

Ashington Coal Company Minute Book

Ref - ZMD 54/8

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 Officials

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

At the front of this book is a list headed 'Directors Rotation'

1916: L Priestman
F. Priestman

1917: C E. Milburn
L. Milburn

1918: F. Milburn
C.E. Pumphrey

1919: G.L. Wanless
L. Priestman

1920: F. Priestman
C.E. Milburn

1921: L. Milburn
F. Milburn

1922: C.E. Pumphrey
G.L. Wanless

1915/1918 Extracts from the Meeting Minute Book

8th Oct 1915

Motor Ambulances for the Front

It was stated that the North^d Coal Owners Assⁿ had written to Mr Baillie saying it had been decided to abandon the Voluntary and that it was left to individual Collieries to contribute or not as they pleased.

It was decided that Mr Southern should sound the Ashington men as to whether they wish to go on with their proposal to provide, in conjunction with the company, a small convoy of cars and if it is found that they do, to ask Mr Baillie for full particulars as of cost and maintenance.

8th Oct 1915

Ministry of Munitions

Mr Southern said that telegrams had been received from the Ministry of Munitions saying they had decided to take Irving and another two men Angus (?) and Rollins from Ashington. Mr Southern had referred them to his previous communication protesting against the removal of more men.

Mr Wilson, the Head Inspector had been making inquiries at the Colliery and had expressed the opinion that no more men could be spared

A labourer named Gray had left without working his notice and begun work at Elswick. Mr Southern had written that he be sent back

08 Oct 1915

The War

Reported that 11 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total to end pay 20 being 3274

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 02 Oct. 1915	6307
DECREASE OF	3107

The rent and coal allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £953.5.06 in pay 20, viz:

Rent allowance to 785 persons	£167.13.0
Coal Leading off-takes 1338 persons	£ 33.9.0
Coal allowance 1338 persons 656 tons @15/3 per ton	£500.0.0
Colliery House Rents 523 persons	£251.19.0
TOTAL	£953.5.0

£24,784 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Assⁿ had distributed £160.17.3 in pay 20 and £3.12.0 had been refunded.

The men's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 20 amounted to £122.17.11 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£37.1.7
Belgian Relief Fund	£37.1.7
Alien Wives/Local Relief	£37.1.7
Mechanics	£11.13.2
TOTAL	£122.17.11

The total amount being: £3415.14.5

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 20 was £30.19.3 total being £343.6.2

08 Oct 1915

Greek Government Contract

Correspondence was read with the Greek Ambassador from which it appeared doubtful whether further Shipments should be made against this Contract made up Bankers Guarantee for Cash.

22nd Oct 1915

Motor Ambulances for the Front

Letter from Mr D. Baillie was read giving the information asked for as to cost/upkeep etc. Mr Southern stated that Mr Baillie had been at the Coal Trade Office last Saturday. He is still hopeful that the men will take the matter up and is arranging for an interview with the Miners Executive to advise on the subject.

22nd Oct 1915

Ministry of Munitions

Reported that there had been no more applications for men and those already applied for have had instructions to remain at their present work awaiting instructions.

22nd Oct 1915

Christmas Gifts for the troops

Agreed to contribute £100 to the fund being raised at Ashington for sending Christmas Gifts to the Local men serving at the Front and in Training.

22 Oct 1915

The War

Reported that 14 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total to end pay 21 being 3288

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 16 Oct 1915	6303
DECREASE OF	3111

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1008.12.0 in pay 21, viz:

Rent allowance to 787 persons	£167.3.0
Coal Leading off-takes 1342 persons	£ 33.11.0
Coal allowance 1342 persons 725 tons @ 15/3 per ton	£555.2.0
Colliery House Rents 525 persons	£252.16.0
TOTAL	£1008.12.0

£26,223 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Assⁿ had distributed £151.3.10 in pay 21 and £3.7.0 had been refunded.

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 21 amounted to £122.17.7 viz:

Prince of Wales Fund	£37.1.11
Belgian Relief Fund	£37.1.10
Alien Wives/Local Relief	£37.1.9
Mechanics	£11.12.1
TOTAL	£122.17.7

The Total Contributions to the end of pay 21 amounted to £3538.12.0

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 21 was £31.5.3 total being £374.11.5

The Casualties during pay 19 numbered 6 - total 70
33 married and 37 single.

05 Nov 1915

Motor Ambulances for the Front

It was stated that the Woodhorn men were in favour of a levy but the Federated group of Collieries decided against it. The Coal Owners are to have a meeting of the 5th ins. where Mr Warham was authorised to vote in favour of a County Scheme.

If 80% of the North^d Collieries only, or North^d and Durham together vote in favour of it, it was decided that the company would join the County. Mr Baillie had arranged to address the Miner's Executive on the 20th inst.

05 Nov 1915

Recruiting

Mr Southern stated that in response to Lord Derby's letter a great number have been recruited at Ashington since Saturday last and the Clerks in the Colliery Offices are now asking for a definitive reply as to whether they may go.

Mr Southern said that they must retain reliable men to pay wages and make out Pay Bills but they might be able to spare 4 or 6 clerks to be replaced with girls and the matter was under consideration.

With regard to other classes of working a letter from Sir R. Redmayne addressed to Sir T.R Ellis was read stating that miners Enginemen and Colliery Mechanics have been "starred" and that the Inspector of Mines be informed of cases where persons belonging to these classes are being approved by recruiting Agents.

Mr Southern had sent a list of 74 names of men and boys who have enlisted during the last 3 weeks to the inspector of Mines asking if he could help to get these men back. Notices had been posted at all the Pits stating that miners are starred and must not enlist.

05 Nov 1915

Newcastle Office

Walter Golding of the Newcastle Office staff, having enlisted it was agreed that he should be treated in the same way as the rest of the staff who have joined the Forces.

05 Nov 1915

The War

Reported that 30 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total to end pay 22 being 3318

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 16 Oct 1915	6288
DECREASE OF	3126

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £978.17.0 in pay 22 as follows:

Rent allowance to 792 persons	£168.1.6
Coal Leading off-takes 1349 persons	£ 33.14.6
Coal allowance 1342 persons 725 tons @15/3 per ton	£523.1.0
Colliery House Rents 525 persons	£254.0.0
TOTAL	£978.17.0

£25,409 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Assⁿ had distributed £171.0.4 in pay 22 and £1.14.6 had been refunded.

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 22 amounted to £122.1.9 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£36.15.7
Belgian Relief Fund	£36.15.7
Alien Wives/Local Relief	£36.15.5
Mechanics	£11.15.2
TOTAL	£122.1.9

The Total Contributions to the end of pay 22 amounted to £3660.13.9

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 22 was £31.17.9 total being £406.9.2

The Casualties during pay 19 numbered 3 - total 73
36 married and 37 single

05 Nov 1915

Greek Government Contract

Mr Warham explained how this matter stood. The Company are now loading a 3,500 Tons Steamer the "Assos" and have another for 4,100 Tons on steam, but would not load the latter until the first cargo had been paid for.

05 Nov 1915

Commercial Battalions Northumberland Fusiliers

Further funds being required it was decided to increase the Company's guarantee by £400 to £800

19 Nov 1915

Motor Ambulances for the Front

Reported that the North^d and Durham Coal Owners at their meeting on the 5th inst, having heard and considered the appeal made to them by Mr Dennis Baillie for funds to provide more Ambulances for the Front, recommended a contribution at the rate of £1 per 1000 tons on the output of each owner during the year 1914.

The Company's contribution on this basis is £1994.6.9 which has been paid

19 Nov 1915

Ministry of Munitions

Mr Southern reported further correspondence with the Ministry of Munitions and Blyth Labour Exchange re: one of the Company's workmen named Munir(?) and another attempt to take him away from Ashington

19 Nov 1915

New Hospital at Ashington

It was stated that this had been inspected by the military Authorities and approved. It has been taken over by the V.A.D. and preparations are being made to receive cases. The V.A.D. have to equip, maintain the premises, and provide food, medicines, bandages, Nurses etc.

The whole of the staff, including Doctors is voluntary. The Military Authorities give 3/- per day for each patient.

The local V.A.D. has about £200 promised and estimates that it will cost about £350 for 30 beds. They ask if the Company will give the necessary Coal for the Kitchen Range and Coke for the Boiler – the quantity being about 1½ tons of Coal and 2½ tons of Coke per week.

Mr Craig's asked the Company to lay a Gas main up to the Hospital, the estimated cost being £62.10.0. It was decided to adhere to the decision made some time ago, not to make any more free grants of coal, but it was felt that a donation might be given. – Adjourned until the next meeting for further particulars.

19 Nov 1915

Relief of Distress

Mr Southern said he had disbursed the £20 given him last November and there are still 2 or 3 cases requiring assistance which do not come within the scope of the General Relief Scheme.

Agreed to give Mr Southern a further sum of £20 to be used at his discretion

19 Nov 1915

The War

Reported that 27 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total to end pay 23 being 3345

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 16 Oct 1915	6279
DECREASE OF	3135

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1047.11.0 in pay 23 as follows:

Rent allowance to 795 persons	£165.18.0
Coal Leading off-takes 1353 persons	£ 33.10.6
Coal allowance 1353 persons 778 tons @ 15/3 per ton	£593.4.6
Colliery House Rents 528 persons	£254.9.0
TOTAL	£1047.11.0

£27,236 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Assⁿ had distributed £144.19.6 in pay 23 and £2.13.3 had been refunded.

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 23 amounted to £122.11.4 as follows:

Belgian Relief Fund	£36.14.6
Mechanics	£12.17.10
Xmas gift to S&S	£11.15.2

The Total Contributions to the end of pay 23 £3783.5.1

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 23 was £31.17.9 total being £438.6.11

The Casualties during pay 19 numbered 2 - total 75
36 married and 39 single

19 Nov 1915 Greek Government Contract

Mr Warham stated that the last cargo had now been paid – Another boat was now loading

19 Nov 1915 Fatal Accident

Reported that a fatal accident occurred at Ashington on Friday 19th inst. and all the pits at Ashington had been 'loused' out. It was felt that in present circumstances the matter should be brought before the men and an effort made to try to persuade the men to forego this custom, if only for the duration of the war.

03 Dec 1915 Recruiting

Reported that Mr. Graham and Mr Ellington had received letters from the Blyth Recruiting Office; although the original Military Instructions were that Farmers were not to enlist, Ellington is considering the question under Lord Derby's scheme.

If he decides to do so the Company will appeal to the Local Tribunal to have him 'starred'.

The Blyth Recruiting Office is also still writing to the Company's Mechanics asking them to work at Institutions on Tyneside. The Management are stopping them on the strength of the Home Office Instructions.

03 Dec 1915 New Hospital at Ashington

Mr Southern said that the first six cases arrived on Wednesday- the second one to come in being an Ashington man

The V.A.D. have no idea at present what it is likely to cost to run the hospital but they think that with 40 cases at 3/- per week should pay for the food, with the outside help they are likely to get. One ward is to be fitted for Officers.

It was agreed to contribute £100 per annum payable quarterly, for Heating and Lighting during the period the hospital is used for V.A.D. purposes, and to connect the gas Free of Charge: the gas consumed to be paid for at the usual rate.

03 Dec 1915

Colliery Office

Mr Southern stated that four GIRL clerks viz: Margaret Gibson (18), Hilda Mavin (18), Edith Bowland (15^{1/2}), Tina Scouler(15^{1/2}) had started work in the Colliery Office on 23rd Nov @ 10/- each per week.

03 Dec 1915

Miners from British Columbia

Reported that 2 men brought from British Columbia by the British Mining Assⁿ had started work at Ashington. One is married and has applied for a house but was reminded that they came on the distinct undertaking that no house would be available.

03 Dec 1915

Idle Time

Reported that the management had met the men's Representatives and brought before the matter of laying the Pits idle after a fatal accident. The Deputation did not hold out any hope of the men being willing to forego the custom.

The question of bad time keeping generally was then mentioned and the Dep(utation) were asked to form themselves into a joint Committee with the management to bring pressure to bear on habitual slackness, to work more regularly and they agreed to do so.

Mr Southern said he had given instructions for an analysis to be made on the idle time to ascertain as far as possible how much was attributable to sickness and how much to other causes.

03 Dec 1915

The War

Reported that 12 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total to end pay 24 being 3357

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 27 th Nov 1915	6288
DECREASE OF	3126

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1041.5.3 in pay 24 as follows:

Rent allowance to 796 persons	£169.4.0
Coal Leading 1355 persons	£ 33.17.0
Coal allowance 1355 persons 765 tons @ 15/3 per ton	£583.6.3
Colliery House Rents 529 persons	£254.18.0
TOTAL	£1041.5.3

£27,072 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Assⁿ had distributed £169.11.1 in pay 24 and £3.8.9 had been refunded.

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds during the fortnight amounted to £117.18.4 as follows:

Belgian Relief Fund	£36.7.5
Mechanics	£8.6.2
Xmas gift to Soldier and Sailors	£72.14.9

Total to the end of pay 24	£3901.3.5
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The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 24 was £31.17.9 total being £470.4.8

One man had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 76
37 married and 39 single

03 Dec 1915

Russian prisoners of War

Agreed to send a donation of Fifty Guineas to Col. Sagonty (?) for the fund in aid of Russian prisoners of War.

17 Dec 1915

Recruiting

Mr Southern stated that of the 6 Colliery Clerks who recently enlisted 4 had been rejected as medically unfit and it is thought that the Company should appeal to have the other 2 "starred".

1416 of the Company's employees had been attested under Lord Derby's Scheme and of this number 426 had already been rejected as unfit

17 Dec 1915

Ashington Hospital

All the beds, except those reserved for officers had been occupied, but 9 patients had left on the 16th inst.

17 Dec 1915

Colliery Office

Another Girl clerk F. Culley (16) had been engaged on 10/- per week

17 Dec 1915

Miners From British Columbia

Reported that a third man had applied for work at Ashington having been refused work at the Fife Colliery. He had however refused to sign the paper as to repayment of his passage money and Mr Southern was communicating with Mr Baird on this matter.

17 Dec 1915

Motor Ambulances

A Deputation from the Federated Collieries has asked what the owners are doing. They had been told that the Company had subscribed through the North^d Col Owners Assⁿ to Mr. Dennis Baillie's Scheme. The Deputation said that the men would like to do something and in the want of a decision to raise money for this purpose they would like to use part of it to purchase 2 cars for local Motor Ambulance work and asked if the Company would help to purchase them for the Hospital, Collieries and local purposes.

Agreed: to reply that the Company have provided a Horse Ambulance and would be willing to undertake the driving and maintenance of two Motor Ambulances – if the men provided them.

17 Dec 1915

The War

Reported that 10 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total to end pay 25 being 3367

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 11 Dec 1915	6286
DECREASE OF	3128

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1082.19.6 in pay 25 as follows:

Rent allowance to 791 persons	£167.11.0
Coal Leading 1350 persons	£ 33.15.0
Coal allowance 1350 persons 822 tons @ 15/3 per ton	£626.15.6
Colliery House Rents 529 persons	£254.18.0
TOTAL	£1082.19.6

£27,157 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Assⁿ had distributed £173.2.1 in pay 25 and £1.17.6 had been refunded.

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds during the fortnight amounted to £122.10.3 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£36.14.7
Belgian Relief Fund	£36.14.7
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£36.14.7
Mechanics	£12.6.6

Total to the end of pay 25

£4023.13.8

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 25 was £27.6.6 total being £497.11.2
 £9.19.3 had been refunded by Pattison

The casualties in Pay 25 numbered 7- total 3
41 married and 42 single

17 Dec 1915

Idle Time

It was stated that the men's representatives had objected to forming a Joint Committee with the Management but had promised to issue a Circular urging the men to keep better time.

The Coal Owners Assⁿ had appointed a Committee to meet the men to discuss what steps could be taken in the matter.

31 Dec 1915

Recruiting

Mr Southern stated that 6 of the Colliery Office staff have been called up during the fortnight making a total of 18 and 2 from the Time Office.

1439 of the Company's Employees had attested under Lord Derby's Scheme and of this number 451 had been rejected.

31 Dec 1915

Colliery Office

Another Girl clerk Lena Downie (21) had been engaged on 10/- per week from Dec 27th.

31 Dec 1915

Miners From British Columbia

Reported that John Fisher had left the Colliery on the 14th inst. without having worked his notice and that he had given a letter to his Landlady to draw his "lying on" money. Mr Southern has reported the matter to Mr. Baird

31 Dec 1915

Motor Ambulance Convoy

Reported that the men had not decided anything yet but had agreed to provide a Motor Ambulance for the V.A.D and to allow

£5 per week for running and maintenance expenses.

31 Dec 1915

The War

Reported that 4 more men had enlisted during the fortnight the total to end pay 26 being 3371

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 25 th Dec 1915	6300
DECREASE OF	3114

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1161.19.0 in pay 26 as follows:

Rent allowance to 790 persons	£165.6.0
Coal Leading 1348 persons	£ 33.14.0
Coal allowance 1348 persons 872 tons @ 15/3 per ton	£708.10.0
Colliery House Rents 528 persons	£254.9.0
TOTAL	£1082.19.6

£30,210 per annum

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 26 amounted to £123.8.1 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£27.1.3
Belgian Relief	£37.1.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.1.1
V.A.D.	£10.0.0
Mechanics	£12.4.7

Total to the end of pay 25	£4147.1.9
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The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £158.5.5 in pay 26 and £4.12.0 had been refunded.

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 26 was £36.16.5 total being £534.7.7 £9.19.3 had been refunded by Pattison

14 Jan 1916

Recruiting

Mr Southern stated that a few men were attesting under the Group System. The Recruiting office at Ashington was opened again on Monday last and the first meeting of the Local Tribunal is fixed for Tuesday next. The Management had sent in 176 claims for exemption

14 Jan 1916

Colliery Office

Another Girl clerk Miss Violet Miller ($17\frac{1}{2}$) had been engaged on 10/- per week from 10th inst.

14 Jan 1916

Motor Ambulances

Mr. Southern said he understood the men had ordered an Ambulance for the V.A.D.

14 Jan 1916

The War

Reported that 2 more men had enlisted during the fortnight and 2 had returned leaving the total at 3371 same as last fortnight

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 8 Jan 1916	6301
DECREASE OF	3113

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1110.3.3 in pay 1 as follows:

Rent allowance to 783 persons	£165.11.0
Coal Leading 1343 persons	£ 33.11.6
Coal allowance 1343 persons 807 tons @ 16/3 per ton	£655.13.9
Colliery House Rents 528 persons	£255.7.0
TOTAL	£1110.3.3

£28,864 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £172.3.9 in pay 1 and £2.7.0 had been refunded.

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 1 was £42.3.7 - total £576.11.2

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 1 amounted to £120.1.10 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£26.8.4
Belgian Relief	£36.8.3
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£36.8.2
V.A.D.	£10.0.0
Mechanics	£10.17.1
Total	4267.3.7

The Casualties during the fortnight numbered 2 making a total of 85
42 married and 43 single

14 Jan 1916 Captain C. E. Pumphrey

Resolved to send a letter of Congratulations to Captain C.E. Pumphrey, a Director of the Company who has been awarded the Military Cross.

28 Jan 1916 Lord Derby's Scheme

Mr. Southern stated that with the exception of one case; the Milk salesman, all the claims for exemption put forward by the Company have been referred to the Local Court and may come in for hearing any day now.

28 Jan 1916 Miners From British Columbia

Reported that the remaining 2 men had worked a fortnights notice and had left the Company. The Management had declined to pay them the last fortnights money £9.5.2 having retained 10/- per week each for the 7 weeks they worked at Ashington under their agreement with the Government and their Landlady wanted £4.2.6 from them.

28 Jan 1916

The War

Reported that 1 man had enlisted during the fortnight and 3 had returned leaving the total at 3369 same as last fortnight

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1122.17.3 in pay 2 as follows:

Rent allowance to 781 persons	£165.5.0
Coal Leading 1341 persons	£ 33.11.6
Coal allowance 1341 persons 823 tons @16/3 per ton	£668.13.9
Colliery House Rents 530 persons	£255.7.0
TOTAL	£1122.17.3

£29,194 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £157.17.9 in pay 2 and 14/- had been refunded.

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 2 was £45.14.7 - total £622.5.9

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 2 amounted to £124.7.9 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£27.6.1
Belgian Relief	£37.6.0
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.5.11
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Mechanics	£12.9.9.
Total	£4391.11.4

The Casualties in Pay 2 numbered 6 making a total of 91
45 married and 46 single

28 Jan 1916

Belgian Relief

An Application from Mr Clarence Smith on behalf of Belgian Relief was considered and adjourned for Mr Warham to ascertain what other Collieries are doing.

Lord Derby's Scheme

Mr Southern stated that at the second sitting of the Local Tribunal there were only 3 cases. The Management have not yet received any notice from the Local Court to hear the Company's claims under the first four groups – and Mr Cairns said they were waiting for new instructions under the No 2 Compulsory Bill. The Company have 91 claims under Groups 10,11,12,13.

11 Feb 1916

Miners From British Columbia

A deputation from the Ashington Men had attended and asked why the wages of the two men who had left had been withheld. After hearing the Management's explanation they decided not to move further in the matter.

11 Feb 1916

The War

Reported that 1 man had enlisted during the fortnight and 1 had returned leaving the total at 3369 as before.

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1167.18.3 in pay 3 as follows:

Rent allowance to 777 persons	£164.19.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1337 persons	£ 33.8.6
Coal allowance 1337 persons 879 tons @ 16/3 per ton	£714.3.9
Colliery House Rents 530 persons	£255.7.0
TOTAL	£1167.18.3

£30,365 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £179.1.3 in pay 3 and £1.14.6 had been refunded.

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in Pay 3 amounted to £124.0.1 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£27.4.5
Belgian Relief	£37.4.3
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.4.3
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Mechanics	£12.7.2.
	£124.0.1
 Total	 £4415.11.5

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service total of pay 3 was £46.0.5 - total = £668.6.2

The Casualties in Pay 3 numbered 11 making a total of 102

48 married and 54 single.

25 Feb 1916 Lord Derby's Scheme

Mr Southern stated that at the third sitting of the Local Tribunal there were only 12 cases. The Company's Milk Salesman appeal had been adjourned for two months to give Mr. Graham an opportunity to find a substitute. The Management have not yet received any notice from the Local Colliery Court.

25 Feb 1916 Miners From British Columbia

A letter from the Home Office was read asking for payment of £65.16.1 in respect of the cost of bringing over the three men. Mr Southern stated the Company could only reply that the men had left Ashington but he was communicating with Mr Baird.

25 Feb 1916 Motor Ambulance

Mr Southern stated that the men have decided to purchase a Motor Ambulance at a cost exceeding £600 – the V.A.D. to maintain it and return it to the men at the end of the War. The men asked if the owners would advance the £600 and they

will repay it by the usual weekly levies. They also asked if the owners will purchase a similar car for conveying injured workmen to their homes from the different Collieries.

It was agreed to advance the £600 the amount to be repaid within 6 months.

With regard to the second car it was considered that this was unnecessary and if a car is required for the purpose indicated, arrangements might be made for the use of the V.A.D. car.

Mr Southern was requested to find out if this could be done and at what terms.

25 Feb 1916

Motor Ambulances for the Front

Mr. Lewis Priestman stated that Mr Sanderson had told him his firm had not yet received any inquiries for coach work in connection with the Motor Ambulances. Under Mr. Baillie's Scheme, he did not know of any firm in the district who had.

It was ordered that inquiry be made as to this as it was understood that preference would be given to local firms for this class of work.

25 Feb 1916

Ministry of Munitions

Mr. Southern stated that the Inspector had visited the Colliery on the 22nd inst. to see whether the Company could spare any more Mechanics for Munitions work and was satisfied that no more could be spared. He also inspected the Fitting Shops and agreed that they are not suitable for women to be employed in them.

25 Feb 1916

The War

Reported that 1 man had enlisted during the fortnight and 2 had returned leaving the total at 3368.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 19 th Feb 1916	6364
DECREASE OF	3050

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1117.17.3 in pay 4 as follows:

Rent allowance to 775 persons	£164.4.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1333 persons	£ 33.6.6
Coal allowance 1333 persons 819 tons @16/3 per ton	£665.8.9
Colliery House Rents 528 persons	£254.18.0
TOTAL	£1117.17.3
	£29,064 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £171.10.8 in pay 4 and £1.6.0 had been refunded.

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds amounted to £122.15.6 in Pay 4 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£26.15.3
Belgian Relief	£36.15.3
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£36.15.1
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Mechanics	£12.9.11
Total	£4638.6.11

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service was £44.2.1 - total to end of pay 4 was £712.8.3

10 Mar 1916

Lord Derby's Scheme

Mr Southern said that the Company had 7 claims in for the Tribunal on Tuesday next: 3 Timekeepers, 1 Woodman, 1 Screener, 1 Farmhand, 1 Overman's Assistant.

The Colliery Court sat in Newcastle on Tuesday last and dealt with the Ashington Group of Collieries.

There were 1356 Claims for barred men
and 255 Claims for unbarred men
1611 (married men, not enlisted, not included)

Only the 255 exemptions were given to 1/7 - for 3 months as per the list submitted showing the various classes of Labour.

The following classes were exempt: Engineer, Engineers Assistant, Engineers Draughtsmen, Storekeepers, Lampmen, Signalmen, Railway Guards, Smith's Strikers, Engineers Labourers, Firemen, Timber Yard and Casting Coal Labourers

10 Mar 1916

Motor Ambulances

The question of the Company providing a Car for use at Ashington was again discussed. It was agreed to point out to the men that the Company have already made a large Contribution to the cost of cars for the Front and that the men had not done anything in that way – and further that the Owners do not consider there is work for 2 cars at Ashington – but they would be willing to maintain and man the V.A.D. car after the war

10 Mar 1916

The War

Reported that 2 more men had enlisted during the fortnight and 1 had returned leaving the total at 3369.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 4 th Mar 1916	6387
DECREASE OF	3027

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1117.4.9 in pay 5 as follows:

Rent allowance to 771 persons	£162.15.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1330 persons	£ 33.5.0
Coal allowance 1330 persons 819 tons @ 16/3 per ton	£665.8.9
Colliery House Rents 529 persons	£255.16.0
	£29,044 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £177.8.9 in pay 5 and 2/- had been refunded.

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds amounted to £122.6.5 in Pay 5 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£26.12.11
Belgian Relief	£36.12.11

Alien Wives + Local Relief	£36.12.9
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Mechanics	£12.7.10
Total	£4760.13.4

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service was £48.2.7 – totals £760.10.10

The Casualties in Pay 5 numbered 4 making a total of 106

51 married and 55 Single

10 Mar 1916

Greek Government Contract

Letter was read asking for delivery of the balance of Contract. Agreed to refer the Greek Ambassador to the correspondence of the 12th and 14th Dec last and maintain that the Contract was cancelled.

24 Mar 1916

Lord Derby's Scheme

Reported that the six claims heard at the last Tribunal have all been allowed for a further later hearing.

In the case of Wright' son (The Woodman) the claim was considered invalid as the son is employed by his father and not the Company. A claim has been made by his father to the Alnwick Tribunal.

Colliery Court

Of the 117 who were given exemptions for 3 months, there are only 35 physically fit and the management are making arrangements to let 16 other men go which means a loss of 51 instead of 117.

24 Mar 1916

Airship Raids

A letter from Capt. James, Chief Constable was read stating the arrangements which are in operation in regard to the warnings and orders which may arise in the event of an enemy airship raid and giving certain instructions.

24 Mar 1916

Ministry of Munitions

A letter was read from the Office of the Ministry of Munitions with regard to the dilution of labour at the Company's Collieries and especially to the employment of men upon screening work.

Mr Southern had replied stating only men, boys not of military age, or men who are unfit for the Army are employed in this class of Labour and that the Company's employees are being dealt with by the No 5 Colliery Remitting Comt.

24 Mar 1916

The War

There had been no further enlistments and 5 had returned the total number now being 3364.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 18 th Mar 1916	6398
DECREASE OF	3016

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1113.12.6 in pay 6 as follows:

Rent allowance to 765 persons	£150.18.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1321 persons	£ 33.0.6
Coal allowance 1321 persons 820 tons @ 16/3 per ton	£666.5.0
Colliery House Rents 526 persons	£254.9.0
	£28,964 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £152.1.8 in pay 6 and 4/- had been refunded.

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 6 amounted to £122.6.5 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£39.7.5
Belgian Relief	£36.19.4
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£36.19.3
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
	£123.6.0

Total to end of Pay 6

£4883.19.4

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service was £48.15.10 - total £809.6.8

The Casualties in Pay 6 numbered 7 - total 113

55 married and 58 Single

24 Mar 1916

Greek Government Contract

A letter from the Greek Minister was read. It was arranged that Mr Warham should go to London to see the Minister and also the Coal Exports Committee to see when the prohibition of shipments to Greece had been removed.

7 Apr 1916

Lord Derby's Scheme

It was reported that there were 11 cases before the last meeting of the Local Tribunal, 2 of these were claims made by the Company.

- W. Graham, Chief Clerk at Ellington – granted exemption for 3 months and this will probably be renewed.
- James Howe, Milkman at Sparrow House – granted exemption for 2 months – It is very doubtful that this will be renewed as the Tribunal consider a woman could do this work

7 Apr 1916

Motor Ambulance at V.A.D Hospital

Mr Booth had not had an opportunity of mentioning this matter to the Committee, but he spoke to Tapson(?) about it who thought the Company's proposal should meet the men's views.

7 Apr 1916

Miners from British Columbia

Correspondence with Mr Baird regarding the claim of the Home Office in respect of bringing the 3 miners from B.C was read.

Mr Warham had written to the Home Office protesting against this claim and suggesting that the Govt. should trace the men and recover the money from their present employees.

7 Apr 1916 Recruiting of Tunnelling Companies

It was reported that the War Office and the Home Office had come to an arrangement for a further 10,000 men to be taken from the mines for Tunnelling Companies – the proportion to be provided by the County of Northumberland being 469.

7 Apr 1916 Greek Government Contract

Mr Warham reported that the Greek Minister had declined to see him with reference to the balance of the Contract. Decided to leave it to the Minister to make the next move.

7 Apr 1916 Aircraft Insurance

It was decided to increase the War Risk Insurance up to the full replacement value.

7 Apr 1916 The War

Reported that 2 men had enlisted during the fortnight and 5 had returned the total number at end of Pay 7 being 3361.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 1 st Apr 1916	6398
DECREASE OF	3016

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1270.16.0 in pay 7 as follows:

Rent allowance to 762 persons	£161.7.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1316 persons	£ 32.18.0
Coal allowance 1316 persons 823 tons @20/- per ton	£823.0.0
Colliery House Rents 524persons	£253.11.0
	£33,040 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £170.2.0 in pay 7 and £2.17 had been refunded. Balance Sheet of the S+S.S for year ending 31st March was submitted.

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 7 amounted to £124.1.9 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£39.7.8
Belgian Relief	£37.7.1
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.7.0
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 7	£5008.1.1

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service was £48.0.1 - total £857.6.9

The Casualties in Pay 7 numbered 4- total 117
56 married and 61 Single

7 Apr 1916

Newcastle Office

Mrs Gibson and Mrs Shaw were advanced to 20/- per week inclusive of War Bonus from 1st April.
Mrs Warham and Miss M. Warham to be paid at the rate of £60 per annum from 1st Feb

20 Apr 1916

Ashington Hospital

The Chairman stated that Mr Craigs had seen him with reference to the amount still required for the new Hospital – abt. £1100. It was understood from Mr Craigs some time ago that the men had undertaken to contribute at abt. £40 per pay which would shortly pay the debt off.

Mr Southern was requested to make inquiry as to whether the men were still contributing and what is the present financial position of the building fund.

20 Apr 1916

Ashington Raids

Further instructions had been received from Captain James, the Chief Constable, saying that the preliminary training will be discontinued entirely.

20 Apr 1916

Income Tax

The Collector of Taxes at Ashington had asked for a return of Officials with upstanding wage of £2 per week and over. Agreed: that the War Bonus be included but not the value of free House and Coal.

20 Apr 1916

Newcastle Office

Mr Warham reported sales of 2 Cargoes of Best for Copenhagen @ 46/- and negotiations as to further supplies. He had originally asked for 35/- but the offer had not been accepted in the specified time. They had now come on again and it was decided to ask 43/6.

A letter had been received from the British Admiralty stating that from the 1st May + until the end of December they wished the Company to reserve 20,000 tons per month for the use of the Allied Government.

Nothing was said about price but it appeared to be assumed that the Coal would be supplied under the Coal Price Limitation Act. It was arranged that Mr Warham should see the Admiralty to make the best terms possible.

20 Apr 1916

The War

There had been no enlistments during the fortnight and 3 men had returned the total number at end of Pay 8 being 3358.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 15 th Apr 1916	6430
DECREASE OF	2984

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army in Pay 8 amounted to £1299.12.6 as follows:

Rent allowance to 760 persons	£160.14.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1313 persons	£ 32.16.6
Coal allowance 1313 persons 854 tons @20/- per ton	£854.0.0
Colliery House Rents 523 persons	£253.2.0
	£33,816 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £171.11.1 in pay 8 and £1.19 had been refunded.
Balance Sheet of the S+S.S for year ending 31st March was submitted.

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 8 amounted to £123.13.1 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£39.5.7
Belgian Relief	£39.3.9
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.3.9
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 8	£5008.1.1

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service was £46.10.1 - total £903.16.10

The Casualties in Pay 8 numbered 7 total 124
57 married and 67 Single

20 Apr 1916

War Risks

It was agreed to insure against loss of profits + standing charges, up to £100,000. It was that the premium might be arranged at 20/- per cwt.

20 Apr 1916

French Red Cross

It was agreed to give a donation of £100 to the French Red Cross.

20 Apr 1916

Hay for the Government

Mr Warham stated that Col. Morgan had been asked to attend a meeting of the Coal Trade with reference to the recent order issued by the Forage Department of the War Office.

05 May 1916

Ashington Hospital

Mr Southern said that he had made inquiry and found the financial position of the Hospital to be as follows:

Bank Overdraft	940.02.01
Bank Overdraft Interest	13.15.04
Amount owing to the Builder	200.00.00
Footpaths and Laying Out	50.00.00
	1453.17.5
Possibly + ray apparatus	
The Revenue was:	
Workmen's Subscriptions £40 per Pay	1040.0.0
Collections	120.0.0
	1160.0.0
Expenditure	
Estimated at present Time	220.0.0
General Expenses	60.0.0
	280.0.0

Mr Milburn intimated that when the question of the roads is settled, The Milburn Estates intend to give a donation to the Hospital but nothing had been said about it, yet the amount is not fixed.

05 May 1916

Airship Raids

Mr Southern said that he had received a further communication from Capt. James, Chief Constable stating that owing to their responsibilities it had been decided to send to the Lighting Authorities the preliminary warning as before.

05 May 1916

Woodhorn Camp

Mr Southern said that he had arranged with Major Dugdale to supply the Shropshire Yeomanry with 10/12000 gallons of water per day from Woodhorn Colliery at the same price at that supplied to Ellington Camp.

05 May 1916

Local Tribunal

It was reported that 6 of the Company's employees were called up in the next group viz: 1 Ploughman, 2 Scavengers and 3 Clerks and that application would be made for absolute exemption for all.

It was also decided to appeal for 2 Clerks in the Newcastle Office and 2 Staithmen at Blyth.

05 May 1916

The War

It was reported that 3 men had enlisted during the fortnight and 2 had returned the total number at end of Pay 9 being 3359.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 29 th Apr 1916	6412
DECREASE OF	3002

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army in Pay 9 amounted to £1190.16.6 as follows:

Rent allowance to 758 persons	£159.18.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1309 persons	£ 32.14.6

Coal allowance 1309 persons 746 tons @20/- per ton	£746.0.0
Colliery House Rents 521 persons	£252.4.0
	£30,961 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £179.0.4 in pay 9.
 Balance Sheet of the S+S.S for year ending 31st March was submitted.
 The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 9 was £44.8.1 - total £948.4.11

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 9 amounted to £124.8.1 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£39.12.2
Belgian Relief	£37.8.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.8.1
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
 Total to end of Pay 9	 £5256.2.7

05 May 1916 Coal Sales

Sales of 10,000 of Best @ 50/- was reported. Mr Warham stated that he had seen the Admiralty with reference to their requirements + discussed the question of price – they had requested that the Company should submit their views in writing.

05 May 1916 War Risk Insurance

Mr Warham reported that the Insurance against loss of Profit + Standing Charges to the amount of £163,000 had been effected at 20/- per cwt. The rate now asked is 40/- per cwt. – it was decided not to increase the above amount insured.

05 May 1916 Hay Supplies

Mr Warham stated that he had attended a meeting of the Mining Assn. in London and explained the position to hay Supplies as it affected the Collieries and it had been decided that the several districts should submit a statement of their case.

05 May 1916

Boys under 14 to work in the Pits

Mr Warham had also brought the desirability under the present circumstances of allowing boys of 13 years of age to work underground – and the meeting decided to press the matter strongly with the Government.

05 May 1916

Men For Tunnelling

General Mackinnon had attended the meeting as well as the Executive Committee of the Miners Federation. He asked for 10,000 skilled miners to act as tunnellers. After discussion General Mackinnon agreed to go further into the matter and write to the Assn.

19 May 1916

Boy Labour

Mr Warham reported that he had attended further meetings between the Miners Assn and the Miners Federation. The men's representation had objected to the employment underground of boys under 14 unless it was made a national question.

They had declined to consider the temporary suspension of the 8 hours Act and were opposed to the employment of women.

The question of absenteeism was to be taken in hand in all districts and efforts made to ensure more regular working so as to increase the output.

16 May 1916

The War

It was reported that 1 man had enlisted during the fortnight; the total number at end of Pay 10 being 3360.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 13 th May 1916	6436
DECREASE OF	2978

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army in Pay 10 amounted to £1191.9.0 as follows:

Rent allowance to 756 persons	£159.16.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1306 persons	£ 32.13.0
Coal allowance 1306 persons 748 tons @ 20/- per ton	£748.0.0

Colliery House Rents 520 persons	£251.0.0
	£30,873 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £155.13.9 in pay 10, £3.14 had been refunded

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 10 amounted to £124.5.6 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£39.17.4
Belgian Relief	£37.4.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.4.0
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 10	£5380.8.1

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 10 was £45.11.1 - total £993.16.0

The Casualties in pay 10 numbered 3 making a total of 127
59 Married and 68 Single

02 Jun 1916

Hay

The order of the Military Authorities that consumers were only allowed to purchase 3 months' supply of Hay was considered.

It was decided to ask the Authorities for permission to buy only pike from the local farmers as in past years + to point out that failure to ensure supplies will stop the output of coal.

Ordered that an invoice be sent for the 70 tons of Hay taken by the Army Authorities as they had now definitely decided to replace it as promised by Col. Morgan and Capt. Frost.

02 Jun 1916

Woodhorn Camp Shropshire Yeomanry

Mr Southern stated that the first detachment from Newbiggin went into camp on Wednesday and the remainder were to follow yesterday and today. The water from Woodhorn Colliery has been laid on and for which they have agreed to pay 1/6 per ??? gallons.

02 Jun 1916

Local Tribunals

Mr Southern reported that the temporary exemption; 3 months, had been granted in respect of a Clerk and 2 Scavengers.

The case of two other Clerks had been adjourned until June and the Ploughman for whom an appeal had been made had enlisted.

Mr Warham stated that the 2 Staithmen; one (Harris) had been granted temporary exemption for 3 months and the appeal in respect of the other (Wood) had been dismissed.

It was decided to pay Wood the difference his Army pay and the amount he had from the Company on enlistment.

02 Jun 1916

The War

It was reported that 1 man had enlisted during the fortnight and 1 had returned; the total number 3360.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 27 th May 1916	6447
DECREASE OF	2967

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army in Pay 11 amounted to £1189.0.6:

Rent allowance to 752 persons	£159.0.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1303 persons	£ 32.11.6
Coal allowance 1303 persons 746 tons @ 20/- per ton	£746.0.0
Colliery House Rents 520 persons	£251.9.0
	£30,914 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £148.7.11 in pay 11, £1.1.0 had been refunded

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 11 amounted to £123.12.5 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£39.5.6
Belgian Relief	£37.3.6
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.3.5
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 11	£5504.0.6

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 11 was £46.5.9 - total £1040.1.9

The Casualties in pay 11 numbered 2 making a total of 129
61 Married and 68 Single

Mr Southern submitted a statement showing £37.8.10 due to Tom Collins being the difference between his Army pay and wages.

A payment of this amount was ordered to be paid to his father. Collins is now earning more in the Army than he did with the Company

16 Jun 1916

Local Tribunals

It was reported that 1 months exemption had been granted to Mr Southern's coachman and 6 months to a scavenger on condition that he remains at his present employment. Wood, a Blyth staithman had been rejected as medically unfit and will continue in the Company's employ.

16 Jun 1916

Official's War Bonus

It was agreed to double the War bonuses to Officials. The same to be paid in 2 instalments on 1st July and 1st October.

16 Jun 1916

Apprentice's War Bonus

An application had been received from the Mechanic's Assⁿ for an increase in War Bonus.

At present 1/- per week is paid to the Apprentices having wages up to 2/4 per day and 2/-per week for those more than 2/4. It was agreed that these should be doubled and apply to apprentices in the Colliery Offices.

16 Jun 1916

The War

It was reported that 2 man had enlisted during the fortnight and 4 had returned; the total number 3358.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 10 th Jun 1916	6466
DECREASE OF	2948

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army in Pay 12 amounted to £1104.5.6:

Rent allowance to 750 persons	£158.6.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1301 persons	£ 32.10.6
Coal allowance 1301 persons 662 tons @ 20/- per ton	£662.0.0
Colliery House Rents 521 persons	£251.9.0
	£28,711 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £145.14.8, during the fortnight, and nothing had been refunded

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 12 amounted to £125.4.0 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£39.18.0
Belgian Relief	£37.13.0
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.13.0
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 12	£5629.4.6

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 12 was £46.5.9 - total £1086.7.6

6 men had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 135
67 Married and 68 Single

30 Jun 1916

Local Tribunals

Mr Southern stated that the Company's appeal on behalf of Mr Graham and Mr Ellington would be heard on Tuesday 4th July.
Mr Warham stated that the appeal for exemption of J.E. Hall and Ed Robson would be held that afternoon.

30 Jun 1916

War Bonuses

It was agreed to double the War bonuses of Turnbull, Howe, Martin, J.E. Cookson and Gilchrist. These with the office apprentices as agreed in the last meeting, 32 in all, will amount to £172.18.0 per annum.

The question on increasing the War bonuses of the rest of the Colliery staff and certain officials not included in the list agreed to at the last meeting was considered.

Agreed as follows from 1st July:

J.G. Wiseman	£30.0.0 per annum
Fred Wiseman	£40.0.0 " "
T. Forsyth	£22.0.0 " "
John Gibson	£20.0.0 " "
G. Downie	£20.0.0 " "
W. Hallowell	£20.0.0 " "
J.C. Nicholson	£25.0.0 " "
W. Marshall	£20.0.0 " "
A. Paxton	£11.5.0 " "
J.J.W. Woodman	£30.0.0 " "

T. Boutland	£40.0.0	“	“
E.L. Lewis	£15.0.0	“	“
T. Proctor (Woodhorn)	£30.0.0	“	“

£20 each to A. Graham (Linton) and J Waddle (Ellington) who have not previously been paid a War bonus.

30 Jun 1916

Colliery Staff

The following advances were granted:

Ed Lewis to 55/- per week from 1st April

John Eskdale
£350 per annum

A. Paxton	£225	“	“
J.T. Kidd	£200	“	“ from 1 st July
T. Forsyth	£220	“	“

J.G. Anderson and A.C Holliday applied for advances. It was decided not to make any advance but to grant them a War bonus of £25 per annum from the 1st July to be paid monthly with their salary.

30 Jun 1916

VAD Hospital

Mr Southern read a report by Surgeon General Price to the War Office saying the Hospital is still well managed and does very useful work and much needed work.

30 Jun 1916

Ashington District Distinguished Service Recognition Society

A letter was read saying that a Committee had been appointed to give public recognition to local men who gain distinction at the War and asking for a donation to the fund. It was decided not to do anything at present.

30 Jun 1916

Hay

In view of the Circular issued from the Forage Committee of Whitehall, the question of the price to be offered to the local farmers for hay was considered. Mr Gray of Woodhorn expects to begin cutting next week and to have 40/50 Tons for disposal.

It was agreed to offer £4/10/- or max-price as fixed by the Forage Committee.

30 Jun 1916

Tom Collins

A letter from Tom Collins was read thanking the Company for making up his pay during his absence on Military duty.

He has risen to the highest N.C.O's rank in the Army Ordnance Service Corps and has been offered a Commission in the Army Ordnance Dept.

30 Jun 1916

The War

It was reported that 9 men had enlisted during the fortnight – total to end of pay 13 was 3358.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 24 th Jun 1916	6494
DECREASE OF	2920

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army in Pay 13 amounted to £1114.14.0 as follows:

Rent allowance to 747 persons	£157.9.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1297 persons	£ 32.8.0
Coal allowance 1297 persons 674 tons @ 20/- per ton	£674.0.0
Colliery House Rents 521 persons	£250.17.0

£28,982 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £143.13.10, during the fortnight, and 13/- had been refunded

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 13 amounted to £125.15.9 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£40.0.8
Belgian Relief	£37.17.7
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£37.17.6
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 13	£5,755.0.3

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 13 was £46.5.9 - total £1132.13.3

7 men had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 142
67 Married and 75 Single

14 Jul 1916

Local Tribunals

It was reported that Mr Graham and 2 Scavengers had been granted total exemption. Mr Ellington had got 2 months exemption but would be again appealed for.

At Newcastle tribunal E. G. Hall and Edward Robson had been granted Conditional Exemption.

14 Jul 1916

Hay

Regulations have now been issued and a form of declaration for those requiring Forage. Mr Reay of Spittal House Farm had told Mr Southern whether it would not be cheaper for him to use his own hay for feeding stock rather than sell it at £4/10/- and have to buy Pike at £12 per Ton.

It appeared likely that the Company would have to pay up to £5 per Ton for the greater part of their requirements.

14 Jul 1916

Ashington District Distinguished Service Recognition Society

The Chairman suggested that instead of giving a donation to this society, the Company might make a presentation to their own employees who gain distinction at the War – say a guinea or its equivalent for a DCM and £5 for an M.C.

It was adjourned for further consideration.

14 Jul 1916

War Bonuses

Mr Southern stated that T. Pollard. Ass^t Under manager had been omitted from the War bonuses list. Agreed that he should have £20 per annum and that a cheque for £10 up to 30th June be sent to him.

14 Jul 1916

The War

It was reported that 7 men had enlisted during the fortnight – total to end of pay 14 was 3374.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 8 th Jul 1916	6530
DECREASE OF	2884

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army in Pay 14 amounted to £1107.17.0 as follows:

Rent allowance to 748 persons	£158.1.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1300 persons	£ 32.10.0
Coal allowance 1300 persons 668 tons @ 20/- per ton	£668.0.0
Colliery House Rents 521 persons	£251.6.0
	£28,982 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £170.1.11, during the fortnight, and £1.8.0 had been refunded

The Men's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 14 amounted to £126.9.1. as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£40.3.1
Belgian Relief	£38.3.0
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£38.3.0
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 14	£5,881.9.4

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 14 was £46.5.9 - total £1178.19.0

8 men had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 150
71 Married and 79 Single

28 Jul 1916

Local Tribunal

It was reported that 8 clerks in the Colliery Office had been granted Conditional Exemption.

28 Jul 1916

Distinguished Service Recognition

It was agreed to reply to a letter from the Local Society that the Company will suitably recognise their own employees who gain distinction at the War.

28 Jul 1916

The War

It was reported that 2 men had enlisted during the fortnight – total to end of pay 15 was 3376.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 22 nd Jul 1916	6562
DECREASE OF	2852

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1098.6.6 in Pay 15 as follows:

Rent allowance to 748 persons	£158.1.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1301 persons	£ 32.10.6
Coal allowance 1301 persons 656 tons @ 20/- per ton	£656.0.0
Colliery House Rents 522 persons	£251.15.0
	£27,743 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £145.16.11, in pay 15, and nothing had been refunded

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 15 amounted to £127.8.8 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£40.15.3
Belgian Relief	£38.6.9
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£38.6.8
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 15	£6008.18.0

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 15 was £45.1.9 – total £1224.0.9

11 men had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 161

75 Married and 86 Single

11 Aug 1916

YMCA Huts for Soldiers

The appeal by the Y.M.C.A. on behalf of the Hut Fund was considered. The Chairman suggested that the provision of a Hut by the Company to be called the "Ashington". Mr Warham was requested to ascertain the cost and if it could be so named, - if not more than £1000 to be agreed to same.

11 Aug 1916

Widows of Soldiers in Colliery Houses

The question of how long a time Widows of men Killed in the war should continue in the free occupation of Colliery Houses was discussed. The Company desired to extend every consideration to the Women, but as houses are urgently required for Workers it was suggested that some further inducement in the way of a larger money payment might be offered then to vacate the houses.

11 Aug 1916

The War

It was reported that 61 men had returned the total number of recruits at end of pay 16 being 3315.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 5 th Aug 1916	6611
DECREASE OF	2803

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1047.14.6 in Pay 16 as follows:

Rent allowance to 724 persons	£150.10.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1265 persons	£ 31.12.6
Coal allowance 1265 persons 620 tons @ 20/- per ton	£620.0.0
Colliery House Rents 511 persons	£245.12.0
	£27,240 per annum

The Soldiers and Sailors Society had distributed £150.7.2, during the fortnight and nothing had been refunded
The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 16 amounted to £127.8.8 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£40.18.4
Belgian Relief	£38.6.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£38.6.0
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 16 was £43.8.9 - total £1267.9.6

12 men had been killed in action making a total of 173
84 Married and 89 Single

11 Aug 1916 Woodhorn Manager

Mr Warham reported having applied to the Minister of Munitions for the demobilisation of Major Milburn to return as
Manager of Woodhorn Colliery

25 Aug. 1916 Colliery Office

The following advances were granted:

Fred Wiseman to £250 per annum from 1st September
John Gibson to £150 per annum

War bonuses to remain as arranged at the meeting on 30th June.
be sent to

25 Aug 1916 YMC Huts for Collieries

Mr Warham stated that he had made inquiry and found that a Hut would cost £600 and that it could named: "The
Ashington" It was Ordered that a cheque for £600 be sent to F. Wise, the Treasurer of the Fund.

25 Aug 1916 Widows of Soldiers in Colliery Houses

A Statement was submitted showing that out of a total of 66 all but 9 had been dealt with satisfactorily.

25 Aug 1916

Capt. C.E. Pumphrey

It was reported that Capt. C.E. Pumphrey a Director of the Company had been wounded while on active service and cost his left arm. It was resolved that a letter be sent to Capt. Pumphrey conveying the sympathy of the Directors and that their wishes for his speedy recovery.

25 Aug 1916

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

It was reported that a disastrous explosion occurred at Woodhorn Colliery on Sunday 13th inst. when 13 lives were lost in the Main Seam – 8 of the men being deputies. A preliminary inquest was held on 14th inst. to identify the bodies. The adjourned enquiry will probably be held on the 12th Sept and it was agreed to engage Mr Cooper to represent the Company and to gratefully accept Mr W.C Blackett's offer to assist in any way he can.

Mr Warham had at once written to all the bereaved families conveying the sympathy of the Director's and expressing their great sorrow at the calamity and this was approved. It was reported that many letters of condolence had been received by the Company

25 Aug 1916

Woodhorn Manager

A letter had been received from the Ministry of Munitions stating that he would recommend to the War Office to grant 6 months leave of absence to Major Milburn.

25 Aug 1916

Artificial Eye for Linton Workman

It was agreed to pay the cost (10/6) for an artificial eye for A. Johnson who lost his eye as a result of an accident at Linton.

25 Aug 1916

The War

It was reported that there had been no further enlistments and 60 men had returned during the fortnight –
The total number of recruits at the end of pay 17 being 3255.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 19 th Aug 1916	6682
DECREASE OF	2732

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £991.5.6 in Pay 17 as follows:

Rent allowance to 687 persons	£144.17.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1207 persons	£ 30.3.6
Coal allowance 1207 persons 581 tons @ 20/- per ton	£581.0.0
Colliery House Rents 511 persons	£235.5.0
	£25.773 per annum

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 17 amounted to £128.8.10 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£40.18.3
Belgian Relief	£38.15.4
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£38.15.3
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service was £41.11.3 - total in Pay 17 £1309.0.9

4 men had been killed in action making a total of 177

85 Married and 92 Single

08 Sept 1916

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

As Mr Cooper will be from home when the adjourned inquiry is held it was decided to ask Mr Mundahl to represent the Company.

08 Sept 1916

Captain C.E Pumphrey

A letter had been received from Capt. Pumphrey thanking the Directors for their resolution and sympathy and expressing the hope that he would be able to join them before long.

08 Sept 1916

The War

It was reported that there had been no further enlistments and 25 men had returned during the fortnight; the total number of recruits at end of pay 18 being 3230.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 2 nd Sept 1916	6742
DECREASE OF	2672

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £973.15.0 in Pay 18 as follows:

Rent allowance to 681 persons	£144.19.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1192 persons	£ 29.16.0
Coal allowance 1192 persons 568 tons @ 20/- per ton	£568.0.0
Colliery House Rents 481 persons	£231.0.0
	£25.312 per annum

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £328.6.11 during the 4 weeks ending 26th August and nothing had been refunded

The Workmen's contribution to the Relief Funds in pay 18 amounted to £129.9.4 viz:

Prince of Wales Fund	£41.1.0
Belgian Relief	£39.4.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£39.4.2
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£6394.6.8

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 18 was £41.5.11 - total £1350.6.8

14 men had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 191

91 Married and 100 Single

22 Sept 1916

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

It was reported that the Inquiry concluded on the 21st inst. the verdict being as follows:

“That the thirteen men were accidentally killed whilst working in the Woodhorn Colliery by an explosion of gas in the Main Seam. That such gas had been accumulated through want of sufficient ventilation exploded through contact with a naked light and before any fall of stone took place”.

The jury are of the opinion “that the management should see for the future that the reports should be made for every shift; special and otherwise”

The jury are also of the opinion that “there has been a certain amount of laxity on the part of the management in not seeing that sufficient ventilation was maintained”

22 Sept 1916

The War

It was reported that there had been no further enlistments and 25 more men had returned ; the total number of recruits at end of pay 19 being 3205.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 16 th Sept 1916	6775
DECREASE OF	2639

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £991.0.6 in Pay 19 as follows:

Rent allowance to 677 persons	£144.1.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1185 persons	£ 29.12.6
Coal allowance 1185 persons 588 tons @ 20/- per ton	£588.0.0
Colliery House Rents 478 persons	£229.7.0
	£25.766 per annum

The Men's contributions to the Relief Funds in pay 19 amounted to £131.12.5 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£41.4.4
Belgian Relief	£39.14.1
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£39.14.0
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 19=	£6525.19.1

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 19 was £41.0.7 - total £1391.7.3

06 Oct 1916

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Mr Southern reported a meeting with Mr Wilson (HM Inspector) on Monday last when the management submitted their views with regard to the points raised by the Inspector under the Act.

Mr. Wilson's attitude was sympathetic and in submitting his report to the Home Office said he would do the best he could.

06 Oct 1916

War Pensions Committee for County Fund

It was stated that the men have decided to hand over the balance they have in hand from the Prince of Wales Fund (about £300) to the Ashington Committee and to contribute about £40 per pay.

The Committee ask if the Company intend giving anything, to give it through them.

The County fund is able to supplement the War Pensions in needful and deserving cases – the Govt. Scheme not covering all cases. Mr Southern was requested to get full particulars.

06 Oct 1916

War Bonuses

Agreed to give a War bonus of 4/-per week to the girl Clerks in the Colliery Office and 4/- per week to the apprentices in the Colliery Time Offices in addition to the latter's bonus of 2/- and 4/- per week respectively if it is found that this will not lead to raising of others

06 Oct 1916

Coal for Allied Governments

Mr Warham reported that an agreement had now been come to with the Board of Trade:

France to be supplied by the British Government with 200,000 tons of Coal per month over and above the coal for her Navy at Admiralty Services and Italy with 125,000 tons per month on same conditions – Any quantity over these figures to be paid for at French limitation prices.

06 Oct 1916

The War

It was reported that there had been no further enlistments and 112 men had returned during the fortnight; the total number of recruits at end of pay 20 being 3093.

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 30 th Sept 1916	6884

DECREASE OF 2530

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £926.19.0 in Pay 20 as follows:

Rent allowance to 641 persons	£136.1.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1122 persons	£ 28.1.0
Coal allowance 1122 persons 546 tons @ 20/- per ton	£546.0.0
Colliery House Rents 451 persons	£216.16.0
	£24,099 per annum

The Men's contributions to the Relief Funds in pay 20 amounted to £133.18.9 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£12.19.3
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£40.6.6
Belgian Relief	£40.6.6
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£30.6.6
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 20=	£6659.17.10

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 20 was £41.0.7 - total to end of Pay 20 £1432.7.10

The Ashington War Pensions Committee had distributed £345. 0.10 during the five weeks ending Sept 30th and nothing had been refunded

7 men had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 198

94 Married and 104 Single

20 Oct 1916

Captain C. E. Pumphrey

The Chairman welcomed Capt. Pumphrey on his return and expressed the pleasure of the Directors at having him with them again.

20 Oct 1916

Richardson Street Houses

Mr Southern stated that a deputation from the Woodhorn Colliery men had waited upon him and protested against other men retaining these houses before their men.

The ejectment order obtained a month ago against Joseph Riley was executed on the 19th inst being the last day and he left the house quietly In the other case Hall left the house about a fortnight ago.

20 Oct 1916

Northd. War Pensions Local Committee

Full particulars were given in the various objects to which the fund is intended to apply. Further consideration was adjourned until the next meeting.

20 Oct 1916

Navy League + Ashington S&S Xmas gifts

The following donations were agreed to:

£100 to the Newcastle, Gateshead and district branch of the Navy League

£100 to Ashington Soldiers and Sailors Christmas Gift Fund

20 Oct 1916

Distinguished Service Recognition

The question of recognising the Company's Employees who have gained distinction at the War was again discussed and a committee consisting of Captain Pumphrey, Mr Southern, Mr Hall and Mr Booth was formed to inquire into the number of men who have got honours, what would be a most suitable gift and whether the gift should be graded according to the distinction won, and report.

20 Oct 1916

Coal for Allied Governments

Mr Warham reported that a hitch had occurred in the negotiations with the Italian Government but the Italian Representation had now wired to Rome for final instructions and it was hoped matters would be settled in a few days.

20 Oct 1916

The War

72 more men had returned, the total number the total number of recruits at end of pay 21 being 3021

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 14 th Oct 1916	6960
DECREASE OF	2454

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £922.7.0 in Pay 21 as follows:

Rent allowance to 632 persons	£135.19.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1094 persons	£ 27.7.0
Coal allowance 1094 persons 552 tons @ 20/- per ton	£552.0.0
Colliery House Rents 432 persons	£207.1.0
	£23,972 per annum

The Men's contributions to the Relief Funds in pay 21 amounted to £138.16.11 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund (Mechanics)	£13.11.4
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£31.15.3
Belgian Relief	£41.15.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£41.15.2
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 21=£6798.14.9	

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 21 was £39.18.1 - total to end of Pay 21 £1472.5.11

03 Nov 1916

Distinguished Service Recognition

Capt. Pumphrey stated that 12 of the Employees have been awarded medals for distinguished Conduct at the War. The Committee had found difficulty in recommending a suitable gift and were of opinion that it would tend to create a good feeling in the district in the Company gave a donation to the fund of the Local Committee in addition to what they propose for their own men.

The Chairman suggested that 10 15/6 War Savings Certificates might be presented to D.C.M.'s and M.M.'s with something additional for V.C.'s.

Mr Wanless was asked to find out whether this would contravene the order in Council recently issued.

03 Nov 1916

War Pensions Local Committee

It was stated that the Government have a new scheme under consideration and it was decided to await developments before doing anything.

03 Nov 1916

Official War bonuses

Agreed to increase the War bonuses of Under-Managers and foremen to £10 per qtr. and of all officials to £7.10 per qtr. from 1st July. The Colliery Office Staff to be considered at the next meeting at the Colliery

03 Nov 1916

Coal for Allied Governments

Reported that the scheme with Italy had been finally agreed upon by all parties concerned and came into operation on 30th Oct

17 Nov 1916

Richardson Street Houses

Mr Southern read a letter from the Woodhorn Miner's Secretary asking him to meet a Deputation of the Representatives of the Branch and Agents of the Northumberland Miners Association from Newcastle.

17 Nov 1916

Distinguished Service Recognition

Mr Wanless advised that presentation of War Savings Certificates would be illegal. It was agreed to make a suitable presentation to the Company's Employees – a number of Silver cups were approved.

It was resolved to send a donation of £25 to the fund of the Ashington Committee.

17 Nov 1916

Colliery Office Staff

The following advances were granted:

W. Hallowell

Geo Downie to £140 per annum from 1st Nov

W. Marshall

J.C. Nicholson to £160 per annum from 1st Nov

17 Nov 1916

Asst. Farm Steward

W Ellington was advanced to £200 per annum from 1st Nov

17 Nov 1916

Blyth Staithmen

Harris was granted a War bonus of 10% and Wood £10 per annum in lieu of coal

17 Nov 1916

Donations

The following donations were agreed to:

- £500 to Commercial Battalions
- £100 per annum for 5 years to Armstrong College for the teaching of Foreign Languages under the Faculty of Commerce

17 Nov 1916

Fire Coal

An application was received on behalf of Mrs Wrightson whose husband was killed at the War leaving 6 children, for a supply of coal was considered.

Decided not to give free coal but Mr Southern was requested to contribute relief at his discretion using the fund placed at his disposal for dealing with such cases.

17 Nov 1916

Coal for British Admiralty

Mr Warham reported having settled the price at 21/-per ton

17 Nov 1916

The War

55 men had returned during the last 4 weeks, the total number at end of pay 23 being 2966

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 11 th Nov 1916	7083
DECREASE OF	2331

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £1877.14.6 in Pay 22 and 23 as follows:

Rent allowance to 632 persons	£262.10.0
Coal Leading offtakes	£ 52.5.6
Coal allowance 1160 tons @ 20/- per ton	£1160.0.0

Colliery House Rents

£401.19.0

£24,408 per annum

The War pensions Committee had distributed £359.13.6 during the 4 weeks ending October 28th.

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 22 and 23 amounted to £290.17.7 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£41.17.0
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£63.0.4
Belgian Relief	£83.0.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£83.0.1
V.A.D. Hospital	£20.0.0
Total to end of Pay 23	£7089.12.4

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pays 22 and 23 amounts to £70.09.10 - total £1542.15.9

48 men had been killed in action - total 246

133 married and 113 single

17 Nov 1916

The War

Mr Warham reported that news had been received this morning that Sgt T.E. Davison of the Newcastle Office Staff had been killed in action. It was decided to send a letter to his parents expressing the Director's sorrow and sincere sympathy with them in their bereavement

1 Dec 1916

Richardson Street Houses

Mr Southern reported that a deputation of two of the Executive Committee of North^d Miners' Assoc. with a local representative from Woodhorn had attended and objected to Woodhorn men occupying these houses before their men. There are 9 men (not in union) concerned.

The deputation suggested that the management should ask that these 9 men to come out and let men go in who have been waiting their turn.

Mr Southern told them this could not be done as the men had been told they were to remain in the houses. They said "They supposed that was as far as they could get" and retired

1 Dec 1916 Distinguished Service Recognition

Inscription to be engraved on the goblets to be presented to the Company's Employees, who have gained distinction at the War, was agreed upon.

1 Dec 1916 Milburn Road

It was reported that this Road was getting into a very bad state and will rapidly worse during the Winter. It had been decided by the Council to adopt the Private Streets Improvement Act but they cannot borrow the money or spend over £500 without the license of the Ministry of Munitions – if the Company or the Milburn Estates did the work now the adjoining property owners would not pay afterwards.

It was agreed that the only thing to do was to patch the road up for the time being at an estimated cost of £162 the Company's proportion being £93 and Seaton Estate £69.

1 Dec 1916 Woodhorn Deputies' Widows in Colliery Houses

It was decided to ask the Widows of the Deputies who had lost their lives in the Woodhorn Colliery explosion to vacate the houses as early as possible as they are required for the new Deputies who have been appointed.

1 Dec 1916 Late Sergt. Davison

A letter from Mr Davison was read thanking the Directors for their expression of sympathy.

1 Dec 1916 The War

15 men had returned during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 24 being 2951

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 25 th Nov 1916	7128

DECREASE OF

2286

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependents of men serving in the Army amounted to £979.3.6 in Pay 24 as follows:

Rent allowance to 606 persons	£129.7.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1049 persons	£ 26.4.6
Coal allowance 1049 persons 626 tons @ 20/- per ton	£626.0.0
Colliery House Rents 413 persons	£197.12.0
	£25,458 per annum

The War pensions Committee had distributed £306.16.7 during the 4 weeks ending 25th November

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 24 amounted to £131.5.10 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£4.12.6
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£32.4.6
Belgian Relief	£42.4.6
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.4.4
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 24=	£7220.18.2

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 24 = £32.9.110 - total £1575.5.8

11 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - total 257

136 married and 121 single

15 Dec 1916

Richardson Street Houses

Mr Southern reported receipt of a letter from Mr Guthrie saying that the men's executive have asked for an interview with the North^d Coal Owner's Assⁿ. requesting that the question be raised at the meeting this afternoon.

15 Dec 1916

Woodhorn Deputies' Widows

A letter from Mr Straker to Mr Guthrie was read requesting that the women be allowed to remain in Colliery Houses until they can get a house without having their compensation withheld.

15 Dec 1916

Claim for Compensation

Mr Straker had also written to Mr Guthrie asking for an interview with the Coal Owner's in regard to R. Cookson's claim for Compensation. The question will be raised at the meeting this afternoon.

15 Dec 1916

Necessary Work

1) Decided that the following work which has been in abeyance for some time on account of the scarcity of labour, should be carried out as soon as possible:

- 1) WOODHORN: duplicate fan
- 2) ELLINGTON FAN: provide additional drive/ motors
- 3) RELIEF PIT ASHINGTON: to be equipped with 2 single deck cages Re: to wind men thus giving time in the other shafts for winding Coal
- 4) ELLINGTON NO2 SHAFT: Shaft siding to be made to divert the Coal from No1 Pit in the Yard Seam
- 5) SINK A RELIEF SHAFT AT LYNEMOUTH: To save the long walk underground and make a Railway up to the Shaft – also to improve Ventilation

6) 15 Dec 1916

The War

10 men had returned during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 25 being 2941

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 9 th Dec 1916	7160
DECREASE OF	2254

The Rent and Coal Allowances in Pay 25 amounted to £996.9.0 in Pay 25 as follows:

Rent allowance to 602 persons	£128.8.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1040 persons	£ 26.0.0
Coal allowance 1040 persons 647 tons @ 20/- per ton	£647.0.0
Colliery House Rents 409 persons	£195.1.0
	£25,907 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 25 amounted to £132.5.11 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£5.5.3
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£32.6.11
Belgian Relief	£42.6.11
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.6.10
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 25=	£7353.4.1

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 25 £33.18.1 - total £1609.3.9

14 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - total 271

139 married and 132 single

(AC Cos Employees 233)

29 Dec 1916 Woodhorn Deputies' Widows

Mr Southern stated that of the 9 women now in Colliery Houses 7 were being asked to arrange to move out. 2 others who had either workers or sons on active service will remain in their houses.

29 Dec 1916 R Cookson's Compensation Claim

This case was considered by the Coal Trade on the 1st inst when it was decided to pay Cookson on the old arrangement as the accident happened before the new arrangement was made and the man had been in the Army.

29 Dec 1916 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

It was reported that summonses had been served on Mr J.J. Hall and C.B. Howe, the Engine-wright to appear at Morpeth on 10th January. Mr Hall is charged with Murder Sec29 of the Act (1911) for having failed to provide an adequate amount of ventilation and Howe is charged under Gen. Reg. (28).

It was decided to instruct Mr Cooper to engage Counsel to be approved by the Company to defend Mr Hall and also to pay for legal assistance to Mr Howe – either the same as Mr Hall or otherwise as may be thought desirable.

29 Dec 1916

Seaton Hirst Curate

A letter was read from Rev L.D. Griffith asking the Company to renew the special donation of £10 given him in January last when he applied for a free supply of Fire Coal.

It was decided to send a donation of £10 in respect of the difficulties caused by the War.

29 Dec 1916

Newcastle Infirmary

An appeal from Mr Charles Irwin for an increased subscription to the funds of Newcastle Infirmary was read. Agreed to point out that the Company have to support the Hospital at Ashington, but as this is temporarily in the hands of the V.A.D, they will give a special donation of £50 to the Newcastle Infirmary.

29 Dec 1916

The War

14 men had returned during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 26 being 2927

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 23 rd Dec 1916	7178
DECREASE OF	2236

The Rent and Coal Allowances re: to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £971.5.0 in Pay 26 as follows:

Rent allowance to 598 persons	£127.14.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1030 persons	£ 25.15.0
Coal allowance 1030 persons 625 tons @ 20/- per ton	£625.0.0
Colliery House Rents 403 persons	£192.16.0

£25,252 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 26 amounted to £141.15.2 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£14.5.1
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£32.10.1
Belgian Relief	£42.10.1
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.9.11
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 26=	£7494.19.3

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 26 £33.9.1 - total £1642.13.4

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £275.8.2 between 21st Nov and 15th Dec

9 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - total 280

144 married and 136 single

(AC Cos Employees 240)

29 Dec 1916

Colliery Office

The following advances were granted:

J. J. Hall £100 to £700 per annum

F.L. Booth £50 to £500 per annum

.12 Jan 1917

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

It was reported that the charges against Mr Hall and Mr Howe were heard at Morpeth Court on the 10th inst. and dismissed.

Resolved: to congratulate Mr Hall and Mr Howe on their complete vindication

It was also resolved to send a letter to Mr John Morrison thanking him for the expert evidence he gave together with a cheque for £21 – and also a letter to Mr W.C. Blackett expressing the Director's appreciation of his services

at the Inquest together with a present to be selected by Mr L. Priestman, Mr F. Milburn, Mr Warham – Mr Blackett having declined a fee.

12 Jan 1917

New War Loan

The question of subscribing to the new War Loan and of converting the Company's holdings in the 4¹/₂ % Loan and 5% Exchequer Bond was discussed and adjourned.

12 Jan 1917

The War

6 men had returned during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 1 being 2921

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 6 th Jan 1917	7206
DECREASE OF	2208

The Rent and Coal Allowances re: to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £997.6.0 in Pay 1 as follows:

Rent allowance to 597 persons	£126.4.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1026 persons	£ 25.13.0
Coal allowance 1026 persons 654 tons @ 20/- per ton	£654.0.0
Colliery House Rents 400 persons	£191.9.0
	£25,929 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 1 amounted to £139.18.9 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£14.0.9
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£32.8.11
Belgian Relief	£41.14.7
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£41.14.6
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0

Total to end of Pay 1

£7634.18.0

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 1 = £32.7.1 - total = £1675.0.5

26 Jan 1917

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

It was reported the Executive Committee of the Northumberland Miners' Assoc. had passed a resolution expressing surprise at the Magistrates decision. They are also of the opinion that such cases should not be heard at Petty Sessions by Local magistrates but by the County Court Judge.

Copies of the resolution are to be sent to the Home Office and the Miners' Federation. It was stated that the Home Office had asked the Magistrate to state a case.

26 Jan 1917

Volunteer Force – County of North^d

It was agreed to contribute £200 to the fund of the North^d County Volunteer Force. A Contribution to the Ashington District, if required, will be decided later.

26 Jan 1917

Recruits from Collieries

Mr Southern stated that a Medical Board was being held at Ashington that day and Mr Wilson was holding a Colliery Court at the same time to deal with cases straight away.

26 Jan 1917

New War Loan

It was ordered that the Company's £10,000 4¹/₂ % War Loan and £20,000 5% Exchequer Bond be converted into the new 5% War Loan.

26 Jan 1917

Coal Exports Committee

Mr Warham referred to the ? regulation recently issued by the Government Committee and gave an account of the visits to London in connection with the same – The result being that the Admiralty have agreed to reinstate Northd

as of liberty to ship coal to France, also to the proposed Government control of Mines and described the negotiations of the South Wales Owners with the Board of Trade

26 Jan 1917

The War

19 men had returned during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 2 being 2902

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 20 th Jan 1917	7220
DECREASE OF	2194

The Rent and Coal Allowances re: to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £1035.6.0 in Pay 2 as follows:

Rent allowance to 585 persons	£123.18.0
Coal Leading offtakes 1008 persons	£ 25.4.0
Coal allowance 1008 persons 654 tons @ 20/- per ton	£697.0.0
Colliery House Rents 400 persons	£189.4.0

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 2 amounted to £143.2.2 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£14.3.8
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£34.2.11
Belgian Relief	£42.7.10
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.7.9
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 2=	£7778.0.2

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 2 £35.18.10 - total £1710.19.3

20 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - total 300
154 married and 146 single

(AC Cos Employees 256)

9 Feb 1917

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Mr Southern stated that Mr Wilson, H.M. Inspector of Mines was bound over in(?) £100 at Morpeth on Wednesday to prosecute. A letter had been received from Mr Guthrie saying he heard from the Miners' Solicitors that the widows of the men who were killed were not being charged any Rent and asking for the views of the Management on the point.

Mr Southern had replied that the Company want possession of the Cottages and by charging Rent they would have much more difficulty in getting them.

9 Feb 1917

Recruits

Mr Southern said the following had been recruited:

from Ashington	47
from Linton	8
from Woodhorn	25
from Ellington	5
Total	85
Volunteers A ^{sn}	2
Volunteers W ^{dn}	2
	4
Total	89

9 Feb 1917

Surveyors

Mr Southern stated that Peter Kay who left the Company's service in May last to take up another appointment had written asking if he can come back as he is not being well treated in his present situation.

Mr Southern said that he was an excellent Surveyor and the management would be glad to have him back.

Agreed: £2.20 per week when he left and 4/- War bonus

9 Feb 1917 Colliery Staff

It was agreed to appoint R. Thompson as Foreman to take charge of the Timber Cutting re: in the Woods and at the Colliery at a salary of £150 per annum and a War bonus of £40 per annum.

T Bowland was advanced to £200 per annum and War bonus of £40.

9 Feb 1917 War Loan

It was agreed that a further sum of £95,000 be subscribed to the new 5% War Loan, making a total of £200,000 including conversions.

9 Feb 1917 The War

14 men had returned during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 3 being 2888

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 3 rd Feb 1917	7278
DECREASE OF	2136

The Rent and Coal Allowances re: to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £1003.8.6 in Pay 3 as follows:

Rent allowance to 570 persons	£121.6.0
Coal Leading offtakes 989 persons	£ 24.14.6
Coal allowance 989 persons 670 tons @ 20/- per ton	£670.0.0
Colliery House Rents 391 persons	£187.8.0
	£26,097 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 3 amounted to £140.14.8 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£13.12.0
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£32.17.11
Belgian Relief	£42.2.5
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.2.4
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£7918.14.10

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £339.1.4 between 31st Dec and 3rd Feb.

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service = £37.11.4 - total to end of Pay 3 £1748.10.7

23 Feb 1917 Surveyor

A letter from P. Kay was read accepting the situation on the same terms as he held it before, viz: 42/- per week and 4/- War bonus.

23 Feb 1917 United Methodist Church - Hirst

A letter was read asking the Company to supply 25,000 bricks, for building a new Vestry, at a reduced rate, It was decided to offer the bricks @40/- and give a donation of £20.

23 Feb 1917 War Loan

The purchase of £10,000 New 5% War Loan on account of the Company's Employees was confirmed. £9095 had been applied for up to Feb 23rd and payment would be spread over 2 years in the case of Officials and 1 year in the case of Workmen.

Mr Lewis Priestman and Mr Fred Milburn were appointed Trustees of the Fund.

23 Feb 1917 Female Labour

Mr Straker had written to the Coal Trade Association protesting against the Company employing Women in the Timber Yard. It is to be brought before the Association on the 24th.

23 Feb 1917

Colonel Blackett

A letter from Colonel Blackett was read thanking the Directors for their gift of Silver.

23 Feb 1917

Newcastle Office

The engagement of Mr Booth to assist in the Newcastle Office for the duration of the war at a salary of £140 plus 10% War bonus was confirmed.

Thomas Ward and Edward Young were advanced to 20/- per week from 26th Feb.

23 Feb 1917

Blyth Staithmen

J.A. Harris having been called up it was agreed the Clark, Coal Inspector be employed in his place at 40/- per week plus 10% War bonus.

23 Feb 1917

Ellington Dene Timber

Captain Browne had asked for an offer for the timber in Ellington Dene. It was agreed to inspect the timber to see if it was worth buying.

23 Feb 1917

Government Control of Mines

Mr Warham reported meeting along with the Coal Owners' representatives on the French and Italian Executive Committee, the new Coal Controller, Mr Guy Calthrop, in London on the 21st inst with reference to fixing a price for Coal for Export also to machinery to carry same out.

Mr Calthrop stated that he was not yet ready to determine anything but wanted all the information he could get.

23 Feb 1917

The War

58 men had enlisted during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 4 being 2946

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 17 th Feb 1917	7266
DECREASE OF	2148

The Rent and Coal Allowances re: to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £992.14.0 in Pay 4 as follows:

Rent allowance to 564 persons	£119.19.0
Coal Leading offtakes 976 persons	£ 24.8.0
Coal allowance 976 persons 665 tons @ 20/- per ton	£665.0.0
Colliery House Rents 391 persons	£183.7.0
	£25,810 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 4 amounted to £143.8.2 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£14.0.10
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£33.12.0
Belgian Relief	£42.17.8
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.17.8
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£8062.3.0

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 4 was £36.0.1- total £1784.10.8

7 men had been killed in action during the fortnight

Total 307 – 156 Married & 151 Single (A.C. Employees 262)

9 Mar 1917

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Mr Southern reported having seen Mr Alderson, who said he had stated a case, omitting the remarks made by the Chairman of the Morpeth Bench and had forwarded the draft for Mr Clark's inspection. Mr Clark takes exception to the Chairman's remarks being omitted. The draft is also to be sent to Mr Cooper.

9 Mar 1917

Surveyors

It was reported that Peter Kay began his duties on the 5th inst.

9 Mar 1917

Employees War Loan

It was reported that the amount refunded in Pay 5 was £98.15.1 – It was agreed not to deduct anything from the Men's Wages in any week when the pits were idle for 2 or 3 days.

9 Mar 1917

Heap Keeper at Ashington

It had been decided to appoint a man to take full charge of both Heapsteads at Ashington and the post had been offered to G.M Proctor of Woodhorn @ 50/- per week plus a War bonus of £40 per annum. Proctor had asked for a little time to think it over.

9 Mar 1917

Colliery Office

Applications from Mr C.E Henderson & A.E. Holliday for advance of salary were declined but it was agreed to increase their War bonus from £25 to £50.

9 Mar 1917

Government Control of Mines

Mr Warham reported meeting with Mr Hurst, Secretary to the Coal Controller – also having attended a meeting of the Coal Exporters in London when they abandoned their idea of working the Export Coal Trade – this is a Central and District Committee.

9 Mar 1917

The War

14 men had enlisted during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 5 being 2960

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 3 rd Mar 1917	7269
DECREASE OF	2145

The Rent and Coal Allowances re: to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £982.9.0 in Pay 5 as follows:

Rent allowance to 571 persons	£122.0.0
Coal Leading offtakes 982 persons	£ 24.11.0
Coal allowance 982 persons 653 tons @ 20/- per ton	£653.0.0
Colliery House Rents 382 persons	£182.18.0
	£25,543 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 5 amounted to £142.6.0 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£14.2.10
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£33.4.9
Belgian Relief	£42.9.3
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.9.2
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£8204.9.0

The Ashington War Pensions Committee had distributed £277.3.4 between Feb 3rd & March 3rd.

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 5 was £51.7.10- total £1835.18.6

23 Mar 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Mr Southern stated that Mr Alderson had told him that the draft is still with Mr Cooper.

23 Mar 1917 Heap Keeper at Ashington

It was reported that Mr G.M. Proctor had agreed to accept the appointment and will start as soon as a suitable house can be found for him at Ashington.

23 Mar 1917 Recruitment of Miners

A circular letter had been received from Sir T. R. Ellis asking for the Cordial & (??) Co-operation of the management in the scheme arranged by Mr Guy Calthrop and the Miners' Federation for the Establishment of a Voluntary System.

20,000 men are asked for – the Company's proportion at the rate of 27 per 1000 being 200.

The last Medical Board and Colliery Court held at Ashington got the following men:

Called up since Jan 22 1917	76
Volunteers	35
Total to 21/3/17	111

It was considered that these 111 should count as the Company's proportion leaving 90 more to be provided.

23 Mar 1917

The War

15 men had enlisted during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 6 being 2975

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 17 th Mar 1917	7276
DECREASE OF	2138

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £892.7.0 in Pay 6 as follows:

Rent allowance to 570 persons	£121.8.0
Coal Leading offtakes 980 persons	£ 24.10.0
Coal allowance 980 persons 564 tons @ 20/- per ton	£564.0.0
Colliery House Rents 381 persons	£182.9.0
	£23,201 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 6 amounted to £124.1.3 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£13.14.4
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War Pension County/ Local Committee	£27.5.11
Belgian Relief	£36.10.6
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£36.10.6
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£8328.10.3

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 6 was £41.6.5- total £1877.4.11

8 men had been killed in action during the fortnight

Total 315 159 married and 156 single (A. C. Cos Employees 269)

20 Apr 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Mr Southern stated that Mr Cooper had sent for Mr Hall to see the draft of Case as stated. This had been placed before

Mr Lowenthal - and Mr Hall thought that the case was fairly stated.

Mr Cooper seemed to think that the case as stated would not go to appeal if the Magistrates accepted it as it stands.

It was understood that Mr Edward Clark had also drafted a case and there was so great a disparity between the two that the magistrates had decided to draw up one of their own.

20 Apr 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £394.1.5 had been refunded in Pays 7 + 8. Total £623 19.1

20 Apr 1917 Recruiting of Miners

It was reported that 100 men had volunteered, viz: 9 Hewers, 34 Putters, 20 Ropemen and 37 miscellaneous - and 83 exemption certificates had been cancelled.

20 Apr 1917

North^d Prisoner of War Fund

It was agreed to contribute £10 to the Lord Mayor's North^d Prisoner of War Fund.

20 Apr 1917

Miners from British Columbia

A letter had been received from Mr Simon Tate saying he had collected £18.11.8 due from John Cook being the balance due from him in respect of expenses in bringing him back to England. Mr Tate had been asked to remit the amount to the Company.

20 Apr 1917

Distinguished Service Recognition

It was reported that the Chairman visited Ashington on 26th March and presented on behalf of the Company 23 Silver Cups and bowls to men who have won distinction at the War. The gifts appeared to highly appreciated. A letter from Bomb^f Norton from the Front was read thanking the Company for the gift and saying how much he valued it.

20 Apr 1917

The War

55 men had enlisted in Pays 7 + 8, the total number of recruits at end of pay 8 being 3030

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 14 th Apr 1917	7259
DECREASE OF	2155

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £1921.14.0 in Pays 7 +8:

Rent allowance	£121.8.0
Coal Leading oftakes	£ 24.10.0
Coal allowance 1267 tons @ 20/- per ton	£1267.0.0

Colliery House Rents 381 persons	£364.9.0
	£24,988 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pays 7 + 8 amounted to £152.16.4 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£26.0.3
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£22.5.6
Belgian Relief	£42.5.4
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.5.3
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay8	£8481.6.7

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £284.9.1 between March 3rd and March 31st

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pays 7 + 8 was £88.4.7 - total to end of Pay 8 = £1965.9.6

10 men had been killed in action during Pays 7 + 8 Total 325

161 married and 164 single (A. C. Cos. Employees 275)

04 May 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £152.15.1 had been refunded in Pay 9 – Total £776.14.2

04 May 1917 Recruitment of Miners

Mr Southern stated that from Jan 22nd to April 30th 77 of the Company's Employees had been called up and 134 had volunteered, making a total of 211 – 16 of the Volunteers had been rejected.

04 May 1917 Mr F.C. Lee

Mr Southern stated that that Mr F.C. Lee, the Chairman, who has been at Ashington for the last 24 years, for experience has taken his B.Sc. degree at the College and as he must wait a year before he can take his Master's Degree he thinks of going in for the Colliery Manager's Certificate.

It was agreed that he should assist Mr Booth in the meantime and be paid £52 per annum from the Newcastle Office from 1st May

04 May 1917 French Red Cross

It was agreed to contribute £100 to the French Red Cross.

04 May 1917 North^d. Prisoners of War Fund

It was agreed to increase the donation of £25, voted at the last meeting, to £100.

04 May 1917 Colliery Staff

The following advances were granted:

R. Turnbull 2/6 to 42/6 per week

E. Bainbridge 5/- to 58/- per week

Ed Lewis War bonus increased to £40 per annum

The War bonuses of the clerks and the Apprentices in the Colliery Offices were increased to 9/- in all cases

A list of 14 Foremen who applied for an advance was submitted and it was decided to grant a 2/- per week rise all round, - it being considered that the rate of payment for this class of Labour was rather low.

04 May 1917 Newcastle Office

Frank Young was advanced to £60 per annum from 2nd May

04 May 1917 Blyth Staithmen

An application from R.H. Dickinson for an advance was considered and adjourned.

04 May 1917 Sub Agent

It was ordered that a letter be sent to Mr J.J. Hall expressing the sympathy of the Directors in the loss he sustained by the death of his youngest son at the Front.

04 May 1917 French Coal Trade

Mr Warham stated that the Company had given Depeaux notice to terminate their arrangement with him. M. Depeaux has written protesting and making all reasons against – agreed to put into the hands of Mr Coodger of Messrs' Cooper and Coodger.

04 May 1917 The War

8 men had enlisted during the fortnight and 6 had returned, the total number of recruits at end of pay 9 being 3032

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 28 th Apr 1917	7257
DECREASE OF	2157

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £980.10.0 in Pay 9:

Rent allowance 561 persons	£119.18.0
Coal Leading oftakes 966 persons	£ 24.3.0
Coal allowance 966 persons 657 tons @ 20/-	£657.0.0
Colliery House Rents	£179.15.0
	£25,500 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 9 amounted to £143.12.7 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£14.2.11
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£33.13.2
Belgian Relief	£42.18.3
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.18.3
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0

Total to end of Pay 9

£8624.19.2

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 9 was £51.14.8 - total to end of Pay 9 = £2017.4.2

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £310.13.9 from 1st to 28th April

18 May 1917

Employees War Loan

It was reported that £153.4.10 had been repaid in Pay 10 – Total £929.19.0

18 May 1917

Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay 10 2 men had been called up and 20 had volunteered making since 22nd January:

- 79 called up and 154 Volunteers – Total 233 - 16 of the Volunteers had been rejected.

18 May 1917

High Market Allotments

Mr Southern said that the draining was finished and a satisfactory job had been made of it. It was expected that the Council would make a claim in respect of Rent lost.

18 May 1917

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Mr Hall had received notice from Mr Wilson H.M. Mines Inspector that the Justices had stated a case so that he may take the opinion in the Kings Bench Division and he also enclosed a copy of the Case as stated.

18 May 1917

Flue Duff

A Letter from the Surveyor to the Ashington Urban District Council was read asking the Company to store the duff in bags at a small charge – He would supply the bags and remove the material.

He proposes to use the duff for making a carbolic Powder: Agreed.

18 May 1917 Distinguished Service Recognition

A letter from J. Davey from the front was read thanking the Company for the Silver Bowl presented to his wife in his absence.

18 May 1917 Priestman Grab

It was agreed to purchase a Priestman Grab – price about £1600 for lifting small Coal Ballast, subject to consent of Controller.

18 May 1917 The War

16 men had enlisted during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 10 being 3048

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 12 th May 1917	7280
DECREASE OF	2134

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £906.9.0 in Pay 10 as follows:

Rent allowance 562 persons	£120.0.0
Coal Leading offtakes 966 persons	£ 24.3.0
Coal allowance 966 persons 583 tons @ 20/-	£583.0.0
Colliery House Rents 374 persons	£179.6.0
	£25,567 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 10 amounted to £142.14.4 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£13.19.5
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£33.8.7
Belgian Relief	£42.13.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.13.2

V.A.D. Hospital

£10.0.0

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service was £45.16.2 - total to end of Pay 10 £2063.0.4

18 men had been killed in action making a total of 343
165 married and 178 single (A. C. Cos Employees 289)

1 Jun 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £145.12.4 had been refunded in Pay 11 Total £1075.11.4

1 Jun 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay 11 2 Men had been called up and 12 had volunteered, making since 22 January 81 called up and 166 Volunteers – 16 of the Volunteers had been rejected.

A return of men who started at the Pits between August 4 1914 and August 15th 1915 had been called for. This had been prepared and shows a total of 42 – 9 of whom are exempted occupations leaving 33 who have not yet been medically examined.

1 Jun 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

It was reported that Mr Cooper had asked for the Plan which was used at the Morpeth Court. Mr Lowenthal will appear on behalf of the Company at the Kings Bench Division Court and it has been stated in the newspapers that Messrs Smillie and Roughley had been appointed by the Federation to attend.

In these circumstances it was considered that it might be desirable for Mr Hall to be present.

It was agreed that Mr Southern should see Mr Cooper and find out what is to be done to afford Mr Hall every protection

1 Jun 1917

The War

6 men had enlisted during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 11 being 3054

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 26 th May 1917	7287
DECREASE OF	2127

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £844.1.0 in Pay 11 as follows:

Rent allowance		£119.11.0
Coal Leading offtakes	964 persons	£ 24.2.0
Coal allowance	966 persons 522 tons @ 20/-	£522.0.0
Colliery House Rents	372 persons	£178.8.0
		£21,945 per annum

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed, during the 4 weeks to May 31st £277.17.6

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 11 amounted to £143.3.11 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£14.4.9
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£33.10.4
Belgian Relief	£42.14.5
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.14.5
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
 Total to end of Pay 11	 £8910.17.5

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 11 was £45.12.1 - Total £2108.12.5

8 men had been killed in action making a total of 351

167 married and 184 single (A. C. Cos Employees 295)

15 Jun 1917 Volunteer Force

Capt. Barnes of the North^d Volunteer Corps attended and asked the Company to withdraw their objection to Mr J. J. Hall taking charge of the Ashington Companies.

It was decided that it was neither in the national interest nor the Company's that Mr Hall should undertake work which would demand so much time he already having his hands full.

Mr Warham was asked to make a suggestion to Capt. Barnes to the effect that Capt. Pumphrey should be released from the Army he would be glad to undertake the duty.

15 Jun 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £140.5.7 had been repaid in Pay 12 – Total £1215.16.11

15 Jun 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay 12 - 17 men had been called up and 5 had volunteered making since January 22nd 98 called up and 171 Volunteers a total of 269 – 16 Volunteers had been rejected.

It was agreed to draw the attention of the Inspector of Mines to the serious depletion by recruiting of Firemen and the difficulty of "Carrying On"

15 Jun 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Mr Southern reported having seen Mr Cooper who said he would attend the hearing of the appeal before the Kings Bench Division Court and he thought Mr Hall should be present in case any particulars were required from him.

Mr Cooper said that the procedure was for the Judges to hear Counsel on either side on the case as stated but that no witnesses would be called.

15 Jun 1917

Engineer

An application from Mr Eskdale for an advance was considered. It was agreed that his salary be advanced to £400 from 1st July.

15 Jun 1917

Newcastle Office

An application from Miss Shaw for an advance was left with Mr Warham to settle.

15 Jun 1917

The War

16 men had enlisted during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 12 being 3070

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 9 th Jun 1917	7308
DECREASE OF	2106

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £820.9.0 in Pay 12 as follows:

Rent allowance 557 persons	£118.14.0
Coal Leading offtakes 958 persons	£ 23.19.0
Coal allowance 958 persons 500 tons @ 20/-	£500.0.0
Colliery House Rents 371 persons	£177.16.0
	£21,331 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 12 amounted to £141.18.2 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£13.13.2
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£33.5.0
Belgian Relief	£42.10.0
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.10.0

V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£9052.15.7

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service was £45.11.11 - total to end of Pay 12 £2154.4.4

29 Jun 1917 Volunteer Force

It was reported that Capt. Barnes had been informed that Capt. C.E. Pumphrey would be willing to take command of the Volunteers at Ashington if he could be released from service in the Army and Capt. Barnes was now trying to work this.

In the meantime Capt. Pumphrey had been called up again and was now at North Shields.

29 Jun 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £147.9.1 had been repaid in Pay 13 – Total £1363.6.0

29 Jun 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported in Pay 13: 6 men had been Called Up and 3 men had volunteered making since Jan 22nd 104 Called Up and 174 Volunteers a total of 278.

16 Volunteers had been rejected

29 Jun 1917 Salvation Army

An application from the Salvation Army at Ashington for a free supply of Fire Coal was declined.

29 Jun 1917 Colliery Staff

Robert Turnbull, Traffic Manager at Woodhorn was granted a War Bonus of £40 per annum. His wage is 40/- per week.

Edward Lewis was advanced to 57/-per week from 1st May.

29 Jun 1917 Newcastle Office

Miss Shaw was advanced 5/- to 25/- per week.

29 Jun 1917 Poor Children's Holiday Association

An application on behalf of the Poor Children's Holiday Association was declined.

29 Jun 1917 Share Transfers

Transfers had been received from the Executors: of the late Sir J.D. Milburn for 595 Ordinary and 400 Preference Shares to each of the following:

- Sir C. S. Milburn
- Mr L. J. Milburn
- Mr J.D. Milburn
- Mr A.W Milburn
- Mr Anthony Milburn.

It is ordered that the transfers be made and Certificates be issued accordingly

29 Jun 1917 War Loan

The seal of the Company was ordered to be affixed to the form of request to the Bank of England for inscribing £125,000 War Loan.

29 Jun 1917 The War

4 men had enlisted during the fortnight, the total number of recruits at end of pay 13 being 3074

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 23 rd Jun 1917	7326
DECREASE OF	2088

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £820.17.0 in Pay 13 as follows:

Rent allowance 558 persons	£118.11.0
Coal Leading offtakes 958 persons	£ 23.19.0
Coal allowance 958 persons 501 tons @ 20/-	£501.0.0
Colliery House Rents 370 persons	£177.7.0
	£21,342 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in pay 13 amounted to £143.15.0 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£13.19.9
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£33.16.2
Belgian Relief	£43.0.0
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£42.19.11
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
 Total	 £9196.11.5

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in pay 13 was £45.3.3 - total £2199.7.7

10 men had been Killed in action Total 361
168 Married + 193 single (A.C. Cos employees 304)

13 Jul 1917

The Nineteenth Annual General Meeting

The Nineteenth Annual General meeting of the Ashington Coal Company Limited was held at the Company's Office, Newcastle upon Tyne on Friday 13th July 1917.

Mr Francis Priestman, Chairman of the Company presided and the following were also present viz: Messrs' F. Milburn, L Priestman, G.L. Wanless; Proprietors, W.S. Walton representing the family of the late Mrs Sarah Walton, R. Warham (General Manager), E.O. Southern (Viewer) and Mr W. Pooley (Secretary).

The Chairman moved the confirmation of the dividends already paid to shareholders viz: 5% on the Preference Shares and 70% on the Ordinary shares. Mr Wanless Seconded and it was agreed to.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Lewis Priestman: Mr C.S. Milburn and Mr L.J. Milburn, the retiring Directors, were re-elected.

Mr Pumphrey proposed that Messrs' Monkhouse, Goddard and Co. be relected Auditors at a fee of Fifty Guineas. Mr Wanless seconded and it was agreed to.

Mr Walton proposed the following resolutions:

- a) That this meeting sanctions the payment of £500 additional remuneration to Directors in respect of the year 1916
- b) That the payment of £600 per annum from 1st January 1917 to one of the Directors of the Company; Capt. C.E Pumphrey, as extra remuneration for acting as Assistant to the General manager and the same is hereby confirmed

Mr Wanless seconded and it was agreed to.

13 Jul 1917 Employees War Loan

Reported that £128.4.1 had been refunded in Pay 14 Total £1491.10.1

13 Jul 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in pay 14 5 men had been called up and 3 had Volunteered making since January 22nd 109 called up and 177 Volunteers a Total of 286 – 16 Volunteers had been rejected.

13 Jul 1917

Half Yearly Comparison of Output

	Persons Employed	Raisings	Days Worked	Tons Worked per Day
1916	6385	863,356	139.93	6169
1917	7482	809,472	114.00	7100
	1097	53.884	25.93	931

	Tons per day per person employed	Idle Time
1916	968	15.98%
1917	949	10.03%
	19	5.95%

13 Jul 1917

Sub Agent

Mr J.J. Hall was advanced to £750 per annum from 1st July on the understanding that the whole of his time be given to the Service of the Company

13 Jul 1917

Assistant to General Manager

It was agreed from the 1st June 1917 that Capt. C.E. Pumphrey should act as Assistant to the General manager at and extra remuneration of £600 per annum.

13 Jul 1917

War Memorial at Ashington

A letter had been received from the Vicar of Ashington stating that it was proposed to erect a stained glass window in the church at Ashington as a War Memorial at an estimated cost of £300 and asking for assistance.

Adjourned for inquiries to be made.

13 Jul 1917

The War

6 men had enlisted during the fortnight and 1 had returned, the total at end of pay 14 being 3079

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 7 th Jul 1917	7350
DECREASE OF	2064

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £799.8.0 in Pay 14 as follows:

Rent allowance 555 persons	£118.2.0
Coal Leading offtakes 954 persons	£ 23.17.0
Coal allowance 954 persons 481 tons @ 20/-	£481.0.0
Colliery House Rents 368 persons	£176.9.0
	£20,784 per annum

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £387.18.11 for the period ending 30th June.

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £144.11.2 in pay 14 as follows:

Prince of Wales Fund	£14.1.79
War Pension County/ Local Committee	£33.19.4
Belgian Relief	£43.5.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£43.5.1

V.A.D. Hospital £10.0.0

Total to end of Pay 14 £9341.15.2

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in pay 14 was £45.7.7 – Total £2244.15.2

1 man Killed in action Total 362
169 Married + 193 single

27 Jul 1917 Assistant to General Manager

It Chairman expressed the regret of the Directors at the death of Sir Charles Milburn. It was ordered that a letter of Condolence be sent to Lady Milburn.

27 Jul 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £106.15.1 had been refunded in pay 15 Total £1598.5.2

27 Jul 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in pay 15 10 men had been called up and 11 had volunteered making since January 22nd :

119 Called up and 188 Volunteers - 16 Volunteers had been rejected

27 Jul 1917 Rescue Brigade

An application has been received for increased pay for attending quarterly drills. Agreed to increase the pay to 7/6 per drill

There are 25 men and the increase will amount to £25 per annum.

27 Jul 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in pay 15 was £43.1.8 - total £2287.16.10

4 men had been Killed in action Total 366
171 Married + 195 single – (A.C. Cos employees 309)

10 Aug 1917 Employees war Loan

It was reported that £106.1.1 had been refunded in Pay 16 - Total £1704.6.3

10 Aug 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in pay 16 - 5 men had been called up and 11 had volunteered making since January 22nd 124 called up and 199 Volunteers – Total 323

16 Volunteers had been rejected.

A further 21,000 men from the mines had been called for - Northumberland's quota being 955 and Mr Guthrie had informed the Company that their proportion under the new scheme is 157

10 Aug 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

It was agreed to get a transcript of the proceedings before the County Appeal at a cost of £3

10 Aug 1917 Damage to Chevington Moor Road

A letter from Mr Sample, Clerk to the Morpeth R. D. Council was read complaining of the damage to the Chevington Moor Road by the Company's Motor Tractor, leading timber.

The estimated cost of repairing the road is £1136.14.3 and the damage caused by the tractor is estimated at £600, which the Council ask the Company to pay

It is admitted that the traffic is "extraordinary traffic". Mr Sample had been asked to furnish detailed information showing how the amount of the claim is arrived at.

10 Aug 1917

The War

12 men had enlisted during the fortnight and 1 had returned - the total to the end of Pay 16 being 3102

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 4 th Aug 1917	7319
DECREASE OF	2005

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £800.17.0 in Pay 16 as follows:

Rent allowance 562 persons	£118.8.0
Coal Leading offtakes 960 persons	£ 24.0.0
Coal allowance 960 persons 482 tons @ 20/-	£482.0.0
Colliery House Rents 368 persons	£176.9.0
	£20,822 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in Pay 16 amounted to £144.16.11 as follows:

War Pension County/ Local Committee	£38.15.9
Belgian Relief	£43.6.10
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.14.4
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 16	£9619.8.8

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £279.7.8 during the 4 weeks ending July 28th.

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £45.6.5 - total £2333.3.3

24 Aug 1917

Employees War Loan

It was reported that £93.10.10 had been refunded in Pay 17 – Total £1797 17.1

24 Aug 1917

Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay 17 - 1 man had been called up and 25 had volunteered making since January 22nd:
125 Called Up and 224 Volunteers - Total 349 – 16 Volunteers had been rejected.

As to further recruitment Mr Southern said he had received amended instructions to suspend further action until Sept 8th so that the recruitments; men who had entered the Coal Mining Industry since Aug 4th, may be pressed on.

Certain barred classes have been eliminated. Mr Southern was requested to see Mr Guthrie to endeavour to arrange for the volunteers from the Company' Collieries to be reckoned as part of the Company's proportion under the new scheme.

24 Aug 1917

Working Class Dwellings

It A Letter from the Clerk to the Ashington U.D. Council was read stating that the Council has received a Circular letter from the Local Government Board saying that the Govt. are prepared to offer assistance to such Local Authorities as are prepared before 15th October to undertake a scheme for the erection of Working Class Dwellings, immediately after the War.

The Council, he says, also recognise that if the Company are thinking of erecting houses outside the District the overcrowding and demand in the district will be lessened. He asks for an interview with the Committee.

It agreed that Mr Southern and Mr hall should attend a meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to mention the question of the taking over of Roads by the Council.

24 Aug 1917

War pensions Committee

Mr Southern stated that a Report was submitted by this Committee to the Council at their last meeting recommending:

- (1) That the Council should as early as possible take over the administering of the War pensions Act 1917 and that all work in connection therewith be carried out at the Council Chambers.
- (2) That the Council forthwith inform the county Council of this decision – with a view to forming as early as possible a separate Local Committee for the carrying out of the work in accordance with the Act.

At present the work is being done by Officials and staff at the Colliery Office at an estimated cost of £108 per annum and the cost of administration as proposed by the Committee will be over £400 per annum.

It was agreed that as the work is likely to assume large proportions in the future it would be better for the Council to take it over and relieve the Company's officials

24 Aug 1917

The late Sir C.S. Milburn

A letter from lady Milburn was read thanking the Directors for their expression of sympathy.

24 Aug 1917

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

A letter from Mr J.J. Hall was read thanking the Directors for their letter congratulating him at the result of the proceedings in the High Court.

24 Aug 1917

Blyth Staithman

It was agreed to send £20 to the widow of Alfred Wood late Asst. Staithman to the company at Blyth, who is left with a young family in straightened circumstances.

24 Aug 1917

The War

19 men had enlisted during the fortnight and 1 had returned - the total to the end of Pay 17 being 3121

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 18 th Aug 1917	7309
DECREASE OF	2105

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £813.14.0 in Pay 17 as follows:

Rent allowance 563 persons	£120.13.0
Coal Leading offtakes 958 persons	£ 23.19.0
Coal allowance 958 persons 494 tons @ 20/-	£494.0.0
Colliery House Rents 365 persons	£175.2.0
	£20,822 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in Pay 17 amounted to £141.1.3 as follows:

War Pension County/ Local Committee	£37.11.5
Belgian Relief	£42.1.8
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£51.8.2
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 17	£9770.9.11

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £44.1.9 - total £2377.5.0

9 men killed in action – Total 375

175 married and 200 single (A. C. Cos Employees 317)

07 Sep 1917

Employees War Loan

It was reported that £135.15.7 had been refunded in pay 18 – Total £ 1933.12.88

07 Sep 1917

Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay 18: 1 man had been called up and 23 had volunteered, making since January 22ⁿ: 126 called up and 247 volunteers 16 volunteers had been rejected.

Mr Southern had written to Mr Guthrie as arranged at the last meeting. Mr Guthrie had replied saying he would bring the matter before the next meeting of the North^d Coal Owners Association.

07 Sep 1917

Leaving Linton Pit Idle

It was reported that in consequence of a man who alleged a grievance against the Deputy being refused permission to leave the Pit on 29th August, the men met the under-manager at 3 A.M. in the morning of the 30th and told him that unless he gave a guarantee that in future any man with a grievance would be allowed to ride they would not go to work.

They were advised to go to work both by the under-manager and Mr Hall and told that any grievance they might have would be considered by the management in a constitutional way.

They decided however to return home and the pit was left idle on 30th Aug. It was decided to Mr Shaw of Morpeth or failing him Mr Jackson to prosecute the fore shift men.

07 Sep 1917

Chevington Moor Road

Mr J. J. hall and other Colliery Officials had met the Representatives of the Morpeth Rural District Council and inspected the Road and Mr hall's Report of the meeting was read and also a further communication from the Clerk to the Council asking for payment of £600,; the amount claimed.

It was decided to consult Messrs' Watson, Proctor and Corder and suggest offering without prejudice to settle the claim for £150 or £200, the estimated costs of restoring the road to the condition it was in before the Company's traffic passed over it.

In the meantime it was considered advisable that a surveyor should be asked to inspect the Road on the Company's behalf and Mr Scott recommended by Watson, Proctor and Corder was selected for the purpose

07 Sep 1917

Lord Robert's Memorial Workshops for disabled Soldiers and Sailors - Finance

An application for assistance was considered – it was agreed to promise a donation of £250 and to supplement this amount later if found insufficient.

A Financial Statement was submitted – It was agreed to lend £10,000 to Newcastle and Gateshead Gas Co and the Water Co for 3 or 4 months, on-terms to be arranged, not less than 5%

07 Sep 1917

The War

22 men had enlisted during the fortnight - the total number of recruits at the end of Pay 18 being 3143

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 1 st Sep 1917	7289
DECREASE OF	2125

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £801.4.0 in Pay 18 as follows:

Rent allowance 563 persons	£119.3.0
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Coal Leading offtakes	958 persons	£ 23.19.0
Coal allowance	958 persons 483 tons @ 20/-	£483.0.0
Colliery House Rents	365 persons	£175.2.0
		£20,834 per annum

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £276.12.10 during the 4 weeks ending 25th August

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £46.0.9 - total to end of Pay 18 £2423.5.9

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds in Pay 18 amounted to £142.7.0 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£37.19.7
Belgian Relief	£42.8.2
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£51.19.3
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£9,912.16.11

21 Sep 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £134.14.1 had been refunded in pay 19 – Total £2072.6.9

21 Sep 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported in Pay 19: 1 man had been called up and 13 had Volunteered making since January 22nd 127 Called Up and 260 Volunteers a Total of 387 -16 Volunteers had been rejected.

As to further recruitment Mr Southern said no further instructions had been received – It appeared that the matter was in abeyance pending Sir Auckland Geddes' new organisation of The National Service Department

21 Sep 1917

Laying Linton Pit idle

It was reported that the Summonses had been take out by Mr Shaw against 81 men claiming £1 damage in each case and that the Justices had fixed a Special Court for the Hearing on the 22nd inst.

Mr Shaw does not advise taking proceedings against the Secretary and Treasurer for having prevented two Stone men from going to work.

21 Sep 1917

Chevington Moor Road

Mr Southern said he had made enquiries and found that others had been using the road for heavy Traffic to the extent of 20 tons a month for 6 months.

Mr Warham had written to Mr Sample asking for separate estimates for restoring the road to its previous condition and for the construction to be undertaken by the Council.

21 Sep 1917

Working Class Dwellings

Mr Southern reported having met the Ashington U.D Council in Committee when the scheme was generally being discussed. Mr Southern had told them that it was impossible for the Company to say at present what the future developments may be.

Mr Alderson stated that the number of houses in the district was:

5106 up to £12 Rateable Value
402 over £12
5508

The Council considered that 200 houses were required now and 150 after the War.

Mr Southern pointed out that the Council should take a broad view on the question of the Roads and consider taking them over with any building scheme they might adopt but they declined to discuss this question.

21 Sep 1917

War Pensions Committee

The Council have decided to apply to headquarters to take over the administration.

21 Sep 1917

Colliery Cottages

A letter was read from the Clerk to the Ashington U.D. Council complaining of the Sanitary condition of the houses in the Fourth Row where there has recently been an outbreak of Enteric Fever Mr Southern had given instructions for a thorough inspection to be made as to the condition of the houses which are amongst the oldest in Ashington.

21 Sep 1917

Fire Rescue Brigade

It was agreed to contribute £2.2.0 to the fund for presenting a wedding gift to Mr Mills, Chief of the Fire and Rescue Brigade.

21 Sep 1917

House Rents

Mr Southern raised the question as to whether men who are injured at the War and not able to do the same work as before they went away should be allowed the usual amount for house rent, when they are doing light work and are in receipt of a Government pension. Mr Southern is to get further particulars.

Mr Southern thought it would be desirable to place the matter before the Coal Trades Association and get some custom established throughout the County.

Agreed to pay Mr Marshall £12 for the period during which he occupied a private home.

21 Sep 1917

? W. Coal Association

It was agreed to contribute £50 to the fund providing Huts for Women Workers at the Front.

21 Sep 1917

Blyth Staithmen

An application for an increase in salary from Dickinson and Clark was considered. It was left with Mr Warham to grant 2/6 or 5/- at his discretion.

21 Sep 1917

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion – Proposed Memorial

It is proposed to erect a drinking fountain in Hirst Park to the men who lost their lives in the Woodhorn Explosion and an application for a donation had been received. It was agreed to do nothing at present

21 Sep 1917

The War

10 men had enlisted during the fortnight - the total number of recruits at the end of Pay 19 being 3143

Number of persons employed before the war was: 9414

On 15th Sep 1917 7287

DECREASE OF 2127

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £793.17 in Pay 19 as follows:

Rent allowance 560 persons	£119.17.0
Coal Leading offtakes 954 persons	£ 23.17.0
Coal allowance 954 persons 476 tons @ 20/-	£476.0.0
Colliery House Rents 364 persons	£174.13.0
	£20,640.2.0 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £142.7.6 in Pay 19 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£37.19.6
Belgian Relief	£42.8.10
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£51.19.2
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0

Total to end of Pay 19

£10,055.4.5

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 19 amounted to £50.8.9 - total £2473.14.6.

11 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - Total 386

178 married and 208 single (A. C. Cos 325)

05 Oct 1917

Employees War Loan

It was reported that £121.13.10 had been refunded in Pay 20 – Total £2194.0.7

05 Oct 1917

Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in pay 20 – 1 man had been called up and 9 had volunteered- making since January 22nd 128 called up and 269 Volunteers – Total =397 – 16 Volunteers had been rejected.

As to further recruitment Mr Southern had received a communication stating that in order to obtain the quote of men from each Colliery it will be necessary for a travelling Medical Board and Colliery Recruiting Court to visit the Colliery as in January last.

It is not yet known what allowance will be made in regard to large numbers of the Company's men who have recently volunteered.

05 Oct 1917

Laying Linton Pit Idle

It was reported that these cases were heard at Morpeth on Sept 22nd when 81 men were convicted and fined 15/- each and 3/- costs for laying Linton Pit idle on August 30th.

05 Oct 1917

Chevington Moor Road

Mr Scott had inspected this Road on Sept 21st. He expressed the opinion that to make such a Road as the Morpeth R.D. Council were making was quite unnecessary and that without having seen the road originally, considerably less than they were asking from the Company would make a much better road than ever it was before.

05 Oct 1917

Colliery Cottages

The Company's Foreman Mason has made an inspection of the Houses in the Fourth Row and reports that they are all more or less damp owing to their not having any damp course.

He estimates that the cost of plastering and cementing the gable ends where necessary will be about £200, or roughly £3 per house for the 71 houses.

It was decided that the work should be done.

05 Oct 1917

Home Rents

Mr Southern mentioned that a number of men were returning more or less disabled and unable to take up their former work which entitled them to a House and Coal or Rent and Coal. They were being employed now as labourers, which does not carry this privilege.

In the case of men who were in Colliery houses, they remain and the question is how are the men to be dealt with who were getting Rent and Coal. It was thought desirable that some uniform practice should be adopted for the County and the matter was deferred.

A deputation from the Ashington men had attended asking for rent for a man who started as a labourer and has since gone back to his former work at which he is entitled to Rent.

05 Oct 1917

Colliery Officials

Mr Southern stated the Overmen have held a joint-meeting and are sending Deputations to the Managers asking for an increase in their Wages.

Mr Southern was requested to go into the matter with a view to re-adjustment and prepare a new scheme to see how it would work out if the Bonuses were increased for £40 to £52 per annum: all round.

05 Oct 1917

Coal Controller

A notice has been received from the Coal Controller informing the Collieries that a War Wage of 1/6 per day had been granted to all Colliery Workers of 16 years and over and 9d per day for workers under 16.

This is also to be paid for Pay Saturdays, days after fatal accidents and for any day the pit is idle through lack of Trade.

05 Oct 1917

Blyth Staithmen

Mr Warham said he thought it might be necessary to grant an increase of 7/6 per week and it was left with him to settle.

05 Oct 1917

The War

5 men had enlisted during the fortnight - the total number of recruits at the end of Pay 20 being 3158

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 29 th Sep 1917	7318
DECREASE OF	2096

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £808.13.0 in Pay 20 as follows:

Rent allowance 557 persons	£118.14.0
Coal Leading offtakes 950 persons	£ 23.15.0
Coal allowance 950 persons 476 tons @ 20/-	£492.0.0
Colliery House Rents 363 persons	£174.4.0
	£21,024 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £141.5.5 in Pay 20 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£37.12.11
Belgian Relief	£42.1.8

Alien Wives + Local Relief	£51.10.10
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£10,196.9.10

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 20 amounted to £48.12.6 - total £2522.7.0

19 Oct 1917 Blyth Staithmen

It was reported that £134.8.3 had been refunded in Pay21 – Total £2328.8.10. Mr Southern was requested to produce a list of the amounts taken up by the men.

19 Oct 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay21: 2 men had volunteered making since January 22nd:
128 Called up and 271 Volunteers Total 399 - 16 Volunteers had been rejected.

No further instructions had been received as to further recruitment.

19 Oct 1917 Ashington Water Supply

A copy of Bacteriological Analysis was submitted and a letter from Dr Hambraugh was read. Mr Southern was requested to let Dr. Hambrough know that the Company only supply the water and have no further responsibility.

19 Oct 1917 House Rents and disabled Soldiers

It was found that mostly the Collieries are continuing to pay Rent allowance to wounded soldiers returning to work and it was decided to inform the men that this will be paid only at the pleasure of the Directors and that this does not mean that it will continue. These Rents are to be shown on a separate Bill.

19 Oct 1917 Colliery Officials

The application of the Officials for an increase was again discussed. At the meeting of the Coal Trade on the 18th instant it was decided that each Colliery should make its own arrangements as to the amount of War Wage, up to a max of 10/6 per week. This is also to include Colliery Office Staff. The maximum therefore would be £27.6.0 per annum.

This would not prevent the Company increasing the Official's War Bonus if they thought fit. Mr Southern said he did not think the officials would be satisfied with the base War Wage.

It was thought undesirable to interfere with the status of the Officials by payments of the War Wage if this could be compensated for by increasing the Bonuses.

The matter was adjourned until next week when a decision will be made and communicated to the men.

19 Oct 1917

Blyth Staithmen

Robert Dickinson not being satisfied with the advance offered had tendered his notice which was accepted. He had since written apologising and asked to be re-instated.

19 Oct 1917

The War

There had been no enlistments and 3 men had returned - the total number of recruits at the end of Pay 21 being 3155

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 13 th Oct 1917	7321
DECREASE OF	2093

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £839.12.0 in Pay 21 as follows:

Rent allowance 554 persons	£118.4.0
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Coal Leading offtakes	946 persons	£ 23.13.0
Coal allowance	946 persons 524 tons @ 20/-	£524.0.0
Colliery House Rents	362 persons	£173.15.0
		£21,829 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.17.6 in Pay 21 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£38.9.4
Belgian Relief	£42.16.1
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.12.1
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
 Total to end of Pay 21	 £10,340.7.4

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 21 amounted to £49.11.0 - total £2571.18.0

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £337.5.0 during the 4 weeks ended Sept 30th

8 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - Total 394
182 married and 212 single (A. C. Cos 332)

02 Nov 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £141.1.5 had been refunded in Pay 22 - Total £2469.10.3 Mr Southern stated that the total amount of Stock applied for by the men and Colliery Officials amounted to £7745

02 Nov 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay 22: 3 men had Volunteered making since January 22nd:

128 Called up and 274 Volunteers Total 402 - 16 Volunteers had been rejected.

02 Nov 1917 Chevington Moor Road

Mr Scott's estimate of the cost of restoring the Road to the condition it was in before the damage complained of is £486 and the Company had offered £250 to settle the claim. Mr Sample had acknowledged the letter and said he would put the offer before the Committee.

02 Nov 1917

Ashington Water Supply

A letter from Mr Hambraugh was read stating that he had written unofficially at the L.J. Board urging the desirability of a loan to the Tynemouth Corporation so that they might start their scheme to provide Ashington with a new supply of Water.

The reply which was private and unofficial was to the effect that the filters were mainly at fault and therefore he did not think that the Board would sanction a loan. Mr Southern had written pointing out that the filters were in charge of the Ashington Urban District Council who are responsible for keeping them clean and in proper working order.

02 Nov 1917

Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Mr Southern read correspondence with Mt J.B. Atkinson, late H.M Inspector of Mines who after applying for permission to go down the Pit to clear up some points from a scientific point of view and being told that he might go on the distinct undertaking that he did not publish or make any further use of the information, now writes a threatening letter.

It was decided to send the correspondence to Mr Cooper and ask him to draft a response.

02 Nov 1917

Electric Lighting

Applications from Captain Browne for a supply of electricity to Cresswell Hall and from the Ashington Co-op for their Ellington Branch were considered. It was agreed that terms would be arranged.

02 Nov 1917

Adam Wright

Adam Wright had applied for £7 on a/c of the £40 owing by the Company to his father. It was agreed to inform him that the money will be paid as soon as he can satisfy the Company's Solicitors who is entitled to it. He is believed to have one or more brothers who would be entitled to a share.

02 Nov 1917 Donations

The following Donations were granted:

Italian Red Cross	£100
Ashington Soldiers and Sailors Xmas Gifts	£100
Ashington Red Cross Working Party	£10
Ashington Hay Day - Prevention of Cruelty to Children	£5

02 Nov 1917 Blyth Staithmen

It was agreed to allow R.H. Dickinson to withdraw his notice. His War bonus and that of Clark was increased to 5/- per week from 1st August and Clark's Coal Allowance to £10 per annum.

02 Nov 1917 Colliery Office

J.J. Woodman was advanced £20 to £150 from 1st Oct

02 Nov 1917 Newcastle Office

Leslie Cook was advanced to £90 per annum from 1st Oct

02 Nov 1917 Bonuses

It was agreed to double the War Bonuses of Colliery Officials from Overmen downwards

Colliery staff – under 20/- 5/- per week extra

At + over 20/-	9/- per week extra
Girls	5/- per week extra all round
Clerks	as per list submitted and –do- Christmas Bonus

The Christmas Bonuses of the Management and the Staff at the Newcastle Office to be the same as last year with the addition of £50 each to the manager of Linton, Woodhorn and Ellington and £60 to Mr C. A. Booth, N/C Offices

02 Nov 1917

The War

1 man had enlisted during the fortnight and 4 men had returned - the total number of recruits at the end of Pay 22 being 3155

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 27 th Oct 1917	7339
DECREASE OF	2075

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £881.14.0 in Pay 22 as follows:

Rent allowance 550 persons	£116.8.0
Coal Leading offtakes 942 persons	£ 23.11.0
Coal allowance 942 persons 568 tons @ 20/-	£568.0.0
Colliery House Rents 362 persons	£173.15.0
	£22,924 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.13.8 in Pay 22 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£38.8.9
Belgian Relief	£42.13.0
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.11.11
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 22	£10,484.1.0

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 22 amounted to £48.3.5 - total £2620.1.5

9 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - Total 403
184 married and 219 single (A. C. Cos 338)

16 Nov 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £135.4.11 had been refunded in Pay23 – Total £2604.15.2

16 Nov 1917 Recruitment of Miners

In Pay 23: 2 men had Volunteered making since January 22nd:

128 Called up and 276 Volunteered 16 Volunteers had been rejected

16 Nov 1917 Ashington Water Supply

Mr Southern stated that he had written to Dr Hambraugh explaining that the Filters were under the control of the Council and that the Ash middens complained about as overflowing are not the property of the Company and that it was the duty of the Council to attend to them.

16 Nov 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

A Draft letter has been prepared by Mr Cooper, in reply to Mr J.B. Atkinson – certain alterations were suggested for consideration by Mr Cooper.

16 Nov 1917 Adam Wright

Wright had been told that as soon as he can satisfy the Company who is entitled to it the money will be paid over. Mr Boutland thinks there is only one brother who is at present in France, and is making further enquiries.

16 Nov 1917 Ashington Curates Fund

An application from the Vicar of Ashington for an increased subscription to the Curates Fund was considered –

It was agreed to offer £20 per annum: additional as a War bonus if the Duke of Portland will give a like amount, which would bring the stipend to £200.

16 Nov 1917

Court Case

It was reported that at Morpeth Court on Wednesday, Thomas Donaldson –Linton Labourer, living in a Colliery House was fined £20 for using the premises for the purposes of a betting house and Mrs Lillico a soldier's widow and living in a Colliery House was found £5 for assisting Donaldson.

It was decided to give Donaldson notice to leave this house.

16 Nov 1917

Assistant Farm Steward

W. Ellington was granted a War bonus of £50 per annum from 1st Oct and no Christmas bonus.

16 Nov 1917

Donations

The following donations were granted:

- Commercial battalions Comforts Fund – up to £20
- Royal Victoria School for the Blind £2.2.0

An application on behalf of the Military Orthopaedic Hospital was adjourned for favourable consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Applications from the Coal Trade Benevolent and the North Eastern Agricultural Federation was declined

16 Nov 1917

The War

There had been no enlistments during the fortnight and 5 men had returned - the total number of recruits at the end of Pay 23 being 3147

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 10 th Nov 1917	7342
DECREASE OF	2072

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £910.18.6 in Pay 23 as follows:

Rent allowance 549 persons	£116.13.0
Coal Leading offtakes 941 persons	£ 23.10.6
Coal allowance 941 persons 597 tons @ 20/-	£597.0.0
Colliery House Rents 362 persons	£173.15.0
=	£22,684 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.19.6 in Pay 23 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£38.10.6
Belgian Relief	£42.15.7
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.13.5
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 23	£10,628.0.6

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 23 amounted to £44.5.7 - total £2664.7.0

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £313.14.8 during the 4 weeks ended Oct 27th

12 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - Total 415
188 married and 227 single (A. C. Cos 348)

30 Nov 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £128.19.8 had been refunded in Pay 24 – Total £2733.14.10

30 Nov 1917 Recruitment of Miners

In Pay 24: 1 man had been called up and 4 had Volunteered making since January 22nd:

- 129 Called up and 280 Volunteers – Total 409 – 16 Volunteers had been rejected

30 Nov 1917 Ashington water Supply

A letter from Dr Hambraugh was read asking for further particulars relating to storage and saying that another sample of water is being examined bacteriologically. If it is found unsatisfactory he will probably advise that the water should be chlorinated

30 Nov 1917 Small Coal Tip at Woodhorn

It was reported that Mr Sample had agreed to let the Company have the remainder of the field in which is the present brass heap and Mr Southern had arranged with Mr Gray the Tenant to give immediate possession.

30 Nov 1917 Chevington Moor Road

It was reported that Mr H. Sample on behalf of the Morpeth Rural District Council had accepted the Company's offer of £250 in full settlement of claim for the damage to this Road.

30 Nov 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

A further letter from Mr J.B. Atkinson was read in reply to Mr Southern's and the latter's reply as suggested by Mr Cooper.

It was decided that if Mr Atkinson persists in the annoyance Mr Southern should communicate with the Home Office.

Mr Wilson, H.M. Inspector of Mines had visited the Colliery recently and Mr Southern had told him of Mr Atkinson's letters and he had expressed the view that the Home Office would disapprove of Mr Atkinson's action.

30 Nov 1917

Non Union Men

A letter from the Ashington Lodge was read asking the Directors to meet a Deputation to discuss ways and means of getting all men into the Union and retaining them.

It was agreed that Mr Southern should see Mr Guthrie on the matter and if necessary the Management was authorised to meet the Deputation to hear what they have to say.

30 Nov 1917

Donations

The following Donations were granted:

- £100 to Northd Prisoners of War Fund
- £25 to Northern Women's Hospital

Applications on behalf of the Durham light Infantry Prisoners of war Fund and Ellington Church Book Fund were declined

30 Nov 1917

Coal to Admiralty

It was reported that the Admiralty had declined to pay the extra 2/6 per ton for House Coal shipped prior to the 14th Oct and that no settlement had been arrived at with regard to the extra price charged for Coal supplied to Russia through the British Admiralty.

30 Nov 1917

The War

4 men had returned during the fortnight- the total number of recruits at the end of Pay 24 being 3143

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 24 th Nov 1917	7350
DECREASE OF	2064

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £881.9.6 in Pay 24 as follows:

Rent allowance 551 persons	£119.2.0
Coal Leading offtakes 941 persons	£ 23.10.6
Coal allowance 941 persons 566 tons @ 20/-	£566.0.0
Colliery House Rents 360 persons	£172.17.0
	£22,918 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.10.9 in Pay 24 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£38.7.1
Belgian Relief	£42.13.7
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.10.1
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 24	£10,771.11.3

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £38.18.10 - in Pay 24 total = £2703.5.10

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £313.14.8 during the 4 weeks ended Oct 27th

11 men had been killed in action during the fortnight - Total 426
192 married and 234 single (A. C. Cos 358)

14 Dec 1917 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £135.5.8 had been refunded in Pay 25 – Total £2869.0.6

14 Dec 1917 Recruitment of Miners

1 man had been called up and 2 had Volunteered making since January 22nd:

- 130 Called up and 282 Volunteers – Total 412 – 16 Volunteers had been rejected

14 Dec 1917 Ashington Water Supply

A letter from Dr Hambraugh to Dr Mills was read enclosing bacteriological analysis of the Water in which he thinks the number of organisms is far too high and strongly recommending the present supply to be chlorinated.

Dr Mills thinks that as alternative larger Filters; with better filtering, medium might meet the case, but this would be costly and might not have the desired effect.

14 Dec 1917 Woodhorn Colliery Explosion

Nothing further had been heard from Mr J.B. Atkinson since Mr Southern's letter of Nov 27th.

14 Dec 1917 Non-Union Men

Mr Southern had seen Mr Taylor and Mr Guthrie at the Coal Trade who expressed the same opinion as in the past vid: that while sympathizing with the men the Company could not do anything to force men onto the Union.

The Management met a deputation of the men on the 10th inst who said they are thankful for the moral support they had received and thought moral persuasion would have brought the men in, in view of the War wage-advance secured by their efforts:

- 1) Stopping payment of the money advances secured by the miners i.e. not to give them % advances
- 2) When a man seeks work the management to state a specified time in which he has to join the Union or leave the Colliery

- 3) A position adopted successfully by Trade Unions and other movements i.e. to deduct the men's contributions to the Union at the Colliery Office – the same as the Permanent Rel. and other funds

Assuming that none of these can be granted will put the onus on the men in carrying out their own policy.

This would probably mean a stoppage judging from the temper of the men. If they knew what the others were prepared to do they would know how to act to get the men into the Union.

There are now only 20 Hewers and 100 others not in the Union. The Deputation was told that the matter would be considered and a reply sent to them.

After discussion it was agreed to adjourn the matter until the next meeting and in the meantime Mr Southern was requested to ascertain the view of the Coal Trade as to the three methods suggested by the men and if there would be any objection to the Company taking the line of their men on the matter.

14 Dec 1917

Surveyors

The following advances were granted:

- J.J. Gilchrist £10 to £140 per annum
- Peter Kay £10 to £130 per annum

14 Dec 1917

The War

1 man had enlisted during the fortnight and 3 had returned- the total number of recruits at the end of Pay 25 being 3141

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 8 th Dec 1917	7381
DECREASE OF	2033

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £939.4.6 in Pay 25 as follows:

Rent allowance 548 persons	£116.18.6
Coal Leading offtakes 938 persons	£ 23.9.0.
Coal allowance 938 persons 626 tons @ 20/-	£626.0.0
Colliery House Rents 360 persons	£172.17.0
	£22,918 per annum

The Ashington War Pensions Committee had distributed during the 4 weeks ending Nov 24th £312.6.5.

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £142.11.8 in Pay 25 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£38.1.8
Belgian Relief	£42.5.10
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.4.2
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£10,914.2.11

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 25 amounted to £40.18.10 - total = £2744.4.8

28 Dec 1917 Employees War Loan

Reported that £124.13.11 had been refunded in Pay 26 – Total £2993.14.5

28 Dec 1917 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay 26: 6 men had been called up and 7 had Volunteered making since January 22nd:

- 136 Called up and 289 Volunteers = Total 425 16 Volunteers had been rejected

28 Dec 1917 Ashington Water Supply

Mr Southern stated that the cost of Chlorinating may be anything from £3 per week upward according to the quantity and quality of the water. Dr Mills will probably make a report to the next meeting of the Council Water Committee.

28 Dec 1917 Non-Union Men

A communication had been received from the men saying they have taken a ballot of their members and they, by a very large majority favour striking. They are holding a special meeting on Sunday next.

The management have informed them that the owners are in sympathy with them and would rather that all of the men should be in the Union but they cannot see their way to compel men to join against their will

28 Dec 1917 Damages

The damages payable to the local Farmers amounted to £1880.13.2 an increase of £112.9.2 over the previous year, chiefly due to the higher price of various crops.

28 Dec 1917 Ben Nevin

Mr Southern reported the death on the 22nd inst of Ben Nevin a very old employee of the Company. He had been in receipt of an allowance of 30/- per week from the Company and it was agreed to continue this to his widow who is 86 years of age.

28 Dec 1917 The War

8 men had enlisted during the fortnight – total - 3149

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 22 nd Dec 1917	7378
DECREASE OF	2036

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £870.2.0 in Pay 26 as follows:

Rent allowance 550 persons	£116.15.0
Coal Leading offtakes 940 persons	£ 23.10.0.
Coal allowance 940 persons 557 tons @ 20/-	£557.0.0
Colliery House Rents 360 persons	£172.17.0
	£22,918 per annum

The Men's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.15.6 in Pay 26 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Comm	£38.9.4
Belgian Relief	£42.13.7
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.12.7
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay26	£11,057.18.5

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £40.13.10 in Pay 26 - total £2784.18.6

11 Jan 1918 Capt. J. L. Priestman

On the motion of Mr Fred Milburn, Congratulations were extended to the Chairman on the distinction won by his son Capt. J.L. Priestman, at the War.

11 Jan 1918 Employees War Loan

Reported that £126.5.8 had been refunded in Pay 27 – Total £3120.0.1

11 Jan 1918 Recruitment of Miners

In Pay 27: 3 men had been called up and 3 had Volunteered making since January 22nd 1917:

139 Called up and 292 Volunteers = Total 431 16 Volunteers had been rejected

11 Jan 1918 Non-Union Men

The Coal Controller having made an appeal to the Company to come to an arrangement with the men on this matter to avoid a strike, it was decided at the meeting at the Colliery on Wednesday that Mr Southern should give the following instruction to the deputation of the men's representatives.

“That while the owners are still of the same opinion as expressed in my letter to the Union Officials, that the Coal Controller has made a strong appeal to us to come to a settlement. The Company considers that the only settlement is for us to agree that for the period of the War5 the management will not set on any of these men who are not members of the Union and that everyone underground must be a member.”

11 Jan 1918 The late Ben Nevin

A letter from Mrs Nevin was read thanking the Company for their generosity in continuing to her the allowance of 30/- per week, paid to her late husband.

11 Jan 1918 Seaton Hirst Curate

A letter from Rev. L. D. Griffiths was read asking the company to renew their donation of £10. In view of the difficulty caused by the War it was agreed to send a special donation of £25.

11 Jan 1918 Output

Mr Southern stated that the output from the Company's mines during the year was 1,706,241 tons, a decrease of 54,811 tons on 1916.

11 Jan 1918 Colliery Farm Damages

Mr Graham estimated the damage by Colliery workings on all the Colliery Farms at £974.16.6

It was considered that it would be more satisfactory to have an independent valuation made as it was agreed to ask Mr J.S. Clark of Bothal to assess the damage.

11 Jan 1918

Coal Owners' Motor Ambulance Fund

An assessment of 10/-per 1000 Tons on the 1916 output was agreed to, the Company's proportion on this basis being £879.4.0 –

It was ordered that the Cheque for this amount be sent to Mr Guthrie
11 Jan 1918
French Trade

Mr Warham reported that a meeting had been called by the Exporters to consider a proposal to pool all the French orders.

It was decided to oppose the proposal.

11 Jan 1918

The War

There had been no enlistments during the fortnight and 1 man had returned – total number of recruits being - 3148

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 5 th Jan 1918	7382
DECREASE OF	2032

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £846.8.0 in Pay 27 as follows:

Rent allowance 548 persons	£120.2.0
Coal Leading oftakes 938 persons	£ 23.9.0.
Coal allowance 938 persons 530 tons @ 20/-	£530.0.0
Colliery House Rents 360 persons	£172.17.0
	£22,006 per annum

The Men's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.2.3 in Pay 27 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Committee	£37.18.1
Belgian Relief	£42.5.10
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£51.18.4
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
 Total to end of Pay 27	 £11,200.0.8

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £40.1.0 – total to end of Pay 27 = £2824.19.6

8 men had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 434
198 married and 236 single (A.C. Cos. employees 362)

21 Jan 1918 Employees War Loan

It was reported that in pay 1 £122.10.11 had been refunded – Total £3242.11.0

21 Jan 1918 Recruitment of Miners

It was reported that in Pay 1, 4 men had been called up and 12 had volunteered making since 22nd January:

- 143 called up and 304 Volunteers – Total 447 - 16 of the Volunteers had been rejected.

21 Jan 1918 Non-Union Men

Mr Southern stated that a considerable number of men had joined the Miners Union and it was expected that the few remaining non-unionists would come in before long.

21 Jan 1918 Ashington water Supply

A letter from the Clerk to Ashington U.D. Council was read enclosing a copy of a letter from Dr Hambraugh to Dr Mills. He asks the Company to take immediate steps to prevent pollution and states that the Council have

A letter from Cap.t Pumphrey was read stating that he had received orders to proceed to France on military duty and in consequence it is unlikely that he will be able to take up his work at Ashington until after the War.

It was decided to continue paying his full salary while on War Services.

21 Jan 1918

The War

10 men had enlisted during the fortnight the total number of recruits at end of Pay 1 being - 3158

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 19 th Jan 1918	7392
DECREASE OF	2022

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £922.15 in Pay 1 as follows:

Rent allowance 554 persons	£121.6.0
Coal Leading offtakes 944 persons	£ 23.12.0
Coal allowance 944 persons 605 tons @ 20/-	£605.0.0
Colliery House Rents 360 persons	£172.17.0
	£23,991 per annum

The Men's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £144.0.0 in Pay 1 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Committee	£38.11.4
Belgian Relief	£42.15.10
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.12.10
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 1	£11,344.0.8

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £403.19.11 during the period ended December 30th 1917

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £40.1.0 – total to end of Pay 1 £2865.0.6

7 men had been killed in action during the fortnight making a total of 441
204 married and 237 single (A.C. Cos. employees 368)

08 Feb 1918 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £128.10.0 had been refunded in Pay 2 – Total = £3371.1.0

08 Feb 1918 Recruitment of Miners

In pay 2: 4 men had been called up and 7 men had volunteered making since 22nd Jan.. 1917:

147 Called Up and 311 Volunteers – Total 458 - 16 volunteers had been rejected.

08 Feb 1918 Non – Union Men

Ashington – The manager has seen 12 Hewers and Fillers and they have all promised to join the Union.

Linton – There are 22 men and boys not in the Union. The Manager has just received the list of names and is going to see these men and boys.

Woodhorn – The Manager has asked for a list of names. The men request: “the manager not to set a new starter on unless he gets a note from the Union”. Mr Southern had instructed Mr Milburn to refuse to do this.

Ellington – All have joined with the exception of one man and he has been told that he must join the union before the weekend.

08 Feb 1918 Ashington water Supply

Mr Southern submitted a report from the Manager at Ashington in which Mr Booth says, “he is satisfied that every precaution is taken by the officials and that the present state of the water supply, so far as immunity from risk of contamination is concerned is better than he has ever seen it”.

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £975.14.6 in Pay 2 as follows:

Rent allowance 555 persons	£119.5.0
Coal Leading offtakes 945 persons	£ 23.12.6
Coal allowance 945 persons 660 tons @ 20/-	£660.0.0
Colliery House Rents 360 persons	£172.17.0
	£25,367 per annum

The Men's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.11.4 in Pay 2 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Committee	£38.8.3
Belgian Relief	£42.12.5
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.10.8
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£11,487.12.0

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £261.2.3 during the period ended January 26th 1918

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £38.1.9 – total to end of Pay 2 £2903.2.3

22 Feb 1918 Employees War Loan

It was reported that in Pay 3: £123.7.7 had been refunded – Total £3494.8.7

22 Feb 1918 Recruitment of Miners

In Pay 3: 3men had been called up and 8 had Volunteered, making since Jan 22 1917:

- 150 called up and 319 Volunteers – Total 469 - 16 of the Volunteers had been rejected.

22 Feb 1918 Ashington Water Supply

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 16 th Feb 1918	7376
DECREASE OF	2038

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £949.18.0 in Pay 3 as follows:

Rent allowance 551 persons	£118.0.0
Coal Leading offtakes 940 persons	£ 23.10.0
Coal allowance 940 persons 636 tons @ 20/-	£636.0.0
Colliery House Rents 360 persons	£172.8.0
	£24,697 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.5.2 in Pay 3 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Committee	£38.6.1
Belgian Relief	£42.12.3
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.6.10
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total to end of Pay 3	£11,630.17.2

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £35.13.11 – total to end of Pay 3 £2938.16.2

08 Mar 1918 Employees War Loan

It was reported that £106.0.5 had been refunded in Pay 4 Total £3600.9.0

08 Mar 1918 Recruitment of Miners

In Pay 4: 3men had been called up and 3 had Volunteered, making since Jan. 22 1917:

- 153 called up and 322 Volunteers – Total 475- 16 of the Volunteers had been rejected.

08 Mar 1918

Non-Union Men

Mr Southern said that there had been unrest at Woodhorn. The men submitted a list of about 40 names and when asked if these 40 had been approached by the Union officials they said they had not. They were told that they should see them first and submit an amended list – hey resented this but the Manager met a deputation on Wednesday night and pacified them.

08 Mar 1918

Ashington Water Supply

Mr Southern had said that he had heard the Tynemouth Corporation have written to the Ashington Urban District Council asking to be released from their obligation under the Act as the price of materials at the present time is prohibitive.

08 Mar 1918

Doctors

A letter from Dr Hunter was read asking the Company to deduct 1/- a fortnight instead of 9d his subscribers having accepted the increased amount.

08 Mar 1918

Damages to Cottages

Mr Southern reported serious damage to Cottages between North Seaton Station and North Seaton Hotel and explained that the Company have no Workings within 500 yards.

08 Mar 1918

The War

2 men had enlisted during the fortnight and 2 had returned, the total number of recruits at end of Pay 4 being - 3170

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 02 nd Mar 1918	7391
DECREASE OF	2023

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £910.17.6 in Pay 4 as follows:

Rent allowance 553 persons	£118.8.0
Coal Leading offtakes 941 persons	£ 23.10.6
Coal allowance 941 persons 597 tons @ 20/-	£597.0.0
Colliery House Rents 360 persons	£172.19.0
	£23,681.5.0 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £143.19.6 in Pay 4 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Committee	£38.10.10
Belgian Relief	£42.17.9
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.10.11
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£11,774.16.8

The Ashington War pensions Committee had distributed £438.17.9 during the period ended Feb 23rd.

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service amounted to £27.8.11 in Pay 4 = £2966.5.1

4 men had been killed in action - Total 445 207 married and 238 single (A. C. Cos 371)

22 Mar 1918

Employees war Loan

It was reported that £60.17.8 had been refunded in Pay 5 – Total £3661.17.8

The total amount of stock applied for was £8795 viz:

- 465 Workmen £4105
- 65 Officials £3640
- Newcastle office Staff £1050

- £8795
- 500 Workmen withdrawn - £ 465
- £8330
- Repayments totalled £5463.15.7

22 Mar 1918 Recruitment of Miners

In pay 5: 3 men had been called up and 8 had volunteered making since 22nd Jan.. 1917:

156 Called Up and 330 Volunteers – Total 486 - 16 volunteers had been rejected.

Mr Warham read a letter from the assistant Director of Recruiting, Newcastle Recruiting Area stating that all enlistments into the Army sin Jan. 1st 1918 are to be counted in the quotas from individual Mines – Naval Establishments are not so counted.

22 Mar 1918 Non-Union Men

A joint deputation of Mechanics and Enginemen had attended at the Colliery Office asking that all Surface men in the Engineering Department be compelled to join some Union. It was decided to inform Mr Guthrie of this.

22 Mar 1918 Colliery Houses

The same deputation asked for the same terms for Colliery Houses to be operative for them as for the miners.

22 Mar 1918 Ashington Water Supply

Mr Southern reported that at the last meeting of the Council a letter was read from the L.G. Board asking for an expression of opinion as to the Tynemouth Corporation's application for an expression of the time (3 years) under which they had to give Ashington a supply of water. It was decided to write to inform them that Ashington intended to stand by its own Acts of Parliament.

22 Mar 1918 Doctors

Mr Southern stated that no application had been received from the Secretaries of the union of Ashington and Woodhorn to keep 1/- instead of 9d – the others will doubtless do the same.

22 Mar 1918 Damages to the Cottages of North Seaton

Mr Southern said he had mentioned this matter to Mr Weeks of Bedlington who at first appeared ignorant of the fact and eventually admitted that he had heard something about it.

22 Mar 1918 Photograph of the Colliery

A letter from “The Organizer” Newspaper was read asking to be allowed to reproduce Photograph of the Colliery and Underground Workings and to be allowed to reproduce any that suited an article on a Miners Life, written by a miner, which was shortly to appear.

It was decided to ask for a copy of the paper before agreeing to supply the photographs.

22 Mar 1918 Donations

The following donations were granted:

- £50 to the Newcastle Orthopaedic Hospital
- £25 to the Ashington Roman Catholic Institute

22 Mar 1918 The War

7 men had enlisted during the fortnight and 5 had returned, the total number of recruits at end of Pay 5 being - 3170

Number of persons employed before the war was:	9414
On 16 th Mar 1918	7379
DECREASE OF	2035

The Rent and Coal Allowances to dependants of men serving in the Army amounts to £904.11.0 in Pay 5 as follows:

Rent allowance 549 persons	£114.13.0
Coal Leading offtakes 936 persons	£ 23.8.6
Coal allowance 936 persons 595 tons @ 20/-	£595.0.0
Colliery House Rents 357 persons	£171.10.0
	£23,518 per annum

The Workmen's contributions to Relief Funds amounted to £142.19.0 in Pay 5 as follows:

War Pension, County Fund/ Local Committee	£38.3.8
Belgian Relief	£42.10.9
Alien Wives + Local Relief	£52.4.7
V.A.D. Hospital	£10.0.0
Total	£11,917.15.8

The Balance of wages paid to officials on active service in Pay 5 was £23.7.10 Total = £2989.12.11

22 Mar 1918 Coal Controller

Mr Warham read a notice received from the Coal Controller under the Defences of the Realm Act

1. Requiring notice to be given before incurring expenditure on certain works re:
2. Wages, Directors Fee and salaries
3. Closing and Transferring Mines

22 Mar 1918 Distinguished Service Recognition

A letter from F. Sheilan was read thanking the Company for the Silver Bowl presented to his wife in his absence.