Mrs S. W. Brown and Mrs L. L. Baldwin also addressed the meeting and appealed to all those who were already working to forward the articles to this Guild, so that some record could be kept of what was being sent to the men, and advice given as to what was most urgently needed from time to time. Samples of the most approved patterns of articles would be procured and be available for reference so as to insure that any work done would not be thrown away as useless on account of not being to regulation pattern. They appealed for gifts of knitting wool and new flannel of best quality or money wherewith to buy them, and especially for promises of help in knitting and sewing.

It was decided to hold a public tea in Christ Church School (kindly lent for occasion) on Wednesday next at 5 o'clock, with the object of raising funds.

A committee of 18 ladies was elected with Mrs L. L. Baldwin, 88 London Road, Coalville, as Hon. Secretary, and Mrs J. W. Farmer, 56 Vaughan Street, Coalville, as Hon. Treasurer, and any ladies who wish to contribute to the funds either in money or materials, or to offer their services to knit or sew should send in their names as early as possible to these ladies.

The response of the meeting was most gratifying, promises of help, subscriptions and gifts of socks, body-belts, sleeping helmets, mittens, and mufflers coming in freely from all quarters.

Still the work is an enormous one in view of the fact that a large percentage of the 1,100 or 1,200 men who have gone from Coalville Recruiting District are entirely un-provided with any of the comforts mentioned above, and much they so urgently need when manning the trenches or sleeping out throughout the winter, or watching over us in the bitter cold of the North Sea.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED

Mrs Hoden, of Page's Hill, Hugglescote, has received official information that her husband, Private William Ogden Hoden, of the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment was killed in action on the 13th October. He left Hugglescote and his wife and five children on the 5th August, as a reservist, to join his regiment at Warwick. The youngest child is three years. Deceased was 33 years old last February and worked as a collier at Ellistown Colliery. An expression of regret and sympathy sent by Lord Kitchener has been received by the widow. The gallant fellow would have finished his period of service in the Army Reserve on the day after he was killed, assuming there had been no war.

COALVILLE AND THE BELGIAN REFUGEES

CONCERT BEING ARRANGED

At a meeting convened by the Coalville Philharmonic Society and held on Monday evening last in the Coalville Adult School Hall, it was announced that ten choirs had already promised to assist (comprising of 200 voices) in the proposed concert in aid of the Belgian Refugee Fund.

The meeting definitely decided to give a miscellaneous programme and the following choruses were selected:

Epilogue to "Banner of St. George" (Elgar), "Moonlight" (Eaton Fanning), and the national anthems of the Allies. Several fine pieces are under consideration and will be announced later. Mr McDonald has kindly offered the use of the Olympia Theatre and the concert will be held on December 17th.

The first practice was fixed for Monday evening next at 7.45 in the Adult School Hall, kindly lent. The following committee was appointed: Messrs. F. Storer, E. W. Guy, J. H. Starkey, Josiah Kemp, and L. L. Baldwin, with W. Hatchett and A. G. Ball, joint hon. secs. All interested in singing are invited.

WHITWICK

CITIZEN'S CORPS

The following officers of this corps have been appointed: Captain: Capt. W. E. Stevenson; Chairman of Committee: Mr B. Berry; Secretary: Mr H. G. W. Howe; Drill Instructors: Messrs. E. Hanson, and G. H. Hallam. A meeting is to be held at the Whitwick Gymnasium on Monday morning at 10.30.

BELGIAN REFUGEES FUND

COALVILLE WARD

A meeting of the collectors was held in the Adult School Hall, on Tuesday evening. Mr C. W. Brown, jun. presiding. Capt. McKernon and the collectors, with the secretary, Mr F. S. Weaver, were also present. The secretary reported that the first collection was £16/7/7, including sums paid direct to the bank. Several items were discussed.

COALVILLE AND THE NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

The 3rd meeting of the collectors of the Coalville Ward was held in the Adult School Hall on Monday evening last, Capt. McKernon presided, and the hon. sec. Mr F. S. Weaver, intimated that the sum realised from the

third collection was £13/11/6 making the total of the three collections, £105/10/11. It was decided to have the next meeting, the first Tuesday in December (1st).

A meeting of the Executive Committee for the Ibstock District of the Leicester County Committee was held at Thornton on Thursday, the Rev. S. Flood presiding.

In connection with the Belgian Refugee question, the following resolution was unanimously carried: *"That this Committee accept Mr. Archer's offer of Sefton House, Barlestone, and agree to furnish the same for, and maintain as many as can conveniently be accommodated."*

In view of the fact that subscribers would naturally be desirous of aiding the effort to maintain refugees located in their own district, it was resolved, "That a voluntary collection should be made at all the collieries in the area each week, and that the money collected by utilised, (1) for providing and maintaining any refugees located in the area, (2) for assisting if possible, the County Fund in aid of the Belgian Refugees."

It was decided at once to prepare Sefton House and the Secretary was instructed to take the preliminary steps.

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BAGWORTH SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS

Our readers will regret to learn that news has been received from the War Office this week that Mr Paston, of Bagworth, has died of wounds received while fighting in France. He leaves a widow and two children, the youngest being only a few days old. Mr Paston previous to the war was in the employ of the Bagworth Brick Company. He was much respected. Much sympathy is felt in the village for the widow and children.

CONCERT AT THE FIFTH NORTHERN HOSPITAL

A concert, arranged by Miss Gladys Nicholls, was given at the Base Hospital on Saturday last. The programme was as follows: Song, "Angus McDonald," Miss Gladys Nicholls; song, "A Soldier's Song," Mr A. E. Ludlow; illusionist, Professor Hamilton; duet, "Where my caravan has rested," Miss G. Nicholls and Mr A. E. Ludlow; humorist at the piano, Mr Reg Green; song, "Bird of Love Divine," Miss G. Nicholls; song, "The Blue Dragoons," Mr A. E. Ludlow. A number of the soldiers were Belgians and greatly appreciated Professor Hamilton. The programme concluded with the Belgian and English National Anthems.

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FOOTBALL AND THE WAR

MR J. C. CLEGG AND CRITICS

Mr J. C. Clegg, chairman of the English Football Association, speaking on Sunday dealt with the question whether football ought to be stopped during the present national crisis.

He said it was not an unfair question to ask the critics whether they were prepared to give up their own recreation. Such criticisms were not directed to other sports or entertainments. The game was at the present time being played in Belgium, France, Germany, and Austria. The War Office were satisfied with what the football clubs of the country had done, and they were prepared to do anything more in their power.

LEICESTERSHIRE CRICKETER MISSING

Captain G. H. S. Fowke, of the Gordon Highlanders, is amongst the missing officers mentioned in the latest casualty lists. Two seasons ago, Captain Fowke played several times for the Leicestershire County Cricket Club and would have played oftener, but for military duties intervening. He is a brother of Sir Frederick Fowke, of Lowersby Hall, who is also a keen cricketer. Captain Fowke served in the South African War and was married last year.

PAID IN THEIR OWN COIN

RATBY MAN'S STORY OF GERMAN TREACHERY

In a letter to Mr and Mrs John Richardson, Stamford Street, Ratby, their son, J. T. Richardson, electrical artificer on one of His Majesty's ships, says: *"I am all right and in good spirits."* He adds, *"The German fleet cannot pluck up enough courage to come out and fight us but they'll have to do before long, and then we shall have some fun. It properly took the heart of them when we took a hand in the war. They expected to do a lot with their fleet. They shouted in time of peace that they were not afraid of us, but when war came, they were. When the Germans do come out there will be no quarter given them, for we have it in store for them for ignoring all the laws of civilised warfare, by first laying floating mines in the sea. One of the ships that was with us captured a German ship. She hoisted the white flag, but when we sent a small boat with an officer to her she fired on the boat and sunk it. We paid them back in their own coin however, for in about ten minutes we sent her with all hands to the bottom. I reckon you saw the account of it in the papers. Once when we called for coal a crowd of blacks came to join. They said they wanted to fight for their English King. We took in 2,500 tons of coal, and who do you think got it in for us? The black women and girls."*

SNARESTONE

WHIST DRIVE

In aid of the Belgian Refugees a whist drive and social were held at Snarestone School on Friday evening. Miss Bell and willing helpers had made admirable arrangements. The room was prettily decorated. Mr A. Rain acted as MC for the whist drive. The prize winners were:

Ladies: 1 Miss N. Varnham, 2 Miss L. Riley.

Gentlemen: 1 Mr J. Smith, 2 Mr W. Riley.

Mystery: Miss Glover.

The Rev. H. Townsend acted as chairman for the concert, in which the following took part; Misses Adey, Corbett, Bell, Sutton, Russell, Mabel Seaton and Turner. Messrs R. Phayne and J. Riley. A profit of over £5 was realised.

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THRINGSTONE SOLDIER WOUNDED AT THE FRONT

BURIED BY A "JACK JOHNSON"

Private T. A. Commons of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, who left Thringstone for active service, is a patient in the Western Hospital, Liverpool, having been shot in the hand during an engagement. He is a cousin of Menty Commons, a footballer, of Coalville, and ambulance man at the front. The injured soldier wrote from abroad in October acknowledging a box of "fags," sent by his wife, and said he was in a warm corner. He added that he and his comrades were in one position 21 days and 22 nights in trenches all the time, and having shifted were not allowed to say where they were. He had had some hard times, especially in marching through a village and seeing it shelled to atoms, also the houses burned down. People had to leave their little homes for anyone to have but themselves. Furniture too, was burnt. Farmers had to leave their homes and cattle and flee for safety. Commons, continuing, said he lived in a farmhouse. The farmer would have to go away and leave his cows if the enemy advanced. The Germans were "Deadweed Dicks" with their shells or artillery fire, but their rifle fire was no good at all. They could not hit a haystack. He (Commons) had pulled through up to now. Stan Hardy asked him to send his best respects to Coalville friends.

Writing from the Liverpool Hospital, Commons says, he was shot straight through the left hand. "That's all," and it would not long before it was better if the knuckle bone was not broken. Whilst in action he was buried twice, eight feet in the ground by the gun they called "Jack Johnson" or "Coal Box." It took men all their time to find him. He was glad to be in England again.

LEICESTER V. C. HERO

A BUSY WEEKEND

The happiest man in Leicester last weekend was Driver Frederick Alec Osborne, of the famous battery, R.H.A. who celebrated his 21st birthday at his home on Sunday, the happiest birthday of his life. He received many messages of congratulations.

Osborne was one of the three heroes recently recommended for the Victoria Cross and also the French Medale Militaire, for exceptional gallantry in silencing 10 German field guns and two maxims near Compagne, a battle unsurpassed in warfare. Osborne has rapidly recovered from his injuries and left to rejoin his battery yesterday. On Sunday morning, Osborne attended the patriotic meeting in the Market Place at which 11 new recruits gave in their names. The same day Osborne also attended the Victoria Road Men's Meeting and on Saturday in company with his mother and a friend, he paid an unexpected visit to Derby and called on his schoolmaster at 1074 London Road where a presentation was made at the time in impromptu fashion. The gift took the form of a silver cigarette case, richly chased with his monogram for a centre-piece and on the reverse side the following inscription: 'Presented to Driver Alec Osborne by the staff of the Boughton Road School, Derby in honour of his V.C. L. XL. 1914'. An amber cigarette holder and a case and a supply of cigarettes were added at the last moment. Driver Osborne suitably acknowledged the gift and wished his thanks to be conveyed to all the subscribers. He expressed a desire to visit his old school when his duties permitted.

Osborne had a great reception on arriving at Derby. He was warmly cheered by railwaymen on duty at the station and the enthusiastic greeting was taken up on the Midland Road by a crowd which for a time stopped the tramway traffic, scores of persons shaking the victor by the hand.

COALVILLE MAN'S RETURN FROM CHILE

AN EXCITING VOYAGE

LINER CHASED BY GERMAN CRUISER

A serious blow to the nitrate industry of Chile is another example of the far-reaching effects of the war. Evidence of this fact was given to the writer by Mr Fred Cramp, of James Street, Coalville, who, with his wife and two little girls, has just returned to his native town, after being abroad eight and a half years.

Mr Cramp is a moulder, having learnt his trade at Messrs. Wooton Bros. engineering works, Coalville, and the greater part of his stay in Chile has been at Taltal, where he held a good post under the Taltal Railway Company. His contract of employment did not expire till February next, but the industry of the country has been so hard hit by the war that many thousands of people there are unemployed and are depending on the authorities for food. The greater portion of the nitrate ships have travelled to German and Russian ports, which are now closed. Chile, says Mr Cramp, is feeling the effects of the war probably as much as any country not actually engaged in the combat.

The sea voyage home occupied six weeks and was made on board the Pacific liner Ortega, which had a memorable and most exciting passage, through being chased by a German cruiser and several times being held up for examination by friendly warships. The Ortega was steaming through Chilean waters when the German warship, supposed to have been the Leipzig, gave chase. At top speed the captain of the Ortega raced away, making in desperation towards the dangerous Cape George. Presently the people aboard the liner found that they were in an uncharted lagoon which was a round-about entrance to the Straits of Magellan. In unknown waters such as these, the greatest care in navigation had to be taken, and the resourceful captain adopted the expedient of sending a small boat ahead from which soundings were taken. The larger vessel followed slowly and skilfully she was taken into Smyth's Channel, a waterway that is very little used. At last, to the intense relief of all aboard, the clever navigator's came to Punta Arenas. They smiled when they were informed that the German warship had sent a wireless message to the effect that the Ortega had been sunk with all on board.

Three days after leaving the Straits of Magellan the ship's engines were suddenly stopped at 4.30 in the morning, and on going on deck Mr Cramp found that the boat had been hailed by another warship which was believed to be British, and as daylight broke it proved to be the Cruiser Glasgow. One of the officers came on

board. The cruiser went away about 6.30. Later the same day, there was a commotion on board when the officers gave orders for all to be ready to take to the boats within half an hour. Another cruiser was bearing down upon them which was believed to be an enemy ship and the boats were all made ready for lowering and provision stocked up. The feelings of all on board may be better imagined than described when the ship turned out to be British – the Monmouth. Soon after leaving Santos, another cruiser was sighted, which proved to be a Brazilian. They touched at Rio and after leaving there met a Russian sailing vessel, the captain of which desired to have his chronometers corrected, as he had been at sea for four months. He was astonished on being told that Germany was at war against his country. On the average said Mr Cramp, they met about three steamers a day and not knowing what any of them might turn out to be it gave them plenty of excitement all the time. At the Canary Islands they saw 18 German steamers being held up, in fact a similar thing prevailed at most of the ports called at. They had on board 130 French reservists and before these disembarked at La Palais they sang the Marseillaise and were given a hearty send-off. Off the French coast, a French man-of-war steamed round the vessel and the band played the English and French National Anthems. *“There are thousands of German reservists in foreign ports,”* said Mr Cramp, *“who are unable to get away.”* The French reservists who travelled on the same boat, were very enthusiastic. Many had left good situations and they seemed surprised to know that all Englishmen of military age were not doing the same.

Questioned as to how soon they heard of the war in Chile, Mr Cramp said it was announced in the papers immediately war was declared. Taltal, though, only having a population of just over 20,000, has three daily papers. Since the war broke out, he said, a German daily, said to be financed by the German Government had been started, and there had there is irony in the fact that the English translation of the name is “The Truth.” According to this paper Germany has done remarkably well in the war. On the other hand, one of the other Taltal papers came out one day with a special edition giving news of a great naval victory for England, nineteen German dreadnoughts and 30 cruisers having been sunk. A notice was posted in the town from the commander of the Chilean fleet to the effect. *“This day England rejoices in the hour of her victory.”* The news was received with much enthusiasm.

There is a big difference between the Chilean climate and that of an English November. Out there it is very hot and they have little rain. As yet, Mr Cramp is undecided in regard to his future movements. Though having been thousands of miles away he has been kept in touch with his old home as copies of the “Coalville Times” were sent to him regularly. Doubtless other instances could be given of copies of this journal finding their way into distant lands proving a world-wide circulation.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The surveyor reported that Tracey, the stoker at the pumping station had been called up for ambulance service and the committee recommend it be left to the surveyor and Mr Hale to arrange for a man as required.

FINANCE

The surveyor read a letter to Secretary of the War Office as to the guarding of the reservoir and the pumping station, and the committee approved same and ordered it to be forwarded. The secretary of the local Belgian Refugee Committee wrote asking for a supply of water and gas to Broom Leys House where refugees were going to be housed and the Committee recommend the application be accorded to.

The Committee recommend the Council to supply water and gas free of cost to Broom Leys while Belgian refugees were there, which would be a slight appreciation by the Council of the bravery of the Belgians and sympathy with them in their suffering. (Hear, hear).

Mr McCarthy seconded and it was carried.

BELGIAN REFUGEES AT THRINGSTONE

A party of six Belgian refugees, two women, a man, a youth of 17 years of age and two infants – have been accommodated in a house in Thringstone parish, generously provided by Mr G. F. Burton, of Whitwick. One of the women told a press representative that they came from Ghent. Her husband was fighting in Alost in

August, but she had no knowledge of his whereabouts now, and she did not know she was in England. She proudly displayed his photograph in a pendant upon a chain round her neck, and said her house had been burned to the ground, and they had lost everything. Asked if she had witnessed any German cruelty, the poor woman readily admitted she had, and used the word "*bayonet*," as she pointed to the breast of her little one, which she passionately kissed, as she spoke indicating that children had been stabbed.

The men are market gardeners and the Rt. Hon. C. Booth, Gracedieu Manor, is providing the party on men with land on which to grow produce for sale, and purchasing seeds for them. The refugees are picking up the English language by means of the Flemish English book, but one of the men hoped soon to return to Belgium, as the weather in England was "so cold." They were minus overcoats, and the forest air was somewhat "biting." He marvelled at the hilliness of the Thringstone district, and said Belgium was a flat country. The party appear very happy, excepting that the young woman referred to is anxious as to the fate of her soldier husband.

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PATRIOTIC CONCERT AT BATTRAM FOR THE BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

A successful concert was held in the Battram Council Schools on Saturday evening under the auspices of the Patriotic Committee. Alderman T. Cope, J.P., D.L., presided and there was a capital attendance. The proceeds were for the Belgian Refugees Fund. The following programme was well rendered.

Glee, (a) "Hymns before Action," (b) "A Farewell," Ellistown Male Choir; song, "England Mine," Mr A. G. Ball; violin solo, Mr W. A. Smith; song, "There's a Land," Miss Wheeldon; quartette, "Alexander," Ellistown Quartette; song, "Angus MacDonald," Madame Clay; song and drill, "The Japanese Fan," scholars; song, "Thy Sentinel and I," Mr F. Smith; violin duet, Miss Soar and Mr W. A. Smith; duet, "The Soldier's Farewell," Madame Clay and Miss Wheeldon; recitation, "A straight question," scholar; humorous song, "I'm a second-hand Aristocrat," Mr R. Kirton; Glee, "Comrades in Arms," Ellistown Male Choir; song, "May Ain Folk," Madame Clay; violin duet, Miss Soar and Mr W. A. Smith; song, "Our night out," scholars; song, "Jack Briton," Mr F. Smith; quartette, "In Allmence," Ellistown Quartette; song, "The Sailor's Grave," Mr A. G. Ball; violin solo, Mr W. A. Smith; recitation, "Mrs Prim," scholar; song, "Your King and Country need you," Miss Wheeldon; duet, "The Battle Eve," Messrs. F. Smith and A. G. Ball; humorous song, "I do like cheap sea trips," Mr R. Kirton; National Anthems (a) Belgium, (b) French, (c) English, scholars.

IBSTOCK

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GENEROSITY

At a recent meeting of the Ibstock Agricultural Horticultural Society presided over by Mr C. Badcock at the Town Hall it was decided that this year's profits of the show, amounting to £11 should be sent to the local Prince of Wales's Fund and also that a similar amount taken from the bank balance should be given to the Leicester Infirmary. Cheques have accordingly been forwarded by the secretary this week.

WHITWICK CITIZENS' CORPS

With the object of obtaining additions to the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens' Corps, a public meeting was held in the Whitwick Gymnasium on Monday. Mr B. Berry presided and gave a patriotic address and Capt. Stevenson also made an appeal for men over 35 to join the corps and at the close of the meeting 16 more responded. Last night a similar meeting was held at Thringstone in the village hall, with a view to getting Thringstone men to join.

GREAT RECRUITING MEETING AT COALVILLE

OLYMPIA THEATRE CROWDED

STIRRING APPEAL TO THE YOUNG MEN

Another great recruiting meeting was held in the Coalville Olympia Theatre on Thursday night, when the spacious building was crowded and the proceedings were of a most enthusiastic character.

While the people were assembling an entertaining series of pictures were thrown on the screen, and a short performance by a highly trained dog was much appreciated, Miss Hilda Vendy (a pupil of Mr Koyes Jones) gave a delightful rendering of "Your King and Country want you," and at the close of this item, the orchestra struck up with the Marseillaise. The Coalville Citizens' Corps then paraded on the stage, receiving a hearty reception, and all joined in the singing of the National Anthem.

Mr W. Hurst presided and was supported by Capt. Stevenson, Capt. Vere-Smith, Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., Capt. of the Citizens' Corps, Mr W. Lindley, J.P., Mr R. Blower, J.P., Mr W. Baldwin and others.

The Chairman said that the large gathering showed that they had the object of the meeting at heart. He went on to refer to the causes of the war and the barbarities of the Germans. They were like a bully who terrorised a little boy and they hated the champion of the boy more than they hated the boy. Proceeding, he said Lord Kitchener wanted more men and it was the duty of the young men to come forward and serve their country. He asked them to stop loitering about the street with their hands in their pockets, and with the eternal cigarette in their mouths, and stop playing football. In this time of crisis, they must be up and doing. The Colonies had set them a glorious example and the help which India was rendering was one of the best tributes they could have to the justice of British rule in India. (Cheers)

Mr B. G. Hale said they did not want a lot of talk but action. The area of the war was colossal. Millions of men were pitted against millions and it was one of the greatest calamities the world has ever seen. This war had got to be fought to a finish and if the men would not go, they would have to enlist the women. (Laughter, and a female voice: "I'd go tonight.") – Mr Hale said they might laugh but if it were possible the women of the country would go whilst some of the men lagged behind. Proceeding, he said they were out to uphold a scrap of paper. If such scraps of paper were not to be honoured, the whole fabric of civilisation would totter and collapse. They were fighting for freedom, the integrity of the smaller nations, for honesty, for God and righteousness. They were the greatest empire the world had ever seen because they allowed freedom to others. The colonies had come to their aid because this country had mothered them, and lent them protection of the means for development. They had absolute confidence in their troops but compared to with the hordes of Germany and Austria they were but a handful. If they could let Germany know that they could put another million men in the field what an effect it would have upon them and what an effect it would on our men in the trenches. On several occasions our men had been outnumbered by five to one and yet we had won. (Cheers) We had much to lose. If we lost command of the sea we should become a servile country. Sooner than he would be a subject of the Kaiser he would take a revolver and blow his brains out. (Loud applause). He alluded to the formation of a Citizens' Corps in Coalville and said he believed that if it came to the worse they would give up their home, wife, and children, and go into the fighting line and if needs be, die in the cause of freedom. They owed a debt to France, Russia and Belgium. But for the plucky stand of Belgium, Germany would have France on her knees and we should have gone down next. But if they owed a debt to Belgium, they owed a greater debt to Britain and they should rise as one man and every man who could serve his country should offer himself at once to try and end this terrible business as soon as possible. The fewer men they had in the field, the longer it would drag on, and it was essential when the battle was over and they marched in triumph through the streets of Berlin, as they would do, (applause) that they should have a strong army sufficient to dictate the terms of peace. If they owed this great debt to their country they could not pay it better than by saying, "We will stand by you and help you to the death." In the words of Shakespeare, "Nought shall make us rue, if England to herself do prove but true." Were they true? Did they feel that they were doing their duty? It was a time when every man, young and old, should do all in his power to stir up the manhood of the people and make them understand the peril and the responsibility which rested on them. He would sooner see his country sunk under the sea than it should come under the heel of a German despot. (Applause)

Mr Walter Lindley said it was a just war as far as the Allies were concerned. Germany's idea was to subdue France and then conquer England. She wanted to be a world power, and the only country that stood in the way was England. They were proud of that and hoped they always would stand in the way of the Potsdam butcher. (Cheers). A few years ago there were a lot of croakers in England who said this country was on the down grade. They were too fond of sport. But he wanted them to show that as well as being good sportsmen they could also be valiant in war. So far inland as they were in Coalville they perhaps did not realise the position so keenly as it was realised on the coast. He did not say there would be an invasion of this country, but until the German navy was at the bottom of the sea there was that possibility. Some people had asked what our navy were doing. They were doing a good deal. (Cheers) But for the navy they would not be living as comfortably as they were today. He asked them to realise a battle-line as long as from London to Manchester, with millions of men on each side, and what it would be if it was actually going on in this country. Although the fighting was in France and Belgium it was our war and might have been in this country. No people enjoyed more liberty than Englishmen and no more advantages and that was worth fighting for. He was sorry that Leicestershire was so far down in the list in recruiting. Under four thousand had gone from this county. Some of the villages in Devonshire had sent ten per cent of the population and Leicestershire had not sent two per cent. There were a million and a half young men available in this county yet, it was young men who would reap the benefit of the war. There was no doubt that England would a richer and more prosperous country after the war. They must make victory sure, but without men they could not carry on the war. It would be a disgrace to the young men of the country if we lost this war. He wanted to see 61 come up at that meeting as at the last and then he would think that Coalville was entitled to a place on the map. (Cheers)

Capt. Stevenson commenced by thanking Mr McDonald for the use of the building for that splendid meeting (Cheers). He went on to say that he was there for recruiting and they wanted more men. The peace treaty would not be signed in Paris or London, but in Emperor's Palace in Berlin. (Cheers) The British soldiers were upholding the best traditions of the army. He alluded to the London Territorials clearing the German trenches three times. Territorials used to be laughed at, but it would not be so again. When 50 men were wanted to make up the 5th Battalion at Luton where did they get them from? "*Coalville.*" He wanted more to fill the places. Coalville had not only supplied those fifty but also the first Territorial officer in Lieut. Jamie (Cheers) If they did not volunteer he assured them that they were likely to be fetched and would then be branded for life as the coward's brigade. He asked them to stop playing football and think of the lads in the trenches. Coalville had done well he knew, they had sent 117, but there were many more available and who ought to go. He appealed to the girls who were walking out with these young fellow to "chuck them" (Laughter). It would make men of them to go through a little military drill. He pointed out that the age had been increased to 38 and the height lowered to 5ft 3in for Kitchener's army. He went on to outline the terms of service and said they would have 3 month's drill at least before being sent on foreign service. They had on the platform that night three of the largest employers of labour in the district and they had given him there word that places would be kept open for men who enlisted and, if married, their wives and children would be cared for. (Cheers) He then appealed for volunteers.

As recruits rolled up amidst applause, the band struck up with "Tipperary" which was heartily taken up by the meeting, being followed by "Rule Britannia" and other patriotic airs.

It was announced at this stage that 27 had volunteered but more than that were wanted. Mr Hale said it was a unique opportunity and if they had the good luck to come back again they would be regarded as heroes.

Capt. Vere Smith said the girls would think a lot more of their sweethearts if they enlisted, than if they stayed behind. The army made men of them. He had heard that the draft sent from Coalville last Friday was the finest they had in the regiment. (Cheers) He knew it before they went (Cheers). He then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and speakers and to Mr McDonald for lending the theatre, which was heartily accorded.

Mr McDonald said it had been a pleasure to him to be among them that night and he endorsed what the speakers had said. The chairman replying said that the number of recruits had increased to 31 (applause) but they wanted 19 more. Their forces were fighting four to one and it was unfair. He hoped they would consider that and come forward.

Eventually 33 were enrolled.

A successful meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

RECRUITING AT STANTON-UNDER-BARDON

A successful recruiting meeting was held on Tuesday at Stanton-under-Bardon, Mr P. Preston, presiding. In the unavoidable absence of Capt. Pritchard, through illness, Mr W. Baldwin, the Bosworth Division Conservative agent, gave a patriotic address, and Capt. Stevenson appealed for recruits.

At the close of the meeting 13 were enrolled.

MR B. G. HALE AT GROBY

A recruiting meeting was held at the Council School on Friday evening, under the presidency of Mr Sheppard (Groby Parks). Mr B. G. Hale, (Coalville) gave an address, urging the young men present to volunteer. Arms must not be laid down, he said, until Germany was put low and a lasting peace signed. Capt. Stevenson urged the young men to join before compulsion was in force. No one should stand in the way of those willing to join, and England and the Allies must conquer.

Colour-Sergeant Alfred Dye was present, and several enlisted. Last Monday, 15 left the village and joined the colours.

ON THE SAME PLATFORM

HON. H. D. MCLAREN, M.P. AND MR A. E. HAWLEY

A great recruiting meeting at Earl Shilton on Friday night was addressed by the Right Hon. H. D. McLaren, M.P., and Mr A. E. Hawley and also by the wives of both gentlemen.

Mr A. E. Hawley said Germany's was a mad ambition, bound to fail. They were not able to prevent the over-running of Belgium, but they had been able to drive the enemy backwards. The first call was for Kitchener's Army. Over 50 of his own work people had joined the army or the Territorials, including his own boy. They were looking forward to the time when they would return, and their work would be waiting for them. Earl Shilton would not be behind in sending men. They needed a long pull, a strong pull, and they must all pull together.

Mr McLaren, M.P., said England was doing almost the same as she did before the war, while Germany had to be content with what she had stored. Our fleets were not doing as some perhaps expected they would, but he believed their silence would tell its own tale before many months were out. The army had excelled in gallantry. They had been outnumbered, but never flinched in the face of the foe. As he journeyed from London to Earl Shilton he saw a train load of German prisoners, and they were all looking so happy and contented that he said to the soldier in charge of them, "They seem happy and plenty of fun and singing going on with them. Are they really so?" The soldier said "Yes, they are pleased to be out of the fighting." He could vow if any English soldiers were taken prisoners they would never be singing because they were out of the fighting. In conclusion, the hon. gentleman made a special appeal to the men present to join the army.

The meeting yielded 21 recruits.

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IBSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

BELGIAN REFUGEES

Mr Eggington said there was a possibility of having to provide for Belgian Refugees and asked if the Council would let the Town Hall if application were made. He thought they ought to provide such accommodation if possible and do all in their power to help the poor people. The small room could be used as a living room and the larger room partitioned off for the bedrooms. They could themselves meet in the schools to transact their Council business for the time being.

Mr Jacques said the idea was to get the Belgian Refugees placed in more populated areas but they could not get houses for them in this district. They had looked at the factory and made overtures in another

direction without success and the Town Hall seemed to be the only place. They felt the people of Ibstock would be only too willing to have them in the district. Mr Lawrence said they ought to do all they could to help them.

On the proposition of Mr Thirlby and Mr Bonser, it was agreed to allow the use of the Hall should application be made.

CLAIMS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

GOVERNMENT SCHEME

PENSIONS OF DEPENDANTS AND DISABLED

The Government on Monday night issued a memorandum of their scheme of new allowances and pensions in connection with the navy and army. The scales of pensions to widows and orphans have been improved.

A widow of a man in the lowest grade in each service with four children will receive a minimum of £1 weekly instead of 11s; a widow with three children a minimum of 17s 6d instead of 9s 6d; a widow with two children, 15s instead of 8s; a widow with one child, 12s 6d instead of 6s 6d; a widow without children, 7s 6s instead of 5s.

The allowances will be increased in necessitous cases. The widow's full separation allowance will be 5s continued for 26 weeks after the death of her husband.

The allotment previously made by the soldier for his children will now be paid by the Government, and provision will be made assisting an unmarried man's dependants. The allowances for partial disablement will be from 3s 6d to 17s 6d weekly, and for total disablement, 14s for unmarried men to 23s for married men with children, apart from national insurance benefit.

The actuary estimates that as various assumptions the new scheme will involve a total capitalised liability of from £99,000,000 to £202,000,000.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Driver Osborn, V.C., has rejoined his battery, and before doing so wrote to Mr Baddelay, the head-master of his old school at Bridge Road, Leicester, thanking the staff and school for their kindness to him.

The Coalville Territorial Reserves under Capt. Jesson (in the absence of Capt. Vere Smith) paraded in Coalville on Sunday morning, and headed by the Coronation Band marched to the Wesleyan Church, where the Rev. J. Warrington, of Leicester preached.

A number of wounded soldiers from the Base Hospital left Leicester on Tuesday afternoon. A few stretcher cases were sent to Burton, a larger number of more lightly wounded were sent to Loughborough.

One hundred and fifty wounded British soldiers were brought to Leicester on Tuesday night for treatment in the Base Hospital. Fifty of the cases were of a serious character – cot cases as they are called – while the remainder were such that the men were able to sit up or walk. The regiments to which the men belonged were the Grenadier Guards, the Seaforths, the Artillery, the Camerons, the Staffords, the Royal Sussex, the Lancashire, the Wilts, the Gloucesters and the Duke of Wellington's regiment. They came direct from the firing line at Lille, where, it was generally agreed, a terrific battle is still in progress.

At the Leicester and other military hospitals wounded soldiers who have lost limbs in action have been under anxiety as to whether artificial applications will be provided for them. Sir M. Levy, M.P., brought the matter to the notice of the War Office, and on Wednesday received a letter under date November 10th from Mr M. J. Tennant, in which he says artificial limbs are being supplied in such cases and "*you are more than welcome to make this public.*"

There is still an urgent call for young men to join the colours. Hundreds, nay, thousands of able-bodied men are still holding back, they may be seen loafing about the pavements of our big towns and cities, or crowding to football matches and picture palaces, while their brothers are fighting at the front, or preparing themselves in training corps. No man who is eligible and free, can at the present moment refrain from enlisting without losing his self respect and the esteem of his fellow countrymen. Lord Kitchener wants another 100,000 men, and he wants them at once. Time is precious. The Germans are still bringing up reinforcements, and if these vast masses are to be hurled back, the Allies must be continually strengthened. Proper arrangements have now been made to receive and train every man who enlists, and it is imperatively necessary that the new battalions should be completed without delay and reserves provided for the army in the field.

The Parliamentary Recruiting Committee have, after consulting with the War Office, decided to circulate households with a view to ascertain the names and addresses of men between the ages of 19 and 38 who are willing to enlist for the period of war. Accompanying the form – the filling up of which is a purely voluntary service to the state on the part of the householder – is a letter signed by Mr Asquith, Mr Bonar Law, and Mr Arthur Henderson, the presidents of the Committee, which says, *“Every man who is eligible will ask his own conscience whether, in the emergency, it is not his duty to hold himself ready to enlist in the Forces of the Crown.”*

Twenty Belgian Refugees are being accommodated in St. Helen’s House, Market Street, Ashby, the following being their names and ages: Alphonse Petri (50), Colleta Petri (49), man and wife and seven children – Marie (26), Louise (17), Josephine (14), Marguerite (12), Raymond (9), Angele (5 1/2) and Walter (3 1/2); Juenette de Pooter (35) and children – Theresa (15) and Andre (12); Louise de Schutter (36) and children – Jacnette (16), Anna (13), Victor (13), Jaenne (9), Horteuse (6), Francois (4) and Albert (three weeks born in London).

It was announced at the Coaville Men’s Adult School on Sunday morning that some of the young members had joined the forces and the president (Mr B. B. Drewett) expressed the good wishes of the school to them and gave them a few sound words of advice. Incidentally, Mr Drewett referred to the splendid work done in the camps by the Y.M.C.A. and remarked that the Association had recently gone up in his estimation by leaps and bounds. It may be explained that at most of the large camps there is a Y.M.C.A. tent in which the soldiers may pleasantly pass their leisure hours reading, writing letters etc., and this provision is greatly appreciated by the men. Members of the Coalville Y.M.C.A. are rendering excellent work in helping in the supervision of some of the tents.

About 13 of the British soldiers who have been in Loughborough Hospital for the last fortnight left the institution on Monday to return to their homes or furlough. The men still in the hospital are making good recovery, and hope to leave shortly. A further batch from Leicester is expected to take their places.

The Belgian Refugees at Whitwick who are being accommodated in a house at Forest Side lent by Mr G. F. Burton, and whom Mrs Glynn is also helping, are Naxarie Amand and his wife Anna with one child and Mathelda Derde (whose husband is in the war) and two children. All come from Alost. Those at Thringstone, whom the Right Hon. Charles Booth is helping, are Frans De Mailly and his wife Josephine and one child. Auguste Alnehant (15), and Gustaf Scheive and Marcel De Smet, from Ghent. The two latter do not know where their wives and children are.

The response to the committee organising the concert in aid of Belgian Refugee’s Fund had a remarkable response to their invitation, no fewer than 200 singers responding on Monday evening last, when under the capable and thorough conductorship of Mr Frank Storer, a splendid practice was held. Every choir in the district was well represented, and all seemed determined to make the concert a great success from both a musical and financial point of view. Practices are being held every Monday night in the Adult School Hall (kindly lent).

COALVILLE CITIZENS’ CORPS

COMPANY ORDERS NOVEMBER 12TH, 1914

Members will parade in the Drill Hall on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8 o’clock, and on the afternoon of Wednesday and Saturday at 3 o’clock. Sergt. R. Williams to be Orderly Sergeant for the week. N.C. Officers to meet at 7 pm on Wednesday next the 18th inst.

(Signed) B. G. Hale (Captain)
Officer Commanding

WHITWICK AND THRINGSTONE CITIZENS' CORPS

HEADQUARTERS: THE GYMNASIUM, WHITWICK

Company orders for week ending November 21st.

Tuesday, November 17th, Company Drill, Headquarters, 7 pm.

Thursday, November 19th, Company Drill, Headquarters, 10 am.

Thursday, November 19th, Company Drill, Thringstone Institute, 7pm

Major W. E. Stevenson
Officer Commanding

DO YOU KNOW

That Mr J. A. Johnson has kindly promised to give a matinee at the Coalville Electric Theatre in aid of the Belgian Relief fund on Wednesday, November 25th?

That Mr C. H. Parsons, C.C., of Ashby, is presenting each member of the Ashby Territorial Reserve Company with a photograph of the group?

That the whist drive organised by the Coalville Branch of the C.E.M.S. last week realised a profit of £18 11s for the Belgian Relief Fund?

That a concert will be held in the Primitive Methodist Mission Room, Wilkins Lane, Hugglescote, commencing at 7 o'clock, on Saturday, November 21st in aid of the Belgian Refugees Fund?

That at a meeting of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee held on Wednesday evening it was reported that there had been a marked improvement in local recruiting during the last two or three days?

That the Coalville Women's Unionists' Association (Loughborough Division), through Miss Maud Tyler, have contributed £3 to the Coalville Ladies' Fund for providing comforts for the soldiers and sailors on active service?

That pursuant to Order issued by the War Office on the 6th instant, that all soldiers, including Territorials, are prohibited from entering all premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors before 1 pm each day, or between the hours of 2 and 4 pm each day, or after 10 pm each day?

That Ptes. Dobney and Hatter, of the Coalville Territorial Reserve Company, have been promoted to the rank of corporal?

That Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., of Coalville, was the principal speaker at a big recruiting meeting at Ashby Town Hall on Wednesday night?

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LOCAL NEWS

BELGIAN REFUGEES FUND

At a meeting of the collectors for the Belgian Refugee Fund, held in the Adult School Hall, on Monday night, Mr A. Lockwood presided and there were present Capt. McKernon, and Mr C. W. Brown, with the hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) and the collectors, all but four districts being represented. It was reported that the amount of the second weekly collection was £16 2s 1d, which was considered good. A letter was read from the proprietor of the Coalville Electric Theatre, Mr J. A. Johnson, promising to give a matinee for the fund on Wednesday, November 25th, and he was heartily thanked for the same.

FOR THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

The ladies of Coalville and District who have formed a working party to make comforts for our soldiers and sailors on active service held a tea at Christ Church School on Wednesday, where despite the wet day, it was a great success. There was a crowded attendance. The tea was all given, so that a substantial sum will be realised for the purchases of materials required for making body belts and other comforts. Mrs Hardington, of Forest Road, took a seed cake, and a competition in guessing its weight brought in a good many pennies. Mrs J. W. Farmer guessed the exact weight, 4lbs 9 1/2 ozs and so took the cake. A short musical programme arranged by Miss Maud Tyler, Miss Jamie and Miss Ethel Hay was much enjoyed.

MINING OFFICIALS MEETING

Under the auspices of the local branch of the Midland Mining Officials' Association, a meeting was held in the Half-Way House club-room on Saturday evening. Mr A. Hook, Bagworth, the newly-appointed chairman presided, and thanked those present for the honour they had conferred upon him, and said he hoped to receive the same support from the members as had been given to his predecessors. After the usual business had been disposed of, Mr H. Cherry, Bagworth, appealed to the members to support the Coalville and Ibstock Committees for the relief of the Belgian refugees, who are almost to be brought to Broom Leys, in the Coalville area, and to Sefton House in the Ibstock area. It was unanimously decided to give £15 to the Coalville Committee for Broom Leys and £5 to the Ibstock Committee for Sefton House.

BELGIAN REFUGEES AT SHEPSHED

The 15 refugees who have now been at the White House, Shepshed, for a month, have become fairly acclimatised, but the effect of their terrible experiences is too great to be easily cast off. A meeting of the committee was held at the Council Schools on Monday evening. Mr J. Harriman presided, and there were also present, the Rev. Canon Martens, Mrs Harriman, Mr Atkin, Mrs Griffin, Mrs Gibbs, Mrs Potter, Mrs Ince, Miss Goodall, Miss Green, Miss Fogathy, and Messrs. Smith Forton, and Whyte.

It was reported that the work of the Ladies' Committee during the month had been most satisfactorily carried out, and that the guests were greatly pleased with their treatment.

Mr M. Smith was appointed hon. secretary to the committee. The street collections are being carried out successfully, and in addition to money many other gifts have been received. The treasurer's statement showed a balance of receipts and expenses. The Co-Operative Society had agreed to contribute £1 a month for five months.

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FOOTBALL

COALVILLE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

Neither of the matches fixed in the first division took place on Saturday. Coalville Swifts Reserves were to have played Whitwick Imperial Reserves on the Fox and Goose ground but were unable to raise a team through players having joined the colours during the week.

The management committee of this league met at the Red House Hotel, Coalville, on Monday night. Mr J. Kirby presided and there were present Messrs. R. T. Bradshaw, G. Swain, D. Marston, A. E. Clay, F. W. Smith and C. E. Marston (hon. secretary).

Ashby Hastings were reported for not going to Coleorton, the explanation being that several of the players wanted to go to Leicester Fair. Mr G. Robey (Ashby) said they were not able to raise a team and it was due to the war as well as Leicester Fair. Replying to a question Mr Robey said nine players had joined the colours.

A member: *Well done Ashby.*

Coleorton were reported for not going to Ibstock to play the Amateurs and Coleorton secretary said they had only about nine players left out of 20 signed on, the rest having joined the army. Quite 20 from Coleorton had joined the colours. The Coleorton club were ordered to pay Ibstock's claim of 1s 6d for ground marking, the match to be re-arranged within 14 days.

Hugglescote Wesleyans wrote withdrawing from the first division of the league, stating that about 20 of their players had joined the colours, and they asked for the return of the deposit. It was decided to ask for a list of the players who had joined the colours before deciding the question of the deposit.

SWANNINGTON

WAR LECTURE

An illustrated war lecture was given in the Swannington Church School on Wednesday evening by the Vicar, (the Rev. G. Robinson) on "How British pluck won in France." Mr T. Atkins presided and songs were given by Miss Atkins. The proceeds were for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund. Some interesting slides were shown by aid of a lantern.

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MARKFIELD

WAR RELIEF

A meeting of the War Relief Committee and those recently co-opted was held in the School room on Wednesday evening. Mr Preston presided. The appointment of chairman and secretary was confirmed, and Mr J. C. Higgins elected treasurer. It was resolved to organise weekly collections for the Prince of Wales's and the Belgian Relief Fund, and that the Coalville scheme of relief be supported. An appeal was made for immediate gifts or loans of furniture for Broom Leys.

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HUGGLESCOTE

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

Despite a very wet night, a whist drive and dance for the local Belgian Refugee Fund, organised by the Hugglescote Church Council in the National Schools was a great success, over 200 being present. The MC's for dancing were Messrs. D. S. Moore and T. Hatter, and the pianist was Mr W. Gimson. The MC's for the whist drive were Dr. Meredith and Mr W. F. Canner and the winners were:

Ladies – 1 Mrs Baker; 2 Miss Canner; 3 Mrs Allen (Bardon).

Gents – 1 Mr Bowley (Bardon); 2 Mr J. Horner; 3 Mr Columbello.

Refreshments were provided by a ladies committee.

LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS

INTERESTING STATISTICS

A quarterly meeting of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association was held at the County Rooms, Leicester. His Grace, the Duke of Rutland was in the chair.

The following report from the Emergency Committee was read and approved: The Territorial units raised in this area and, as a War Office letter puts it formerly administered by these associations, may now be divided into two parts, the 1st line or imperial service units, and the 2nd line, home service or reserve units, which duplicate the foreign service units and of those members 60 per cent undertake the foreign service obligations. These units will provide the drafts for the 1st line when required. The reserve units which are already approaching establishment and for which many more applications for commissions have been received than there are vacancies are:-

Leicestershire Yeomanry, strength 400; Lieut. Col. R. Muir, establishment 470.

Leicestershire R.H.A., strength 44; Major W. B. Du Pre, establishment 45.
4th Leicestershire Regiment, strength 934; Lieut Col. C. Oliver, establishment 1,000.
5th Leicestershire Regiment, strength 856; Lieut Col. E. C. Atkins, establishment 1,000
N.M.M.B.T. and S. Col, strength 36; Lieut. R. T. Cooper, establishment 115.
Lincolnshire & Leicestershire Brigade Company A.S.C. strength 61; S.S.M. Green, establishment 105.
2nd N.M.F.A., strength 201; Major Riddett, establishment 236.

The 5th Northern General Hospital is not duplicated. Beds are now provided for 555.
In addition to the above, this area has also provided:

Half the North Midland Divisional T and S Col.
Mechanical Transport Company, about 76 in total.
A railway supply section for the same column about 40 men.
About 30 men for the North Midland Clearing Hospital just mobilised under Lieut. Col. Pe—e.

This in addition to a considerable augmentation of the establishment of various units due to different causes but in a part to the necessity for the provision of Mechanical Transport both for the North Midland Mounted Brigade now incorporated into the 1st Mounted Division, and for the North Midland Division. There is every reason to believe that these troops of which the Leicestershire and Rutland units form a part will be among the first to be sent to France, but it is not certain when they will go. A date was actually fixed for their sailing, but was then postponed. Every endeavour is being made in the meantime to see what their requirements in the way of stores are being met as soon as possible.

With regard to the new units now being raised as home service or reserves. The Corporation, the Rugby Football Club, the County Cricket Club and the Fosse Football Club have place drill ground and other accommodation at the service of these new units which have in a very short time done a great deal of drill and route marching.

The association are now paying out separation allowance and allotments to about 1,500 families, and small as this number is, the work of the pay office has been very much complicated by the frequent changes in procedure and method of payment which have been ordered.

Your Committee has received numbers on field glasses, blankets, shirts, mufflers, etc., including a large gift from Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, and a very considerable quantity of things from the Mayoress of Leicester who has especially interested herself in obtaining caps, mufflers, and body belts. These have been sent on to the troops as they have been obtained.

More than 300 packs of cards have also been forwarded to the different units, thanks to a collection kindly made by Mr Gibbs. All these things have been much appreciated. The 5th Northern General Hospital has been inspected by the Senior Medical Officer of the Northern Command, General Ford, who expressed his satisfaction with the arrangements made.

ASHBY

MEETING OF WOMEN

Under the auspices of the Ashby branch of the Women's Union a meeting was held in the Mission Room last Thursday afternoon. Representatives from the Parish Church and Holy Trinity Church were present in good numbers. The proceedings were opened by the Rev. H. E. Sawyer (Vicar of Ashby). Subsequently an excellent address was delivered by Mrs Rudd (Leicester) who spoke on the war, and urged upon those present to do their best in the matter of recruiting.

THE TERRITORIALS

Under the command of Captain Jesson, the Reserve Company assembled at the Town Hall on Sunday morning and, accompanied by the Ashby and District Prize Band, attended divine service at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Burton Road. The chapel was crowded. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. Blayney (superintendent minister).

WENT DOWN IN THE "HAWKE"

A FORMER BARDON HILL QUARRYMAN

One of the gallant men who went down in the ill-fated "Hawke" was P.C. George H. Newton, a member of the Metropolitan Police Force, who formerly worked at Bardon Hill Quarry, and two of whose brothers are residing in this district – Mr Fred Newton, a collier, of Melbourne Street, Coalville, and Mr Wm. Newton, a collier, of Shaw Lane. The deceased man left Bardon ten or eleven years ago to join the navy, in which he served for six years, and he had been in the Metropolitan Police Force for about four years. His father is Mr Caleb Newton, who resides at Long Crendon, Bucks.

Newton was an able seaman and left the navy with an excellent record, while during his short career in the police force, he established the fact that he was a reliable man and a thoroughly good officer. He left Mitchem on general mobilisation day, August 3^d, and sailed on board the "Hawke" two days later. During his naval career he served on the "Cressy." Several letters were received by his young lady who resides at Mitchem and a rather sad feature is that his last epistle reached her two days after his ship had gone down. The brightest letter of all, it was written on the Saturday before, and assured his friends that he would soon be coming home, as the war could not last long. "We are doing our best to be cheerful" were his last words.



HINCKLEY MAN ON THE HERMES

TWO HOURS STRUGGLE IN THE WATER

A thrilling story of the sinking of H.M.S. Hermes is supplied by Robert Samuel Harrison, a reservist of the Royal Marines, one of the first to be called from the Hinckley district.

Harrison states that on Saturday morning the Hermes had orders to proceed from Dover to Dixmude. On the way, her officer received a wireless message telling them to return to Dover to take in coal, a strange command having regard to the fact that they were full up with coal at the time. While on the way, the ill-fated ship was torpedoed. They all stuck to the ship until the captain gave the order, "Every man for himself."

With orders, Harrison went overboard at 8.22 am and he was struggling about in a rough sea for two hours until he became numbed and felt his senses leaving him. Just as he was about to give up however, his imagination pictured his wife and children on the water in front of him, he relates how it was if they were urging him to continue his efforts. The "picture" served to give him new life, and he succeeded in keeping afloat until he was finally picked up by the men from another warship.

Harrison was afterwards taken to Dover, and on to Chatham, where he was granted ten days leave. He appears to have suffered considerably by his trying experience.

THRINGSTONE TERRITORIAL'S LETTER

Mr G. H. Hallam, of the Queen's Head Inn, Thringstone, on Tuesday received a letter from Mr W. Sykes, of Thringstone, who was one of the fifty Coalville Territorial Reserves, who recently left for Luton. Sykes says that on Wednesday last week they were under orders to leave and had everything packed up. At the last moment, however, fresh orders came and instead of leaving the town as they had expected they started off on a ten mile march carrying one hundred pounds of kit on their backs and 125 rounds of ball cartridge. It was a very warm day and some of the men fell out, but he stuck it through. He says he is enjoying himself and gets into the town most nights. He wishes to be remembered to all his old friends.

"A GRAND LIFE"

WHITWICK MAN'S CHEERY LETTER

A Whitwick man who enlisted and is now with the 9th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment at Aldershot, writing to his former employer at Whitwick, says his company has got a good name already for smartness. *"We are all trying to keep the old regiment's name up. Our officers are very good to us. They want us to try and be ready as soon as we can. They don't want us to be left behind. I am sorry to say there are only two of us from Whitwick in our company. I think people would wonder what was the matter if the Germans got into England. Then they would blame us and say we were not doing our best. But if we do go to the front you can trust me to do my best for King and country. We are having plenty of food, a good bed at night, and yet some of the men are always grumbling. They do not think of the poor beggars at the front. It is a grand life. They can do with more men. I should be pleased to hear all the young men from the old place had enlisted. It appears some would sooner see the country go down than come. They ought to be made to come."*

LEICESTERSHIRE COLONEL BACK IN THE TRENCHES

Colonel Croker, the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who was included in the casualty list some days ago wounded in the hand by a piece of shrapnel, has, we are pleased to learn, sufficiently recovered to return to duty in the trenches.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER WOUNDED

TRIBUTE TO THE "MARVELLOUS INDIANS"

The many Hugglescote friends of Trooper William Stinchcombe, of the Royal Horse Guards (blue) will regret to hear that he was wounded on November 1st, though, happily, is making good progress towards recovery.

Stinchcombe is a son of Mr William Thomas Stinchcombe, an employee of Messrs. Ellis and Everard, at the Bardon Hill stone quarry, and before joining the Guards two years ago, he worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He proceeded to the front on August 15th from Southampton and was in the battle of Mons, having four days' fighting there. In the memorable retirement his regiment fought rear guard actions, escorting the guns. They were at Compeigne and on the Marne and at the Aisne they did dismounted work, reinforcing the troops in the trenches. *"In the recent fighting at Messines,"* he says, *"we held the trenches alongside the Indian troops and we kept relieving each other. The Indians are a smart lot of fellows. They are simply marvellous in creeping along the ground in an attack. On Saturday during the early hours of the morning, the Germans attacked our trenches, but we held them back, and must have caused heavy losses to the enemy, until we had run short of ammunition. By that time they had surrounded our trenches, so we had to retreat. The Lincolns marched up and the Germans attacked them, so they (the Lincolns) made three or four bayonet charges. While retiring, I was wounded in the left cheek with a shrapnel bullet, which went right through the cheek. The Indians were in the same affair as the London Scottish."*

Stinchcombe is now recuperating at Eaton Hall, Cheshire, and has written to say that he hopes to have a trip home when better, before returning to the front.



COALVILLE SOLDIER'S WAR TROPHY

BELT TAKEN FROM DEAD GERMAN IN TRENCH

Further testimony as to the great part being taken by the 1st Leicesters at the front was given to a representative of this paper by Private J. Snow, of that regiment, who is at present staying with Mr J. E. Palmer, a Midland Railway engine driver, of Bridge Road, Coalville. Mr Palmer's son, Tom, who is a pal of Snow, is still at the front.

Pte. Snow, who is a Leicester man, stated that his regiment was at Fermoy, County Cork, when the call to war came, his first battle was that of the Aisne. He was for three weeks in the trenches and they made numerous attacks. They were so near that at night when all was quiet they could hear the Germans talking in their trenches. The enemy were driven out several times at the point of the bayonet, the Leicesters taking part, and invariably the ground was strewn with dead. Snow said they did remarkably well on the Aisne and he went through that battle without getting a scratch. After that they travelled by train for 2 days and 2 nights, forty of them being in one cattle truck, and arrived at Armentieres. From there, a three days' march brought them up with the enemy again, in the neighbourhood of Lille. There they entrenched and were soon in the thick of it again. Several severe encounters took place on a Saturday, but the fiercest of all were on the Sunday, when he was wounded.

"Hordes of Germans," he said, "rushed up and jumped on us in our trenches, and severe hand-to-hand fighting took place, but they lost a lot more than we did, though we were greatly out-numbered. Reinforcement came up and drove them off and the same night the Indian Ghurkhas made one of their splendid charges."

Asked how he was wounded, Snow replied that he was struck on the thigh from a piece of shrapnel from one of the German "Jack Johnson's." *"Most of the mischief," he said "is done by their big guns: they are awful. Except the snipers, they are hardly any good at all with the rifle. They advance all together and you can't help but knock them over. I saw thousands of dead lying about the place."* At this stage Snow produced for the writer's inspection, a German leather belt, which he had brought home as a war trophy. The gallant soldier stated that when the trenches occupied by the Leicesters were rushed by the enemy, in the hand-to-hand scuffle which ensued, he had his braces torn from his shoulders and he took the belt from a dead German lying at his side. A grim circumstance is that the belt, though of thick new leather, bears a hole evidently made by a bayonet thrust. It has under the clasp a Dresden trade mark, with the figures 1914, showing it to be of new manufacture, and on the centre of the clasp is the figure of a crown, with the words "Providentiae Memor."

A lot of the Germans, he said, talked a little English and they did that to try and trap them. At a critical moment, during a charge, they would shout in English, "cease fire" and then follow up the advantage which that gave them. *"But that does not avail them much now,"* said Snow, *"as our officers have warned us against it."* After being wounded, he said he was with some German wounded for a time and several of them were only 16 or 17 years of age and had been in the war three or four weeks.

The last he saw of his mate Tom Palmer, was some little time before he was wounded. Palmer was then on horseback, apparently delivering a message for one of the officers.

COALVILLE LADS AT THE FRONT

Private Stan Hardy, of the 1st Leicesters, writing to his wife at Coalville, under date, 30th October, says Sunday, 25th October was a hard day, he thanked God he got through all right. The action started at 4.30 pm, on Sunday, and was "on" until 2 am Monday, and then, he says, *"We came out for a rest, but it was not for long, as we were shelled out again, and had to move, as it was too hot for us to stay."*

"I am pleased to tell you" he adds, *"that all the Coalville lads are all right, and when we come out of the line, we always have a look round for the others."* Hardy asks his wife to send him a woollen cap and mentions that he was with Tom Granger, a policeman, of Coalville, who was called up as a Reservist at the time he (Hardy) was.

PLENTY OF EVERYTHING

COALVILLE BAKER'S INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE FRONT

In reply to a letter from Mr T. Grosert, the Coalville Co-Operative Society's head baker, asking whether there was anything he was in the need of that they could send him, Pte. H. Kilworth, one of the Co-Operative bakers, who has been at the front for several weeks, writes that the letter received was very welcome and he was pleased to hear all were well at home. He was in the best of health. The letter proceeds, *"We have had several brushes with the enemy and I am pleased to tell you that I have come out safely up to now. I think it was very good of the Co-Operative to give that amount to the war funds. You must tell them that the boys are doing their duty out here as well. It is rough work and one does not get much rest on these jobs, but I hope it will not be long before it is all over. I must thank you very much for offering me anything that I might want, but I am pleased to tell you that we are getting plenty of everything. There is always somebody sending the boys tobacco and underclothes, so you see that they are taking care of us. Please remember me to all my workmates and tell them that I am often thinking about them and wondering what they are doing and I hope it will not be long before I am with them again"*.

WHITWICK QUARRYMEN AT THE FRONT

THRILLING EXPERIENCES IN THE TRENCHES

Splendid patriotism has been shown by the employees of the Whitwick Granite Company. Out of 200 workmen, 19 up to now have joined the colours, and one of them, Pte. Charles Millward, of the 1st Leicesters, after a warm time in the trenches, has unfortunately been wounded. In letters written to the quarry manager, Mr J. H. Robinson, Millward states:

"I am pleased to say my cut is going on well, it was a nasty wound: the doctor said if it had been a little deeper I should not have been here. It cut me down the middle of the head and knocked me unconscious. I lost a lot of blood. I shall never forget that Sunday, the 25th October. It was a terrible sight and a hard day's fighting, the busiest I had been in. The Germans started about 5 o'clock in the morning and came up in thousands; they had been trying to break our line for 3 days but we held them at bay, though we lost heavily, about all our officers were killed and wounded, our trenches were full. The dead lay all over the place in hundreds.

The enemy kept blowing our trenches up with the big guns, and when the shells hit the ground you could bury a horse and cart in the hole made. They were shelling us for 3 days. I thought every minute my last had come. Every time the big shells came we had to get under the ground we had dug out for the purpose. I am pleased to get out of it for a while. I shall be glad when the war is over. We had a pretty good time at the battle of the Aisne: we were busier in the last battle. We had some very hard times in the trenches. I am sorry that parcel will not reach me as we long for a smoke and anything in that line, someone will make a fuss of them.

The French people are a good natured lot; they would give us anything. We were well supplied with tobacco and cigarettes that was something to be thankful for. We fared pretty well for food seeing we were at war. We left Cambridge Hospital on Wednesday afternoon for Bedford. When we arrived at the station there were

motor cars waiting for us, taking us to our new destination. We enjoyed the 10 miles ride very much. We have gone to be guests of Lord Lucas. It is a lovely place and a very large estate. We are living on the best of everything. If you want anything you only have to ask for it, they are all very kind to you. I think it is very kind of him to have us here, we get plenty to eat and drink and smoke and we can go for nice long walks in the Park. There is fishing, boating and every game you can think of to amuse yourself. I never thought I should come to a place like this in my time: it is better than being in the trenches. We are going for a motor ride on Saturday to Luton to see a football match. We are to have plenty of rides in Lord Lucas's motors. I could not say how long we are staying here, if we stay long we shall get quite strong again. Remember me to foreman and mates."

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER AMONG THE FIREWORKS

ANOTHER LETTER FROM "SMOSH"

"Don't send any fireworks, there are plenty out here," was a witty sentence in a letter dated November 5th just received in Coalville by a friend from Mr James Smith, a Coalville Town footballer popularly known as "Smosh," who is with the R.A.M.C. at the front).

Smith expresses thanks for "fags" sent out, says he is going on all right. "Menty" Commons (another footballer in the same corps) was about two miles away from him and he had sent his share of the "fags" and letter to him by another man. The writer proceeds, *"I hear that a good many are enlisting from Coalville. I think we are going on well. We are settling a few on 'em and I don't think it will last much longer. We had a bit of work on November 1st, when there was a big battle, and you need not send any fireworks as there are plenty of them here every day. I shall not forget you if I get back all right and I hope you will have a good Christmas. Just remember me when you are having your Christmas pudding. The British troops are showing the Germans how it should be done, in fine style. We have heard that our fleet have broken the German navy all up and I hope it's true. Please write back and let me know how things are going on in Coalville. Tell the Town I shall have to come and put them right."*

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FOREIGN TELEGRAMS AND RADIO TELEGRAMS

Ordinary telegrams for places abroad and radio telegrams however addressed, can only be accepted at senders risk and if written in plain English or French. In case of telegrams for Switzerland, Turkey, French only is allowed. All telegrams will be subject to censorship and must bear the sender's name at the end of text, otherwise they are liable to be stopped until the name is notified by paid telegram.

Registered abbreviated addresses will not be accepted either as the addresses of telegrams or as the names of senders. Ordinary telegrams in code or cipher without text are prohibited.

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RECRUITING MEETING AT ASHBY

SPEECH BY MR B. G. HALE

Mr J. P. Adcock, J.P., presided at a recruiting meeting held in the Town Hall, Ashby, on Wednesday of last week. There was a large attendance, although the weather was unfavourable. Mr B. G. Hale said that every man of fighting age should ask himself whether his conscience was satisfied that he was doing all he could in this struggle. Some people would say there was no need to trouble, we had a million and a half men in the field training to go, but it was far better that we should have a hundred thousand too many than one hundred too few. He asked them to realise the terrible plight of the men in the trenches. We had only a handful there with half a million pitted against them. There was still time for Ashby to do its duty in this crisis, the greatest the world had ever seen, or would ever see. We should win in the end, but we could not win without men.

Speeches were also delivered by Mr Thornton (Kegworth), Colonel German, and Capt. Stevenson (recruiting officer), and at the conclusion recruits were enrolled.

FUNERAL OF BELGIAN SOLDIER IN LEICESTER

The funeral of the Belgian soldier, Private Bourgannon, whose death took place at the Base Hospital, took place at Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, on Friday. Requiem Mass was said at the hospital and at the graveside the deceased soldier was accorded full military honours. A firing party from Glen Parva fired a volley over the grave, and the "Last Post" was sounded. The officiating priests were the Rev. Father Caus Lindboom and de Hoon.

Another death occurred on Friday morning of a Scots Guardsman at the base hospital who succumbed to his wounds.

EARL SHILTON SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS

Information has reached Earl Shilton of the death in hospital on October 19th of Private W. Green, 18th Hussars, from wounds received in action. One of the first who went to the front, he was in several engagements. He was well known and highly respected both in Earl Shilton and Barwell. He took considerable interest in the Social Institute, and was a member of the Prize Choir. About three years ago he married Gertrude, only daughter of Mr J. Wolloff, boot manufacturer, of Heyford House, and leaves a widow and two children.

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ANOTHER PRISONER IN GERMANY

FOUR DAYS IN A LUGGAGE VAN

Writing from Gastrow, Mecklenburg, Germany, Private W. R. Fisher of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, whose mother lives at 12, St. Bernard Street, Belgrave, Leicester says:

"Just a few lines to let you know that I am quite safe, and in the best of health. I managed to get through without a scratch, but I have seen some terrible sights this last two months. Me and a lot more of our battalion are in the hands of the Germans; when they captured us they sent us to a station in luggage vans, and we did not see daylight for four days, travelling day and night." In conclusion, Pte. Fisher asks that a parcel be sent him, and says, *"I should love a bit of cake."*

WHY THE WARWICKSHIRES CEASED FIRE

Writing to a friend at Linton, Burton-on-Trent, on the fight at Mons, Bombardier S. Shaw, R.F.A., says, *"Our brigade held out well. We drove them back all roads, and when the Warwickshires ceased firing, we wondered what was up. Then we saw the Germans crossing their line of fire with women and little children, and our regiment would not fire"*.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

During conversation in a Coalville house it was remarked that one of the members of the family was a driller at Stableford's. This caught the ears of alert little Tommy, who remarked, *"Is our Jack a soldier?"* "No," said his mother, *"what made you ask that?"* "You said he was a driller," replied the boy, *"and soldiers are drillers."*

Scout Master Eagles, of Whitwick, informs us that the Whitwick boy scouts propose to go round to houses in the Whitwick and Thringstone district fortnightly collecting waste paper, which is to be sold and the proceeds donated to the local Belgian Refugees Relief Fund. Households are asked to save up their waste paper.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr Herbert Samuel, answering Mr Fell, said that so far as could be estimated the number of unmarried men between 20 and 30 years of age in the United Kingdom at the present time was about 2,600,000.

Another train load of wounded soldiers, numbering upwards of a hundred, arrived at Leicester on Sunday evening and were conveyed to the 5th Northern Hospital. The hospital, which contains accommodation for between 500 and 600 patients is now nearly full.

The Postmaster-General, replying to a correspondent who asked him whether there was any intention of adopting a suggestion to employ females as letter carriers in place of postmen on active service, says the necessity for the employment of women on such work has not arisen.

The first Belgian refugee baby born in Leicester at the Maternity Home, Bond Street, was christened by the Rev. Father Caus at St. Peter's Catholic Church, and the names given to the boy were: Albert George Leicester Leicier Delrot, being the names of two kings, the place born at, and the godfather's name. The baby had its sleeves decorated with Belgian colours.

A gratifying feature of the work among the wounded is the generous practical co-operation of the titled and wealthy in providing for the sufferers. Lord and Lady Aberconway have converted their house in Belgrave Square into a hospital for the disabled and injured, as well as placing Hilders, their residence at Haslemere at the disposal of the County Association as a convalescent home for territorials. Both cannot but be an immense and happy boon at the present crisis.

The 4th and 5th Leicesters left Luton at daybreak on Monday morning, in full marching order, and ready, if need be, to go straight to the front. It is not known at present where their destination is, and it may be that they will return to Luton in the course of a day or two, on the other hand they may be under orders for service abroad.

Good news has been received from one of the Coalville Ambulance men serving in the navy – Mr F. Moreton, who is an employee in the waterworks department of the Coalville Urban District Council. Since leaving Coalville, Moreton has been promoted to the rank of corporal, and in a letter received on Wednesday by his wife he encloses a copy of a certificate signed by the Fleet Surgeon, which states that Moreton has satisfactorily completed a "man of war" course on board H.M.S. Caesar. He writes that he is in the best of health and enjoying the life at sea.

We are informed by Captain Woods, of the Church Lads Brigade, that the lads propose to make monthly collections of waste paper in the Hugglescote district, the same to be sold for the benefit of the Prince of Wales's Fund. The public, therefore, are asked to save up all their old newspapers.

There was a full congregation at the Ashby Holy Trinity Church on Sunday morning. The service was attended by the reserve company of Territorials under command of Captain Jesson. There was also a strong muster of Reservists, and members of the Town Guard under command of Captain Stevenson. Members of the Ashby Troop of Boy Scouts also attended. The Ashby and District Prize Band led the march to the church. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Fowler, M.A. (Vicar).

In response to a telegram last Thursday from Assistant Commissioner Woolston, Messrs. Arthur Foster and Stanley Lane, members of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade left Ashby for Woolwich by the 6:6 train last Thursday evening. They will act as hospital orderlies at the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. Members of the Overseal Division travelled by the same train for similar duty.

Broom Leys is now quite ready for the reception on one hundred Belgian refugees who are expected to arrive in a day or so. On Wednesday, the public were allowed, by ticket, to visit the house, and many who did so were agreeably surprised at the splendid arrangements made. The extent of the building is much greater than many had supposed and a party of one hundred will find ample accommodation there; in fact it would have provided for more. The response of the public both in funds for maintenance, and in giving or lending articles of furniture, has been very gratifying to the committee and all concerned and the house has been made very comfortable in every way. To mention one item alone, there are 61 beds, besides numerous bed chairs, and visitors generally agreed that no little detail for the comfort of the refugees had been overlooked by those responsible for the arrangements.

A rumour has been going about the district the committee has bought a forty guinea piano out of the funds to place in Broom Leys and as such a report is calculated to curb people's generosity, we are asked to say that there is no truth whatever in the rumour. Possibly it arose from the fact that the Belgians are to have a piano, but this is through the kindness of Mr. Johnson, of the Coalville Electric Theatre, who has generously offered

the use of a piano free while the Belgians are in residence at Broom Leys – an offer which the committee has gladly accepted.

By arrangement with the Loughborough Corporation, the three days' November Fair was continued on Monday, several of the showmen offering half their takings to the Prince of Wales's Fund and the local hospital. Several local residents helped to check the takings. When shouting was required, they did it well, even at the coconut shies and on the roundabouts. As a result of the day's fair, the sum of £60 was handed over by the showmen. No charge for ground space was made by the Corporation on Monday.

LEICESTERSHIRE REFEREES' SOCIETY

NO DINNER: MONEY TO WAR FUNDS

At the annual general gathering of the above society the majority of the members were present. The meeting was called for the purpose of receiving the hon. secretary and hon. treasurer's report, which were both adopted. The hon. secretary, in his report, mentioned that 485 referees had been sent out during last season, and although practically the whole of the members were over the serviceable age, two, in Sergeant J. Thomas, R.H.A., and Sergeant-Instructor F. W. Broughton, (maxim gun and musketry), were on active service; most of the others had joined the Citizens' Training League.

It was unanimously decided that in lieu of the dinner usually held at Christmas the members should contribute the cost of same to assist in providing presents for those at the front, the amount received to be divided between the funds of the "Leicester Mail" and "Mercury." A first instalment of 10s 6d has been sent to each of these funds.

DO YOU KNOW

That twenty Coalville Territorial recruits left for Luton yesterday?

That the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund on Wednesday reached £3,859,000?

That there are now 61 in the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens' Corps?

That the Coalville District contribution to the Prince of Wales's Fund have this week reached £2,000?

That three Belgians joined the company at the Licensed Victuallers' banquet at Thringstone on Wednesday night?

That the secretary of the Coalville S.S. Football League, Mr H. Marson, has joined the Territorials?

That according to a postcard from a member of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, the regiment is in the "thick of the fighting"?

That the concert recently held at Battram realised £14 10s for the Belgian Refugees' Fund?

That the Hon. H. D. McLaren and Mr A. E. Hawley addressed a recruiting meeting at Barwell, on Wednesday night?

That Mr T. G. Paget, son of Mrs Paget, of The Beeches, Loughborough, has been gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps?

That 220 singers were present at the weekly practice in the Coalville Adult School Hall last Monday night for the forthcoming concert at the Olympia in aid of the local Belgian Refugee Fund?

That a sacred and patriotic concert is announced for Sunday afternoon next in the Coalville Olympia Theatre (by kind permission of the lessee, Mr T. F. MacDonald) the object being to provide little comforts for our local Leicesters at the front? Admission will be by present, or silver coin. Capt. Stevenson and Capt. Vere-Smith will be present and Mr B. G. Hale will preside. Songs, etc., will be rendered by well-known local talent, and war pictures will be shown.

BELGIANS VISIT STABLEFORD'S WORKS

INTERESTING IMPRESSIONS

Three of the Belgians who are staying at Gracedieu had a novel experience one afternoon this week, being privileged to make a tour of inspection over Messrs. Stableford and Co's extensive wagon building works in Coalville.

It is interesting to note that a frame-fitter at the works, Mr John Wilkins, of Thringstone, is able to speak both Flemish and French languages fluently. His father was for 21 years a resident in Belgium and Mr Wilkins received all his school training in Belgian schools, in which the two languages mentioned were taught. For seven years, Mr Wilkins has acted as interpreter to visitors on the battlefield of Waterloo, coming back to Thringstone for the winter months. Needless to say, the Belgian refugees at Thringstone have found in him a very useful friend. When these Belgians, who speak mainly the Flemish tongue, paid a visit to the works, the manager, Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., who is rendering good service in recruiting in the district, had a long interview with the refugees in his office, Mr Wilkins acting as interpreter, and the men afterwards gladly accepted Mr Hale's invitation to have a look through the works.

Since then our reporter has had an interview with the Belgians, who through Mr Wilkins, said how interested they were in the works. They regarded the machinery as wonderful and said they had never seen anything like it in Belgium. Asked how they liked living in England, the faces of the refugees beamed with pleasure. They said they had met with the greatest kindness everywhere and could not find words to adequately express their gratitude. After their arrival in England they were greatly impressed at being allowed to travel first-class on the railway. Never before had they had that experience in their own country. They had not wanted anything since they had been in England and the kindness meted out to them had exceeded all expectations.

The men hail from Ghent, and in reply to our enquiries, said their homes were intact when they left, but the Germans were then making a second attack on the town. In this assault the Germans lost fully five thousand men and the English about three thousand. The enemy were driven off the first time but renewed the attack after being reinforced. It was then that the inhabitants fled. One of three is a youth about 17, whose parents implored the two elder men to take him with them, so that he should not be taken a prisoner by the Germans. They were wandering about Belgium for three weeks before reaching Calais and in the flight got separated from their wives and families and have not heard from them since. One of the men has a wife and one daughter, and the other a wife and three daughters.

In their own land the men were gardeners employed by the Municipality of Ghent and thanks to the kindness of the Right Hon. Charles Booth, they are pursuing their own avocation at Gracedieu on land provided by Mr Booth who is also supplying the other necessary materials.

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WHIST DRIVE

The Girls' Recreation Club connected with Christ Church organised a whist drive at the school on Wednesday night to provide funds for sending comforts to our sailors. Nearly 100 were present. The Vicar acted as MC and the following were the prize winners:

Ladies: 1st Mrs Aldridge, 2nd Mrs Skelham, Mystery Miss Lowe.

Gents: 1st Miss Broughton (playing as gentleman), 2nd Mr Frearson, Mystery Mr Allen.

BELGIAN REFUGEES' FUND

At a meeting of the collectors for the Belgian Refugee Fund, held in the Adult School Hall on Monday evening last, Mr A. Lockwood, D.C., presided and there were present Capt. McKernon, with the hon. secretary (Mr F. S. Weaver) and the collectors, all the districts being represented. The hon. secretary reported that the amount of the third weekly collection was £14 13s 5d which was considered good. The meeting will be held every Monday night in the Adult School Hall until further notice.

SOCIAL

A social was held in the Progressive Hall on Wednesday in connection with the Women's Liberal Association. There was a capital attendance and the event was a great success, the proceeds being for the Belgian Relief Fund. About 120 sat down to tea and afterwards Mr E. Holyoak acted as MC. Songs were given by Mr T. Chambers and Miss Bott, and there were instrumental duets (piano and mandolins) by Master P. Kinsey and Misses M. Clay and R. Eames. Two pork pies were put up for guessing competitions, several sharing the pies and a skittle competition was won by Mrs Johnson. Miss Matterson was the pianist. The company spent an enjoyable evening.

BUFF'S CONCERT

On Tuesday night, the Belvoir (Coalville) Lodge of the R.A.O.B. held a concert at their headquarters, the Halfway House Hotel, in aid of the local Belgian Refugee Fund. Mr A. E. Hawley was to have presided but wrote to regretting inability to do so and enclosing a guinea for the funds. Mr Edgar Hawthorn took the chair and Mr Walter Lindley gave an address on the local scheme for accommodating refugees. Songs were given by Messrs. R. T. Bradshaw, G. Astill, Best, E. Hawthorn, Margetts, Wright, Martin and others. Friends from the Ashby, Whitwick, Thringstone, Hugglescote and Ivanhoe lodges attended and an enjoyable evening was spent. The proceeds amounted to £2 3s 6d.

IBSTOCK PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Ibstock County Area Executive Committee was held at Nailstone on Thursday, The Rev. S. Flood, M.A. presiding. The fortnightly financial statements of the Prince of Wales's Fund, and of the Belgian Refugees' Fund were presented and accepted. Arrangements for the reception and maintenance of Belgian refugees at Sefton House, Barlestone, were then discussed.

It was resolved to appoint a house matron. It was also decided to put the management of the home under the supervision of a sub-committee consisting of Mrs Bell, Mrs Bell, sen., Mrs Kirkman, Mrs Fell, Mrs Pegg, Mrs Pratt, Messrs Eggington and Jacques, the Rev. W. Dampier, and Messrs Burdett, J. Emmerson and J. C. Williams. The chairman and secretary were appointed ex-officio visitors and all members of the executive were invited to visit the home, and to bring any suggestions for the improvement of the management before the executive.

The question of the employment of any male refugees was deferred for further consideration at the next meeting. The owners of collieries were thanked for their kindness and generous offer to supply Sefton House with coal for the use of the refugees.

Dr. Storer Best was also thanked for his kind offer to help the committee in the matter of interpretation. General rules were drawn up and sanctioned by the committee and the secretary was instructed to obtain translations of the same into Flemish and French.

RECRUITING AT HATHERN

On Monday evening at the Church of England Day Schools, Hathern, a meeting was held to further recruiting, Mr E. M. P. de Lisle (Garendon Park) presided, and was supported by the Rev. J. G. Lawrence, Mrs de Lisle, Mrs Lawrence, Miss Lawrence, Mr E. E. Wells (Kegworth), Mr Cartwright (Loughborough), Colonel Piercey, and Mr F. Fuller. The Chairman, Mr Wells and Mr Cartwright appealed to the young men of military age to do their duty, and Colonel Piercey and Mr Fuller spoke in the same strain.

"IS WAR NECESSARY"

The Ibstock Debating Society held their meeting in the Town Hall on Monday evening last when Mr A. Cooper presided over an interesting debate on "Is war necessary?" Mr G. Sparrow argued the affirmative aspect of the case, and Mr G. Foreman the negative. Good speeches were subsequently made by Messrs. W. Newman, J. J. Sparrow, F. J. Newman and others. The result of the voting was in favour of the affirmative.

RAIN IN THE TRENCHES

Private Sten Hardy, of the 1st Leicesters, writing to his wife at Coalville, says the nights are very cold in France and misty, but we must not grumble at the weather we are having so long as it doesn't rain. We have had rain, and it don't go down very nicely, because we cannot get dry again for a day or two.

COALVILLE AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS' COMFORTS GUILD

Sir, we are pleased to say that this Guild was able to send 57 articles of warm clothing to the 50 men who left Coalville on October 30th, and who have now left Luton and advanced another stage nearer the front.

These gifts have been acknowledged by the commanding officer, who stated they have been distributed to the men for whom they were labelled, and he will be pleased to distribute further gifts in a similar manner. Eighteen articles were also distributed to local men who are returning to the front after recovering from wounds, or to other duties. We have now a great number of ladies hard at work, and are receiving most valuable help from several of the schools where the elder girls are knitting mufflers, mittens, socks, and helmets.

Such a staff of workers will soon use up the materials purchased with the £10 cleared from the tea in Christ Church Schools on the 11th inst., and a roll of flannel which has been generously presented to us. We therefore, appeal to all women of the neighbourhood who wish to show their appreciation of the boys who are risking their lives for us to come forward quickly with their offers of help in work, materials or money, as with winter so near the need is urgent and must not be delayed.

The Guild is doing its utmost to ascertain the requirements of each man individually so as to prevent waste or overlapping. Ladies who are working are reminded that all articles which will be visible should be khaki. The men who are being looked after by the Guild are drawn from Coalville and all the surrounding towns and villages, and we therefore earnestly invite the co-operation of all those places, and we shall be very pleased to hear from any ladies who are willing to help in any way in their own districts.

We want to provide for the whole 1200 men who have gone away, and the more prompt and generous your response, the more suffering you will prevent, and the greater the number of valuable lives you will preserve.

Yours truly
Mrs A. E. Baldwin
88 London Road, Coalville, hon. secretary

Mrs M. J. Farmer
56 Vaughan Street, Coalville, hon. treasurer

WAR LECTURE

On Wednesday evening another of the series of war lectures was given in the village hall. The Vicar (the Rev. C. Shrewsbury), presided and the Right Hon. Charles Booth gave the lecture, the subject which was "How British pluck won in France." It was illustrated by some excellent slides. Messrs. H. Upton and Walter Watts managing the lantern. Miss Burkitt, of Whitwick, nicely sang two solos. The proceeds amounted to £3 4s for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund.

LEICESTER MAN ON H.M.S. MONMOUTH

Mr H. Bradshaw, of Barwell, writes to say that his brother, Albert Bradshaw, a musician of the Royal Marine Band, was on H.M.S. Monmouth when it was sunk by the German squadron off the coast of Chile. Bradshaw was 20 years of age, and his home, when ashore, was 27, Wheat Street, Leicester.

ROSE FROM THE RANKS

LOUGHBOROUGH MAN'S PROMOTION

Friday's "London Gazette" recorded the promotion to Second Lieutenant of Quartermaster-Sergeant Dowding, of the Leicestershire Regiment. Lieutenant Dowding is the son of Mr Dowding, formerly of the Golden Fleece Hotel, Hinckley, and his brother is now mace bearer and town hall keeper under the Loughborough Corporation. He joined the 1st Leicestershires in 1896, and was first with a detachment at St. Helena, joining the battalion at Cape Town in 1897. He went through the Boer War, and was in the siege of Ladysmith and has the South Africa medal with clasps for Dundee, Talana Hill, Laing's Nek and Belfast. He also has the King's medal 1901-2. In 1902 Lieutenant Dowding went to India and returned home with the battalion in 1906. In 1908 he was appointed as instructor at Sandhurst. He was promoted Colour-Sergeant in 1902 and Quartermaster-Sergeant in 1904. While in India Lieutenant Dowding trained a football team which won the Army Cup. He is married and has two children.

DIED FOR KING AND COUNTRY

FOUR MEN FROM MARKET HARBOROUGH

Mr J. Spriggs, of 22, Bath Street, Market Harborough, has received information that his son, George Spriggs, of the 1st Leicesters, has been killed in action in France. A Market Harborough postman, Mr J. Grainger, is believed to have been on H.M.S. Good Hope sunk off Chile. His wife and two children live at Bath Street, Market Harborough.

Mr and Mrs G. T. Stokes, of Drayton, Market Harborough, have lost both their sons. One of them, Arthur, was on the Good Hope, and the other, Edgar, of the 1st Northhamptons, has been killed near Ypres, by a bullet wound through the chest.

SOLDIER'S FUNERAL IN LEICESTER

The funeral took place at Welford Road cemetery, Leicester, on Monday morning, of Private Leonard Brown, of the Scots Guards, who died from tetanus following wounds at the Base Hospital on Friday. Part of the service was conducted in the church at the hospital and the other at the graveside. The officiating clergyman being the Rev. C. W. Luxmore. There were a number of relatives present. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and a firing party, escort, and bugles attended.

DON'T SHOOT CARRIER PIGEONS

GOVERNMENT ARE USING THEM

The Press Bureau on Saturday evening passed the following:

It has been decided to use carrier pigeons for certain purposes in connection with his Majesty's service. The public are therefore requested to refrain from shooting or otherwise interfering with carrier pigeons whilst on passage.

MR W. A. BROCKINGTON AND THE WAR

LECTURES TO BE GIVEN IN THE COUNTY

At the Leicester Museum on Saturday evening, Mr W. A. Brockington, M.A., the Director of Education for Leicestershire, gave a stirring and inspiring lecture on the "The Poetry of Patriotism."

At the close of the lecture, Mr Brockington said: "*I am going to deliver this lecture in various centres in Leicestershire in aid of the noble scheme of the "Leicester Daily Post" to provide some little Xmas present for our lads at the front. I am going to do it for that, and I am going to do it for another purpose. I think you can*

guess that purpose. I want a recruit or two for Kitchener's second million – (applause) – and I shall get them directly or indirectly. Most of you here are women: most of those I shall have to lecture to will be women, but you can do your part. Make it easy for them; give them of your love and sacrifice. Don't imagine for a moment we do not realise as much as anybody the horror of it all. In our waking moments it is a horror inconceivably mad – man matched against machines. It is a horrible necessity, and we have got to see it through. We have got to see it through by deed, not by song."

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SHEPshed MEN WOUNDED

Private Charles Millward, of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, who went with the reserves from Shepshed on August 5th, was amongst the wounded in October, and has been in hospital at Bedford. He returned to his home in Shepshed on Monday.

Private J. Parker, Coldstream Guards, who was wounded at the battle of Mons in September, is convalescent and has left his home at Shepshed to rejoin his regiment.

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

THRILLING EXPERIENCES IN THE TRENCHES

WESLEYAN CHAPLAIN'S KINDNESS

The parents of Private Tom Palmer, of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, have just received official information that Palmer has been wounded in the fighting in France and is now in hospital in France suffering from a contusion in the back.

Writing from a hospital at Rouen, the wounded soldier gave some idea of the thrilling experiences he has passed through. Characteristic of the British "Tommy" he makes light of his wounds. He says: *"I met with an accident on Saturday. The trench I was in was blown in. Seven of us were in the trench at the time; four got out and three were killed. I only sprained an ankle and had to go into hospital (glad to get a rest), but I expect to be out again before long. We had it a bit hot. One company were wiped out altogether. Jim is in the same company. I don't know whether he got out".* (Jim refers to Pte. Snow, a wounded soldier, now staying with the Palmers at Coalville). The letter proceeds: *"We were at the battle of the Aisne for three weeks and only lost about 20 men, but when we got into the battle of Lille, in three days we lost over three hundred. I have been very lucky all the time. At Aisne, my mate next to me in the trench was killed, but I am all right and hope to be home soon. This war won't last much longer. The Germans can't last out. They are mown down like sheep and lie on the field in thousands, so that when we made an advance we can hardly get along. The Germans are firing on the Red Cross trains and one of these trains which has just arrived here had half its occupants killed. The Germans attacked the train. I did not get the "fags." The box got lost, but no doubt it will turn up later on".*

Pte. Palmer is in the B Co. of the 1st Leicesters and is a son of Mr J. E. Palmer, a Midland Railway engine driver, residing in Bridge Road, Coalville. In a further note he says he is getting on fine. A Wesleyan Chaplain, he adds, has been very good to him, having given him a shirt, socks, hat, woollen jacket, woollen belt, and a 1/2 lb tin of tobacco, besides several other things that were useful to him in the trenches.



“CHANCE OF A LIFETIME”

WHITWICK LAD’S CHEERY NOTE FROM THE FRONT

The Editor of this paper has received the following interesting post card:

From somewhere in France, November 1st, 1914.

Buck Up, Coalville

Dear Editor, Please allow me a few lines. How are the “bhoys” of Coalville rolling up to the flag? I hope they are going strong. If you are out of work “bhoys,” try and come out here, and see mustard for mustard. The woolly backs out here have given them socks, I can tell you. So let’s hear of a hundred or two from Coalville getting ready to carry the gun, and a few from Whitwick also; every little helps. It’s a chance of a lifetime now, so just go and do the trick. In other words, take the shilling. It’s quite all right when get used to it – the get out and get under business. And the sights one sees will live for ever. The “Jack Johnsons” and “Black Marias” are only sent as souvenirs for our “bhoys” because we are just “Little Devils,” as our friend Kaiser Bill calls us. We are getting quite used to all these pet names which they try to make in Germany. Well, buck up, Coalville, and K and K as much as you can.

Yours truly

F. A. C.

One from Whitwick.

READY FOR THE FRONT

LOCAL TERRITORIAL’S LETTER FROM LUTON

Another interesting letter to the Editor of the “Coalville Times” has reached us from Luton, dated November 14th. The writer, who encloses his name, rank and address, not for publication, signs himself, “Six year a Saturday afternoon Soldier.”

He writes, “I see by the “Coalville Times” which I have sent to me every week, that they are still joining the colours. Let em all come and do a bit as we have done a lot so far. Your paper says that the draft of 50 to our battalion was the finest in the regiment. I don’t think so. What about the lads who were ready at the start, who were not given two or three months to think whether they would come or not? We have worked hard and may have grumbled, but I think the 5th Leicesters would be ready to go to France tomorrow if they were wanted. I think the lads who were ready at the start should not be forgotten, as they were sneered at enough in times of peace. I, for one, have been dubbed a “Saturday afternoon soldier,” I think that when our battalion was mobilised they were as fine a body of men as were in the regular forces. I don’t wish to insult anyone, but I think that the fuss that is being made over those who have newly joined is not fair to us who joined when there was no sign of war. We have put in nights of drill when we had been at work hard all day and spent our Saturday afternoons on the range. Are we not the lads whom Coalville should be proud of? (“We are proud of you all” – Editor) I admire the spirit in which the recruits have come, but some of them ought to have joined us years ago. I have read the letter from a Thringstone lad, who says when we had a false alarm, he marched for ten miles in full kit on his back and 125 rounds of ball cartridge. I don’t think his pack weighed 100 lbs and I know we only had 100 rounds of ammunition. As for ten miles I think he’d have dropped before he had done that. We went about 1 1/2 miles which was quite enough. I hope to see this in the “Times” and I hope to read of their keep enlisting recruits, for we want them, roll up Coalville”.

COALVILLE SOLDIER A PRISONER

NOT ENOUGH TO EAT

Private T. Prosser, of the 2nd Warwickshire Regiment, writing to his aunt, Mrs Glithero, of 2, Marshall's Row, Coalville, from Gustrow, Mecklenburg, Germany says:

"I am still alive and kicking. With a bit of luck, I have dodged shot and shell and am now a prisoner of war. In the place we are now, we are not getting much to eat, so send me some food and cigarettes. I shall not be sorry when the war is over. It is proper slaughter". He concludes with best wishes to all friends and repeats his request for food and cigarettes to be sent by return post.



MEAN TO BEAT THE GERMANS

COALVILLE MAN'S CONFIDENCE

Writing to his father, Mr J. Cope, of Waterworks Road, Coalville, Pte. J. Leslie Cope, of D Company, 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment with the Indian Expeditionary Force acknowledging a letter received on the 5th November says he received it in the trenches. He was going on all right and was in the best of health, as he trusted all were at home. He was pleased to hear that his chums had enlisted and were willing to fight for the old country, but you know what they say, *"Britons never shall be slaves,"* and *"we don't mean to let the Germans beat us while we can hold a rifle in our hands. We had a decent week of it last week, but we don't mind work, as we have some good officers and are getting plenty of food, and good stuff at that, better than we expected, also fags as well."*

Cope has been soldiering only two years, and served twelve months in India. He went from Wigston to Fermoy, and hence to India.

"NEVER BETTER IN MY LIFE"

CHEERY LETTER FROM COALVILLE MAN IN FRANCE

Pte. Alfred Edwards, of the No.4 signal section, 18th Brigade, with the Expeditionary Force in France, writing to his mother, Mrs H. Edwards, of 61, Park Road, Coalville, says he is quite well and asks his friends not to worry. *"I was never better in my life,"* he writes, *"and we are being looked after splendidly. We have plenty of good food and tobacco and have no cause for complaint whatever. The only things we are in need of are shirts and drawers. These are the only things I have any difficulty in getting at present and if there is anything else I want, I will let you know. . . . I don't think we shall manage to spend Christmas in England now, but I hope we shall be able to do the next best thing – spend it in Berlin. Then we shall be in good time to have the Easter egg in England."*

HAPPY UNDER FIRE

In a letter received from Private John Smith of the 1st Battalion, Leicester Regiment, the writer says, *“Thank God I have got through a living death in which the battalion lost 400 men in one day. Still, I am not downhearted by any means, and I am sure you never saw a happier lot of men under fire than the Leicesters.”*

LEICESTER MAN COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY

A Leicester man, Bombardier George King, of the 126th Battery, R.F.A., has sent home to his parents a notification he received from Major-General Wilson, commanding the 4th Division, to the effect that his commanding officer and brigade commander have recommended him for conspicuous bravery in the field, and that the recommendation has been forwarded to higher quarters for recognition. In a very modest letter the bombardier explains that the act for which he has been commended was swimming across a river with a telephone wire.

LOUGHBOROUGH SOLDIER KILLED

Quartermaster-Sergeant Colin Herbert Orton, of the 1st Northumberland Fusiliers, was killed in action in France on October 19th. He was for some time drummer in Loughborough Trinity C.L.B., and his parents live at 11, Pinfoldgate, Loughborough.

DONINGTON-LE-HEATH SOLDIER WOUNDED

STRUCK ON THE FOREHEAD BY PIECE OF SHELL

That the members of the Leicestershire regiments have been in the thick of the fray is shown by the numerous reports coming to hand of soldiers in those regiments being injured while engaged in the trenches. Another of these is Private J. A. Blakemore, of Donington-le-Heath, who is in A company of the 2nd Leicesters. Writing to his parents – his father, Mr Joseph Blakemore, a railwayman, of Brook Terrace, Donington-le-Heath – he says, *“Just a line to let you know that I am all right. I have got better of my wound and am going to the convalescent camp to get properly better, so that I can go off again. I can’t tell you where I am going; will tell you all the news when I come home, if I ever do.”*

In a previous letter he stated that he was crouching low in the trench when a shell burst straight in front of him and a piece bounced up and struck him on the forehead. It knocked him down and while he was bodily well, his head ached so that he could hardly write.

Blakemore has been four years in the army, and when the call to the war came, his regiment was in India. Before joining the army he worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery. An official notification of Blakemore’s injury was received by his parents on November 2nd.

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KILLING PIGEONS

NATIONAL HOMING UNION PROSECUTION AT COALVILLE

OSGATHORPE MAN HEAVILY FINED

At the Coalville Police Court on Friday, John William King, grazier, Osgathorpe, was charged with unlawfully killing a pigeon, value 10s, the property of J. Caddick, of Coseley, Staffordshire, and also with killing another pigeon, belonging to Rolfe Bros., of Lincoln, at Osgathorpe, on October 16th. He pleaded not guilty.

Mr J. T. Hincks, of Leicester, prosecuted for the National Homing Union a produced a notice sent out by the chief constable to the effect that pigeon keepers should notify the police at once of any strange bird arriving at their lofts. He went on to explain regulations which had been made owing to the danger of German spies,

who were found to be using pigeons to send messages to the enemy. Now no one was allowed to keep carrier pigeons without permission of the police. He also stated that as the Government were using pigeons themselves for carrying messages, notices had been issued that no one was to shoot pigeons. Under the new law, a register was kept of pigeon owners throughout the country and that was how the owners of these birds were ascertained.

Police Inspector Dobney deposed to notices being served on pigeon keepers, defendant included. He visited defendant's loft on October 16th and found three homer pigeons, two of which were rung. Witness told him he wanted to see the pigeons liberated. He replied, *"I shall not liberate them, I have only had them three weeks."* Witness told defendant he should insist on them being liberated and defendant replied, *"Sooner than do that, I will pull their _____ necks out, and have them in a pie."* Witness tried to persuade him, but defendant then killed the pigeons by wringing their necks. He took possession of the rings on two of the birds from which he ascertained the owners. He reported the matter to the National Homing Union. The bird belonging to Caddick had evidently been shot from wounds and an eye missing. Defendant alleged that the Inspector told him to kill the pigeons.

P.C. Jones bore out the Inspector's evidence. George Thomas Rolfe, of Lincoln, and secretary of the Excelsior Homing Society there, deposed to losing a pigeon and identified this one as his from the ring number and also a stamp on one of the features (produced). He paid 17s 6d for the bird, which would have returned home had it been liberated.

J. Caddick, of Coseley, Staff. also gave evidence as to missing a pigeon. This was his bird from the ring number. It was liberated at Templecombe on August 14th, which was a bad day and few birds got home. Defendant said neither the pen nor the pigeons were his and he had nothing to do with them. Replying to the Clerk he admitted that his wife caught one and his son the other.

Mr Hincks: *Who ate the pigeons?*

Defendant: *I don't know.*

Mr Hincks: *Didn't you have a bit?*

Defendant: *I don't think I did.*

Replying further to Mr Hincks, defendant said he had no gun but there was a gun in the house the tenant of which was his son.

Mr Hincks: *Who pays the rent?*

Defendant: *There is no rent to pay.*

Janet King, wife of the defendant, said the police officer demanded that her husband should kill the pigeons, which he did.

The Clerk: *Who had them?*

Witness: *I cooked them.* (Laughter)

Answering further questions, witness said she caught one of the pigeons which fell down the chimney. Another was given them and her son caught one. He did not shoot it, the gun was broken.

Defendant was fined 5s 6d and costs and the value of the pigeon in each case or seven days' hard labour the sentences to be consecutive. The total was £5 5s or 14 days and defendant said he should not pay.

Mr Hincks intimated that in future cases of rings being taken from home pigeons, the offenders would be prosecuted as they might be for stealing the collar of a dog. The Chief Constable publicly acknowledged the help rendered in this case by Mr Hincks whose knowledge in these matters were great, and they much appreciated the assistance he had given. The chairman said the Bench were also much obliged to Mr Hincks.

PATRIOTIC CONCERTS AT COALVILLE
REMARKABLE ENTHUSIASM
PRESENTS FOR LOCAL MEN AT THE FRONT

Remarkable enthusiasm was shown at Coalville, on Sunday afternoon in connection with a patriotic concert in the Olympia Theatre organised with the object of providing presents for local men at the front. Long before the advertised time for commencing the spacious theatre was packed, the number present being probably two thousand, and as quite as many were waiting outside. Capt. Stevenson, the promoter of the effort, decided to repeat the concert in the evening, Mr F. McDonald again kindly allowing the use of the building free. Seats were reserved in the afternoon for the members of the Coalville Citizens' Corps who marched from their headquarters in Mantle Lane headed by the Boy Scouts Band.

Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., presided at the concerts and was supported by Capt. Stevenson. The appearance on the stage of wounded Belgians who had been brought over in motor cars from the Leicester Hospital was the signal for a tremendous outburst of cheering.

Capt. Stevenson said they could not applaud the plucky Belgians too much for the splendid work they had done (cheers). He congratulated Coalville on its part taken in recruiting. He had always stood up for Coalville and when he came there that day he expected a big crowd. He had got it and there were so many outside that they had decided to repeat the concert that evening. He thanked the artistes for again having volunteered their services. It was for a good cause – the sending of presents to the Leicestershire lads at the front. (Cheers).

The chairman again called for three cheers for the Belgians which were most lustily given. Mr Hale thanked the audience for responding in such numbers to support a cause which had no parallel in the world. They were there to help the men who were fighting in the trenches for one of the most sacred causes that they had ever engaged in. they were fighting for all that was good and true, for honour, religion, God and Christianity, the freedom of the world and the checking of that militarism which had for its aim the over-running and over-powering of Europe. They would not permit it. But he wanted them to realise, though it was Sunday, that they must have men. He thanked the Coalville people for all they had done. They had responded nobly to the relief funds, to the equipping of the hospital and in finding a home for one hundred Belgians, but they meant to do more. They had started a Citizens' Corps and if it came to the last desperate struggle he was sure they would all stand in defence of their town and country. (Cheers) The men before them had been wounded in the fighting line: many who had gone would never come back but they would live in the memory of a grateful country as long as the English and Belgian languages lasted. Their deeds would be written on the pages of history in letters of gold. Introducing Capt. Stevenson, the chairman said that gentlemen had been misunderstood by some people for his plain speaking, but he meant well; his heart was right, and if every recruiting officer in the country had done as well, they would not now be wanting men so badly. (Cheers).

Cheers were given for the Captain as he stepped to the front of the stage to give an address. He first of all thanked the proprietor of the Olympia, Mr McDonald for lending that splendid building, the energetic manager (Mr Kirkham) and his staff, and the performers. He congratulated Coalville on what it had done in recruiting, but pointed out that there were many more young men who might come forward, and their country needed them. He announced that the money taken at the door amounted to £19 (cheers) in addition to which there was a cheque for £5 from the Hon. H. D. McLaren (cheers) and a large hamper from Mr A. E. Hawley, containing Cardigan jackets, scarves, waist belts, gloves, etc., in addition to which 40 other presents had also been received at the door. (Cheers) He asked them to think of the 1st and 2nd Leicesters in the thick of the fighting and but for their heroism and that of the plucky Belgians, we might now be in Queer Street. He explained that the money would be spent in purchasing suitable articles for the local men at the front. In regard to what the chairman had said as to him being misunderstood, he said his sole desire was to avoid it being said they were made to go when their country needed them. It would be a second Crimea in the trenches and the lads there needed their help. The more men to volunteer, the sooner the war would be over.

Mr Pearse, of Leicester, moved a vote of thanks to the artistes and orchestra and the numerous helpers. He also welcomed the members of the Citizens' Corps remarking that he belonged to the Corps at Leicester and as the result of a recent parade they got 33 recruits. (Cheers) It had a splendid morale effect. The question was often asked how long the war would last. Lord Kitchener had replied that he could not say when it would end, but said it would commence about next May, and it would go on longer still if they did not get men. Belgium was bled white for men. France could send no more and England alone of the Allies on this side were not sending all they might. Kitchener wanted more men because every sword drawn against Germany was drawn in the interests of peace. More and more men was the only way to shorten the war. The war did not commence until there was not a single German left in Belgium or France. They could not punish the Kaiser for his insolence and his arrogance until they got him back on his own soil and gave him a little of what he had meted out to the unfortunate Belgians. (Cheers) These men had lost everything – no, not everything, they still had their soul and their humour. (Loud applause). He asked them to realise that the French frontier was as much ours as the French, because the Germans having subdued France no doubt meant trying it on England. We had 46 dreadnoughts; Germany had 28 and France 16. The enemy would have taken over the French navy making 44 dreadnoughts to our 46, so they could see that if the Germans had conquered France it would have been serious for England. He appealed for recruits and said that if they responded they would be able after the war to proudly hold up their heads, knowing that they had done their part. But if they stayed at home, they would bow their heads in shame when the brave lads came marching home triumphant. (Cheers).

The vote of thanks was heartily accorded.

The speeches were interspersed with musical items, the excellence of which reflected great credit on local talent. Miss May Clarke finely sang "Your King and Country Need You" Miss Kirkham nicely sang "The Swallows"; Madame Alice Coleman pleased the audience immensely with her beautiful rendering of Elgar's "Land of Hope and Glory" and led them in the singing of the chorus, while another charming item by this talented singer was "The Hills of Donegal"; Mr James Botesworth, a fine bass singer, was loudly applauded for his songs, "England mine" and "The Sentinel"; there were two capital items, "The Beleaguered" and "Crossing the bar" by the Coalville Lyric Quartette (Messrs. F. and W. Smith, B. Hatter and A. G. Ball); and a most appropriate and thrilling recitation "The Victoria Cross" was given in her inimitable manner by Mrs T. Hatter, of Hugglescote. Some war pictures were also shown. The proceedings terminated with the National Anthem.

The theatre was again packed in the evening and altogether a sum of £42 13s 11d was realised besides 58 presents in addition to the hamper from Mr Hawley.

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FOR SALE

Florist and Fruiterer's Business situate in Belvoir Road for sale through owner having gone to the war.

COALVILLE MAN'S BAPTISM OF FIRE

SHELLS DROPPING ALL AROUND

A Coalville soldier, Mr Harry Wesson, has just had his baptism of fire. He is with the British Expeditionary Force in France, and writing to his father, Mr W. Wesson, of 108, Margaret Street, Coalville, under date Nov. 16th says that he and Alf (a brother) are in the best of health and are having quite an interesting and enjoyable time. *"We saw our first lot of firing yesterday, shells bursting around an aeroplane, at the time of writing, we have artillery firing all around us. Everything here seems up-to-date. The transport is everything that can be desired and we get plenty of rations, etc."* He asks for some cigarettes to be sent.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Arrangements are being made for the reception of a number of German prisoners at Donington Park, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the seat of the late Baron Donington. The heir to the Donington estate (which is at present in the hands of the executors, the Duke of Norfolk and Mr Coverdale) is Captain Reginald Rawdon Hastings, eldest son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby. The present occupier of Donington Hall is Mr Frederic Gretton.

Included in the casualty list of the fighting in British East Africa appears the name of Mr William Joseph Bellasis, of Bowker's Horse, who was killed in action on the 3rd inst. He was in his 29th year, and was the second son of Mr W. Dalglish Bellasis, of Sundorne Castle, Shrewsbury, late of Willesley Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. This is the family's second victim of the war, the first being Captain C. A. Dalglish, of the Black Watch, killed in France on September 9th, and who was the son by her first marriage of Mrs Dalglish-Bellasis.

The Ashby Territorial Reserve, with the Citizens' Corps and the Scouts, attended service at Coleorton Church on Sunday morning. The distance from Ashby is two miles, and the company, which numbered about 200, was accompanied by the Ashby Band and the Coalville Scouts' Band; Capt. Jesson was in command and Capt. Stevenson was also present.

Two more Belgian refugees arrived at Shepshed on Friday and were taken to the White House, where 14 others have been residing for the past six weeks.

The following is a list of presents given at Coalville Patriotic Concert last Sunday: 6 boxes of cigarettes, 5 packs of cards, 1 pipe, 5 boxes chocolates, 1 purse, 1 body belt, 28 pairs gloves, 3 handkerchiefs, 2 shirts, 28 mufflers, 3 Cardigan jackets, 1 sweater, 15 pairs socks, 1 singlet, 5 vests, 1 knife.

The Coalville Territorial Reserve marched to Hugglescote Church on Sunday morning, headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band. The company is considerably over 100 strong notwithstanding drafts having been sent away and additions are being made almost daily.

Private Jack Davenport, C. Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Warwicks, writing to his father, Mr R. Davenport, of Hermitage Road, Coalville, says he is a prisoner of war in Gottengen Camp, Hanover.

The Soldiers' Comforts Guild have been presented with about 50 prizes for the grand prize drawing they are organising and these include a pig, and a gramophone with records. It is hoped to raise at least £50 by this means; so that the services of all the numerous ladies who have already promised to knit and sew can be fully utilised, and the comforts quickly despatched to our gallant local lads wherever they may be.

The South Leicestershire Colliery Company Limited, their staff, and workmen, have contributed the sum of £10 6s 1d to H.R.H. Princess Mary's fund for providing every sailor afloat, and every soldier at the front with a Christmas present, and a cheque for that amount has been sent to the Princess, and acknowledged by her.

DO YOU KNOW

That according to Nuttall's the pronunciation of Ypres is e-Per?

That one of the refugees at Broom Leys with the Belgians is Servian?

That two of the male Belgians who arrived in Coalville on Tuesday can speak good English?

That in aid of the Local Soldiers' Comforts Fund a tea is to be held at the Hawley Institute, Hugglescote, on Monday next?

That the Shepshed Licensed Victuallers raised the price of beer to meet the war tax on Tuesday last?

That the monthly meeting of the Coalville Collectors for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund will be held at the Adult School on Tuesday night?

That for the patriotic concert on Sunday night which commenced at the Coalville Olympia at eight o'clock, people were waiting outside at six o'clock?

That Mr W. T. Humble, of Ibstock, has been appointed organist at Heather Church in place of Mr E. Taylor, who has left to join the colours?

That as a result of Wednesday's matinee at the Coalville Electric Theatre, for the Belgian Fund, Mr Johnson has forwarded the sum of £3 5s?

That at the matinees on Wednesday morning and Saturday afternoon next, at the Coalville Olympia, the Belgian refugees will be present? Presents of cigarettes, etc., for them may be left at the office on entering.

That the rumour that provisions etc., for the Belgian Refugees at Broom Leys are being obtained outside the Coalville are is untrue?

That the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild (Mrs Leonard L. Baldwin, hon. sec.) sent off this week a further parcel of warm clothing to 70 of the men who have gone from the district to the front and elsewhere, and that funds are urgently required for purchasing more wool and flannel?

IBSTOCK

RECRUITING MEETING

A recruiting meeting was held on Thursday in the Ibstock Picture Palace, at which there was good attendance. Capt. Pritchard and Capt. Stevenson made speeches. Councillor W. Eggington presided. A good number were enrolled at the close of the meeting. In the course of Capt. Pritchard's speech he referred to the death of Lord Roberts, the company standing.

JUMBLE SALE

A very successful sale of work, jumble sale and tea was held in the National Schools on Wednesday last, the proceeds of which will be given to the relief maintenance of Belgian refugees shortly to arrive in Ibstock district. Mrs Flood's working party, who had been at work on material for the previous winter, very kindly gave their made up garments together with a sum of money which they had in hand for material. Mrs Campbell, Mrs J. T. Jacques, Mrs F. Holmes, Mrs Robertson and other ladies of the various religious bodies in Ibstock have given their valuable assistance in turning out more garments and canvassing the various districts allotted them with the result that most of the provisions needed for the tea held were forthcoming; supplemented by gifts of tea, butter, cakes, milk, etc., from Mrs Flood and the working party. The effort realised £28.

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TENDERS

BELGIAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE (COALVILLE DISTRICT)

The above Committee invite Tenders for the supply of Provisions, Meat, Fish, Milk, etc., for the month of December; 74 persons to be provided for.

Tender forms and all particulars may be had from the Hon. Secretary.

Tenders to be delivered by first post, Tuesday, December 1st, to Mr Edgar Hawthorn, 12, Market Place, Coalville.

BELGIAN REFUGEES' FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors for the Belgian Refugees' Fund was held in the Adult School Hall, on Monday evening last. Four districts were not represented. The Hon. Sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the fourth collection realised the sum of £10 8s from the twelve districts that were represented.

NEW SWANNINGTON

CHILDREN'S CONCERT

The children connected with the New Swannington Wesleyan Reform Church gave a concert on Saturday evening in aid of the Belgian Refugee's Fund. It was arranged by Misses F. and E. Bayliss and was a great success, £2 6s being realised. Mr A. Clarke presided and Miss E. Bayliss was the accompanist, the following being the programme:

Song, "The red, white, and blue," children; pianoforte solo, Joseph Bakewell; recitation, "What shall it be," Rosey Baker; recitation, "Sing a song of Santa Claus," Nelly Bayliss; duet, "Shadow faces," A. Bath and E. Waterfield; recitation, "the red, white, and blue," Connie Baker; part song, "The postman," six boys; recitation, "In praise of England," Rose Knight; solo, "The beautiful prayer," Gerty Baker; recitation, "The Squirrel," Louise Henson; recitation, "The rose girl," Florrie Storer; part song, "The Gipsy's warning," Rhoda Billings; recitation, "The dying Father," Gerty Holmes; recitation, "Home," May Storer; recitation, "The May Queen," Rosey Baker; dialogue, "Make hay while the sun shines," 3 girls, 3 boys; instrumental duet, E. Bayliss (piano) and J. Bakewell (mandolin); recitation, "The Day," Doris King; duet, "Footsteps on the stairs," M. Storer and G. Holmes; recitation, "The angel's message," Sarah Mann; solo, "Won't you tell me Daddy," Joseph Bakewell; recitation, "The dying girl," Elsie Holmes; part song, "Our model policeman," 6 boys; recitation, "Goodbye swallow," Sidney Taylor; recitation, "The tree they loved best," Edith Smith; duet, "One touch of nature," R. Billing and E. Young; recitation, "Autumn," Connie Baker; recitation, "Meddlesome Matty," Ivy Young; recitation, "The Giant," Nellie Bayliss; part song, "O no, John," G. Baker and L. Young; recitation, "A basket full of sweetness," Mary Brown; recitation, "The glories of the past," Connie Baker; recitation, "Grandma Clock," Doris Young; dialogue, "Don't count your chickens," 2 girls and 4 boys: "God save the King."

BRITAIN'S STRENGTH

MILLIONS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE

An estimate of the total male population of England and Wales available for military purposes is made possible by a table given in a section of the annual report of the Registrar-General of Births, Death, and Marriages, published on Friday. The table gives the following figures.

Age	Number
20 – 24	1,502,652
25 – 29	1,455,783
30 – 34	1,375,872
35 – 39	1,261,432
Total	5,595,739

BELGIAN REFUGEES
HEARTY RECEPTION AT COALVILLE
ENTHUSIASTIC SCENES



A most hearty reception was given to the Belgian refugees on their arrival at Coalville last Monday. The precincts of the Midland Railway station were thronged with a crowd of people which must have numbered from four to five thousand and the appearance of the first batch of refugees, who arrived by the 3.23 p.m. train, was the signal for a tremendous outburst of cheering and the waving of Belgian flags. The party numbered 27 and had travelled from Earl's Court, London. On the platform to receive them were Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., and Edgar Hawthorn, chairman and secretary of the local committee, and Dr. Lloyd Storr-Best, headmaster of the Coalville Grammar School, who had kindly offered his services as interpreter. As none of the refugees could speak English, Mr Storr-Best's help was much appreciated. The work of checking off the list to see that none had got astray, was accomplished on the platform by Mr Lindley, and the party then made their way to one of the Coalville motor 'buses which had been chartered to convey them to Broom Leys. Carrying on their backs bundles containing their sole earthly possessions and some of the women with shawls wrapped round them with no hats, they made a sad picture, but heartiness of the reception, given them by the Coalville people brought smiles to their faces, and as the 'bus moved off amidst tremendous cheering, the Belgians too, waved their hands, while children of the party threw kisses – that, at any rate, being a universal language which all could understand.

One old gentlemen who had missed the three o'clock train arrived on the 5.9 and was met by Mr F. S. Weaver, secretary to the collecting committee, Capt, McKernon and Mr J. R. Bennett.

Great as was the crowd to witness the afternoon's arrivals, that in the evening, when about 40 more refugees arrived on the 6.30 train, was even greater. This party had travelled direct from Folkestone, and their sad appearance was increased by the tiredness which they were evidently feeling. Among these were a number of soldiers who had been wounded in the fighting. Some were limping and got along with the aid of a stick, others had their arms in slings, while in the faces of all one could trace signs of the awful experiences they had passed through. But they were evidently delighted to have arrived here and heartily responded to the cheers which were given in their honour. The 'bus and several motor cars soon conveyed them to Broom Leys where everything was in readiness for a good wash and meal and the party quickly settled down and seemed very comfortable in their new surroundings.

AN EVENING WITH THE BELGIANS
STORIES OF GERMAN BARBARISM
TOLD BY EYE-WITNESSES

(By our own Reporter)

The number of refugees staying at Broom Leys at the present time is 74, which includes 12 women and 9 children, and of the men about 25 have been wounded in the fighting. A representative of this paper was privileged in being allowed to spend a couple of hours one evening with the Belgians whom he found to be a happy party. Some were playing cards, others writing letters, while the great drawing room was occupied with a number of the guests enjoying a pleasant conversation, and the buzz of the voices sounded strange in the ear of one unfamiliar with their language. Some of them speak the Flemish tongue, though most of them can converse in French. Fortunately, there are two men in the party who also speak English fairly well and one of these – J. Bogaerts, from Antwerp – has proved himself very useful.

It was through this gentlemen that I was able to get into conversation with some of the refugees and to hear from them accounts of some of the terrible things they had actually seen, which show that the reports published of the atrocities committed by the Germans have been in no way exaggerated.

First of all, I asked Mr Bogaerts to tell me something of himself. He was in Antwerp at the time of the bombardment engaged as an engineer on a Government tug boat. For 12 years he was on English vessels visiting various parts of the world, and that was how he picked up his excellent knowledge of our language. He went on to say that he was on the boat which took the last batch away from Antwerp on the Monday when the bombardment had been going on since Friday. He saw the huge petroleum tank set ablaze and a bridge blown up by the Belgian soldiers to harass the German advance, and indicated parts of the town known to the writer where the houses were simply demolished by the fire of the German guns. He saw several civilians lying dead in the streets. Seven were killed in one house. Answering a question, as to whether the beautiful Cathedral and the statue of Rubens, the famous painter, just outside shared a similar fate, he said both these escaped damage.

One of the wounded soldiers, Demeyer Jules, who is accompanied by his wife and baby, then detailed his movements with the Belgian army before being wounded, just outside Louvain, where he was shot in the right hand, the centre finger of which was blown off. This soldier stated that when near Aerschot he saw the bodies of two Sisters of Mercy with their breasts cut off and he saw a child of three years of age, which was being pushed in a wheel-barrow, riddled with German bullets. He went on to relate how he met a young Belgian girl in one of the villages he passed through, who was crying. Her story of how she had been treated by a number of German soldiers is too horrible to reproduce.

Another of the Belgian soldiers with whom we conversed was Bertrand Bierre, of the 8th Infantry Regiment, who was in the battles of Liege and Namur. During the retreat from Namur he was for three days and nights without food or sleep and eventually dropped in a grain field from sheer exhaustion. Afterwards he was sent to Termonde and was for 14 days in the fighting line. He was wounded in Dixmude from a piece of shrapnel. Passing through one of the villages of South Belgium he saw the body of a boy, 13 years of age, hanging from a tree, and from which both eyes were missing.

Derume Gules, a soldier in one of the Belgian foot regiments, took part in several sorties from Antwerp before the bombardment and when fighting at Dixmude a bullet passed right through his leg. He saw no atrocities by the Germans.

Gillis Cornel, another soldier, had the novel experience of taking part in the battle without ever seeing a German soldier. This is explained by the fact that he was in one of the fortresses outside Antwerp. His injuries were burns, through the German fire having exploded the powder magazine in the fortress.

Another of the refugees told how that in the town of Erp, near Liege, where he lived, practically all the houses were destroyed. He escaped through the German lines with his mother, aged 73, often having to hide behind bushes, until they reached Holland and thence were able to get to Flushing. They had to leave everything behind and the old lady has, unfortunately, been mentally affected by her terrible sufferings.

From the same place, Erp, near Liege, came F. Gootefruid, who informed me that he kept a furniture store there. He was in the town when the Germans entered on August 4th and had to fly for his life, his house like most of the others, then being in flames. From a house near where he lived, he saw German soldiers bring out the father, mother, a boy about 14 and a girl of 17. The boy was made to stand against the wall and stretch out his arms. Then the soldiers had a little shooting practice sending five bullets through each of the boys hands. They afterwards killed the father and mother, and then subjected the girl to treatment which cannot be described, the unfortunate victim dying in consequence. From the cellar of a house in the same street a father and three sons were dragged out and killed. Two German officers rode up in a motor car and enquired the way from a certain youth who, in his fright, ran away and was shot down from the car. Through the interpreter I asked Mr Gootefruid whether any provocation was given for these acts and his reply was in the negative. The Germans, he said, were given everything they asked for in the way of provisions and when the people had nothing left they were shot. In this locality there were 312 houses, practically the whole of which were destroyed, and everybody in the street, including women and children, were shot on sight. Our informant was congratulated on his narrow escape.

Another of the refugees is a Servian tailor, who was in Liege when the war broke out.

Van Malderen was in four battles and said his regiment, the Carabineers, were called "Little devils," by the Germans. All the battles in which he participated were round Louvain and he was sent to hospital suffering from typhoid fever.

One of the refugees named Collinet said he had twice been taken prisoner by the Germans and had escaped. The first time he ran away and the second time he escaped with a number of French soldiers in a 'bus.

An exciting experience befell Francks Pierre, another of the soldiers who was taken prisoner. He is a painter of Brussels, but rejoined his regiment on the outbreak of war. He was in the bombardment of Antwerp and was there captured by the Germans, but he overpowered his guard by a blow on the head with the butt end of his rifle and got away. After that he was three times wounded in his back and in the hand.

The last member of the party with whom I conversed was an old man of 60 years of age, named Lauwers Puter, who was able to speak English. He said he was working as an engineer in Brussels when the war broke out. His wife was then living in Antwerp and he went home week ends. He was in Brussels when the Germans entered and the fact of having a book printed in English in his possession nearly proved fatal. The Germans accused him of being English and it was with great difficulty that he assured them from his passports that he was a Belgian. He narrated a trying experience just outside Brussels. While parleying with soldiers about his passports a woman and three children approached them. She was unable to produce a passport and the result of her pleading was that the Germans shot her three children before her eyes. She fell prostrate and the old man was so moved at this that he even summed up courage to protest. He was pushed forward and told that the penalty of looking back would be death. He tramped the distance to Antwerp only to find that his house had been set on fire and his wife missing. To this day, he said, with some emotion, he did not know whether his wife or his two sons were dead or alive. His brother, a prosperous farmer just outside Louvain was shot dead and his house fired. Yet this old man, with such memories, is the soul of the party of Broom Leys and is doing much to cheer up his companions in distress.

The wife of the caretaker, Mr Hardwicke, has been appointed matron, and the writer was informed by Mr Hardwicke that up to now the behaviour of the refugees has been excellent. He hopes this will be maintained. Through interpreter they have told him how grateful they are and how very much they appreciate all that is being done for them. Some of them are already picking up English phrases. One of them was quite proud of the fact that he could say and write "Coalville, Leicestershire," though it was pointed out to him that he had spelt it with a B, and when the writer, who by now quite got into the Frenchy style, bade the company, "Bon soir," one of them with a broad smile, replied, "Good night."

A notice posted up in the house, typed in French, states that the authority of the superintendent is supreme, and he must be obeyed without question. The hours of meals are, breakfast 9 am, dinner 1pm, tea 5pm, and supper 8.30pm; lights out at 10 o'clock. The guests are asked to do everything possible to preserve the property and to endeavour to keep everything satisfactory from the point of view of hygiene.

Dr. Lloyd Storr-Best and Mr J. L. Burge (both French linguists) are rendering excellent assistance as are Mr W. Lindley, Mr E. Hawthorn and other members of the committee. The secretary reports that the funds have come in well and, if maintained, there will be no difficulty on that score.

HEATHER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

News has been received of the death of Private Sydney Herbert Sharpe, a Heather man, belonging to the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, which he joined last January, after being in the Leicestershire Territorials for a year. He went to the front soon after the commencement of the war and was in the trenches most of the time till he was killed in action at Rentoul, Belgium, on November 1st. The deceased, who is a son of Mr Josiah Sharpe, of Elm Bark, Station Road, Heather, was only 18 years of age when he joined the colours.



COALVILLE MAN AT THE FRONT

ANXIOUS TO POP AT KAISER BILL

Pte. A. Edwards, of the No. 4 signal section, 18th Brigade, with the Expeditionary Force in France, writing to his sister, Mrs George Ward, of Oxford Street, Coalville, states that he is *"in the pink,"* and presumes that with so many Belgian refugees in the town, Coalville people will soon be able to speak French and Flemish. *"Kaiser Bill,"* he adds, *"keeps well under cover. We are anxious to have a pop at him and one of these days, he will perhaps stop one of our bullets."*

In a subsequent letter received on Tuesday, he says things are pretty quiet at present. They have an occasional brush with the enemy but not much to speak about. *"We shall pull through all right in the end. It is not so bad out here. Under the circumstances, we are faring well as regards food and cigarettes. I expect we shall spend Christmas out here, but I think we shall have a good time and make the most of it."* He adds that he has not yet seen Doughty or Wesson.



COALVILLE MAN IN FRANCE

Pte. S. E. Allen, with the Army Service Corps in France, writing to Mr A. Boot, of Coalville, says he is the servant of an officer who is in charge of a large supply store, from which they supply 10,000 troops daily with rations with a staff of 14 men, who sometimes work night and day, especially when an ambulance train arrives in the night. He has never felt better in health and hopes the young men of Coalville are coming forward to help their King and country. *"Our boys coming down from the front wounded all agree that reinforcements are badly needed,"* concludes Pte. Allen.

TOMMY'S DIET

THRINGSTONE SERGEANT CONTRADICTS UNFAVOURABLE REPORTS

In view of unfavourable reports having been circulated as to the food supplied to soldiers in camps in this country, a letter from Sergt. G. Watson, of Thringstone, who is in the K. R. Rifles, stationed at Aldershot, to Mr G. H. Hallam, of the Queen's Head Inn, Thringstone, is of interest, since he encloses a table of the weekly diet. This shows that the men have cocoa and biscuits during gun fire, for breakfast bread and butter and tea varied with bacon and tomatoes, haddocks, boiled bacon and pickles and sausages; for dinner in daily rotation, brown stew and tapioca pudding, roast meat, potatoes and cabbage; Irish stew and plum pudding; roast meat and potatoes and haricot beans; curry stew, turnips, potatoes and rice pudding; roast meat and potatoes and haricot beans, and meat pies, potatoes and cabbage: for tea, bread and butter, tea, and jam or cheese, with cake on Sunday: and for supper, soup or cheese and pickles. The Sergeant goes on to say that they are leaving Aldershot next Thursday. They should have gone a few days ago, but were stopped and told to await orders. Things were a bit exciting, but it was quieter now. He is in good health and wishes to be remembered to all at Thringstone. He says the sergeants played the officers at football on the previous day and made a draw. They had quite a good time with the officers afterwards.

NOT ALLOWED TO SMOKE

MARKFIELD MAN A PRISONER

Private G. Bevins, of the 1st Leicesters, writes to his wife at Markfield, saying that he is a prisoner at Gottengen, and all right. He asks her to write soon, and says, *"Don't send any fags. I am not allowed to smoke them."*

SHEPshed MAN KILLED IN ACTION

CONDUCTOR OF THE TOWN PRIZE BAND

Rumours were current nearly a fortnight ago that Private A. W. Thorpe, 1st Leicestershire Regiment, has been killed in action. The rumour originated from a postcard from a Shepshed man in the same regiment, who had written on the address side that Pte. Thorpe had fallen. Inquiries at the War Office by his parents, who live at Sullington Road, Shepshed, elicited the reply that they had no information on the matter. On Friday, however, a letter was received from the War Office stating that he had been killed.

Private Thorpe, who was about 26 years of age, was a reservist and left Shepshed on August 5th with a number of others to join his regiment. He had been bandmaster and conductor of the Shepshed Town Prize Band, by whom he was much esteemed, and was also a member of the Liberal Club. Of the 250 Shepshed men who have joined or rejoined the colours, this is, as far as is known, the first who has fallen in battle during the war.

MONS HERO AT MEASHAM

Sapper Tom Jerrams, of the 59th Field Company of the Royal Engineers, has been invalided home to Measham. He took part in the battle of Mons and in the great retreat towards Paris; also in the advance towards Arras. On arriving at La Basse he was sent to the base hospital and then to Edinburgh. He speaks in high terms of the treatment while in hospital in Edinburgh; also of the efforts of commissariat at the front in providing for the welfare of the troops. He hopes to return to the firing line after a few weeks' rest.

HATHERN MAN WOUNDED

Sergt. Joseph Caldwell, of the 9th Lancers, and belonging to Hathern, is reported to be severely wounded in the arm. Caldwell, it will be recalled, saw his brother, Samuel killed in the fighting some weeks ago.

LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY

BRIGADED WITH THE GUARDS

Sergeant Gotheridge, of the 1st Life Guards, and a member of the Leicestershire police force, in a letter home says:

"You will be surprised to hear that the Leicestershire Yeomanry are brigaded with us, and they are here, at the time of writing this. I have been speaking to several of them this morning. All the yeoman are here from Melton.

I shall be pleased when it is all over, but I am afraid that will be some time yet. I have had some very narrow shaves, and have been lucky up to now. Only this morning I got struck in the leg with a piece of shrapnel. The Germans are hot stuff with that and their big shells we call "coal boxes." We shall show them the way back shortly, though, I hope. It is nothing but one continued cannonade all day long. They talk about their artillery, but it is nothing compared with ours.

We are doing all infantry work now, as cavalry are not required. We go in the trenches for days at a stretch. It's all right when you get used to it. The Germans will not face the bayonet, and we all carry them now, but they are hot on sniping (sending a man out by himself). We have lost a lot of officers, and men that way too.

P.S. We are at present in Belgium."

SPIES NEAR OUR TRENCHES

LEICESTERSHIRE SOLDIER'S ASSERTION

Private Leahy, 2nd Leicesters, was in the trenches for 17 days, and eventually was wounded by shrapnel in the right knee. He complains of civilians being allowed to approach the rear of the British trenches, and assured the Press representative that the enemy's system of espionage extends to the rear of our lines.

"The civil population should be shifted out of it," bluntly declared the Leicestershire man. "Once when a farm in front of us was set on fire you could see the German spies signalling from that farmhouse to the rear."

ANOTHER LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICER KILLED

The Press Bureau on Monday issued further lists of casualties. Amongst the officers reported killed from the General Headquarters, under date November 20th, is Lieutenant J. B. Vandeleur, Leicestershire Regiment.

THE COALVILLE 50

Dear Sir, - Your correspondent who signs himself "Six years a Saturday afternoon soldier," ought not to pass without a mild rebuke.

He himself admits that he doesn't think, for if he did he would not rush into print in a spirit of derision, and his judgement would be such that he would give honour where honour is due. The verdict that the first 50 fine well-trained young men were the finest that had been sent up to Luton came officially from Luton and was endorsed by very many who saw them on the platform previous to their departure. Again this was fully demonstrated in their march of 25 to 30 miles with full kit and only 1 falling out, and they compared most favourably with any other company. Perhaps it was the fact that in 2 months they attained such a state of efficiency which took the Saturday half-day soldier to acquire in 6 years. So he became jealous and then began blowing his own trumpet, which would, if left to others, brought out a sweeter melody and with no uncertain sound. Had he complained about those young men who were selected to go with those 50 fine young men but refused, he would, like many more of his comrades, have been justified. I will leave to your

readers to say who is the bravest of the two – the one who is for years in the field waiting for the mad bull, or the one who enters after its arrival. – I beg to remain yours.

W. E. Bradshaw
5, Gutteridge Street, Coalville.

WHITWICK

WHIST DRIVE

On Saturday, a whist drive was held at St. Joseph's Cottage, from which about £11 was realised to send a Christmas hamper to the Whitwick and Coalville troops of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. It is requested that relatives will forward their names of any of these soldiers to any of the following addresses:

Mrs F. Cramp, St. Joseph's Cottage, near Monastery, Coalville; W. G. Thurman, Freehold Street, Shepshed; or J. Rowell, jun., Iveshead Road, Shepshed.

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STANTON UNDER BARDON

CONCERT

For the purpose of raising funds for the Belgian Relief Fund, a successful concert was given at the day school on Saturday evening. A good programme was well rendered by children who attended the infant school, and was much appreciated by those present.

LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICERS KILLED

The Press Bureau on Sunday night issued further casualty lists reported from the General Headquarters of the Expeditionary Forces under date November 26th, included in which were Captain H. A. Grant and Second-Lieutenant M. W. Seton Browne, Leicestershire Regiment killed; and Lieutenant W. S. B. Blackett, Leicestershire Yeomanry, died of wounds.

SHEPSHED

MEN'S ADULT SCHOOL

There was a good attendance at the above school on Sunday morning to hear an address by Mr G. P. Main of Loughborough, his subject being, "Is England justified in fighting? And how the war started." Mr Harriman, J.P., presided. On the motion of Mr W. Tapp, a cordial vote of thanks was carried with acclamation to Mr Main. A collection was made in aid of the Leicester "Post" and "Mercury" Fund for Christmas Gifts to Leicestershire Sailors and Soldiers and Bereaved Wives and Families, which realised 21s.

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Another batch of 114 wounded soldiers from the front arrived at Leicester on Sunday night. All were from British regiments. There were 14 stretcher cases. The men were taken to the Northern Hospital.

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BELGIAN REFUGEE MUSICIAN AT LOUGHBOROUGH

The grounds adjoining the Loughborough Bell Foundry were on Sunday afternoon besieged with people who had assembled to hear a recital on the carillon of 40 bells at Messrs. Taylors' works by Monsieur Josef Denyn, carrillonneur at Malines Cathedral, which has been damaged by the Germans. Monsieur Denyn is a refugee, and gave the recital in aid of the Belgian Refugee Fund. There was no charge for admission, but a collection was taken. A capital programme was gone through, the items including the Belgian National

Anthem, the two soldier's songs, "We mean to see it through," and "It's a long, long way to Tipperary," and several Flemish songs, and concluded with the National Anthem.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Wanted, a really capable woman, to live in, and able to undertake (under the Matron) the cooking arrangements for 90 war refugees; suitable help provided. Apply by letter only stating qualifications, wages required, and giving two references to Honorary Secretary, War Refugees Committee, Broom Leys House, Coalville, Leicestershire.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The Coalville Citizens' Corps paraded on Sunday morning and attended service at the Parish Church, being led in the marching by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band.

Captain Jesson, commanding the Territorial Reserves, which has been training at Ashby for three months, announced on Sunday after the company had returned from church at Donisthorpe that the company would leave Ashby on Monday morning for Loughborough.

Notwithstanding having sent two or three drafts away, the Coalville Territorial Reserve, are keeping up well and adding to their numbers almost every day, being now about 180 strong. They marched to Ravenstone Church on Sunday morning, led by the buglers and the Coronation Band.

The departure of the Territorial (Reserve) Company from Ashby-de-la-Zouch on Monday to join the battalions at Loughborough, was the occasion of a stirring demonstration. The Ashby Band played the company, under the command of Capt. Jesson to the station. The boys of the Grammar School, with Mr C. Elliott, headmaster joined in the march, and three ringing cheers from the boys, mingled with the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," gave the Territorials a hearty send-off from the station, which was crowded with relatives and friends.

A patriotic concert is to be held in the Whitwick Holy Cross Schools next Sunday afternoon and the proceeds of the silver collection will be for the C Squad of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. Mr E. M. P. de Lisle will preside and local artistes will be assisted by the Belgian Refugees.

Pte. G. Caldwell, of Hugglescote, in the A.S.C. B Squad of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, recently wrote to Mr Wood, manager of the Hugglescote Conservative Club, saying he was in the best of health, though since leaving England they had had a very wet time. He wished to be remembered to those at the club. Since receiving this, Mr Wood has heard that Caldwell has had his thigh broke.

Mr Fred Whitmore, secretary of the Hugglescote Wesleyan Football Club has joined the Black Watch and leaves for Scotland on Monday. There is some question as to whether the Hugglescote club will now go on, several others members having joined the army.

P.C. Wallace Smith, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, who is serving in a military hospital in the Isle of Wight, under the R.A.M.C., paid a visit to his home in Melbourne Street, last weekend.

IBSTOCK

RELIEF COMMITTEE

The Rev. S. Flood presided at a meeting of this committee at Stanton. Expenses were sanctioned for the furnishing of Sefton House, Barlestone, amounting to £23 19s 11d and Mr Eggington reported that Mrs Gray had accepted the position of matron. It was decided to allow visits once a week on permits being obtained from the local secretaries. It was agreed to write to the Postmaster General and the Hon. H. D. McLaren as to the excessive rates charged for papers and parcels sent to men at the front.

PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE

The Rev. S. Flood presided over the usual monthly meeting of this committee held in the National Schools on Wednesday evening. The secretary, Mr W. Dunstan reported that Sefton House, Barlestone, was now

fitted up and a caretaker had been appointed in readiness for the Belgian refugees whom they expected any day now. Mr Wain wrote offering the free use of the Ibstock Palace Theatre on Thursday evening December 17th. It was decided to accept this kind offer and arrange a Patriotic Concert for that date, the details to be arranged by the Concert Committee. Other informal business was discussed and settled.

HUGGLESCOTE

SUCCESSFUL TEA

The local committee which is busily engaged in making comforts such as scarves, body belts, helmets, mittens, etc., for the men from the district who have joined the forces organised a very successful tea which was held in the large hall of the Conservative Club at Hugglescote on Monday afternoon. There was a large attendance necessitating two sittings down. A number of the Belgian refugees from Broom Leys were entertained and they in turn entertained the company with some excellent musical items, the proceedings being very interesting and enjoyable. A good sum will be realised for the purchasing materials for the ladies to work upon.

DO YOU KNOW

That sixteen Belgian refugees arrived at Sefton House, Barlestone, on Tuesday night?

That two of the Belgians residing at Broom Leys, Coalville, are to be married shortly?

That 44 men have joined the army from Thringstone?

That Mr Will Crooks, M.P., addressed a patriotic meeting in the Palace Theatre, Leicester, on Sunday night?

That close on 1,000 members of the Leicester Junior Training Corps had their first route march on Saturday afternoon?

That the members of the Thringstone sewing meetings are busily engaged making serviceable wearing apparel for our soldiers and sailors?

That Mr S. C. Lewis, principal of the Loughborough Technical Institute, is starting classes in English for the Belgian refugees in the town?

That practically the whole of the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys, Coalville, attended service at the Whitwick Catholic Church, last Sunday morning?

That on Wednesday, the second thousand pounds was sent by the Coalville District treasurer (Mr J. Husband) to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund?

That Thursday, December 17th, the night fixed by the Ibstock Committee for a big patriotic concert is the same night that a similar event is being held in Coalville?

That the profits of Swannington Flower Show last August amounting to five guineas, have been given to the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund?

That at Monday's meeting of Shardlow Board of Guardians, it was stated that a large number of German officers who are prisoners of war will be shortly interned at Donington Park?

That the Leicestershire Yeomanry, together with other Territorial units, are mentioned with commendation in General Sir John French's report, which was received Sunday night?

That the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund this week exceeds four millions?

That as a result of the tea held at the Hawley Institute, Hugglescote, on Monday last, the sum of £3 16s was realised for Coalville District Soldiers' Comforts Guild, and that another effort is being made at Ellistown Schools next Wednesday for the same object?

That gifts of vegetables have been given to Broom Leys by the school children of Stanton-under-Bardon National School, Coalville National School, Whitwick National School, Hugglescote; Holy Cross School, Whitwick; and National Schools Bardon Hill for which the Belgian Refugees Committee is grateful?

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BELGIAN REFUGEES FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors for the local fund was held at the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. Mr A. Lockwood, presiding, also present, Capt. McKernon, and the hon. sec. (Mr F. G. Weaver). The hon. secretary reported the result of the fifth collection, £13 14s 6 1/2d from 15 districts (one not represented) and this was considered very satisfactory.

LETTERS FROM COALVILLE AMBULANCE MEN

KEEPING UP THE HONOUR OF THE BRIGADE

Private Curtis, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, on naval service writing to a Coalville friend, says that he quite all right and in good health and spirits. He was pleased to learn of Corpl. Moreton's promotion, which he read in the "Coalville Times." He asks for his kind regards to be given to members of the Brigade, what there are left of them, and concludes, "*We are doing our best to keep up the honour and efficiency of the Coalville Division.*"

Another Coalville ambulance man, Pte. Bagshaw, also writes that he is keeping fit. He is on duty at the Royal Hospital, Woolwich, which he says is a fine place in which one could easily lose himself. There is plenty of work. A convoy arrived every week. One came last Saturday with 186 men, including nine Germans. He asks to be remembered to all the members of the Brigade. They get very good food and plenty of it. He has joined the R.A.M.C. for six months or the duration of the war.

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"Tipperary" is to be banned as far as the United States army and navy are concerned, as the authorities hold that the singing or playing by the United States regular forces of one of the allies' marching songs might be construed as a violation of President Wilson's neutrality proclamation.

SURGEON-MAJOR BURKITT IN WHITWICK

EXPERIENCES IN THE TRENCHES

THE REGIMENT'S LOSS

Surgeon-Major J. C. S. Burkitt, of Whitwick, serving with the Leicestershire Yeomanry in France, obtained 72 hours leave to visit England in connection with his private practice in Whitwick and Coalville and was warmly welcomed.

Major Burkitt, who came direct from the trenches, confirms the reports that the Leicestershire Yeomanry are brigaded with the Life Guards and relates that he had not seen a live German up to the time he left, but plenty of dead ones. So far the Leicestershire Yeomanry had lost but one killed, Captain W. S. B. Blakett who died of wounds. Another of the regiment named Toone, of Coleorton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, is missing. It is probable he is a prisoner of war.

Major Burkitt relates how he temporarily occupied the centre house of three and those on either side were blown to pieces. The Leicestershire Yeomanry were fighting as infantrymen and their horses were four miles to the rear of the trenches. Sergt. Green, of Onebarrow Lodge, Whitwick, contrary to rumour, was all right when the Major left the trenches, and the regiment was cheerful. The weather is piercingly cold. Major Burkitt who appeared in modest health, left Coalville on Monday morning on a visit to Leicester.

A COALVILLE TERRITORIAL'S LETTER

GETTING USED TO A SOLDIER'S LIFE

Writing to friends at Coalville, Pte. T. H. Usherwood, of the 5th Battalion, Leicestershire Territorials, one of the "Coalville Fifty" says they had a very busy time while at Luton. He was in perfect health and getting broken in now to a soldier's life. He goes on to refer to the long march they recently had and which was mentioned in letters published from other Territorials. He says they were fetched out of their billets at 4 am and told to pack everything up ready for going away. By six o'clock they were all ready and started on a journey, with full kit, including all their equipment, 100 rounds of ball ammunition, and blanket and waterproof sheet for bed, altogether weighing about 98 pounds. They had no knowledge then as to their destination. There were about 11,000 of them comprising the North Midland Division which included Leicesters, Staffords, Lincolns, Notts and Derby and all artillery. They marched 27 miles that day, but the Coalville boys stuck to their guns. Naturally they felt the strain of such a march, but were all right again. He understood that the most the regulars had done in a day before was 18 miles. They had a rest the next day and on the following day had a 16 mile march. They had a holiday on the Thursday – the day that Lord Roberts was buried. This was the first day off that they had had. The ultimate destination of the troops was unknown to them. He adds, *"We are on active service now and never know what is coming next. We are only 28 miles from the east coast. We have passed through some of the most lovely country I have ever seen and shall not forget. Wherever we go the people are most generous towards us and give us anything. Shall have lots of news to tell you when I get home, but don't know when that will be."* He expresses thanks for a "Coalville Times," remarking that it is nice to read the home news.

COALVILLE SOLDIER "GOING STRONG"

AMONG THE SHELLS

Private Sten Hardy, of the 1st Leicesters writing to his wife at Coalville, says (on the 15th November) that he was still in the land of the living, and that Clem and Joe Peck and Jack Martin had come up to the battalion. *"Clem told me that he heard I was killed, and that they had sent it (the news) on to you, but I am not. I am still going strong for 28 which I am in two days' time."* He extends thanks for the woollen helmet, which he found very warm at nights to sleep in. He mentions not having met Bill Stretton and asked his wife to send him a bit of cake now and again, but she must make it herself. In another postcard Hardy says it is a pitiful sight to see folks moving their belongings and leaving homes all day long. He was sitting in a house similar to the one at home. Shells kept going over, and at night it was worse. The battalion was having a day or two's rest, *"and then we are at them again."* He asked his wife to send a newspaper, with the regiment's list (of casualties) in it, expecting that she had seen it by the time he had written (13th) inst., She need not upset herself, as he was all right.

WARM CLOTHING WANTED

NEWTON BURGOLAND MAN SEVERAL TIMES REPORTED KILLED

Private John Henry Redfern, of the 1st Leicesters, has been several times reported killed at the front, but happily all these persistent rumours are groundless, for as recent as last Thursday he wrote a letter to his sister, Mrs William Meakin, of Newton Burgoland, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, when he was in the best of health. Redfern was a reservist at the time of the war breaking out, having served several years in India. He is 31 years old and belongs to Newton Burgoland. He writes from France.

"There is only one thing to worry about here, and that is the bad weather, for when we are out at night it is bitterly cold, as we have had snow and frost. Now this morning we are getting a change, a drop of rain. But if we get half the warm clothing that people in England promise us we should be able to keep warm. What I should like most is a good warm muffler and a pair of mittens. I have received your parcels of cigarettes and matches. Handkerchiefs all right, for which I return you many thanks and credit is due to you for the same."

While I write this letter I am sitting in a little cave, just big enough to wriggle about in out of the way of the enemy's stray shots. I shall have plenty to tell you when I come home. Hoping that will be very soon, I conclude with best respects to all old pals at Newton. Roll on old England."

AN APPEAL FOR COMFORTS

A Coalville man in the 3rd Leicesters, writing from _____, _____ on November 29th states that the Coalville boys who left on August 27th are still alive and doing duty for King and country. He adds, *"I see in the "Coalville Times" again this week that the Coalville Soldier's Comforts Guild have sent parcels of warm clothing to some of the men. We are not jealous of what is being done, but we think we should not be left in the background, as we are guarding the sea shores every night and I can tell you it is a bit rough just now. It takes one all his time to keep warm. Hoping these few lines will catch the eye of all that can see their way clear to contribute to the fund. I beg to remain. One who is trying to do his little bit."*

These are the names of the boys: Corpl. J. Sheffield, Ptes. T. Warren, J. Swain, E. R. Hall, E. Collier, H. C. Elkin, F. Wedlock, W. Davis, T. Roberts, W. Saddington, J. Spacey, J. Baldwin, W. Stanley, J. Brown, P. Hart, N. Cave and G. Biggs.

REFUGEE'S ROMANCE

TWO OF THE COALVILLE BELGIANS TO BE MARRIED

ANOTHER VISIT TO BROOM LEYS

(By our own Reporter)

A charming little romance in which are concerned two Belgian refugees staying at Broom Leys, Coalville, is shortly to have a fitting and interesting sequel to the accompaniment of wedding bells.

The happy couple, who were interviewed by the writer on Tuesday, are Bertha De Macsschalck and Froms Janssens, who both come from near Antwerp. Before having to flee for their lives as the Germans marched on the famous port, the prospective bride was in service as a parlour maid at a place called St. Nicholas, while her intended husband was following the occupation of a baker at Bouwel, about six hours journey from Antwerp. They were acquainted with each other for a few months before leaving Belgium and after the flight met in Holland, being there for about six weeks before they could get a boat to bring them to England. They travelled together, and cupid has since placed his seal upon the acquaintanceship thus happily, if somewhat tragic, renewed.

Asked when the happy day was to be, the young lady stated that it would be as soon as the necessary formalities required by the somewhat intricate marriage laws of Belgium had been complied with, and in this, assistance was being rendered by Father Degen, of the St. Saviour's Catholic Church, Coalville. It was explained that it is a much easier thing to be married in England than in Belgium, but as they are Belgian subjects and anticipate returning to their own country after the war, they desired the ceremony to be as it should be in accordance with Belgian law. This requires full names, ages, addresses, and occupations, not only of the couple concerned, but also of the parents, and birth certificates have to be produced. There was no such thing, they said, as getting married in Belgium under false names. The banns have to be published for three weeks, as in this country, and the first time of "asking" took place on Sunday last. In Belgium, couples are married by the Mayor as well as a clergyman and both sign the "marriage lines." The latter is altogether a more elaborate thing than the English certificate, taking the form of a cloth-bound booklet, in which are the particulars of the married couple, their parents, signatures of Mayor, clergyman, and registrar, and also similar spaces for the entry of similar details respecting the children who are issue of the marriage. A perusal of one of these unique marriage "certificates," handed to me by one of the married Belgians present, proved most interesting.

The whole of refugees, 74 in number, attended service at the Whitwick Holy Cross Catholic Church last Sunday morning, where Father O'Reilly preached. They are having a good time and very highly appreciate all the kindness being shown them. Many of them are receiving invitations out by residents of the district, all are being allowed to visit Coalville Electric and Olympia Picture Theatres, free of charge, while very few social functions or concerts are now taking place in the district but what the Belgians are invited to attend and one or two of them, who are no mean vocalists, have in turn repaid this kindly thought for their enjoyment by themselves contributing good items to the programme.

The caretaker at Broom Leys, Mr Hardwicke, states that the excellent behaviour of the refugees is being well maintained and they are very respectful to him and his wife, the matron, doing all they can to make the work

and conduct of the house go smoothly. When they arrived last Tuesday week, many of the refugees were very poorly clad, but thanks to the kindness of the people in Coalville and district in sending gifts of clothes, this difficulty was now being largely overcome and they were able to go out looking a little smarter. A number of them have very bad colds, doubtless due to the exposure to which they had been subject, and at the present time one man is confined to his bed. Dr. Wykes of Hugglescote, is giving his services as medical attendant. People have also been good in sending toys for the children. Just as Mr Hardwicke was communicating this fact to me a bonny little girl of about four years came and bade us "Good night" – the Belgians have got this off well now – and then made her way upstairs hugging a huge golliwog, and was followed by another wee little maiden who could hardly hold in her arms the Noah's ark which she was taking to bed with her.

The Belgians are great smokers and their friends have not forgotten them in this respect. They have been well supplied with tobacco and on Sunday several of them were enjoying choice cigars. Talking with some of the Belgians, with the aid of Mr Joseph Bogaerts, the Antwerp naval engineer, who speaks excellent English, I tried to ascertain what was their intentions for the future, and was informed that most of them are anticipating returning to their own country when the war is over. A good number of the male refugees are of military age and as conscription prevails in Belgium, some of them will doubtless be recalled for military service when they have fully recovered from their wounds should the war drag on. Already the police have had a communication from the Belgian Ambassador in London asking for full particulars of the men staying in Coalville. In one or two cases, young men have been exempted from further service. One of these is Houliers Gerard, who is a ladies' tailors' cutter from Liege. He was 15 days in the trenches and for over two days and nights was up to his knees in water, which has considerably affected his health. He was also wounded in the thigh though not severely by a piece of shell. He is trying to improve his somewhat scanty knowledge of English and would stay in the country for a couple of years or so if he can get a situation in his trade. Another of the wounded refugees, Alexander Bernard, who has been exempted from further military service, was promoted on the battlefield from Sergt-Major to 2nd Lieutenant for an act of gallantry.

Several of the men are anxious to find work to save a few pounds to assist them in making a new start in life when they return to their native land. As Mr Bogaerts put it, "*My house in Antwerp was shattered by the German guns and my home has gone. When I go back with my wife and family, I shall have to start afresh and get a new home together. So I shall be very pleased to do some work that I might save a little money during the few months I am here.*" Others gave expressions to similar sentiments. Mr Bogaerts also stated that his wife was an excellent cook and she, too, would be glad to do anything she could. One of the men has been doing a few jobs in the town as a painter.

Several of the refugees expressed pleasure at the article which appeared in last week's "Coalville Times," which was translated to them, one old gentleman remarking, "*You put it in just as I told you.*" They were also pleased with our picture of Broom Leys and several of them have sent copies of the paper to their friends to show them what a fine house they are living in.

The members of the local committee are proving themselves very solicitous for the comfort of their guests. A tremendous amount of time and work is being given to the matter by the Chairman, Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., the hon. sec. Mr Edgar Hawthorn, the hon. treasurer, Mr J. Husband, and other members, and the smooth working of things thus far is simple proof of the success of their efforts.

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THRINGSTONE

WAR LECTURE

Another of the series of war lectures was given in the Village Hall on Monday evening by the Vicar, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, the subject being "How the British soldier fights." Mr Ritchie presided and there was a large attendance. It was a most interesting lecture and was illustrated by some excellent slides, the lantern being ably managed by Messrs. H. Upton and W. Watts. Miss Maud Wheeldon, of Whitwick, nicely sang "England mine," and "Your King and country need you" for which she was encored. The chairman expressed thanks to the Vicar for the lecture. Nearly £3 was realised for the Prince of Wales's Fund.

COALVILLE

BELGIAN REFUGEE'S FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors for the Local Fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The Hon. Sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the result of the sixth collection £14 11s 4d from 13 districts (three not represented). This result was considered very satisfactory.

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BELTON

SOCIAL

At the Church of England Schools, Belton, on Wednesday evening, a largely attended social and dance took place in aid of the fund to provide the soldiers of Belton with comforts. The rector, the Rev. H. C. Deane, and Mrs Deane were present, the latter giving a recitation. Miss Chester, Mr A. Moore, and Mr P. Jeffcoat gave songs. Mr C. H. Smith (Hathern) was the pianist.

PRESENTATION OF "CITIZEN" BADGES AT THRINGSTONE

ROUSING SPEECH BY LADY BEAUMONT

An interesting event took place in the billiard room at the Thringstone House Club on Saturday night, when the members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens Corps, through the kindness of Commander B. Berry, were presented with nice badges by Lady Beaumont.

Capt. W. H. Stevenson presided and in opening the proceedings said he regarded that as a most historic evening for the Whitwick and Thringstone district. He went on to allude to the customs in olden times when the Barons living in their big castles used to have their bodyguards, but since those days no private person had been allowed to raise bodies of men for the purpose of taking up arms, and he ventured to say that had he ten or a dozen years ago, raised over 250 men in a Citizen's Corps as he had in that locality just lately, he would have been liable to a term of imprisonment. But the times were altered now. They were at war with a savage foe at whose head was a made emperor (hear, hear) and these citizens corps had been raised for two purposes. First to defend the old flag if needs be and secondly to defend their hearths and homes. At the present time no vessel was allowed to go through the Straits of Dover, or North of Yarmouth, without a Government pilot, which showed that the authorities thought an invasion of this country might be attempted. But before that was accomplished the enemy had to get past the thin British line which had never been broken. (Cheers) If invasion did come he ventured to say that the Citizen's Corps would give a good account of themselves, as the National Reserves were now doing. On August 7th he had instructions to call up the National Reserves and form them into two classes. Of the first class 88 from that district had rejoined their old regiments and over 100 of the second class were waiting to be called upon. He had no doubt that the Citizen Corps would prove a very useful body. Before many weeks were over they would have 400 German officers as prisoners not very far from there. The camp would be surrounded by a wire fence and would have to be guarded night and day and he ventured to say that some of the Citizen Corps would be used for that purpose. He went on to draw a picture of the signing of the peace treaty which would take place in the emperor's palace in Berlin, in which he imagined the Kaiser as protesting against the conditions imposed by Lord Kitchener and other representatives of the Allies. They would insist in their terms, however, and it was to enforce these that Lord Kitchener still wanted a huge army ready after the fighting was over. In the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps he believed there were at present 58 members, and no doubt the numbers would go on increasing. He then asked Lady Beaumont to distribute the badges.

Lady Beaumont said that when Mr Howe asked her to distribute the badges she replied that she would be most pleased to do so. She felt very deeply that everyone of them had a responsibility at this time. Women also could give of their best. She had only one son and she was sending him. (Applause) Some of them would not return and some would – that was as God wills it – but the great thing they had to be careful about was to see that they carried out the traditions of Englishmen and proved themselves worthy of their country. (Cheers) Our army and territorials were doing well but there were thousands and thousands who were not realising their duty. Every man in Germany was fighting, or ready to fight and so was every man in France

and Russia, but it was not so in England. There were hundreds of thousands in this country ready enough to sing "Rule Britannia," but were not ready enough to carry out what those words meant. If Englishmen everywhere were not determined to do their best there was not the slightest reason why we should not be conquered. Those who did not do their duty were not worthy of being called Englishmen. She was glad that the men before her were not of that type. Age had prevented them from joining the army, but they meant to do what they could, and try to persuade the younger men who had not gone to awaken to a sense of their duty. In most villages, Swannington included, there were many young men who ought to respond to their country's call and had not done so. She was recently talking to one young man who told her that he should not go till he was fetched. She hardly knew what to say and all she could say was "I am glad I am not your mother." (Cheers and laughter) She felt grieved. It showed that some did not care and had not realised the danger the country was in. It was simply stupid not to realise it. It was quite possible that England would be invaded. They knew that their navy was guarding them to the uttermost but they must be prepared for any eventuality. She thought it was splendid that so many had come forward for service in that corps. Unless men were enrolled and trained they were non-combatants and could not stir a finger because it would be against international law. She urged them to try and swell their numbers by each trying to induce another to join. If the country had listened to that fine old soldier, Lord Roberts (cheers) the position would have been very different. She was glad that she had always worked for the National Service League – Lord Robert's scheme – as much as she possibly could. (Cheers) Lord Roberts always said that the country would listen to him if it was allowed, but these in power said he was only a panic-monger, and an old woman, and that there was no danger, but had we been prepared it was doubtful whether Germany would have brought on this war. All they could do now was to try to make up for their carelessness and stupidity in ostrich-like hiding their heads in the sand before the approaching storm. Germany knew our weakness and thought England was no longer the country she formerly was; that Englishmen were no longer the men they used to be. They could say that Germany was mistaken, but still they had the responsibility for giving Germany cause to say that, and they would best discharge that responsibility by doing their duty now. (Cheers) She explained that Mr Berry had really given the badges and she was sure they would thank him most heartily and would be proud to wear the badges which showed they were prepared to do their duty in their country's defence. (Cheers)

Commander Berry, seconding, said they had the finest King on earth (hear, hear), they had got the finest country under the sun (applause) and without any flattery to himself he thought they were the finest people out of Heaven. (Laughter and cheers). If those three things were not worth fighting for, well the sooner they were wiped off the face of the earth the better. But he was sure that all Britons would do their duty. On behalf of the Corps he had pleasure in asking Lady Beaumont to accept one of the badges as a memento of the occasion and as a token of their good wishes towards her. (Cheers) The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

Lady Beaumont thanked them very much. She said she had not a buttonhole, but would have a little hole made so that she could wear the badge. She was pleased to see on the badge the Union Jack for which many brave men had died. She pointed out that there was a right way and a wrong way to hang the Union Jack. The broad white stripes should always be uppermost. If the thin white stripes were at the top it signalled defeat, and was how an enemy would hang the flag when he had captured it. She was told that by a sailor.

The Vicar, (the Rev. C. Shrewsbury), said there were advantages in having Citizen Corps. It showed that while they could not join the regular army they were prepared to do their little bit. He mentioned that the Thringstone schoolmaster had joined the Durham Light Infantry and in a letter said he found sleeping on the floor rather hard at first, but he liked it now and hoped the war would not be over before he got a chance of going to the front. He knew that some Whitwick and Thringstone men were at the front – Private West of Whitwick, Private Thomas Gee, of Thringstone, and others. He had in his magazine a list of all the men from the parish who had responded to their country's call and said all could do something to help those who were left behind. (Cheers)

Private A. H. Chapman, proposing a vote of thanks to Capt. Stevenson for presiding, said he would much rather have that little badge than all the iron crosses the Kaiser had ever made. (Laughter and Cheers) Private Blow seconded and the vote was heartily accorded, Capt. Stevenson responding. During the proceedings, Private West sang "Rule Britannia," Private Dickens gave "Hearts of Oak," and there were other contributions, Mr G. H. Hallam being the accompanist.

The National Anthem was sung at the close and three cheers given for Lady Beaumont. Her Ladyship said she had made many new friends that night and she hoped she would keep them all.

HALF BURTON'S MEN SERVING

Nearly half the adult male population of Burton-on-Trent is serving either with the regular forces or with organisations such as the National Reserve and the Volunteer Training Corps. Of the 9,000 or so men in the borough, the army has already claimed 3,000, and over 1,300 of these ineligible for enlistment are drilling with various bodies of semi-official nature.

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ARRIVAL OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT LEICESTER

On Saturday evening a Midland Red Cross train from Southampton, brought 180 sick and wounded British soldiers to Leicester, for treatment at 5th Northern Hospital. The men represented many of the army units who have taken part in the fighting near Ypres, and amongst them are a number of Sherwood Foresters. A considerable percentage was invalided home sick, and others were suffering from frost bite in the feet or hands. Of the wounded there were 50 cot cases. All the men bore traces of the hardships they had passed through, their uniforms in many instances being caked with mud. Mr A. W. Faire, the County Commissioner of the V.A.D., superintended the detraining of the men, who were served with hot tea on the platform, and then conveyed to the hospital in motor cars.

LEICESTER SOLDIER WOUNDED IN ELEVEN PLACES

One of the most remarkable escapes from death during the present war is that of Pte. E. Johnson, of Leicester, of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. In a letter from a hospital in France he writes to his wife: *"I am not getting on too grand, but must look on the bright side of things, as I know a few Germans went under my rifle. I am wounded in nine places, and have such pains in my head that they nearly send me mad. My leg too, troubles me very much. I have three wounds in my leg, two in the head, one in my throat, one in my right hand, and two through the left arm."*

In a later communication from one of the chaplains of the forces, the writer states that Johnson is actually wounded in eleven places.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

A letter posted three months ago to a private in the 1st Berkshire Regiment at the front has just reached him at his home in Banbury. He had been to the front, fought his battles and was invalided home while the Post Office were making ceaseless efforts to trace him.

About 200 parcels were packed up ready to despatch from the Coalville Recruiting Offices yesterday to the men of the 1st and 2nd Leicestershire Regiments at the front, the money for which was raised at a recent patriotic concert at the Olympia Theatre. The articles included socks, woollen vests, pants, mittens, body belts, sweaters, scarves, etc., and each parcel contained two or three, together with two cards, printed on one of which was the following:

"A present for the Leicestershire's at the front, December 1914. The residents of Coalville and District send their warmest greetings to you, wishing you every good luck and a safe return. The presents were given by your friends who are continually thinking and feel proud of the brave boys at the front. Will the receiver of this parcel kindly return the enclosed card notifying its safe arrival. – Capt. Stevenson, R. Blower, W. Baldwin, recruiting committee, Hotel Street, Coalville, Leicestershire."

The other card had the name and address of Capt. Stevenson printed on it and space for the name of the recipient and any remarks he wished to make.

Writing from 501 Polson Avenue, Winnipeg, Canada, Mrs Margaron, who is a daughter of the late Mr James Burton of Hugglescote, and a sister of the Hugglescote and Ellistown band master, states that no doubt friends in Coalville and Hugglescote will be interested to know that her husband, Mr Freeman Margaron, has volunteered for military service. He was one of the 50 men selected from the Winnipeg 2nd Field Troop of

Engineers, who have now joined the Corps of Engineers mobilized in connection with Canada's Second Expeditionary Force, and will be kept in active training (now at Ottawa) until the departure of the force from Canada. Mr Margarson is a telephone engineer and hopes to serve his King and Country in that capacity at the front.

The ladies of Market Bosworth being anxious to assist all they can in connection with the war in dealing with the wounded, formed themselves into an ambulance class and were fortunate in securing Mrs Keeling, wife of the doctor as instructress. The class has just completed its meetings and to mark their appreciation of the services of Mrs Keeling, the members have presented her with a time piece. Miss Hartshorne made the presentation.

Capt. Stevenson informs us that the "patriotic" prize-drawing will take place at the Coalville Olympia tonight and the result will be announced there and in our next issue.

BAGWORTH

FLOWER SHOW

On Saturday evening a meeting in connection with the flower show was held in the Plough club-room, Mr H. Ball presiding. Mr Ball was re-elected Chairman, Mr E. Smith vice-chairman, Mr H. Cherrey, secretary, and Mr T. H. Smith treasurer, and a working committee to draft out a proposed schedule of prizes for the next show. It was decided to hold the next show in August. The secretary stated that special prizes had been offered, and he had accepted them, and his action was approved. Mr H. Cherrey was presented with a fountain pen for the services he had rendered as secretary for the committee for the first show, which had proved quite a success. From the proceeds from the show, the sum of £3 3s had been given to the National Relief Fund.

WHITWICK

WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive was held in the National School on Wednesday night to provide comforts for wounded soldiers in hospital. About 70 were present. Mr T. W. Bourne was M.C. The winners were:

Ladies: 1st Miss L. Middleton; 2nd Mrs Greasley; 3rd Miss N. Glynn:

Gents: 1st Mr B. Ward; 2nd Mr H. Hicken; 3rd Mr A. Smith: and mystery, Mr J. King.

DO YOU KNOW

That the members of the Coalville Citizen Corps have received their badges?

That one of the Belgian refugees at Ravenstone has again been called up for military service?

That Corps is pronounced "kore," not "Corpse" as is so frequently heard since the Citizens have come into prominence?

That the Committee of the Coalville Co-Operative Society have decided to give all the Belgian refugees in the district a tea at the Adult School Hall tomorrow week?

That Pte. Hancock, of Ravenstone, and Pte. Wilson, of Coalville, of the Coldstream Guards who were both injured in the fighting on the continent and have recovered, have left home to rejoin their regiments this week?

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CONCERT

A successful concert was given in the Coalville Adult School Hall on Wednesday evening by the pupils of Lidgely's studios of Music, Leicester. The proceeds being for the local Belgian refugees fund. There was a capital attendance, including some of the refugees. Mr Sanders Papworth, was the leader, and Miss Annie Dyer the pianist, the following being the programme:

Polka March "Raglan", Orchestra; song, "Constancy," Miss G. Mann; mandolin solo, "Annie Laurie," Sanders Papworth; duet, "Convent Bells," Misses Eames and Mann; waltz, "Springtime," Orchestra; recitation, "Comrades," Miss G. Mann; banjo solo march, "Under the Double Eagle," Sanders Papworth; march, "The State Express," Lyric Mandolin Club (Messrs. Haslegrave, Shaw, and Rose); march, "Cromwell," Orchestra; song, "My little grey home in the west," Miss G. Mann; banjo solo, march, "Stars and Stripes," Sanders Papworth; song, "Your King and Country need you," Mr A. Shaw; march, "En Ronte," Lyric Mandolin Club; march, "The Terriers," Orchestra; and God Save the King.

ASHBY

News has been received by Mr Joseph Kitchen, of Hilton's Yard, Ashby, that his son, Pte. Harry Kitchen, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, was killed in action on November 18th.

Pte. Kitchen was 29, and after serving nine years with his regiment in India and South Africa, he went to Canada about twelve months ago, where he married. When the war broke out he answered the call on reservists and rejoined his regiment, which was ordered to the front.

Kitchen was a scholar at the Blue Coat School, under Mr Morley, afterwards working for Mr T. Radford, of the Hall Farm, Coleorton. He enlisted when he was 19.

RAVENSTONE SOLDIER KILLED

We regret to learn that Mr and Mrs J. Andrews of Ravenstone, have received a notification from the War Office that their son, Lance-Corpl. J. C. Andrews, of the 1st Beds. Regt., has been killed in action. No details are given. Andrews, who had been in the army about three years, had recently been promoted from private. He has a brother in the Territorials. A portrait of Andrews will appear in our next issue.

IBSTOCK

BELGIAN REFUGEES

A good number of Ibstock people are taking an active interest in the Belgian refugees staying at Sefton House, Barlestone, entertaining them to tea on Sundays and visiting them during the week, and in spite of the language difficulty they are learning some dreadful things which the refugees have had to bear at the hands of the Germans. The host and hostess of a couple of Belgian ladies last Sunday was told by their visitors that their parents and two brothers were shot dead at Antwerp by German Officers simply because they refused to enter their service.

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COALVILLE BELGIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE'S THANKS

Dear Sir,

The Belgian Refugees Committee desire through the medium of your paper to thank the public of Coalville and District for the generous response they have made to the Committee's appeal for furniture and funds towards providing a home for the unfortunate Belgians.

There are now in residence at Broom Leys, 50 men, 11 women and 11 children, many of whom are in sore need of warm clothing. The Committee therefore appeal to the generous public for gifts of clothing, so that the refugees, many of whom are soldiers recovering from wounds, may be comfortably clad.

The immediate needs are as follows:- 12 overcoats, 30 jackets, 30 waistcoats, 30 pairs trousers, 20 woollen shirts, 40 pairs woollen pants, 57 woollen undervests, 40 pairs stockings, 60 handkerchiefs, 26 soft felt hats, 26 caps, 32 pairs boots, 66 pairs half-hose, 48 ties, 45 soft collars and 24 woollen scarves.

All parcels should be addressed to me at 12, Market Place, Coalville, and should bear on the outside the name and address of the donor, so that due acknowledgment may be sent.

Thanking you, Mr Editor, for the insertion of this appeal. I am, yours faithfully.

Edgar Hawthorn
Hon. Sec.
December 3rd, 1914.

SOLDIERS' SINGING CONTEST

Dear Sir,

A singing contest was held here (Sawbridgeworth, Herts.) on December 1st, open to the 5th Battalion of the Leicesters. The prize winners were as follows:

1st, a safety razor and case, Pte. Eastwood, F. Company; 2nd, a silver mounted cigarette case, Pte. C. H. Baker, A. Company; 3rd, a silver mounted pipe, Sergeant Perkins.

From A Coalville Lad

LEICESTERSHIRE MINERS' ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

At the monthly Council meeting of the Leicestershire Miners' Association, on Friday night, Mr John Wilton presiding, the committee appointed to deal with the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund was also delegated to consider the question of the local Belgian refugees fund in the Desford, Ibstock and Coalville districts and report to the Council, also to make enquiries as to the rate of wages paid to any refugees who may be working in or about the mines.

ADULT SCHOOL AND THE WAR

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The December number of the "One and All" has the following Christmas message to all Adult School men in khaki and on "active service" for their country.

Comrades, Very many of you have gone from our schools to undertake new and heavy responsibilities, to endure hardships and dangers to offer, if need be, life itself for the cause in which our country is fighting.

We who remain at home are deeply conscious of your sacrifice and service. We remember you with affection every day that passes, desiring high and noble things for you. But especially at this time, when Christmas draws near when home circles will seem so strangely incomplete lacking you and your comrades in arms, we think lovingly of you and send out to you strong thoughts of hope and cheer and courage.

Whether you are engaged in service "at the front" or in the trying and difficult work of preparation and training, we trust that you may find inspiration in the memories of the happy hours we have spent together in our schools, classes and clubs, that the lessons of life which we studied together may strengthen you to meet new occasions and new duties and that at no distant date we may welcome you back to our homes and schools.

We use few words to assure you of all our love, and hopes, and prayers on your behalf. We would add yet these; "Pray ye also for us, that we may all be made worthy of this immeasurable sacrifice of life." Bound with you in a fellowship that no distance can sever – We are, very sincerely.

Your Fellow Members

A BRAVE COALVILLE "TOMMY"

THE ONLY ONE SAVED FROM A WHOLE BATTERY

An interesting letter has been received by Mr J. Scrivens, of 134, Margaret Street, Coalville, from his son's wife, who resides at 15, Athol Terrace, Egypt Road, Basford, Nottingham, which describes a thrilling escape of her husband from death in the fighting on the Continent.

The soldier referred to is Driver James Scrivens, of the 16th Battery, 41st Brigade, 2nd Division Army Corps, Royal Field Artillery.

He was working at the Dye Works, New Basford, at the outbreak of the war and was called up as a reservist. He has been in several engagements and is now in hospital at Rouen, wounded in the back.

His wife writes, "*We have something to be thankful for, as the Germans cut up all the 16th Battery but Jim and Lieut. Oswald Anne. The Germans put all the guns out of action but one, and Jim and the Lieutenant stuck to it until the infantry came up and threw the enemy back. We may have Jim home for Christmas and it would be a godsend. I had a letter from him on Saturday and he is going on all right. They have removed him to the hospital at Rouen.*"



COALVILLE BROTHERS AT THE FRONT

ONE OF THEM WOUNDED

Lance-Corporal Arthur Ballard, who with his brother Levi (a private), is serving in France with the 2nd Leicesters, writes to his brother, Mr Ballard, of 53, Long Row, Coalville, on November 26th stating that he and Levi were in good health and having a little rest after being in the firing line. They expected to go in the trenches again in a little while, but were thankful for having come out all right up to now. He proceeds, "*I cannot tell you anything else only that we are well fed and clothed and have no cause to grumble in the least. I shall have a lot to tell you when it is all over, if we come out safe, as we hope we shall, but in any case, it is for a good cause and right will win.*"

In a subsequent letter dated December 2nd, Ballard, having expressed thanks for a parcel received, says he has a little bad news and that was to tell them that Levi had been wounded in the hand. They were not to worry, however, as he did not think it was very bad. He did not know where they had sent him and could not tell them any more.

The Ballards were both in India when the war broke out and the lance-corporal would have finished his seven years in the army last October, six years having been spent in India. Private Ballard has served about four years, of which three have been spent in India.



BURIED BY A SHELL

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S "NOVEL EXPERIENCE"

Mr W. Wesson, of 108, Margaret Street, Coalville, has received a letter from his son, Harry, with the British Expeditionary Force stating that he is still in the best of health, except that he had a little misfortune in falling on an opened tin and cutting his thumb. He had started to use it again now. Alf was in hospital with frost bitten feet and so he could not say how he was getting on. The letter, which is dated November 29th, proceeds, *"We had our first time in the trenches a little over a week ago. I had a novel experience. I was in a reserve place along with 6 others, when we got buried through a shell falling near. Luckily, no one was hurt, but it was a bit of a shock. It was then that I cut my thumb."*

In another letter to relatives Mr and Mrs Harrison of Main Street, Ravenstone, Wesson speaks of his baptism of fire, when he was *"buried,"* as above referred to, and says they had quite a hot time of it. *"Shells were bursting all around us for a time, but our artillery soon put a stop to them."* In jocular vein he adds, *"We have a good chance of a medal and perhaps a wooden leg now so keep your eyes on the roll in the papers, I am looking forward to a German pie as I am fed up with German sausage. We are all enjoying ourselves and that is more than some not many yards from my here can say."*

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S OPTIMISM

HAS NO DOUBT WHO WILL WIN

Private A. Edwards with the No. 4 Signal Section, British Expeditionary Force, writing to his sister, Mrs G. Ward of Oxford Street, Coalville, on November 30th, says that the snow had all cleared away from the battlefield, but they were having rain and it was very windy. However, he was well prepared for the cold weather and did not think he would take much harm. The country there was beginning to look a bit more settled, but it would be a long time before Belgium assumed anything like its usual aspect. He proceeds, *"I feel awfully sorry for the Belgian refugees. I suppose they are quite pleased to be where they are safe from the Huns, and I expect some of them will want to stay in England after the war is over. I suppose you have seen by the papers that things are looking very favourable for the Allies and I have no doubt who will be victorious in the end. Bill (the Kaiser) has had one or two big shocks lately."*

IBSTOCK YEOMAN IN THE TRENCHES

Mr George Morton, fruiterer, Ibstock, has received the following from Trooper J. W. Dawson, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, C. Squadron, now on active service who writes: *"Just a line to say I am alright. We have not had much time for writing much the last few days but are now getting a rest. We have had a rough time for a week in the trenches under heavy fire, but were very fortunate to only have one casualty. The weather is cold and wintry. We have plenty of under-clothing and food but I should like a bit of your chocolate sometimes. Remember me to all the boys at Ibstock."*

COALVILLE REFUGEE'S HARD CASE

HOTEL PROPRIETOR'S HEAVY LOSSES

INTERESTING EVENTS AT BROOM LEYS

The more one gets to know of the experiences of the seventy odd Coalville refugees the more one is impressed by the terrible hardships which these unfortunate people have had to undergo, and the more one realises the indebtedness of England to the little country across the North Sea, whose sons fought so heroically in the opening stages of the war and are still adding to their laurels in the Allied Forces.

In another visit to Broom Leys on Tuesday the writer made the acquaintance of M. Jean Gaspers, who is staying there with his wife and 2 children and who was formerly a hotel proprietor, at Herve, near Liege. M. Gaspers, some twenty years ago, was a waiter in England, holding positions in London, Harrowgate and Swansea and though he has forgotten much of it, he speaks the English language very well. Herve, we were informed, was a prosperous little town of about 5,000 inhabitants close to Liege. His house was the Hotel du Chemin de fer, Café Restaurant, which, as his business card states, was en face de la gare (opposite the station). He had an excellent business there, the hotel building, which was his own property, being worth £4,000. This has been totally destroyed by the "cultured" huns and M. Gaspers, like thousands of his fellow countrymen, finds himself an exile, homeless, his wealth all gone and – nay, not friendless, for he says he has found some splendid friends in England and that this is a fine country to be in. One could only marvel at the cheerfulness of a man with such bitter memories.

In the course of our conversation, M. Gaspers stated that it was at his hotel that the general of the invading forces – General Von Emish – passed his first night on entry into the town. That was on August 4th. "Mine host" treated his visitor well, but next day, had to flee for his life, with hundreds of others, leaving everything behind. In this little town, said M. Gaspers, 327 houses were burnt down, his hotel being among them. His own words were:

"My house was worth £4,000, but everything has gone and we have got nothing. We were in the house for nearly two hours while it was burning. And all this without any reason." Herve, it was stated, was a manufacturing town, chiefly boots and shoes, and there were also collieries in the neighbourhood.

There was a fresh arrival at Broom Leys on Tuesday and one departure – the old lady of the party who had gone to reside with a relative in Dartford, Kent. Two of the men started work at Whitwick Colliery on Wednesday, and one is likely to commence work as a baker in the town next week. The latter by-the-way is the man who is shortly to be married. The arrangements for the wedding are proceeding, but Father Degen informs us that owing to the formalities which have to be gone through in accordance with Belgian law, they have not yet been able to fix the date. He is in correspondence with the Belgian Consul in London on this matter.

Events at Broom Leys during the week have considerably contributed to the enjoyment of the party. A bagatelle table has been installed and is very popular, while the piano, kindly lent by Mr J. Johnson, of the Coalville Electric Theatre, has arrived, and is much appreciated. On Tuesday night, Miss Doris Lindley played and sang to the refugees, who joined heartily in the chorus of "Tipperary," which they have well off by heart. Dancing was also indulged in.

On Sunday morning the refugees went to Mass at the Whitwick Holy Cross Church, the lame soldiers being conveyed in a brake sent by Father O'Reilly, and in accordance with an arrangement by Mrs J. J. Sharp on Sunday afternoon, one of the Coalville motor "busses" conveyed the party to a patriotic concert at Whitwick. Sunday was a busy day for Mr and Mrs Hardwicke, the master and matron, as most of their charges had invitations out to tea, and many of them were called for and had to be introduced, while others were given directions as to their destination.

The medical attendant, Dr. Wykes, of Hugglescote, informs us that on the whole the health of the refugees is good. Some of them have colds, but there is now no 'bed cases.'

Our old friend Joseph Bogaerts is still very anxious to find work. He is the Antwerp naval engineer to whom we have previously referred, and he is willing to try any kind of work that he could do. He speaks four languages, English, French, Flemish and Spanish.

The Committee had a meeting at Broom Leys on Tuesday night presided over by Mr W. Lindley, J.P. There was a good attendance, the members evidently all being anxious to see that everything goes on smoothly and their services are much appreciated. As will be seen in another column the committee are appealing for articles of clothing which are badly needed.

BELGIANS AT BARLESTONE

The following list of the Belgian refugees at Sefton House, Barlestone who are being maintained by the Ibstock Committee.

M. Jules Cappaert, Madame Philomene Cappaert, from Antwerp. M. Joseph Haesen, Frans Haesen and Joseph Haesen (sons of the above) from Antwerp. M. Guillaume Borghs, Madame Isabella Borghs, Joanna Borghs (daughter of the above), Joseph Borghs (son of the above), from Antwerp. Mademoiselle Marie Ceuppers, from Antwerp. Madame Marie Gisset, from Liege. Madame Henrietta Dombret, from Liege. M. Frederic Leneers, from Antwerp. M. Marcel Van Crumbruggen, from Antwerp. M. Victor Boulet, from Liege.

HEARTY SEND-OFF TO COALVILLE TERRITORIALS

LEFT FOR LOUGHBOROUGH ON MONDAY

Enthusiastic scenes were witnessed at Coalville on Monday afternoon in connection with the departure of the local company of Territorial reserves for Loughborough. The men, who numbered about 180, paraded in the Marlborough Square, in the presence of a large crowd. Capt. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer, complimented Coalville on having done so well, and these lads in particular on their smartness and progress made in the drills. He said they were going to Loughborough that day, and after a time would go to Luton, and then probably to the front.

The recruits then marched to Coalville East Station, headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band playing "Tipperary" and other patriotic airs. A crowd of many hundreds assembled at the station to give them a hearty send-off. They were conveyed by special train and before it moved out, Mr R. Blower (Chairman of the Coalville Urban Council) called for three cheers for the boys which were lustily given and the band played "Auld Lang Syne."

PATRIOTIC CONCERT AT WHITWICK

SUCCESSFUL EFFORT FOR THE LOCAL YEOMANRY

It was estimated that about 800 people were present on Sunday afternoon at a patriotic concert, organised by Mrs J. J. Sharp and others, at the Whitwick Holy Cross School, with the object of providing comforts for the C. Squadron of the Leicestershire Yeomanry now at the front. Remarkable enthusiasm was displayed and the event was a great success.

The members of the Coalville Citizen Corps marched from Coalville headed by the Coronation Brass Band, and the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps were also present after having paraded the district to the strains of the Whitwick Holy Cross Band. The large central hall of the school was packed.

Col. E. M. P. de Lisle presided and was supported by his son, Sub-Lieut. E. de Lisle, who has joined the Melton squadron of the Yeomanry, the Right Hon. Charles Booth, and Capt. W. E. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer, and there were also on the platform a number of the Belgian refugees.

The Chairman, in the course of a short speech, referred to the excellent work of the Leicestershire Yeomanry and the hardships being undergone at the front. He was proud to have belonged to the Yeomanry for 24 years and regretted that he could not be with them now.

Capt. Stevenson made one of his characteristic speeches, appealing to the patriotism of the young men of the district and the key note of the meeting was struck by the Right Hon. Charles Booth, who said they all had to put to themselves the question, "What can I do?" The musical programme opened with the singing of the Russian National Anthem as a duet by Mrs J. J. Sharp and Mr J. Clarke; Mrs Payne, of Leicester, a talented performer on the violin gave an exquisite solo; Miss Burkitt nicely sang "Civilians All"; a capital cornet

solo was given by Mr J. W. Burton, the master of the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band; Mrs Hatter's fine recitation, "The Victoria Cross" won for the Hugglescote lady loud and well deserved applause.

In the interval came the speeches, above referred to and the second part of the programme was opened with a finely executed violin solo by Mr Denis Hubert, a Belgian refugee from Shepshed; other items much enjoyed were Mrs Sharp's song, "Your King and Country need you" and songs by Mrs G. F. Burton, Mr Lawrence Gough, and "The Marseilles" by Mr Lidster, of Quorn, the closing piece being the British National Anthem.

Father O'Reilly proposed a vote of thanks to Mr de Lisle and also spoke of the good work of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, emphasising the excellence of the object for which they had met that day. The vote was heartily accorded and thanks were also expressed to all who had assisted. Admission to the concert was by silver collection, and this, with a few subscriptions, including £2 from the Whitwick Holy Cross school children, realised the splendid sum of £18 2s, in addition to which a few gifts were also taken.

The promoters of the concert are to be heartily congratulated on this excellent result. The money is being forwarded to Col. Franke to be spent in comforts for the men.

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ASHBY POLICE COURT

Saturday – Before Mr George Moore (in the chair) Major Hatchett, Mr J. German, Mr J. Turner and Mr T. Dennis.

Attempted Suicide

Harry Lewis (60), shoemaker, Ashby, was charged with attempted suicide at Ashby on November 25th. P.S. Fox stated that the prisoner was found in a hut on the Moira Road allotments with his throat cut. He said he had committed the deed with a boot maker's knife. His condition was then serious, he was removed to the hospital. Defendant had since told witness that he was sorry. He had been ill and was worried by the war, a son of his having gone to the front.

The prisoner was discharged and handed over to friends, the costs 8s 6d being remitted.

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LEICESTER MAN KILLED IN NAVAL BATTLE

Private Walter J. Kind, of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, a Leicester man whose relatives reside at Wellington Street, is reported by the Admiralty as one of the seven killed in the action by Vice-Admiral Sturdee's squadron off the Falkland Islands on December 8th.

MARKFIELD'S ROLL OF HONOUR

The following is the roll of honour for Markfield District:

H. Spiby, H. Spence, J. Simons, A. Hewitt and F. Bott (Yeomanry), A. Hull (17th Hussars), H. Bott (R.F.A.) (wounded), G. Wood (Coldstreams) (disabled), E. Williamson (Hussars) (reported killed), F. S. Nix (1st Leicesters), George Hadley and George Moyser, R.N. (the former interned in Holland), Joseph Bent (Reservist), Lieutenant Haynes (Medical Officer, 4th Leicesters), Second-Lieutenant R. Prevelt (5th K.O.Y.L.A.) R. Clapham and Clapham (Yeomanry), P. L. Preston, A. Bailey, L. Bailey, H. Boyles, J. Brooks, H. Arnold, J. Cave, E. Wylds, H. Kirk, W. Haynes, F. G. Pearce, J. Walton, T. Wardle, G. Haywood, and A. Wardle (Kitchener's Army), B. C. Gibbins, J. Wells, A. P. Bott, R. Irons, A. J. Windram, E. Bott, H. Bott, and R. Swain (Territorials), S. Bott (R.F. Artillery), Percy Tyers (Reservist), A. Cave (Grenadiers), W. Sibson (Leicesters), H. A. V. Hull (3rd Beds), W. Higgs (R.N.), W. Chapman, E. Wardle (R.E.), Rev. H. K. Bros (Chaplin Yeomanry), T. Woodford and William Shelton (A.S.C.), and A. H. Mason (9th Leicesters).

BARTON-IN-THE-BEANS

WAR FUND

A meeting was held in the Day School on Monday, December 7th to consider how the money amounting to £3, collected by the women of the village, and a few others in the district during the month of November, should be spent. It was decided to send Christmas parcels containing socks and various other comforts, to Mr F. Thompson, of the Leicester Yeomanry, and to our young men who have left the neighbourhood to serve their country. A further sum of £4 11s which had been collected in the same way was sent to the "Daily Express" blanket fund. It was decided to continue these collections during the winter.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

On Saturday last, a visitor to Coalville lost a lady's handbag containing over 20s and reported her loss to the Police. Later in the day, the bag, with the contents intact, was taken to the Police station by two of the Belgian refugees staying at Broom Leys, who had picked it up in the street. The two Belgians were Jellis Corneel, and Gustaaf Newenhuysen.

Mrs S. A. Corfield, of Fudge Row, Markfield, has three sons who passed through the Boer War, and two sons now on active service, one in West Africa and the other with the 3rd Leicesters. A third has joined the Leicester Citizen Corps. Two grandsons and six nephews responded to their country's call. One of the grandsons is in the Flying Corps, and the other with the Leicestershire Territorials. One of the nephews, William Millichap, aged 33, died recently, following a wound in the foot, and another, J. B. Millichap, is seriously wounded in the thigh. Mrs Corfield possesses an interesting letter, dated 29th October, 1900, from the late Queen Victoria, in which the Queen expressed her gratification on learning that Mrs Corfield had five sons in the army, and notified the sending of a P.O.O. for £3 as a mark of her Majesty's appreciation of this interesting fact. Mrs Corfield is 67 years of age and has been a widow many years.

Loughborough can claim some measure of connection with two of the most important naval events in the war in the fact that both the admirals concerned have relatives in the town. Admiral Cradock being a cousin of Miss Cradock, and the Quorn family of that name, and Admiral Sturdee being cousin to Rev. R. J. Sturdee, vicar of St. Peters.

Coalville readers will be interested to learn that Master W. H. King, Springstone Avenue, Ossett, Yorks, who raised £4 0s 7d for Princess Mary's fund for Christmas gifts to soldiers and sailors, has received the following letter:-

Buckingham Palace – Mr E. W. Wallington is desired by Princess Mary to convey her best thanks to Master William H. King for the splendid contribution he has so kindly made towards Her Royal Highness's sailors' and soldiers' Christmas fund, and to assure him that Princess Mary very much appreciates his efforts in so materially assisting her fund. 5th December, 1914.

Master King is a son of Mr King, insurance superintendent, who formerly lived at Bardon View, London Road, Coalville, leaving here about 12 months ago.

DO YOU KNOW

That the bagatelle table at Broom Leys, which is being much appreciated by the refugees, has been lent by the Coalville Y.M.C.A.?

That the Coalville Town and Swifts football match on Saturday last was witnessed by some of the Belgian refugees?

That 291 Leicestershire Adult School men, including a number from Coalville, are serving with the colours?

That arrangements are being made for a big patriotic concert in the Whitwick Picture Theatre on Christmas night?

That one hundred and nine members of the Shepshed Conservative Club are now with His Majesty's forces?

That the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild are arranging for a great whist drive and social in the Bridge Road Council School on New Year's Eve?

That about a dozen more Belgian refugees arrived at Ashby on Monday and are being accommodated with the others at St. Helen's House?

That about a thousand soldiers (Royal Engineers) and three hundred horses are to be billeted at Ashby and will probably stay a month or more?

That the 16th batch of wounded soldiers arrived in Leicester on Wednesday night, 180 in number, including several cases of frostbite?

That Mrs Blythe has handed over the excellent sum of £6 18s to the Soldiers' Comforts Guild as a result of the recent social at Ellistown?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

At a meeting of the Coalville collectors for this fund at the Adult School Hall on Monday evening, Mr A. Lockwood presided and also present were Capt. McKernon and the Hon. Secretary (Mr F. S. Weaver). It was reported that the result of the seventh weekly collection was £11 12s 10d which included £1 3s 1d collected at the Victoria Hotel per Mr G. Bramwell. Thirteen districts were represented at the meeting.

HUGGLESCOTE SELECT DANCING CLASS

In connection with the above a Christmas Dance will be held in the Church of England Schools on Monday, December 28th, 1914, 7.30 until 1 o'clock. Proceeds in aid of the funds for providing comforts for Leicestershire soldiers and sailors. Tickets 1s each, may be obtained at the class, or from Mr George Choyce and Miss Choyce. Refreshments at moderate charges.

THRINGSTONE SCHOOLMASTER KILLED

The sad news was received at Thringstone yesterday afternoon that during the German bombardment of Hartlepool, the Thringstone Church schoolmaster, Mr T. Jones, was killed. A telegram to this effect was received by the Vicar, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, from his old Vicar, of St. Aidans, West Hartlepool. It stated that Mr Jones was killed at his post.

Mr Jones came to Thringstone about a year ago. He volunteered for service in connection with the war leaving Thringstone early in October, and he joined as a private in the County Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. The men had been training near Durham and were recently moved to West Hartlepool.

The deceased wrote several letters to the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, all of a very cheery nature. He was a good sportsman and last season played with the Coalville Rugby Club. In the short time he had been at Thringstone he had made many friends and was very popular. His death will be much deplored. It is rather a coincidence that his military duties should have taken him to West Hartlepool, the same town where he was following his scholastic profession before coming to Thringstone. He has a brother at the front, in the Grenadier Guards. Mr Jones was 28 years of age and single.

MUSICAL EVENING AT BROOM LEYS

REFUGEES ENJOYING THEMSELVES

DATE OF WEDDING FIXED

Everything is proceeding satisfactorily at Broom Leys, Coalville, where seventy odd Belgian refugees have formed themselves into a happy family. Many of them have already made friends in the district and on Sunday afternoon practically the whole of them were invited out to tea. Four of the men a few days ago

started work at the Whitwick Colliery and arrangements were made for four more to commence yesterday. The baker, who is to be married shortly, unfortunately met with a nasty accident on Sunday morning. He was operating the bread slicing machine when he cut a small piece off the end of the second finger of his left hand. The poor fellow was very downcast at this misfortune, the more so because at midnight on Sunday he was to have started work in the bakery at the Co-Operative stores. His accident has delayed his commencing work, upon which he is very keen. The wedding has been fixed for Thursday, January 7th. Father Degen has completed all the necessary arrangements, except that it is not yet definitely known whether the ceremony will be at St. Saviour's Church, Coalville, or Holy Cross, Whitwick. Mr Joseph Alldread, of the Highfields Nurseries has kindly promised to give a bouquet. A gift of a wedding ring would be welcomed.

Readers will regret to learn that M. Joseph Bogaerts, who has acted as interpreter for the party is in bed with influenza, but this is the only case of any of the party being confined to the house through illness. One of the refugees left on Tuesday morning having obtained a situation at Coventry. Another man left the same day with the object of returning to Belgium in order, if possible, to find his wife and children as to whose fate he was much concerned. There were also two fresh arrivals on Tuesday – two ladies from Earl's Court. One of them is the mother and the other the cousin of one of the young men already at Broom Leys, and, anxious to see him, they came on a visit but we understand the committee are trying to arrange for them to stay, as they brought the news that there were still a large number of refugees congregated at Earl's Court waiting to be sent to homes in the country.

It ought to be mentioned that Mr Walter Higgins, of High Street, Coalville, and his staff are rendering excellent service free to the refugees in their application of the tonsorial art. Twice a week – on Wednesday and Sunday – Mr Higgins and his assistants are shaving some forty or fifty men besides cutting hair as required, which is no light task but is cheerfully and willingly undertaken.

A great event took place on Tuesday evening. The committee, with the kindly thought and consideration which has characterised all their dealings with the refugees, had arranged a musical evening, under the presidency of Mr J. Husband, and the party had quite a jolly time. The large room made an excellent concert hall and the musical talent of Coalville was well represented in the programme, while several of the Belgians themselves also contributed capital items. It is surprising to note how rapidly several of Coalville's guests from abroad are picking up our language, and when Miss Hawthorn sang "Tipperary," they all took up the chorus in excellent English and with much gusto. Miss Doris Lindley nicely sang, "The Rosary" both in English and French, and Mrs Percy Brown gave an excellent rendering of the now popular patriotic song, "Your King and country need you" and followed this with the pretty song "Until." Mr R. J. Brown gave "A little soldier man," and Mr Walter Brown was prevailed upon to give his old favourite "Simon the cellarer," which he did in fine style. There was also a violin solo by Mr H. R. Brown and a piano and mandolin duet by two Coalville boys, Masters Leslie and Archie Dable. Some of the items by the Belgians were in character and were most amusing. Mr Sidney Brown was the accompanist.

Mr William Hurst played the accompaniment for the "Brabanconne" (the Belgian National Anthem) which the company heartily sang, and the "Marseillaise" (the French National Anthem) which went with even greater gusto, and when this had finished there were cries of "l'Anglais," and the British National Anthem was also enthusiastically sung.

During an interval, Mr Walter Brown said that when they went back to their native land, he hoped they would think of their friends at Coalville, who tried to entertain them, who were pleased to see them and who sympathised with them in all their trials. This nice little speech, when translated by M. Lauwers, the old man of the party, was received with great applause.

Through the same interpreter, the company at the close accorded a hearty vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the evening's enjoyment. Mr Walter Lindley (Chairman of the Committee) responding, said that if they had enjoyed themselves he was sure the artists would be delighted. They were only pleased that Coalville was able to entertain so many of their friends from Belgium and he hoped they would all continue to enjoy themselves, and at the same time do all they could to make the domestic arrangements of the house go smoothly. Nothing the committee could do for them would be too much. As they had enjoyed themselves so much that night, the committee had arranged for another musical evening on January 4th. They thought it would be best to leave it till then as probably several of them would be invited out for Xmas day by friends in the district.

This intimation having been translated there seemed to be a little doubt as to the date, January 4th, but it ultimately was made clear. "Comprenez?" asked Mr Lindley in admirable French. "Oui, Oui," was the enthusiastic reply.

MONSTER CONCERT AT COALVILLE

IN AID OF THE BELGIAN REFUGEE'S FUND

When it became known that Coalville had launched upon a scheme to entertain Belgian refugees on a large scale and that an appeal was being made for funds, it occurred to the members of the Coalville Philharmonic Society that considerable assistance might be rendered the object by organising a big musical event. In order to make it as popular and representative as possible, the society decided to invite all the choirs of the district and any interested in music to join them, with the result that there was a splendid response and practices which have been going on for some weeks had a happy and successful culmination in the Coalville Olympia last night. The success achieved could not have been accomplished, but for the kindness of Mr McDonald, the lessee, in lending the theatre, a splendid building for the occasion, which was simply packed, the audience probably approaching two thousand people.

The promoters were fortunate in securing the services of artistes who are strongly established favourites with Coalville audiences. Miss Lysette Mostyn, (contralto), Mr Charles Keywood (bass) and Herr. Theo Kienle (the well-known Swiss violinist) are all artistes of the first class who have delighted Coalville people on previous occasions and last night considerably enhanced their local reputation. The programme opened with the singing of the British National Anthem, in which the audience joined and Mr Keywood was vociferously encored for his song, "England Mine," singing in response, "Dusk and the shadows falling." As he was down for still two more items on the programme, for another of which he was encored, it made five items in all by this talented artiste, even then the audience, Oliver Twist like, would still have had more. As an encore for his rendering of "The Trumpeter," Mr Keywood gave the still more pleasing item, "There's a land," and his last contribution was "Son of mine." Miss Mostyn sang with much sweetness and feeling, "Christina's Lament," and was several times recalled, but with two more items to come from this lady and a lengthy programme the audience had to be denied the encore song they would fain have had. Miss Mostyn was even more successful in her other numbers, "Shepherd's cradle song," and "Land of Hope and Glory," the company finally taking up the chorus of Elgar's popular song with much enthusiasm. Herr. Theo Kienle's wonderful performances on the violin (a) "Melodie" (b) "Romance" and "Heyri Kat," were a great treat and that the audience were enraptured was shown by hearty applause and a vociferous encore to the last item.

The United Choir numbered some 250 voices, who under the able direction of Mr Frank Storer, sang most creditably the epilogue from Elgar's "Banner of St. George," "Moonlige" (Eaton Fanning) "The Dawn of Song," (Bairstow) – a very pretty piece – and the National Anthems of the Allies. An interesting contribution was also "La Brahannonne" (the Belgian National Anthem) by about 30 of the refugees, a group of whom on the platform was surmounted by crossed English and Belgian flags.

There were also cleverly executed pianoforte selections by Miss E. Compton Vincent, L.R.A.M. Mr Karl Russell and Mr E. W. Guy ably acted as accompanists. For half an hour or more prior to the commencement of the programme some interesting pictures were shown. During an interval, Mr L. L. Baldwin said that on behalf of the choir he would like to thank them all for crowding the building as they had done in support of the noble cause of the Belgian refugees. He also wished to thank Mr McDonald the lessee of the theatre, whose generosity in lending the building had made such a huge gathering possible. That was the fourth time since the war broke out that Mr McDonald had lent that magnificent hall for patriotic purposes (cheers) and they were to have it again on Sunday afternoon, January 10th when there was to be Citizens' Corps rally, and in addition to items by the choir and soloist, Mr W. A. Brockington would repeat his splendid lecture on "War and patriotism," which he gave last week in the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church to a disgracefully sparse audience. Thanks were also expressed to the manager of the theatre, Mr Kirkham, and his staff, for their help, and to the artistes who, he said had come for their bare expenses. (Applause) And last, but a long way from least they, as a choir, wished to thank their old friend, Mr Storer. (Cheers) The choir had only trained under Mr Storer for a short time, but they had done exceedingly well. (Cheers).

IBSTOCK PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE

The fortnightly meeting of the above committee was held on Thursday in Sefton House, Barlestone. The Rev. S. Flood presided, and there was a good attendance including Mr T. Archer and Mr Jesson of Ashby.

Arising out of the minutes, visiting time were amended as follows: Tuesday afternoons 2 to 4; Thursday evenings 5 to 7. The correspondence re the postal rates of parcels and newspapers to France was read. Both the Post-master General and the Hon. H. D. McLaren replied that nothing further could be done without detrimentally interfering with the essential wants of the soldiers at the front. The financial statements were presented and the estimated expenditure till January 9th was sanctioned.

The secretary (Mr W. Dunstan) explained that Mesdames Dombert and Gisset had returned to Folkestone after finding the formers wounded son at Billesdon Hospital. It was decided to pay for the return journey of these two ladies to Billesdon. The report of the visiting ladies to Sefton House was received. It was decided to offer work, if possible, to the men staying at Sefton House, provided they were found to be after medical examination, physically fit. The question of the rate of board, etc. was deferred. The Committee gratefully accepted and acknowledged the kind offer of Dr. Wilson to give his services as medical attendant to the Belgian friends. With the permission of Mr Archer, it was decided to provide a copper, which Mr Jacques kindly offered to present. The secretaries of patriotic Committees were requested to send in names of those ladies from each parish who would undertake the duties of the weekly visiting on behalf of the committee. It was pointed out that many of the Belgian refugees were in great need of boots, and the secretary was instructed to take steps to supply them. Re invitations to visit outside friends it was decided that acceptance must be entirely left to the Belgians on condition (a) That the invitation must not interfere with visiting hours; (b) that the host must be responsible for safe conduct from and to Sefton House during reasonable hours, and (c) That all arrangements be made through the House Matron and with her approval. The secretary announced that the names of the Belgians at Sefton House had been advertised in local and Belgian papers and that a quantity of clothing had been kindly presented by the Ladies' County Committee. The chairman proposed and Mr Eggington seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Archer for so kindly placing Sefton House at the disposal of the Committee and Mr Archer, replying, congratulated the Committee on the good work they were doing, and expressed his pleasure in being able to help in such a cause. The next meeting was fixed for Thursday, January 7th at Ibstock.

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UNNECESSARY ORDERS

GOOD REPORTS OF LEICESTER SOLDIER'S WIVES

Speaking in the Leicester Market Place on Sunday morning, Mr W. E. Hincks, chairman of the Watch Committee, dealt at some length with the allegations recently made that drinking among the soldier's wives had increased since the outbreak of war. He said the whole country had been moved to furious indignation by the orders issued from the War Office concerning the conduct of the wives of soldiers, and there was a general impression that these orders were a gross reflection on the morality and conduct of the persons in whose interests they were ostensibly issued. The orders, however, in themselves were not nearly so bad as was the general impression concerning them. In Leicester such orders were unnecessary. The most careful and confidential inquiries had been made by the Head Constable, by the teachers of elementary schools, and by the relieving officers, and these showed conclusively that there had been no increase of drinking amongst women whose husbands were at the front. All the reports were of the most satisfactory character and one special feature of them was that the children of soldiers were noticed recently to be better clad, probably as the result of the women having a better income.

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LETTERS SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP

The following notice was issued by the Press Bureau on Friday afternoon.

"The War Office announces that all letters subject to military censorship which appear to be written by an alien enemy in this country or which are addressed to any person residing abroad, are liable to be destroyed by the military censor unless they contain the full name and address of the sender."

SEPARATION ALLOWANCE AND ALLOTMENT PAY

An Army Order issued on Saturday night states that in the case of soldiers who die while serving, separation allowance and allotment, (including volunteer allotment) will be continued by paymasters at the previous rate

to the wives and children of dependants pending further instructions but in no case beyond 26 weekly payment from the date at which official notification of death is first made to the next-of-kin.

In the case of motherless children the pension is ordinarily more beneficial than separation allowance and allotment and will be payable from the date of death.

In cases of cessation of service (such as discharge, transfer to reserve, or desertion), payment will cease from the end of the week in which the notification is received by the paymaster if later.

When a soldier is on ordinary or sick furlough, or in hospital, payment to the wife or dependant is not affected.

On the death of a wife, child, or dependant, payment will cease forthwith. If a child is born to the soldier, the increased rate will take effect from the next weekly payment day after birth.

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RAVENSTONE MAN KILLED

OFFICERS WARM TRIBUTE

“HE DIED A HERO”

“He died a hero. He had done excellent work for his King and country throughout this dastardly war.” In these words from an officer of the regiment, Mr and Mrs Andrews, of Ravenstone, though naturally much grieved at their loss, find some consolation in regard to the death of their son, Lance-Corpl. J. C. Andrews, of the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment, which happened on the 7th November, soon after he had been promoted from a private.

The officer adds in his letter, *“His death is extremely mourned by all his comrades.”* Mr and Mrs Andrews have also received the following letter from Lord Kitchener.

“The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow.

Kitchener”

In the official notification of the death, the place where it occurred is not stated and the only information given is that he was killed in action. The deceased last letter to his parents was dated October 20th and the following is an extract:

“There are lots of things I should like to tell you but we are not allowed to. I will tell you all when I come home, which I hope to do before very long. I don’t think the war will last much longer. I am in good health.”

Another letter which has been received by the deceased's parents is from Pte. J. Starbuck, of Luton who says that he met a wounded soldier from the same regiment and who knew Lance-Corpl. Andrews. This soldier has told the writer that the Bedfords were surrounded by the Germans and had a rough time of it, but Dick, (the deceased) escaped on that occasion, though killed and wounded lay all around. The Bedford regiment was cut off by about 10,000 Germans and had it not been for the Scots Greys there would not have been a man left. The Bedfordshires fired away in the trenches till all their ammunition had gone and then there was nothing else for it, but to fix bayonets and charge. They had resolved to die together rather than surrender. That is British pluck if you like.

Lance-Corpl. Andrews was 23 years of age and had been three years in the army. The village of Ravenstone has several men in the war, some of whom have been wounded, but Andrews is the first Ravenstone man to be killed in action. He was a member of the Rector's Bible Class and in the course of the service on Sunday morning, the rector (the Rev. S. Dowling) made suitable reference to the sad event.

Mr J. Andrews, the deceased's father is a painter and worked for some time on the Gopsall estate (Earl Howe's), but he has been at home for several weeks suffering from rheumatism. Another younger son, George, is serving in the Territorials.



COALVILLE MAN IN NAVAL BATTLE

GUNNER ON ONE OF ADMIRAL STURDEE'S SHIPS

Coalville was represented in the recent splendid naval victory off the Falkland Islands when Admiral Sturdee's squadron sank four German cruisers. Gunner A. G. Morris, of the Royal Marine Artillery, is on board H.M.S. Natal which was one of the ships of the successful British squadron. He is a son of Mr William Morris, picture-framer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, and this was his first engagement. The small list of casualties on the British side and the splendid effect of their fire, testifies to the excellence of the marksmanship of our gunners in which doubtless Gunner Morris had a hand.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S ENCOURAGING LETTER

Pte. Sam Hodgson, of the R.A.M.C. 14th General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force and son of Mr J. Hodgson, tobacconist, High Street, Coalville, writes that on the outbreak of war he was away from home on a holiday but returned immediately and proceeded to Ashby to enlist in the 5th Battalion Leicesters. He met an old chum, Harold Smith, of the Fountain Inn, and after they had marched to Loughborough, they thought being in the "Terriers" was hardly good enough for them and they decided to join the regulars. On the way to the recruiting sergeant in Church Gate, Loughborough they ran into another Coalville man, William Essex, and they all three joined the R.A.M. Corps. They went to Wigston the same night and saw a full battalion of the brave Leicesters leave for the front, which put new life into them. They were soon off to Aldershot and after being there for three weeks received welcome orders to pack up for foreign service. They embarked at Southampton and had not been long in Ostend before down came three bombs from a German aeroplane. They dropped about 50 yards off the ship. But the airmen dropped no more as they were soon brought down by the Belgians. They left Ostend the day before the Germans entered and arrived at _____ where they are still located. They are doing well. He had been pleased to read the "Coalville Times" out there and was interested in the reports of the great recruiting meetings at the Olympia, but he would like to hear of all the Coalville young fellows enlisting. He was sorry to leave his home, but when they thought of the poor Belgians being driven from their homes, he was sure they would all be determined not to let that happen at Coalville. So he urged them to give the recruiting sergeant plenty of work and they would never regret it. He concludes, "*Next time I get the 'Coalville Times' I hope to see 113 recruits, not 13.*"

HAVING A CHAMPION TIME

REQUEST FROM A COALVILLE FOOTBALLER

The Chairman of the Coalville Town Football Club, Mr Johnson, has received another letter from one of the Town's old players, W. Scoon, who is with the Expeditionary Force. He says he has waited anxiously for a parcel they have sent to him but he has not yet received it. He proceeds, "We are having a champion time of

it now. We have been relieved and are having a good rest. We have had a good supply of clothing and fags and tobacco come to us in tons. I want to ask you if you could send a football out. It would be good for our boys if you have one to spare. I shall keep myself in training for next season. Sorry to hear of Marshall's accident, also the poor luck the team is having. Never mind, better luck next season."

COALVILLE MAN PROUD OF HIS REGIMENT

CONGRATULATIONS FROM SIR JOHN FRENCH

Pte. G. Jones (5269) of the Coldstream Guards, whose home is in St. Saviour's Road, Coalville, writes enclosing a copy of Field Marshall Sir John French's speech to the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards at Pradelles and asks us to publish the same, stating that there is a number of Coalville men serving in this regiment. The speech was as follows:

"1st Coldstream Guards – I am proud to be able to say a few words to you. It is seldom I have the opportunity of speaking personally to any of the troops under my command. I must thank you one and all for the very hard and arduous tasks you have performed during this campaign. I am glad to see your Colonel back again after his severe wound, and I am sure you are all very pleased to have him again at your head. You have been engaged in a war covering the whole of Europe, and you have done remarkably well, fighting as you often have, against great odds of two or three to one. You have been in this country since the war began and have seen continuous fighting, suffering severe losses, and at one time I believe you were reduced to eighty men. You have not only upheld the glorious traditions of your famous Regiment, which, as everyone knows, dates back to two or three hundred years, but you have materially added to them.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army, I thank you one and all for your grand services, and your country is also proud of you. You must all feel proud to belong to such a famous and distinguished Regiment as the Coldstream Guards."

CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES

COALVILLE LADS SAFE

Pte. S. Hardy of the 1st Leicesters writing to his wife in Hotel Street, Coalville, in a letter dated the 6th inst., says he is afraid he cannot get home for Christmas, but he hoped to do so by Easter or just after. At the time of writing, the regiment was out of the trenches for a week's rest, but were to go in again on the 15th, and would be in for Christmas. He adds that while the lads were at Church parade in a field (on the 6th inst.) a big gun was firing away at the enemy, who were about six miles away. The lady at the adjoining farm was getting dinner ready for about eight. They were on roast leg of mutton, haricot beans and potatoes. Hardy sent his wife the "Leicester Post" Christmas card, mentioning the presents he received with it and asked her to communicate with the office, and thank them on behalf of his comrades and himself for the splendid gift. Writing to his wife on the 1st inst., Hardy said they had just come out of the trenches for a rest, and he was sure they could do with it after the fortnight they had had with snow, frost and rain. They looked like a lot of "mudlarks." He was pleased to say that all the Coalville lads were safe. He relates that he was going with message, and had to enter a village. The only living thing he saw was a big pig. The village was blown to bits – even the church, nothing standing only the walls.

WHITWICK MAN IN THE TRENCHES

TICKLING THE GERMANS' RIBS

Writing to Mr and Mrs G. F. Burton, Whitwick, Corpl. Yearby, on active service in the R.H.A., states, "I am in a perfect state of health and good spirits. We are just beginning to let the Germans know we are at home. They are doing some very treacherous work. It's not fighting with them. They are afraid of our artillery and especially that little bit of cold steel of our infantry. There are many spies round here, but they get caught in the long run. We are living fairly well but it's very cold and wet. We have also had snow and frosts, but we stick to it like men. I expect you are busy for Christmas, but it will be a funny one for us. We shall have to amuse ourselves tickling the Germans' ribs a bit. What fun eh? Save me a bit of Christmas pudding for about Eastertime and a good smoke. I hope a good many of the Whitwick fellows are coming forward; it's nothing but right they should help. We have been in action for three weeks and last Sunday went out at midnight."

FROM AN OLD COALVILLE BOY

Dear Sir, I am very pleased to see through the columns of the good old "Coalville Times" that the boys of Coalville and District have answered their country's call and are doing their duty well. I get the "Times" every week from my brother and it gives me great pleasure to read the letters from the boys in the paper. I enlisted in the Warwicks fourteen weeks ago and as I was working in Leamington Spa at the time war broke out, or I should certainly have joined the Leicestershire Regiment, but I am doing my duty as an Englishman should do. Since we have been here we have had to make our own rifle range and now we are doing a course of firing on it. Food there is in plenty but it is rough. This is a very good training ground here as there is plenty of waste land for the job. Well good luck to all the boys of Coalville and District.

Samuel Line
(Son of the late T. Line, tailor, Hotel Street, Coalville)

GOOD ADVICE TO IBSTOCK BOYS

LETTER FROM CLUB INSTRUCTOR

Corpl. J. W. Lockton, of the Coldstream Guards, who is instructor of the Ibstock Church Lads' Brigade, and has returned to duty in the trenches after recovering from shrapnel wounds, writes expressing thanks for a parcel he has received from the boys. The letter proceeds, "*I was very pleased to hear of all my boys volunteering for service and that quite a lot of them had gone away. I know that what they have learnt in the C.L.B. will stand them in good stead when being put through the mill. I should think that the people of Ibstock who laughed at us in our great work in the Brigade, realise now that it has come in useful for our King and country, and that it was not playing at drill and discipline. Tell all the boys to stick to their drill and shame the others of our church who will not join them now that they can see the usefulness of our drill etc. I am hoping to come back again someday when we have wiped the Germans for their dirty work off the map.*"

HUGGLESCOTE

DANCE

A dance was held in the Hawley Institute on Wednesday night, the proceeds being for the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild. Messrs. G. Griffin and H. Fort were the M.C.'s and Mr J. Cooper the pianist.

RAVENSTONE

A tea and entertainment were held in the Ravenstone Church school on Wednesday evening in aid of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild. The rector (Rev. S. Dowling) and Mr R. G. Cresswell carried out the arrangements.

IBSTOCK

BELGIAN REFUGEES

For some weeks the local Patriotic Committee have expected to be called upon to provide accommodation at Ibstock for war refugees, and on Sunday a public announcement was made that, at short notice, a party of a dozen men would be sent on, and that they would arrive on Monday evening. Consequently a number of ladies and gentlemen set to work on Monday morning and in the course of the day succeeded in transforming the two rooms at the Old Town Hall into a bedroom and dining room respectively. The rooms presented quite an inviting aspect, and a substantial meal was prepared for the men at the time of their expected arrival. Shortly before this hour a telegram was received from Mr J. T. Jacques, who journeyed from Leicester to meet the party, stating two men only had arrived at Leicester, they were going on to Barlestone. The message added that a further number would probably reach Ibstock a day or so later. The response to the appeal for necessaries was prompt and very generous in regard to both food and furniture.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

There was a crowded audience in the new schools on Saturday evening, when the Sunday School children and friends gave an acceptable entertainment on behalf of the local Belgian Refugee Fund. The youngsters gave action songs, character songs, dialogues, recitations, etc., in good style. Songs were also given by Mrs F. Rudkin, Mrs J. Grant, Mrs R. Farrow, and Miss D. Martin, Miss May Smith and Mr W. Lees gave a character duet. Mr F. T. Bellward a musical sketch and character song. Two humorous dialogues, "She said, he said, they said" and "Mrs Muddle," by two parties caused much amusement and a dialogue, "The two wives" by Misses. B. Smith and E. Cave. The children were trained by Miss Hale, Miss Musson, Mr and Mrs W. Bailey, and others, and Mrs J. Linch helped with accompaniments. The youngsters appeared to enjoy the concert as much as the audience, especially the ragtime band who had got some appropriate drums for the occasion. A good sum will be handed over as a result of the effort.

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BELGIAN REFUGEES ENTERTAINED AT COALVILLE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEDDING

GIFT OF A RING AND BRIDE'S DRESS

All the Belgian refugees staying in Coalville and District, including those from Whitwick, Thringstone and Ravenstone, to the number of about 90, were entertained at the Adult School Hall on Saturday by the Committee of the Coalville Co-Operative Society.

The Right Hon. Charles Booth kindly made the arrangements for the conveyance of the Whitwick and Thringstone contingent, and the women and children and the wounded of the Coalville party were carried from and to Broom Leys in one of the Coalville motor 'buses. An excellent tea was provided and the members of the Coalville Co-Operative Society's committee were assisted by their wives in looking after the wants of their numerous guests.

Among those also present were Mr and Mrs W. Lindley, Mrs Wykes, Mr and Mrs W. Hurst, Mr J. Husband, Mr Edgar Hawthorn, Mr R. Blower and other members of the committee. Dr. L. Storr-Best and the brothers Wilkins of Thringstone assisted as interpreters.

Mr John Bradley (chairman of the Society) presided at the social which followed. Songs were given by several of the Belgians, one being "Tipperary," chorus in English and dancing was also indulged in, the music for which was supplied by a band composed of the following: Messrs. J. Warden, E. Marriott, first violin, F. Popple, second violin, J. Burton, viola, W. Hemsley, cello, W. Clarke, flute, and Miss R. Burton, piano. Mr Warden also contributed two splendid violin solos.

During the evening, the chairman said a few words of welcome, and expressing the committee's feeling of sympathy for them in the position in which they were placed, this being interpreted by M. Lauwers. Mr Bradley also intimated that the committee were having nice little pocket diaries prepared in English, French, and Flemish languages, and each refugee would be presented with one when they arrived.

A most interesting item of the evening's proceedings was a presentation to the couple who are to be married on January 7th. The chairman said most of them had doubtless seen it mentioned in the "Coalville Times" that the gift of a wedding ring would be acceptable and acting on that suggestion, the committee had made a collection in the room that night and realised a sovereign.

The happy couple then made their way onto the platform and, amidst applause, Mr Bradley presented the bridegroom elect with a £1 note, assuring him and the lady of the good wishes of many Coalville friends in the step they were about to take. The man expressed his hearty thanks.

The company, through their interpreter, also expressed thanks to the committee for the excellent tea and entertainment which they had all thoroughly enjoyed. In regard to the forthcoming wedding, it is interesting to note that the bridegroom was able to commence work as a baker at the Coalville Co-Operative Society stores on Saturday last. In addition to the gift of a wedding ring above referred to, and the offer of Mr J. Allread to present a bouquet, we hear that Mrs Thompson, of Gutteridge Street, Coalville, has offered to give the bride's wedding dress.

The marriage ceremony will take place at Holy Cross Church, Whitwick, on Thursday, January 7th, at 10 am. Nuptial Mass will be said by the Rev. Joseph Degen but the form of marriage will be in Flemish and will be conducted by Canon Martens, of Shepshed, assisted by Father O'Reilly. The church will be open to the general public.

On Thursday last, five of the refugees at Broom Leys left to return to the war. One of them is starting work in Leicester as a tailor, on New Year's Day.

AN APPRECIATION OF COALVILLE'S KINDNESS

(By one of the Belgian Refugees)

The pen of a master would indeed be needed to express in a sufficiently eloquent manner the feelings of admiration and gratitude experienced by the Belgian refugees towards England. Belgium can herself claim to be a hospitable country, but such generosity, kindness and delicacy have astonished even the Belgians and they feel the need of saying so in these words.

However they talk, men really believe only what they see, and this applies to the Belgians who have been taught by misfortune. They knew that England was great and powerful but they know it much better now that they see with their own eyes how generous she is, and have just the measure of what a nation, noble, powerful, and worthy can do.

In all these respects the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys consider the inhabitants of Coalville as amongst the best English people it is possible to meet, and they do not know how to thank the Coalville people for the long series of kindnesses for which they are indebted to them. Thanks to them they very often find here in the simple and kindly parties at Broom Leys, the much missed comforts of the domestic hearth.

But in a word, the seventy new inhabitants of Broom Leys, can now realise that a population must inevitably be worthy of admiration which is so hardworking and which benefits by example of a committee presided over by such an Englishman as Mr Lindley, aided by such Englishmen as Messrs. Hawthorn, Blower, Atkins, Hurst, Bourne, Husband and Dr. Wykes, and when such admirable ladies as Mrs Lindley, Blower, Atkins, Hurst, Bourne and Wykes place their inexhaustible kindness at the disposal of the unfortunate.

Thanks to these ladies and gentlemen all are now comfortably sheltered, and provided with clothes and shoes, and some have already been able to recover that dignity which is the result of properly paid work. Never will they forget either how great is the devotion of M. le Docteur Wykes to the wounded, and, it is necessary to add the names of Mr and Mrs Hardwick, will always remain deep in their hearts and they are really abashed at the crushing amount of work which their presence at Broom Leys must cause to the above ladies and gentlemen.

Lauwers Pieter.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Writing from Winnipeg, on December 3rd, brother of Mr F. S. Weaver of Coalville, states that the city is full of military life, there being thousands there who are being trained for the second Canadian contingent.

It has transpired two boys were going to houses in Coalville on Saturday collecting for the Belgian Refugee's Relief Fund without having any authority to do so. Mr W. Lindley, Chairman of the Relief Committee, therefore desires it to be made known that any offenders detected in future will be prosecuted. Householders are also warned to pay money to none only authorised collectors, who are able to give an official receipt.

Police Constable Culpin, who has been stationed at Hugglescote South for 15 years, has just received good news from his youngest brother, Sergt-Major H. Culpin, of the 96th Battalion, Royal Field Artillery to the effect that he has received a commission as Lieutenant in Kitchener's army. He has just returned from India and is now stationed at Winchester, prior to going to the front. He has been nearly 20 years in the service and a sergeant-major for 6 years.

During the year now closing events in Coalville and District have, of course, been overshadowed by the war and in this connection the district has done remarkably well. About 1300 men from the Coalville recruiting area have joined the forces, the total amount contributed to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund is now approaching three thousand pounds, while Coalville is also maintaining about 80 Belgian refugees, the contributions to this fund being handsome. In addition, several successful efforts have been made for hospital equipping and providing comforts and Christmas gifts for local soldiers and sailors.

Mrs Moseley, of Donington-le-Heath, recently gave a pig to be drawn for, the proceeds to provide soldiers' comforts. The pig has been won by Miss L. Brooks, of 122, Highfields Street, Coalville, with the number 43, and the amount realised by the effort was £5.

DO YOU KNOW

That the National Relief Fund yesterday reached £4,236,000?

That all Belgian refugees are now required to register with the police and notify changes of address?

That it has been decided that no Christmas leave can be granted to the 4th Leicesters?

That 73 members of the Y.M.C.A. are now serving with H.M. Forces?

That the Association is sending each a letter and Christmas card?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

At a meeting of the Coalville collectors for this fund at the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last, the Hon. Sec. (Mr F. W. Weaver) reported that the result of the 8th collection was £8/1/1. Eleven districts were represented at the meeting.

THRINGSTONE SCHOOLMASTER'S DEATH

PIECE OF SHELL EMBEDDED IN HIS PRAYER BOOK

MEMORIAL SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

The death of their schoolmaster, Pte. T. Jones, has brought home to Thringstone people more forcibly than anything else, the horrors of the war now raging, and that the village has sustained a great loss is keenly felt by all the residents.

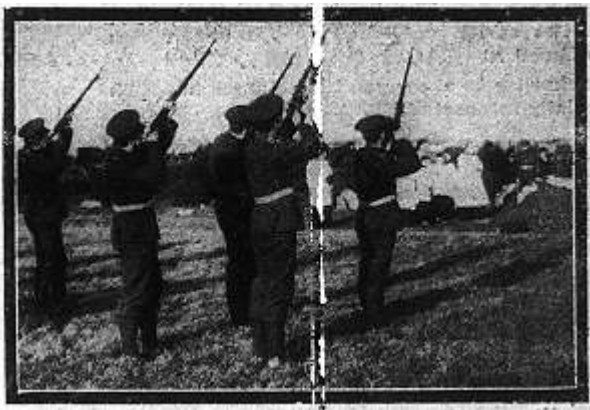
As reported in our last issue, Mr Jones, soon after the outbreak of war, volunteered for service in the Durham County Battalion of Light Infantry and he was on duty guarding a gun at West Hartlepool when he was killed by a piece of shell fired from a German cruiser last Wednesday. A remarkable circumstance connected with the event is the fact that a prayer book given to the late schoolmaster on leaving Thringstone, was found pierced by a piece of shell. The deceased was carrying the book in the breast pocket of his tunic and but for the other wounds the book would have saved his life. The iron fragment of the shell penetrated about half through the book, which is of fair thickness, and also firmly adhered to the cover of the book was a piece of khaki cloth from the tunic, held by the shell.

The funeral took place, with military honours, at St. Aidan's Church, West Hartlepool, on Saturday morning, being attended by a huge crowd and about 500 members of the Durham County Battalion, some of whom

fired over the grave. The body was placed in St. Aidan's Church on Friday and remained there throughout the night. On Saturday morning there was a celebration of holy communion at 7.15, at which the celebrant was the Vicar, the Rev. W. J. Knowlden, assisted by the Vicar of Thringstone, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury. The funeral service commenced at eleven o'clock and while people were taking their places – there was a large congregation – the organist played the Dead March. The deceased's favourite hymn, "There is a land of pure delight" and "On the resurrection morning" were sung. The Rev. C. Shrewsbury gave a short address, after which the body was removed to the cemetery and committed to the grave in the presence of a huge crowd.

In reply to a question as to what he saw of the damage at West Hartlepool, the Thringstone vicar informed our representative that it was enormous. A shell burst over St. Aidan's Church, which however, was not much damaged. The residents had another scare on Saturday morning, in consequence of a notice sent round by the Mayor warning the people to keep indoors and not allow children out. Another message followed that this was a false alarm.

On Sunday afternoon, a memorial service for Pte. Jones was held in the Thringstone Parish Church, which was packed. At the commencement, Miss Crane played the Dead March, the congregation standing meanwhile, the same two hymns as at the funeral service was sung. The vicar gave an address and also referred to the prayer book incident mentioned above. The Vicar is returning the book to the deceased's mother, who lives at West Hartlepool.



(A photograph accompanied this article with the caption: "Durham Light Infantry firing over the Grave. Reproduced with kind permission of the 'Daily Mirror'.")

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IBSTOCK

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

A patriotic concert was held on Thursday night in the Picture Palace kindly lent for the occasion, the proceeds being for the Belgian Relief and Prince of Wales's funds. A company of Leicester artistes rendered an excellent programme, and a vote of thanks was heartily accorded on the motion of Mr G. Forman, seconded by Mr J. J. Sparrow.

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ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS

A SOLDIER IN THE WORKHOUSE

The fortnightly meeting of the Board of Guardians was held at Ashby on Saturday, Mr W. Sheffield presiding, also present, Mrs Pratt, Mr T. Varnham (vice-chairman), the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, Messrs. T. Frith, A. Wilkins, S. Stanley, J. Rice, G. Bullen, A. J. Briers, T. Radford, T. D. Frost, W. Gascoyne, T. Oakey, J. W. Fowler, A. Riley, G. Sheldon, T. K. Fox, J. Woodward, R. Lawton, F. W. Soar, and J. T. Bradshaw with the clerk (Mr George Farmer).

A letter was received from the Netley Hospital authorities giving notice of the removal to the workhouse of a Coalville wounded soldier, and the authorities asked that when the Guardians considered he was able to give a receipt they should be notified that money due to him might be paid over. Mr Varnham asked how it came that a wounded soldier should be sent to the workhouse.

The Clerk: *Because he belongs to us.*

Mr Varnham: *But why should a wounded soldier come here?*

The Clerk said he thought it was a mental case. Mr Varnham said the report to the House Committee was that the man was a wounded soldier. The Clerk said he thought it was a mental case and all such persons when destitute were moved to the union in which they had a settlement.

Mr Varnham: *But a wounded soldier should never be destitute. Our doctor has seen him and says there is nothing the matter with him now. His parents are here and want to take him away and the doctor says he can be removed. The question of his being wounded should be cleared up.*

The Clerk: *It doesn't matter to us.*

Mr Varnham: *I think it does.*

The Clerk: *They are entitled under the Army Act to send him here if he is mentally afflicted.*

Mr Varnham: *Suppose his mental affliction arose from his wounds?*

The Clerk: *That is a matter for medical opinion. It is quite in order and they have acted in pursuance of the Act of Parliament.*

Mr Varnham: *It may be, but we want to know how they do these things.*

Mr Frost said he thought the man was mentally wrong before he joined the army. The Chairman asked what was the Board's position now the man's parents had come to take him away. The Clerk said it all depended on what the medical officer said.

Mrs Pratt: *The medical officer says he can go.*

The Clerk said the medical officer must say whether the man was capable of signing a receipt for money due to him lying at the War Office.

A Member: *And he would take the £1 he had with him?*

The Clerk: *Unless you made a claim on it.*

Mr Varnham: *Oh, we don't do that. What shall we say to his father?*

The Clerk: *All that we have to do is to see that he is capable of leaving. The parents must take the responsibility of looking after him. I shall see that the matter is put in order before he takes his discharge from here.*

Mr Frith: *They can't take him away today can they?*

The Clerk: *Not unless they get a certificate signed by Dr. Orchard.*

The matter was left in the hands of the Clerk and it was decided to make no charge for the man's maintenance while in the workhouse.

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COALVILLE MEN IN A FORT

Sergeant W. Shilham, of the Leicestershire Regiment, late of Coalville, writing from Southwick, Cosham, Portsmouth, in a very cheery letter wishes his friends good luck, and gives the names of Coalville men with him who are anxiously waiting for passes before leaving for the front. The party are Privates Brown, J. Wright, W. Briers, J. Murfin, G. B. Biggs, W. E. Hall and J. Manders.

A COALVILLE SOLDIER'S HUMOUR

ITEMS OF TOMMY'S MENU

An interesting and amusing letter has been received by Mrs G. Ward, of Oxford Street, Coalville, from her brother, Pte. A. Edwards, of the 4th signal section, 18th Brigade, with the British Expeditionary Force. He

expressed thanks for the "Coalville Times" containing his own portrait, and said there was quite a lot of items of news in which he was deeply interested. He says he is still keeping well and getting plenty of good food. In humorous vein, the soldier goes on to give a few items of their menu. "Coalbox pudding," "Black Man's pies" (with the crust made of nice mud), "Shrapnel Cake" (made with bullets of various shapes and sizes), and then, of course they sometimes get poultry which was mostly "Bread and duck." "You have a bit of bread" he says, "and then duck, that is if you are not too late. It is not too bad on the whole, in fact, it is rather exciting. We have plenty of rain here and it makes things very uncomfortable for the lads in the trenches, but everything is being done to make them as comfortable as possible and you seldom hear any complaints from any of them."

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER AT THE FRONT

AN INTERESTING LETTER

Mr Bert Watters, of Coalville, has received an interesting letter from Pte. W. Commons, a well-known Coalville footballer, who is serving with the R.A.M.C. at the front.

Commons says they have had a rough time, but are now having a rest and they have earned it. They tracked 300 miles in the first few weeks and the Germans were on their heels all the time, but he was glad to say the tide had turned and he thought they now had the enemy well in hand. He proceeds, "I really think the Germans would have beaten any one nation in the world. They have not finished yet, but I only think it is a matter of time and I shall be glad when that time is up. Me and old "Smosh" are together. It is like being in a desert where we are now. I am staying in a barn with a few shell holes in it and also where there are a few pilgrims of the night, but still we must not grumble. Hundreds of houses have been burnt to the ground and it grieves me to see the poor women and children walking about, not knowing which way to turn till they find someone to give them a helping hand. I should like to be at home for Christmas but I think it is a frost. I hope you are having some better weather at Coalville, than we are getting here. It is raining every day and everywhere is flooded. I am pleased to hear that you are turning a few soldiers out of Coalville. It will do some of them good, especially the "Nuts." He concludes by wishing his friends a merry Christmas.

WHITWICK

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

At the patriotic concert held in the Holy Cross Schools, Whitwick, on Sunday, December 5th, the following is the amount of the collection, and also the contributions received by the Treasurer, Mr F. Burton: Collections £10/10/0; Mr and Mrs Burton £2; Holy Cross School children £1; Mr B. Berry £1; Mr Robinson £1/1/0; Colonel de Lisle £1; per Miss Burkitt £1/1/0. After expenses were deducted the treasurer sent a cheque to Colonel Froke for £17/7/0, ear-marked "For the C. Squadron of the Leicestershire Yeomanry."