

Re-evacuation of children to Wales

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From Sussex by the Sea to "Somewhere in Wales"

FROM Sussex by the Sea to "Somewhere in Wales" went several thousand evacuee London children yesterday morning in fulfilment of the great Government re-evacuation scheme.

Two thousand two hundred and seventy-seven children were dispatched from Eastbourne, 1,200 from Hastings, and 450 (including adults) from Seaford.

The children were evacuated to Sussex last September in an experiment which brought many unexpected upheavals. But the presence yesterday of so many foster parents to bid farewell and god-speed to their young charges testified to the real affection which has sprung up in so many homes for these little strangers from the Metropolis.

How bronzed and fit the children looked! One could not help recalling the pale-faced and often poorly-clad army which invaded Sussex ten months ago.

The children assembled at their schools early yesterday morning. Motor-buses conveyed them to the station approach and from there they streamed through on to the platform. Instructions had been issued that the children should carry only hand luggage, but many of them staggered along under the weight of all manner of belongings.

Each child was medically examined before the departure and the teachers had with them a report on the health of those in their charge.

Guardians and friends of the children, intent on seeing them off, made their way on to the platform and their farewell's delayed the trains' departures.

Evacuation officers and local health and education officials saw that the arrangements were carried through without any serious hitch, and ambulance men and girls and boy scouts did much useful work.

When the first train was a little late in getting off from Eastbourne, the Mayor (Alderman A. E. Rush, J.P.) asked some of the children if they would mind staying in Eastbourne and there were shouts of "No."

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