

# Coalville Times At War

Friday September 4<sup>th</sup> 1914 (Issue 1174)

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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 17<sup>th</sup>.

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 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, states that 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> and Moreton thanked the Council for their letter which was forwarded to him on August 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 Trustee's 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.

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### **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 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Barlowe, 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 up to the ages of 19 and 35.

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### **"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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.)

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## 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 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who appealed for a few trained men to fill up the ranks of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion for foreign service; others for Lord Kitchener’s army; and the raising of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> 1914 (Issue 1175)**

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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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>. – 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 11<sup>th</sup>. – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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## **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. 4<sup>th</sup>, 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,  
6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 had 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> 1914 (Issue 1176)**

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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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 has 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. Alldread, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

Rob't Sharpe, farmer, Whitwick, was summoned for violent conduct at Whitwick, on September 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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 "Tommys" 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 belonged 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.

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.