



Claro Times

23 February 1917

# KNARESBOROUGH RURAL TRIBUNAL

## THE PLOUGHSHARE TO HELP TO WIN THE WAR

### CLASS "A" MEN WANTED.

A local Tribunal was held in the Rural District Council Offices on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr W. Atkinson presided, Sir Joseph Radcliffe (Military Representative) also being present.

10 The Military Representative applied for the review of the certificate of a Scriven dairy farmer (19), and stated that, owing to the demand for more men, he had been asked that the conditional exemption granted to the respondent, one of two brothers, should be withdrawn. The respondent was unmarried when conditional exemption was granted. It was considered necessary that one of them should go.

The Chairman said that their rulings were again being over-ruled.

Respondent said it would be impossible for one man to manage the 80 acres of land of their two farms, including gardens. Ten and a half acres were in Scriven, and 60 acres in Scotton. He was born on the farm. There were 26 cattle, 15 milk cows, two horses, 20 ewes, and 10 pigs on the two farms. This was his third appearance at that Tribunal. They retailed 30 gallons of milk a day.

The Appeals Tribunal, it was stated, had said that the wrong brother had his exemption withdrawn.

It was decided that the Tribunal's decision be upheld, and that the younger brother ought to go into the Army.

20 The Military Representative said they wanted "A" men to go, and a member of the Tribunal said that they also wanted "A" men at home, as the ploughshare would help to win the war as well as men in the Army.

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**23 February 1917**

**WOOD FELLER FURTHER EXEMPTED.**

The certificate of exemption in the case of a married man, aged 41 years, who was employed as a wood feller, the wood going to a mine and not for the Government, was appealed against by the Military Representative. He had joined the V.T.C. and regularly attended drills. Timber felling was of national importance, and he had been on the Slingsby Estate for about 15 years. He had been passed for general service.

10 The appeal of the Military Representative was not allowed, and the man's previous exemption was sustained.

**Claro Times**

**30 March 1817**

**EAST ANGLIANS DEPART.** – When the East Anglians departed from Knaresborough last week, an interested gathering assembled in the Castle grounds to witness them leave. The Cyclists Company has been billeted in the town during the past four months. Officers and men have both in public and private freely testified to the warm-heartedness of the inhabitants, as well as the hospitable nature of the efforts made for the comfort and well being of the troops. It was, therefore, with feelings of regret that the boys in khaki took leave of their friends.

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**Claro Times**

**4 May 1917**

**CANADIAN'S DASHING EXPLOIT.** The fine dash of the Canadians in the big battle for Arras and Vimy Ridge is vividly described by Pte. A Holmes, son of Mr and Mrs J. Holmes, High Bondend, Knaresborough, who is serving with the Canadians. He writes:

-I guess you will be wondering how I am going on in this big battle. Well, I am thankful to say that so far I have not had a scratch. My regiment was in the front line of the attack, and we were the first over the top. The first two German trenches we went through without any trouble at all from the Huns, though the shellfire was heavy, but his third line was very strongly held. Our guns were soon busy shelling that town  
10 as we went forward. The Germans were the same as they have always been, lying down and firing at us and using their machine guns until we were right on top of them, and then up went their hands with the shout, "Mercy, Kamerad." I can tell you it is hard work to take men like that prisoners. The whole thing was a great success for us. After we had gone, the first mile it was very easy. My regiment did very well. We took all our objectives and could have gone a lot farther, but our orders were to stay, and other regiments went forward. We soon found a dug-out and made ourselves comfortable. I just wish you could have seen that dug-out. It was about 50 feet down, four big rooms fitted up like a mansion, spring beds, and every convenience, even to electric lights. I was by the side of my officer all the way. He did splendid work. We had no sooner left our trench than he got wounded in the leg by a piece of shell, but not bad enough to stop him; he kept on going. Then he had his water bottle hit and his respirator, too.,  
20 both by explosive bullets, but neither of them did him any harm, though one would have gone right through his heart if it had not struck his respirator. He stayed with us until we got relieved before going to the dressing station to have his leg attended to.

**Claro Times**

**11 May 1917**

**KNARESBOROUGH RURAL TRIBUNAL**

The Military Representative in connection with the Knaresborough Rural Tribunal has generally a very difficult task to perform. He is constantly receiving pressing requests from the military authorities asking him to get more men for the Army, but Knaresborough being the centre of a farming district, and most of  
30 the members of the Tribunal being either farmers or closely connected with them, he seldom succeeds in getting any either on the first, second, third, or even fourth application. Members persist in granting conditional exemption, despite his appeals. Of course, when the Tribunal's decisions are questioned, and occasionally over-ruled by the military authorities or other Tribunals at Leeds or elsewhere, the dignity of the Knaresborough Tribunal members is apparently belittled, or, as one member says, "their decisions are useless." If, however, what the military authorities say is true, the question arises whether it is preferable to keep men on the land and risk defeat in the terrible war, or let them join the Army at once, and by so doing help to hasten an early victory for this country and her Allies. Of the two, immediate victory is surely more vital, and that sacrifices should accordingly be at once made in every possible way to ensure it.

**Claro Times**

**25 May 1917**

**CASUALTIES:** Mr and Mrs Stott, Victoria Avenue, Knaresborough, received a telegram on Tuesday, stating their son, Pte Tom Stott, had died in hospital the same morning from wound sustained on May 11<sup>th</sup>. He had been with the Forces 16 months.

**Claro Times**

**1 June 1917**

## **MILITARY FUNERAL AT KNARESBOROUGH**

10 Military honours were accorded at the interment, which took place at the Knaresborough Cemetery on Saturday, of Private Tom Stott (West Yorkshires), son of Mr and Mrs Stott, Victoria Avenue, New Scriven, whose death occurred as the result of wounds sustained on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The coffin was enveloped in a Union Jack and conveyed on a gun carriage from the residence to the Cemetery, a guard of honour and firing party being furnished from the Royal Field Artillery. The obsequies were conducted by Rev. J. A. Hubbard, and concluded with three volleys being fired over the grave.

The chief mourners were: Mr and Mrs Stott (father and mother), Pte. George and Miss Eva Stott (brother and sister), Miss Alice Stott and Master Geoffrey Stott (sister and brother), Mrs George Stott (sister in law), Miss M. Dewes (Ferrensby), Mr and Mrs Atkinson (uncle and aunt), Masters A. E. and E Atkinson (cousins), Miss Eva Johnson (Spofforth) (aunt), Mrs J. Thackray (Scotton), (aunt), Mr and Mrs Abrahams  
20 9Harrogate) (uncle and aunt), Mr and Miss Hargrave (Wakefield) (uncle and cousin), Mr and Miss Fawcett (Felliscliffe) (cousins), Mrs A. Barker (cousin), Mrs T. Sowerby (Staveley) (cousin), Mr and Mrs Johnson (uncle and aunt).

Members of the West Riding Volunteers also attended with Captain Watkins and Lieut. Shann. Amongst a number of friends were the following: Mr and Mrs Pawson, Mrs Dewes (Ferrensby), Miss Dougan (Harrogate, Mrs Richmond (Pateley Bridge), Mrs Marshall (Arkendale), Mrs Pickard, Mrs Clayton, Mrs and Miss Hogg, Mr Livingstone, Mrs Morrell (Harrogate), Mrs Watson (New Park), Mrs J. Watson (New Park), Mrs Clapham, Mr Harry Herrington, Mrs Dimmock, Mrs Brotherick (Arkendale), Miss Sarah Ann Herrington (Ferrensby), Mrs Williams, Mrs Harrison and Mrs C. Harrison (Ribston), Mr and Mrs Longfellow.

**Claro Times**

**1 June 1917**

**CASUALTIES:** Pte. Percy Oxtoby, High Street, Knaresborough, was killed on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. Pte. P. Fryer, of Old Scriven, Knaresborough, was wounded in the chest on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. Corpl W. Drury, Ellenthorpe, Boroughbridge, has been wounded a second time.

**DEATH OF MR BRAZIER** – The death occurred at Ferndene, Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough, on Thursday last week, of Mr James Brazier, retired builder and contractor, in his 74<sup>th</sup> year. Mr Brazier was formerly a member of the old Local Board of Commissioners, and for several years chairman on Committee and vice president of the Knaresborough Liberal Club, and trustee for the Methodist Church.

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**Claro Times**

**8 June 1917**

**CASUALTIES** – Gunner T. Fred Plaskitt, of Old Scriven, Knaresborough, has been killed in action.

**Claro Times**

**27 July 1917**

**KNARESBOROUGH**

**NEW SUB-MASTER** – Mr G. J. Sturdy, overseer at the Northallerton Post Office, has been appointed salaried sub postmaster at Knaresborough. Mr Sturdy has been in Northallerton for 17 years.

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Claro Times

3 August 1917

## HORSES AND SOLDIER LABOUR.

### FOR THE 1918 PROGRAMME AND FOR HARVEST.

10 The Board of Agriculture announce that a large number of soldiers will be available for work on the land in connection with the programme for increased cultivation for the 1918 harvest. It is expected that the first batch of 200 men with a knowledge of agriculture, or used to handling horses, will be available early next week at the Distribution Centre at York. About 250 unskilled men will also become available at the same time. It is most important that these men should be immediately taken up on arrival. The despatch of further instalments of men will depend on the rapidity with which men already sent are engaged. West Riding farmers should, therefore, apply forthwith for the men they require on forms to be obtained from the Secretary, War Agricultural Committee, County Hall, Wakefield.

The arrangements contemplated by the Department include the supply of:-

- (a) Horses with soldier ploughmen to be let out for fixed periods (according to scale) to farmers who are materially increasing their corn area for 1918, but are unable to carry out the work without his assistance. The charge for each horse will be 12s per week, and the farmer must provide good stabling, and feed and keep the horses in thoroughly good condition;
- 20 (b) Horses with soldier ploughmen working in gangs, equipped with necessary implements who will deal with small areas (less than eight acres) of corn land which farmers cannot undertake without such assistance;
- (c) A limited number of experienced men to farmers who have or will undertake to increase materially their acreage of corn land, but who cannot do so without the help of experienced men, but have both horses and implements available for the purpose;
- (d) A limited number of experienced men to farmers who without such assistance would have farm horses standing idle entailing a less area of their arable land being cultivated for the harvest; and
- (e) Unskilled labour to farmers requiring such men for work in connection with the 1918 harvest.

30 The supply of this labour is limited, and cannot be augmented; it must be placed where it is most likely to lead to an increased acreage of land being cropped for the 1918 harvest. Soldier labour must not displace any women already employed on the land. Indeed a proved willingness to employ available women workers will constitute a preferential claim for additional soldier labour if needed. Before approving any application Committees must obtain information as to the additional acreage to be cropped in 1918.

Farmers who are entitled to the services of these men will often be unable to commence operations for the 1918 crop before harvest, but if they are in need of additional men for harvest there is no objection to their having the men forthwith at the rates of wages laid down for harvest work.

3 August 1917 continued ...

### **HOME BREWING OF HARVEST BEER**

Farmers who supplied their men with harvest beer last season may apply to the War Agricultural Executive Committee prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> August, for permits for the purchase of small quantities of malt for home brewing of harvest beer.

**Claro Times**

**3 August 1917**

## **SIR ERIC GEDDES AND HIS NEW POST.**

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### **NO INTERFERENCE IN NAVAL STRATEGY.**

Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, made his debut as a public speaker at Cambridge on Saturday, before an audience of his electors in Cambridge borough.

After revealing the fact that a fortnight ago he had no idea he was to be First Lord of the Admiralty or M.P. for Cambridge, Sir Eric said: You have been told I have been a railwayman, that I was once a porter. That is true, and I am very proud of it. (Cheers). The railwaymen of England I hold in the highest regard, and that regard has been intensified by what I have seen of their work in France. The railwaymen out there have given to the Army movement. The railways are now ahead of the guns everywhere – (cheers) – and the work of the railwaymen has saved thousands and thousands of lives at the sacrifice of many of their own. It was what I saw in France that convinced me that nothing matters but to go on with the war to the end. I don't know that I have any hate in my composition, but I am convinced that we have got to destroy the German military power – (cheers) – and I am convinced that we and our Allies are doing more to destroy that power by advancing as fast as we can lay railways and roads to carry the traffic. Sir Douglas Haig has often said to me, "If the people at home would only understand that an advance of a thousand yards may mean more than a fifteen mile advance!" – as it did at Vimy Ridge, for example. (Cheers). The destruction of the German army is what matters, and it is going on daily. Their morale is going very fast. I do not think we are within sight of the end of the war, but you have got to go on. When I went to the Admiralty, I thought I knew all about the deeds of the Navy; but I didn't. I have now seen the records and reports – something that you can't put into the papers. The officers of the Navy are the bravest of men, but they say: "Please don't tell all our exploits at sea," and the reason you have not far to seek. Remember Captian Fryatt. (Cheers). If we revealed deeds – many would send a thrill down your backs – and give the whereabouts of the exploits, these officers and ships would be marked, so don't ask for information that might injure the men. It's not fair to the men. The Army is completely confident, and the confidence of the Army is only matched by the confidence of the Grand Fleet, but the difference between the Army and the Navy is that while there is someone to fight on land, there is only someone under the sea for the Navy. You know how difficult it is to catch a mole in your garden. That is similar to what we have to deal with. The German Fleet has not the least intention of coming out; so don't be impatient with the Navy. Its enterprise and courage pass all words. There are people who say we should

have guns ready all round the coast, and aeroplanes waiting for the enemy. Where are they to come from? From France, where the aeroplanes are the eyes of the Army, and where they can save more lives in a day than they can here in months? Let the public realise that all the time we are trying to work out the best balance of our limited resources. Current criticism is a sight of what is becoming apparent in all belligerent countries; it is war weariness and war nerves, and it is the country which holds its nerves longest that is going to win the war. (Cheers)

10 Perhaps you expect me to make a statement on the submarine position. In the first place I do not think I have been long enough First Lord to be able to make a statement with the consideration that I feel should be given to it. The prime Minister, with his greater knowledge and authority, has recently made a statement, and I will leave it at this: the submarine danger, or menace, or campaign, is, of course, serious, but it can be overcome, and I honestly believe it will be overcome – (cheers) – if we face the difficulty as we have faced the devilish inventions of the Germans. It may be, as the Prime Minister said, we may not find an exact and complete antidote before the country is asked to make sacrifices.

You may ask, how do I view the duties of First Lord of the Admiralty? The last thing he should do is to interfere in naval strategy. (Loud cheers). My time in France has taught me that it is best to leave the tactics and strategy to the professional soldier and sailor, and I intend to do so. It is my duty to know what the Sea Lords are proposing to do to get through the material and resources at their disposal, and in every possible way, as far as a civilian can, help them in their work. I want you (concluded Sir Eric) to judge me not by my speeches, but what I do. (Cheers).

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### **Claro Times**

**10 August 1917**

**LOCAL WILLS** – Mr James Brazier, of Knaresborough, left £15, 259. Mr Wallace Gill, of Bank House, High Street, Knaresborough, left £4,044.

### **Claro Times**

**24 August 1917**

**CASUALTIES** – Lieut. Frank Adams, Royal Fusiliers, son of Mr and Mrs F. Adams, Chez-Nous, Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough, is in hospital dangerously wounded.

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**Claro Times**

**9 November 1917**

**IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN.**

10 A Requiem Mass for the fallen in the war was sung in St Mary's Church, Knaresborough, on Sunday, and in the afternoon Abbot Cummins addressed the crowd gathered before the war shrine outside the church. He said: The Roll of Honour lengthens as warfare wages by land and sea and air; long litanies of woe and glory, litanies that chaunt the praise of God and of England, litanies we might well read upon our knees, telling, as they do, of heroic deeds that God's own spirit has inspired. This Cross is set up as a symbol of devotedness unto death, to remind men of the sacrifice by which Christ won victory and peace of His people. It suggests the source of the generosity in which these young men gave their lives; by this sacrifice sins are forgiven and heaven's gates thrown open; it is a promise of victory after defeat, and of life after death. On our country's banner for which these men fought the Cross is blazoned. When deeds of signal bravery are rewarded, the Cross is pinned on the breast or bestowed upon a weeping widow or mother. The graves of the fallen are marked by the Cross. It is an honour to the bravest that their names are written beneath the Cross; and in its shadow we gather today to commemorate our honoured dead and to supplicate for the repose of their souls. Christ's cross is our glory, our comfort and our only hope. In this sign shall we conquer! We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou has redeemed the world.