

# HEAVY WOOLLEN CRICKET LEAGUE.

## PRESENTATION OF THE CUP TO SPEN.

On Saturday last, the Yorkshire Council match which should have taken place at Spen between the home team and Halifax had to be abandoned on account of the rain, but occasion was taken to present to Spen the cup which they have won this season as champions of the Heavy Woollen District League.

In the absence of Mr. Louis Hall, the presentation was kindly made by Mr. F. W. H. Auty, captain of the Batley team, and he had a very hearty reception. He was pleased, he said, to have the pleasant duty of handing over to the Spen captain the handsome League cup, and he was only sorry that the team did not win the challenge cup. He was sure that after the way the team had played together during the season they had deserved both the cups. Personally, he always liked to play against the Spen team, because they played the game in the proper spirit. Mr. Auty then touched upon the troublous time through which we are passing, and intimated that he was pleased to say that his brother (Mr. Joe Auty) had joined Lord Kitchener's Army (applause). He congratulated Mr. Halmshaw, the Spen captain, upon their having some trophy to shew after their fine season's play (applause).

Mr. Halmshaw said he was very pleased indeed to receive the cup, and that he thought he might safely say that on their play during the season there was no doubt the cup had come to the proper quarters (applause). He was sorry that they did not manage to win the Heavy Woollen Cup, and but for one or two slips, which were all in the game, they might even have won the Yorkshire Council Championship and thus created a record. The bowlers of the Spen club had already lost two cups, but they had still a chance of a third, and he hoped they would manage to win it (hear, hear). He thanked Mr. Auty for the way in which he had spoken of the team of which he was captain (applause).

Mr. A. Fawcett proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Auty, and this was seconded by Mr. C. Harris, supported by Mr. Dennefley, and suitably acknowledged by Mr. Auty.



# The Guardian.

TELEPHONE, 19, CLECKHEATON.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th, 1914.

## THE CALL TO ARMS.

### TO THE YOUNG MEN OF SPEN VALLEY.

WE want to say a serious word to-day to the young unmarried men of Spen Valley about enlistment in the Army or the Territorial Force, and to young and able-bodied men generally on the duty of coming forward in much larger numbers for preliminary training in some form, so that they may be in a degree prepared for the work of national defence if their services should be required. It is no use mincing words about it—the young men of this district, and those of many other districts, are not coming forward with anything like the readiness they should at such a time; and we don't want it to be said—as it will, be said by and by, unless there is a change—that the young manhood of the Spen Valley is more concerned for its own ease and safety than for the honour and safety of the country in a time of closely impending peril.

For the moment we prefer to believe that more young men of the district have not come forward because the urgency of the call is not generally realised. It is true that Lord KIRCHENER has practically got the 100,000 men asked for in the first instance. But that was only an urgent first call, made with the distinct understanding that five or six times as many would be required within six months. And since then it has been pointed out in high quarters that even far more than these will in all probability be needed to feed the inevitable wastage of our armies in the field throughout a campaign that nobody now expects to be short. This needs to be much more vividly realised in our midst. It also needs to be realised that if enough men do not come forward voluntarily, and that soon, the authority of the State must necessarily be used in some form to obtain them involuntarily, and that unless far more have willingly responded to the call than at present it will be an indelible blot upon the fame and character of English manhood.

What are the facts as regards our own district? The population of the Spen Valley Parliamentary Division is roughly 50,000. The proportion of the population between the ages of 20 and 30 is approximately one-fourth of the whole, which would be roughly 12,500. Assume that a little over half the number are females, and we get a net figure of 5,000 as the number of men between the ages of 20 and 30. Assume again that one-third of these are married, and we arrive at a net figure of 4,000 unmarried young men in the Spen Valley Division, the great bulk of whom may be assumed to be immediately eligible for service under existing official regulations. And how many of these have come forward for service, or with the offer of service should such help be required? Barely a dozen in the hundred! The Cleckheaton Company of Territorial Infantry numbers about 180, and the Heckmondwike Battery of Territorial Artillery about 150; the Burnthorpe United Volunteers may be taken at about 120; and the total number included under one title or another in the Territorial Force is only about 450.