

RED CROSS SALE AT HORSHAM

BRISK BUSINESS AT THE MARKET

A VALUABLE DONKEY

Delightful summer weather favoured the Red Cross Gift Sale in Horsham Market on Wednesday, and with a large attendance of buyers brisk business was transacted. A capital response had been made to the appeal for gifts issued by an enthusiastic committee which had the Rev. E.D.L. Harvey J.P. Chairman, and from the multiplicity of goods about the field it was evident at an early hour in the day that Messrs T. Bannister and Co., the Hon Auctioneers, would have a by no means light task. Mr A C Holland ably carried out the hon. secretarial duties, entering upon the task with the utmost enthusiasm, and in the town Mr J H Sayers canvassed with commendable assiduity.

In opening the sale at about 2.20 the Rev. E D L Harvey said he was sure they all felt, with him, that it was both a privilege and honour to do anything to help the Red Cross Society. It was founded in 1870 for the purpose of helping the wounded in time of war; but he was quite sure that when it was started there was no idea there would be such a call for its hospitalities as we were face to face with now. There might possibly be some who thought that attending to the wounded soldiers should be the duty of the Government. To some extent that might be perfectly true, but if any of them had had any experience of Government departments they well knew that speediness and rapidity of action was not one of their characteristics. There was a great deal of "red tape" and they might depend upon it that if the sick and wounded were dependent on the Government they would have to wait a very long time for those things so necessary for their comfort and welfare. Although we shrank and trembled at the thought of all the suffering which was caused by the war, he thought we might from the bottom of our hearts thank God that this Society existed and that it had been enabled to do something to relieve the sufferings of those gallant men who were fighting for our liberties, for the liberties of this country, and liberties of smaller nations.

The work of the Red Cross had undoubtedly been most magnificent; the wounded soldiers in the hospitals were extraordinarily cheerful, and the surgical achievements were wonderful.

The Chairman then opened the sale with a donkey. It was started at a guinea, and was knocked down to Mr J R Hamilton for 3½ guineas. "Put him up again" said the purchaser. Then it was purchased for two guineas to Mr Joliffe, and the phrase "put him up again" became the order of the day. Mr Copsey (2 guineas), Mr F Mead (30s), Mr Hooper (1 guinea); Mrs Whalley (£1.5s); Mr Whateman (25s), Mr W Hammond (£1.1s); Mr Corp (16s); and Mr Hooper (24s) were purchasers in turn. Then the donkey, taken frequently up and down to show (his fine actions) was secured by Mrs Leggatt of Huntinggrove Farm, Slinfold for 23s, who became out and out owner, but loaned the animal for a while, and the fun continued. It was knocked down again and again for sums varying from £1.5s to 2s. A newcomer presently "bought" it for 11s and expressed his intention of going off with the donkey. There was much merriment while it was explained that Mrs Leggatt was the real owner. In the end the total realised by the sale of the "moke" was about £51. It had been put up about 60 times and Mr Harvey had become quite hoarse. He was accorded a vote of thanks (carried with enthusiasm on the proposition of Mr G Hooper, seconded by Mr M W Hammond. Beside the names already given the purchasers included the Rev E D L Harvey (16s and £1.1s), Mrs Whalley £1.1s and Messrs Osmer, Brundy Tilley Bros, A Gent, C Gent, Topham, King, H P S Lovibond, C Rowland JP, J Dawson, T Bannister, Verney, Evershed, F W Prewett, C Prewett, H Tidy, H Casswell, Mackenzie, J H Sayers, Stacey, K Collins, H

Dowding, Dickens, etc. Several of these had the animal knocked down to them on more than one occasion. With the first lot occupying fortunately for the funds, so long a time,, the hon auctioneer (Mr I Bannister) had a belated start, and the sale lasted till about six o'clock, by which time the circle of purchasers had become quite small. Lot 2, a heifer, was knocked down to Mrs Whalley for £14.10s.0d and "home it went). A goat fetched 10s, horse shoes 37s.6d and 45s.; a millers van (given by Messrs Prewett £4; a cart 15s; a four wheeled dog car (given by Mrs Vickness) £4.10s.0d; and a new grindstone (given by the Horsham Engineering Works 30s; A colt given by Mrs W G Fladgate was bought by Mr Roe for thirty three guineas; and a pig given by Sir Edmund Loder was also disposed of.

There was wonderful variety in the lots. From stock and farming implement, Mr Bannister turned to a big collection of goods in the centre of the field, comprising walking sticks, a gun, silk hats, a frock coat, plants and flowers, eggs, butter, flour, sweets, biscuits, bread, preserves, poultry, cakes, collars, neckties, paint, a silver lever watch, clock, ginger wine, antiques, mole traps, and a leg of mutton. An immense cake in a box decoratively frosted bearing the words "God Bless the Cheerful Giver" was knocked down to Mr Hooper for 12s. Over £2 was collected on the field by Messrs N Joliffe (Faygate) and H Blundy (Billingshurst) who coaxingly manipulated a banjo and silk hat. Refreshments were sold on behalf of the fund by Mrs and Miss Holland.

The response to Mr J H Sayers appeal in the town itself, apart from the farming community was excellent. The firms contributing included Messrs King and Barnes Ltd., Alfred Agate and Sons, Broadley Bros, Williams and Smith, J Farley and Co. Messrs Apedaile, Messrs Hunt Bros, Mr G Deney's Exors, Nessrs Churchman and Sons, Chart and Lawrence, Lintott and Sons, Russell and Sons, Tanner and Chart, Prewett and Co., Holloway Bros, Henry Smith and Son, G F Stanford, A C Kent (HCMg), Mrs Seagrave, J H Stephens, Ben Baker, Jupp and Son, H J Piggott, W F Brown, J Wakefield, G Potter, A Hull, T H Elliott, W I Huntley, E J Kittle, H Rapson, C J Stott, Arthur Baker, Charles Agate, D Allman, Jury Cramp, G Pearce, N Voice, Price and Co., Miss Hill and H R Camplin. Mrs C Rowland gave a cake, Mrs Rice a brass pot, Mrs Lane, Miss Rice and Mrs Dengate collected for cakes; Mrs Wharries sent sittings of eggs, and through the town list contributions were also received from Mr W Edwards,, Coneyhurst Little Farm; Mrs J Colvill, of Shipley and Mr John Beeson of Kingsfold place.

AN EXCELLENT RESULT

To The Editor West Sussex County Times.

Dear Sir,

We are pleased to announce that the Sale held in Horsham Market yesterday has realised up to the present a total of £320, the whole of which, without any deduction whatever, will be forwarded to the British Farmers Red Cross Fund.

We wish to thank all those who in any way contributed to the success of the effort, especially the Rev E D L Harvey JP, for kindly selling the first lot with such excellent financial results; Mr A C Holland (the Hon Sec.), Mr H Casswell, Mr E Prewett, Mr J H Sayers, Mr Blundy and Mr Hooper.

Yours faithfully,
T Bannister & Co.

Market Place,
Haywards Heath