

35. Week 31 of the Great War and a routine week in Neston

The British were finally planning to launch an offensive on the Western Front in France any day now.

Monday had been a busy day with a big confirmation service in the afternoon with the Bishop performing the rite for one hundred and forty confirmees from Neston and adjoining parishes.

In the Methodist Church on that same evening, the annual tea was held and a large audience was entertained by an illustrated talk on 'The Land of the Pharaohs' which compared the doctrine of the current Germany with that of a Pharaoh of 3,500 years ago, the lecturer having studied Nietzsche for 15 years. The evening was enlivened somewhat by limelight views of the Pyramids, sculptures and mummies.

On the same night the Institute billiard team, having lost several of its members to the Forces, played its last match of the season, against Thornton Hough, the whole of the Neston team being defeated. Its members included Messrs Clarke, Webster, J. Cottrell, W. Meador, F. Hough and L. Birch.

Yet another entertainment was provided by a Sunday-school on Wednesday night, this time at Christ Church, the small Baptist mission chapel at the colliery (south of the Harp, where some houses now stand on seaward side of the track). The aim was to stimulate an interest in missionary work, and about forty children were dressed in various national costumes to give recitations, poems and songs. Various members of colliery families took part, including several Hares being cousins from two families, and Leightons. The organiser was Rev. Price, who in later years was responsible for building the Baptist chapel on Bushell Road.

Nominations had closed for the District Council elections, and in fact there were no challenges to the retiring members who were standing again: for Neston ward Joseph Pemberton (underwriter, of Hinderton Mount on the High Road, with several serving sons, wife busy in local Red Cross activities) and Henry Francis Russell, (civil engineer, of Vine House, designed several local buildings including the library), Robert Scott for Little Neston (farmer of Ivy Farm) and William Allen for Leighton and Parkgate (farmer of Leighton Hall Farm).

Those who were wanting some novel entertainment for a change from earnest, talented Neston youngsters might have managed a trip to

Chester's Royalty Theatre (near to the station) to see 'Have a Plunge', an aquatic review with a series of living tableaux involving 20,000 gallons of water and thirty-five artistes. Two Charlie Chaplin films in the city next week.... one could see the 7pm performance and get the train back to Neston at 10.30....

This article covers roughly 3rd - 10th March, 1915.