

WHITEHALL, November 7, 1913.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to award the Edward Medal of the Second Class to Thomas Thomas, under the following circumstances:—

On the 27th April 1913 walling was in progress in a shaft, over 500 yards deep and 20 feet wide, in the Llewelyn Sinking Pit, belonging to the Britannic Merthyr Coal Company Limited, Gilfach Goch, Glamorganshire. Seven men were working on a stage suspended by ropes, about 10 yards from the bottom of the shaft, when a heavy fall occurred, smashing the stage and precipitating the seven men to the bottom of the shaft. As the winding rope had become entangled in the débris it was impossible to descend the shaft direct from the surface. Thomas, a mechanic employed at the colliery, and others accordingly descended another shaft to a seam where there was an inset from the Llewelyn shaft, about 70 yards from the bottom. Thomas volunteered to go down the shaft, and was let down by a rope with a loop at the end, although small falls were occurring at intervals and there was a risk of a larger fall at any moment. Successfully reaching the bottom, he found three men alive and tied them to the rope and they were drawn up separately, after which he himself was drawn up.

He ran considerable risk to his own life by his plucky conduct in descending to the rescue of his comrades.

WHITEHALL, November 7, 1913.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Edward Medal of the Second Class to Matthew Withers, under the following circumstances:—

On the 19th August 1913 William Broughton, a dataller at the Annesley Colliery, near Nottingham, was engaged under the directions of Withers, who is a deputy, when a fall of roof took place and buried him. Withers, who was near at hand, heard the noise of the fall, and, being unable to reach the place, went round to the opposite side of the fall and managed to clear away the dirt with his hands until he reached Broughton's head, which he protected by placing a piece of timber across large stones. Another fall of roof then occurred, burying both men and extinguishing the lamp. Withers' arms, fortunately, were free, and, being able to extricate himself, he started again to rescue Broughton. Though help had arrived in the meantime, there was only room for one man to work. Withers persisted in his efforts, in spite of the injuries he had himself received, and did not stop until he had uncovered his fellow-workman sufficiently to admit of his being hauled to a place of safety.

Withers was engaged in the work of rescue for about three-quarters of an hour, during which he ran great risk of being killed or severely injured by falls of roof. Had it not been for his courage and determination, Broughton would probably have lost his life.

WHITEHALL, November 8, 1913.

The King has been pleased to give and grant unto the under-mentioned Officers His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to accept and wear Decorations (as stated against their respective names) conferred upon them by His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, authorised by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey, in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—

*Fourth Class, Imperial Ottoman Order of the Osmanieh.*

Major John Powell, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps.

Captain Ernest Elliot Buckland Mackintosh, Royal Engineers.

*Fourth Class, Imperial Ottoman Order of the Medjidieh.*

Captain Richard James Campbell Thompson, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Captain Frank de Winton Harman, Norfolk Regiment.

Captain Hubert Jervoise Huddleston, Dorset Regiment.

Captain the Honourable Robert Bruce (Master of Burleigh), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

FACTORY DEPARTMENT, HOME OFFICE,

November 7, 1913.

The Chief Inspector of Factories gives notice that, in consequence of the resignation of Dr. J. Robertson, an appointment as Certifying Surgeon under the Factory and Workshop Acts at Clackmannan, in the County of Clackmannan, is vacant.

DOWNING STREET, November 10, 1913.

The King has been pleased to approve of the retention of the title of "Honourable" by Edward Miller, Esq., who served continuously for more than ten years as a Member of the Legislative Council of Victoria.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,

November 11, 1913.

The Civil Service Commissioners hereby give notice that Open Competitive Examinations of candidates for entry as Apprentices in His Majesty's Dockyards and as Boy Artificers in the Royal Navy will commence in London, Edinburgh, Portsmouth, Devonport, Chatham, Pembroke, Sheerness, and Cork on the 15th April 1914.

No person will be admitted to compete from whom the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission has not received, on or before the 1st March 1914, an application, in the handwriting of the candidate, on a prescribed form, which may be obtained from the Secretary at once.