

For

DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS,

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The Times

Printing House Square, E.C.4

Cutting from issue dated.....

1926

A NATIONAL FUND.

"THE TIMES" AND THE POLICE FORCES.

REMARKABLE RESPONSE.

A National Police Fund has been started by *The Times* to recognize, by some fitting method yet to be decided, the services of the Police Forces to the country during the general strike. The response has been so immediate and ungrudging that in six days (including a Saturday and Sunday) the total reached £76,340.

As soon as possible after the calling-off of the strike, a leading article in *The Times* announced the opening of the Fund. "It will be universally acknowledged," said this article after a reference to the magnificent spirit in which the members of the Civil force had carried out their duties, "that the people of this country are deeply in their debt. The quiet fearlessness, the unflinching good humour and patience, the tact and judgment which they have shown throughout the general strike have been beyond all praise. In dealing with numberless difficult situations, any one of which might easily have led to serious disturbances, they have used the powers with which they are invested by the law solely for the preservation of the peace. They have acted as the protectors of the whole people. Through all the troubles and rumours and grave anxieties of these critical days the people themselves, including the vast majority of the strikers, have risen to the occasion in a way worthy of the best traditions of the race. They have acquitted themselves like men. The King, in his message, proudly reminds his subjects how steady and how orderly the country, though severely tested, has remained. But without the example and influence of the police force the task of carrying on the everyday life of the country by improvised methods and services would have been infinitely more difficult. The invaluable services which they have rendered to the nation call for national recognition. That, undoubtedly, is the feeling throughout the country, and it is in order to give practical expression to this feeling that we ask the people of this country to subscribe to the National Police Fund, which the proprietors of *The Times* open to-day with a contribution of £500."

The rapid progress of the Fund may be seen by a glance at the following figures:—

| | | |
|--------|---------|--------|
| May 13 | | £500 |
| May 14 | | 10,421 |
| May 15 | | 38,070 |
| May 17 | | 55,113 |
| May 18 | | 76,340 |

One of the earliest contributors was the Home Secretary, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, who, in sending a cheque for £100, wrote:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I was delighted to read your leading article this morning containing an appeal for a "National Police Fund, as a grateful recognition of the magnificent spirit in which the members of the civil force have carried out their duties during the recent crisis," and I should be glad if you would allow me to contribute the enclosed cheque.

May I, as the Minister responsible for the police throughout the country, take this early opportunity of expressing through your columns the deep indebtedness of the Government, and the country as a whole, to this magnificent service?

I have, of course, been in close personal touch not only with the Metropolitan Police, but also, by letter, telegraph, and telephone, with the County, City, and Borough Police throughout the land. Overworked, abused, and at times assaulted as they were in many places, I have never heard one single complaint throughout the crisis, and it is a wonderful testimony to their skill and forbearance that in no single instance have they needed to call upon the military to assist in dealing with any outbreak of disorder.

It is true, and we gratefully acknowledge it, that the Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force have all rendered incalculable service to the country, but our gratitude is all the deeper because these Services, as well as the police, have carried out their difficult and responsible duties, throughout ten days of a gigantic social upheaval, without the firing of a single shot. I doubt if in any other country could this have been the case.

I trust that your appeal will have the success that it deserves in providing a permanent recognition of the services of the police, who, though employed under different authorities, have one and all on their enrolment made a declaration of service to his Majesty the King.

Yours very truly,

W. JOYNSON-HICKS.

Home Office, May 13, 1926.

The handsome contributions from the City of London include £5,000 sent jointly by the Oil Company and the British

constables. "Some Hampstead Specials" write that the appreciation they felt for the police before this emergency was enhanced during the ten days that brought them into closer contact with the Force. "As a special constable of more than a week's standing," a Hampstead resident sends his tributary cheque; while another, at Dorking, refers to "duty magnificently carried out."

"A Camden Lorry Driver" hastens to recognize the services rendered by the police in affording protection to himself and his fellow-lorry drivers at Camden goods yard during the strike. Mr. Charles Manners and Madame Fanny Moody-Manners sign a joint letter in which they "defy the world to show a body of men like our police, who will so courteously see to the safety of an old woman or a baby crossing the street, and can also scatter a party of hooligans (ten to one) in a few minutes." The policeman, they add, is indeed the modern Paladin.

Anonymous and pseudonymous contributions to the Fund are numerous. Many of them are women. It was, however, a man who on Saturday morning called at the office of *The Times* and left 200 new £1 Treasury notes with a sheet of paper on which were written the words, "From two anonymous persons." Half-a-crown is given as "a small appreciation from an alien," and a similar amount comes "From one who is proud to belong to a country which can produce such fine men, and with great gratitude for the protection given."

Two New York women, whose letter is dated from a London hotel, and who say they "have spent some six happy weeks in this wonderful London," enclose ten dollars as a slight expression of their sincere gratitude to the London Police Forces for their unflinching courtesy and genial helpfulness. The letter continues:—

The display of the great qualities of the British people brought out so splendidly by the recent serious crisis has only increased the respect and admiration we have always felt for the nation.

With this tribute may go another equally welcome. It comes, accompanied by £2, from a woman visitor from Montreal, who, "having been in London during the strike, has more than ever felt proud to be British, and has greatly admired the Metropolitan Police Force."

A lieutenant-commander of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve accompanies a cheque for 50 guineas with the remark that, as one who was privileged to serve afloat with the River Police, he can from personal experience confirm the general opinion of the wonderful work done by the Metropolitan Police during the strike. "London," he adds, "is indeed fortunate to have such a magnificent body of men to safeguard our city in times of national stress and turmoil."

All contributions should be sent to Barclays Bank Limited, Gosling's Branch, 19, Fleet-street, E.C.4, who are the bankers to the Fund; or to the head office or any branch of Barclays Bank Limited; Lloyds Bank Limited; Midland Bank Limited; National Provincial Bank Limited; Westminster Bank Limited; and Messrs. Coutts and Co.; who have kindly consented to receive donations. Acknowledgment of all sums received will be made in the columns of *The Times* as soon as possible.

Home Office, May 13, 1926.