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GRAND CONCERT FOR THE RELIEF FUND AT EAST GRINSTEAD.

Whitehall, the popular theatre of East Grinstead, was well filled on Tuesday evening, when a concert was given to augment the funds raised by the local War Emergency Committee and the Red Cross Society. Very generously the proprietors handed over every penny taken for admission to the fund without deducting anything for expenses, and the appreciation of the local gentry and townspeople generally of this patriotic and public-spirited action was shown by the large numbers who sought entrance to the spacious building to break the gloom of these anxious days with an evening's enjoyment, and help the fund raised to alleviate the sad distress which already follows in the wake of the war.

From the first it was evident that the audience was on the *qui vive* for any air of a military or patriotic nature that might give an opportunity for the vent of patriotic feeling. But the organisers seemingly had in view a more soothing menu for the palates of the large crowd present, for the introductory selection consisted of old English airs, which are more suggestive of the peaceful and domestic life of the nation. Not that the other and more present side of the picture was neglected, for following this was a grand patriotic medley. Before the curtain was lifted the stirring notes of "The Marsellaise" drew a loud cheer, immediately followed by our own not less inspiring "Rule Britannia." As the curtain rose there was seen depicted a tableau with the noble figure of Britannia on a slight pedestal and the fair maiden France standing by her side. Jack Tar and Russia were also brought into the scene. The curtain falls, and on the up-rising the eyes of all the figures are turned upon the approaching foe. The curtain again falls, and rising once more heroic little Belgium is seen appealing for Britannia's help to defend her land from the heel of the invader. The National Anthem drew the audience to its feet, and loud applause followed. The side of the platform was hung with the flags of the nations of the Triple Entente and of Belgium, and in the first part of the programme two figures representing British and French soldiers stood on either side. The characters were sustained by the following ladies: Britannia, Miss M. Goslett; France, Miss F. Hill; Russia, Miss Hill; Belgium, Miss C. Munro.

Whitehall has a good reputation for its pictures and the audience knew it was in for something good when it was announced that the next item would be a film entitled "Muggins, V.C." Muggins is a soldier in India and he is ordered to the frontier. His wife is so distressed at parting with him that she resolves to follow as a nurse. In the course of an engagement Muggins is ordered to defend the hospital some distance away. On the way he and his comrades are attacked by savage hordes and every one of the party falls, and Mrs. Muggins comes to the rescue with some soldiers from the hospital just in time and they fight their way back. The lieutenant dies and Muggins takes his place. The picture, though a comedy by name is more exciting than laughable, and it is very realistic.

Miss May Mayo was quite a success in her turn, "The Real Soldier Boy," which was followed by an exceedingly clever performance in banjo tricks and witticisms by Mr. Ben Jackson. The only purely vocal item on the programme was two songs by Miss Marion Broom. This lady has a charming mezzo-soprano voice, which was heard to great advantage in "Little grey home in the West" and "Land of hope and glory."

The audience was very much amused and delighted by a really clever exhibition of acrobatic comedy juggling by "The Silent Humours," and the same remark applies to the novel musical entertainment presented by Collins and Ray. An encore was given to Edie and Madge in their scene, "The Nurse and the Baby," and they well deserved it, for these two little girls proved themselves quite charming dancers. This was followed by an item of an entirely different nature. Memoria's memory must have astonished everybody. Members of the audience were invited to name any well-known character in history, or great author or inventor, and the performer would give the dates of the principal events in his life with extraordinary rapidity. Many men were named varying in character and in the positions they occupied, and amongst them were such contrasts as Lord Tennyson and Edison, Lord Roberts and Charles Peace.

Films of special war interest were next screened, and quite a variety was shown. His Majesty the King appeared in the picture of his official birthday celebration and drew a hearty cheer from the audience. Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener and the First Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Winston Churchill) appeared in other pictures, and each had a cordial reception, and "Jack Tar" and "Tommy Atkins" were also enthusiastically welcomed. Among the events portrayed was a recent celebration of Trafalgar Day at the Nelson Monument and on the ship "Victory" at Portsmouth, the Mediterranean Squadron of the Fleet at Alexandria, President Poincaré's visit to Madrid, and a French welcome to a British Squadron. The Archduke whose assassination helped to give rise to the crisis and the aged Emperor of the dual monarchy were also shown, while a hiss greeted the Kaiser in a film of the celebrations of the overthrow of Napoleon. The portraits of the King of the Belgians, the Tzar of Russia, the President of France and King George were thrown upon the screen while the national anthem of their respective countries was played by the orchestra. The audience lustily joined in singing "God save the King." The entertainment was in every way excellent and a great credit to the management of Whitehall. There was not the least tendency to monotony in the three hours' programme and a high standard was maintained from start to finish.

The Whitehall Orchestra, which was kindly augmented by several local gentlemen, was under the capable conductorship of Mr. C. Baker and discharged its duties admirably. The players were: Mr. A. Davis and Mr. J. Bashford (first violins), Mr. C. Betchley and Mr. W. Lamkin (second violins), Mr. F. Brinkhurst and Mr. Harold Wilcox (bass), Mr. H. E. Wilcox (flute), Mr. W. Stockdale (oboe), Mr. J. Gallacher (clarionette), Mr. G. Lambert (horn) and Miss Brinkhurst (piano).

This is the first variety entertainment completely booked and arranged by the management, and Mr. F. C. Maplesden is to be heartily congratulated upon its success.

The takings were just over £50 and the two funds named above will benefit to the full extent of this sum. In regard to the non-appearance of the Harvey trio, a very sad reason was the cause of their absence. One of the members of the firm met with a motor accident while on his way to the station and died at nine o'clock that evening as a result of the injuries received. With his bereaved colleagues every sympathy will be felt.