

The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

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DON'T PAY RENT. IF ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE EUROPEAN WAR. THE PEOPLE'S CHARTER. NEW ACT OF PARLIAMENT WHICH WILL ASSIST THE WORKERS.

Owing to ignorance of the law poor people are being compelled to suffer considerable hardships.

Consequent on the closing of factories and loss of employment many are unable to pay their rent, and instances have been brought to our notice where bailiffs have been illegally put in and furniture seized.

Below we review the provisions of the Act of Parliament—The Courts (Emergency Powers) Act—recently passed to tide over the distress occasioned by the national emergency.

With their usual promptitude the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council have generously come to the assistance of poor workers who may be illegally victimised by engaging a solicitor to take up such cases as come to their notice.

Though much has been made in the Press of the promptitude of the Government in looking after the interest of the commercial classes during the war, by the institution of the Moratorium, etc., very little attention has been given to an equally important measure. Indeed, there appears to have been a veritable conspiracy of silence in the interests of landlords and others about the Act which was recently passed by Parliament to enable the poor, who otherwise would have been left to struggle against overwhelming odds, to tide over the distress occasioned by the calamity which has befallen Europe.

This Act, which we briefly summarised in our last issue, completely alters the law upon all sorts of matters with which working people are most intimately concerned. It regulates the condition under which landlords may distrain for rent, or furniture dealers and others may seize goods under hire purchase agreements, under which insurance policies may be lapsed, and also deals with bankruptcy and mortgages.

Though by no means perfect the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act, 1914, as it is officially styled, has met the immediate needs of the impoverished worker, but it must be said that the daily Press have lamentably failed in their duty of instructing the public. Upon the details of this measure, which during the war will affect the worker at every turn in his daily life, they have preserved an almost complete silence. Much could be said—and as time goes on we hope to have the opportunity of saying it—as to the reasons which have compelled this silence. For the present, in the interest of the working class of the district, we are content with reviewing its main provisions.

Rent Need Not Be Paid.

The withdrawal of the breadwinner to take his place in the fighting line, or the loss of employment due to the closing of works, has plunged many families into the direst poverty. In these circumstances it is conceivable that they have been prepared to forego paying rent to starving. But it is regrettable that there have been landlords who have availed themselves on the first opportunity—possibly taking advantage of the shortage of housing accommodation—to put in bailiffs. Though fully acquainted with the altered conditions of the law they have relied on the ignorance of the poor tenants—assisted by the silence of the Press—to extort the sorely-needed money.

Therefore it will be welcome news to distressed tenants to learn that a landlord dare not turn them out of a house without the authority of the Registrar in Chambers. He cannot levy a distress upon household goods without a similar warrant.

We have heard of several cases where bailiffs have been put in without the authority of the court. The best thing to do is to refuse admittance and to threaten an action for illegal distress if they make any attempt to touch the furniture. They know the law well enough, and if it is shown that the tenant knows it equally well they will not force their attentions.

If the landlord decides to go to the Registrar he must give the tenant notice of his intention, and if the tenant also attends and presents a good case he will not be pressed.

Hire-Purchase Agreements—

In order to get together a comfortable home many people, by their poverty, are compelled to purchase goods under hire-purchase agreements. That is to say, that goods are acquired on a promise to pay a certain sum weekly or monthly until the article is completely paid for. These articles are mainly furniture, sewing machines, and pianos, and in the ordinary course if the payments are not kept up to date the supplier has power to take them back without regard to the money already paid. This will be found to be stated in almost every agreement.

But here again the war has entirely altered matters. Under the new Act of Parliament goods purchased under this system cannot be seized without authority of the Registrar, and if in-

ability to pay can be proved on account of the war he will not grant an order.

—And Insurance Policies.

Probably the first thing which "goes by the board" when adversity falls upon a household is the weekly coppers paid as premiums on the policies under which they have insured themselves against death. There is not the least doubt that some of the insurance companies anticipated a veritable harvest of lapsed policies when the war broke out, and we have heard of cases where people who, after paying for years on their policies, have had to suffer their loss because they were unable to afford to keep up the weekly payments.

Let there be no mistake. No insurance policy the value of which does not exceed £25 can be cancelled without the sanction of the County Court. The holder of the policy is entitled to ample notice of such County Court proceedings, and if it is the war that is the cause of non-payment complete protection will be granted by the Court.

Mortgages.

With a laudable desire to escape the attentions of the landlord and to become the owner of his own house many a working man has saved sufficient money to "put down" and have borrowed the rest to build a house. Of course the interest charges have to be met, and capital repaid, amounting to practically the same thing as paying rent, with the exception that the house to all intents and purposes belongs to the tenant.

Again there is no need for alarm on the part of the borrower. Under the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act the powers of the mortgagee are suspended, and he also may not foreclose until he has the sanction of the Registrar, which will not be granted if the borrower puts in an appearance and gives the facts of the case.

The Small Trader.

Small traders have been having a "rough passage" during these troublous times, what with increases in prices and so on, and possibly have been going in fear and trembling as to what their creditors may do.

In the circumstances now existing creditors will not be allowed to treat them harshly. If their difficulties are directly or indirectly attributable to the war the Judge has ample powers to stay proceedings upon such terms as he thinks fit. If the trader can show reasonable prospects of ultimate solvency the probabilities are that he will be helped to pull through.

Debt.

Debtors have consideration meted out to them under the new Act. Though a distress warrant may be "out," it cannot be enforced without a further application to the Court, and if inability to pay is traceable to the war the debtor will be immune from further pressure.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE POOR.

Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council's
Generous Action.

At the last meeting of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council several surprising instances of victimisation by landlords and others were given by delegates.

A resolution was unanimously carried empowering the officials to engage a solicitor to assist poor people who are being pressed by grasping creditors.

Therefore, if any readers happen to hear of any such cases of hardship we advise them to acquaint Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P. (president), or Mr. H. Bagley (secretary) at the Labour Assembly Rooms, who will take steps to inquire into the matter.

For this purpose, among others, a Vigilance Committee of the Trades Council has been appointed, and immediate steps will be taken to bring harsh creditors to book.

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When the crisis is over we hope the object lesson our Society has given to this town and district will stimulate all workers to a sense of their own personal benefit in becoming members. Our benefits to workers are incalculable, both in time of War and Peace.

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THE
Wolverhampton Worker.

OCTOBER, 1914.

THE WAR AND THE PEOPLE.

The European War has now been raging for eight weeks, and the strain of the industrial consequences arising from it is becoming intensified. The workers of Lancashire appear to be suffering more acutely than any others by reason of the fact that the cotton industry, with its enormous foreign trade, has been most seriously disorganised. The same kind of thing is felt in varying degrees in other districts, and Wolverhampton is no exception. We are glad to know that the Trade Unions have at length succeeded in their repeated endeavours to secure a larger share of representation on the Citizens' Committee, and we hope to see that body undertaking extensive measures to relieve the situation without delay. There is some talk of difficulty in obtaining money to finance useful schemes of reproductive enterprise, but our view is that the Government will be bound to do what is necessary in this respect if sufficient pressure is brought to bear upon them by the local authorities. The State is the only power that can give effective help to the nation, and the Government must not stint that help. The workers, on the advice of their leaders, are giving an adequate response to the national appeal for the strengthening of the Army, and the State in its turn should do all that is necessary to mitigate home distress caused by the war.

Labour Party's Action.

The Labour Party and the Trade Union Congress Parliamentary Committee are taking vigorous action to promote the welfare of the workers in both the industrial and the military armies, and they have already secured substantial concessions from the Government, chief among them being increases in the amounts remitted to Trade Unions towards the payment of unemployment benefit, and in the separation allowances to the wives and

families of men who are serving with the colours. Further and more definite arrangements are necessary for the relief and prevention of unemployment and to make adequate provision for the dependents of men who lose their lives whilst serving with the colours, also for those who are disabled. If the Government delays its reply on the latter question much longer, there will be a big outcry from the public. Mr. Asquith promised an early answer on September 17, but no pronouncement has yet been made, and we are glad to know the national representatives of Labour are following the matter up. We are quite certain the nation will be willing to make whatever financial sacrifices may be necessary to provide for the brave men who are disabled whilst fighting for their country and of the dependents of those who lose their lives whilst performing the same heroic service. In short, there must be no repetition of the scandalous neglect that followed the Crimean and other wars.

HOME RULE AT LAST.

So long has the Home Rule question been before the people that it is hard to realise that the long years of agitation are over, and that at last there is on the Statute Book an Act which gives to the Irish people the right of self-government. With the close of the session this important measure automatically became an Act and received the Royal assent, although on account of the war its operation is delayed for twelve months. To us the passing of the Home Rule Act has a peculiar significance in connection with the great conflict now proceeding. The British nation entered into hostilities with Germany primarily for the protection of a smaller nation whose neutrality had been violated by the Kaiser's army. We must, it was said, conserve the liberty of smaller peoples, and there is no one who will disagree with that. Therefore it is singularly fitting that at the same time that this nation was entering into a great war in defence of the liberties of one small nation, it should also take the great step of granting Home Rule to another small nation within the Empire. The destiny of Ireland may now safely be left in the hands of the Irish people, and though Sir Edward Carson a few days ago made vague threats as to the future, we think with the passage of time calmer counsels will prevail, and all sections will work together for the good of their country.

The Important Precedent.

Epoch-marking as the passage of the Home Rule Act and Welsh Disestablishment Act is, there is another and even more important feature which appears to have been overlooked by the majority of the people. These were the first contentious Bills to become law of the land under the Parliament Act. By the signing of these measures the Parliament Act has been consummated, and this fact alone deserves a prominent place in history. There was great anxiety on the part of the Tories to prevent the passing of the Parliament Bill. Only after the threat to create sufficient Peers to carry that Bill through the House of Lords did they climb down. Since that time all their endeavours have been directed towards preventing the Parliament Act coming into operation. The incidents at the Curragh and the threats of civil war were all part of their plans—but they have failed. The King has given the Royal assent to the Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment Bills, and by so doing has created a precedent of far-reaching importance. Its significance in connection with Labour measures will be apparent. Whatever may be the proposals embodied in any future Bill coming under the scope of the Parliament Act—land nationalisation, railway nationalisation, right to work, or any other of the many reforms to be pushed forward—the present or any future King will be bound by precedent to act according to the Constitution as expressed in the

Parliament Act. For that reason we place the session of Parliament which ended last month among the most historic in the annals of the National Assembly.

DEFEND YOUR TRADE UNIONS.

Although ordinary Trade Union work has, of necessity, been suspended in consequence of the war, the Unions have been very helpful to their members in this time of exceptional trial, and we would urge every member to do his utmost to maintain the strength of his organisation throughout the period of the war. When it is over there will undoubtedly be a great increase in the number of unemployed workers in consequence of the return of thousands of men from the Army and the general dislocation of industry and shortage of capital. The workers will then need their organisations more than ever to defend their standard hours and rates of pay from encroachment at the hands of unscrupulous employers. We have received an authentic report upon the experiences of the working classes in Serbia at the conclusion of the Balkan War of last year. The report states:

"Our 'upper' classes have managed to make a good thing out of the war; many millions have poured into the funds of the capitalists, and the officers received more money than they have had for the last ten years. . . . The manufacturers are rejoicing at the thought of the army of hungry workers seeking employment, for this promises much cheap and willing labour. The workers, in the desperation of their present conditions, accept work at any price; their only anxiety is whether there is any work to be had. The organisations are so cut up or weakened that they are offering no protection against the despotism of the employers, who have extended the working time by one, two, or three hours per day, and the prices of food have increased since the commencement of the war by about 25 per cent. Real wages have fallen rapidly, although they were formerly terribly low. . . . Only through organisation can we hope to free ourselves from this fearful situation, and all our efforts are therefore directed towards the reconstruction of the Trade Unions."

It is quite true that the organisation of labour in Serbia was not in a very advanced stage at the time the Balkan War broke out, and we certainly think it is improbable that our own Trade Unions will dissolve in consequence of the general disturbance of industry caused through the present war. Nevertheless, the Servian experience will probably be met with here in a modified degree, and the lesson contained in the report quoted above is one that all Trade Unionists should take to heart.

THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH.

In an appeal recently issued by the Imperial Maritime League the following interesting remark appeared:

"Britain must from this day until peace is declared be one large co-operative concern—each for all and all for each."

We should be in entire agreement with the sentiment thus expressed if the words "until peace is declared" were omitted, and we quote this as a clear and simple illustration of the essential difference between ourselves and those with whom we have disagreed on industrial and political questions. We want the nation to be organised permanently as "one large co-operative concern" in which the predominant principle will be "each for all and all for each," but our opponents wish to revert, when "peace is declared," to the old condition of class differences, with its inevitable accompaniment of industrial strife and suffering; a condition of things under which the rich and powerful are allowed to exploit the poor and helpless and to take advantage of every improvement in science and industry to use it for their own enrichment instead of for the common good. If this war is the means of bringing masses of well-to-do people to recognise the desirability of "one large co-operative concern" working on the motto "Each for all and all for each," it will not have been in vain.

THE SONG OF THE MAXIM GUN.

I am the heir of the Mitrailleuse,
 Fashioned in hell for the devils to use.
 As the reaping machine cuts the golden ears
 So I garner my harvest of blood and tears.—
 R-r-r-r-r-ppp, R-r-r-r-r-ppp.

Europe and Asia and Africa's mine;
 My rattle is heard from the Pole to the Line.
 On land and sea, and in summer air
 My bloody anthem is everywhere.—
 R-r-r-r-r-ppp, R-r-r-r-r-ppp.

See in the trenches the rotting heaps,
 (Already the worm to the banquet creeps.)
 A human soul was in each of those
 Till my leaden vomit cut down the rows.—
 R-r-r-r-r-ppp, R-r-r-r-r-ppp.

High o'er the yells and shrieks of fight,
 I double the terror with war-mad spite;
 His nerve must be iron, his courage strong
 Who can hear without blenching the Maxim
 song.—
 R-r-r-r-r-ppp, R-r-r-r-r-ppp.

Surely no longer the stricken earth
 Will bear with the Hell Hounds who gave me
 birth!
 Haste! If you'd hear my crackling blast,
 For this song which I sing is my loudest and
 last.—
 R-r-r-r-r-ppp, R-r-r-r-r-ppp.

MARCUS TYDEMAN.

JOTTINGS.

One of the amusing incidents of the war, which is a charming illustration of the art of adaptation possessed by the real newspaper artist, is given by the *Newspaper World*. I will quote it in full.

"Speaking of war pictures, by the way, I should just like to put in a plea for 'fair deals.' Last Sunday's anti-war demonstration in Trafalgar-square was by no means a fiasco, as at least one photograph suggested.

"The square was crowded with, say, 10,000, and the only opposition came from a comparatively small group in one corner centred round a Union Jack tied to an umbrella.

"I say nothing as to what should have been; I speak simply of what did happen.

"On Monday morning a photograph of this small group, taken at one of its recurring outbursts of flag and hat-waving, was published under the heading of 'England for War!'"

It would seem that the following immortal lines contain a certain amount of significance in connection:

I slept in an Editor's bed one night,
 And could not suppress my sighs.
 For I thought as I rolled in his feathery nest,
 How easy the Editor "lies."

[Having observed a significant flourish of the blue pencil and a cold glint in the editorial eye, I hasten to make it clear that this is not intended to apply to the Editor of this journal.—C.V.]

The Glasgow Corporation have resolved to appoint a committee to report upon the desirability of instituting a printing and stationery department to supply the Corporation with their stationery and do their printing.

I suggest to the Wolverhampton Town Council it would mean a substantial saving to the rates if the innovation were adopted here, as the Corporation printing bill amounts to a very considerable figure per year.

The printing orders of the Insurance Committee, Board of Guardians, and other public bodies might also be safely relied upon to flow into the municipal establishment in large quantity.

The magnitude of the work demanded would find constant employment for a big staff of printers, and the very best conditions in every respect would be ensured for all concerned.

WORKERS' VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUCH-NEEDED BODY.

At a special joint meeting of the Trades Council and ward workers held recently the following resolution, which was moved on behalf of the Executive Committee was carried:—

"That this Executive Committee being satisfied that the number of Trade Union representatives on the Local Citizen Committees is inadequate to put into effect the full powers of such committees, as set out in the L.G.B. circular for dealing with present and contingent distress among the working class, hereby appoint a 'Working Class Vigilance Committee' to bring pressure to bear on those in authority (including the local Town and Rural Councils, Health Committees, Distress Committees, and Education Committees) to use their full powers in the direction of preventing distress and especially:

- (1) To ensure that all children shall have food on all days;
- (2) To ensure that the mothers of infants shall have suitable nourishment and attention;
- (3) To ensure that useful schemes of employment are immediately started for those who otherwise will deteriorate and become incompetent;
- (4) To ensure that the wealth by the workers contributed to the several Relief Funds is fairly distributed among all the victims of the war in a reasonable manner and without that unnecessary inquisition characteristic of certain charity organisations; and
- (5) To keep a vigilant eye on all matters affecting the working class, and periodically report to the Trades Council for the information of all Trade Unionists."

The following were elected to serve upon the Workers' Vigilance Committee:—

- PARK WARD: Messrs. L. Sproson, George Lipper, W. Riley.
 DUNSTALL WARD: Messrs. Palmer, Adams, Mr. M. Edwards, Mr. C. H. Palmer.
 ST. MARK'S WARD: Messrs. H. Horton, A. Dean, S. Penzer.
 ST. JOHN'S WARD: Messrs. F. Barker, T. H. Griffin, J. Fletcher.
 ST. MARY'S WARD: Mr. F. Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. Bigford.
 GRATSELEY WARD: Messrs. F. Dark, T. Allsopp, F. A. Farmer.
 ST. MATTHEW'S WARD: Messrs. A. Howell, J. Handley, C. H. Jones.
 ST. GEORGE'S WARD: Messrs. G. Williams, J. Brain, F. Miller.
 BLAKENHALL WARD: Messrs. H. N. Fellows, H. Wilkes, J. H. Rhodes.
 ST. JAMES'S WARD: Messrs. J. Moore, Burgess, and L. W. Morris.
 MERRIDALE WARD: Mr. A. Horton, Mr. and Mrs. Finlayson.
 ST. PETER'S WARD: Messrs. C. W. Hill, J. Bellis, and E. Edwards.

Existing members of the Labour organisations upon the Relief Committee to be *ex officio*. Mr. W. H. Fern was unanimously elected hon. secretary. The first meeting has already been held, and much is expected from the new committee.

POSITION OF TRADE UNIONS.

TRADES COUNCIL ASKS FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

"That the Government be asked to temporarily increase their subsidy under Part 2 of the Insurance Act from $\frac{1}{2}$ to at least $\frac{3}{4}$, and to offer facilities for Unions not now paying unemployment benefit to take up their share of the subsidy."

Such was the important motion before the Wolverhampton Trades Council at their last meeting. The necessity for Government action was fully realised by the Trades Council, which was unanimous in passing the resolution, after an interesting discussion.

Mr. H. Bagley, the secretary, in moving the resolution, said the out-of-work funds of the trade unions were utterly inadequate to stand the strain of industrial conditions imposed by war, and unless help was forthcoming they would be confronted with the alternative of suspending payment of benefits or complete bankruptcy. It was never intended, he said, that trade union finance should meet the prospect of a suspension—which was more than probable—of the nation's industrial life. The duty of providing for an industrial community at such a time fell upon the State, and the State should be prepared to assist trade unions as it was assisting other bodies. Bankers had been bolstered up, for the time being, and stockbrokers had been assisted. A moratorium set up had protected another class. Surely at a time like the present, with the strain of finding a new Army and the natural shortage of work during war-time, it was the duty of the State to protect the greatest asset this nation possessed—the army of organised skilled intelligence.

Position of Trade Unions.

The State would have to secure the stability of Labour organisations. Under Section 106, of the National Insurance Act (Part II.), any Union, whether its members were in an insured trade or not, could claim a refund of one-sixth of the total sum which it expended in out-of-work benefit. Most great unions were already covered by this provision. There were, however, notable exceptions—dockers, carters, and some of the mining and textile unions. Section 106, as it stood, fell far short of what was required. The unions were already getting the refund of one-sixth (continued Mr. Bagley), and their position was slightly improved by the recent Amending Act, which had removed the upper limit of 12s., beyond which the refund could not previously be claimed, but there was no chance that, with that help alone, they or other unions who might come in under the Act would be able to meet their liabilities. There was instant need for a large increase in the subsidy. Whether the method be the raising of the one-sixth to one-half, or even more, or the juster plan of refunding to each union all that it had to pay during the crisis over and above its expenditure of out-of-work benefits in normal times, it was clear that the Government must be prepared to allocate a sum of money for the purpose. How rapidly the need for relief had grown was shown by the Board of Trade figures just issued. The percentage of unemployment in those unions which made returns had risen during the last month from 2.8 to 7.1.

Spreading Employment.

They must also remember that the employers were "spreading" such employment as could be given, with the result that short time was extensive. That spreading of employment was excellent, but the result was shown in the employers' return of wages paid, which showed a decline about twice as great as the decline in unemployment—short time not, of course, being regarded as unemployment. There had also been the effect of recruiting to unemployment. The Board of Trade figures of unemployment, compiled from returns covering a million work-people, showed that, roughly, half-a-million recruits had enlisted. If, estimating that one in ten of the new recruits had figured in the return of unemployment, the percentage would have been over 12, instead of 7 per cent. Those figures, bad though they seemed, were probably better than many would have expected on the outbreak of the war. They could not tell, however, how long the war would last. The drain on the funds of the trade unions was enormous, and whatever action Trades Councils took would have to be taken immediately and the Government pressed to introduce legislation to increase the refund.—(Applause.)

The resolution was seconded.

A "Gross Crime."

Mr. J. H. Jackson, in supporting the resolution, said that if the Government did not come to the aid of the trade unions, which had done such valiant work in looking after the interests of the working classes for so long a period, they would certainly be guilty of a gross crime. (Hear, hear.) It was "up to" the workers to watch how the Government responded to this appeal on their behalf. They must also watch what part the local members of Parliament took in connection with any Bill having this object in view, and whether the subsidy was large enough to give adequate compensation for the way trade unionists were coming forward to help the country. If the local members of Parliament do not give them the support they deserved they ought to let the reckoning time come at the first opportunity. Everything possible should be done in the direction of putting into operation schemes calculated to strengthen the hands of the trade unions during the crisis. He believed that though they might not get the subsidy, the spirit of the trade union movement could not be killed and they would be prepared to make sacrifices for the cause. If they did not get what they asked for, on the very first claim, they must keep pressing their demands until they achieved their desires. (Applause.)

We are pleased to say the Government has since made a concession in the desired direction.

MR. A. G. WALKDEN AND THE WAR

INTERESTING LETTER FROM OUR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE.

"COUNTRY IN VERY REAL DANGER."

FELLOW WORKERS,

I am very glad to learn that the lead given by the Trades Council in regard to the present National Emergency has met with a favourable and hearty response amongst all sections of the Labour movement in Wolverhampton. Time is proving that the decision of the National Labour Party to assist in the campaign to strengthen the British Army was entirely justified, and even some of the strongest anti-militarists who at first hesitated to support the decision are now working for it actively. I have supported the decision from the first, because I was thoroughly convinced that it was the right thing to do and that there was no satisfactory position to be taken up between that and the negative position of mere non-resistance.

In connection with the Parliamentary work of my own Union I had to be at the House of Commons nearly every day during August. The situation created by the outbreak of the war was developing day by day, and when the fourth week was reached the tension became most acute. Our friends in Parliament were in possession of information that was not published in the Press. They knew that unless greater help was immediately given to France the German forces would soon achieve a decisive victory, and that if the British soldiers then at the front were not quickly reinforced they stood a bad chance of being wiped out. And the Labour Party knew that if the conquest of Belgium was completed, the British forces crushed, and the defensive armies of France defeated—if all that happened, England itself and the whole future of our civilisation would be in immediate danger.

The German Menace.

There was no mistake about the intentions or the strength of the Germans. The ambitions of their Militarist rulers (about which I will speak presently) had a prospect of being realised. The week before the Belgian seat of Government had to be removed to Antwerp, and the Germans had occupied Brussels after driving the Belgian Army from Louvain to Antwerp. The following Sunday the British Expeditionary Force was engaged near Mons. Lunéville had been occupied by the Germans and the Saales Pass had been abandoned by the French. Namur fell on Monday. Louvain was completely destroyed on Tuesday. The Allied Armies had to fall back upon Cambrai and Le Cateau on the Wednesday, after four days continuous fighting. The British section had been made a special mark of, and the Germans were determined to annihilate it if possible. The Allied Forces were having to retreat from point to point, and the whole position was one of extreme gravity.

All this time the general public were not allowed to realise the full seriousness of events, and I certainly think that a mistake was made in the stringency of the Official Press Censorship. The absence of sufficient information and of a frank public statement as to the actual state of affairs caused a most unfortunate lack of appreciation of the position amongst the masses of the English people. This resulted in insufficient recruiting for Lord Kitchener's New Army. Members of Parliament and the Press were specially requested to exercise close restraint in regard to the information that had come into their possession as it was feared that it would have a damaging effect on trade and industry. At the same time the Prime Minister made his personal appeal to the members of all Political Parties to unite with him in a great national appeal for adequate support for Lord Kitchener's plans to strengthen the British Army.

Very Real Danger.

The Labour Party in Parliament knew that the country was in very real danger, and they also knew that unless sufficient volunteers responded to the national appeal, the Government would be compelled in the interests of the nation to constitute compulsory military service, better known as "Conscription." The Party held a special meeting on Friday, August 23, and decided to join in the National Campaign. This decision was approved by an Executive meeting of the Party next morning, and the same day I commended it in a special circular to the 250 branches of my own Union with its 30,000 members. The Wolverhampton Trades Council at a special meeting on August 31 endorsed the decision and agreed to assist in carrying it into effect, also to place the Labour Assembly Rooms at the disposal of the organisers of the National Campaign for their use if required, and urged all young men who were free from family responsibilities to give earnest consideration to the appeal for their service with the Colours.

Although we are men of peace, men whose utmost desire is to promote and maintain friendship and goodwill amongst all nations, we had no satisfactory choice of any course other than the one adopted by the Labour Party, and, in my opinion, there is nothing inconsistent in that course. We desire peace on earth and goodwill among men, but that state of things is quite incompatible with the dominant, aggressive Imperialism of the Militarist caste who have got the upper hand in their own unfortunate country, and who, undoubtedly, intend to keep it and to extend their system throughout Europe if allowed to do so. They certainly will do so unless prevented by force of arms. No other force will stop them. They are prepared to exercise that force themselves to the utmost extent and to the detriment of every nation that is not strong enough to oppose them effectively.

It is proved beyond question that the German Government was

The Deliberate Aggressor

from the very beginning of all this ghastly business. It alone refused to agree to the British proposal that the difficulty between Serbia

and Austria should be dealt with by a conference of the other European Powers. The German Government preferred to take its own course by immediately declaring war on Russia, outraging the neutrality of Luxemburg and Belgium, and invading France. All this was done with the utmost speed and violence, and there can be no question about Germany having been quite ready for the job while the others were thinking about what might happen. I will not refer to the most shameful incidents in the campaign except to remind you that they are admitted to have been part of the German plans, and that their "frightfulness" was deliberately intended to terrorise the people of Belgium and France. Their actions have aroused the resentment of the whole civilised world.

Position of German People.

To those who urge that the German people are in no way to blame for this, I can only say that in my view the German people certainly are to blame to the extent to which they have, as a nation, tolerated or encouraged the Militarist Party. They are also responsible in having allowed the continuance of a state of affairs under which their Parliament has no real power and the Kaiser and his Chancellor and their class dominate national policy and procedure. The German Parliament is little better than a Duma. The veto and prerogatives of the Emperor and the aristocrats exceed beyond all recognition the old veto of our own House of Lords. In this country the Royal veto has been nullified, and the Peers' veto has been limited to such an extent that far-reaching legislative measures which, in many other countries, could only be put into operation by means of a revolution, can be carried to our own Statute Book in a peaceable and orderly manner. These are some of the priceless rights and liberties that we should undoubtedly lose if this country came under the military dictatorship of a victorious German army.

Whilst on my visit to Germany two years ago I became acquainted at first hand with some of the heavy difficulties with which the reform movement in that country has been confronted, but again I can only say that whilst my sympathies are as keen as ever for the cause of true progress in that country and all others—to the extent to which the workers in Germany have allowed themselves to be made the tools of the governing classes in their war of invasion, they must be resisted. Non-resistance would inevitably result in the loss of our national existence with our hard-won freedom and all its infinite possibilities. Any nation adopting that course in face of circumstances such as now exist would ultimately find itself in the unenviable position of the Jews, who have no homeland of their own, and whose sufferings during the course of history have been almost unparalleled.

In the next issue of the WORKER I purpose dealing with the avowed ideals of the Prussian Militarists, also with the better possibilities that may be realised at the conclusion of the war.

Yours fraternally,

A. G. WALKDEN.

WEST MIDLANDS BUILDING TRADES ALLIANCE.

For years past the want of a good understanding between the different sections of the building trades in the various towns situated close to Birmingham has kept the workers in those trades and towns from receiving better conditions of labour to which they are entitled.

Various conferences were held, and finally, on April 9th, 1914, the West Midlands Building Trades Alliance was formed. It consists of all branches of the building trades having branches within a 15 miles radius of Birmingham. Already over 50 branches of all sections have joined—bricklayers, carpenters, stonemasons, plasterers, machinists, painters, plumbers, and labourers, from towns such as Wolverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge, Walsall, West Bromwich, Bromsgrove, Sutton, Kidderminster, Blackheath, Old Hill, Solihull, and Birmingham are affiliated.

The Alliance was formed for educational and organising purposes, and in the outlying districts there is need for such an organisation, the conditions of labour in these places being such that they are a menace to those who work in the better organised towns.

The Alliance is out to help, in every possible way, any movement to better the conditions of any class of workmen in the building industry in the area governed by it. Success has already been achieved in many directions, and the Executive Committee of the Alliance believe that if the work already accomplished is only made known to those engaged in our craft it would give a great impetus to the movement. Better wages, better conditions of labour, and social improvements among the building operatives is their object, and by all joining together under this alliance, there is every hope of those things being brought about. Contributions are small, to enable all to join, and the Alliance is open to all branches in the building trade.

The main object of the Alliance is to bring about, as near as possible, a uniform code of working rules to govern the whole district. Branches are earnestly requested to consult the officers of the Alliance, when alterations to existing rules are being proposed, and they will then receive such advice and assistance which will tend to bring about so desirable an end.

The officers of the Alliance are:—Chairman, Mr. E. E. Edwards; vice-chairman, Mr. H. N. Fellows; treasurer, Mr. H. Duckett; secretary, Mr. E. Matthews, who hope to receive the cordial support and co-operation of all affected.

6s. FOR A FUNERAL.

WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT MONEY SHOULD BE "SPENT WISELY."

TREATMENT OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

By "LAUREL."

The "Call to Arms" of a few weeks ago particularly appealed for men to join the Territorial Army with the definite assurance, "Your town will look after your dependents in your absence."

The signatories to the appeal evidently accepted that responsibility, but as to how it has been carried out is another matter, and it would appear that the guardianship was transferred to the "tender mercies" of the Soldiers and Sailors' Families' Association.

When we consider the fact that this Association is controlled by the "genteel" class, it need not be surprising to find that considerable dissatisfaction exists as to the treatment meted out, as well as to the inadequate financial assistance given.

Waited Five Hours.

Day after day, large numbers of the wives and mothers of our gallant defenders were compelled to wait for hours outside Molineux Hall before receiving attention. Women with little children under school age have frequently been on this "outpost duty" for three hours, and, in one instance, an expectant mother waited five hours before receiving the paltry sum due.

The "Charity Ladies" are, of course, expert advisers to the recipients, one young married woman, with no children, being told that she ought to go out and work now that her husband had gone. In another case an artisan's wife, with three little children, was asked if she had nothing saved from the 32s. per week which her husband had earned. The suggestion was also made to another applicant that she ought to move into a smaller house if she could not make ends meet. (Possibly they might also teach us how to live on about 2d. a day and give delightful curtseys to the landlord when he calls for the rent.)

Six Shillings for a Funeral.

The height of absurdity was assuredly reached in another case. Were it not so pathetically tragic one would be compelled to laugh at the ideas entertained of the needs of the poor. In this case a woman, whose husband had enlisted, applied for assistance. She had a baby ten months old.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association allowed her four shillings per week, whilst her husband had sent her another four shillings for three weeks.

On the fourth week the husband wrote her to the effect that, having himself received no money, he was unable to send her any. In the meantime the baby had fallen ill. The doctor had ordered extra nourishment in the shape of whites of eggs and nourish.

Naturally 4s. weekly—up to this time she had received nothing from the War Office—would not allow of this to be done, and the woman applied for extra assistance. She was allowed the truly magnificent sum of one shilling extra with which to carry out the doctor's instructions.

The baby died the following week and, together with a lady helper, the mother again visited the Soldiers and Sailors' Association and asked for assistance to bury the baby. She was given a sum of money. The "helper" was asked to see that the money was "spent wisely," and the hope was expressed that there would not be a lavish funeral.

The "helper" had not noticed what the amount of assistance given was, and was literally amazed to find that it was 10s., of which 4s. was her weekly allowance! Six shillings for a funeral. What a vision of wreaths and crosses!

Allowances Weeks Behind.

To make matters worse, in the majority of instances the Government allowances are weeks behind, the women having nothing besides the 4s. or 5s. a week usually given by the Soldiers and Sailors' Association, consequently distress is oftentimes acute. Now that the Government have decided to raise the Separation Allowances, and to have them paid weekly through the Post Office, the hardships entailed will certainly be minimised, although the revised scale is not by any means satisfactory.

"Your town will look after your dependents in your absence," may be assuring, but it satisfieth not when the children suffer and the dependents lack the ordinary necessities of life.

In time of war they, of all classes, should be tended and cared for, and the only remedy is adequate State payment for our defenders' wives and families, entirely free from the taint of the "dole of charity."

DEATH OF MR. GEO. DAVIES.

ESTEEMED SECRETARY OF THE BRASSWORKERS' SOCIETY.

It is with great regret we chronicle the death of Mr. Geo. Davies, Secretary of the Wolverhampton Branch of the Brassworkers' Society. The deceased, whose death at the early age of 40, will be a shock to his many personal friends, was well known in local Trade Union circles. He had been for some years a delegate from his Union to the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council, and was a willing helper in the many demonstrations that take place in the Labour movement in the town and district. His success as a Trade Union secretary was attributed to the courtesy and tolerant spirit which he possessed, and the Brassworkers' Society have indeed lost a valued servant.

Much regret and concern will be extended to his widow and young family, with whom sincere sympathy is expressed in their sad trouble.

At the funeral the president and secretary represented the Trades Council, and various members of the Society to which Mr. Davies belonged also attended.

H. BAGLEY.

A SHAMEFUL STORY.

TROUBLES OF A POOR FAMILY DURING WAR-TIME.

A NOBLE ACTION.

(By Our Special Commissioner.)

Dale Street is one of the meaner streets of Wolverhampton. It is situated in the Merridale Ward, and runs between Graiseley Street and Zoar Street. The whole outlook of the vicinity speaks of poverty and tragedy—and on closer acquaintance it is possible to come across instances of heroism of which only the poorest of poor people are capable.

It is a sordid story that I have to tell, but a story which has its brighter side. It is a story of how the well-to-do treat the poor, and how the poor treat each other.

At No. 50 there lived until a week ago a family of the name of Preston. The husband, George Preston, is a cripple, suffering from paralysis down one side, and is unemployed. One son, aged 23, is partially blind, and earns 8s. 6d. The other son, the main support of the home, is at present serving with his regiment.

Consequently, it may be well imagined that when this son was called away to serve his King and Country the little family were plunged into dire straits. They had not been in affluent circumstances previously, and unfortunately had not been able to keep up with their rent. But they had paid something, and even when the breadwinner was called away an endeavour was made to pay the rent.

But this could not go on. A family cannot live without food, and it will be quite understood that if food was to be obtained something would have to be left unpaid. I may state that the income of the family at this time was 5s. 6d. a week from the half-blind son, and 5s. from one of the ward committees. Therefore, with three people dependent on this meagre sum no one will be surprised that the rent was left.

This, undoubtedly, was one of the cases which the new Act of Parliament, which we review elsewhere in this issue, was intended to assist. But now comes the story.

Landlord v. Tenant.

Poverty is an inexplicable thing to many people. It is accepted as a necessary evil by the comfortable few—when those comfortable few do not come directly into contact with it. But if it so happens that poverty owes the comfortable one money it is different. Then poverty becomes a crime, and the poverty-stricken are wretches and worse than criminals.

Such must have been the opinion of Mr. Sherwood, the landlord.

Therefore when a tenant cannot pay him 3s. 6d. a week—I did not inquire the rent of this particular house, but I should be surprised if it amounted to more—it would be a serious matter for a man who owns "streets of houses." Three shillings and sixpence might be the price of one meal, and though the poor may often have to go without a meal—even when their husbands and sons are serving their King and Country—whoever heard of a landlord who could do without a meal? But to proceed.

The next scene was the appearance of a bailiff—a comfortable-looking individual, who walked into the house and demanded the rent and arrears, a sum of £2. The tenant protested against his entrance, and suggested that he was not compelled to pay under the new Act, and produced a copy of the September WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER, in which it briefly stated the powers of landlords. The bailiff replied that he would show them what his powers were. The tenants were helpless. The bailiff took an inventory of the furniture, an interesting document which I reproduce for the benefit of those whose good fortune it is never to have seen one:

The Distress Warrant.

TO MR. G. PRESTON, and all whom it may concern. TAKE NOTICE, I, A. J. BRADLEY, as Bailiff to MR. SHERWOOD, have this day distrained all and singular the Goods and Chattels specified in the Schedule or Inventory hereunder written which are now in and upon the house and premises situate in 50, Dale Street, which you hold under the said Mr. SHERWOOD for the sum of £2, being rent due in arrears to the said Mr. SHERWOOD for the said premises, and that if the said rent with the Charges of Distraint for the same be not paid or the said Goods and Chattels re-levied according to law within Five Days from the date hereof the said Goods and Chattels will be Appraised and Sold towards satisfaction of the said Rent and Charges of the said Distress Appraisement and Sale or otherwise dealt with according to law.

Dated the 4th day of September, 1914.
ARTHUR BRADLEY, M.C.B.A.,
Auctioneer and Bailiff, 31, Broad St., Wolverhampton.
(Inventory).

Two tables, squab, 5 chairs, pictures, crocks, cooking utensils, etc.

A. J. BRADLEY, M.C.B.A.,
Certified Bailiff, 31, Broad St., Wolverhampton.
Rent: £2 0 0
Ex.: 0 7 6

(Removing any Goods off the Premises to avoid a Distress or any person aiding, assisting, or concealing the same will subject themselves to double the value of such Effects so removed or concealed to suffer imprisonment in the House of Correction there to be kept to hard labour without Bail or Mainprize Six Months pursuant to the Act 11th, George II.)

He demanded 10s. This the tenants again protested they could not find. However, the bailiff was obdurate, and somehow or other they got together 7s. 6d. After this had been paid the bailiff informed them that they must clear out by Saturday and added the following note to the distress warrant:

Received on account the sum of 7s. 6d. on conditions possession is given up by Saturday, September 12th.
M.P.B.

The Legal Position.

The new Act says no landlord may distrain for rent without the sanction of the Registrar. If a landlord intends to apply to the Registrar he must give notice of such intention to the tenants. The tenants say that no such notice was given, and they knew nothing until our friend the bailiff appeared. I should like to know whether the landlord had permission of the Registrar to take this action, and why the tenants were kept in ignorance. It would appear to me, under these circumstances, that the landlord, who should have known better, has committed a breach of the law.

However, the Preston family could do nothing. They were turned out of their house with nowhere to go. I do not suppose that the landlord would sleep any the less comfortably on that account. The bailiff, indeed, had told the tenants that they ought to be ashamed of themselves, and that a big, strong woman like Mrs. Preston ought to go out to work.

A Noble Action.

Next door there lives a woman, Mrs. Owen, whose husband recently responded to the appeal of Lord Kitchener. All the money she is in receipt of is 1s. 1d. per day from the Army authorities. Now if a landlord cannot afford to lose 3s. 6d. a week rent one would hardly expect a woman with only 7s. a week income to take in another family.

But this is exactly what happened. The Preston family have been taken under the roof of Mrs. Owen, and they are struggling on best they can. Mrs. Owen owes several weeks' rent, and she informs me that she also has been threatened by the landlord.

One rarely hears a good word for the poor—they are drunken, shiftless, criminal, according to some of the richer fraternity—until they are wanted to serve their King and Country, or to vote Tory or Liberal. What do they say to this instance? And I know that this is only one of many.

I will not condemn the landlord. Some people are endowed with the finer instincts of humanity and some are not. With that I will leave it.

Civilisation is in danger during this world-wide struggle. Recruits are wanted. Are we likely to get the men we want if they know that while they are killing Germans, and being killed, their wives and families are possibly dying from hunger and being turned from their homes? If this is a specimen of the civilisation our country is defending—I wonder sometimes—is it worth while?

IN THE GARDEN.

Timely Hints for Lovers of the Soil.

Clear away all weeds and unnecessary remains of preceding crops; they would only harbour vermin and exhaust the ground. Make ready for planting fruit-trees and bushes. Plant out coleworts, early summer cabbages, and onions sown in August and September, also lettuces to come on in Spring. Earth up celery and leeks.

FLOWER GARDEN.—Plant hyacinths and other bulbs if you did not do so last month. Look to your chrysanthemums in pots, see that they are regularly watered and neatly snicked. Cut down dahlia stems as soon as the frost has blackened them, leave the tubers a little longer in the ground to ripen. Take up gladioli and other tender bulbs.
C.W.H.

INTERESTING TO TRADES COUNCIL DELEGATES.

The Trades Council will have an interesting time at their next meeting. I am informed by Mr. H. Bagley, the energetic secretary, that a long-standing engagement is to be fulfilled, and that Mr. Frederick Temple, will address the Council upon the subject of "Co-operative Banking." Mr. Temple is an authority upon High Finance, an author of much repute, and has recently contributed important articles on the subject in the *Clarion*. It is hoped all interested in this important matter will accept this invitation.

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CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

GRAYE DISSATISFACTION CAUSED BY INADEQUATE RELIEF.

WORK MUST BE FOUND.

As the result of further protests by the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council the working-class representation on the Citizens' Relief Committee has again been increased. The Local Government Board were approached and an inspector visited Wolverhampton to inquire into the matter. The outcome has been that three additional Labour representatives have been appointed to the General and Ward Committees, one of whom has a seat on the Executive, on which previously Labour was represented by one member only. Mr. J. Dideridge (A.S.E.) has been added to the St. John's Ward Committee; Mr. Ernest Edwards (N.U.R.), to St. James' Ward; and Mr. W. M. Adamson (Workers' Union), Park Ward and Executive Committee.

So far, the Executive Committee have refused to accept a working woman on that body. The question has several times been before them and on each occasion defeated on a vote being taken. However, the matter is not being allowed to rest, and it is the intention of the Labour section to fight the question in the General Committee when that body meets.

Scales of Relief.

The administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund in Wolverhampton up to the present is giving rise to great concern. The constitution of the Committee appears to have given so much trouble that the Central Executive evidently have had no time at their disposal to attend to the question of the formation of an adequate scale of relief. Added to this defect was the lack of working-class representation on the Ward Committees. People in a state of abject poverty appealed to the Ward Committees for assistance and were sent away with such ridiculous sums as five shillings and seven and sixpence with which to sustain a family of several children. Evidently, the desire of our worthy councillors and employers on the committees is to conserve the Prince of Wales's Fund rather than attend to the needs of the people. If this is not the reason that dictated their procedure, then the only other construction we can place on the matter is that the committees, by lack of knowledge of the needs of the people are not in a position to carry out the work for which they were formed.

So grotesque are some of the ideas entertained by the committees that in one case the maximum relief given was 5s., while another committee thought itself exceedingly generous by granting 7s. 6d. The Executive Committee, moreover, has been very much perturbed as to whether 10s. was not too large an amount as a maximum.

However, the Trades Council have been making inquiries and have found that these scruples are not entertained by other towns. For instance in Warrington the scale is: Wife only, 12s. 9d.; wife and 1 child, 16s. 9d.; wife and 2 children, 18s.; wife and 4 children, 21s.; wife and 5 children, 23s. Income from any other source deducted from amount allowed. In Stockport the maximum is 18s. per week. London (Fulham, Willesden, and St. Pancras), maximum amount, 25s. Cardiff, maximum, 25s.

Trades Council's Suggestions.

In comparison with these allowances, no one can charge the Wolverhampton Committee with extravagance. After fully considering the matter the Trades Council special meeting decided to press the following scale:

	s.	d.
Wife only	12	9
Wife and one child	16	9
Wife and two children	18	0
Man and wife	18	0
Wife and three children	20	0
Wife and four children	21	6
Wife and five children	23	0

and 1s. 6d. per child to be allowed over that number.

Since then, however, there has been talk of the formation of a national scale, in which case there would be no necessity for localities to decide upon amounts. In the event of this national movement not coming to a head, the Labour representatives may be relied upon to do their utmost to get their suggested scale adopted for Wolverhampton.

We have dealt mainly with the question of relief because it is the evident desire and intention of the Wolverhampton Committee to work in this direction, but we would point out that when the National Relief Committee was formed, it was stated that the work of Citizens' Committees would not only give relief where necessary, but that they were entrusted primarily with the task of preventing unemployment within their areas. Indeed, the question of relieving by grants of money or tickets for food was held to be a secondary one.

Employment Must be Found.

The question of finding employment in Wolverhampton was left to the Distress Committee, who recently appointed an officer who has entered upon his duties at the Town Hall and duly receives applicants for work. We understand that up to the present less than one hundred have registered with the Investigation

Officer, but this is probably due to the fact that it is not generally known such an officer has been appointed or that the Distress Committee contemplate providing work. The Labour Party are demanding that the Citizens' Committee and Distress Committee shall fulfil all the purposes for which they were formed. There are many projects in Wolverhampton which, if proceeded with, would find considerable employment, and would have the advantage of not pauperising the people and of carrying out useful and necessary additions to our municipal undertakings.

We believe that the Authorities are priding themselves on the fact that there is so small an amount of unemployment in Wolverhampton. We are inclined to the opinion that the fact that so few have registered with the Investigation Officer as being in need of employment, is due to the lack of knowledge on the part of people of the existence and functions of both the Distress and Citizens' Committees. Therefore, we ask all unemployed, notwithstanding the fact that they may have registered through the Labour Exchange, to hand in their names to the Investigation Officer (Mr. F. J. Somerville), at the Town Hall. We believe that if this is done the amount of unemployment shown to exist in the town would make it imperative that the committees should act in a constitutional manner.

Work has been found in a few cases, and we are compelled to draw attention to the fact that the St. George's Ward Committee has been finding situations for men at 2s. 6d. a day. This is a grave breach of trade union principles, and we are bound to offer a strong protest. We can only wonder at the "loyalty" of employers who will take advantage of the poverty caused by the war to the extent of profiting by the misfortunes of working people.

But trade unionists must see to it that when at last the committees do set about systematic schemes of unemployment the Trade Union conditions of labour and pay are observed.

STILL WANTED!

RECRUITS FOR RESERVE BATTALION, 6th SOUTH STAFFS. REGIMENT.

Recruits are wanted to the number of 550 for the Reserve Battalion of the 6th South Staffordshire Regiment.

In conversation with an officer connected with the battalion we were informed that only the very best type of men are required, and of good character. They should have a chest measurement of 35 inches, should be between the ages of 19 and 35, and 5 ft. 6 in. in height.

"Only the very best men are wanted," said the officer. "Men of good character and integrity. By the measurements you will see we are only accepting a good type of man. We want decent chaps to come along—no drinking, gambling, bad language, and that sort of thing. And we want none of that 'class' business. This will be a pals' battalion, and we want every man to go and get his pals to join."

In reply to a further question the officer said:—"No 'home service' men will be accepted. Only men who are willing to sign on for active or foreign service are wanted. They will be trained at home under decent conditions, and will be ready for immediate service abroad when training is completed."

"And, above all, we do not want an unwilling soldier. I do not believe in the pressed man, or the man who joins on the impulse of the moment—he generally regrets it in the morning. We prefer a man who has thought over the matter and realises fully what is expected of him."

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to lack of space we are compelled to hold over various regular features.

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226 BRANCHES. 30,000 MEMBERS.

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Local Secretary, J. FARMER,
186, Merridale Street, West, Wolverhampton.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS.

BRANCH MEETINGS held on Saturday Evenings as follows:—

- No. 1—TOWN HALL HOTEL.
- " 2—VINE HOTEL.
- " 3—LABOUR ASSEMBLY ROOMS.
- " 4—LABOUR ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

35, QUEEN SQUARE, WOLVERHAMPTON.

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Offices:—BLACK AND WHITE BUILDINGS, 28, DARLINGTON ST., WOLVERHAMPTON.
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Claims paid on Friday Evenings from

7.30 to 8.30.

O. SMITH, Secretary.

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