

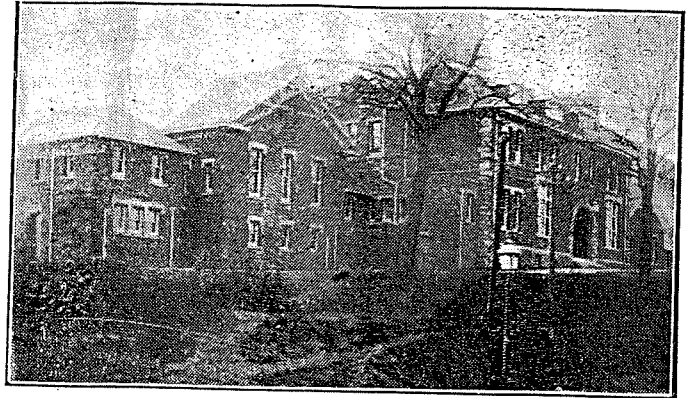
of chasing butterflies in fields long since covered by miles of new streets. The Post Office had a roof of thatch and nearby stood one of the monumental town pumps on which the residents depended for water. Then he told the story of the old Kettering bilposter who could not read, but knew that the larger type was always at the top of the bills and posted them that way up. It was quite satisfactory, until someone with new ideas put the big type at the bottom, and the town was chuckling next day at a score of posters fixed upside down.

Meanwhile the daily drama of the Boer War was stealing the headlines, and in May, 1900, came the relief of Mafeking.

**MAFEKING NIGHT IN NORTHANTS.**

The news reached the district through a special edition of the "Evening Telegraph," and folk went wild with salutes of guns and fog signals, massed bands, torchlight processions, open-air shows and demonstrations lionising everyone in uniform.

Wellingborough Urban Council met on January 23rd, 1901, but conducted no business. Members had read of the death of Queen Victoria, and they adjourned as a mark of mourning. The gesture was typical of happenings all over the district that day, as church bells tolled 64 strokes—one for each year of the Queen's reign. This was an eventful year, notable locally for the great fire of Rushden, which began one lunch time in Cave & Sons' factory. It engulfed the factory and neighbouring shops, leapt across High Street to more shops, Denton's factory



A great step was the opening of Kettering General Hospital in the autumn of 1897. The "Evening Telegraph" report was illustrated with sketches by Mr. George Harrison.



On left is an early photograph of members of the staff. Central figures were Dr. J. Allison and the first Matron, Miss G. Hick.

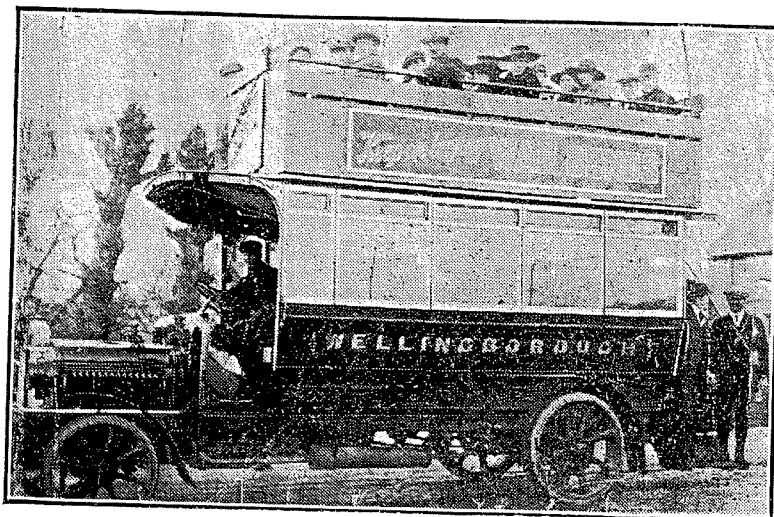
and Succoth Chapel. It was in July, scarcely a drop of water was to be had, and hundreds of people, panic stricken, removed goods and furniture from their homes. The town appealed to Northampton and Kettering brigades to send steam fire engines but they would have been useless because of water shortage and the Rushden firemen, with the help of Higham, Wellingborough and Irthlingborough brigades, had to fight the flames with manuals. The fire was

stopped, partly by demolition, but it had done £100,000 worth of damage, thrown 900 out of work and rendered many homeless.

When the Boer War ended in 1902 the "Evening Telegraph" gave away its peace edition, which set ringers rocking the steeples and bands parading the streets.

**CYCLED WITH THE BIG NEWS**

Distribution of many of the papers had to be by bicycle, but the weary cyclist who reached Higham felt rewarded when the Mayor took one of his papers and proclaimed its contents from a window of the Town Hall.



An "old faithful" of the omnibus world, this was one of the Wellingborough Motor Omnibus

Company's early vehicles that in 1915 heralded a revolution in countryside travel.