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## HELPING TO WIN THE WAR

### CHICHESTER'S PRODUCTION OF LEATHER.

#### M.P.'s ADDRESS AT THE TANNERY.

#### ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

The production of good leather, and plenty of it, is one important means of which the City of Chichester is helping to win the war, and the large number of men engaged in this work at The Tannery, in Westgate, were encouraged to do all in their power during the present crisis by the holding of a meeting there on Wednesday, convened at the instigation of the Minister of Munitions, at which an able address was given by Mr. Barnet Kenyon, M.P. for Chesterfield.

The meeting was held at one o'clock in one of the large sheds, and was presided over by Mr. E. R. Harrison, who was supported by his brother, Mr. Ralph Harrison, Mr. Barnet Kenyon, and Mr. A. Howe, of Whitehall.

#### Leather for Service Equipment.

In his opening speech Mr. E. R. Harrison said the object of the meeting was to impress upon the men engaged there, the importance of exerting their utmost energies in turning out as much leather as they could. The leather they were making, or nearly the whole of it, was being used by the Naval and Military authorities for boots and other equipment, and it was most essential that they should make every ounce of leather they possibly could, for by doing so they would be doing us good service for their country as their brothers in the trenches. Every ounce of leather they produced practically meant a shorter time for the war to last. It did not need any words from him to impress upon them the importance of their production because the Government would not ask Mr. Kenyon to come down to Chichester unless they appreciated that it was absolutely important. He would like to take that opportunity of saying that they had an old man assisting them—Mr. Tom Egerton—who had been with the firm since he was a boy, and who, although he retired on superannuation just before the war, was now showing his patriotism, at the age of 77 years, by doing all he could. (Applause).

#### The Government's Thanks.

Mr. Barnet Kenyon, M.P., who was accorded a hearty reception, then addressed the men. He said he had come down at the request of the Minister of Munitions in particular, and of the Government in general, to convey to them their warmest and kindest thanks for the splendid work they had done to assist their country during the last fifteen months, and to urge the necessity of all of them doing their best to stimulate production. He would remind them that from the skilled work shops of Great Britain in the first twelve months of this war, they poured into the training camps, trench and sea warfare, no less than 200,000 skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled men—all from the work-shops and factories within this country. If they looked at those figures, and thought for a moment that the military, by persuasion, had induced all that number to enlist from the young men, the young life of the nation, it must bring home to them that their powers of production had been considerably weakened. That being so, every workman remaining in the safety zone ought to be convinced that it was his palpable and plain duty to do his best for those who had risked, and were risking their lives to make it safe for them at home. Was it too much to ask them to equip those who had gone with very protection of life and limb?

#### A Workman—Not a "Dandy."

Take his own class. He (Mr. Kenyon) as they could see by the marks on his forehead and hands, was an old underground workman, who had spent thirty years in the pits; so he came to them as a workman speaking to workmen, and not as a "dandy" sent down from Piccadilly. He was a man who had done hard "graft," and he wanted to pay the men of this county one compliment. He had seen men from the beautiful agricultural villages of this lovely county, go to the pits with a physique worth looking at, and he had never found one, who, after four or five years "would not lick us colliery born men into a cocked hat," simply because they had lived in the open, whereas he and the others had been bred and had lived in the smutty atmosphere which surrounded the life at the pits. But though they had taken 10,000 of their pit lads out of 42,000 for the country's service their output had not gone down more than two per cent, which showed that those left behind had put their backs into the work. (Hear, hear).

#### To Increase the Output.

And if these men who worked with only the mere glimmer of a light all day could do that, knowing full well that every blow they struck they were helping the men in the trenches and on the North Sea, it was surely not too much for him to ask them in those leather works, with the beautiful sunshine around them, to do their best to increase their output if possible. He did not want them to believe that the Government in general or the Minister of Munitions in particular were anything but deeply grateful to the managers and men for what they had done. All classes were banded together in this war, as they had been in no other war, to ensure victory. Such a feeling had never existed between an aristocratic soldier and the soldier of the artisan and agricultural labourer as existed to-day. Then, too, the Government were providing for the dependents of the men who were fighting as never was done before. The Prime Minister would be introducing his estimates early the following week, and he would be asking not for £400,000,000, but for £500,000,000—why, because they had pledged themselves that they would see that those dependent on the men fighting were properly provided for. They were spending last November, £200,000 per week on the dependents of the Navy, and now they wanted £1,200,000 per week. And when the men came back to their beautiful city, bruised and broken, as many of them unfortunately would be, for God's sake do not let them have a blush on their faces when they shook hands and said how glad they were to see them back, but let them know that as far as physical endurance would permit they had stuck to their work and contributed towards that great production which was essential to the success of our arms. (Applause).

#### The Workmen's Resolution.

Mr. Jones then moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of workers thanks the speaker for his address and asks him to convey to the Minister of Munitions the assurance that they will do everything in their power to help their comrades in the trenches, and on the sea, by expediting the production of all war material entrusted to the firm."

This was seconded by Mr. Blytheman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Kenyon briefly acknowledged the resolution, and thanked the principals for arranging the meeting.

Cheers for Mr. Kenyon concluded the proceedings.