THE LOCAL RELIEF FUNDS

Present Position.

Interesting Facts Concerning the Belgian Refugees.

Some of Them Employed Locally.

It was regrettable to hear, at a meeting of the War Relief Committee at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, that certain persons who have made promises of subscriptions to the Fund in public have not performed them.

Or being appealed to as to what should be done, the Chairman (Mr. J. Kennedy Allerton), who has acted as Honorary Secretary to the Fund, said he was afraid there was nothing to be done, and he further stated that he had no great hope of the promises being fulfilled, for several letters had been written without effect.

Those who pressed an announcement on Wednesday — they were few compared with the number constituting the Committee — found little success with them, and the proceeds were very much less than a formal character. There was discussion as to how the Belgian Refugees who are now the guests of the town and will occupy themselves, and this proved interesting whilst it was realized that in future the Committee should do away with their monthly meetings, and assemble about once in every three months, unless important matters arise, meanwhile which will demand their attention.

The Mayor (Councillor James Wild, J.P.) addressed the Chairman as Chairman of the Parish Relief Committee. In moving the adoption of the proceeding of the Council, he explained that they had to meet in a very difficult position. They were asked to raise a sum of £2,000, and that sum was raised to £3,000. The Council decided upon the sum of £4,000, out of which amount, as they were aware, a sum of £1,000 was sent to the Prince of Wales Fund, and the amount at present in hand totalled £4,000. There were a few subscriptions not yet paid, but he took it that they were all paid.

The Town Clerk: There is no merit of getting them in, and I thank you for the trouble you have taken to do the work, which is not paid.

Councillor: Just as they were written, of course.

The Mayor: Have they been written to them?

Councillor: Yes, they have not been written to them.

The Mayor: I am rather surprised that people should ask for promises in public and then not keep them.

THE BELGIAN REFUGEES

As Chairman of the Belgian Relief Committee, Mr. A. Jackson, who is President of the Commercial Club, has been the chief factor in the success of the scheme. He has had to work for a long time in order to get the scheme off the ground.

During the past week, the German government has been busy converting the prisoners into prisoners and sending them to the front. The Mayor and the members of the Committee have been working hard to get the schemes off the ground. The Mayor: We have been working very hard to get the schemes off the ground.

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