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## THE LOCAL CIVIL GUARD.

### Its Present Strength.

#### A Large Number of Members Available.

Until the unfortunate fatality on the railway on Friday evening, comparatively few of the general public were probably aware of the useful work which was being done locally by the members of the Civil Guard, as the organisation is now known.

The idea of its formation originated with Mr. A. Buckland Dixon a fortnight ago, and although it has since been extended throughout the Administrative County of West Sussex, under the direction of Mr. P. S. Godman, the Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee, the local members were actually at work ten days before the larger movement was inaugurated.

Mr. Dixon, as Honorary Secretary of the local contingent, has from the first acted

**In Consultation With The Chief Constable** (Mr. A. S. Williams) and the local Superintendent of Police (Mr. A. Pennicott), so that the definite step that has been taken has had the complete approval of the authorities.

Hitherto the duties of the Civil Guard have chiefly consisted of patrolling the railway and guarding the bridges, etc., the members taking turns in shifts of from twenty-five to thirty on alternate nights; but at the request of the Mayor and Town Clerk the guarding of the Waterworks has now been added to their duties; and although no question of drill has arisen, it is quite possible that the desirability of turning the new body into an armed and semi-military organisation may have to be considered in the future.

In addition to Mr. Dixon as Honorary Secretary, there is an active Executive of six, consisting of Messrs. E. W. Bennett, G. B. Bennett, C. B. Cook, W. H. Jordan, E. L. Hadfield, and Gordon-Walker, and the organisation is in every way on a most democratic basis.

#### Readiness to Serve.

At the present time there are about a hundred

and fifty names on the list, but although this is a fairly large and comprehensive one, Mr. Dixon would gladly welcome additional offers of services.

Between fifty and sixty of the members were sworn in on Monday as Special Constables, the Chairman of the Bench (Mr. H. Hargood) explaining that this was purely a precautionary measure. No difficulty was anticipated in the town, but several of the men had been guarding the railway and helping the authorities in other ways, and it was felt that those who undertook this duty should have the necessary authority. Mr. Hargood expressed his pleasure that so many men had come forward to assist the Police Force now that they had several of their men called up for active service, and he went on to observe that those who came forward to protect life and property at home were risking their lives as much for their country as those who were called to the Front. The duties of the Special Constables, he added, would be so arranged that their ordinary business would be interfered with as little as possible.

#### **An Important Intimation.**

The Committee of the Worthing Company of the West Sussex Civil Guard are authorised by the Committee of the local War Relief Fund to state that the dependents of Civil Guards who may be injured in fulfilling their duties under the proper authority, and need assistance, will be treated in the same way as the dependents of sailors and soldiers.