

# Coalville Times – December 1914

Friday December 4th 1914 (Issue 1187)

## Local News

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.

## 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. Blackett 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.

## Did You Know

That practically the whole of the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys, Coalville, attended service at the Whitwick Catholic Church, last Sunday morning?

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?

## Coalville Police Court

Friday: Today – Before the Rev. C. T. Moore (in the chair), Major Hatchett, Mr J. Ward, Mr B. G. Hale and Mr J. W. West.

*A Whitwick Tenancy*

Richard Poynton, butcher, Whitwick, was the defendant in an application by Albert W. Tunbridge, meat purveyor, Atherstone, to be allowed to proceed for an ejectment order. Mr T. H. Moore (Coalville) said that under the new law he had to obtain the consent of the Bench before he could proceed and he asked the Bench for their consent.

Mr Lancaster (Loughborough) for the defendant said the application was being made out of sheer vindictiveness. It could be of no effect, because defendant had taken the premises and would himself become tenant on December 25th.

Mr Moore said the present tenancy expired on that date, but his client had the option of renewal. Leonard Hammond, butcher, in the employ of the applicant, gave evidence as to the tenancy. The Clerk asked whether the defendant not leaving the premises had anything to do with the war. Witness said he did not think it had.

The application was granted and defendant had to pay 2s 6d costs.

### **Coalville Urban District Council**

The monthly meeting of the Urban Council was held at Coalville on Tuesday night, Mr R. Blower, J.P., presiding. There were also present, Messrs. T. Y. Hay (vice-chairman), S. Perry, A. Lockwood, W. Sheffield, J. W. Farmer, W. Fellows, T. Kelly, S. Armson and F. Griffin, with the clerk (Mr Jesson), surveyor (Mr L. L. Baldwin) and assistant surveyor (Mr F. G. Hurst).

#### *Plans*

The following plans were recommended for approval: Additions to factory, Mantle Lane, Coalville, for Messrs. R. Walker and Sons; two houses and shops, Ashby Road, Coalville, for Mrs Hammond; two w.c.'s, Talbot Inn, Whitwick, for Messrs. Ind Coope and Co; and house, Park Road, Coalville, for Mr E. Gough.

Mr Farmer moving the adoption of the report said he was glad to see signs of the development of an important industry in the district.

#### *Highway Committee's Report*

The Deputy Coroner wrote that at an inquest held at Whitwick concerning the fatal accident to Mr Musson in South Street, he had been requested by the jury to call the attention of the Council to the narrowness of that street, and the Committee recommend to be informed that the matter would receive the attention of the Council.

#### *Gas Extensions*

An application was received for the extension of the main on Leicester Road, Whitwick, the estimated cost thereof being £40, and the Committee recommend the work be carried out.

#### *Coalville and Whitwick Complaints*

Mr Kelly complained of the kerb and channel at the top of the Dumps, Whitwick, having been taken up and not replaced. One could hardly tell the road from the footpath now. The Surveyor said that after the work of flagging there was commenced, the question cropped up of as to Burton's and Stinson's improvements. It would be attended to as soon as he could get the men there.

Mr Kelly: It is disgraceful as it is.

### **Births, Marriages and Deaths Burials**

Chadwell – At Whitwick, on Tuesday, Ethel Maud Chadwell, aged one month, of Meadow Lane.

## **Friday December 11th 1914 (Issue 1188)**

### **Local News Wesleyan Missions**

The missionary anniversary was observed at the Thringstone Wesleyan Chapel on Sunday, when the Rev. T. Cottam preached in the afternoon, and Mr A. B. Eagles, of Whitwick, in the evening. The annual meeting was held on Wednesday evening – the Chairman being Mr J. W. Eagles, of Whitwick, and the speaker the Rev. T. Cottam. The collections were for the missionary funds.

## 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.

## 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.

### **For Sale**

Strong 2-wheeled trolley, on springs with side boards, or exchange something smaller. Tivey, Forest Side, Whitwick.

Owing to the kindness of Mrs Haydock, of Charnwood Towers, the children of the Whitwick Holy Cross Schools have an annual Christmas treat, but this year they have generously decided to forego the treat that the money, £10, may be spent in comforts for the Leicestershire Yeomanry and the Belgian refugees.

### **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.

### **The Picture House, Whitwick**

As will be seen from our advertisement columns, the above picture and variety theatre will be opened on Monday next. The total proceeds of the opening night will be divided between the Prince of Wales's Fund, and the local Belgian Relief Fund. The times of commencing are: From Monday to Friday 7 to 10 p.m. continuous performance; and Saturday evenings there will be two performances at 7 and 9. Popular prices 3d, 4d and 6d. Picture-goers should see that the theatre has a good send-off.

### **Alleged House-Breaking at Whitwick**

#### *Collier Remanded in Custody*

Before Major Hatchett at the Coalville Police Court on Monday, James Wallam, collier, residing at Gracedieu Road, Whitwick, was charged with breaking and entering the dwelling house of Mary Harris, with intent to steal money therein, on Sunday night, December 6th. The prosecutrix keeps a grocer's shop opposite the Picture Palace in Silver Street. Inspector Dobney stated that about 10:30 p.m. on Sunday night, he received a complaint from P.C. Grewcock of the house having been broken into. On going there he found one of the windows broken, near the catch, which had been forced back, entrance to the house having been gained through the window. There were traces of blood on the floor and a piece of candlestick lay there. The drawers in the room upstairs and down had been ransacked and on all the drawers there were blood marks, as well as on the stairs. In one drawer was £11 in money covered over with a cloth which had blood on it; the money remained intact apparently having been overlooked. At 11 o'clock the same night, witness accompanied P.C. Grewcock to the house of the prisoner who was in bed. He told Wallam he was suspected of the offence and cautioned him. Prisoner replied, "I know nothing about it." On examining his hands witness found on his right hand an incised wound about a quarter of an inch long and one-eighth of an inch deep; there was also a clean cut wound on the finger. Prisoner said the wounds were caused by while he was at work in the pit on Friday night, but witness pointed out that they were fresh and had fresh blood upon them. He told prisoner he should arrest him and he conveyed him to the Police Station. On Monday morning prisoner made a statement to witness admitting the offence.

Accused was remanded to Leicester prison until the Ashby Petty Sessions on Saturday (tomorrow).

### **Whitwick's New Theatre**

#### *Silver Street*

#### *To be Opened on Monday Next*

The erection of a new picture theatre for the Whitwick and Thringstone District Picture Palace Company has now been completed and the building is being opened next Monday night.

It is a thoroughly up-to-date structure and has been built on the east side of Silver Street, near the Old Vicarage from the designs of Mr T. J. McCarthy, architect, Belvoir Road, Coalville, by Messrs. T. Barker and Sons of Loughborough, the contract price, exclusive of fittings, being £1550.

The building is of red Whitwick bricks with stone dressings and has a frontage of 64 feet to Silver Street. The main hall is 77 feet long and 46 feet wide, and seating accommodation will be found for 820 people. The floor slopes, giving the whole audience a chance of seeing the pictures, and the arrangements generally are such as to conduce the comfort and enjoyment of patrons. The best seats are plush covered and the whole of the floor is covered with lino. The proscenium is tastefully arranged and decorated and the finish generally inside the building gives it a pleasing and cosy appearance. The lighting is by electricity and the heating by the hot water low pressure system, while the place is well ventilated, the foul air being extracted at the highest point of the roof. Elaborate precautions against fire have been taken. Hose pipes and hand grenades are conveniently placed for use in case of a possible outbreak and as far as possible, fire proof materials have been used in the construction of the theatre. There are four emergency exits. The operating box is a brick structure and contains two machines.

The proceeds of the opening night are to be given to the local patriotic funds.

### **Coalville Police Court**

Friday – Before the Rev. C. T. Moore (in the chair), Major Hatchett, Mr J. Ward, Mr B. G. Hale and Mr J. W. West.

#### *Whitwick Woman Sent to Prison*

Emma Chappell, single woman, Whitwick, who failed to appear at the last court, was brought up on a warrant, charged with neglecting her three children. Mr Lancaster, of Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster, Coalville and Loughborough, appeared to prosecute for the N.S.P.C.C.

Defendant pleaded not guilty, saying she had been ill in bed.

Inspector Fitzsimmons, of the N.S.P.C.C., stationed in Loughborough, stated that he visited the house on October 8th. The three children, George (12), Maud (9), and Harry (8) were poorly clothed and their boots in holes and the house was very dirty. He warned the woman and she said she had been ill. He called again on subsequent dates but found no improvement. The house smelt badly. Dr. Milligan, locum tenens for Dr. Burkitt, deposed to examining the children on November 3rd. They were fairly well nourished and fairly clean, and they were not verminous, though there were nits in the girl's hair. The children were badly clothed and the house was filthy. The condition of the house was such that he had no hesitation in saying that it was prejudicial to the health of the occupants.

Allan Pares, collier, Whitwick, said he had cohabited with the defendant for many years. He earned from 20s to 28s a week and regularly gave the woman a pound a week. She had plenty of money but was fond of bottles of stout. He knew she had been ill, but since she was well she had been at the old game again.

Allan Pares Chappell, (19), son of the defendant, a collier, said he earned 28s a week and paid his mother 10s a week, but he often had to go without his dinner and he could not get his clothes washed. His mother spent the money in drink. He had been to Aldershot, but was not accepted for the army because he was not big enough. He denied ill-using his mother. When witness was sworn he said he could not read.

Replying to the clerk, he said he attended Whitwick Holy Cross School and was in the fourth standard when he left. P.C. Grewcock said the woman was addicted to drink. Pares was a man who attended to his work regularly.

The Chairman said the Bench regarded it as a bad case and the woman would have to go to prison for three months. Turning to Pares and her son as she left the court, she said, "Farewell and good luck to you."

### *Drunk and Disorderly*

William Allen, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Whitwick on November 21st. He did not appear. P.C. Jelley gave the facts and defendant was fined 10s 6d and 10s 6d costs, or 14 days.

William Upton, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly on November 28th. He did not appear. P.C. Grewcock proved the case and defendant was fined 5s 6d and costs 10s 6d or seven days.

### *Affiliation Arrears*

George Birkumshaw, collier, Whitwick, was summoned by Agnes Henson, single woman, Whitwick, in respect of arrears under an affiliation order. Neither appeared. P.C. Grewcock said he understood that defendant paid the complainant 30s last week. The case was struck out.

## **Sport Football**

### *Whitwick's Safe Journey*

Despite the fact that Moira United who acted as hosts to Whitwick Imperial, were defeated by three goals to one, they nevertheless put up a good game. Moreover, they were quite good enough for another goal, but they could not turn to advantage one or two favourable openings. It may also be said that Whitwick failed on several occasions especially in the second half, when they forced several corners in succession. In the first portion of the game, Summers scored for Moira, and Layton and Thorpe were responsible for the goals which gave the Imperial the lead, which they never showed any signs of surrendering. Thorpe made victory more certain by registering a further goal in the first minute after crossing over. Bird, one of the Whitwick team, sustained an injury and had to retire from the game, while Cook, also of the visiting team, was temporarily disabled. Whitwick are to be congratulated on the result seeing that it was Moira who vanquished Coalville Town from the competition and have also beaten Hugglescote St. John's at Moira this season.

## **Births, Marriages and Deaths Death of Mr J. T. Quemby**

### *Quarry Foreman for 21 Years*

The funeral took place on Monday of the late Mr J. T. Quemby, of Leicester Road, Whitwick, who passed away on Thursday last. Deceased, who was 63 years of age, had been in the employ of the Whitwick Granite Company, Ltd, since the quarries were opened 21 years ago and for the last 16 years had been head foreman, and was held in great esteem by directors and manager on account of his great practical ability and faithful service. In addition to about 40 relatives, there were present, the Manager and Mrs Robinson, the Office Staff and about 100 of the workmen from the quarries, who also had great regard for the deceased. The latter headed the procession and lined each side of the pathway leading to the Church, as the cortege passed in, the Rev. T. W. Walters, Vicar of Whitwick, conducted the funeral service at the Parish Church and graveside.

The Rev. H. C. J. Wix, Baptist Minister, Dr. Milligan and a large number of local sympathisers were also present. The bearers were friends of the deceased being Messrs. Joseph Berrington, W. King, Walter Waterfield, John Berrington, L. Thorpe, R. Williams, W. Quemby and J. Quemby.

Wreaths were sent by the following: Mother and Family; Ernest and Lizzie; John, Wife and Family; Sarah, George and Walter; Bill and Lisa; Sister and Family; W. Quemby and Family (Clay Cross); Grandchildren at Shepshed; Brother Amos and Family; Mr and Mrs J. H. Robinson; Connie, Eileen and Audrey; Directors of the Whitwick Granite Company, Ltd; Office Staff of Whitwick Granite Company, Ltd; Employees of Whitwick Granite Company, Ltd; Mr and Mrs Walter Waterfield; Mr and Mrs Thorpe; "Pals"; and large artificial globe from Employees of Whitwick Granite Company, Ltd.

## **Burials**

Quemby – At Whitwick, on Monday, Joseph Thomas Quemby, aged 63 years, of Leicester Road.

## **Friday December 18th 1914 (Issue 1189)**

### **Local News**

#### **For Sale**

Good cockerels and pullets for sale. February, March and April hatched. All perfectly healthy. Apply Frederick Berrington, Leicester Road, Whitwick.

#### **Do You Know**

That arrangements are being made for a big patriotic concert in the Whitwick Picture Theatre on Christmas night?

### **Whitwick House-breaking Case**

#### *Tell-tale Blood Marks*

#### *Accused committed for Trial*

At Ashby Police Court on Saturday, James Wallam, collier, Whitwick, was charged with house breaking at Whitwick, on December 6th. Mr Watson Wright (Loughborough) appeared for the defendant.

Mary Harris, single woman, carrying on a grocer's business at No. 4, Silver Street, Whitwick, stated that she resided in the house attached to the shop. On Sunday evening, December 6th she went to church, leaving home about 6.25. Before going, she put her mother, who was 92 years of age, to bed. She placed a candle and matches on a table near the door, which she locked. The windows and other doors of the house were all fastened. She got home about a quarter to eight, unlocked the back door and went into the kitchen. When she got into the living room she found all the dresser drawers open and things in drawers were in confusion. On the drawers were finger marks in blood and she also saw spots of blood on the stairs and in the bedroom, where the drawers were also open. Her mother told her there had been a man in the house. There were four bedrooms and it was in the room that witness occupied where the things were all disarranged. There was a sum of money in one of the drawers in this room, but that was still there and witness did not miss anything. On going downstairs again she went into the store room and saw the window was half way open. A pane of glass near to the catch was broken. The candle which she left on the back kitchen table was on the floor near the store room window. There was some blood on the candlestick. Witness then sent for the police.

By Mr Wright: There was more than £11 in a satchel in one of the drawers, which was open and that was intact. On a cloth partly covering the satchel there was some blood. There was a shilling left on the dresser but she had said nothing about that. She had stated that she missed nothing. Her brother made the complaint to the police. She made a statement to the police, but she did not remember signing it.

By Inspector Dobney: There were several small linen articles in the drawer where the money was and these had been disturbed. P.C. Grewcock (Whitwick) stated that about 8 pm on Sunday, December 6th, he received a complaint that the house of the last witness had been broken into, between 6.30 and 7.45 pm. He examined the premises and found that in a window in a room on the ground floor at the side of the house a pane of glass had been broken near the catch, which had been pushed back. The lower part of the window was open. In the living room he found the drawers of the dresser all open and from the appearance of the things inside, looked as if they had been thoroughly ransacked. There were spots of blood on the drawers and on the articles therein. In one of the bedrooms all the drawers were open and the things inside disturbed. There were several spots of blood on the floor near the door of Mrs Harris's room, but nothing there was disturbed. Going downstairs, he saw spots of blood on the staircase and wall. He also saw blood on the window which was broken. About 10.30 the same night he reported the matter to Inspector Dobney and about 11 pm accompanied the inspector to the house of the prisoner at Gracedieu Road, Whitwick. Prisoner was in bed, Inspector



Dobney said to him, "Wallam, I suspect you of having broken into the house of Mary Harris, grocer, No. 4, Silver Street, Whitwick, between 6.30 and 7.45 tonight." Wallam replied, "I know nothing about it." Inspector Dobney then arrested the prisoner and conveyed him to the police station at Coalville. About 6.45 that night, witness was in Silver Street, in plain clothes near to Miss Harris's shop when he was walking up and down. Witness kept him under observation for some little time, but some people came along and witness missed him all at once.

By Inspector Dobney: The drawers in the sitting room upstairs had also been disturbed and a bookcase and cupboard were open, all having blood marks on them.

By Mr Wright: Silver Street was part of the main road leading from Whitwick to Coalville.

Inspector Dobney (Coalville) stated that on receiving information of the offence from the last witness, he accompanied him to prisoner's house and found Wallam in bed. When told he was suspected of the offence, prisoner said he knew nothing about it. Witness examined his hands and on the back of the right hand he found a clean incised wound about an eighth of an inch deep and a quarter of an inch long. He asked prisoner how he got that and he replied that it was done in the pit on Friday. On the left hand there was a clean cut wound about half an inch long on the first joint of the little finger. He asked him how he did that and he said he pricked it a fortnight ago and it gathered. Witness pointed out to him that both wounds were fresh. In his pocket was a handkerchief with wet blood upon it and prisoner said that it came from his nose bled at nine o'clock that morning. His wife then came into the room and witness asked her what time her husband's nose bled that day and she replied, "It was not his nose that bled, but the boy's." Witness cautioned him and told him he should arrest him and he again stated that he knew nothing about it. At the Coalville Police Station, prisoner was seen by Doctor Hamilton, who examined his hands and nose. Witness searched the prisoner and found in his pocket five keys (produced). He said they belonged to the drawers in his house. Witness tried them and found that only one of the five keys would fit any drawer or cupboard in his house. The next morning witness visited the prisoner in his cell and he said, "I did it." Witness told him that whatever he said, he would take it down in writing and ask him to sign it and told him it might be used in evidence against him. The prisoner could not write and he put his mark to a statement in the presence of Sgt. Kirkland and witness. The statement was then read by the witness in which Wallam admitted the offence. While he was upstairs, Wallam, in his statement said the old lady called out, "Is that you Polly?" He admitted cutting his hand in opening the window and said he did not know what made him do it. He went there for money. Mr Wright asked whether witness went into the cell on purpose to get a statement from the prisoner.

The Inspector: No, we don't do business like that.

Mr. Wright: I don't know. It is a funny thing that he should admit it then.

The Inspector: He was in a very depressed condition and was glad to get it off his mind. We would not let him have his braces for fear he should commit suicide.

Mr Wright: Did you tell him it would be the worse for him if he did not confess.

The Inspector: Certainly not.

Did you tell him he had better not have a solicitor? – I did not.

Didn't you go into the cell purposely to get this statement? – No.

Did you say anything to his wife about a solicitor? – She said she had two good fat pigs in the sty and should sell them to get a solicitor. I told her she had better keep the money to support the children.

Mr Wright said he disputed this statement, which was entirely false.

The Chairman: You must not say that.

Inspector Dobney said he could bring another witness (Mr Wilton) who heard the prisoner make the admission in the presence of his wife. Mr Wright said that he did not deny that the prisoner made the statement.

Supt. Lockton: That's what you said.

Mr Wright: My point is that the statement was got from the prisoner unfairly.

The Chairman: Did you put any pressure on the prisoner to make the statement?

The Inspector: None whatever sir.

The Clerk: Perhaps you would like to call other evidence on that.

The Inspector: Yes sir.

William Wilton, clerk in the employ of Mr Mammatt, magistrates clerk, Ashby, said he was at Coalville Police Station on the 7th inst., when prisoner's wife called and asked to see him. Prisoner was brought in. The woman said to him, "Well Jim, what have you been doing and what have you told them." He replied that he had done the Harris's job and had told them of that, He had not done anything else. He said he did not know what made him do it. He repeated that several times. No pressure was put on the prisoner. He said it in ordinary conversation.

Mr Wright applied for bail pointing out the prisoner had eight little children. He had an excellent character from Mr Hay, the manager of the Whitwick Colliery, where he had worked for 25 years and earned good money. Hitherto there had only been two cases against him.

Supt. Lockton said that only in April last prisoner was found on enclosed premises and had been under suspicion since. Several things had been done in Whitwick since then and on this occasion they went straight to the man's house with the result that this charge was brought.

The clerk asked whether Mr Wright could offer bail. Mr Wright said it would have to be some of prisoner's workmates. He applied on behalf of the children. Supt. Lockton said he would want notice to enable him to satisfy himself that the sureties were substantial.

The Chairman said that the Quarter Sessions would be held on January 5th. Bail was allowed, prisoner in his own surety of £30 and two others of £20 each, 48 hours notice to be given to the police. Prisoner was then committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

### **Ashby Police Court**

Saturday – Before Mr George Moore (in the chair) Major Hatchett, Mr J. German, Mr J. Turner and Mr T. Dennis.

#### *Applications*

Mr J. J. Sharp on behalf of Mrs Musson applied for the transfer to her from her deceased husband of the license of the Three Crowns Hotel, Whitwick, and this was granted.

Mr F. Jesson applied on behalf of Mr Wm. Archibald Jennings, for a music and singing licence to the new picture theatre at Whitwick and this was agreed.

### **Round the Theatres The Picture House, Whitwick**

This commodious and comfortable picture palace was opened on Monday night and had a very hearty send-off by a crowded audience. A first class list of films was shown and the various received continuous applause. The pictures during the commencement of the week were a fine lot, and the screening of them left nothing to be desired. The star film was "England's Menace" a fine picture, and peculiarly appropriate to this week's war happenings. The story was of how two youngsters thwarted,

by means of an amateur wireless installation the bombardment of the English shores by a foreign power. "Maria's Sacrifice" was also fine, and as usual, Wm. Humphrey in one of the leading characters was fine. "Love, Roses and Trousers" was a most amusing picture, and a general mix-up of presents, etc., caused some stirring scenes. "Pimples Great Fire of London" caused roars of laughter. "The Daring Young Person" was a splendid production and was much enjoyed and as a matter of fact, the whole performance was a most commendable one and worth seeing.

During the week-end the "star" film is "Warfare in the skies." We can thoroughly recommend this as a real good and thrilling film and patrons should not miss seeing it. there are numerous others, all good. It should be borne in mind that there are two performances on Saturday night at 7 and 9.

Next week another splendid list is provided. Full particulars see our advertisement columns. The proceeds of the opening night for patriotic purposes amounted to £12 4s.

## **Sport Football**

### *Coalville and District League*

The monthly meeting of the Coalville and District League Committee was held at the Red House Hotel, Coalville, on Monday evening. Mr J. Kirby presided and there were present Messrs. F. W. Smith, D. Marston, J. Tivey, R. T. Bradshaw, and C. E. Marston (hon. secretary).

Ibstock Amateurs reported Whitwick Amateurs for breaking fixture on November 28th, this being the second time, the match having been once re-arranged. Whitwick wrote that it was owing to three more of their men joining the colours. Ibstock claimed 5s loss of "gate" and 1s 6d for printing. It was decided that the Whitwick club pay Ibstock the 1s 6d and be fined 2s 6d for breaking the fixture. Whitwick were also ordered to pay all monies due to the league by Jan 1st, failing which the club be suspended and reported to the Leicestershire Football Association.

## **Friday December 25th 1914 (Issue 1190)**

### **Local News 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."

### **Shocking Fatality at Whitwick Quarry**

#### *Man drawn into machinery*

A sad fatality occurred at the Whitwick Granite Quarry about two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. A workman named Job Fox was at work near some machinery when his coat was caught and he was drawn in, being fatally injured.

The manager telephoned for an ambulance motor car with a view to removing the man to Leicester Infirmary but he died about an hour later just as the ambulance motor reached the quarry. He lived at 104 Leicester Road, Whitwick, and leaves a widow and two children.

Deceased who was 39 years of age had been employed at the quarry for 21 years and some years ago he had his hand injured at the same quarry losing some of his fingers.

### **Coalville Police Court**

Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), Mr H. J. Ford, Mr W. Lindley, and Mr. J. W. West.

### *Theatrical Licences*

Mr Moore asked for permission for suitable music at the Olympia on Christmas night, in accompaniment to the pictures. There were no religious services he said in Coalville on Christmas night. Mr Kirkham said it was orchestral music only. The application was granted.

A similar application for Christmas night was made by the manager of the Whitwick Picture Theatre and was allowed.

### *A Whitwick Application*

Albert W. Tunbridge, of Atherstone, applied for a warrant of ejectment against Richard Poynton, butcher, Whitwick.

Mr T. H. Moore was for the applicant, who said defendant was formerly his manager, but he closed the shop on account of the war and defendant had remained there as tenant. By Mr Lancaster (for the defendant): He put on a high rent more than the house was worth on purpose to get him out. He closed the shop because it was not paying. The rent at first was 5s per week. He had no personal feeling towards the defendant. Mr Lancaster asked the Bench to allow the extreme period for getting out. He had taken other premises and would leave as soon as he could but did not want to be turned into the street.

The Bench ordered defendant to give up possession in not less than 21 days and not more than 30 days. Mr Moore asked for costs but the chairman said the parties must pay their own.

### *Drunk and Disorderly*

Levi Robinson, collier, Whitwick, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Whitwick, on December 4th. He did not appear. P.C. Grewcock gave the facts and defendant was fined 5/6 and 10/6 costs or seven days.

### **Round the Theatres The Picture House, Whitwick**

The people of Whitwick and District are showing their appreciation of the new picture house by attending in good numbers and the general opinion is that the fare provided is quite in keeping with the excellence of the general arrangements.

One of the star films in the early part of the week was "The heart rebellious," a stirring drama of the East, in which some of the scenes were very fine. "Mabel's busy day" a Keystone comedy, and "The car of death" were also good numbers in an enjoyable programme.

During the week-end are showing "The Brand," and "Pals," two good dramas. In the latter, Joe, a poor pavement artist, has a great friend in Kitty, a flower girl, who proves a great pal to him when he is wrongly suspected of crime and they become greater pals than ever afterwards. The comic element is well sustained by "A gambling rube." A countryman and his wife come to town for a few days holiday. The countryman makes friends with a charming damsel; he is not aware, though, that she is an adventuress. However, as she believes that he has money she invites him to a card party. In the meantime she has warned her guests that she is bringing home a "flat" and they prepare the cards accordingly. But even the best plans fail at times, and quite by accident our friend gets knowledge of their plans, and instead of being fleeced makes a good haul for himself. "Mr Meek's Missus" is another comic by Hepworth, which causes roars of laughter and there is a good moral. These are only a few in a splendid list.

Particulars of another good lot for next week will be found in our advertisement columns.

### **Sport Football**

### *Whitwick win easily at Loughborough*

Whitwick Imperial took their strongest team to Loughborough on Saturday to play the Corinthians in a Senior League match.

For twenty minutes the home side were one man short. Lakin slipped when a golden opportunity presented itself, and after this Layton netted the ball for Whitwick, an appeal for offside being unheeded. At the other end Spencer shot into the visiting custodian's hands and after this Roadley had to clear from Lakin. A mistake between the home backs let Roach in, and with a fine oblique shot he improved Whitwick's score. Layton afterwards tried a flying shot, but the home custodian stopped it in fine style. In another attack on the home goal, Thorpe scored for Whitwick, and following this Dexter added a fourth with a fine shot. Interval: Whitwick 4, Corinthians 0.

Shortly after restarting Layton put the ball into the net, and after a brilliant bit of individual work, Spencer beat Roadley in fine style. The Corinthians improved and after making several onslaughts Wright beat Roadley. Towards the close Roach scored again for Whitwick.

Result: Whitwick Imperial 6, Corinthians Res. 2