

ABSTRACT of THESIS for Ph.D. Degree.

TITLE OF THESIS: A Social Survey of the East Kent Coalfield.

The thesis consists of an introduction and three parts. The introduction states the scope and purpose of the survey. Its aim is to discover and set out the salient features in the social life of the mining population in East Kent, and thereby to bring to light social problems with which Kentish people are at present faced or which they are likely to have to solve in the future. Part I is intended to present a systematic study of existing conditions. It includes a statistical analysis of certain verifiable facts of social life in East Kent and deals with them under the following headings :-

- (1) The Extent of the Coalfield.
- (2) Population.
- (3) Housing and Town Planning.
- (4) Employment, Output and Earnings.
- (5) Some Public Social Services -
 - (a) For the Welfare of the Mother and Pre-School Child;
 - (b) For the Welfare of the School Child and Adolescent.
- (6) Education,
- (7) Provision for the Sick, the Infirm, the



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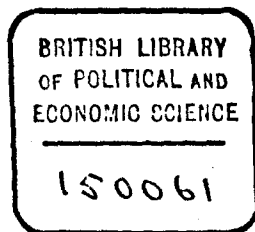
Aged, and Others in Need.

(8) Some Voluntary Social Services.

Part II aims at portraying a picture of local impressions of the new mining estates in East Kent. It is ^{based} partly upon personal observation; partly upon the spoken and written views of responsible persons living among the mining population, and of the miners themselves. The statements made are quite unverifiable but are intended to provide local colour necessarily wanting in the analytical account given in Part I.

It embodies a mass of 'floating opinion' with which the observer of social conditions in the coalfield area is confronted. This 'floating opinion' does not present in any way the views of the writer. These are given in Part III which states and criticises the main problems which the survey appears to have revealed, and attempts to suggest possible solutions.

A SOCIAL SURVEY OF THE
EAST KENT COALFIELD.



Thesis submitted for the Ph. D.(Econ.) Degree
in Sociology by Violet L. Hughes.

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NOTE TO EXAMINERS.

The candidate suggests that the passages marked [] should be omitted if the thesis is published. She is of opinion that while they may be regarded as valuable facts or expressions of opinion which have material bearing on the conclusions arrived at in Part III of the survey, they are unsuited to publication. These passages occur on the following pages:-

80, 82, 89 to end of chapter V, 184, 185, 187, 188, 189, 190, 193, 194, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 208, 209.

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Tilmanstone Colliery showing Rope Railway.

INTRODUCTION

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CHAPTER I.

The Scope and Purpose of the Survey.

This survey is an attempt to discover and set out the salient features in the social life of the mining population which in recent years has come to live in the region of the East Kent Coalfield, and which is thereby creating new social problems, some of which have never before entered into the lives of Kentish people. The Survey is divided into three parts. Part I is intended to be a brief, systematic and critical account of certain social conditions, phenomena and movements which have bearing upon the communal life of the East Kent mines. Part II aims at portraying a picture of that life so that its meaning and significance for the several thousand miners and their families who live in East Kent may be the better understood. Part III attempts to state, to discuss and where possible suggest solutions to the chief of those social problems which it is hoped the survey will bring to light.

Social life is dynamic; its varying aspects are for ever changing in form and in significance. A social survey is a verbal description and an analysis of the social life of a particular community. It is based upon a first hand

study of existing conditions. Facts about social life are collected and used as the raw material out of which the survey is made. Such a survey has been described as a statistical photograph of a community. The photograph may be a snapshot or a time exposure, i.e. an account of existing conditions on a particular day or in a particular year; or it may be a cinematograph film, i.e. a historical study of social conditions affecting the area leading up to a view of contemporary life.

This survey may perhaps be best regarded as a compromise between these two possible methods of studying and gaining insight into the life of a community. It is the outcome of an investigation of the area during a period of between four and five years ending with the beginning of the year 1934. It is not intended to be an historical study of the growth of a new industrial area from the time of the first working of coal in Kent to the present day. Nor is it a statistical photograph of existing conditions in a particular year. Rather its purpose is to provide a picture of the mining population of East Kent which illustrates their social life in its varying aspects. The subject matter of the picture is derived partly from a personal study of local conditions and local opinions and points of view which have been gained through contact with local residents of varying types and by observation of the geographical and social environment. Most of these opinions

and points of view were obtained and the greater part of the observation was made during the years 1930-1933. For certain statistical purposes however the study extends over a rather longer period, i.e. from 1928 to early in 1934, or from 1921 to 1931.

A personal study of this nature is to a large extent dependent upon the individual choice of subject matter made by the investigator, and upon its interpretation in his mind. Unless proper precaution is taken the picture is likely to be unduly coloured by his own standpoint. It may therefore have little value as an accurate account of actual conditions. Hence the personal study needs to be supplemented by what may be called an " impersonal study " consisting of the collection and analysis of a number of verifiable facts gathered from official and other records and arranged according to a definite plan which attempts to cover the main aspects of social life. Part I of this survey comprises the impersonal study. It is introductory to and helps to form the basis of Part II which is the personal study. Thus of the two sources of information which supply the foundations of the survey, one consists of a statement and analysis of certain facts and events the accuracy of which can be ascertained from official publications and other written records relating mainly to the period 1928-1932; the other is derived from a number of conversations, impressions and personal observations, written down in the

form of notes made at the time of their occurrence, but quite incapable of any kind of scientific verification. Both are treated as essential factors in the making of the survey.

The purpose of a social survey goes beyond the attempt to present a picture of the life of a community although this must always form a fundamental part of it. To achieve its full purpose the survey should bring to light those social problems which are being tackled by the community at the time when the survey is made, and should indicate probable future problems, the existence of some of which may be only faintly if at all recognised by the contemporary members of the community. It may be useful sometimes to regard any social problem as a happening extending over a period of time. At one particular moment of the period the problem may be said to have its roots in the past and its ultimate solution in the future. A clear statement of an existing social problem must therefore include some reference to the past and to the future, a history of past events and an attempted forecast of future developments. Some of the problems which emerge from the study of the coalfield area are briefly referred to in their own context in Parts I and II, at the point where they appear to come to light. They and other problems which are recognised when the survey as a whole is reviewed, are discussed fully in Part III.

During the short period while the survey was being made the mining community in East Kent was still in its infancy; its communal life was still largely unformed and inarticulate. It was a growing, only partially established and rapidly changing community. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say it was a group of communities made up of an alien and heterogeneous population, thrust into the midst of an old-established, conservative community of opposed culture, ideals and mode of life. It had reached only an early stage in the process of adaptation to its environment. The changes which were taking place, rapid as some of them were, e.g. the increase in the number of miners employed in Kent between the years 1928 and 1932, were undoubtedly affected by the general economic depression which enveloped the whole country during the period under consideration.

The advance of this newly developing industrial area would in all probability have been far more rapid and social organizations would have provided public amenities in closer keeping with the needs of the growing population had the period been one of only normal prosperity. The Kent coal-field was exploited at an early stage of its existence during an abnormally bad period in the economic history of this country and social life here as elsewhere was bound to be adversely affected.

A decline in output in the coal mining industry set

in at the beginning of the period of the Great War. In the years immediately succeeding the War the annual reduction of output was marked and was accentuated in 1921 by a serious trade stoppage. This was followed by a revival of the industry which reached its high water mark in 1925, after which year decline in output again occurred and culminated in the still more serious trade stoppage of 1926. The shortage of coal that resulted gave some stimulus to output in 1927, but the amount fell again in 1928. In 1929, a temporary revival occurred but decline again set in in 1930. In no year since the beginning of the war did the annual output reach the figures of 1913. The extent to which this post-war decline was of a permanent nature is beyond the scope of this survey, but the general conditions prevailing in the industry as a whole during the period preceding the one to which the survey applies is a factor which must be taken into account in estimating the significance of the progress made in coalmining in Kent 1928-1932.

One other point remains to be made clear at the onset. The ultimate aim of this survey is to extricate and to discuss social problems which affect the lives of the mining population of Kent. In discovering these problems and estimating their significance it is necessary to obtain a background of knowledge of the circumstances under which the people live. The survey attempts to do this in a general

way. But it is in no way claimed that an exhaustive investigation has been made of all the institutions and organisations existing in East Kent. It is not intended to be a register or local directory of all social services, organisations and amenities, large and small. It is rather a review and evaluation of what appear to be the chief of the many varying influences that are playing their part in moulding the social life of the mining communities in East Kent. The reader should bear in mind that, since East Kent was one of the latest coalfields to be developed, there is available for those individuals, public bodies and other organisations whose function is to play a conscious part in the shaping of its future social life, a vast amount of accumulated knowledge and experience which can be and is being deliberately utilised to enable East Kent as a future industrial area to escape from many of the difficulties and social evils with which the other coalfields have had to contend.

P A R T I.CHAPTER II.The Extent of the Coalfield.

The East Kent coalfield has no clearly defined natural boundaries. Its extent is still uncertain; the amount of workable coal is still a matter of indefinite conjecture. It has been estimated* that the coalfield covers an area of at least one hundred square miles. It may extend over twice as large an area. Only a small part of it had been developed when this survey was made. At that time i.e. 1928-1934 coal was being mined for commercial purposes at four collieries in East Kent, viz: Ghislet, Tilmanstone, Snowdown and Betteshanger. The geographical positions of these are shown in the map of East Kent on page 104

Knowledge of the existence of coal in Kent dates back no earlier than the latter half of the 19th. century. In 1855 R. Goodwin-Austen suggested in a paper** read before the Geological Society that the Pas de Calais Coalfield probably extended beneath the English Channel to South East England. This view was later upheld by Prestwick and Boyd-Bawkins

* The South Eastern Coalfield; an Introduction to the Study of its Geology by Malcolm Burr. Published by Kent Coal Concessions Ltd.,

** "On the Possible Extension of Coal measures beneath South East England", by R. Godwin-Austen.

who proved the existence of coal measures in that area by a process of theoretical reasoning. The Report of the East Kent Natural History Society, 1860-1861 contains the following quotation :

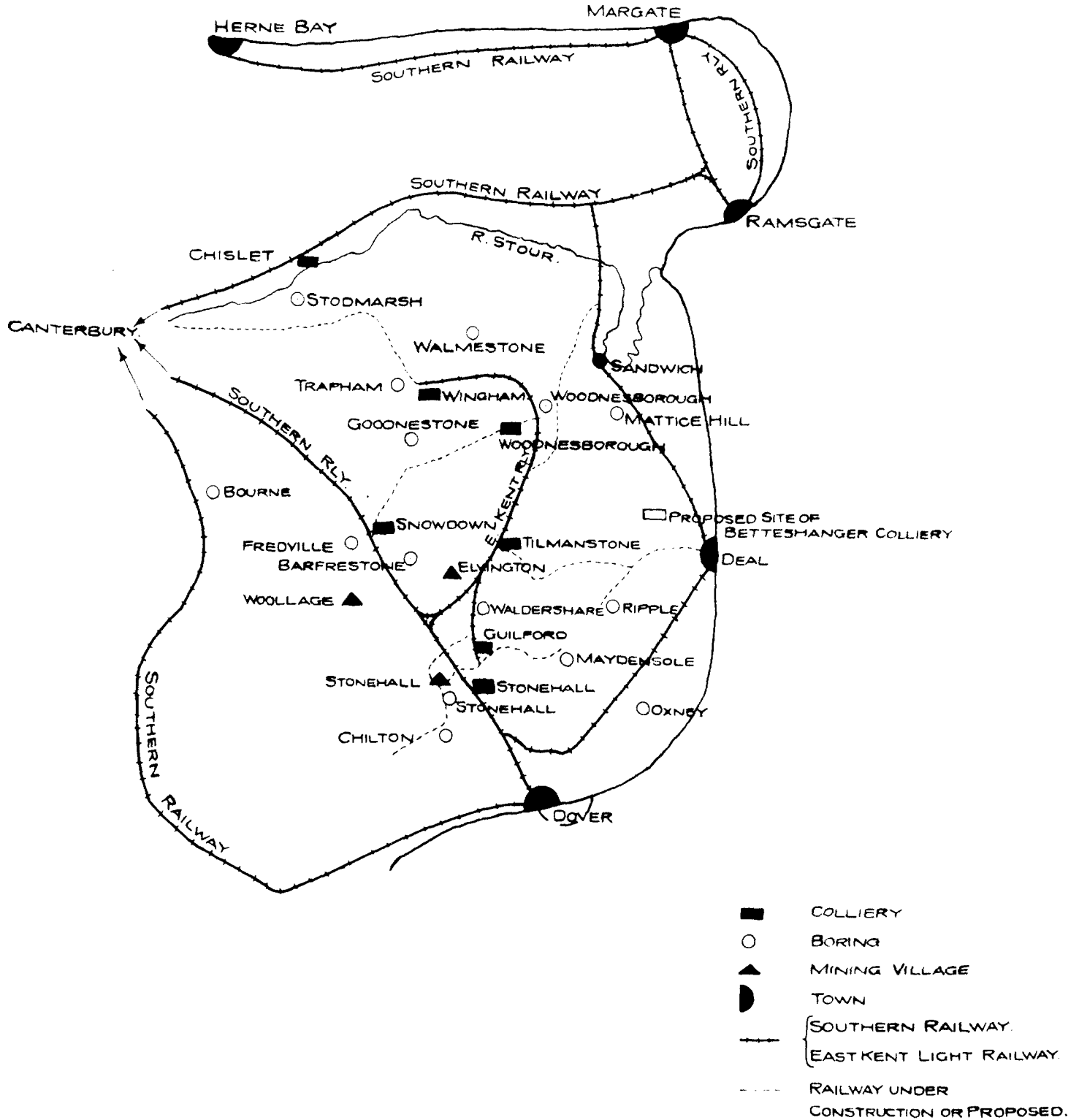
"A sub-committee of the Society has been formed to investigate the remarkable specimen of coal or lignite found in the chalk at Lydden, near Dover."

Nothing of practical value seems, however to have been done for some years. In 1872 the British Association ~~was~~ discussed the sinking of a bore hole near Battle, Sussex. A boring was made to a depth of 1,205 feet but it revealed no evidence of coal. Then in 1890 Sir Edward Watkin, Chairman of the South-Eastern Railway, acting on the advice of Boyd-Dawkins, made use of some plant which had been intended for the proposed Channel Tunnel, to bore for coal below Shakespeare Cliff, Dover. This time the effort proved successful. Coal was discovered and a pit was sunk. The mine however has not yet been worked on a commercial basis, the largest amount of coal produced from it being twelve ten-ton wagon loads despatched for testing in 1912. In course of time other pits were sunk at Tilmanstone, Guilford, Stonehall, Wingham, Chislet, Snowdown, Betteshanger and Woodnesborough, but, as already mentioned, only four of these were producing coal during the period when the survey was made. The sketch-map of East Kent on page 9a taken from "The Kent Coalfield" by Ritchie, published in 1919, shows the position of these

EAST KENT SHOWING COLLIERIES AND MINING

7a

ESTATES IN 1919.



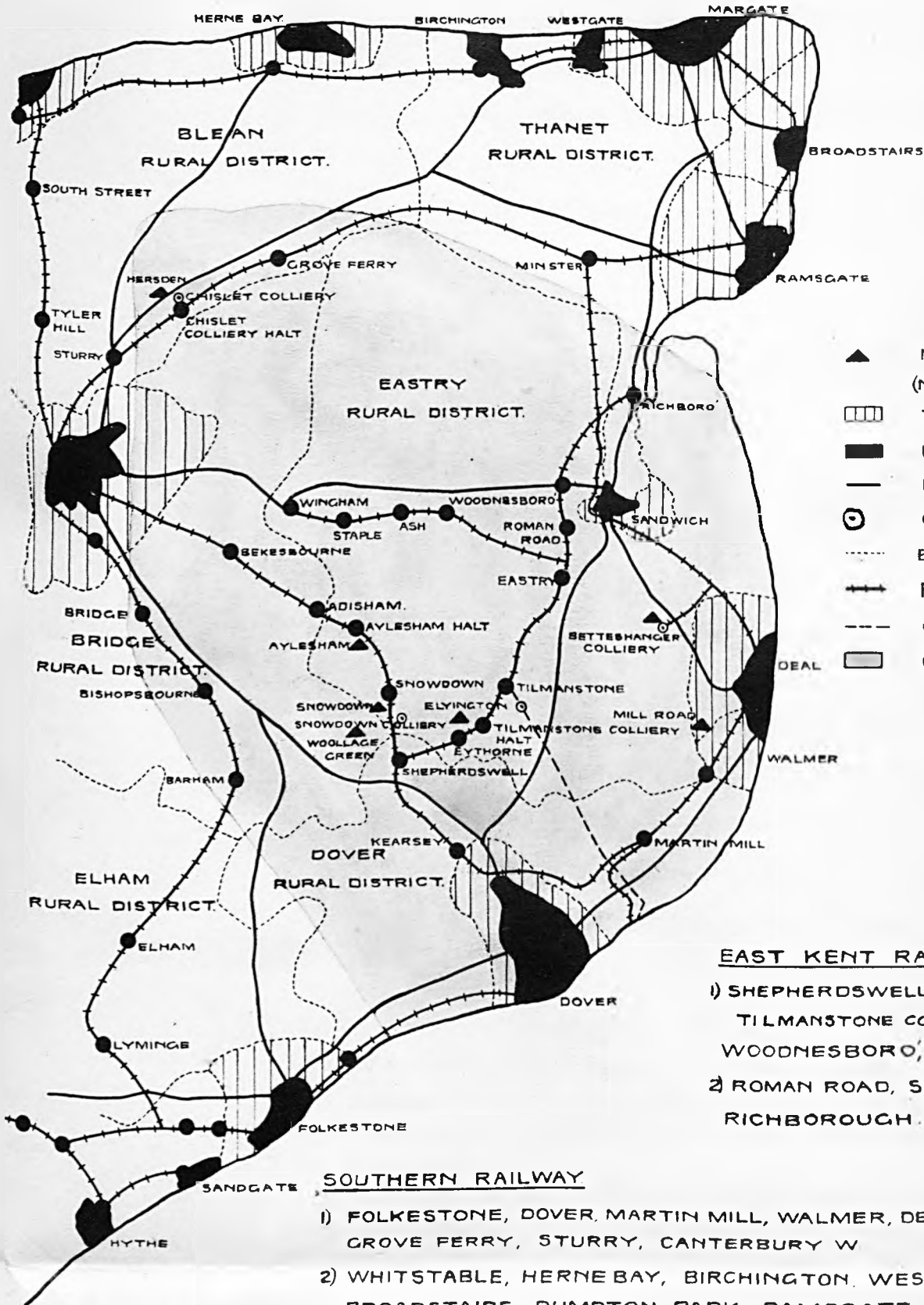
FROM KENT COALFIELD BY RITCHIE
1919.

mines and also the borings which had been sunk up to that date. In the "East Kent Regional Planning Scheme Preliminary Survey" prepared by Abercrombie and Archibald for the Joint Town Planning Committee, a committee of Local Authorities in East Kent formed in 1923, a list of the borings for coal made prior to 1925 is given. The Survey states that borings made at the following places, have revealed workable coal :- Shakespeare Cliff, Roperacle, Waldershare, Fredville, Goodnestone, Barreston, Woodnesborough, Walmstone, Mattice Hill, Oxney, Trapham, Maydensole, Stedmarsh, Ebbsfleet, Ripple, Stonehall, Chilton, Rydden Valley, Chislelet, Chitty, Rushbourne, Betteshanger, Heades, Ash, Bere, Cliff, Farthinghoe and Adisham. In addition the existence of rich iron stone beds in close proximity to the coalfield has been proved. Iron-stone has been found in borings, at Elham, Folkestone, Standen, Cliff and Farthinghoe. So far no attempts has been made to produce iron, but it is anticipated that at some future date an important iron industry may be developed in East Kent.

As will be seen from the map of East Kent given on page 9a the collieries, at Chislelet, Tilmanstone, Snowdown and Betteshanger are situated in the rural part of Kent which lies East of Canterbury in the Rural District of Blean and Eastry. The mining population lives partly on the new mining estates, Aylesham, Snowdown, Weollège Green, Elvington, Hersden, Betteshanger Colliery and Mill Road;

EAST KENT COALFIELD FROM ABERCROMBIE'S SURVEY.

PRELIMINARY REPORT 1925.



EAST KENT RAILWAY

- 1) SHEPHERDSWELL, EYTHORNE
TILMANSTONE COLLIERY, TILMANSTONE, EASTRY
WOODNESBORO, ASH, STAPLE, WINGHAM.
- 2) ROMAN ROAD, SANDWICH (1 MILE),
RICHBOROUGH.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

- 1) FOLKESTONE, DOVER, MARTIN MILL, WALMER, DEAL, SANDWICH, MINSTER,
GROVE FERRY, STURRY, CANTERBURY W.
- 2) WHITSTABLE, HERNE BAY, BIRCHINGTON, WESTGATE, MARGATE,
BROADSTAIRS, DUMPTON PARK, RAMSGATE.
- 3) CANTERBURY S, BRIDGE, BISHOPSBOURNE, BARHAM, ELHAM,
LYMINGE.
- 4) CANTERBURY E, BEKESBOURNE, ADISHAM, AYLESHAM, SNOWDOWN,
SHEPHERDSWELL, KEARSEY.
- 5) CANTERBURY, TYLER HILL, SOUTH STREET, WHITSTABLE.

partly in the neighbouring towns of Canterbury, Sandwich, Deal, Walmer, Dover and Ramsgate; partly in old villages near the collieries, e.g. Eythorne, Fredville, Womenewold, Sturry, Upstreet, Nonington, Northbourne, Finglesham. The local government areas in which these towns and villages lie are :-

1. County Borough of Canterbury.
2. Borough of Deal.
3. Borough of Dover.
4. Borough of Ramsgate.
5. Borough of Sandwich.
6. Urban District of Walmer.
7. Rural District of Elean.
8. Rural District of Bridge.
9. Rural District of Dover.
10. Rural District of Easry.

For most statistical purposes it has been found convenient in this survey to regard the extent of the East Kent Coalfield area as identical with the above-named local Government areas. Many of the official statistics used in the survey apply to these areas, which together form a convenient unit for investigation. Moreover when the coalfield has reached a fuller stage of development the whole of this area will necessarily be affected directly by the new industrial population growing up within it. On the other hand it must be remembered that at the present time the great

majority of workers in the area pursue occupations other than mining. The greater part of the area is essentially rural, most of its inhabitants following agricultural pursuits. It also includes the sea-side resorts of Ramsgate, Deal and Walmer, the commercial port and sea-side resort of Dover, the ancient borough of Sandwich, and on the Eastern outskirts the still more ancient and historic City of Canterbury, which it has been suggested* may ultimately become the cultural and educational centre for the coalfield. In 1932 rather less than .3 of the total population of this area was engaged in mining.

The map on page 10^a shows a shaded area which is described in Abercrombie and Archibald's Preliminary Survey as the coal field region. It covers only a part of the above defined group of local government areas. It includes the whole of the Boroughs of Dover, Deal and Sandwich, the Urban District of Walmer, and the Rural District of Eastry, the greater part of Dover Rural District, about half of Bridge Rural District, a small part of Blean Rural District and the Eastern outskirts of Canterbury County Borough also lie within the area. In certain respects the boundary of this smaller area may be regarded as a more suitable one to define the limits within which the future industrial development of East Kent is likely to take place than the administrative boundaries of the local government areas, enumerated

* East Kent Regional Planning Scheme Preliminary Survey, 1925 by Abercrombie and Archibald.

above. It is not anticipated that any collieries will be worked outside this smaller area. In defining the boundary of the coalfield Abercrombie was concerned with a regional and town planning scheme, and needed therefore to take into account mainly geological, geographical and other natural features. In the practical work of making a social survey the determination of the extent of the area to be surveyed must mainly be dependant upon existing administrative boundaries. It is very difficult to attempt to obtain a large variety of statistics relating to social life, e.g., birth rates or population figures, for areas other than administrative ones. Such statistics for boroughs, rural districts, parishes, etc., are officially made and published. The time spent upon obtaining data for these statistics for other areas would not be justified by the result except for special purposes, even if it were not in many instances, actually impracticable. Further, reference to the map on page 10a will also show that Ramsgate Borough and the greater part of the Canterbury County Borough lie outside the coalfield area of the Preliminary Survey. It is desirable that the whole of both these towns should be included in a social survey of the coalfield area since some miner's families, resided in them when the Survey was made and they were among the centres to which mining families living on the new estates resorted for pleasure and many business purposes.

It will be found therefore that many of the tables,

given in Part II of this survey relate to the larger area determined by administrative boundaries. Most of these tables are intended to indicate local conditions which affect or are likely to affect in the future the social life in East Kent, e.g. the birth rate in Eastry Rural District; or social services, provided in the locality, e.g. Kent County Council, maternity and child welfare centres. Such phenomena, conditions and services, form the background of the social life of the mining population which participates in the services, and plays a part in creating the conditions.

To work out a detailed investigation of the social life of the whole of the mining population in East Kent would involve a much greater amount of labour than it has been possible to put into the present survey. Although only four collieries were being worked and an average of 6582 workers employed in 1932, the latest year for which figures were available, the mining families when the survey was completed were scattered over a fairly wide area. It was estimated in 1930* that some six or seven thousand persons belonging to mining families were living outside the new mining estates. It is impossible to estimate these numbers very accurately, and in fact they have varied considerably during the period of investigation, i.e. 1929-1934. Three factors affecting them have been at work - (1) a marked increase over the

* Social Survey by Kent Community Council, 1930.

period in the number of miners employed in Kent; (2) an increase in housing accommodation on some of the new mining estates; (3) the migratory nature of some at least of the mining population. The extent to which the first two of these factors counteract each other cannot be stated with any exactitude. It is known however that in the case of each colliery many miners and their families were living in towns and old villages at varying distances from the pithead. Nevertheless, with the exception of a very small number of old villages of which Eythorne and Northbourne are the chief examples, the proportion of the mining population to the rest of the town or village population was so small that it proved neither practicable nor desirable for local authorities or other bodies to provide social amenities specifically for them. The presence of miners in their midst may be recognised and perhaps even in some cases resented by the native population. But on the whole the mining families appear to be comparatively easily absorbed in the social life of a heterogeneous population such as inhabits the towns of Dover and Ramsgate. The relative paucity of their numbers elsewhere gives them little opportunity of influencing to any great extent the organised social life of the indigenous population among whom they dwell.

It is however the purpose of this survey to present a more detailed picture of the social life of the inhabitants of the new mining estates which have been created to meet

the need of housing part of the immigrant population which is invading East Kent in response to mining developments. Below is set out the names of these estates, the colliery which each serves, the the number of occupied houses in each in February 1930. At that time fifty houses in Aylesham and thirty two in Mill Road were being built, and one hundred houses have been built since in Elvington. All these houses were occupied when the survey was completed. The Mill Road Estate is the only one on which there was any considerable development between 1930 and 1934. During this period it grew rapidly in size.

By January 1932 there were some three hundred and sixty two houses occupied and in the spring of 1934 building was still going on.

<u>Mining Estate.</u>	<u>New Mining Estates.</u>		<u>No. of Houses in February 1930.</u>
	<u>Local Government Area in which Estate is situated.</u>	<u>Colliery served served by Estate.</u>	
1. Aylesham.	Eastry Rural District.	Snowdown.	502.
2. Hernden.	Blean Rural District.	Chislet.	174.
3. Elvington.	Eastry Rural District.	Tilmanstone.	136.
4. Mill Road.	Deal Borough, South Ward.	Betteshanger.	100.
5. Betteshanger Colliery.	Eastry Rural District.	Betteshanger.	78.
6. Woollege Green (White City)	Bridge Rural District.	Snowdown.	60
7. Snowdown.	Eastry Rural District.	Snowdown.	50.

The geographical situation of the estates and of the collieries they served are shown on the map of East Kent on page 104. With the exception of Mill Road which lies on the outskirts of Deal and Upper Walmer in the Borough of Deal, each of these estates is situated in rural surroundings at a distance varying from four to SEVEN miles from the nearest town. Three of the largest estates, Aylesham, Hernden and Elvington are isolated communities largely cut off from active participation in the social life of their nearest towns, partly owing to distance, partly to the expenses of travelling. All these, in their own ways and to varying extents, are engaged upon the task of evolving a conscious community life of their own. From this point of view each of the three estates is discussed in some detail in Parts II and III of the survey. Snowdown Estate is little more than an adjunct of Aylesham, a group of houses inhabited by safety workers dwelling close to the pit head. Weollage Green, ~~known locally as White City,~~ is a similar group of houses built some distance away from the colliery in the parish of Womenswold, and to a certain extent sharing in the life of the old village. Betteshanger Colliery Village consists of a symmetrically arranged group of miners' houses adjoining the colliery. This estate differs from the others in the important respect that its inhabitants take an active part in the social life of the neighbouring old village of Northbourne. These estates also will be discussed in detail in Part III.

III

GARDEN = GARDENS, ALLOTMENTS, ORCHARDS, NURSERIES.

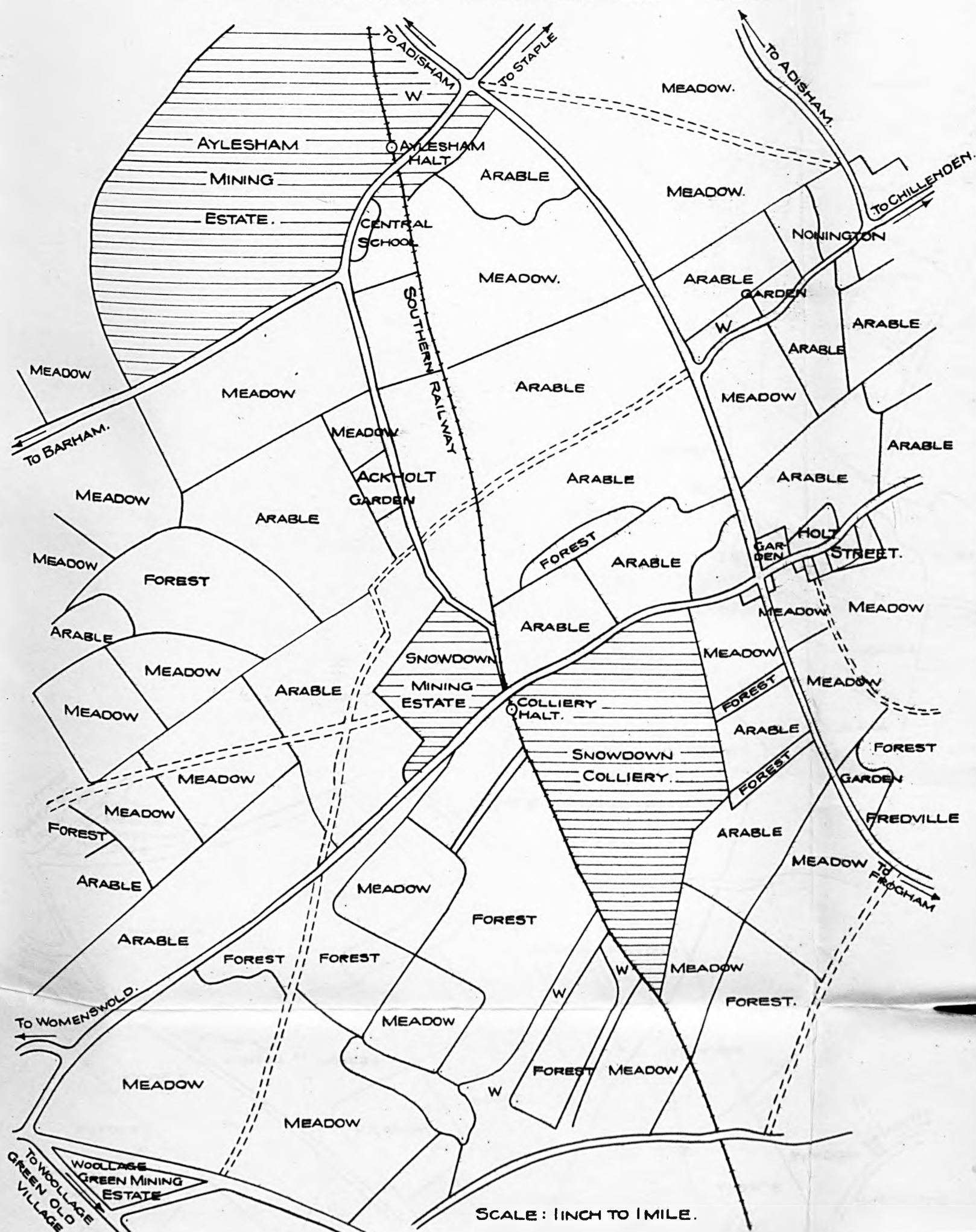
ARABLE = ARABLE OR TILLED LAND, FALLOW & ROTATION GRASS.

FOREST = FOREST, WOODLAND.

----- = FOOTPATH.

W = AGRICULTURALLY UNPRODUCTIVE.

==== = ROAD

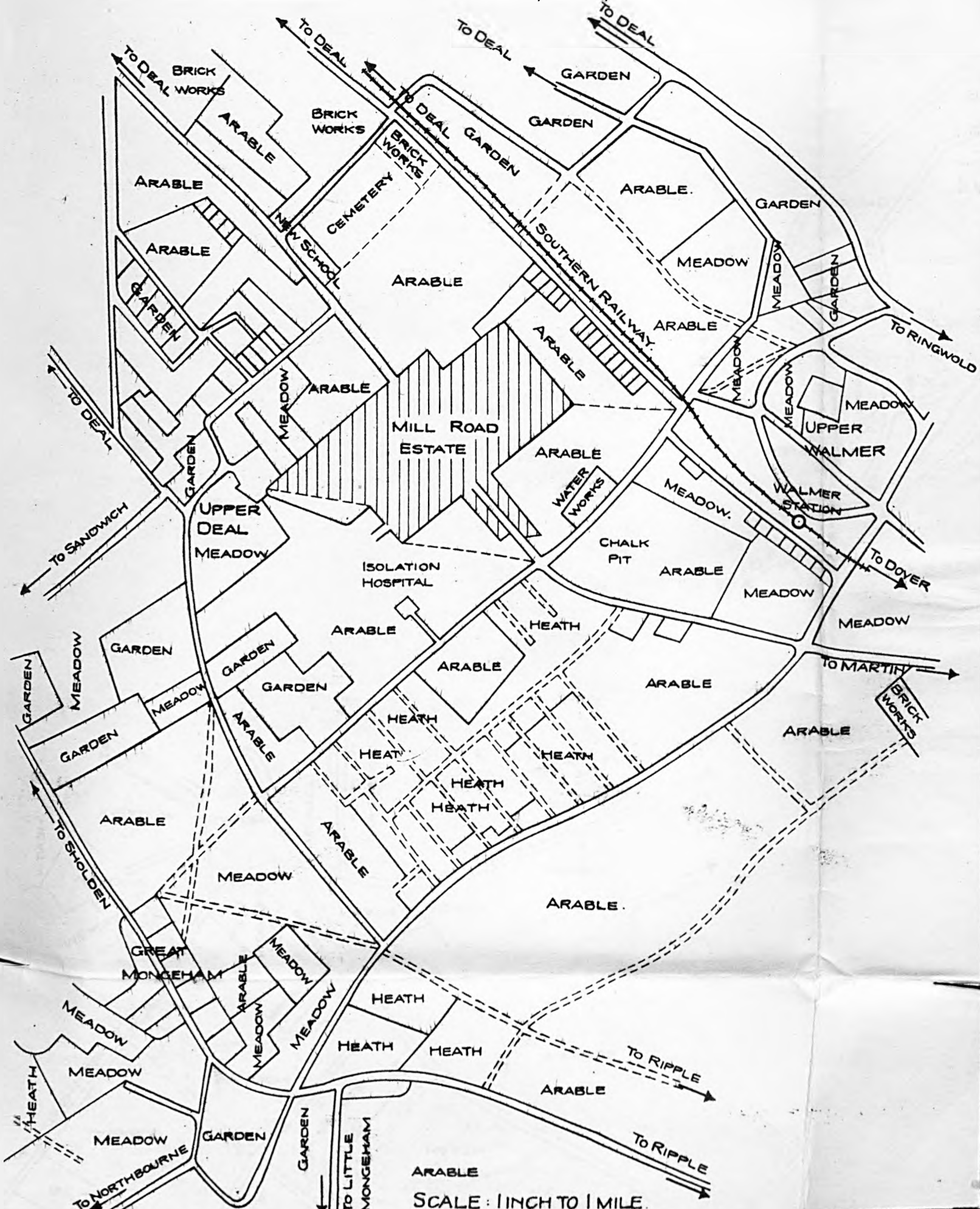


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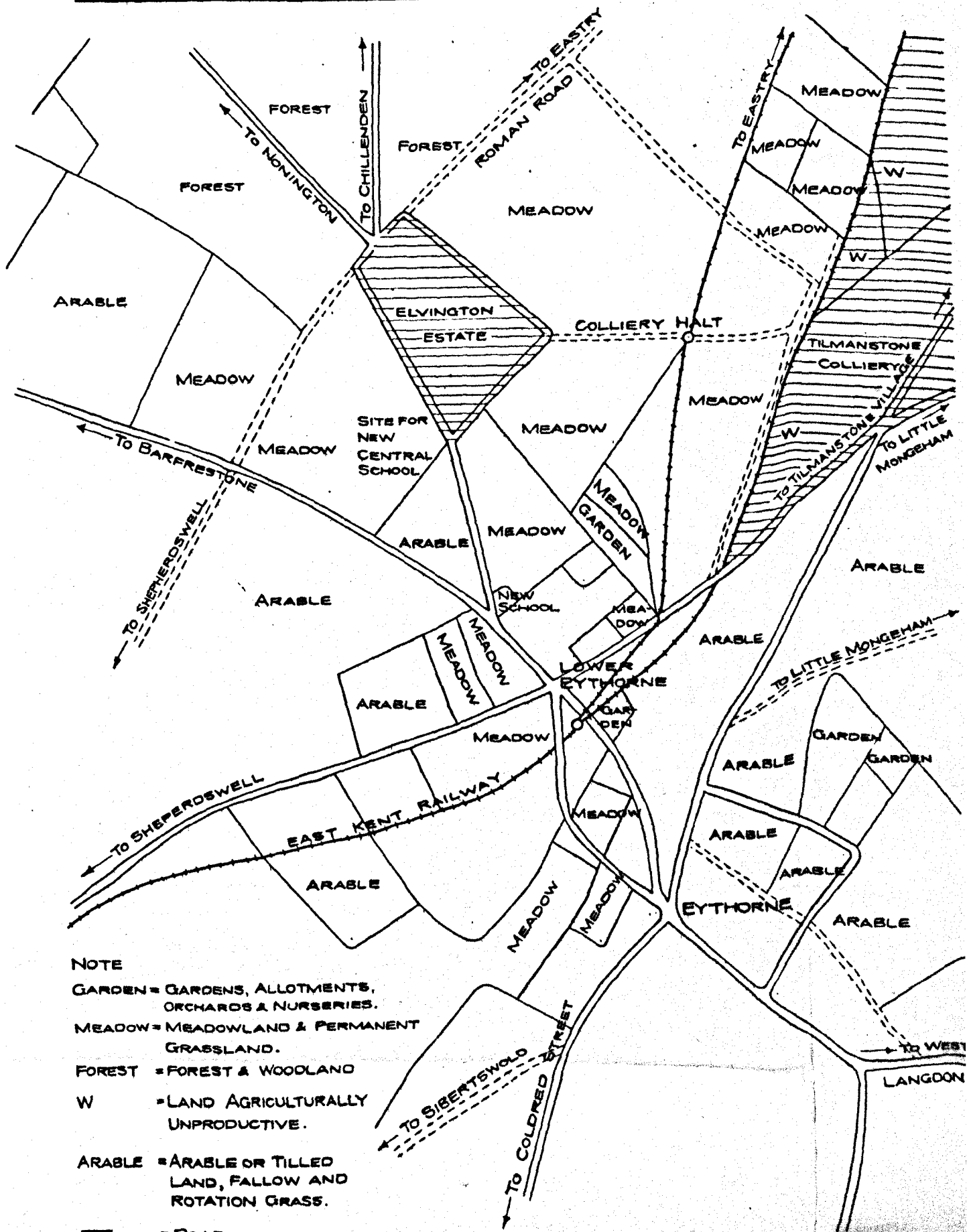
FROM THE LAND UTILISATION SURVEY OF BRITAIN 1932.

KEY.

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| GARDEN = GARDENS, ALLOTMENTS, ORCHARDS & NURSERIES. | ARABLE = ARABLE OR TILLED LAND, | W = LAND AGRICULTURALLY UNPRODUCTIVE. |
| MEADOW = MEADOWLAND & PERMANENT GRASSLAND. | FALLOW OR ROTATION GRASS | = = ROAD. |
| FOREST = FOREST & WOODLAND. | HEATH = HEATHLAND, MOORLAND COMMON, ROUGH HILL PASTURE, SWAMPS & MARSHES. | == = FOOTPATH. |



FROM THE LAND UTILISATION SURVEY OF BRITAIN 1932.



NOTE

GARDEN = GARDENS, ALLOTMENTS, ORCHARDS & NURSERIES.

MEADOW = MEADOWLAND & PERMANENT GRASSLAND.

FOREST = FOREST & WOODLAND

W = LAND AGRICULTURALLY UNPRODUCTIVE.

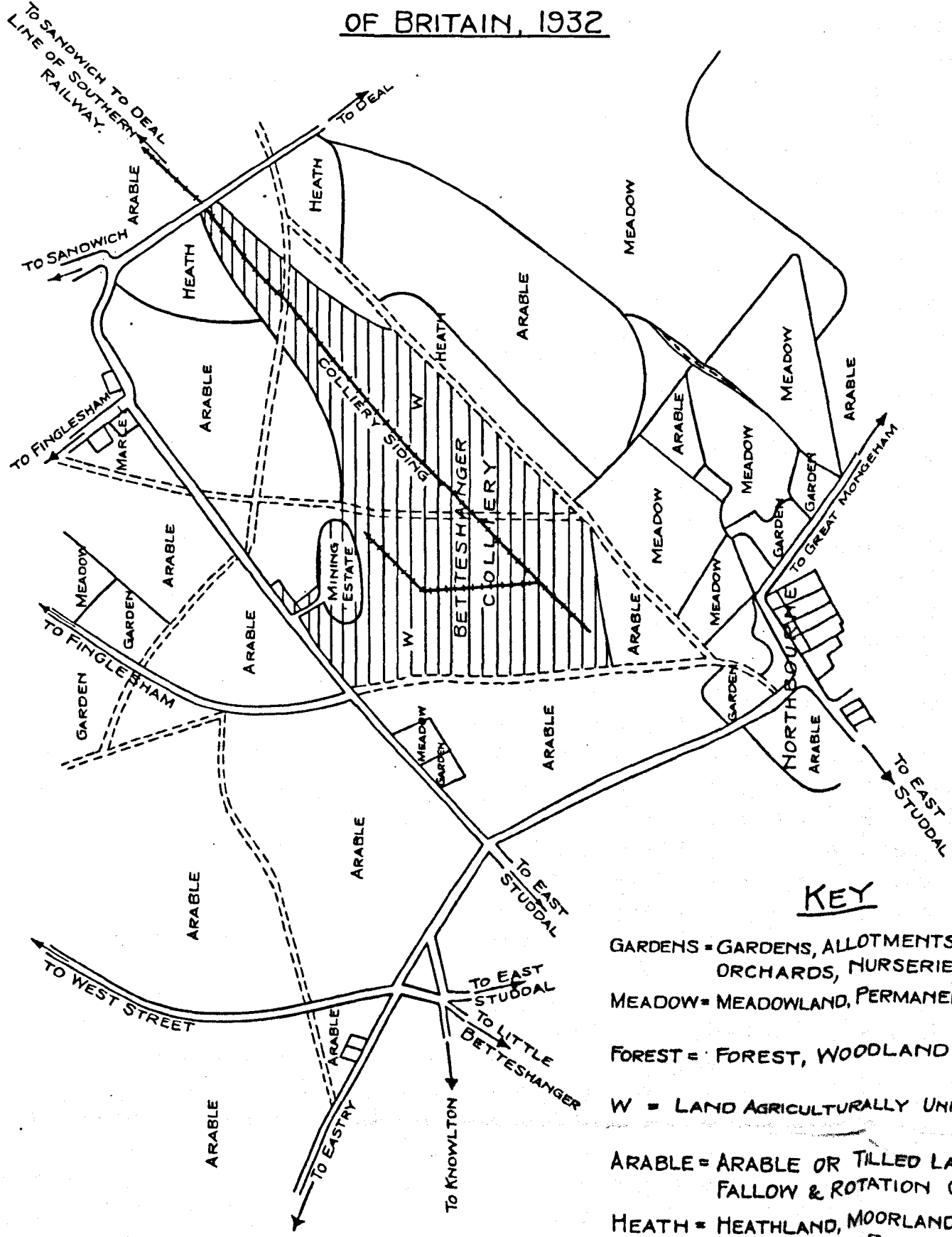
ARABLE = ARABLE OR TILLED LAND, FALLOW AND ROTATION GRASS.

== = ROAD

---- = FOOTPATH

SCALE: 1 INCH TO 1 MILE.

FROM THE LAND UTILISATION SURVEY
OF BRITAIN, 1932



KEY

- GARDENS = GARDENS, ALLOTMENTS, ORCHARDS, NURSERIES.
- MEADOW = MEADOWLAND, PERMANENT PASTURE.
- FOREST = FOREST, WOODLAND.
- W = LAND AGRICULTURALLY UNPRODUCTIVE.
- ARABLE = ARABLE OR TILLED LAND, FALLOW & ROTATION GRASS.
- HEATH = HEATHLAND, MOORLAND COMMONS, ROUGH HILL PASTURE, SWAMPS & MARSHES.
- == ROAD.
- ==== FOOTPATH.

Some idea of the nature of the immediate geographical environment may be gained by reference to the maps on pages 18a, b, c and d. These have been copied from the Land Utilisation Survey Maps of Great Britain made under the auspices of the London School of Economics in the course of 1932 and 1933. It will be seen that each of the estates and the roads and footpaths leading from them to the collieries lie in a varied countryside of pasture land and cultivated fields interspersed here and there with woodland. A fairly extensive wood stretches from the North and West of Elvington in the direction of Barfreston and Nonington. There are in the neighbourhood of the mining estates several large privately owned parks e.g. Waldershare Park, south of Eythorne, Betteshanger Park, west of Betteshanger Colliery and Northbourne Court, south east of the colliery. But much of the area is a sparsely populated, open countryside with many of its roads unhedged and land uncultivated.

Hersden built on the very edge of the main road from Canterbury to Dover stands above the low lying marshland of the Stour valley. It is healthily situated but the neighbouring countryside is perhaps less picturesque and less varied than that which surrounds each of the other estates. It is but a few miles from the Isle of Thanet with its flat, windswept and rather desolate stretches of open fields and meadows.

To the casual observer Mill Road would appear to be a

newly arising suburb of Walmer, although actually it is situated in Deal. But on closer scrutiny the inhabitants are seen to be a community apart. The men have the gait peculiar to miners; they speak many dialects, all foreign to Kent. If one visits the estate in the early afternoon on a weekday one meets numbers of black-faced men and youths in pit clothes each carrying his snap tin, some cycling home from Betteshanger Colliery, others being conveyed in buses from which the passengers alight one here, one there, as they approach their homes. The children playing in the roads, often at games plotted out in white chalk across the roadway, seem more numerous than in other parts of Walmer.



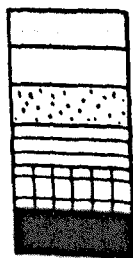
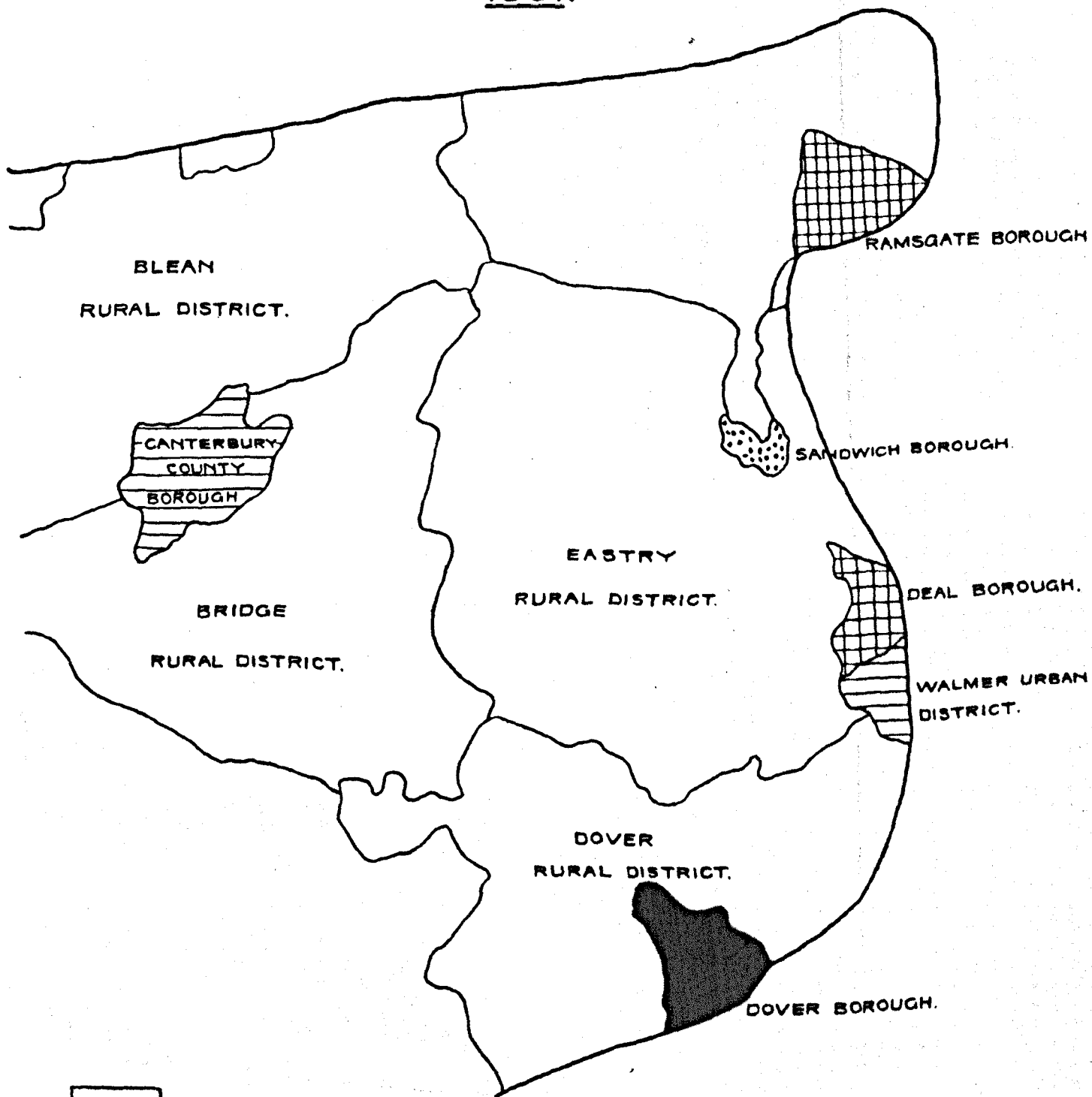
Miners at Aylesham Returning from Work.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

The area to be considered in this chapter consists of the County Borough of Canterbury, the Municipal Boroughs of Dover, Ramsgate, Deal and Sandwich, the Urban District of Walmer and the Rural Districts of Blean, Bridge, Dover and Eastry. The whole region covers rather more than 150,500 acres. It is shown on the map on page 20a which indicates the density of population in each of the local government areas. The map is based upon the figures of the Census Return of Population in 1931. It should be noted that in 1931 the greater part of the area had a population of under one person per acre. Reference to Table I on page 21 shows that in none of the rural districts did the population reach 0.5 persons per acre, and in that of Bridge the population was only 0.29 persons per acre. It is in this sparsely populated region that the four collieries, Chislet, Snowdown, Betteshanger and Tilmanstone and the new mining estates are situated. The County Borough of Canterbury, the Borough of Sandwich and the Urban District of Walmer had each of them a less dense population than the average of the total of municipal boroughs and urban districts in the County which was 6.6 persons per acre. The Municipal Boroughs of Deal, Ramsgate and Dover had on the other hand a considerably denser population, that of Dover being as much

1931.



NOT INCLUDED IN COALFIELD AREA.

POPULATION UNDER 1 PERSON PER ACRE.

- " 1-5 PERSONS " "
- " 5-10 " " "
- " 10-15 " " "
- " OVER 15 " " "

BASED ON CENSUS FIGURES 1931.

T A B L E I.

Local Areas, Acreage and Population from Census Report
1931.

Local Area.	Acreage.	Total Population.	Persons per Acre.
Canterbury County Borough.	3,975	24,446	6.1
Deal Borough.	1,114	13,681	12.3
Dover Borough.	2,032	14,097	20.2
Ramsgate Borough.	2,306	36,561	14.6
Sandwich Borough.	708	3,287	4.6
Walmer Urban District.	988	5,335	5.4
Blean Rural District.	26,882	11,023	0.41
Dover Rural District.	27,050	9,032	0.33
Bridge Rural District.	41,796	12,251	0.29
Eastry Rural District.	45,683	18,448	0.42

as 20.2 persons per acre, but even in Dover the total population was less than 42,000 persons. Should there occur at some future date a considerable development of the coal mining industry in East Kent, together with a growth of ancillary trades such as has been anticipated, the area would be able to support a much larger population without being unduly densely populated or over industrialised.

In the Final Report of the East Kent Regional Town Planning Scheme, 1928, it was suggested that the coal mining industry alone might in ten years require a population of about 150,000 persons. Events since 1928 indicate however that so great an expansion of the industry is unlikely to occur in this comparatively short period. But the fact remains that if or when it should prove desirable to develop the East Kent coalfield on an extensive scale, there will be ample available space upon which to accommodate the necessary industrial population.

In this chapter an examination of the population of the Kent coalfield area will be made for (a) the Inter-censal Period 1921-1931 in order to note the chief changes which took place during this decade, and (b) the period to which Part II of this survey mainly applies, i.e. 1928-1932 in order to note annual variations both generally and locally. An attempt will also be made to estimate some of the causes of these variations.

First however it should be pointed out that the examination of population figures involves a comparison of rates of changes, and, in this respect, it should be remembered that the size of the population is a factor that must not be ignored. In an area in which the total population is small there is likely to be greater range both in birth rates and in death rates over any given period than in an area in which the total population is large; for such factors as a local epidemic of disease, or the incidence of chance happenings are less likely to neutralise each other in the area of small populations. With the exception of the Borough of Dover, all the areas here considered have small populations, some, e.g. the Borough of Sandwich and the Urban District of Walmer, very small. Therefore undue emphasis must not be laid upon high annual rates of change in these areas. On the other hand since the mining population in East Kent is only a handful of persons compared with the total population of the county it is only by examining areas of small population within the county that the influence of changes due to mining activities may be seen at all.

The census return of the population of Great Britain in 1931 affords a means by which a comparison may be made between the size and condition and distribution of population in Kent in 1931 and in 1921 when the previous census was taken. Table II on page 24 sets out this comparison. It should be noted that in the County of Kent with the

TABLE II.

Population 1921-1931. Intercensal Variations.

Area	<u>Population.</u>						<u>Increase or Decrease (-)</u>			
	<u>1921</u>			<u>1931.</u>			Amount	<u>PerCent</u>		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons	Males	Females.		Total	By Births over Deaths	By Migration
<u>Canterbury C.B.</u>	23,737	11084	12,653	24,446	11483	12,958	709	3.0	3.9	- 0.9
<u>Deal B.</u>	12,998	5740	7,258	13,681	6373	7,308	683	5.3	3.1	2.2
<u>Dover B.</u>	39,999	19151	20,848	41,097	20306	20,791	1,096	2.7	7.6	- 4.9
<u>Ramsgate B.</u>	36,561	16649	19,912	33,603	15277	18,326	-2,958	-8.1	3.1	-11.2
<u>Sandwich B.</u>	3,161	1535	1,626	3,237	1606	1,631	126	4.0	4.2	- 0.2
<u>Walmer U.D.</u>	5,350	2645	2,705	5,335	2601	2,734	15	-0.5	-0.7	- 1.0
<u>Blean R.D.</u>	8,682	4375	4,307	11,023	5373	5,650	2,341	27.0	4.1	22.9
<u>Bridge R.D.</u>	11,236	5459	5,777	12,251	5991	6,260	1,015	9.0	4.1	4.9
<u>Dover R.D.</u>	8,869	4563	4,306	9,032	4672	4,360	163	1.8	3.8	-2.0
<u>Eastry R.D.</u>	13,427	6732	6,695	18,448	9618	8,830	5,021	37.4	7.3	30.1
<u>Combined Area.</u>	164,020	77933	86087	172,203	83305	88,898	8,183	6.1		
<u>Kent County (with associated County Borough)</u>	1,141,636	542088	599,578	1,219,273	584335	634,938	77,607	6.8	5.1	1.7

associated County Borough of Canterbury the total population increased during the decade by 6.8%, 1.7% of this increase is attributed to migration and 5.1% to natural increase, i.e. excess of births over deaths. In the combined coalfield areas the total increase of population was 6.1% i.e. a rate of increase rather less than that of the county as a whole. In each of the smaller areas, except the Urban District of Walmer and the Borough of Ramsgate there was an increase of population but the rate of increase varied much in the different areas. The decline in population in Ramsgate is attributed entirely to emigration, the natural increase of 3.1% being much more than offset by a loss through emigration of 11.2%. The returns of other Kentish seaside resorts, e.g. Margate, Broadstairs, Folkestone, show a similar loss of population and in each case the chief cause is quite unrelated to coalfield development. The explanation is to be found mainly in the fact that the census of 1921 was taken in June during a spell of very fine weather; the census of 1931 was taken in April. The populations of the seaside towns were inflated by visitors when the earlier census was taken to a much greater extent than they were when the later census was taken. Nevertheless a small part of the decline in Ramsgate may be attributed to a movement of the mining population. The majority of the houses on the mining estate at Hersden in the Rural District of Blean were built during the intercensal period

In 1931 the estate accommodated about 394* miners working at Chislet and their families. The Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Ramsgate stated in a letter dated 1st. May, 1931 -

"Many miners who used to reside here removed to Hersden on completion of houses in connection with the housing scheme there, so that whereas the returns of the 1931 Census would assist the information of the 1921 census is now definitely incorrect as regards the number of miners resident here."

The decline in population in Walmer during the intercensal period is of no great importance. The total population is small, less than 5,500 persons and the actual decrease in the ten years amounted to only 15 persons. The natural decrease - 0.7 may be explained by the fact that in Walmer reside a number of elderly persons who come to the district when they retire from active work. This phenomenon tends to cause a relatively high death rate and correspondingly low birth rate. The decrease by migration - 1.0% is probably due to the same causes as affected other Kentish seaside resorts. Among these local areas in which there has been an increase in the total population, 1921-1931, the range in the rate of increase was very wide. Dover Rural District had only 1.8% increase while Easry Rural District had 57.4%. In Blean Rural District an increase of 27% is recorded and in Bridge 9%

* Figures from Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for East Kent (No.1) United District 1931.

All the other areas had an increase of less than 5% except the Borough of Deal with an increase of 5.3%. The areas arranged in descending order according to their rate of increase are :- Eastry, Blean, Bridge, Deal, Sandwich, Canterbury, Borough of Dover, Rural District of Dover, Walmer, Ramsgate. It is noteworthy that the four areas which head this list are the ones in which the four collieries and the adjacent mining estates are situated.

Apart from Walmer which has already been considered, all the local areas show a natural increase of population during the intercensal period, but the rate of increase is lower than the county rate except in the Borough of Dover and the Rural District of Eastry. Eastry has had for a succession of years a much higher birth rate than the rates of other rural districts in East Kent. This is probably due entirely to the influx of miners into the area.

The Medical Officer of Health for East Kent (No.2) United District which includes the Rural Districts of Eastry, Bridge and Dover has investigated the relative birth rates of the mining and the indigenous populations in the United District. In his Annual Report for 1931 he pointed out that the birth rates among the indigenous populations of Eastry and Bridge were practically stationary, while that of Dover was stationary or decreasing. Further in the district of Eastry where the largest number of mining families reside, an investigation of the birth returns showed that 53%

of the births occurred among the mining population and 47% among the indigenous population. From this it was estimated that the mining birth rate was about 38.2 per 1,000 and the indigenous birth rate about 12.6 per 1,000. A similar investigation of the death returns showed that the death rate among the mining population was about 6.2 per 1,000, that of the indigenous population about 12.4 per 1,000. It may be concluded that any future increase in population in these three rural districts is likely to be due to the mining population, partly through natural increase, partly through immigration.

The column in Table II, page 24 which indicates the Increase or Decrease of Population by Migration, shows that between 1921 and 1931 there were marked movements of population both outward and inward, in the coalfield area. In the district of Eastry immigration on a considerable scale took place. This was probably due entirely to mining development. In Bridge Rural District an increase of population by migration also occurred but on a much smaller scale. The increased activities of Snowdown Colliery no doubt account for this. Again in the Borough of Deal the increase of population by migration may be explained by the opening of Betteshanger Colliery and the erection of the new mining estate at Mill Road in the South Ward of the Borough of Deal.

It will be noted that in six out of the nine local areas there was a decrease in population by migration.

between 1921 and 1931. This decrease in Ramsgate and Walmer has already been considered. The decrease in Dover is probably due partly to the fact that the town accommodates annually a certain number of holiday makers and was affected by influences at work in Kentish seaside resorts generally; ^{partly} probably perhaps to the general economic depression which is likely to be reflected in a commercial port by some exodus of population.

The decline in population by migration, 1921-1931, in Canterbury is slight and may probably be very largely due to the fact that a certain number of mining families living in Canterbury, like some of those in Ramsgate, moved to Hersden when accommodation was provided close to Chislet Colliery. The decline in population by migration in Sandwich is ^{also} very small and the insignificance of the change is emphasized when the small size of the total population is recalled. The few persons who migrated from Sandwich during the decade may have been chiefly mining families who when opportunity arose went to reside nearer the colliery in which their men folk were employed.

In Dover Rural District the decline in population by emigration is probably due to causes unrelated to mining developments. There as elsewhere in Kent the population in June 1921 was inflated by visitors. There is evidence, too, that emigration has been going on for some years from all the rural areas in East Kent. In Blean, Bridge and

Eastry Rural Districts the movement of some of the agricultural population to towns and elsewhere owing to the general depression in agriculture experienced in Kent as in other parts of the country, was more than balanced by the influx of the mining population. Until now Dover Rural District has been affected to a much less extent by the new immigrant population, so that the opposing emigration movement is more apparent in that area. It may be noted, too, that a certain number of Kentish men living in the vicinity of the collieries have been absorbed into the mining industry. Some of these were formerly agricultural labourers. Thus emigration from villages in the Rural Districts of Blean, Bridge and Eastry has been somewhat checked.

At this point it may be desirable to sum up the chief changes in population which took place in the coalfield area between 1921 and 1931 :-

1. In the course of the period there was an increase of population in the area as a whole.
2. A natural increase of population occurred in all the local areas except in the Urban District of Walmer.
3. In rural areas this natural increase was due mainly or entirely to the mining population; the indigenous population at the end of the period being stationary if not declining.
4. Immigration and emigration were taking place concurrently over the area during the decade.
5. There was a marked increase of population due to

immigration in the Rural Districts of Eastry, Bridge, and Blean, areas with which are situated the new mining estates and the collieries which they serve.

6. There was a definite decline in population due to emigration in all seaside resorts situated in the coalfield area, except in the Borough of Deal which was affected by the mining development at Betteshanger Colliery.
7. The decline in population due to emigration may be attributed mainly to causes unrelated to mining activity in East Kent.

The striking increase in population between 1921 and 1931 in each of the civil parishes and wards in which the new mining estates are situated is shown on Table III page 32.

A matter of some significance in regard to the composition of the population in East Kent is the relative proportions of males and females in the total population. The diagram on page 31a illustrates the approximate sex distribution of the population in the local areas under consideration in 1921 and 1931. It is based on figures obtained from the census returns and is correct to the nearest hundred persons. It will be seen that in 1921 the number of males exceeded the number of females in the Blean and Dover Rural Districts, and in Eastry the numbers of the two sexes were equal. In the other local areas, as in the county as a whole and in England and Wales, the number of females exceeded the number of males. The exceptional condition prevailing in Blean is accounted for by the fact that about one hundred more males than females were residing in institutions in the district. The existence of military barracks accommodating nearly 300 men partly accounts for

COMPARISON OF MALE AND FEMALE POPULATIONS IN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF KENT COALFIELD REGION
IN 1921 AND 1931.

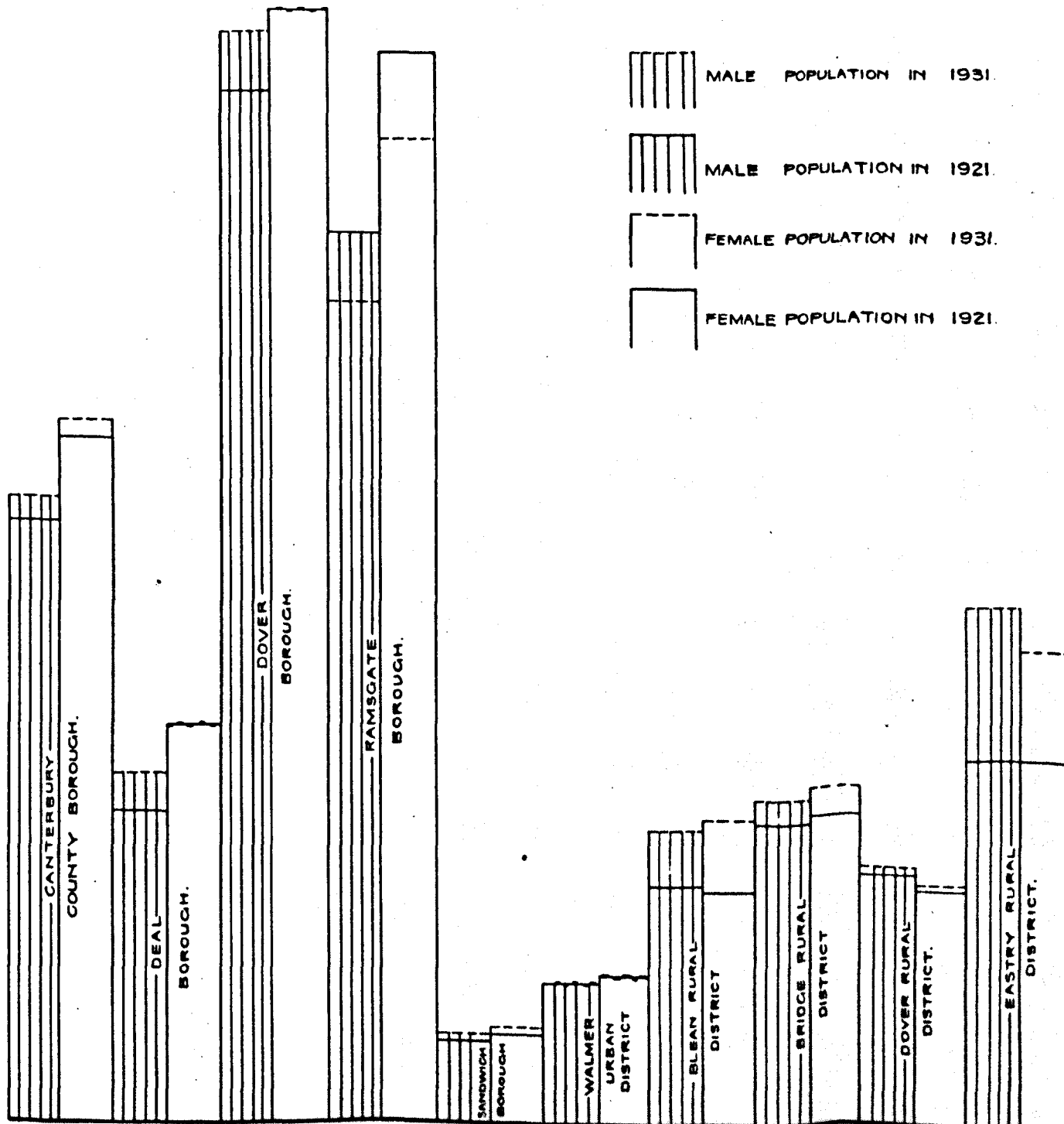


TABLE III.

Acreege and Population of Civil Parishes and Wards
in which Mining Estates are situated. Census Reports
1921 and 1931.

Area.	Acreege.	Population.		Increase 1921-1931.
		1921.	1931	
Deal South Ward (Mill Road Estate)	614	6492	7345	853
Sturry, Civil Parish (Hersden Estate)	3148	1586	2291	905
Womenswold Civil Parish (Woollage Green Estate)	1722	314	580	266
Eythorne Civil Parish (Elvington Estate)	1323	929	1699	770
Nonington Civil Parish (Aylesham and Snowdown Estates)	3808	987	4325	3439
Northbourne Civil Parish. (Betteshanger Colliery Estate)	3660	788	1323	535

the high proportion of males in Dover Rural District. But the relatively large number of males in Eastry Rural District may be largely attributed to mining activities at Snowdown and Tilmanstone Collieries. During the early stages of development of the coal mining industry in any particular locality men from other parts tend to be attracted to the neighbourhood of a colliery through hope of employment. Many of these men are young unmarried men; others are married men some of whom leave their families behind them until they become settled in permanent employment.

The influence of the mining element on the sex distribution of population was much more significant in 1931. By that date progress in mining had led to a considerable increase of the population through immigration in certain of the local government areas. This increase of population and change in its sex distribution can be seen in the diagram on page . It shows that the greatest increase of population during the decade took place in Eastry Rural District in which are situated Tilmanstone, Snowdown and Betteshanger Collieries. The greater part of the increase consisted of immigrant males. In the Boroughs of Deal and Dover there was a very definite increase in the male population while the female population was approximately unchanged. Many miners and their families came to settle in Deal between 1921 and 1931, and, as in Eastry, the larger number of these were males. In Dover on the other hand the increase in the male population may be

explained at least in part by an increase in the number of members of H.M. Forces residing in the borough in 1931. Persons living in barracks etc., rose from 742 in 1921 to 1,813 in 1931. The approximately unchanged number of females in these towns is partly due to the fact that seasonal female labour tends to be imported into all seaside resorts during summer months when there is a demand for female domestic servants etc.,. The female population was thus inflated in June 1921 but in March 1931 the holiday season had not begun.

In Blean Rural District in which Chislet Colliery is situated there was also a considerable increase in population, but in the course of the decade the relative number of the two sexes changed in the opposite way from that which occurred in Dover and Deal. As has already been pointed out in 1921 the males slightly outnumbered the females; in 1931 the females outnumbered the males in rather greater numbers. The re-organisation of Public Assistance Institutions by Kent ^{County} Community Council took place in the interval. In 1921 Blean Institution housed inmates of both sexes. In 1931 it was used for female mental patients only. This change affected the balance of numbers of the sexes in the district. It must be remembered also that for some years prior to 1931 the number of miners employed at Chislet Colliery had remained more or less stable. By 1931 therefore sufficient time had elapsed for the woren folk to follow these men who had found permanent employment in Kent. In 1921 there would be a large proportion of married miners who had left their families behind

them until they were permanently settled in their new work.

To sum up again it would appear that the growth of population in East Kent in 1921-31 and the changes in the relative numbers of the sexes in the separate local government areas was to some extent due to the development of the coal mining industry; but other factors were operating in different directions to change the balance and affect the rate of growth. A few of the most obvious of these factors have been suggested but it is of course impossible to enumerate or to guess the relative importance of all. It has been shown that one factor was the differing numbers of persons inhabiting institutions of various kinds. No doubt some of these persons were natives of the local areas in which the institutions were situated but some were drawn from other areas.

A study of population figures in the civil parishes in which the new mining estates are situated should however throw further light on possible local changes resulting from mining activities.

Table IV page 36 shows that already in 1921 the number of males was greater than that of the females in three parishes - Eythorne, Nenington and Northbourne. By 1931 the proportion of males to females had considerably increased in these parishes and males had come to predominate even, females in numbers in Sturry and Womenswold also. In the South Ward of Deal females still formed the larger number of the population in 1931 but their proportion was

TABLE IV.

Population 1921 - 1931 of Civil Parishes in which
Mining Estates are Situated.

Area.	POPULATION						Excess of Males (M) or Females (F)	
	1921			1931.			1921	1931.
	Persons.	Males	Fe- males	Persons.	M.	F.		
Deal B. South Ward (including Mill Road).	6492	2760	3732	7345	3292	4053	972F	761F
(a) <u>Blean E.D.</u> <u>Sturry C.P.</u> (including Hersden)	1386	632	704	2291	1215	1076	22F	139M
<u>Bridge R.D.</u> <u>Womenswold C.P.</u> (including Woollage Green)	314	160	164	580	328	252	4F	76M
(a) <u>Eastry R.D.</u> <u>Evtherne C.P.</u> (including Elvington)	929	497	432	1699	915	784	65M	131M
(a) <u>Eastry R.D.</u> <u>Nonington C.P.</u> (including Aylesham and Snowdown)	837	449	438	4326	2371	1955	11M	316M
(a) <u>Eastry R.D.</u> <u>Northbourne C.P.</u> (including Betteshanger)	788	411	377	1323	744	579	34M	165M

(a) The increase in population in this C.P. is
attributed mainly to Colliery development.
Note in 1931 Census.

TABLE V.

Registrar General's ^{Annual} Returns of Estimated Population.

<u>Area.</u>	<u>1928</u>	<u>1929</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>
<u>Canterbury C.P.</u>	23,310	23,980	23,980	24,030	24,270
<u>Deal B.</u>	12,190	12,320	12,910	13,320	14,350
<u>Dover B.</u>	41,330	41,920	41,350	40,920	41,350
<u>Ramsgate P.</u>	30,370	31,440	32,580	33,450	33,890
<u>Sandwich P.</u>	3,434	3,478	3,353	3,268	3,344
<u>Walmer U.D.</u>	4,996	5,176	5,181	5,176	5,197
<u>Blean R.D.</u>	9,955	9,635	10,610	10,890	11,280
<u>Bridge R.D.</u>	11,940	12,000	12,170	12,310	11,860
<u>Dover R.D.</u>	8,772	8,786	8,707	8,652	8,895
<u>Eastry R.D.</u>	15,440	15,640	17,220	18,430	18,720

considerably less than in 1921. The above facts are a clear indication of the influence of the mining industry on the composition of the population.

Closer consideration must now be given to changes of population during the period 1928-1932. Table V page 37, shows the Registrar General's Annual Returns of Estimated Population in the separate local government areas which comprise the coalfield region, and in the area as a whole. In the latter there was a very definite but not entirely regular annual increase of population over the period. As in the case of the decade 1921-1931 this increase is due partly to the natural increase of population, partly to the effect of migration. But although in the combined area a natural increase occurred, closer study of the table and a comparison of it with Table VI on page 39 showing birth rates and death rates in the smaller areas, makes it clear that in some of these areas there was actually a decrement of population (i.e. an excess of deaths over births) in certain years. Moreover in those areas in which a natural increment occurred in a particular year, there was not always a corresponding increase of population in the following year. It may be inferred that in such an area the natural increase was offset by emigration. There were at work in fact during the period four factors affecting population numbers in the separate areas, a combination of two of these accounting in any one area for the difference in population between one year and-

TABLE VI.

Birth Rates and Death Rates.

Area.	1928		1929		1930		1931		1932	
	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
<u>Canterbury C.B.</u>	15.8	12.6	15.6	16.5	15.8	12.2	14.6	13.1	13.4	11.9
<u>Deal B.</u>	15.8	12.6	15.0	13.8	16.5	12.8	18.2	14.2	18.5	15.9
<u>Dover B.</u>	18.2	12.0	15.5	12.6	16.1	10.9	16.5	11.4	15.6	11.6
<u>Ramsgate B.</u>	15.9	13.5	17.4	13.8	16.0	14.2	14.9	12.9	14.2	10.7
<u>Sandwich B.</u>	14.8	14.2	16.4	12.4	16.8	10.2	15.4	18.1	13.4	15.2
<u>Walmer B.D.</u>	14.4	16.4	13.3	13.2	10.1	14.7	11.8	17.1	12.5	14.2
<u>Blean R.D.</u>	13.0	11.9	13.9	12.1	16.5	9.9	14.5	12.5	13.7	11.1
<u>Bridge R.D.</u>	14.5	10.8	14.1	12.0	13.2	10.1	11.8	11.3	15.5	12.5
<u>Dover R.D.</u>	12.2	11.0	12.3	10.5	14.1	9.7	14.5	11.4	11.1	11.8
<u>Eastry R.D.</u>	19.5	10.6	21.0	13.5	19.5	11.7	20.2	11.9	18.0	9.8
<u>England and Wales:</u>	16.7	11.7	16.3	13.4	16.3	11.4	15.8	12.3	15.3	12.0

From Annual Reports of the Medical Officers of Health,
Canterbury C.B. Council and Kent County Council.

Births and Deaths Rates are calculated per 1000
of the population.

the following. These factors were (1) an excess of births over deaths (2) an excess of deaths over births, (3) an excess of immigration over emigration (4) an excess of emigration over immigration. Thus in Walmer during 1931 there was an excess of deaths over births, the death rate for that year being 17.1 and the birth rate 11.8, but in 1932 there was a total population in Walmer of 21 in excess of the preceding year. It may be assumed that the amount of immigration into the area more than compensated for the loss of population due to the high death rate in 1931. On the other hand in the Rural District of Bridge in 1932 the total population was 450 less than in 1931 yet in the latter year the birth rate exceeded the death rate by 3.1 per 1000 of the population. The inference is that in this area emigration was greater than immigration during 1931. Again in the Rural District of Eastry throughout the period 1928-1932 the birth rate was relatively high and the death rate considerably lower. But this could not alone account for the fact that in 1930 the population was 17,220 while in the year before it was only 15,640. In Eastry the increase of 1,580 during 1929-1930 was due partly to the natural increase of population but mainly to immigration.

Another fact of considerable significance revealed by a comparison of the 1921 and 1931 Census Returns is that between these two dates the average size of the family in Eastry Rural District increased from 3.9 to 3.95. In no

other country district in Kent was an increase recorded.

It would appear that the increase is due to mining population.

Table VII. page 42 shows the number of persons living in private families compared with the total population and the number of private families in each of the parishes in which is situated one or more of the mining estates. A private family is defined as of a person or group of persons being in separate occupation of premises or part of premises. Lodgers boarding with a family are counted as members of the family. From the second and third columns of figures, it may be deduced that the average size of a family in each of the respective parishes was as follows :-

Deal - South Ward.	3.01
Sturry, C.P.	4.02
Wemanswold C.P.	5.37
Eytherne C.P.	4.18
Nonington C.P.	4.92
Northbourne C.P.	4.56

When it is added that the average size of the family for the County of Kent is 3.64, the influence of the mining population upon the size of the family in Kent is manifest.

The factors affecting the size and movements of the population of the coalfield area between 1921 and 1931 summarised in Table II were equally operating during the period 1928-1932, but probably some of them were bringing about more marked effects or more rapid changes during the latter period.

TABLE VII.

Population, Private Families and Dwellings, 1931.
From Census Returns.

Area.	Total Population.	Population in Private Families.	Private Families.	Structurally separate dwellings	Rooms occupied.	Persons per Room.
Deal B. South Ward. (including Mill Road)	7,345	6,617	1,866	1,778	10,214	0.65
Blean R.D. Sturry C.P. (including Hersden)	2,291	2,219	530	501	2,569	0.86
Bridge R.D. Womenswold C.P. (including White City)	580	569	106	106	603	0.94
Eastry R.D. Eythorne C.P. (including Elvington)	1699	1,691	404	395	2,045	0.83
Eastry R.D. Nonington C.P. (including Aylesham & Snowden)	4326	4234	861	810	3,684	1.15
Eastry R.D. Northbourne C.P. (including Betteshanger)	1323	1313	300	296	1,419	0.90
County of Kent.						0.73

In the Census 1921, 1,904 coal mines^T are recorded as being in Kent and the average number of persons employed at the four collieries increased from 3,553 in 1928 to 6,382 in 1932 (See Table XIX page 84) and the majority of new employees came from outside Kent.

The investigation of annual variations is confined to the very brief period of five years. It would be unwise therefore to place very great significance upon even marked difference between one year and the next, as well as between one area and another of a different type. It is possible however that some of these striking differences are related to coal mining activities, and it is relevant to consider here to what extent this may be so.

Variations from year to year in the size of population in the different local areas are set out in the following table, the figures in which are based upon the Registrar General's Returns of Estimated Population :-

Local Area.	Increase (-) or Decrease (-) in Total Population over Preceding Year in-			
	1928- 1929.	1929- 1930.	1930- 1931.	1931- 1932
Canterbury C.B.	+ 670	0	+ 50	+ 240
Deal B.	+ 150	+ 590	+ 410	+ 1030
Dover B.	+ 590	+ 570	+ 430	+ 430
Ramsgate B.	+ 1070	+ 1140	+ 870	+ 440
Sandwich B.	+ 42	- 123	- 85	+ 76
Walmer U.D.	+ 180	- 5	- 5	+ 21
Blean R.D.	- 150	+ 975	+ 280	+ 370
Bridge R.D.	+ 60	+ 170	+ 140	- 450
Dover R.D.	+ 14	- 79	- 55	+ 245
Eastry R.D.	+ 200	+ 1380	+ 1210	+ 290

This table clearly indicates how irregular the changes of population in these areas were from year to year. The irregularity is probably due mainly, although not entirely, to migratory movements, during the period.

But ^{if}_^ the figures given in Table V on page 37 are considered separately in regard to each area, it may be noted that the natural increase ^{or} of natural decrease of population over the period was by no means a steady phenomenon. Thus in Walmer although there was a natural decrease in four out of the five years considered, in the remaining year 1930, there was a natural increase, and in the course of the five years there were variations ranging from 5.3 per 1000 more deaths than births in 1931 to 2.6 per 1000 more births than deaths in 1930. Again in the Borough of Sandwich in 1928-30 the birth rate exceeded the death rate, but in 1931 and 1932 when the death rates were unusually high the death rates exceeded the birth rates. Other instances of variations in the rate of change in population are found in the County Borough of Canterbury which had a natural increase of population in 1928, 1930, 1931 and 1932, but a natural decrease in 1929; and in Dover Rural District which had a natural increase 1928-1931 but a natural decrease in 1932 in which year the death rate was the highest in the five years under review.

On the whole it is probably true that in the Boroughs of Canterbury and Sandwich, the Urban District of Walmer and the Rural District of Dover fluctuations in population

due to natural increases or decreases can be explained by reference to the small size of their populations, and to the fact that the rate of increase when such occurred was ^{each} in ^{each} case low, so that a comparatively small change in the total number of deaths in any one area ^{might} ~~may~~ cause a natural increase in one year to be followed by a natural decrease in the following year or vice versa. These fluctuations were probably not greatly affected by the developing coal mining industry. There is evidence* however that in Walmer 1931-32 several large houses were occupied by miners, former single residences being used as flats for this purpose, and it would seem that mining activities contributed to the following striking changes in population during the period 1928-1932.

(1) A relatively large increase in population in Blean Rural District 1929-30 owing to the occupation of 100 new houses in Hersden, the erection of which was completed in May 1929. The latter cause is also reflected in the figures for Canterbury 1929-1930 and 1931-1932, which show no change in the population numbers of 1929 and 1930 and an increase of only fifty persons 1931-1932.

(2) A considerable increase in population annually in the Borough of Deal particularly 1931-1932 owing to the increased employment at Betteehanger Colliery, together with the erection of the Mill Road mining Estate in the South Ward of the Borough.

* Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Walmer Urban District, 1932.

(3) A very great increase in population in the Rural District of Eastry 1929-1930 and 1930-1931 owing to increased employment at Snowdown, Betteshanger and Tilmanstone Collieries and to the erection of houses at Elvington and Ayleham. The latter cause probably accounts also for a part of the decline in population in the Borough of Dover 1929-1930 and 1930-1931 for in those years many miners residing in Dover removed to the new mining estates.

Migratory movements of population in the coalfield area in Kent during the period under review may be classified into

(a) external i.e. movements into or out of the area,
 (b) internal, i.e. movements within the area. Emigration to other parts of the country was taking place simultaneously with immigration into the coalfield area from other parts. The emigrants were mainly agricultural workers from rural areas and residents from seaside resorts and the port of Dover. Many were workers and their dependants who under changing conditions and during trade depression could no longer find a means of earning their living. A small number were miners from depressed areas who, having migrated to Kent, failed to find or did not desire permanent employment there. After a short stay in East Kent they returned to their former homes or sought employment elsewhere. The immigrants were mainly miners from

depressed areas. Internal movements of population were due partly to mining activities e.g., the erection of new houses on a mining estate, leading in some instances to the removal of miners and their families from one local government area to another.

Another fact which has bearing on future population problems in East Kent remains to be discussed, i.e. the age composition of the population. This is shown for each of the local areas in Table VIII on page 49. It is significant that in 1931 the average age of the male population in the following areas was below that in the County as a whole:- Boroughs of Dover and Ramsgate, the Urban District of Walmer and the Rural Districts of Dover and Eastry. The existence of military barracks in Dover, both in the Borough and in the Rural District, and in Walmer, undoubtedly tends to increase the proportion of young males in these areas. But certainly in Eastry Rural District and probably in Walmer too to a less extent the low average age is partly due to the result of the residence of a number of comparatively young miners.

The average age of females is above that of the whole county in all the various areas of the coalfield region except in the Borough of Dover and the Rural District of Eastry. It has already been noted that there are more males than females in Eastry. A population with a relatively large number of young persons of both sexes and with a preponderance

ance

TABLE VIII.

Area and Population.Local Age and Condition Distribution from Census 1931.

<u>Local Area.</u>	<u>Average Age.</u>		Number of Married Women aged less than 45 per 1000 Females of all ages.	Number of Females per 1000 Males.
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>		
<u>Canterbury C.B.</u>	33.1	36.0	217	1,128
<u>Deal B.</u>	32.9	35.7	225	1,147
<u>Dover B.</u>	31.6	33.9	238	1,024
<u>Ramsgate B.</u>	32.3	35.7	228	1,200
<u>Sandwich B.</u>	34.1	35.8	230	1,047
<u>Walmer U.D.</u>	31.1	36.7	208	1,061
<u>Blean R.D.,</u>	34.3	35.7	227	1,052
<u>Bridge R.D.</u>	35.3	36.4	205	1,045
<u>Dover R.D.</u>	31.1	35.4	213	933
<u>Eastry R.D.</u>	31.2	32.0	267	918
<u>Kent County (with associated County Borough)</u>	32.8	34.6	235	1,087

of males over females is one which tends to make for many and early marriages. Moreover Table VII page 48 also shows that in Eastry there were in 1931 more married women under 45 years per 1000 females of all ages than in any of the other local areas that comprise the coal-field region or than in the whole county. In other words the potential fertility of this district was high, and apart from changes due to migration this indicates a probable future growth of population through natural increase. The probability is strengthened by the high birth rate which prevails and which as has already been shown is due to the mining population. Should a future development of the coalmining industry in Kent take place, it will probably occur mainly in a region in which the natural growth of population will be proceeding more rapidly than in other parts of the county.

CHAPTER IV.Housing and Town Planning.

The Census returns referred to in earlier chapters disclose the fact that in 1931 over 90% of the population of East Kent was living in private families in each of the local areas except in Walmer Urban District and in Bridge and Dover Rural Districts. This is shown in Table IX page 51. It has already been mentioned that in Bridge there was a large institution for insane persons as well as a small public assistance institution and that in Dover and Walmer Districts a number of soldiers were garrisoned. As would be expected therefore the percentage of persons living in private families was lower in these districts than elsewhere. The numbers living in different types of Institutions are given in Table X page 52.

The members of mining communities live normally in private families. Only in exceptional circumstances e.g. in time of sickness will a miner or any of his family be found inhabiting an institution. Therefore in this chapter the housing accommodation in private dwellings particularly in those on the new mining estates will be considered. No attempt will be made to discuss the various local housing problems that exist in the towns, villages and seaside resorts of East Kent except so far as they directly affect the mining communities. Local problems e.g. lack of housing accommodation for

TABLE IX.

Classification of Population in Private Families and Institutions, 1931.

Local Area.	Total Population.	Population in Dwellings occupied by Private Families.	In Hotels, Boarding Houses, Lodging Houses etc.,	In Schools, Orphanages and other Educational Institutions (not Reformatories)	In Civilian Hospitals, Nursing Homes etc.,	In Institutions for Insane Mentally Deficient, Blind etc.,	In Workhouses and Other P.L. Institutions.	In Prisons, Police Stations and other Places of Detention.	In Naval, Military and Air Force Premises.	In Civilian Ships, Boats and Barges.	All Others (including Vagrants)
Centerbury C.B.	24446	91.6	5.2	--	0.6	1.3	1.0	--	2.3	--	--
Deal B.	13681	92.3	4.7	1.2	1.5	--	--	--	--	0.2	--
Dover B.	41097	91.0	3.0	0.4	0.5	--	0.6	--	4.4	0.9	0.1
Ramsgate R.	53603	94.7	3.3	0.6	0.9	--	--	--	--	0.6	--
Dartwich B.	3287	95.2	4.5	0.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Walmer U.D.	5335	78.0	1.0	2.9	0.3	--	--	--	17.8	--	--
Blean R.D.	11023	94.0	1.4	1.5	1.8	--	1.3	--	--	--	0.1
Bridges R.D.	12251	86.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	12.2	0.5	--	--	--	0.5
Dover R.D.	9032	85.3	1.0	0.1	1.3	0.2	--	--	11.5	--	0.7
Easty R.D.	18446	96.5	0.6	0.5	0.1	--	1.6	--	--	0.1	0.2

From Census Returns of 1931.

TABLE I.

Classification of Population Inhabiting
Institutions in East Kent, 1931.

Adminis- trative Area.	Work- houses.	Other Poor Law In- stitutions	Homes for Insane &c	Hospitals (non- Military)	Convales- cent and Nursing Homes.	Places of Detention, (Police & Reformatories	Naval, Military Barracks etc.,	Ships (non- military)
	No. of Institu- tions. Total Popula- tion.	No. of Institu- tions. Total Population.	No. of Insti- tutions. Total Population.	No. of Insti- tutions. Total Population.	No. of Institu- tions. Total population.	No. of Institu- tions. Total Population	No. of Institu- tions Total Population.	No. of Institu- tions. Total population
Canterbury C.B.	1 220	1 36	1 287	2 139	5 57	- -	1 571	- -
Deal B.	- -	- -	- -	2 46	5 164	- -	- -	4 2
Dover B.	1 521	- -	- -	2 103	9 122	1 5	7 1615	33 538
Ramsgate B.	- -	- -	- -	1 78	10 234	- -	- -	8 37
Sandwich B.	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Walmer H.D.	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 18	- -	1 952	- -
Blean R.D.	1 133	- -	- -	1 6	5 191	- -	- -	- -
Bridge R.D.	1 64	- -	2 1500	- -	1 5	- -	- -	- -
Dover R.D.	- -	- -	1 16	2 2	5 105	- -	5 1035	- -
Fastry R.D.	1 324	1 26	- -	1 15	- -	- -	- -	2 10

From Census Returns of 1931

agricultural workers in the Mastry district or lack of low-rented, sanitary houses in towns such as Canterbury, did not seriously concern the mining population during 1928-1934 mainly because miners were able and willing to pay rents beyond the purse of agricultural labourers and the poorest inhabitants of the towns and old villages and therefore they tended to have preferential treatment in competition for housing accommodation with these native families.

The rate at which the building of new houses was going on in the East Kent coalfield area during 1928-1930 is shown in Table XI page 54. Some of these were houses erected on the new mining estates. A proportion of the others were built by local authorities under the Housing Acts to relieve local problems of overcrowding or in connection with schemes for dealing with 'Clearance Areas'. State assistance in the form of a subsidy is given only in the case of houses in the building and occupation of which certain requirements are fulfilled and which are intended for the accommodation of the working classes. The rate of development clearly shows that the prospect of any part of the coal mining region in East Kent becoming a densely populated industrial area in the near future is extremely remote.

TABLE XI.

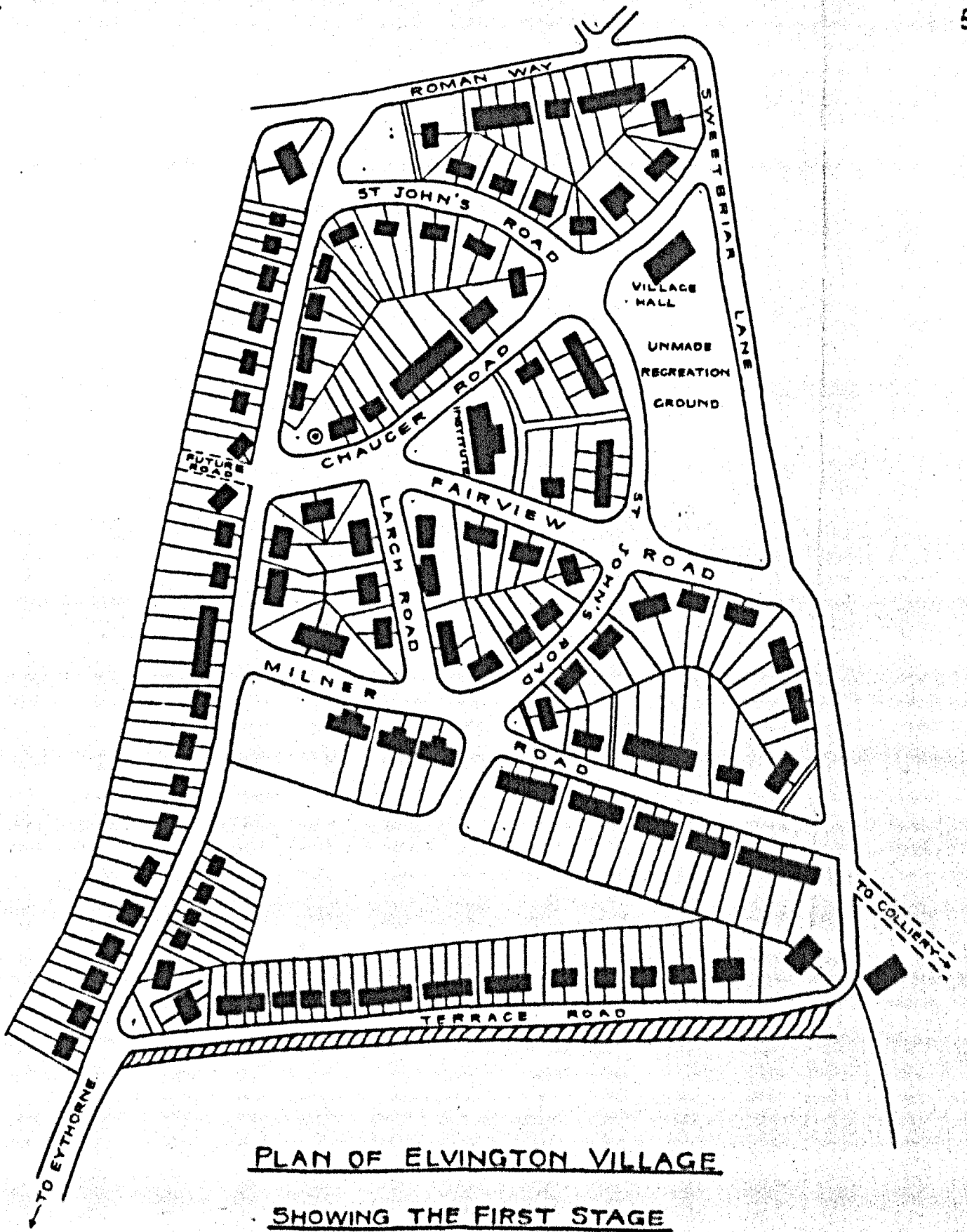
New Houses Erected in Coalfield Region 1923-1930.

Local Area.	1923.			1929.			1930.		
	Total.	With State Assistance.		Total.	With State Assistance.		Total.	With State Assistance.	
		By Local Authority.	By Others.		By Local Authority.	By Others.		By Local Authority.	By Others.
Deal B.	55	20	7	79	-	69	123	-	123
Dover B.	14	-	-	35	-	-	32	-	-
Ramsgate B.	256	143	63	61	20	4	114	-	-
Sandwich B.	15	14	-	34	-	11	-	-	-
Walmer U.D.	20	-	1	16	-	7	13	-	-
Blean R.D.	90	-	45	242	12	155	187	-	-
Bridge R.D.	31	-	31	55	20	35	57	24	-
Dover R.D.	27	-	27	33	-	-	44	-	-
Eastry R.D.	183	6	177	163	-	156	154	-	112

Figures from Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for Kent County and for County Districts.

Table VII page 42 shows the average number of persons per room in 1931 in each of the civil parishes and in the South Ward of Deal in which the mining estates are situated. In every case the figures are compared with those for the county district in which the parish or ward is situated. Some further explanation of the terms used in the Table is necessary. A "structurally separate dwelling" means a room or set of rooms intended or used for habitation having separate access either to the street or to a common landing or staircase. A private house not structurally divided is a single unit, no matter by how many families it may be occupied. A "room" means any of the usual living rooms, including bedrooms and kitchens, but excluding sculleries, bathrooms, closets, landings, shoprooms, etc. A "private family" means any person or group of persons in separate occupation of any premises or part of premises. Lodgers are not "private families" unless they board themselves. A lodger boarding with a family is included in the family unit.

In every instance except in Deal the figures are higher for the parish than for the county district in which it lies. This again will appear to show the influence of the mining population upon the problem of overcrowding. In Deal the difference in size between the total population of the Ward and the mining population in Mill Road is such that the latter would not affect to any significant extent



PLAN OF ELVINGTON VILLAGE

SHOWING THE FIRST STAGE

OF DEVELOPMENT.

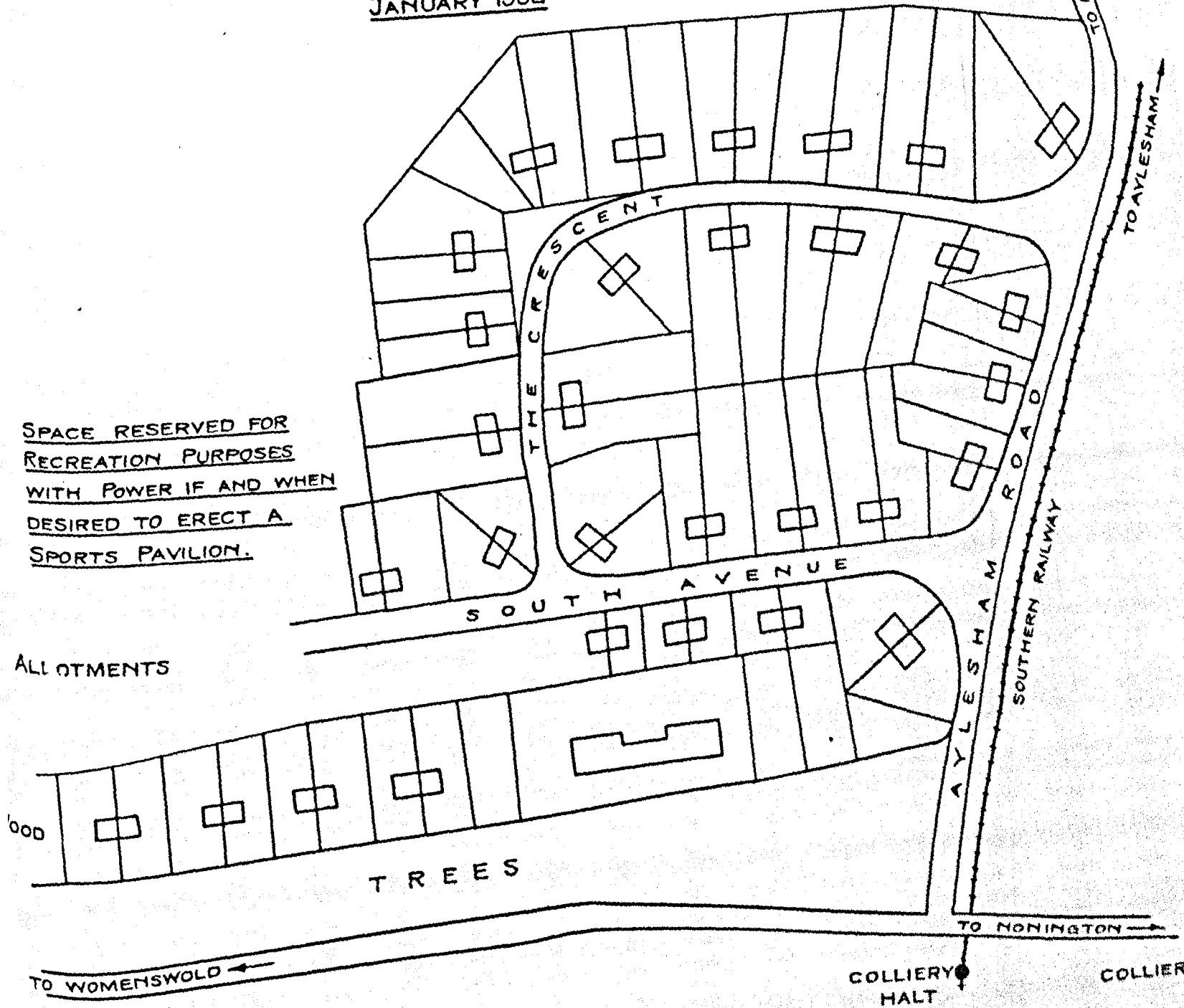
XII

SNOWDOWN ESTATE

JANUARY 1932

SPACE RESERVED FOR RECREATION PURPOSES WITH POWER IF AND WHEN DESIRED TO ERECT A SPORTS PAVILION.

ALLOTMENTS

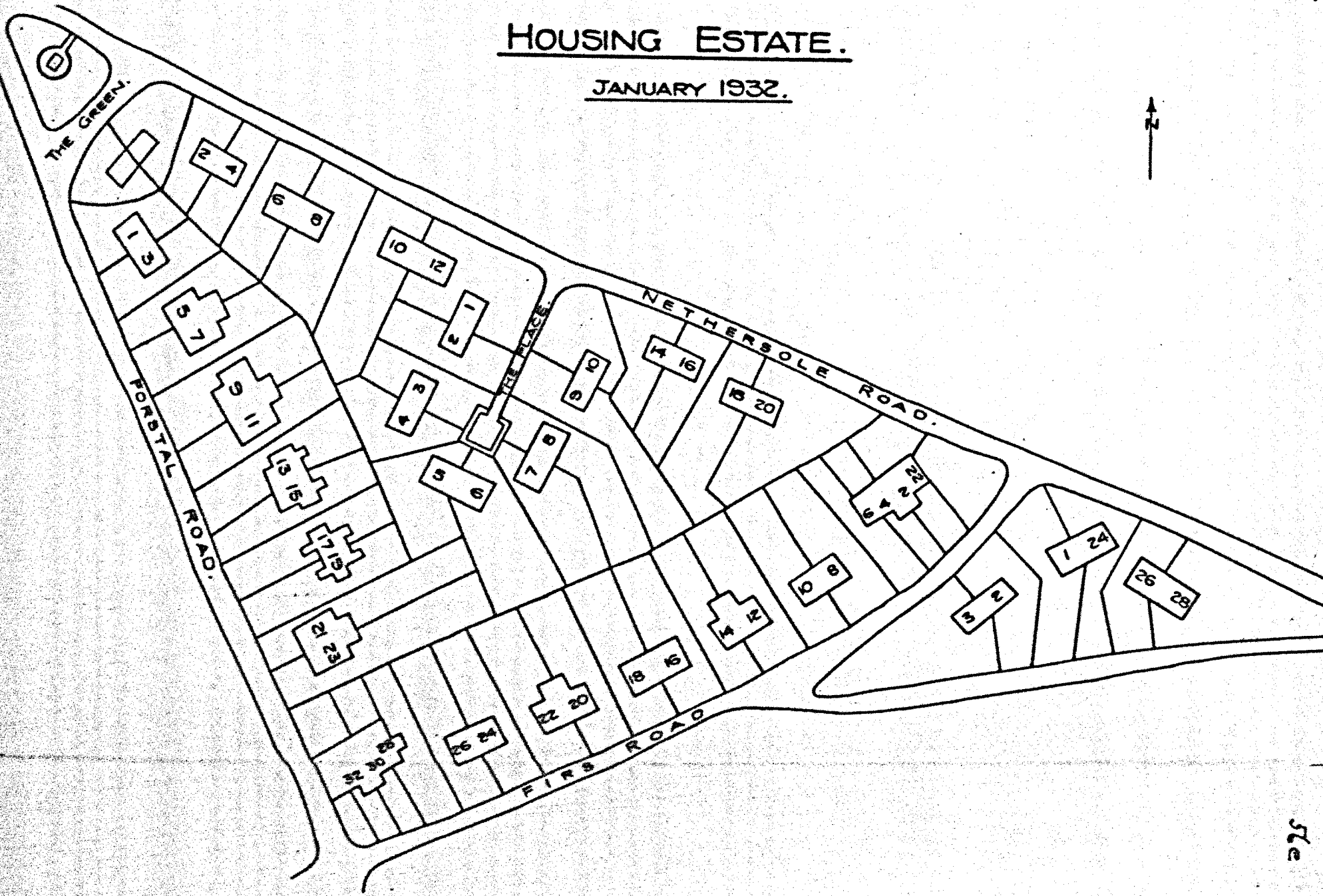


HOUSES NOT DRAWN TO SCALE.

PLAN OF WOOLLAGE GREEN

HOUSING ESTATE.

JANUARY 1932.

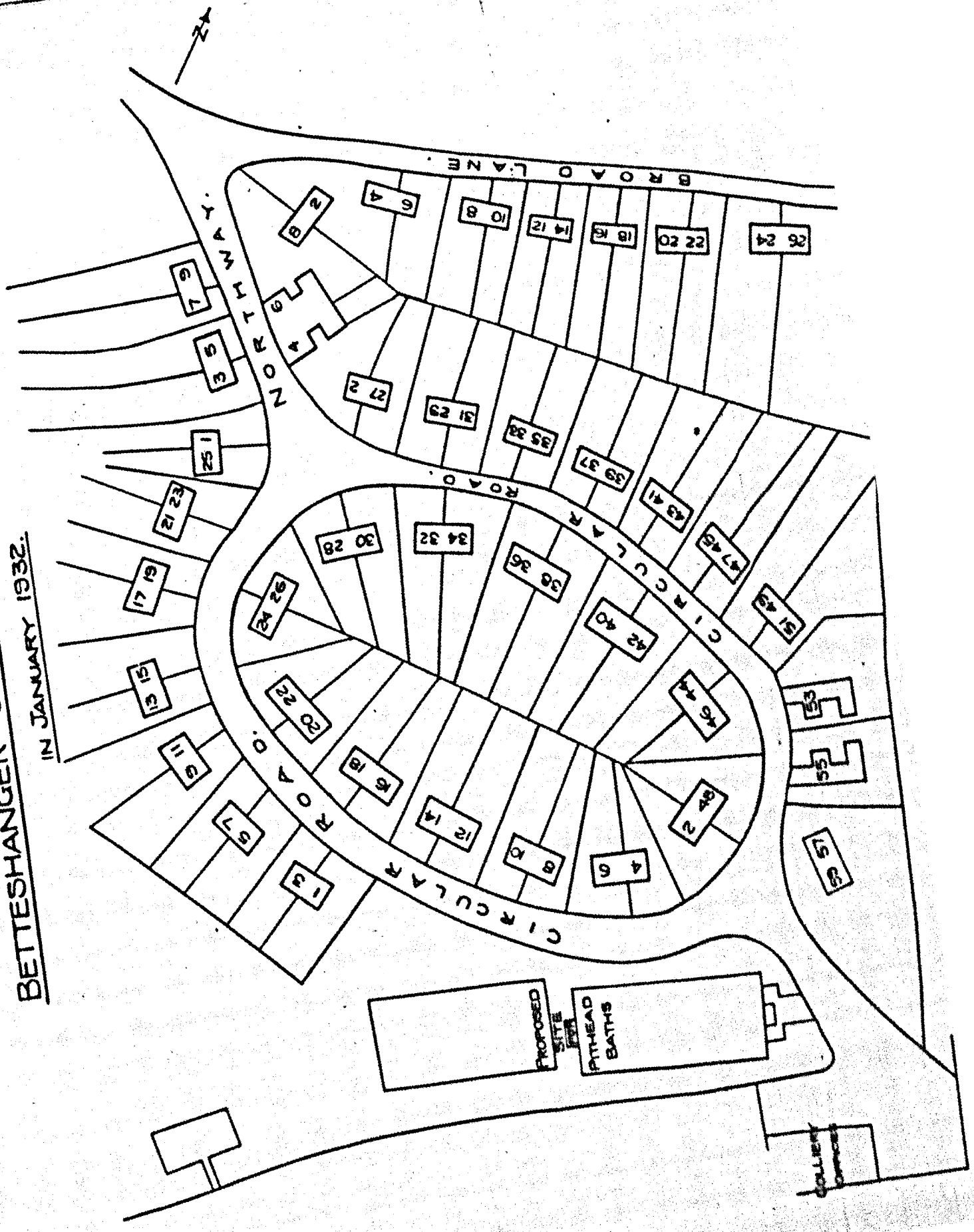


HOUSES NOT DRAWN TO SCALE.

57e

XIX

BETTESHANGER COLLIERY ESTATE
IN JANUARY 1932.



and Betteshanger housing estates. They are reproduced to show the extent to which the town planning schemes had been carried out by January 1932. It will be seen that every house has a garden back and front. The arrangement of the roads and houses present a definite attempt to avoid too great uniformity in appearance. This is more marked in Elvington, Woollage Green and Mill Road than in Aylesham and Betteshanger.

In most of the roads on the Elvington Estate the houses are grouped irregularly in twos, threes or fours, and nowhere is there a depressing suggestion of rows of houses without variation from one end of the street to the other, such as is characteristic of many of the older mining villages in other parts of the country. Red and yellow brick houses are interspersed with cream stucco houses an arrangement which gives pleasing variation in colour. A road borders each side of the quadrangular plot of land upon which the estate is built and the inner roads form a fan, the spokes of which meet near the centre of one side, and this again is bordered by irregular shaped groups of houses.

A quite different but equally effective attempt to achieve diversity has been made on the small estate at Woollage Green. This estate is known locally as White City which is in fact a misnomer for the houses are either concrete or brick. There is greater uniformity in the

TABLE XII.

Types of Houses and Rents in Mining Estates.

Rates are in addition to rent, except where otherwise stated.

<u>Mining Estate.</u>	<u>Type of House.</u>	<u>Rent per week.</u>
Aylesham.	(1) Parlour, kitchen-living room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, scullery.	10s 6d
	(2) Kitchen-living room, 3 Bed- rooms, bathroom, scullery.	10. 0d
	(3) Kitchen-living room, 2 Bed- rooms, bathroom, scullery.	8s 4d to 9s. 6d
Elvington.	Parlour and non-parlour houses 2 and 3 bedrooms.	10s 4d to 10s 4d.
	(1) Parlour, Kitchen-living room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, scullery.	16s 0d & 17s 6d including rates.
Heredon.	(2) Living room, kitchen-scullery, 2 bedrooms, bathroom.	10s 6d including rates.
	(3) Official's House - 2 sitting rooms, 4 bedrooms, kitchen, scullery, bathroom.	20s 0d
	As for Aylesham.	As for Aylesham.
Snowdown.	As for Aylesham. and	As for Aylesham.
	(4) Hutments - Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms.	
	(5) Official's Houses - 2 sitting rooms, 4 bedrooms, kitchen, scullery, bathroom.	
Weollage Green. (White City) Mill Road.	As for Aylesham.	As for Aylesham.
	(1) Parlour, Kitchen-living room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, scullery.	10s 6d
	(2) Kitchen-living Room, 3 bedrooms bathroom, scullery.	10s 6d & 7s 6d
	(3) Kitchen-living room, 2 bedrooms bathroom, scullery.	9s 6d

of steel with concrete facings.

In Aylesham in January 1932 there were 552 houses of which 199 were parlour houses with three bedrooms, 255 were non-parlour houses with three bedrooms, and 100 were non-parlour houses with two bedrooms. Aylesham differs from the other estates in that it has been planned as a small town, not as a village or mere plot of houses. But the plan was of course only partially carried out when the survey was made. In some of the roads e.g. in Wilner Crescent, see Plan X on page 56⁴ the attempt to avoid monotony has not been altogether successful. Anyone who traverses the road from one end to the other, is struck with a sense of rather dreary repetition.

The same criticism might be made of the Betteshanger Colliery Estate were it not that this estate is in itself very small. Nevertheless the symmetrically oval road on both sides of which most of the houses are built tends to give an impression of sameness.

In 1932 Snowdown estate possessed some of each of the three types of houses mentioned above. There were then 44 parlour houses and 9 non-parlour hutments and, in addition, four officials' houses each consisting of three sitting rooms, four bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen and a scullery.

Betteshanger Colliery Estate comprised 78 houses, 38 of which were parlour houses with three bedrooms, 30 were non-parlour houses with three bedrooms and 10 were non-parlour houses with two bedrooms.



Mill Road.



Snowdown Colliery.



Hersden.



Aylesham.

The Mill Road Estate contained three types of houses consisting of respectively (1) a parlour, a kitchen-living room, three bedrooms, a bathroom and a scullery, some of these being double fronted houses; (2) a kitchen-living room, three bedrooms, a bathroom and a scullery; (3) a kitchen-living room, two bedrooms, a bathroom and a scullery.

On Woollage Green Estate there were 44 parlour houses all with three bedrooms, and 14 non-parlour houses, of which 8 had two bedrooms and 6 had three bedrooms.

Hersden Estate possessed three types of houses consisting of:- (1) a parlour, a kitchen-living room, 2 bedrooms and a bathroom; (2) a living room, a kitchen-scullery, 2 bedrooms and a bathroom; (3) official's' houses with two sitting rooms, 4 bedrooms, a kitchen, a scullery and a bathroom.

The owners of the houses on the various estates are as follows:-

<u>Estate.</u>	<u>Owner.</u>
(1) Aylesham.	Aylesham Tenants Ltd.,
(2) Elvington.	Elvington Tenants Ltd.,
(3) Hersden.	Chislet Colliery Company.
(4) Bettechanger.	Bettechanger and Mill Road, Ltd.,
(5) Mill Road.	ditto.
(6) Snowdown.	Pearson & Dorman Long Ltd.,
(7) Woollage Green.	ditto.

Aylesham Tenants Ltd., and Elvington Tenants Ltd. are

Public Utility Societies. Elvington Tenants Ltd. receives a grant from Eastry Rural District Council as well as from Tilmanstone Kent Collieries Ltd., Betteshanger and Mill Road Ltd., is a Public Utility Society and is virtually a Department of Pearson & Dorman Long Ltd., It does not receive a grant from the local authority.

With regard to each of the estates, the colliery has an arrangement by which the miner's rent is deducted from his wages. In some cases rent includes rates; in others rates are paid separately. Excluding officials' houses, rents vary from 18/4d weekly for some houses at Elvington to 5/4d weekly for certain houses at Aylesham, Snowdown and Betteshanger.

On the estate serving the needs of the collieries owned by Pearson & Dorman Long Ltd., a distinction is made between the economic rent and the nett rent paid by the miner. Rates are paid on these estates in addition to rent. The following details regarding the Mill Road Estate illustrate the actual amount required to be paid by miners for the housing accommodation provided :-

I. Parlour house, 5 bedrooms:

	<u>Weekly</u>
Economic rent. ..	14s 6d.
Rent credit (allowed to miner occupier)	4s 0d
<hr/>	
Nett rent (deducted from wages)	10s 6d
General rates. ..	2s 2d
Water Rate. ..	4d
Meter hire. ..	1d
<hr/>	
Rent and rates and meter hire.	13s 1d.

II. Non-parlour house, 3 bedrooms.

Economic rent.	..	13s	6d
Rent credit (allowed to miner occupier)		3s	6d
<hr/>			
Nett rent (deducted from wages)		10s	0d
General rates.	..	2s	0d
Water rate.	..		4d
Meter hire.	..		1d
<hr/>			
Rent and rates and meter hire		12s	5d

III. Non-parlour house, 2 bedrooms.

Economic rent.	..	12s	6d
Rent credit (allowed to miner occupier)		3s	0d
<hr/>			
Nett rent (deducted from wages)		9s	6d
General rates.	..	1.	10d
Water rate.	..		3d
Meter hire.	..		1d
<hr/>			
Rent and rates and meter hire		11s	8d

IV. Non-parlour house, 3 bedrooms:

These houses were built in 1930, the rent being based on the rents of similar houses built in the area before the war.

Nett rent. (deducted from wages)		7s	6d
General rates.	..	2s	0d
Water rate.	..		4d
Meter rate.	..		1d
<hr/>			
Rent and rates and meter hire.		9s	11d

Reference to Table XIII page 64 shows that local rates in 1932 were as follows:- for Eastry Rural District (Elvington, Betteshanger, Aylesham and Snowdown Estates) 8/6d in the £; for Bridge Rural District (Weollage Green Estate) 8/- in the £; for Elean Rural District (Hersden Estate) 6/10d in the £; for Deal Borough (Mill Road Estate) 9/8d in the £.

A separate charge was made for electricity, and the amount varied on the different estates. In Aylesham a flat

.....

TABLE XIII.

Local Taxation

From Statement of Minister of Health.

Total Rates in £.

Local Area.	1928-29		1929-30		1930-31		1931-32		1932-33	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canterbury C.B.	11.	3.	10.	11.	11.	0.	10.	8.	9.	5.
Deal B.	12.	8.	11.	8.	10.	10.	10.	4.	9.	8.
Dover B.	15.	0.	12.	9.	12.	5.	11.	7.	10.	6.
Ramsgate B.	15.	0.	14.	6.	16.	0.	14.	6.	13.	4.
Sandwich B.	8.	5.	10.	1.	11.	5.	10.	3.	9.	11.
Walmer U.D.	11.	4.	10.	0.	9.	6.	9.	6.	8.	4.
Hean R.D.	10.	8.	8.	4.	8.	4.	7.	7.	6.	10.
Bridge R.D.	11.	4.	10.	0.	8.	10.	8.	3.	8.	0.
Dover R.D.	11.	10.	10.	0.	8.	3.	7.	8.	7.	0.
Eastry R.D.	11.	6.	10.	6.	10.	1.	9.	4.	8.	6.

rate of 1/- per week was charged. In Snowdown a flat rate of 1/6d per week was charged in respect of certain houses; 6d per unit in respect of others, the latter charge working out at a rather more expensive rate than the flat rate. This rate was higher in Snowdown than in Aylesham because of the 1902 and the fact that the power used in Snowdown was generated at the pit, and sold to a company from which part was bought back to supply the needs of the colliery houses. Electricity generated at Tilkanstone Colliery was supplied to the newer houses at Elvington at a charge of 4d per unit and 8d per week for meter rent. The older houses are lighted by gas. In Herdian electricity costs 5d per unit.

CHAPTER V.

Employment, Output and Earnings.

It has been pointed out that the opening up of the East Kent coalfield was not as rapid in the latter years of the 1920's and the early years of the 1930's as had been anticipated by the East Kent Joint Town Planning Committee whose Preliminary Survey on East Kent was issued in 1925 and Final Report in 1928. World movements, unforeseen or incorrectly valued, have made it impossible to predict with any accuracy the rate or extent of progress in Kent. In fact the forecast of future developments made in the Preliminary Survey was considerably modified ~~and changed~~ in the Final Report published only three years later. Events of the six years which have elapsed since then have proved that this second prophecy is not being entirely fulfilled.

In 1928 it was estimated that at the end of ten years after the time when the preliminary survey was published, i.e. by 1935, twelve pits would be working in Kent and would be producing an annual total output of 10,000,000 tons of coal. But in fact in the Spring of 1934 there were still only four pits at work, the same number as in 1928. The total output of coal from these in 1932, the latest year for which figures are available, was 1,825,885 tons, i.e. less than one fifth of the amount that it had been anticipated would be produced in five years' time.

A brief review of the condition of the coal mining industry in Great Britain during the years 1929-1932 will serve to show that development in East Kent was much handicapped by the economic position of the coalmining industry both in this country and abroad. In spite of this, the output of coal and the number of workers in Kent increased steadily from 1928 to 1932 as is shown in Tables XVIII and XIX pages 81 and 84.

The year 1929 was exceptionally good as regards the output in Great Britain and in coal mining countries abroad. In Great Britain there was a steady increase in the number of persons employed and employment was more regular than in the previous year. The cost of production was lower and the prices of coal increased. The general improvement in the industry continued for the first quarter of 1930 when for various reasons a decline set in and it continued throughout the rest of the period under review i.e. until the end of 1932.

The increase in employment which had characterised 1929, continued until March 1930, then it fell rapidly, and before the end of the year the lowest figures for employment during the post war years were recorded. Employment moreover became irregular. The world-wide trade depression led to a reduced demand for British coal abroad and industrial activity declined greatly at home during the last three quarters of the year. In spite of this however prices rose slightly.

In 1931 the decline in production continued. The world output of coal was approximately $1/8$ lower in 1931 than in 1930, and $1/5$ lower than in 1929. During the year a legal maximum of $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours of presence below ground was established in all districts. Actual employment was very irregular and the numbers employed fell greatly. The amount of time lost through want of trade varied in different parts of the country, being about $1\frac{1}{3}$ days per week in Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands, but elsewhere averaging about $\frac{1}{2}$ day per week. There was a slight increase in employment during the last four months of the year. On the whole prices generally were maintained.

In 1932 the position of the industry became still worse. The output of British coal was 5% lower than in 1931 and 19% lower than in 1929. In fact it was the lowest amount of production for the last thirty four years excluding the years 1921 and 1926 when the small outputs were due to trade stoppages. During 1932 work was even more irregular than it had been for a generation. It should be noted however that in Staffordshire, Salop, Worcestershire and Warwickshire and in other small English districts there was a small increase in production amounting to less than 1%. Abroad the position was even worse. The situation was aggravated by the fact that since 1929 there had been an increasing accumulation of stocks of coal and coke at the mines through the falling off of demand. By the end of 1932 these accumulations amounted

to three times as much as at the end of 1929. British coal exports were lower in 1932 than in 1931 although the decrease was relatively less than in most other coal exporting countries. At the same time in Great Britain the decline in the demand for coal for home consumption continued. This decline was attributed to a number of causes of which the most important were :- (1) trade depression; (2) the more economical use of coal; (3) a greater use of oil; (4) improvements at gas works resulting in a larger yield of gas per ton of coal (5) improvements at electricity supply works resulting in a greater number of units of electricity per ton of coal used. Some of these causes might be regarded as of a temporary nature, implying in themselves hope of future revival of the industry. Moreover there were already in 1932 indications of future improvements, the outcome of investigations into a wider use of coal, the production of petroleum, cheaper methods of production etc., but this matter goes beyond the scope of the survey. The price of British coal for export in 1932 was lower than in 1931, but it compared well with prices abroad. The price at home was maintained fairly well on the whole, but varied considerably in different parts of the country. In the group of coalfields including South Derby, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase, Warwickshire and Kent the price fell 4½d per ton compared with 1931. But in Scotland, Northumberland and Durham, the prices were 1/4d, 1/1d and 8d respectively lower than in

1930. The average number of persons employed in coalmining in Great Britain fell again in 1932.

For some years before 1932 working time in the coal mining industry had tended to be curtailed, while the number of workers for which employment was found had been reduced. This was partly due to the increasing tendency to provide mines with mechanical equipment, thereby reducing the relative demand for human labour, a device necessitated by growing competition at home and abroad. During the period under review the maximum number of days during which it was practicable to mine coal under existing conditions was $5\frac{1}{2}$ per week. In 1929 when, as already noted, there was unusual activity in the industry, the actual number of days on which coal was wound averaged less than 5, and in 1932 it averaged little more than $4\frac{1}{3}$.

Throughout the period 1928-1932 wages with few exceptions remained at the minima. According to wage agreements a certain proportion of the revenue of the industry was used for purposes of wages. In 1931 this revenue slightly exceeded expenditure, but only in a few instances was the balance sufficiently large in amount to justify the raising of wages above the minima. In Warwickshire alone in 1932 were wages so raised.

It is necessary to bear in mind foregoing sketch of the position of the coalmining industry of Great Britain during 1929-1932 when conditions in Kent are being considered. During this period the mines producing Kentish



Pithead Baths , Betteshanger Colliery.

The Miners Welfare Fund has been a most important means by which conditions of work for coalminers in Kent have been steadily improving as the development of the local industry has progressed. This Fund is made up of- (1) The Output Welfare Levy; and (2) the Royalties Welfare Levy. Under the Mining Industry Act, 1920, Coal owners are required to contribute to a fund to be known as the Output Welfare Levy, administered by a Miners' Welfare Committee. It is to be

* "applied for such purposes connected with the social well-being, recreation and conditions of living of workers in and about coalmines and with mining education and research as the Board of Trade, after consultation with any Government Department concerned may approve."

The levy was to be raised for a period of 5 years in the first instance but by later acts of Parliament was extended. During the period 1928-1932 it consisted of a charge of 1d per ton of coal produced. The Miners' Welfare Committee is required to credit each District with $\frac{4}{5}$ of its own contribution, the remaining $\frac{1}{5}$ th to be paid into a General Fund.

The Royalties Levy was instituted under the Mining Industry Act, 1926, which required all persons who pay mineral rights duty from the working of coal to pay into the Miners' Welfare Fund a contribution of 1/- for every

* Extract from Mining Industry Act 1920, quoted in the Tenth Report of the Miners' Welfare Fund, 1931.

20/- of the rental value of the right to work coal. The Miners' Welfare Committee is empowered to administer this fund also, but for general purposes only, no part of the contribution being allocated to particular districts. The Committee is required to use the fund in the first instance to provide pit baths and arrangements for drying clothes. A Departmental Committee of Enquiry into the Miners' Welfare Fund appointed by the Secretary for Mines in 1931 recommended in December 1932 that the levy should be reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ d per ton of coal raised and should be continued for 20 years, but no change was brought about before the end of 1933.

Table XIV page 74 shows the amounts credited to Kent from the Output Welfare Levy Fund 1928-1932, and Table XV page 75 shows the purposes for which the money was used. Under the heading Recreation may be included playing fields at Aylesham, Men's Institute at Mill Road etc.

As required by Act of Parliament the General Fund during the period 1928-1932 was used to provide bathing facilities at the pitheads. The District Fund was used to pay the cost of the extension of baths at Chislet; the cost of the other baths was born by the General Fund. A levy of 6d per week for the use of baths is deducted from the men's wages. Details regarding the accommodation etc., provided thereby are set out in Table XVI, page 76.

The value of pithead baths is not always appreciated by the men at the time of their installation. Natural

TABLE XIV.

Output Welfare Levy Fund.

Financial Position at 31st. December.

Year.	Amount Credited to Kent.	Allocations Approved.
1928	£8,616. 3. 1d.	£8,014. 1s 7d
1929.	£11,271. 10. 0d	£8,564. 1s.7d
1930.	£15,545. 7. 7d	£13,564. 1s. 3d
1931.	£19,850. 19. 7d	£18,374. 1s. 3d.
1932.	£25,136. 16. 4d.	£26,538. 7. 10d

Under the Mining Industry Act, 1920, each district is credited with four-fifths of the contributions received therefrom. The remaining one-fifth is placed to the credit of the General Fund.

Figures from Annual Reports of Miners' Welfare Fund.

TABLE XV.

Miners' Welfare Fund.

Allocations from District Fund at 31st. December.

Kent.

Purpose of Allocation.	Amount Allocated During the Year:-				
	1928.	1929	1930	1931	1932.
Recreation.	£4049.1.7.	£500	£1450.14.8.	--	£555
Pit Welfare.	--	--	--	£4750.	£9558.11.7.
Health.	£25	--	--	--	--
Education.	--	--	--	--	--
Administrative Expenses.	£75	£80	£50	£80	£50.

Figures from Annual Reports of Miners' Welfare

Fund.

TABLE XVI.Pithead Baths in Kent on 31st. December, 1932.

From Miners' Welfare Report, 1932.

Colliery Company.	Name of Colliery.	No. of Pithead Baths.		
		Persons employ- ed.	Accommo- dation.	Opening date.
Chislet Colliery Ltd.	Chislet) " extension.)	1402	600 318	15.IV.1924. 19.8. 1930.
Pearson & Dorman Long Ltd.	Petteehanger.	1659	1018	Baths under construc- tion.
Tilmanstone (Kent) Cellieries Ltd.	Tilmanstone.	1046	1008.	11.X.1930

The figure for accommodation is at Petteehanger and Tilmanstone the number of pairs of lockers (one for each clean and one for pit clothes); at Chislet it is the number of clothes hangers.

conservatism makes some loath to give up their life long habit of washing at home. The disadvantages of a long-established custom are not always fully recognised by those bound by it. Nor are the advantages of arriving home clean entirely appreciated without actual experience. Moreover the men are sometimes influenced by a prevailing opinion that risk of catching cold is incurred by those who take their baths at the pit head and journey home afterwards in all kinds of weather. Experience however shows that in Kent as elsewhere use of the baths increases, in popularity in course of time. The position is summed up in an abstract from the Annual Report of the Inspectors of Mines for the Midland and Southern Division 1932:-

"Baths have been well patronised, there is no doubt that when miners' wives have experienced the advantages of husbands coming home clean and in clean clothes the use of pithead baths will increase. Pithead baths will in course of time play a great part in raising the status of the miner both physically and mentally."

It may be noted that the number of baths provided at Ghislet and Tilmanstone Collieries was not equal to the to the number of miners employed in 1932. Even in these neighbourhoods are not seldom met black-faced miners in pit clothes returning to their homes after work. Without any future increase in employment the bathing accommodation in Kentish mines is not entirely adequate.

The Miners' Welfare General Fund is also used as a means, of providing educational facilities to miners and their families. Part of the fund is reserved for a Scholarship Scheme administered by a special committee. The application of the Fund to this purpose is discussed in the chapter on Education.

Table XVII page 79 shows the incidence of accidents from various causes involving (a) death (b) disablement for more than 3 days in Kent mines. The total number of accidents from all causes in Kent may be compared with the total number of accidents from all causes in Great Britain, the figures for which are also given. It will be noticed that while the numbers for Great Britain 1929-1932 were steadily diminishing the numbers in Kent tended to increase during the same period. The movement in opposite directions in the two cases may be partly, though probably not entirely accounted for by the fact that activity in the mines in Great Britain was diminishing during this period while in Kent the number of persons employed rose annually 1929-1932. The total number of accidents resulting in deaths is so few in Kent that it is impossible to generalise regarding them when so short a period as four years is under consideration. It may perhaps be pointed out, however, that, two of these accidents, both of which occurred at Snowdown mine, one an underground haulage accident in 1929, another an accident through machinery in 1930, are selected by the Divisional

DISTRIBUTION BY CAUSES OF PERSONS

KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED DURING 1932

IN MIDLAND AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF INSPECTORS OF MINES
FOR MIDLAND AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

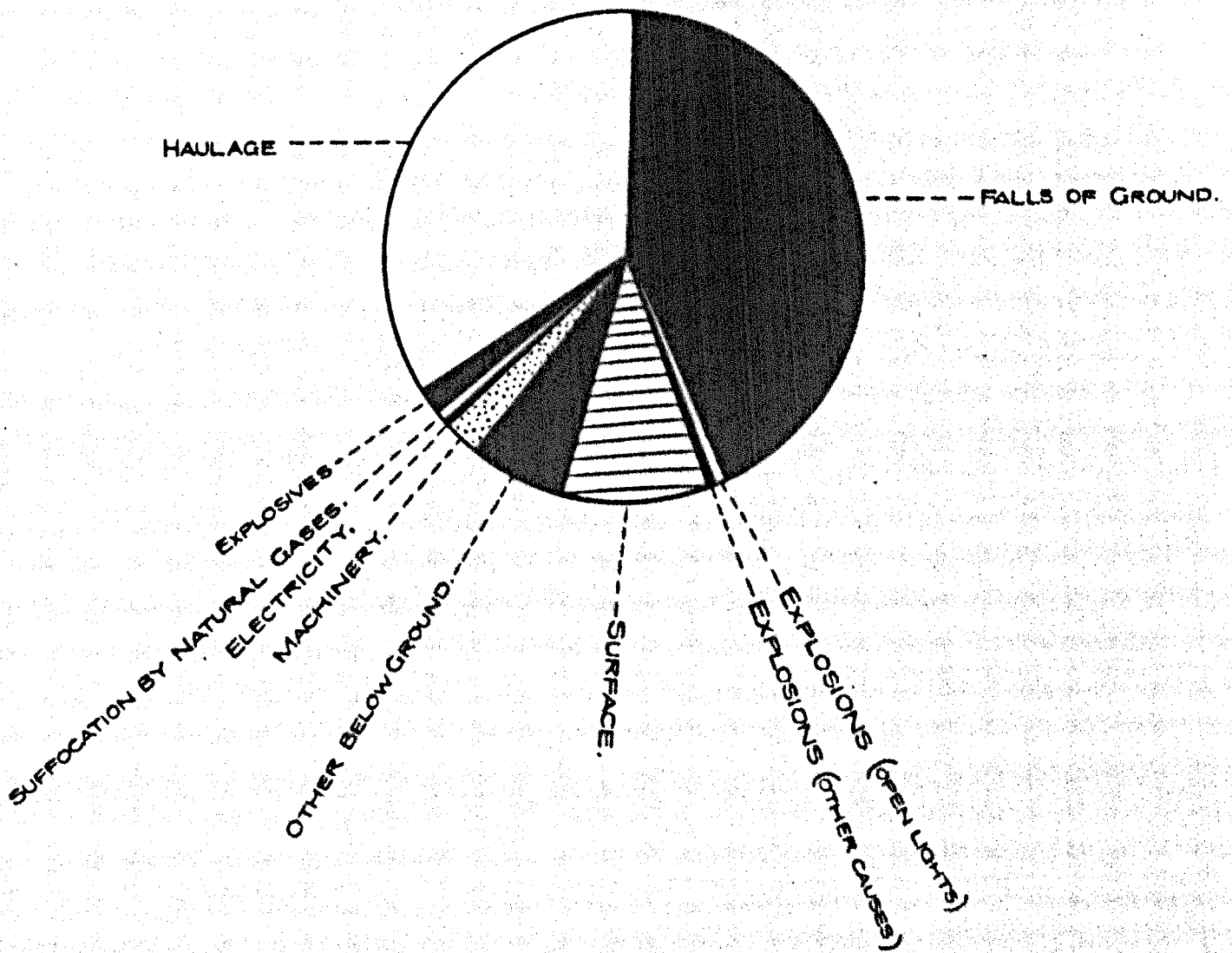


TABLE XVII.

Persons killed and Injured by Accidents
in Mines.From Annual Reports of Secretary for
Mines.

Place of Accident.	Cause of Accident.	1929	1930	1931	1932.
<u>A. No. of Persons Killed.</u>					
Kent.	Falls of Ground.	5	1	1	5
"	Shaft Accidents.	1	1	-	-
"	Underground Haulage Accidents.	3	2	2	1
"	On Surface.	-	-	2	1
	Total.	7	4	5	7
Great Britain.	All Causes.	1065	1008	856	877
<u>B. No. of Injured who were disabled for more than 3 days</u>					
Kent.	Falls of Ground.	464	640	781	640
"	Shaft Accidents.	11	13	4	-
"	Underground Haulage Accidents.	330	373	383	471
"	Miscellaneous Under ground Accidents.	423	458	491	445
"	On Surface.	77	70	98	63
	Total	1,305	1,554	1,757	1,619
Great Britain.	All Causes.	174971	165541	141014	125541

Inspectors in their Annual reports, as worthy of note.

In the first accident, carelessness or stupidity, in the second accident, bad discipline among the workers leading to a definite breach of rules made for their own safety, were, in the opinion of the Inspector, the causes of the accidents. [This has bearing upon local opinion regarding accidents which will be referred to in Part II.]

The quantity of saleable coal raised in Kent rose from 929,803 tons in 1928 to 1,823,833 tons in 1932 (See Table 18 page 81,) i.e. over a period of five years the output almost doubled. The actual amounts of increase in each year over the preceding year were as follows :-

<u>1929</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>
219,160 tons.	142,717 tons	294,070 tons	237,133 tons.

Thus it will be seen that progress in the amount of production was not uniform over the period, greatest progress, being made in 1931, least in 1930. A comparison between the quantities and net selling values at the mine of coal produced in Kent and in Great Britain is shown on Table XVIII page 81. The decline in production of coal in Great Britain which began in the second quarter of 1930 continuing to the end of the period under review, and which has already been referred to, was accompanied by a marked increase in production in Kent. The total nett selling value of Coal in Great Britain rose in 1929 as compared with the previous year, but thereafter it fell annually

TABLE XVIII.

Quantity and Nett Selling Value of Coal Raised
(1) in Kent, (2) in Great Britain, 1928-32.

	1928.	1929	1930	1931	1932
	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons.</u>
Total Quantity of Saleable Coal raised					
(1) in Kent.	929,803.	1,148,963.	1,291,680.	1,585,750.	1,823,883
(2) in Great Britain.	237,471,931	257,906,802.	243,881,824.	219,458,951.	208,733,140
Total Nett Selling Value of Coal at Mine	£	£	£	£	£
(1) in Kent.		£842,153	£1,020,462	1,219,424.	1,339,212
(2) In Great Britain.	152,515,958.	173,233,199.	165,733,075.	147,745,742.	138,378,935
Average Nett Selling Value per ton of Coal at Mine	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
(1) in Kent.	14. 3.	14. 8.	15. 10.	15. 5.	15. 3.
(2) In Great Britain.	12. 10.	13. 5.	13. 7.	13. 8.	13. 3.

From Annual Reports of Secretary for Mines.

Total Costs and Proceeds of Coal Mined in Cumberland, North Wales, South Staffordshire, Shropshire, Bristol, Forest of Dean, Somerset, Kent.

Total Costs.	15s 4½d	14s 10d.	15. 0½d	15s 4.	15. 0½
Proceeds.	14s 3½d	14. 8d	14. 11½	15s 2½	14. 10½

to the end of the period under review. In Kent on the other hand the total nett selling value rose annually as might be expected since the Annual Output was increasing considerably. With regard to the average nett selling value per ton of coal at the mine in Kent and in Great Britain, variations from year to year, 1928-1932, were in the same direction but the rate of change differed very much. In Kent as in Great Britain the selling price of coal at the mine rose in 1929 and again in 1930, then fell in 1931 and again in 1932. The actual increases and decreases in the average nett selling value per ton of coal at the mine are set out below -

	<u>1929</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>
<u>Kent.</u>	+ 5d	+ 1/2d	- 5d	- 2d
<u>Great Britain.</u>	+ 7d	+ 2d	- 1d	- 3d

Throughout the period the selling price per ton of coal was considerably higher in Kent than in Great Britain. The greatest difference occurred in 1932 when Kentish coal averaged 2/- per ton more than the average price in Great Britain. In 1929 the least difference between the two prices (1/3d) occurred. The significance of these figures, cannot be fully recognised unless they are compared with the cost of production figures for Kent and for Great Britain. Unfortunately the figures for Kent are not issued apart from other areas. [It was generally accepted in the locality however that the Chislet Mine was just

paying its way during this period. Tilmanstone colliery was said to be losing (1930-1932) £900-£700 per week. The position of Snowdown and Ecteshanger collieries was not generally known. It was assumed, however, that a firm of Pearson & Dorman Long's experience and standing would not exploit coal in Kent for any lengthened period unless the position were financially sound.] Wages were at the minima throughout the period, and the wage bill is the biggest item in the cost of production. Below Table XVIII is set out the total costs and proceeds of coal mined in groups of areas, one of which is Kent.

Table XIX page 84 shows the average number of wage-earners employed above and below ground and the average number of clerks and salaried persons employed in the coalmining industry in Kent 1928-1932. The total average number of persons employed in Kent mines in 1928 was 3,553. By 1932 the total average number had increased to 6,382 and in each intervening year there was a considerable increase over the preceding one. As might be expected the greatest increase, 803 persons, occurred in 1929 when there was a general stimulation to production in the industry; but during the years 1930, 1931 and 1932, while the annual average number of persons employed in coal mining in Great Britain was falling, the increases in Kent were 707, 805 and 704 for the respective years. It is doubtless justifiable to assume that had the coalmining industry of Great Britain been normally prosperous during these years

TABLE XIX.

Persons employed in Kent Mines.

(a)

Persons Employed.	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
<u>Average No. employed Below Ground.</u>	2,764	3,412	4,076	4,565	5,299
<u>Average No. Employed Above Ground.</u>	709	835	872	898	973
<u>Total Average No. of Wage-Earners.</u>	3,473	4,247	4,948	5,564	6,272
<u>Average No. of Clerks and Salaried Persons:</u>	80	109	115	114	110
<u>Average No. Employed:</u>	3,553	4,356	5,063	5,678	6,382

From Reports of H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines
Midland and Southern Division.

(b) Persons Employed in Great Britain in Coal Mines under Coal Mines Acts.

	<u>1928</u>	<u>1929</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>
<u>Average No. Employed.</u>	951,632	969,736	943,442	877,141	827,459

From Annual Report of H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines, 1932.

the rate of increase in the number of persons employed in Kent would have been far more rapid. As it was the total average number of persons employed, like the output, almost doubled between 1928 and 1932.

Table XX page 86 gives the actual numbers of the different types of persons employed in the coal mining industry in Kent and in the Midland and Southern Division on a certain date in December of the years 1928 to 1932, and provides a comparison between the average number of persons employed annually 1928-1932 in the larger and the smaller areas. An examination of these figures reveals two significant facts :- (1) The average total number of persons employed in the larger area decreased 1928-1930, and increased 1930-32. Owing to the fact that a relatively small number of persons were employed in this Division, the increasing numbers employed in Kent appear to have converted a fall into a rise in the amount of employment after 1930; (2) In Kent the proportion of persons employed under 20 years of age compared with the number of persons over 20 years is distinctly higher than the proportion in the whole Division. This can partly be accounted for by the fact that large numbers of young men under 20 years of age have tended to migrate to Kent from distressed areas. It also tends to indicate that there was during this period plenty of work available for boys in mining families leaving school who wished to enter the industry. This in fact was so.

TABLE XX.

Details of Persons Employed in Kent and in Midland and Southern
Division in Coal Mining 1928-1932.

Persons Employed.	1928		1929		1930		1931		1932.	
	Kent. M. & S.D.		Kent. M. & S.D.		Kent. M. & S.D.		Kent. M. & S.D.		Kent. M. & S.D.	
Wage Earners										
(a) Below Ground.	at 15th. Dec.	at 14th. Dec.	at 13th. Dec.	at 12th. Dec.	at 17th. Dec.					
Males										
Under 16 yrs.	93	1072	131	1018	135	935	126	945	96	832
16-18 yrs.	149	1537	186	1524	250	1673	278	1762	239	1693
18-20 "	179	2144	232	2028	357	2002	349	2053	325	2122
20 yrs and over.	2592	40350	3184	40632	3542	39642	4243	40793	4766	40871
Average No. Employed below ground.	2764	45209	3412	44200	4076	44335	4306	44619	5239	45403
(b) Above Ground.	at 15th. Dec.	at 14th. Dec.	at 13th. Dec.	at 12th. Dec.	at 17th. Dec.					
Males										
Under 16 yrs.	31	732	44	651	44	633	52	634	56	517
16-18 yrs.	82	713	94	736	109	857	113	771	117	775
18-20 "	42	629	63	605	81	733	86	730	90	780
20 yrs & over.	594	10636	650	10796	633	10377	637	10643	693	10303
Females:										
under 20 yrs.	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1
20 yrs. & over	1	43	2	33	1	53	1	35	1	34
Average No. Employed above ground.	799	12950	835	12310	972	13107	896	12904	973	12903
Clerks and Salaried Persons.	at 15th. Dec.	at 14th. Dec.	at 13th. Dec.	at 12th. Dec.	at 17th. Dec.					
Males.	64	1233	112	1370	114	1232	112	1262	108	1248
Females.	2	93	3	85	2	87	2	81	2	86
Average No. Employed.	3353	59568	4356	58952	5083	58912	5676	53861	6332	59726

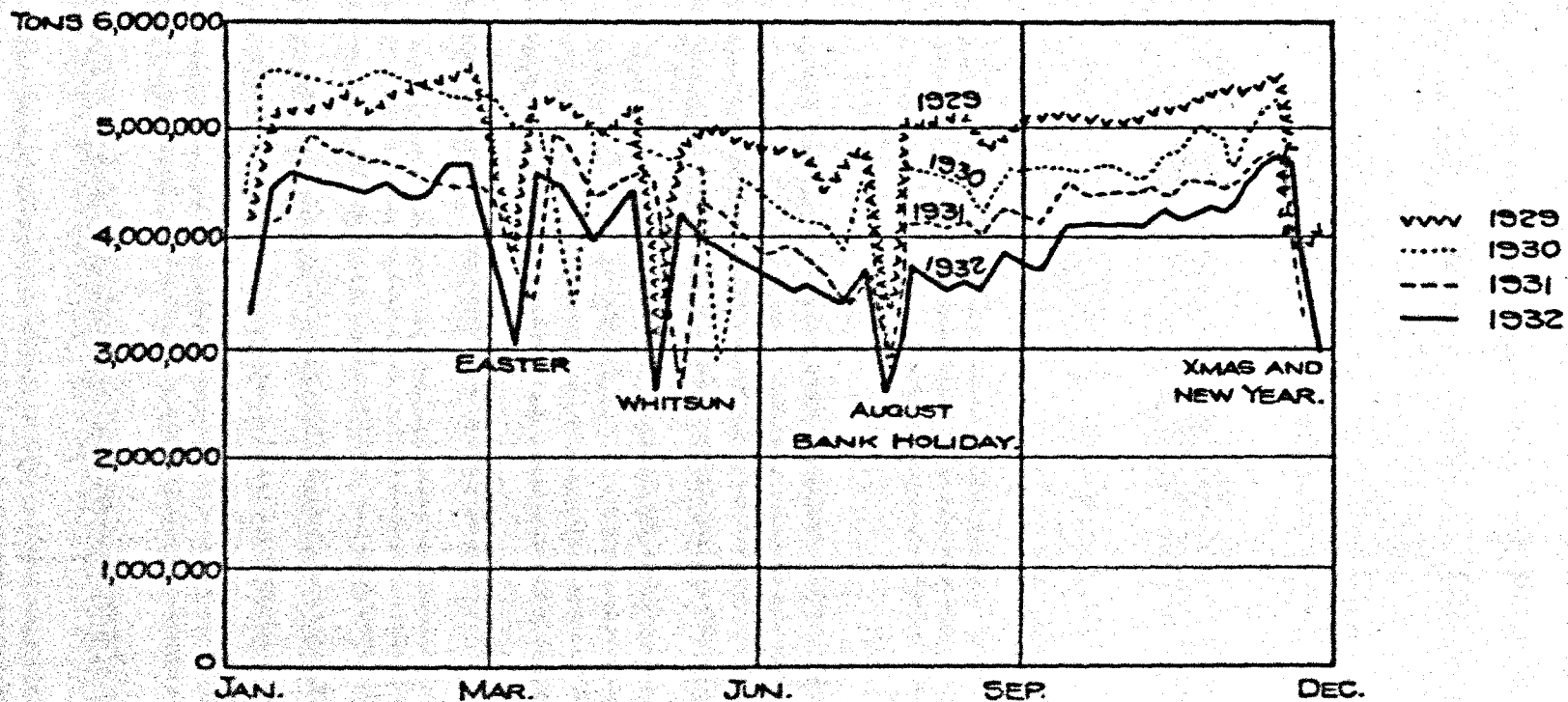
From Annual Reports of Secretary for Mines and of H.M. Inspectors
of Mines.

Table XXI page 88 shows the average weekly and aggregate number of days on which the pits wound coal in Kent and in Great Britain in the years 1929-1932, and the graph on page 67a shows the weekly output of coal in Great Britain during the same years. These two illustrations should be studied together. It will be seen that each year the weekly output of coal fell greatly during the weeks in which the public holidays at Easter, Whitsun, August Bank Holiday and Christmas and the New Year occur. It will be noted, too, that each year, there was a tendency for the output to diminish from Easter to the end of July, and then to increase till the Christmas and the New Year interval, after which it remained relatively high until Easter. Under present day conditions time is inevitably lost during the weeks in which the Public Holidays occur, and the pits tend to be less active in the summer months than in the winter months. As has already been mentioned an average of $5\frac{1}{4}$ days per week is the maximum number upon which it is practicable to wind coal. In Great Britain, even in 1929, the average weekly number of days was only 4.93 and in 1932 it was as low as 4.36. In Kent there was, on the other hand, little variation from year to year. During the period 1929-32 each year the number was over 5, the average for the four years being 5.23. Employment was more regular in Kent than in Great Britain, and, in this respect also, Kent was apparently little affected by annual variations in the prosperity of the coal mining industry as a whole.

WEEKLY OUTPUT OF COAL IN GREAT BRITAIN

DURING THE YEARS 1929 TO 1932.

FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY FOR MINES.



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TABLE XXI

Average Weekly and Aggregate Number of
 Days on which the Pits wound Coal in Kent,
 and in Great Britain 1929-1932.
 =====

	1929	1930	1931	1932.
I. Average No. of Days on which the Pits wound Coal				
a) in Kent.	5.25	5.17	5.28	5.23
b) In Great Britain.	4.93	4.63	4.52	4.36
II. Aggregate No. of Days on which the Pits wound Coal				
a) in Kent.	272.77	268.65	274.75	172.15
b) in Great Britain.	256.29	245.41	234.93	226.63

From Annual Reports of Secretary for Mines.

Reference has been made to the District Wage Agreements fixing minimum wages in the industry in the various coalfield areas. No such agreements existed in Kent, 1928 -1934, but each colliery made its own arrangements. It is not possible here to give all the details regarding these. The arrangements were very complex and not entirely uniform throughout the period. Some workers were paid on piece rates, others on time rates. But certain time wage rates prevailing at Chislet Colliery in March 1934 may be quoted here to illustrate the variations and complex methods of calculation regarding the earnings of different types of workers. Table XXII page 90 shows the base day wages rates for adult workers. To these basic rates must be added 37% for all underground men receiving a basic wage of 6/- or less and for all surface men receiving a basic wage of 4/9 or less; and 32% for all other workers. In addition to these percentages on basic wages a subsistence allowance is paid to certain classes of married workmen. If a married man employed underground earns less than 8/7½ per shift after his percentage has been added to his basic wage, he receives a subsistence allowance which varies in amount according to the type of work performed but which in no case causes his total wages to rise above 8/7½ per shift. A subsistence allowance calculated according to a similar principle is paid to a married

Base Day Rates for Adult Workers.*Chislet Colliery 1934.Underground Men.

Corporals	6/3 to 7/10½ per shift.
Trammers and Loaders	6/-
Leading Shaftsmen	9/-
Assistant "	7/6 to 8/-
Onsetters	7/- to 7/10½
Assistant Onsetters	6/- to 7/-
Haulage Engineman	6/-
Main Pumpmen	5/- to 6/-
Ronemen	7/6 to 7/10½
Pipemen	6/- to 6/9
Roadmen	7/10½
Assistant Roadmen	6/- to 7/-
Colliers	7/10½

Surface Men

Power House men	5/- to 5/6 per shift
Fan men	5/-
Pumpmen and Motor Attendants	5/- to 5/9
Compressor Attendants	5/- to 5/6
Engine Cleaners	4/9
Stokers Chargemen	6/- per shift
Stokers	5/6 per shift
Ash wheelers	4/9
Boiler Cleaners	4/9 to 5/-
Banksmen Chargemen	6/2
Banksmen Assistant	4/9 to 5/5½
Bank Trammers	4/9
Bank Labourers	4/9 to 5/4
Tub Repairers	5/- to 5/6
Blacksmiths (Strikers)	4/6 to 5/-
Lampmen (Foremen)	5/8
Lampmen	5/- to 5/4
Platelayers	5/4 to 5/10
Shunters	5/4
Washers	4/9 to 5/-
Screen Foremen	5/9
Tiplers and Beltmen	5/-
Wagon Lowerers	5/- to 5/4
Sawers	5/2 to 5/10
Sawers Assistants	4/9 to 5/2
Carpenters (Foremen)	6/8 per shift
Carpenters	5/3 to 6/-
Fitters (Foremen)	7/-
Fitters	5/6 to 6/9
Blacksmiths (Foremen)	6/8
Blacksmiths	5/3 to 6/-
Masons and Bricklayers	5/4 to 6/2
Electricians	5/3 to 6/-
Crane and Loco. Drivers	5/- to 5/6

* For allowances and other additions to base rates see pages 89.....

man employed above ground if his wages including the percentage are less than 8/2 per shift. A workman entitled to subsistence allowance is paid a children's allowance ^{of 3d per shift} for each child under 14 years of age. Car^{pen-}ters, fitters, blacksmiths, masons and bricklayers, electricians, crane and locomotive drivers are not entitled to the subsistence allowance but they receive instead a craftsmen's allowance of 1/3 per shift.

Basic rates for boys aged 14 to 21 years are calculated on a scale graduated according to the age of the worker and according to whether the employment is ^underground or on the surface. It varies from 1/8 per shift for a boy of 14 years working on the surface to 4/6 per shift for a boy of 20 years working underground. Boys are entitled to a subsistence allowance of 1/1 1/2 per shift.

Besides the statutory deductions from wages required as contributions under the national health and the national unemployment insurance schemes, certain other deductions must be taken into account when an estimate of the wages of colliery workers in Kent is made. One of these is the charge of 6d per week levied on the users of pithead baths. Another is the customary levy raised periodically to assist the dependants left by a workman on his decease. Members of the Kent Mine Workers' Association employed at Chislet Colliery are

required to contribute to the Chislet Colliery Death Fund. By permission of the management 1/- is deducted ^{when necessary} from the wages of each man and 6d from the wages of each boy employed at the colliery. A grant of not more than £30 is paid to the dependants of a workman whose death was either due to a fatal accident at the colliery or from natural causes. A grant of not more than £10 may be made to a workman on the death of his wife or of his mother if he was the latter's sole support at the time of her death.

The problem of the relative value of the coal-miner's earnings and those of other workers is affected by the fact that in some instances the miner can obtain fuel for household purposes either free or at a lower price than that paid by his neighbours who are not employed at the colliery. For instance a household-er employed at Chislet Colliery in 1934 was supplied with coal from the pit at the rate of 6/- per load of 16 cwts per month from 1st October to the middle of April and 16 cwts per 6 weeks from the middle of April to 30th September. A workman at the colliery might also obtain firewood, composed of scrap timber, provided it was available on Tuesdays and Thursdays free of cost.

The various deductions from wages referred to above are for the most part payments out of wages for benefits received. Contributions to the death fund constitute for the married worker with dependants and for the worker who has a mother dependant upon him a form of insurance imposed upon him by his

trade union. For other contributors it may be regarded as a true deduction from wages with no corresponding benefit. On the other hand the privileges allowed to householders of supplies of fuel from the pit form a definite addition to real wages for those entitled to them.

These facts indicate the difficulty of comparing the real earnings of Kentish miners with those of other types of workers. Their money wages and their real wages are in some instances different in value and they vary partly according to individual circumstances. It may however be pointed out that a collier earning the minimum day wage of 10s 4d per shift, i.e. 7s 10½d (see Table XXII) + 32%, and working an average of 5.23 shifts per week earns approximately an average of 54s per week in money wages.

CHAPTER VI.

Some Public Social Services.

(a) The Welfare of the Mother and the Pre-School Child.

Social services may be classified into (1) Public Social Services provided by the State mainly through the machinery of local government authorities and (2) Voluntary Social Services provided by voluntary organisations which in many spheres may (a) provide services not supplied by the State; or (b) supplement state services; or (c) work in co-operation with these local authorities which provide social services. This chapter will deal chiefly with public social services.

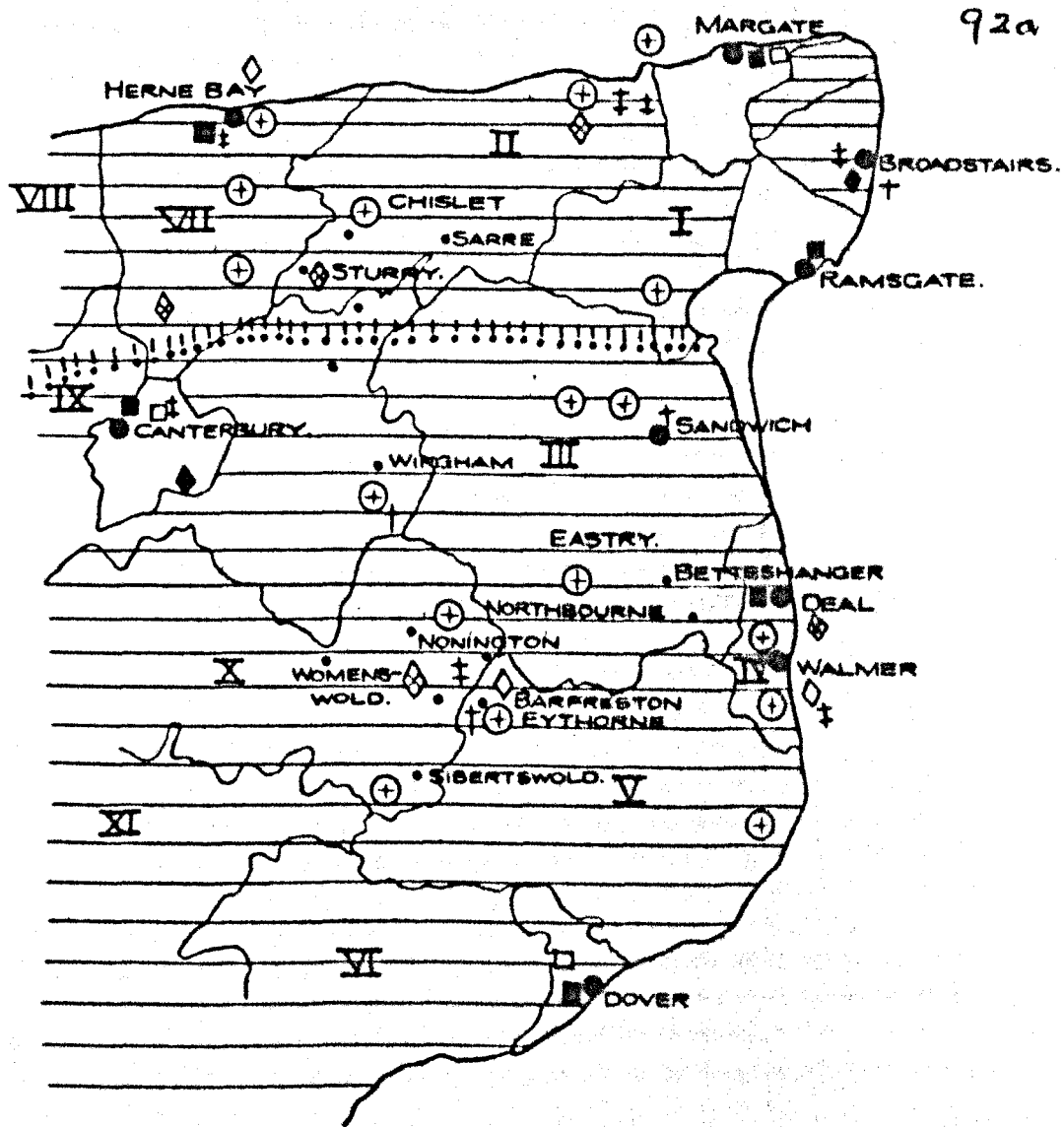
The most important social service which provides for the welfare of the mother and the child under school age is the maternity and child welfare service authorised under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act 1918. Kent County Council administers this act in the greater part of East Kent. The County Borough Council of Canterbury and the Borough Councils of Dover and Ramsgate administer it in their own areas. The work of each of these authorities will be outlined in turn.

In accordance with its maternity and child welfare scheme, Kent County Council is responsible for the administration of the Notification of Births Act, 1907-1915, the Maternity and Child Welfare Act 1918, and Part I of the

Children's Act, 1908, and since January 1933, the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932. The last two acts provide for the protection of infants placed with foster parents for reward. It may be noted in passing that, since November 1933 the greater part of the Children Act, 1908 (apart from Part I) has been superseded by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, and this Act is also administered by Kent County Council.

The county area of East Kent has been divided into a number of public health districts, in each of which a whole time public health worker is employed. Her duties include health visiting, infant life protection, visiting, school nursing and tuberculosis nursing. Map XVII page 92a shows the council's health organisation in East Kent. Areas II, III, IV, V and IX are those in which the new mining estates are situated. Their boundaries do not coincide with those of local government areas dealt with heretofore. Some of them, e.g. II and VII include districts both within and without the coalfield area as it has been defined for the purpose of this survey.

Eight health visitors are employed by Kent County Council in this part of East Kent. An analysis of their health visiting activities during 1932 is given in Table XXIII page 93. According to the county scheme roughly six home visits are paid by the health visitor during the first



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|---|--|-----|--|
| I | AREAS OF WHOLE TIME NURSES | ■ | TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES |
| ⊕ | COUNTY MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES | ‡ | SCHOOL CLINICS. PERMANENT. |
| + | VOLUNTARY MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. | † | SCHOOL CLINICS. OCCASIONAL. |
| ◇ | COUNTY ANTE-NATAL CLINICS. | □ | VENEREAL DISEASES CLINICS. |
| ◇ | COUNTY MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL CLINICS. | ◆ | ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS. |
| | | | AREAS OF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICERS. |
| | | ≡≡≡ | COUNTY MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AREA. |

EAST KENT

SHOWING VARIOUS UNITS OF

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S HEALTH ORGANISATION.

FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT OF
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1930. (ISSUED IN 1931)

TABLE XXIII

Health Visiting in County Area during 1932.

Area at December 31, 1932.	ACREAGE	ESTIMATED POPULATION 1932	ESTIMATED NO. OF BIRTHS, 1932.	No. of visits paid.			Births Not- Com- plained by: plaints dealt with.				
				FIRST	SUBSEQUENT AND SPECIAL	FRUITLESS	DOCTORS	MIDWIVES	INSTITUTIONS, ETC.	MISSING	OTHER
III. Eastry R. (14 parishes and part of 1 parish) Thanet R. (1 parish) Sandwich B.	31553	13198	223	169	2121	61	41	123	-	4	-
VI. Cheriton U. Sandgate U. Dover U. (4 parishes) Elham R. (4 parishes)	16135	14362	245	181	1802	30	45	106	30	2	11
X Bridge R. (8 parishes) Dover R. (1 parish) Eastry R. (3 parishes)	23770	9267	151	77	354	9	16	61	-	3	3
IV. Deal B. Walmer U.	2102	19547	330	119	501	8	20	96	3	3	-
V. Dover R. (12 parishes) Eastry R. (6 parishes and part of 1 parish)	21244	9364	126	148	1966	1	35	115	-	-	-
II. Blean R. (1 parish) Thanet R. (7 parishes)	18277	11261	131	141	1379	32	43	98	-	-	-
VII. Herne Bay U. Blean R. (4 parishes)	10184	16910	200	141	1243	2	32	103	1	-	-
IX. Blean R. (3 parishes) Bridge R. (14 parishes) Eastry R. (1 parish) Faversham R. (2 parishes)	34641	12443	192	162	2799	37	55	107	-	2	1

From Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health
Kent County Council, 1932.

year of the infant's life, three visits during the second year, and two visits during each of the third, fourth and fifth years. At the end of this time the health and general welfare of the child passes to the care of the local education authority. Since, as already mentioned, the health visitor in Kent performs other duties besides those of health visiting, e.g. that of school nurse, tuberculosis nurse or infant life protection visitor, she will often pay visits in addition to the routine visits when she calls upon a family in one of her other capacities. She will also often see an older child when paying a home visit on behalf of a younger child of the same family. Even so many of those experienced in this kind of social work would maintain that more frequent visits than those provided for under the county scheme would benefit both mother and infant in many instances. The time incurred by increased travelling and the heavier cost of the service when more frequent visits are paid are the chief arguments used against multiplying the number of visits. This survey relates to a period during which rigid steps were taken by the Government to reduce the cost of public social services. The Government's policy is reflected in the following figures which refer to the number of home visits paid by health visitors in the whole county area, 1929-1932 :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of Home Visits Paid *</u>	<u>No. of Births.</u>
1929	55,728	17,824
1930	61,058	17,859
1931	53,589	17,673
1932	65,162	17,725

The reduction in the number of visits paid in 1931, the year in which the demand for economy was acted upon by local authorities, is quite out of proportion to the reduction in the number of births that year. Some idea of the work undertaken at the county maternity and child welfare centres may be gathered from a perusal of Table XXIV page 96. In 1931, thirteen county centres existed in the coalfield area. Three of these were situated on mining estates, viz: Aylesham Centre on Aylesham Estate and within easy reach of Snowdown Estate; Bythorne Centre on Elvington Estate; Chisleigh Colliery Centre close to Hersden Estate. This centre was however closed at the end of 1932. The great majority of mothers attending the three centres were drawn from the mining population. Many mothers from Betteshanger Colliery Estate and Mill Road Estate attended the Deal or Walmer Centres. Those living on Woollage Green Estate were within reasonable distance of Aylesham, Barham and Shepherd's Well centres. Mothers of mining families living outside the mining estates attended such centres as Sturry, Sandwich and Eastry.

Attendance at the centres is a means by which the mother may gain assistance and advice from the doctor and health

* Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health for Kent County Council, 1931 and 1932.

TABLE XXIV

County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, 1931
in East Kent.

Name of Centre. (Year of opening or adoption by County Council in brackets.)	Situation of Premises.	No. of OPENINGS	FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE OF MEDICAL OFFICER	Total Attendances.						% of Feeding Methods of Children who attained age of 7 months during year.		
				Children.		Mothers.				BREAST	HAND AND BREAST	HAND
				FIRST ATTENDANCES	SUBSEQUENT ATTENDANCES	1st. attendance.	Subsequent Attendcs.	EXPECTANT MOTHERS	NURSING MOTHERS			
Ash-next Sandwich (1930)	Congregational Hall.	25	fortn't ly.	38	354	1	-	-	-	68	-	32
Aylesham (1929)	Glyn Vivian Mission Hl.	48	wkly.	123	449	-	-	-	-	73	-	27
Barkham (1931)	Village Hall.	14	f'nt' ly.	30	121	-	-	-	-	71	-	29
Chislet (Hersden) (1927)	Colliery Hot. Hersden.	52	f'nt' ly.	38	887	-	-	-	-	52	5	41
Deal (1918)	Baptist Rooms.	101	week-ly.	184	3831	24	1	13	1	32	4	64
Eastry (1927)	Great Walton House.	23	f'nt' ly.	27	759	5	-	-	-	35	13	47
Ringwould (1930)	Village Hall.	24	f'nt' ly.	15	330	10	-	25	-	57	-	43
Eythorne (Elvington) (1928)	New Vige Hall. Elvington.	52	wkly.	59	1619	35	-	117	-	62	11	27
Shepherd's Well (1931)	St. Andrew's Hall.	25	f'nt' ly.	53	331	-	-	-	-	72	-	28
Sturry (1930)	Parish Room.	50	f'nt' ly.	44	890	-	-	-	-	56	27	17
Sandwich (1930)	St. Clements Hl.	50	wkly.	39	395	3	1	1	-	67	4	29
Walmer (1924)	Baptist Schrm.	51	f'nt' ly.	62	1405	4	1	2	-	43	9	48
Wingham 1929	Red Hut.	19	f'nt' ly.	10	231	-	1	-	-	60	-	40

The figures for Table XXIV are from the Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, Kent County Council. Centres situated on new mining estates are underlined.

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visitors regarding the feeding and care of her infant and regarding her own health during pregnancy and while nursing her child. Breast feeding is encouraged whenever possible. Milk, virol and colliver oil are sold at cost price at the centres to those mothers who cannot afford usual retail prices. Talks to mothers on health matters are given periodically by the health visitors and doctors.

Attendance at the centre is also a means by which a mother may have social intercourse with her neighbours, many of whom in rural areas may live at some distance from her. This opportunity for social intercourse is of great value in the Kent mining area because it encourages mothers of mining families to form friendly relations with Kentish mothers. Further the centre is a useful milieu in which mothers of mining families, newly arrived in Kent, may get to know one another. As will be shown later, one of the most striking social problems in Kent is how the barriers between social groups may be broken down within and without the mining population, so that a united and self-conscious community may be created. The problem is the more difficult to tackle because men employed at each of the collieries are drawn from many parts of England, Scotland and Wales. When they first come to Kent they and their

families are often complete strangers to one another as well as to the native Kentish people. The men meet at their work, at the Miners' Welfare Institute, etc, and in time barriers between groups of miners tend to disappear. But the women folk living at home are more isolated. The social gathering at the centre thus has value quite apart from its direct effect upon the health among mothers and infants.

Yent County Council encourages the establishment of voluntary centres by local interested persons. When such a centre reaches a certain standard of usefulness and efficiency the Council takes it over. This is an instance of voluntary organisations supplementing the work of a local authority. In 1933 such a voluntary maternity and child welfare centre was established in Great Mongeham, Close to the homes of many mining families connected with Petteshanger Colliery.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and infants under five years of age forms part of the Council's maternity and child welfare service. Dental surgeons attend the maternity and child welfare centres periodically and recommend mothers and infants requiring treatment to attend the nearest dental clinic. In 1932 12 clinics were provided in the county area, two, situated at Elvington and Walmer respectively, being within easy access of the mining population. The

[clinics

were said to be much appreciated by the miners' families. Before the establishment of the Elvington clinic in 1930 many patients from the Aylesham and Elvington Estates travelled to the Walmer Clinic.

In Kent as elsewhere the number of ante-natal clinics in existence as compared with the needs of the population is still small. In 1929 the Ministry of Health emphasised the value of ante-natal work and urged Maternity and child welfare authorities to consider the desirability of developing this aspect of their work and of establishing ante-natal clinics in areas where there was manifest need. During 1930 and 1931 thirteen clinics were established by Kent County Council, and one other having existed since 1926. Of these fourteen clinics three were set up in 1931 at Aylesham, Deal and Sturry, on or in close proximity to the mining estates at Aylesham, Mill Road, Betteshanger Colliery and Heraden. Details of the work performed at these clinics in 1931 and 1932 are given in Table XXV page 100.

Experience has proved that the success of ante-natal clinics often depends partly upon recommendations to attend given by the mothers themselves to their neighbours. Until the clinic is known there may be reluctance on the part of the pregnant woman to attend, especially in early stages of pregnancy and in the case of a first confinement. The table shows that there was an increased number of total attendances in 1932 compared with 1931 at each of the

TABLE XXV

Ante Natal Clinics in County Area, 1931 and 1932.

Name and Address of Clinic and Date of Commencement.	No. of ses- sions held.	No. of Attendances of Ex- pectant Mothers.						Subsequent attendances.		No. of attend- ances of Mid wives.
		Primipara First Attend- ance			Multipara First Attend- ance.			Prim. para	Multi- para	
		Sent by Doctors	Sent by Midwives	Sent by Others.	Sent by Doctors	Sent by Midwives	Sent by Others.			
Aylesham, Glyn Vivian Mission <u>1931</u> Room (8.1.31)	12	3	12	-	-	23	4	6	4	21
	<u>1932</u>	18	1	17	-	-	22	2	9	16
Deal Baptist Room (9.3.31) <u>1931</u>	9	4	11	6	-	14	12	8	10	7
	<u>1932</u>	12	7	21	4	3	43	9	19	21
Sturry Parish Room (7.4.31) <u>1931</u>	9	6	8	4	-	8	-	11	8	7
	<u>1932</u>	11	-	18	7	-	12	5	33	18

14 Ante Natal Clinics existed in the County Area in
1931 and 1932.

From Annual Reports of Medical Officer of Health, Kent
County Council.

clinics, and seem to bear out the view suggested above and to forecast increased attendance in future years when the value of the clinic is better known locally. Unfortunately the Council found it necessary to close the Sturry Clinic in 1933.

The maternity and child welfare service as it is administered in the East Kent coalfield region outside the county area i.e. in the County Borough of Canterbury and the Boroughs of Dover and Ramsgate, will next be considered. Canterbury Borough Council employed in 1932 one whole time health visitor whose duties included the visitation of homes of expectant mothers and infants under five years of age, and the payment of home visits for certain infectious diseases. The health visitor also acted as the Council's official visitor in the administration of the Mental Treatment Act 1930. The Relieving officer is infant life protection visitor except in special cases when the health visitor acts in this capacity. Both Dover and Ramsgate Borough Councils employed in the same year four full time officials each of whom combined the duties of health visitor and school nurse and infant life protection visitor; 104 visits were paid by health visitors in this last capacity in Dover and 217 in Ramsgate in 1932.

There is a maternity and child welfare centre in each of the three towns. In Canterbury and Dover it is

provided by the local authority; in Ramsgate by the St. Lawrence Maternity Association and Mothercraft Club, a voluntary organisation working in co-ordination with the Borough Council. At the Canterbury Centre infant welfare clinics were held twice weekly in 1932. The usual advice and assistance is given to mothers, drugs and patent foods are sold at cost price and lecture clinics are held weekly on various health subjects. Twelve voluntary workers assist at the clinics and organise a Thrift Club and a Clothing Club. Members of the latter club are enabled to ^{buy} ~~bring~~ material at cost price and garments are made free of charge by the Ladies' Working Party. In 1932 107 necessitous cases, reported by health visitors, were assisted by the Alford Aid Society and 10 by the United Services Fund. At the Dover Centre three infant clinics were held weekly in 1932. Free milk is provided in necessitous cases ^{by} ~~of~~ the Ladies' Voluntary Committee, working in co-operation with the Borough Council. The Council also provides home helps i.e. women whose function is to perform the domestic duties of the wife and mother in the home while the latter is incapacitated through her confinement. The Council contributes to the cost of the home help's fees. In 1932 thirty six families were thus assisted. At the Ramsgate Centre consultation clinics are held weekly for infants under one year of age, and fortnightly for children between one and five years of age.

TABLE XXVI.

Health Visiting in East Kent Outside the County Area.

Local Area.	Acreage.	Estimated Population.	Estimated No. of Births.	No. of Visits paid by Health Visitors.	
Canterbury County Borough.	3976	<u>1931</u>	24,450	351	3,337
		<u>1932</u>	24,270	326	5,316
Dover Borough.	2115	<u>1931</u>	41,095	674	5,442
		<u>1932</u>	41,350	643	5,625
Ramsgate Borough.	2278	<u>1931</u>	33,450	496	3,337
		<u>1932</u>	33,890	481	5,316

From Annual Reports of Medical Officers
of Health for the Areas.

Free fresh and dried milk are provided by the Council in necessitous cases.

Dental treatment for children under five years of age is included in the Canterbury Maternity and child welfare service. In 1932 children under five years of age requiring dental treatment attended the school dental clinic. Arrangements are also made by Ramsgate Borough Council for the dental treatment of pre-school children. No such provision is made by Dover Borough Council. Antenatal clinics are held at each of the three centres, weekly at Dover, fortnightly at Canterbury and Ramsgate. The administration of the maternity and child welfare service in each of these towns also affords examples of how a local authority may co-operate with voluntary workers and organisations in the provision of a public social service..

The operation of the Midwives Acts 1908-1926, was in the hands of Kent County Council for the whole coalfield area during the period under review. In 1932 thirty-three trained midwives were engaged in private practice in the urban areas, and twenty three in rural areas of the coalfield region. Two of these, one practising at Elvington, the other in the Wingham district, were subsidised by the Council, which also guaranteed to all practising midwives their usual confinement fee (not exceeding 2 guineas) where women were unable to afford it.

In 1932 Kent County Council had arrangements with

the following hospitals and maternity homes in or near the coalfield area for the reception of complicated maternity cases and cases in which the home conditions were unsuitable for the confinement:- Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury; Maternity Hostel, Dane John, Canterbury; Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover; General Hospital, Ramsgate; St. George's Nursing Home, Herne Bay. Canterbury Borough Council had similar arrangements for the use of two beds in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, and for the reception of patients at the Canterbury Maternity Hospital which had accommodation for six women. Ramsgate Borough Council arranged for patients in necessitous circumstances to be admitted to the maternity ward of the Ramsgate General Hospital, opened in 1931, and instituted a scale of fees according to family circumstances.

In that part of the coalfield which lies in the county area, the treatment of ophthalmia neonatorum, puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia is provided according to arrangements made by the Kent County Council in the following hospitals :- Deal Borough Isolation Hospital, Dover Borough Isolation Hospital, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Ramsgate General Hospital and Blean Rural Isolation Hospital. Various district nursing associations have agreed to provide for the home nursing of ophthalmic cases when required to do so. In areas in which the services of a district nurse are not available the county

health visitors undertake this work. Canterbury County Borough Council makes no special provision for cases of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia. Provision is made by Ramsgate Borough Council for any case that may occur to be sent if necessary to the Ramsgate General Hospital and by the Dover Borough Council to the Dover Borough Isolation Hospital.

It would appear that on the whole adequate provision is made by the local authorities within and without the county area for the health and general well-being of the nursing and expectant mother and the pre-school child. This seems to be born out by the fact that infant mortality and maternal mortality rates in the county compare favourably with those of England and Wales. Infant mortality rates 1928-1932 are shown on Table XXVII page 107 in which the rates in East Kent are compared with those in the county and in England and Wales. Since it is generally recognised that these rates are liable to fluctuate considerably from year to year especially in areas in which the number of births is small, c.f. rates 1928-1932 in the Borough of Sandwich, Urban District of Walmer and Rural District of Hlean, the average rates for the five years 1928-1932 are also given. The county rate for each year and the average for five years is considerably below that of England and Wales. In the Boroughs of Deal and Ramsgate, the Urban District of Walmer, and the Rural Districts of Bridge and

TABLE XXVII.

Infant Mortality Rates in Kent Coalfield Area,
compared with the Kent County and with
England and Wales.

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Area.	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	Average 1928-32.
Canterbury C.B.	52	50	53	71	55	53
Deal B.	37	38	38	34	53	40
Dover B.	58	59	41	49	55	52
Ramsgate B.	42	41	43	57	44	45
Sandwich B.	98	18	18	88	45	53
Walmer U.D.	49	44	39	0	16	30
Blean R.D.	108	27	40	71	52	60
Bridge R.D.	40	38	44	35	39	39
Dover R.D.	19	100	41	16	31	41
Eastry R.D.	29	70	51	60	72	56
Kent County.	46	61	50	47	50	51
England and Wales.	65	74	60	65	65	67

Figures from Annual Reports of Medical Officers
of Health Kent County Council and Canterbury
Borough Council.

Infant Mortality Rates are calculated per 1,000
births per annum.

Dover the average rate is below that of the county as a whole. Many factors contribute towards high or low infant mortality rates. These include housing accommodation, sanitary conditions of the home, parental knowledge of personal hygiene and infant care, the occupation of the mother before and after her confinement, standard of efficiency in midwifery. It is significant that there is no serious slum problem in East Kent. Slums exist in the County Borough of Canterbury and in the Boroughs of Ramsgate and Dover, but they are not so serious an evil as in many other parts of the country and are being dealt with by the local authorities. The average infant mortality rates for these towns 1928-1932, are 52, 45, 53 respectively compared with 67 for England and Wales. It is not the practice in East Kent for married women to go out to work. There appear to be an adequate number of trained midwives. It is noteworthy that the highest average rates 1928-1932 among the separate local areas are Eastry Rural District 56 and Elean Rural District 60. Until recently infant mortality rates showed a clear tendency to be higher in urban areas than in rural areas, but latterly rates in urban areas have declined more rapidly than in rural areas. Nevertheless the question arises as to whether the rates in Eastry and Elean are affected adversely by the number of deaths of infants among the mining population. In Elean the mining population is proportionately smaller than in Eastry and

the high average rate for 1928-1932 is clearly partly due to the unusually high rate in 1928, the average for 1929-1932 being only 46. But in Eastry 53% of the births in 1932 occurred among the mining population.

It might be useful to ascertain over a period of several years to come the number of infant deaths in mining families in order to find out whether the influx of the mining population is tending to raise infant mortality rates and, if it is, it might be regarded as desirable that more active steps should be taken to check the tendency.

The number of births in the Eastry District is in future likely to be sufficiently large to provide suitable figures for such an investigation. It is generally recognised that many mining families arrive in Kent in a debilitated state of health, the result of prolonged unemployment of the breadwinners before emigrating to Kent. The infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate would be likely to be higher among such families.

In this connection it may be suggested that the closing of Sturry ante natal clinic in 1933 and Chislehurst Infant welfare centre in 1932 may be measures of false economy on the part of Kent County Council. An expansion of the maternity and child welfare service, particularly of ante natal work should be proportionate to new needs created by future immigration.

CHAPTER VIISome Public Social Services (Contd.)

- (b) The Health and General Well being of the School Child and the Adolescent.

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The health and general well being of the school child is recognised as the concern of the State under the Education Act, 1921, which requires every local education authority for elementary and for higher education to include a school medical service in its scheme for the provision of public elementary or secondary education in its area. When this survey was made the very great majority of the children of school age in mining families in Kent were attending the public elementary schools. The chapter will deal mainly with the amenities for their health and general well being which the authorities for these schools provide. The work of the local authority in undertaking their education proper will be dealt with in a later chapter.

Kent County Council acts as the local authority for higher education everywhere in the East Kent coalfield area except, of course, in the County Borough of Canterbury. It acts as the local authority for elementary education throughout the region except in the County Borough of Canterbury and the Boroughs of Deal, Dover and Ramsgate where the respective local authorities act for themselves.

The school medical service provided by Kent County Council is carefully co-ordinated with the maternity and child welfare service and other county health services. The varied activities of the health visitor in addition to her work of health visiting, a matter referred to in the preceding chapter, exemplify this. She plays her part in the lives of the school children in her capacity of school nurse, infant life protection visitor, tuberculosis nurse and visitor for mental welfare. The school medical officer is also county medical officer. The eight school medical inspectors who work in the county are all whole time officials and spend part of their time in maternity and child welfare work.

In the elementary schools arrangements are made for the periodic medical inspection of the following groups of children:- (1) entrants, i.e. children recently admitted to an elementary school, (2) intermediates, i.e. children aged 8-9 years, (3) leavers, i.e. children aged 13-14 yrs (4) specials, i.e. children of various ages apparently needing medical examination (5) re-examinations, i.e. children previously examined, who have not been recorded as having received necessary treatment. In the secondary schools the following groups of children are periodically examined:- (1) pupils aged 15 years; (2) pupils aged 14 years; (3) pupils aged 11 years; (4) specials; (5) re-examinations. Parents are invited to attend the

medical examination of their children, they are notified of any defects requiring treatment and they are given information as to how it may be obtained. The school nurse "follows up" cases by visiting the homes of children needing treatment. She also visits the homes of those children whose parents fail to provide them with necessary spectacles. Table XVIII page 113. shows the numbers of children who underwent medical inspection 1928-1932 and the numbers requiring treatment. During this brief period of five years there appears to be a definite tendency for the percentage of children requiring treatment to decrease, at least among entrants and leavers. This may be an indication on the one hand of the growing efficiency of the maternity and child welfare service which enables defects to be discovered and dealt with before the child reaches school age; and on the other hand the increasing recognition by parents of the value of school medical inspection as a means of ascertaining and taking steps to remedy defects in the child while at school.

In 1932 Kent County Council provided 19 school minor ailment centres at which such diseases as impeligo, ring-worm and scabies are treated. The school nurse visits in their homes those children who are suffering from these ailments but who reside at too great a distance from a clinic to be able to attend for treatment.

Outbreaks of impeligo tend to occur in certain mining

TABLE XXVIII.
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN
 Numbers of Individual Children Found at Routine
 Inspections to Require Treatment (excluding
 Uncleanliness and Dental Disease)
 Board of Education Table II B.
 Elementary Schools.

Year.	Group.	No. of children inspected.	No. of children found to require Treatment.	% of children found to require treatment.
1928	Entrants	9,238	1,609	16.6
	Intermediates	7,860	1,557	15.8
	Leavers.	6,880	1,283	18.7
	Total	28,978	4,367	16.9
1929	Entrants	8,602	1,389	16.3
	Intermediates	8,460	1,263	15.0
	Leavers.	7,308	1,171	16.1
	Total	24,268	3,805	15.7
1930	Entrants.	8,408	1,300	16.6
	Intermediates	7,928	1,279	16.2
	Leavers.	6,968	942	16.8
	Total	22,284	3,611	16.3
1931	Entrants	8,463	1,276	15.1
	Intermediates.	7,686	1,016	13.3
	Leavers.	6,062	818	15.9
	Total	22,207	3,203	14.5
1932	Entrants	8,989	1,806	15.5
	Intermediates.	8,031	1,131	14.2
	Leavers.	7,066	1,034	14.7
	Total	24,076	3,971	14.1

From Annual Reports of School Medical Officers,
 Kent County Council.

areas and cause concern to the district Medical officers. An instance that may be cited was an outbreak in the Sturry and Chislehurst district in 1930-1931. In September 1930 fifty children suffering from impetigo were excluded from Hersden Elementary School. A temporary clinic was opened and by February 1931 the number had been reduced to twenty five. This outbreak was largely confined to miners' families and about the same time there were many cases in the Aylesham district. Lack of cleanliness probably accounts for the intermittent outbreaks of this disease in those parts of East Kent inhabited by the mining population.

In the elementary schools, school nurses periodically inspect the pupils in order to discover, and if necessary recommend for exclusion, those children whose persons or clothing are verminous. Table XXVIII page 115 gives a summary of the work carried out by school nurses in the County of Kent in this respect. It will be seen that there is a tendency for the percentages of both boys and girls found on examination to be verminous to decrease during the period 1928-1932. This conforms with a tendency which has been manifesting itself clearly for a long period in the country as a whole. In 1925 the number of verminous children in Kent schools was more than double the number in 1932. It may be noted from the table that the Kent County Council did not use its powers, conferred on it by the Education Act 1921, to make arrangements for

Summary of Work carried out by School Nurses.

Year	School Roll	No. of Schools visited	No. of Examinations of Girls	% of Girls Verminous	No. of Examinations of Boys	% of Boys Verminous	No. of Re-examinations of Girls	% of Girls Verminous	No. of Re-examinations of Boys	% of Boys Verminous	% of Girls Excluded	% of Boys Excluded	% of Exclusions to School Roll	No. of other Visits to Schools	Attendances at Clinics	% Home Visits to School Roll
1928	76,479	2,983	84,638	6.7	81,777	1.3	12,178	36.2	6,939	13.8	0.5	0.2	0.9	1,357	2,436	27.3
1929	76,735	3,005	85,035	5.5	78,242	1.4	18,069	23.6	10,251	7.4	0.4	0.1	0.8	1,447	3,057	26.2
1930	78,274	3,128	90,662	5.2	88,490	1.4	19,221	21.7	10,184	7.5	0.5	0.1	0.9	1,457	2,451	55.6
1931	78,405	2,904	97,263	5.1	82,888	1.3	14,916	22.6	8,111	6.4	0.5	0.2	0.9	1,509	1,839	31.2
1932	80,847	2,877	97,218	4.0	83,860	1.3	11,182	32.2	4,091	13.0	0.4	0.1	0.7	1,667	1,635	28.5

Table XXIX

Verminous children include all degrees of uncleanliness, from "a few ites" to "many live vermin".
 From Annual Reports of School Medical Officer, Kent County Council.

the cleansing^{of} verminous children attending its elementary schools. Should the number of mining families in Kent increase considerably at some future time, it might be considered desirable that the council should act in the matter. On the other hand it might be argued that a preferable policy would be to instil into the minds of the children and their parents who are new comers to Kent the importance of cleanliness from a health point of view, thus preventing a possible increase in uncleanness due to immigration. At present the proportion of mining families to the total population was so small that the standard of cleanliness could not be affected to any significant degree. Moreover it must be remembered that infestation with vermin is the exception and not the rule among mining families as well as among Kentish families. Nevertheless the current view that the standard is on the whole lower among some newly arrived mining families in Kent than among the Kentish folk generally in whose environs they come to live has probably some basis of fact, and presents a problem that needs to be tackled.

Kent County Council has in operation a scheme for dental inspection and treatment of children attending elementary schools and employs for the purpose a staff of dental surgeons. Schools are visited periodically and where necessary children are recommended to attend a school dental clinic for treatment. When the scheme was first instituted in 1928, many parents failed to take

steps to enable their children to receive the necessary treatment. In rural areas there was the difficulty of travelling expenses to and from the clinic. This was partly overcome by the setting up of temporary clinics. Health visitors assisted by persuading parents where possible to send their children. There is evidence that this reluctance to obtain treatment for their children was not characteristic of the mining population. The following is an extract from the report of one of the school dental surgeons in 1930⁷-

"In agricultural areas as might be expected, response is slow, while 100% acceptance is not uncommon in mining areas."

During the period 1928-1932 school dental clinics situated on mining estates or in the neighbourhood of mining populations were held at Walmer, Canterbury, Sandwich, Elvington and Aylesham. In 1928 a member of the Kent Education Committee gave a trophy for competition among elementary schools in the Sandwich and Aylesham districts to be held for one year by the school which had the best dental record for the preceding year. The trophy was awarded as follows:-

** Quoted from Annual Report of School Medical Officer,
Kent County Council, 1930.

<u>Year</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>% of children with fit Mouths.</u>
1929	Goodnestone	34.9
1930	Aylesham Central.	40.2
1931	Elvington Temporary	50.5
1932	Elvington Temporary	52.0

This may be perhaps regarded as evidence of the response on the part of the mining families to the opportunity of taking advantage of a public health service, the value of which is not to the same extent recognised by the native population, for the very great majority of children attending the Aylesham and Elvington Schools belong to mining families. A possible alternative inference that the condition of the teeth of immigrant children is healthier on their arrival in Kent and does not to the same extent necessitate treatment, as compared with native children, is unlikely. It is undoubtedly true that some of the children coming to Kent from "depressed areas" are debilitated and undernourished. Among such children the proportion of fit mouths is not likely to be higher than among other children not subjected to these disadvantages.

Kent Education Committee has a scheme in operation for the provision of meals for school children. In 1932, 55 school canteens in the county, provided a hot two-course meal at mid-day. School Canteen Committees, each formed of a group of voluntary workers co-operated with the local authority for this purpose.

The following figures show the extent to which meals

were provided in the county :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of Canteens.</u>	<u>Meals Served.</u>	<u>No. of Free Meals.</u>
1928	41	436,410	20,748
1929	43	435,305	15,522
1930	45	472,543	9,949
1931	52	599,741	9,310
1932	55	760,619	8,148

The average cost of the meal varied from 1.778d to 1.857d

Many free meals were provided out of voluntary funds or from the balance made by canteens.

In 1930 a number of milk clubs were instituted in certain Kentish elementary schools. Fresh milk was served to children at a cost of 1d for 1/3 pint bottle. Free milk was also provided in certain cases. One of the schools selected for this purpose was Heraden Elementary school. At that time all the children attending the school belonged to mining families.

In accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 1921, Kent County Council provides a number of day and residential schools for abnormal children, i.e. those suffering from blindness, deafness, physical defects, mental defect and epilepsy. It also provides open air schools for tuberculous children. It carries out an orthopaedic scheme for the treatment of crippling defects, etc., in school children in hospitals and clinics, and in this work it receives assistance from the Kent Community Council. Table XXX page 121 sets out the number of children dealt with by the County Council under the scheme between 1928 and 1932.

It will be seen that the number of children who attended for treatment rose from 333 in 1928 to 395 in 1932. This increase is of course very much greater than the normal increase due to growth of population, and indicates the development of the scheme and growing appreciation of the benefits of treatment on the part of parents. Kent County Council co-operates with the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare in the supervision and care of mentally defective children and young persons; and with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in the protection of ill-treated or neglected children.

From this brief review of these provisions included in the county council's scheme for providing for the

TABLE XXX

Orthopaedic Treatment of School children in the
Kent County Area.

	<u>1928</u>	<u>1929</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>
No. of Patients who attended during year.	333	418	533	568	1395
Clinic) No. of) attendances.	1651	2242	2857	3076	4230
Special) cases.	1373	2652	2453	2047	4061
Total No. of attendances during year.	3024	4894	5310	5123	8291
No. of Patients admitted for In-Patient Treatment.	48	50	40	50	68
No. of Patients discharged from In-Patient Treatment.	33	39	54	47	64
No. of Patients X-Rayed.	19	25	27	12	17
Surgical Appliances.	90	116	123	143	187
No. of cases in which Travelling Expenses were paid.	44	47	57	97	101

From Annual Reports of School Medical
Officer, Kent County Council.

health and welfare of the school child, it may be inferred that the children of mining families coming into Kent have the advantages of a well co-ordinated and comprehensive social service administered by an enterprising local authority. One omission in the service, as it is carried out in the county may perhaps be mentioned. No Nursery Schools are provided by the council. It might well be argued that a nursery school on each of the largest mining estates would be beneficial to the large proportion of toddlers who live in houses many of which are known to be overcrowded. As is stated elsewhere in this survey it is the custom for many of the housewives on mining estates to take in lodgers, and in spite of the Housing Acts and regulations made by the companies owning the houses overcrowding is a recognised evil in some of the miners' homes. A nursery school provided by a voluntary organisation exists in Aylesham, but there are none on the other estates. In most areas where nursery schools have been opened the general opinion has been that they have not only led to improvement in the general standard of health of the toddlers whose welfare is so provided for, but they have also tended to afford an educational stimulus to parents in the upbringing of their young children. There is in fact a strong case for providing nursery schools in areas in which the evils of overcrowding and insanitary home conditions do not exist.

School medical services similar to those provided by Kent County Council, but of course on a smaller scale, and adapted to the needs of urban areas, are provided by those county and district councils which act as local education authorities for elementary education in East Kent, i.e. Deal Borough and Dover and Ramsgate Boroughs. It is not proposed to give here details of the service provided by each. It may however be mentioned that Deal Borough Council is the local education authority for the district in which the Mill Road mining estate is situated. The Council appears to be well aware of the needs of the mining population which is growing up in the neighbourhood. In 1930 occurred the following passage in the School Medical Officers' Report to the Education Committee :-

"Particularly during the past year, with the increasing work at the nearby Betteshanger Coal Mine, a large number of families with young children have come to reside in Deal. These children from Scotland (particularly Fifeshire), South Wales and North England (particularly Yorkshire), come to this semi-rural seaside area from industrial centres, where living conditions have recently been very far from good. It is gratifying however to note that the newcomers from these sources are, on the whole, good types of healthy children. There are exceptions of course, as there must always be, but with better

living conditions, better wages and environment, these children are serving to help maintain the good standard of health which the local youngsters have shown for the past several years."

Kent County Council has in operation a scheme for the treatment of crippled children which includes the provision of eighty beds at Alexandra Hospital, Swanley. Forty-eight of these beds are reserved for tuberculous cripples. Education is provided for children of school age in hospitals. Beds are also provided in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, for crippled children requiring shorter periods of treatment. An orthopaedic out-patient clinic is held weekly at this hospital, necessary surgical appliances are provided, electrical and massage treatment is given at various clinics and at St. Mary's Convalescent Home, Birchington. Parents of patients contribute according to their means

A recognised defect in the state social services in this county at the time when this survey was made is the lack of provision for safeguarding the health of the boy or girl worker who normally leaves the elementary school at the age of 14 years and, who, if they enter an industry, are not qualified to come within the National Health Insurance scheme until they reach the age of 16 years. The raising of the school leaving age and the lowering of the age of admittance to insurance would of course remedy this

defect and changes in the law in this respect are likely to be enforced shortly. The well being of young persons aged fourteen to eighteen years is in a certain direction dealt with by the vocational guidance and juvenile welfare service undertaken in the county of Kent by the Kent Education Committee. The latter body has in operation schemes for urban and rural areas administered through the agency of local juvenile welfare bureaux. Those situated on the East Kent coalfield area are at:- Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Sandwich and Ramsgate.

Under the scheme school conferences are arranged periodically, and by their means advice and assistance given to boys and girls about to leave school and to their parents regarding the child's future career and choice of occupation. After-care work among physically defective children who are leaving or have recently left school is carried out with the assistance of voluntary workers, and in certain cases the industrial supervision of boys and girls in employment is undertaken by the schools and bureaux. Juvenile delinquents are assisted in making a fresh start and in obtaining suitable employment. Young persons living in an unfavourable environment are in some instances removed to a healthier and happier one. During the latter part of the period under review, the general trade depression seriously affected the industrial prospects of juveniles and there was much unemployment among

them. Active measures were taken to cope with the difficult situation. Co-operation with employers was sought whenever possible and steps were taken to prevent or check demoralisation resulting from prolonged enforced idleness, due to unemployment. For the session 1931-1932 it was made a condition of unemployment benefit for young persons, aged sixteen to eighteen years, that they should attend a Juvenile Industrial Centre opened at Chatham or at Evening Classes provided by the Kent Education Committee.

In this matter of placing young persons in suitable employment, experience proved that boys of mining families in Kent easily obtained work in the pits, but the girls had great difficulty in finding suitable occupations, and those belonging to families which had recently migrated to Kent increased the number of unemployed juveniles on the local registers. In 1931 41 boys and in 1932 4 boys obtained colliery work through the local bureaux. As little difficulty was experienced in obtaining work of this kind no doubt the majority of those desiring it would apply direct to the colliery. Boys in mining families who did not want to enter the coal mining industry did not find it easy to gain posts, especially those living some distance from the nearest town. Some boys leaving Hernden Council school found work at a local quarry, at a garage in Canterbury etc., but chances for Aylesham boys to obtain work other than at the colliery

appear to have been very slight.

Tables XXXI and XXXII pages 128 and 129 give an analysis of the work carried out under the urban scheme for vocational guidance and juvenile welfare at the five urban centres situated in the coalfield area. Regarding Table ~~XXXI~~ it should be noticed that in almost every instance there were more registrations both boys and girls aged 16 to 18 years than of those ages 14 to 16 years. This was probably partly due to the fact that registration was a condition of unemployment benefit for young persons in the older age group while those in the younger age group, not being within the Unemployment Insurance Scheme, might not trouble to register. A more likely cause of a larger number of young persons 16 to 18 years registering was that they found greater difficulty in obtaining work. The following is an extract from the Annual Review of the work of Vocational Guidance and Juvenile Welfare in Kent for the year ended July, 1932:-

*"Generally the cheapest form of work has been demanded. Girls have been employed, where possible, instead of boys, and juveniles in the younger age groups in preference to those between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years."

This statement of course applies to the county as a whole.

Among the coal mining population the greater difficulty

* Annual Review of Work of Vocational Guidance and Juvenile Welfare, Kent Education Committee, 1932.

From Review of Work of Vocational Guidance
and Juvenile Welfare, Kent Educational
Committee for year ended July 1932.

TABLE XXXI.

Vocational Guidance and Juvenile Welfare.
Urban Scheme.

Details of Registrations, Classification of Employments desired, Ages and Standards.

Name of Bureau	Registrations					Classification					Ages		Standards							
	Live Registrations at beginning of year	First Registrations since leaving school	Other Registrations	Total Registrations during year	Live Registrations at end of year	Handicraft and Mechanical Trades	Distributive and Needle Trades	Office and Warehouse Occupations	Agricultural Occupations	Other Occupations	14 to 16 years	16 to 18 years	5 and under	6	7	x7	Central Schools	Technical Schools	Secondary Schools	Attached to Juvenile Societies
<u>Canterbury</u>																				
(a) Boys	-	16	37	53	4	25	6	9	2	11	17	36	2	9	29	1	6	-	7	5
(b) Girls	-	13	15	26	-	-	4	9	-	13	12	14	3	2	17	-	1	-	3	4
<u>Deal</u>																				
(a) Boys	7	25	82	107	6	51	18	8	-	30	33	74	14	31	44	12	-	3	3	3
(b) Girls	6	13	65	78	6	2	13	6	-	57	23	56	6	31	25	10	-	2	4	3
<u>Dover</u>																				
(a) Boys	43	146	338	484	66	167	223	38	11	45	246	238	89	133	177	47	11	2	25	20
(b) Girls	42	187	515	702	42	22	138	41	-	501	344	358	88	172	319	89	8	-	26	37
<u>Ramsgate</u>																				
(a) Boys	31	102	462	564	20	168	241	52	2	101	256	308	72	187	206	49	38	5	7	84
(b) Girls	22	94	379	473	4	20	149	50	3	251	237	236	56	1109	214	45	37	-	12	78
<u>Sandwich</u>																				
(a) Boys	1	6	27	33	1	8	10	1	3	11	12	21	16	13	1	3	-	-	-	1
(b) Girls	-	2	16	18	2	-	3	-	-	15	5	13	4	4	9	-	1	-	-	-

TABIE XXXII.

Vocational Guidance and Juvenile Welfare
Urban Scheme.

Details of Local Vacancies Filled, Classification of Employment Found, Ages, etc.

Name of Bureau	Vacancies				Classification							Ages			Standards			Conditions of Employment					
	No. notified during year.	Total number filled	First situations since leaving school	Subsequent situations	Handicraft and Mechanical Trades	Distributive and Needle trades	Office and Warehouse occupations	Agricultural occupations	Other occupations	14 to 16 yrs.	16 to 18 yrs.	5 and under	6	7	7+	Central Schools	Technical Schools	Secondary Schools	Indenture	Learner	Unskilled	Casual	Attached to Juvenile Societies.
Canterbury (a) Boys (b) Girls	12	12	9	3	1	4	4	1	2	7	5	-	-	10	-	-	2	1	11	-	-	-	3
	9	9	8	1	-	3	4	-	2	7	2	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	4
Deal (a) Boys (b) Girls	25	14	4	10	4	6	-	-	4	6	8	4	4	2	3	-	-	-	-	11	3	-	3
	18	11	3	8	-	1	-	-	10	6	6	2	4	4	1	1	-	-	-	11	-	-	-
Dover (a) Boys (b) Girls	132	125	65	62	42	54	6	4	19	83	42	26	34	51	5	6	3	-	116	-	9	10	
	249	214	72	142	2	20	10	-	162	124	90	24	56	102	26	1	5	-	211	-	3	10	
Ramsgate (a) Boys (b) Girls	196	153	44	109	33	63	11	1	25	79	74	21	47	56	14	11	2	5	86	53	7	20	
	276	140	38	102	8	15	10	-	109	68	72	75	31	69	12	6	7	-	137	3	-	18	
Sandwich (a) Boys (b) Girls	4	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	
	9	5	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	

From Review of Work of Vocational Guidance and Juvenile Welfare Kent Education Committee for year ended July 1932.

was usually experienced among girls in finding work.

Table XXXIII page 131 gives a summary of occupations found for boys and girls under the Rural Scheme. Juveniles living on each of the mining estates except Mill Road come within it. Regarding the girls the large proportions (a) who obtained employment in domestic service and (b) who remained at home should be noted. On the mining estates one hears again and again the opinion that domestic service is the only occupation open to girls in mining families. The majority of those who are not willing to go away from their homes to enter domestic service find no daily employment but stay at home, usually helping their mothers to look after younger members of the family or the lodgers, or minding a neighbour's baby. A small proportion of girls living at Hersden find employment as shop assistants in Canterbury; those living in Elvington and Aylesham find similar employment at Dover, Deal etc., but apparently little assistance could be given by the bureaux in this respect. It will be noted that only one girl obtained such work under the Rural Scheme in 1932. According to the figures published for 1931, no girls obtained work as shop assistants through the exchange.

The large proportion of girls and boys unemployed and seeking employment in July 1932 should also be noted on Table ~~XXXIII~~. As might be expected a considerable number of the boys entered agricultural occupations, but this form

RURAL SCHEDULE

SUMMARY OF OCCUPATIONS ENTERED FOR YEAR ENDED JULY 1932

	(b) Girls										Grand Total										
	(a) Boys		Handicapped	Shop Assistants	Other Occupations	Found Employment			Unemployed	Total		Domestic Service		Shop Assistants	Pressing and Millinery	Other Occupations	Unemployed and Seeking Employment	Found Employment Elsewhere		Remaining at Home	Total
	(a) In Towns	(b) In Other Villages				(a) In Towns	(b) In Other Villages	Head at				None Resident	(a) In Towns					(b) In Other Villages			
13	5	1	5	14	19	55	9	5	5	14	4	14	0	0	22	64	109				
7	1	1	5	8	3	12	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	6	19				
10	5	0	5	25	27	73	12	1	1	2	18	2	1	0	30	64	137				
1	3	0	2	6	5	26	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	9	14	40				
13	1	1	3	5	21	49	9	2	2	1	4	0	1	1	13	30	73				

Table XXXI

Vocational Guidance and Juvenile Welfare

CHAPTER VIII.Provision for the Sick, the Infirm, the Aged and
Others in Need.

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Kent is generally considered a healthy county. Death rates and infant mortality rates already referred to in earlier chapters tend to bear out this view. The following Table which shows the zymotic death rate for 1932 in the County of Kent compared with that for England and Wales, indicates the same fact :-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Deaths per 1,000 Living Persons in Kent.</u>	<u>Deaths per 1000 Living Persons in England & Wales.</u>
Small Pox	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	0.012	0.01
Diphtheria and membranous croup.	0.012	0.06
Enteric, typhus and continued fevers.	0.005	0.01
Measles & Rubella.	0.074	0.08
Whooping Cough.	0.052	0.07
Diarrhoea (children under 2 years).	4.965	6.6

In 1932 deaths due to whooping cough, diarrhoea and measles were more numerous than usual in Kent, yet in spite of this the zymotic death rate was lower than in England and Wales.

In East Kent there are a number of voluntary and other general hospitals which serve the needs of the area as a

whole. The Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, with one hundred and twenty six beds, received patients residing within and without the city. In Deal there is the Deal, Walmer and District War Memorial Hospital. In 1933 two new wards were added to this hospital to provide for the growing population resulting from the increasing activity of Betteshanger Colliery. Ramsgate possesses the Ramsgate General Hospital supported chiefly by voluntary funds. In 1932 this hospital provided accommodation for twenty-five male patients and twenty-five female patients in general wards; for seven patients, male and female, in private wards; for twenty maternity cases; and for twenty four children. Patients residing in the Blean Rural District may enter the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital at Herne Bay; the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury; and Ramsgate and Margate General Hospitals. The inhabitants of Bridge and Dover Rural District are admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover, and those of Eastry Rural District to the general hospitals at Deal, Dover and Canterbury.

In April 1930 the Local Government Act, 1929, came into operation. The act abolished boards of guardians and transferred their functions regarding necessitous persons to county councils and county boroughs councils. In accordance with the requirements of the act Kent County Council drew up a scheme in which it proposed to reorganise

and classify the various Poor Law infirmaries and other institutions which passed to its control. The changes involved were being carried out while this survey was being made, e.g. the Medway Public Assistance Hospital, Chatham, was enlarged and purposed to be confined to the reception of general sick patients; Blean Institution was confined to female mental patients. When the changes come fully into effect there will be available to the inhabitants of the county a number of specialised institutions serving the needs of various types of sick patients and other persons in need in place of the infirmaries, Poor Law hospitals and workhouses which had been maintained by the guardians. The new system of hospital provision was in a transitional stage and therefore it would not be easy to say to what extent it meets the needs of the growing population of East Kent.

In Canterbury the Nunnery Fields Infirmary, maintained by the public assistance committee of the county borough council provides accommodation for one hundred and sixteen persons. There are forty nine beds for male patients, fifty six beds for female patients, two beds for maternity cases, four beds for tuberculous cases, and nine beds for children.

A number of hospitals for infectious diseases are provided in East Kent. In Canterbury the Borough Infectious Disease Hospital contains one hundred and forty four

beds. The Borough Small Pox Hospital has eight beds. Elsewhere there are various Hospitals of which Eastry Isolation Hospital for scarlet fever and diphtheria cases, Hammil Hospital for small pox cases, and Ramsgate Isolation Hospital, and Dover Borough Isolation Hospital are examples.

In 1931 a plan was submitted to the Ministry of Health for the enlargement of Eastry Isolation Hospital in order that it might serve as a central fever hospital for patients residing in Eastry and Bridge Rural Districts, Walmer Urban District and the Boroughs of Deal and Sandwich. It was considered that the great increase of population in the mining areas made this development necessary. Owing however to the financial crisis that occurred in that year, the operation of the plan was postponed and temporary arrangements were made for the accommodation of surplus cases in the Eastry District in Bridge Isolation Hospital.

In a consideration of the health services of East Kent provision made for the prevention, treatment and after care of tuberculosis is a matter of importance. Table XXXIV page 137 shows that whereas the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis in rural areas in East Kent compares favourably with the rates for England and Wales 1928-1932, the rates in Dover, Canterbury and Ramsgate tend to be high. The variations in the annual rates in Deal, Sandwich and Walmer may be explained by their small populations and

Tuberculosis Death Rates

	1928		1929		1930		1931		1932	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
C.E.	1.12	0.69	0.75	0.18			1.75	0.04	0.70	0.16
B.	0.49	0.33	0.32	0.16	0.96	0.13	0.90	0.03	0.71	0.21
B.	0.86	0.13	0.63	0.18	0.88	0.03	0.92	0.05	0.97	0.22
B.	0.95	0.03	0.64	0.16	0.83	0.15	0.51	0.00	0.77	0.21
B.	1.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.00	0.61	0.31	0.60	0.60
U.D.	1.62	0.46	0.44	0.00	0.90	0.23	0.75	0.00	0.38	0.00
R.D.	0.20	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.28	0.09	0.83	0.09	0.44	0.09
R.D.	0.42	0.08	0.58	0.17	0.66	0.08	0.65	0.08	0.51	0.08
R.D.	0.46	0.12	0.35	0.23	0.23	0.12	0.94	0.12	0.79	0.00
R.D.	0.52	0.06	0.45	0.13	0.41	0.12	0.65	0.11	0.32	0.16
	0.76	0.17	0.60	0.17	0.74	0.16	0.74	0.15	0.69	0.15

Tuberculosis Death Rates are calculated per 1000 population

From Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

TABLE XXXV.Persons Notified as Suffering from Tuberculosis.

Patients Notified for the First Time under Public Health
(Tuberculosis) Regulations during:-

	1928		1929		1930		1931		1932	
	Pul- mon- ary	Non Pul- mon- ary	Pul- mon- ary	Non- Pul- mon- ary	Pul- mon- ary	Non Pul- mon- ary	Pul- mon- ary	Non Pul- mon ary	Pul- mon- ary.	Non Pul- mon- ary
No. of Miners Notified.	5	0	8	1	5	0	8	1	4	2
Total No. of Males Notified.	639	226	687	197	167	216	352	184	611	189

From Annual Reports of Medical Officer of Health,
Kent County Council.

therefore are not of great significance. The prevalence of tuberculosis is not a matter for serious concern to the local authorities in Kent. But Table XXXV page 137a reveals facts which have some bearing upon the problem of dealing with the disease from the point of view of the mining population. The number of miners notified in Kent for the first time as suffering from the disease as compared with the number of males notified in the county 1928 to 1932. It is clear that the proportion of miners suffering from the disease is relatively large compared with other male patients. This fact is the more striking since coalmining is generally regarded as an occupation singularly free from tuberculosis. Probably the debilitated and undernourished condition in which many miners and their families are when they arrive in Kent makes them more than normally predisposed to develop the disease. Herein may lie a future local problem for the public health authorities of East Kent.

Kent County Council co-operates with Kent Community Council in the administration of its scheme for dealing with tuberculosis.

The County is divided into twenty two districts in each of which is a tuberculosis dispensary. The Community Council provides a liason officer, who is a voluntary worker, for each district. His task is to gain the assistance of local voluntary organisations likely or willing

to assist in after care of patients attending the dispensary or discharged from a sanatorium. The community council's health committee acts as the county tuberculosis after care committee. A case sub-committee assists liaison officers with cases of special difficulty. The county sanatorium at Lenham also refers cases to the sub-committee. Assistance given to patients includes finding adequate housing accommodation and suitable employment. During the period April, 1930 to March 1931, 89% of the cases dealt with were assisted. A central fund consisting partly of voluntary donations is used to assist cases for which local help is insufficient. In some areas local mothers unions make clothing for the patients. The county council makes a grant of approximately £275 per annum to the community council. Table XLIII page 166 shows a summary of the work of the health committee during the year April 1931 to March 1932. Kent County Council has an arrangement whereby beds are available for Kent patients in various hospitals outside the county. Between sixteen and seventeen hundred Kent patients in all received institutional care in 1932. At end of the year six hundred and forty five beds were in use under the county scheme. Tuberculosis officers give consultations at the dispensaries and keep under observation certain patients who are referred to the dispensary. Dispensaries situated in the coalfield area exist in Canterbury, Dover, Ramsgate and Deal. Home visiting is undertaken

by health visitors. Extra nourishment is provided in necessitous cases on the recommendation of the tuberculosis officer.

County Clinics for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are held at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, and at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover. The county council pays travelling expenses for those patients attending clinics who cannot afford fares.

As in all coalmining districts, accidents to workers causing short or long periods of incapacity to work are relatively frequent. When such occur, the miner can claim redress under the Workman's Compensation Act. A worker who can prove that the accident occurred during and in the course of his work is entitled to periodical payments while he is incapacitated from working. The amount of compensation depends upon the wages being earned at the time that and whether the accident results in total or partial the accident occurs. In no case however does it exceed incapacity. 30/- per week, nor is it more than 75% of the earnings, at the time of the accident.

If the accident results in the death of the worker the nearest dependant can claim compensation of from £200 to £600 the amount depending upon the wages being earned at the time of the accident and upon the number of dependants.

Perhaps an even more important type of public social service than those which provide for the sick and injured are the various services which aim at preventing ill-health. The school medical service, the maternity and child welfare service, and, in some respects, the national

health insurance and unemployment insurance scheme are instances of this. Each in its own way helps to remove some of the causes of ill-health. The provision of medical attendance and treatment and of medicine as a form of health insurance benefit is a means by which serious sickness accompanied by unemployment is often prevented, since it encourages insured persons to seek medical advice in the early stages of ill-health. Sickness and disablement benefits, weekly payments received on certain conditions by insured persons who are incapacitated from working through sickness, are also to a certain extent preventive in that the mind of the ^{recipient} sick worker is partially at least relieved from financial worry during ill-health. In the cases of wage earners dependent on their earnings anxiety as to how to provide for family needs during sickness or unemployment is itself sometimes a cause of ill health. Again, maternity benefit, paid to an insured woman and to the wife of an insured man at the time of her confinement if sufficient contributions have been paid, may provide that which is so important a factor in healthy recovery from childbirth - peace of mind, - to the expectant mother who would otherwise worry over the expenses of midwife's or doctor's fees. As the coalmining industry is one of the insured occupations under the National Health Insurance Acts these benefits are available to miners in Kent as elsewhere. Medical, Sickness and disablement benefits are not available however to

the wives and other members of the families of insured persons, unless they are themselves insured. When it is remembered that many members of miners' families are debilitated when they arrive in Kent, that septic troubles are common among the women and children as well as among the men, it might well be argued that the extension of medical benefit to the dependents of insured persons would be a desirable public health measure. But of course such an extension would necessarily be a national measure and the increased cost either to the taxpayer or to the worker or the employer who are compelled to contribute to the insurance fund is the strongest argument on the other side.

An unemployed miner who has paid the necessary number of contributions and carried out certain other requisite conditions may claim unemployment benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. Between 1928 and 1931 he might claim 'extended' benefit in certain circumstances after his right to ordinary benefit was exhausted. In November 1931 'Transitional payments' replaced 'extended benefit'. This was given only to claimants who passed a means test imposed by the public assistance committee. But during the period 1928-1934 there was in fact very little unemployment among miners in East Kent. This will be evident if reference is made to Table ~~NIX~~ page 64 which shows how the number of employed persons in Kentish collieries increased steadily during these years. In slack periods

the number of shifts might be reduced, but, as has already been pointed out, on the whole employment was regular. Certainly on more than one occasion a number of workers was dismissed from Tilmanstone colliery, but there was no prolonged unemployment. Most of the men were either taken on again at the pit shortly afterwards, or they found work at one of the other Kentish mines, or they returned to their former homes. Since there has been so little unemployment among the miners, very few of the inhabitants of the mining estates have had to make application for relief to the public assistance authority. Much of the most serious form of unemployment existed among girls, fourteen years of age and upwards as has also been noted.

Under the National Health Insurance scheme the insured person who has paid sufficient contributions becomes entitled to the Old Age (contributory) pension of 10/- per week at the age of sixty five years if he fulfils the conditions required by the Widows Orphans and Old Age (Contributory) Pensions Acts. Aged persons not entitled to the contributory pension may claim the state Old Age pension at the age of seventy years if qualified by reason of the size of their income from other sources, their nationality, and other conditions laid down in the Old Age Pensions Act, 1925. But these sources of income available for persons no longer able to support themselves owing to increasing years, affected only a small minority of the

inhabitants of the mining estates of East Kent in 1928-1934. The number of aged persons living on the estates is small. A few families may migrate to Kent and bring their old people with them, but this is exceptional.

The widow of an insured man is entitled under the Widows Orphans and Old Age (Contributory) Pensions Act to a pension of 10/- a week if sufficient contributions were paid by her husband up to the time of his death. The pension is payable until she is of age to claim the state Old Age pension or until she remarries. She receives in addition weekly allowances on behalf of dependent children, 5/- in the case of the first or only dependent child, 3/- in the case of every other child. This is paid until the child reaches fourteen years of age. The allowance may be extended up to the age of sixteen years so long as the child is attending a full time day school.

CHAPTER IX.

Education.

It has been pointed out that Kent County Council is the local authority for elementary education throughout the coalfield area except in the Boroughs of Deal, Dover and Ramsgate and in the County Borough of Canterbury. Higher (including secondary and technical) education is provided by the Kent County Council everywhere except in the County Borough of Canterbury.

The county area is divided into a number of districts for the administration of elementary education. Their names and boundaries do not correspond to the districts into which the county is divided for other purposes of local government. The districts for elementary education are :-

1. Canterbury - which includes Blean and Bridge and part of Eastry Rural Districts; Walmer Urban District; and also Herne Bay and Whitstable Urban Districts which lie outside the area included in this survey.
2. Sandwich - which includes Sandwich Borough and most of Eastry Rural District.
3. Deal, which includes part of Eastry Rural District.
4. Dover - which includes Dover Rural District.

All the mining estates, except Mill Road in the Borough of Deal are situated in these areas. The number of schools and the number of pupils in each area for the month ending March 31, 1930, were as follows :-

<u>District.</u>	<u>No. of Schools.</u>	<u>Average No. on Roll.</u>
Canterbury.	30	4517
Sandwich.	13	1931
Deal.	7	841
Dover.	14	1939

It will be remembered that Kent County Council does not provide any nursery schools. Children under 5 years of age are however admitted to some of the elementary schools, although their names are not included on the ordinary school attendance roll. On March 31, 1930, the number of these children attending elementary schools were:

<u>District.</u>	<u>No. on Roll.</u>
Canterbury.	64
Sandwich.	24
Deal	13
Dover.	7

It is clear that a very small proportion of children in East Kent attend school before the age of 5 years, which is the age of admission for all the children living in mining estates.

Table XXXVI page 147 shows the number of teachers in elementary schools in Kent and in England and Wales. It should be noted that in 1929 and 1931, in the county area of Kent there was a greater proportion of certificated teachers as compared with uncertificated than in the combined area of all administrative counties in England and Wales excluding London. This is true also regarding the Borough of Dover, but in the Boroughs of Deal and Ramsgate

TABLE XXXVI

Number of Teachers in Elementary Schools.

(1) 31st March 1929

on

(2) 31st March 1931

Area	Year (on 31st March)	Number of Teachers						All Credits	For 1000 Pupils in Average Attendance
		Certificated	Uncertificated	Special Subjects	Supplementary				
Area under Kent County Council	1929	1716	456	63	148	2573	35.5		
	1931	1766	420	69	138	2410	35.6		
Deal Borough	1929	23	15	1	2	39	28.2		
	1931	28	11	1	2	42	27.0		
Dover Borough	1929	119	34	1	5	157	50.0		
	1931	119	30	1	3	153	29.0		
Ramsgate Borough	1929	87	39	4	-	130	52.2		
	1931	91	34	3	2	130	50.6		
Canterbury County Borough	1929	63	26	1	1	91	53.0		
	1931	65	24	2	1	92	52.7		
Administrative Counties (other than London) (a) Areas under County Councils	1929	40,608	21,723	1,329	6,691	70,358	36.8		
	1931	41,910	21,227	1,538	6,555	71,032	36.7		
(b) Boroughs and Urban Districts	1929	19,504	4,362	650	397	24,953	32.7		
	1931	20,290	4,049	733	363	25,445	33.0		

From Board of Education Statistics
Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales
1929 to 1929
and 1930 to 1931

and in the County Borough of Canterbury the reverse applies. It may be inferred that generally speaking the Kent County Council tends to employ a staff better qualified from an academic point of view than is employed by county councils as a body. It is significant however that Deal Borough Council employs a less highly qualified staff in this respect than the total of borough and urban district councils in the country, since with the development of Betteshanger Colliery and the growth of Mill Road Estate an increasing number of mining families is likely to live in the borough in the future.

Another fact to be noted in the Table is that the number of teachers per 1,000 pupils in Kent County is fewer than the number per 1,000 in the total county area of England and Wales excluding London. Again this is true also of the Borough of Deal compared with the total boroughs and urban districts in the country. If elementary education is to be efficient the size of classes must be reduced in East Kent as well as elsewhere.

Secondary schools are provided by Kent County Council in the Boroughs of Dover, Ramsgate and Sandwich. Children attending these schools live in the town or neighbouring rural area. The number of pupils under 14 years of age in attendance on 1st. July, 1929, was as follows:-

<u>Secondary School.</u>	<u>No. of Pupils under 14 years.</u>
Dover.	373
Ramsgate.	480
Sandwich.	116

The only secondary school which under Kent County Council in that part of East Kent which is outside the coalfield area is at Folkestone. On 1st. July, 1929, 406 pupils under 14 years of age were on the roll of this school.

The Simon Langton School, Canterbury, an endowed secondary school for boys and girls, is also outside the county area but a number of its pupils lives within the area.

The majority of the children inhabiting the mining estates attend public elementary schools. At Aylesham a large central school was erected in 1928. It has accommodation for about 500 pupils. It is a large, up-to-date building and includes a fine school hall, a gymnasium, laboratories and well-fitted classrooms. A school for infants and juniors stands on adjacent ground. Technical evening classes are held at the Central school. A temporary elementary school was opened in Elvington in 1932 to provide for the needs of children living on that estate. Before 1932 they attended Eythorne Church School, a few children continuing to do so after the new school was opened. In 1929 a temporary school was opened at Hersden. This is to be replaced by a Central School in course of erection in the Spring of 1934. It will accommodate, in addition to children living on the estate, elder pupils from the neighbouring village schools. In 1931 a new school was opened in Deal Borough close to Mill Road estate to meet the requirements of the growing mining

population of that district. In the Spring of 1934 it was being considerably extended. Children living on the Betteshanger estate attend Northbourne church school.

A very small proportion of the pupils attending these schools win scholarships to secondary schools. The scholarship scheme drawn up by the Kent County Council to enable the more intelligent pupils in elementary schools to benefit from secondary education did not take account of the needs of the growing number of immigrants to Kent. In this respect it had not been brought up to date at the time the survey was made. The number of scholarships to secondary schools available for children living outside the boroughs of Dover and Ramsgate is very limited. As the Kent County scheme does not provide for new estates in rural areas, a very high standard of attainment is required to win a scholarship. In 1933 two pupils of Heraden elementary school won scholarships to the Simon Langton School, Canterbury, and another pupil joined the school as a fee paying pupil.

Kent Education Committee is enthusiastically attempting to provide educational facilities in the form of evening classes and part time day classes for miners living in Kent. Arrangements have been made for courses of instruction to be given at the following centres :- Deal and Walmer Evening School; Dover Technical Institute; Eythorne-Elvington Evening School; Nonington-Aylesham Evening School; Ramsgate Technical Institute and Heraden

Evening School and Chislet Colliery Technical Classes.

The courses are as follows :-

(1) A Junior Course of two years for youths under 18 years of age. The subjects of instruction are English, Technical Drawing, Mathematics, Woodwork and Science:

(2) A junior Course of two years for adults over 18 years of age. The subjects of instruction are the same as for (1) with the omittance of woodwork.

(3) A Senior Course for Overmen and Undermanagers, to cover normally a period of 4 years. It is divided into Preliminary and Senior Courses and is intended to cover the requirements of the Board for Mining Examinations for 2nd. Class Certificate of Competency. Subject to satisfactory enrolment the first year of the Senior course might be taken in the session 1931-32 at Ramsgate, Aylesham and Dover. In the following session a Senior Course was also begun at Deal and Walmer Evening School. The second year of the course might be taken at Dover. Students are expected normally to attend the centres nearest their homes. A sessional fee of 2/- for Junior Courses and 10/- for Senior Courses is charged. In certain circumstances a student may be entitled to reduced fees or a free place: and travelling expenses may be allowed to Students living more than two miles from the classes which they attend. Besides these technical courses and classes for miners, arrangements have been made to provide

for the cultural and technical education of the mining population in subjects other than those directly relating to the coal mining industry, e.g. rural sciences, domestic subjects, folk dancing, physical training, choral singing, handicrafts, French.

At Hersden, Elvington and Aylesham, where the classes were entirely or very largely confined to members of miners families, the response to the Kent Education Committee's efforts was not very encouraging at first. In 1928 certain classes were formed at Eytherne, Aylesham and Betteshanger. The Ambulance Classes alone were fairly well attended. In 1929 an attempt was made to hold classes at Hersden also, but only those in Ambulance and First Aid were successful. Similar efforts were made in 1930; for the most part they too met with indifferent success and classes had to be closed from lack of numbers attending. They were more successful however in Aylesham and in Elvington than in Hersden. At Dover, Deal and Ramsgate the following courses were held during the session 1930-31 :-

<u>Centre.</u>	<u>Course.</u>	<u>No. of students in attendance.</u>
Dover.	1. Mining Maths.	25.
	2. Mining Engineering Science.	22.
	3. Mining Technology.	21.
Deal.	1. Special Course for Men taking Deputies Certificate.	11.
	2. General Mining Subjects.	21.

<u>Centre.</u>	<u>Course.</u>	<u>No. of Students in attendance.</u>
Ramsgate.	1. Special Course for Men taking Deputies Certificate.	29.

Details of the various classes at Aylesham and Elvington held during the sessions 1930-31, 1931-32 and 1932-33 are shown in Tables XXXVII and XXXVIII pages 154 and 155 and the Junior and Senior Courses for Miners outlined above were first held in 1931-32. It was ascertained that the students at Aylesham were almost exclusively members of miners' families. The majority of those at Elvington were connected, directly or indirectly with the mining industry. A few of the students at Eythorne-Elvington School lived at Eythorne, but the majority at Elvington. Tables XXXIX and XL pages 156 and 157 give the number of students, classified according to age and sex, attending this school and Nonington-Aylesham Evening School.

Generalisations attempting to explain the distribution of students into the various groups would be rash, since the total number of students attending is in any case small. Moreover with at least a partly floating population fluctuations from year to year might be expected. Nevertheless one or two points may be noted. The decrease in the total number of male students over 21 years of age at Eythorne-Elvington School for the session

TABLE XXXVII

Nonington-Aylesham Evening School
Schedule of Classes

Subject	Number of Students		Number of Hours of Instruction given.		Number of Hours of Attendance made by students.		Remarks
	Session		Session		Session		
	1931-32	1932-33	1931-32	1932-33	1931-32	1932-33	
English	101	110	94	57	1080	808	4 classes 1931-32 3 classes 1932-33
Woodwork	128	79	128	92	1888	1074	3 classes 1932-32 2 classes 1932-33
Mathematics and Drawing	76	62	84	52	1031	847	2 classes 1931-32 2 classes 1932-33
Science	37	39	42	40	514	554	
Book-keeping	25	25	44	47	516	587	
Shorthand	26	28	44	42	547	541	
Recreative Hour	28	34	20	22	268	314	
Cookery	60	38	80	50	927	567	2 classes 1931-32 2 classes 1932-33
Housecraft	33	-	38	-	554	-	
Agricultural Science	28	-	15	-	182	-	
Physical Training	17	25	6	4	48	48	Closed 1931-32 Closed 1932-33
Folk Dancing	28	34	30	33	372	453	
Dressmaking	45	79	90	120	876	1,503	2 classes 1931-32
Crafts	76	147	88	134	1295	3,307	2 classes 1931-32 3 classes 1932-33
Choral Singing	41	23	61	46	1197	526	
Ambulance	22	40	12	23	149	344	
History and Geography	-	22	-	11	-	95	
Senior Mining Course (Mathematics	21	21	48	49	528	515	
(Science	20	19	46	50	386	422	
(Engineering Drawing	16	21	44	51	410	454	
Science etc. Miners Refresher Course	17	12	28	18	205	134	

* One Class closed after 3 meetings. ** One class closed after 2 meetings.

Figures supplied by Kent Education Committee.

TABLE XXXVIII.

Lythorne-Elvington Evening School.Schedule of Classes.

Subject.	No. of Students.			No. of Hours of Instruction given.			No. of Hours Attendance made by Students.		
	1930/31.	1931/2.	1932/3.	1930/1.	1931/2.	1932/3.	1930/1.	1931/2.	1932/3.
Book-keeping.	26	-	14	46	-	34	802	-	296
English.	25	13	45	23	11	21	321	107	330
Short-hand.	27	19	16	68	44	60	1073	479	605
Technical Drawing)	22	-	37	34	-	40	282	-	680
Maths.)		-	35		-	20		-	314
First Aid.	35	19	-	24	24	-	538	283	-
Mining Technology.	17	-	-	66	-	-	368	-	-
Dress-making.	-	15	-	-	20	-	-	198	-
Science.	-	-	25	-	-	36	-	-	428

Figures supplied by Kent Education Committee.

TABLE XXXIX.

Nonington-Aylesham Evening School.Number and Ages of Students.

Age	Session 1930-1931.		Session 1931-1932.		Session 1932-1933.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 14 yrs.	7	6	4	8	9	6
14-15 yrs.	25	16	21	16	20	24
15-16 "	9	9	11	11	9	11
16-17 "	21	6	16	8	3	9
17-18 "	9	2	16	7	10	5
18-21 "	20	4	18	6	21	10
Over 21 years.	72	61	101	61	71	73
Total All ages.	163	104	187	117	143	143

Figures supplied by Kent Education Committee.

TABLE XL.

Eythorne-Elvington Evening Schools.Number and Ages of Students.

Age	Session 1930-1931.		Session 1931-1932.		Session 1932-1933.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 14 yrs.	2	5	1	-	4	-
14-15 yrs.	8	4	4	3	6	5
15-16 "	4	4	6	2	4	2
16-17 "	6	1	5	1	9	2
17-18 "	5	-	3	-	6	-
18-21 "	2	1	2	2	5	-
Over 21 yrs.	35	-	13	7	10	1
Total all ages.	65	15	33	15	44	10

Figures supplied by Kent Education Committee.

1931-32 as compared with the previous session was due to the fact that no classes in Technical Drawing, Mathematics and Mining Technology were held that year (see Table XXXVIII); when classes in Technical Drawing and Mathematics were recommenced in 1932-33, out of a total of forty-four male students, thirty seven took Technical Drawing and thirty five took Mathematics. The increase on the other hand of the total number of male students attending Nonington-Aylesham School in 1931-32 as compared with the previous session can be accounted for largely by the existence for the first time of a Senior Mining Course and the fact that no classes in technical mining subjects were available at Elvington that year. The number of male students over 21 years of age rose from 72 in 1930-31 to 101 in 1931-32.

It is clear that during the sessions 1930-1933 evening school work at both centres was very much in the experimental stage. The nature of the classes held at Elvington varied much from session to session, English and Shorthand being in fact the only two subjects taught during each of the three sessions (see Table XXXVIII). At Aylesham there was similar variation and experimentation during this period. In 1930-31 the following classes were held:- Cookery (2 classes), Crafts, Dressmaking (2 classes), Arithmetic, English (6 classes), Needlework, Book-Keeping, Shorthand, Engineering Drawing, First Aid

(men), First Aid (women) Folk Dancing (2 classes), French, Practical Mathematical Training (2 classes), Mining Mathematics, Physical Training, Woodwork (3 classes), Mining Technology and Science for Miners. A course for mining Deputies was also held. The session lasted from October to April. In November the class in Engineering Drawing was closed and the Arithmetic Class was closed in February.

It should be noted that the size of the population of Aylesham justified the provision of a much greater variety of subjects than at Elvington where the total number of students was far fewer. In particular it was easier at Aylesham to meet the various needs and tastes of the girls and women folk. Hence the total number of female students as compared with the total number of male students was relatively higher than at Elvington. In fact in 1932-1933 the numbers for the two sexes at Aylesham were equal, women students over 21 years of age even outnumbering the male students in the corresponding age groups. It may be that the evening school is already being recognised by miners' wives and daughters as a centre for social life as well as for education, a significant fact, since, as will be shown in Part II, there appears to be a lack of opportunity at Aylesham, particularly amongst the women, for residents to meet together in friendly intercourse.

During the sessions to which Tables XXXVII and XXXVIII

pages 154 and 155 refer the average attendance of students cannot be regarded as high although it was considerably better at Elvington than at Aylesham. Excluding those subjects for which at least one class was closed before the end of the session, the average attendance expressed as a percentage of the total possible attendances at all classes was only 22% at Aylesham for each of the sessions 1931-32 and 1932-33. At Elvington it was 51% for 1930-31, 61% for 1931-32 and 48% for 1932-33. Again the floating nature of the population accounts partly for the low attendance figures, especially at Aylesham where there is a tendency for a larger proportion of immigrants to come to the neighbourhood for a short stay only. They are deterred from settling down permanently owing partly to the hard conditions of work at Snowdown Colliery.

Besides the work of the local authority various voluntary organisations have interested themselves in the educational welfare of the mining population in Kent, and some have made determined attempts to arouse enthusiasm in the miners and their families. During the session 1930-31 The Workers' Educational Association conducted classes at Canterbury, Dover, Elvington and Ramsgate as follows:-

<u>Centre.</u>	<u>Subject.</u>	<u>No. of Meetings.</u>	<u>No. of Students in class.</u>
Canterbury.	Industrial History.	24	17
Dover.	Elocution & Drama.	2 courses, 12 meetings each.	16

<u>Centre.</u>	<u>Subject.</u>	<u>No. of Meetings.</u>	<u>No. of Students in class.</u>
Elvington.	Appreciation of Music.	2 courses, 12 meetings each.	22
Ramsgate	Biology	24	12

Eighteen out of the twenty-two students at Elvington were miners or their wives. In the other classes not more than two or three students belonged to miners' families. Similar courses were given in the following session at Dover, Elvington and Ramsgate. At Canterbury a University Extension Course was begun. In the session 1929-1930 a class in Industrial History was carried on at Eytherne and proved fairly successful. In 1931 an Organising Tutor for East Kent was appointed by the University of Oxford Delegacy for Extra-Mural Studies in co-operation with the Workers Educational Association.

At Hersden and at Eytherne Women's Institutes had been in existence since 1927. Members of both were drawn from the Kentish people and from mining families. It was estimated that at Hersden about 75% and at Eytherne 82% were from mining families. When the institutes were formed membership was high but it fell when the first enthusiasm had spent itself. In 1931 competitions in rug making and quilt making were arranged at Hersden and courses of lectures are given from time to time. A minimum of ten members is required to form a class. A certain indication of

increasing interest in education on the part of the miners in Kent was the formation in 1932 of a Mining Students' Association at Aylesham in connection with Snowdown Colliery, the aim being to arouse and encourage among members of the mining industry, a desire for scientific knowledge applied to mining and to assist members to obtain instruction and guidance.

As has already been noted a part of the Miners Welfare General Fund has been reserved to provide for a National Scholarship Scheme under which scholarships are awarded annually by a special committee to (a) children of miners, (b) working miners to enable them to have the advantages of University Courses etc. An analysis of the awards made 1928-1932 to both types of candidates is set out in Tables XLI and XLII on page 163. It will be seen that during the period no awards were made to Kentish candidates, although there was a small number of entries of each type from Kent in the latter years of the period. The migratory nature of the majority of the mining population in Kent may have handicapped some possible candidates during this period, but as the settled population of mining families increases in course of time in Kent and as better facilities for higher education are provided, opportunities for success to would-be candidates will no doubt increase also.

In 1932 for the first time a sum of £300 was allocated to Kent from the General Fund to provide equipment for

TABLE XLI.

Miners' Welfare National Scholarship Scheme.
Scholarships for Children of Miners.

=====

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
Total No. of Candidates.	391 (82)	475 (113)	442 (39)	492 (77)	547 (118)
No. of Candidates from Kent.	--	2 (1)	-	2 (1)	6 (2)
Total No. of Scholarships Awarded.	5	5	6	9	12
No. of Scholarships awarded to Candidates from Kent.	-	-	-	-	-

The numbers in brackets indicate the number of girl candidates included.

From Annual Reports of Miners' Welfare Fund.

TABLE XLII.

Miners' Welfare National Scholarship Scheme.
Scholarships for Working Miners.

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
Total No. of Candidates.	210	194	152	155	155
No. of Candidates from Kent.	1	-	-	2	2
Total No. of Scholarships awarded.	6	7	6	6	7
No. of Scholarships awarded to candidates from Kent.	-	-	-	-	-

From Annual Reports of Miners' Welfare Fund.

mining classes in Aylesham, Deal, Dover, Elvington and Ramsgate.

In reviewing the educational work carried out by these various bodies for the inhabitants of the new mining estates it would appear that a number of endeavours have been and are being made to awaken and foster interest on the part of the mining population in education, both cultural and technical. The response, at first rather feeble, is undoubtedly growing stronger and the future outlook would seem to be encouraging.

CHAPTER XSome Voluntary Social Services.

Reference has been made in preceding chapters to the work of various voluntary organisations which co-operate with the local authorities in carrying out social services in Kent. Among them is the Kent Community Council which, it will be remembered assists Kent County Council in providing for the aftercare of tuberculosis patients.

Kent Community Council consists of representatives of fifty local authorities and of over seventy five voluntary organisations. Its aim is to organise voluntary effort in such a way that public social services may be supplemented effectively at a time when economy in public expenditure is essential. It acts as a connecting link for all community effort in Kent. About four hundred and seventy five district representatives, visitors, liason officers, village wardens etc., assist in carrying out its work. Through its health committee it undertakes after care work among patients who have received treatment through the public social services and are in need of care, guidance, friendly interest and constructive help to enable them to take their places as useful members of the community, and to obtain work suited to their state of health. Table XLIII page 166 shows a summary of the committee's work in this respect during the year April 1931 to March 1932. The health committee is

TABLE XLIII.

Tuberculosis Cases Dealt with by Kent Community
Council, April 1931 to March 1932.

Type of Help requested by Tuberculosis Officer.	Applications With-drawn.	Still under consid-eration.	Help given.	Help present unobtain-able.	Total No. of cases Referred.	% of cases where help was found.
Employment.	2	24	12	12	57	58
Housing.	-	17	0	6	31	84
Training.	-	1	3	-	4	100
Food.	1	2	18	-	21	100
Care of Children.-		5	11	-	16	100
Convalescence.	1	5	15	1	23	94
Clothes.	1	2	17	-	20	100
Surgical Appliances.	-	3	2	1	13	90
Financial.	5	5	21	1	33	85
Supervision.	7	4	123	3	137	87
Miscellaneous.	3	12	31	6	52	83
Total	13	76	143	33	405	83

From "Voluntary Service in Kent". A Report by the
Community Council of Kent, 1932.

affiliated to the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. In 1932 some two hundred and fifty voluntary helpers gave their services to the council and conferences were arranged to give instruction to workers thereby enabling their co-operation to become more effective.

In 1930 Kent Community Council undertook for the first time to concern itself with the care of delicate children referred to it by Kent Education Committee. By 30th. September, 1932, 380 cases had been dealt with. The majority were given the needed help which included the supervision of children returning from Open-Air Schools, the provision of milk, cod liver oil, clothing etc., help with transport and convalescence. In some cases parents were persuaded to sanction treatment recommended by the school medical officer. In its work among school children the council co-operates with school nurses, school teachers and public assistance officials. The Kent Education Committee makes a grant to the Council to assist it to meet its expenses. The Community Council is also able to continue to supervise and help young persons after they reach the age of 14 years and are no longer under the care of the school medical service. As was pointed out in Chapter VII page 124 the State does not at present provide a medical service for young persons, aged 14 to 16 years who have left the elementary school and are not yet of an age to enter health insurance. Any assistance that can be rendered by the Community Council in this respect

is valuable at this often difficult age of adolescence.

In 1932 Kent Community Council further undertook to assist the County Council in its orthopaedic scheme. Help was given to seven of the county clinics, one of them being Canterbury. It included clerical work at the clinic, the escort of patients by motor car to the clinics, instruction in handwork in the children's homes and assistance in finding employment for children who have left school. Among other activities of the Kent Community Council, may be mentioned its co-operation with the Public Assistance Committee in dealing with cases of special difficulty and in providing a better supply of newspapers and magazines to public assistance institutions; help given to health visitors in their clerical work etc. at infant welfare centres; co-operation with the Charity Organisation Society and other organisations outside the county which apply for assistance in individual cases; the opening of occupation centres for the unemployed; the institution of village community councils whose members discuss local questions of interest and take steps to develop corporate life when opportunities occur, e.g. by the erection of a village hall. In February 1930 Kent Community Council made a brief survey of the coalfield area in order to find out what social amenities existed. ^{report of the} The survey proved to be a useful summary to the writer of this book. Village community councils were set up at Aylesham, Elvington and Hersden and an East Kent

Coalfields Committee formed. Its purpose was to bring leaders of mining communities into touch with representatives of official and voluntary organisations in order to promote the growth of corporate life in the mining area. The Committee meets about twice yearly, acting in an advisory capacity, its present function being to inform the mining community of the various developments in the county of which they may take advantage. The Kent Community Council also assisted in the Land Utilisation Survey Scheme undertaken by the London School of Economics in 1932. The Council made itself responsible for finding volunteers to survey certain of the three hundred areas into which the County was divided for the purpose.

An outstanding voluntary organisation that is influencing social life among the mining population of East Kent is the Elvington Settlement founded in 1927. Its home is one of the houses on the mining estate where the Warden and Settlement residents live. The work of the settlement was much facilitated in 1931 by the erection of a village hall which has become a valuable social centre on the estate.

The Settlement is under the direction of the Elvington Settlement Council. This body consists of a Chairman, about 20 members of the Council, ^{an} Hon Treasurer, ^{an} Hon. Secretary, 2 trustees on behalf of the British Association of Residential Settlements and the Warden of the Settlement, and a representative of each of the following organisations:

Church of England; Catholic Church; Congregational Free Church; Folkestone Fellowship; Canterbury Fellowship.

The following organisations are affiliated to the Council - Ambulance Class; Baptist Ministry; Boys Brigade; Brownies, Choral Society; Church of England; Church School; Congregational Ministry; Council School; Colliery Co., Cricket Club; Dramatic Society; Enginemen and Fireman's Union; Football Clubs; Gardening Association; General Sports Club; Girl Guides; Girls' Clubs; Girls' Life Brigade; Girls' and Children's Gymnasium Clubs; Hockey Club; Infant Welfare; Library Committee; Men's Gymnasium Class; Miners' Union; Medical Profession; Mothers' Union; National Deposit; Oddfellows; Parish Council; Parochial Church Council; Play Centre; Rechabites; Tennis Club; Women's Co-operative Guild; Women's Pleasant Hour; Women's Institute.

The Settlement is represented on the following bodies:- The Kent Coal Fields Committee; the Juvenile Welfare Centre, Dover; the British Association of Residential Settlements, Canterbury Diocesan Council of Women's Work.

Table XLIV page 171 sets out the activities of the Settlement, which it will be recognised cover a wide field and provide for many aspects of social life in Elvington. The Eythorne and Elvington Co-operative Choral Society, which is carried on under the auspices of the Workers' Educational

TABLE XLIV.

Activities of Elvington Settlement.

April 1930 to March 1931.

=====

Organisation.	No. of Meetings.
Village Council.	2 x yearly.
Tilmanstone Colliery Ambulance Division.	3 x weekly.
Eythorne and Elvington Co-operative Choral Society.	1 x weekly.
Eythorne and Elvington Dramatic Society.	1 x weekly.
Eythorne and Elvington Girls' Club.	1 x weekly.
Eythorne and Elvington Hockey Club.	
Infant Welfare Centre.	1 x weekly.
Gymnasium Classes (a) Men's Class	1 x weekly.
(b) Girls' "	1 x weekly.
(c) Children's Class.	1 x weekly.
Girl Guides.	1 x weekly.
Brownies.	1 x weekly.
Library.	Open 2 evenings weekly.
Play Centre (a) children 9-14 yrs	1 x weekly.
(b) children 5-9 "	1 x weekly.
Tennis Club.	
Women's Institute.	1 x monthly.

Association, takes part in musical festivals at Ashford, Dover, Ramsgate etc., In 1930-31 the average attendance at practices was about twenty persons. The Tilmanstone Colliery Ambulance Division had a membership of twenty eight persons in 1930-31. It conducted a First Aid Class for boys aged 11 to 18 years and out of this developed a Cadet Division. In 1930 the adult division treated 238 cases, conveyed 140 persons to hospital or their homes and attended 1 road accident.

The Dramatic Society produces plays and dramatic performances, the proceeds from one of these in 1930 being used to assist the Ambulance Cadet Corps in the purchase of its uniforms. The Girls' Club had about a dozen members in 1930-31. Its activities at the weekly meetings included reading, sewing, weaving and playing games. Expeditions to Canterbury and to Sandwich Bay were organised in the summer. A Boys' Club was formed in 1932 and met weekly during the winter months. The Girl Guide Company consisted of about twenty six members in 1930, three of whom came from Barfrestone one from Betteshanger and the rest from Eythorne and Elvington. As it is an open company it provides an opportunity for the mingling of Kentish and miners' children. The Play Centre on the other hand was restricted in 1930 to children living at Elvington, i.e. miners' children, because of the increasing number of members as the popularity of the centre

grew. It was said that before this restriction was made by the warden there was constant quarrelling between the native children and the miners' children. As soon as children from Eythorne were excluded the problem of quarrels promptly ceased.)

This short account of the Settlement may serve to illustrate the comprehensiveness of the work and the important part it plays in creating an organised social life in Elvington.

Elvington also possesses a Working Men's Club and Institute, the building for which is situated in the middle of the estate. The Miners have formed the Ilmanstone Colliery Sports Club for football and cricket. In connection with Eythorne Church there is a Mothers' Union attended by Kentish women and by women folk of the mining population of Elvington.

Table XLV page 174 gives a list of voluntary social organisations at Aylesham and Snowdown in 1930. The Aylesham Guild of Help was formed in 1928. It is undenominational, all religious bodies in Aylesham having a representative on its committee. Its object is to give relief to the mining population of Aylesham when no other assistance can be obtained. Money is given in exceptional circumstances only. The majority of the applicants are persons needing only temporary assistance, e.g., a miner who having met with an accident at the pit is awaiting compensation. The funds of the Guild

TABLE XLV.**Voluntary Social Organisations in Aylesham and Snowdown
in 1930.**

=====

1. Glyn Vivian Miners' Mission .. open daily except Mondays and Sundays.
2. Social Club and Institute, .. open daily except Sundays.
St. Peter's Church (Church
of England)
3. Community Council.
4. United Guild of Help.
5. National Savings Association.
6. Independent Order of Rechabites.
7. British Legion.
8. Snowdown Working Mens' Club and Institute.
9. Co-operative Women's Guild; Town Womens' Guild.
10. Boy Scouts; Girl Guides; Wolf Cubs; Brownies.
11. Girls' Athletic Club.
12. Day Nursery.
13. Mothers' Union; Church of England Womens' Union.
14. Snowdown Colliery Band.
15. Ratepayers' Association.

are raised by whist drives, jumble sales, concerts, and a few annual subscriptions.

Table XLVI page 178 gives a copy of the Balance Sheet of the Guild for the period January 1930 to February 1931, and gives some idea of the work undertaken.

The Glynn Vivian Mission Hall was opened in Aylesham in 1928. It was the first place of worship to be erected on the estate. The aim of the mission is to provide for the spiritual and social welfare of the local mining inhabitants. A miners' brass band has been formed. Performances are conducted in the neighbouring villages and small towns. By 1931 the following other organisations had come into being in connection with the Mission:- a Boys' Brass Band, 30 members; a Boys' Brigade, 25 members; a Girls' Club 20 members; a Women's Club, 35 members; a Sunday School, 130 scholars.

Miners' Welfare Institutes exist at Betteshanger Estate, Mill Road Estate and at Heraden. These and other social organisations will be referred to in Part II.

At Aylesham in 1932 there was in addition to the Glynn Vivian Mission Hall, a Church of England Church, a small Roman Catholic Church and a Baptist Chapel. Elvington possessed a Congregational chapel, Eythorne Parish Church (Church of England) is situated on the road to Eythorne about three quarters of a mile from Elvington. At Woollage Green there is a church hall built by the Womenswold Parochial Church Council. There is no place of worship situated on Snowdown

TABLE XLVI.Aylesham Guild of Help.

Copy of Balance Sheet for twelve months ending
Feb. 28th. 1931.

1

<u>Income.</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance in Hand.	21.15. 0.	C.B.Hosking (40 cases)	12.15. 7½
Rummage Sale.	3.13. 3½	Hollingsworth (bread)	1. 3.
" "	2. 0. 8	Stationery.	5. 6.
Donations :-		Abbott Bros. (Milk)	11.11.
Receipt No.28	1. 1. 0.	Donation to Deal & Dist.Preventive & Rescue Home.	10. 6.
" " 27	1. 0. 0.	Fasham (Milk)	1. 1. 7.
" " 29	5. 5. 0.	Giraud (Printing Application Forms)	18. 6.
		Cheque Book.	2. 0.
			<u>£16. 6.10½</u>
		Balance at Bank.	18. 6. 9.
		" in Hand.	<u>1. 4.</u>
	<u>£34.14.11½</u>		<u>£34.14.11½</u>
	*****		*****

Estate which is close to Nonington village; nor on Betteshanger Estate close to Northbourne Village.

In 1934 the average attendance at Northbourne Church (Church of England) was estimated at 80 to 90 persons at both morning and evening services. On occasions the attendance at one service may be as high as 140. The Sunday School roll included 244 names, the average attendance being 230. The majority of attenders belong to miners' families. A few of the mining population attend a small Wesleyan chapel which existed in the village of Northbourne long before the miners came to the neighbourhood.

Kill Road Estate being very near to Upper Deal and Walmer its inhabitants have access to various places of worship. But already in the spring of 1934 the estate contained a Methodist chapel, a Glyn Vivian Mission hall, and a Roman Catholic church and hall. An Anglican Church was in course of erection. Hersden possesses an Anglican Church and a Wesleyan Chapel, both situated on the estate; and a site has been secured for a Roman Catholic Church. The average attendance at the Anglican church was estimated in 1934 to be 40 persons at the morning service and 60 persons at the evening service. In May 1934 there were 120 communicants on the church roll. The approximate number of children attending the Sunday school was 90 of whom 55 were seniors and 35 were juniors.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
PART II.

CHAPTER XI.

A Study of Local Impressions.

1. The Historical Setting. Current Local Opinions.

East Kent has an ancient cultural history which dates back to the days of Roman Britain and earlier. Its fertile soil, healthy climate and nearness to the Continent enabled it in early times to become a land of prosperity with busy centres of trade and a civilisation of its own. To-day everywhere in towns and villages and scattered over the countryside, may be found evidence of the social life of bygone days - ancient British tumuli, Roman ruins, mediaeval dwelling houses, manorial courthouses and gothic churches. The archaeological wealth of the region is illustrated in the sketch map on page 178a. Place names provide countless suggestions of the settlements of the past races - Britons, Romans, Jutes, Saxons, Danes and Normans. It is claimed that in the gently rolling Downland country that is, perhaps, the most picturesque part of the natural landscape of the East Kent coalfield area, some of the cornland which was cultivated by the British tribes and described by Julius Caesar after his invasions of the land in 55 and 54 B.C. is still cultivated to-day in the same fields, with the same boundaries. The physical appearance of this part of the countryside has

A FIRST ATTEMPT TO ASSEMBLE THE HISTORIC FEATURES OF THE REGION.

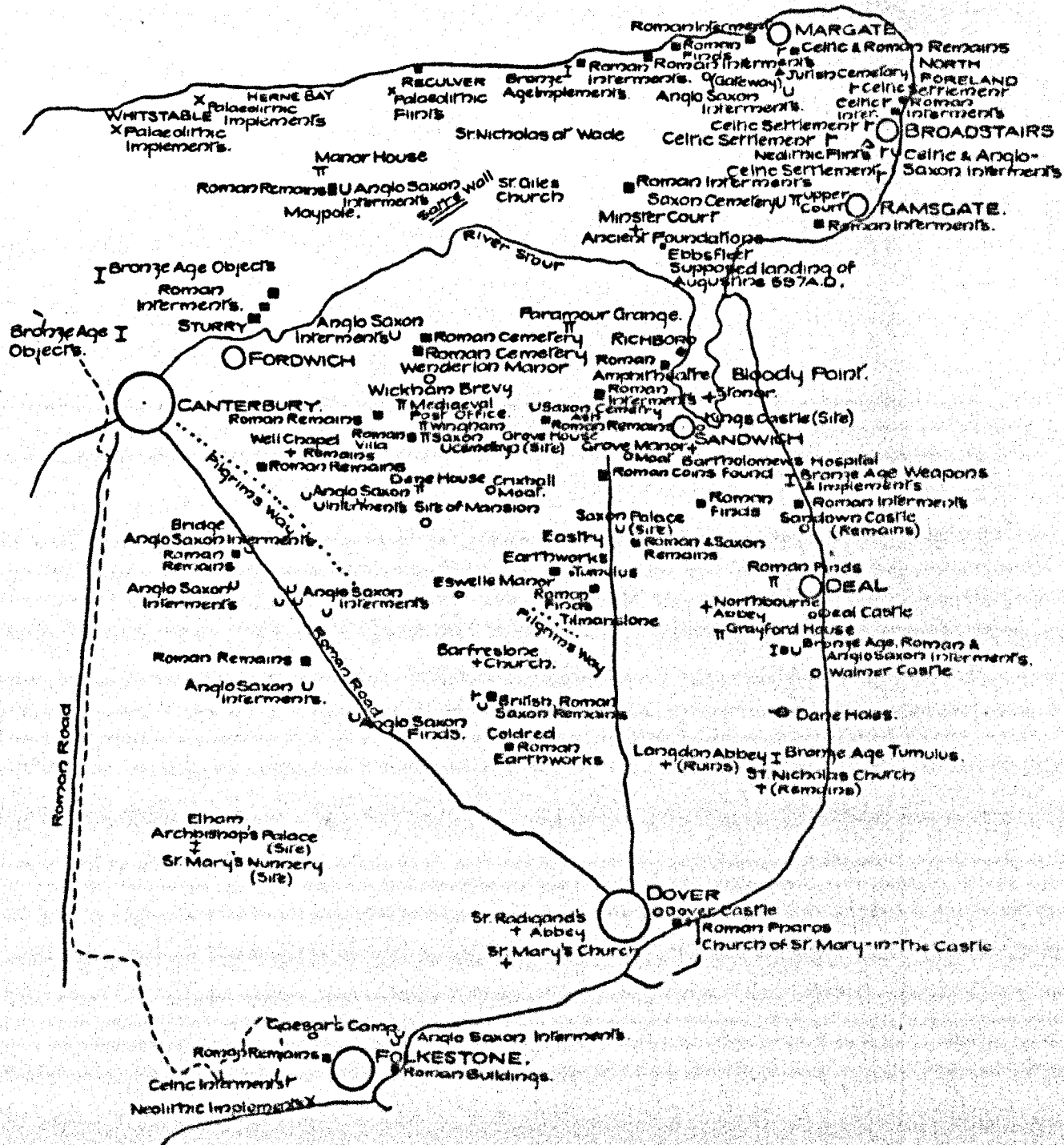
XVIII

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

178a

FROM ABERCROMBIE'S REGIONAL SURVEY OF EAST KENT, 1925.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|----|-------------------------------|
| X | STONE AGE. | ⊗ | DANE HOLES. |
| I | BRONZE AGE. | + | ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS ETC. |
| F | CELTIC. | O | FORTIFIED BUILDINGS |
| ■ | ROMAN. | | ALSO SITES & RUINS. |
| ▲ | JUTISH. | TT | INTERESTING DOMESTIC |
| U | ANGLO SAXON. | | BUILDINGS & SITES. |



changed little throughout the ages. The Romans built roads and villas and introduced a new civilisation, for Kent was an easy way of approach to London and the more remote interior of the Roman province of Britain. In time Roman culture gave way before the Saxon Conquest, and Saxon culture in time was overlaid by Norman. The fertile lands of East Kent were cultivated throughout the Middle Ages. Prosperous villages grew up in the vicinity of springs and small towns arose at strategic points.

In the North of the coalfield area and on the coast slow changes in natural topography brought about corresponding changes in social life. Many centuries ago an arm of the sea, stretching from Sandwich on the South East to Reculver on the North West, cut off the Isle of Thanet from the mainland. Into this natural Channel flowed the Great Stour and the Little Stour. In Roman days ships plying from the Continent to the Thames estuary passed through this sheltered stretch of water, avoiding thereby the rough seas of the North Foreland. At each end of the channel the outposts of Rutupiae near modern Richborough and Reculver at the northern exit were built. The City of Canterbury grew up at the end of the Stour estuary with Fordwich its port two miles away at the head of a bay or fiord. In course of time the shallow Channel then known as the River Wantsum, was silted up and changed to marshland through which the Stour flowed eastward to the sea. A causeway, Sarre wall,

was built across the marshes at its narrowest point and the Isle of Thanet was thereby joined to the mainland. Sandwich, one of the cinque ports of the Middle Ages, arose south of the River Stour not far from its mouth on land raised above the marshes, at a point where the river turned North beside a shingle bank formed in course of time as a projection from the south of the Isle of Thanet. In this land of changing natural conditions first one town, then another arose, flourished as a centre of trade and commerce and dwindled in importance when Nature took away its natural advantage which formerly she had given it and upon which its prosperity depended. Stodmarsh, at the head of the estuary of the Little Stour; Stourmouth, at the point where the Little Stour flowed into the Wantsum; Rutupiae on an island in the channel or at a later period marshland - guarding the entrance to the sheltered passage way by water to the Thames, are all examples. Forwich is another.

This picturesque little village, situated on the banks of the Stour half a mile from the main Canterbury-Margate Road and not much more than two miles from Chislethorpe Colliery, has a history which dates back to the days of Edward the Confessor and earlier. It is mentioned in Domesday Survey as a "burgh". In the Middle Ages it was a flourishing little port at the head of navigation of the Stour when Canterbury could no longer be reached by trading ships. It still

possesses a court house, a quaint mediaeval building overlooking the river, with a prison cell beneath the hall and a ducking stool beside the water. Fordwich is characteristic of many old villages in East Kent. It is quite unspoiled by the industrial developments which are taking place nearby. Until 1929, when a number of new houses were erected at Hernden, several mining families lived in the village, as they did and still do in many other old villages, e.g. Eythorne, Northbourne, Upstreet, Sturry, Barfrestone, Ham, Wredville. But it cannot be said with truth that the mining population has spoilt Kent countryside; nor is it in the process of spoiling it. The number of mining families living in the old villages is still small even compared with the sparse population of rural East Kent. Except in Eythorne and Northbourne miners wealthy who live in them are ^{mostly} of Kentish extraction e.g. of the three mining families residing in Barfrestone in 1931 all were native Kentish people. East Kent is not in the narrow sense of the word industrialised and is not likely to be. The new mining estates are composed of compact colonies of houses, for the most part of pleasing appearance not incongruous with the warm red-bricked gabled houses characteristic of rural Kent.

Moreover the mining estates are in most instances hidden away so that one is unaware of their existence until one comes suddenly upon them. There is no black smoke

and grime brooding over the countryside. The pit heads being of modern construction are not too unsightly or aggressively conspicuous. The fertile valleys, charming woodlands and open downland scenery of East Kent are not spoiled as, for instance, the South Downs have been spoiled by grotesque, badly built houses and ugly bungalows which are scattered in confusion over parts of the coastland between Seaford and Brighton.

In the rest of Part II an attempt will be made to illustrate the mode of life of the inhabitants of the mining estates by relating some of the views that are held by local inhabitants. It is not in any way claimed that these views are accurate. They are emphatically not presented as the views of the writer who is here acting as a medium only for the expression of what has been called the 'floating opinion' of the neighbourhood. They have been gleaned from the miners themselves and from responsible persons of standing who have lived and worked among the mining population for some time, or who have close personal knowledge of their ways of life. Some of their opinions and points of view were expressed to the writer in letters; most by word of mouth. Full records of conversations were kept and the phrases and sentences used by the informants have in many cases been reproduced. It is felt by the writer that only by a frank statement of local opinions, however inaccurate, biased and illogical these may sometimes

be, can local colour, warmth and feeling be given to what must otherwise remain a cold analysis of facts considered in earlier chapters. Each reader must interpret these views for himself, reading between the lines and placing his own constructions upon the varying and sometimes conflicting mass of 'floating opinion' that will be referred to in this and the following chapters. The writer's own judgment of these views and the problems which they appear to reveal or to 'light up' are offered for consideration in Part III.

The mining population on each of the estates is a very mixed one. Families which have come from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, Durham, Stafford, Fifeshire, South Wales and Somerset are to be found in Kent. Some have come from pit villages; others from large industrial towns. The custom exists, at least at some of the collieries, for a manager or sub-manager to be appointed, and he brings with him to Kent a group of workers who have been known to him in the area whence he has come. Later, perhaps, he leaves the colliery and another manager brings another group from quite a different part of the country. At one time the colliery company in East Kent obtained ^{from employment exchanges} the new workers whom it required from time to time as activity in the mine increased. ^{from employment exchanges} Experience proved however that some of the men were ill-disciplined, the 'riff-raff' of 'depressed' areas. The company therefore

began to accept only men who applied for work with a personal recommendation. It was believed that the morale of the colliers improved as a result and the influence of the 'roughs' became negligible.

New comers to Kent often find themselves complete strangers to other mining families among whom they come to live. At first they do not easily mix or make friends, partly because they scarcely understand the language of their neighbours who have migrated from other coalfield regions. Cliques are inevitably formed among the inhabitants of the mining estate and these must be broken down before a united community spirit can grow up.

In 1931 East Kent was described as the scene of a clash between two civilisations - those of the mining population and of the native Kentish folk. The clash is due, as has been said, to a difference of outlook, of values, of culture. The agricultural labourer of Kent has a deep-rooted respect and affectionate regard for the local squire who has known him all his life, who gives him advice and help and expects in return a little deference. He admires the aristocrat. But the miner is a democrat, with an attitude of "I am as good as you", which is sturdy and independent and is not intended as rudeness. He finds the agricultural labourer servile. The agricultural labourer finds him mannerless and uncouth. [He accuses the miner of thieving, poaching and making bad debts. The accusations may not be entirely

groundless. The first two "crimes" are due partly to the miner's inability to understand his new surroundings.] In many cases he has never before come in contact with landed gentry. Seeing many acres of land all belonging to one person, he asks the question - "Why shouldn't I have this?" and finds no satisfying answer. [Miners' children are accused of stealing apples from the orchards and their parents, it is said, encourage them to do so.]

The agricultural labour^{er} complains that the miner earns £3 to £4 per week while he earns 32/-, and he fails to see any just reason for the difference. He does not realise that the miner's occupation is much more dangerous. He does not regard it as much more precarious. He thinks the miner is extravagant because he spends freely all he earns and lives well. He has not forgotten the days, now gone for good, when the mines were first opened in Kent and men working in them earned £20 per week. He has not forgotten the strike in 1926 when the miners were idle and he had to pay more for coal in consequence.

A certain amount of antagonism between local tradespeople and the mining population appears to exist. Many of the shopkeepers in the towns dislike the miners as customers because some have a reputation for not paying their debts. It is the practice of many tradesmen to take their goods in carts to the mining estates for sale. Some sell on the credit system allowing a fortnight's purchase without payment. [Then the customer has a

large bill to pay. If he is unable to meet it he may remain for ever in arrears. Or perhaps a slack period at the pit comes and he works only three days during the week. Again he may be unable to pay his bill and it is alleged goes out at the time the tradesmen usually call. But] it has been suggested that [it is] the system adopted by the tradespeople [which] is in fact at fault. The hire-purchase system is common on the new estates, and this too has been condemned as one of the means by which the miner gets into debt. Almost every family has its wireless set usually purchased by this means.

[On the other hand the miners complain that the tradesman in Kent cheat them by charging high prices. The tradesman defends himself by saying that he has suffered loss from those families who have migrated to Kent, stayed a short time only, and have left behind them unpaid bills when they departed. The shopkeeper must safeguard his profits, and he does so by raising his prices. The good customer who settled down in Kent is the unwilling victim of this precaution and the hostility between the local inhabitants and the mining families is partly due to lack of understanding. The Kentish folk regard the miners as very immoral and are horrified at their low standards. The miners are not necessarily less moral than the natives, but they are, it is asserted, more open about their immorality.]

On the whole few marriages take place between the

immigrant mining families and the Kent people. In the parish register of the church at Hernden only one miner's marriage was recorded for the ^{twelve} ~~telev~~ months preceding June 1931, and the wife in that instance was not a Kentish woman. Kentish people do not encourage their girls to walk out with miners. [On the other hand three wives of miners living on one of the estates in 1933 were known to be former Kentish teachers, and one other a former Kentish secondary school girl. One local clergyman always encourages a Kentish girl to spend a long courtship before deciding to marry a miner. He divides the miners into three classes :- good, bad and mediocre; or white, black and grey. Most ^{are} ~~were~~ neither black, nor white, but grey. The blacks of whom there are few are neither socialists nor communists. The socialists want all for the community and the community for all. The blacks are the 'have nots'. They want all that the 'haves' have, each for himself. On the other hand an intelligent innkeeper who lived in an old village not far from one of the estates and showed much antagonism to the miners because they steal game said that communist miners are all right on paper but they spoil the Kent countryside in practice.]

Many of those who have lived for long periods on or near the mining estates and in different capacities have come into close contact with mining families in Kent are apparently in agreement regarding certain outstanding

character traits which the mining population tends to manifest. Miners' families are described as unstable, quick, intelligent, superficial and temperamental. The people are ignorant and dislike hard work. They are the "butterfly" type but with an intense longing to return to their own homes when trade revives. Many want pleasure of the sort that doesn't ^{not} bring lasting satisfaction. The Scotch shew greater tenacity, more steadiness and better education than most of the others. The children at school are quick and intelligent, but lacking in concentration. In those schools attended by both Kentish children and the children of mining families, the latter attain a higher standard of work. The Kentish children are more stolid, more reliable, slower and less intelligent. There is often much quarelling among the two types when they mix.

One informant said that the miners lack any desire to improve themselves, yet they are independent with a great belief in themselves. They like the best of everything for themselves, [and he gave as an example the fact that when a certain church was built on one of the mining estates, the inhabitants managed to get the Archbishop of Canterbury to take the dedication service.]

The ^{following} views of two other persons working on different estates, probably unknown to each other, but both with long years of experience among miners in other parts of the country before they came to Kent, may perhaps be cited

as typical of such prevailing opinion in Kent. [One pointed out that the miners in the neighbourhood were not content with having dances arranged for them once a week. Some wanted them more often. They were like children. They wanted pleasures of the moment and too much of them as children want sweets, sometimes not very wholesome ones. They differed from miners of other coalfields [whom he had known many years ago.] These often drank hard but they were religious men. They found an outlet for their impulses in religion whereas the Kentish miners find it in restless pleasure.

[The other informant finds the miners living on another estate] ^{was} intellectually lazy with no desire for discussions. [He has tried to get up debates but he finds that the miners want to be entertained. Some while ago the representatives of the miners suggested as the subject of the first debate "Is capital punishment conformable with Christianity?" The miners said they knew nothing about the subject and could not be drawn into a discussion. Another subject "Free Trade v. Protection" fell flat. A third concerning "Disarmament" was not understood. He contrasted the miners very unfavourably with those he had known in the North of England with whom he had had many interesting discussions on economic subjects. A talk upon "The Ethical Value of Money" had provoked a long discussion among the Northerners. It was said at one estate that the men are Bolshevik

in outlook and discontented^{is} normally. [On the other hand more than one example was given by different persons in that district of the apparent inhumanity of the owners. A miner contracted gastritis owing to the conditions under which he worked underground. When he recovered he applied for a 'screening' job at the surface. He was told that the colliery was not a convalescent home. Then he applied for and obtained unemployment benefit. Another miner, referring to the many accidents occurring at the mine, said that the cause was often the falling in of the roof because an insufficient number of timber props was used. The hardness of the rock caused the firm to economise and too few props were issued to the men. They received an adequate supply of timber only so long as an inspector was known to be in the neighbourhood. When he departed there was again a scarcity so that often miners stole props from one another. If they protested and demanded more from the company they were told they were not wanted any longer at the pit.]

CHAPTER XII.The Mining Estates - Elvington and Aylesham.

It is essential to realise that the estates at Elvington, Aylesham and Hersden are isolated communities, almost entirely cut off from one another physically, intellectually and spiritually. Although they appear to have certain common characteristics, there is little intercourse between them, no common social life, and already they are tending to develop on different lines with characteristics of their own. In so far as they are alike, it is mainly that they are all the product of a conglomeration of many individuals and groups of people who have arrived and are arriving in East Kent in small numbers from different parts of England, Scotland and Wales. Betteshanger and Mill Road differ somewhat from these other estates in certain respects which will be considered later.

Elvington is probably the most advanced of the mining estates as far as the development of a conscious community life is concerned. Its two hundred and thirty odd houses form a compact group situated on high ground in the gently undulating fold country of East Kent. To approach it from the direction of Barfrston, one follows a road that passes over open downland till it reaches a wood bordering the road on either side. At the further end of the wood the road meets another off which lies the estate, edged on one

side by the wood and on the opposite by open meadows across which a footpath leads to Tilmanstone Colliery. The road that runs southward of the estate goes downhill past Eythorne Church and the new elementary school to Lower Eythorne, an old Kentish village a mile away. At the foot of the hill a road on the left runs past the colliery. The surrounding country is picturesque and healthy with varied downland and woodland, scattered farms and cultivated fields.

The miners in Elvington are generally considered to be superior to others in Kent, especially to those in Aylsham. A number of miners from Stafford and from Somerset settled in the neighbourhood before the war. They formed two rival groups emulated each other and set a high tone. In course of time they began to raise up new miners as they arrived. Mixing is slow, but the older men take the matter in hand. The Settlement referred to in Part II has undoubtedly too had a strong influence upon the inhabitants by fostering social intercourse. The late Mr. Tilden Smith, M.P., a former owner of the colliery, who died in December, 1929 took a personal interest in the life of the miners in Elvington and did much to develop a sense of fellow feeling among the inhabitants of such varied origins. He was a philanthropist as well as a colliery owner. He gave a plot of land to the school children to enable them to grow vegetables and sell them in the village. He gave

them plants to cultivate and promised them a swimming bath, but unfortunately he died before this plan matured.

On his death about half of the shares of his company passed to his daughters; the remainder are owned by a number of small shareholders.

The Colliery is said to have been losing since 1931 £600-£700 per week. Conditions of work are better at Tilmanstone than at Snowdown or at Betteshanger. Pit head baths are provided and enable the majority of miners to return to their homes clean. The mine is less deep and not so hot as those owned by Pearson and Dorman Long Ltd.,

On the whole there has been little unemployment at Elvington. At a time of slackness in 1932 two hundred miners were dismissed, but after a meeting it was decided that they should return to the pit, all miners working alternate weeks. But some men had left the district. In course of time the rest were reinstated and worked two out of three weeks. In October 1933 it was said that the only unemployed men on the estate were those who did not want to work and the disabled.

There is very little opportunity for employment in the neighbourhood for the males of miners' families other than at the colliery. Practically all the boys therefore enter the coalmining industry. A boy of 14 years of age doing haulage work can earn £1 per week. Girls seek work in other districts - mainly as domestic servants and shop

assistants. In 1933 there was much unemployment among girls in Dover and this increased the difficulty of finding work for Elvington girls.

There appears to be less overcrowding than on the other estates. The colliery rents the houses from Elvington Tenants Ltd., and deducts the rent from the miners wages. Some of the houses were occupied in 1933 by miners' working at Betteshanger Colliery, having formerly worked at Wilmanstone colliery. Since the company must pay the rent to Elvington Tenants Ltd., whether the house is occupied or not, it is willing to let houses to other than its own employees. The school-master, the Settlement, etc., occupy colliery houses. A few families take lodgers. The houses on the whole are clean and well kept. The size of the families on the estate varies much. In 1933 it ranged from eighteen children to none, the average family being judged as having three to four children.

A village hall was erected in 1931 by Elvington Tenants Ltd., It is rented by the Settlement under an arrangement according to which if the rent is paid regularly for a number of years it becomes the property of the Settlement. It holds one hundred persons and has a small stage. Attached to the hall are a kitchen and a dental clinic. The latter is rented by the Kent County Council [at £1 per week] as a clinic for nursing and expectant mothers and children under five years of age under the county maternity and child welfare

dances; none for the socials, but a collection is taken to cover expenses and usually a profit of about 10/- results. Catering for the socials is done by the community. As an experiment the inhabitants of one road on the estate were asked on one occasion to make themselves responsible for the refreshments. They did so, the arrangement proved successful, and it was decided that it should be repeated. Local talent is used on these occasions.

Lectures are arranged by the Settlement from time to time. These are well attended by both inhabitants of Elvington and Kentish people from the neighbourhood. An attendance of about one hundred persons in 1933 was the average. But it is said that there is little intermingling between Kentish and mining families.

The roads of the estate are lighted by gas brought from Whitstable. There is a general shop, a post office and a Miners' Welfare Institute, the only building on the estate at which intoxicants are sold. Itinerant tradesmen call at the houses but many mining families prefer to shop in Dover. The return fare to Dover is 1/- and although most every-day purchases may be made locally or in Eythorne village it is generally considered that the fare is easily saved by food etc., being bought in Dover where prices are definitely lower. Moreover the journey affords pleasure and many of the shoppers go to the cinema in Dover. At Elvington as well as at all the other mining estates there is no cinema, and shopping facilities are limited.

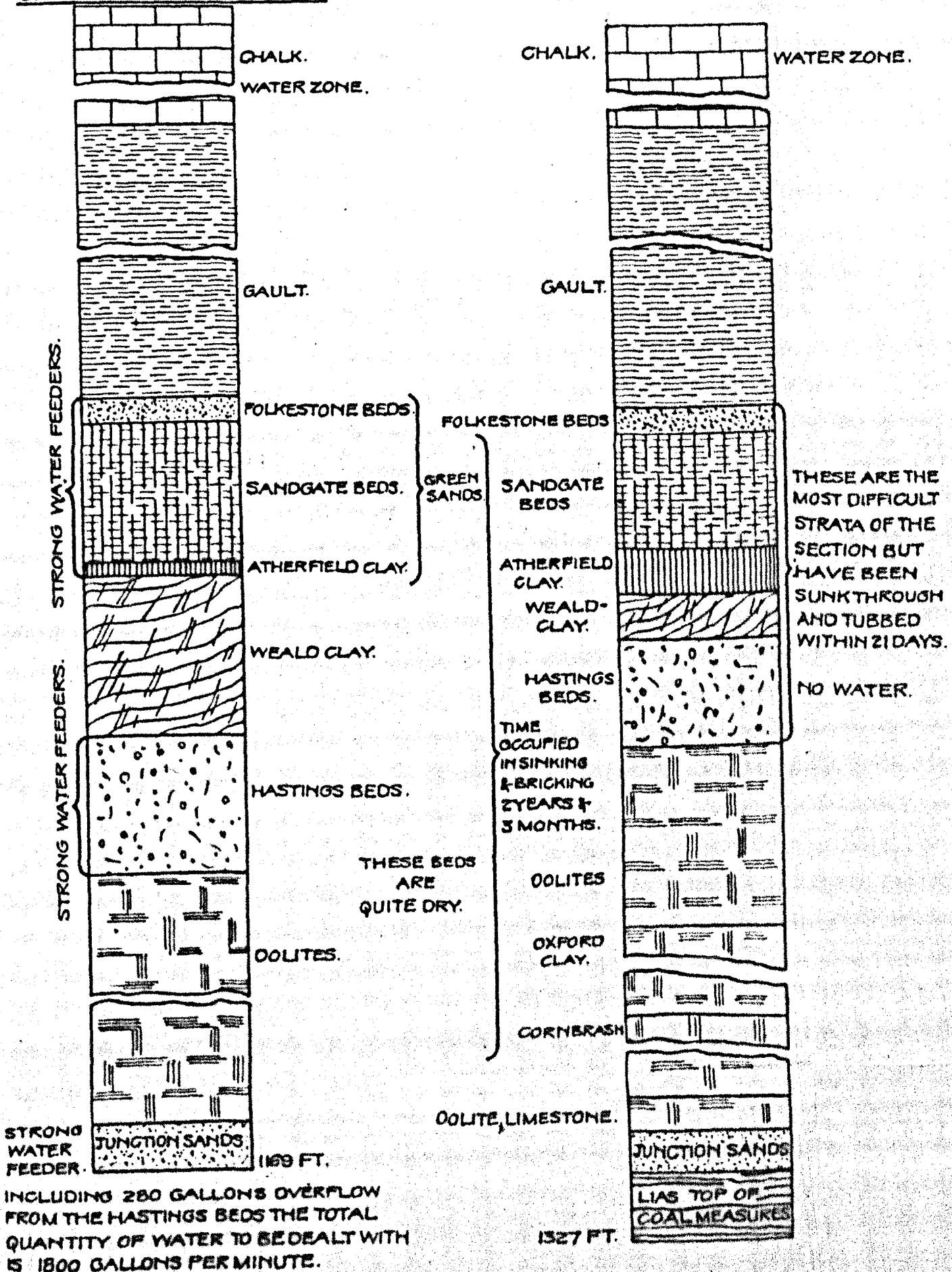
Aylesham was originally planned as a mining town to accommodate 10,000 persons with the possibility of a further extension so that eventually it might contain a population of about 15,000 persons. In 1934 however there were still only 552 houses. It possesses in addition a co-operative stores, a private stores, a hotel and a small number of other shops, including a bakers', a drapers', a chemists', a hairdressers'. There is also a branch of Barclay's Bank. Places of worship on the estate are St. Peter's Church (church of England), the Glyn Vivian Mission Hall and a Roman Catholic Church. On the estate is a well laid out sports ground which has hard tennis courts and a children's playing field, a rescue station and a Miners' Welfare Institute. There is much unbuilt on land which tends to give the whole area a rather untidy appearance. The gardens are not so well kept as at Elvington or Hersden. The children playing in the roads look dirtier and there is much impetigo among them.

Difficulties in Aylesham as on the other estates arise partly from the fact that a proportion of the population is a floating one. In the course of two years 1929-31 about seven hundred miners came to Aylesham and departed. It was suggested that many came unwillingly. They are told at their local employment exchanges that work is awaiting them in Kent. If they refuse it, they lose their unemployment benefit. Some come and find conditions at Snowdown

SECTIONAL DIAGRAM SHOWING ROCKS PASSED THROUGH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WATER-BEARING STRATA.

TILMAN STONE COLLIERY
224' - 24" ABOVE ORD. DATUM.

SNOWDOWN COLLIERY
293' 9" ABOVE ORD. DATUM.



accepted as tenants. Doctors, clergymen, missionaries, teachers are refused tenancy if they apply.

At Aylesham, as at Elvington, ^{practically} the only employment available for boys leaving school is at the pit. There appears to be a prejudice in Dover and Canterbury against mining families in this respect. A boy applying for a post in Dover almost secured the work but when the employer discovered that his address was at Aylesham, he was refused it. This is said to be typical of the attitude of many local employers. There are too practically no occupations open to girls except domestic service away from home. A few girls go to London. Others seek situations in seaside towns for the season. They earn high wages and stay at home, idle and restless, during the winter. A miner, residing in Aylesham, who had two daughters over school age, staying at home because they could not obtain employment, said that he believed it would be a great advantage to the estate if a silk factory were opened in Aylesham. This would create a demand for female labour. One had recently been opened near Doncaster whence he came. It had proved a successful venture. This view that the opening of factories near the estates would solve the problem of unemployment amongst girls was expressed often.

As at Elvington shopping facilities are limited and the price of goods at the co-operative stores is said to be several shillings in the £ dearer than in Dover.



A Co-operative Society's Stores at Aylesham.
 [Note also the unbuilt on land on this estate.
 See pages 197
 and 199.]



An Itinerant Greengrocer at Woollage Gr
 [See page 85].

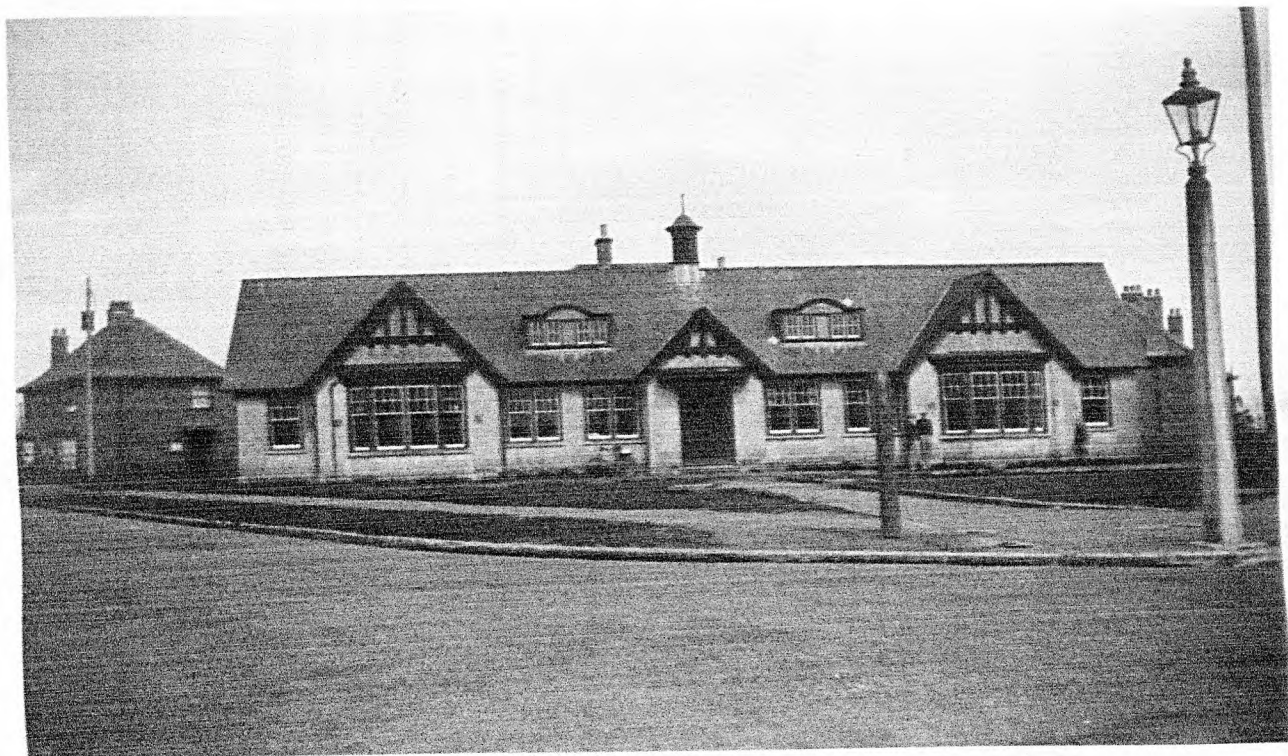
Miners' Children Playing in the Roads.



at Mill Road.
 [See page 19].



at Hersden.



The Miners' Welfare Institute, Elvington.

Tradesmen bring goods to the miners' houses in carts and charge high prices. Miners from Yorkshire say that prices in Aylesham are ^{much} higher than in the districts whence they came, e.g. a stone of flour in Yorkshire is 1/2d and in Aylesham 2/-. Young married couples go to Dover to shop and to find amusement at the cinema. They say that the saving thus effected in shopping pays for their fares and the entertainment. But the mother of a large family cannot leave her home. Many miners wives coming from the North bake their own bread. [One woman whose husband was receiving compensation for an accident occurring at the mine two and a half years earlier baked her neighbours' bread and thus augmented her income.]

It has been suggested that Aylesham needs an open air market. People could go shopping, look at the stalls, rub up against others and so make friends. As it is, there is no centre for social intercourse in Aylesham. The women hardly ever meet each other. The men meet in the colliery and the institute and talk shop. They have nothing else to talk about. They drink and gamble. They have nothing else to do. Some attempt has been made to remedy this. A mission set up a canteen in a temporary hall rented from Aylesham tenants Ltd. Chess, draughts, other games and coffee were provided. From fifty to a hundred men attended regularly and the canteen was open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Thus many men were kept out of the streets and public house. [Later Aylesham Tenants Ltd. demanded that the hall should be pulled down because] it was a temporary structure, and no temporary building may be erected in Aylesham. [The mission offered to spend £200 on the exterior in any way required by Aylesham Tenants Ltd., The interior was in good condition with match-boarded flooring. Aylesham Tenants Ltd. refused the offer and after some fruitless negotiations, ^{and} the hall was pulled down.

At Elvington the Settlement forms a focus for the social life of the inhabitants. Aylesham appears to be without such a focus, and is almost completely isolated from neighbouring Kentish villages.

CHAPTER XIII.

The Mining Estates (Continued).

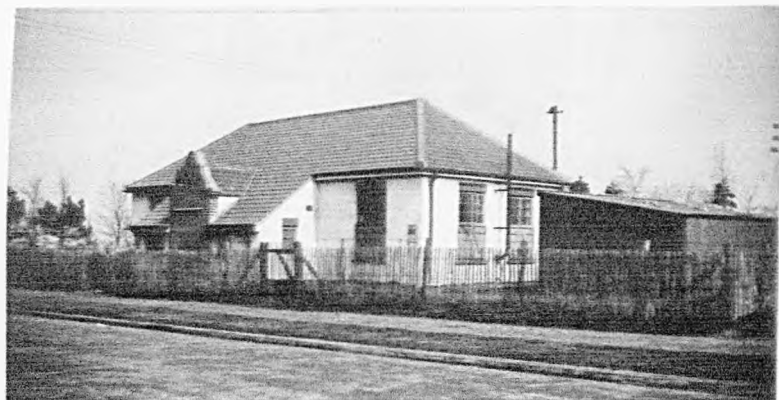
Hersden, Bettehanger Colliery and Mill Road.

Hersden consists of a colony of one hundred and seventy four houses, a post office, a co-operative store, a public house, and a temporary elementary school. An Anglican Church and a Wesleyan Chapel have been erected on the estate, and the first steps have been taken for the erection of a Roman Catholic church with a Junior school attached. The estate is situated off the main road from Canterbury to Dover and is within a stone's throw of Chislet Colliery which lies on the opposite side of the road. At a distance of half a mile along the road is the Westbere Working Men's Club and Institute. A permanent central school to accommodate two hundred and fifty children including all those living on the estate and some children from the neighbouring villages has been planned and its erection was sanctioned by the Kent County Council early in 1934. The temporary school which includes a wooden army hut on the colliery premises had one hundred and ninety four children boys and girls on the attendance roll in March 1934. All the scholars at that time belonged to miners' families. The staff consisted of a headmaster and three assistant teachers.

The estate is of course much smaller than Aylesham.



Betteshanger Colliery and the Colliery Estate.
[see page 210
[Note the large ploughed field in the foreground.]



The Village Hall, Elvington.
[see page 194].



The Church of England Church, Hersden.
[See page 209].



The Central Rescue Station, Aylesham.
[see page 71]

At present it is more compact, the gardens are perhaps better kept and the general appearance neater. There seems to be little prospect of the estate growing much in size in the near future. The number of men employed at the colliery has been about thirteen hundred for some years. Employment is regular.

Conditions in the mine are better than at Snowdown, but many miners suffer from boils and septic conditions are common. Pithead baths are available for the use of the majority of the workers. These are built as cubicles round a central hall. The men's clothing is suspended from the ceiling. The surface of the walls is distempered. The baths are disinfected once a fortnight and fumigated once a month. [The men are supposed to remove their dirty clothing once a week, but this rule is not always kept.]

The mine is fifteen hundred feet deep. Workable coal seams vary in thickness from four feet six inches to six feet. Seams only two feet thick are not considered worth working. The coal is soft but contains valuable by-products. Most of it is consumed locally, much by the Southern Railway, some by a local gasworks, and some is sold for household purposes in Canterbury and elsewhere.

[The colliery is said to be just paying its way.]

Parts of the mine are wall^{ed} in with bricks, timber, iron girders and concrete. The mine is lit by electric light everywhere except in the newer passages. Trucks

are drawn along railway lines by an electric cable and chain. The atmosphere is very hot; the shafts are ventilated by currents of compressed air.

Boys find no difficulty in obtaining work at the colliery when they leave school, but they have considerable difficulty in finding work elsewhere. Many mothers prefer that their sons should not go to the pit, and the boys themselves frequently show a desire for other work but few are successful in gaining suitable jobs. Now and then a boy gets work, for example at a garage in Canterbury, or at a local quarry but the great majority are driven to follow their fathers' occupation.

At Herston as on the other estates girls on leaving school find little opportunity of obtaining work. A very few become shop assistants in Canterbury, a few enter domestic service; some work in Ramsgate, Margate etc., during the season. The great majority stay at home, help their mothers to look after lodgers and the younger children, and, it was suggested, do not make any great effort to find work. Only a small number trouble to apply for it at the local employment exchange. But when they do the amount of assistance that can be given them is very limited.

As at Aylesham many families have been in the habit of taking lodgers and there has been much overcrowding in consequence. An extreme example of this was a house which

in 1932 was inhabited by eleven lodgers in addition to the family.] The local authority and the colliery are aware of the state of affairs but have not always found effective ways and means of dealing with it. Their main difficulty has been the shifting nature of the population. When so many miners come and go, it is not easy to find out ⁱⁿ which houses ~~the~~ overcrowding exists, nor to prevent it recurring after effective measures for the time being have been taken.

[Another problem with which the colliery has been faced and which is related to that of overcrowding is the bad treatment of many of the houses by their tenants. Some of the houses fall quickly into disrepair, and some appear to be badly built.] But there were signs early in 1934 of a distinct attempt on the part of the sanitary authority and of the colliery to tackle the problems of overcrowding [and bad tenancy]. Many tenants were compelled to cease to take in lodgers or to reduce the number taken, [and the colliery began to adopt the policy when a house became empty of offering the tenancy only to miners of a better type than some of those who had formerly inhabited Hersden. Thus the standard was being raised, and the less desirable type of miner tenant found accommodation chiefly in Ramsgate or in Sturry.] A number of council houses was erected in Sturry a short time before to replace condemned houses occupied by Kentish people. [These vacated condemned

houses were relet to miner's families unable to find homes in Hersden. Some families prefer to live in Ramsgate where they can augment their income by letting rooms and taking lodgers without restrictions placed by the landlord, and where there are social amenities lacking on the mining estate.

[The standard of cleanliness in many of the homes at Hersden is low, except among a small number of long established families. It is said that there is much drunkenness among the men; some too among the women. There is much prevailing ignorance of mothercraft.] A district nurse and midwife works in Hersden and Sturry, being employed by the county nursing association. But even though she has engaged the midwife beforehand a miner's wife will often call in her neighbour at her confinement. The health among the women is not regarded as of a high standard and there are many difficult confinements. Kent County Council has a scheme whereby a mother may pay two guineas towards the expenses of the confinement in a maternity home and the council pays another four guineas on her behalf; but it was said that the miners' wives found difficulty in paying so much, and the majority of confinements were at home. The rather poor health among the women has been attributed to lack of outdoor exercise. There is neither much opportunity nor much inducement to the married woman to go out often.

Attendance at the infant welfare centre has increased steadily in course of time. When the centre at Chislet was first opened it was usual for not more than two or three mothers to arrive in the course of an afternoon. In time the numbers increased till an average of about thirty was reached. On the whole the best mothers attend the centres. Dried milks are sold at a lower price than is charged in local shops, but in practice many mothers bring up their infants on Nestlé's milk.

Impetigo has been a scourge among the school children; it is largely due to their dirty condition. In September, 1930, fifty scholars suffering from the disease were excluded from school attendance. A local clinic was opened to deal with the epidemic and by February, 1931, the number of absentees was reduced to twenty. This is a particularly bad instance of outbreaks that occur periodically on most of the mining estates. Cases of scabies also occur from time to time.

At the school inspections for cleanliness a relatively large number of children are found to be verminous. The school nurse has power to exclude them from school attendance if necessary. An official notice requiring the parent to cleanse the child and giving instructions as to how this may be done is sent. If a child is reported verminous three times in six months Kent County Council

prosecutes the parent. There is no cleansing station within access of the estate.

The health of the children in Herston compares unfavourably with that of Kentish children. There is an unusual amount of tuberculosis among the mining population of Chislet colliery, and it is not unusual for a child to be excluded for three months from the elementary school because of tubercular symptoms. He attends the local tuberculosis dispensary provided by Kent County Council. [In a home on the estate visited in 1932 a young mother was dying, ^{of tuberculosis,} The house was dirty and ill-kept. Her two children, both under five years of age were in close contact with their mother. One lodger, a girl of sixteen years, lived with the family.] Under the Kent County Council's scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis, inmates of the local sanatorium may not receive visits from their children. This may account for reluctance on the part of many tuberculous patients to remain in the sanatorium during advanced stages of the disease.

Efforts to interest mining families in adult education have not been successful at Herston. Technical classes were begun among the miners at the colliery, but they had to be abandoned owing to smallness of numbers. An attempt to hold evening classes on the estate was made in 1930. Two circulars were sent to every house, and an invitation given

to the inhabitants to attend a meeting and discuss needs. About a dozen people attended the meeting. One desired shorthand; three wanted book-keeping; the rest did not know what they wanted. Classes were begun but had to be abandoned from low attendance. In March 1934 no classes at all were being held either at Heraden or at Sturry. One or two miners were following the Senior Miners' Course in Ramspate, and a few others were attending evening classes in Canterbury.

At Heraden as elsewhere itinerant tradesmen charge high prices to the miners' families. The bus fare to Canterbury, about four miles distant, is 7d single and 11d return. The miners resent this as being unduly high. The railway fare from Chislet Colliery Halt to Canterbury is 7d return, but the trains are few and inconvenient for many purposes.

There seems to be a tendency at Heraden for the mining families to become more and more isolated from the neighbouring Kentish people, and on neither side is there much evidence of any desire for closer contact. On the other hand there is definite evidence of an attempt on the part of the miners themselves to develop a social life of their own. There is an active Wesleyan Guild which meets periodically, holds socials etc., All its members, except one family of farmers, belong to the miners' community. Heraden Church arranges weekly whist drives and is developing the social side of its work. But there are still few social

amenities on the estate.

As already noted conditions at Mill Road Estate and Betteshanger Estate are somewhat different from the others. Each of these two possesses a great advantage. Betteshanger is situated close to the colliery, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Deal, is physically almost as isolated as the other estates, but from the time the colliery was opened in 1928 a conscious and sustained effort has been made to promote friendly relationships between the Kentish population and the immigrant mining families in order to create a harmonious community and to break down barriers between the agricultural population and the industrial population. Thus, whereas, in the case of the other estates the tendency has been for the inhabitants to become more and more segregated from the native population, as the size of the estates has increased and as they have tended to develop among themselves a community spirit, in the parish of Northbourne where Betteshanger lies exactly the opposite tendency has been at work. From the outset social gatherings, dances, classes to which both sections of the community are invited on equal terms have been arranged. The Kentish folk have been persuaded to overcome the reserve towards the "furriners" which they normally show to newcomers. When they have resented the presence of miners in the church choir it has been pointed out to them that the best talent is chosen

wherever it may lie. Full use is being made of the Sunday schools as means of enabling the two communities to understand each other. When a playing ground was opened on the Betteshanger Colliery Estate, arrangements were made for Northbourne village children to use it while the school playground in Northbourne was opened to miners' children. Many miners' children attend Northbourne School. Here too there is opportunity for intermingling.

As has been noted, Mill Road is situated in the South Ward of Deal, on the outskirts of the borough, close to Upper Walmer. A town has been planned, and the estate is developing rapidly. Many houses have been recently erected or are in course of erection. The Yew Tree Inn has been rebuilt. A new school was opened in 1932 by Deal Borough Council for the accommodation of the miners' children. Further school buildings on the same ground were in course of erection in the spring of 1934. At that time the existing school had insufficient accommodation for all the children on the estate, some of whom attended an elementary school in Deal. The Glyn Vivian Mission has built a fine hall. There is a small Roman Catholic Church and a Methodist Chapel on the estate, and an Anglican Church was also being built early in 1934.

The geographical situation of Mill Road Estate is far less isolated than any of the other mining estates in East Kent. The people can enjoy the social amenities of both

Deal and of Walmer. Mothers can attend either the Walmer or the Deal Infant Welfare Centres where they may meet and mix with Kentish mothers. Probably the barriers between the indigenous and the immigrant populations which exist at Mill Road as in the other parts of the coalfield, may more easily be broken down than elsewhere.

In the summer of 1932 the inhabitants of Deal and its environs were much inconvenienced by a severe pest of mosquitoes. It was suggested that the breeding place of the insects was the flooded lands north of Betteshanger Colliery where the water drained from the mine is deposited. Representations were made to Eastry District Council that steps should be taken to deal with the matter and a local enquiry was held. It was then realised that dykeland in the neighbourhood had for many years been the home of the mosquito and that the mine water could be only in part the cause. The local authority however undertook to do everything in its power to abate the nuisance, and property owners in the area with ponds, water-butts etc., on their land were urged to co-operate by treating and keeping clean their water as far as possible. This occurrence may be worthy of mention to illustrate the need for vigilance on the part of the local authority to prevent future recurrences which apart from the danger to health, tend to arouse with or without justification hostility towards the mining

industry on the part of the native population who were the victims of the pest.

PART III.Conclusion.CHAPTER XIV.Some Problems that have Emerged.

The most outstanding problem that confronts anyone who makes a study of the East Kent Coalfield area is how happy social relationships may be created between different social groups residing within the area. It has been shown that in the neighbourhood of the mining estates these groups are of two types :- (a) groups into which the inhabitants of the mining estates tend to fall on their arrival in Kent. These are determined largely by places of origin; (b) groups of mining families on the one side and Kentish families on the other. The breaking down of barriers between groups within the mining communities is going on, sometimes perhaps slowly, but surely on all the estates. Where the problem of absorbing the new comers and making them recognised members of the community is consciously realised by the older inhabitants of the estate and taken in hand by them, as it is in Elvington, obviously the process of creating a community spirit goes on more rapidly. It can be speeded up by the work of such voluntary organisations as Elvington Settlement, the Glyn Vivian Mission, a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre etc., In any case

sooner or later neighbours tend to learn to understand one another's strange modes of speech, different ways of life, and points of view. Once the strangeness of new surroundings is overcome, the mining family recognises the fact that it is among its own people, men and women living essentially the same kind of life, performing the same kind of daily tasks, seeking similar interests.

But the problem of generating sympathy and understanding between the native population and the Kentish people is a much more ominous one to solve. It is not solving itself naturally as the first problem is. On the other hand if attention be paid only to Aylesham and Hernden, and perhaps some of the other estates, it might well appear that the problem is insoluble. It may be argued with much good reason that the barriers are growing and will tend to grow more and more, as the mining estates increase in size; as they are provided with social amenities within their own communities; as they become self conscious and self contained societies, able themselves to provide more and more of their material and spiritual needs. Often one hears that the new estates are becoming more isolated, as they grow more self dependent. Left to themselves this tendency is likely to become more apparent. There is however one outstanding exception to this tendency. It is found among the miners of Betteshanger colliery. In this neighbourhood a definite, strong personal influence is consciously aiming

at creating a single community made up of two types of neighbours, miners and agricultural workers. It has been perhaps rather optimistically forecast by one who is in close contact with these miners that the process of allaying antagonism and of creating a united community will reach effective fruition in the course of the next three or four years. Whether success be achieved in so short a time or not, it would at least appear that, where a deliberate and persistent attempt is made to overcome the obstacles arising out of deep rooted conservatism on the one hand and aggressive independence on the other, sooner or later friendly relationships are likely to grow stronger until they lead to the true sharing of common interests and purposes.

The question of course must not be overlooked as to whether, assuming that the barriers are not irremovable, it is desirable to try to remove them. Will the interchange of ideas, the modification of points of view and adjustment in ways of living that must follow an intermingling of two such different types of people be to the ultimate good of both groups ? Or, will the influence of the newcomers upon the Kentish natives prove in the long run a harmful one ? Will it spoil the old Kent and create a new Kent, less healthy, less happy, even if it be materially better off ? That is the fear that lurks in the minds of those who oppose the invasion of the mining population into East Kent. The answer to that question

each must find for himself. At bottom it is a question of values. But it may perhaps be pointed out that changes are inevitably taking place in Kent; the invasion of the motor coach and the motor bus is already breaking down ^{the} former isolation of the East Kent countryside. New methods of agriculture, heavy taxation, are leading to the disappearance of landed estates, are abolishing the old order, and inevitably rural Kent will have to adjust itself to these changes. In so doing can the Kentish folk accept and use to their mutual advantage the culture that the people who have come to live permanently in their midst are able to offer them ?

The answer to the question as to whether the mining population of East Kent has in reality anything of value to contribute to the lives of the native Kentish folk depends partly upon the extent to which the mining families are able to evolve a social life characteristically their own, and upon the nature of that social life. It must be remembered that the mining communities are all still in the making and in the early stages of that making. Assuming that ultimately a harmonious intermingling of the two types of people takes place, there are two ways in which it may happen. Individual families belonging to either group may get to know each other, and by friendly intercourse exchange ideas, and each contribute something to the other's common weal. The other possibility is

for the mining community to evolve organisations which it may place at the service of the Kentish folk, and pursue social activities in which it may offer the Kentish folk a share; while at the same time the Kentish folk may place at the disposal of its 'foreign' neighbours some of its own elements of social life. In other words there may be the rather haphazard intercourse that comes from the mingling of two individuals and two families; or there may be the deliberate sharing of an organised life on the part of two neighbouring societies. In practice some intercourse of both these kinds is going on in East Kent. For the most part the relationships formed by individuals from the two opposing groups are most apparent in the cases of isolated miner's families living in the old villages. Such relationships grow up more or less naturally in course of time though their development may be long delayed. But the exchange of culture that grows out of intercourse through the agency of the organisations of the two types of communities is likely to be the chief means by which the Kentish people and the inhabitants of the mining estates will learn to know each other in the future - if they do decide to adopt the policy of cultivating each other's acquaintance. Experience in East Kent tends to show that harmonious intercourse, exchange of ideas and sharing in a common life, if they are to occur at all between

the Kentish folk and the mining estates, must be deliberately undertaken. Individuals and organisations must lead the way and consciously seek out means by which they may give and take when they try to set up friendly relationships between the old agricultural Kent and the future industrial one. A public opinion may thereby be created which may in time successfully combat the obstacles of conservatism and reserve on the one side and independence and instability on the other.

Bound up with the question as to whether the mining estates have anything of value to offer to the Kentish people, is the further one of whether these heterogenous conglomerations of mining families are typical representatives of the mining communities whence they come. Or are they, as has in fact been suggested, composed for the most part of the "riff-raff" of the "depressed" areas: the wanderers and neer-do-weels; the demoralised element of the victims of prolonged unemployment? If they are, then it may be argued that the native Kentish people run risks of themselves deteriorating if they encourage free intercourse with such people. Assuming that the character traits which are attributed to the newcomers to Kent and which are discussed in Part II are typical of many miners' families in East Kent; it would yet be rash to suppose that anything more than a small majority represent the neer-do-weels and rolling stones that may be found in most civilised communities.

In estimating the characters of the mining population it is essential to recognise that when they first come to Kent they have been up-rooted from their homes, they have not yet had time to adjust themselves to an environment entirely alien in many cases to anything they have known before. The temperamental instability stressed so often by those who work and live among them may be a temporary and, as it were, artificial characteristic, acquired for the moment by people who are out of their bearings. The "butterfly" characteristics may in some cases be the outcome of strong feelings that have been flouted. The intense desire to return home, typical of the attitude of many newcomers is necessarily often accompanied by a bitter knowledge that home means starvation. Maybe some of the most restless immigrants are in fact the greatest home lovers, who perhaps have been forced unwillingly to seek a new environment which they fail to understand. The lack of social amenities, of cinemas, of markets, of lighted shop windows and friendly crowds, which many miners living in Kent miss so much, is likely to increase a sense of restlessness, of discontent, and of apparent instability.

So many of the mining families have not yet taken firm root in their new environment, they have not yet adjusted themselves. Those who come for a short time and then depart fail to do so altogether; and their departure may make

those whom they leave behind in Kent more restless and the native people more distrustful.

The apparent lack of interest in education of which the miners have been accused may also be a passing effect of their uprooting. A man who regards himself as staying in a strange land for a while only because at the moment times are hard, is not in the mood to settle down to a serious course of study, when his day's work is over. His frame of mind is out of harmony with sustained intellectual effort. Moreover at Heraden where adult classes appeared at present to be least successful, the accommodation provided for evening classes is very inadequate, lacking in comfort, and affords ^{ing} little inducement to pleasant social intercourse. This difficulty will be overcome when the new central school is opened. There is reason to think that that event will have a definitely beneficial effect upon the miners' attitude towards adult education. Moreover there seems a general opinion that the Kentish miner is as a rule intelligent and quick, in this respect comparing favourably with the Kentish folk. Once he has settled down in his new home and when incentives to study are offered him he may develop interests in educational pursuits. If he is led to share them with his Kentish neighbours, he may have a stimulating effect upon the slower minds of the Kentish men.

Most people would agree that there is less reason to

doubt whether the Kentish folk have anything of value to offer to the mining populations. The slow stolidity of the Kentish agricultural labourer, his respect for custom and the established order of things, his conservatism, may provide the elements which would appear to be most lacking among the mining families at the present stage of their stay in Kent. Assuring that each community can be led to adopt a sympathetic attitude of understanding towards the other, it may be that each can gain much from friendly intermingling. The new estates are so much communities in the making that probably much concerning their future destiny may be achieved by clear-sighted individuals who, knowing their own aims for the good of the group, win the co-operation of others in carrying them out. But they must first decide whether they want the mining estates to be segregated or not from the rest of Kent.

The public social services provided in East Kent which are reviewed in Part I would on the whole appear to be adequate to the needs of the mining population. In Kent the various local authorities are alive to the ^{needs of the} immigrant populations and are in the act of meeting those needs by extending their services.

This is perhaps particularly true of Kent County Council which has for instance through its education committee worked out a scheme of adult education for miners, to enable those who wish to do so to qualify for high

posts. The fact that at present insufficient accommodation and facilities exist is not necessarily an indication of the inadequacy of the scheme, but of the initial stage in which its administration is.

One practical defect in the education service is the lack of facilities for secondary education for children living on the new estates. The Education Act 1921 which requires local education authorities to provide Schemes for the progressive development of education in their areas is not, it might be argued, being complied with in this respect. But it must be remembered that central and local authorities alike at the present time are still strongly influenced in their provision of public services by the need for economy. At such time as Kent County Council may consider that the need for retrenchment no longer exists, its education committee will no doubt increase the facilities for higher education among the children of mining families.

Another question which must be faced is whether there is truth in the assertion which is often heard in East Kent that the general standard of cleanliness among mining families is on the whole lower than among the indigenous population. If it is so, what measures may be taken to improve conditions among the miners families? One symptom of a low standard ^{of cleanliness} is the existence of a large proportion of verminous children discovered at school inspections. Data might with advantage be collected to find out whether the

proportion is higher among children of mining families than among Kentish children.

It is generally recognised that the problem of verminous school children is closely related to the larger problem of verminous homes. In slum areas where so often the buildings are old and the walls and woodwork of rooms and houses infested with vermin, the problem of preventing the persons of the inhabitants becoming infested is extremely difficult ^{to solve} and a practicable solution may even be impossible. Of course the dwelling may be cleansed by the Sanitary Authority, but experience has proved that in the case of old houses effective permanent disinfection cannot always be assured. The only remedy may be to pull down the infested building. Miners' families in Kent living on the new estates have the great advantage over slum dwellers that they are living in new houses, not yet spoiled through neglect and ill-treatment or worn out through many years of service. In these houses each fitted with a bathroom, a higher standard of cleanliness and comfort can more easily be maintained than was possible in some of the homes in which the immigrants formerly dwelt, although it should not be supposed that any but a small minority inhabited slums before they came to Kent. In the past when working class families have removed into new houses equipped with modern conveniences, they have too often proved ignorant of how to treat their new homes

properly. They have had to be taught how to become good tenants or good property owners. When this teaching has not been forthcoming the new homes have quickly deteriorated into new slums. The house property management movement is one means by which this evil is avoided. Another means may be through the education of elder children in school. There is a growing belief in modern times that an effective way of raising the standard of the home is by practical instruction in such subjects as personal hygiene, housewifery, and mothercraft to the children attending elementary schools and to adult students who have recently left school. But the teaching must be related to real life, due allowance being made for the limitations in a working class home of purse, of equipment and of the time which the much occupied housewife has at her disposal. In this way the rising generation may come to demand and achieve healthier and more comfortable conditions than contented the generation to which their parents belonged.

But in this matter as in others already discussed the migrant nature of the population is a significant a factor. Mining families, which come to Kent reluctantly and leave their former homes only because the needs of life drive them to do so and which cherish the desire to go back to their own people as soon as cruel fate allows, have not the same incentive as more settled folk to create for themselves permanently comfortable homes. Their

attitude may sometimes be " We are not here for long, so why take trouble about the garden, or the enamel on the bath or the paintwork on the doors and window sills." From many points of view it would seem desirable that every possible action should be taken to foster among the newcomers to Kent a feeling that in all probability they have come to stay for good, and to dispel the notion too frequently implied by the natives that miners and their families are unwelcome strangers.

It will be remembered that every house on the mining estates has been provided with a fair sized garden. In this respect the inhabitants have an advantage not possessed by some of their fellow workers in the old villages and towns and by many miners living on the coal-fields whence the immigrants to Kent have come. Perhaps it is because they have not before known the benefits of a garden that some of the Kentish miners do not seem yet to make the best use of them. It is true that some cultivate ^{flowers,} fruit and vegetables. But many gardens are untidy and uncared for, a barren patch of land that might in time easily deteriorate into a yard. The fostering of an interest in gardening would clearly be a social and a personal gain to the inhabitants. In this respect, too, the best approach may prove to be through the young people and by instruction in schools and in adult classes may be a means of arousing the interest. It is hoped that

the school gardens which are included in the plans for the new Central school at Hersden will have a definite and beneficial influence upon the private gardens on the estate. At present there are no allotments within reasonable access of the miners' homes and according to local view no apparent desire for them.

A further practical question that needs to be solved as soon as possible is how the new mining estates may be provided with the amenities of town life to which many of the inhabitants were accustomed before they came to Kent, or how they may be compensated for the loss of them. At Aylesham, the largest of the estates, and the one which has most pressing needs at the present time in this regard, there seem to be difficulties in the way of immediate future development of shopping facilities. The site value of the land on the estate is very high, and this makes the erection of new shops a doubtful business venture. Moreover certain monopolies, for a limited number of years have been granted to existing shops by Aylesham Tenants Ltd., with the declared purpose of safeguarding them against competition which might otherwise prevent their business success while the needs of the community they serve are small. It may be true that but for the monopoly the small shopkeeper would be forced to go out of business in Aylesham. But since Aylesham Tenants Ltd. is a public

utility society might it not be desirable that it should lease or sell land at a low price for the erection of shops and still more for the establishment of a local cinema ? Has the time arrived for the building of a Salvation Army Hall, a project which was put forward several years ago ? Is Lastry Rural Council justified at the present time in contributing towards the cost of an open market place ?

Regarding the latter question the reader may be reminded of a passage in D.H. Lawrence's novel "Sons and Lovers", in which he describes poignantly the part that market might played in the life of Mrs. Morel, the collier's wife -

"Mrs. Morel loved her marketing. In the tiny market place on the top of the hill . . . many stalls were erected. Brakes ran in from the surrounding villages. The market place was full of women, the streets packed with men. It was amazing to see so many men everywhere in the streets. Mrs. Morel usually quarrelled with her lace woman, sympathised with her fruit man, who was a gabby, but his wife was a bad 'un -- laughed with the fishman - who was a scamp but so droll - put the line-leum man in his place, was cold with the odd-wares man, and only went to the crockery man when she was driven - or drawn by the cornflowers on a little dish; then she was coldly polite."

In the town planning scheme prepared by Aylesham Tenants Ltd. a commodious open air market was projected. Much might be gained if the carrying out of this part of the scheme were speeded up.

Regarding the problem of lack of employment among girls living on the estates and among boys who do not wish to enter the colliery, there is no doubt that from a social point of view much benefit would accrue from the development of ancilliary industries in the coalfield area. But whether such a development would be economically sound is a question which goes beyond the scope of this survey, and it is presumably on economic grounds that the question of whether new industries should be fostered in East Kent in the near future will ultimately be determined.
