

Chichester Observer 1st May 1918 page 2**CHICHESTER'S SPECIAL CONSTABLES.****MORE DUTIES FOR BUSY MEN.**

Owing to the calling up for military service of police constables under 40 years of age it has become necessary to arrange for the carrying out of their duties by special constables, and a meeting of those concerned for Chichester was held at the Assembly Room on Thursday evening to consider the position. The Mayor, Sir Archibald Garland, J.P., as the head special constable for the city, occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by the Chief Constable of West Sussex (Mr. Williams), the Deputy Mayor (Alderman G. M. Turnbull, J.P.), Mr. W. L. Gibbings, J.P., and Inspector W. H. Brett. There was an attendance of about 80 special constables.

The Mayor, in explaining the object of the meeting, mentioned that about 60 per cent. of the ordinary members of the Force had gone, and three more men would have to go under the new regulations. It was not intended to interfere with the ordinary vocations of the "specials" more than they could possibly help, and Inspector Brett suggested, as far as they could, that they should do duty from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 2 p.m. It would probably mean only 4 hours patrol once a fortnight, which was not a great deal in these days, and he was sure they would all come forward to do their share. The more they had to help the less would be the period of duty for each... and the meet-

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Mr. Williams next addressed the meeting, and after thanking those who helped the police with duty in the early stages of the war—when there were spies all over the country—he said he would like them to always be policemen and then the county would be better policed than before. If there was a desire expressed for lectures on police work he would arrange for some to be held, and booklets would be issued as to their duties.

Inspector Brett outlined the scheme proposed, which provided for the formation of eight sections—one for each day of the week and one to be available for general duties. The permanent Sergeants and some regular special constables would be available to help but, each section of "specials" would appoint their own sergeant.

Mr. C. H. Hooker pointed out that many of the "specials" were Volunteers, and they wanted to know which came first if they were called for duty for both at the same time.

The Chief Constable replied that he hoped the Volunteers would be able to do their work and help the police as well, but he thought the Volunteer work should come first.

Mr. Hooker said the Volunteers were not grumbling about the duty; they only wanted to know how they stood.

Mr. Ernest Hooper said the ambulance men would be only too pleased to do both if they could.

The majority of those present, who had already been sworn in, then gave to Inspector Brett the day most convenient to themselves for duty, whilst the remainder took the necessary oath before the magistrates in attendance, and subsequently each day's section elected their own sergeant. The scheme will be brought into operation as soon as the necessity arises.

The Mayor announced in the course of the meeting that no uniform would be provided, but an armband would be worn when on patrol.