

## Ashington Coal Company Minute Book

Ref - ZMD 54/7

The minute book reveals a fortnightly meeting was held at Milburn House, the Newcastle offices of the Ashington Coal Company. General day-to-day business was discussed but matters of 'The War' formed an increasing part of The Agenda, especially as more men joined up; the dwindling numbers of employees and the welfare of their dependents made management of the company difficult. At the same time the Government insisted that the Company support the War effort by maintaining the tonnage of coal extracted.

### Company Directors

Chairman: Francis Priestman

Managing Director: Ridley Warham

Directors: A.W Milburn, Fred Milburn, Sir Leonard J. Milburn Bart, Lewis Priestman, Charles E Pumphrey, G.L. Wanless

Secretary: William Pooley

Chief Engineer: J. Eskdale

Agent: J.J. Hall

### List of Attendees at meetings covered by Minute Book

DIRECTORS:	Francis (Frank) Priestman, Lewis Priestman, Frederick Milburn, Sir Leonard J. Milburn Bart., George Lee Wanless
GENERAL MANAGER:	Ridley Warham
VIEWER:	Edward O. Southern
SECRETARY:	William Pooley

Captain Charles Ernest Pumphrey M.C.

A Director of the Company before the outbreak of War, Captain Charles Ernest Pumphrey M.C. joined up immediately, as the minute reference of 28 August 1914 shows. He was awarded the Military Cross and this paragraph in the Morpeth Herald relates that he lost an arm.

Extracts from the Meeting Minute Book

14 Aug 1914

European War

It was stated that 262 reservists employed by the company had been called up and 79 men had been recruited. The question of making provision for the dependents of reservists was discussed and adjourned. Mr Southern said that the Soldiers and Sailors Society would probably relieve any urgent cases meantime.

It was agreed that the families of Reservists, who had been called up, who lived in colliery houses should continue to occupy the cottages, free of rent. Rent allowance as usual should continue to be paid by those who did not live in Colliery houses. The company should continue to pay the rent and lodging money of other employees (Indistinct) although by reason of working short time they were not entitled to the same.

14 Aug 1914

Coal for Russia

Mr Warham stated that a cargo of (indistinct) coal loaded into the SS Adriatic for Mr Hugo Staines and intended for (indistinct) had not sailed from Blyth owing to the War, and as Mr Staines had not paid for it, the company had seized the cargo and the boat had been re-chartered and the coal sold to the Russian Admiralty. The ship owner being indemnified against any consequences of signing the (indistinct) Bills of (indistinct)

28 Aug 1914

European War

It was stated that 500 men had left Ashington to join the army. A letter from Mr. Howick was read asking if a meeting could be arranged to be addressed by Earl Grey with a view of getting more recruits. Mr Southern said the meeting had been fixed for Saturday. In order to encourage men to join Mr Southern was asked to state at the meeting that their dependents would be looked after by the company who would make provision for necessitous cases.

The question of monetary relief to supplement the government grant was discussed and adjourned. In the meantime Mr Southern was authorised to relieve any urgent cases of distress. It was agreed that those with an upstanding wage, to pay in full and to keep their places open until 31st December, when if necessary the matter would be reconsidered.

It was stated that Mr. C. E. Pumphrey, a director of the company, had enlisted – also that 3 or 4 of the Newcastle Office staff were about to enlist. It was agreed that in their case, their positions would be kept open for them, and their full salaries paid.

Agreed to send a donation of £100 to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle's War Relief fund. The question of a contribution to the National or County fund was adjourned.

11 Sep 1914

European War

Mr Southern stated that the Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £140/150 in relief of Ashington

25 Sep 1914

The War

It was stated that since the last meeting Mr L.J. Milburn, a director of the company had been appointed an officer in the 1<sup>st</sup> North Brigade R.F.A.

Mr Southern said that about £150 had been distributed in relief of Ashington last week by the Sailors and Soldiers Society.

Agreed to continue the payment of 2 shillings per week rent to the wives of men living in rented housing, who had returned to live with their parents during their husband's absence and in their case to cease making all deductions at the colliery office.

Notice had been received from the Military Authorities that the company must, in certain eventualities, be in readiness to dismantle their locomotives and disable the power station and plant within 12 hours

09 Oct 1914

The War

Reported that 1310 men from Ashington had been recruited for the Army.

A further sum of £155 during the fortnight by the Soldiers and Sailors Society. Some had not yet received any pay from the Army Authorities.

It was stated that the rent allowance (indistinct) in respect of the dependents of men who had enlisted amounted to £16.19.0 per fortnight.

Agreed to promise £200 to the guarantee fund for the expenses to be included in the Newcastle and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce in connection with the Newcastle Battalion of Northumberland Fusiliers.

In response to a customer of the company at Caen it was agreed to contribute £10 for providing shirts etc. for wounded French soldiers

23 Oct 1914

The War

Reported that about 100 men had been recruited from Ashington for the Cyclists Battalion.

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed about £160 during the fortnight.

The Company's workmen had contributed £59.5.10 to the Prince of Wales' relief fund this fortnight.

It was stated that the rent allowance and coal leading in respect of dependents of men serving in the war amounted to £72.0.0 last pay.

Agreed to contribute up to the (indistinct), according to what other collieries give, to the Fund being raised by the French Consul, Newcastle, in aid of the dependents of French residents in the North of England, who have been called to fight in the French army.

06 Nov 1914

The War

Reported that there were now only 40 women, wives of Ashington men, serving in the army who had not yet received any pay from the Army Authorities

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had advanced £65 this fortnight

Of the number of men who had joined the army from Ashington and district, 1155 were employees of the company 10% being hewers, - 10% putters, 10% stonemen and shifters

The rent allowance and Coal leading to dependents of men at the war amounted to £77.6.0 this fortnight

The employees of the company had contributed £73.9.11 to the Prince of Wales Fund this pay. The total amount to date = £446.13.5

Agreed to contribute a further sum of £10 to the funds of the Ashington (indistinct) Working party.

In the event of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the "Tyneside Commercial" being raised and accepted by the War Office, it was agreed to contribute £200 towards the expenses.

06 Nov 1914

#### War Insurance

The question of insuring the Colliery Plant and Property against War risk was considered. An offer had been received to cover up to £50,000 (indistinct) per cent over 12 months. Agreed to make an inquiry as to what exactly the protection was.

20 Nov 1914

#### The War

Mr Southern Reported That Recruiting For Various Branches Of The Service Was Still Going On At Ashington and That The Total Number Of The Company's Employees who had joined was now 1361 - 36% Being Hewers, 37% Stonemen And Shifters, 16% Putters, 11% Surface Men.

There Was Still 25 Women who had not received any pay from the Army Authorities, and were being assisted in the meantime by The Soldiers' And Sailors' Society.

There were about 361 Persons receiving Rent Allowance and The amount this Pay Was £90.1.0, apart from The Houses and Coal Allowance.

The men's contribution To The Prince Of Wales Fund amounted To £124.2.5 this pay. The Total To Date being £560.

It was stated that an attachment of the Scottish Horse were billeted at the company's Blake Moor Farm.

Reported that Mr. J.J. all had been appointed Commander of the Special Constables for the petty sessional Division of Ashington and he would take the necessary steps in case of an enemy invasion – to see the removal of all the horses, cattle, carts, Loco, (indistinct) inland or if incapable of removal; complete destruction.

It was decided to insure the Plant (except cottages) at the 4 collieries up to £50,000 against War risk for 12 months @ 12/6 per (indistinct) – the protection covering damage caused by shells, aircraft, civil war and rebellion

4 Dec 1914

The War

Reported that 258 more of the company's employees had enlisted during the fortnight. The total being 1619. There were now 79 women not receiving pay from the Army Authorities, and were being assisted in the meantime by the Soldiers and Sailors Society

The Rent Allowance and Coal Leading to dependents of men serving in the Army amounts to £102.17.6 last pay.

The men's contribution to the Prince of Wales Fund last fortnight amounted to £114.13.4, the total to date being £675

18 Dec 1914

The War

Mr Southern stated that 265 more men from Ashington had joined the Army this fortnight the total being 1884

The Rent and (indistinct) allowance to 753 dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £317 this fortnight and the Coal leading to £18.16.6.

Of this number 455 live in rented houses – 280 in Colliery houses and 18 receive Coal only.

18 Dec 1914

The War

Reported that 209 more men from Ashington had joined the Army during the fortnight, the total now being 2093

The Rent Allowance, Coal, Coal Leading, indistinct Colliery Houses to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to about £557 this fortnight, made up as follows:

538 Persons Receiving Rent	£117.0.6
Coal Leading	£ 13.9.6
333 Persons in Colliery Houses and Coal Leading	£ 8.6.6
18 for Coal Only	£ 0.9.0s
(889 persons in total)	

Estimate Rent of Colliery Houses

26.2 persons @ 4/- per week	
253.3 persons @ 4/6 – per week	£159.15.0
42.4 persons @ 6/- per week	

14.5 persons @ 7/6 – per week

Coal

889 persons x 10cwts = 450 tons @ 11/6 £258.0.0

Grand Totals

Per fortnight	£557.0.6
Per annum (about)	£15,000

15 Jan 1915

The War

Mr Southern stated that 220 more men from Ashington had been recruited during the fortnight, the total now being 2313.

The Rent and Allowance to dependents of men now serving in the Army now amounted to £692.18.6, this pay, as follows:

Rent	£137.7.6
Coal Leading	£ 25.0.0
Coal 630 tons @ 11/6 per ton	£362.5.0
Rent of Colliery houses	£171.6.0
TOTAL	£692.18.6 = to about £18,000 per annum

The men's contribution to the Prince of Wales fund this pay was £142.19.0. The total to date being £1060

29 Jan 1915

The War

Mr Southern stated that 126 more of the Company's men had joined the Army during the fortnight, the total number now being 2439 – 60% being between 18 and 38 years of age.

The rent allowance to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £717.15.0 this pay made up of as follows:-

626 persons receiving rent	£132.2.0
1028 Coal Leading	£ 25.14.0
665 tons of coal @11/6	£382.7.6
Rent of Colliery houses	£177.11.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£717.15.0</b>

The men's contribution to the Prince of Wales Fund this pay was £143, the total amount being £1024

The Soldiers and Sailors Ass had distributed £200 this pay

12 Feb 1915 The War

Reported that 66 of the company's men had enlisted, the total being 2505 – Of this number 120 had returned.

The Rent and Coal Allowance to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £810.9.6, this fortnight as follows:

Rents	£141.15.0
Coal Leading	£ 26.11.6
Coal 696 tons @13/3	£461.9.0
Rent of Colliery houses	£180.14.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£717.15.0</b>

12 Feb 1915 Belgian Relief Fund

Agreed to send 2 sheep to Maughan's Mart to be sold for the benefit of the Belgium Relief Fund

26 Feb 1915 The War

Reported that 12 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total now being 2517 = 26.4% of the persons employed.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 20 Feb 1915:	7312
DECREASE OF	2102 = 27%

Before the war there were 5190 employees between the ages of 19 and 38.

Of this number 2231, nearly 45% had enlisted

The Rent and Coal Allowance to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £810.09, this fortnight as follows:

Rents	£136.19.0
Coal Leading	£ 26.10.6
Coal @13/3 per ton	£465.14.9
Rent of Colliery houses	£180.14.0
TOTAL	£810.2.9

The men's contribution to the Prince of Wales fund last pay amounted to £140, the total being £1486.

26 Feb 1915

#### Recruiting in the Coal Trade

A Circular had been received from Sir Thomas Radcliffe Ellis, Secretary of the Mining Association of Great Britain, stating that a committee had been appointed to (indistinct) into the conditions prevailing in the Coal Industry, with a view to setting free as many men as possible for Military Service, without interfering with the necessary requirements for working the Collieries

12 Mar 1915

#### The War

Reported that 20 more men had enlisted during the fortnight – the Total number now being 2537

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 06 Mar 1915:	7280
DECREASE OF	2134 = 22.69%

It was stated that Pegswood and Choppington Collieries were about to reopen and consequently the Colliery would lose 140/150 men, belonging to those places.

The Rent and Coal Allowance to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £875.15.09, this fortnight as follows:

Rents	£136.19.0
Coal Leading	£ 26.9.0
Coal 697 tons @15/3 per ton	£531.9.3
Rent of Colliery houses	£180.14.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£875.15.9</b>

The record department of the Prince of Wales Fund, having asked for information with respect to payment and allowances to departments, The North Local Owners' Association had agreed that particulars should be obtained and the form sent to the collieries had based the house rent on an assumed value of 5/- per week

- in the case of the Company this worked out as follows:

105 persons @ 5/-	£264.10
Cash Payments (other than rent)	£ 7 .13
Per week	£272.3.0

The total value of all allowances and payments from the Commencement of the War up to Feb 27 being on this basis = £4836 -2-6

The men's contribution to the Prince of Wales fund last pay amounted to £140, the total being £1486

26 Mar 1915

The War

Mr Southern stated that 15 more men had enlisted, during the fortnight the total now being 2552 and that 150 men had returned.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 20 Mar 1915:	7218
DECREASE OF	2196 = 23.32%

The Rent and Coal Allowance to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £851.10.6, this fortnight as follows:

Rent to 641 persons	£127.19.6
Coal Leading 1062 persons	£ 26.11.0
Coal 678 tons @15/3 per ton	£516.19.6
Rent of Colliery houses	£180.0.6

TOTAL £851.10.6

The question of continuing Rent and Coal allowance, or free use of colliery houses, to dependents of men who have died (shot, been killed), whilst on active service was discussed and adjourned for further consideration. So far 3 or 4 men living in rented homes had died.

Last fortnight the men had not sent their contribution to the Prince of Wales General Fund but had given half of it to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Assn. to distribute 2/- per week to women who have no children And the other half to the Prince of Wales Fund for relief of local cases.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Society was still making advances locally to a smaller number of cases and getting very little refunded.

9 Apr 1915

The War

Reported that 51 more men had enlisted, during the fortnight the total now being 2603

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 03 Apr 1915:	7105
DECREASE OF	2309

The Rent and Coal Allowance to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £915.08.00, this fortnight viz:

Rent to 649 persons	£138.0.0
Coal Leading 1090 persons	£ 27.5.0
Coal 720 tons @15/3 per ton	£549.0.0
Colliery houses 419 persons	£201.3.0

TOTAL £915.8.0 = £23,800 per annum

It was stated that of the men who had enlisted, one living in a rental house had died, and one living in a colliery house had been killed. In the former case the rent allowance had been stopped, but coal allowance was being continued. In the latter case the house was still being occupied by the widow, who was getting coal allowance.

It was decided to continue these allowances pending a decision as to the course to be adopted to allowance to dependents of men who die or are killed. It was pointed out that before the War ends these may assume considerable proportions.

It was agreed that no distinction be made between men who die and men who are killed, while on active service.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Society had distributed £105.16.0

The men's contribution to the Relief fund last fortnight amounted to £138, half of which had been given to the Belgian Fund. The total amount contributed was £1900

23 Apr 1915

The War

Reported that 90 more men had enlisted, during the fortnight the total now being 2693

On 17<sup>th</sup> April:

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1915	6934
DECREASE OF	2480

The rent and coal allowances to the dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £928.2.0 last fortnight = £24,130 per annum.

Rent to 664 persons	£143.7.0
Coal Leading 1127 persons	£ 28.3.6
Coal 714 tons @15/3 per ton	£544.8.6
Rent of Colliery houses	£212.3.0
TOTAL	£928.2.0

The men's contribution to the Relief Fund last pay amounted to £122.7.1 the total now being £2033.15.6

The Soldiers' and Sailors Fund had distributed £100.13.3. Last fortnight £22.4.6 had been refunded.

07 May 1915

The War

With regard to allowance to dependents of men who are killed, or who die whilst on active service, it was decided to deal with cases as they arise, and on their merits and to intimate to each in the meantime, that the widows will be allowed to occupy their houses, during the company's pleasure, say for 6 months. If they release them earlier the company would make them a present of say £10 or £15.

21 May 1915

The War

Mr Southern stated that the workmen's contributions for last pay (10) had been appropriated as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£39.7.7
Belgian Fund	£39.7.6
Soldiers and Sailors F.A (Rents)	£24.7.3
Wives of Aliens	£ 5.0.0
Local Relief	£9.10.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£118.2.7</b>

The amount previously contributed was £2165 thus making the total to date of £2283

Reported that during pay 10 recruits from the Collieries had enlisted as follows:

Ashington	51	Making a total of 1543
Linton	5	Making a total of 302
Woodhorn	20	Making a total of 668
Ellington	3	Making a total of 324
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>Making a total of 2837</b>

On 15<sup>th</sup> May:

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 15 <sup>th</sup> May 1915	6723
<b>DECREASE OF</b>	<b>2691</b>

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £865.17.6 last fortnight = £22,512.6.0. Per annum

Rent to 664 persons	£143.7.0
Coal Leading 1127 persons	£ 28.3.6
Coal 618 tons @15/3 per ton	£470.15.6
Rent of Colliery houses	£219.11.0
TOTAL	£865.17.6

The Soldiers' and Sailors Fund had distributed £118.5.7 - Last fortnight £12.12.6 had been refunded.

21 May 1915

Volunteer Training Corps

An appeal for Financial Assistance was submitted and it was decided to contribute £10.10.0 from the Company

06 Jun 1915

Miners required for the purposes of Tunnelling

It was reported that Major Norton Griffiths had waited upon the Coal trade Association of Northumberland and Durham, and asked for 500 men to drive tunnels, to be sent to the front immediately. It had been agreed to find these men and about 40 had already been arranged from the Ashington Collieries.

18 Jun 1915

Miners Tunnelling at the Front

Reported that 33 men left on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. for this work and one; George Campbell, had returned.

18 Jun 1915

Scottish Horse

Letter from Headquarters was read asking the price for a supply of water to be laid to the camp at Ellington, and also the company would undertake the scavenging.

Agreed to offer to supply 5,000 gallons per day of drinking water @ 1/6 per gallon and a similar quantity of water for the horses @ 1/- per gallon – to be measured by separate meters - and to refer them to the farmer as the company could not undertake it.

18 Jun 1915

The War

Reported that 90 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total number being 2943.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 12 June 1915	6666
DECREASE OF	2748

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £900.11.6 last pay as follows:

Rent allowance to 700 persons	£146.19.0
Coal Leading 1211 persons	£ 30.5.6
Coal allce to 1211 persons 644 tons @ 15/3 per ton	£470.15.6
Rent of Colliery houses 482 persons	£219.11.0
TOTAL	£865.17.6 = £23413 per annum

The Soldiers + Sailors Assn. had distributed £130.0.6 in pay 12 and £7.10.6 had been refunded.

The Casualties during pay 12 numbered 3 making the total 25  
12 of these were married and 13 single

The men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 12 amounted to £128.8.10 which had been distributed as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£38.15.9
Belgian Relief Fund	£38.15.8
Soldiers and Sailors Assn (Rents)	£27.19.3
English Wives of Aliens Local Relief	£ 10.16.5
Local Relief	£9.10.3
Mechanics	£12.1.9
TOTAL	£128.8.10

The total amount in pay 12 was £2423 2.8

18 Jun 1915

Recruiting

It was stated that the Wansbeck Recruiting Committee, under the direction of the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee wish to hold meetings at Ashington and Hirst on 24<sup>th</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> July. They had been told that the question had been raised in the House of Commons when it was stated that it was undesirable to enlist any more miners, who were getting coal for ourselves or our allies. They said they were interested to hold Recruitment Meetings in some parts of the Division.

Agreed: that Mr Warham should take the matter up with the Authorities.

02 Jul 1915

Scottish Horse

It was stated that the Scottish Horse had accepted the Company's offer of a supply of water to the camp at Ellington.

02 Jul 1915

The War

Circular Letter had been received from the Minister of Munitions asking for a return to be made of Machinery owned by the Company with a view to making it available for the production of munitions of War.

Agreed: to send a list of machinery and say the Company are prepared to do anything they can if Labour can be obtained.

02 Jul 1915

Hay

Notice had been received from the District Purchaser to the effect that all?? Rye and Meadow Hay should be placed at the disposal of the government and not sold or disposed of for trade or private use, and asking for a return of all stocks held. Mr Warham had written to the District Purchaser pointing out that the Company require all the Hay they grow for feeding their stock of ponies and in addition purchase a considerable quantity from Local Families, and asking for advice in the letter

02 Jul 1915

Lt. Milburn

On the motion of the Chairman it was resolved to send a letter of sympathy and regret to Lt. L.J. Milburn, a Director of the company, who has been wounded while serving in the Army at the Front.

17 Jul 1915

Recruiting

A letter from Colonel Dashwood was read stating that Headquarters Northern Command desire a recruiting campaign to mark the anniversary of the declaration of War – the campaign to continue for a week from 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Mr Southern said that recruiting meetings had been held at Ashington, Hirst and Ellington during the last month, when 88 men were enlisted. It was decided to take the matter up with the Home Office, in view of the instructions received from time to time to improve the output of coal.

17 Jul 1915

Hay

Mr Warham reported that the Circular letter from the District Purchaser had been discussed at a meeting of the Coal Owners Assn. Captain Frost who was in the building at the time had been asked to attend. The positions as affecting the Colliery Companies was explained to him and he replied that there was no intention of interfering with any industries and that the colliery Owners might approach the local Farmers and state that they had his authority to purchase their requirements of hay as in the past years.

Agreed: to instruct Mr Graham to go round and see what quantity he could buy at £4 per ton. The crop from the Company's farms would be about 150 tons less than last year.

17 Jul 1915

The War

Reported that 119 more men had enlisted during the last month the total number being 3062

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 10 July 1915	6495
DECREASE OF	2919

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £900.15.06 in pay 14:

Rent allowance to 742 persons	£158.1.0
Coal Leading 1266 persons	£ 31.13.0
Coal allice to 1266 persons 620 tons @15/3 per ton	£472.15.0
Houses Rents 495 persons	£238.6.0
TOTAL	£865.17.6

The Soldiers + Sailors Assn. had distributed £190.9.4 during pay 14 and £19.1.0 had been refunded.  
The Casualties during pay 13 and 14 numbered 16 making the total 41

20 being married and 21 single

The men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pays 13 and 14 amounted to £204.11.8 and had been distributed as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£76.17.10
Belgian Relief Fund	£76.17.10
Soldiers and Sailors F.A. (Rents)	£29.4.4
English Wives of Aliens Local Relief	£ 37.13.4
Mechanics	£ 33.18.4
TOTAL	£254.11.8

The total to date of pay 14 was £2677.14.4

17 Jul 1915 Tunnelling at the Front

A letter of thanks had been received from Headquarters R.E. and letters had also been received from some of the men

17 Jul 1915 Munitions

The Manufacturing of shells at the Colliery was considered – No reply had been received to the Company's offer and the matter was left over.

17 Jul 1915 Mechanics Union

The men are still applying for work on Munitions of War and the Management are returning forms stating that the men are engaged in keeping machinery in repair; their absence would seriously impeded the working of the pits or maintaining the outputs of coal which is important; the Home Office urging upon all of us the imperative necessity of substantially increasing the output of coal.

The men asked to be supplied with badges. They also request to be advised as to how they are to fill in the National Registrations and if they would be in order in stating that their work is in connection with Government Contracts.

Agreed: to advise them to state that they are engaged in the production of coal which they understand is of national importance.

17 Jul 1915

War Bonus

Agreed: to give Edward Louis (?) a War bonus of £10 per annum from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

30 Jul 1915

Tunnelling at Front

Another application has been received from Headquarters for an additional supply of Tunnelling Moles to provide reserves and two additional companies. Mr Southern was requested to find out how many are required and if they cannot be drawn from other places.

30 Jul 1915

Hay

Reported that 261 Tons of Hay had been bought @ £4 per ton and there would be about 400 tons from the Colliery Farms – a total of 661 Tons about half of the quantity secured last year.

50 tons of Oat Straw had been bought at 42/- per Ton and instructions given to use about 1/5<sup>th</sup> in the meantime.

Agreed: To instruct Mr Graham to buy as much more hay as he could (up to the Company's requirements) at £4 per Ton.

Reported that about 90 Tons of Hay had been destroyed by fire on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> inst.

30 Jul 1915

The War

Reported that 72 more men had enlisted in The Tyneside Irish and Tyneside Commercials during the fortnight, the total now being 3134

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 24 July 1915	6437
DECREASE OF	2977

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £899.6.9 in pay 15:

Rent allowance to 750 persons	£159.16.0
Coal Leading 1282 persons	£ 32.1.0
Coal allce to 1282 persons 611 tons @ 15/3 per ton	£465.17.9
Houses Rents 502 persons	£241.12.0

TOTAL £899.6.9

The total to date of pay 15 was £23,383

The Soldiers + Sailors Assn. had distributed £137.1.7 during pay 15 and £3.5.6 had been refunded.

The Casualties during pay 15 numbered 3 making the total 44

The men's contribution to the Relief Funds during pay 15 amounted to £126.15.2 distributed as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£38.0.08
Belgian Relief Fund	£38.0.08
Local Relief	£38.0.08
Mechanics	£ 12.13.02

TOTAL £126.15.2

The total to date of pay 15 was £2804.09.6

13 Aug 1915

Ashington Urban District Water Bill

Reported that this had received the Royal Assent but it was understood that neither this nor the Gas Works scheme would be proceeded with during the War.

13 Aug 1915

Tunnelling Moles

Mr Southern said that this question was not raised at the Coal and Trade and only about 20 or 30 men had been secured (from Ashington). Two companies are wanted of 120 each.

13 Aug 1915

Labour Supply

Letter from Mr R Madgen of Monkseaton was read offering to obtain experienced miners from the Midlands @ 20/- for men with a family and workers and 10/- for single men. It was decided not to accept the offer.

13 Aug 1915

National Register

Reported that the Miners' Union and Mechanics Officials had been instructed as to suggested reply to question 8 as follows:

"I do not know but am engaged in the production of coal which is of national importance" The men were to have a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst where it was thought they would adopt this suggestion.

13 Aug 1915

The War

Reported that 41 more men had enlisted during pay 16 the total number being 3175

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 07 Aug 1915	6434
DECREASE OF	2980

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £889.11.0 in pay 16 as follows:

Rent allowance to 760 persons	£161.10.0
Coal Leading off-takes 1301 persons	£ 32.10.6
Coal allowance 1301 persons 590 tons @15/3 per ton	£449.17.6
Colliery House Rents 510 persons	£245.13.0
TOTAL	£889.11.0 = £23,128 per annum

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 16 amounted to £225 19.4

The S + S.F.A had distributed £164.14.11 in pay 16 and £5.11.6 had been refunded.

The men's contribution to the Relief Funds during pay 16 amounted to £126.15.2 distributed as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£37.5.01
Belgian Fund	£28.8.01
B Alien Wives Relief	£5.0.0
Local Relief	£3.17.0
S+S.F.A.	£28.8.01
Mechanics	£ 11.9.05
TOTAL	£114.7.8

The allocation to the Prince of Wales Fund has been banked by the men pending an inquiry as to how it is to be disposed of

The total contributions to date of pay 16 was £2918.17.2

The Casualties during pay 16 numbered 4 making the total 48  
22 married and 26 single

13 Aug 1915 Motor Ambulances (for the Front)

The Chairman stated that he had received a call from Mr Dennis Baily who was asking the Northumberland and Durham Coal Owners to submit a levy in order to raise a County Motor Ambulance Scheme.

His idea was to raise about £35,000.0.0 from the two Counties hoping that the Collieries would submit a levy of 1/4d per ton on the output of 1914. He had already raised £70,000.0.0 in the Counties of Nottingham and Derby and is endeavouring to raise further sums throughout the Country.

It was decided that if the County took it up as a whole the Company would consider the matter favourably but not otherwise.

27 Aug 1915 The War

Reported that 32 more men had enlisted during pay 17 the total number being 3207

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 21 Aug 1915	6375
DECREASE OF	3039

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £918.10.6 in pay 17 as follows:

Rent allowance to 765 persons	£160.17.0
Coal Leading off-takes 1313 persons	£ 32.15.6
Coal allowance 1313 persons 624 tons @ 15/3 per ton	£475.16.0
Colliery House Rents 517 persons	£249.2.0
TOTAL	£918.10.6 = £23,881 per annum

The men's contribution to the Relief Funds during pay15 amounted to £123.2.0 the total amount being £3050.16.2:

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 17 was £28 11.11 the total being £204.11.3

The Casualties during pay 17 numbered 3 making the total 51  
24 being married and 27 single

27 Aug 1915

Motor Ambulances

Mr Warham submitted a circular from the North<sup>d</sup> Trade Ass<sup>n</sup> recommending a voluntary levy of £1 per thousand tons on the 1914 output. This amounted to £1994.6.9 in the case of the Company. Mr Warham was asked to bring the matter before the Association to find out what each colliery was prepared to do.

27 Aug 1915

Mr Asquith's award re: War Bonus

Letter from the Coal Trade was read intimating the Mr Asquith had defined his award in favour of the Contenting (? indistinct) the Northd.Coal Owners' Association.

10 Sep 1915

The War

Reported that 31 more men had been recruited during the fortnight the total number now being 3238

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 04 Sep 1915	6341
DECREASE OF	3073

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £935.19.9 in pay 18:

Rent allowance to 779 persons	£166.0.0
Coal Leading off-takes 1331 persons	£ 33.4.6
Coal allowance 1331 persons 637tons @15/3 per ton	£485.14.3
Colliery House Rents 521 persons	£251.1.0

TOTAL £935.19.9 =£24,333 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Assn had distributed £172.6.2 in pay 18 and £15.0.0 had been refunded.

The men's contribution to the Relief Funds amounted to £121.7.4 in pay 18 allocated as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£36.12.05
Belgian Relief Fund	£36.12.03
Alien Wives/Local Relief	£36.12.03
Local Relief	£3.17.0
Mechanics	£ 11.10.05
TOTAL	£121.7.4

The total contributions to date of pay 18 £3172.3.6

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 17 was £28 11.11 the total being £283.3.2

The Casualties during pay 18 numbered 7 making the total 58  
27 married and 31 single.

10 Sep 1915

Labour Supply

Circular letter from Mr Robert Baird was read with reference to the proposal sanctioned by the Home Office to bring miners from British Columbia to work in English and Scottish Coal Mines and asking if the Company wished to make application for any more men on the term set for it.

Mr Warham to reply that the Company are open to consider the matter if the men are accustomed to the North Country methods of working and are otherwise desirable, but that no houses can be provided for them.

10 Sep 1915

Motor Ambulances for the Front

Mr Warham said that he thought it unlikely that this would be taken by the County if at all in a representative way as several Collieries had intimated that they did not see their way to join. In the meantime the workmen at the Company's Collieries had asked if in the event of the men agreeing to a levy, the Company would join them in providing a small convoy of cars from Ashington alone.

They had suggested 6d per week per man for 20 weeks or £d per week per man for 40 weeks which was expected to produce £3600

It was stated that 5 cars would cost £2250.0.0

and maintenance of the same for a year £2750.0.0

£5000.0.0

Leaving £1400 as the Company's Contribution

It was decided that if the County Scheme fell through, to favourably consider the proposal put forward by the men but nothing could be done in the meantime

24 Sep 1915

Motor Ambulances for the Front

It was stated that the North<sup>d</sup> Miners have decided that by a majority of 34 on a proxy vote not to contribute to this fund. It is possible that the Ashington men might contribute to a local convoy in co-operation with the Company.

24 Sep 1915

The War

Reported that 25 more men had been recruited in Pay 19 the total number now being 3263

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 18 Sep 1915	6327
DECREASE OF	3087

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £938.17.6 in pay 19:

Rent allowance to 785 persons	£166.8.0
Coal Leading off-takes 1337 persons	£ 33.8.6
Coal allowance 1337 persons 640 tons @15/3 per ton	£488.14.3
Colliery House Rents 521 persons	£251.1.0

TOTAL £938.17.6 =£24,410 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Ass<sup>n</sup> had distributed £134.2.10 in pay 19 and £9.2.6 had been refunded.

The men's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 19 amounted to £120.13.0 the total being £3292.16.6:

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 19 was £29.3.9 the total being £312.6.11

The Casualties during pay 19 numbered 6 making the total 64 (30 married and 34 single).