THE DAILY MERCURY,

LEICESTER October 14, 1901.

WHAT HAVE WE OFFERED THE BOERS?

A passage in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech at Oldham, the other night, has attracted some attention, and is discussed in a letter appearing over the signature "Civis," which is given the distinction of large type in to-day's "Times." Sir Michael Hicks-Beach said: "What have we offered to them? We have offered the inhabitants of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony greater liberties than, I believe are enjoyed by the subjects of any European State. We have offered to them the position which has made French Canadians loyal and devoted subjects of the Crown. We have offered them the position of self-governing colonies of the British Empire." When were these terms definitely submitted to the Boers by the British Government? From time to time certain members of the Ministry have said in public speeches in this country that they hoped the time would come when self-government could be granted to the residents in the conquered territories, but speeches here are one thing, terms offered in South Africa are another. Vague statements on the platform in England, even if unaffected by assertions by other members of the Government, are not the same as formal undertakings entered into by the Government in a governmental capacity. We are told that "Pro-Boer" speeches reach the camps of the commandos in South Africa, and encourage the enemy to continue the war. If so we

STACK FIRE.—About half-past 10 o'clock on Saturday morning the fire brigade received a call by telegraph to a stack fire at Newbold Verdon. Supt. Ely turned out with the manual. The outbreak was on premises occupied by the rector, Rev. W. G. Coles. It is conjectured that somebody smoking in the stack-yard dropped a match amongst the straw. Fortunately, it being Saturday, there was a large number of willing helpers, villagers and colliers, and when Supt. Ely and his men arrived, one stack of straw had been removed out of reach of the fire. Unfortunately, three other stacks of straw, two of oats, and two of wheat were destroyed, the firemen only being able to save the greater portion of a stack of clover. The damage done is estimated at £500, which is, we understand, only partly covered by insurance. The brigade was at work nearly eight hours.

1900

Feb 15 I shd be glad to know whether you think it would be of use if our Parish Council were to apply for a resident policeman. If, as I believe is the case, we have more public houses in proportion to our population than any other place in this neighbourhood we have, it seems, at any rate a prima facie claim. We greatly want at present more police assistance. There is a Van belonging to the Church Association here this week & on Monday evening – in the absence of a policeman – I had myself to turn out. I was applied to by Mr Darby, its occupant, who came to the Rectory to complain of some lads who were causing him annoyance & injuring his van.

They were in all probability the same lads who, as my messenger will tell you, have during the last 10 days been startling & disturbing householders by throwing snowballs at their doors. I think we are entitled to protection against them. A resident policeman wd at once put a stop to disorderly proceedings of this sort. He wd easily ascertain the names of the members of the gang. It would then be only necessary for him to go to the parents & give them a caution to put an end to the annoyance.

Mr Vernon.
~~Superintendent~~ Inspector of Police, Market Bosworth

There are 6 public houses here & only 3 at Barlestone.

72

Sept 7 1901 N.V Glebe Farm & minerals

Refering to the paper which I forwarded to you on the 7th Aug & of wh you sent me an acknowledgement 2 days later I shd be glad to know whether it wd lie within the powers of the Commission to sanction the letting of the Glebe Farm for the same term as the minerals ie for 40 years.

I shd not It wd not have occurred to me as necessary to ask this question if I had not observed in the Peterborough Diocesan Calendar the following words.

"Glebe lands & buildings may be let on lease for farming purposes for 14 years or on an improving lease for 20 years"

I shd also be much obliged if you can kindly let me know why whether the Commissioners are likely to be able to take my application into favourable consideration

The Secretary Eccl Commission
10 Whitehall Place London SW

Sept 9

You have no doubt rec'd my telegram approving of the bracket wh I suppose I had better retain. We shall be glad to have opal globes

I am writing in a hurry as Miss C has only just returned from L where she went to consult Mr G the architect but unfortunately did not find him at home.

I am afraid there is no room for the oak block on the E central pillar where you will remember there is a projection of unsculptured stone

You have the architect's address in case you wish to ask him about this or about the lights in the niche of the Porch.

The Manager Acolytes

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