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NOTICE. — Mr Ison (of Ison's Eye and Ear Dispensary, Ltd., Leeds) personally attends same hotels as for last twelve years. Sutties' Clarendon Hotel, Clayton Street, Newcastle, Saturday, February 17th Hours, 12 to 6. North-Eastern Hotel, Darlington, Monday, February 5th, Hours 11-30 to 5. Imperial Hotel, Hull, Friday, February 9th, Hours 11 to 4-30.

The Consett Guardian

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Postal Address:
564g D. ORMEROD, Blackhill.

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the several WORKS required to be done in the ERECTION of CLUB and HOUSE, at Maiden Law, near Annfield Plain, for Mr. Robt. Thompson.

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract, may be seen and Forms of Tender may be obtained at the Architect's Office, 121, Durham Road, Blackhill.

Tenders to be sent in to above Office, on or before Tuesday, Feb. 6th, 1900.

No pledge is given to accept the lowest or any Tender.

GEO. THOS. WILSON, Architect.
Jan. 24th, 1900. 614g

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CONTRACTORS are invited to Tender for the whole of the WORKS required in the erection and completion of Stables, Harness Room, Cart Sheds, &c., in Hartington Street, Consett.

Plans, Specifications and Conditions of Contract may be seen and further information obtained at the office of the Surveyor, Parliament Street, on and after Friday the 26th inst.

Tenders sealed and endorsed to be delivered on or before 3.0 p.m., on the 5th day of February next.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

WILLIAM S. SHELL, Surveyor.
Jan. 24th, 1900.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
SCAVENGING CONTRACTS.

THE Urban District Council of Annfield Plain invite TENDERS for the REMOVAL of ASHPIT, PRIVY, and GENERAL HOUSE REFUSE, in their district for one year, commencing on the 1st of March next.

The district is divided into sections as follows:—
1. Annfield Plain, containing about 475 houses;
2. Greencroft &c., containing about 348 houses;
3. Catchgate &c., containing about 484 houses;
4. Flint Hill &c., containing about 237 houses;
5. South Medomsley &c., containing about 366 houses; and
6. Dipton, containing about 175 houses.

The Council will provide a Free deposit for the Refuse in each case; though Contractors may, and are invited to Tender for the work finding their own deposit.

Plan of the district may be seen, and Specification, Form of Tender, and other information may be obtained on application to the Inspector, Mr. T. J. Trowsdale, Annfield Plain.

The Contractor must pay his workmen the current or standard rate of wages in the district, and shall observe the recognised rules and customs with respect to working hours.

Sealed Tenders endorsed "House Refuse" to be delivered to me, the Undersigned, before noon on Monday, the 12th day of February, 1900. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender. Approved security will be required for the due fulfilment of the contract.

By Order.
T. L. WATCHMAN, Clerk to the Council.
Annfield Plain,
23rd January, 1900. 578g

Lost and Found.

LOST, on January 6th, a Foxhound PUPPY, answering to the name of "Signal."—Detention will incur prosecution.—Apply, FOREMAN V.S., Leadgate. 610g

LOST, since January 21st, Brown Persian CAT; return to ARMSTRONG, Tinmill Cottage, Blackhill.—Detention after this notice incurs prosecution. 658g

LOST between Station Hotel and Blackhill Station, a Sable NECK FUR.—Finder will be rewarded by returning it to J. CARR, Blackhill, Dixon Street, Blackfine. 651g

LOST, January 27th, between 14, Rosebery Terrace and Front Street, Consett, a Sable FUR.—Finder rewarded on returning to 14, Rosebery Terrace, Consett. 643g

LOST from Tantobie, January 15th, a Mule Wedder SHEEP, marked "B" with tar near side.—Information to Manager Co-operative Society, Tantobie. 674g

Wanted.

AGENTS WANTED, to push first-class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission.—Box 31, Post Office, Liverpool. 398g

WANTED, a strong LAD about 16, for Livery Stable.—Apply, T. C. RAWES, Consett. 661g

WANTED, a strong GENERAL, or Staid Woman preferred.—Apply, 12, Stephen Street, Consett. 676g

WANTED, a sharp active LAD for the Printing Business.—Apply, J. DENT, Printer, Victoria Street, Consett. 662g

WANTED VIOLIN PUPILS, by a Young Lady, Certif. L.C.M.—For Terms apply, 7, Forster Street, Consett. 130c

WANTED, Every PITMAN to read the "PITMAN'S SOCIAL NEET". Bright, Humorous, Clever.—Ask your Newsagent for it.

TEA LEAD WANTED, in any quantity; (market price given), at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. 845f

THE CONSETT REGISTRY OFFICE for Domestic Servants.—Apply at MR. COCKBURN'S, Stationer, &c., 13, Front St, Consett.

WANTED, a respectable middle-aged Woman as HOUSEKEEPER: one Cow kept.—Apply, MRS. PARKER, West Butsfield, by Tow Law

WANTED.—ALL CLASSES of People to send their BOOT Repairing to J. ORTON, Raglan Street, Consett, and Oxley Street, Blackhill.

WANTED, PICTURES TO FRAME, in Oak, Gilt, or various kinds of Moulding, from 1s. upwards.—T. C. BELL, 37, Rosebery Terrace, Consett 784e

ANNFIELD PLAIN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

WANTED for the Langley Park Branch of the above Society, an APPRENTICE to the Drapery Business, must not be under 14 years, nor over 16 years of age; wage according to Society's Scale. Also a Young LAD to assist in the Butchering Department, must not be under 14 years, nor over 16 years of age, wage according to apprentice's scale; both appointments confined to members trading at Langley Park. Applications for the above to be made to the Committee, Annfield Plain, on Monday night, (first) February 5th, at 7 o'clock.
WM. PIGG, Secretary. 638g

Wanted

WANTED, Strong LAD, not under 18 years of age.—Apply, Derwent Flour Mills, Shotley Bridge. 648g

WANTED, a respectable GIRL, as General, Apply, Mrs. SWAINSTON, 39, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 669g

CLERK, (junior) WANTED for Solicitor's Office.—Apply, H. P. DOUGLAS, Solicitor, Park Road, Consett. 667g

WANTED, by JOSEPH MURRAY, for Spen Branch, a strong useful LAD for Warehouse, and to assist in Shop. 680g

GENERAL SERVANT WANTED; 17; no family.—Apply to MRS. BRAIDFORD, Lintz Colliery. 681g

WANTED at once, a steady WOMAN, between 30 and 40 years of age, as Housekeeper.—Apply, 4, Murray Street, Blackfine.

WANTED, a clean Respectable GIRL, age about 18 or 19, able to Bake and Wash, no family.—Apply, Mrs. SHIELD, St. Ives Road, Leadgate. 637g

WANTED at once, a respectable GENERAL able to Bake and Wash, must have good references, wages 5s. per week.—Apply, *Guardian* Office, Consett. 635g

WANTED, a respectable GIRL, honest and truthful, able to Milk, or willing to learn.—Apply, S. W. BLENCH, Park House, Castleside. 675g

WANTED, at once, a good CARTMAN, to go with a pair of horses to work at Stannington, (3 miles from Morpeth); a good wage and regular employment.—Apply, WM. WOOD, 14, St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Blackhill.

WANTED, all Customers and the General Public to know that W. E. TURNER has REMOVED HIS STOCK to more Commodious Premises.—Note the address:—No. 6 FRONT STREET (next door to Mr. G. Pattrick, Chemist), where they will find a choice selection of Hats, Caps, Ties, Collars, Shirts, Suits, Cyclists' Outfits, and Accessories.—Monster CLEARANCE SALE of CYCLES. A large variety of Pipes, Tobaccos and Cigars. Try the noted "Supremacy," 7 for 1s. 982e

To Let.

TO LET, a Lock-up SHOP.—Apply S. ROWE, Consett. 652g

TO LET, the HOUSE, No. 15, St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside.—Apply to Mr. HEYMER, No 55, Benfieldside Road. 664g

TO LET, a HOUSE of six rooms and scullery, at Castleside.—Apply to THOS. ROBINSON, 20, Stephen Street, Consett. 666g

TO LET, Three-roomed COTTAGE and Garden at Knitsley; One-room Cottage at Sawmill Wood.—Apply to Mr. CRAGGS, Woodlands.

EXCELLENT HOUSE and SHOP TO LET in Consett; also, DWELLING HOUSE (5 rooms) in Blackhill.—Apply to W. RAMSAY, North-Eastern Bank, Blackhill. 396f

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TO LET or FOR SALE, a HOUSE situate in Consett, containing Nine Rooms, Bathroom (hot and cold water), and Box room.—Apply, T. W. WELFORD, Consett. 525g

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FOR SALE, grand well bred young Collie BITCH, "Beauty."—Apply, *Guardian* Office. 668g

FOR SALE, a Butcher's CART with Cover, little worse than new. J. T. GUY, China Farm, by Consett. 590g

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OLD LAND HAY FOR SALE, about 7 tons.—Apply, REV. R. W. WILSON, Shotley Vicarage, Shotley Bridge. 616g

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FOR SALE, at Catchgate, near Annfield Plain, the CHAPEL and VESTRY, and Land measuring 562 square yards, belonging the W. M. Free Church, Catchgate.—Tenders to be sent to Mr. JOHN STOREY, Catchgate.

FOR SALE, by Private Contract, a Four Roomed COTTAGE, Castleside, pleasant situation, fine view of Derwent Valley; present tenant J. B. Pattinson, owner, Mr. W. Wilkinson, Alnwick.—Tenders to be sent in, on or before February 15th, 1900, to W. PATTINSON, Castleside. 665g

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FOOTBALL.

MATCHES.

TANFIELD LEA LILYWHITES v. LINTZ ATHLETIC.

This game was played at Tanfield Lea, and ended in a win for the home team by 4 to 0, the scorers for the winners were:—Stanton (3) and Anderson (1). The following did duty for the homesters:—Goal, T. Newton; backs, W. Whitfield and J. Holmes; half-backs, E. Barnes, A. Anderson, and F. Stephens; forwards, T. A. Armstrong, F. Rounsley, S. Stanton, F. Sanders, and Joe Brown.

Kip Hill Wanderers have a few vacant dates, and would like them filled up as soon as possible with junior teams, ages 16 to 18 years.—Please note change of secretary—Robert Weightman, 15, Allen Square, Tanfield Lea, Tantobie, R.S.O.

NORTHERN WEDNESDAY LEAGUE.

Division II.

TYNEMOUTH v. LEADGATE.

This fixture was set for decision on the former's ground at Preston Avenue, North Shields. The visiting team did not arrive until nearly four o'clock, and it was then decided to play half an hour each way. In the opening half the visitors were frequently dangerous, and eventually scored by Kennedy. The home side failed to equalise, and left the field four minutes before time, with the scored standing as under—

Leadgate	One goal
Tynemouth	Nil

NEWCASTLE CO-OPERATIVE v. STANLEY.

This encounter for league points took place last week on the ground of the former, North Road, Newcastle, before a good number of spectators. Stanley won the toss, and Macintyre for Co-operative commenced the game. From the start to the finish the game was of a hard and fast description. Play for a short while ruled in midfield, the half-backs of both teams working well. Ultimately, Co-operative attacked but received repeated checks as a result of the excellent defence of Stanley. Still pressing, some exciting tussles ensued in the visitors' goal. They, however, broke away and raced well down, when Thompson, of Co-operative, took possession and returned the ball all down the field. Some mid-field exchanges followed, and then Stanley were hard taxed. Macintyre, when on the point of scoring was fouled. The penalty kick was taken by Findlay, who drove the ball strongly into the custodian's hands. The latter cleverly cleared. After this narrow escape, Stanley took a turn in attacking. Their first attempt was spoiled by bad shooting. The second try gave the Co-operative goalkeeper some trouble, but he saved creditably. The game was then for a time transferred to the other end. From a free kick Appleby sent well into Stanley goal, Findley receiving and registering the first goal for the home team. Urged on by this reverse Stanley made a well directed attack, and after an exciting struggle in the Co-operative goal the ball was rushed through. Half-time was reached immediately after with the score at one goal each. Resuming, Stanley took up the aggressive, but their efforts were ably frustrated by the Co-operative half-backs. The ball for a time was kept in the centre, until the visitors were forced to defend. The Co-operative forwards worked hard, the Stanley goal from time to time being fortunate in escaping downfall. Another attempt by the Co-operative contingent just missed scoring. From this point give-and-take play was the order. However, Co-operative attacked again, but several good passes from the right wing failed to be utilised by their left wing. Stanley several times burst away, and often caused anxiety to the Co-operative defence. After a short rally in the home goal, Stanley, close on time, notched their second point. This reverse made Co-operative exert themselves to the uttermost to equalise. Try as they did, however, they could not do so, and time arrived with the score—

Stanley	Two goals
Newcastle	One goal

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

WILLINGTON ATHLETIC v. BIRTLEY.

The weather was favourable, and the ground at Rosehill was in good condition, but the Cup tie at Jarrow spoilt any chance of a good gate. Added to this the poor display made by the Willington team in their two recent matches rather damped the enthusiasm of their supporters. The home team was much as usual, with the exception that Brown, Clunie, and Methven were off, Lackenby, Currie, and Gilchrist playing instead. The Birtley team arrived very much behind time, and as a consequence the kick-off was an hour and twenty minutes late. Mr. Douglas, the referee accordingly decided that two forties should be played. Birtley won the toss and kicked down hill, but the homesters had the best of the opening exchanges, and made an early visit to Biggars, who shortly after the start had to save a long shot from Lavers. Lackenby and Pattison just missed a splendid opening, and some good play by Gilchrist and Pattison resulted in a corner, which Pattison nearly turned to a point. Banks and Hill relieved, but Reed returned, and some mid-field play followed, after which came another Willington attack. O'Rourke shooting past immediately after the same player again sent in but the shot was saved at the expense of a corner, which came to nothing. McGowans then had a run down for the visitors, but was stopped before reaching Robson. For some time a terrific bombardment of Biggars' goal was kept up by the home forwards, every one of whom had praiseworthy attempts at scoring, some of the halves also having tries. The Birtley custodian, however, was hard to pass, and he was well assisted by his backs, who nipped in the bud many of O'Rourke's most promising attempts. Reed and Robson had some hard saving work. Eventually strong kicking by the Willington halves put the forwards in possession again and Gilchrist got up the wing. He passed right in front of goal. Pattison did not see the ball in time to get it, but O'Rourke was lying handy, and shot in Willington's first goal. Half-time:—

Willington Athletic	One goal
Birtley	Nil

On resuming, Willington bombarded the Birtley goal, and ten minutes after the re-start, O'Rourke scored the second goal with a terrific shot. Keeping up the pressure the Birtley defence was severely taxed, but owing to the superb display which they gave, Biggars especially, Willington were unable to score again until close upon time, when Pattison finished up a solo run by netting the ball with a good shot, and the final score was:—

Willington Athletic	Three goals
Birtley	Nil

LEADGATE PARK v. SUNDERLAND A.

These teams met at Leadgate on Saturday in a return alliance fixture, the previous encounter at Roker Park resulting in a win for the Wearsiders by three goals to none. There was a good attendance of spectators, who had the satisfaction of seeing the homesters turn the tables by scoring four goals to one. The teams were:—

Leadgate Park—Goal, M. Hedley; backs, Temple and Wilson; half-balks, Cartmell, R. Wilson, and Bowes; forwards, Cook, Grant, P. Daly, S. Thompson, and G. Forster.

Sunderland A—Goal, Naisby; backs, Pallister and Dixon; half-backs, Fraser, Simpson, and Beckton; forwards, Stanger, Harley, Craig, Mackin, and Kirton.

Referee, Mr Elliott, Gateshead.

Almost immediately following the kick-off the Sunderland defence was tested, and although they made a useful return they nearly came to grief in the first minute or two by a foul given against them. The homesters played determinedly, and Cartmell troubled Naisby, who managed to save only, however, to be beaten soon after by Grant, who scored the opening goal. The same player made another grand shot, which Naisby successfully negotiated. From a throw-in and some good passing by the Park, Thompson missed a chance, and then Daly had a shy, just missing the net. After a little give-and-take play Thompson scored, but the point was not allowed. The Wearsiders then made a determined effort to score, but they found the Park in a decided working humour. Their essays to break through were promptly checked, although Mackin and Kirton had a good try for the net. Some good passing by Leadgate ended in Thompson missing with a good shot. A minute later Thompson and Forster between them brought about Naisby's downfall for the second time. The Wearsiders had hardly recovered when Cartmell gave Daly a chance, and the centre forward promptly put on the third goal. Keeping up the attack the homesters kept the Sunderland backs busy. Grant and Cook by a misunderstanding lost an opening. The home forwards continued to work at high pressure, and from a scrimmage the ball was put through, but the point was disallowed for off-side. Nothing further was registered up to the interval, when the homesters held a substantial lead, the score then reading—

Leadgate Park	Three goals
Sunderland	Nil

The visitors re-opened the game in a more entertaining spirit, and for a time held the play in Leadgate territory. They made several strong attempts to break away, but the home defence was as strong as the attack had previously been. Hedley found more work to do, and he played up to his reputation. Still the visitors kept up the attack until relief came by way of a goal kick. A good shot was sent in from the centre, but it missed the mark, and after several futile efforts by the visitors to lessen the breach the Leadgate forwards made a capital move and just failed to score. This was followed by a good left wing movement, but Naisby got in a clever save. After some give-and-take play Craig was injured and left the field. The visitors got well forward again, but when nicely placed they threw their advantage away by bad shooting. They kept up an attack, but Morton Hedley refused to be beaten, and sent his forwards on a journey to the other goal, where Cook shot wide. Pallister and Dixon put in some good defensive work, and Naisby had a hard shot to clear from Grant. Shortly after a penalty kick was awarded to Leadgate, and Thompson scored the fourth goal. The visitors had another spell, and this time a shot from the outside right went forcibly into Hedley's hands. According to the ruling of the referee the home custodian stepped back into the goal and thus enabled the Wearsiders to break their egg. No further scoring taking place the game ended in a victory for the Park with the score—

Leadgate Park	Four goals
Sunderland A	One goal

STANLEY v. SOUTH SHIELDS.

This Northern Alliance fixture was decided at Stanley before a good gathering of spectators. Stanley were represented as under:—

Goal, Spinks; backs, Joyce and Devine; half-backs, Crute, Ellis, and Allison; forwards, Green, Gibson, O'Connor, Robson, and Masterman.

The visitors arrived with only ten players, and contested the first half of the game with this number, but at the interval Gall turned up and filled the vacant place. Stanley won the toss, and the visitors kicked off. Murphy at once took the leather into the home territory. Joyce gave a momentary relief, but Shields pressed forward, and Spinks found it necessary to handle the ball within a minute from the start. O'Connor here came to the rescue, and was gradually forcing his way through the visitors' ranks when the ball went out of play. From the throw-in Stanley still held the upper hand, and here Ellis sent the globe wide of its mark. O'Connor likewise repeated the performance immediately after. Quickly after a foul fell to the lot of Stanley. The ball was then sent well up to the visitors' citadel, where Dewhurst headed the leather away. Stanley still continued to press, and were awarded a corner, but the leather was sent far from home. A foul against Stanley gave the Tynesiders an opening, but this did not prove of any great advantage. Ellis here got possession of the globe and was making headway for the visitors' goal when he was robbed of the ball by Murphy. Stanley were now penalised for a foul, after which some fine passing on the part of Turner, Berry, and Murphy transferred the scene of play to the vicinity of the home goal. Joyce came to the rescue and sent the ball well up. O'Connor, Masterman, and Robson further improved the situation, and Crute subsequently sent in a lightning-like shot which Seymour had to negotiate. For the next few minutes the homesters continued to hover in front of the Tynesiders' charge. Through the aid of Berry and Murphy the leather was returned, but Ellis appeared at an opportune moment and sent the Tynesiders back. Stanley were making tracks for the Shield's goal when they were pulled up for being off-side. The homesters still held their own and Seymour had to fist out. Relief came to the visitors in the shape of a foul. Play after this became a little more even, but Stanley gradually worked their way into the seasiders' quarters. Ellis here sent a couple of shots miserably wide of the mark, but Allison was a little more accurate, and caused Seymour to handle the leather. Shields broke away, and for some time hemmed their opponents in, and after some fine play in front of the home goal Berry notched the first goal for Shields, which it was almost impossible for Spinks to avoid. This was scored after about twenty-five minutes' play. On resuming the homesters established themselves in the Tynesiders' half, and Crute threw away a good chance by sending the ball woefully wide of its mark. Soon after this O'Connor also sent in a shot which was anything but accurate. Shields now forced their way through the home ranks, and for a few minutes some fine play was witnessed in front of the Stanley goal. Later on the Stanleyites were hovering around the Shields' citadel and experienced exceedingly hard lines in not equalising. The Tynesiders now broke away, but were pulled up for an infringement of the off-side rule. The homesters subsequently paid a visit to their opponents' half, and here Green nearly did the needful. Later on Stanley were penalised for a foul dangerously near their own goal, but fortunately the ball rolled harmlessly over the top of the net. The Stanley men shot badly, and threw away some good chances. Half-time:—

South Shields	One goal
Stanley	Nil

On re-starting the visitors at once forced their way through the Stanley ranks, and one of the seasiders' forwards had a shy at goal. Masterman, O'Connor, and Ellis transferred operations, but only for a moment or two, as the Tynesiders were soon established in the home territory. Masterman and O'Connor relieved the pressure, and play was now taken to the vicinity of the Shields' goal, where the ball was sent past. Stanley were awarded a corner; the shot was well placed, but the danger was successfully cleared. For some time Stanley had the best of the exchanges and gave their opponents no little amount of trouble. Unfortunately erratic shooting was prevalent amongst the Stanleyites. Shields forced their way through, but were pulled up for off-side. The Tynesiders continued to have the best of matters, and Spinks had to negotiate some fine shots. Through the instrumentality of Masterman and Gibson the homesters were enable to get within shooting range, and Seymour had to deal with some really good shots. A foul against Stanley let the visitors in, but this proved of little advantage. Shields at last got the upper hand and infused a greater amount of dash into their play, whilst, on the other hand, some of the homesters seemed to fag a little. Gall, at an opportune moment, got possession of the leather and scored the second goal for Shields, about five minutes from the call of time. During the remainder of the play the Tynesiders had the best of matters, and mistakes were not altogether absent amongst the Stanley men. Final:—

South Shields	Two goals
Stanley	Nil

DURHAM AMATEUR CUP.

ANNFIELD PLAIN CELTIC v. CLARA VALE.

On Saturday afternoon, Clara Vale Institute paid a visit to Annfield Plain Celtic ground, where they met the home team in the second round of the Durham Amateur Cup Competition. Both teams were fully represented, and the visitors had a good sprinkling of followers, who in the opening stages of the game were confident that the visitors would win. When Mr W. Hodgson, Tantobie, summoned the teams together they were composed as follows:—

Annfield Plain Celtic—Goal, S. Foster; backs, J. Coyle and A. Coyle; half-backs, A. Bell, E. Buck, and W. Cox; forwards, E. Foster, W. Parker, T. Bell, R. Gilender, and E. Storey.

Clara Vale—Goal, J. Cooke; backs, W. Graham and H. Reynolds; half-backs, N. Orr, J. Marshall, and E. King; forwards, R. Storey, J. Johnson, W. Campbell, R. Carr, and E. Halkier.

Fortune favoured the home team, as the spin of the coin gave them the choice of ground, and they elected to attack the entrance goal. Campbell set the ball rolling by passing it to Carr, who misjudging kicked into touch. After some uninteresting exchanges, Buck, who played in his old form, tested Cooke's abilities as a custodian. The test was well sustained, and nothing resulted of importance. After some tame play Buck slipped Orr and Marshall, and passed to Foster, from whose foot the ball went just over the top of the cross-bar, but it was a near shave, and one which the visitors were jubilant at. A corner to the Celts made matters rather warm for the Clara Vale contingent. The kick taken by Storey was placed right in front of the goal, from whence W. Parker, who was lying in a good position, popped the ball between the sticks, against one of which Cooke collided in trying to save. The visitors paid a temporary visit to the Celts' portion of the ground, but Storey soon returned, and centreing to T. Bell saw that player add a second goal for the Celts in fine style when the game was only in its infancy. Another corner was conceded to the Celts, but after Parker had made an unsuccessful attempt to head the ball through he and Buck made rings round Johnson and Campbell, and passing to Foster saw him put over the top, though a fine shot. Play became rather more lively towards the end of the first half, just before which Foster sent into the net for the third time. The visitors now assumed the aggressive and put S. Foster upon his mettle but found him at his post. Half-time—

Annfield Plain	Three goals
Clara Vale	Nil

After the re-start the homesters assuming the offensive secured a free kick, from which Buck put on the fourth point, and shortly after saw Foster add the fifth goal. The visitors, who had tried hard to score, seized an opportunity to realise their cherished object, as R. Storey and partners, after working their way down the left wing, saw Storey put past Foster for the first time. More give-and-take play followed, after which, from a centre from Halkier, Campbell notched the second goal for the visitors shortly before the final, which arrived with—

Annfield Plain	Five goals
Clara Vale	Two goals

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

ALLENDALE PARK v. PRUDHOE.

These teams met at Medomsley in a Tyneside League fixture before a small attendance. Both teams were at full strength, the homesters giving a trial to a new full-back named Scott. Allendale won the toss, and decided to kick down the incline. The game opened in very even fashion, but Prudhoe gradually asserted themselves, and the home defenders were called upon to clear their lines. Aided by some huge kicking the home forwards got down and Yeates put in a splendid shot, which was finely save by Joice, the visitors' custodian. Following this Prudhoe forced a fruitless corner, and then Allendale assumed the aggressive, and after a hot attack upon the Prudhoe goal, Thompson Walton scored from an opening caused by Joice running out of his goal. Allendale continued to have the best of matters but could not again beat Joice, who played grandly between the sticks. Just before the interval Prudhoe rushed up and Taylor handled within the twelve yards line, and from the resulting penalty the score was equalised. Half-time—

Allendale Park	One goal
Prudhoe	One goal

The second half opened greatly in favour of Allendale Park, but it gradually became more even, and for a time neither side could claim the advantage. However, the Park soon set the pace again, and the Prudhoe defenders were given some exceedingly hard work to do, but although they did their work well, they were very lucky to prevent a score until T. Walton put into the net, but some over zealous Parkite had interfered with Joice just at the time, and the goal was not allowed. Allendale had much the best of play up to the call of time, but no further scoring took place. Final—

Allendale Park	One goal
Prudhoe	One goal

DIPTON UNITED v. KYO UNITED.

Played at Dipton, and resulted in a win for the homesters by four goals to nil. The goals were scored by Branskton (1), A. Rumson (1), F. Rumson (1), and McCabe.

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

By "OFF-SIDE."

SUNDERLAND SURPRISED.

Leadgate Park did a noteworthy performance on Saturday when they soundly trounced Sunderland A by four goals to one. As a matter of fact, it was four goals to nil, but more of this anon. The visitors were certainly not as strongly represented as they will be in the cup-tie, but they appeared to be a very likely lot, and the chances of the home men were not held in very high favour. The first half was about the best exposition I have seen on the Park ground this season. The home men played with rare determination, and about five minutes after the start the ball came nicely across from the left to Grant, who promptly whizzed the ball into the rigging, Naisby having no chance. There was no holding the Parkites, who were in splendid trim, and two further points were added, in addition to which a couple of goals were disallowed. By nice passing the Wearsiders now and again reached the bottom goal, but the defence was impregnable, Hedley bringing off two or three capital saves. Thus at the interval, to the surprise of everybody, Leadgate enjoyed the comfortable lead of three goals.

—o—

The second half commenced with a severe bombardment of the home goal by Sunderland who strained every nerve to score, but their efforts were always frustrated, and their shooting on the whole was weak. For some 15 minutes this continued, and then the Park raised the siege, and twice over Cook missed glorious chances. Meantime Hedley was cheered for a couple of grand clearances, once taking the ball right from the toe of Craig close in. Dixon then made a back for Daly, and the referee promptly awarded a penalty, which was entrusted to Thompson, and the veteran made no mistake. With the home team four up the result was settled, but just before the finish the Wearsiders came away in a body, and Simpson fired in a regular 100-tonner. Hedley stopped the shot finely, but it was too hot to hold, and he dropped the ball in front of the goal line, but kicked it away all right. Sunderland appealed for a goal, and Mr. Elliott allowed it. After the game the referee examined the goal-mouth, and confessed that he had made an error, taking a ridge of sawdust about six inches in front of the goal line for the line itself. It was hard lines upon Hedley, who had behaved splendidly between the sticks, and who was naturally anxious to keep a clean sheet.

—o—

There could be no question that on the day's play the Park were entitled to their victory, and the visitors candidly admitted this. A finer display than that in the first half I do not wish to see, but the second moiety was somewhat tame, the fast play and the heavy going having its natural effect upon the contestants. Although beaten four times legitimately Naisby was in no way to blame, not having the ghost of a chance with either shot. He kept out some stingers, and altogether did well. Pallister was easily the superior back, putting in some excellent work, but he had not a very reliable partner in Dixon. Simpson played his usual sterling game at half, and there was not a more useful man on the team. Amongst the forwards Craig and Mackin perhaps did best, and the whole line at times passed in pretty fashion, but the tackling of the home men was too much for them. Beckton did nothing startling, and I only saw him put in one decent shot. In fact, as marksmen the visitors sadly belied their reputation, and spoiled many bits of good play by a shot yards wide of the mark. However, they took their defeat in good part, and are looking forward to the cup-tie to have their revenge.

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The Park are certainly deserving of a pat on the back for their brilliant exhibition, and they have not played such a game this season as they did in the initial "45." The defence especially is entitled to praise, every man of them, their work being of a high order. Hedley was at his best in goal, and his punting was a feature, gaining much ground for his side. Temple was probably the best back on the field, his kicking, tackling, and heading being grand. The Park have found a treasure in "Teck." Joe Wilson also played a fine game, whilst too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the halves, whose work helped materially towards the splendid victory achieved. Tommy Wilson fairly revelled in the heavy going, and put in heaps of work. Cartmell was in his best form, and Bowes did capitally against his wing. The forwards were not up to the standard of the defence, but backed up as they were by the halves they were given every opportunity of shining. Sammy Thompson came with an excellent game, and showed a lot of his old form. Grant was also good, but Cook has done better, especially in the shooting department. Daly was rather slow in the centre, but put in useful work at times. Forster was not at his best, and would do better to keep out more on his wing, and not come so much into the centre. The Sunderland forwards set a good example in this respect.

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ALLENDALE AND PRUDHOE DRAW.

Although Allendale only took one point out of Prudhoe on Saturday they fully deserved them both. They were unquestionably the superior team, but ill-luck dogged their footsteps, and they had to rest content with a draw after having all the best of the game. The visitors have a good man in Joice (their goalkeeper), and it was principally due to his efforts that Allendale were prevented from winning. The home men notched the first point, the evergreen Thompson Walton doing the trick. However, before the interval Prudhoe had drawn level by means of a penalty given against Taylor. The second half was altogether in favour of the Park, but they had tantalising luck, and could not manage the decider. Thompson Walton did again find the net, but the referee refused to allow it on the ground that Joice was obstructed. Thus the finish came with the score the same as at half-time, so that each team was credited with a point.

As I have said above, Allendale were the better team, and should have won. They displayed superior form throughout to that of Prudhoe, but repeatedly met with hard lines. The home team gave a trial to a new back named Scott, who shaped remarkably well, and should turn out an acquisition to the Park. For a first appearance he more than came up to expectations. That rare old warrior, Thompson Walton, was as good as any man on the field, and, like Tennyson's book, he seems likely "to go on for ever." He lasts wonderfully well, and can yet hold his own with the best of them. Yeates played a smart game in the vanguard, and is a very capable forward. The most prominent man on the Prudhoe side was undoubtedly Joice, who is a goalkeeper above the average, and the visitors can thank him for saving them from defeat. But for his display they would have been soundly beaten. The forwards were nothing startling, and were easily kept in check by the Allendale defenders.

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THE PLAIN IN THE NEXT ROUND.

Clara Vale are a team that may be termed an unknown quantity in this district, and it was the general opinion that the Plain had secured a soft thing in the second round of the Amateur Cup in entertaining the Valeites. However, the visitors were by no means despondent as to their chances, and some supporters who accompanied them gave it out that their pets would make the Celts go all the way. The opening stages of the game went all in favour of the home men, who led at the cross-over by three goals to none. On resuming the Plain again went ahead, and when they were five goals to the good the visitors seemed to have shot their bolt. However, from this point the Valeites played up in fine style, and succeeded in beating Sam Forster twice ere the close, so that the score did not look so one-sided after all. Of course, the Celts may have eased up after gaining such a long lead, but whatever the cause certain it is that Clara Vale were seen to great advantage in the closing stages of the game, and were going strongly at the finish.

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The visitors' custodian, Cooke, although a big score was put on against him, defended his position well when it is remembered that the team have not figured much in what are considered the higher leagues and competitions. Graham and Reynolds at times made a good defence at back, but were too slow. The halves were weak in tackling, Marshall being about the pick. Storey and Campbell played very well amongst the front rank. If Clara Vale stick together they should make a good show in the competition next season, as they have some promising players. Sam Forster kept goal in his usual form for the Plain, and had no earthly chance with the goals registered against him. The brothers Coyle did well at back, whilst the veteran Teddy Buck was in great form at half, playing a grand game. He was well supported by Cox and A. Bell. Bobby Forster and Parker were often prominent in the forward line, whilst little fault could be found with either Bell, Gillender, or Storey, all of whom added their share to the success of the day's play. The Celts were without doubt the superior lot, and quite deserved their win. With a little bit of luck they should go a long way up in the competition.

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LEADGATE WEDNESDAY HAVE THEIR REVENGE.

The Leadgate Wednesday men do not speak in very high terms of the treatment they received at Tynemouth last week, and really, from what one can gather, this was the reverse of courteous. Owing to circumstances over which they had no control, the visitors did not arrive till late in the afternoon, when it was decided to play two forties. The appointed referee did not turn up, but a local man was agreed upon. Leadgate showed the better form, playing a much improved game to what they had done the previous week at Leadgate. Kennedy notched a goal for his side, and the visitors led by one to nil at the interval. Leadgate continued to hold their own after the change of ends, and this by no means suited Tynemouth, who reckoned upon an easy win after having proved victorious over the same team only seven days previously. About four minutes off time the whistle went, as the visitors thought, for a corner, but, to their surprise, the home men left the field, alleging that the referee had stopped the game. The latter gentleman at first said that he had not stopped the game, but afterwards denied this.

It was scarcely sportsmanlike on the part of Tynemouth to leave the field so close to time, especially remembering that in the game at Leadgate the previous week the closing stages were fought out in a very bad light. However, Tynemouth were leading on that occasion, but last week they were behind. On the visitors proceeding to the place where they had changed, they found it in total darkness and dressing was like playing a game of blind man's buff. Two or three in turn had to light matches and hold them whilst their comrades looked about for their various articles of apparel. However, after much difficulty, the players managed to get into their ordinary clothes. It is to be hoped that Tynemouth do not treat all their visitors in this fashion, or else the latter will have a lively time. I don't know what the decision of the league committee may be, but it will be a downright shame if Leadgate do not get the points. They certainly earned them. Kennedy again played well for Leadgate, whilst Kershaw came out in greatly improved form—to general gratification. The other members of the team also acquitted themselves right worthily, and fully deserved their success.

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STANLEY SUFFER DEFEAT.

Stanley were pitted against South Shields in an Alliance engagement on Saturday, and suffered defeat by 2-0. The Tynesiders were much quicker on the ball, and it was soon evident that they were superior in calibre to Stanley. The display given by the homesters was not such as might have been expected. Their shooting was erratic, and certain of the players, when they got possession of the leather, were too selfish, with the result that their opponents generally robbed them of the globe. Had Stanley exercised a little more judgment with the ball they in all probability would not have succumbed to the Tynesiders. The best display of the day was given by Seymour, the visitors' custodian, who kept his charge intact in a really creditable manner. Spinks (the home goal-keeper) likewise saved some fine shots. The home forwards were somewhat weak in front of goal, and, as stated above, many shots were sent woefully wide of the mark. Masterman did not play up to his usual form, and frequently kept possession of the ball until it was too late to prove advantageous. Ellis was likewise guilty of the same charge. Gibson shone a little better than some of his colleagues. O'Connor played a fairly good game. Devine did not shine, but his partner (Joyce) played a decent game. Crute did not add to his reputation by his bad shooting, and on one occasion a spectator was heard to remark that he "missed the field"(?) Murphy was about the best amongst the Shield's forwards, and put in some good work. Berry also played a good game. Dewhurst (Marley Hill) was a capable half, and proved a strong defender. The Tynesiders were a decidedly superior combination, but had Stanley not been guilty of such erratic shooting they would assuredly have added something to their account.

—o—

WAYS.

Allendale could only squeeze one point out of Prudhoe.

But they deserved two.

However, luck and Joice (the Prudhoe goalkeeper) were against them.

Thompson Walton was about the best man on the field.

The Allendale skipper seems to have discovered the secret of perennial youth.

By the way, when is that wedding coming off?

I am anxiously awaiting an invitation.

Allendale have got hold of a good back in Scott.

Yeates is a capital forward.

Joice had more to do with keeping the home men from winning than anybody.

He is a very fine custodian.

On Saturday's form.

Prudhoe's goal came from a penalty.

So that they had all the luck that was knocking around.

Annfield Plain have qualified for the next round of the cup.

Thanks to a fairly easy victory over Clara Vale.

The Celts hope to go a stage or two higher.

Teddy Buck turned out for the Plain on Saturday.

And played a really splendid game.

Teddy is a marvel.

And seems to have plenty of football in him yet.

Bobby Forster played a dashing game amongst the forwards.

And was much too clever for the visiting backs.

The Vale came with a rare rush at the finish.

But the game was lost and won then.

The Plain made a good start.

And never looked like losing.

Clara Vale have some promising players in their ranks.

However, the defence wants smartening up.

Storey and Campbell are a pair of useful forwards.

Altogether the visitors did not make a bad show.

The result of the game at Leadgate was a staggerer.

I thought the Park would be lucky to draw.

Instead of which they gained a runaway victory.

Four goals to one was the official verdict.

But it should have been four to none.

The referee afterwards admitted that he had made an error.

In allowing Sunderland's goal.

And apologised to Morton Hedley.

The latter kept goal splendidly.

His punting is a treat.

Mr. Spain (who accompanied the visitors) spoke in high terms of Hedley's goalkeeping.

There is not a more improved player in the district than Temple.

"Teck" has come on by leaps and bounds.

He played a grand game on Saturday.

All the halves were in fine trim.

And their determined tackling upset the Wearsiders.

Sammy Thompson played the best game that he has done this season.

The veteran is a long way from being done with.

Ben Cook had evidently left his shooting boots at home.

He missed some glorious chances.

Grant again played well.

And has apparently recovered all his old form.

Stanley Wednesday did well to beat Newcastle Co-operative away last week.

The visitors quite deserved their win.

There will probably have been a battle royal between the Stanley and Leadgate Wednesdayites.

Ere these lines see the light of day.

Leadgate do not fancy another trip to Tynemouth.

The dressing-room was like the dark hole of Calcutta.

And it was a job finding the right toes.

Tynemouth evidently do not like being beaten.

And acted in anything but a sportsmanlike manner.

With only four minutes to go they might have finished the game.

However, Leadgate are pretty sure to be awarded the points.

Kennedy was again in great form.

And scored the only goal of the game.

The old Birtleyite still retains a lot of his former football abilities.

I was pleased that Jack Kershaw came out in something approaching his old form.

Jack is a great favourite with his colleagues.

And they were delighted at his success.

Wilf. Bell proved impassable in goal.

The rest of the team were also up to the mark.

The boys are now in strict training for the cup-tie with Sunderland West End.

The West Enders are a powerful team.

But they will not have a walk-over.

Secretary Kinleside and Trainer Day will have an anxious time until March 21st.

Jimmy Veitch (the old Medomsley cricketer and footballer) is leaving the district.

Having secured a lucrative appointment at Choppington.

Jimmy is a useful man at the summer pastime.

And will probably be found playing for Choppington next summer.

I wish him luck.

South Moor Rovers are willing to accept Tanfield Lilywhites' challenge.

They will play the Lilywhites either for a ball or a set of medals, with neutral ground and referee.

Arrangements can be made for the game by applying to J. Jobson, 61, Poplar Street, South Moor.

The Park have another attractive game on Saturday with Willington Athletic.

So satisfied were the committee with last Saturday's team that they have chosen exactly the same eleven.

P. Hughes, of the Park Reserve, has been suspended for a month.

For saying something he didn't "orter" to Tom Amos.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

GAMES AND REFEREES FOR FEBRUARY.

February 3rd.

Tanfield Lea v. Tantobie—J. Ross.
Annfield Plain v. Leadgate Park—W. Hodgson.
Byer Moor v. Marley Hill—T. Reed.
Hamsterley v. Consett—R. Milligan.

February 10th.

Hamsterley v. Blackhill—J. Ross.
Byer Moor v. Tanfield Lea—R. Milligan.
Burnhope v. Lintz Rovers—T. Amos.
Tantobie v. Marley Hill—R. Charlton.

February 17th.

Tantobie v. Tanfield Lea—J. Ross.
Byer Moor v. Consett—G. F. Gray.
Marley Hill v. Burnhope—A. A. Fletcher.
Leadgate v. Annfield Plain—W. Hodgson.

February 24th.

Consett v. Tanfield Lea—R. Milligan.
Hamsterley v. Leadgate—A. A. Fletcher.
Blackhill v. Tantobie—J. L. Moody.
Burnhope v. Byer Moor—W. Hodgson.

South Moor Rovers have all dates vacant; average age, 14. Apply, J. Johnson, 61, Poplar Street, South Moor.

MARLEY HILL.

TEACHERS' SOCIAL.—The teachers of the Marley Hill Colliery Board Schools have forwarded to the Northumberland and Tyneside Reservists' Fund £5, the proceeds of the recent social, per L. Dewhurst.

SOUTH MOOR.

A WORTHY OBJECT.—We understand that the sum of £16 10s 10d was realised in connection with the benefit entertainment recently held at South Moor in aid of Mr. R. Reed and Mrs. Siddle.

SWALWELL.

BAND OF HOPE.—On Monday evening the usual weekly entertainment held under the auspices of the Swalwell Band of Hope took place in the old Presbyterian Church, where the Rev. Wm. Dryburgh, B.D., gave an excellent lantern entertainment, the subject being "Ten nights in a bar-room, and what I saw there." The speaker was listened to with much attention, and his observances were highly appreciated by the large company assembled. Miss Newick, of Gateshead, ably recited "The gambler's wife" and "The road to Heaven."

J. T. Castle, Front St., Stanley, is not excelled in the district for Wedding Presents in Sterling and Electro-Silver.

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LARGE ARRIVALS OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES DAILY.

ALSO AT GATESHEAD 862f

FOUND IN THE KIT OF THE "ABSENT-MINDED BEGGAR."

Stowed away somewhere in the kit of more than one British soldier now fighting our Boer enemies in South Africa is to be found a box of Charles Forde's Bile Beans for Biliousness. Private Thomas Schofield, who has gone out from Leeds, has taken more than one box, in consequence of the effect of those beans, which he had opportunity to judge of prior to his departure; and, doubtless, soldier or civilian who had had a similar experience to his would be equally enthusiastic as to the properties of this wonderful medicine.

Mrs. Mason, his mother-in-law, resides at No. 3, Peach Street, Green Road, Leeds, and at the present time, although getting on in life, she enjoys perfect health. Yet



it was not always so. To adopt her own words: "I suffered for years with a bad headache." It was not one of those intermittent attacks, which most people at one time or another are called upon to suffer, and which a seidlitz powder might remove almost instantly. It would come on in the morning, not acute at first, but with a steadiness which convinced her beyond doubt that it had come to stay. As the day passed it would increase in severity, until the poor woman was so racked with pain that she hardly knew which way to turn to seek relief. "The only way of getting ease," she says, "was by lying down; and I was glad enough to get a bit of ease in that way." By so doing for a time she would obtain relief, but on the following day, or probably the same night, the pain would commence again, just as bad as ever. So the years passed; and although she never looked at it in that light, Mrs. Mason formed one of that untold host of martyrs who are offered up daily on the altar of (supposedly) unpreventable pain. That her pain was preventable, or, at any rate, curable, she has since discovered, to her delight. It came about in this way. A friend who had once suffered in a similar way to herself, through the recommendation of a third party, decided to try a "new medicine," which proved to be Charles Forde's Bile Beans for Biliousness, and Mrs. Mason obtained a box also. This was just over two months ago. What the result was may, perhaps, best be told in her own words. She says:—"Before I had taken half the first box I felt better, and by the time I had finished them my headache had disappeared. For years I had had it, and for it to disappear in so short a time seemed almost incredible. I have not now taken a bean for some time, and I am pleased to say I have not a trace of headache left. The beans act more regularly than any medicine I have ever tried and they do not create a habit, so that once you begin taking them you are bound to go on. I am now in good health. I can eat anything without fear of after ill-effects, and the headache which made me so miserable is entirely gone. I have recommended the beans to my daughter, and she also has found relief and benefit from them. They are a really capital medicine."

Thus it comes about that a mother-in-law in Leeds is again a happy, healthy woman; and a son-in-law in South Africa has in his knapsack that which will make many a suffering Tommy Atkins who has lost interest in life through the ravages of biliousness, aggravated by sea-sickness, take heart again and fight with renewed energy our common foe.

Charles Forde's Bile Beans for Biliousness have been found an undoubted cure for headache, influenza, costiveness, piles, liver trouble, bad breath, rheumatism, indigestion, dizziness, buzzing in the head, fulness after eating, lack of ambition, debility, female ailments, pimples, and a host of other ailments that owe their origin to defective bile flow, assimilation, and digestion.

Obtainable at all Chemists, or post free from the Bile Bean Manufacturing Company, 119 and 120, London Wall, London, E.C., on receipt of price, 1s 1½d, and 2s 9d large box.

Please mention this paper when writing.

AUCTION MARTS

TOW LAW.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday, 46 dairy cows and heifers, 20 fat cattle, 9 calves, 74 fat sheep and hoggs. Calved cows, £14 15s to £19 15s; incalving cows, £14 12s 6d to £20 12s 6d; fat cattle, £21 12s 6d, from Mr J. Allanson, Beechburn; £16 from Mr J. Graham, Sedling; £15 2s 6d from Mr J. Durno, East Lodge; £15 from Mr J. Dixon, Crook; £17 17s 6d from Mr H. Johnson, Fawnlees; £15 12s 6d from Mr T. Bainbridge, Crawley Hall; £13 10s from Mr H. Quebec; calves to 36s. Fat sheep, 35s, from Mr Jas. Suddes, Clickemain; 28s from Mr Hall, Stanley; 29s 6d from Mr T. Nichol, West Shield; fat hoggs, 29s, from Mr T. Nicholl, West Shield; 37s from Mr J. Durno, East Lodge. Cows a good trade. Beef and mutton firm at low rates.

BLACKHILL FARMERS' MART CO.—Mr Jackson Green sold on Monday 45 fat cattle, 5 cows, 2 stirks, 3 calves, 112 fat sheep. The fat cattle were a grand lot, and with a very large company of buyers, they met the best trade of the year, the bidding being very animated from start to finish. Sheep were altogether short of local requirements, a good many not getting near their usual values. Cows were slow to sell. Prices:—Top bullocks, £17 17s 6d, Garesfield Colliery; top heifers, £20, J. Graham, Whittonstall; top cows, £19 7s 6d, J. Carr, Edmundbyers; sheep, top black-faced weathers, 46s, J. Sherlock, Gold Hill; top shearling weathers, A. Angus, 45s; ewes, 44s, R. Dixon, Broadoak; top hoggs, 40s 6d, Mrs Stokoe, Hedley. Appended are prices:—Black Hedley, £15 10s; J. Watson, £14 12s 6d; Little Greencroft, £14 15s; Knitsley (G. Hardy), £17; Charlton, £15; Whittonstall (G. Graham), £17; J. Graham, £20; A. Darrie, £14 5s; G. Bolam, £15 7s 6d; Dyke Nook, £11 12s 6d; Thompson, Farle, £14; High Waskerley, £15 15s; White Hall, £17 15s; Woodlands Hall, £17 12s 6d; Middle Heads, £15; J. Angus, Healeyfield, £18 12s 6d; T. Bushby, Hole Row, £13 10s; G. Nicholson, Woodside, £17; R. Murray, Benfieldside, £16 17s 6d. Sheep: T. Copeland, 51s; W. Ridley, 33s; J. Robson, 34s 6d; A. Lowery, 30s; J. Teasdale, 49s; J. Carr, 30s 6d; Lawson, 33s; Thompson, Farle, 34s 6d; Stokoe, 37s 6d. Potatoes and poultry made fair prices.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr Jas Turnbull had forward at his usual fortnightly sale on Monday, 61 fat cattle, 215 fat sheep, 25 new calved and incalving cows, 8 veal and keeping calves, 1 bacon pig, and the usual supply of young pigs. Trade as usual commenced with the dairy cattle, for which there was a good trade. Mr Harrison, Ponteland, cows from £15 10s to £19 15s; West Stanley Coal Co., to £14 15s; Mr Potts, Harbour House, to £17 10s; Mr Dolphin, Darlington, £16 to £19 10s; Mr Walker, Darlington, £14 to £21 15; Mr Davison, Aldin, £15; Mr G. Liddell, Pity Me, to £16 for incalvers; calves to £2 10s. Fat sheep: Middles, ewes, to 40s 6d; Tribley, hoggs to 42s 6d; ewes to 37s 6d; Lord Durham, hoggs, to 44s; ewes to 38s 6d; Plawsworth, ewes to 44s, hoggs to 42s; Ouston, HB hoggs to 42s 6d, Cross Oxford hoggs to 43s; Harbour House, hoggs to 40s; Vigo, hoggs to 38s 6d; Pockerley, shearlings to 44s 6d; Chester Moor, shearlings to 43s 6d; Urpeth (Johnson), hoggs to 42s 6d; Long Acres, shearlings to 40s 6d; Burn Hall, hoggs to 34s 6d; Whiteside, hoggs to 30s; Hogg House, hoggs to 44s. Fat cattle: Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart., heifers to £20 10s; J. E. Cozon, fat cows to £21; J. Brown, Edmondsley, heifers, £15 2s 6d to £16 5s; Birtley Iron Company, bullocks £23 10s to £24 2s 6d, heifers £18 5s to £20 15s; Swinburne, Waldridge, cows to £14 5s; Hall, White Hall, cows to £17 5s, heifer £14 15s; Johnson, Urpeth, cows to £20 5s; Hedley Bros., cows to £15 17s 6d; Farewell Hall, heifer £20; Burn Hall, bullocks from £21 2s 6d to £22; Lumley, bullocks from £12 to £14 10s; Middle Herrington, cows to £18 12s 6d, heifers to £18; Joicey and Co., Ltd., bullocks £22 to £25 15s; Grange Villa, cows to £11 10s; Bearpark Colliery, £15 15s to £16 15s; Burn Moor, to £14; Newbottle, heifers to £16 2s 6d; Durham Moor, £15 15s; Langley Moor, £16 15s to £18 1s 6d; Aldin Grange, £13 17s 6d; Haining, £14 11s 6d to £15 2s 6d; Twizell Hall, £15 12s 6d to £16; Durham Garth, £14 10s; Earle House Schools, £17 2s 6d; Red Rose, £10 10s. There was a very large attendance of buyers for all classes, and three times the cattle would readily have found buyers. Bidding was brisk from start to finish, and an early conclusion made. Next sale, February.

WHITE-LE-HEAD.

PRIMITIVE CHAPEL.—On Monday afternoon a social tea was given at the house of Mr. Thos. Hunter, Tantobie, in aid of the new building fund in connection with the above church. A goodly company assembled and a succesful day was spent.

DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mrs. Jane Harrison, widow of the late Mr. Thos. Harrison, of White-le-Head, which took place on Sunday morning at the ripe old age of 87 years. The deceased, along with her husband, had lived in the district for some fifty years, and was widely known and highly respected, being of a retiring disposition, but an exemplary Christian, and was an active and one of the earliest members of the White-le-Head Primitive Chapel. She was interred at Tanfield Churchyard on Wednesday afternoon in the presence of a large company of mourners and friends.

Time means money! Have the correct time, by wearing J. T. Castle's 50s English Lever.

AS COMPANION TO A LADY.

BY GEORGE MANVILLE FENN.

THE governess question was discussed more than once at the Hendricks—the position of governesses and companions, Mrs. Hendrick and her daughters agreeing with me that some poor girls suffered a martyrdom at the hands of their employers, especially where there was a family of spoilt children, but at the same time acknowledged that there was often a want of tact on the part of the young people who undertook the duties of governesses.

On the last occasion it was in the presence of a quiet subdued lady, who seemed to be about four or five-and-thirty, who had formed a friendship for Hetty while she was at Mrs. St. Rays, and had continued the acquaintance since. There was something about her that attracted me at the first occasion of our meeting, and by degrees our friendly feeling strengthened, but it was not until after the evening when she spoke that my heart truly warmed to her for there was a similarity in her career to mine that seemed to act as a bond.

On the evening in question Agnes Laurie had been listening quietly to the conversation, and at last said:—

"I believe, of course, that there is a great deal of ill-treatment of governesses, but my experience has been as companion to a lady, and I have found nothing but kindness. It is many years ago, now over ten, since I came from the country, and I can recall, only too well, the morning when my landlady came into the room upon a very unpleasant errand.

"'I'm very sorry Miss,' she exclaimed, 'and I'm very sorry you're not well off; but I'm only a poor woman myself, and if you can't pay the rent of this room, I don't see as you can afford the rent of the one upstairs.'

"Here my landlady rubbed her nose viciously upon her apron, and stared straight out of the very dirty window.

"As this was evidently a challenge to me to reply, I said, as firmly as I could, a few words which brought out the reason for the woman's visit that morning.

"'Am I to understand, then, that you wish me to leave.'

"'If you please, miss, at the end of the week, for there's the gent on the first floor would like to have this bedroom.'

"'Very well, Mrs. Ruddock,' I said, 'I will find a room elsewhere.'

"'Thanky miss,' she said sharply; and giving her nose another vicious rub, she left me to my thoughts—and my tears.

"For I was weak, faint, and heartsick, and the coins in my purse had dwindled down, so that if I did not succeed in obtaining an engagement in a very few days, I had no resource but to creep back to the country and avow my failure.

"Just three months since, and we were all so happy in the little country vicarage; and then, in visiting one of his people, my poor father caught a dangerous fever, while in tending him my dear mother was stricken with the same complaint, and ere three weeks had passed Minna and I sat in the little study alone, in deep black; for the struggle had been brief, and those we loved lay together in the green churchyard, and we were only intruders now in the vicarage that had been our home.

"We were nearly penniless, too, but a brother clergyman of my father's, quite as poor, came forward and offered us a temporary home till, as he said, some opening should occur for us.

"I gladly accepted it for Minna; but, for myself, I was determined to try great London and, unaided, fight my way. In two years John Murray was to come back from Australia to fetch me for his wife, and till then I would be independent. So the day came at last when, with many tears, we two girls had to separate, and with aching heart I left the old Lincolnshire home, and reached the great dreary void of London early one afternoon.

"I was not long in finding a place where I could stay in the shape of a second-floor front room in one of those heart-aching streets near the Foundling—streets that echo from morning to night with mournful cries uttered by vendors whose goods it is impossible to surmise, and with the dismal echoing tones of the various organs. So painful were these last to me, that often of an evening, when I have returned from a weary, disheartening search for an engagement, and sat alone and hungry, fearing to spend my money in anything beyond the tea and bread-and-butter upon which I existed, these doleful strains—cheering, perhaps, to some—have had such an effect upon me that I have sat and sobbed till, utterly worn out, I have fallen asleep, to wake, perhaps hours after, to find it very late, and crawl shivering off to bed.

"As the weeks passed on, and my advertisements and fees paid to the various registry offices had been without effect, I used to crawl back to my room, growing more and more disheartened. I was always a plain sallow-looking girl, and now in my fast-wearing black I began to feel that I was day by day growing more shabby and weary-looking, and that my feeble chances of obtaining a post were growing less and less.

"I used to sit and ask myself whether I had tried hard, and I knew I had; but there was only one result. Whether I advertised for a situation as governess, or went from a registry office to offer myself as companion to a lady, it was always the same; I noticed a look of disappointment as soon as I entered the room, for I was neither pretty nor bright-looking, and my mournful black helped to sadden my aspect. It was, I say, always the same—the lady did not think I should suit her; and in blank despair I had to go away.

"And now it had come to this: that my landlady had grown as tired of me as the people at the registry offices, where I had more than once been rudely told that I was not likely to get a place as governess or companion, but had better look lower in the scale. That afternoon, evidently suspicious of my ability to pay, and perhaps disgusted with my miserable way of living, and afraid that I should be left an invalid upon her hands, she had—rudely, it seemed to me—requested me to leave.

"In my present circumstances I was utterly prostrated by the news, for I dared not take lodgings elsewhere; and I could see no prospect now but to sell a portion of my scanty wardrobe, and go back to beg for assistance from my father's friend.

"What a change! and how soon had my hopes of independent action been blighted! I was heartsore as I felt how that in that great city there was wealth being squandered and luxury around me while I was literally starving; for my poor living was telling upon me fast. What should I do? What should I do?

"It was with weary iteration I had said those words, and wept till tears came no more, and a dull, stolid feeling of despair had come upon me. I had almost shrunk away in the streets from the bright-faced, happy girls I passed; and at times I found myself asking what was my sin that I should be punished as I had been.

"I lay awake that night for many hours watching the light from the street lamp playing upon my ceiling, and at last towards morning, the remembrance of words I had often heard came to me with a calm sense of repose, trust, and restfulness, and I believe I fell asleep at last with a smile upon my lips, repeating a portion of that comforting sentence ending, 'Are ye not much better than they?'

"It was a bright, sunshiny morning when I awoke, to hear some one knocking at my door; and hurrying on a few things, I answered.

"'Ah! I was just a-going to take 'em down again,' said my landlady harshly. 'Some folks can afford to lie in bed all day; I can't. Here's two letters for you. And mind this, Miss Laurie: I never bargained to come tramping up to the top of the the house with letters and messages for you.'

"'I'm very much obliged, Mrs. Ruddock,' I said, gently, as I took the letters with trembling hands, while, muttering and complaining, their bearer went down stairs. It seemed very hard then, but I believe it was the woman's habit, and that she was not bad at heart, but warped and cankered by poverty, hard work, and ill-usage from a drunken husband, whom she entirely kept.

"One letter I saw at a glance was from Minna, the other was in a strange crabbed hand; and I longed to read them; but exercising my self-denial, I dressed, lit my fire, and prepared my very frugal breakfast before sitting down and devouring Minna's news.

"What right had I to murmur as I did last night? I asked myself, when she was evidently so happy and contented; and then I opened, with fluttering hand, the other letter, and was puzzled by it at first; but at last I recalled the fact that three weeks before I had answered an advertisement in the *Times* where a lady wanted a companion.

"The note was very brief and curt, and ran as follows:—

"If Miss Laurie is not engaged, she can call upon Mrs. Langton Porter, 47, Morton Street, Park Village South, at eleven o'clock to-morrow—Thursday."

"'At last!' I said to myself, joyfully; and with beating heart I prepared myself for my journey, for the appointment was for that morning.

"Just as I had pretty well timed myself for my walk, a sudden squall came on, the sky was darkened, snow fell heavily, and in place of a morning in spring we seemed to have gone back into winter, for in a very short time the snow lay thickly, and the branches of the trees were whitened in the squares.

"Weak as I was, this disheartened me, but I fought my way bravely on, and just at eleven rang timidly at the door of an important-looking house, and was superciliously shown, by a stout tall footman in drab livery, into a handsomely-furnished room. Everything in the place I noticed was rich and good: heavy curtains hung by window and door skins and Eastern rugs lay on the polished wood floor; a tremendous fire blazed in a great brass fire-place, and the flames danced and were reflected from the encaustic tiles with which it was surrounded.

"'I'll take your note in,' said the footman, as I handed it. 'You can sit down.'

"I preferred to stand, and as soon as I was alone I shivered with fear and cold, as I caught a glance of my pale, sallow face in a great mirror. Every moment I expected to see the owner of the place, but I remained standing wearily for an hour, and then I sighed and turned wistfully to look at the door, wondering whether the footman had taken in the note which I had given him as my passport.

"I started, for close behind me, having entered unheard, was a rather plump tall lady in black. She was dressed as if for going out, and well wrapped in furs.

"'Oh! you are waiting,' she said, harshly and a shade of displeasure crossed her face, as she looked full at me till my eyes dropped. 'There, Miss—Miss—Miss——!'

"'Laurie,' I suggested.

"'Yes, yes; I know,' she said, sharply; 'It is in my note. Pray, why in the name of common sense did you not sit down? Take that chair. Now then, have you been companion to a lady before?'

"'No, ma'am,' I replied; and then, in answer to her questions, all very sharply given, I told her so much as was necessary of my story.

"'I don't think you will suit me,' she said; 'I've had misery enough, and I want some one cheerful and agreeable, a lady whom I can trust, and who will be a pleasant companion. There, I'm sure there is not such a body in London, for the way I've been imposed upon is dreaful. I've had six in six months, and the number of applications I have had nearly drove me out of my senses. I've had one since you wrote to me—a creature whose sole idea was herself. I want one who will make me her first consideration. I don't mind what I pay, but I want some one tall and lady-like, and you are not pretty, you know.'

"I shook my head sadly.

"'Humph! Well,' she went on, 'you won't be so giddy, and be always thinking of getting married. There, you need not blush like that; it's what all the companions I have had seem to think about. You don't, I suppose?'

"'I am engaged to be married,' I said, hanging down my head, 'in a couple of years.'

"'Ho! Well, he mustn't come here, for I'm a very selfish pragmatical old woman; and if I engaged you—which I don't think I shall do—I should want you all to myself. What is he?'

"'A surgeon—abroad,' I faltered.

"'Ho! That's better; and perhaps he'll settle there altogether without you.'

"I looked at her indignantly, and she laughed.

"'Ah! I know, my good girl. I haven't lived to eight-and-forty for nothing. How old are you?'

"'Twenty,' I said, shivering, for her rough way repelled me, and I longed to bring the interview to an end.

"'Why, the girl's cold,' she said, roughly. 'H'm, twenty! Here, go up to the fire, and have a good warm; it's dreadful weather. There, pull off your bonnet and jacket. Put them on that chair, and go closer to the fire; I've a deal to say to you yet, for I'm not going to engage another young person and have to change directly.'

"I obeyed her, trembling the while, for I was very weak; and she went on asking me questions and making comments.

"'I don't like your appearance at all: you look pale and unhealthy. Not a bit like a girl from the country.'

"'I'm very sorry,' I said; 'but indeed, ma'am, I have excellent health.'

"'Then your face tells stories about you. You play, of course?'

"'Yes, ma'am.'

"'You're warm now. Go and play something. Can you sing?'

"'Yes, ma'am.'

"'Then sing too; and look here, Miss—Miss—Miss——'

"I was about to tell her my name, but remembering the last rebuff, I was silent.

"'Now, look here, my good young lady, how am I to remember your dreadful name? What is it?'

"'Laurie, ma'am,' I replied.

"'Of course it is: I remember it quite well. Now go and play and sing something; and mind, I don't want my ears deafened with fireworks, and the drums split with parrot-shriek bravuras. Sing something sweet and simple and old-fashioned—if you can,' she added, ungraciously.

"I crossed the room and sat down to the magnificent piano, and for the next five minutes I seemed to be far away, down in the old home, as I forgot where I was, in singing my poor dead father's favourite old ballad, 'Robin Adair;' while, as I finished, I had hard work to keep back the tears.

"'Ro—bin A—dair,' she sang, as I rose, in a not unpleasing voice. 'Now let me hear you read. I always make my companion read to me a great deal; and mind this, I hate to hear any one drone like a school-girl. Go over there into the corner of the window, and stand there. Take that book; you'll find the mark left in where Miss Belleville—bah! I believe her name was Stubbs, and her father a greengrocer—left off. Now then, begin!'

"She pushed a lounge-chair close up to the window, and sat down with her hands in her muff, while I stood there, feeling like a school-girl, and ready to drone, as I began to read with faltering voice what happened to be Thackeray's most beautiful chapter—The Death of poor old Colonel Newcome. I know my voice trembled at times, and a strange sense of choking came upon me as I went on, battling—oh! so hard—to read those piteous heart-stirring lines; but I was weak and suffering. I was faint with hunger and exertion, sick with that despair of hope deferred, and at last the room, with its costly furniture, seemed to swim round before me, a cold perspiration bathed my face, and with a weary sigh I caught feebly at the curtains, and then fell heavily upon the polished floor.

"I have some faint memory of being lifted, and wheeled in a chair whose castors I heard chirrup, to the front of the fire, and then, as my senses began to return, I seemed to feel arms round me, and a pleasant voice saying, half aloud;

"And she just lost her poor father too—to set her to read such a thing as that! I declare I'm about the wickedest, most thoughtless, and unfeeling old woman under the sun."

"Then there was the refreshing odour of a vinaigrette, and the sick feeling began to pass away.

"'I—I beg pardon,' I faltered, trying to rise.

"'I beg yours, my dear,' she said, tenderly. 'Sit still, sit still. Now then, try and drink that.'

"Some sherry was held to my lips, and then I was almost forced to eat a biscuit. They, however, rapidly revived me, and I found Mrs. Porter had torn off her bonnet and mantle, and was kneeling by my side.

"That's better, my dear," she said, smiling at me, as she passed her arm round my waist, and drew me nearer to her, and kissed me in a gentle, motherly way. This was too much, for I was very weak and hysterical. I could fight against harshness, but her tender words and ways unlocked the flood-gates of my grief, and I laid my head down and sobbed as if my heart would break.

"An hour later, after she had literally forced me to partake of the breakfast that was ordered up, she sat beside me, holding my hand, and more than once I saw the tears steal down her pleasant face as she won from me, bit by bit, the story of my troubles and my bitter struggles here in town.

"At last I rose to go, trembling and expectant. Would she engage me? It was more than I dared to hope.

"'Sit still, my child,' she said, tenderly, 'and stay with me; we shall be the best of friends.'

"I stayed—stayed to know her real worth and to win her motherly love—stayed to find, when John Murray returned, that his love was greater for my sister than for me, and patiently resigned my love to her, and then battled with a long illness when they had gone together to the far-off home. But every day gave me a new lesson on not judging too hastily. That is ten years since; and I am still in my peaceful, happy home, though only as companion to a lady."

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

PONTOP COLLIERY YEARLY FUND.—On Thursday evening the annual meeting was held in Mr. W. Aitchieson's Long Room, Annfield Plain, Mr. T. Grix presiding. The secretary, Coun. R. Hall, submitted his annual report, which showed that after meeting all expenses during the year a dividend of 8/3 had been paid to each member. The fund was opened for 1900 with a membership of 76, an increase up to the present of 18 over last year. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Coun. R. Hall, secretary; Mr. R. Brewis, treasurer, Mr. Wm. Handcock, sick visitor for the Greencroft district, and Mr. J. W. Thompson, sick visitor for the Annfield Plain district. The committee of management is as follows:—The officers, and Messrs Wm. Temple, Thos. Grix, J. H. Fenwick, and W. Pickering.

The Drink for the Season.

Absolutely a New Drink.

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ANNFIELD PLAIN

GRAND CONCERT AT BLACKHILL

IN AID OF THE LOCAL RESERVISTS' FUND.

At present much enthusiasm and interest is being evinced in the welfare of our troops in South Africa, and numerous committees have been formed for the purpose of raising funds to support the wives and families of our brave soldiers, who in a distant land are fighting their country's battles. The vast sums of money that have been collected, and the many useful articles contributed, by rich and poor alike, indubitably prove the wealth and resources of our great empire, and more gratifying still are a convincing proof, if needed, that it is not the wish of the people that the wives and families of our gallant soldiers should suffer while the breadwinners are courageously upholding the honour of their country 'neath African skies. Our own district has taken its share in the noble work, sending many of her brave sons to the scene of conflict, and in addition freely subscribing to many bodies having for their object the welfare of our troops, and the caring of those deprived for the time being of the mainstay of the home. With this laudable object in view the members of the Blackhill Presbyterian Church Guild decided to forego the pleasures of Burns' Anniversary, and to hold instead a concert in aid of the Local Reservists' Fund. When the project to assist the Reservists' Fund was proposed it was received and acted upon with alacrity by the members, and a committee formed with Mr. Humphrey Hetherington as secretary, assisted by Mr. W. Somerville, who worked assiduously to make the concert a success. The concert was held on Wednesday night week in the schoolroom, with Mr. James K. Annandale, Shotley Bridge, in the chair. The room was crowded in every part, and amongst those present we noticed:—Councillor E. Sloane, Mr. and Mrs. A Russell, Dr. and Mrs. Burke, Messrs E. J. Sloane, Mus. Bac., James Eltringham, Mr. and Mrs. D. Wylie, Mr. and Mrs. J. Somerville, Mr. and Mrs. R. Park, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jacks, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Smart, Misses Russell, Strachan, Messrs G. Pattrick, G. Storey, and others.

The first part of the programme opened out with Haydn's trio, for piano, violin, and cello—a cleverly constructed and melodious work, the exponents being Mrs. Baillie, Messrs Walton and Heslop, who acquitted themselves with all-round credit. Mrs. J. K. Annandale delighted the audience with a capable rendering of a pretty song entitled "The Gift." This was sung with much taste and expression, and at the conclusion Mrs. Annandale received an unanimous round of applause. The next item on the programme was the song, "Angel of My Dreams," by Mr. Jos. Siddle, who is well-known in the district as one of our popular tenor singers. It was expected that Dr. Moore would recite "The Raven," but the chairman announced that "The Bells" would be given instead, and nothing was lost by the change, as Dr. Moore is an artist possessing highly cultured elocutionary and dramatic abilities. The audience insisted upon a re-call, and in response Dr. Moore favoured with "A Ballad on Charity," in which was explained how two cute Yankees very cleverly extracted, for their own use, money from the pockets of an unsuspecting and charitable public. The pathetic ballad, "Alone on the Raft," was sweetly sung by Miss Walton. One of the features of the evening was a parody on "The Admiral's Broom," sung by Mr. Mathieson. The song, which was full of patriotism, was handled in Mr. Mathieson's usual style, and for an encore the evergreen favourite, "Off to Philadelphia," was given. Mr. Walton gave a very enjoyable and artistic interpretation of an arrangement of Scottish airs for the violin. In the performance of his selection Mr. Walton drew a beautiful tone from his instrument, and played with admirable distinctness and ability. The concluding item of the first part of the programme was a humorous song by Mr. Atkinson, in which was pourtrayed the changes some people experience on a "pay Saturday" as compared with the dismal day that precedes it. Mr. Atkinson was re-called, and in response gave "Heroes." The second part of the programme was as interesting, if not more so, as the preceding portion, but pressure of space prevents our dealing at length with the various items. The programme was opened by Miss Walton with "The Children's Home," followed by Mr. Mathieson, who gave "The Soldiers of the Queen," the audience joining in the chorus. Dr. Moore scored a distinct success by his talented rendering of "The Dream of Eugene Aram," and for an encore gave "A lay of the brave Camerons." A very pretty song, "Tatters," was nicely sung by Mrs. J. K. Annandale, and Mr. F. C. Mellor followed with a humorous song, "How do they know I'm Irish?" Mr. Jos. Siddle next favoured with "The Evening Song," for which he receive an encore. A cello solo by Mr. Heslop, which was much appreciated, brought the programme to a close. Mrs. Baillie had a great deal of work in connection with the concert, and a special word of praise is due for the able manner in which this lady played the accompaniments. Mr. Baillie, at the conclusion, proposed votes of thanks to Mr. Annandale for his services as chairman, and to Mr. E. Sloane for his kindness in supplying the piano free of charge, and mentioned that the whole of the money taken would be given to the District Reservists' Fund, as a gentleman, who desired to be anonymous, had generously defrayed the expenses of printing and advertising. The singing of the National Anthem brought a most successful concert to a close.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE

CONSETT THE NEXT MEETING PLACE.

The annual session of the Newcastle Grand Division of this Order was held on Saturday in the Brunswick Hall, Newcastle. There was a large attendance of representatives from divisions and cadet sections.—Bro. John Owen, G.W.P., of Tyne Dock, who presided, in his report congratulated the Grand Division on the strong numerical and financial position of the district, and referred with great satisfaction to his attending the recent celebrations of the "Order's Jubilee" in Great Britain.—The report of the Grand Scribe (Bro. J. Gibson, Newcastle) was a highly satisfactory one, the membership on December 30th consisting of 4,007 adult and 2,477 juvenile members, the gain of the year being upwards of 500 members. The funds at the same date stood as follows:—Sub-division benefit funds, £16,77; management, £963; benevolent, £251; cadets' benefit funds, £1,187; cadets' management funds, £335; adults' funeral and sick aid funds, £1,421, and cadets funeral and sick aid fund, £226, the grand total being £21,035, the net gain on the year being about £1,140. Two new divisions, the "Jubilee" at Gateshead and the "J. W. Allison" at Blyth, and a cadet section in connection with the Jubilee Division, have been instituted during the past quarter.—The annual election of officers took place as follows:—G.W.P., Bro. A. Richardson, Blackhill; G.W.A., Bro. H. W. Stokoe, [illegible]; G.S., Bro. James Gibson, Newcastle; G. Treasurer, Bro. Wm. Campbell, Shotley Bridge; Grand Patron of Cadets, Bro. C. W. Davenport, Heaton; G. Chaplain, Bro. Wm. Taylor, jun., Felling; C. Conductor, Bro. F. L. Brown, Blaydon; G. Sentinel, Bro. Joseph Henderson, Gateshead. After the new officers had been installed, and Consett had been fixed for the next meeting, the proceedings were brought to a close.

TOW LAW.

St. Joseph's War Concert.—The total results of the concert, including the sale of tickets, "Absent-minded Beggar" collection for "Daily Mail" Fund and the collection at the door for Sergt. Hanlon, amounted to £21 19s 9d. The balance, being the actual proceeds of the concert, was handed to Lord Durham, and amounted to £16 19s 9d.

Tow Law and Wolsingham School Attendance Committee.—Some difficulty has been experienced by the Tow Law members of this committee in carrying out their duties owing to the lack of attendance of some of its members at the meetings. Mr. Turnbull pointed out that a Tow Law member had walked past the door and said distinctly he would not attend. At a meeting held on Friday at Stanhope, at which there was a representative attendance, the question was thrashed out under the presidency of Mr. Snowdon, and propositions in regard to the matter were spoken on by Messrs Turnbull, Teasdale, Mainprize, Hall, and Strong. Ultimately it was agreed to hold the quarterly meetings at Stanhope, which are to be preceded by committee meetings two or three days previously at Wolsingham and Tow Law by the members who reside in each town. Owing to this step being taken it was agreed, on the proposition of Mr. Teasdale, seconded by Mr. Mainprize, that it was necessary to consider an application for advance of salary by Mr. Wm. Gerraway, Tow Law (attendance officer.)

WEARDALE.

District Council.—Mr. J. W. Roddam presided over the usual meeting at Stanhope on Friday.—The quarterly report of Dr. Dever, of Wolsingham, was presented. From this it appeared that there had been 22 births and 12 deaths. There had been four cases of erysipelas, three cases of scarlet fever, and one case of typhoid fever. The district, however, was now free from infectious diseases.—Certain alterations were sanctioned conditionally at the Welcome Inn, Thornley, Tow Law, to be made by Mr. Ayton.—The Inspector (Mr. W. M. Egglestone) reported one case of infectious disease during the month, which occurred in the Derwent district. A case of fever had been reported at Park Terrace, Tow Law.

How good tempered and rosy your baby is, Mrs Jones! Whatever do you give it? Oh, just one or two of Pattrick's Cooling & Teething Powders every week. They are the cheapest and best in the district—only 8d per dozen, from Pattrick, Chemist, 5, Front Street, Consett. 350a.

Blackhill and District Institutes' Billiard Tournament.

[BY "IVORY THE SECOND."]

The tenth week's play makes up the following table:—

	P.	W.	L.	Scores For	Scores Agst	Avg.
Stanley	60	43	17	5620	4575	93·66
Blackhill	60	38	22	5451	4777	90·85
Consett Town Hall	60	40	20	5404	49 0	90·06
Allendale Cottages	60	30	30	5154	5167	85·9
Shotley Bridge	60	28	32	5041	5080	84·01
Leadgate League	60	26	34	4923	5361	82·05
Leadgate Guild	60	23	37	4916	5497	81·93
Derwent Cottages	60	12	48	4228	5677	70·46
				40737	40737	

Through making a clean sweep of the games with Allendale Cottages, Stanley has fortified its position, and nothing short of a miracle will effect a dislodgement.

Seeing that the winners are practically spotted, our attention is next turned to the runners-up, and this place, though still held by Blackhill, is by no means settled yet, as Consett Town Hall's remaining fixtures are, if anything, a shade simpler than those of Blackhill, and now only 47 points separate the aggregates.

Allendale Cottages' sole aim will be to guard position four, and the same thing applies to Shotley Bridge in respect to fifth place.

Leadgate League has gone up one with the small majority of seven over the Guild, and a piece of genuine excitement should arise ere supremacy is settled in that quarter.

STANLEY v. ALLENDALE COTTAGES.

W. Long	100	A. White	60
W. Clark	100	J. Longstaff	62
R. Murphy	100	G. Walton	54
J. Smith	100	W. Beck	81
J. Maggison	100	R. Ashby	81
C. Pringle	100	J. Page	66
	600		404
Total for first fixture	592	Total for first fixture	421

Probably one or two teams other than Allendale would feel a pang of disappointment when it became a fact that the full 600 points were Stanley's. Without entering into details of each game I will simply submit that the visitors were outclassed individually and collectively. Longstaff's and Walton's chances against Clark and Murphy were considered even, but they completely failed to carry forward the traditions of that old-established village institute, and suffered defeats severer than any other two engaged. R. Ashby's performance calls for special mention, inasmuch as his 81 is by far the largest score yet totalled against J. Maggison. W. Egglestone evidently could not make it convenient to travel from Chopwell to Stanley, which was a distinct loss to all but the homesters, as past performances point to victory were he is concerned.

LEADGATE GUILD v. CONSETT TOWN HALL.

H. Makepeace	100	J. Collinson	62
J. S. Jopling	83	J. Merritt	100
T. Wilkinson	100	S. Aynsley	74
J. Kershaw	52	W. Elliott	100
J. E. Kinleside	97	W. Smurthwaite	100
F. Lockey	81	F. McNally	100
	513		536
Total for first fixture	5[illegible]1	Total for first fixture	553

Harry Makepeace gave the Guild a good start by soundly whacking John Collinson, from whom we are now beginning to look for play variable as the weather. The game was not very old when Makepeace ran up a 16 break, and further on another spurt of 13 made it 52 against 22. He continued clinging to a serviceable lead, although when 78 this had been decreased to 17, viz., 78-61. Collinson's overhauling movements were then cut short by a 17 break to the homester, who perhaps created some surprise by taking 33 points from the Town Hall cream. Very little separated the scores of S. Aynsley and the Rev. T. H. Hanson up to 40; the former had started with a 10 break, immediately followed by one of 11 to Hanson, who held a slight lead at the aforementioned total. This advantage was then considerably increased by a 25 break amassed in commendable fashion, and Hanson took care to maintain the good frontage once it had been got. Aynsley made a big effort when 60, and ran up a 14 break, but this ended his chances. Hanson must be credited with the best show of the six performers that evening; he played really well. J. Merritt had his hands full with J. S. Jopling through the latter being constantly on the move without making breaks; in fact, he never reached double figures, while Merritt scored 35 in two attempts, and only 17 points separated the pair finally. Jopling was first in turning both the 20 and 40 corners, but fell behind a little through Merritt running up a 17 break, and the gap became further widened by an 18 break to Merritt, who thereby totalled 53. After that Jopling had equal share of the play, and landed at the highly respectable total of 83. Frank McNally's experiences were similar to Merritt's, and he never felt safe with F. Lockey, who must not be held too cheap even by the best of men. At 83 McNally stood only 7 ahead, and a 10 break really won him the game. Lockey led at first, but a 17 break put McNally in front, not for long, however, as the left-hander replied with a 19 break, making the game 32 each. Again McNally drew away by a 15 break, and for a considerable time had much the best of it, but a 13 break to Lockey levelled things up—88-81. This proved to be his last contribution, as McNally put together a 10 break, left safety, and got the remaining two next time in. After three futile attempts W. Smurthwaite managed to register a win, though only by the narrow margin of 3 against J. E. Kinleside. Breaks of 14 and 10 were the means of giving him a lift towards 50 with a 30 point lead; then Kinleside came on with a 13 break, and soon was only a dozen to the bad, but Smurthwaite off again with an innings of 16, and kept in front until over 90. At this critical stage Kinleside assumed the lead for the first time, through a 12 break, but failed to stop Smurthwaite annexing the hundred. The game was of a weary character, only brightened a bit by the close finish. W. Elliott turned out in just about his best trim, and J. Kershaw exactly the reverse, and perhaps this is a sufficient description of a totally one-sided affair. Elliott made only two breaks of note—12 each time—but scored consistently throughout. When 41 against 98 Kershaw made an eleven break, which was the only redeeming feature of his failure.

DERWENT COTTAGES v. LEADGATE LEAGUE.

J. W. Sanderson	100	P. Matthews	[illegible]
G. Anderson	100	A. McGurk	90
J. Curley	[illegible]	[illegible]	100
A. C. Blunt	[illegible]	P. Daly	100
J. Barron	[illegible]	F. McDonald	100
J. Pattinson	[illegible]	J. Matthews	100
	461		5[illegible]
Total for first fixture	51[illegible]	Total for first fixture	563

It will be noticed that Derwent Cottages fared worse at home than when visiting the League Room some time ago. J. Anderson opened out in very promising style against A. McGurk, a 14 break being instrumental in raising 4 to 25, but a complete change came about, and Anderson scored only 7 while McGurk ran up 45, including a good 17 break. This placed the latter foremost—53 to 47. The left-hander now fell heir to some luck, and made consecutive breaks of 10 and 11, once more taking the lead at 84 against 74; this time he had scored 37 to McGurk's 11. Another burst away on McGurk's part in the shape of a 12 break put the players on a level footing—86 all—and a contest wherein fortune fluctuated considerably ended in Anderson's favour by 10 points. He played well even if a shade lucky. McGurk is made of the right stuff, as he was more than once well behind through downright ill-luck, and did immensely to surmount this to such an extent. E. Batey played his best game of the season, running up a 21 break straight off, and J. Curley was never able to recover this early lead. Whether it was the strange board or weighty balls, I can't say, but P. Matthews was as much at sea as the merest novice, and could do nothing right. Certainly he experienced hard lines repeatedly, but it will take more than this to account for a 41-point defeat, and the real reason is that J. W. Sanderson trotted out a game above his average. Over and above having all the luck he played like a victor from beginning to end, without making big breaks, 12 and 15 being the highest. The Rev. A. C. Blunt had just commenced to draw away from P. Daly when the room was plunged into darkness by a freak of the home-made gas, which caused a lengthy spell of idleness. On resuming, Daly became more in evidence, and by breaks of 12 and 9 made the game level at 41. Continuing to play with every confidence he scored twice as fast as Blunt, and won more easily than at one time appeared possible. The game last described was not of a fast order, but F. McDonald and J. Barron improved the evening's enjoyment by briskly running to 28 each. Then McDonald, who had already made a 10 break, got in with consecutive efforts of 12 and 16, passing the half-century substantially in front. Barron replied with 9, and in the closing stages 10, but could not stop his rival, who gave a very satisfactory account of himself indeed.

James Matthews in Form Again.

In quicker time than ever the week's final game was got through by J. Pattison and J. Matthews. The latter ran away to 44 through the medium of breaks counting 11 and 14, while his opponent struggled in the teens. However, Pattison fell in luck's way and almost drew level by an 11 break, but Matthews immediately followed on with contributions of 14 and 12, and the game stood 72-44. Again Pattison persisted in the pursuit, gradually advancing to 61 against the said 72, only for Matthews to clinch matters by a good all-round 23 break without the semblance of a fluke until 20.

BLACKHILL v. SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

W. Atkinson	100	J. Birrell	67
M. Hobday	47	F. Cole	100
C. Merritt	100	E. Newbiggen	42
J. J. Raw	88	J. Henry	100
J. Barrow	100	J. Douglas	97
T. Gaughan	100	J. W. Foster	78
	435		484
Total for first fixture	581	Total for first fixture	441

It would be a difficult matter to reconcile the latest performance of Blackhill at home with that away versus Shotley Bridge. Just fancy, 99 points worse and full strength available—on their own table too! The game between M. Hobday and Frank Cole is an ideal sample of what may happen at any time in 100 up where the contestants are proficient. In this case it was one-sided to commence with, level in the centre, and once more one-sided as follows:—

Cole.	Hobday.
47	4
49	43
100	47

Thus we see that firstly Cole scored equal to 43 against 0, next that Hobday made 39 to 2, and finally that Cole played 51 against 4. But the ins and outs of this had better be described fully. After the customary opening misses it was at once seen that Cole felt quite at home, as accurately played breaks of 15 and 10 came in quick succession, and only a few sundry additions intervened ere another substantial break came (16), good as before save that it started rather luckily. This brought the scores to the aforementioned 47-4, up to which it will be understood that few chances had presented themselves to Hobday, but such as did appear were hardly dealt with in a confident manner; however, he pulled himself together and chiefly through a 23 break brought the game to a very interesting state, 43-49. It was a grand effort, without flaw until the last stroke. Looming prospects of a severe struggle for supremacy were suddenly overcast as Cole answered the challenge by compiling a break identical with Hobday's, 23, and the game stood 75-47. Another break settled the job, Hobday standing at 47. Cole gave a masterly, all-round exhibition, and has never been seen to better advantage. Hobday might have given an eye to safety-play with more profit, but of course it is an easy matter for the byestander to afterwards say what "should" have been done. J. Henry v. J. J. Raw.—If Henry's display did not appear to the critics so polished as Cole's, his victory was certainly more decisive. From the beginning he held a complete mastery, gradually building up an enormous lead, and Raw was never in it, as the following succession of comparisons show:—40-18, 65-25, 81-24, 87-38, 100-38. Up to 80 Henry made no break worthy of note, but then secured one of 16, and eventually wound up with 13 unfinished; at times he was a shade lucky, though not sufficient to dub his performance anything but first-class, and rendered with every confidence. The latter attribute supplies exactly what was lacking in Raw's case. In ordinary games I have seen him without hesitation do strokes such as in this instance proved "undoable," while the safety-strokes for which he earned notoriety at Consett were "non est." Neither W. Atkinson or J. Birrell seemed happy, their play on the whole being slow and commonplace. It was give-and-take up to 51 each, and at that time could boast of one double-figure break only, 11 by Birrell. Then Atkinson made 12 off the spot in correct style, and continued steadily increasing his lead, ultimately running out with a 17 break, having scored 47 to Birrell's 17. The break contained several classical strokes, but was marred early by a distinct fluke. Both men fell short of even average form. In the beginning of November E. Newbiggen came very creditably out of the game with C. Merritt, but on meeting him a second time found the Blackhill man in form much too good. Merritt set off with an 11 break and followed up with one of 12, the latter off a fluke; then Newbiggen became prominent through a 15 break, but Merritt settle down to some extra fine work, and enhanced his position by 39 points in two innings containing various strokes pleasing to the eye, and envied by the less clever aspirants present. From a fairly close condition the game had suddenly become 82-30. By dint of perseverance Newbiggen reached 40, allowing Merritt nothing beyond a judicious miss given in the interim, but this had no deterring effect on the leader, who for the fifth time in the game recorded a double-figure innings—12—and a quick one-sided game thus ended. In the latter stages of the game between J. Douglas and J. Barrow matters looked gloomy for the homester, who stood at 65 to 90, but a 17 break put a different complexion on the game, which was called "91 all." At the commencement Barrow shewed the road, and at 32 held a lead of 19, but Douglas in his ostentations way pushed on, and made the game even at 40, having on a 16 break, which apparently absorbed his energy for the time, as he turned out a mere spectator while Douglas was busy annexing twos and threes, not forgetting a good 16 break, and he then only needed 10 for game; however, Barrow came across luck in the shape of a 17 break, which decided the game in his favour by the narrow margin of 3 points. He had scored 35 to Douglas's 7. J. W. Forster arrived at a much larger total than at one time seemed probable against T. Gaughan, who once had the exorbitant lead of 50 points. A 15 break materially assisted in carrying him past half-way, while Forster was still in the first street, and a continuance of one-sidedness brought the game 77-27. Gaughan then eased up for Forster to make a 13 break, but got in again and reached 90 against 48, where he literally stuck until Foster augmented his total by 30, comprising a 19 break. Ultimately Gaughan managed to do the necessary, winning by 22. The display was far from brilliant.

A NEW TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION.

An admirably illustrated article on "The Nordrach Cure for Consumptives" appears in the February number of the "Windsor Magazine." "Situated far away from the busy world, in the Badisher Schwarzwald of Germany, is Nordrach-Colonie. It stands 1,500 feet above the sea, at the head of a long valley, and is surrounded for the most part by hills thickly covered with pine trees, amongst which lie the loveliest and most romantic of walks. Davos, St. Mauritz, and other places long renowned as the resorts of consumptives, enjoy, as a rule, very dry atmospheres and an immunity from rain and fogs; but here the weather conditions are very much the same as in the north of England, save that the open country around is damper. Hence a restoration to health under such climatic conditions is infinitely to be preferred to that performed in a very dry atmosphere, as the patient is able to return home after undergoing the cure, without fear of a change of atmosphere again provoking a return of the disease. The principal factors in the Nordrach system are—

First: Fresh air; which has to be inhaled from the moment the patient alights from the train at the station, ten miles away, till the time he rejoins it. This, combined with a judicious diet and healthy exercise, so strengthens the patient's whole system that he is enabled at last to throw off the bacilli and regain a normal condition of health.

Second: An increased and special diet. An increased diet is quite indispensable, and has doubtless much to do with the wonderful effects produced. As is well known, consumption is a wasting disease, and until the patient can be made to retain a good average weight, he has little chance of recovery. To do this, a heavier diet must be insisted upon, and the fact that the average gain per patient at Nordrach is 35 lbs. during the entire stay there, indicates the minute attention that is paid to this part of the 'cure.'

Third: Properly regulated rest and exercise. This is the last, but by no means the least, of the aids towards complete recovery. Dr. Walther say that more consumptives kill themselves by doing too much than in any other way. The rest and exercise are regulated to a large extent by the temperature, and as this, by resting in bed or on a couch, become normal, more and more exercise is given until the patient recovers entirely. The proper application of exercise not only helps towards the good state of health, but hardens and fits the patient to resist the injurious influences of everyday life when the time to leave the Sanatorium comes. By facing rain and becoming inured to all kinds of weather, the patient is gradually enabled to accomplish this most desirable end. These are the only 'medicines' used, even in the most severe cases, but they are in almost every instance successful."

CORRESPONDENCE.

☞ We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, nor do we undertake to return their communications.—(Ed. "C. G.")

Correspondents are requested to enclose their names and addresses on a separate slip of paper.

Letters for insertion should reach us not later than Tuesday morning.

THE INCREASING DANGER FROM PLAGUE INOCULATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Sir,—Under the above title the "Abolitionist" of January, gives some particulars of the medical fracas over the preparation and employment of plague serums. The solicitude of the serum clique for the safety of society is truly touching. By the end of October last, 25,000 doses of Haffkine's prophylactic having, according to the British Medical Journal, been sent to London for the Local Government Board from the Imperial Bacteriological laboratory at Parel. Lord Lister speaks of the protection given by plague serum inoculation as lasting for a twelvemonth. M. Haffkine, the inventor, says from four to six months. The inoculation certificates issued by the Government of India are valid only for six months. Dr Calmette and Dr Salimbeni state, as the result of their study of the subject in Oporto that the immunity only lasts for twenty days after which a further inoculation becomes necessary. Who shall decide when these bacteriological oracles disagree? Dr Pestana, the brilliant young Portuguese scientist, who was the foremost authority on bacteriology in Portugal, and had been in the thick of the work at Oporto, and who died of plague in spite of frequent and considerable injections of Yersin's serum, said on his death-bed, "The plague is a disease which is not understood by the doctors to-day. They know no more about it than in the olden time." In the official report on the plague in Calcutta, published by the Calcutta Municipal Press, there is a ghastly story of making plague cultures from a plague-stricken woman of notoriously infamous character. "From these cultures," says the Health Officer, "I subsequently obtained the plague bacillus in pure culture." Dr Calmette took with him to Paris a tin box containing millions of microbes, which he exhibited with pride to parties of friends. The authorities in Melbourne, confiscated Dr Haydon's plague microbes, and the Madras Government confiscated those brought by an official from Bombay, and put a stop to serum experimentation, for fear of infection. Yet we patiently submit to the presence of quantities of them in London. And so the loathly fiasco goes on, and in the midst of our crowded Metropolis we have death prancing on the plague-microbe, waiting for the appearance of the disease as a signal for its wholesale dissemination into the systems of the public by the great magicians of the cult of the microbe.—I am, sir, yours truly,

MAURICE L. JOHNSON.

Marlborough Villa, Kingsdown Parade, Bristol.

Apiol and Steel Pills for females. A French remedy for all irregularities and obstructions, superseding bitter app's, pill cochiae pennyroyal, &c. Price 4/6 post free. Obtainable only from MARTIN, Foreign Chemist, SOUTHAMPTON.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

TILL HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL PASS AWAY.

"The setting sun, a parting beam,
Upon yon hill top casts;
The cooling breeze, fresh from the east
Blows now in gentle blasts:
Whilst rising, falling, in good time,
The ocean waters roar;
And foaming waves in breakers white
Dash wildly on the shore.
And thus they'll set, and blow, and roar,
Till heaven and earth shall be no more.

The cloudy sky, with fleecy packs,
Is dotted here and there,
And white and black, o'er breaks of blue,
Go flitting through the air.
And thus they'll go from day to day,
Till heaven and earth shall pass away.

And man is born, begins life's task,
And strives for earthly prise;
But labours only "for a while,"
For at "the time" he dies.
And so shall all these ages be,
While worldly life does last;
They'll start, proceed, and have an end,
Till heaven and earth are past."

J.W.

Written by the seaside. Cleveland Bay, 1-4-94.

"KRUGER AND THE BRITISH LION'S WHELPS."

Paul Kruger:

"What are ye all to me, it does seem queer
From whence do ye come, what's set you all here?
I thought I was only fighting the Rooinecks with their flag unfurl'd,
But it seems to me I'm fighting the rest of the world."

Englishman:

"I hail from old England, the land of the free,
Fairest isle of the ocean, brightest gem of the sea;
I've come to South Africa to fight the Transvaal,
For Queen and for Empire and freedom for all."

Scotchman:

"I'm a Scotchman, freedom's battle I've come to fight,
For home, Queen, Empire, God, truth, and right;
I've come to teach you manners, old Oom Paul,
And sweep out for ever the Government of the Transvaal."

Irishman:

"I'm an Irishman from Dublin, and sure as I live,
My services to Queen and Empire I willingly do give.
I've come to bundle you out of Africa, old Oom Paul,
You and your rotten oligarchy from the Transvaal."

Welshman:

"I'm a Welshman, you've twisted the old lion's tail,
So old Paul Kruger at last we're on your trail.
For the Empire's weal there isn't the slightest doubt,
Both the Transvaal and the Free States will be clean wip'd out."

Australian:

"I'm one of the Lion's whelps from Australia, old boy,
Your rotten old government we've come to destroy.
There's thousands more to come, old Oom Paul,
We'll clear you out, bag and baggage, one and all."

New Zealand:

"I'm from the Antipodes, where freedom's a birthright dear,
The old Empire's at stake, to back it up we're here.
For Queen and Empire and for the whole world's good,
If needs be I'll fight and shed my last drop of blood."

Canada:

"I hail from Canada, a Britain o'er the sea,
Just such as the Transvaal and Free States shall be.
There's thousands more to follow, and we'll fight to a man
For our Queen and our Empire we'll do all that we can.
You may have Germans and French, and other nations backing,
Yet old Paul Kruger you're in for a proper good whacking."

India:

"I'm from India, we can send millions to fight
For Empire and Empress, liberty and right;
Sepoys and Sikhs, full of fight, and Goorkhas galore,
As many as could eat up every swaggering Boer."

Ceylon:

"I'm from Ceylon where spicy breezes blow,
There's not many of us, but I just come to show
I'm a whelp of the old Lion, but we'll do all we can,
For the old mother country we'll fight to a man."

Natal:

"I'm your neighbour, old boy, my country you've o'errun,
Don't think, Paul Kruger, to yourself you'll have all the fun;
We're British Lion's whelps, and for her loyally we'll fight,
We've got out claws upon you, and soon you'll feel our bite."

Cape Colony:

"I'm your other neighbour, I here for freedom's right,
I've entered the lists your swaggering Boers to fight;
If you don't get off to Germany you'll go where Napoleon went,
You'll get your desserts, old boy, to St. Helena you'll be sent."

Egypt:

"I'm from the land of the Pharohs, an Egyptian by name;
I'm a whelp of the old Lion, a Britisher all the same.
They've made me all I am, I wish they'd let me fight,
They'll manage you without me, so I've come to see the sight.
I'm itching to be at you, old boy, I do feel so queer;
I had a go at Omdurman, and would like one here;
Britannia is the leaven that will leaven the lump,
Your days are numbered, you'll go down in the slump."

Hausa, Uganda, and West India:

"I'm a Britisher, and I speak for the three.
From Hausa, Uganda, and the West Indies we be;
If needed for triumphant service in khaki we'll robe,
And fight for the British anywhere on the globe.
While the drill captains of Europe wonder and stare,
We'll just show you and them what we Britishers are."

Kruger, to the Lion's whelps:

"I've heard all you have said, and I swear by the old book
Before you get to Pretoria I shall have taken my hook;
I thought the British were all brag and all bluster,
I never thought so many lion's whelps she could muster.
I've made a mistake, I thought European powers were backing,
But they've left me in the lurch, and I'm in for a whacking.
They, Leyds and the Raad, are the origin of all this evil,
I'll look after myself, the others can go to the ——."

STANHOPE.

Hockey.—A capital hockey club has been formed at Stanhope. The members practise every Saturday with good results. They are expecting to arrange matches shortly.

School Board.—Dr. Livingstone presided over Friday's monthy meeting.—The attendance was reported as follows:—Lanehead, 79.4 per cent.; Wearhead, 80.2; St. John's, 80.6; Westgate, 86.1; Rookhope, 97.3; Frosterley (South), 77; Frosterley (North), 81.2; Stanhope, 86.—The question of military instruction was brought forward.—The Clerk (Mr. F. Thompson) stated that he communicated with other Boards at Jarrow, Dalton-in-Furness, Hawes, Darlington, Gateshead, Keighley, Penrith, Brough, Hartlepool, Benfieldside, etc., asking whether they gave a course of military instruction.—Mr. Thompson read the replies from the clerks of these Boards, and the Chairman (Dr. Livingstone) said that it was not an encouraging report as regarded the adoption of paid military instructors for their schools. It was agreed that the managers of the schools should confer with the masters upon the subject.—The question of the ownership of the pianos was discussed, and it was generally thought that they were the property of the Board, but were in the charge of the masters.—It was decided to pay the deficiency of £5 odd upon the piano at Rookhope School.—Mr. T. E. Fenwick, of Mayfield, Wolsingham, a member of the Board, was present after a long absence owing to serious illness, and received a cordial greeting from the Chairman and other members of the Board.

WEARDALE.

Wilful Damage at Wearhead.—At a special sitting of the Stanhope Bench on Monday—before Dr. Livingstone and Councillor T. D. Collingwood—Nicholas Watson, labourer, was fined 4s and costs for smashing the windows and doing other wilful damage to the new publican's house at Wearhead, on Saturday night, while drunk.

"Buchu-Paiba."—Complete cure of all kidney and kindred complaints, stinging, irritation, inflammations. Of Chemists. F. Newbery & Sons, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

DEATH OF AN OLD LEADGATE STANDARD

MR. JOHN McCURLEY.

Death has played sad havoc amongst the old standards of Leadgate during the present winter, and we deeply regret to have to announce an addition to the list in the person of Mr. John McCurley, of West Street, Leadgate. The deceased, who was 68 years of age, was highly esteemed and respected by a large number of friends and acquaintances. His demise came very unexpectedly. The late Mr. McCurley was a man that scarcely ever ailed anything, and up to the day of his death he appeared to be in a robust state of health. On Thursday morning last he had prepared himself as usual for his employment at the Eden Colliery, Redwell Hills, but was suddenly seized with what seemed to be a fainting fit. His family quickly rendered him assistance, and after a time he came round, apparently none the worse for his attack. Although Mr. McCurley was put to bed, nothing serious was apprehended, but the services of Dr. Henley were called in. However, early on in the evening he suddenly expired like a little child going to sleep. But for the fact that the breathing had stopped it was difficult to conceive that he had gone to his last long rest. The late Mr. McCurley was a native of County Antrim, Ireland, but settled down in Leadgate over 30 years since. His quiet and unobtrusive manner, combined with his genial dispositin, tended to make him a favourite with all who knew him. His family some years since tried to induce him to cease work, but, an industrious man all his life, and being in the best of health, he could not be persuaded to take this step. Thus he may truly be said to have died in harness. It is somewhat curious that a short time after Mr. McCurley was laid to rest at the Brooms, Father Foran breathed his last, as the two were old friends. Deceased leaves a widow and grown-up family to mourn his loss, and much sympathy has been extended to them in their sad affliction. The interment took place on Sunday afternoon, and the large number that attended spoke eloquently as to the respect entertained towards the deceased. This notwithstanding the very winterly weather, which doubtless prevented many from being present. The "cortege" consisted of a hearse and three mourning coaches, followed by a great number of people on foot, whilst three private conveyances brought up the rear. All along the line of route the blinds were drawn, and there were evidences of sympathy with the relatives on all hands. Mr. Jas. Hogan, Mr. Jas. McGuckian, Mrs. Donaghy, and Mrs. B. Mullen (Consett) walked in front of the hearse. When the procession arrived at the Brooms it was joined by a number of friends from Dipton, Greencroft, Annfield Plain, Catchgate, &c. The service both in the church and at the graveside was impressively conducted by Father Magill (pastor). As the congregation filed out of the sacred edifice Sister Rose Editha played the "Dead March" on the organ. The first mourning coach contained Messrs Roger, Frank, and John McCurley (sons), Misses Mary, Lizzie, and Sarah McCurley (daughters.) Second coach—Mrs. R. McCurley, Mrs. J. McCurley (daughters-in-law), Misses Mary Ann, Lizzie Jane, Masters John and Roger McCurley (grandchildren). Third coach—Mr. M. Cassidy (Walker), Inspector Halpin (Wallsend), Mr. Bradley (Walker), Mr. and Mrs. W. Quinn (Consett), Mr. P. Hughes, sen. (Leadgate). Amongst others present we noticed:—Mr. and Mrs. F. Hanlon, Consett; Coun. and Mrs. Kempson, Blackhill; Mr. B. Mullen, Consett; Coun. R. Eccles, Blackhill; Coun. C. Clegg, Mr. T. S. Longstaff, Mr. Ed. Todd, Leadgate; Mr. J. Easey, Consett; Coun. J. Costello, Mr. Jas. Kelly, Mr. R. Kelly, Mr. J. Gray, Leadgate; Mr. T. Linskey, Mr. Robinson, Mr. McKenna, Messrs McNally, Consett; Mr. T. Traynor, Medomsley; Mr. J. Stewart, Mr. Hedley, Mr. Pigg, Messrs Proctor, Mr. R. Laidler, Leadgate; Miss McKenna, Miss Watson, Miss Brown, Mr. Brown Consett; Mr. Geo. Walton, Mr. M. McCabe, Mr. W. Tinkler, Mr. E. Henderson, Mr. F. Walker, Mr. J. Bainbridge, Mr. J. Jewitt, Mr. L. Whitfield, Mr. J. Iley, Mr. W. Iley, Mr. W. Hagon, Mr. J. Monaghan, Mr. W. McGee, Mr. J. Toner, Messrs Peter, Patrick, Charles, Owen, Robert, Frank, William, and Jas. Hughes, Mr. E. Rollins, Mr. Thos. Rollins, Mr. M. Black, Mr. C. Devlin, Mr. W. Hogan, Mr. J. Ross, and others. The underbearers were Messrs Jas McGuckian, Jas. Hogan, Ed. Quinn, John Donaghy, H. Cheesmond and R. McClean. Mr. Jos. Slater, Leadgate acted as undertaker.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

"The Face at the Window" is a play which is not exactly unknown by Consett playgoers, but it seems to lose nothing by that fact during its performance at the New Theatre this week. True, the company on Monday was not as large as the piece deserved, but the Scotch concert was a strong counter-attraction. The play possesses many exciting and sensational incidents, whilst the scenery is splendid, especially in Scene 2 of Act 3, and Scene 3 in the last act. One of the finest pieces of acting ever seen on the boards of the Consett theatre is that of Mr. E. Vivian in the character of "Paul Gouffet" (a detective.) Mr. Vivian is simply superb, and time and again he was loudly applauded for what is undoubtedly a masterly performance. Nothing better has ever been witnessed in the district. As the "Chevalier Lucio Dalgado," Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale is seen to great advantage, and pourtrays the part very finely. Mr. Geo. W. Lindsay and Mr. Fred C. Imbert are capital as "Lucian Cortier" and "Le Blanc" respectively, whilst Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is most amusing as "Peter Pottlebury." As "Marie de Brisson" Miss Alice Inman gains much approbation, giving a charming performance. Miss Jeannie Dempster shines as "Pinaus," and Miss Florence Ramsay is very mirth-provoking as "Babette." Frequenters of the theatre seem highly delighted with the play, and good houses should be the order during the remainder of the week.

CAUGHT BY THE LEG

STRANGE ACCIDENT TO A CARMAN.

South Africa has no monopoly of hair-breadth escapes, as is shown by a curious accident reported in the "Dursley Gazette," which gives a portrait of the hero. A carter, named Robins, living at Hillesley, near Wootton-upon-Edge, went into a wood for fuel, using a long stick with an iron crook to pull down dry branches. Whilst standing in a stump of a tree and pulling at a branch, the crook straightened and he fell to the ground, with his foot fixed in the stump, causing a fracture of the small bone of the leg and wrenching the ankle-bone. This happened two years ago.

"For over six months I did not do a stroke of work," said Mr. Robins, "as, although my leg seemed to be set all right, there was always a large quantity of congealed blood round it, and on more than one occasion the doctor told me I must have my leg off. I did not know what to do, but declined to follow his advice, and trusted to Providence."

"And so Providence did not betray your trust?" remarked the reporter.

"No," was the reply. "When I was almost entirely broken down in health and hope from the fact that treatment in two hospitals had not cured my leg, a book came through the post telling me of the many wonderful cures Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people had brought about. Though I had tried other medicines without any effect, I thought I would give them a trial, so I purchased a couple of boxes. Of course the broken bone had long since been united; I should not have expected medicine to effect that. It was the subsequent pain I could not get rid of, but before I had taken one boxful of the pills named I was stronger in myself, my leg was better, and the palpitation of the heart which I had been suffering from quite disappeared."

Mrs. Robins here joined in the conversation, remarking: "Mrs. Cox, of Boxwell Lodge, recommended me to induce him to try them, as she had found them so valuable herself."

The good wife also related with evident excitement that, after having taken three boxes of Dr. Williams' pink pills, her husband one day came in and danced round the house, shouting, "Good old Dr. Williams: he has cured my leg and put me right." "He quite frightened the children," continued Mrs. Robins, "and after that he continued to take the pills, saying he would have his pills if he didn't have bread. He took six boxes of Dr. Williams' pink pills altogether, and I now give them to my children when they are not well."

It is not, of course, suggested that this remedy is an alternative treatment for the surgeon's art: the lesson taught by the above incident is the same as that learned by thousands of people in broken health, who had their whole after-lives changed by this simple medicine. In Mr. Robins' case Dr. Williams' pink pills restored tone to the nervous system, and enriched blood. Acting the same way these pills have cured thousands of cases of anæmia, general weakness, loss of appetite, palpitation, shortness of breath, early decay, all forms of female weakness, hysteria, paralysis, locomotor ataxy, rheumatism, sciatica, scrofula, rickets, chronic erysipelas, consumption of the bowels and lungs. These pills are tonic in action, and are not purgative; but they are genuine only with full name, Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people (seven words), and are sold by most retailers, and Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Holborn Viaduct, London, at two shillings and ninepence a box, or six boxes for thirteen and nine, post free. They invigorate the system after overwork, worry, and indiscretion of living.

NOTES FROM LEADGATE.

[BY "GEORDIE."]

THE LOCAL WAR FUND.

I find that in last week's issue there was a more satisfactory statement than previously with regard to subscribers to the fund for the Soldier and Sailors Families' Association. Still it was not a complete one, as most of the subscriptions given in the first paragraph are monthly ones, and this was never mentioned. Surely it should not be a difficult matter for those responsible to issue a really correct list. I notice that the fancy dress ball realised £1 15s. This is not bad, but it compares badly with the Spinsters' social, which realised £8.

OLD STANDARDS DROPPING OFF.

During the present winter a number of old Leadgate standards have gone to their last resting place. Now to the list has to be added the names of Mr. John McCurley, of West Street, and Mr. John Pattinson, of North Cross Street. Mr. McCurley died with painful suddenness on Thursday night. He was very highly respected in the district, and much sympathy is felt for the widow and family, who are also greatly esteemed. The funeral on Sunday was numerously attended. Mr. Pattinson, I understand, was one of the first promoters of the Co-operative Society in Leadgate. He was well known and much liked. I should think that fully a dozen old standards have been called hence during the past three or four months.

A SHOOTING MATCH.

I am told that much excitement exists over a pigeon shooting match that is to take place on Saturday. The contestants are Messrs Geo. Iley and T. Bell, neither of whom, I understand, have ever posed as prominent knights of the trigger. However, they are practising daily, and the match is expected to be a close one. It will take place in a field off Durham Road, belonging to Mr. B. Lumley, and the parties meet at Mr. Jas. Kelly's Queen's Head Hotel. In the evening, a supper in connection with the match will be held at Mr. Kelly's. The betting at present is evens, and take your choice.

A WELCOME CHANGE.

Many people have remarked to me lately that the trains are actually beginning to run punctually—at least some of them. This is indeed good news, and I rejoice to hear it. One gentleman of my acquaintance intended to catch the 7.27 train the other evening. Having experienced many weary waits at the station, he did not particularly hurry himself. It takes him about five minutes to walk to the station, and he set off at 7.25. To his surprise, just as he got to the bridge the train actually came snorting over that structure—and he had to walk. The shock was so great that he had to return to Host Kelly's and get a glass of the best ere he could proceed on his journey. He is now recovering nicely. Let me add, for the benefit of my readers, that the individual in question was not "Geordie."

THE GUILD.

A gentleman in the know informs me that there is a suggestion afloat to borrow the money required to build the new Church Institute. This would probably amount to about £400, as there is some £520 in hand, and the scheme is expected to cost £900. A start should certainly be made at once, as the present rooms are totally inadequate to meet the demand. With a new building there is little doubt but what the existing membership would be doubled. It has about done this during the past year, even under the unsatisfactory conditions now in force. The scheme has now been on the tapis many years, and the members think it is high time that some definite action was taken. There would, I think, be little difficulty experienced in paying off the borrowed money, which could probably be secured at 3 or 3½ per cent.

A TOUGH 'UN.

I heard rather a good story the other day about a man in Leadgate who won a turkey at Christmas in a lottery. Delighted at his success, and anxious to show his hospitality, he invited several friends to dinner on Christmas Day. The guests duly arrived, all anticipating a treat. Mr. Turkey was nicely stuffed and roasted, and served up amid general rejoicings. The genial host set about the task of carving in the most artistic fashion, but he soon found several difficulties to contend with. He first attempted to dissect a leg, but it was no go. The bird absolutely refused to be disjointed, and the carving knife was soon put out of action. Two or three were borrowed from the neighbours, but they suffered the same fate. It was like trying to carve a piece of Consett steel. Several members of the company tried their skill, but without the slightest avail, the turkey remaining in a canter. Of course, the disappointment was general, but a meal of steak and onions was hastily prepared. Next day our friend decided to be even with the turkey, so directly after breakfast the bird was put into the stew-pan, and allowed to stop there about 10 hours. He was then brought forth, and the head of the house had another go with a new carving knife, but it had not the slightest effect. Enraged at this our friend called for the chopping axe, but this only resulted in a few splinters flying about—at least, that is what the children called them. As a last resort the saw was brought into operation, but this proved as useless as the other weapons, and utterly failed to conquer Mr. Turkey. As it was impossible to obtain a charge of lyddite the bird was thrown into the yard to the dog, but even here he refused to be beaten. I have it on the authority of my friend that the dog tried hard to get a meal off the turkey, but only succeeded in loosening most of his teeth. It has now been forwarded to the Newcastle Museum to see if the authorities there can find any trace of it having been in the ark with Noah.

HOW THE BOER PRACTISES INHOSPITALITY.

The place of honour in the February number of the "Windsor Magazine" is given to a most readable article written from the unusual standpoint of an Englishman who was forced to serve in a Boer war with the Swazis. Of the Boer's hospitality to his "brother Englishman," the following are fair samples. "Provisions were plentiful—for the Boers, and gin in large quantities had likewise been provided for them. As for the commissariat department of the Uitlanders, if in any instance an Englishman had neglected to provide the necessary wherewithal to keep body and soul together, he would be a very hungry man indeed before he had a meal given him by a Boer 'comrade.' On once occasion, I had been doing some very fagging out-post duty, and, having been relieved, came into camp feeling very thirsty; so, the commissariat waggon being handy, I went and helped myself to a whisky. Whilst drinking it, my arms were seized from behind by two Boers, and I was marched handcuffed up to General Joubert. My captors charged me with theft: and, on overwhelming evidence, and of course, on my own admission, I was found guilty, but as there were 'extenuating circumstances,' I was let off on paying for drinks for the whole commando. I may also mention that the men who accused me of stealing took advantage of the occasion to relieve me of a silver cigarette case, which I had won some months previously in a one hundred yards race!"

AN IDEAL NEWSPAPER.

By Clement Shorter.

An interesting interview with Mr. Clement Shorter appears in the February number of the "Windsor Magazine, in which he gives his views on what an ideal newspaper should aim at, and what it should avoid. Speaking of the present photographic wave that is passing over all of our illustrated periodicals, he says: "My ideal newspaper—at any rate, at sixpence a week—is assuredly not a journal entirely composed of photographs. The 'Sketch' has had so many imitators, and the photograph has crept in so extraordinary a measure into all kinds of illustrated papers, that I am inclined to think we are on the eve of a great reaction, and that the sixpenny newspaper composed almost entirely of photographs has but a very poor future. Photographs are cheap, the reproduction of them is cheap, and it does not seem to me that, as compared with newspapers which employ good black-and-white artists, the public can be considered to get a very good sixpennyworth for their money. I do not mean to say that there is not plenty of room for photographic journals; it is merely my contention that they could be done much cheaper than sixpence. My ideal newspaper is quite another thing, but you cannot expect me to explain in detail what that ideal is. By the time that you will publish this article, I hope that the first number of the 'Sphere' will be in everybody's hands. I may say, however, that the essential thing to recognise is the limitation of the photographer and the limitation of the artist. Your photographer can do many things better than the artist; he can give a sense of reality to many an incident which the most accomplished artist fails to do, but there are a hundred occasions in which the photographer utterly breaks down; at a royal wedding or a royal funeral he is entirely out of place; he may not enter Westminster Abbey, and were he to do so the results would not be highly satisfactory."

SWALWELL.

Gospel Temperance Association.—The old Presbyterian Church was on Saturday evening filled with a large audience on the occasion of the usual weekly entertainment held under the auspices of the Swalwell Gospel Temperance Association. The programme which was highly appreciated, was rendered by the Sunderland Humerous Musical Party, under the direction of Mr. Towns, and consisted of humorous duets, quartettes, recitations, solos, etc. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Wm. Dryburgh, B.D.

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ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Serious Accident.—On Saturday, about noon, as a coal-hewer named Robt. Young, of Prospect Terrace, Annfield Plain, was following his employment, he was severely injured about the back by the fall of a huge stone in Hedley's West Shield Row Drift. It was stated that the stone was of such huge proportions that it took five or six men to remove it off the body of the unfortunate man, who was afterwards conveyed home.

Funeral Sermon.—On Sunday evening, the Rev. D. Kyles, of Stanley, preached the funeral sermon of the late Mr. W. Brankston, of Cement Cottages, Annfield Plain—who died on Dec. 7th, 1899—in the Annfield Plain Primitive Church. There was a large company present. The rev. gentleman took for his text, "He being dead yet speaketh," and made reference to the life of the deceased gentleman, who had been a member of the church for seven or eight years, and who was a fine type of a Christian. In treating his subject Mr. Kyles dealt on death, what it is, and the different opinions held respecting it. He pointed out very clearly that death could not possibly be annihilation, in support of which he quoted from several eminent scientists. He showed that there was a feeling in the breast of mankind that death was not merely a sleep, and that it seemed an inherent quality in the mind of man that there was a future state. A special collection was taken in aid of the Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund.

The Reservists.—On Saturday afternoon an amusing football match was decided at Tanfield between Tantobie pseudo-"ladies" and Tanfield "gentlemen," the proceeds of which were in aid of the Durham County Reservists' Fund. The "ladies" were represented by young men who were attired in women's habilments, and needless to say their antics were the source of considerable amusement. The ball was sent in motion by the Rev. T. H. Archdall. The game resulted in a draw of three goals each. A sum of about £6 was realised. A novel method of obtaining donations from the inhabitants was resorted to. A donkey in charge of "Bella Friday" and "Mrs. Peacock," these being their pseudo-names, was the means of collecting £1 6s 10d from the inhabitants. The animal was kindly lent by Mr. Thomas Armstrong, whom the management wish to thank. At the conclusion of the game a successful smoking entertainment was held at the Peacock Inn. Songs, etc., were ably rendered by Colour-Sergeant Liddle, Mr. Thomas Gaffney, Mr. James McCabe, Mr. John Middlemiss, and others. Mr. Kipling, of South Moor, delighted the company with his ventriloquial performances. Mr. Robert Bushart proved an able accompanist. Mr. Charles Knight ably looked after the wants of the company. A most enjoyable evening was spent.

Death of Mrs. Rumney.—On Saturday morning the death of Mrs. Rumney, of Queen's Parade, Annfield Plain, took place after a long illness. The deceased, who was a member of the Wesleyan Society, was well respected by those who knew her, and her death removes from the Wesleyan cause at Annfield Plain an active worker and liberal supporter. The deceased lady, who was 53 years of age, leaves a large family to mourn their loss. Her remains were interred in the Hare Law Cemetery on Monday afternoon, in the presence of a large company of church members and friends, who followed the remains to their last resting-place as a token of respect. The services at the house and cemetery were conducted by the Rev. J. W. Denham, Wesleyan minister, Annfield Plain, in a very impressive manner. The bidders were Messrs J. McPherson and A. Davison; and the underbearers, Messrs J. Allsopp, Close, J. Reece, and J. Johnson. Amongst those present were Mr. J. Rumney (husband) and family; Mr. Lee and family; Mr. W. Simpson, Mr. H. Spark, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. T. U Ord, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Dodds, Mr. G. Moore, Mr. T. J. Trowsdale, Mr. T. Gailes, Mr W Dawson, Mr. J. Russell, jun., Mr. J. W. Robson, Mr. C F Cooke, Mr. Thos. Pearson, Mr. W Clish, Mrs Robson, Miss Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Milburn, Mrs. McPherson, &c.

Cricket Club Concert.—On Wednesday evening week, the Annfield Plain and District Cricket Club gave their first annual concert in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, in aid of the club funds. In the absence of the advertised chairman, Coun. J. Storey, the chair was ably occupied by Dr. Morison, of Catchgate. The programme was opened by a song from Mr. Haswell, tenor, Sunderland, who sang to the delight of the company "Maid of Athens." Miss Bell, a local soprano singer, of Annfield Plain, gave "Lionore" in a very acceptable manner; then Mr. Bloomfield, Sunderland, sang a comic song, "Very good to me," which was well taken with. Mr. T. Holland, tenor, Catchgate, whose vocal abilities are well known and always appreciated in the district, gave "O'Marriss, O'Stella." Mr. Winter, humorist, Crook, put the audience into a good humour with the song, "Nursing Baby." Indeed, the chairman in introducing him in the second part of the programme fitly described him as a travelling theatre of varieties. Miss Dixon, contralto, Annfield Plain, next sang the good old song, "Come back to Erin," in her usually efficient manner. Mr. Bloomfield tested the laughing organs of his audience with the song, "Silliness." In the second part of the programme Mr. Haswell sang "Yes, let me like a soldier fall;" Miss Dixon the song, "Never to know;" Mr. Winter, "The musical family;" Mr. Holland, "Bargue of Dreams;" Mr. Bloomfield, "Postponed;" Miss Bell, "Tattors;" and Mr. Winter fairly brought down the house with "Riding granny to school." It is needless to say that the artistes were repeatedly encored, and gave additional songs to and admiring audience. The piano accompaniments were ably supplied by Messrs John Russell, jun., and John Tindale.

CONSETT.

Alleged Theft.—At Consett Police Court on Friday, Jane Ann Brown, who described herself as a widow, and belonging to Keswick, was charged with having stolen two brooches, three rings, a scarfpin, and other articles, the property of James Moody, of Ebchester. Formal evidence was given, and she was remanded to the ordinary Court day.

Consett Water Co.'s Dividend.—At a meeting of the Water Works Company held at Consett on Friday, it was resolved to recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6¼ per cent per annum for the half-year ending December 31st. An interim dividend of 6 per cent. per annum was paid in August last, making the dividend 6¼ per cent. for the year. The dividend at the corresponding period of the previous year was also 6 per cent. per annum.

A Consett Man's Send-off.—P.C. David Pringle, who joined the Durham Constabulary in 1893, and has been stationed at Consett since August, 1896, has offered himself and been accepted as a member of the Northumberland and Durham contingent of the Imperial Yeomanry, and on leaving Blackhill station by the 10.30 a.m. train on Thursday to report himself at headquarters prior to proceeding to the front he was cordially cheered. Pringle formerly served in the Lifeguards, and is an expert horseman. The local members of the force in the Consett district subscribed a substantial sum of money for comforts for their comrade.

Presentation to an Imperial Yeoman.—Mr. J. Dodd, of Consett, who has been accepted as a member of the Ambulance Corps of the Northumberland and Durham contingent of the Imperial Yeomanry, and has been in training at Newcastle for about three weeks, arrived in Consett on Saturday night by the nine o'clock train, and was heartily cheered by hundreds of people. At a social gathering held at the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Mr. F. A. Coltman presided over a large and enthusiastic attendance. Mr. R. W. Shaw, Villa Real, presented Mr. Dodd with a revolver.—Mr. Dodd, in returning thanks, stated that he had been appointed assistant-surgeon in the second division.—Mr. Shaw announced that twenty tradesmen in the town had each agreed to subscribe 1s per week to support Mr. Dodd's wife and child during the absence of Mr. Dodd at the front.

The Bradford Band of Hope Union has issued a "Speakers' Plan" for the first four months of the year, which is a "record" in the arrangements for temperance work in the city. There are nearly 140 speakers on the plan, all of whom are down for engagements during these months in connection with the union. The regular appointments of these speakers make a total of 871 meetings, while there are in addition to these as many as 203 special appointments. Many of the speakers make use of the blackboard in their addresses; there is free use of the lantern in the work; and even the gramaphone is pressed into the service. Apparently every Nonconformist school and mission-room in "Greater Bradford" is utilised by the union, and the story of work revealed by these arrangements shows that the temperance party in the city is vigorous and active. The above show a total of 1,079 Band of Hope gatherings. It may also be interesting to some Primitive Methodists and Consett Rechabites to know that a young man recently connected with them holds a very honourable position in the Union, and takes an active part in the work.

DIPTON.

Accident at Shield Row Colliery.—On Tuesday of last week a miner named William Askew, of Dickinson's Wood Houses, Dipton, received injuries to his right foot by a fall of stone while following his employment in the Busty Seam of the West Shield Row Colliery. After the accident he was taken home, where his injuries were attended to by Dr. Fraser, of Dipton.

Sewing Meetings.—On Wednesday afternoon week, the first of a series of sewing meetings was held in the vestry of the Dipton Wesleyan Chapel. The object of the trustees is to raise funds in aid of the chapel and school funds. It is the wish of the teachers of the Sunday School to have a more commodious school with a suite of suitable class-rooms in which to do more effectual work, the present arrangement for teaching being inadequate to secure good results. The tea, which was generously provided by Mrs. Pearson, being well attended, was a success.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

Primitive Methodist Church.—At the yearly meeting of the trustees of the above church, Rev. James Taylor presiding, the secretary (Mr. W. Campbell) presented a financial statement of the church funds, which gave great satisfaction. The trustees desire to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all, both old and young, who have by their sympathy and kindly help rendered such noble service during the past year. They also hope and trust for a continued and united service in the year just entered upon.

STANHOPE.

Benefit Concert.—A concert was given in the Stanhope Primitive Methodist Schoolroom on Saturday night on behalf of a distressed family. Mr. Wm. Sinclair presided. The artistes included Miss A. Turnbull, Mrs. Gowland, Mrs. O. Wearmouth, Miss Collingwood, Miss Egglestone, Misses Place, Miss Currey, Mr. H. Curry, Master Murray, Master Spark, and Miss Spark. The pianist was Mr. J. Bell.

TOW LAW.

Tow Law Men for the Front.—Mr. Arthur Horne left Tow Law on Saturday to join the company of the Royal Medical Corps of York, which is going out to South Africa. Privates C. Hawkeshaw, P. T. Gray, and W. Dryden, all belonging to the local Volunteer Corps, and volunteers for active service, left Tow Law on Monday. They received a hearty send-off.

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BRANCHES:—Busty Bank, Burnopfield, R.S.O.
Tyne View, Lemington-on-Tyne.
94, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
COLLIERY WORK CONTRACTED FOR.

ESTABLISHED 1850.

W. FITZPATRICK,
TAILOR,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THANKS the Public for the Support which has been accorded him in the past, and trusts to have a continuance of their favours during the year 1898.
The Latest Materials and Designs in OVER-COATINGS, SUITINGS, and TROUSER-INGS.
The Suits at 45s having given unbounded satisfaction in the past can be thoroughly recommended, and will receive special attention during the coming season.
PERFECT FIT AND SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
LIBERAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

DON'T FORGET.

GEORGE MCNEAL
BILL-POSTER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

HANDBILLS delivered at 2s 6d per 1,000; BILL-POSTING 1d per Sheet, kept good for One Month in the district, which comprises Lanchester, Burnhope, Craghead, Pit Hill, West Stanley, Tanfield, Burnopfield, Hobson, Tantobie, Catchgate, Dipton, East Castle, &c.

LIEBIG'S BEEF AND MALT WINE.
This preparation is made from
PORT WINE,
EXTRACT OF MALT, AND EXTRACT OF BEEF.
Is an EXCELLENT RESTORATIVE AND NERVE TONIC, and very highly Recommended.
3s. 6d. per quart Bottle (usually sold at 4s 6d.)
1s. 9d. per pint Bottle (usually sold at 2s. 9d.
Tawagie Port Wine, 1s. 6d. per quart bottle.
Sherry, 1s. 6d. per quart bottle.
Robinson's Quarts of Irish Whiskey, 3s.
Robinson's Quarts of Scotch Whiskey, 3s.
Claret from 1s. per bottle.
Burgundies from 1s. per bottle.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:
ROBINSON & CO.
DRUG STORES,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
CHESTER-LE-STREET.

THE

NEW STANLEY HOTEL,

THE "QUEEN'S HOTEL,"

IS NOW OPEN:

With a Stock of the finest
ALES,
WINES,
AND SPIRITS
PROPRIETRESS, MRS CHAYTOR

STOKOE & ROBINSON

Successors to MR. JOHN ROUTLEDGE,
JOINERS, UNDERTAKERS, SHOP FITTERS, AND WHOLESALE CABINETMAKERS.
Dealers in all kinds of Wood Goods.
GIBSON STREET, CONSETT.
COMPLETE FUNERAL FURNISHERS.

Business Announcements.

DENTISTRY.
J. M. VAN GELDEREN AND SON, SURGEON DENTISTS.
17, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

W. RUTHERFORD,
JOINER, CARTWRIGHT, UNDERTAKER, AND FUNERAL FURNISHER.
ALL ORDERS EXECUTED WITH DESPATCH.
ADDRESS:—
CATCHGATE, NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THOMAS A. TURNBULL,
JOINER, &c.,
FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.
All orders receive prompt attention. 705a

ASK FOR

JOHNSON'S INKS

WRITING—COPYING—DUAL—FOUNTAIN PEN.
GOOD COLOUR. RUNNING FREELY.
A pleasure to write with.
BLUE-BLACK, BLACK, AND COLOURS.
Good Value.
Sold Wholesale and Retail by
ROBERT JACKSON,
"Guardian" Office, Consett.
Or GEO. YOUNG, Stationer, Durham Road, Blackhill.
JOHNSON'S GUMS.

Established 1833.

WILLIAM POTTS & SONS,
CLOCK AND WATCH MANUFACTURERS, OF LEEDS.

Beg to announce that they have removed the Newcastle Branch of their business from 22, Collingwood Street, to more extensive Premises in TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, Entrance CLOTH MARKET, (Opposite Messrs J. Hindhaugh and Son's) NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Makers of the Great Clock and Electric Greenwich Time Signal at St. Nicholas' Cathedral, Consett Town Clock, and many others in the Northern Counties.

ESTABLISHED 1854.

J. SIDDLE
HOUSE AND CHURCH DECORATOR, PAINTER, GILDER, PAPERHANGER, GLAZIER, &c.,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

TAKES the present opportunity to return thanks to his Customers in Consett, Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, and the surrounding District for their esteemed Orders during the Past Forty-five years. It has always been his wish to give satisfaction to those favouring him with their custom; and by assiduous attention to business, he hopes to merit a share of Public Patronage. 704c

THE NEWCASTLE DRAPERY AND CLOTHING STORES,
FRONT STREET,
DIPTON.

J. A. CASTLE has undoubtedly made the above a Noted Establishment for quality and cheapness. Every Branch of his Trade will be found well represented.
His Tailoring Department is a very special feature, having considerably over 1,000 patterns of the Newest Scotch, West of England, and Irish Woollens to select from.
Style and perfect fit guaranteed.
Gents' Suits to order from 25s.

THE NEWEST MATERIALS IN
SUITINGS,
TROUSERINGS, and
OVERCOATINGS,
FOR AUTUMN AND WINTER, 1899,
AT

W. FITZPATRICK'S.
TAILOR AND CLOTHIER,
No. 5, DURHAM ROAD, ANNFIELD PLAIN. 339f

H. STOREY,
BONESETTER,
ATTENDS
The House of Mr. John Fitzgerald, DRUIDS' ARMS, 43, City Road, Newcastle, from 1 p.m., to 3 p.m., daily.
H. S. also attends the WHITE HORSE Hotel Groat Market Every TUESDAY, THURSDay, and Saturday, from 11 a.m., to 1 p.m.
NOTE PRIVATE ADDRESS:
HARSDON HOUSE, DECKHAM PLACE, GATESHEAD.

MR. JOHN USHER,
LATE
MR. GEO. RICHARDSON, DENTAL SURGEON, 6, BLACKETT STREET, begs to call special attention to the Prices of his PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH, for first-class workmanship and best material, 2s 6d, 5s, 7s 6d per Tooth, £1 to £10 per Set, being lower than what is usually charged for inferior workmanship and common material. EVERY TOOTH GUARANTEED. PLEASE NOTE THE ONLY ADDRESS 724

£1 TO £10

FOR A SUITABLE XMAS OR NEW YEAR'S GIFT,

FRED G. OSBORNE,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE,
CAN SUPPLY YOU.

Oriental, Japanese, and Chinese Goods, Handsome Trays, Vases, Glove and Handkerchief Boxes, and all Kinds of Exclusive Novelties.
DRAPERIES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
INSPECTION INVITED.
COMPARISON SOLICITED.

R. PRINGLE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL CABINET-MAKER AND HOUSE FURNISHER,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY.

BEG to draw the attention of those furnishing to the great advantages to be derived by buying direct from the Manufacturer, and avoiding all intermediate profits. Our goods are all manufactured in our own work shops, and specially adapted to stand the strain of the miners' warm houses. Inspection Invited.
Satisfaction Guaranteed.
PRICES TO SUIT ALL PURSES.

N T. HESLOP
PAWNBROKER,
14, THOMAS STREET, CONSETT.
Hours:—
From 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Week Days;
Pay Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
A large assortment of
SECOND-HAND CLOTHING, BLANKETS, SHEETS, QUILTS, &c. 930f
84, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

F TURNER.
HOUSE AND GENERAL FURNISHER, CONFECTIONER, &c., &c.
CHOICE CONFECTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS.
Please your children by buying your Toys, Dolls, &c., here.
Large Assortment of Goods suitable for Presents.
GAMES! GAMES! GAMES! All the newest Christmas and New Year's Cards.
Furnishing in all Departments.
The Cheap Shop for Hardware.
NOTE THE ADDRESS AS ABOVE. 23g

R. ELTRINGHAM
FRONT STREET, STANLEY.
Offers the best Goods at lowest prices.
TRY OUR MILD CURED HAM AND BACON.
CHOICE LOT OF XMAS CHEESE.
NOTE:
FAMILY PRIDE FLOUR.

Business Announcements.

VICTORIA DAIRY, CONSETT
FRESH MILK, Twice Daily.
FRESH CREAM and BUTTER always on hand.

G. T. ROBSON,
PROPRIETOR. 8lt

JOSEPH IRWIN,
OXHILL,
JOINER, CARTWRIGHT, HORSE-SHOER, GENERAL SMITH, UNDERTAKER, FUNERAL FURNISHER, &c. HEARSE ON HIRE.
ALL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

T. G. DODDS,
JOINER, CARTWRIGHT, & CONTRACTOR
22, TAYLOR STREET, CONSETT.
Repairs to Property, in all its branches, with promptness and efficiency.
Estimates supplied for all classes of Work.

"SAUCINE," Registered.
THIS IS THE SAUCE.
Stomach Persuading.
Liver Invigorating.
Kidney Stimulating.
Nerve Exhilarating. THIS IS THE SAUCE
Ask your grocer for "SAUCINE."
Sole maker — J. J. SNAITH, Sauce and Pickle Manufacturer, Tyne Dock, South Shields.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM BAKERY, SPEN.

S. A. FAIRLESS
FOR
Plain and Fancy Cakes, Confectionery and Bread. Parties supplied.
Goods delivered to all parts. 2d.

CONSETT COCOA ROOMS,
HAVELOCK STREET.
DINNERS EVERY DAY FROM 12 O'CLOCK.
SOCIAL PARTIES CATERED FOR.
ACCOMMODATION FOR CYCLISTS.
851a J. H. COURTNEY.

THE NOTED FLOUR, GROCERY, AND PROVISION SHOP.

JAMES PALLISER,
FAMILY GROCER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TEA MERCHANT,
47 and 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.
A Good Assortment of Fruits.
Choice Cheshire Cheese and Fruit Cakes.
TRY OUR SPECIAL BLENDED TEAS.

TRAVELLERS in Burnopfield and District, will find all home comforts by calling at

MRS WILSON'S,
CONFECTIONER AND PASTRY COOK,
BUSTY BANK, BURNOPFIELD
Funerals and Parties catered for in first-class Style by Mesdames Wilson and Moore.

J. E. KINLESIDE,
POST OFFICE, LEADGATE.
TOBACCONIST.—Smokers' requisites. Try Kinleside's noted Specials.
TO ARTISTS—Paints, Oils, Brushes, Canvasses, Opals, etc. Materials and Tools for Leather Work.
Choice selection of Stationery and Wedding Cards.
REGISTRY OFFICE FOR SERVANTS.
EYES TESTED AND SPECTACLES SUPPLIED.
FOOTBALLERS' OUTFITS, &c.
GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT.
Best and Finest Cheese, Bacon, Lard, Currants, Figs, and Raisins obtainable.

BEST VALUE
IN
FLOUR, PROVISIONS, &c.,
AT

W. WHITFIELD'S
FRONT STREET,
LEADGATE.

LUMLEY'S
IS
THE NOTED SHOP
FOR
CHEAP SUITS.
6, SHERBURN TERRACE
CONSETT.

THE WEST STANLEY MINERAL WATER CO.
Have removed from Co-operative Street to New, Larger, and more Commodious Premises in LOWER BEAMISH STREET.
For the
NOTED LEMON SQUASH.
Try our
STONE GINGER BEER.
SODAS AND LIME JUICE a Speciality.
Goods delivered by our own Vans.
SPECIAL TERMS TO RETAILERS.
NOTE B ADDRESS. 874g

KOLACTICUM OINTMENT
ACHES and PAINS disappear speedily by use of the newly-discovered KOLACTICUM OINTMENT. Highly recommended for the permanent cure of RHEUMATISM, PILES, VARICOSE VEINS, STIFF JOINTS, SKIN DISEASES, ULCERS, ERUPTIONS, etc., etc. Every sufferer should give this Ointment a trial, and prove its wonderful healing powers. Sold in large boxes with full directions.
PRICE, 2s 9d POST FREE.
THE KOLACTICUM CO.,
585y. 54, Bow Lane, Cheapside, E.C.

AMERICAN LINE.—UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.
SOUTHAMPTON—NEW YORK SERVICE.
SOUTHAMPTON, to NEW YORK.
SATURDAY, at noon,
Highest Class of Accommodation for Saloon, Second Cabin, and Steerage Passengers.
LIVERPOOL—PHILADELPHIA SERVICE.
Every WEDNESDAY.
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA
Calling at Queenstown every Thursday.
Passengers and goods are landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which has the shortest and most Direct Route to all places in the Western States.—Apply to Richardson, Spence, and Co., Southampton or Liverpool; or to Local Agents, J. Crawford, Victoria Street, Consett; T. D. Dryden and Co., Front Street, Consett; Alfred Phillipson, Emigration Agent, Dipton; William Gray, 5, North Road, Durham; Geo. Leadbitter, Accountant, Catchgate; Thomas Storey, Auctioneer, Front Street, Chester-le-Street; W. J. Johnson, 95, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; Wm. Anderson, Bridge Street, Tow Law; E. Sloane, Post Office Blackhill; or T. A. Brown, 3, Market Place, Crook. 725b.

DIARIES FOR 1900.

DIARIES For 1900 DIARIES
DIARIES With £500 DIARIES
DIARIES Insurance Coupon. DIARIES
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DIARIES From 6d. Upwards DIARIES
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DIARIES In all Bindings DIARIES
DIARIES For 1900 DIARIES
DIARIES Good and Useful DIARIES
DIARIES To Suit All DIARIES
DIARIES DIARIES DIARIES
AT THE
"GUARDIAN OFFICE,"
FRONT STREET,
CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

SERVANTS REGISTRY WEST STANLEY.

MRS. SCOTT begs to inform the Public that she has removed to the FRONT STREET opposite the Co-operative Stores, West Stanley. —All letters and applications promptly attended to. 228e

NEWCASTLE WARDROBE CO.,
81, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.
NEW AND SECOND-HAND CLOTHES, BEDS, &c.
Orders executed for Oilskin Garments, guaranteed Waterproof; Leather Goods, &c. Inspection invited. 230e

WIRE NETTING, ROOFING FELT. The CHEAPEST MAN IN ENGLAND for above is "The FARMERS' FRIEND." ROOFING FELT: Best Quality, 3s 3d and 4s 6d per roll. WIRE NETTING from 2s 6d per roll. Any size quoted for. A special line in Sheep Netting. Enquiries solicited for all kinds of HARNESS, SADDLERY, HORSE-CLOTHING, FARMERS' TOOLS, &c., &c. The prices charged will surprise and delight you.—CHARLES TURNER (Auctioneer), "The Farmers' Friend," Lazenby, Redcar. Estb. 1870.

GEORGE WADE JUN.,
IRONMONGER, &c.,
55a, FRONT STREET, CONETT.

G. W. wishes to Thank the Public generally for the liberal support received, and begs to state that he has a good selection of Cutlery in Razors and Strops, Pen and Pocket Knives, Scissors, etc., suitable for Xmas Presents. Joiners' Tools from noted makers, and Builders' Hardware in general. Petroleum Oil. Pictures Framed, Repairs Neatly Executed, &c. Venetian Blinds made to Order. All goods not in Stock procured on the shortest notice. 177g

ANTHONY COOPER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL FRUIT AND POTATO MERCHANT,
24, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT

BEGS to Thank his Customers for past favours. He will, as usual, give the Best Article at a Moderate Price.
Try our Best SCOTCH MAIN CROPS At Market Prices; also, at
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
A Good Stock of Geese, Chickens, Ducks, and Rabbits, for the Xmas Trade.

WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION!

K. VOSS,
65—67, BLACKETT STREET,
NEWCASTLE,

HAS the Largest and Most Stylish Stock of Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Children's Second-hand Clothing, in the United Kingdom.
Guns, Portmanteaus, Football Bags, Waterproofs. Dress Suits and Fancy Costumes a Speciality.
CALL AND INSPECT THE STOCK. 865d

ELM PARK, SHOTLEY BRIDGE, DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS.
A THOROUGH MODERN EDUCATION.
On reasonable terms in most healthy situation Successful preparation for all preliminary Examinations.
Next Term, January 17th, 1900.
Instruction includes Book-keeping, Land Surveying, Science, Shorthand, Drawing and Music.
A Field for Cricket, Tennis and Football.
MONTAGU V. STEGGALL, M.A., Head-master.

HOSPITAL
FOR AGED AND INFIRM BOOTS,
1, RAGLAN STREET, CONSETT.
GENT'S BOOTS, SOLED AND HEELED...2s 9d
LADIES' Do. Do. ...1s 9d
With Leather Tanned on the Old Fashioned Process with Oak Bark. Standing unrivalled in quality; having gained 11 Highest Awards at Exhibitions. It is fallacious for any other firm to say they use best Leather, as I am the only one in this district that buys this brand. (Signed). J. ORTON.

ESTABLISHED 26 YEARS.

MRS. ROGERS,
MERCHANT TAILOR,
13, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,

DESIRE to return her very sincere thanks for the generous patronage bestowed upon her since the death of her late husband, and trusts by Excellence of Material and Workmanship, and Guaranteed Style and Fit, to continue to receive the confidence and support of the public of Consett and District.
SCOTCH, IRISH, AND WEST OF ENGLAND TWEEDS.
LARGE ASSORTMENT TO CHOOSE FROM. 14g

FOR
POULTRY APPLIANCES,
INCUBATORS,
FOSTER-MOTHERS,
AND ALL
POULTRY NECESSARIES
GO TO

DAWSON'S
FANCIERS' SUPPLY STORES,
RITSON'S ROAD, BLACKHILL.

F. W. PIGFORD.
CATCHGATE.
PAINTER, PAPERHANGER, &c
ESTIMATES GIVEN.

J. MORGAN,
Hardware Dealer, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT, the shop for Quality and Cheapness combined for all kinds of Hardware Goods, Glass, China, Earthenware, &c. Our Celebrated Electric Brand Lamp Oil, Lamps, Chimneys, and Wicks of all kinds.
Clubs are now being formed for all kinds of Goods. Particulars on application.

W. MORGAN,
PAINTER AND DECORATOR,
8, HARVEY STREET, CONSETT.
A Good Supply of Wallpaper always on hand, Lincrusta Walton, &c.
ESTIMATES SUPPLIED. 517f

ESTABLISHED 1851.

BIRKBECK BANK,
Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.
INVESTED FUNDS ... ... £12,000,000.
NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS, 85,094.
TWO-AND-A-HALF per CENT. INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS, repayable on demand.
TWO per CENT. on CURRENT ACCOUNTS, on the minimum monthly balances, when not drawn below £100.
STOCKS, SHARES, and ANNUITIES purchased and sold for customers.
SAVINGS DEPARTMENT.
Small deposits received, and Interest allowed monthly on each completed £1.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK, with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.
Telegraphic Address: "BIRKBECK LONDON."
Telephone No. 5, Holborn. 576b.

BABY WON'T CRY IF YOU GIVE IT

MOTHER'S FRIEND
AND BABY'S COMFORT.
RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

THE BEST AND SAFEST MEDICINE FOR CHILDREN CUTTING THEIR TEETH.
CONTAINS NO LAUDANUM, OPIUM, OR MORPHIA.
MOTHER'S FRIEND Prevents and Cures Wind, and Griping Pains in the Stomach or Bowels.
MOTHER'S FRIEND Prevents and Cures Convulsions, Fevers, Fits, and Thrush.
MOTHER'S FRIEND corrects Acidity and cures Diarrhoea.
MOTHER'S FRIEND removes Pain and produces Natural Sleep.
PREPARED ONLY BY

J. ROBINSON,
DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST.
STANLEY AND ANNFIELD PLAIN
AGENT FOR GLENDINNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE 305y

BRAMWELL'S BONDS,
C AND S,
CHURCH STREET, SUNDERLAND.
130 YEARS' REPUTATION
FOR WINES AND SPIRITS.
PRESENT PROPRIETORS:
THE NORTH-EASTERN BREWERIES LTD.
SUNDERLAND.
RICHARD MURRAY, MANAGING DIRECTOR.
SPECIALITY:—
"NEB" MALT STOUT.

Business Announcements.

BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL.

W. RICHARDSON,
DRAPER AND MEN'S OUTFITTER.
FOR THE SEASON.
Large Assortment of LACE, GLOVES, &c., &c., for Presents.
DECORATIVE PLANTS for Ornamentation.
UMBRELLAS, HABERDASHERY, AND HOSIERY
New and Special Consignment.
To Spend Wisely STOP HERE

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
Sum Insured in 1898 Exceeded £430,000,000.
For full particulars apply to
MR. THOMAS WM. WELFORD, JUNIOR, Agent for Consett and Neighbourhood.

ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS,
RAILWAY ACCIDENTS,
EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY,
Insured against, and FIDELITY BONDS granted by the
RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY.
Established 1849. Claims paid £4,150,000.
64, Cornhill, London. A. VIAN, Secretary.
Agents:—Mr. JOHN BARKER, Station Master, Blackhill; Mr. J. L. LEADBITTER, Catchgate; and Mr. J. HOOD, Railway Station, Lintz Green.
Agents required in unrepresented Districts.

HENRY ANNANDALE TOWN,
(Professional Associate of the Surveyors' Institute.)
LAND, ESTATE AGENT,
VALUER AND SURVEYOR,
UNDERTAKES
The entire Management of Country Estates.
Properties of every description, either in Town or Country, Managed on Moderate Terms under Personal Supervision.
Properties Sold or Let on Commission.
Valuations undertaken and Mortgages Negotiated.
Agent for the Lancashire Fire and Life Insurance Company and Globe Accident Insurance Company.
15, PILGRIM STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Telephone, No. 4[illegible].

ART STUDIOS.—PAINTING AND DRAWING.

GEO. SURTEES
(Pupil of Mr. Sticks, Newcastle).
STUDENTS' CLASSES; also Private Attendance.
For terms &c., apply to
GEO. SURTEES,
NORTH VIEW, MEDOMSLEY. 549f

PIANOS & ORGANS
FOR SALE,
8s., 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 15s., 17s. 6d., 20s., 22s. 6d., per Month.
Guaranteed 10 years. Liberal Discount for Cash
Old Pianos taken in exchange.
Tuning and Repairs promptly attended to.

CYCLES. CYCLES.
Sole Agent in District for the "Osmond," "Beanco," "Ariston," and other renowned makes.
ACCESSORIES, REPAIRS, RE-PLATING, AND ENAMELLING done on the Premises.
ADDRESS:
E. SLOANE & SONS,
PIANO AND CYCLE WAREHOUSE,
BLACKHILL. 549d

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
LEEDS, LONDON, YORK, SCARBRO', DONCASTER, NEWARK, MIDDLESBRO', DARLINGTON, WEST HARTLEPOOL, BLYTH, BISHOP AUCKLAND, GATESHEAD, JARROW, KEIGHLEY, MORECAMBE, HULL.
THE LARGEST WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN THE KINGDOM.

BY Reason of their EXTENSIVE PURCHASES, necessitated by the enormous trade done by them, Archibald Ramsden (Limited) have the PICK OF THE NEWEST and BEST GOODS BROUGHT INTO THE MARKET, and can offer to the Public ADVANTAGES and VALUE which the ordinary dealer cannot compete with.

THEIR RENOWNED SPECIALITE PIANOS are MARVELLOUS VALUE.
THE RAMSDEN MODEL.
THE PEOPLE'S MODEL.
THE ECLIPSE MODEL.
THE DRAWING-ROOM MODEL.
At £19 10s, £23, £28, £33 each; or Three years system—12s 9d, 15s, 18s 4d and 21s per month.
All these models are constructed with the best modern improvements. A high quality of material is used, and the most experienced workmen employed in the manufacture. Every instrument is guaranteed ten years.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S FREE LIFE AGREEMENT SCHEME is applied to all instruments taken on the Three Years system. NEARLY £800 HAS BEEN PAID IN CLAIMS.

AMERICAN ORGANS. AMERICAN ORGANS. ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKS in the KINGDOM to select from, comprising instruments by the most famous makers.
Special bargains at £11, £14, £16 each.
SEND FOR CATALOGUE.
SECOND-HAND PIANOS,
SECOND-HAND ORGANS,
SECOND-HAND HARMONIUMS AT EVERY PRICE.
CALL AND INSPECT.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S THREE YEARS SYSTEM is the FAIREST and MOST EQUITABLE IN USE, every consideration being shown to customers.
SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN (LIMITED), FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
PARK ROW, LEEDS.

Legal Notice.

JAMES McGUINESS DECEASED.

ALL Persons having any CLAIMS against the estate of James McGuiness, late of 6, Silver Street, Blackhill, labourer, who died on the 3rd day of January instant, are requested to send full particulars of such claims to the undersigned the Solicitor for the Executor, on or before the 6th day of February next.
Dated this 31st day of January, 1900.
JOHN McCARTAN,
636g Solicitor, Consett.

Public Notices.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF DIPTON

SHOULD any ASHPITS or PRIVIES be Overlooked or not properly Cleaned, please notify the Contractor at once when they will be attended to. Signed,
579e G. NICHOLSON, Contractor.

Church Notices.

ALL SEATS FREE.

CONSETT WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1900.
Morning, 10·30 } Rev. J. BISHOP.
Evening, 6 }
ALL SEATS FREE.

BLACKHILL PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1900.
Morning 10·45 } REV. J. S. NIGHTINGALE
Evening 6·0 }
ALL SEATS FREE.
COLLECTION FOR BUILDING FUND.

CONSETT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1900
Morning 10·30 } Mr. W. RUTHERFORD,
Evening 6 } Gateshead.
ALL SEATS FREE.

WESLEYAN CHURCH STANLEY.

A SPECIAL MISSION will be conducted by
MR. RAYMOND PRESTON,
CONNEXIONAL LAY EVANGELIST,
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4th, to FEBRUARY 14th, excepting FRIDAY the 9th. Sundays 10.30, 2.30, and 6; Week nights 7 o'clock.

LOOK OUT!!

GRAND ORGAN RECITAL, BY THE GREAT ORGANIST

DAVID CLEGG,
IN THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL, DIPTON, ON WEDNESDAY, 7th FEB., 1900.
VIOLIN SOLOS BY MISS ANDERSON, of ANNFIELD PLAIN. 629g

CONSETT PARISH CHURCH.
TEA and CONCERT MEETING,
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6th.
Tea in School-Room, 5 o'clock, One Shilling.
CONCERT-MEETING in Church Hall,
Chair, 7.30, W. Aynsley, Esq.
SPEAKERS:—The Rev. H. A. Mitton, Master Sherburn Hospital; The Rev. The Vicar; Geo. Ainsworth, Esq.
Music and Singing. The Choir.
SOLOS:—Mrs. Petherick; Mrs. Dryden; Miss Ainsworth; Misses Surtees; Misses Elliot; Miss Jones, Messrs. J. Cant, C. Stephenson, T. D. Dryden, R. Pearson, A. Wilson, Master Shell. Reciter—Dr. Moore. 699g

Public Notices.

79 Is the WINNING NUMBER of the Home Fed Ham drawn for at Dipton, R.S.O. 654g

CRAGHEAD CRICKET CLUB.

PRIZE DRAWING Jan. 28th, 1900. 1, 1670; 2, 479; 3, 1097; 4, 22; 5, 626; 6, 190; 7, 1439; 8, 969; 9, 987; 10, 613; 11, 80; 12, 1428; 13, 63; 14, 981; 15, 1293; 16, 222; 17, 765; 18, 470; 19, 671; 20, 288; 21, 1580; 22, 901; 23, 176; 24, 1683; 25, 227.—R. HANN, Hon. Sec. 649g

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION.

TRANSVAAL WAR.

ALL APPLICATIONS for Temporary Relief by the dependents of Soldiers (where the breadwinners are serving with the Colours) not already receiving Grants from Local Funds, should be made personally or by letter to Mr. J. B. Lazenby, Hon. Secretary, for the Petty Sessional Division of Lanchester, at his Office, Bank Chambers, Shotley Bridge.
The following information should be supplied with each Application:—*Name of Parish, Full Name of Soldier, Age, Married or Single, No. of Children, Wife, Mother, or Relatives, Dependent, Regiment, Regimental No., whether in Receipt of any, and if so what Relief or Government Allowance.* 446g

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSETT.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	2263	14	6
W. M. Annandale, Esq., Lintzford	5	5	0
	£2268	19	6

SUBSCRIPTIONS may be paid to Mr. T. L. GLEDSTONE, Hon. Treasurer, N.E. Bank, Consett; or further information from the Hon. Secretaries—Mr. W. S. DAVIES, Bryngless, Consett; or Mr. G. T. DRYDEN, Blackfyne House, Blackhill.

CONSETT WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOLS.

AN ENTERTAINMENT will be given in the Wesleyan Lecture Hall, Consett, ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7th, 1900.
Thirty varied and interesting items, including: Orchestral Music, Bar-bell Drill, Dumb-bell Drill, Scarf Drill, Songs, Recitations, Dialogues, &c.
Chair to be taken at 7 p.m., by Rev. G. E. POLKINGHORNE.
TICKETS, SIXPENCE AND ONE SHILLING EACH.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY,
Lessee and Manager .. MARK H. LINDON.
Saturday, the last night of
THE SLAVE GIRL.
MONDAY, Feb. 5th, and during the Week, Messrs. ARMADALE, DEMPSTER and WARREN'S Co. in the Greatest Dramatic Sensation of the Century—
THE FACE AT THE WINDOW

NEW THEATRE,
CONSETT.
Lessee and Manager .. Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON. (Also of the Royal Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, and Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne).
Resident Manager .. Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE.
Last Three Nights of the popular and exciting Drama—
THE FACE AT THE WINDOW.
MONDAY, February 5th, 1900, for Six Nights only,
Messrs MARSTON and BUCKSTONE'S Musical Comedy Drama—
SILVER CROSS.
Including the important and expensive engagement of
LEONI CLARKE'S 170
Royal Performing Cats, Rats, Mice, Canaries, Rabbits, Monkeys, and Cockatoos, introduced by Madame LANDERMAN.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT RESERVISTS FUND.

The Treasurer, (Capt. Crossling), wishes to acknowledge further Subscribtions received from the Workmen and Tradesmen, embracing 5,000 Members of the several Lodges, and over 143 Tradesmen and others, subscribing as a rule a Shilling per fortnight.

	£	s.	d.
To amount already acknowledged	181	10	6
Collected per Mr. R. W. Little, from Subscribers already named	2	0	0
per Mr. Edwards	2	4	4
per Mr. Shield		9	2
per Mr. D. Dawson	1	9	0
½ share from Mr. Dickinson's entertainment	8	8	0
Victoria Theatre Bar Collection Box		10	3½
Stanley New Wesleyan Church Collection	6	6	1½
To Fourth Subscription from the Miners' Lodges etc.:—			
Mechanics—South Moor	1	8	0
" —South Derwent, Hutton, and Willie Pits		12	0
Cokemen—Beamish		6	2
" and Brickworks, East Tanfield		17	6
Miners—West Shield Row	2	11	4
" —South Moor, Louisa Pit	6	11	3
" " Hedley Pit	4	4	7
" Morrison Pit	2	12	11
" —South Tanfield	3	9	0
" —Beamish	5	3	7
" —East Tanfield, Busty Pit	1	17	3
" " Brockwell Pit	1	16	11
" —Tanfield Moor, Willie Pit	2	10	9
" —Tanfield Lea, Ann Pit	2	10	6
" " Bute Pit	2	12	2
" —East Stanley	1	13	7
" —South Derwent, Hutton Pit	1	3	1
" —South Derwent Willie Pit	1	9	11
Deputies, South Moor		8	4
Total up January 29th	£246	15	8

CAPT. T. E. CROSSLING, Hon. Treasurer

Public Notices.

THE SHOOTING MATCH arranged to come off on Saturday first, between Messrs. GEO. ILEY and THOS. BELL is postponed. See "Guardian" for further notice.

BRITISH WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

A PUBLIC MEETING in connection with the above will be held in the Wesleyan Schools, Middle St. Consett, on Tuesday, Feb. 6th, to begin at 7.30. Mrs. HENRY DAVISON of Newcastle will give an Address.
The Members will meet at 6 o'clock to elect the Officers for the ensuing year. 678g

CONSETT WATERWORKS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the Consett Waterworks Company, will be held at the Company's Offices, Consett, on Friday, the 16th day of February, 1900, at one o'clock in the afternoon precisely, for the transaction of General Business.
The Books for the Registration of Transfer of Shares will be closed from Friday, the 2nd of February, to Friday, the 16th of February, both days inclusive.
Dated this 26th day of January, 1900.
JOHN BROWNLESS, Chairman.
683g ALEX. RUSSELL, Secretary.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

FUND in aid of the Wives and Families of of Soldiers and Sailors serving with the Colours.
CONSETT DISTRICT.
CHAIRMAN:—COUN. WM. AYNSLEY, J. P., CONSETT.
HON. TREASURER:—MR. T. L. GLEDSTONE, NORTH EASTERN BANK, CONSETT.
HON. SECRETARY:—MR. T. W. WELFORD, CLERK, CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ALREADY PROMISED OR RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	95	12	5
Sympathiser		2	6
Mr. James F. Longstaff		5	0
Contributions from Consett Iron Co's Workmen, namely:—			
Plate Mill Department	38	0	1
Angle "	17	15	2
East Steel works	11	19	8
West "	14	9	4
North "	8	11	9
Mechanics, including Foundry, Engine-shops, Waggon Shops, Stables, Masons, Smiths, Millwrights, Roll Turners, Water Dept., Sundries, Cottages	12	18	6
Mill Engineers and Firemen	6	3	10
Coke Ovens, and Coke Oven Masons, including Delves Brick Works Coke Ovens	1	5	8
Delves Colliery (2nd contribution)	2	3	0
Medomsley Colliery	10	2	7
Eden "	6	4	2
Blackhill "	3	17	0
Sunniside Drift		4	0
Colliery Mechanics, &c.	2	4	2
	135	18	11
	£231	18	10

Subscriptions will be gladly received by any Member of the Committee; or at any of the Local Banks, or at the Office of the Local Secretary.
W. AYNSLEY, Chairman,
673g T. W. WELFORD, Secretary.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION.

SUBSCRIPTON LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	120	7	4
Police Officers and Constables in the Division	2	7	0
Temperance Hall Concert	20	6	2
Collection at do.	8	17	2
Shotley Grove Paper Mill Employees	1	17	0
Mrs. J. T. Addison		10	6
Collected by Miss Annandale	1	13	6
Geo. Richardson Esq., Harrogate	1	1	0
Mr. J. D. Piercey Taylor-Smith's 2nd List	41	14	4
North Eastern Breweries Employees (Blackhill Branch)	1	0	0
J. G. Murray, Esq.	5	0	0
North West Durham Conservative Association	6	19	9
Shotley Bridge Co-operative Society	5	5	0
Mr. R. Marshall		5	0
W. M. Annandale Esq.	5	5	0
Staff and Workpeople of Lintzford Mill, first fortnightly contribution		13	4
C. Parnaby Esq.	3	0	0
Mr. E. Sloane	1	1	0
Rev. James Foran		10	0
Shotley Grove Paper Mill Employees	1	17	0
Mr. W. Snowdon		10	0
North Eastern Railway, (Blackhill Staff)	1	5	0
U.D. Council Workmen		2	6
Derwent Flour Mill Employees		6	6
J. Eltringham, Esq.	2	2	0
do. Workmen	1	5	3
Derwent Flour Mill Employees		7	0
	£235	12	4

Sales by Auction

By Mr T. D. Dryden.

TOWN HALL CONSETT.

Important Sale of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE SILVER PLATE, &c

T. DRYDEN, honoured with instructions from a Lady who is leaving the district, will SELL BY AUCTION at the Town Hall, Consett, (removed there for convenience of Sale), on Monday, February 5th, 1900, at one o'clock.—Handsome Chippendale Drawing-room Suite; Handsome Walnut Piano; Oak Bevelled Glass Oval Mirror; 2 Walnut Card Tables; Banjo and Case; Zither and Case; Handsome Brass Curb & Fire Brasses; Coal Box; Drawing-room Carpet (nearly new); Large Skin Hearthrug; Door Curtain and Rod; Large Grey Skin Hearthrug; Pictures, Brackets, Placques, Ornaments, &c. Handsome Brass Bedstead, Bedding and Hangings complete; Feather Bed; Double Chamber Set; Single Chamber Set; 4 Skin Rugs; pair Bedroom Drawers; Swing Glass, Carpet, Hearthrug, Toilet Set, Bed Pan, &c. &c. Kitchen Table, Press Bed, 4 Kitchen Chairs, Arm Chair, 2 Shop Chairs, Dining Table, Skin Rug, Feather Bed, Brass Kettle, with all the Crockery and Utensils of a well kept establishment. At 3 o'clock a splendid lot of Cutlery, Toast Racks, Dinner, and Breakfast Cruets, Carvers, Silver Plated Spoons, Forks, Claret Jug, Sardine Forks, Old China, Tea Set, Afternoon Tea Set, with a quantity of Table Appointments too numerous to mention. Splendid Music Cabinet, 2 beautiful Children's Cots, complete.
The Auctioneer would call special attention to this Sale as the Furniture has been a very short time in use and is in good condition.
T. D. Dryden, Auctioneer, Consett.

T. D. DRYDEN,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
56, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

By Mr. J W Vickers

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8th,
THE ANNUAL PRIZE SHOW and SALE of Shorthorn BULLS 617g
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15th.
FIRST SPECIAL SALE of STORE CATTLE and SHEEP.—Early entries for these Sales solicited. J. VICKERS, Auctioneer. 618g

By Mr. M. Thompson

Front Street Stanley.
Re JOHN DAWSON.

MR. M. THOMPSON is instructed by the official receiver to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on the above premises on Saturday the 3rd day of February, 1900, at One o'clock prompt, the whole of the Machinery, Tools, STOCK-IN-TRADE, Furniture, &c, comprising: 1 Back Gear Lathe, 7ft. Bed and 12in. Gap; 1 Small Engine, 1½ Horse Power; Small Tube Boiler, tested to 60lbs. pressure; Blacksmith's Tools; Cycle Repairing Tools; Small Dynamo; a Quantity of Bottles of Varnish, Turpentine, Oil, Metal Polish; a Number of Star Wheels for Wringing Machines; Coal Machine Worms; and also the following Household Furniture: Desk Bed, with Cheffionier Top; Iron and Brass Bedstead; Spring Mattress; Chest and Drawers; Alarum Timepiece; Sofa in Hair; Pictures; Kitchen and Bedroom Furniture; Crockery, &c., &c.
On view Morning of Sale.
Meal Market, Hexham.

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT
NEW FINES, MEDOMSLEY.
Sales conducted on the most reasonable terms.

NATHAN ELSDON.
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.
OFFICES AND SALE ROOMS, DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

N. ELSDON wishes his friends and customers to know that he has the LARGEST AND BEST SALE ROOMS in the district and that he is prepared to STORE FURNITURE and all classes of goods FREE OF CHARGE, and Sell on Commission according to arrangement.
All Classes of Furniture or Property purchased outright for Cash, or sold by Auction.

THE NORTH-EASTERN BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Dr. BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1899. Cr.

Liabilities	£ s. d.	Assets	£ s. d.
Capital:— 51,000 Shares of £20 each	1,020,000 0 0	Cash on hand, at the Bank of England and with other Bankers	229,076 2 10
Capital Issued:— 51,000 Ordinary £20 Shares, £6 paid	306,000 0 0	British, Indian, and Colonial Government Securities	544,210 0 0
Reserve Fund	115,000 0 0	Corporation Bonds, Debentures and Debenture Stock	268,022 10 9
Amount due on Deposit and Current Accounts and to Correspondents	2,675,071 3 0	Other Investments	41,299 3 3
Profit and Loss:—		Bills Discounted	420,817 13 7
Balance at 30th June 1899 2,158 3 11		Loans to Customers, &c.	1,525,776 9 10
Net Profit for Half-year ending 31st Dec. 1899, as below 18,669 4 7	20,827 8 6	Bank Premises, Furniture, &c. 118,795 6 3; Written off to date 31,168 15 0	87,626 11 3
	£3,116,898 11 6		£3,116,898 11 6

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.
FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1899

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Current Expenses	16,164 8 4	Gross Profits, after providing for Bad and Doubtful Debts	40,041 6 3
Depreciation	1,443 14 9		
Rebate on Bills not due	3,763 18 7		
Balance, Net Profit	18,669 4 7		
	£40,041 6 3		£40,041 6 3

R. NOBLE, General Manager.
C. W. MITCALFE DALE, Secretary.
G. E. LASCELLES, Chairman.
HUGH ANDREWS, R. ROPNER, Directors.

We certify that we have examined the books at the Head Office of the Bank, and the certified returns from the Branches, and that in our opinion the above is a full and fair Balance Sheet, properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs at 31st December, 1899, as shown by the books. We have ascertained the correctness of the Cash Balances at the Head Office and at those of the Branches which we have visited, and have inspected the bills under discount, and the securities representing the investments of the Bank.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 9th, January, 1900.
THOMAS BOWDEN, WM. B. PEAT, Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr A. Phillipson.

White-le-Head.
Dwelling-House For Sale.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the House of Mr. R. Gladders, Waggon Inn, White-le-Head, on Monday, February 12th, 1900, at seven o'clock p.m.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer.

(Subject to such conditions as will then be produced) all that Superior FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE of Three Rooms, Pantry, and Conveniences, with Stable and Two Useful Gardens.

The Property is well situated at White-le-Head, and occupied by Mr. Jas. Hardy, who will show the property to intending buyers.

For all information apply to Messrs T. and R. Arkless, Proprietors, White-le-Head, or to A. Phillipson, Auctioneer, Dipton, R.S.O.

Ebchester.
Saturday, February 17th, 1900.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON respected with instructions from the Representatives of the late Aaron Willey, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the above place and date, all his Valuable Household FURNITURE and other Effects, comprising: Mahogany Dining Table; Mahogany Drawers; Mahogany Centre Table; Card Table, in Rosewood; Folding Table, in Mahogany; Mahogany Sofa; 6 Mahogany Chairs; Kidderminster Carpet; Tapestry Carpet; Mahogany Desk Bed with Cheffonier Back; Folding Iron Bedstead; Feather Bed; Washstand and Dressing Table; Iron Chair and Cushions; 3-Light Chandelier. See bills for details. Also, a Superior Trap with Cushions; Sledge with Cushions; Coup Cart with Shelvings; Set of Coup Cart Harness; Superior Set of Silver-mounted Trap Harness; Capital Saddle and Bridle, no worse than new; Pair of nice Trap Lamps; Rakes and Forks; Corn Binn; Aberdeen Scythe; Hay Knife; Churn; Patent Washer and Wringer, and many other articles too numerous to specify.

Sale to begin at One o'clock. 690g

SPECIAL NOTICE.

A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Valuer, House, Land, and Emigration Agent, will undertake AUCTION SALES upon most reasonable terms, and conducted in the best style. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE, &c., bought right out for cash. Appointed by His Honour Judge MEYNELL, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888 Office, Front Street, Dipton, by Lints Green Station.

By Mr J. Green.

BLACKHILL FARMERS' MART CO., LTD.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5th, 1900.
MR. JACKSON GREEN, Auctioneer.
35 Fat Cattle; 200 Fat Sheep, including a consignment of 70 North Country Hoggs.
1 Cow, newly Calved.
Calves.
Harness, Poultry, Ropes, Ladders, &c.
Sale at One o'clock, to commence with Cows.

A BULL SHOW AND SALE will be held in connection with the Special Store Cattle Sale, on Wednesday, Feb. 21st; Prizes £3 for Bulls between one and two years old, and £3 for Bulls under one year old.
Entries to J. W. OSBORNE, Secretary, 10a, Durham Road, Blackhill. 695g

MR. JACKSON GREEN
AUCTIONEER, VALUER, & COMMISSION AGENT.
Agricultural and Probate Valuations carefully made.
All Classes of Sales conducted on Reasonable Terms.
SALE OFFICE—
SATLEY, TOW LAW, R.S.O. 807a

By Mr John Crawford

Morrow Edge Farm, Burnhope.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed by Mr. Jewitt, to SELL the whole of his FARM STOCK and IMPLEMENTS, at an early date. Full particulars and date next edition. 685g

JOHN CRAWFORD'S Salerooms, Victoria Street, Consett, large Sale of FURNITURE, on Monday first, Feb. 5th, at One o'clock. Anyone wishing to dispose of their Furniture can have it included in the above Sale, or bought outright for Cash. 686g

Station Hotel, Swalwell.
SALE of FURNITURE at an Early Date. JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer 687g

JOHN CRAWFORD, AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION and HOUSE AGENT. Also, appointed Bailiff by his Honour Judge MEYNELL, to Levy Distress for Rent, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street Consett.

JOHN T. WESTON, JUN.,
AUCTIONEER & COMMISSION AGENT.
SALE OFFICE—
CORNWALL HOUSE, ANNFIELD PLACE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.
Sales conducted with care, efficiency, and on the most reasonable terms. Correspondence and inquiries invited. Prompt settlements.

JOHN SWINBURNE MURRAY,
THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT, BLACKHILL.
Being done with the Auction Mart, is at liberty to take Sales of every description on any day of the week.
Appointed by his Honour JUDGE MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.
All Sales conducted with Care, Economy, and Quick Settlements.
WHITEHALL LODGE, BLACKHILL.

Business Announcement.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.
WILLIAM AYNSLEY, Esq., Chairman.
SUBSCRIPTION MEETINGS are held in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, between 7 and 8 o'clock every alternate Monday.—The Monday after the Consett Iron Co.'s pay Saturday. DEPOSITS received at four per cent. interest, repayable on giving one month's notice.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received a letter from a correspondent signing himself "Catholic," dealing with the new club at Newhouse, Esh Winning; but we do not consider it of sufficient importance to find a place in our columns. Were we to publish the letter it might only tend to accentuate the soreness which apparently exists.—Ed. "C.G."

THE CONSETT GUARDIAN.

Friday, February 2nd, 1900.

EDITORIAL CHAT.

Philharmonic Society. The members of the Consett and District Philharmonic Society have undertaken a very generous action, and one which redounds greatly to their credit. They propose to give Handel's famous and ever-popular work, "The Messiah," on Good Friday, and to hand over the total proceeds to the local branch of the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association. The committee of the society have decided to defray all the expenses themselves, so that there will be no deduction whatever from the amount of money taken. Under these circumstances we shall confidently look for a crowded house on the evening of Good Friday. Those present will not only enjoy a musical treat of a high order, but can lay the flattering unction to their souls that they are at the same time assisting a most worthy and deserving object. The society hope by this means to be in a position to hand over some £50 or £60 to the fund, and we cordially wish them the utmost success in their very laudable efforts to help those who cannot help themselves.

Burnopfield Naturalists. It is satisfactory to find that the Vale of Derwent Naturalists' Field Club, after an existence extending over thirteen years, is in a prosperous condition. The object for which it was established was the study of natural history, and it must be said that the club has accomplished excellent work in this direction. This is proved by the fact that last year a branch of the parent club was formed at Blackhill, whilst the Dipton members have established an independent club of their own. At a recent meeting of the Burnopfield society, the president, Mr. G. Ord—an enthusiastic naturalist—referred to the great progress made by the Blackhill branch, and said that at each of the field meetings at which he was present there were over sixty members in attendance. Of course, as everybody who takes an interest in the matter is aware, the extraordinary success achieved at Blackhill was mainly due to the irrepressible energy thrown into the work by the secretary (Mr. S. Leybourne), whose enthusiasm became infectious. We understand that a recommendation is to be submitted to the members of the Blackhill branch to follow the lead of Dipton, and form an independent club. What reception this proposal will meet with, we cannot, of course, say. Reverting to the Burnopfield club, we might mention that Mr. Ord deplored the fact that they had not a proper museum in which to hold their meetings, or else he believed that they would be much better attended, and he sincerely hoped that before long there would be a suitable museum erected. Such a building would undoubtedly enhance the prospects of the club, and with a long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull altogether it should not be found impossible of accomplishment.

The late Father Foran. The district is decidedly the poorer by the death of Father Foran of Blackhill, who passed away somewhat suddenly early on Monday morning. During his fourteen years' residence in Blackhill he had made himself popular and beloved by almost everyone, and the news of his demise called forth an unanimous expression of regret. The rev. gentleman possessed a most genial disposition, and it was a treat indeed to hear him relate some humourous incident in the rich brogue which he never threw off. He was an ardent worker in the Roman Catholic ministry, and was devoted to his duties. During his residence in Walker, Father Foran, with the valuable assistance of Mr. M. Cassidy, built the present church, schools, and presbytery. He did splendid service as a missionary in the Falkland Islands, South America, for over eleven years, previous to his coming to Blackhill. Since he took up his residence in the district, Father Foran has ever been ready to assist in the promotion of any good cause, and manifested much interest in the formation of the local branch of the Queen's Nurses' Association. He, with the perspicacity characteristic of him, found that Catholic institutes were greatly needed for the young men in Consett and Blackhill, and, assisted by many willing helpers, he was enabled to provide these institutions. Father Foran was deeply beloved by the members of his flock, whilst all who knew him—irrespective of creed or religion—entertained for him the warmest respect and esteem.

A useful Institution. One of the last public acts the Rev. F. C. Jagg, the retiring vicar of Frosterley, will perform previous to his departure from Weardale, was to preside on Friday last over the half-yearly meeting held in connection with the Stanhope Savings Bank, when there was a large attendance of trustees and managers. The actuary, Mr. Crawhall, submitted the balance-sheet and annual report for the year 1899, which showed that the balance due to 215 depositors, including interest, was £12,432 7s 6d. The amount received from depositors was £1,338 15s 1d, and the amount paid out, with interest, reached £556 1s 11d. This excellent institution affords facilities for saving small sums, and undoubtedly encourages thrift on the part of the working classes. During the past year there has been a substantial increase in savings. Mr. Jagg, on account of his impending departure, resigned his office as one of the trustees, and Mr. J. W. Roddam, who accepted the vacancy, in [illegible] thanked the rev. gentleman for the valuable service he had rendered to the bank. Mr. Jagg leaves Frosterley with the best wishes of all the dalesfolk.

Delight Colliery, Dipton. With respect to the report published exclusively in our columns last week, stating that there was a probability of the Delight Colliery at Dipton being re-started at no distant date, we learn that nothing definite has really been decided upon. However, there is seldom smoke without fire, and we are informed that some of the directors of the Masley Hill Coal Company paid a visit to the colliery last Thursday. What impression they formed, or what report they will make to the Company, we are, of course, not in a position to state. We can only hope that the owners will see their way clear to re-start the colliery, which has now laid idle for so many years. Our announcement in last week's issue, we are told, caused the greatest excitement in Dipton, and was the sole topic of conversation last week-end in the village and those places adjacent to it. We had good authority for what we published, but naturally were not able to say positively that the pit would be re-started. However, we may look for some definite information anent the matter ere long, and must content ourselves by expressing the sincere hope that the rumour may turn out correct. Should such be the case, it will give unbounded pleasure in Dipton.

Should not be encouraged. We noticed last week that a correspondent wrote complaining that the custom was very prevalent in Stanhope of sending young children to public-houses to fetch beer. It is not only prevalent in Stanhope, but in our own district as well. The magistrates at the Brewster Sessions have from time to time called attention to this undesirable practice, and several publicans resolutely refuse to serve young children under age; but the majority have taken not the slightest notice of the admonition from the Bench, and have no scruples whatever about supplying youngsters, no matter of what age. Their argument is that if they don't supply these children some other rival will. We are told that there is honour among thieves, but on this showing there does not appear to be much amongst publicans. The practice is one which every commonsense individual will condemn. Innkeepers will tell you that there is no law to prevent them from serving infants, and if this is so, all we can say is the sooner one is introduced to cause them to desist the better. Some publicans we know have printed notices posted up in conspicuous places warning parents that children under age will not be served, but these are few and far between. Perhaps in a few years time some of our legislators may think the question worthy of introduction into the House of Commons, but during the present session of Parliament we may make up our minds to hear about nothing at Westminster but the war. There will be oceans of eloquence, but the result will probably be nil. In the meantime the police could no doubt accomplish much good by advising publicans, who are known to serve young children with beer and spirits, to refrain from doing so.

The War Funds. There was much speculation recently as to the amount likely to be realised as the result of the collections on "Church Sunday" on behalf of the War Fund. The various estimates ranged from fifty thousand pounds to half-a-million. Those who calculated upon the latter sum have been a long way out of their reckoning, the actual figures being £62,000. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York desire that the money should be divided equally between the Red Cross Society, Lloyd's Patriotic Fund, and the Soldiers' and Sailors Families' Association. It is a significant fact that none of the money is to go to the Patriotic Commissioners, and their Lordships have acted wisely in allocating none of it to that fund. Apropos of the Commissioners, we notice that Sir James Joicey has been asked to ventilate the question in Parliament, and has consented to do so. This is a step in the right direction, and the only wonder to us is that this monstrous scandal has not been dealt with by our legislators before this. We trust that Mr. Atherley-Jones, and every other member of the House of Commons who loves justice and right, will support Sir James in the attempt he is going to make to force the Commissioners to deliver up some of their hoarded treasure. The money no more belongs to the Commissioners than it does to us. It was subscribed by a generous public for a specific purpose, and yet that purpose is persistently and wilfully ignored by those charged with the duty of discharging the fund, whilst those poor beggars whom it intended to benefit are allowed to die in the most abject state of poverty, utterly unable to procure the bare necessaries of life. It fairly makes one's blood boil to think that these titled and well-to-do Commissioners are hoarding up a sum probably approaching a million sterling—not one halfpenny of which belongs to them—whilst at the same time our brave Crimean veterans are left to die in the workhouse or the slums. A matter of a few shillings per week would have enabled them to end their days in comfort, and yet it is denied them by the Patriotic (so-called) Commissioners. If ever there was a gross scandal that called for Parliamentary interference this is one. We rejoice to see that Sir James Joicey is going to raise the question in Parliament during the present session. He can prepare himself for opposition—the Commissioners have many friends in the House—but the constituencies should mark well these men, and treat them as they deserve at the next General Election. This monstrous state of affairs must be altered at any cost, and the people are just now not in the mood to stand any further humbug over the matter.

Shotley Bridge Liberals. The Liberals of Shotley Bridge are not an ostentatious body of individuals, but nevertheless they manage to put in a useful amount of work each year. At the annual meeting of the association held on Friday evening the finances also were found to be in a healthy condition, and this is a good sign. Mr. R. G. Barclay, J.P., takes great interest in the work of the association, and this year, in addition to accepting re-election as president, he also undertook the duties of treasurer, owing to the regrettable resignation of Mr. Urwin. Mr. H. Carss raised the question of improved polling-booth accommodation for Shotley Bridge; and Mr. J. W. Winter, in reply, pointed out that some time ago an agitation was raised at Benfieldside in favour of increased polling stations, but for some reason correspondence with the County Council was abruptly stopped. Mr. Winter advised that action should be taken by the District Council, and Mr. Barclay and Mr. Carss agreed to bring the matter forward. Mr. Winter, in the course of some interesting remarks, alluded to the war, and said he agreed with the position taken up by Mr. Atherley-Jones on this question when he was last in the constituency, and which he believed the hon. member adhered to. He thought facts would reveal that a terrible mistake had been made in trusting the destinies of the country in the hands of Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Barclay thought that whatever criticisms they might have to offer later concerning the war, they should do nothing to cause weakness in the eyes of foreign nations. War was no doubt a terrible thing, went on Mr. Barclay, but being in it there was nothing for it but to go on to the bitter end. These words, we think, will find a responsive echo in the hearts of all true patriots. Having embarked upon this campaign, there can be no turning back until the British flag floats over Pretoria.

AROUND THE DISTRICT.

(By "Wanderer.")

THE GOUT.

George R. Sims in his celebrated "Mustard and Cress" once commenced each paragraph with the sentence "I've got the gout." No doubt he had. His paragraphs proved that if he hadn't he deserved to. A man cannot live for a fortnight on the continent, be known as an Englishman, drink wine, and return home free absolutely from disease. The great G. R. had the gout undoubtedly, and I repeat, he deserved it, but he should not have inflicted it upon his readers. I felt that I had met one of his victims the other day. "Have you the gout?" I innocently asked an individual in Park Road as he was laboriously climbing up. "Why do you ask me that question?" said he, "have you some fancy remedy?" "Oh no," I replied. "Then go and smother yourself in mustard and cress," said the lamester as he marched off. Now what did G.R.S. mean by saying he had the gout?

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GOUT CONTINUED.

Gout is doubtless a very unsavoury subject to those who imagine they know nothing about it. But it is a painfully prevalent disease. When the Boss hasn't it the wife has and in the absence of either imagination makes up for a lot. Well now I've had both gout and influenza, and I've come to the conclusion that there is a relationship existing between them. They are more than cousins. Gout is slower because it begins at the bottom. Still it kills in the end and so does influenza, which starts at the top, but why should either be permitted? We are bound to have a certain amount of respect for gout because it is an old established institution and causes amusement amongst the rising generation and gave George R. Sims a text for a column. On the other hand the gout microbe and the influenza microbe might well be put under microscopic observation in order to find out certain resemblances and absolutely certain relationship. Valuable results might follow.

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FATHER FORAN.

Good men are inevitable while we live. Father Foran was a man of whom it may be safely said he left the world better than he found it. He came into life with a purpose. He served that purpose almost to the last moment of his life, and passed away peacefully though in a somewhat hurried manner. His life did not belong to himself. He was a servant of a Higher call than the mere earth earthy. He did his duty, and there are many who regret his sudden call, but he would be one of the first to say, could he only do it. "What we have done others can do, find them and see that they do it." No doubt it will be so, and in days to come we will learn of new stars on the terrestrial sphere who have succeeded to and carried on the good work. We are all human; we can all be done without; there are others able to follow. Only we want good examples.

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VOLUNTEERS.

Pro Boerism has no place in my mind. I love to see the patriotism of our "locals," I admire them, and I cheer them off, but I also think. Are all these men justified in going? One case was mentioned to me where the volunteer was leaving a wife and a large family unprovided for. Is this right? Perhaps I have been misinformed, and it would be delightful to know that I had. Still the impression has gone abroad, and it has been suggested that care should be exercised in the acceptance of men. It is hardly reasonable for a man to leave good work and good wages and leave a big family to become dependent upon voluntary subscriptions when so many who are absolutely independent and anxious to proceed to the front are being debarred.

SCAVENGING.

The Consett District Council adopted a very proper course respecting the scavenging of the town at their last meeting, and Mr. Powell's emphatic remarks were by no means out of place. "If by doing the work themselves it cost them an extra £200 they would improve the health of the town" was in effect what he said. Yet on Tuesday—let me be very precise—scavenging was going on in the heart of the town at two o'clock in the afternoon, the germs of disease were being disturbed while human beings were passing in large numbers ready, though not willing, to inhale the deadly poison. Who is to blame—the contractor who contracts to do a thing he does not perform, or the person or persons with whom he has contracted? Should an epidemic arise and fatal results ensue, the responsibility rests between them, and let that fact be driven home.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE PRIMITIVES.

A note has been placed in my hand stating that the debt now standing against the Shotley Bridge Primitive Methodist Church has been reduced from £2,300 (the original cost) to £600. I am glad to give publicity to this fact, for it shows a wonderful amount of self-sacrifice and perseverence on the part of the congregation. Does it not occur to those who have the means that such an effort is worthy of recognition? Half-a-dozen cheques from half-a-dozen gentlemen would put on the finishing touch. The cook's son has done his duty, and now for the Duke's son—only pay, pay, pay. Rudyard Kipling is alone responsible for this appeal.

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A NOVEL CUSTOMER.

Few publicans, if any, to my mind, can boast of such a novel customer—not consumer—as the worthy landlord of the Crown Hotel, Whickham, Mr. Joseph Gardener, can claim amongst his many patrons. Whilst in Whickham the other evening my attention was drawn to a retriever dog carrying a can in its mouth, and, watching its movements, I was somewhat surprised to find that it walked boldly into the hostelry named where its wants were supplied. The dog, as soon as the can had been replaced in its mouth, wagged its tail, and proceeded home. On several occasions since I have watched "Rover" discharging his duty. I don't know what "Rover's" age is, but I imagine he is under 13.

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THE WEATHER.

If anyone doubts the severity of the weather let him draw up any easy chair in front of a cosy fire in a comfortable room and gaze out of the window. It's a capital way of finding out how wretched the conditions are on the other side of the glass. If you can include a good solid dose of influenza—not gout—the impressions become all the more emphasised. A man under such circumstances would offer up a thanksgiving at the close proximity of influenza. A man with the gout would be wishing he could get out no matter how the weather was misbehaving itself. And so it happens we continally find ourselves in the winter of our discontent.

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MR. G. T. HYDEN.

Just a word of congratulation to Mr. G. T. Hyden on the completion of 21 years service as headmaster of the Consett British Schools. He has done several good things in that time. He first of all got the managers to appoint a certain young lady as mistress, and having thus gained their approval he married her, and so appropriated an able and a favourite servant, who has, however, been of more assistance in the success of the schools than is apparent on the surface. Then Mr Hyden has trained upwards of 2,000 juveniles, many of whom are now occupying good positions in different parts of the world. Again Mr. Hyden has been and is a useful public servant, and would be sadly missed from the District Council deliberations. Above all the confidence he early secured he has retained, and is to-day honoured in the town and district of his adoption.

Local and District News.

Consett.

British Women's Temperance Association.—Under the auspices of this Association, a public meeting is to be held in the Wesleyan Schools, Consett, on Tuesday evening next, when an address will be delivered by Mrs. Hy. Davison, and officers will be elected.

Church Tea and Concert.—On Tuesday next, a tea and concert meeting will be held in connection with the Consett Parish Church. The tea will be held in the Boys' School-room and the meeting in the Church Hall. Mr. Wm. Aynsley, J.P., will preside and addresses will be given by the Rev. H. A. Mitten, Master of Sherburn Hospital, the Vicar (Rev. W. D. Croudace), and Mr. Geo. Ainsworth, J.P.

Annfield Plain.

Property Sale.—Two dwelling-houses at Kyo Burn, of two room each, with gardens, wese offered for sale at Mr Lumley's, Railway Inn, Annfield Plain, on Wednesday afternoon, by Mr A. Phillipson, auctioneer. The attendance was not large, but the quality was right. The houses were set agoing at £200, by Mr W. Maddison, followed by Mr T. Gatiss at £210, Mr S. Wilson £220, Mrs Gibson £230, Mr Gatiss £24[illegible], Mr Wilson £250, Mr Gatiss £240, Mr Wilson £250, Mr Gatiss £255, Mr Wilson £260, Mr. Gatiss £265, and finally, Mr. Wilson £270, who was declared the purchaser. The whole business was over in about five minutes in good style. Mr T. Maddison, of Durham, was solicitor for the vendor.

Blaydon

Major Napier-Clavering, son of the Rev. J. W. Napier-Clavering, of Axwell Park, has been promoted second in command of the 1st Battalion of the Somersetshire Light Infantry, and proceeds very shortly to Rawal Pindee to take up his duties there. He was under orders for the war in South Africa.

Burnopfield

Burnopfield and District Private Assembly.—The committee of the above assembly held a late night dance in the Co-operative Hall on Monday evening, which was patronised by a large and respectable company. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather nearly seventy couples turned up to trip the "light fantastic toe."

Church Choir Social.—On Friday evening between fifty and sixty members of the Burnopfield Parish Church Choir held their annual social gathering in the Burnopfield Temperance Hall. An excellent tea, provided by Mrs. Johnson, of the Temperance Hall, was greatly enjoyed by the company, after which they spent the evening in a social manner, indulging in various games which the vicar and Mrs. Dunne superintended.

Temperance Society.—On Tuesday evening, the members of the Church of England Temperance Society held their monthly concert in the Temperance Hall, Burnopfield. The vicar, the Rev. G. T. Dunne, M.A., occupied the chair, and presided over a fair audience, despite the adversity of the elements. A capital programme was rendered by the glee party, under the leadership of Mr. W. Hogarth; and Mrs. Walton, Mr. Hogarth, Miss Cuthbertson, Miss Davidson, Miss Chapman, and Mr. J. Nixon. Mrs Dunne supplied the pianoforte accompaniments in an efficient manner. The proceeds were in aid of the Temperance funds.

Funeral of Mrs. Mary Rowell.—On Friday afternoon the interment of the mortal remains of Mrs. Mary Rowell, widow of the late Mr. Jacob Rowell, the well-known horticulturist, of Clough Dene, took place at Tanfield Church. The deceased lady, since the death of her husband, had resided at the Leazes, Burnopfield. Three beautiful wreaths placed upon the coffin were sent from Mr. Dinning, Fenham Hall; Mr. Jacob Rowell (son), Newcastle; and Mr. Smith, the Teams. The undertaker was Mr. T. Abbott, of the Leazes; the bidders, Messrs R. Ferguson and P. Hanrattie; and the underbearers, Messrs John Lowe, Daniel Page, Robt. Harper, and Hy. Jackson. The chief mourners were Mr. Thos. Rowell (son), of Consett; Mr. Jacob Rowel (son), Newcastle; Mr. W. Rowell (son), Burnopfield; Miss Rowell (grand-daughter), Mr. W. Leith (son-in-law), Alnwick; Mr. Jacob Rowell (grandson), Newcastle. Amongst the following of the general public were Coun. W. Holmes J.P., Tantobie; Mr. F. Haughan, Burnopfield; Mr. John Robinson, Lints Green; Mr. Tweddle, Lintz Colliery; Mr. W. J. Buckton, Catchgate; Mr. W. Swinburn, Waggon Hill; Mr. W. Simpson, Clough Dene; Mr. Hy. Ainsley, Hobson Colliery; Mr. W. Humble, Burnopfield; Mr. W. Harrison, Burnopfield; Mr. John Burrell, Mr. Smith, Alnwick; Mr. Matthew Irwin, Tanfield; Mr. T. Abbott, and others.

Chester-le-Street

Entertainment.—In connection with the Chester-le-Street Primitive Methodist Red Rose Mission, a successful entertainment was given on Wednesday evening by the members of the Pelton Fell P.M. Orchestral Band, consisting of vocal and instrumental music. The members of the orchestra acquitted themselves in a highly creditable manner, and were well received.

Leadgate.

Conservative Smoker.—On Wednesday night a successful smoking concert was held in the Black Bull Hotel, Leadgate, by the members of the local Conservative Association. Mr. C. Lockwood presided over a large attendance. Mr. R. Winter officiated at the piano, and was ably assisted by Mr. H. Hall as violinist. Songs were rendered by Messrs W. Hagon, John Day, J. Kennedy, D. H. C. Balleny, G. Goulden, and others, and during the evening Mr. Lappleford, the newly-appointed agent for North-West Durham, delivered a spirited address on current political topics. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

North-West Durham Fanciers' Association.—At the inaugural meeting held at the Miners' Hall, Leadgate, last Saturday night, it was passed unanimously to form the above association for Blackhill and Consett, Leadgate, Annfield Plain, and West Stanley, including all places within a radius of three miles from either centre. The object of the association is to hold four members' shows in connection with the above places in each year for the purpose of encouraging exhibitors who have hitherto not been able to compete successfully in the open shows. Over 30 members were enrolled at the close of the meeting, over which Mr. H. Whitfield ably presided.

Shotley Bridge

Benfieldside Twenty Club.—The annual dinner of this organisation took place on Saturday night at the Commercial Hotel, Shotley Bridge. About 35 members partook of a capital repast served by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Morgan. Mr. W. Fixter occupied the chair, and Mr. J. Davis was vice-chairman. Several toasts were duly honoured, and songs were contributed by Messrs S. Judge, J. Allison, G. Hamilton, J. Davis, and others, Mr. J. Young acting as accompanist.

South Moor

Primitive Methodist Church.—On Saturday evening a largely-attended public meeting was held in the South Moor Primitive Methodist Church, under the presidency of Mr. Wm. Davison, at which admirable addresses were delivered by the Rev. R. Hind, of York, and the Rev. H. King, of Stanley. Both these gentlemen were listened to with rapt attention. On Sunday, the Rev. R. Hind preached morning and evening to crowded congregation. In the afternoon a musical service was given by the members of the South Moor Wesleyan Methodist Choir. The gathering was presided over by Mr. Wm. Davison, of South Moor, in the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Mr. G. Trotter.

Stanhope

British Women's Temperance Meeting.—On Monday night, a public meeting under the above auspices was held in the Board held in the Board Room, Stanhope, presided over by Mrs. Wooliscroft. The speaker was Mrs. Parkinson, who advocated the claims of temperance in a very forcible and pungent manner.

School Board.—Ald. Dr. Livingstone, J.P., presided at the ordinary meeting on Friday.—The attendances were reported as under:—Lanehead, 79.4 per cent; Wearhead, 80.2; St. John's Chapel, 90.6; Westgate, 86.1; Rookhope, 97.3; Frosterley South, 77; Frosterley North, 81.2; Stanhope, 85.—The question of ownership of pianos in the schools was discussed. It was understood they belonged to the Board, but were in charge of the masters.—The question of military drill at the schools was discussed. The Clerk had written to a number of other Boards respecting it. The majority of School Boards wrote in reply that they had no military drill in their schools. Some 3 or 4 wrote saying they had drill at their schools. It was decided to communicate with the Managers.—The Board decided to pay the deficiency towards the Rookhope School piano, £5 17s.—Mr. T. E. Fenwick was congratulated on being present again.

Tanfield

A Correction.—In our report of the education cases at the last Court held, held at Consett, we inadvertently described Mr. James Callender, a defendant in one of the cases, as a farmer residing at Burnopfield, whereas the proper address was Grange Farm, Tanfield.

Stanley.

Wesleyan Church.—On Sunday the pulpit at the Stanley Wesleyan Church was occupied by the Rev. J. W. Denham, of Annfield Plain, who preached to large congregations. In the evening a solo was admirably rendered by Master Long.

Manurial Experiments.—On Monday evening, Professor T. H. Middleton, of the Durham College of Science, delivered the third of a series of lectures on "Manurial experiments in the North of England," in the Shield Row Inn, Stanley. There was a large attendance, and the lecture, which was illustrated with lantern slides, proved highly instructive.

Tanfield School Board.—A meeting of this authority was held on Tuesday evening under the presidency of Mr. Jonathan Green, J.P., in the School-room, Stanley. An application was received from Mr. S. Bainbridge for the use of the Pickering Nook Board Schools, in which to hold a tea and social in connection with the aged poor, the same to be held on March 3rd.—The application was granted. The remainder of the business consisted of considering the various teachers' requisitions.

Mr. Raymond Preston.—From our advertisement columns readers will learn that Mr. Raymond Preston, Connexional Evangelist, is to begin a ten days' mission in Stanley Wesleyan Church on Sunday first. Mr. Preston is a Yorkshireman by birth, but his work as an evangelist has been done mainly in South Wales. For eight years he laboured with great acceptance and much success. In great mining centres, and in agricultural districts he was equally beloved. His musical gifts, his homeliness, his sterling character, won the hearts of all. In August last the Wesleyan Conference called him to the wider and more important sphere he now occupies. We advise our readers to hear Mr. Preston for themselves. His visit will, we trust and believe, be made a great blessing to Stanley and neighbourhood.

Victoria Theatre.—Another strong attraction occupies the boards at the Victoria Theatre, this week—"The Slave Girl," and a most enthusiastic reception has been meted out to Mr. Jerold Heather and his well-balanced company, who do full justice to the piece. Miss Nina Vaughan as "The Slave Girl" wins for herself the warmest encomiums, and is truly deserving of the hearty applause bestowed upon her. Mr. Jerold Heather as "Crawford," an overseer, takes his part with his accustomed skill and ability, and shows careful study of his part. Mr. Frank Harwood supplies the comic element in his capable impersonation of a Yankee vendor, whilst his comic songs please immensely. The rest of the company give a pleasing portrayal of their various parts, and the greatest interest is taken in the performance from the rise to the fall of the curtain. This romantic drama in five acts should continue to draw crowded houses during the remainder of the week. Next week the patrons of this popular play-house are to be favoured with a visit of "The Face at the Window," which always draws crowded houses.

Sudden Death of Mr. Ralph Chisholm.—We regret to chronicle the death of Mr. Ralph Chisholm, which sad event took place on Sunday morning, with painful suddenness at his residence, 8, Middle Street, East Stanley. The deceased was following his usual avocation as a miner at Beamish Mary pit as late as eight o'clock the previous evening, but about midnight he was seized with an apoplectic fit. Doctors Charles and Dewar were immediately summoned, but despite all that these medical gentlemen could do Mr. Chisholm expired on the following morning. The deceased, who was well-known and held in great esteem was an ardent supporter of the Stanley A.F.C., whose fortunes he followed with the keenest interest, and his death removes an ardent admirer of that club. On Wednesday afternoon the remains of the deceased were laid to rest in Stanley Cemetery in the presence of a large gathering of sorrowing relatives and friends. The underbearers were Messrs. Williamson, Cockburn, Barker, Dixon, Snell, and Littletown. A beautiful permanent wreath was placed upon the grave by the committee of the Stanley A.F.C. The deceased leaves a wife and grown-up family to mourn his loss.

Victoria Garesfield

Chopwell Reservists Funds.—In connection with the above fund Mr. Adam Smith lectured on "The Transvaal" to a crowded audience in the Victoria Garesfield Schools on Saturday night. The lecturer showed many advantages derived by the English people from her colonies, and advocated a closer bond of union between them and the mother country; but he deprecated any further conquest as likely to become a burden instead of a blessing. Speaking of war he declared himself on the side of the "Peace Party," although he reminded his audience that, as in the past, war might be justified if some long-rooted abuse or injustice—like slave-holding—had to be swept away. In an interesting manner and in eloquent language, Mr. Smith traced the history of the Dutch, Kaffirs and Hottentots—and described their industries, customs, and occupations. The geographical difficulties encountered by our troops in South Africa were well illustrated by upwards of sixty lantern slides. The lecture and entertainment was arranged by the Primitive Methodists of the village, Mr. J. Barker ably looking after the lantern, while Miss Emma Brown, Mrs. Ferry, and Miss Lawson supplied appropriate songs. As a result of the effort five pounds was added to the above funds.

BLACKHILL AND DISTRICT NATURALISTS' FIELD SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening a general meeting of this club was held in the Blackhill Mechanics' Institute, to consider the recommendation to form a separate society, the election of officers, the places proposed to be visited next summer; and for arranging the March annual social. Mr. Wilson Clayton, president of the club, presided over the deliberations.

RECOMMENDATION FOR SEPARATION.

The Chairman at the commencement of the meeting said that the branch had been in existence for twelve months, and on the whole they had every reason to be satisfied with the progress of the club. The papers read and outings were of an educational character. Perhaps there had not been that enthusiasm thrown into the winter meetings one might have expected there would have been. Still there was a bright future before the society. The bulk of the members were entirely new and had little knowledge of the work of the field club; they had had all their information to get. They were all now wiser, and he believed that in the future instructive papers would be contributed by the members at the winter meetings. Up to the present they had been a branch of the Burnopfield Club. There were reasons in the opinion of the committee why they should have become an independent society. They believed it would be to the interest of the society to be separate. They had sufficient latent talent amongst them that only wanted developing. He would be glad to hear any suggestions they might have to make with respect to the recommendation. Some might think they should remain under the guardianship of the parent society for some time longer.

Mr. J. B. Swindale asked the secretary if he could give that meeting some little explanation with respect to the relationship between them and the parent society.

Mr. Leybourne, in reply, said the general relationships between the private members of the parent society were of the most cordial character, and notwithstanding the separation they would remain loyal to the Blackhill friends, and would render them all the assistance they could. When he mentioned to them the feeling of the Blackhill members they said they fully expected it, and said "go on and prosper," so that by taking that step it would be quite in harmony with the general bulk of private members of the parent society. During the whole of last season, with the exception of the visit to Lanchester, they had had no visits from the other side. He moved that the Blackhill Branch become a separate society.

Mr. Redshaw seconded the motion, which Mr. Swindale supported, and it was carried unanimously.

NAME OF SOCIETY.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Council, Mr. Leybourne proposed that the name of the club be "Blackhill and District Naturalist Field Society."

Mr. Cooke seconded the motion, which was carried.

HEAD-QUARTERS.

It was decided that the headquarters of the club be the same as at present.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

For the position of president, Mr. Cooke moved that Mr. Hy. Holliday, of Consett, be requested to accept the presidency of the Society.

Mr. Atkinson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT.

The election of vice-presidents resulted in the following gentlemen being appointed—Mr. J. T. Muir, Mr. W. S. Macfeggan, Mr. R. Harlow, Mr. W. H. Hooper, Mr. J. Dowson, Mr. J. Petherick, Mr. P. Teare, Miss Kinnear, Coun. E. Sloane, Mr. J. Pallister, Mr. J. J. Richardson, Mr. J. Dixon, Mr. B. Hurst, and Mr. T. L. Gledstone.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Wilson Clayton was unanimously elected as chairman of the Council, which it was resolved should be composed of twelve members as follows:—Messrs J. Eltringham, C. W. Nicholson, Ed. Sloane, jun., J. Swindale, T. Colpitts, T. Atkinson, F. W. Brodie, W. Wardhaugh, Cooke, J. G. Brown, Stockdale, and J. Milburn.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.

Mr. Leybourne suggested the name of Mr. J. Symington, of Consett, for the position of auditor.—Mr. Atkinson moved, and Mr. Swindale seconded, the motion that Mr. Symington be appointed auditor, and the motion was carried.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

For the position of secretary and treasurer, Mr. Cooke moved, and Mr. Brown seconded, the motion that Mr. S. Leybourne be re-elected, with Mr. Ernest Whitehead, as assistant secretary.

FORTNIGHTLY RAMBLES.

This question was discussed at some length, after which it was moved by Mr. Cooke, and seconded by Mr. Atkinson, that there be four fortnightly rambles, to be arranged by the Council. The motion was carried.

ANNUAL SOCIAL.

It was thought desirable to wind up the winter meetings of the society by having a social, open to the general public, as it might be the means of introducing the objects of the society to outsiders. It was agreed to hold a social on March 28th, 1900, in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, to take the form of song, supper, and dance. Mr. Leybourne moved, and Mr. Atkinson seconded the motion, which was carried.

THE FIELD MEETINGS.

Several places were suggested for the club to visit during the summer, but it was decided that the selection of places be left in the hands of the Council, with the recommendation that the Council endeavour to arrange for at least one full day trip.—It was also decided that the secretary prepare a financial statement of the funds of the club, and submit it to the next Council.

The Chairman then said that it had been stated that the past year of the club's history had been a very successful one, and that success had been in a great measure due to the exertions of Mr. S. Leybourne as secretary. He moved that a vote of thanks be accorded to him.

Mr. Eltringham, in seconding the motion, said that in Mr. Leybourne they had a capable, energetic, and painstaking secretary.

Mr. Sloane, in supporting the resolution, said that had it not been for Mr. Leybourne's exertions, they would probably not have had any need for a committee meeting to consider the financial statement.

After Mr. Leybourne had briefly responded, the meeting terminated.

WEARDALE NOTES.

[BY "STANHOPE."]

TEMPERANCE.

The British Women's Temperance Society had a very successful meeting at Stanhope on Monday night. Mrs Nicholson was the speaker. Mrs Wooliscroft presided. The Stanhope Branch is in a florishing condition. There are two flourishing bands of hope in Stanhope, a flourishing Rechabite tent, as well as a good juvenile Rechabite tent. There is also an adult temperance society. Singular to say, the Church party in Stanhope has no temperance organisation.

A GOOD CAUSE.

A benefit concert was given on Saturday night at Stanhope, in aid of a lamentably distressed family—for an old widow 78 years of age, blind and helpless, and an only son smitten with that fell scourge of the English race, consumption, along with other complaints. Poverty with cruel pertinacity stared them in the face. An effort was made to help them, but did not meet with the success it deserved. Only some 30s. was raised for them. The Stanhope public did not respond to the cry for help as they invariably do.

HOCKEY.

The Hockey club at Stanhope promises to be a success. Great interest is evinced in the game, even more than in football. The members are numberous and enthusiastic over the game, and practice every Saturday. They are arranging for matches.

ACETYLENE GAS.

The new light at Frosterley, made from water, is very good. The store is lit up with it. It is a beautiful and brilliant light, in advance of the ordinary gas, but they say that acetylene gas is very dangerous.

DEAR COALS.

Coals have gone up to a most unreasonable price—24s and 26s a ton is a big price to pay for "black diamonds." It is to be hoped the pitmen will get a fair share of this unreasonable figure per ton, which the public have to pay, but I am afraid they won't. The high prices eventually will hamper and injure trade.

STANLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

The usual monthly meeting of this authority was held on Wednesday evening in the Board Offices, Stanley, Mr. Jonathan Green, J.P., presiding. The other members present were Councillors T. W. W. Ritson, M. G. Armstrong, J. Anderson, A. H. Swinburn, Wm. Indian, A. Kuhlman, Wm. Welsh, and J. Smith, the Clerk (Mr. Ridley), and the Surveyor (Mr. Routledge).

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Building Committee reported as follows:—(1) That amended plan for eight tenemented houses, and two self-contained houses in Back Jubilee Terrace, for Mr. Joseph Dunn be passed. (2) That plan of four tenement houses and three self-contained houses in Theresa Street for Mr. A. Routledge be passed. (3). That plan of two houses in Theresa Street, for Mr. J. Palmer be rejected on account of drain not being in. (4.) That plan of wooden shed for Mr. T. Ramshaw in Back Beamish Street be received. (6.) That plan of house in Thorneyholme Terrace for Mr. Robert Kay be passed subject to drain being put in back street instead of side street. (7.) That the Surveyor be instructed to fence ash deposit ground at South Moor. (8.) That Mr. J. Fairley, agent for South Moor Colliery Co., Ltd., be written to asking him to repair main sewer in Oxhill road, caused by colliery subsidences. (9.) That a notice board be put up at w.c. near Stanley Hotel intimating that any person found damaging same will be prosecuted, and that the Sergeant be instructed to endeavour to find out the persons doing the damage. (10.) That Mr. Cumberledge have notice to remove furniture standing against doorway in house in Tempest Terrace, or remove tenant. (11.) That Bye Laws or regulations for cowsheds and dairies be recommended for adoption.

The Chairman said he would feel obliged if the reporters would make a note of the fact that the Council are determined to put a stop to the damage done to the urinals in the village.

It was decided to issue handbills in regard to the matter, offering a reward of £2 2s for information which would lead to the conviction of the offenders.

The report was adopted.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Highway Committee recommended that the plan of footpath between South Moor new houses and the Council's boundary at Charley pit be passed for the South Moor Colliery Co. That the plan for making Douglass, Laxey, Peel, and Ramsey streets for the owners of West Stanley Colliery be passed subject to drains, manholes, and cement footpaths being put in to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. That we recommend the Council not to erect any more lamp pillars in streets now being made. That the Surveyor be instructed to repair culvert at Beamish Burn. That the agent for Messrs James Joicey and Co. Ltd., be communicated with re subsidences on Shield Row road, and the Surveyor to arrange in reference to surface water. That the clerk be instructed to write to Messrs Walter Willson and Lawson Bros., re carts standing in Back Murray Street. That the Surveyor be instructed to ash Shield Row Bridge. That the Roads Committee visit South Moor and the road near Primitive Methodist Chapel with the Surveyor in reference to the repairing of the same. That the Surveyor be instructed to ash Cemetery Road from Mr. Darney's house and the cemetery gates. That the letter from the Town Clerk of Gateshead re Thorough Toll be considered by the full Council.

The report was adopted.

THE THOROUGH TOLL.

The Clerk read the following letter from the Town Clerk of Gateshead in regard to the thorough toll of Newcastle:—"Dear Sir,—Upon the invitation of the Town Council of Gateshead a conference of representatives whose districts are adversely affected by the Newcastle Thorough Toll, was held in the Town Hall, Gateshead, on 10th June, 1897. At this meeting the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz:—'That this conference of representatives from public authorities of districts in Northumberland and Durham, containing a population of upwards of 600,000, is of opinion that the thorough toll charged by the Corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne upon all goods taken either into or out of their city is an import most objectionable in its character, unfair in its incidence, operating most injuriously upon the trade of the district, and altogether opposed to the principles and methods generally adopted in carrying on the trade and commerce of this country, and that the time has arrived when such a system of taxation should be abolished.'" The communication further went on to state that a deputation appointed by the Conference to attend the Newcastle Council laid the case before that authority, when the matter was referred to the Finance Committee, but since that time no report—so far as was known—had been submitted by the committee to the Council, and therefore the Gateshead Town Council thought the time had arrived for another conference, and they now asked that four representatives from the Stanley Council should attend the same to be held on some date yet to be fixed upon.

After discussion it was decided to send four representatives to the Conference.

FINANCE.

Cheques were ordered for signature amounting to £504 15s 10d.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Medical Officer (Dr. T. Benson) reported as follows:—Scarlatina has been prevalent during the past month, no less than twenty-nine cases were notified. Its distribution was as follows, viz.—One case at East Kyo, Kyo Lane and South Moor, and the remainder almost equally between Stanley and East Stanley. Its mode of occurrence seldom exceeded one per day, showing that the outbreak was not actively epidemic. A large majority of the cases were of a mild character, and no fatality has followed. A mild case of enteric fever occurred in Stanley from no traceable cause. Two cases of scarlatina were sent to the Isolation Hospital. The number of deaths registered since the last meeting amounted to nineteen, giving a death-rate of 15 per 1,000 per annum. Infantile mortality was light, and not one death resulted from infectious disease.

The report was adopted.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr. J. Routledge) reported that the following houses would shortly be ready for habitation certificates:—Twelve houses in Nay Street, for Messrs Ridley and Kay, and one house and shop in Front Street, for Mr. Pearson. Water had been laid into the old engine houses near Shield Row farm, but it had not been put into the Farm Pit houses.

It was decided to press for a supply of water at the Fan Pit.

The report was adopted.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

The Collector reported that he had collected the following amounts:—General district rate £133 10s 1d; cemetery fees £9 7s; fines 2/6; making a total sum of £142 19s 7d for the month.

The report was considered satisfactory, and adopted.

UNCLAIMED MONEY.

Coun. Kuhlman said that the students who attended last season's evening classes—as far as he knew—had not got their 5/- entrance fee returned.

The Clerk: Some of them have got it, and some have not. We have some money in hand, but it is difficult to send the students the same, as we have not got their addresses.

Coun. Kuhlman: What is the best way to make it known?

The Clerk said he had seen Mr. Little and Mr. Leighton whom he had told to tell the students to make application for the fees.

It was understood that these students who had not received their entrance fees back could have the same by applying to the Clerk.

POSTAL SERVICE.

Coun. Kuhlman drew the Council's attention to the fact that letters were not delivered at Charley Pit. He supposed there ought to have been some communication from the Postal authorities in regard to the matter.

The Clerk: I wrote to the Supt. at York, but, of course, it takes some time before they consider the matter (Laughter.) I don't know whether Mr. Smith has heard anything yet?

Coun. Smith: There has been a Surveyor there testing the letters. They just move as they have a mind.

Coun. Armstrong: It would be well to remind them that there has been several additional houses recently erected there. Those persons who have gone to live there ought to drop a note on their own account.

The Chairman: You might mention to some of them to write.

Coun. Armstrong: It will help them greatly.

The Chairman: It is understood that the Clerk write to the Postal Authorities.

Coun. Ritson: And we ask them to write back. (Laughter.)

The matter then dropped.

THE HOUSING OF THE PEOPLE.

A communication was read from Mr. Kirtley, which stated that at a meeting of the Housing Committee he was requested to write to the Council, and to enquire what progress they were making in ascertaining the amount of overcrowding in the district. The committee were very anxious to know this.

The Chairman suggested that the Clerk should inform Mr. Kirtley that the printed slip he supplied was now being passed amongst the members, and at present they believed the same was at South Moor, and would be further considered.

Coun. Anderson: I would like to know what has been done as regards ascertaining what overcrowding there exists in the district. There ought to be something done as regards that.

The Chairman: It was put in Mr. Routledge's hands, I believe.

The Surveyor: I have not had any opportunity. I think the last case I had I reported it to the Council, and I don't know that anything has been done about it. This was the worst case in the district.

Coun. Armstrong: I understand Mr. Routledge has authority to engage what assistance he wishes in the preparation of a list of every house overcrowded in the district—number of occupants, and number of rooms.

The Chairman said that the Surveyor had reported a serious case of overcrowding at Oxhill to the Council, and nothing had been done in the matter.

The Surveyor remarked that the complaint under notice was one where there were three cases of scarlatina. There being two families in the house, with thirteen occupants in three rooms. He reported that case to the Council, but nothing had been done in connection with the same.

Coun. Armstrong said that the idea in procuring information was more to demonstrate the necessity for extra houses in the district.

The Chairman: Is the Council doing its duty when a thing like that is reported by the Surveyor in not taking steps to remedy the over-crowding. It's a house which has always been recognised as one house, and there were no steps taken to give this party proper notice that such like would not be allowed.

Coun. Kuhlman: I should think it is very poor encouragement for our Surveyor.

Coun. Armstrong: It is a difficult matter to deal with, as the Council will recognise.

Coun. Armstrong: The case is this: these men say that there is a serious lack of accommodation in the district.

The Chairman: Nobody denies that.

It was resolved on the motion of Coun. Ritson, seconded by Coun. Smith, that the Surveyor should report to the Council upon the matter as regards the number of rooms, number of tenants, number of males and females, and number of lodgers (if any), and that he employ what assistance he requires in carrying out the work.

This was all the business of note, and the meeting soon afterwards terminated.

LOCAL WEDDINGS

WEDDING AT DIPTON.

On Saturday, at Hare Law Church, the marriage of Mr. John Smith and Miss Mary Hannah Parkin, both of Dipton, was solemnised. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a dress of white ivory satin, and wore a hat to match. The bridesmaid, Miss E. Parkin, sister of the bride, was also dressed in white, and wore a hat to match. Mr. George Rumney acted as "best man." The following is a list of the presents:—

Bride's parents, square table, sewing machine, and half-a-dozen cups and saucers.
Bride's sister (Lizzie), half-a-dozen towels, comb-box, pair of fancy pictures, and three cups and saucers.
Bride's sister (Annie), flower stand, sugar basin, cream jug, butter dish, and pair of vases.
Bridegroom's mother, a fancy cup and saucer, sugar basin, and cream jug.
Mr. G. Sanderson, a pair of brackets, and pair of wine glasses.
Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson, sugar basin, cream jug, and butter dish.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Sanderson, pair of decanters.
Mrs. Reed, pair of sheets.
Mrs. James, table cloth.
Mr. and Mrs. Crossley, a standing lamp.
Mr. and Mrs. Simpson tablecloth.
Mr. and Mrs. Greenwell, pair of brass candlesticks and looking glass.
Mr. and Mrs. Layton, pair of sheets and teapot.
Miss Mary Simpson, pair of vases.
Miss Lizzie Simpson, set of blacking brushes.
Miss Lizzie White, pair of tea towels.
Miss M. White, cruet stand.
Mr. and Mrs. White, half-a-dozen dinner plates.
Mrs. Simpson, bath towels.
Mrs. Robson, pair of towels, and comb box.
Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, sugar basin, cream jug and butter dish.
Mr. and Mrs. Cook, pair of ornaments, and set of jugs.
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, pair of glass plates.
Mr. and Mrs. Blatchford, set of pillow cases three cups and saucers.
Mr. and Mrs. Rumney, pair of ornaments, and jelly dishes.
Mr. and Mrs. Foster, sugar basin and cream jug.
Mr. and Mrs. Gill, pair of ornaments.
Miss S. Gill, teapot and muffin dish.
Mr. J. W. Sanderson, pair of ornaments.
Mr. W. Reed, a marble clock.
Miss Sanderson, pair of wine glasses.
Miss Wilson, tea cosy.
Mr. and Mrs. Creed, pair of glass plates.
Mr. and Mrs. Nankervis, pair of glass cakestands.
Mr. Jackson, half-a-dozen dinner plates.
Miss Wailes, half-dozen china plates.
Mr. and Mrs. Lock, pair of fancy slippers.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rumney, half-dozen cups and saucers, and tea spoons.
Mr. Enoch Layton, fancy cup and saucer, and pair of ornaments; and others.

WEDDING AT KYO.

A very interesting wedding between Mr. Jacob Morris and Miss Margaret Jane Mosley took place at West Kyo on Saturday. The bride, who was given away by Mr. Robt. Hick, of West Pelton, was attired in a light grey dress trimmed with white satin and wore a light felt hat trimmed with light grey velvet, white tips and orange blossoms. The bridesmaids, Miss Mary Johnson and Miss Elizabeth Morris, were attired in similar dresses to that of the bride. The best man was Mr. B. Mosley and the groomsman Mr. Amos Morris. The following is a list of presents:—

Bridegroom to bride, gold brooch.
Bride to bridegroom, silver medal.
Mr. G. Mosley, father of bride, cheque and quilts.
Mrs. Mosley, mother of bride, cheque, quilts, table covers, &c.
Mr. Morris, father of bridegroom, cheque.
Mrs. Morris, mother of bridegroom, pair of blankets, brushes, tins, etc.
Mr. R. Mosley, cheque and pair of blankets.
Mr E. Mosley, bowls, basins, etc.
Mr. J. Mosley, half-dozen wine glasses.
Miss Mary Elizabeth Mosley, half-dozen tea plates.
Miss Sarah Isabella Mosley, cake stands and glass bowls.
Mrs. Jane Miller, grandmother to bride, plates, glasses, and silver teapots.
Mrs. Margaret Mosley, grandmother to bride, tea towels.
Mrs. Barclay, half-dozen dinner plates.
Mr. Wm. Morris, kettle.
Mr. Amos Morris, beautiful lamp.
Mr. Thos. Morris, kettle.
Mr. J. Morris, teapot.
Mr. Sept. Morris, half-dozen dinner plates.
Mr. Hick, timepiece.
Mr. Wm. Johnson, sugar basin and cream jug.
Miss Elizabeth Morris, champagne set, and salt cellars.
Mrs. Hick, pair of sheets.
Miss Hick, pair of towels and pin-cushion.
Mr. T. Hick, sugar basin.
Miss M. Smith, biscuit bowls.
Miss I. Collicott, pair of ornaments.
Miss M. Collicott, pair of ornaments.
Miss Collicott, sugar basin and cream jug.
Mrs. Johnson, set of jugs.
Mrs. Atthey, pair of ornaments.
Mrs. Greener, pair of jugs.
Mrs. Allen, pair of ornaments.
Mrs. Morris, sugar basin and jugs.
Mrs. Makepeace, pair of candlesticks, and glass plates.
Mrs. Ann Johnson, sugar basin, butter cooler, glasses and jugs.
Mrs. Ball, set of fancy bowls.
Miss Dora Ball, pin-cushion and towels.
Mrs. Robinson, cheesecover.
Mrs. Charlton, butter cooler.
Mrs. Sayers, set of jelly bowls.
Mr. Gair, cake stands.
Mrs. Glister, sugar basin and jugs.
Mrs. Ridley, half-dozen plates.
Mrs. Johnson, half-dozen plates and glasses.
Mrs. Hick, pillow cases, bolsters, and blankets.
Miss Ball, towels.
Mrs. Liddle, pair of towels.
Mrs. Morris, pair of sheets.
Mrs. Cranston, bath towels.
Mrs McNally, pair of sheets.
Mrs. Allen, tablecloth.
Mr. Hick, new piano.
Mrs. Douglas, cream jug and sugar basin.
Mr. Charles Muse, frying-pan.
Mrs. Johnson, half-dozen dinner plates, sugar basin, and cream jugs.

TANFIELD.

Parish Committee.—The secretary of the Tanfield Parish Committee for the County Reservist Fund, Mr. J. Gilliland, Hobson Colliery, has recently received the handsome sum of three guineas from Mr. W. Braidford, jun., on his own behalf, and two guineas on behalf of his wife, Mrs. Braidford.

DIPTON.

Visit of Mr. D. Clegg.—As will be seen from our advertisement columns, Dipton intend having the great organist and composer, Mr David Clegg. This shows at any rate that the people of Dipton are capable of going in for something of a very high order. However, the village is well to the front in the organ line. It possesses two of the largest organs in the district. About Mr Clegg we need make few remarks. Everyone knows what he is; the very sound of his name sends a thrill through the minds and souls of those who have heard him. Suffice it to say that he is one of the best organists we have—perhaps the best, at least we have nobody that can beat him. The Wesleyan organ, which is the instrument Mr Clegg is to perform on, was built about five years ago by Messrs Blackett and Howden. The organ is being put into first-class order, and no expense is being spared to make the recital a success, and we have no doubt that all those who hear Mr Clegg on Wednesday next will come away full of admiration and astonishment.

AFTER CHRISTMAS
YOU WILL NEED

In order to avoid the possible necessity of having to lay off work, as a loss of time, especially when ill health overtakes you, is a serious consideration. Working men cannot afford to be idle, working women can not afford to be sick, neither can they afford to pay needless doctors' bills. Christmas festivities are often followed by serious derangement of the Stomach and Liver. What you need then is VENO'S SEAWEED TONIC. You cannot find a better medicine no matter where you go, for indigestion, sluggish, torpid liver, constipation, sick head ache, weak heart, and that heavy, dull, weary feeling. It is a Godsend to men and women who are suffering from Stomach, Liver, Kidney and Blood disease.

VENO'S SEAWEED TONIC

Is the Best and Safest Cure for Ailments arising from a diseased condition of the Stomach, Liver, Kidneys, and Blood, such as Indigestion, Wind, Biliousness, Sick, Dull Headache, and Weakness It is the best medicine for weak, pale debilitated men and women, especially where there is heart weakness and constipation. Price 1s 1½d and 2s 9d.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

It stops an ordinary cough in one night, and cures Chronic Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Weak Lungs, Catarrh, Influenza, and Whooping-cough rapidly. Its vast superiority over the different emulsions and ordinary cough mixtures cannot be estimated. It has saved thousands of lives after they had been turned out of hospitals. It is a scientific remedy, endorsed by medical men. Ask for VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE, Price 1s 1½d, and Sold by the Consett and Stanley Co-operative Societies, and all medicine vendors. When you ask for VENO'S REMEDIES see you get them. AVOID the man who offers a substitute. Some irresponsible dealers are in the habit of offering you a cheap common mixture of their own. 38g.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN AUSTRALIA IN THE EARLY DAYS

[BY J. W. FAWCETT.]

[The following is a full report of a lecture delivered by Mr. J. W. Fawcett, of Satley on the above subject, which will doubtless be read with interest by many who have not heard the delivery of it.]

INTRODUCTORY.

My object is to give you some account of the history of the Church of England in Australia in the early days of British settlement in that far-away island continent. I take an especial interest in the doings of those clergymen who were pioneers in that part of our British dominions, often called "the Great Britain of the South," in a portion of which I have been a resident for over eleven years, and as there is very little information now extant which may be used with any profit by the Church historian, I have for some years been engaged in the collection of information on the lives and labours of the early clergymen. It has been hard uphill work, for of many of them very little seems to have been preserved of their careers and works. Though the public records in the early days of settlement are full of secular concerns, they contain only a few brief remarks of the action of those able, good, true, unselfish and zealous men who strove hard for the moral and religious benefit of country and its inhabitants.

HOW AUSTRALIA BECAME A BRITISH POSSESSION.

On the 28th of April, 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of His Majesty's discovery vessel, "Endeavour," arrived in an opening on the eastern coast of the then almost unknown land of Terra Australis, or New Holland, which he called Botany Bay, and four months later (August 21st) hoisted the British colours on an island (since called Possession Island) on the north-east coast of Australia (as the country was eventually called), and took possession of the whole of the eastern coast of that island-continent in right of His Majesty King George III. by the name of New South Wales.

Seventeen years later England determined to put this new addition in her catalogue of colonies to a use. Her American Colonies (the present United States) had severed themselves from her control and obtained their independence in 1776. To this event the first settlement of the British in Australia must be traced. To the American Colonies most of the British criminals had been banished or transported, but now that separation had taken place, transportation beyond the seas in that direction was at an end.

Banishment for certain crimes in England had then existed for nearly two hundred years. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was decreed that banishment should be the punishment of rogues and vagabonds, and in 1619, during the reign of her successor, James I., the system of transportation was commenced, prisoners being allowed to transport themselves at their own expense. In the reign of George I., parliamentary enactment regulated the system, which was declared to have been beset with many abuses, defeating the ends of justice on the one hand, end on the other inflicting great cruelty on the convicts themselves. But under the new law, far greater abuses sprang up. A practice of contract was adopted for disposing of the criminals, who were, in fact, sold as slaves, at the average rate of £20 per head, the number annually transported being about 2,000.

When the independence of the United States was recognised by England, by the Peace, or Treaty, of Versailles, signed in 1783, transportation thither was put an end to, and the inhuman system of selling convicts, as slaves, ceased. The English Government, however, found itself under the necessity of finding some other outlet for the fast accumulating population of her gaols. The west coast of Africa was at first thought of, as the most suitable place for the reception of convicts, and a number were sent thither, but the unhealthiness of the climate proved so fatal to them that transportation to that country was wholly abandoned in 1785. As sentences for what are now considered paltry offences were severe in those days, the home prisons soon again became crowded, and another place had to be found. Captain Cook on his return from his voyage of discovery in the Southern Seas, had described, in glowing terms, that part of Terra Australis, which he had discovered and named New South Wales, and acting upon his representations, as well as those of other confidential advisers—and especially Sir Joseph Banks, who had accompanied him—the Government of the day (1786) fixed upon Botany Bay as a suitable site for a Penal Settlement.

THE FIRST FLEET.

In accordance with the determinations arrived at by the British Government, Viscount Sydney, the Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, at once sent instructions to the Treasury and the Admiralty for the immediate equipment of a convoy and transports. In March 1737, the vessels began to assemble at Portsmouth, and on the 13th of May set sail. They are known in Australia as the first fleet, and consisted of eleven vessels, of which three were storeships and six transports. They carried, all told, 1,044 souls, of whom 565 were male convicts, 192 female convicts, and the remainder officers and soldiers. Captain Arthur Phillip, of the Royal Navy, was appointed Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, under whom were numerous officers for the management of the affairs of the new settlement. After a long, but comparatively prosperous voyage of upwards of eight months, the vessels reached the Australian coasts in January, 1788—twenty-nine persons having died on the voyage.

OFFICIAL INDIFFERENCE TO RELIGIOUS MATTERS AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

Though Viscount Sydney took special care in the appointment of officers for the various departments of the establishment about to be built in the southern hemisphere, but he was not apparently so eager to make provision for the criminal's reform, notwithstanding that the declared objects of the settlement had included the moral benefit of the convict immigrant. To the secretary's official mind, ministers of religion, whatever sect they might belong to, or schoolmasters, were not at all necessary members of a colonising expedition, for neither of these professions were represented. By this omission one of the most essential means for the good government of this community was absolutely wanting. Physical force alone, without moral influence, is not sufficient to rule any people, or to keep the constituent elements of society in working order.

The spiritual requirements of the expedition or the education of the young were evidently subjects of little importance in official eyes in those days, for though there were many children among the soldiers' families as well as among the convicts, there was no religious instructor, or schoolmaster, or teacher of any kind, appointed, although it must have been known that even the men and women needed instruction in one way as much as the children did in another.

Perhaps nothing in the history of the times shows more painfully the religious indifference and moral degradation of England than such conduct, and well may the Right Rev. F. R. Nixon, who was the first Bishop of Tasmania, many years afterwards, refer to the subject in such words as:—"There were constables, military guards, and a Governor on board,—everything to coerce the wretched exile, every secular means perhaps for his improvement, but not one thought was bestowed upon the exile's soul."

It was no matter of forgetfulness on the part of Viscount Sydney, or those in authority that such an official indifference to religion should have occurred, for while Captain Phillip was employed in getting his ships ready for sea, two Roman Catholic priests came forward with a petition addressed to that worthy Secretary of State, praying that they might be allowed to go out with the Fleet as spiritual advisers to their co-religionists on board, but their petition was in vain.

What makes Viscount Sydney's indifference to such an appeal seem most strange is the fact that in Governor Phillip's "Instructions," he was amongst a host of other things to "by all proper methods enforce a due observance of religion and good order amongst the inhabitants of the new settlement, and that you do take such steps for the due celebration of public worship as circumstances will permit."

The omission to provide for the moral and religious training of the people by the appointment of clergymen and schoolmasters in sufficient numbers, led to consequences of which Governor Phillip, in after years, made frequent complaint. Had the petition of the Roman Catholic priests met with more consideration than it did Phillip's labours would have been greatly lessened in his efforts to reform the degraded characters around him. The combined influence of the clergy would have been on his side, and he might have been spared the humiliation of applying to the Marines for aid in one of his greatest difficulties, and being refused. He was thus forced to govern with the lash and the hangman's rope.

"How much misery and how much crime might have been avoided had Viscount Sydney and his colleagues but recognized but one of the simplest truths in political philosophy, by arming Phillip with the moral and religious assistance he required, may be left to conjecture. But in this, as in many other instances, may be seen how hard and merciless was the age in which they lived. The statesman of that time had not yet learned that every Government lives under a moral obligation to prevent crime as well as to punish it; and when, notwithstanding the severity of their laws, they found its growth unchecked, they saw no other remedy but that of increased severity. "A short shrift and a bloody shroud" was the usual fate of the unhappy wretches condemned to die, even when the crime was not more serious than a theft committed under the pressure of hunger. Many of these criminals, too, were mere boys, in most cases wholly uneducated, who had been left in childhood to seek their means of living in the streets."

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS

A monthly meeting of the members of the Lanchester Board of Guardians was held in the Board Room at the Workhouse, Lanchester, on Thursday last. Mr Wm. Logan, J.P., presided, and there were also present: Mrs Peircey-Taylor-Smith, Miss Helen Peile, the Rev T. H. Archdall, the Rev A. Magill, Messrs J. Davison, Geo. Forster, W. Bulmer, H. Palmer, G. D. Powell, W. Gray, G. Hobson, U. A. Ritson, jun., J. Pumphrey, J. Oliver, Wm. Aynsley, H. C. Wood, R. Kay, J. Green, G. J. Robinson, E Sloane, Geo. Ritchie, B. Mason, V. Dunn, W. H. Telford, H. Greener, the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson), and the Workhouse Master (Mr W. Brotherhood.)

PAUPER STATISTICS.

Mr Brotherhood reported that the number of inmates was 213 as against 245 in the corresponding period of last year. The out-relief cases were 371 in the Eastern district, as against 439, and 411 in the Western district, against 539.

HALF-YEARLY MEDICAL REPORT.

Dr Wilson, in his half-yearly report, stated that there was sufficient ventilation and warmth, sufficient accommodation for the sick, satisfactory arrangements for cooking and distribution of food, the nursing was satisfactorily performed, and the medical appliances were sufficient and in good order, as also were the lavatories and baths. The supply of hot water was not at all satisfactory for skin disease being muddy.

The Chairman said the last item might be referred to the House Committee for consideration. He had had an iron boiler in his own house, and the water was so dirty as to be unfit for use. He thereupon had it taken out and substituted a copper boiler, and the water was now perfectly clean.

Mr Aynsley said that was exactly his experience. As all the Guardians were aware of the defect he did not think it was desirable to send the matter back to a committee. He thought it should be dealt with at once, and he moved that tenders be advertised for to be considered at the next meeting.

Mr Hobson seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

SEASONABLE GIFTS.

Mr Brotherhood reported that Mrs Piercey-Taylor-Smith had provided the inmates with a dinner, and that the members of the Esh Workmen's Club had sent a Christmas cake.

The Chairman moved a hearty vote of thanks to the donors. Mrs Piercey-Taylor-Smith's generosity had become an annual matter as it had been by her predecessors, and he was sure the Guardians appreciated her kindness.

Mr Hobson seconded the motion, which was carried.

There was no other business of importance before the Board.

Lanchester Joint Hospital Board

A meeting of this Board was held at Lanchester on Thursday last Mr Wm. Logan, J.P., presiding.

MEDICAL REPORTS.

Dr Wilson reported that within the last four weeks 14 patients convalescent from scarlet fever were discharged from Langley Park Hospital, and 17 cases were admitted suffering from the same disease. There were 23 cases in the hospital, all of them doing well.

Dr Allen stated that since the last meeting of the Board three cases of scarlet fever had been admitted into the Infectious Hospital at Leadgate. One patient had been discharged on the 21st inst. Four cases remained in the hospital, and all were convalescing.

The reports were adopted, and the meeting terminated.

PROPERTY SALE.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 24th inst., Messrs Pallister and Sons offered for sale by public action at the house of Mr. Smedley, The Royal Hotel, Crook, a freehold dwelling house situate in Albert Terrace, Billy Row, and occupied by Mr. Richard Pallister, the owner. The bidding commenced at £150 by Mr. Robinson, and ultimately reached £240, the bid of Mr. M. Charlton, who became the purchaser at that figure. Also a freehold dwelling house, situate in Percy Street, Crook, occupied by Mr. J. G. Lister, the owner. The bidding was started at £150 by Mr. Dunn, and quickly reached £217, the bid of Mr. Thomas Hall, who became the purchaser at that figure. There was a good company present, and bidding was brisk.

HOW'S YOUR LIVER? Why I never know I have one now, as I always keep a bottle of PATRICK'S MEDICINE by me, and if I feel a little "off," I take a dose, and am soon myself again. Everyone who is ill goes to PATRICK, CHEMIST, 5, Front Street, Consett, who can cure almost any complaint. 371e.

PARDON ME!

HAVE YOU TRIED THE POPULAR **KYTE TEA?** Sold at 1/6, 1/10, 2/-, 2/4, 2/8, 2/10, & 3/2. Aroma and Quality Delicious.

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In ¼, ½, and 1-lb Tins. Sold at 1/- 1/4, and 1/8 per lb.

KYTE HEALTH SALT. The Indispensable Remedy for Disordered Liver. A Morning Tonic. | KYTE BAKING POWDER. Absolutely Pure—Therefore Best.

Use your Judgment and insist on having KYTE BRAND GOODS. The Standard of Quality.

May be obtained from Grocers and Co-operative Stores.

Wholesale from **ANTHONY OATES,**

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Toronto and its Streets

By HARRY FURNISS.

"TORONTO has fine streets, good stores, a perfect system of cheap and rapid traffic, and everything a great city can boast of without its crowd," writes Harry Furniss in his 'Canadian Sketches,' which are continued in the February number of the "Windsor Magazine." "London—that is, London, England—keeps spreading in all directions, and its streets become congested with its increasing population. New York City cannot expand as the the streams of human beings elbow each other in the streets: its currents of all sorts and conditions of men push and crush against each other till, like a frozen but active river, the city rises as the ice does, high in the air, thrown up by the currents unable to have freedom in so limited a space. But Toronto needs no sky-scrapers. Indeed, many of the houses need no door-scrapers, for Toronto was built for a boom. The boom somehow did not break over Toronto; it is therefore ready for another, and streets and streets remain unoccupied. In the meantime, Toronto means to keep those inhabitants it has got. The difficulty, as I said before, Canada has to face, is not so much getting people into the fascinating country, but keeping them there. Toronto solves this difficulty in a business-like way. You enter Toronto,—look, you are in a cage! Yes, it is a gigantic hen-coop. I never saw a city so laced over with wires before. You might safely throw yourself out of a window without any fear whatever of touching the ground. No acrobat has a net so tight or better arranged than the wired roof of a Toronto street. Toronto has often been described by visitors from the United States as the most "American" city in Canada. On the contrary, it is the most Canadian city, and does not need to imitate its neighbours across the line. Its business men are of the pushing, go-ahead kind, who compel success whenever it is possible; and though trade may not just now be as prosperous as the manufacturing and commercial facilities of the city should make it, the revival of industry from the long period of stagnation which is now due will find Toronto in the front rank as a competitor in Canadian markets. Its position on Lake Ontario gives Toronto the advantage, shared with Hamilton, of cheap freight rates, no small factor in determining the ability of its manufacturers and merchants to compete with other cities."

Boer Cruelty to Animals

An article of universal interest appears in the February number of the "Windsor Magazine." It is written by a prominent Johannesburger, whose personal dealings with Messrs Kruger and Co. have enabled him to throw fresh light on the manners and customs of those gentlemen. He refers to the most inhuman way he witnessed the Boers tether their horses for the night when on a campaign. "The peaceful, pastoral burgher procures a long strip of raw cowhide, a little over a quarter of an inch wide, and proceeds to knee-halter his steed, by reeving the strip first round the horse's neck and strapping the other end just below the animal's knee. By this method the poor steed's head is kept constantly on a level with its knees, and as it moves along nibbling the grass, if any, it of necessity pulls down its head with a jerk to the ground at every step. Needless to remark, a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals does not exist in the Transvaal! As the Uitlanders valued the comfort of their horses too much to adopt this method of 'tying them up for the night,' tethering their steeds instead to pegs driven into the ground, we were one and all subjected to much coarse insolence from the Boers on this account. Indeed, one quarrel, which might have had very serious results for us all, did arise. A young Boer, an overgrown lad of nineteen or thereabouts, made an insulting remark about an Englishman's bungling way of tethering his steed, to a slightly-built young fellow, a Uitlander, many inches smaller than himself, and one whom, no doubt, the burgher imagined he could browbeat with impunity. The Uitlander took no notice of the taunt, so Mr. Boer made some more insulting remarks. Still no notice was taken of the unwashed one's desire to pick a quarrel, but when the young gentleman deliberately slashed the Englishman's horse with a thong he held in his hand the Briton thought it time to put a stop somehow to his tormentor's 'little game,' and the next moment, big as he was, the Boer was levelled to the ground by a blow, planted well between the eyes, from the Uitlander's fist. I really thought at that moment that my poor young countryman's life was not worth a moment's purchase, for he was immediately seized by a dozen farmers, the majority of whom were for shooting him then and there, but providentially General Joubert had witnessed the whole affair, and at once coming up he ordered his burghers to release the Englishman, and had him removed to another part of the camp."

Commandeered by Kruger

A STRIKING article leads off the "Windsor Magazine" for February, in which the writer gives a most vivid account of his experience when commandeered by Kruger. He is an Englishman, and consequently a Uitlander, in residence at Johannesburg, and a man of considerable property there, and his account of the Boer discipline is worth quoting. "One evening, whilst strolling down Commissioner Street, I was served with a little piece of blue paper which, on perusal, set forth the fact that I was, under divers pains and penalties, to hold myself in readiness to join a commando in the Market Square, together with a horse, saddle and bridle, and ten days' provisions. This I thought was a very cool request on the part of the Transvaal Government, and a very high-handed action to boot, more especially as I was an English subject, had no 'locus standi' with the Boers in common, no vote in the management of the country, and no say in the administration of its finances. However, 'needs must,' I thought, and retraced my steps to my domicile to get my affairs in order before I went forth to help fight the battles of the Boers against the Swazis. The next morning I rode out to Market Square, fully equipped for the warpath, and was shortly joined by some more Uitlanders who had likewise been commandeered. Presently the Boer section of the commando began to arrive in a very leisurely manner, and smoking to a man. Some were rather smart-looking and clean young fellows, whilst others looked as though they had been to bed the night before 'all standing,' and needed a good wash and a brush down. For the most part the Boer horses, though good enough cattle, sadly needed grooming, and in many cases presented a sorry spectacle beside the trim nags of the Englishmen of the commando. All were armed to the teeth, however, every man possessing at least a rifle and a heavy hunting-knife. About an hour after the appointed time the field-cornet, who was to marshal us rode up, accompanied by a detachment of the Staats Artillery and five Maxim guns, and proceeded to review us in such battle array as the indolence of the Boer section would permit. Now, although the Boers were allowed to form up as they pleased and just as was convenient to themselves, the commandeered Uitlanders, who quite naturally had clustered together, were inspected by the field-cornet with evident contempt, and, to make matters worse, when the commandant arrived we were subjected to every species of studied insult, and our formation was at once broken up by every other Uitlander being ordered to a different station, and thus sandwiched between the Dutch element very effectually. Nearly four hours after first putting in an appearance on Market Square, we set out for Ermelo, en route for Swaziland, and such a scene of disorder I have never before witnessed. The hopelessly tangled state of the column would, I am perfectly convinced, have broken an English general's heart. Not so General Joubert, however. That worthy led the way, bestride an old nag, that, as far as appearance went, would have been discarded by the worst of omnibus companies in England. He smoked his pipe quite placidly, and never seemed to trouble whether his column were following him or not. It was certainly a go-as-you-please arrangement for everyone excepting the Uitlander, and when we decided to camp for the night, over two hours elapsed before all the stragglers had come in. The day after our first engagement, an incident occurred that is almost too ridiculous for words. I was standing just to the left of General Joubert's tent, when a great commotion occurred, and between four and five hundred Boers trooped up and completely surrounded the commandant. One of their number, who had evidently been deputed to act as spokesman by his fellows, then stepped forward and calmly informed his superior officer that it was time for himself and his companions to go home to their farms to plant their mealies. General Joubert reminded them that they were commandeered, and must do their duty. To my great surprise, they openly laughed at and jeered the brave old man, and, without any more ado, mounted their nags and rode off to their farms. So much for the discipline of the Boer army and the influence of its most able general."

STOP A COUGH IN ONE NIGHT.

Take VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE. It stops an ordinary cough in one night, and cures chronic coughs, bronchitis, asthma, catarrh, influenza, and whooping cough rapidly. Its vast superiority over the different emulsions and ordinary cough mixtures cannot be estimated. It has saved thousands of lives after they had been turned out of hospitals. It is a new scientific remedy endorsed by medical men. Ask for VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE, and see that you get it, price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per bottle (copyright). Sold by all Chemists and Co-op. Stores.

DON'T DIE IN THE HOUSE.—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed bugs, fleas, ants, moles, shipmunks, gophers. 6d and 1s. boxes at Chemists.

Shotley Bridge Liberal Association

The annual meeting of the members of the Shotley Bridge Liberal Association was held on Friday night in the Primitive Methodist School-room. Mr. R. G. Barclay, J.P., presided, and, in the absence of the treasurer, read the financial statement, which showed the income to be £5 11s 5d, inclusive of a balance of £3 11s 11d from the previous year. The expenditure amounted to £4 19s 6d, thus leaving a balance of 11s 11d. The report was adopted and the election of officers was proceeded with. Mr. Barclay was re-elected president, and also undertook the duties of treasurer, Mr. Urwin finding it necessary to retire from the position. The following were elected vice-presidents:—Mr. Pumphrey, Mr. E. E. Beckingham, Mr. Geo. Peile, Mr. N. Brown, Mr. Wm. Telford, Mr. R. Pearson, Mr. John Proud, and Mr. W. Urwin. A committee of twelve members was elected, after which Mr. John Nixon was appointed secretary, and Mr. J. G. Brown, assistant secretary. Representatives to the North-West Durham Central Liberal Association having been appointed Mr. H. Carss raised the question of polling booth accommodation for Shotley Bridge.—County Councillor J. W. Winter said he was a member of the Committee of the County Council, which had the question of polling districts to consider. Some time ago an agitation was raised in Benfieldside in favour of increased polling stations, but for some reasons correspondence with the County Council was abruptly stopped. He advised that action should be taken by the Urban Council, and Mr. Carss and the Chairman agreed to bring the matter forward.—Mr. Winter then briefly addressed the meeting on general topics, and rejoiced to find that the Shotley Bridge Association was manifesting signs of life. At a time when politics were dull, and when war was concentrating their thoughts, it was not unnatural to find a lack of interest and a difficulty in getting members of Associations, whether Liberal or Conservative, to attend for business purposes. He was glad, therefore, to see signs of life, and especially among the younger members of the Shotley Association. They were told that they were a disunited party, and that they were in a state of collapse. Yet in less than six months they won five bye-elections. The young men and the young women of the Liberal party were showing greater signs of vigour, and he therefore anticipated an early success for the Liberal party. With reference to the War there was a difference of opinion, even amongst Liberals, as to its justice or injustice. There was, however, a concensus of opinion that the present Government had in some way blundered either in the negotiations or in the preparations. He agreed with the position taken up by Mr. Atherley-Jones when he was last in the constituency, and which he believed the honourable member adhered to. When the whole of the facts had been revealed they would, he was convinced, find that a terrible mistake had been made on the part of this country in trusting its destinies in the hands of such an incompetent statesman as Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Winter then urged the members to prepare for the next election, and not to put off arrangements until the last moment.—The Chairman said so far as the War was concerned they really did not know where they were or where it would end. He believed in the motto, that they must not change horses while crossing a stream, and whatever criticisms they might have to offer later they should do nothing to cause weakness in the eyes of foreign nations. It was a terrible thing to have got into the War, but being in it there was nothing for it but to go on to the bitter end. When all was over criticism would doubtless come, and would, he had no doubt, be very effective. They were warned by Mr. Jones that the country scarcely knew what a big job they were taking in hand.—Votes of thanks to Mr. Winter and the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

Clothing and Comforts for the Troops

Colonel A. A. Garstin has received from Miss A. T. Grey £10 1s 9d towards the provision of more clothing and comforts for the Durham Light Infantry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

SIR,—May I request you to be so good as to publish for the information of all interested, the list as under, of articles of clothing, &c., received since the publication of the previous one, for despatch to the Northumberland Fusiliers and Durham Light Infantry now serving in South Africa. Permit me on the part of the regiments to add my thanks to the kind givers.—I am, &c.,

A. A. GARSTIN, Colonel.
Commanding 5-68th Reg. Dis.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Jan. 28th, 1900.

14 shirts, 18 under shirts, 8 pair socks, the Misses Baker Baker, Glenmore mail, Haswell; 3 caps, 2 cushions, E. H. Armstrong, 7, Victoria Square; 12 vests, A. Gibson, Hindle House, Stocksfield; 8 pair socks, 4 mufflers, 2 helmets, the Misses Coulson and others, Branxton Vicarage. 14 Tam o' Shanters, 1 muffler, H. Hilton, 75, Westoe Parade, South Shields; 17 pair socks, 1 helmet, 1 cap, 1 muffler, Mrs Roddam; 6 doz handkerchiefs, Mrs Cochrane-Carr, Lower Condercum; 102 socks, Mrs Lord; 24 Pyjama suits, Anon; 6 pair socks, 2 vests, Miss Winship, Havelock Street; 24 handkerchiefs, 12 housewives, 3 pair socks, 2 Tam o' Shanters, 1 pair cuffs, 3 mufflers, the maids at Tweedmouth House, Berwick-on-Tweed; 54 pair socks, 3 cot. shirts, Lady Anne Lambton, Lambton Castle; 17 shirts, 45 pair socks, 3 mufflers, 3 pair stockings, 1 Tam o' Shanter, 65 handkerchiefs, 9 glass covers, 10 helmets, 35 caps, 4 chest preservers, 1 pair cuffs, Mrs Benson, Stanley Ladies' Association; 1 box of cakes and caps, 12 shirts, 4 comforters, 1 night cap, 8 Tam o' Shanters, 24 pair laces, 1 plum cake, 1 pin cushion, 106 magazines, Mrs Winslow, per Mrs Armstrong; 8 doz. handkerchiefs, 6 pair socks, Mrs Ellis, 11, Falington Terrace; 1 box pipes, Mrs Horsfall, 1, Tankerville Terrace; 4 comforters, 5 helmets, 2 shirts, M. F. Orde, Orde House, Morpeth; 10 Tam o' Shanters, B. S.; 1 cushion, 1 pair stockings, Mrs E., Whitley Bay; 6 Tam o' Shanters, 4 pair socks, 2 mufflers, Mrs Appleby, Hurworth-on-Tees; 1 pair cuffs, 1 scarf, 1 muffler, 1 pair trousers, 2 pair drawers, 1 shirt, 3 singlets, E. J. Hooper, 9, Thornton Gardens, South Sunderland; 7 Tam o' Shanters, 3 pair socks, 12 handkerchiefs, Mrs Waddilove, Firmount, Tonbridge; 11 pair socks, M. H. Crombie, Chillingham Road School; 2 pair socks, 3 mufflers, Anon; 2 pair socks, 2 pair cuffs, A. T. A.; 1 bundle magazines, &c., Mrs Smith, Wallsend; bandages, wraps, old handkerchiefs, 6 pillows, Mr A. Paxton, 14, Priestpopple, Hexham; 6 cushions, 15 magazines, Mrs Robson, 2, Shaftsbury Place, Gateshead; 1 parcel magazines, Anon; 8 helmets, 5 cushions, Mrs Rowland Barnett, Brighton Grove; 6 pair socks, Anon, Sacriston; 3 pair mitts, 3 caps, Miss Richardson, 33, Heaton Grove; 3 caps, 2 mufflers, Miss Horsfall, Tankerville Terrace; 11 pair socks, 1 cap, C. D. Shafto, Esq.; 9 Tam o' Shanters Miss B. Tate, Stella Cottage, Blaydon; 6 Tam o Shanters, A Friend, Amble; 3 belts, 1 pair socks, 1 helmet, Miss Armstrong, Hardriding, Bardon Mill; 2 Tam o' Shanters, 2 helmets, 19 handkerchiefs, Two Friends; 2 cardigans, 3 helmets, 2 Tam o' Shanters, 1 pair stockings, S.S.F.A. Needlework Guild, Durham, per Miss Spence; 12 cushions, 5 pair socks, 1 pair mitts, 9 helmets, 18 handkerchiefs, Miss Brown Bondgate, Alnwick.

LOCAL PATENTS

The following list is specially compiled by Mr J. A. Harvey, chartered patent agent, 3, St. Nicholas Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, from whom all information concerning patents, designs, and trade marks may be obtained.

848.—January 15th, 1900. J. Linkleter, Tynemouth. Improvements in upstraught cowls for chimney tops and the like.

928.—January 16th, 1900. T. S. Forster, Sunderland. Hand shield in warfare.

1046.—January 17th, 1900. H. Bennett, Middlesbro'. Improved advertising vehicle.

1188.—January 19th, 1900. R. Roger, Stockton-on-Tees. Improvements in brakes for steam trawl winches.

1246.—January 20th, 1900. W. Campbell, Jarrow-on-Tyne. Improved blocks for working ships' cargoes, ship's boats, and other uses.

1258.—January 20th, 1900. J. Lester, Stockton-on-Tees. Improvements in locks.

A Narrow Escape for the Pyramids

An article of considerable importance, on "The Conquest of the Nile," is contributed by Mr. John Ward, F.S.A., to the February number of the "Windsor Magazine." It is heavily illustrated with unique photos, which show the progress of the stupendous undertaking we are now engaged upon in Egypt in order to control the waters of the Nile. "The place to see these modern wonders of the land of Egypt is at the Barrage, a few miles north of Cairo, where the Nile divides into two great arms known as the Rosetta and Damietta branches of the river. Napoleon Buonaparte gets credit for having first suggested that a great dam built at this point would double the cultivable land of the Delta (Lower Egypt.) But few of Napoleon's grand ideas were allowed to be realised. It was pointed out somewhere that Napoleon had originally suggested the Barrage, and Mehemet Ali, as soon as he had his power consolidated by getting free of Turkish dominance, seems to have set about trying to bind the Nile in this way. Mehemet Ali's object was a purely selfish one. He wanted to have enough water to enable him to grow cotton and sugar-cane, of which he retained a monopoly, and which he was convinced would double the income of his personal exchequer. He sent to France for engineers, and many suggestions were made unavailingly. He found, after various attempts, however, a French engineer—afterwards known as Mougel Bey—clever enough and willing to carry out his ideas. Mougel was a talented man, had he been given proper skilled labour to carry his designs out. A previous engineer had been ordered by the tyrant to 'use up those useless heaps of stone, the Pyramids,' to make a great weir to bar and raise the river's level, and to store up the waters of the inundation for supplying the Delta and increasing the area of the soil. The Pyramids had a very narrow escape; but the engineer boldly told a lie, and saved them. He said it would cost less to quarry new stone!"

THE FREE CHURCHES.

There is an alarming amount of illness among prominent Free Church people. The Rev. Thomas Law has, we are glad to say, almost entirely recovered from his serious illness, and is now in the midst of his responsible duties at the Memorial Hall and his journeys throughout the country; but the Rev W. J. Woods, the secretary of the Congregational Union, is still in a serious condition. Mr. Woods' progress has been more seeming than real, and months at least will elapse before his genial face will again be seen in the Memorial Hall. The Rev S. Vincent, ex-Chairman of the Baptist Union, has had influenza. Mrs. Spurgeon, the widow of the great preacher, is recovering from illness; and Mr. Thomas Olney, the well-known official of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, has succumbed to a painful illness. Mr. Archibald Brown, well-known for his work in the East of London, has also to be added to the list of influenza victims. This is, indeed, a heavy sick-list.

REV. SILAS K. HOCKING.

Mr. Hocking, who has long been well-known as a popular preacher, lecturer, and novelist, is now taking a prominent position as a political leader. Mr. Hocking is among the foremost, and at present the most vigorous of those who are against the present war. He has been mainly instrumental in forming a committee whose avowed purpose is to get up an agitation for stopping the war. We understand that an attempt is being made to organise public meetings with this object all over the country. Mr. Hocking is also a member of the committee that Mr. Courtney has organised for disseminating information with regard to the factors of the problem in South Africa. Mr. Hocking is a sanguine man, and he has begun his enterprise of seeking to stop the war with hopes that very few find themselves able to share. Mr. Hocking is now "a minister without charge" in the Methodist Free Church, and is the Liberal candidate for the Parliamentary representation of the Camborne division of Cornwall. An excellent full-page portrait of Mr. Hocking appears in the February "Free Churchman."

FREE CHURCH GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

We understand that when the next General Committee of the National Council of Evangelical Free Churches meets a scheme of a Girls' Friendly Society on a Free Church basis will be submitted. There is evidence enough that the Girls' Friendly Society is too much used in some places by the Anglicans for proselytising purposes. In many rural districts it is practically impossible for a young woman belonging to a Free Church family to obtain a situation as a domestic servant, unless she consents to abandon the faith of her fathers and become a communicant of the Anglican Church. The main object of the proposed Society will be to secure for such girls mistresses who will respect freedom of conscience. Of course the society will not be a mere servants registry. There will probably be a branch in connection with the 600 Free Church Councils throughout the country, and provision will be made for social intercourse and friendly communication among the members. The details of the scheme will be submitted to the National Council which meets at Sheffield in March.

A TRUE STORY OF DR. PARKER.

In a certain provincial town Dr. Parker preached a sermon which contained so many startling statements that at the end of the service one of his hearers solemnly remonstrated with him. Dr. Parker listened with the utmost patience to the remarks of his critical hearer, and at the end only remarked in a tone that was childlike and bland, "Now, what more of the sermon do you remember?" Some years ago Dr. Parker preached a sermon which greatly impressed the writer of the article, and on a recent Tuesday Dr. Parker was asked by him to preach it again. On the Thursday Dr. Parker delivered the discourse in words which were almost the same as those employed on the former occasion. No notes were used either time, and Dr. Parker had not given the sermon a thought in the interval.

REV. J. G. GREENHOUGH, M.A.,

of Leicester, who has been nominated as President of the National Free Church Council for 1901, has already been distinguished by the greatest honour which his own denomination can confer upon him, namely, the Chairmanship of the Baptist Union. Mr. Greenhough exercises a great influence in Leicester, and is almost as well-known in London. At his best he has no superior as a platform orator. He speaks always without a single note, and his fluency, concentration of thought, and felicity of language are amazing. Mr. Greenhough has lectured for Free Church Councils in every part of England. Though Mr. Greenhough is rather subject to bronchitis he works with tireless energy, and his speeches are always fresh and piquant.

THE "INDEPENDENT,"

which was founded by Edward Miall, and has continued to this day with varying fortune, has now passed, we believe, into a syndicate of various eminent Congregational ministers. Mr. Arthur Porritt has quitted the editorial chair, and has joined the staff of the "Christian World." We understand that the Rev W. B. Selbie, M.A., of Highgate, has been invited to take charge of that journal, but as we write his decision has not yet been announced. A feature of the journal for some years has been two or three columns of notes on current events by Dr. Guinness Rogers. Dr. Rogers retires at the end of this month from the pastorate at Clapham, but of course he will give his services as freely as ever to the Free Churches.

A NICE POINT OF LAW.

The Rev. G. B. Berry, an Anglican clergyman at Plymouth, arranged with Dr. Chapman, of Western Independent College, that Dr. Chapman should preach in his (Mr Berry's) church, and that he (Mr Berry) should preach in the Methodist Free Church. The Bishop of the diocese forbade this arrangement. The law of the Church of England in the matter is obscure. A well-known London clergyman has written in the "Times," pointing out that a layman may read the lessons, and that the same provision (or absence of provision) which allows this should also in law allow the layman to preach the evening sermon. A Free Church minister in the legal point of view is a layman, and if this London clergyman is right then Dr. Chapman might have preached the evening sermon in Mr Berry's church. Free Churchman believe that the words cleric and lay represent a false distinction, but it is hardly likely that Dr. Chapman will consent to enter an Anglican pulpit except as a recognised minister of Jesus Christ.

Weardale and Shildon Waterworks Company

Annual Report

The report of the directors of the Weardale and Shildon District Water Works Company states the net revenue account amounts to £43,947 1s 5d, including £10,707 13s 5d brought forward from December 31st, 1898. Deducting the interim dividend paid July 28th, 1899, amounting to £15,000, and income tax £1,252 7s 10d, there remains an undivided profit of £27,694 13s 7d. Four directors recommend the payment on the 7th of this month, February, to the proprietors registered in the company's books on the 24th inst., of the following dividend, clear of income tax, namely:—A dividend of 13s 9d per share on 24,000 shares fully paid, making an average dividend for the year of £5 5s per centum per annum. This will absorb £16,500, and leave to be carried forward an undivided profit of £11,194 13s 7d. During the past year a duplicate pipe has been laid between Tow Law and Mount Pleasant, Crook. Part of the costs of this has been charged against revenue. A length of main pipe, slightly exceeding half-a-mile, has been diverted near the Wear Valley Junction, this having become necessary owing to the original line being endangered by the River Wear washing away the land in which the pipe was laid. The cost of this diversion has been charged under the heading of repairs. The company's resident engineer has certified that the works of the company have been efficiently maintained during the past year. The directors retiring this year are Messrs Henry Kitching and John Brownless, who are recommended for re-election. The retiring auditor is Mr. R. Lindsley Pratt, who is eligible for re-election.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected COCOA, Mr. Epps has provided for our breakfast and supper a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—"Civil Service Gazette."—Made simply with boiling water or milk.—Sold only in packets and pound tins, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., LTD., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." 896f.

THE STORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

A LECTURE DELIVERED BY MR. W. McQUILLEN, OF DIPTON.

It is surprising what a fund of information the man in the street has suddenly acquired with reference to the course of events in South Africa. Everybody glibly talks of places with unpronounceable names, of people and customs, of military men and manœuvres, as though they had made these things a life study. All this goes to prove the far-reaching power which the press exercises in instructing the general public, and no doubt in evolving political policies of the first magnitude. To draw together the disconnected historical facts regarding our present position in South Africa is the main intention of this sketch, so that "he who runs may read" the rights and the wrongs of the whole situation. We first definitely read of Cape Colony in 1487, when Bartholomew Diaz, a Portuguese navigator, reached the southern extremity of the great African continent. His frail craft barely weathered the stormy seas, and this led him to name the land which he saw projecting Cabo de Tormentoso, or Stormy Cape. On his return to Portugal, King John grasped the possibilities of the discovery, and altered the name to the Cape of Good Hope, considering rightly that this new route opened up another highway to India. Ten years later, Vasco di Gama, also a Portuguese, rounded the Cape, passing a point still farther south than the Cape of Good Hope. This was the headland now known as Agulhas, or the Needles. On Christmas Day, 1497, he had reached the district known as Natal, and the appropriateness of the name is evident. For a long time the ships trading in the interests of the Dutch East India Company called regularly at the Cape to replenish their water supply. In 1652 the first really permanent settlement was made by the Dutch under Van Riebeck, and they made Cape Town the starting point for their colonisation. The Dutch at home disputed vigorously the right of Britain to be regarded Mistress of the Sea, and were foremost in Europe for maritime greatness and colonising enterprise. Later, however, their glory was dimmed and their influence trembled in the balance, and it was seriously discussed as to the advisability of removing their Homeland to the Cape. The crisis passed away and the suggested change with it, so the Dutch colonists were left to work out their salvation and security in their own crude and cruel way. The reign of tyranny over the native tribes began, and slavery soon became rampant. The blacks who objected to serve the Boers were driven from their homes to other lands across the mountains. The history of this period is one record of cruelty and oppression, and we are driven to the conclusion that these colonists, although of Dutch descent, were putting on a harshness and a brutality quite foreign to the temperament of their forefathers. More immigrants arrived from the Netherlands, and although of French nationality they were acceptable in a high degree. These were the Huguenots, the French Protestants who were driven by religious persecution from their native land. They were skilled in the culture of the vine, and it is to their early efforts that the Cape wine industry is so valuable and extensive to-day. In 1795, the English, who were at war with the European Dutch, seized Cape Colony, but restored it at the close of the war, in 1802. When war broke out again, we made another descent upon it, and took possession once more; but it was not until hostilities were completely ended in 1815, that we secured by treaty the absolute ownership of the colony, which has latterly expanded until our territory in South Africa has reached eight times the area of our British Isles, with a prospect in the near future of another large addition.

The success of British arms rankled in the minds of the Boers, and it would almost appear that hatred and distrust engendered at that time have been handed from sire to son through two generations. They were no longer the sober-thoughted, peaceful-minded Hollanders, and their persistent struggles with hostile tribes developed determination, bravery, and insolence towards strangers, which, combined with natural caution and cunning, made them enemies to be feared and not despised. The early efforts of the British Government were to Christianise the blacks, but the Boers frustrated at every turn, looking upon all humanising endeavours with suspicion. They felt that the day was coming when they would not be allowed "to wallop their own nigger," and, consequently, hindered the spread of civilisation. The Boers have always regarded the black races as especially designed by providence to farm their lands and to attend generally to their creature comforts. The sjambok, or whip, is rarely out of the taskmaster's hands, and it is no uncommon incident to see a gentleman Boer get out of his bullock waggon, tie the Kaffir driver to the wheel, and flog him with this deadly instrument. The treatment they meted out to Kolobeng when Dr. Livingstone was absent in the south, showed, even in later times, how missionary effort was regarded by them. Throughout many of the Boer-Kaffir quarrels between 1815 and 1833, the English undesignedly sided with the blacks, and thus the dislike towards England was fanned almost to a blaze. The crisis came in 1833, when the fiat went forth that slavery should for ever cease in the British dominions. The Boers were furious, as they were compelled to release 35,000 slaves at a price which they considered ruinous, as the British henceforth declared that the blacks had souls to be saved and a freedom to be enjoyed. To mark their strong disapproval of our policy, they determined to place themselves completely outside of our jurisdiction, and this gave rise to the great "trek" of 1835. They left their farms in large numbers, journeying to districts at this time unknown to us. One band of "trekkers" found their way to Natal, and, after a long struggle with the Kaffirs, they set up a republic in 1840, free, as they thought, from the interference of the rooineks or red-necked men. The natives, as a protest against Boer treatment, kept up a succession of harassing attacks, but the worst blow of all came when British arms were turned against the Republic. The Home Government considered the new Republic was a standing menace to the safety of Cape Colony, and after a short campaign in 1843, we annexed Natal "for the peace, protection and salutary control of all classes of men settled at and surrounding this important portion of South Africa." Again the Boers "trekked" and this time they crossed the Drakenberg Mountains to the territory now known as the Orange River Free State, and established themselves independent of British control. History has often repeated itself in South Africa, and we were once more at war with the Free Staters in 1848, and another large slice of territory was added to the Crown. This acquisition was revoked in 1854, and a Republican Government was again set up. The Transvaal was a Republic from 1848 until 1877, when, owing to internal dissension and bankruptcy, the British stepped in and took over the reins of power. This course did not meet with universal approbation, and among the dissentient voices was that of Paul Kruger. Then followed our heart-breaking loss at Majuba Hill, and the Transvaal became free, expecting that we claimed suzerainty. The Boers promised equal rights for everybody, irrespective of nationality, but when we dip into the internal affairs we find how far short this promise has fallen. The men who by their industry and courage were developing the resources of the country were treated as aliens, and although they provided the bulk of the revenue, they were denied a voice in its disposal. Their children were not allowed the privilege of being educated in their own language, and favour was shown to any nationality other than the British. The swagger and bluster of Majuba have been responsible for much of the unkindness and contempt which the Uitlanders have suffered. The outcome—war—was no mere accident. It was merely the natural and logical culmination of years of preparation. In 1894, £250,000 were expended in erecting forts at Pretoria, while £100,000 were spent for a similar purpose at Johannesburg. Since then military works on an extensive scale have been going on. Thousands of rifles and millions of rounds of ammunition have been accumulated with the one grand object of gratifying the Boer ambition for a Dutch Republic for all South Africa. It may be that we have forced their hand, and brought matters to a climax earlier than they wished, but we would have had to face the business sooner or later. Now that war has begun in earnest, we must not despise our opponents, nor discredit their tenacity and bravery. At the same time, we are tempted to say that the assumption on their part that they are the Elect of God, and the employment of crafty and unsoldierlike tactics, will never avail them against the bravest body of troops that ever went forth to battle. The sentiments of Lord Methuen after the battle of Belmont, expressed in the language of a hero and a soldier, are worthy of being repeated, when we are apt to be carried away by panic or passion. "Comrades," he said, "I congratulate you on the complete success achieved by you this morning. The ground over which we have to fight presents exceptional difficulties, and we had as an enemy a past master in the tactics of mounted infantry. With troops such as you are, a commander can have no fear as to the result." In concluding it would be unpatriotic to omit to mention in our general survey some of the lessons taught us by the war. From the lowliest in the land to the very highest, there have been outbursts of that enthusiastic loyalty and generosity which are characteristic of our nation. In success and defeat we have been tested, and we stand to-day among the nations a marvel of strength of nobility, of enthusiasm, and of dignity. If our struggle has done nothing more, it has opened our eyes to the practical sympathy of our colonies. The bonds of brotherhood have been drawn more closely together, and we feel to-day that, in all parts of that glorious empire on which the sun never sets, the Queen's subjects are one in heart, one in voice and one in hope.

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Wishing you the Compliments of the Season. I am, your humble Servant,

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DON'T FORGET THE ADDRESS—NEAR THE NEW CONSETT STATION. 217g

THE PROPOSED INFIRMARY FOR STANLEY AND DISTRICT.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

On Saturday evening an adjourned meeting of representatives from the mining lodges in the Stanley district was held in the Queen's Hotel, Stanley, to further consider the question of erecting a cottage hospital for Stanley and district. Mr. William Bulmer occupied the chair.

The Secretary (Mr. James Robinson) stated that as requested he had obtained information as to the cost of erection and maintenance of similar institutes elsewhere. The following circular had also been sent out to those lodges which were not represented at the previous meeting:—"Re proposed infirmary for Stanley and District. Dear Sir,—A meeting was held at the Queen's Hotel, Stanley, on Saturday evening last (December 29th), at which representatives attended from eleven of the local miners' lodges. Mr. William Bulmer, of Tanfield Lea, presided, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That in the opinion of this meeting a Cottage Infirmary for Stanley and district is most desirable, and that each representative present reports to his respective Lodge advocating the establishment of such an Institution, and asking the support of the Lodges. I was instructed to forward a copy of the resolution to the whole of the Lodges, in the district not represented at the meeting, and to ask them to send a representative to an adjourned meeting which will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Stanley, at 6.30 p.m., on Saturday, January 27th, 1900. I hope that your Lodge will be represented at this adjourned meeting."

As regards the cost of erection and maintenance, information had been received from the secretaries to the Bishop Auckland (Lady Eden) and Guisborough (Yorkshire) Infirmaries. Dr. McCullagh, one of the secretaries at the Lady Eden Hospital, wrote stating that the price at which the contracts were let (all to local firms, and all materials of the best) amounted in the aggregate to £1,557 18s. In his opinion £150 or £200 at the most would clear everything else. The architect's work at Auckland was done gratis. (Captain Crossling had kindly offered to do the same at Stanley.) In this infirmary there were two wards, holding four beds each, and one holding two beds, a bath-room, operating room, nurses' rooms (two), and a large committee room, kitchen, scullery, and offices all downstairs. Upstairs there were two nurses' bedrooms and a servants' bedroom. The staff consisted of a head nurse or matron (£40 a year and uniform), and a probationer (who receives uniform). This staff is found to be sufficient, as the washing is sent out. The site for the Auckland hospital was obtained from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for £130; the Commissioners also giving a subscription of £50. Mr. W. Charlton, secretary of the Guisborough Miners' Accident Hospital, wrote stating that he could not give the cost of erecting that institution, as it was built by the late Admiral Chaloner, a land and royalty-owner in the district. There were thirteen beds in the Guisborough Hospital, and the staff consisted of a trained nurse, who also took the duties of matron (salary £40), and two wards. No pay is made for any medical attendance, and each doctor in the district may attend his own patients (all workmen pay a doctor) in the hospital. One gentleman was elected honorary medical officer, and there was no resident doctor. The expenses which were incurred in maintaining the hospital in the year 1898 amounted to £368 4s 3d, the income amounting to £385 9s 6d. Workmen's subscriptions for the year amounted to £253 6s 6d, and subscriptions from several of the employers of labour and local gentry amounted to £12 11s. The secretary remarked that he had had a conversation with Dr. Charles, who stated that the local doctors would be quite willing to attend patients in the infirmary.

The Chairman enquired if anyone present wished to refer to the report presented. As regards the number of beds he thought that ten would be sufficient to commence with. He thought they would find that in erecting a hospital with ten beds it would cost them about £160 per bed.

Mr. Robinson remarked that about £2,000 would likely be the expenditure in erecting a hospital.

The Chairman supposed that the proposed hospital would be under the Local Government Board.

The Secretary replied that he had no information on the point.

The Chairman: Any way the plans will have to be sent to the Local Government Board. Mr. Wilson and I have talked that matter over.

The Secretary remarked that Mr. Graham would be able to give them any legal advice they might require.

A delegate said he did not think there was anything to question the secretary upon. If there was anything to be said he thought it was to thank him for his admirable report. They had an addition to that meeting by representatives from other five or six collieries. This was mainly due to the Secretary having communicated with them, and the circulars sent out appeared to have answered the end in view. There were a few who had not seen their way clear to co-operate with them, but he believed the date was not far distant when they would co-operate with them in their endeavours to erect a hospital. They had one or two gentlemen who stated that their workmen were contributing to the Durham and Newcastle Infirmaries; they were all contributing more or less to them, and it would be wise to do so until they got a place of their own. They would, of course, give their attention to home first, and whatever surplus they might have they could use that with discretion. The two hospitals mentioned by the Secretary were the two they might take into consideration. He thought that the Secretary had done well in communicating with the masters, and at the next meeting something definite would be placed before them. They had every reason to be encouraged. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman said that with regard to the circular sent out to the various Lodges, he might mention that Tanfield Lea were favourable to the scheme, and willing to support the same.

The former speaker said he could say for the rest of Stanley they were all favourable to the scheme. There was not the slightest doubt but that there would be one or two collieries that would object to the scheme, and would not be willing to go in for an infirmary; but he thought that in the end everything would come all right. (Hear, hear.) They only wanted a commencement, and if they were determined to erect an institution in the district for serious accidents, he felt confident that as a district they would accomplish that fact. Whatever they had to take up in the district they had always succeeded with, and come off wonderfully well. (Hear, hear.) He really believed that in regard to the present project they would likewise be successful. He could speak for his own colleagues, who were anxious for the erection of an infirmary. As regards the supporting of the same he believed that 1d per week per workman would be sufficient so far as the maintenance was concerned. It might mean a little additional for the erection of the structure.

The Secretary remarked that 1d per fortnight would be more than sufficient to maintain the hospital, according to the figures he had got. He was, of course, assuming that all the collieries would subscribe.

The previous speaker (continuing) said that 1d would be well spent. There was not a miner in the district who would regret the same. Just the other day an accident occurred at their own place to a young man. This person was a lodger, and they could not do anything for him at where he was lodging. What were the consequences? When the speaker went down to see the injured man he was lying upon the mat in front of the fire. If they had had a hospital then this person would have been taken at once to it. He thought that those workmen who were not very willing to co-operate with them would do so when the infirmary was erected. (Hear, hear.) They would convert them to it probably. He hoped that every representative present that evening would lay the matter carefully before their respective Lodges at their next meeting, and that those who had objected would re-consider their decision. He felt sure that if the institution was erected it would be one of the best projects inaugurated in the district—(hear, hear)—this little infirmary. He had had something to do with the matter during the last month as far as correspondence was concerned. He had made enquiries at Bishop Auckland, Guisborough, and Cleveland, and found that the hospitals at these places were working beautifully, and that they were satisfied with the work done. Sometimes when a person happened an accident they had not every convenience for him at home. Everybody knew that the home of a working-man was not the best, but nevertheless every workman strived to make his home the best that it was possible for him to do. He could not make it perfection as regards coping with a serious accident.

A representative from South Pontop Colliery said that for the information and gratification of the members of their Lodge they reported the resolution adopted at the last meeting, and the business, as minutely as their memory would allow them. After considering the report they decided to support the scheme. They happened to be appointed to wait upon the manager, and they did so, and that gentleman had promised to lay the matter before the owner, Mr. Ritson. They laid the views of the last meeting before their manager, and had asked him to use his influence in the matter, which he had promised to do. Mr. Ritson would be at a meeting on Thursday, when they would probably hear something.

The Secretary reported that the total number of workmen whom the scheme would affect would probably amount to 5,300 or thereabouts.

The Secretary here read a letter from the South Medomsley Lodge, stating that their representative would not be present at the meeting, but they were in favour of the erection of an infirmary.

The Chairman said that in regard to serious cases they wanted a special man; then instead of sending them to the Newcastle Infirmary, why not keep them at Stanley?

Mr. Indian said he did not think it would be money unwisely spent if they had to bring an expert from Newcastle. The less they removed a man the better it would be for the poor fellow.

Mr. Joseph Willcock moved, "That the Secretary be asked to kindly communicate with the officials at the various collieries, with a view to ascertaining the number of men and youths employed both above and below ground at the said colliery, and to report at the next meeting."

Mr. Pinnington seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

Nearly the whole of the representatives present reported that their Lodges were in sympathy with the movement.

The Chairman remarked that from data presented by the Secretary a hospital likely to meet their requirements would probably cost £2,000. He thought that the first thing they ought to consider was the securing of a piece of ground upon which to erect the proposed hospital, and by all means to consider if they could secure the same for nothing. (Hear, hear.) Nobody would regret that. The next thing would be as to the quantity of land required; he thought it would take an acre of land.

After further discussion it was decided to adjourn the meeting pending particulars regarding a meeting of the colliery owners upon the subject.

Infant Mortality at Tow Law

At the quarterly meeting of the Durham County Council on Wednesday week, Councillor Dodd drew attention to the high rate of infant mortality. At Tow Law during the last quarter the infant mortality was 423 per 1,000 births. He thought the Health Committee should take into consideration the question of child insurance. They knew children were insured as soon as they were born, and they had it from the N.S.P.C.C. that there were cruel parents in the county.—Alderman J. Wilson, M.P., strongly objected to Councillor Dodd's remarks, asking him either to withdraw them or bring forward some proof. Taken class for class, there was the same parental regard amongst the working class in Durham as elsewhere.—Councillor Dodd, in explanation, said his remarks were not intended to apply to Durham in particular.—The Chairman did not sympathise with any suggestion that the people of the county insured the lives of their children in order to get their insurance money. He did not think Councillor Dodd meant that. But it was deplorable that so many children died young, and the reason was to be found in the following paragraph in the Medical Officer's report—"This is a small village containing about 30 or 40 old houses, mostly built of magnesian limestone. The walls, almost without exception, are damp, some of them very bad, and a few of the worst have been stoothed round. This hides, but does not cure, the dampness. Most of the roofs are covered by the old red pan-tile, and in many cases are in a very bad condition, and nothing less than re-roofing with slates or other covering is likely to make some of the houses habitable, so far as their roofs are concerned. Generally speaking, throughout the village spouting is conspicuous by its absence, both at front and back of the houses. Many of the house yards are in a very bad condition, and the drain openings to several are untrapped. In a few cases the privy-ashpits were in a more or less insanitary condition. The whole of the houses are without water, except that which is derived from a well, at the entrance to the village."

CONSETT.

BRODGEN'S SWISS CHOIR.—A good many years have now elapsed since Brogden's Swiss Choir first appeared in Consett. They were then twelve strong and were a wonder. They are still a wonder, but wonderfully stronger in numbers and artistic ability. They have just fulfilled an engagement which has created the greatest interest, and brought to the New Town Hall very large, very enthusiastic, and thoroughly satisfied audiences. The programme was so extensive that space precludes the mention of all the items, but particular reference may be made to the new patriotic song "Cheers" written by Mr. Arthur Brogden to music set by Mr. Bowker Andrews. A rather clever duett of "True Till Death," rendered by Miss Cissy Loveday and Mr. H. Bodina, arranged, we believe by the latter, was well received, as also were the efforts of the numerous and able members of Mr. Brogden's choir.

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GARDENING NOTES

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN IN FEBRUARY.

GENERAL.—The work of this month will principally consist of digging, liberal manuring, and careful weeding. It should be borne in mind that in all very early sowings some risk from frost must be encountered, but it is a very inexpensive matter to re-sow the ground, and early crops are usually specially appreciated.

BROAD BEANS.—Sow for early and main crops in double rows, 3ft. asunder, placing the two lines forming each double row nine inches distant from one another, arranging the seeds to come alternately. Cover with three or four inches of good soil. If the ground was not liberally manured in autumn, some partially decayed dung can be forked in when levelling down in spring. Thin out autumn-sown crops, moving the thinnings, with good balls of soil attached, to a sloping south border. Thin the main crop until the plants stand five or six inches apart in the rows, and earth up when about six inches high.

BROCCOLI.—Autumn kinds can be sown during February in a frame in shallow drills ten inches apart. Cover with half-an-inch of fine soil. The seedlings will need transplanting as soon as possible, before they become in the least drawn.

CABBAGES.—Where plantations are growing closely, it is advisable to pull every alternate plant for use, thus leaving the remainder plenty of room to mature.

CAULIFLOWERS.—Sow in boxes on a gentle hot-bed, and cover with half-an-inch of fine soil. Rigidly exterminate weeds, and as soon as the seedlings are large enough to handle, prick them out into another frame or under handlights, giving all the air consistent with safety until finally planting out in May.

CORN SALAD.—This useful crop needs well-drained, good, and rather dry soil. Sow in drills six or nine inches apart, using an ounce of seed to a row of 60 ft., and covering it with about one-third of an inch of soil. Thin out the plants early to six inches apart in the rows; keep clear of weeds, and protect with a little dry litter during winter. Gather the crop like spinach. The leaves make a very wholesome and pleasing addition to spring salads, or they may be dressed and served with salad oil.

COUVE TRONCHUDA.—The mid-ribs of this plant form a most delicious vegetable. It requires a rich, deeply worked soil, prepared as though for ordinary cabbage. Sow now in gentle heat, and cover with about half an inch of soil. Put the plants out early quite two and a half feet apart, and water them copiously during dry weather.

GARLIC.—Saving only that the bulbs should be planted more deeply, each being placed between two and three inches from the surface, garlic requires the treatment advised for shallots.

LETTUCES.—Sow in pans in a greenhouse or frame, or even in boxes covered with sheets of glass, and placed on a sunny border. Prick out the seedlings from the first sowings as early as possible into frames or boxes of light rich soil, and finally plant them out six inches apart in April. Draw every alternate plant for use, leaving the remainder to mature a foot asunder.

MUSTARD.—Mustard may be grown with great ease in a greenhouse or frame through the winter. The secrets of success are not to sow too thickly or water too liberally. Fresh soil should be used for every sowing.

PARSLEY.—A sowing may be made at the end of the month if desired, scattering the seeds rather thickly in shallow drills a foot asunder. The seedlings will need to be thinned out at several times, until they stand some six inches or so apart. It is well to pick only two or three leaves from a plant at one time.

PARSNIP.—Sow as early in February as weather permits, in shallow drills, from 14 to 18 inches apart, using an ounce of seed to a row of 100ft., and cover with about an inch of fine soil. Parsnips do not require a rich soil, though an autumn dressing of partially decayed dung, which is free from straw, is beneficial if large roots are desired. Improved marrow and hollow crown are both very good varieties, though for kitchen use we prefer the round or globe kind, which should always be sown for early crops. Commence systematic weeding as soon as the plants are visible in the rows, and when the seedlings are about two inches high thin them out to six inches apart. Finally single out the roots from 10 to 12, or even 15 inches asunder. Keep the hoe busy amongst growing. Deep and thorough cultivation is the secret of growing the finest exhibition parsnips. Fill these holes with a firm mixture of fine potting soil, sand, and wood ashes, and sow about three seeds in every one. Thin out to a single plant at each station.

PEAS.—Continue sowing as previously advised for early crops when the soil and weather are favourable. A pasty seed-bed is most undesirable. As the seedlings show above ground, they should be lightly dusted over with soot and lime mixed, by way of protection from slugs. Thin out the seedlings to two inches apart when they are two or three inches high. Early out-door sowings must be sheltered effectually from keen winds, and it is well to support the plants with brushwood when they are three or four inches high. As seedlings appear under glass, it will, of course, be necessary to water occasionally. Mice frequently demolish early sowings before the seeds have germinated. A good preventive is to cover with a little earth, and then with two inches of sharp sand. Another method consists of moistening the seed with sweet oil, and then covering it with red lead.

POTATOES.—To make provision of germinated tubers for the earliest crops, pack sets on end and closely together, one layer deep in shallow boxes, which must be placed near the glass in a light position, where they cannot be reached by frost. Select a dry, warm, and good border, and if it be not sheltered by a wall, line it out into ridges six inches high and about two feet apart. The addition of mellow, thorougly decayed manure and sand will be beneficial. During February sow every third or fourth row with a dwarf, hardy pea, that will serve to protect the young shaws, which must be further guarded by being earthed up directly they appear. This process should be continued, leaving only the extreme tops visible until the ridges are 10 to 12 inches high. During severe weather cover with several inches of clean litter. About mid-March will be found the best time to plant the sets rather shallowly in the ridges. If frames can be spared to place over the young plants, there will be much less risk of injury from frost.

RADISHES.—Earliness and rapid growth are of the utmost importance. February sowings out of doors must be protected with about 4 inches of light litter during frost. Early thinning is vital, as crowded plants produce large tops instead of roots. Large roots are never desirable, the small, crisp, and quickly grown ones being alike more elegant in appearance and of a more delicate flavour.

RHUBARB.—Fresh plantations may be formed now. Roots that have been taken up may be cut into pieces, each of which contains a single eye. These pieces should be planted 3 feet apart in rows of 3 or 4 feet asunder, the tops of the crowns being kept slightly above the surface. Deeply worked, rich soils are to be preferred, but good crops can be secured on well cultivated clays. An open position that is sheltered from east winds is desirable.

SEA KALE.—Blanching may be effected by earthing up each crown with 7 or 8 inches of fine soil, or by covering with a sea kale pot, which may be surrounded with leaves, or even by means of a layer of clean leaves about a foot in depth, kept in position by planks and a little earth. When the growth has been cut, the covering material should be removed.

SHALLOTS.—Plant the cloves as early in spring as possible, sufficiently deep to keep them firmly in place 8 inches apart in rows 12 inches asunder.

SPINACH.—Make small and frequent sowings from now onwards in drills an inch deep and a foot asunder. Thin out the produce early to 6, and finally to 12 inches apart in the rows. Hoe lightly between the plants to keep down weeds. Early sowings require dryish soil in a somewhat sheltered position.

TOMATOES.—Seed is usually sown in most gardens towards the end of the month in sandy soil. Maintain a temperature of 60 to 65 degrees at night and 75 by day, and prick out the seedlings singly into small pots directly they have made two leaves.

E. KEMP TOOGOOD, F.R.H.S.
pro Toogood and Sons,
The Royal Seed Establishment,
Southampton.

AGRICULTURE

INDISPENSABLE INSECTICIDES.

(Continued.)

PARAFFIN EMULSIONS.—Two methods of preparing paraffin emulsion are in common everyday use, one known as the Riley-Hubbard system and the other originating with Professor Cooke. According to the former method it is prepared by adding two gallons of paraffin to one gallon of a solution made by dissolving half-a-pound of hard soap in one gallon of boiling water, and churning the mixture by forcing it back into the same vessel through a force pump (a syringe) with a rather small nozzle, until the whole forms a creamy mass, which will thicken into a jelly-like substance on cooling. The soap solution should not be hot when the paraffin is added, but of course must not be near a fire. In case soft soap is used add one quart in place of the half-pound of hard soap. The emulsion thus made is to be diluted before using with from 9 to 15 or 20 parts of water to one part of emulsion. The amount of dilution varies with different insects. Greenfly and other plant lice die if reached by emulsion diluted with from 15 to 20 parts of water, while beetles and hard-bodied insects are killed only when not more than nine or ten parts of water are employed to one part of emulsion. Soft or rain water should be used for dilution. If this cannot be obtained add a little lye or bicarbonate of soda.

To make Cooke's soft soap emulsion dissolve one quart of soft soap in two quarts of boiling water. Remove from the fire, and while still boiling hot add one pint of paraffin, and immediately agitate with the pump as described above. In two or three minutes the emulsion will be perfect. This should be diluted by adding an equal amount of water when it is ready for use. This always emulsifies readily with hard or soft water, always remains permanent, for years even, and is very easily diluted, even in the coldest weather and without any heating. In this last respect it has no equal so far as we have experimented. The objections to it are that we cannot always procure the soft soap, though many farmers prepare it for their own use, and it is generally to be obtained easily in towns, and that it occasionally injures the foliage, probably owing to the caustic properties of the soap. The emulsion has been used freely for years, and injury has been extremely rare. In case of any such trouble use only one half of amount of soap—a pint instead of a quart. It works just as well.

For Cooke's hard soap emulsion dissolve one-quarter-pound of hard soap in two quarts of water. Add, as before, one pint of paraffin and pump the mixture back into itself while hot. This always emulsifies at once, and is permanent with hard as well as soft water. It is diluted with twice its bulk of water before use. The objection to a large amount of water sinks before the fact that this secures a sure and permanent emulsion, even though diluted with hard water. This also becomes, with certain soaps, lumpy or stringy when cold, so that it cannot be readily diluted with cold water unless first heated. Yet this is true with all hard soap emulsions in case of certain soaps. We can however always dilute easily if we do so at once before our emulsion is cold, and we can also do the same either by heating the emulsion or diluteut, no matter how long we wait.

Undiluted emulsion, by whatever process produced, must be stored for future use only in a cool, dark place. The proper system of diluting is to measure out the required quantity of emulsion, add to it three or four times its volume of boiling water, and then the rest of the dilutent in the form of cold water. Plant lice and many soft-bodied sucking insects are readily destroyed by this excellent and inexpensive insecticide.

Yet another emulsion is made by using sour milk and paraffin, the milk being employed instead of soap. A gallon of sour milk is added to two gallons of paraffin, the mixture being churned with a small nozzled syringe, as above directed. The change from a watery liquid to a thick buttery consistency, much thicker than with soap, takes place very suddenly after three or five minutes' agitation. With sweet milk difficulty will frequently be experienced, and if the emulsion does not result in five minutes the addition of a little vinegar will induce prompt action. It is better to prepare the milk emulsion from time to time for immediate use, unless it can be stored in quantity in air-tight jars; otherwise it will ferment and spoil after a week or two. It is diluted for use after the manner recommended for the Hubbard-Riley emulsion.

RESIN WASHES.—These have proved of very considerable value against scale insects of various kinds in the United States, and they might with great advantage be more frequently employed in this country. The action of the insecticide is to form an impervious covering or varnish over each insect, and the application must in consequence be a distinctly heavy one so as to wet the whole bark. The wash is usually made as follows:—20lbs. of resin, 5lbs. crude caustic soda, 2½ pints fish oil, and water to make 100 gallons. The U.S.A. Department of Agriculture, in recommending this wash, says that ordinary commercial resin is used and the caustic soda is that put up at soap establishments in large 200lb. drums. Smaller quantities may be obtained at soap factories, or the granulated caustic soda used, 34lbs. of the latter being the equivalant of 5lbs. of the former. Place these substances, with the oil, in a kettle, with water to cover them to a depth of three or four inches. Boil about two hours, making occasional additions of water, or until the compound resembles very strong black coffee. Dilute to one-third the final bulk with hot water, or with cold water added slowly over the fire, making a stock mixture to be diluted to the full amount as used. When sprayed the mixture should be perfectly fluid, without sediment, and should any appear in a stock mixture re-heating should be resorted to, as in fact the wash is preferably applied hot.

SULPHUR.—The fungicidal action of sulphur is well understood in England, the agent being generally applied to destroy surface mildews on cultivated plants; but its use as an insecticide is hardly yet recognised. It is a capital remedy for such plant mites as the red spider, being applied at the rate of one ounce of sulphur to a gallon of water if it be not mixed with some other insecticide such as one of the paraffin emulsions. Sulphur is a useful thing to rid poultry houses of insects, and it is with reason considered a good means of freeing stock from many pests when fed with their ordinary food in reasonable quantity.

BISULPHIDE.—In our opinion this is by far the best remedy for mites. Not only is it a liquid that can be diluted easily to any desired strength, but it is very cheaply prepared by boiling in a little water equal parts of flowers of sulphur and lime. For red spider 5 lbs of sulphur and 5 of lime are boiled in a little water until they become dissolved into a brownish liquid, which is then diluted to 100 gallons with water.

SPRAYING FOR SUCKING INSECTS.

Having now briefly considered the most suitable and desirable insecticides for the extermination of sucking pests it behoves us to briefly consider the best time to apply them. Immediate treatments should be the rule in case of all kinds of plant lice or greenfly, caterpillars, &c., the selected insecticide being applied in the form of a fine spray at a strength that will not be harmful to the foliage. For scale insects both summer and winter applications are required, the latter being much the stronger. Mr Marlatt, whose experience is very considerable, says that the summer washes for scale insects are most effective against the young, and that treatment should begin with the first appearance of the lavre in spring. It should also be followed at intervals of seven days, with two or three additional applications. Winter treatment of deciduous trees is much more effective than summer spraying, because every portion of the wood can be reached and thoroughly wetted. Such concentrated paraffin emulsions as would probably cause the death of a tree during the growing season can be applied with impunity soon after the falling of the leaves.

WILLIAM TOOGOOD, Southampton.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The following is a list of the local harvest and other Church Collections which have been forwarded to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1899:—Rev. Johnson Baily, Ryton, Ryton-on-Tyne, £4 0s 8d; Rev. Richard Marsh, Thornley, Tow Law, R.S.O., £1 1s 5d; Rev. R. M. Nason, St. John Evangelist, Greenside, Ryton-on-Tyne, £1; Right Rev. J. J. Pulleine, Stanhope, R.S.O., £4 7s 3d; Right Rev. J. J. Pulleine, Crawleyside Chapel of Ease, Stanhope, R.S.O., 8s 6d; Rev. T. L. J. Warneford, Satley, Tow Law, R.S.O., £3 5s 7d; Rev. T. L. J. Warneford, Cornsay Almshouses, Tow Law, R.S.O., 14s 5d.



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BRIEF ANNALS OF SOUTH AFRICA

(By J. W. Fawcett.)

1868. On the appeal of Moshesh, the chief of the Basutos, Sir Philip Wodehouse, the Governor of Cape Colony, declared Basutoland, a tract of country having an area of 8,450 square miles, at the head of the basin of the Orange River and lying between the colonial districts of Smithfield and Aliwal North, Natal, and the Orange River Free State, a British territory (March.)

1868. Gold was discovered at Tati on the northern borders of the South African Republic, north of the Limpopo River, since called the Victoria Diggings, or Tatin gold-fields.

1868. The renowned diamond "Star of South Africa" discovered by a Hottentot shepherd, who sold it to a trader named Neikirk for £400, who disposed of it the same day for £12,000.

1868. Pretorius, President of the South African Republic, issued a proclamation, extending the boundaries of his state westward to Lake Ngami, eastward to Delagoa Bay and the sea, and northward into Mashonaland. Britain and Portugal at once protested, and the proclamation was withdrawn.

1869. Prince Alfred landed at Port Elizabeth (August 6th.)

1869. Pretorius concluded a treaty with Portugal.

1869. Death of Moshesh, the paramount chief of the Basutos.

1869. The Korannas and Bushmen who had raided the north-western districts of Cape Colony, and carried off 15,000 sheep, besides horses and cattle, and rendered life and property very insecure, punished by Sir Walter Currie with a force of the Frontier Mounted Police.

1869. A fearful conflagration occurred in the Alexandria district in Eastern Cape Colony, which consumed homesteads, farm stocks, crops, forest game and everything in its course.

1869. Gold and diamonds discovered in the district of the Vaal River.

1869. The Rev W. Macrorie, M.A., consecrated Bishop of Pieter Maritzburg.

1870. As a concession to the Catholic power of Portugal some measure of religious freedom was for the first time introduced into the South African Republic.

1870. Sir Henry Barkly appointed Governor and High Commissioner of Cape Colony (Sept. 5th), and assumed the Government (Dec. 31st.)

1870. The Primitive Methodist Missionary Society commenced a mission at Aliwal North, on the borders of the Orange Free State.

1870. A Land Act passed in Cape Colony which enables the leaseholders, with the consent of the Government, to convert at any time during the continuation of their twenty-one years' lease, their lease into perpetual quitrent tenure by a payment of a sum not less than the rent capitalised at six per cent, and a quitrent of a pound per cent. (Act 5.)

1870. A Land Act passed in Cape Colony making provision for the disposal of agricultural areas in allotments of not more than 100 acres; the terms for conditional purchase being an annual rental of one shilling per acre; and of absolute purchase, the payment in advance of ten years annual rent, and the expenses of survey and title. (Act 4.)

1870. Dry diamond digging first heard of at Dutoits pan (Dec.)

1871. Diamonds discovered under the roots of an old thorn tree at Colesberg Kopje, in Griqualand (July.)

1871. In consequence of the discovery of rich diamond fields on the Lower Vaal River and in the neighbouring territory of the Griqua chief, Nicholas Waterboer, and by reason of the petition of that chief for the protection of the British rule, the diamond district was incorporated with Cape Colony on the 27th of October, under the name of Griqualand West (area 16,632 square miles), but with independent jurisdiction.

1871. The Orange Free State protested against the British annexation of Griqualand West, alleging that they were the legitimate possessors of the diamond fields. In order to settle this dispute the Imperial Government paid them a compensation of £90,000.

1871. The British annexation of Griqualand West rendered it necessary for the South African Republic to have her south western border definitely defined, and the boundary settlement was by arrangement referred to Mr Robert Keate, the Lieutenant Governor of Natal, who decided against the Republic, but the award was never really carried out.

1871. Pretorius, the President of the South African Republic accepted the Keate award, but the Volksraad protested, and the President was driven from office. The Republic was now without a leader, and a proposition was made to unite the two republican states, by the election of President Brand, but it met with little or no success.

1871. Basutoland, which had been proclaimed British territory in March, 1868, was formally annexed to Cape Colony (August.)

1871. Population of Natal, 289,773.

1872. Mr Anthony Musgrave appointed Lieutenant Governor of Natal.

1872. Gold reef mining commenced in the South African Republic at Eersteling, about 100 miles N.W. of Lydenburg. Alluvial gold was also found in the Komati district in the S.E. of the same state.

1872. The London Missionary Society opened a second station in Matabeleland, at Hope Fountain.

1872. Thomas François Burgers, a Cape Dutchman, sometime minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, was elected President of the South African Republic.

1872. Cape Colony invested with full powers of responsible, or self-government, and the first ministry entered office, Sir John Molteno being appointed first Premier (December.)

1872. The Constitution Ordinance Amendment Act providing for "the introduction of the system of executive administration commonly called Responsible Government" passed in Cape Colony.

1872. Railway from Capetown to Wellington—a private undertaking—transferred to the Government.

1873. An Act passed in Cape Colony for incorporating a Colonial University.

1873. A new charter granted to Natal—the Government to consist of a Lieutenant Governor, an Executive Council, and a Legislative Council of 19.

1873. Griqualand West received a regular constitution to be administered by a Lieutenant Governor (April 2.)

1873. The first really successful gold field in South Africa opened near Lydenburg in the South African Republic.

1873. The Natal Government signed a convention for the construction of a railway system in that colony.

1873. Mr Theophilus Shepstone at the request of Cetewayo again entered Zululand, with a goodly following of respectable Colonists, to install Cetewayo on behalf of the British Government, as King of the Zulus. Before the British Government would consent to Cetewayo's request, repeated again and again, he and his counsellors were required to promise most solemnly, as the condition of his installation by the English.—

1st.—That no Zulu should be put to death for any cause without fair trial, and a public examination of witnesses.

2nd.—That no execution should take place without Cetewayo's knowledge and sanction.

3rd.—That the young men should be permitted to marry without purchasing such a condition as the reward of the deeds of ferocity and bravery in war.

4th.—That the Zulu army should not be increased and that Cetewayo should abstain from attacking the neighbours, or any tribes.

5th.—That the Christian Missionaries should not be hindered in their benevolent work, and that all Zulus who wished to become Christians should be allowed to do so, without persecution or hindrance.

1874. Population of Natal, 307,241.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

GRAND SCOTTISH CONCERT.

In every respect the annual concert given by the North-West Durham Caledonian Society in the Consett New Town Hall on Monday night was a success. The attendance was as large as the hall would permit, the artistes engaged occupied high positions in the musical world, and the various items on a very complete programme were rendered in such a manner as not only to give every satisfaction, but to arouse the enthusiasm of the audience. The principals were Miss Jessie MacLachlan, soprano; Miss Lizzie Hunter, contralto; Mr. J. M. Hamilton, tenor; Mr. Andrew Brown, baritone; Mr. Harry Lauder, humorist, and Mr. Robert Buchanan, pianist. Ketchen's prize pipers were also present, and during the interval rendered selections in a masterly manner. After a pianoforte solo by Mr. Buchanan, consisting of Scottish airs, the quartette "Willie Wastle dwelt on Tweed" was finely given, followed by the songs "Sound the Pibroch" (Mr. A. Brown), and "O sing tae me the auld Scotch Sangs" (Miss Hunter.) Mr. Hamilton gave an exceedingly able rendering of "O' a' the airts," for which he was enthusiastically encored. Miss MacLachlan's fine soprano voice was heard to advantage in the song "Angus Macdonald," and so effectively did she render the theme that the audience demanded an encore. A similar compliment was paid to Mr. Lauder, who created a feeling of amusement by his humourous song "The Tailor's Wife." Miss Hunter gave a very pleasing rendition of "Star o' Robbie Burns," and then Mr. Brown aroused the patriotism of the house by his singing of the song "Who carries the gun." He was enthusiastically encored and responded with "Bringing back the flag to Majuba." Miss MacLachlan again came in for a hearty reception for the skilful way in which she sang "Wi' a Hundred Pipers." In response to an encore she sang "Coming thro' the Rye," and was again loudly applauded. After a performance by the pipers the second part of the programme was proceeded with, the opening item being the quartette "Wae's me for Prince Charlie." Mr. Hamilton, who was in full Highland costume, followed with the "The Standard on the Braes o' Mar," after which Mr. Lauder received a well deserved encore for his humourous song "The Councillor." Miss Hunter having contributed the song "Scotland yet," joined Miss MacLachlan in giving as a duet "Ye Banks and Braes." This was a very fine contribution, and elicited the hearty applause of the audience. Mr. Brown having rendered "Scots wha' hae," Miss MacLachlan gave in delightful style "O' whistle, an' I'll come tae ye my lad." Successful as the soprano had already been this was probably her best effort of the evening, and it goes without saying that she was rapturously applauded, and willingly responded to a request to sing a gaelic song for which she gained the thanks and approval of the audience. Mr. Hamilton having sung "The Braes o' Balquidder," Mr. Lauder gave another humourous song "The Lass o' Killiecrankie," and again he had to respond to an encore. The party then sang as a quartette "Auld Lang Syne," after which "God Save the Queen" was rendered with great enthusiasm, and so brought to a conclusion a most successful concert.

WINE AND SPIRIT TRADE

MESSRS. J. R. PARKINGTON AND CO.'S ANNUAL REPORT.

January, 1900.

A resume of our particular branch of commerce for the past year once more clearly demonstrates the close affinity existing between national prosperity and demand for wines and spirits. During the earlier months business was inclined to be dull and lethargic; but when spring arrived, to be followed by a summer of exceptional brilliancy, a distinct improvement was manifested, notwithstanding the adverse influence of the increased duties levied by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The hopeful anticipations of an animated autumn and winter season were, however, effectually dispelled by the outbreak of war in our South African Colonies. The inevitable curtailment of banquets, balls, and entertainments, both public and private, could not fail to re-act most prejudicially on sales, but we can only hope that the clouds will speedily disperse, and peace and prosperity be once more restored. Glancing first at France, we find that Champagne exhibits a decrease both in importations and clearances for home consumption; the returns being 1,387,481 gallons and 1,357,195 gallons respectively, as compared with 1,796,617 gallons and 1,534,230 gallons last year. Doubtless this falling off can be accounted for, to some extent, by the heavy shipments of 1892's and 1893's in immediately preceding years; whilst the 1895's (though highly esteemed) have not as yet come forward in any quantities. But, as Champagne is the wine "par excellence" of festivities, a temporary check is the natural corollary of the mourning into which so many families are cast by the effects of the war. The still wines of France, of which Claret is by far the most important factor, also mark a decline; imports being 5,988,480 gallons, and duty payments 5,918,545 gallons, against 6,588,491 gallons and 6,033,237 gallons in 1898. As there is good cause to presume that Burgundy has, at least, maintained its position, the decrease is doubtless due to a further diminution in consumption of Claret, trade in which has been of a most unsatisfactory character for some long time past. The position has only been rendered more acute by the sales, at public auction, of very large parcels, consigned to this side for realisation in consequence of the overburdened market at Bordeaux. That shippers are by no means despondent is abundantly evidenced by the remarkable ease and rapidity with which growers have disposed of this year's produce at specially good prices. Shipments of Port to the United Kingdom have amounted to 3,992,421 gallons, and home deliveries to 3,739,438 gallons, making a decrease of 479,086 gallons and 292,752 gallons respectively. These statistics are probably somewhat misleading, for there does not appear to be any falling off in the demand. Port has, for some years past, been on the up grade, and these adverse returns are largely due to the fact that now the 1893's and 1896's are nearly all in bottle, but very few vintage wines have come forward, or been cleared, in course of the past year. Hopes are entertained that Sherry is recovering, to some extent at least, its long lost hold on popular estimation; and although importations total but 1,727,522 gallons against 1,912,113 gallons in 1898, duty payments (a far more crucial test as far as home trade is concerned) only mark a decline of 5,000 gallons, and the small deficit is entirely due to the disappointing returns of November and December; for in the earlier months clearances for home trade were considerably in excess of the corresponding period of last year. The Red Wines of Spain, practically consisting of Tarragona and Rioja, present a somewhat startling contrast to their competitors; importations and duty payments shew an increase of no less than 211,692 gallons and 316,704 gallons respectively, convincing testimony to the rapidly extending trade in these useful wines. A steady demand has prevailed for Hocks and Moselles; but importations from Italy and Madeira have been rather less than in 1898. Colonial Wines, notably Australian, remain at about an average level, and call for no special comment. The Brandy trade, though presenting no particular feature, has been more active than in 1898; importations show a decrease of 38,525 gallons, but duty payments an increase of 124,698 gallons. Although there are no signs of waning in public demand for whiskey, the market has been disturbed by financial difficulties, which were clearly due more to reckless methods of trading than to over production or paucity of sales. It is reassuring, however, to know that the position of well-established and more conservative houses is in no way shaken. The rum trade has fully maintained its regained prosperity; importations, owing to exceptionally heavy shipments during December, have increased 254,478 gallons and duty payments by 327,028 gallons. Prices throughout the year have ruled very firm, with a steady and upwards tendency.

The Continental vintage was, on the whole, far more satisfactory than was originally expected. The cold and inclement spring occasioned considerable injury to the vines, but the almost tropical heat of the summer did much to repair the damage. The official returns from France estimate the quantity at 47,907,000 hectolitres, an increase of 15,625,000 hectolitres over 1898. The yield in champagne was, unfortunately, small, though the quality is expected to be excellent, but in the Bordeaux and the Cote d'Or districts, both quality and quantity leave but little to be desired. The harvest in the Charentes was moderate, but the alcoholic strength decidedly high, and, therefore, most desirable for distillation purposes; some few shippers have already submitted samples of 1899 brandy, but the large majority await the lead of the two principal houses before fixing quotations. A fair average crop was secured in Italy; but the result on the Rhine and Moselle districts was very disappointing. Authorities are unanimous that the Douro gathering was most encouraging, and promises to develop high quality, and therefore will, doubtless, in due course, be established on our market as an accredited vintage. The sister Peninsular, Spain, has not been so favoured; phylloxera has worked havoc in many Andalusian vineyards, and consequently the scarity of sherries has caused a material rise in demand on this side. It may be fairly claimed notwithstanding the suspensions in Scotland, that our trade continues to be conducted on a sound and satisfactory basis; a certain number of failures are practically unavoidable in all branches of commerce, but these in no sense invalidate the position of the general body of merchants or shippers.

WHICKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL AND DANCE.

Under the auspices of the Whickham Choral Society a successful social and dance was held in the Whickham Parochial Schools, on Friday evening. The arrangements for the event were satisfactory in every detail, and those present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A capital programme was ably discoursed by Mr. Robson Thompson (piano), and Mr. Waggot (violin). The duties of M.C.'s were satisfactorily carried out by Mr. W. Thirlaway and Mr. J. W. Nicholson. Dancing commenced about eight o'clock and was kept up with much spirit till the early hours of Saturday morning. The refreshments were supplied by Mr. J. S. Simpson, Westgate Road, Newcastle. Amongst the large company present were:—

Councillor Ed. Taylor, Whickham.
Miss C. Taylor, Whickham.
Mr. H. Tomkinson, Newcastle.
Mr. G. B. Ellender, Whickham.
Mr. W. J. Nicholson, Whickham.
Miss Nicholson, Whickham.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Thirlaway, Whickham.
Mr. G. Jackson, Whickham.
Mr. H. Forster, Winlaton.
Mr. Storey, Gateshead.
Miss M. L. Turbitt, Swalwell.
Miss Tait, Whickham.
Miss Thirlaway, Sunniside.
Mr. J. Ismay, Whickham.
Mr. S. Spoor, Whickham.
Miss Ada Norvell, Swalwell.
Miss E. Liddle, Whickham.
Miss Nellie Hall, Whickham.
Mr. J. Turnbull, Whickham.
Mr. S. Smith, Swalwell.
Mr. R. Cross, Swalwell.
Mr. Wm. Easey, Whickham.
Miss Agnes Thompson, Whickham.
Miss Nellie Thompson, Whickham.
Miss Ida Ismay, Whickham.
Mr. Ord, Gateshead.
Miss Edith Morrison, Swalwell.
Mr. Charles Robson, Whickham.
Mr. J. Gardner, Whickham.
Mr. W. Willis, Whickham.
Mr. P. Jobling, Whickham.
Miss Lena Harbottle, Swalwell.
Miss Grace Harbottle, Swalwell.
Mr. C. Gall, Whickham.
Mr. and Mrs. T. Snaith, Whickham.
Mr. G. Turnbull, Whickham.
Mr. J. E. Turnbull, Whickham.
Miss Smith, Swalwell.
Mr. H. Gall, Whickham.
Mr. G. F. Ward, Newcastle.
Mr. J. Richley, Newcastle.
Mr. Boutflower, Longhorsley.
Mr. T. Coulson, Marley Hill.
Miss Violet Saunders, Marley Hill.
Mr. E. Saunders, Marley Hill.
Miss A. Irving, Swalwell.
Mr. Rodger Atkinson, Whickham.
Mr. T. Cliffe, Blaydon.
Mr. H. Kirk, Whickham.
Miss C. Atkinson, Whickham.
Miss Ethel Atkinson, Whickham.
Mr. Tweedy, Blaydon.
Miss I. Armstrong, Whickham.
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Miss P. Stark, Whickham.
Mr. G. Easey, Whickham.
Miss J. Rutherford, Swalwell.
Mr. J. Craig, Whickham.
Miss Maggie Walker, Swalwell.
Messrs Pratt (2), Consett.
Miss Pratt, Whickham.
Miss Pratt, Newcastle.
Mr. C. H. Chilton, Blaydon.
Mr. H. Ryding, Blaydon.
Miss Shield, Newcastle.
Mr. J. F. Ward, Blaydon.
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PRESENTATION TO MR G. T. HYDEN

On Tuesday night, Mr. Geo. Ainsworth, J.P., one of the managers of the British Schools, in Medomsley Road, Consett, presided over a large gathering on the occasion of a testimonial being handed over to Mr. G. T. Hyden, the headmaster, who had been in charge of the schools for a period of 21 years. Among those present were Mr Rayner (assistant master), Mr and Mrs G. Pattrick, Mr and Mrs W. Best, Mr Ward Davison, and the Misses Davison, Coun. J. Lowes, Mr Joseph Siddle, Mr McClure, Mr T. Allison, the Misses Knifton, Mrs Shell, and the Misses Watson. Present and old scholars were strongly represented, and there was also a good representation of parents of those now under the training of Mr Hyden and his staff. The presentation consisted of a gold English Lever chronometer to Mr Hyden, and a gold dress ring set with amethysts to Mrs Hyden. The inner case of the watch—a very handsome one—bore the following inscription—"Consett British Schools, presented to Mr G. T. Hyden on completing 21 years as headmaster by parents, friends, past and present scholars, and teachers. January, 1900." The watch and ring were obtained from the establishment of Coun. John Lowes, Consett.

The Chairman said he had been asked to take the chair at that meeting more, he supposed, because he had known Mr Hyden longer than anyone else in the room, and perhaps to some extent because he and Mr. Hyden had always been friends, although as a manager, they were in the relative position of employer and employed. For that reason he was only too pleased to accept the invitation, although he had nothing whatever to do with the testimonial, and, indeed, he had not been a subscriber. Perhaps that was because he had not been asked. It was, he thought, gratifying that they could meet there that night to recognise the services of one who had been with them for 21 years. Looking to the changed condition of Consett during the past 20 or 30 years it was somewhat surprising that they had been able to retain amongst them a man who came a stranger to them, and who naturally might have been expected to make a beneficial migratory move and not to remain in a small town. How they had managed to retain him, and what he had accomplished amongst them was well known to most of them.

Mr Reyner, in response to the chairman, read a number of letters from old scholars and friends, and proceeded to say that the object of their meeting was to show their appreciation of Mr Hyden's work as a schoolmaster and as a man. In the case of old scholars they had the hall mark of Mr Hyden's training. Many scholastic successes had been gained in connection with the British Schools, and now that the Technical Institution was approaching completion there was another opening for them. In connection with that testimonial not one circular had been sent out, and no one had been asked to subscribe, the contributions being entirely voluntary. He quoted from reports to show the successful results achieved by Mr Hyden who, he said, had taken the word "happy" as his maxim—he had sought to make others happy as well as feeling happy himself. He would never forget the help he had received from Mr Hyden, both professionally and otherwise. (Applause.)

The Chairman then made the presentation. Perhaps he might be permitted to go back a little to the period of his first becoming acquainted with Mr Hyden. It was a long time now, longer than either of them cared to remember. When, rather more than 21 years ago, they wanted a headmaster his two fellow managers, Mr Wm. Jenkins and Mr Evans (whose memory they respected as he did) handed over the applications to him and asked him to go through them. There were about a hundred. He selected a few and placed them before his colleagues, and he remembered distinctly saying that Mr Hyden's seemed to be the best of the lot. He was a little doubtful about it, as the results in percentages seemed to be too good. From inquiries, however, they found that the statements made were fully borne out and Mr. Hyden was consequently sent for, and after seeing the schools he was engaged. From that day to this he had given complete satisfaction to the managers. (Applause.) Shortly afterwards they were in want of a mistress and Mr. Hyden told them he knew of a young lady he could strongly recommend and on his recommendation they appointed her. It was only afterwards that they found out there were very good reasons for Mr. Hyden's recommendation, for soon after he robbed them of her services, and she became Mrs. Hyden. (Applause and laughter.) He was glad to know of the strong support Mr. Hyden had received from his wife. There was no doubt that a man supported at home could year by year more consistently and more thoroughly perform his duties. (Applause.) Mr. Hyden and himself had always been friends, and he did not remember anything occurring between them to lead to an unkind thought or word, and 21 years was a long time to be able to say that. (Hear, hear.) What Mr. Hyden had done for the British Schools and those who had passed through them they all knew. There must be many former pupils who were now heads of families, and whose children, perhaps, were now pupils, and it must be a great satisfaction to them to be able to place their children under the training of a man they knew so thoroughly, and who did so much for them. (Applause.) Education was not summed up in reading, writing, and arithmetic. There was a very great deal in the formation of the character of the children. How far Mr Hyden had been successful in that respect was well known. It was gratifying to know that many who had passed through those schools were now occupying positions of trust. It was also pleasant to know that that testimonial was the result of spontaneous action. It had not been begged for, and there was no doubt that that very much enhanced its value. He then referred to the untiring efforts of Mr Hyden in regard to the Technical Institute, and to the interest he had always displayed in technical classes. Mr Hyden's public duties to the town were well known to them, and had been recognised, and his position on the Council was one of which he might well feel proud. The chairman then, in a few well chosen words, and amid hearty applause, handed over the watch and ring to Mr Hyden.

Mr Pattrick, as a subscriber, said Mr Hyden had always been ready and willing to give his services where they would be of use. They all knew what he had done on the Council, and that he was not afraid to speak his mind. He had heard it said that Mr Hyden was a company's man, but they had only to read the papers and note his votes to find an answer to that. He had very great pleasure in bearing testimony to Mr Hyden's capabilities and to his services to the town.

Coun. Lowes also made a few complimentary remarks, and said he had known Mr Hyden ever since he came to Consett. Before he came the British Schools did not occupy a high position in the town, but since then they had gradually risen until everyone spoke well of them. Mr Hyden took a great interest in the Council, was a regular attender, and always gave an impartial vote. (Applause.)

Mr Hyden, who was received with applause, replied, and said he had been in some difficult positions, and had generally managed to get out of them, but he was now in the most difficult he had ever been in in his life. The chairman had been his manager during the whole time he had been in Consett, and he wished at the outset to thank him and the subscribers for the handsome present they had given him and also for the beautiful ring they had given to his wife. They would treasure them as long as they lived, and he hoped to hand the watch down to his son. (Applause.) The question had been asked why had he stayed so long in Consett? Thrice had he refused an invitation to go in for an inspectorship, because he felt he would be doing better work where he was. When he came there Mr Jenkins said "if you are a man who suits us, and we are men who suit you, I hope you will remain with us a long time." He came to the conclusion that in the managers he was face to face with fair men. When he came to Consett he did not like the place, and he did not like the schools, but he soon found that it was the manifest intention of the managers to appreciate good work, and from that moment to the present he believed his services had been appreciated. He had had justice. There was one thing he could not bear and that was injustice, and if possible he never would bear it. (Applause.) Mr Reyner had spoken of happiness. Happiness was to be found in the feeling that a man had done his duty. He had tried to do his. He had laboured long and late in order to work the school effectively. The managers said to him "if you want staff or apparatus get them, but don't come at the end of a bad report and say 'if I had had so and so I could have done better'." There had been difficulties in many ways, but difficulties had often beneficial issues. They had had to contend with the whims of inspectors, and there had been difficulties with parents, but they had all been overcome. There had been he had had to be harsh and at other times difficulties with the staff, and sometimes he had had to defend them, but he hoped he had always used tact. He then quoted some interesting passages from a log book of the school dating back 33 years, and mentioned that in 1879 they had 129 scholars, whereas now they had 546, of whom 227 were infants. He paid a high tribute to Miss Hodgson, for the admirably trained manner in which she had sent out the infants. The Inspector's report of the infant school stated "this school is taught with conspicuous skill and intelligence." He also spoke eulogistically of Mr Raynor, and of the other members of the staff. He mentioned the fact that eight old scholars were at present in South Africa serving their Queen and country. (Applause.) In his time 2,400 boys had been admitted to the mixed department, and he hoped those who had passed through were now doing good work. He again thanked them for the testimonial. (Applause.)

Mr Ward Davison moved, and Mr Hyden seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried and acknowledged, and on the motion of Mr Pattrick, seconded by Mr Hyden, a similar compliment was passed to Mr Raynor.

During the evening songs were rendered by Miss Maud Davison, Mr Raynor, and Mr Joseph Siddle, and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions

WEDNESDAY, January 31st, 1900.—Before Mr. H. W. Kerrich-Walker (presiding), Mr. C. R. Barratt, and Lieut.-Colonel Cook.

DRUNKENNESS.

The following persons were charged with this offence and dealt with as under:—Edward Stones, 2/6 and costs; George Warburton, 2/6 and costs; Wm. Sanderson, 5/- and costs; Wm. Walker, 5/- and costs; Matthew Palmer, 7/6 and costs; Wm. Sheavells, 2/6 and costs; and Isaac Barras, 2/6 and costs.

PITCH AND TOSS AT PELTON.

Robert Howard, Ralph Robson, William Howie, Thomas Trotter, John York, Frederick Greaves, Henry Forrest, and Isaac Barras were charged by Sergt. Winn with playing at pitch and toss on the 19th ult., at Pelton.—The defendants were each fined 2/6 and costs, with the exception of Robson and Barras, who were ordered to pay 1/6 and costs each, and Howard, who was fined 5/- and costs.

BREACH OF THE PEACE

Robert Howard and Ralph Preston were charged with having committed a breach of the peace at Pelton Fell on the 19th ult.—The defendants were bound over in the sum of £5, and ordered to pay the costs.

HIGHWAY ACT.

David Preston and David Howitson were charged by P.C. Mallons with a breach of the Highway Act by riding a bicycle on the footpath between Lamesley and Kibblesworth on the 19th ult.—The defendants were fined 2/6 and costs each.

A DANGEROUS PRACTICE.

Thomas Warren, a young man, was summoned under the Coal Mines' Regulation Act with a breach of a special rule by riding on a pony at Beamish Colliery.—The accused pleaded guilty.—Mr. W. H. Oliver, who appeared to prosecute on behalf of the owners, stated that in this case the rule under which the defendant was charged was rule 29, which stated that no workman or boy shall ride upon a pony in the mine. On the 15th ult., at about 6.30 a.m., the accused was seen riding upon a pony in the engine-plane. This was not the defendant's first offence, for a short time ago he was caught doing the same thing, and was warned by the overman. In spite of this the accused had again committed another offence. This was a dangerous practice, and the owners were anxious that the same should be put a stop to. At an adjoining colliery a youth had had his leg broken by this dangerous practice. He asked the Bench to inflict such a penalty as would have the effect of preventing a similar occurrence.—George Middlemiss, overman, corroborated.—The accused was fined 5s and costs, and warned that if he came back again the fine would be doubled.

AN ANTI-VACCINATOR.

Wm. Briggs Minnim was summoned at the instance of the Chester-le-Street Board of Guardians for refusing to have his child vaccinated.—He was fined 10s and costs.

EDUCATION ACT.

Ralph Widdrington, Isabella Telford, and Edward Layton were summoned at the instance of the Chester-le-Street School Attendance Committee for not sending their children regularly to school.—Widdrington was fined 1s, whilst Telford and Layton were each ordered to pay 5s.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Dennis Hoy and Edward Keegan were charged with having committed a breach of the peace at Chester-le-Street, on the 27th ult.—The defendants were bound over in the sum of £5, and ordered to pay the costs.

Robert Howard and Ralph Robson were charged with having committed a breach of the peace at Pelton on the 19th ult.—The defendants were bound over in the sum of £5, and ordered to pay the costs.

AN APPLICATION.

An application for the renewal of the license of the Queen's Theatre, Chester-le-Street, for the next twelve months, was granted.

A STUBBORN TENANT.

Application was made on behalf of the Birtley Iron Co. for an ejectment order against Joseph Kirton.—The application was granted.

The Consett Waterworks Company

The following is the report of the directors to be presented at the annual general meeting of the Company, to be held at the Company' Offices, Consett, on Friday, the 16th day of February:—Your Directors submit a statement of accounts, made up to December 31st, 1899, examined and certified by the auditors, Mr. F. C. Squance, C.A., and Mr. J. R. Coates. On March 1st, 3,000 four per cent. preference shares, of £5 nominal value, were sold by tender, and on 1st December, a further 2,600 were sold by tender, all of which were taken up at a premium. Further capital will be issued during the current year. The accounts show a satisfactory increase of £2,112 10s 3d in the income, when compared with that of the previous year; £1,839 8s 10d of this increase being from manufacturing, and £273 1s 5d from domestic supply; whilst the cost of purchasing and pumping water has been less than that of the preceding year. After deducting the interim dividend paid in August last, and payment of interest on bonds, income tax, and management expenses there remains an undivided profit, out of which your directors recommend the payment on the 22nd of February next, at the bank of the North-Eastern Banking Company, Limited, Consett. To be appropriated as follows:—To the payment of a dividend of £4 per cent, per annum (subject to deduction of Income Tax) on preference shares, £1,305 4s 5d; to the payment of a dividend of £6 10s per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, making an average dividend for the year of £6 5s per cent per annum, £5,667 10s; balance to be carried forward, £3,370 18s 7d, making a total of £10,453 13s. Unexpected difficulties have been encountered in the foundation of the puddle trench at the Hisehope Reservoir. It is believed these have now been overcome and it is hoped more rapid progress will be made in the construction of the reservoir during the current year. A tank is in course of construction at Horsegate for the supply of water to the Spen district, and it is expected this will shortly be brought into use. The works and goodwill of the Chester-le-Street Water Company, which was in operation prior to this Company laying pipes in that town in 1886, have been purchased. It is anticipated that this outlay will yield a fair return. The Company's engineer (Mr. Robt. Askwith, M.Inst. C.E.,) reports that the reservoirs, pipes, and other works of the company, have been efficiently maintained during the year. The directors retiring by rotation are Mr. Thomas L. Gledstone, Mr. William Keenleyside, and Dr. C. D. Hill Drury, who are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election. The retiring auditor is Mr. Fred C. Squance, who offers himself for re-election.

The North-Eastern Banking Co., Ltd.

The fifty-fifth report, submitted to the shareholders at the half-yearly meeting, is as follows:—The various accounts show that the balance of profit, after payment of all expenses, provision for bad and doubtful debts, allowance for depreciation and for rebate, amounts to £20,827 8s 6d; of this amount it is recommended that £17,850 be appropriated to the payment of a dividend upon the ordinary shares for the half-year of 7s per share, free of income tax, being at the rate of £11 13s 4d per cent. per annum; and that the balance of £2,977 8s 6d be carried forward. New sub-branches have been opened at Benwell, Shieldfield, (both in Newcastle-upon-Tyne), and Tyne Dock (South Shields); and a new branch will shortly be opened at Gallowgate (Newcastle-upon-Tyne).

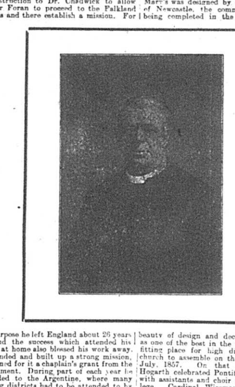
DEATH OF THE REV. FATHER FORAN,

OF BLACKHILL.

It is our regrettable duty to have to place on record the painfully sudden death of the Rev. James Foran, of St. Mary's Church, Blackhill. The deceased priest officiated at Mass on Sunday last, and the same night retired apparently in his usual health. At one o'clock on Monday morning he was seized with illness, and his colleague, the Rev. Father Kelly, attended upon him. Again at five o'clock Father Kelly was called, and then administered the last sacraments to Father Foran, who, soon after, passed quietly away in the presence of Father Kelly, the housekeeper, and the servants.

Father Foran was born near Tramore, County Waterford, on the 12th November, 1823, and was therefore in his 77th year. He was educated at St. John's College, Waterford, and St. Patrick's, Maynooth, and was ordained priest at Waterford on the 10th November, 1855. His first appointment was to St. Andrew's, Newcastle, where he laboured under Canon Browne. He next proceeded to Walker, where he opened the mission, built the church, schools, and house, and by the rapid progress of his work proved that he was an administrator as well as a priest. After he had established the Walker mission on a firm foundation he made application to Dr. Chadwick, then Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, for permission to proceed to the Falkland Islands. It had come to his knowledge that there were a good many catholics there who were uncared for and unattended to, but to Dr. Chadwick's mind Father Foran was a priest who could ill be spared and was reluctantly compelled to refuse the application. A friend, however, laid the position of affairs before the authorities at Rome, and the Pope issued an instruction to Dr. Chadwick to allow Father Foran to proceed to the Falkland Islands and there establish a mission. For that purpose he left England about 26 years ago, and the success which attended his efforts at home also blessed his work away. He founded and built up a strong mission, and gained for it a chaplain's grant from the Government. During part of each year he proceeded to the Argentine, where many outlying districts had to be attended to by relays of travelling priests. Father Foran had many amusing and interesting anecdotes to relate of those nomadic days, and being possessed of a remarkably good memory his relation of those stories was always listened to with avidity and pleasure. He was about twelve years in the Falklands, when he felt that his organising work was completed. Handing over the mission to the Salesian Fathers he proceeded to Rome, and there gave a personal exposition of the work which had been done. Returning to England at the time of the interegnum at St. Mary's, Blackhill (following the death of Father Smith), he was appointed to that mission by Dr. Bewick, and there he remained in the confidence and esteem of his large congregation. He was also appointed Rural Dean for the Deanery of St. Chad's, which embraced St. Mary's, Brooms, Byer Moor, Tow Law, Westwood, and Stanley. For some time Father Foran was a member of the Benfieldside Joint Burial Board, and of the Benfieldside School Board, being vice-chairman of the latter body. He had, however, retired from both and confined himself chiefly to the work associated with the mission. He was mainly responsible for the opening of the Institute, which has proved to be a great boon to the district. Few new projects were required during his charge, but all the duties attaching to the mission were carried out in strictness and accuracy, and while the labours of establishing the mission were borne by other shoulders it can safely be said that Father Foran left it better than he found it.

As already indicated the work of establishing the Blackhill Mission dates back to a good number of years before Father Foran arrived, but after the active life he had led, after the uphill struggles he voluntarily took upon his shoulders and brought to a successful issue, it was but an act of courtesy to give him the benefit of much work achieved at a period when most men regard themselves as entering upon the eve of life. In our obituary notice of the late Mr Jopling reference was made to the establishment of the Blackhill Mission, and to the fact that prior to that the catholics of the district had to journey as far as the Brooms. At that time the Brooms formed a very extensive parish, but gradually the needs of Consett and Blackhill were assuming a pressing nature, and a separate ecclesiastical district became a necessity. Curiously enough the division took place just about the time of the late Father Foran's ordination, the first priest being Father T. Hannigan, who, like Father Foran, had his early training at St. Andrew's, Newcastle. He was followed by the late Father Smith (who also was at St. Andrew's for some time), and from the date of his appointment, about 1860, to the time of his death in 1885, may be said to have lain the more arduous task of building up the mission. The difficult and onerous task of obtaining land, getting designs, and forming the nucleus of a fund had been accomplished beforehand and building operations considerably advanced. Misfortune, however, stepped in, and on a stormy night early in February, 1856, the building, as far as it had gone, fell a victim to the elements and left important work to be done over again. It was then that the present church of St. Mary's was designed by Mr. A. M. Dunn, of Newcastle, the commanding structure being completed in the year 1857. For beauty of design and decoration it ranks as one of the best in the north, and was a fitting place for high dignitaries of the church to assemble on the opening day in July, 1857. On that occasion Bishop Hogarth celebrated Pontificial High Mass, with assistants and choir from Ushaw College. Cardinal Wiseman, Archbishop of Westminster, was the preacher, and adopted the very appropriate text "The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." There is, unfortunately, as far as we know, no record of this sermon, but that it had a good effect is manifest by the fact that the mission has never looked behind. It has been with them a forward movement, and attention has been given to school accommodation to an extent which would surprise many districts of a more pretentious nature. Father Smith found a good deal of work done for him, but he had still a good deal to do. The building of the tower fell to his lot, and then came the inevitable peal of bells. It is here where laymen come in, and Mr. Jopling, who has just passed to his rest, was perhaps the chief mover in the matter. In any case the peal was got. Father Smith had done his work, passed away at the early age of 57, and in time Father Foran took up the pastorate. A kindly and lovable man, Father Foran was incapable of making an enemy, and proceeded to administer his mission in a manner which gained the approval of his flock. He was intensely interested in his work, he was remarkably successful, and he has left a comparatively easy in-going for his successor.



On Wednesday evening a dirge was chanted in St. Mary's, this beautiful and solemn service being attended by a large congregation, many of whom were deeply affected. The interment took place to-day (Thursday), the first portion of the service consisting of a solemn Requiem Mass in St. Mary's, at eleven o'clock.

Medomsley Floral, Horticultural, and Dog Society

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting in connection with the above society was held in the Board Room, Medomsley, on Tuesday night. Mr. J. English was voted to the chair, and presided over a fair attendance.

BALANCE-SHEET.

Mr. R. Charlton (secretary) submitted the balance-sheet for the past year, which showed that there was a balance of £10 4s 10d from last year, and that the total income was £106 3s, including £22 9s 8d gate money, and £10 11s taken at the ball. The expenditure amounted to £98 15s 6d, leaving a balance of £7 12s 6d.

Mr. J. Surtees thought this very satisfactory considering the miserable day they had for the show.

Mr. R. Wilson moved that the balance-sheet be accepted.

Mr. Surtees seconded, and the motion was carried.

AUDITORS.

Mr. Wilson raised the question of having auditors, as he thought it would be more satisfactory, seeing that the show was becoming a big one.

The Secretary said that personally he would prefer the society to have two auditors.

It was agreed to adopt this course, and insert the auditors' names in the schedule.

PRESENTATION TO THE TREASURER.

There was a recommendation from the previous meeting that the treasurer (Mr. G. E. Milburn) should receive a present in recognition of his valuable services to the society.

Mr. Surtees moved that they present the treasurer with a meerschaum pipe for his past services.

This was seconded and carried, the matter being left in the hands of the secretary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patron, Mr. Jas. Hunter, Anton's Hill; president, Mr. H. Palmer, J.P.; the vice-presidents were re-elected, the secretary to add what names were necessary. Mr. G. E. Milburn was re-elected treasurer, Mr. Robt. Charlton secretary, and Mr. M. Charlton assistant-secretary. Committee—Messrs R. Stearer (chairman), J. Davison, G. Bell, F. Archer, J. English, R. Wilson, C. Hetherington, T. Bramley, H. Berwick, G. Gibbon, W. Hunter, G. Dixon, J. Surtees, G. Ripley, I. Maughan, M. Redshaw, W. Lovat, F. Patton, H. Coxford, T. Gibson, J. Wigham, J. Topham, G. Coulthard, J. Charlton, and Jos. Bramley.

RULES AND PRIZE-LIST.

The rules and prize-list were then gone into, and, with one or two trifling alterations, were adopted. The rules and prizes for dogs were left over until the next meeting.

WHAT IS A FARMER?

Some discussion ensued as to whether a farmer should exhibit in the cottagers' class. Mr. Surtees wanted to know what constituted a farmer. If a man had an acre of land, and grew wheat, oats, &c., upon it, would he be eligible to compete in the farmers' class?

Mr. M. Charlton thought not. He must be rated at £12 or over.

Mr. Surtees considered this came under the heading of small farms. There was nothing in the rules as to the amount at which a competitor must be rated.

After some further discussion the matter was allowed to drop.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

Is marriage a failure? Certainly not, if united with one of J. T. Castle's Wedding Rings.

Co-operative Social at Medomsley

The employees of the Branch of the Annfield Plain Co-operative Society held their annual social in the Temperance Hall, Medomsley, on Tuesday night, and the gathering proved most successful and enjoyable. The room had been nicely decorated for the occasion. The arrangements were carried out by a committee consisting of Miss Simpson, Miss Frankland, Mr. W. Freek, Mr. Rippon, Mr. B. Sanderson, and Mr. Hall, with Mr. H. Cranston as hon. sec. Messrs Freek and Sanderson acted as M.C.'s. The music was supplied by the Misses Dawson, Westwood, (piano and violin), and gave every satisfaction. Mr. Wright, Annfield Plain, provided the refreshments, being assisted by Misses Wilkinson, Gray, Lax, and Hodgson. During the evening songs were rendered by Mr. J. McTaggart, Mrs. Leybourne, Mr. A. Brough, Mr S. Richarson, and Mr. J. Bell. Amongst those present we noticed:—Mr. Mrs. and Miss Ridley, Miss Swalwell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Forster, Mr. W. Hendry, Mr. Watchman, Messrs Hocking, Mr. A. Miller, Mr. B. Sanderson and Miss Milburn, Mr. G. Sanderson, Mr. J. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. F. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. T. Clark, Mr. M. Bramley and Miss Lovat, Mr. H. Cranston, Miss Tindale (Annfield Plain), Miss Aitchison (Annfield Plain), Mr. W. Thompson, Mr. J. Noble, Mr. Milburn, Mr. Jos. Walton, Mr. O. Clark, Mr. M. Pattison, Mr. R. Death and Miss Hadwin, Mr. T. Whitfield, Mr. H. Walton, Mr. J. Walton, Mr. Brewis and Miss Walker, P.C. and Mrs. Hunter, Mr. J. Kelly, Mr. Heslop and Miss Lonsdale, Mr. and Miss Walton, Misses Gibson, Mr. E. Wilson, Mr. Jos. Wilson and Miss Wilson, Mr. J. Bell, Mr. J. Ayton and Miss Frankland, Mr. T. Moreland, Mr. W. Armstrong, Mr. S. Richardson, Miss Simpson, Miss Snaith, Miss Moffitt, Miss Leybourne, Miss Jewitt, Mr. T. Hailes and Miss Emmerson, Mr. Trueman, Mr. Hudson, Mr. J. Oxley, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Rippon, Mr. and Mrs. Freek, Miss Watson and others.

Ebchester Parish Council

A special meeting of this Council was held in the National Schools, Ebchester—Mr. J. Pumphrey presiding. There were also present:—Messrs. G. Charlton, J. G. Brown, C. Waggott, and the Clerk (Mr. G. Middleton.)

AN ABSENTEE.

With reference to the attendance of a member of the Council who had only been present at one meeting since being elected, the Clerk read the law relating to the question, which showed that any member being absent six or more times forfeited his seat.

On the motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Charlton, the Clerk was instructed to write to the member on the subject.

RESERVISTS' FUND.

The Collectors appointed to canvass for subscriptions for the Reservists' Fund, reported that they had collected in all £10 1s 9d—Mr. G. Charlton having collected £6 1s 0d and Mr. Waggott £4 0s 9d. It was agreed that this money should be paid into the Earl of Durham's Fund through Mr. Pumphrey.

BAD ROADS.

Mr. Brown said he would like to draw the attention of the Council to the state of the roads in Ebchester. The Consett Water Company had recently been laying pipes, and for that purpose had pulled up the road, but they had not left them as they found them. He moved that they should be written to and asked to put the roads right.

Mr. Waggott seconded the motion which was agreed to, and the meeting shortly after terminated.

NEW STEAM LAUNDRY AT BLACKHILL

OPENING CEREMONY.

Through the enterprise of several local gentlemen a new steam laundry has been erected in Back Queen Street, Blackhill, to meet the wants of the inhabitants of North-West Durham. The building, which is of an ordinary type, is very pleasantly situated, and fitted up on the most improved principle, and thoroughly up-to-date in machinery, and all other necessary appliances; in fact, it is one of the most modern laundries in existence. Seeing that the company, of which Mr. Wm. Aynsley, J.P., Hilcrest, Consett, is chairman, with Mr. J. M. Nicholson, accountant, Park Road, Blackhill, as secretary, has taken over the business of the Summerhill Laundry, Shotley Bridge, which has been ably managed by Miss Willis, whose valuable services, it will be pleasing to hear, have been secured by the North-west Durham Steam Laundry Company, Blackhill, so that there will be no competition to contend against. The ventilation and sanitary arrangements are perfect in every respect, while there are separate apartments, outoffices, and conveniences on the premises for the assistants. The main entrance to the building is where the vans are loaded, while on the left is the receiving or sorting room. Then there is the wash-house, fitted with the "Renown" washer and hydro-extractor, wash-troughs, etc., from which the clothes are passed on to the drying closet, which is heated with hot air by Summerscales and Sons, of Keighley. From these the articles are passed on to the ironing tables, and then through the air-room to the despatch room. The manageress's office is situated in the centre of the building, from which that lady has full control of the whole of the premises. The machinery is worked with a Robey engine with vertical boiler. In cases of need there is plenty of room adjoining the premises to dry clothes upon. The premises are very conveniently situated, being only about one minute's walk from the Blackhill Railway Station, from which parcels can be despached to any part of North-west Durham. The contractor for the work is Mr. Jos. Eltringham, Blackhill, and the subcontractors, Messrs Geo. Nicholson, D. Ormerod, L. Irwin, and S. Leslie. The whole of the work has been carried out under the supervision of Mr. G. T. Wilson, architect and surveyor, Durham Road, Blackhill. All the machinery is the best that can be bought. The first machine on the left, next to the receiving or sorting room, is the washing, boiling, and rinsing machine, where the whole of these operations are done in one machine with a minimum amount of wear and tear to the linen. Next stands the centrifugal wringing machine, which is so constructed as to render the breakage of buttons impossible, and added to this economic arrangement is another, namely, that a batch of linen can be wrung through at one operation, the machine running at the rate of 1,000 revolutions per minute. Following this is the starch trough and starch kettle for starching the linen. Then there is the drying closet, one of W. Summerscales and Son's, Ltd., most modern systems of drying apparatus. The process is carried out by means of a constant supply of fresh warm air, which renders the drying of clothes possible in wet weather inside the laundry with all the advantages of open-air drying. Next in importance is one of Summerscales and Son's "Calender" decondin type of ironing machines, which dries and finishes table linen, serviettes, handkerchiefs, and a large variety of other work, imparting to them a finish equal to new, and impossible to be obtained by hand work. For ironing and polishing shirts, collars, and fronts there is Summerscale's peerless ironing and finishing machines, which give a superior finish with less wear on the articles ironed than can be obtained by hand ironing. The gofering machine for gofering curtains, childrens' bonnets, and ladies' finery is one of the latest improvements in laundry work. On the right of the entrance is the packing room, where the linen is packed and put on separate racking, each customer being provided with a compartment which will prevent the articles of different customers getting mixed. The boiler already described provides steam for driving the engine and boiling the clothes, doing away with the use of the old-fashioned furnace pans, and also for heating the calender in the drying room. Mr Wheater, of the firm of W. Summerscales and Sons, Ltd., Keighley, Yorkshire, attended and explained the working of the machines to the visitors. The whole of the engineering arrangements have been in the hands of Messrs Summerscales, and it is gratifying to know that, at the public test, the machines gave entire satisfaction.

Since the scheme for the formation of a laundry company was floated the directors have had a very flattering response from the public by their numerous applications for shares. The whole of the shares intended to be issued by the company have already been applied for, but extras done by the contractors will allow for a further issue of a few more shares. The company have taken over the Summerhill Laundry, Shotley Bridge, and Miss Willis, the late proprietor, has engaged herself with the North-west Durham Steam Laundry Company as manageress. The directors hope that Miss Willis's previous business will be retained "en bloc," and that together with the patronage they hope to receive from the public the laundry will, in the course of a few weeks, be in full working order. The directors hope by turning out work of a high-class character to receive the patronage of the public generally.

OPENING CEREMONY.

The opening ceremony took place on Wednesday afternoon in the presence of a fairly large company considering the adversity of the weather. Amongst those present were Coun. W. Aynsley, J.P., chairman, Mr J. M. Nicholson, secretary, Coun. R. G. Barclay, J.P., Mr and Mrs Joseph Eltringham, Mr and Mrs Jas. Pallister, Mr Asquith, Mr and Mrs Walton, Mr W. Ramsay, Mr G. T. Wilson, architect, Mr and Mrs D. Ormerod, Mr and Mrs J. S. Murray, Mr and Mrs J. Robinson, Mr J. G. Murray, Mr J. Nicholson, Mr and Mrs J. R. Brodie, Mr L. Urwin, Miss Willis, manageress, and others.

Mr Ramsay formally introduced the chairman, and asked him to address the gathering.

Mr Aynsley said it was very kind of Mr Ramsay to introduce him in so kind a way. On behalf of the North-west Durham Steam Laundry Company he had to thank them for their attendance there that afternoon, and hoped that what they had seen of the new industry it would make a good impression upon them. He quite thought that the new industry would be a success. All over the country at the present time steam laundries seemed to be springing up in districts a good deal less that Blackhill or Consett, and as far as he knew from reports they had all been very successful. That showed that the work they were turning out was giving every satisfaction, and he had not the slightest doubt in his mind that the work sent out from that laundry would also give satisfaction. (Hear, hear.) He was credibly informed that there was a large number of families in that district who at the present time sent their washing to different laundries in Newcastle, Chester-le-Street, Darlington, and Hexham. He quite thought that if the ladies who were generally at the head of that department of the home would send their clothes there they would get satisfaction. The little industry at Shotley Bridge had been bought by the company root and branch, and they had secured a first-class manageress—(hear, hear)—to carry on the work, he referred to Miss Willis. She started a laundry on her own account at Shotley Bridge, and worked the business with her own perseverance and ability up to a first-class business. Miss Willis, he believed, was present that afternoon, and he had not the slightest doubt that she would make the Blackhill Laundry a success. (Hear, hear.) As far the directors were concerned, if they could relieve the homes of the people from the perils of the washing-day by taking the clothes there and pay the shareholders a fair dividend that was all they required. He had great pleasure in declaring the laundry open for work. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Jos. Eltringham, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, said he had heard it said on several occasions that Mr Aynsley was a man of work and not of words, but he thought after the speech that afternoon they could only come to the conclusion that he was not only a man of work but of words as well. He had put the case very plainly before them, and they would have come to the conclusion to give the company their support. During the last twelve months he had done his best to forward the interests of the promoters of the laundry business; he had had a very great deal of work, and they might congratulate themselves on having such a gentleman as Mr Aynsley at the head of affairs. He had made his way in the district, and was well-known to all, and by getting him at the head of affairs it would establish an amount of confidence, and with the co-operation of his colleagues they were determined to do their very best to give satisfaction in the neighbourhood. Their best thanks were due to Mr Aynsley for opening the laundry. (Hear, hear.)

Mr J. S. Murray, in seconding the vote of thanks, said there was no doubt, as Mr Eltringham had told them, that Mr Aynsley had done a lot of laborious, hard work in acting as chairman to the directors of the laundry, which was a new venture in the district. In the commencement of arrangements they had a certain amount of competition to contend with, but as that had been arranged he hoped the laundry would be a success. He had great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to the chairman, who briefly responded, and paid a high tribute to Mr Eltringham, whom he considered a first-class colleague.

Mr James Pallister then moved a vote of thanks to the directors and secretary for the excellent manner in which the affairs of the company had been managed up to date, to which Mr J. M. Nichilson suitably responded.

Leadgate Liberal Association

On Wednesday evening a supper and social, promoted by the Leadgate Liberal Association, were held in the Primitive Methodist School-room, and despite the inclement nature of the weather, was largely attended, and proved to be a most enjoyable and successful function. Mr. and Mrs. Barclay and the Misses Barclay, of Shotley Bridge, were the guests of the evening, and took a very considerable part in the entertainment of the company. Mr. Thos. Keenleyside presided, and amongst those present were—Mr. J. W. Winter, the Misses Keenleyside, Mr. M. Keenleyside, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Walton, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Innes, Mr. W. Goody, Mr. T. Thompson, Mr. Wharton (Blackhill), Mr. and Mrs. J. Boustead, Mr. and Mrs. T. Atkinson, Mr. James Atkinson (Birtley), Mr. J. Parker, the Misses Parker, Mr. and Mrs. H. Whitfield, Mr. J. Surtees, Miss Alderson (Newfield), Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. W. Whitfield, Mr. T. Longstaffe, Mr. J. E. Kennedy, Mr. R. Oxley, Mrs. Jacobson, Mr. C. S. Morgan, and Mr. Rowe. A substantial supper was provided and served out by Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. Philipson, Mrs. Robson, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Jacobson, and Miss E. Keenleyside.

After supper the Chairman briefly proposed the toast of the Liberal Cause, which, he said, was led by a number of very able men.

Mr. Barclay responded, and said that gathering seemed to him to be strictly of a social character, and he did not wish to say anything to give it the appearance of a business meeting. He related the anecdote of a little girl who was given a long list of Christian names, the burden of which was too much for its health. As the child did not thrive it was decided to administer a doze of spirited foreign policy. It was hoped by the nurses to so bring it up into womanhood. It was, however, at the present time suffering from a severe attack of fever—War fever. They none of them knew where it was going to end. It was a most serious position. Every nerve had to be strained, and every available resource taxed, and still they seemed to get no further on. Of course it was not for him to throw the blame on anyone but they could not help seeing the result of the spirited foreign policy urged upon them a few years ago. He had pinned his faith to the Liberal cause, and whilst he admitted that their Conservative friends had in a measure done considerable good they must not forget that they got their wrinkles from the Liberal party. (Applause.)

Mr. Wharton proposed success to the Leadgate Liberal Association, and said he was glad to recognise that the Leadgate Liberals had done a great and good work. In reference to their member he did not know that they would differ on any point, whether it affected foreign or home policy. As to the present war he might say he was at one with Mr. Atherley-Jones. He believed that the war was wrong in its conception, and had been wrong in its execution.

Mr. J. W. Winter responded, and said the pulse of the Leadgate Liberal Association was beating strongly. They were rapidly increasing in strength, and when the opportunity was presented to them they would be able to give a good account of themselves. He believed that was the first time they had attempted anything in a social way, and he thought they might flatter themselves on the success of the gathering. They were glad to see friends from other districts present, and they were especially pleased to have the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Barclay and members of their family. (Applause.)

The rest of the evening was given up to harmony, the programme comprising pianoforte selections by Miss C. Barclay, trio "Evening" by Miss Keenleyside, Mrs. J. and Mrs. T. Atkinson, violin solo by Miss Barclay, part song by Mrs. and the Misses Barclay, duet "Peace and War" by Mrs. J. and Mrs. T. Atkinson, song by Mrs. Barclay, song by Miss J. Keenleyside, and a recitation by Miss Parker.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT NOTES

By "ROSICRUCIAN."

AN AMBULANCE WANTED.

The necessity of having an ambulance at our local police-station in case of accident was evidenced on Thursday morning. A youth took suddenly ill in Beamish Street, and was carried into a house close by. Dr. Tolpath, who resides near at hand, was quickly in attendance and thanks to the skill of that gentleman the youth was brought sufficiently round as to warrant his removal home. Dr. Tolpath despatched a messenger to the police-station for an ambulance but was somewhat surprised to find that no ambulance was kept at that place. There was nothing else left to do—so I am given to understand—but to carry the youth home on a window-shutter. Surely a police-station located in the midst of such a population as Stanley can boast ought to be equipped with an ambulance. The desirability of having such a valuable acquisition needs no further arguments from me.

PROPOSED COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

A subject which is at the present moment occupying the attention of the various miners' lodges is the advisibility of erecting a cottage hospital for Stanley and district. A couple of meetings have already been held, at which the matter has been carefully gone into, and the unanimous feeling seems to be that a hospital should be erected. The structure would cost about £2,000, and it is anticipated that a levy of about 1d per fortnight per workman would be quite sufficient to maintain the institution. The need of having an hospital in the midst of such a mining district where accidents are bound to happen is apparent to all, and really I fail to see why any workman should refuse to give his quota towards such a valuable project. But no doubt upon a second consideration these men will alter their views. Steps have been taken to approach the masters with a view to obtaining their co-operation in the movement, as I trust they will see their way clear to help forward the scheme. A site upon which to erect the proposed hospital is required, and here is an opportunity for the masters to show their generosity, and no doubt these gentlemen will not allow the chance to slip of farther strengthening the bonds of friendship that exist between master and servant.

A POPULAR PREACHER.

The Primitive Methodists of South Moor have just been favoured with a visit from that popular divine, the Rev. R. Hind, of York. The rev. gentleman drew together a crowded audience on Saturday evening, whilst on Sunday evening the Primitive Methodist Church was almost taxed to its utmost holding capacity by an attentive congregation, who listened with rapt attention to the observations of this brilliant orator. The speaker in the course of his remarks referred to the present war, which he said was inevitable.

CONSETT READING AND RECREATION ROOMS.

The annual general meeting was held on Tuesday night, in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, Mr. W. Aynsley, J.P., (vice-president), occupying the chair.—The report for the half-year ending December 31st last stated that there was a balance of £74 14s in hand on the 1st July last. The income during the six months had been £88 4s 4d, making a total of £162 18s 4d. The expenditure amounted to £104 17s 4d, leaving a credit balance of £58 1s at the end of the year. The membership was over 300, and nearly 2,600 books had been issued to borrowers. A considerable number of volumes had just been added to the library.—The following officers were elected for the current year:—President, Mr. Geo. Ainsworth, J.P.; vice-president, Mr. Wm. Aynsley, J.P., hon. treasurer, Mr. T. L. Gledstone; auditors, Messrs A. Russell and W. S. Davies; secretary, Mr. W. Eales. Messrs John O'Connor and N. Fawell were elected to fill the vacancies on the General Committee.

FOOTBALL.

Fixtures for Saturday.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

LEADGATE PARK v. WILLINGTON ATHLETIC.

These teams play their return game at Leadgate on Saturday, and a good game is confidently expected.

LEADGATE PARK.—Goal, M. Hedley; backs, G. Temple and J. Wilson; half-backs, T. Cartmell, R. Wilson, and J. Bowes; forwards, B. Cook, J. Grant, P. Daly, S. Thompson, and G. Forster. Kick-off at 2.30.

JARROW v. STANLEY.

To be played at Jarrow.

STANLEY.—Goal, Spinks; backs, Saunders and Devine; half-backs, Crute, Ellis, and Allison; forwards, O'Connor, Armstrong, Riley, Robson, and Masterman. Reserves, Liddle and Green.

Kick-off at 2.30 p.m.

TYNESIDE LEAGUE (Re-Played Tie.)

CONSETT SWIFTS v. HOBSON WANDERERS.

At Consett on Saturday first.

CONSETT SWIFTS.—Goal, W. Graham; backs, R. Pattinson and J. Laidler; half-backs, P. McNally, B. McKie, and Jas. Dempsey; forwards, B. Rafferty, Jos. Turley, P. Smith, M. Eustace, and J. Morgan.

Kick-off at 2.30 p.m.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

CONSETT SWIFTS RESERVE v. HAMSTERLEY.

At Hamsterley on Saturday first.

CONSETT SWIFTS RESERVE.—Goal, T. Coleman; backs, J. Wilson and S. Elwood; half-backs, Jos. Sheldon, R. Bradley, and T. Dempsey; forwards, W. Walton, W. Little, R. McAlear, E. Pratt, and S. Boyle.

Referee, R. Milligan. Kick-off at 2.30 p.m. Brake leaves Headquarters at 1 p.m.

ANNFIELD PLAIN RESERVE v. LEADGATE PARK RESERVE.

These teams meet at Annfield Plain on Saturday first.

PARK RESERVE.—Goal, J. Calvert; backs, W. G. Robson and J. Thompson; half-backs, D. Cartmell, C. McAloon, and R. Dawson; forwards, J. Harper, C. Walton, W. Crowther, R. Gleadow, and C. Todd.

Leave Leadgate Station by 1.40 train.

MARLEY HILL v. BYER MOOR.

Great interest is taken in the game at Byer Moor on Saturday, this being their return game in connection with the above league, as the first game ended in a goalless draw a good game will be looked forward to. The following will do duty for

MARLEY HILL.—Goal, T. Grant; backs, J. McGahon and B. Davison; half-backs, P. Keenan, R. McDermott, and Joe. Prinn; forwards, J. Warnaby, R. Lyall, O. McGahon, J. Tighe, and R. Patterson. Reserves, T. Morton, J. Brown, and B. Croft.

Referee, Mr. Reed, Leadgate. Linesman, J. Ringer.

TANTOBIE CO-OPERATORS v. TANFIELD LEA.

On Saturday first. The following team will do duty for

TANTOBIE.—Goal, J. Lishman; backs, I. Adamson and J. Gladders; half-backs, Jos. Beck, W. Adamson, and W. Thompson; forwards, R. Hindhaugh, R. Weightman, W. Swift, R. Atkinson, and J. Jardine.

CHESTER-LE-STREET LEAGUE.

PELTON FELL INSTITUTE v. BIRTLEY A.

The Institute receive a visit from Birtley A on Saturday, the game being under the auspices of the above league. The visitors occupy a good position in the table, and a keen and interesting game is expected. The following will represent

PELTON.—Goal, Simpson; backs, Usher (Capt.) and Jackson; half-backs, Miller, Hall, and Meakin; forwards, Phillips, Lowery, Usher, Briggs, and Turnbull.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT JUNIOR LEAGUE.

HOBSON UNITED v. BLACKHILL ST. CUTHBERT'S JUNIORS.

At Hobson.

BLACKHILL (Chosen from)—Davis, Darwood, Greener, Turnbull, J. Postle, A. Smith, E. Postle, Kelsey, Redshaw, Lamb, Watson, and Reay.

CONSETT UNITED v. BLACKHILL ST. CUTHBERT'S.

At Consett.

BLACKHILL (Chosen from)—Johnson, J. Hamilton, Aitken, Wilkinson, J. Johnson, H. Rogers, Stokoe, Robson, Lumley, Higgins, Smith, H. Walton, and Mathieson.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ALLIANCE.

BIRTLEY v. ALLENDALE PARK.

ALLENDALE PARK (Chosen from).—Goal, W. Settrey; backs, G. Scott and M. Walton; half-backs, T. Walton, T. Taylor, J. Milburn, and W. Gillender; forwards, J. Walton, T. Brown, J. Robinson, J. Lynap, J. Yeats, Barras, and Ingledew.

Team leaves Leadgate Station at 1.41 p.m.

STANLEY II. v. WHITEHALL.

To be played at Stanley.

STANLEY.—Goal, W. Pattinson; backs, G. Bates and G. Robson; half-backs, J. Clemminson, G. Robinson, and C. Hudspith; forwards, T. George, R. Watt, R. Smith, J. Richardson, and Wm. Carroll. Reserve, G. Harrison. Kick-off at 2.30 p.m.

LEADGATE UNITED v. DIPTON UNITED.

To be played at Leadgate. The following will do duty for

LEADGATE.—Goal, John Crowther; backs, W. Tait and J. Whitfield; half-backs, A. Prince, W. Oxley, and B. Daglish; forwards, Tait, G. Temple, Lee, A. Crowther, and D. Jacobson. Reserves, W. Milburn and Parker. Referee, Mr. James Dunning.

HOCKEY.

DERWENT VALLEY v. BEDE COLLEGE, DURHAM.

At Durham on Saturday. The following will represent—

DERWENT VALLEY.—Backs, T. D. Dales (capt.), J. E. Thorpe, and J. Hamilton; half-backs, A. C. Blunt, J. M. Nicholson, and E. Roe, forwards, H. H. Wattsford, W. S. Douglas, J. O. Todd, G. Hamilton, and T. W. Hanson.

Bully off at 2.30 p.m.

The Railway Fatality at Derwenthaugh

An inquest was held at the Newcastle Infirmary, on Tuesday night, concerning the death of John Scott, 47 years of age, a staithman employed by the Stella Coal Co. It was stated that the man had resided at Staith Cottages, Derwenthaugh, Blaydon. Mr. R. Richardson, manager, was present on behalf of the Company.

Margaret Scott was the first witness. She said she was the widow of the deceased. It was part of her husband's work to take away the ballast from the coke ovens at Derwenthaugh. Her husband had not been from home half-an-hour on Monday evening before she heard he had been injured. When she asked who had injured him, he said, "Frank Murray; he never blew his whistle." Deceased was taken to the Infirmary, where he died.

George Reay, a bricklayer's labourer in the Company's employ, said he was passing the coke ovens at 4.45 p.m. on Monday, when an engine ran along the line that was near. It joined some waggons in an opposite direction. Directly they came into contact witness heard deceased shout. On going to the place witness found Scott lying with his left leg under a wheel of one of the waggons. Deceased said that if the driver had blown his whistle the accident would not have happened. The waggons were put in motion by the impact, and it was after they had been set going that he heard the cry of deceased.

Francis Murray, the driver, said he was going to take the waggons to the colliery. They moved about eight feet when the engine touched them. Witness did not blow his whistle. Suddenly he heard a man shout, and reversing the engine he found the deceased lying under a waggon wheel. It was not a general practice to sound the whistle during the day, except when anyone was on the line. He had no sight in his left eye, but his right eye was all right.

Mr. Hoyle said it was a bad practice not to blow the whistle.

Wm. Jobling, a chargeman, said that the whistle should be sounded when the waggons were being shunted out. Murray should have blown the whistle. Generally Murray was a careful man.

The Coroner referred to the straightforward way in which Murray had given his evidence, and to the seriousness of his position.

The Jury decided that the death was accidental, and added to the verdict a rider to the effect that the driver had been exceedingly careless in not blowing his signal.

The Coroner warned Murray, who seemed much cut up, to be more careful in the future.

THE SOLDIERS' LUXURY.

Colonel Garstin has received 20s from Mrs. W. Wood, of 5, Eslington Terrace, to be expended in tobacco, etc., for the soldiers in South Africa.

COMFORTS FOR THE DURHAM SOLDIERS.

Mrs. Benson, Secretary of the "Stanley Ladies' Association," gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following articles and donations:—The children of West Stanley Board School, 4 dozen handkerchiefs, 17 pairs socks, 19 D'Oyleys, 5 shirts, and 1 helmet; Mrs. Little, 1 pair of cuffs, and 5 helmets; Mrs. Charles, 5 shirts; Mrs. Severs, 5/-; Mrs. Frater, 1 dozen pair of socks; Mrs. Severs, 5/-; Mrs. R. Simpson, 3/6; Mrs. Hope, 2/-; Mrs. Bell, East Stanley, 2/-; Mrs Hutchinson, 2 pairs of socks; Mrs. Shield, 3 helmets; Mrs. Anderson, 5/-; Mrs McKinley, 5/-; Mrs. Bell, Causey, 9 handkerchiefs; Mrs. Linden, 3 chest protectors; Mrs. James, 3 shirts, 3 mufflers; Mrs. Rowe, 1 Tam o' Shanter, 1 helmet; Mrs. Atkinson, Shield Row, 2 handkerchiefs and 1 pair of socks. The above articles have been sent to and acknowledged by Col. Garstin. Contributions to supply further comforts will be thankfully received by Mrs. James, Mrs. Charles, Mrs. Little, Mrs. Lindon, and Miss Darney.

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ALLENDALE PARK A.F.C.

PRESENTATION TO MR. T. BAILEY.

On Tuesday night, at Mr. Jewitt's Miners' Arms, Medomsley, a good company assembled to make a presentation to Mr. Tom Bailey, who formerly acted as goalkeeper to the above team, on the occasion of his marriage.—Mr. R. Wilson (vice-president) occupied the chair, and in making the presentation, which consisted of a handsome oak timepiece, spoke of the many services Mr. Bailey had rendered to the club. He was one of the founders of the club, and for many seasons acted as goal-keeper in a creditable manner. He had also taken a leading part in the management of the club, and his colleagues thought that the occasion of his marriage was a suitable opportunity to mark their appreciation of his services—hence the presentation. He had pleasure in handing over the timepiece, at the same time wishing Mr. and Mrs. Bailey every happiness.—Mr. Bailey, in reply, thanked the committee for their handsome present and kind wishes. He was just as willing to do anything for the club in the future as he had done in the past, and every time he looked at the timepiece it would remind him of the many happy times spent with the "Park" boys.—The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.

CONSETT.

WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOLS.—On Wednesday night first, a varied and interesting entertainment will be given in the Wesleyan Lecture Hall in connection with the above schools.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Births.

WILLARS.—Castleside, Consett Park Terrace, on the 26th ult., the wife of Joseph Willars, of a daughter.

PHILLIPSON.—Castleside, Stoney Rea, the wife of G. W. Philipson, of a son.

Deaths.

BATES.—Tanfield Lea, Shop Square, 25th ult., aged 34 years, William Henry, husband of Mary Ann Bates.

CRAWFORD.—Old Paper Mill, Lintz Green, 25th ult., aged 80, William Crawford.

CHISHOLM.—East Stanley, 8, Middle Street, 23th ult., aged 58 years, Ralph, husband of Margaret Chisholm.

COLLINGWOOD.—On the 29th ult., at East Herrington, Ellen, wife of Frank Collingwood, and third daughter of Alex. A. McLaurin, of Neptune Tavern, Monkwearmouth.

COWEN.—Winlaton, at the residence of his son Thomas, 35, Front Street, aged 84, William Cowen.

DUFFY.—Winlaton, Gardeners' Square, 24th ult., aged 27 years, Annie, wife of Thomas Duffy; eldest daughter of Joshua and Anne Peace.

ELLIOTT.—Broomy Holme, Chester-le-Street, 29th ult., aged 70, Ann Elliott.

ENGLISH.—Grange Villa, on the 25th, aged 24, Robert, son of Robert and Mary English.

FORAN.—The Rev. Father Foran, of Blackhill, died on Monday morning, fortified with the sacraments of the Church.

FARRIER.—Durham Road, Annfield Plain, 28th ult., aged 39 years, Ann Farrier.

FORSTER.—25, Palmerston Street, Consett, Feb. 1st., aged 23 years, Robert William, beloved son of Thomas and Emma Forster. Interment on Sunday at Benfieldside Cemetery; Cortege to leave at 2.30 p.m. Friends please accept this intimation.

GREEN.—Crawcrook, Ryton, on the 25th ult., aged 69 years, Frances Green.

HAMILTON.—Consett, 6, Allison Street, 25th ult., Eliza, dearly beloved wife of David Hamilton.

HARRISON.—White-le-Head (at the residence of her son-in-law, Joseph Rodham), 28th inst., aged 87 years, Jane, wife of the late Thomas Harrison.

HALL.—38, Stella Road, on 26th ult., aged 54 years, Timothy, husband of Hannah Hall.

HEWITSON.—At 20, Taylor Street, Consett, Feb. 1st, aged 53 years, Mark, the beloved husband of Elizabeth Jane Hewitson. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery on Sunday. Friends please accept this intimation.

KAY.—Pit Hill, 27th ult., aged 47, Jane, wife of Robert Kay.

McCURLEY.—Leadgate, 7, West Street, on 25th ult., John, husband of Mary McCurley.

MALTBY.—Catchgate, 29th ult., aged 78, Ann, wife of John Maltby.

MITCHINSON.—Kibblesworth, 23rd ult., aged 75, Isabella, wife of George Mitchinson.

PATTINSON.—360, North Cross Street, Leadgate, on 27th ult., aged 65 years, John Pattinson.

RAW.—Cornsay Colliery, died January 25th, aged 61 years, Marwood Raw.

RICHARDSON.—School House, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, on the 28th ult., aged 62, Thomas Richardson.

SCOTT.—Derwenthaugh, on the 29th ult., aged 47 years (from injuries received at work), John, husband of Margaret Scott.

TIPLADY.—Newfield Post Office, on 29th ult., aged 55 years, Mary Annie Tiplady.

WHITE.—Gosforth, 3, Regent Road, 26th ult., aged 56 years, Armstrong, husband of Dorothy Ann White.

WARD.—15, Pear Tree Terrace, Blackhill Mill, on January 28th, aged 61 years, John, the beloved husband of Annie Ward. Interred at Hamsterley, January 31st.

In loving memory of our dear mother, Ann Mains, who died February 1st, 1894. Ever remembered by her loving daughters.

In loving remembrance of John T. Bulman, who died at Pontop, January 29th, 1898, aged 50 years. Ever remembered by his wife and family, and a large circle of friends.

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