

removed, and she has now two Chinese as lodgers thrust upon her—Why?"

Our reply to our correspondent was, as she earns her living from home—to take the matter into Court, which she intends to do—if coercion is exercised.

Mrs. Hatfield.

And this brings us to the case of a poor old widow aged 83, at Malton, who was prosecuted for alleged non-compliance with one order requiring her to take two evacuees.

Mercifully the summons against her was withdrawn when it came before the magistrates, and she was allowed one guinea costs.

Malton Urban Council discussed the case, and it was urged the taking out of a summons should not be in the hands of two or three but in the hands of the Council. The action would not have been approved by the rate-payers, and if it had been put before the Council the summons would never have been issued. The Chairman of the Evacuation Committee, Mr. F. S. H. Ward, was evidently unrepentant. The "Malton Widow" was one of 235 cases considered.

The Committee were voluntary workers, doing their best for the scheme, which was virtually impossible to work. If they had done right, should they capitulate because someone had proved awkward? He said "No." They must stand or fall by their decision.

Mr. Ward said he was not going to stand reproaches—people cutting him dead in the street—and lose his friends and business. The Committee had been cursed up hill and down by people who ought to have known better. They had not taken the proceedings in a vindictive spirit. The widow's case was one of 64.

The proceedings were withdrawn because notice of appeal to a tribunal was given. All the publicity was sought by the other side simply to make his Committee and himself appear as big as blackguards as possible.

Here is the spirit of the petty autocrat *in excelsis!*

Bravo the aged widow of 83! She has all our sympathy.

Meanwhile Mrs. Hatfield had appealed to the Appeal Tribunal against the local Committee's decision to billet two evacuees at her house. The Evacuation Tribunal—in spite of the fact that this woman of 83 is in indifferent health and that her housekeeper, aged 55, had been receiving medical attention—state that they have no other alternative but to uphold the Government's scheme, but with true Pecksniffian apology inform Mrs. Hatfield that "The Tribunal feel, however, that you may have every confidence that the Committee will deal as sympathetically as possible with your case." Cold comfort indeed! It is to be hoped kind neighbours will continue to sympathise with this poor old woman, as already this outrageous evacuation scheme is surely crumbling.

The parents of children who refused to have them evacuated have won a signal victory for liberty. The announcement that the Government have decided that as many schools as possible should be reopened in evacuation areas will be welcomed by parents, educationalists and social workers in general. Some 750,000 have been without schooling and the care of the school medical services since the summer holidays began. As it is amply evident that school facilities in the reception areas are far from satisfactory, the decision of the Board of Education, under Parliamentary pressure, is at least politic.

Lord Dawson of Penn drew attention in the Lords to the danger of epidemic disease in the reception areas. It is not apparent that any special provision has been made for emergency hospital accommodation in the reception areas, and it will be a grave injustice to the hosts

if nothing is done until they are in the midst of a battle with widespread sickness.

There have been several outbreaks of diphtheria amongst school children in evacuee villages—and nothing will convince the aborigines that they are not due to an evacuee carrier—and the fact that their children must be compulsorily removed to hospitals at a distance of course adds fuel to the fire. We advise Appeal Tribunals to curb their ardour, and like Agag, "walk delicately."

The Medical Officer at Hatfield, in reporting an epidemic of measles in the district, said no more children should be sent to that district for some time. The evacuated children were not sufficiently clothed to keep warm.

It was also reported that none of the children had overcoats or any warm clothing at all.

Several children were reported to have died rather suddenly. They had developed bronchial pneumonia and died at night. Four deaths of children under three years of age.

A Terrible Indictment.

We can come to only one conclusion—that thousands of poor children from overcrowded areas are being subjected to conditions ruinous to their physical wellbeing. Underfed, ill clothed, verminous, semi-educated, and uncultured. This is a terrible indictment of national inefficiency. How, we demand to know, are the millions of money allocated for expenditure by the State, on education and health, being spent? Good may come out of evil if the taxpayers, exploited to the uttermost farthing, rouse themselves and demand efficiency in high places for the rising generation.

Medical Officers of Health and Teachers must be called to account.

NOTES ON THE WAR.

An Anglo-French Ambulance Corps has been established under the high patronage of M. Albert Lebrun, President of the French Republic and a mixed committee of French and British people.

It will be remembered that on the occasion of the last war, thanks to British generosity 100 fully equipped ambulance cars were presented to the French Government. It is proposed to emulate this example and equip 100 ambulance cars and to recruit as far as possible the chauffeurs and other personnel from British residents in France.

The ambulances will be donated to the French Government. In addition it is proposed to provide medical supplies and render support to such French hospitals or institutions as the Committee approve, to show our admiration in a practical fashion for the noble efforts which are being made by our French brothers in arms. President Lebrun attaches great importance to this effort which he desires to encourage most willingly in granting his patronage.

Donations are invited even if it involves personal sacrifice, and should be sent to the Joint Hon. Treasurers, Lt.-General Sir Edwin Atkinson, K.C.B., K.B.E., G.M.C., C.I.E., and to Professor B. W. Holman, O.B.E., 42, Ennismore Gardens, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

Gifts of clothing, provisions, etc., should be sent to the Warehouse, 96, Watling Street, E.C.4.

THE UNITED NURSING SERVICES CLUB.

The meeting of the shareholders of the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., 34, Cavendish Square, W.1, will be held on Wednesday, November 22nd, 1939, at 12 noon, to be followed by a general meeting of the members at 12.15 p.m.

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