

Recreation for Recruits



THE SCHEME IN WILTS AND DORSET

A largely-attended meeting was held at Salisbury on Wednesday under the presidency of the Bishop (Dr. F.E. Ridgeway) to promote the erection of tents or buildings of a more permanent character where required in camps situated in the counties of Wilts and Dorset. Among those present were Lord Methuen, Lieutenant-General Pitcairn Campbell, Commander-in-Chief, Southern Command, General Altham, and representatives of British and Colonial troops.

The diocesan board for the welfare of soldiers has placed its reserve funds of about £1,000 at the disposal of the committees engaged in the work. An appeal had been issued by the Bishop, to which £800 has already been given, and a grant of £500 has been made by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Institutes Association. Tents are being provided as rapidly as possible; one of these is the gift of Lord Lansdowne who with Lord Methuen is warmly promoting the scheme in Wiltshire, where the larger number of troops are encamped. Similar support will, it is hoped be forthcoming in Dorset, but large sums will be required in addition to these amounts.

The need is great and urgent. The number of troops is about 175,000 and will be increased. Camps are situated in Wiltshire at Codford, Sherrington, Boyton, Corton, Bulford, Perham Down, West Down, and the Bustard, Park House, Tidworth Park, Tidworth Pennings and Chisledon, and others are in course of construction; in Dorset at Wool, Wareham, Weymouth, Swanage, and Lulworth, and provision is being made at Blandford.

In many instance the units are drawn from certain towns or districts, and it is suggested that such areas might be glad to provide for their own men. The cost of a wooden building of sufficient size is from £400 to £500. Contributions may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Major Fisher, Bemerton, Salisbury, or to the Bishop of Salisbury, the Palace.

(*The Times*, Saturday 31st October, 1914)
