VISIT TO NEWCASTLE.

DEAFNESS. BLINDNESS.

CURED WITHOUT OPERATION.

For Cataract and all Diseases of the Eye; Deafness in all its forms; Noises in the Ears; Discharges from the Ears; Deafness from Influenza cured. Write for testimonials and printed form of questions to answer sent free. Mr T. ISON, Oculist and Aurist, 71, Great George Street, Leeds.—Artificial Eyes, Spectacles, etc.

NOTICE. — Mr Ison (of Ison's Eye and Ear Dispensary, Ltd., Leeds) personally attends Sutties' Clarendon Hotel, Clayton Street, Newcastle, Monday, May 28th; Hours, 12 to 6-30. Queen's Hotel, Stockton, Wednesday, May 30th, Hours 11 to 4-30. Imperial Hotel, Hull, Friday, June 1st, Hours 11 to 4-30.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER,

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

FOR INFLUENZA

HARBURN'S PHOSPHORISED TONIC

RENEWS BRAIN, NERVE & BLOOD.

In Bottles 13½d. and 2s 9d, from Chemists or direct from A. HARBURN, M.P.S., Pharmaceutical Chemist, Darlington and Bishop Auckland.

No. 2075 | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. | FRIDAY, May 25th, 1900. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

MR. A. WOLFE, 29, WEST SUNNISIDE, SUNDERLAND, IS PREPARED TO ADVANCE FROM £10 to £2,000 ON PROMISSORY NOTE TO ALL PROFESSIONS, FARMERS, AND OTHERS. STRICTEST PRIVACY GUARANTEED. LOW INTEREST, REPAYMENTS TO SUIT BORROWERS' CONVENIENCE; or CAPITAL CAN REMAIN SO LONG AS THE INTEREST IS PAID. NO FEES. DISTANCE NO OBJECT. MORTGAGES ARRANGED. REVERSIONS AND LIFE POLICIES PURCHASED. Telegrams—'Safe' Sunderland. Nat. Telephone 565.

Contracts.

JOHN DOVE & CO., LTD., Builders Merchants and Lathrenders, offer to tender for the best Portland Cement, Plaster, Laths, Hair, Crushed Bricks, and Granite, Chimney Tops, Sanitary Pipes, Firebricks, Pitch, Tar, &c. Offices, 5, St. Nicholas Buildings, Newcastle. Telephone: P.O., 618; National, 1,122. Telegrams, "Dove," Newcastle. Estab. 1854. 11h.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

JOHN HEWITSON,

SLATER AND SLATE MERCHANT, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

Foreman's Residence: 64, WESLEY TERRACE.

Estimates for Slating Gratis.

Repairs a Speciality.

Agent for all the Leading Slate Quarries.

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HEAD OFFICE: LEAZES PARK ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

National Telephone, No. 1348 98f

CROOK HALL SLAG CRUSHING WORKS, NEAR CONSETT.

I AM now in a position to supply promptly and at reasonable prices, the following Materials for Roads, Footpaths, Carriage Drives, Asphalting, Concreting, &c. Machine Broken Slag, to any size, up to 2½ inch. Slag Chippings ⅜ to 1¼ inch. Fine Crushed Slag for Concrete purposes ½ inch.

THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

The Slag is of most excellent Quality, it is of great density and of good colour, and very strong and durable stone for Road Making, &c. I am supplying it extensively to various Public Bodies, Contractors, &c. I am putting down an extensive Plant for the manufacture of Artificial Stone, Flags, Kerbs, Sills, &c., and also Asphalting.—QUOTATIONS ON APPLICATION.

Postal Address:

564g D. ORMEROD, Blackhill.

LEADGATE SHOW, AUGUST 4th, 1900.

TENDERS are required for the SUPPLYING of a Brass Band, to play at the Show and Ball on the above date.

Tenders not later than June 4th, 1900, to GEO. W. GOULDEN, Secretary, 80h Leadgate.

NOTICE.

CASTLESIDE FLORAL, HORTICULTURAL, AND LIVE STOCK SOCIETY.

THE Committee of the above Society invite TENDERS from Brass Bands to supply music at the above Show and Ball, to be held on Saturday, August 11th, 1900.

Tenders received up to Thursday, May 31st, 1900; also Tenders for Swings, Roundabouts, &c.

J. PROUD, Secretary,
Park Terrace, Castleside,
79h Consett, R.S.O.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE above Council invite TENDERS for the CONSTRUCTION of a Sewer at Lintz Colliery, comprising 12 inch, 9 inch, and 6 inch Earthenware Pipes, altogether about [illegible] yards with Manholes, &c.

Plans and Specifications may be seen at the Office of the undersigned, on May 22nd and 24th. Sealed Tenders to be sent in, on or before May [illegible].

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

Dated this [illegible] day of May, 1900.

R. HESLOP, Surveyor,
72h Burnopfield, R.S.O.

ANNFIELD PLAIN INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE above Society are desirous of receiving TENDERS for the CEMENTING of Yards, REPAIRS to 10 Houses, and Repairs, &c., to Business Premises, Langley Park.

Specifications can be seen at the Architect's Office, 32, Durham Road, Blackhill, Co. Durham.

Tenders to be sent in to above Office, on or before Saturday, the 26th inst.

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

GEO. THOS. WILSON, Architect.

May 16th, 1900. 758h

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE Benfieldside Urban District Council invite TENDERS for LEADING Materials required by the Council; and also price per day for Team Work.

Specification to be seen by applying to the Surveyor, who will receive Tenders, sealed and endorsed "Team Work," from the 23rd day of May, to the 19th day of June, 1900.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

By Order of the Council,
78h JOHN DIXON, Surveyor.

TO BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.

THE Consett Iron Company, Limited, are prepared to receive TENDERS for the ERECTION of Reading and Recreation Rooms at Leadgate, Medomsley, and Chopwell; also for New Lavatories, &c., at their General Offices at Blackhill.

Plans and Specifications may be seen, and quantities obtained on application to the Company's Architect, (Mr. C. E. Oliver), at the General Offices, Blackhill.

Tenders to be delivered before noon, Monday, 4th June, 1900, addressed to Henry Holliday, Esq., Consett Iron Company, Limited, Blackhill, Co. Durham, and endorsed "Tender for Institute," or "Tender for Lavatories."

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted. 802h

Lost and Found.

TAKEN UP on the 17th, at South Field, Three CATTLE.—Owner can have same by paying expenses to W. THOMPSON. 815h

Wanted

WANTED, strong DAY GIRL. — Apply, Springmount, Aynsley Terrace, Consett.

TEA LEAD WANTED, in any quantity; (market price given), at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. 345f

THE CONSETT REGISTRY OFFICE for Domestic Servants.—Apply at Mr. COCKBURN'S, Stationer, &c., Middle Street, Consett.

WANTED, a Respectable YOUTH used to Horses, and able to Drive.—Apply, WALTER WILLSON, Consett. 816h

GROCERY.—WANTED for Shop, a good MAN, used to Country Trade, good references required. — Apply H. W. PORTER, Boundary House, Dipton, R.S.O. 824h

WANTED, energetic MAN to drive Mineral Water Waggon, knowledge of District preferred. — Apply KERSHAW AND SONS, Leadgate. 760h

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

WANTED, Young Woman as BOOK-KEEPER; neatness and accuracy indispensible, permanency in Consett if suitable. —Apply, stating age, wage, and experience, to Box "M," *Guardian* Office, Consett. 789h

CONSETT WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOLS.

WANTED at once, an Ex. P.T., (Art 68); also two Girls as CANDIDATES, not under 14.—Apply, MR. BAILEY, Headmaster.

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. 962e

To Let.

TO LET, Four-roomed HOUSE.—Apply WM. RIDLEY, Contractor, Consett. 608h

TO LET, Furnished BEDROOM and SITTING-ROOM, one or two Gentleman preferred.—4, West View, Blackhill. 788h

TO LET OR FOR SALE, Five-roomed HOUSE, in Elsdon Terrace.—Particulars from C. W. ALMOND, Front Street, Consett.

HOUSE TO LET, Medomsley Road, Consett, containing Six Rooms, Wash house, and other Conveniences, Gas and Venetian Blinds. —Apply, T. W. SINCLAIR, Butcher, Leadgate.

TWO HOUSES of Four Rooms each, FOR SALE, 15, and 16, John Street, Blackhill. —Apply to Tenants, or WM. JOHNSTONE, Knitsley Station. 172h

TENTS TO LET, on reasonable terms, size or quantity no object. Tables and Bar Fittings kept on hand. All orders punctually attended to and carried out. Carting done, if required, by G. HUNTER, Medomsley 446h

TENTS TO LET. — Annfield Plain and District Marquee Co. offer their Tents for present Season at reduced rates. Sizes, Large Tent, 140ft. by 30, 120ft. by 30, 100ft. by 30; also Refreshment Tent, 40ft. by 18.—For Terms apply to GEO. BULLERWELL, East Kyo, Annfield Plain. 532h

MEDOMSLEY MARQUEE COMPANY.

TENTS TO LET, all sizes, also REFRESHMENT TABLES and BAR FITTINGS on reasonable terms. Carting done as required. Further particulars may be had on application. —R. CHARLTON, Secretary, Medomsley, R.S.O.

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a useful Cart MARE.—Apply to JOHN WEDDLE, Medomsley Edge. 720h

WIRE NETTING FOR SALE, at Wholesale prices.—Apply, F. WELCH and Co., Annfield Plain. 998g

36. INCH SAFE FOR SALE £6; 30 in. £5; 24 in. £4; delivered. JOS. LEVY, 55, Frederick Street, Sunderland. 689g

FOR SALE, splendid PIANO in Walnut, up-to-date, as a bargain.—Apply, A. PHILLIPSON, Dipton. 701h

FOR SALE, Six Tons of good HAY, two years old.—Apply E. G. LUMLEY, Durham Road, Leadgate. 707h

LADY'S BICYCLE FOR SALE, new last year, (Coventry make).—Apply 8, Clarendon Street, Consett. 809h

FOR SALE, a Good Useful COW, due 24th May.—Apply to THOS. STOBBS, East Castle. 817h

A WEALTHY COMPANY is prepared to assist Householders to purchase their own Homes.—For particulars write to "N.G." Office of this Paper. 823h

FOR SALE Two ARMY BELL TENTS. Cheap. All complete. Suitable for Sports; also Two Large BREEDING CAGES. —Apply W. BRAND, JUN., Fishmonger, Consett.

FOR SALE, at Auction Mart, Blackhill, Monday first, at One o'clock, PHAETON, WHITECHAPEL, and FOUR-WHEELED ROLLEY, in good condition and cheap.

FOR SALE Two CHAIN PUMPS, 13ft. 6in. full length, 3½in. bore, 3¾in. outside; also 12ft. full length, 2in. bore, and 2½in. outside and chain, all complete. — Apply Stanhope House, Stanhope. 725h

EGGS! EGGS! no fancy prices. White Leghorns, best winter layers, a few are from champion cup winner strains; unlimited grass run; guaranteed fertile; 2s. 6d. per dozen. —A. RICHARDSON, Station Master, Rowley, Consett. 297h

FOR SALE, almost new, a small PLUMBER'S STOVE, with Metal Pot, top hinge door and bottom hinge door complete, for heating irons, &c.—Apply, *Guardian* Office, Consett.

TO BE SOLD OR LET, with immediate possession, TWO DWELLING HOUSES in Benfieldside Road, Shotley Bridge, on the Shotley Estate, containing 9 rooms each, gas, water, bathroom, and garden.—Apply to MR. WM. C. SAMPLE, Tritlington Hall, Morpeth.

H. AND E. ELTRINGHAM, Railway Terrace, Blackhill, winners of over 200 Prizes and Agents for Dobbie & Co.'s Poultry Grit, have Minorca Eggs from their pen, which contains the brother of the Challenge Cup Winner; also, Orpington Eggs at 3s 6d per setting: unfertile replaced. 586h

NITRATE SODA, SULPHATE AMMONIA, PURE FISH GUANO, KAINIT, & other Potash Salts: Special Manures for all Crops.

BASIC SLAG, most reliable qualities for Spring use. Supply Root Crops and Grain with both Lime and Manure at least cost.

LANGDALE BROTHERS,
463h 46, Cloth Market, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FOR SALE, 2 Second-hand PONY TRAPS, in excellent condition; also new CONVEYANCES of every size and description, guaranteed of best material and workmanship, prices moderate; new harness of all sizes, either for Cash or on the easy payment system. COWEN'S CARRIAGE AND ROLLEY WORKS, Taylor Street, Consett. 207h

MONEY LENT on Gold and Silver Watches Plate, Jewellery, Pictures, Men's and Women's Clothes, Bed and Table Linen.—Large Stock of Unredeemed Pledges for Sale. Hand Quilted Quilts. — M. HEPTON, Pawnbroker, Blackhill. 260f

FOR SALE OR TO LET, a DWELLING-HOUSE and PREMISES, being No. 11, Summerhill Terrace, Shotley Bridge, containing Two Sitting-rooms, Kitchen and Scullery, Four Bedrooms, large Bathroom and W.C., with Yard and Outbuildings at back. Immediate possession can be given.—Apply Messrs. JOHN G. MURRAY, RICHMOND, AND AYNSLEY, Solicitors, 42, Westgate Road, Newcastle, and Consett. 735h

FOR SALE.—COLLIES.—Splendid Golden-Sable and White Prize Winning Brood BITCH, by "Edgbaston Marvel," cost £500; Bargain £3, honestly worth £5; can win her cost at first Show.—Sable and White PUPPIES, by "Blagdon Gun, (£115 refused for him when 8 months old), ex above Bitch; 6 weeks old, will make sure winners; cheap for quick sale; overstocked.—Apply WILL HARTLEY, South Moor, Chester-le-Street. 742h

CYCLES, CYCLES, BARGAINS. 1500 CYCLES! Free to any Address, the most interesting and complete list of 1,500 Machines POST FREE. Single Machines at Wholesale Trade Price. New and Second hand Machines from 30s each. 500 New, latest 1900, Gent's Pneumatic Safeties. Marvellous Prices. 500 Ladies' New, latest 1900 pattern—Single Machine at Wholesale Price. Write for large List. Post Free to any one. Agents wanted. Marvellous Bargains. Send for List. WARRILOW & CO., Cycle Manufacturers, Weston-super-Mare.

Musical Tuition.

MISS JACKS,

GIVES LESSONS on the PIANOFORTE and in THEORY of MUSIC. Terms on application, St. Aidan's Street, Blackhill.

LESSONS given on the Pianoforte and Organ. Pupils prepared for Incorporated Society of Musicians Examination. Terms on application.—JAS. H. COCKBURN, 51, Park Road, Consett. 983c

MUSICAL TUITION.

LESSONS on Organ, Piano, and Theory of Music given by JOHN SURTEES, Organist, Consett Parish Church. Pupils may be prepared for examinations held by the Royal Academy, Royal College, and Incorporated Society of Musicians. Pianos thoroughly tuned post cards attended to.—Address, 2, Cemetery Road, Blackhill. 971c

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.

Half-Term Admission, June 6th.

Instruction includes Book-keeping, Land Surveying, Science, Shorthand, Drawing and Music.

A Field for Cricket, Tennis and Football.

MONTAGU V. STREGALL, M.A., Head-master.

Business Announcements.

F. EDWARDS,

BOOT AND SHOE DEALER, FLINT HILL, DIPTON,

HAS a large stock of BOOTS and SHOES at lowest prices. Children's Necessaries in large varieties.

Also TRAPS and WAGGONETTES for PLEASURE PARTIES AND CLOSED CARRIAGES for WEDDINGS & FUNERALS.

Business Announcements.

IT IS AN ASTONISHING FACT THAT EVERYONE WHO IS ILL AND CANNOT GET CURED GO AT ONCE TO

GEO. PATTRICK,

CHEMIST, 5, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

WHO HAS MADE SOME MARVELLOUS RESTORATIONS TO HEALTH IN CASES THAT WERE CONSIDERED HOPELESS.

GO TO HIM AT ONCE IF YOU ARE NOT WELL. THOUSANDS OF CASES DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

OPENING OF NEW PREMISES.

Paxton House, Middle Street, Consett.

MRS. HAND, Milliner, Draper, and Fancy Goods Dealer, desires to thank her patrons for their past favours, and to inform them that she has removed to the above address (next Wesleyan Chapel), where a New and Up-to-date Stock of Goods, Fashionable Millinery, Newest Designs and Colours may be seen.

668h ☞ CHILDRENS' CLOTHING A SPECIALITY. ☜

ESTABLISHED 1848.

TURNBULL BROTHERS,

LEAZES & LINTZ COLLIERY,

TEA MERCHANTS, GROCERS, DRAPERS, AND PROVISION DEALERS, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

GROCERY AND PROVISION DEPARTMENT.

TEA at less than Cost Price: From 1s 1d per lb. New Season's Fruit at Startlingly Low Prices.

CHEESE—Prize Cheshire, Finest American, Wensleydale Edam, &c., &c.

FLOUR—From best Millers in England from 1s 1d per Stone.

CHOICEST HAMS, extra Selected for Christmas Trade, 7d per lb.

BEST BACON obtainable, Finest Sholder, from 4½d per lb.

JAMS of all kinds. CAKES in endless Variety.

WINE, SPIRIT, AND ALE DEPARTMENT.

The largest direct Irish Whisky buyers in the District.

WHISKEY (Lea-ess) ... ... 2s 6d & 3s per bot.
" " ... ... 3s. 3s 6d. & 4s
" (Counsel) ... ... 3s " "
" " ... ... 3s per qrt. bot.

Counsel Whiskey keeps its place—Always in Front.

GIN (Old Tom) ... ... 2s 9d per bot.
BRANDY ... ... 3s 6d " "
" (Three Star) ... ... 4s 9d " "
(Usual Price 5s 6d.)

AGENTS FOR WHITBREAD'S, WORTHINGTON'S AND TRUMAN, HANBURY, & CO.'S ALES.

☞ Our Customers may depend that the great object we aim at is TO SEND ALES AND SPIRITS OUT in the VERY BEST CONDITION, so that they may give every Satisfaction.

ASK TO SEE OUR PRICE LISTS.

GEO. RICHARDSON & SON,

GENERAL DRAPERS.

ARE Shewing their New Stock of Dress Goods, including some of the latest Novelties, for early Spring and Summer wear.

BLACK SILKS, GUARANTEED WEAR, 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d. 5s. 6d.

GLOVES, TIES, CORSETS AND UMBRELLAS.

In the GENERAL DRAPERY our Stock will be found well assorted with Goods only of Reliable Makes.

BLACK AND BLUE SERGES. NEW RANGE OF TWEEDS, AND TROUSERINGS. SUITS MADE TO MEASURE. INSPECTION INVITED.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

THE CENTRAL SHOP

FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN,

IS THE BEST

For Every Description of GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, PATENT MEDICINES, AND PROPRIETARY GOODS.

The Best and Cheapest House for FLOUR from the best Millers.

Splendid Colonial BUTTER, at 1s. per lb. COOKED HAMS, from 7½d. per lb. Whole.

JOHN HALL & CO.,

FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THE CATCHGATE POSTING ESTABLISHMENT

CATCHGATE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.

JOHN OXLEY, PROPRIETOR

HEARSE OF THE MOST MODERN AND UNIQUE DESIGN.

MOURNING COACHES. CARRIAGES FOR WEDDINGS.

BRAKES AND WAGGONETTES FOR PLEASURE PARTIES.

SUPPLIED ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS. 23y

FURNITURE REMOVED. ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

THE FINEST FRUITS OF THE SEASON.

FOSTER, RUSSELL, & CO.'S NEW SEASON'S FRUITS.

Have arrived and cannot fail to evoke the hearty appreciation of all who see and try them. They are

CLEAN, FLESHY, DELICIOUS, ECONOMICAL.

The Thrifty Housewife invests wisely when she purchases at

FOSTER, RUSSELL, & CO.'S,

DRAPERS AND PROVISION MERCHANTS,

FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

INFLUENZA, INFLUENZA. INFLUENZA.

Do you feel a pain in the back, aching of the limbs, headache, dizziness, etc? If so you are feeling the first symptoms of an attack of influenza.

INFLUENZA CAN BE WARDED OFF IN 12 HOURS BY TAKING A BOTTLE OF SWINDALE'S INFLUENZA MIXTURE. PRICE,—ONE SHILLING PER BOTTLE.

Ordinary Cough Mixtures are worse than useless.

JABEZ SWINDALE,

CHEMIST,

BLACKHILL, CONSETT, & LEADGATE.

NEWCASTLE WARDROBE CO.,

31, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND CLOTHES, BEDS, &c.

☞ Orders executed for Oilskin Garments, guaranteed Waterproof; Leather Goods, &c. Inspection invited. 330e

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.

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.)

Tawagin 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.

FOR EMIGRATION to SOUTH AFRICA and AMERICA, apply to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer,-Dipton.—SPECIAL AGENT. 157v

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.

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.

HAVE YOU MACHINERY? YES.

THEN USE DICKINSON BROS.' LUBRICANTS.

BEST AND CHEAPEST.

WORKS: CLOSE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 122g

CHIMNEY PIECES.

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STOVES.

DINNING AND COOKE,

HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,

PERCY IRON WORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

SHOW ROOMS: 21, 23, AND 25, PERCY STREET.

SPRING CLEANING. SPRING CLEANING.

MILNER'S SPECIALITIES FOR ABOVE.

FURNITURE CREAM, 1s. size, 10d.
FURNITURE CREAM, 6d. size, 5d.

CLEANSING AMMONIA, 9d. size, 6d.
BEST PAINTS, in Patent Lever Tins, 4d. lb.

MURALO COLOURS.

For Walls! Will not come off! Simple to use! Mix with cold water.

Housekeepers do not smother your Floors with Carpets in warm weather, as it is unhealthy to do so, but, Polish them well and USE MY RENOWNED FURNITURE STAINS, MAHOGANY, WALNUT, SATINWOOD, ROSEWOOD, OAK, EBONY. 1s. size 10d.; 6d. size, 5d.

PAINT BRUSHES in great variety.

NEW STOCK OF OILS! COLOURS, PAINTS, VARNISHES, DISINFECTANTS, WASH-LEATHERS, SILVER CLOTHS, AND SPONGES.

CARPET SOAP, 6d. size, 4d.

ELEGANT STRAW HAT POLISHES, All Colours, 3d. and 6d. bottles.

AGENT FOR LAURENCE'S SPECTACLES.

MILNER, CHEMIST,

15, SHAKESPEARE ST., AND 54, FRONT ST, CONSETT.

NOTICE! NOTICE!

J. COCKBURN,

STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, AND GENERAL FANCY DEALER, OF FRONT STREET, HAS OPENED OUT HIS

NEW SHOP IN MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

Stationery in all its branches. Newspapers and Periodicals of all kinds. London Parcels arrive daily. Agent for British and Foreign Bible Society.

All Orders punctually attended to.

Agent for Low Fell Laundry, Pullar's Dye Works, &c. 421h

FOR A SMART TURN-OUT

You require a Stylish, Well-Finished Trap, and a Handsome Set of Harness.

YOU CAN GET THESE EITHER FOR CASH OR ON THE INSTALMENT SYSTEM AT

COWEN'S CARRIAGE AND ROLLEY WORKS,

TAYLOR STREET, CONSETT.

To keep your Harness in Tip-top Condition you must use FRANK MILLER'S CELEBRATED HARNESS DRESSINGS for which we are the Sole Agents in this District.

Lamps, Waterproof Aprons, Rubber and Wool Mats, Horse Sheets and Clothing, Whips, Non-rustable Bits, and other sundries always on hand.

Also at TYNEDALE CARRIAGE WORKS, HEXHAM. 115f

TEETH. TEETH. TEETH.

THE NORTH-EASTERN DENTAL CO.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

MR. TOWNEND, SURGEON DENTIST, now attends at

MR. COCKBURN'S NEW PREMISES, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

Every Saturday, 2 to 6 p.m. 733h

THE BEST HOUSE FOR WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELLERY, ELECTRO PLATE, AND SPECTACLES.

DOBSON GRADON,

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER, JEWELLER, AND OPTICIAN.

Derwent Street, Blackhill.

REPAIRS A SPECIALITY. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

JOHN HUME AND SON,

MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

CORN MERCHANTS, BREAD BAKERS, AND CONFECTIONERS.

MAKERS OF HIGH-CLASS BRIDES' CAKES, BIRTHDAY CAKES, &c.

CATERERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL SOIREES AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS.

ALSO, MAKERS OF ALL KINDS OF FEEDING STUFFS OF THE BEST QUALITY.

PRICES ON APPLICATION.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

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CRICKET MATCHES.

SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND v. CHESTER-LE-STREET.

Though somewhat chilly, the weather at Gosforth for this match was decidedly favourable. The wicket was in excellent condition, and Gray, the Chester-le-Street captain, on winning the toss, adopted the popular course in sending his side in to bat. J. K. Bewicke and Jas. Bewick opened the innings to the bowling of W. Simpson and the Rev. C. O. Brutton. Runs came slowly, and with only a dozen on Jas. Bewick was bowled by Brutton for 4. (One for 12.) G. Robson came next, but was never comfortable. J. K. Bewick, however, batted steadily, but at 21 saw Robson bowled by Simpson for a couple. (Two for 21.) Coyle (pro.) followed. Runs came better afterwards, and with the total rising Allen relieved Brutton. Still a separation could not be brought about until 18 more runs had been added, when J. K. Bewick was caught in the slips by W. Simpson off Allen. (3 for 59.) T. Middleton filled the vacancy, and 14 runs were added before the new comer returned the ball to Allen. (4 for 73.) T. L. Gray then joined Coyle, but was soon bowled by Shotton, who had relieved Simpson. (5 for 77.) James Hand followed, but fell to the veteran at 87. (6 for 87.) Then came J. G. Bell, but he was bowled by Shotton before he had scored. (7 for 87.) Richardson, a local player, filled the vacant place, and played very pretty cricket indeed; he assisted Coyle to stave off what appeared to be an utter collapse. The century went up at twenty minutes past four, and then Coyle, who had been batting very steadily, opened out and hit with much more freedom. Richardson, after getting Shotton nicely to the leg for four, was caught behind the wicket next ball. (Eight for 125.) L. Crichton followed, and shortly after his advent Coyle reached his fifty, and was heartily applauded. He only added two before he was bowled by the Rev. C. O. Brutton, who had relieved Allen. Allen made an appeal for a catch in the slips, when Coyle had made 6, which was not allowed, but otherwise Coyle's was an excellent innings. (Nine for 130.) S. Taylor was the last man, but without any addition to the score Crichton was caught at the wicket, and the innings closed.

S. C. Hallows and J. E. Hicks opened the South Northumberland innings to the bowling of Coyle and Robson. Hicks was caught and bowled by Coyle's first ball. Allen, the professional, followed, but with the total at 21 Hallows was bowled by Coyle. (Two for 21.) H. Shotton hit freely, and the score was 35 before he was smartly stumped by Taylor off Coyle. C. Page came next, but soon after his advent Allen, who had played pretty cricket for 25, was bowled by Robson. P. McAllum then joined Page, and a useful stand was made, Page being at length caught by Crichton off Robson. The Rev. C. O. Brutton followed, and the total was carried to 85 when McAllum was caught and bowled by Robson. Stumps were then pulled up, and the match left drawn, South Northumberland, with four wickets to fall being 51 runs behind their opponents' total. Scores:—

CHESTER-LE-STREET.	
J. K. Bewick c W. Simpson b Allen	33
Jas. Bewick b Brutton	4
G. Robson b W. Simpson	2
Coyle b Brutton	52
J. Middleton c and b Allen	9
T. L. Gray b Shotton	2
J. Hand b Shotton	4
J. G. Bell b Shotton	0
Ord Richardson c Page b Shotton	19
L. Crichton c Page b Shotton	0
F. Taylor not out	0
Extras	11
Total	136

SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND.	
S. C. Hallows b Coyle	5
J. E. Hicks c and b Coyle	0
Allen b Robson	25
H. Shotton st Taylor b Coyle	12
C. Page c Crichton, b Robson	19
P. McAllum c and b Robson	16
Rev. C. O. Brutton, not out	2
A. Blacklock did not bat	
W. Simpson did not bat	
J. T. Bacon did not bat	
L. H. Palmer did not bat	
Extras	6
Total (for six wickets)	85

BURNHOPE v. SOUTH MOOR.

Played at Burnhope in connection with the North Durham League. Burnhope batted first, and "declared" after scoring 248 for three wickets. South Moor utterly collapsed before the splendid bowling of Robinson, and were dismissed for 52 runs. Scores:—

BURNHOPE.	
J. Robinson (capt.) b Beckwith	27
J. Newton not out	73
H. Sugden c Fairley b Raine	87
J. Dyson c Fairley b Beckwith	23
A. Heckels not out	13
A. Wallace did not bat	
W. Summerbell did not bat	
M. Heslop did not bat	
J. W. Moffatt did not bat	
T. Dyson did not bat	
W. Liddell did not bat	
Extras	25
Total (for 3 wickets)	248

SOUTH MOOR.	
J. E. W. Fairley b Robinson	5
T. Welsh b Robinson	2
T. Tindale b Robinson	9
A. W. Gourland b Robinson	8
W. Copeland c Summerbell b Heckles	1
W. Robinson b Robinson	0
W. Raine not out	12
E. Beckwith b Robinson	0
H. Gallagher b Robinson	0
H. Joyce b Robinson	1
J. Vivian c Moffatt b Heckels	9
Extras	5
Total	52

WHICKHAM II. v. BEAMISH II.

Played at Whickham and resulted in a win for Whickham. This was a North Durham Junior League engagement. S. Burn and Jas. Burn, for the home team, and R. Mills for the visitors were in good bowling form. Scores:—

BEAMISH.	
J. Pinkney b G. Booth	0
J. Mason b W. Mowbray	1
W. Hewison c Jos. Burn b Booth	0
Joe Wra[illegible] lbw. b Booth	1
D. Laverick c Booth b W. Mowbray	7
R. Mills b W. Mowbray	10
C. Laverick b W. Mowbray	0
T. Mason b G. Booth	1
K. Jackson not out	5
G. Parker b G. Booth	0
T. Brown c Faldon b G. Booth	1
Extras	4
Total	30

WHICKHAM 2ND.	
T. Thynn run out	0
F. Faldon c C. Laverick	1
W. Mowbray b Laverick	3
Jas. Burn c D. Laverick b C. Laverick	10
S. Burn c and b R. Mills	21
A. Henderson b R. Mills	6
J. Craig c [illegible] b R. Mills	1
G. Booth b D. Laverick	1
Jos. Burn c Mills b D. Laverick	1
G. Jackson b R. Mills	0
K. Snowball not out	0
Extras	0
Total	44

RYTON CONGREGATIONAL II. v. SWALWELL II.

At Ryton. Scores:—

RYTON CONGREGATIONAL II.	
T. Smith, run out	0
T. Graham c Barron b Bruce	9
T. White lbw. b Bruce	10
Ferguson b Robson	0
Macdonald c Cornish b Robson	0
J. Tilley run out	3
J. Graham not out	4
J. Oliver b Robson	0
W. Newbiggin run out	4
J. Harbottle b Robson	0
W. Forster b Robson	3
Extras	3
Total	36

SWALWELL II.	
T. Ryding b Tilley	8
F. Barron c Oliver b Tilley	4
C. Holmes b Tilley	2
J. W. Benson b T. Graham	6
J. Bruce run out	1
J. Robson b T. Graham	4
G. Bruce c Oliver b Tilley	4
W. Eltringham b T. Graham	0
T. Hopwood b T. Graham	1
E. Cornish b T. Graham	6
J. Hickson not out	0
Extras	6
Total	42

SOUTHILL v. HIGH FELL.

Played at Mr. C. F. Foster's ground at Southill. A perfect wicket had been prepared by Stevens, and Canon Firth (56) played a faultless innings, as also did L. E. Woods and A. H. J. Cochrane, who each made 38. The home side declared at 149 for eight wickets. J. H. Allen made 49 for the visitors. Score:—

SOUTHILL	
C. F. Foster, b Richardson	3
L. E. Woods c Kirtley b Richardson	38
A. H. J. Cochrane, b Smith	38
Canon Firth not out	56
L. de Bowles b Richardson	0
H. Traill c Ridley b Smith	0
W. Bambrough b Richardson	7
H. Dennis b Richardson	0
W. Brown not out	4
Stevens did not bat	
W. Hankin did not bat	
Extras	3
Total (for 8 wickets)	149

HIGH FELL.	
J. L. Charlton b Cochrane	2
J. H. Allen b Stevens	49
G. Smart b Cochrane	3
M. Bradshaw c and b Cochrane	3
J. Hughes b Cochrane	8
G. Ridley b Cochrane	8
A. Richardson b Stevens	7
G. Robinson b Cochrane	0
R. Smart not out	0
R. Smith b Stevens	4
W. Hughes b Stevens	0
Extras	19
Total	103

CRAGHEAD II. v. BURNMOOR II.

Match played at Burnmoor on Saturday.

BURNMOOR.	
W. Atkinson c T Strain b Howgate	7
F. Blunt, l.b.w., b Howgate	7
R. Ellison c Dodds b Marshall	52
A. Romanious c Forster b Howgate	0
J. Jackson c Hunter b Strain	4
R. Bryden b A. Howgate	0
M. Comby c Strain b Howgate	7
F. Swinhoe l.b.w., b Strain	15
J. Gowland c Marshall b Howgate	10
M. Riley b Marshall	0
J. Winship not out	0
Extras	5
Total	107

CRAGHEAD.	
W. Wilkinson b Bryden	4
J. Forster l.b.w., b Jackson	5
I. Cummings b Bryden	1
T. Strain c and b Bryden	14
J. Fairley b Comby	24
A. Howgate l.b.w., b Ellison	5
J. Hunter b Bryden	14
G. Hunter c Comby b Bryden	5
M. Dodds b Bryden	22
H. Walker not out	14
M. Marshall c and b Bryden	6
Extras	9
Total	123

ELM PARK SCHOOL v. J. C. BRODIE'S XI.

At Elm Park, ending in the defeat of the School by one wicket. Scores:—

SCHOOL.	
M. Williams c T. M. Wilson b Brodie	6
M. Steggall b Brodie	10
T. A. Palliser b T. M. Wilson	3
D. G. H. Cameron c Palliser b Brodie	5
S. H. Eltringham b T. M. Wilson	1
A. M. Spence b T. M. Wilson	5
D. L. Williams b T. M. Wilson	0
F. Christopher not out	2
W. Sinclair b Brodie	1
F. H. Ching b Brodie	0
Extras	3
Total	36
Second Innings.	
M. Williams not out	55
M. Steggall b T. M. Wilson	7
T. A. Palliser b Brodie	3
D. G. H. Cameron c Wilson b Brodie	0
S. H. Etringham b T. M. Wilson	1
A. M. Spence b Brodie	0
D. L. Williams b Brodie	0
F. Christopher c and b Brodie	16
W. Sinclair b Ward	9
F. H. Ching b Ward	6
Extras	15
Total	112

J. C. BRODIE'S XI.	
T. M. W. Wilson c Christopher b Williams	25
J. C. Brodie b Williams	6
S. Wilson b Williams	0
T. Palliser c Steggall b Cameron	5
W. Ward b Williams	0
W. Barron b Williams	0
C. Taylor b Cameron	1
M. Edgar not out	3
G. A. Eltringham b Williams	0
Extras	10
Total	50
Second Innings.	
T. M. Wilson c D. L. Williams b Christopher	37
J. C. Brodie b Williams	25
S. Wilson b Williams	0
T. W. Palliser b Palliser	11
W. Ward not out	4
W. Barron b Williams	2
C. Taylor b Christopher	2
M. Edgar run out	2
G. A. Eltringham not out	0
Extras	19
Total	102

PELTON FELL v. STANLEY.

PELTON FELL.	
H. Wihn b Vickers	17
W. Stoker lbw. b Vickers	15
J. Morpeth c Shield b Vickers	9
J. Emery b Vickers	34
S. Kell c Christopher b Henderson	3
M. Wilkinson b Vickers	17
A. Barrass not out	12
H. Barrass b Vickers	3
A. Bloomfield to bat	
J. Maddison to bat	
Extras	0
Total	123

STANLEY.	
J. Shield b Smiles	6
J. G. Sanderson c Morpeth b Smiles	5
T. Thornton b Smiles	1
G. Shield b Smiles	0
W. Christopher b A. Barrass	16
W. Vickers c and b Smiles	1
B. Henderson b Bloomfield	5
H. Christopher b Bloomfield	2
W. Robinson b A. Barrass	4
Craig not out	3
T. Robson b Emery	2
Extras	5
Total	50

SACRISTON v. BURNOPFIELD.

Played at Sacriston on Saturday.

SACRISTON.	
B. Walker b Wilkinson	41
E. Morris b Bell	20
J. Foster c Reay b A. Wood	3
S. Shepherd c H. C. Wood b A. Wood	2
T. Stobart b A. Wood	3
T. Emmerson b A. Wood	5
W. Swindle c Reay b McIntosh	19
S. Rowe b A. Wood	28
R. Taylor not out	4
J. Green b Brewis	0
J. Walker b Brewis	2
Extras	3
Total	130

BURNOPFIELD.	
W. Reay b Rowe	6
R. Brewis c Swindle b Rowe	15
G. Bell c Shepherd b Rowe	16
H. C. Wood b Rowe	1
A. Wood b Rowe	0
T. Robson c Shepherd b Rowe	3
H. Lowe b Emmerson	1
T. Southern not out	27
W. McIntosh c Morris b Rowe	7
W. Siddle b Rowe	9
G. Wilkinson b Rowe	0
Extras	12
Total	96

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DIPTON v. EDMONDSLEY.

Played at Edmondsley.

EDMONDSLEY.	
J. Clayton b Jas. Allen	1
W. Mordue b E. Bowes	0
J. Walker st and b J. Allen	9
T. B. Leonard b E. Bowes	5
J. Bushly b J. Allen	0
T. Lamb b J. Allen	14
W. Grieves not out	40
T. Linn b E. Bowes	1
G. Cowey c Cochrane b E. Bowes	6
J. Andus not out	30
W. Simpson to bat	
Extras	24
Total	135

DIPTON.	
Jas. Allen b Mordue	14
J. Roddam b Lamb	3
Frank Allen c Leonard	15
T. Simpson c Mordue	0
Jos. Bowes not out	25
E. Bowes b Bushly	5
J. Muse b Mordue	4
Jos. Adams c Leonard	1
J. Cochrane to bat	
Jos. Allen to bat	
Nicbol Freek to bat	
Extras	6
Total	73

DURHAM COUNTY CUP CHAMPIONSHIP.
LANGLEY PARK v. LITTLEBURN.

In connection with the above competition the following game was played at Langley Park, and resulted in a win for the home team.

LANGLEY PARK.	
J. Lowes b Emery	2
R. Rutter b W. Robson	6
T. Eccleston b T. Kell	26
M. Crawford b H. Young	12
J. M. Hunter b T. Kell	3
R. Peel run out	24
R. Ardley c Graydon b W. Robson	16
E. Eccleston run out	18
G. Lowes c Walton b T. Kell	5
E. Rutter b T. Kell	1
Geo. Peel not out	1
Extras	12
Total	126

LITTLEBURN.	
H. Young c R. Peel b H. Ardley	0
H. Emmerson b H. Ardley	4
F. Lonsdale run out	4
T. Brown b H. Ardley	0
J. Emery c Eccleston b H. Ardley	3
H. Walton b J. Lowes	0
W. Robson run out	14
J. Graydon c and b J. Lowes	0
C. Bassett c R. Peel b J. Lowes	1
T. Kell b J. Lowes	0
J. Grainger not out	0
Extras	3
Total	29

BURNOPFIELD II. v. WHITE-LE-HEAD.

WHITE-LE-HEAD.	
T. Sword b Campbell	11
T. Keilor b Campbell	0
W. Richardson b Campbell	0
W. Curry b Campbell	0
E. Buglass run out	1
Sub b Saunders	0
W. Keilor c and b Allan	1
J. Arthur c Simpson b Campbell	3
M. Richardson not out	2
B. Atkinson b Campbell	0
Sub c and b Campbell	0
Extras	5
Total	23

BURNOPFIELD II.	
F. Allan lbw.	3
J. G. Simpson c Keilor b Sword	19
W. Douglass stumped	6
T. Campbell b Sub	2
E. Saunders b Sub	19
R. McQueen b Sub	0
T. Dickinson b Sub	0
P. Elliott c Keilor b Sub	0
G. E. Potts b Sub	0
T. Turnbull not out	11
J. Coulthard b Buglass	1
Extras	8
Total	69

P.S.A. v. SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

Played at Shotley Bridge on Saturday, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team. The visitors batted first, and against the deliveries of Robson and Dales they were helpless, being all out for 24. The latter, on taking up the batting for Shotley, could not be disposed of until he had 58 to his credit, when he was caught in the slips.

P.S.A.	
H. Williams c Raisbeck b Dales	2
C. Dalton c Dales b Robson	8
J. Jeffrey c Robson b Dales	0
W. Askew b Dales	6
J. Bowman b Robson	0
T. Hall b Robson	2
T. Riddell b Robson	0
T. Barber b Robson	2
J. Wright run out	0
G. Sheldon b Robson	2
A Cook not out	0
Extras	2
Total	24

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.	
T. D. Dales c Wright b Bowman	58
T. Lynn run out	0
A. J. Smail b Wright	0
T. Gorman b Dalton	2
T. Raisbeck not out	10
J. R. Surtees run out	7
R. Robson run out	1
W. R. Lown b Wright	0
J. Seed b Wright	0
J. K. Annandale to bat	
S. C. Knott to bat	
Extras	10
Total (for 8 wickets)	88

MEDOMSLEY v. CONSETT AND DISTRICT.

At Medomsley. Scores:—

MEDOMSLEY.	
M. Hedley b Hamilton	19
R. Charlton b Raw	1
R. Campbell c Hirst b Raw	13
T. Walton b Raw	8
J. R. Lowes b Hamilton	25
R. Cant b Hamilton	8
Rev. A. C. Blunt c Siddell b Hamilton	0
M. Charlton l.b.w., b Leybourne	1
A. T. A. Whiteley b Hamilton	12
R. J. Robinson c Leybourne b Hirst	0
W. Lovat not out	3
Extras	14
Total	104

CONSETT.	
J. Siddell c Blunt b Lovat	16
G. Hamilton b Cant	8
E. Pratt c Lowes b Cant	4
W. Walton c Charlton b Lovat	2
R. Watson b Cant	1
J. J. Raw b Cant	6
T. C. Charlton c R. Charlton b Cant	0
A. Hirst b Lovat	0
J. Eltringham c Whiteley b Lovat	4
W. Leybourne not out	5
T. Chatt b Cant	0
Extras	11
Total	57

BURNMOOR v. CRAGHEAD.

Played at Craghead, and resulted in an easy win for the visitors. Scores:—

CRAGHEAD.	
J. Peele run out	4
G. Potts run out	2
C. Snowdon c and b Butler	0
S. Evans c and b Coltman	11
H Stevenson c Rutherford b Butler	2
F. Horne not out	15
H. Moorhouse st. b Butler	1
N. Sheraton c Butler b Coltman	3
R. Holmes b Butler	7
W. Railton b Butler	0
W. Faulkner c Rutherford b Coltman	8
Extras	2
Total	55

BURNMOOR.	
Thos. Bulmer c Peel b Faulkner	30
Butler b Faulkner	22
I. Swinhoe b Horne	6
J. Rutherford b Snowdon	4
R. Blunt b Snowdon	3
W. Nisbett b Snowdon	0
W. Rutherford st. b Moorhouse	14
J. Coltman b Snowdon	0
J. Nisbett b Snowdon	3
A. Woodward c Stevenson b Snowdon	30
G. Blunt not out	9
Extras	9
Total	131

BEAMISH v. WHICKHAM.

Played at Beamish on Saturday, and resulted in a win for Whickham. Scores:—

BEAMISH.	
M. Ledger c and b W. Cook	11
G. Laverick b Wm. Cook	0
G. Bryson b G. Cheesman	0
A. N. Clark c W. Thynn b Wm. Cook	19
J. B. Sample lbw, b F. Mowbray	0
J. Benfold lbw, b G. Cheesman	0
H. Curry b Wm. Cook	1
T. Shield c R. Mordue b F. Mowbray	9
G. Gowland b F. Mowbray	0
G. Findlay not out	4
R. Turnbull b G. Cheesman	0
Extras	3
Total	47

WHICKHAM.	
W. Cheesman b J. Bryson	3
R. Thynn c Ledger b G. Findlay	5
F. Mowbray c Curry b G. Findlay	5
Wm. Cook b Laverick	10
A. Willis c Benfold b Ledger	17
R. Mordue b G. Findlay	1
T. Cheesman b G. Laverick	0
G. Cheesman run out	3
M. Ainsley not out	9
Wm. Thynn c Ledger b Bryson	17
R. Cook b T. Shield	0
Extras	6
Total	75

CRICKET NOTES.

[By "L.B.W."]

NEAR NEIGHBOURS MEET.

Consett and Medomsley met in friendly rivalry on the latter's ground on Saturday, but hardly as much interest was taken in the fixture as usual. This was perhaps due to the news from South Africa being in everybody's mind, or it may have resulted from the fact that this season Consett have been depleted of the majority of their best men, and are nothing like the formidable combination they have been in previous years. Medomsley placed a much improved team in the field compared with that which had gone down at Shotley Bridge the preceding week, Dales being the only absentee of note. It cannot be said that the match was productive of anything of a very sensational nature, and the best features were the bowling of Geo. Hamilton and Bob Cant for their respective sides. Cant a few years ago was generally recognised as Medomsley's best bowler, but of recent years he has not done so well. However, he came out in rare form on this occasion, and contributed in no small degree to the victory achieved by the home club. Hamilton is a very promising player, and has not been long in making his mark in the senior team. He has all the makings of a fine cricketer, and his powers only need developing.

Medomsley first appeared at the wicket, but started badly, Bob Charlton being clean bowled by the first ball of Raw's second over. M. Hedley and Campbell improved matters considerably, a couple of dozen appearing when Campbell was dismissed for 13. Thompson Walton assisted Hedley to put on another dozen, and then came the best stand of the match between Lowes and Hedley. The latter was displaying nice form, and showed by far the most attractive cricket on his side. The pair increased the total by 27, and just previous to this Hamilton was given a trial. The change soon worked, as the new bowler disposed of both men. Lowes made the top score of the game (25), and is to be congratulated on his auspicious re-appearance. He hit a four and a trio of threes. Hedley's 19 was the result of an exhibition of pretty cricket, and his score included four threes. R. Cant and Whiteley did best of the remainder, both falling victims to the redoubtable Hamilton, who seemed very difficult to play. The last wicket fell at 104, and 14 of these were extras. I append the analysis of the Consett bowlers, from which it will be seen that Hurst was not so successful as usual:—

	O.	M.O.	R.	W.
A. Hurst	9	0	33	1
J. J. Raw	9	1	36	3
G. Hamilton	5.5	1	14	5
W. Leybourne	3	0	7	1

The visitors commenced in better style than their opponents, Siddell batting well and with 19 on for the first wicket Consett seemed to have a chance. Afterwards, however, the batting broke down badly, the deliveries of Bob Cant being too much for most of the visitors, whilst Lovat was also sending them down in good fashion. The captain's 16 was by far the best contribution on the side, and he hit four threes. Hamilton and Raw shaped fairly well, but the others proved easy victims to the two home bowlers, the aggregate stopped short at 57, which included 11 extras. It was a very tame display, and after the fall of the first wicket the attack carried all before it. Medomsley thus won by 47 runs, but their success did not occasion much surprise. I append the figures of Lovat and Cant, the latter's being particularly noteworthy:—

	O.	M.O.	R.	W.
W. Lovat	14	5	29	4
R. Cant	14	9	17	6

A WALK-OVER FOR THE TEMPERANCE.

Leadgate Temperance were not exactly confident as to the outcome of their game with South Tanfield 2nd, and expected to meet with a great deal of opposition. They got a strong team together to make the journey to Tanfield, but the result was an agreeable surprise. The home team cut up in extremely moderate fashion, and were completely outclassed. This makes the fourth successive victory gained by the Temperance, and three of these have been away from home. On this form the Leadgate team seems likely to have a fair look-in for championship honours. They have secured a valuable acquisition in Joe Snaith, who, although out of practice, bowled in splendid form last Saturday. South Tanfield were totally unable to make any stand against the bowling of Monaghan and Snaith who dismissed the whole side for a score of runs. Their innings was simply a procession. What the two Temperance bowlers achieved the following figures will demonstrate:—

	O.	M.O.	R.	W.
J. Monaghan	7	2	7	5
J. Snaith	6.1	2	10	5

The visitors had quite a day out in the batting line, and several of them made light of the bowling brought against them. The Temperance captain (Monaghan) and Greener made a splendid start, and ere they were separated the total had reached 41. Greener claimed 14 of these compiled by creditable play. Milburn did fairly well, whilst Kennedy maintained his previous good form by knocking up 17. Monaghan held on until he was only two short of his half-century, when he was caught by Irwin. He hit one three and 12 twos, and was deservedly applauded on retiring. Others on the side contributed to the total, which in the end amounted to 118 for nine wickets, Little not taking a turn with the willow. Thus South Tanfield were beaten in ridiculously easy fashion, and Coun. Winter is now fully convinced that his boys will top their division of the league. Of course, they are not out of the wood yet, but their form since the season began is sufficient to give their supporters every confidence in their ability to achieve what they set their hearts upon. Wilson was the most successful bowler on the losing side, but he was severely punished at times.

AN UNWELCOME SURPRISE.

"Annfield Plainite" writes:—The Wednesday boys gave the Leadgate Temperance eleven an unwelcome surprise on Wednesday of last week. The visitors probably thought they had an easy thing on, but the Plain soon showed them that they were not going to have things all their own way. Wilson was in rare form for the winners, and played the famous Monaghan with the greatest of ease. The latter did not take the punishment too well, and at times manifested uncalled-for displays of temper. However, this did not affect Wilson, who was not disposed of until he had made the grand score of 64. Kennedy and Atkinson batted well for the visitors, but Wilson and Smith were in good form with the leather. Leadgate had fully expected a victory, but they found the Plainites too good for them, and were fairly beaten on their merits. We shall try our utmost to win the return, although we expect to meet a hot lot.

CHESTER MAKE A GOOD SHOW.

The Chester-le-Street men made the journey to Gosforth on Saturday to oppose South Northumberland. Unfortunately, time did not permit of a definite result being arrived at, but the draw was certainly in favour of Chester. Batting first the visitors put together the creditable total of 136, but this was nearly all the work of three men. The principal contributor was the popular pro., Coyle, who was in capital form. He exceeded the half-century by a couple ere he succumbed to Brutton, and hit three fours, four threes, and six twos. Jack Bewick played well for 33, but the only other double-figurist was Richardson, who knocked up a useful 19. Thus these three made 104 out of the total, whilst "Extras" was responsible for 11. The home men made a poor start, as Hicks was caught and bowled from Coyle's first ball, and the pro. disposed of Hallows soon after. Allen (25) and Shotton (12) stopped the rot, whilst Page (19) and McAllum (16) carried on the good work, so that South Northumberland were able to save the game. When the match was abandoned they were 51 behind and had four wickets to fall, so that Chester could claim the best of the draw. Coyle and Robson equally divided the wickets, the former's costing 35 runs, and Robson's 17.

BEAMISH BEATEN.

Whickham were the visitors to Beamish on Saturday, and they gained the verdict by 29 runs. The home team compiled 47, but 39 of these were the work of three men, Clark made 19, whilst my old friend Mat Ledger registered 11, and T. Shield made nine. W. Cook, G. Cheesman, and F. Mowbray were the trundlers responsible for the fairly cheap dismissal of Beamish. Whickham did not fare too well at the outset of their venture, three men being sent back for few runs. Then Cook (10) and Willis (17) effected a capital stand, but after their dismissal wickets fell rapidly for a time. Ainsley (9 not out) and W. Thynn (17) made a determined resistance for the ninth wicket, and it was principally owing to their efforts that the visitors were left with such a pretty decisive victory. Findlay, Bryson, and Laverick bore the brunt of the attack on behalf of the home team, who made a good fight of it until the time of Ainsley and W. Thynn coming together.

THE DOUBLE EVENT.

Medomsley brought off the double event on Saturday, as their second team disposed of the Consett second string at Blackfine. The visitors took first turn at run-getting, and managed to knock up 66. Marks was top scorer with a meritorious 18, whilst Mat Walton (13), Hetherington (10), S. Wheatley, and Jos. Walton all shaped decently. With the exception of Patterson (14), the Consettonians only made a feeble response, and were all dismissed for but 35. Jos. Walton, who had bowled so finely against Langley Park the previous week, was once more in grand trim, and the home men could do nothing against him. Young Wilson also bowled well. Below will be found the analysis:—

	O.	M.O.	R.	W.
M. Walton	10	3	15	1
Jos. Walton	12.2	5	11	7
E. Wilson	3	3	0	2

IN GREAT FORM.

Burnhope are just now playing in great form, and appear to be almost invincible. They were visited by South Moor on Saturday, and as the latter have a strengthened eleven the game was expected to be a tight one. So far from this being the case the home team simply did as they liked, and overcame the Moorites almost as easily as they had done Sacriston the previous week. Robinson (27) and Newton laid the foundation of Burnhope's success, and after the popular skipper had been disposed of J. Dyson nipped in with 23. Then Sugden and Newton made a lengthy stand, the former especially scoring freely, and he had 87 to his credit ere he received marching orders. With Heckels in the visitors had more trouble, but with 248 registered, and only three men out, Robinson decided to let South Moor have a turn with the willow. Newton carried out his bat for a finely-played 73, and naturally he came in for a great reception. Heckels had 13 to his credit. Beckwith was credited with two of the wickets that fell, and Raine claimed the other.

It was generally recognised that South Moor had a well-nigh hopeless task before them, and all they could hope for at the most was a draw. However, it was never for a moment anticipated that they would collapse so utterly as they did. Fifty-two was a moderate total on a good wicket, but their exertions in the field had probably taken a lot out of the visitors. Raine carried out his bat for a dozen made in good fashion, whilst Tindale, Vivian, and Gowland each showed fair form, but the rest were completely out of it. The bowling of Robinson was the cause of the Moorites' breakdwon, the Burnhope skipper being irresistible. He captured no fewer than eight wickets—the whole of them clean bowled—for only 25 runs—a splendid performance. Joe seems to be playing better than ever this season, and is undoubtedly one of the finest all-round cricketers in the district. Long may it be before his powers begin to wane.

SHOTLEY STILL UNBEATEN.

Shotley Bridge added another victory to their list on Saturday, when they received and decisively defeated the P.S.A. team from Newcastle. The home club had the valuable assistance of T. D. Dales, of Medomsley, who proved to be in rare trim, and it was principally due to his efforts—coupled with those of Robson—that the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon brigade had to put up with a reverse. The visitors took first innings, but against the trundling of Robson and Dales they could make little or no headway. Not a single member of the side obtained double figures, Dalton being nearest with eight, and the whole eleven were sent back for just a couple of dozen runs. Robson was again in great form with the leather, and up-to-date he must have a splendid average. He captured six wickets on this occasion, hitting the stumps five times. Dales also bowled well, and I append the figures of both:—

	O.	M.O.	R.	W.
R. Robson	7	2	10	6
T. D. Dales	7	2	12	3

"T.D." followed up his successful bowling with a very fine batting performance. Going in first he laid about him right merrily, but got no support until Raisbeck joined him. The P.S.A. score was soon left in the rear, and Dales was not disposed of until he had compiled an excellent 58, which included some beautiful strokes all round the wicket. The visitors were doubtless very pleased to see him making pavilionwards. Raisbeck carried out his bat for a useful 10, but Surtees was the only other player to cause the losers any anxiety. At the drawing of stumps, Shotley had totalled 88 for the loss of eight men, and thus won very easily. This is their third consecutive victory, and they should be able to produce a good record at the end of the season.

MEMS.

Burnhope are going ahead in rare fashion.

Joe Robinson (the popular captain) is in "A.1." form.

Sugden is also maintaining the reputation he came with.

South Moor fared little better than Sacriston had done the previous week.

To put on 248 for the loss of only three wickets was a great achievement.

Sugden led the way with 87.

But perhaps Newton deserves as much praise for his 73 (not out.)

Robinson was content with 27.

But what execution he played in the attacking department.

Joe took the liberty of appropriating eight wickets (hitting the sticks in every instance) for 25 runs!

South Moor were completely pulverised.

At home Burnhope must be marked very dangerous.

Whatever they may do away.

I am very pleased to see Robinson in such splendid trim.

He is a fine cricketer and as decent a fellow as one could come across.

I trust that he may have a record season.

Who are going to be the first to take down the number of Shotley Bridge?

The Spa men are doing remarkably well.

T. D. Dales, of Medomsley, proved a rare source of strength to them on Saturday.

He both bowled and batted well.

Dales' 58 was by far the best batting display in the game.

Robson was again to the fore with the leather.

His six victims were obtained at the small cost of 10 runs.

"Rob" is having a wonderfully successful time up-to-date.

May he keep it up, say I.

Consett had to submit to another defeat on Saturday.

This time at the hands of their near neighbours, Medomsley.

There was nothing out of the common in the batting.

But two capital bowling performances were accomplished.

George Hamilton on being tried proved a great success.

He obtained six of the home wickets for 14 runs.

Bob Cant and Lovat bowled unchanged for Medomsley.

Six victims fell to the former for 17 runs.

These were the best achievements of the game.

Morton Hedley on the one side and Siddell on the other showed the best form with the willow.

It was rather funny that the Medomsley captain should be dismissed by the Consett skipper, and that the compliment should be returned when the visitors were batting.

It was a spanking catch with which Blunt disposed of Siddell.

The match was pleasantly contested.

It was a friendly in the true sense of the term.

And not like some "friendlies" (so-called) that I have seen.

Leadgate Temperance expected to meet with strong opposition on Saturday.

But their task was the easiest of the season.

Monaghan was the hero of the game.

And is an all-round player of much ability.

To take five wickets for seven runs and then knock up 48 is not a common or garden performance.

Joe Sneith was in good form also.

He claimed the other five wickets for just two runs apiece.

Kennedy maintained his good form.

And is evidently in for a successful season.

The Temperance are going great guns.

And should come near capturing the medals.

Four victories down (three of them away) is good biz.

Craghead disappointed their supporters on Saturday.

It was not in keeping with their previous good form to succumb so easily to Burnmoor.

Seeing that they were at home another win was anticipated for Craghead.

But they cut up very disappointingly.

Snowdon, for a wonder, got a "duck."

Perhaps this disheartened the others.

However, the old Tudhoe men bowled very well.

Taking six wickets for 44 runs.

Moorhouse, who had proved so deadly at Consett the preceding week, was singularly unsuccessful.

Butler (the Burnmoor pro.) obtained five wickets for exactly four runs each.

As a slight set-off to their seniors' defeat Craghead 2nd managed to win at Burnmoor.

This was chiefly due to the batting of Fairley, Dodds, J. Hunter, Walker, and Strain.

Burnmoor looked like winning when they knocked up 137.

But the remainder did little.

Chester-le-Street had the best of a drawn game with South Northumberland.

The popular pro. (Coyle) was in his best vein.

He made the top score of the match—a well-played 52.

Jack Bewick put up 33.

But the remainder did little.

Robson took three of the home wickets for 17 runs.

Had time permitted Chester would almost certainly have won.

I understand that Leadgate Park will make a start on Saturday.

Their opponents will be Sunniside.

It is hoped to get a good team together.

Despite their inglorious display against Langley Park, Medomsley 2nd came up smiling at Blackfine last Saturday.

And what is more, they gained the verdict.

Jos. Walton was once more in splendid trim with the leather.

As seven wickets for 11 runs fully testifies.

E. Wilson (a very promising bowler) took a couple of wickets without having a run scored off him.

Medomsley seem to have some useful bowlers coming on.

What they pricipally want is another good bat or two.

Sam Wood was seen to advantage on Saturday.

He knocked up 55 against St. George's.

And then had the misfortune to be run out.

The "Saints" were very fortunate to escape defeat at the hands of Morpeth.

DURHAM COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The annual meeting of the Durham County Cricket Club was held on Thursday night last, at the Three Tuns Hotel, Durham. Mr. C. F. Forster, of Southill, presided, and representatives were present from the Burnmoor, Chester-le-Street, Consett and District, Durham City, Langley Park, Littleburn, North Durham, Philadelphia, South Shields, Stanley and District, Tudhoe, and other clubs.—A vote of condolence with the family of Dr. Renton, the late president of the club, was passed.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report, which has already appeared, was taken as read, and its adoption moved by the Chairman.

Mr. Potts (Philadelphia) thought it was unfortunate that the report contained no allusion to the League and Challenge Cup competitions, and he moved that the following words be added to the report:—"That the Philadelphia club are the holders of the League Championship for 1899, both first and second teams, and that Langley Park are the winners of the Challenge Cup Competition."

Mr. James Turnbull (Chester-le-Street) seconded, and said it was only fair, as the clubs had honestly won the competitions.

The Secretary (Mr. W. R. Wilson) said the League competition had been declared void for the last season.

The Chairman ruled that Mr. Potts was out of order, and must move that the report be sent back.

Mr. Potts thereupon moved that the report be not adopted, and complained that two of the leading clubs in the county had been very unjustly dealt with. The League Committee had declared a championship that had already taken place null and void. This was utterly beyond their power, and against the rules.

Mr. Chatt (North Durham) said the League Committee had recommended the County club to declare the competition void.

A Voice: For what reason?

Mr. Chatt: The reason is in all the papers.

The amendment of Mr. Potts was rejected.

Mr. Potts enquired why the expense of the Senior League were so much in excess of last season.

The Secretary said it was due to the fact that the rules had twice been revised and printed during the season.

The report was then adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Marquis of Londonderry was re-elected president, with Mr. Matthew Forster, of Bishop Middleham, acting president; Mr. J. F. Whitwell (Norton) the captain; Mr. J. Adamson (Durham) the hon. treasurer; Mr. R. C. Thompson, (Pensher House) the hon. secretary; and Mr. W. R. Wilson, Durham, the secretary, were all re-appointed. The following gentlemen were elected upon the selection and finance committee:—Elected by representatives of clubs:—Mr. W. Ramsay, Consett; Mr. E. W. Elliott, Sunderland; Mr. E. G. Chatt, North Durham; Mr. T. F. Wilson, South Shields; Mr. T. Potts, Philadelphia; Rev. R. Hindle, Eppleton. Elected by subscribers: Mr. C. F. Forster, Bishop Middleham; Mr. J. W. Page-Page, Norton; Mr. E. Alexander, Sunderland; Dr. Lawrence, Darlington; Mr. M. H. Horsley, West Hartlepool; Canon Firth, Durham City.—Mr. F. Adamson and Mr. H. Wood, Sunderland, were elected auditors.

Durham County Football Association

The annual meeting of the Durham County Football Association was held in the Shakespeare Hall, Durham, on Saturday afternoon, Mr. J. T. Lowthian (Shildon), in the absence of Major Swinburne, detained by Mayoral duties in Darlington, presided. There were also present the following members of the Challenge Cup Committee:—Messrs J. E. Parker (Leadgate Park), D. Morrison (Jarrow), T. Dowling (Bishop Auckland), J. R. Douglass (Gateshead), R. Bennett (Gateshead), G. E. Chipchase (Crook), A. Grundy (Whitburn), A. Stephenson (West Hartlepool), R. Bland (Pelton Fell), R. P. Croughton (West Auckland), R. Hobson (Birtley), J. Beamson (Kelloe St. Helens), and J. Glover (Haughton-le-Skerne), secretary.

Mr. J. R. Douglass presented the statement of accounts for last season showing that the total receipts (including a balance in hand of £56 19s 8d) were £256 0s 7d. The items were:—Subscriptions, £82 5s; protest fees, £31 10s; fines £4 15s; gate receipts, senior cup, Jarrow v. Sunderland' £63 7s 5d, and ditto, Amateur Cup, West Hartlepool v. Selbourne, £17 3s 6d. The expenditure left a balance of £24 9s. The principal items of expenditure were:—Senior Cup, Jarrow v. Sunderland, £12 12s 4d; Amateur Cup, West Hartlepool v. Selborne, £10 11s 4d; expenses of council, £46 1s 11d; secretary's salary, £40; medals, £26 16s 3d; protest fees returned, £31 10s; and donation to Mr. Grundy's testimonial, £10 10s.—A representative called attention to the fact that the whole of the protest fees had been returned to the protesting clubs. He thought this was a mistake, and that fees should be held, especially in cases where the protest was lost.—Mr. Douglass supported this view.—Mr. Dowling moved that the statement of accounts be adopted, and that it be a recommendation to the committee to take into consideration the question raised as to the retention of protest fees.—Mr. Croughton seconded.

Mr. Morrison, as a member of the committee, objected to the recommendation on the ground that it involved a vote of censure on the committee. They had power to retain the fees where a frivolous protest was made, but in the past year the committee had in their discretion see fit to return the whole of the fees.—Ultimately it was agreed to withdraw the recommendation, and the statement of accounts was formally adopted.

The Secretary submitted his annual report. He stated that the number of clubs affiliated with the association during the past season had been 189. Entrance fees to the Senior Cup had been paid by 56 clubs, and to the Amateur by 84 clubs. This was a decrease, but that was explained by the alteration of the date on which the entrance fees had to be made. The Senior Cup was won by Jarrow—quite a new club to win this distinction (hear, hear)—and the Amateur Cup competition was won by Hartlepool, another new club. (Applause.) Both these clubs merited congratulation, as also did the Bishop Auckland Football Club, who had won the English Amateur Cup. Durham county seemed to have taken a lease of this cup, the Stockton club having won it last year. The Darlington club proved themselves the champions of the Northern League, and the Jarrow football Club for two years in succession had won their way into the competition proper of the English Cup. In concluding his report, the Secretary stated that the county football clubs had contributed £41 1s to the Football Reservist Fund. (Applause.)

Mr Watson (Sunderland) said he might add that the Sunderland Club had sent £50 to the Reservist Fund in addition to what had been paid through the Association. (Hear, hear.)

The report was then adopted.

Mr. D. Morrison moved an amendment to the rules governing the Durham Challenge Cup Competition, providing "that no club or player shall be eligible for the competition who has played for a tie for any other county or Association challenge cup except the English Cup." Mr. Morrison explained that last season the fact that several of the County clubs engaged in the Cleveland Cup competition caused considerable friction on account of the dates of the ties of the Cleveland competition and the Durham competition clashing.—The alteration was accepted.

The election of officers then proceeded. Major T. B. Swinburne, of Darlington, was re-elected president without opposition. Messrs D. Morrison (Jarrow) and J. T. Lowthian (Shildon) were appointed vice-presidents, and Mr. J. R. Douglass was re-elected to the post of hon. treasurer. The following were elected club representatives on the Challenge Cup Committee:—Messrs R. Bennett, R. Hobson, F. Dale J. Jackson, and R. Bland representing the north; R. P. Croughton, A. Stephenson, J. Beamson, T. Dowling, and G. E. Chipchase representing the south. Messrs T. Banks (Darlington and W. T. Wallace (West Hartlepool) were re-elected auditors.

A discussion followed as to the constitution of the Association Leagues in Durham County, and the following resolution was afterwards adopted:—"That the secretary call together two representatives of the Leagues now existing to attend a Conference for the purpose of drawing up general rules for the guidance of League."—Mr. T. Dowling was selected to act as chairman of the proposed Conference.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

North-West Durham Alliance

The annual meeting of the above will be held at the Queen's Head, Leadgate, on Saturday, May 26th, at 7.30 p.m. Clubs wishing to join should send representatives.—E. Batey, hon. sec.

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

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BLACKHILL NATURALISTS' FIELD SOCIETY.

The members of this society held their first ramble of the season on Saturday, and spent a very enjoyable day. A very interesting paper by Mr J. W. Fawcett came to the secretary, Mr. Samuel Leybourne, which was not utilised, and which we propose holding over for another meeting, illustrating the route taken. Also papers on "Hole House," dealing with the Maddison Family; "Wharnley Burn," referring to Thomas Raw, the mosstrooper, a sketch of Dean Howl, in connection with the Rev. Joshua Elliott; and another sketch referring to Watergate, illustrating the life of Dr. Carr. Mr. Samuel Leybourne, at the outset, addressed the members as follows:—

Before commencing with our first ramble this afternoon, I wish to give an outline of what I purpose laying before you on each of the four tours specified on this season's programme. The information that will be supplied will be rendered in every detail as correctly as possible; should, however, any inaccuracies occur, I shall be pleased to receive corrections at the close of each ramble. To make this more possible, and to add to the pleasure and profit of everyone participating in these, may I say, important meetings, it would be well for every lady and gentleman to provide, himself or herself, with a note-book and pencil. It is not my intention to give you on these outings any historical, traditional, or legendery accounts bearing upon any place or district through which we may pass, this feature being reserved for some other occasion, which will, when given, add much to your interest, when you refer to your note-books to refresh your memory regarding any particular ramble the future papers may refer to. Where I am not certain as to the accuracy of my figures, such figures will be prefaced in each case with the word "about." The following list shows all the information each tour will embrace:—

1st.—The altitude in feet above the assumed mean level of the sea at Liverpool, will be staked at various points along the line of route.

2nd.—The source, mouth, and names of running waters we may cross or follow.

3rd.—The names of place—farmstead, hamlet, village, etc.—will be given as we pass along.

4th.—The boundary line of each parish, as we enter and leave such, will be given.

5th.—A detailed account of one parish for each ramble, showing its extreme or parallel points, and its actual greatest length and breadth, will also be given, from which latter an average area may be arrived at.

Commencing, then, this afternoon with the detailed account of Benfieldside Urban District or Parish, we will make for our convenience the parish to start from the north-west corner of Messrs Aynsley's shop, which is directly opposite the south-west corner of the Library wall within the bounds of which we are now standing; from this point, by drawing a straight line due north, we divide the parish into almost equal halves, the northern point coming within a few feet south of the entrance gates to Derwent Hill; from this northern point it extends nearly due west to the river Derwent, which here forms its most northern boundary. Skirting the river in a south-south-west direction it runs to its most western point on a line drawn due west from about the Goods Station, Blackhill, and continuing along the river in a south-east direction to Sugley, where, abruptly leaving the river it turns more sharply to the east with a slight dip to the south until Howdon Hollow is reached. Here, on the west side of the road, is the most southern boundary of the parish, at which point it turns due north to a point on the west side of the road opposite Howdon Cottages, then, after travelling due east, embracing the aforesaid cottages, it advances in a zig-zag direction to its most south-eastern limit, situated on the south side of the road, but without including Number One Farm. From Number One, skirting the west side of the road, its eastern border extends to border is bounded by the Parish of Medomsley; from Number One to Howdon, and from Howdon to Sugley on the Derwent its south boundary is bounded by the Parishes of Consett and Healeyfield respectively; from Sugley to the northern limit its western boundary is bounded by the Parish of Shotley low quarter. Its extreme length, as drawn on parallel lines from north to south is about 2 and 3-16th miles, and from west to east about 1 and 15-16th miles. Its greatest width from the Hat and Feather to its western boundary on the Derwent is about 1½ miles, and greatest length, from Messrs Aynsley's buildings to near Derwent Hill, is about 1 and 15-16th miles.

The altitude of the road at the S.W. corner of the Library boundary wall is about 725 feet. At the junction of the roads of Durham Road and Derwent Street, 650 feet. At the bridge near Mrs. Pounder's house, 682 feet. At Number One, 892 feet, this being, I believe, the highest point in the whole parish. At Highgate crossing, 551 feet. Here, at the S.E. corner of the four road-ends, stood the old toll gate, with the old brewery almost on the opposite side of the street. On our way to Bridge Hill, as we near the pump, the small stream of Baxton Burn runs underneath the road through a culvert. At one time this stream, before the pale of civilization began to beat near its source, once collected its pure waters from the springs near and within what is now called the Consett and Blackhill Park, from whence it ran in a N.W. direction, first through the black Scotch fir-wood that crowned the hill, to the tree-crowned narrow rocky dene through which, and almost hidden from view, its tiny thread of potable silver tumbled and played down to the parent stream, the Derwent at a point midway between the foot of Cutlers Hall and the Blue Bridge. At Bridge Hill the altitude is 620 feet. In the hollow of Howdon the Howdon Burn passes under the road, having for its source the spring found lying to the north-west of the Consett Iron Co.'s slag-heaps; it falls into the Derwent at a point below the mouth of Dean Burn, and higher than the Paper Mills. From the road, a little higher up the bank which we have just come down, opposite the south end of Howdon Cottages, we leave the Benfieldside Parish, and enter that of Consett, having on our right-hand down to where we are now standing, the almost southern point of Benfieldside Parish. From this point we continue to traverse the Consett district, with the Healeyfield Parish on our right, until we come to the junction of the three road-ends at the foot of the bank from Selby Lodge, which hill forms at once the most western limit of the parish of Consett, and within a quarter-of-a-mile of the most northern boundary of Healeyfield. From this point we will pass for the greater part of the remainder of our journey through the last-named parish. On our right, S.W. and almost opposite the road to Selby Lodge, two cottages called Pemberton Cottages once stood. The next stream over which we pass is called the Dean Burn, which takes its rise from springs situated on Tod Hills Farm (Tod, permit me to explain, being an old north-country word for fox), near the rocky escarpments that guard the approaches to the Hown's Gill; this small stream falls into the Derwent a little below Hole House Farm. On arriving at Allansford we cross the ancient Roman highway called Watling Street, and enter upon the most pleasing part, from a scenic point of view, of our ramble. On the right-hand side of the bridge—down stream—the altitude is [illegible] feet. Passing along by the footpath skirting the south side of the Derwent we arrive at the wooden bridge that spans the Wharnley Burn, which takes its rise on Whitehall Moss to the S.W. of Cold Rowley, and empties itself into the Derwent just a few feet below where we are now standing. The falls to our left are known by the name of ——— From here we ascend the brae side to a position overlooking Raven's Crag, and I expect you will all be well pleased with its commanding view of the woods putting on their summer raiment, and the fine expanse of gleaming water rushing beneath. A little [illegible] The total mileage of our tour to-day measures somewhat near 8½ miles.

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THE RELIEF OF MAFEKING

LOCAL REJOICINGS

Unparalled Enthusiasm.

CONSETT.

Notwithstanding that Consett is situated in one of the out of the way corners of England it was among the first places in the provinces to hear of the glad tidings that Col. Baden-Powell and his noble garrison had at last been relieved. Within little more than half-an-hour of the Lord Mayor of London receiving the intelligence at the Mansion House the bells of Consett Parish Church were ringing and while the residents of many towns further south were sleeping in blissful ignorance of the great event the streets of Consett were being paraded by great and enthusiastic crowds headed by bands playing the National Anthem, Rule Britannia, Soldiers of the Queen, and other popular airs. Late as it was bonfires were lighted, effigies of Kruger were burned, and many men came out in varied costumes. Everyone seemed to be in an ecstasy of joy, and there can be no doubt the joy was heartfelt. A small but gallant garrison led by a brave and clever officer had held out against a horde of Boers for a period of something like 220, and had added one more page to the brilliant annals of Britain's military prowess. The patriotic spirit was roused, but what the event meant to the men, women, and children of Mafeking was not forgotten. The rejoicing was kept up to a late hour on Friday night, and on Saturday the decorations were resumed. Tradesmen and private residents in all directions put out decorations, and the town soon assumed a gay and joyous appearance. In the afternoon and evening vast crowds of people paraded the streets and were kept in a cheerful mood by the tunes played by the Consett Mission band, the Salvation Army band, and the Blackhill scratch band whose members were in costumes too difficult to describe. Middle Street presented a most animated appearance at night, when with all lights burning at the fullest the great crowds of people could be seen from end to end, and the bunting added to the fervour of the occasion. There was a brilliant display of torches in which all and sundry took part. Numerous bonfires were lighted, and Oom Paul was again subjected to the fiery flames. In one instance he was roped round, but was given the protection of a pair of corduroy trousers. Fireworks were let off in profusion, and the merry-making was kept up until long after midnight.—On Sunday evening, at the Parish Church the National Anthem and the Te Deum were sung, and the vicar at the close of his sermon made a brief allusion to the event. He remarked that everyone rejoiced. They were all delighted and proud that a noble man and his garrison had held out and kept the British flag flying for so many months.

In further celebration of the event on Monday the children attending the various schools were granted holiday, and the teachers formed them into one organised procession. Carrying a profusion of banners and cheering as lustily as they could they marched along the various streets and added their quota to the rejoicings.

BLACKHILL.

As the news was received in Consett on Friday night it naturally spread with rapidity to Blackhill where the residents turned out and held a demonstration at the corner of Ritson's Road. Mr Summerville mounted the lamp-post as chairman, and made a few appropriate allusions to the happy event. A free concert was then held and plenty of volunteers were forthcoming to render songs, patriotic and otherwise, and recitations. The crowd enjoyed the entertainment immensely, and did not disperse to their homes until the early hours of Saturday morning.

DIPTON DISTRICT.

In reading over the opinions of the military experts published in the daily press, one was led to the belief that Mafeking could not be relieved before Monday. But speculation in this, as in most cases, was doomed to be of an unreliable nature, and when it was officially announced at Dipton on Friday night that the gallant little town of Mafeking was now beyond [illegible] there was, as might naturally be expected, general rejoicing. A few minutes before ten o'clock the welcome tidings were proclaimed, and church and school bells rang out their merry peals for several minutes. Then a crowd gathered round the post office, where torches were distributed and lighted with all possible haste, and the crowd, which had swelled to enormous proportions, for almost every villager was in the street, marched in procession, after giving three cheers for Baden-Powell and Lord Roberts, up the Delight Bank and back again to the South Medomsley Cottages, singing lustily "Soldiers of the Queen," "Rule Britannia" and "God Save the Queen," and other patriotic airs. Then the procession paid a visit to the lower end of the village, and on reaching the watering-trough, close to Mr Hunter's blacksmith's shop, a large barrel containing a considerable quantity of coal tar was placed in the middle of the road, and set ablaze with red-hot cinders, making quite a conflagration. The "happy family" stood round and witnessed the fire for some time, cheering and singing. Afterwards some gelatine was ignited in honour of the event, and made a tremendous crash. Banners and Union Jacks were hoisted from a large number of houses, and the village assumed a gay appearance. Some members of the Dipton Cycling Club, on the receipt of the news, mounted their machines and heralded the news to their neighbours at Catchgate, while the school drum had a warm time of it, being beaten most unmercifully by several young men and young women, who were no way backward in the demonstration of their joy. On Pontop Pike a bonfire was made, while the Hill Top Fell, which did good service on the previous evening, was again "commandeered for active service," and was soon a veritable holocaust. The celebrations continued until about three o'clock on Saturday morning, when the company dispersed, hoarse but happy, and satisfied with the glad news. The decorations remained suspended from the windows until Saturday evening, when they were taken down in order that due reverence might be paid to the Sabbath day. The celebrations were continued on Saturday evening by the explosion of fireworks, the lighting of bonfires, and the processioning of the streets, the procession composed chiefly of school children, each carrying a bannerette, being headed with an effigy of Kruger, which received many a volley of "boos."

LEADGATE.

Similarly to other places, the news of the relief of Mafeking created tremendous enthusiasm in Leadgate. The first intimation of the glad tidings was the blowing of several buzzers about 10.15. At this time a stranger passing through the streets would have thought that the place was wrapped in slumber. However, a few minutes later there was the sound of hurrying footsteps, and within a very short time there was an anxious crowd besieging the post-office to learn whether the news was correct. They had not long to wait ere the postmaster (Mr J. E. Kinleside) annouced that the long looked for message was confirmed, and this was the signal for a loud outburst of cheering. In a moment, as it seemed, the streets were alive with people, and the enthusiasm was something to be remembered. It did not take long to form a procession—numbers of which carried Union Jacks of all sizes—and, accompanied by the Mission Band, moved off to the Park. En route several articles suitable for a bonfire were picked up, and arrived at the Park these were ignited. Meantime the people, accompanied by the band, sang "Rule Britannia" "God save the Queen," and gave lusty cheers for the Queen, Baden-Powell, and Roberts. The crowd appeared to be delirious with joy, and after the fire had nearly spent itself, the procession was re-formed, and, every moment adding to its numbers, moved off by way of Watling Street to the green near the Infant School [illegible] the ground near the going, and similar scenes were witnessed to those in the Park. The rejoicing was intense, and it was noticed that some persons who were suspected of leaning towards the Boers—whether rightly or wrongly we cannot state—took a leading part in the demonstration. After leaving the green the procession turned into Front Street, then up Bottle Bank and along by Plantation Street. A stop was made at the house of Mr Mawson—whose son is fighting in South Africa—and the popular airs again sang, together with cheers for young Mawson. Then a visit was paid to Durham Road, the crowd now having assumed very large proportions, many of the leading residents joining in the jubilation. A proposal to proceed to Consett was heartily approved of, and the enthusiastic procession moved off to carry out this purpose, and were warmly received by their Consett brethren. After this the town assumed a quieter aspect. On Saturday morning the people were early astir hanging out flags and bunting from their windows, and the place soon put on quite a holiday appearance. Streamers were also suspended across the principal street, and altogether a capital show was made in this direction. Everybody seemed to be in the best of humour, and there appeared to be but little inclination for work. About ten o'clock the workmen employed at Bradley Shops came out, and a band composed of several of the employes began to parade the streets, causing much amusement. They favoured most of the leading inhabitants with a visit, playing and singing in hearty fashion. That the collection of instruments was a varied one goes without saying, Tom-and-jerrys being very popular. The clarionet exponent was an artist, and the singing was capital. Thanks chiefifly to the efforts of Mr Geo. Cooke, the popular under-manager of the Eden Colliery, the rejoicings were resumed in the evening with as much enthusiasm as ever. Mr. Cooke got a good staff of men together collecting inflammable material of all kinds from the tradespeople and others, and soon a huge bonfire was in course of erection. Those who assisted comprised Messrs J. Davison, R. Oxley, Stewart, Brown, Hansom, Wright, Baxter, Richardson, Emery, Jewitt, Bainbridge, Barron, Cartmell, Hall, Spence, White, Ward, Steel, Maughan, McCurley, Collinson, Rowland, White, Ramsey, Laughran, Hickey, Wiseman, Wright, McDonald, Carr, J. Surtees, J. Iley, W. Stobbs, T. Lee, J. Steel, W. Cooke. Between eight and nine o'clock a procession was formed at the Park gates, headed on horseback by Messrs T. Sinclair and C. Foreman, carrying torches, and followed by an immense crowd of people, the Mission Band being in the middle. Effigies or Kruger, Steyn, and Cronje were borne on high, and created considerable amusement. The usual patriotic airs were heartily indulged in, and the enthusiasm was on a par with that of the previous evening. After parading the streets the crowd returned to the Park, where Mr T. S. Longstaff proposed, and Mr W. Turnbull seconded, that Mrs Geo. Cooke ignite the huge bonfire. This having been carried by acclamation, Mrs Cooke set the fire going amid tremendous cheers. The old Leadgate Saxhorn Band had turned out for the occasion, and added considerably to the success of the demonstration. The effigies referred to occupied a prominent place on top of the fire, and as the flames approached these worthies the people cheered themselves hoarse with delight. After withstanding the flames for a time, Kruger gracefully fell over the side amid unbounded exclamations of pleasure. We should not forget to mention that the houses in Park Terrace had been beautifully illuminated for the occasion, and called forth much admiration. The fire burned brightly for a long time, and had evidently been carefully built. After enjoying themselves in the Park the crowd again filed into the streets, which soon presented a busy and animated appearance. The Saxhorn Band played several popular airs at various stopping places, and the rejoicing continued until midnight. In addition to the Mission and Saxhorn bands there were several other hastily improvised instruments, such as concertinas, frying-pans, kettles, &c.—in fact, anything which would make a din. Fireworks and gelignite cartridges were also discharged. Although so demonstrative the crowd was very orderly, and the local police had little work to do. Of course, some mild horseplay was indulged in, but this was taken in good part. Altogether it was a memorable time.

WEARDALE.

Just as the lack of late telegraphic communication saved Weardale from the pseudo relief of Mafeking the day previous so did it remain, for the Darlington papers, with the early mail train on Saturday, to furnish the much yearned for authentic news, which spread with rapidity owing to the previous preparations by the leading inhabitants piloting the patriotic and relief funds. Before eight the large flags of Ireshopeburn post office, observable from so wide an area, brought large groups to hear the happy intelligence, and soon flags, bunting, and other emblems of loyalty floated from nearly all the shops and dwellings in tht neighbourhood, and Dr. Easton's, as well as at Cowshill, St. John's, and Westgate. At Ireshopeburn the postal messengers extemporised miniature cannons, and the miners contributing powder loud salvos echoed joyously till after mid-day. Zest was further given to the occasion by the parading of High House Sunday Scholars with banners, it being their anniversary. Later the Stanhope band toured from Weardale downwards with selections of national airs, halting in all the villages, collections being taken for a sick member of the band belonging Westgate.

WOLSINGHAM.

On the receipt of the news of the relief of Mafeking the long pent-up feelings of the people of the town were quickly relieved on Saturday morning as the first daily papers arrived. The first general intimation seems to have been the long and loud blowing of the steelworks buzzer after breakfast, and soon the men and boys were to be seen trooping out of the works to make holiday in token of the grand news. During the afternoon a monster procession was inaugurated. En route could be seen banners and bannerettes waving from the house windows, in fact everybody seemed to vie with each other in order to make the jubilation befitting the occasion. At the Market Place volleys were fired by the volunteers, short addresses by the Rev Chancellor Espin, Coun. J. A. Snowdon, and Mr J. Vickers, C.C., rose the enthusiasm to a high pitch.

STANHOPE.

Stanhope, loyal to the core, was bedecked on Saturday with flags, bannerettes, and bunting, as befitting the occasion. In the evening a monstre procession was formed in the Market Place, headed by the band and volunteers. The Wesleyan Sunday scholars assembled in the Market Place in the afternoon and sang the National Anthem. Late in the evening a torch-light procession was formed, headed by a number of cyclists with torches, which also paraded the streets.

TOW LAW.

This quiet and breezy little mining town was the scene of much enthusiasm on Saturday night. The Church Lads Brigade marched and the paraded the streets, a torchlight procession being formed, the main street presented a scene the like of which has seldom been seen. The Tow Law Model Band played a series of national airs, as well as the song, "The Boys of the Old Brigade." During the day, it may be mentioned, a number of boys armed with flags, a banner and a kettledrum paraded the streets. They netted about 17s, which is for the Mafeking Relief Fund.

At Sunniside a big mining village about three-quarters of a mile from Tow Law, the miners celebrated Mafeking in various ways, one of the most amusing being the burning of "Kruger, his missis, and 'th lad."

A solemn "Te Deum" was sung in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Tow Law, on Sunday evening, in thanksgiving for the relief of Mafeking. In referring to the event, in his discourse in the morning the Rev M. Culley spoke of the duty of thankfulness to God for His goodness and mercy in gratning us this success.

WHICKHAM DISTRICT.

There was a scene of intense excitement throughout the parish of Whickham on Thursday evening upon the receipt of the rumoured relief of Mafeking. The inhabitants gave vent to their feelings in no half-hearted manner. At Swalwell the church bell was set ringing, and shortly afterwards the Church Boys' Brigade were mustered together, and after a brief thanksgiving they marched through the village, via Middleton, and thence to Whickham, where they halted to fire a "fue de joie." Bonfires were also lighted in the village, and great enthusiasm displayed. At Whickham the people seemed more sceptical as to the authenticity of the news. However, a fair amount of enthusiasm was perceptible. At Dunston the greatest excitement prevailed, and rejoicing took place on all hands. When the genuine news came to hand about 10 o'clock on Friday evening there was a spontaneous outbreak of enthusiasm, a similar spectacle was witnessed to that which took place on the previous evening. At Swalwell the people turned out "en masse," and imparted a most animated appearance to the village. Guns were discharged, flags hoisted, and every appreciation shown of the welcome news. A miner named Joseph Benson, who had just recently returned from Kimberley, where he was amongst the besieged, was carried shoulder-high through the village several times, accompanied by a scene of intense excitement. On all hands unbounded enthusiasm prevailed. On Sunday special thanksgiving services were held at Swalwell Church. An appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev Ed. Rust. Collections were taken in aid of the Indian Famine Fund, which amounted to over £1.

STANLEY.

The welcome news of the relief of Mafeking reached Stanley shortly after 10 o'clock on Friday night and caused unlimited enthusiasm. The buzzers at the various collieries were blown, while cannons and fireworks were discharged. The members of the K Company of the 4th V.B.D.L.I. processioned the main street, and fired several volleys. A dance was subsequently held in the drill hall, at which a large number were present. At th neighbouring villages of South Moor, Beamish, Pelton, Tanfield, Craghead, and Burnhope similar enthusiasm was displayed.

WITTON GILBERT.

This ancient village received the news with a fervor of delight opened by the clanging of church bells. Flags flew in all directions; companies of villagers, adult and juvenile, many in masquerade, paraded the streets; effigies of "Oom Paul" and his wife were borne about; and in the afternoon, at the suggestion of the Rector, the various elements were combined into a procession. Accompanied by the Industrial School Band from Earl's House (whose services were freely given), the whole party marched through the village and back. Then they marched to the Rectory grounds, where photographs were taken of the company on the lawn. After this the Rector called for "Three cheers for the bravest man in the bravest army of the world, Colonel Baden-Powell," and they were enthusiastically given. Cheering and marching and singing were kept up practically until dark, when groups of masquereders assemble around the effigies, whose career ended with flames and fireworks. On Sunday, special hymns were sung in thanksgiving at each service of the church. The Rector in his morning sermon, made eloquent reference to the event, and in the evening a special "Te Deum" was sung.

MEDOMSLEY.

At Medomsley the relief of Mafeking was celebrated by a display of fireworks and the setting fire to whins immediately behind the village. Flags were displayed and great enthusiasm prevailed. The event was celebrated first of all on Thursday evening, when the news was received and afterwards considered to be premature. Further celebrations were held on Friday and Saturday, when the news was confirmed, and the enthusiasm of the village rose to the occasion, and gave hearty cheers for Baden-Powell and his gallant garrison. A huge bonfire was built and set fire to by Mrs H. Palmer amidst the cheers of the crowd. Mr Palmer was present, and addressed a few appropriate words to the gathering on the relief of the garrison in Mafeking. Cheers were then given for Baden-Powell, and for Mr and Mrs Palmer. In the burning of the whins a curious incident was noticed. Mr. Thomas Traynor and Mr. Joseph Bramley found a blackbird's nest which had been in the centre of the fire among the whins. The nest was intact, and so were two eggs, but the poor female bird had been roasted to death. She was found apparently still sitting and protecting her charge, and had given up her life in honour of the brave garrison. Mr Traynor has nest, bird, and eggs, and it is satisfactory to know that he intends, to the best of his ability, to preserve them as a double memento—the nobility of the bird, the gallantry of the garrison. Mr. M. Pattison fired off several small cannons, &c., and was prominent in the rejoicings.

BIRTLEY.

The news of the relief of Mafeking was received at Birtley with the wildest enthusiasm. A torchlight procession was instantly organised, and the two bands of the village paraded tht streets until an early hour on Saturday morning. Bonfires were lit and kept blazing until about five o'clock on Saturday morning.

WINLATON.

The inhabitants of Winlaton are nothing if not intensely loyal, and when the news reached the village that the gallant garrison at Mafeking had been relieved, there were intense manifestations of joy. Flags were quickly got out, almost every other houses exhibiting some token of rejoicing. Bands of youngsters paraded the streets until a very late hour, and the number of crackers, guns, &c., that went off, could they have been heard by an old soldier, would have brought back reminiscences of his fighting days. It being the annual hoppings, the privilege of free rides on the "merry-go-rounds" was extended to all and sundry, and each seemed to vie with the other in showing their jubilation.

HIGH SPEN.

On Friday night, about nine-thirty, when the distant sounds of ship-horns, bells, and various other signals were heard down the Tyne valley, hundreds of people gathered at the west side of the village, and began wending their way to the post office for the news which eventually came from the "Chronicle" Office, Newcastle, to their local correspondent. Then were resumed the festivities begun the previous evening. Flags were hoisted, fireworks became prominent, bonfires blazed out; while volleys were fired from heights overlooking the village. Juvenile bands paradd the streets during the rest of the evening.

BLAYDON.

In Blaydon, pedestrians were vociferous in their exclamations of rejoicing, and already in the hours before midnight, organised bands combined to do honour to the relief of Mafeking. Fireworks were heard in every direction, and the ringing of church bells as well announced the happy news. As if by spontaneous effort, bonfires were lighted at Scotswood and at other places, and the Scotwood Shipyard Band marched the streets, playing patriotic airs. Towards midnight, the inhabitants of Blaydon and district were boisterous in their demonstrations of joy, and in the hearts of the multitude the evidence of joyous concern were in every way betokened by their exuberant behaviour. Most of the workmen engaged at the local factories and workshops were granted leave of absence on Saturday morning from their employment in honour of the success of our arms in South Africa. Bunting was profusely displayed from the public buildings and from the premises of the tradespeople and others.

CATCHGATE.

The inhabitants of Catchgate seem to have been in direct communication with Pretoria, for they received news of the relief on Wednesday afternoon, immediately after which a string of bannerettes was suspended over the roadway, while a Union Jack was hoisted above the Flour Mills. The good people at this village, which is called by their neighbours at Annfield Plain the pro-Boer city, beyond displaying a few different colours of drapery, did nothing else to celebrate the welcome event save in the orthodox English fashion—that of drinking to the good health of the hero.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

At Annfield Plain things were of a more lively order. On Thursday evening the whins on the Boggs were set ablaze, and a few fireworks displayed. On Friday evening, after closing time, a huge bonfire was made in the Front Street, near to Mr C. F. Cooke's grocery establishment. Barrels, tubs, bacon boxes, hampers, and indeed all manner of inflammable substances were "commandeered" by the party of enthusiasts who had the work in hand. The "commander-in-chief" was "General" John Snowdon, who marshalled his men with all the ability of an experienced general, and defended the bonfire against the attacks of the huge crowd in whose breasts were smouldering some pro-Boer proclivities. One among the crowd dared to testify to his being the possessor of these unwelcome tendencies, and was immdiately placed on the burning timber, sustaining burns about the hands and arms. On Saturday evening the local brass band paraded the streets, and played the usual patriotic airs, while there was a fine display of fireworks; the crowd at a later hour dancing round the fire singing "Soldiers of the Queen," etc. On Monday morning the children attending the Annfield Plain Board Shools paraded the district, each carrying a bannerette, and singing suitable airs, amongst which was one composed by the assistant-master, Mr J. L. Laws. After the chairman's residence at Oxhill had been visited, the procession broke up, the children having holiday for the remainder of the day.

IMPRESSIONS AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

A correspondent writes:—It was 10.30 p.m., on that now famous 18th of May. Most people were preparing for repose, and some men already at rest, when the village Church of St. Cuthbert's sent out a merry peal, although, as something had gone wrong with the stays, the full harmony was not heard. People hastly hurried into the principal streets to hear the glorious tidings, "Mafeking was relieved." Then people of all ranks and shades of opinion just gave themselves up to an abandon of joy. Mr. W. Wilson, late lessee of Shotley Spa Grounds, gave a grand display of fireworks and hearty were the cheers that greeted the magnificent rockets. Roman candles, mammoth crackers, and squibs, were set off. The village gamin was in his hobby, as he climbed the lamp-post and threw squibs among the frantic crowds of maidens, youths, middle-aged, and patriarchs. The principal tradesmen, however, were not to be outdone. They united in making a huge bonfire at the chief point of vantage, opposite the fountain. Old barrels and gate-posts were requisitioned, tar and paraffin procured, and when the flames leaped into the air, the Union Jack was tied to the fountain, and the people cheered to the echo. Mr. W. Urwin struck up the National Anthem, and over 500 loyal lungs lustily took up the refrain. He then requested three cheers for the brave Baden-Powell, and didn't they cheer! More for Roberts! And then Buller! Could anything express more the heartfelt joy? See, another fire was lighted opposite Mr. Wilkinson Forster's premises, and soon flames leapt to the sky from two beacons. A wandering musician of great merit now led patriotic songs with his cornet, and the old favourites blended with the new in melodious swing. "Red, white, and blue," "British Grenadiers," "Soldiers of the Queen," "Rule Britannia," "Let auld acquaintance," etc. Some sopranos gave the "Soldiers of the Queen" in sweet cadence, while the crowd for a moment listened in sympathetic silence. All the principal residents turned out to express their unbounded loyalty. The lady of the hall, and the labourer's wife were seen in the one vast crowd, now estimated roughly at about 600 people. As the flames abated willing hands poured more tar and paraffin into the fires, and every now and then Mr. Wilson's rockets and many-hued Roman candles added to the brilliant effect. A local draper's patriotism sent his hat into the flames as his quota. Several others followed company. Another gentleman brought a handsome Union Jack, and took up a prominent position; this was another excuse for a salvo of enthusiasm. Every window overlooking the scene contained delighted spectators. Although the crowd were almost frantic with patriotism, the policeman had little or no trouble to keep order. As one looked upon scenes like these the thought forced itself into [illegible] minds, what an inexhaustible store of willing hands could be procured to fight our country's battles if we ever were in a tight place? Then we carried our minds away to the veldt, and pondered over the description of war, by Hales, in one of the Soudan periodicals. The khaki-clad soldier with his fingers clutching the soil in his death-agony, with a small red splash on his temple, with small needle-like bones showing where the death messenger had entered. But we triumph to-day because these brave lives have not been offered in vain. The British flag shall fly over this land of conquest, and it shall usher in a better day, when all nationalities under its folds shall have equity and justice. These rejoicings were continued until about three o'clock. They were repeated on the evening following on a smaller scale.

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

On Saturday the mechanics of Hamsterley Colliery had an afternoon celebration of the relief of Mafeking in the colliery shops. Toasts were proposed and supported by Messrs. R. Bullerwell, J. R. Mason, and J. W. Gardiner. Songs were sung by Messrs. H. Maughan, W. Turner, W. Walton, T. Chaytor, and M. Harrison, the music being rendered by Mr. R. Wilson (violinist.) Salutes were fired at intervals. There was a good company, and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent, which concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. T. Nicoll. The company then dispersed, after singing the National Anthem and other patriotic airs.

TANTOBIE.

The village of Tantobie turned out right loyally to celebrate the relief of Mafeking, and was never known to be so gay in its history. Right across the front street were five or six streamers of flags, while almost every house hoisted a Union Jack or Royal Standard from its upstairs window or chimney-pot. Bonfires were lighted both at White-le-Head and Tantobie on Thursday and Friday evenings. On Monday morning the children attending the Pickering Nook Board Schools had a procession to Mountsett and Hobson Colliery, after which they had holiday for the rest of the day.

BURNOPFIELD.

Burnopfield was not so enthusiastic as some of its neighbours. However, there were some signs of gladness shown from the bonfires which were lighted upon Thursday and Friday evenings. There were also banners and bunting displayed from several houses. The centre of enthusiasm and excitement over the glad news was at Leazes Board School, where Mr. R. Abbott and staff, all of whom are thorough loyalists, decorated the schools with 200 flags in all the gay colours available. The rejoicings commenced on Thursday evening with fireworks, which were continued again on Friday evening. On Monday about 500 children formed a procession, each carrying a flag and wearing a medallion of the heroes of the campaign, the favourite being that of "B.P." The procession marched through the Lintz and sang at various places, and from there it proceeded to the Low Farm and down to Burnopfield, a halt being made at the Burnopfield Co-operative Stores, where several patriotic songs were sung with much spirit and enthusiasm. Returning to the school a substantial tea was provided for the "little warriors," an idea which had only dawned upon the teachers on the Tuesday previous. No sooner had the suggestion been made than the staff set to work right energetically to collect subscriptions, and in a day or two had collected sufficient money to enable them to give the children a free tea. After the tea sports were held in the school yards, and at nine o'clock in the evening some grand fireworks were displayed, after which some of the inhabitants burned Kruger in effigy in front of the schools. During the time the procession was in progress the sides of the thoroughfares were lined with spectators, and the utmost excitement prevailed in the evening between 8.30 and 10.30, the onlookers passing the time away by merrily singing "The soldiers of the Queen." After the National Anthem had been sung the crowd dispersed quietly.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

Amidst the general rejoicings over the relief of Mafeking the people of Chester-le-Street were to the front, and did not fail to show their enthusiasm in a most loyal and patriotic manner. At about 8.30 p.m. on Thursday evening a rumour gained currency that Mafeking had been relieved, with the result that the main street was soon thronged with people. Tar barrels were lighted and set rolling, huge bon-fires were set ablaze, flags hung out, and crowds cheered till the early hours of the morning. General disappointment was manifested when the daily papers told the people that the demonstration had been premature. Consolation was partly found, inasmuch as other places had been thrown into a state of excitement by the false news. The genuine news was eagerly looked forward to, and the evening papers were quickly scanned. About 10 p.m. on Friday evening news was circulated that Mafeking had been relieved. Whilst many discredited the report crowds flocked to the post-office, and the general feeling of gladness, when the telegram was posted in the window at 10.15 p.m., confirming the report, may be imagined. The shout of joy that went up from the crowd acted as the magnet upon the needle. The bulky proportion of the throng was soon increased. It was indeed a motley crowd. People left their homes partially dressed, and arranged their toilets as they hurried to swell the joyful crowd. Every conceivable utensil was brought into requisition from which a noise could be extracted. Patriotic songs were lustily sung or shouted, a state of affairs which lasted till the following morning. On Saturday flags and banners were hung out, and scarcely a place could be found but what possessed some token of rejoicing. The main street was one mass of streamers. On Saturday the town was favoured with a visit from Lord George Sanger's circus. The streets were processioned, and the magnificent sight from a spectacular point of view was one which will not readily be forgotten. For some time preparations had been made by a committee consisting of local townsmen with a view to marking the relief of Mafeking in such a manner as would be worthy of the great event. A deputation waited upon Lord George Sanger, and that gentleman very kindly agreed to allow the whole of his people to take part in the proceedings, and he also generously provided a large supply of fireworks, rockets and hundreds of torches. Bills announcing the event were subsequently posted, with the result that thousands of people were attracted to the scene. In the evening a procession was formed comprising the whole of Lord George Sanger's beautiful pageantry, horses, ponies, caravans, and representations of men-of-war, soldiers of the Queen, guns and carriages fully equipped with their attendants, set off from the circus and paraded the streets. The bands attached to the circus played the National Anthem, "Rule Britannia," and "Soldiers of the Queen." Immediately behind followed the town band, accompanied by the townspeople carrying lighted torches and singing patriotic songs. The procession was not confined to men and boys, for women and girls took part with equal enthusiasm, and for loyalty and enthusiasm the ladies of Chester-le-Street will be bad to beat. Crackers and Tom-and-Jerrys formed a feature of the procession. A rolley was brought into requisition in front of the Lambton Arms Inn, from which several gentlemen addressed the crowd. Lord George Sanger said it was fifty-one years since he first visited Chester-le-Street. It was not until the dawn of the Sabbath that the people left the streets. The proceedings were unfortunately marred by an accident which befel a youth named Martin, who had his legs broken by the fall of some iron railing in front of the Mechanics' Institute, which were pulled over by the crowd. Mr. William Deighton Reed made an announcement to the crowd which caused great enthusiasm. It was to the effect that he had received a letter from Capt. Turnbull, and signed by those volunteers who had gone from Chester-le-Street to the front, thanking him and the people of Chester-le-Street for the presents of tobacco which had been so kindly forwarded to them. The announcement was received with loud cheers for Mr. Reed. During Saturday evening there was the redoubtable "Joseph" and his donkey, along with the "Doctor," who paraded the streets in costume collecting money for a similar purpose.

RELIEF OF MAFEKING.

"Three mighty cheers for Baden-Powell, his thousand men or more,
Three mighty cheers for one and all—all heroes we adore—
Nay, may the cheering never cease, but let it live for aye,
For hero, and for heroes, the foremost of the day.
But Nelson did his duty, so did his signal run
In Mafeking from the rising to the setting of the sun.

Two hundred days and more did our heroes fight—and win—
'Gainst odds who thought of nothing but the safety of their skin;
Two hundred days and more, hungered, famished, more than tried,
These heroes did their duty—and their lips from thirst were dried.

Two hundred days and more cannons spurted round their walls—
"We dare not meet them face to face, but give them shells and balls,"
"They are not men" these cowards said, "but de'ils in chivalry,
"We can do naught but starve them out, and must not let them free."

But cowards!—they were worse—they were gross inhuman too;
They fired on our soldiers' wives, and children—but they'll rue;
Our heroes then stepped further out, the cowards moved their tents—
They rather much preferred their shells some distance should be sent.

Thus hope, despair, did interchange, but courage yet remained,
And through their gallant leader, a victory was gained;
He planned, he schemed—his witfulness to them was all undone,
But the siege was almost ended, whether they had lost or won.

So anxious then were thoughts and fears of Britons far and wide,
That calmness till deliverance was greater grief to hide;
And many a weary day and night was spent with just a hope
Some unknown British column yet should with the danger cope.

At last! At last! the joyous news reached here—nay round the world,
Mafeking now had been relieved, her banner yet unfurled;
Then like a magic quickening all hearts were here made light,
That a nation's jubilation ended not at dark of night.
For as Nelson did his duty, so his signal here will run,
And a nation's joy will never cease—not with the setting sun."

GEO. MORLAND.

THE FALSE ALARM.
DIPTON DISTRICT.

The inhabitants of this peaceful village were alarmed on Thursday evening by the ringing of the church bells. On enquiring the cause of the merry pealing at so unusual an hour the enquirers received the prompt reply "Mafeking has been relieved." To the generality of the good folks this was enough to set them into a state of wild enthusiasm, but to the more thoughtful war student the announcement was received with an admixture of doubt and scepticism, because the relief column said they had only reached Christiana a day or two ago, and had not had time to cover the ground between that place and the gallant wee garrison of Mafeking. It seems that the rumour had, to use a war phrase, been conveyed by native runner from Consett, at which place it was alleged a telegram announcing the long-looked for news had been received. The story which everybody wanted to believe was true, caught on, and the engineman at the Delight Colliery, evidently thinking he was sure to be right in following the example of the church, set the buzzer blowing with full steam. This was followed by the lighting of the natural bonfire at the Hill Top, viz., the Fell, which was soon a mass of flames, and led one to think that the Boers were really "shelling the town," so to speak. Another fire was kindled on Pontop Pike, shortly after which many more were seen on each side of the Derwent Valley. The most curious thing about the whole business was that no news had been received at the Dipton Post Office, and the postmaster, anxious to be at the bottom of the rumour, authorised a wire to be sent to Newcastle asking if Mafeking had been relieved? in reply to which the short answer of "no" was received twice in quick succession. Disappointed with the answer, Mr. R. Maude, jun., a first-rate cyclist, set off for the city, which he reached within the hour, and after making enquiry only learned that it was the "general belief," which, however, had not been confirmed by the War Office authorities.

COMFORTS FOR THE TROOPS.

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 received since the publication of the previous one, for dispatch 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.,

C. B. COLLINGS, Capt. for Col.
Commanding 68th Reg. District.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, 18th May, 1900.

12 Tam o' Shanters, 5 helmets, 3 mufflers, 3 pairs mittens, 3 pair cuffs, Mr. T. L. Gledstone, Consett; 1 helmet, Mrs. Hy. Palmer; 1 Tam o' Shanter, Mrs. G. D. Powell; 1 Tam o' Shanter, Mr. Powell; 1 Tam o' Shanter Mr. W. Douglass; 2 pairs socks, Mrs. Jas. Annandale; 1 pair socks each from Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Holliday, Mrs. Ridley, Rev. J. Phair, Mr. Jos. Murray, Mr. G. Dawson, Mr. J. Surtees, Mr. J. Carruthers, Mr. J. Kirkup, and Mr Koward-Klee (through Mrs. Gledstone, Bank House, Consett); 1 bundle comforts for D.L.I., Messrs Hills and Co., Sunderland; 1 bale comforts for D.L.I., Mr. C. D. Shafto, Durham; 57 pairs socks, 5 helmets, 3 belts, muslin, and magazines, Mrs. K. Allen, 42, Stanley Street, Blyth; 1 parcel magazines, "Annie Laurie"; 3 helmets, 2 pairs socks, A well-wisher in "Canny Newcastle"; 17 Tam o' Shanters, 3 helmets, 2 caps, magazines, The Vicarage, Bishop Auckland; 6 helmets, 5 pairs cuffs, 13 magazines, The Misses Robinson, 4 St. Thomas Square; 4 pairs socks, 5 pairs mitts, Mr. J. H. Joicey, 55, Crown Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Fatal Accident at Medomsley

On Tuesday afternoon, at about four o'clock a fall of stone occurred at the Busty Pit, Medomsley, whereby Joseph Chatt, a hewer, who was about 55 years of age, lost his life. It seems that Chatt was working double with his son, and was in the act of setting a prop prior to his finishing his shift, when the stone came away and fell upon him. The stone was 10½ inches thick and six feet long, and, of course, with such a weight upon him, Chatt was pinned to the ground. His son was working only a short distance away, and states that he never heard his father utter a sound. Death must therefore have been instantaneous. The accident is all the more distressing from the fact that in a minute or two more he would have been leaving the pit. His body was brought to bank and taken to his home at Medomsley Edge, where he was seen by Dr. Downes. Deceased, who was a highly respected and steady workman, leaves a widow and family, the latter mostly grown up.

Derwent Valley Football League

The annual meeting of this body was fixed for Saturday last, at the headquarters, Tantobie. Representatives were present from all the clubs except Tanfield Lea, and they partook of a capital knife-and-fork tea provided by Mrs. Snowdon. Afterwards the Chairman (Mr. Hodgson) announced that a letter had been received from Mr. Payne (the secretary), expressing his inability to be present. As no books or anything were forthcoming, the meeting decided that nothing could be done. It was agreed to hold the annual meeting next Saturday afternoon, at three o'clock, and to request Mr. Payne either to be present or to forward on the books, &c.—Mr. Little, of Consett, was elected an auditor in place of Mr. Bell (Lintzford.)—A social gathering afterwards took place, with Mr. Ross in the chair.—Toasts were submitted, and songs rendered by the Chairman, Messrs J. Bennett, J. E. Taylor, E. Kelsey and others. Mr. Sinclair, on behalf of Lintz Rovers, invited the company to drink to the health of the Charity Cup holders.

Dipton Cycling Club

On Wednesday afternoon week, several members of the Dipton and District Cycling Club visited the ancient village of Castleside for the first time in the history of the club. On arriving at the place the woods were visited, some admiring one thing and some another, the yellow primrose having its especial charms for the lovers of botany. The party then returned to the Smelter's Arms, where the genial hostess (Mrs. Wylam) provided an excellent tea, which, needless to say, was thoroughly enjoyed. Tea over, the party indulged themselves in song—a customary occurrence with this merry lot. Leaving Castleside at seven p.m. they received a most hearty send-off from the inhabitants of the village, who seemed delighted with their newly-made friends. The route selected was by Rowley and Lanchester, and after a pleasant spin the party arrived safely home, having spent a most enjoyable outing.

STANLEY.

THUNDERSTORM.—About five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon a thunderstorm passed over Stanley and district, accompanied by a heavy downfall of rain. Occasional peals of thunder were heard.

VISIT OF LORD GEORGE SANGER'S CIRCUS.—The renowned Sanger's circus paid a visit to Stanley on Monday, and the inhabitants were afforded the opportunity of paying a visit to this famous show, when thousands availed themselves of the opportunity.

SCHOOL BOARD.—A meeting of members of the Tanfield School Board was held in the Board Room, Stanley, on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of Mr. Jonathan Green, J.P. The business consisted of the consideration of the teachers' requisitions for the various schools.

WESLEYAN CHURCH.—The anniversary services in connection with the Stanley Wesleyan Church were held on Sunday, when special sermons were preached by the Rev. J. A. Dixon, Barnard Castle. Solos were sang by Miss Wilkinson (Blaydon), which formed a pleasant addition to the services. There were large congregations present, and the services proved most successful.

LIBERALISM.—A meeting of members of the Stanley and District Liberal Association was held in the Co-operative Hall on Thursday night last, under the chairmanship of Mr. M. G. Armstrong. There was a fair attendance. It was decided to appoint collectors for the three districts that comprise the association, and it was also resolved to commence a vigorous campaign. Arrangements are to be made for the holding of an open-air meeting in Stanley at an early date, to be followed by other like meetings throughout the district.

"BEN-MY-CHREE."—"Ben-my-Chree" is one of the most successful plays Mr. Wilson Barrett has ever produced in his long career as an actor manager. Dramatised by himself and the author, Mr. Hall Caine, from the latter's novel, "The Deemster," it is a charming and powerful story of Manx life in the last century. Each of the five acts of the play is a picture in itself, from the delightful moonlight scene in the Deemster's garden at Ballamona, to the rugged wieruness of the "Tynwald." The sweet calm of the "Bay of Death" and the impressive scene in the chapel at midnight, each picture glows with colour and vigour. Mr. Arnold Bell, who has secured the rights of the piece from Mr. Wilson Barrett, plays the leading part, "Dan Mylrea." himself, and is supported by the well-known actress, Miss Frances Campbell, as "Mona." These two principals are surrounded by a company as strong as any now touring the provinces. During a lengthened and successful tour of five years, Mr. Bell has visited every large town in England and Scotland, and has everywhere met with the greatest possible success. The playgoers of West Stanley have a rare dramatic treat before them.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—On Monday evening Mr. Horace Barri's Company in the burlesque pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," commenced a week's engagement at this popular local house of amusement. Despite the numerous times that the production has been presented to the public it is as popular as the day it was first staged. The crowded audiences that have assembled nightly during the early part of the week clearly demonstrates this fact by the hearty reception they have extended to this evergreen "panto." Mr. Barri is supported by a well-balanced company of capable artistes, whose lengthy experience makes them well qualified for their respective parts. The piece is admirably staged, the dresses are superb, and the music bright and sparkling, which makes the production go with characteristic smoothness. Miss Cissy Kingsley is entrusted with the leading role—"Robinson Crusoe"—and this popular actress seems to add to her reputation each time she makes a bow before the public. "Will Atkins," the villain of the piece, finds a faithful impersonator in Mr. Horace Barri, who at once stamps himself a favourite with the audience. Other artistes who help to make the piece a success are Miss Ethel Gilchrist, Mr. Henry B. Lewis, Mr. Rousby, Miss Marie Trevor, Mr. Tom Rae, etc. A troupe of lady dancers come in for a good share of the applause, while Mr. W. Barrett, a clever eccentric dancer, is equally well received. Miss Dora Hilstrom (lady champion international dancer) is favourably received, and gives a clever exposition of the art in which she excels. Miss Marie Rousby (skipping rope dancer), calls for the warmest applause, while Miss Cissie Kingsley (operatic vocalist) creats a favourable impression upon her auditors. Zanetto and Lorene, who are described as the refined young English lion-jawed athletes, astonish the audience by their lifting abilities, which are greeted with deafening applause. Mr. Tom Ree, the great tramp and trick cyclist, gives a creditable performance. The bill-of-fare is one calculated to meet with the approval of all, and local play-goers should not fail to pay a visit to this popular house of amusement.

GREAT PRIZE SCHEME.

REVISED LIST — INCREASE OF PRIZES.

THOMAS HEDLEY & CO. LIMITED
ARE GIVING AWAY
£400 IN CASH PRIZES
DURING JULY, AND NOVEMBER, 1900.
FOR
FAIRY AND HYSSOP
SOAP WRAPPERS

LIST OF PRIZES GIVEN EACH MONTH.

1st Prize	£20 0 0
2nd „	10 0 0
3rd „	5 0 0
64 Prizes of £1 each	64 0 0
102 „ „ 10s. „	51 0 0
200 „ „ 5s.	50 0 0
369 Prizes.	£200 0 0

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

Save the whole of the Fairy and Hyssop Soap Wrappers (tops only will be disqualified) and send, postage or carriage paid to THOMAS HEDLEY & CO., LTD., CITY SOAP WORKS, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, not later than the 30th day of the month in which you are competing. Any received after that day will be held over for the next competition, and also any wrappers sent in and not securing a prize in July will be counted in the next competition. The Prizes will be awarded in the above order to the senders of the highest number of wrappers. If any wrappers are sent with insufficient postage they will be refused. Every wrapper must first have contained soap. Be careful to send your full name and address, also the number of wrappers sent. No employee of Thomas Hedley & Co., Ltd., will be allowed to compete. All prizes will be sent off by the 10th day of the month following the Competition, and a list giving the result will be sent to every competitor.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. In the April competition (particulars of which will be sent to anyone on application) a number of prizes were not taken.—One Wrapper would have secured a [illegible] prize. Therefore, send in your Wrappers, however small the number, as you stand a good chance to secure one of the Prizes.

748h

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS

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

STATISTICS.

The Workhouse Master reported that the number of inmates in the Workhouse was 195 as against 238 in the corresponding period of last year. The out-relief cases in the eastern district numbered 371 as against 442, and in the western district [illegible], against 516.

THE NEW LAUNDRY.

It was resolved to attach the seal of the Board to the contract with Mr. Joseph Eltringham, Blackhill, for the building of the new Laundry, and on the motion of Mr. Wood it was agreed that Mr. Bird's tender for the machinery be confirmed.

CHARGES AGAINST A DOCTOR.

The Clerk read the following letter from the Local Government Board:—"I am directed by the Local Government Board to inform the Guardians of the Lanchester Union that the Board have received the report of their Inspector, Dr. Buchanan, on his recent inquiry respecting the death of the child G. W. Cant, of Blackhill, certifiedby Dr. C. H. D. Moore as having been due to "vaccinia" and that in consequence of the information contained in that report the Board have decided to instruct one of their inspectors to hold a formal public inquiry into the conduct of Dr. W. Allen in his capacity of public vaccinator with the view of determining wheler or not he should be allowed to continue to hold that post. I am to state that it is reported that Dr. Allen has habitually neglected to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 6 of the third schedule, and of paragraph 5 of the first schedule to the Vaccination Order, 1898; that he has in one case at least sent an unqualified person to inspect, and has certified vaccination as successful on the report of such person; that he has in several instances made inaccurate entries in his vaccination register as to the dates of inspection, and that he has sent to the vaccination officer certificates of successful vaccination bearing dates previous to those of his actually inspecting the children. The Board will be glad if the Guardians will instruct their officers to give to the inspector all necessary assistance at the inquiry. Due notice will be given to the Guardians of the date on which the inquiry could be conveniently held, whether at their Board Room or elsewhere."

The Chairman said all they could say was that they could place their Board Room at the disposal of the Local Government Board so long as they did not fix a day upon which they themselves met. He moved a resolution to that effect.

Mr. Gray seconded the motion.

Mr. Bulmer: Have these complaints been made by the Board?

The Chairman: No.

Mr. Bulmer: By whom?

The Chairman: You know as much as I know. This is the first I have heard of it.

Mr. Bulmer: I suppose that will come out at the inquiry?

The Chairman: Certainly. Due notice will be given of the inquiry.

The motion was then agreed to.

CORNSAY ASSISTANT OVERSEER.

Owing to persistent refusal to send in reports it was resolved to communicate with the Local Government Board respecting this official.

After transacting other business of a routine character the meeting terminated.

Lanchester Joint Hospital Board

A monthly meeting of this Board was held on Thursday last,—Mr. W. Logan, J.P., presiding.

Dr. Allen reported that at the last meeting he reported that the Leadgate Infectious Hospital contained one inmate who was convalescing from scarlet fever. This case had been dismissed cured. A new case of scarlet fever had since been admitted and they patient was going on very satisfactorily.

Dr. Wilson reported that since his last report 26 children had been discharged from Langley Park Hospital convalescent from scarlet fever and 11 cases had been admitted. There was one death, a boy 2½ years old, who was brought in one afternoon, and died the following morning. There were at present 13 cases in the Hospital, each of them passing through the disease satisfactorily.

The reports were adopted.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

The lessee of the New Theatre has been fortunate in procuring such a capable company as Miss Mabel E. Manisty's, and such an admirable drama as "The New Magdalen." The play is described on the programme as a remarkable one, and such it undoubtedly is. The prologue is laid in Alsace during the Franco-Prussian war, whilst the play itself takes place in London. The characters are very well taken. Mr. Reginald Rivington is excellent as "Horace Holmcroft," and gives a fine interpretation of the character. As "Capt. Arnault," Mr. W. A. Beresford Carl wins warm encomiums, which he thoroughly merits. Mr. P. Geo. Beresford and Mr. Herbert Landeck very capably fill the parts of "Surgeon Surville" and "Surgeon Wetzell" respectively. Both in the prologue and play Miss Mabel E. Manisty acts superbly as "Mercy Merrick," and it is small wonder that she comes in for warm applause. "Lady Janet Ray" is splendidly impersonated by Mrs. Walter Bentley, whilst Miss Constance Elgin is worthy of all praise as "Grace Rosebery." Mr. George H. Harker makes a great hit as "Julian Gray," this being one of the finest pieces of acting of the evening. "The New Magdalen" is a composition decidedly above the average, and as played by Miss Manisty's capable combination it leaves but little room for fault-finding.

Do You Suffer?

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572e G. NICHOLSON, Contractor.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES INSTITUTE SPORTS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9th, 1900.

120 Yards Foot Handicap, £20.—MR. JOHN CHARLTON, Victoria Garesfield, Handicapper. Quoiting, £3 17s 6d; Wrestling, £6; also other events.

529h GEO. SCOTT, Secretary.

PRUDHOE AND WEST WYLAM FLOWER SHOW AND CHORAL CONTEST, on Saturday, August 25th, 1900.

CHORAL CONTEST.—Open to Northumberland and Durham. Prizes, 1st, £10; 2nd, £6; 3rd, £3; 4th, £1.

For particulars apply to the Secretary,
THOS. MARSHALL,
741h 139, West Wylam, Prudhoe.

NOTICE.

VISITORS TO SOUTH SHIELDS for Holidays or Week-end, will find Home Comforts, at reasonable charges, at

F. A. MACDONALD'S BOARDING HOUSE, OCEAN ROAD,

between Pollard and Baring Streets; Five minutes' walk to Public Parks, Baths, Pier and Sands. References: Messrs. J. and G. Gair, Annfield Plain; Levi Whitfield, Leadgate; and Geo. Toward, Castleside. 897g

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TANTOBIE SPORTS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16th.

£15 For 120 YDS. FOOT HANDICAP.

Entries close Monday, June 11th, Tuesday's Post in time, to Mr. J. Charlton, Handicapper, Victoria Garesfield, or to the Secretary; also, £4 for Quoiting.

Tenders wanted for Swings.

822h J. GREY, Secretary.

SHOTLEY SPA GROUNDS.

WHITSUNTIDE, 1900.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

For Saturday, June 2nd,

£10 10s 120 YARDS FOOT HANDICAP,

And Whit-Monday and Tuesday, 4th and 5th,

Bicycle Racing,
Pony Racing,
and various other Sports.

FOR PARTICULARS SEE BILLS.

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 HARKER, Station Master, Blackhill; Mr. J. L. LEADBITTER, Catchgate; and Mr. J. HOOD, Railway Station, Lintz Green.

Agents required in unrepresented Districts.

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

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TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSETT.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d
Already acknowledged	2268	19	6
Mr T. Little (3rd and 4th Contributions	0	5	0
Mr T. Siddell	1	0	0
	£2270	4	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, Brynglass, Consett; or Mr. G. T. HYDEN, Blackfyne House, Blackhill.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION.
LANCHESTER DISTRICT.

	£	s.	d.
10th Donation from Miners at Malton Colliery per Mr. Thos. McCormick	1	8	2
11th do. do. do. do. do.	1	8	6
12th Donation from Surface Men at Malton Colliery per Mr. R. Ainsley	4	4	0
13th do. do. do. do. do.	2	1	8
	£9	2	4
Total amount received to date	£158	2	9

J. D. PIERCY TAYLOR-SMITH,
783h Hon. Sec. and Treas.

WORKING MEN'S BUILDING SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1853.

Investments received at 4 per cent., sent Half-Yearly by Cheque to Investor.
Mortgages granted on approved Security.
No Properties in possession.
Ample Reserve Fund.

For Prospectus and further information, apply to the Secretary,
J. W. CAMPBELL,
Fawcett Street, Sunderland, or
J. W. FORSTER (Successor to the late
565h Mr. Joshua Lax), Shotley Bridge.

COMMERCIAL HOTEL,
CONSETT.

NOW OPEN UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

WILLIAM COULSON,

(Late of the NEW SHADES HOTEL, Sunderland),

BEGS to inform the Public generally that he has taken over the above well-known Hostelry, and gives everybody a hearty invitation to sample his BEERS, SPIRITS, WINES, AND CIGARS, which are of the very BEST QUALITY.

FIRST-CLASS BILLIARD TABLE.

GOOD STABLING.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY,

Proprietor .. .. Mr T. C. RAWES.
Lessee and Manager .. MARK H. LINDON.

MONDAY, MAY 28th and during the week, Most expensive Engagement of MR. ARNOLD BELL & COMPANY, in the Greatest of Plays—

BEN-MY-CHREE.

By HALL CAINE AND WILSON BARRETT.

LOOK OUT FOR LINDON'S BENEFIT.

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.

The most Artistic Performance ever given in the Theatre, was the unanimous verdict on Monday night, after witnessing the performance of WILKIE COLLIN'S remarkable Play—

THE NEW MAGDALEN.

So ably interpreted by MISS MANISTY'S excellent Company, Miss Manisty as "Mercy Merrick," Mr. G. H. Harker as "Julian Gray." Last Three Nights.

MONDAY, NEXT, MAY 28th, 1900.
Return Visit of MR. J. F. PRESTON'S Co. in the Popular Piece—

LADY GODIVA.

JACKO is coming, the funniest Play travelling.

Public Notices.

KYO AND ANNFIELD PLAIN

FLOWER SHOW & SPORTS,

SEPTEMBER 1st, 1900.

£20 FOOT HANDICAP, QUOITING, &c.

MESSRS BULLERWELL AND PACE,
806h Secretaries

STAGSHAWBANK WHITSUN FAIR.

A BRAKE will leave Christopher's Livery Stables, Consett, for the above, by way of Allansford and Manor House, on Saturday, June 2nd, 1900, leaving Consett at 6 a.m. prompt.—GEO. J. CHRISTOPHER, Proprietor.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES INSTITUTE SPORTS, NEAR MEDOMSLEY,
SAT., JUNE 9th, 1900.

£20 120 yds. Foot Handicap, Entrance Fee 1s. 1d., to be sent to Handicapper, John Charlton, Victoria Garesfield, Lintz Green. Entries close Wednesday's morning Post, June 6th. No entry without fee accepted. Quoiting, £4, Wrestling, £6; also other Games.

811h GEO. SCOTT, Secretary.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Rural District Council of Lanchester intend, after the expiration of One Calendar Month from the date of the first publication of this notice, to apply to the Local Government Board for CONFIRMATION OF BYE LAWS, with respect to New Streets and Buildings, and Nuisances, in the Rural District of Lanchester.

A Copy of the proposed Bye Laws will be deposited at the Union Offices, Lanchester, and will be open during Office hours to the inspection of the Ratepayers of the District, for One Calendar Month from the date of the first publication of this notice, without fee or reward.

Dated this 9th day of May, 1900.

W. H. RITSON,
Clerk to the said Rural District
797h Council, Lanchester, Durham.

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.

	£	s.	d.
Amount acknowledged ..	756	14	1
Hamsterley Colly. Workmen, 5th Contribution	7	8	3
Consett Iron Co.'s Workmen, 9th Contribution	34	3	6
Collected by Miss Almond, during the Torch-light Procession at Consett, on 19th May, in celebrating the Relief of Mafeking		19	0
"J.H.E."		5	0
Proceeds of P.M. Choir Concert, Bradley Cottages		10	0
Robt. Jackson, Esq., "Guardian" Office, Consett	2	11	6
	£802	11	4

T. L. GLEDSTONE, Hon. Treasurer.

Legal Notice.

Re MRS. ANN HUNTER, DECEASED.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any CLAIMS against the Estate of the late MRS. ANN HUNTER, of Medomsley, are hereby requested to send them in, on or before Friday, the 8th June, 1900, to me, the undersigned.

W. T. HUNTER, Beech Grove,
810h Medomsley, R.S.O.

Excursions

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

EXCURSION TRAINS FROM CONSETT.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30 at 1.15 p.m., for NEWCASTLE and TYNEMOUTH.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1st at 8.45 p.m., for LONDON, BRIGHTON, BOURNEMOUTH, SOUTHAMPTON, &c., and the CONTINENT. To CAMBRIDGE, NORWICH, YARMOUTH, &c. To BELFAST, LONDONDERRY, &c.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3 at 8.28 p.m. for LONDON, BRIGHTON, BOURNEMOUTH, SOUTHAMPTON, &c., and the CONTINENT.

For further particulars see bills.

GEORGE S. GIBB,
York, May, 1900. General Manager.

Church Notices.

CONSETT WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

SUNDAY, MAY 27th, 1900.

Morning 10 30 }
Evening 6 } REV. G. E. POLKINGHORNE.

ALL SEATS FREE.

CONSETT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.

SUNDAY, MAY 27th, 1900.

Morning, 10 30 } COUNCILLOR THUBRON.
Evening, 6 } of Gateshead.

ALL SEATS FREE.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.

ON SUNDAY FIRST,

Morning, 10 30 } MISS LYONS,
Evening, 6 } of Gateshead.

All are cordially invited.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, CASTLESIDE

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 30th, 1900, the

REV. E. SIDNEY SAVAGE,

M.A., Rector of Hexham

Will Dedicate the New Chancel Screen. Service to commence at 3·15 p.m.

Afterwards, a PUBLIC TEA will be held in the Church Schools, Sixpence each. 728h

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NEW PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH, CHOPWELL.

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY.

WHIT MONDAY.

See Future Announcements. 526h

Stud Notices.

THE CLEVELAND BAY STALLION,

"LUCKY PRINCE,"

Will travel the Consett and Blackhill District and Stand at Surtees' Builders Yard, Benfieldside, Blackhill, this Season.

Tuesday Route:—Burnopfield, Blaydon, staying at Belsay over night, and return by Wylam to Blackhill every night. 684h

Sales by Auction

By Mr John S. Murray.

J. S. MURRAY'S SALE LIST.

Saturday May 26th.—Furniture, Station Hotel, Blackhill.
May 30th.—Shotley Gas Stock, New Town Hall, Consett.
May 30th.—Shares, Freemasons' Arms, Consett.
Shortly.—Business Property, High Spen.
For Private Sale at Blackhill, a large Building suitable for Cartwright or Boiler Shop about 60 feet by 30; owner leaving the country.

Station Hotel, Blackhill, Saturday, May 26th, 1900. Furniture.

MR. J. S. MURRAY, favoured with a commission from Mrs. Cansick, who on account of failing health is leaving the Hotel, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, her FURNITURE, &c., comprising 4 Iron Bedsteads and Mattresses, 3 Feather Beds, Bolsters and Pillows, a quantity Bed and Table Linen, 2 Kitchen Tables, Kitchen Press, Kitchen and other Chairs, Armchairs, large Mahogany Oval Table, Wardrobe, Screen, Longsettle, 2 Washstands, Dressing Tables and Glasses, Oil Stove, 2 Clocks, Folding Chair, Cornice Poles and Curtains, Meat Jack, Oilcloths, Carpets, 2 Dinner Sets, Night Commode, Fenders, Fire-irons, Ashpans, Crockery, Cutlery, 10 Hen and Cock, Stable Utensils, &c., &c.

Sale at One o'clock. 774h

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT

GAS COMPANY.

ISSUE OF £6,000 NEW ORDINARY STOCK.

MR. JOHN S. MURRAY will SELL BY AUCTION, at the New Town Hall, (Small Hall), Consett, on Wednesday, May 30th, 1900, at 7 o'clock p.m.

£6,000 OF NEW ORDINARY STOCK

Authorised to be raised under the powers of Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Act, 1869.

Maximum Dividend 5 per cent per annum. Particulars and conditions of Sale may be obtained on application to the Auctioneer, or to the Secretary of the Company.—By order, M. RICHLEY, Secretary.

Gas Office, Shotley Bridge. 607h

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 Announcements.

UNITED PROVIDENT ASSURANCE CO.

LIMITED.

HIGH HOLBURN,
LONDON, W.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL.

£100,000.

The Sum of £20,000 has been deposited with the Court of Chancery in harmony with the Life Assurance Companies' Acts, as a special protection to Policyholders.

DIRECTORS:

W. BLAMYRE THORNTON, Esq., D.L., J.P. London (*Chairman*).
W. R. BOOTLAND, Esq., Manchester.
EDMOND BROWNE, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, L.C.C., Elm Court, Temple, E.C.
ALDERMAN JAMES DUCKWORTH, M.P. Rochdale.
JOSIAH GOODMAN, Esq., Clapton Common, N.E.
JOHN F. HAWORTH, Esq., Manchester.
L. L. MORSE, Esq., J.P., Swindon, Wilts.
ALEXANDER MURRAY, Esq., C.A., J.P., Glasgow.
ALDERMAN JONATHAN SAMUEL, M.P., Stockton-on-Tees.
J. CRABB WATT, Esq., Advocate, Edinburgh.

BANKERS:

THE CLYDESDALE BANK, LIMITED, 30, Lombard Street, London, E.C.
THE PALATINE BANK, LIMITED, 9, Cross Street, Manchester.

SOLICITORS:

LLOYD-GEORGE, ROBERTS & Co., 13, Walbrook, London, E.C.
ALEXANDER, JUBB & TAYLOR, 221, West George Street, Glasgow.

AUDITORS:

MILNE, GAFF & STIRLING, Chartered Accountants, Crown Buildings, 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.
FREDK. MURGATROYD, Chartered Accountant, 4, Clarence Street, Manchester.

GENERAL MANAGER: S. J. EYRE HARTEY.

SUPERINTENDENT FOR CONSETT DISTRICT:

E. TELFORD.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S & GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

CHIEF OFFICES :—BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

EXTRACTS FROM DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR EIGHT MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1899.

During the eight months ending 31st December last, the sum of £60,161 has been ADDED TO THE ASSURANCE FUND—the largest increase ever made during a similar period.

The INCREASE in the PREMIUM INCOME during the same period was £35,889—EQUIVALENT to an increase of over £53,000 per annum.

NEW BUSINESS FOR THE EIGHT MONTHS.

ORDINARY DEPARTMENT.—The number of New proposals received was 3,357, assuring the sum of £224,034, at a Yearly Preium of £12,898.

The number of Policies issued was 3,022, assuring the sum of £199,138 at an Annual Premium of £11,358.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.—The number of Policies issued was 240,943 at an Annual Premium of £157,710.

EIGHT MONTHS' CLAIMS.

ORDINARY DEPARTMENT.—The amount paid in Claims during the Eight Months in this Department was £23,137, including £911, Surrender Claims.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.—The amount paid in Claims during the Eight Months in this Department was £169,679, including £11,435 Surrender Claims.

The TOTAL AMOUNT paid to the 31st December, 1899, was £2,549,627.

RESULTS OF THE EIGHT MONTHS' TRANSACTIONS.

The Total Income of the Company was £443,613, and the Total Payments £375,167, leaving a Surplus Balance on the Eight Months' Accounts of £68,446. Out of this sum £8,285 has been written off Investments, Loans, Furniture, &c., leaving £60,161 to be added to the Assurance Fund.

The Funds now stand at FIVE HUNDRED AND NINE THOUSAND POUNDS. As the result of LESS THAN THREE YEARS' painstaking and economical management, the INCOME of the Company has been INCREASED BY OVER £145,000 per annum, whilst the Assurance Fund has been PRACTICALLY DOUBLED.

Local District Offices :— 48, Park Road, Consett, J. DUNN. } Superintendents.
3, Dent Street, Shildon. J. WHITE.

Sales by Public Auction.

By Mr A. Phillipson

Superior Dwelling-House for Sale at Castleside. To be SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the House of Mr. Ed. Wylam, Smelters Arms, Castleside, on Monday, 28th May, 1900, at 7 o'clock, p.m. (subject to such conditions as will then be produced).

MR A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer. Valuable FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, of 5 good Rooms, useful Cellar, large Garden, Yard, and every necessary Convenience, splendidly situated in the beautiful village of Castleside, and occupied by Mr. R. Gray, who will show the Property to intending purchasers.

This Property is substantially built of stone, well arranged, and in a grand state of repair, well worthy of the attention of Capitalists.

For further information apply to Mr. J. Harker, 197, Stanton Street, Newcastle, or to the Auctioneer, Dipton. 777h

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 Lintz Green.

By Mr. Jackson Green.

BLACKHILL FARMERS' MART CO., LTD. MONDAY, MAY 28th, 1900. MR JACKSON GREEN, Auctioneer. 25 Fat Cattle, 100 Fat Sheep, 2 Fat Bulls, 3 Veal Calves, 1 Stirks, Pigs, Lambs, Cows, Draught Horse, 16-2 h.h., 7 years old, quiet in cart or chains; Spring Trap, Whitechapel, Phaeton, Rolley, Ladders, Patent Blocks, Grips, Shovels, &c. Ballot at 12-30.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

J. W. OSBORNE, Secretary, 10a, Durham Road, Blackhill. 826

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

Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester.

MR. JACKSON GREEN, acting upon the esteemed instructions of Mr. John Smith who is retiring, will SELL BY AUCTION early in June, HORSES, TRAPS, HARNESS, 2 OLD-LAND HAY STACKS, containing about 32 tons; also a very large quantity of superior HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed to REMOVE and SELL at the Victoria Street Sale-rooms, Consett, on Monday first May 28th, the Valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects belonging to a gentleman who is leaving the district.

Sale commence at one o'clock. 820h

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, instructed by the Executors of the late Thos. Watson Dobson, will SELL BY AUCTION, at Front Street, Consett, on Wednesday, June 6th, the HORSES, ROLLEYS, CARTS, HARNESS, &c. Full particulars next Issue. 821h

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 15, Victoria Street Consett.

By Mr T. D. Dryden.

MR. T. D. DRYDEN, favoured with instructions from a Gentleman declining business, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Town Hall, Consett, at an early date, valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PIANO, AMERICAN ORGAN, and the whole of a DRAPER'S STOCK, consisting of Bed Linen, Table Linen, and General Drapery.

For particulars and date see next week's issue. 689b

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

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

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.

NATHAN ELSDON,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.
OFFICES AND SALE ROOMS, DELVES LANE, CONSETT.
Sales undertaken on Commission according to arrangement.
All Classes of Furniture or Property purchased outright for Cash, or Sold by Auction.

May 25th, 1900.

"CONSETT GUARDIAN" FREE INSURANCE. £100.

WILL BE PAID to the legal representative of any man or woman (railway servants on duty excepted) who shall happen to meet with his or her death by an accident to the railway train in which he or she was travelling in any part of the United Kingdom on following conditions:—

1. That at the time of the accident the passenger in question had upon his or her person this coupon.
2. That prior to the accident the passenger in question had affixed his or her usual signature in the space provided below.
3. That notice of the accident be given to the Corporation guaranteeing this insurance within seven days of its occurrence.
4. That death result within one month from the date of the accident.
5. That no person can claim in respect of more than one of these coupons.
6. The insurance under this coupon holds good from Thursday 6 a.m., date of publication, to 6 a.m. of the following Thursday.

Signed ....

Address ....

The due fulfilment of this insurance is guaranteed by THE CREDIT ASSURANCE AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION, LIMITED 12, King William Street, London, E.C., to whom all communications should be made.

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.

THE CONSETT GUARDIAN.

Friday, May 25th, 1900

EDITORIAL CHAT.

Evening Classes. Evening Continuation Classes are, without a doubt, admirable things in their way and none approve of them more heartily than we do ourselves; but it is a regrettable fact that the large majority of those whom they are intended to benefit do not take advantage of them. Take the experience of the Medomsley School Board, for instance. They carried on evening classes at Westwood during last winter. The report recently to hand shows that the grant earned was only about £12, whereas the expenses will amount to considerably more than double that sum. In this case, however, there is another important factor to be taken into consideration. Classes were also held at Croniwell, and as the two places are so close together one was bound to affect the other, so far as attendance was concerned, at any rate. As Mr. Palmer said at the last meeting of the Medomsley School Board, unless the latter body could come to some arrangement with those running the classes at Croniwell, he thought it futile to continue their classes next winter. It would be a great pity if the Board were compelled to take this step, but in view of their past experience there seems no other course open to them. However, probably negotiations will be opened with the Croniwell people with the object of having only one set of classes, and, after the "pros." and "cons." of the question have been discussed, it is not unlikely that some amicable settlement will be arrived at. As matters now stand, it looks uncommonly like a case of cutting each other's throats.

—o—

Annfield Plain Council. We are very pleased to find that not the slightest opposition was forthcoming at the inquiry held last week, to the application of the Annfield Plain Council to borrow the sum of £1,600 odd for the purpose of building new offices, etc. Ever since the Council came into existence—now nearly four years since—the business has been conducted in the Burial Board room at Hare Law, which was anything but a convenient place. Had the members studied their own comfort they would have erected new chambers some time ago, but they were anxious to do something for the well-being of the community at large ere they embarked upon anything likely to involve expense for their own personal convenience. The room referred to is only a small one, and when—as often happened—there were fifteen or sixteen persons in it, the conditions became anything but pleasant. In fact, at times they were positively dangerous to health, and almost unbearable. No one can accuse the Council of extravagance in this direction, as new offices are absolutely essential to the proper carrying on of the business of that authority, not to mention the comfort of the members at all. We believe that all the people included in the area of the Council, who take any interest in public affairs, are agreed upon this point, and the only question as to which there is not complete unanimity refers to the mode to be adopted in raising the money. A number of the ratepayers are in favour of obtaining the required amount by two special sixpenny rates, and thus paying it all off by the time the buildings are completed, whilst another section are partial to borrowing the money, and extending the loan over sixteen years. The latter course will probably be adopted at the finish. In any case, it is not a very momentous matter considering that the principal question meets with almost unanimous approval.

—o—

Worthy of Honour. Previous to his removal to Newcastle just recently, there was probably not a more popular man in the Hamsterley district than Mr. Thomas Storey. He was only a lad when he came to reside at Hamsterley some twenty-two years since, but he has left his mark amongst those with whom he was associated. Mr. Storey led a busy life, and it says much for his courtesy and uprightness that he leaves with the goodwill and respect of both his employees and fellow-workmen. As a member of the Medomsley Parish Council he rendered good service, ever seeking to bring forward measures for the amelioration of the conditions under which the working classes live, and he enjoyed the confidence of the whole of his colleagues on that authority. Mr. Storey was also chairman of the local lodge, which naturally involved him in many intricate matters with the management of the Colliery, but, thanks to the tact and forbearance displayed on each side, these were invariably settled in an amicable manner. Mr. Storey was a prominent member of the Hamsterley Colliery Brass Band—in which he took a great interest—and was a musician of no mean order. He has on several occasions willingly given his services as accompanist at concerts arranged for charitable and other purposes. In consideration of what he has accomplished on their behalf, the people of Hamsterley Colliery felt that they could not allow Mr. and Mrs. Storey to depart from their midst without presenting to them some token which would serve to keep them in mind of the respect and esteem entertained towards them by their many friends. The testimonial was not exactly confined to Hamsterley Colliery, as many outside friends of Mr. Storey's expressed a wish to contribute. Thus it came about that a very interesting gathering took place at Blackhall Mill last week, presided over by Mr. R. Berkley, the esteemed manager of the colliery, who made the presentation to Mr. Storey in an exceedingly admirable speech. Several others bore testimony to the good qualities of the recipient, and altogether a most pleasant evening was spent. Many hearty wishes were uttered for the future prosperity of Mr. and Mrs. Storey in their new sphere of life.

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Shall there be a School Board? Educational matters at Chester-le-Street have been very much to the fore of late. It seems that the accommodation provided by the committee managing the National Schools has been found quite insufficient, owing to the greatly increased population of the past few years. So much so that it is stated that there are hundreds of children for whom no school-room can be found. Naturally enough the Education Department brought pressure to bear upon the committee to provide the necessary accommodation, and the Government have ordered new schools to be built. At a meeting of the committee the question was discussed of an extension of the National Schools or the establishment of a School Board. The senior curate (the Rev. A. Dunn) has now brought forward a scheme which has received the cordial support of Sir Lindsay Wood, and these two gentlemen, along with Mr. C. R. Barrett, have received promises of subscriptions to the amount of £1,250. It is also reported that Sir Lindsay Wood has been favoured with a donation of £250 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. There ought to be little doubt about other promises of assistance being forthcoming, and in the meantime plans are in course of preparation to provide school accommodation for the next ten years. The successful carrying out of the scheme would mean a saving in the rate, it is stated, of at least £1,800 a year for that time. If the sum required cannot be raised by voluntary subscriptions, then the only course left open would appear to be the formation of a School Board. Therefore those who wish to avoid the introduction of this doubtful luxury should weigh in with their contributions at once. The matter is one that calls for immediate attention.

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Consecration Service. On Friday, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Durham (Dr. Westcott) performed an interesting ceremony at Hare Law Cemetery. The object of the Bishop's visit was to consecrate a portion of the burial ground. On this subject a good deal of misapprehension exists. There seems, especially amongst members of the Established Church, to be a strange superstitious idea afloat that people who are buried in consecrated ground will be more likely to secure eternal bliss than those who are content to be buried in unconsecrated burial places, forgetting that their future joy or sorrow depends upon to a great extent, their manner of life in this world. But this is not the only strange idea held on the subject. Many dissenters are so prejudiced against the ceremony as to ridicule the idea of "separating" or "setting apart" for that is all consecration means, as the consecration service states—a place from all other uses for the burial of the dead. And when the matter is considered in an impartial manner there can be no valid objection to the ceremony. Dr. Westcott delivered a highly interesting address to those assembled, and his remarks were fully appreciated.

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Chopwell School Board. A contest has been avoided in connection with the election of five members to form Chopwell School Board for the next three years. Of the old members, Messrs. Gilchrist, Richardson, and Stoker remain. Owing to his preferment, the Rev. G. D'Eath has not sought re-election, and Mr. Archer will take his place, whilst Mr. Tucker has retired in favour of Mr. F. McKay, checkweighman at Chopwell. Both the gentlemen referred to as retiring will be missed, as they were useful and able members of the Board. Of course, in the case of Mr. D'Eath it was unavoidable, but we are extremely sorry that our old friend Mr. Tucker will not be found taking part in the deliberations of the new Board. He possessed a fund of sound commonsense which often manifested itself in various ways at the meetings of the Board. He was a genial soul—much liked and esteemed by his colleagues. However, a good substitute will probably be forthcoming in Mr. McKay, who is a gentleman of great experience, and he should turn out to be a useful member. Mr. Archer will be a welcome addition to the Board, and may be trusted to worthily take up the mantle of Mr. D'Eath. It must be a matter of congratulation to the ratepayers that a contested election has been avoided, as this means a considerable saving. In the past the business of the Board has been conducted in a very amicable and satisfactory manner, and we trust that this happy state of things may long continue—with every member doing his best to see that the children get a good sound education, and at the same time setting a stern face against any unnecessary expenditure.

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Not Successful. Like the railway authorities, those connected with the postal service are difficult to move when any concessions are needed—no matter how well grounded they may be. The Medomsley Parish Council have recently been endeavouring to secure a second delivery of letters and the erection of a letter-box at Bradley Cottages, but their efforts have been in vain, inasmuch as at the last meeting of the Council a communication was received from the Newcastle postmater, containing the stereotyped statement that "the matter had received careful consideration, but it was regretted that the circumstances did not warrant any additional postal facilities at present." Bradley Cottages is a place that his grown largely of recent years, and their claim for a letter-box at least—one would have thought—would have met with success. However, the postal authorities think differently, and consequently the inhabitants of Bradley will still have to make the long journey to either Leadgate or Derwent Cottages when they want to post a letter. It is possible that they might not grumble so much at this during the summer months, but when the winter sets in the journey they have to undertake is anything but a pleasant one. Coun. Jamieson summed up the sentiments of the whole Council when he said "that if additional postal facilities were not warranted now they never would be." And this will be the opinion of most people. The Parish Council have done their best in the matter, but the fates—in the shape of the postal authorities—are against them.

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Opening the Campaign. Some of our local bands competed at the Band Contest held at Westwood recently, and this may be said to have been the opening event of the season in this district. We did not observe the name of the Westwood Band amongst the competitors. Perhaps they are biding their time until they get thoroughly wound up. The result of the contest was eminently satisfactory to the local musical combinations, who bore off the chief honours. In giving his decision, the judge (Mr. Thos. Valentine, of Manchester) said that in both quickstep and selection there was practically only one band in it and he had seldom had such little difficulty in awarding the first prize. As these remarks referred to the Consett Iron Company's Workmen's Band, it must be confessed that Mr. M. Hobday and his comrades have made an excellent start. Naturally there was great cheering when Mr. Valentine placed Hamsterley Colliery second. This band has had many difficulties to contend with, but has come safely through them, and brighter times would appear to be in store for this plucky organisation. South Moor did very well to divide the third and fourth prizes with Hebburn Colliery. From what we have set out above it will be seen that our local bands were bang in front. We trust that the successes gained on this occasion will only be the forerunners of many more to come.

CRAGHEAD.

PRESENTATIONS FOR BRAVERY.—At a well-attended public meeting held on Saturday night in the Miners' Union Lodge Room at the Craghead Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. John Wilson, M.P., the general secretary of the Durham Miners' Association, presented the Albert medals awarded by the Royal Humane Society to the three miners—Messrs Chris. Parnaby, Thomas Wilson, and Sydney Cooper—in recognition of their bravery in endeavouring to save the lives of some fellow-workmen in danger of being overcome by the fumes while at work in the shaft of the George Pit, Craghead, on Feb. 20th. The Rev. J. W. Ashton, curate of Holmside, also presented the three heroes with gold medals subscribed by the miners, while eight others (including P.C. Johnson) were the recipients of silver medals in appreciation of the assistance rendered on the same occasion. Selections of music were rendered at intervals.

AROUND THE DISTRICT.

(By "Wanderer.")

MAFEKING.

Throughout the whole district, to say nothing of the whole country and the whole Empire, the chief topic of conversation has been the relief of Mafeking. It would take a most careful search through Haydn's Dictionary of Dates to find the defence of a garrison to equal that of Mafeking. Historical events of the past are too often permitted to overshadow great events of the present. Ladysmith and Mafeking must, however, ring loudly in the ears of pupils of future generations when history lessons are being imparted to them, and the name of Major-General Baden-Powel will for years to come be an incentive to doggedness, determination, courage, and ultimate success. I have just been told that he is a Tynesider—that he is a native of Shields. I am afraid his nativity will be found in a few thousand places, but his popularity will not lose zest on account of this jealousy. Let him come to Consett and he will find as warm a welcome as though he were to the Manor born, and it will be quite as cordial a one.

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A PECULIAR FIND.

After the first portion of the celebration at Medomsley an inspection was made of the whins which had been purposely set on fire, and a somewhat remarkable discovery was made. In a position where the conflagration must have been somewhat intense was found a blackbird's nest containing the dead mother with the nest complete and two eggs intact. The bird was literally roasted, denuded of its feathers, and yet lay dead at its post. What a grand sentry that bird must have been. Messrs Traynor and Bramley found the nest and I suggest to them that they should presserve it as they found it and present it to General Baden-Powell when he comes North. I am sure he will prize it.

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A CAUTION.

The rejoicings over Mafeking have not been altogether without their painful side as we have read of several fatalities having occurred. In the matter of letting off a certain class of fireworks there has been a recklessness which might have had sad results. On Saturday night when a large crowd stood in front of Mr. Petherick's house in Consett small crackers were thrown indiscriminately among the people. As they carried with them a flame they might easily have set fire to a person's clothing and done serious damage. Many old children were guilty of the offence, but it would be as well to warn them that if a fatality occurred from such conduct they might be put upon their trial for manslaughter.

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LANCHESTER COMMON.

The outcome of the meeting at Leadgate on Thursday last was the formation of an Association. It was unfortunate that the meeting did not pass over without one unpleasant incident and that was when Mr. Eccles referred to certain people as scum. There was absolutely no justification for the term or even for one less emphatic. Neither was he justified in saying it was quite evident there was a determination to break up the meeting. The members of the Association already existing who were present attended more as friends than enemies but Mr. Eccles did all he could to embitter them. In the matter of the title of the new Association Mr. Aynsley's suggestion was a very modest one and ought to have been adopted. There is a general desire to get the Acts amended and two distinct Associations might have been a help towards that end, but when they both bear practically the same title it will simply lead to confusion. If members of each Association went before a Committee of the House of Commons it is very probable that some strong remarks might fall from the chairman. Associations of this kind should be started with the best of good feelings.

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'B. P.' INVITED NORTH.

During the celebrations of the relief of Mafeking at Annfield Plain, Jack Snowdon, the commander-in-chief of the bonfire squadron, in the course of his humorous remarks with which he kept his audience in a happy mood, said he was going to write Baden-Powell and ask him to visit Annfield Plain offering the hero that if he would accept the invitation he would be responsible for having him carried shoulder high through the town and added parenthetically, that if the people of Annfield Plain were too drunk to do the work he would do it himself, at which there was naturally an outburst of laughter which lasted for some time.

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AN AMATEUR LION TAMER.

There has recently been a circus on a small scale on a visit to Blackhall Mill, the principal attraction being a performing lion. The tamer of the lion has been accompanied into the cage nightly by Mr. Robt. Armstrong, a young gentleman of apparently intrepid courage and no little ambition to show his utter contempt for danger. He even went so far as to allow the lion to place its paws on his shoulders, and it was probably due to the advice of the proprietor that he did not embrace the animal as he would have done a young lady, had she put her arms round his neck. A few of Mr. Armstrong's stamp would soon shift Kruger out of Pretoria.

LEADGATE NOTES.

[BY "GEORDIE."]

THE GOOD NEWS.

Never have I seen such a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm as there was on Friday evening, when the news spread that brave Baden-Powell and his gallant garrison had been relieved at last. People fairly went wild with delight, and the excitement was infectious. Usually sober-minded citizens seemed to throw off all reserve in the face of the good tidings, and the scene that ensued baffles description. I thought we had a fair amount of enthusiasm at the time of the Queen's Jubilee, but it was nothing to what was witnessed on the occasion referred to. Leadgate exhibited its loyalty in no uncertain fashion, people of all creeds joining in the demonstration hastily organised to celebrate the thrice-blessed news.

A CONTINUATION.

Thanks chiefly to the energy of Mr. Geo. Cooke, the highly-esteemed under-manager of the Eden Colliery, we had a continuation of the rejoicings on Saturday night. The local tradespeople willingly supplied material for a huge bonfire, and effigies of Kruger, Steyn, and Cronje were prepared by ingenious hands. There was a tremendous gathering in the park when Mrs Cooke set the fire alight, and the scene was one to be long remembered. The Mission Band gave their services on both evenings, whilst on the Saturday, to general delight, a number of the members of the old Saxhorn Band turned out, and did good service. In addition to these, many other musical (?) instruments were pressed into presure, and that red-hot Tory, "Splash" Day, made things lively with his concertina. Then the Bradley Shops band must be mentioned. There are several others whose name escapes me at the moment, but all mere welcome.

THE SAXHORN BAND.

I am pleased to hear that the rejoicings have resulted in a determined attempt being made to resuscitate the old Saxhorn Band. A meeting was held at Mr. Ralph Calvert's on Monday night, at which some 20 intending members were present, and it was decided to start the old band. They will commence practice at once, and it is hoped that they will be in good trim when the news arrives that Pretoria has been captured. I don't doubt but what the band will receive the support which it deserves.

A GOOD IDEA.

I am told that there is a scheme on foot to appoint a committee, which shall draw up a programme to be carried out when Pretoria falls into the hands of the British army. This I consider a capital idea, as there is nothing like being prepared. Leadgate did very well over the relief of Mafeking, but it might have been improved upon had there been a committee formed, and a detailed programme arranged. However, there is nothing to prevent this being done in the case of Pretoria, and I trust that the committee will get to work at once, as I have an idea that before very long the Boer capital will surrender to Lord Roberts. Let us have a real good demonstration when this welcome event happens.

A NEW INSTITUTE.

I think it may be taken as authentic that the Consett Iron Company are going to build a new institute at the corner of the Temperance cricket field, just in front of the Infant School. There will, I understand, also be a pay-office, and likewise a place for storing the Fire Brigade apparatus, etc. This is welcome news, marred by only one circumstance—I am told that the institute will only be open to the employes of the Consett Iron Company. If this be the case I am very sorry to hear it—as I know many others will be. I have a strong opinion that Leadgate will be chiefly indebted to the good offices of Coun. Palmer for this important concession, and may I appeal to the Chairman of the Council to use his influence to have the building thrown open to those not employed under the company as well as employes? If Mr. Palmer will do this he will earn the gratitude of a large number in addition to "Geordie."

AN OLD FIXTURE.

I notice that the old-established Brooms Sports are fixed for June 23rd, and a splendid programme has been arranged. It is a great pity that the event will clash with the sports promoted by the Consett and District Cricket Club, but the Brooms people claim that they have had this day for many years, and therefore are averse to changing it. The secretarial duties have been entrusted to Mr. J. E. Kinleside, and under his able guidance I doubt not but what the fixture will be as popular and successful as in previous years. An increased amount of money is offered in prizes.

CURIOUS INCIDENTS.

In connection with the relief rejoicings there were naturally some humorous incidents. A couple of enthusiasts, for instance, went off, as they stated, to "relieve Iveston," and did not return until eight or nine o'clock the next morning. A certain gentleman who shall be nameless felt rather sleepy on Saturday evening, and espying in the road a drum with the parchment off at one end, he endeavoured to crawl inside for a snooze. Just as he had nicely settled himself the drummer, unaware that anyone was inside, came a resounding whack on the good side, and the stick catching the weary one's head, caused him to see more fireworks than he had ever previously done in his life. Another party was having "forty winks" in the park, and, waking up suddenly, the first thing that caught his somewhat dazed vision was the illuminations in Park Terrace. His friends had considerable trouble in persuading him that he had not been transported to the lower regions. The Bradley Shops Band was a wonderful musical combination, and created any amount of amusement. On the whole we had a decidedly lively time last week-end. I guess there would be many hats too small for their owners' heads.

THE PARK.

I could not help thinking last week how fortunate it was that we had such a place as the park. Many people are inclined to scoff at it, but I say let it remain as it is. If we had it laid out with ornamental walks, shrubberies, etc., there would be notices posted all over warning us to "keep off the grass." And if we attempted to light a bonfire we would all be run in. As it is we can roam about at our own sweet will, light as many bonfires as we choose, and no one says a wrong word to us. Long may the park be preserved to us in its present state says "Geordie."

WHICKHAM AND DISTRICT NOTES

[BY "ROWLEY."]

WHICKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY.

The members of Whicksham Choral Society made their second bow this season before a public audience on Friday evening, and never have they achieved greater success than on the present occasion. The work undertaken was Edward Elgar's "Banner of Saint George," a composition which societies of more mature years have hesitated to embark upon. Encouraged by the success attending their previous efforts the members decided to launch out upon a more ambitious programme, and hence the choosing of the present work. Those who were present on Friday evening will agree with me when I say that their efforts were crowned with success, and never was a more masterly rendition heard in the parish of Whickham. Unstinted praise has been bestowed upon the members, both individually and collectively, and indeed they were fully deserving of the same. The esteemed conductor, Mr George Proud, has every reason to be more than satisfied with the results that have attented his unremitting labours, and I am fully confident that it will be my pleasing duty, at a later date, to chronicle still further success. Friday evening's performance was a chef-d'-œuvre in the truest sense of the term.

WHICKHAM HOPPING.

With the advent of Monday first the quiet and picturesque little village of Whickham will throw off its mantle of quietude, and assume a more lively appearance. The occasion for this departure will be the annual "hopping," as it is termed, when the inhabitants—young and old alike—will turn out to enjoy themselves "ad infinitum." At the time of penning these notes there is little to denote the advent of the "hopping," so far as the arrival of the "merry-go-rounds" and other paraphernalia are concerned, but amongst the inhabitants something akin to a flutter of excitement is discernible. Many houses are in a state of chaos. The paper-hanger the painter, and the housewife are hard at work, so that when the "hopping" arrives everything may be found spic and spun, and indeed it will be difficult for the visitor to enter a dwelling that is not in apple-pie order. True, this is the time of spring cleaning, but the hopping can lay claim to having occasioned all this commotion. The festival acts upon the parishioners as a magnet upon the needle. Let anyone pay a visit to this pretty little village about the hour of 10 p.m. on Monday evening, and they will find one seething mass of humanity. It is truly a motley crowd, the composition of which is a study. Amongst its numbers you will find chrysologists, pathologists, archeologists, philanthropists, psychologists, and a host of other "ists." The latter branch will be in evidence on Sunday evening, when the Rector (the Rev Arthur Allwork) will hold an "al fresco" service on the village green, which will be appropriate to the occasion. Like many other, I trust that the festival may be favoured with fine weather, when almost every parishioner will take the opportunity of constituting a unit to the great throng.

CYCLING NOTES.

(By "Wheeler.")

On Saturday afternoon, to the number of twenty-nine, the members of the Dipton and District Cycling Club journeyed to Saltwell, and were one blaze of colour, each cyclist doing honour to the Union Jack" in one form or another, the more enthusiastic having their machines decorated with beautiful coloured paper. On the way a new name was given to our wheelites, namely, that of the "Loyalists from Dipton." The turn-out was appropriate to the occasion, following so soon after the good news. The route was by way of Marley Hill, with no other mishap than the inevitable puncture. After a pleasant ride the party reached their destination, and found the Park in splendid condition. Many of the members spent the afternoon in the town viewing the decoration their.

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There was a large muster of the members of the Medomsley club on Wednesday week for the spin to Whickham. As the evening was beautifully fine and the roads in good condition, the outing proved a most enjoyable one. On Saturday last the run was to Chester-le-Street, and another pleasant excursion was the result. On Saturday first the destination of the members will be Corbridge, and a big turn-out is expected. The time fixed for starting is 1.30, and the Croniwell contingent are requested to assemble at Ebchester at two o'clock prompt to meet their comrades. The club will return by a different route, and thus see as much of the country as possible.

Last Saturday I witnessed a couple of cyclists on a tandem have a narrow escape at Leadgate. As usual in these cases the riders were trying to show off a bit, and they came down the bank from St. Ives Church at a rore pace. Just as they neared the post-office a dog got in the way. The front wheel of the tandem knocked the animal over, and the back wheel passed clean over him. Fortunately the riders managed to maintain their equilibrium, or else the results might have been serious. The dog got up as if nothing undual had happened, and was not long in making tracks for home at his best rate of speed.

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Apropos of the above note, a writer in a contemporary says:—How to run over a dog! Many cyclists whose previous encounters with the friend of man have been inglorious would like to know how to do this safely, but a correspondent successfully, if somewhat involuntarily found the answer the other evening. He says avoid the animal if possible, but if this cannot be lean forward and put all your strength into keeping the handlebar secure, steering the while straight ahead. This done, shut your eyes for the dreaded impact, and the next minute the dog, or yourself, will be rolling in the dust. As a rule it would be well to commence with my lady's lap dog, and then rise in the scale if your anatomy will hold out.

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By the way, when are the boys of the Leadgate Hardy Club going to have a spin? I noticed that they have held their annual meeting, and the finances of the club are in a very healthy condition. Last season there was not a jollier lot than the "Hardyites," and they had some rare old times together. Now then, boys, buck up, and let us see you make a start. There is yet plenty of the season to run.

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The number of machines one sees upon the road now-a-days is simply marvellous. All sorts and condition of people seem to have taken to the wheel. Like the riders, one also comes across all kinds of bikes—some of them, it is plain to see, turned out by the eminent firm of Gaspipe and Co. Those who intend to go in for cycling should avoid very cheap machines like the plague—they will undoubtedly prove dear in the long run. Of course, if you are content to ride a second-hand bike you can get a decent one for £4 or £5. But a new one at this price is generally a delusion and a snare. You must pay at least £9 or £10 for a machine worth the name.

Local and District News.

Consett.

A DRUNK CASE.—Lawrence Meegan was brought before Mr. W. Aynsley at Consett Police Station on Wednesday morning, and charged with being drunk and disorderly at Blackhill on Tuesday night.—After hearing the evidence the magistrate inflicted a fine of 5/- and costs.

GAS COMPANY'S SHARES.—There is amongst our advertisements this week announcement of a sale of the Shotley Bridge Gas Stock to take place on the 30th inst., at the New Town Hall, Consett. This is the first time the offering of shares by public auction has been adopted by this Company, and the idea of putting the minimum offer at £10 brings it within the power of any number of small investors to become shareholders in this concern.

THE MAFEKING REJOICINGS.—In connection with the rejoicings on Friday night a bonfire provided by Messrs Davison and Sons, and Messrs T. D. Dryden and Co., was lighted in front of the North-Eastern Bank in Front Street. From the bank premises Mr. T. L. Gladstone addressed the assemblage and congratulated them on the glorious news they had received. Mr. T. D. Dryden also said a few words and remarked that the news would send a thrill of delight throughout the whole Empire. They were all proud of Baden-Powell and his gallant garrison. Cheers having been given, the crowd joined in singing the National Anthem.

ATHLETIC CLUB.—The annual meeting of this club was held recently at the house of Mr. W. Coulson, Commercial Hotel, Consett. The following officers were elected for the ensuing season:—President, Mr. E. G. Kirkhouse; vice-presidents, Messrs H. Cornforth, T. Forkin, D. Elliott, J. Forkin, D. Rafferty, R. Lewes, R. Mason, J. Little, W. Coulson, H. G. Gooden, and P. O'Neil; captain, Mr. J. Turley; vice-captain, Mr. J. Walton; committee, Messrs T. Boyle, J. Batey, J. McArdle, W. Reed, R. Russell, J. Massey, and the captain, vice-captain, and secretary; secretary and treasurer, Mr. Thos. Henderson, 50, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. The ground of the club is the Vicarage Field, Consett, and its objects to promote cricket and other sports.

Burnopfield

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Saturday evening a floral service was given in the Wesleyan Chapel by a party of young ladies from Tanfield, each of whom represented a flower. The proceeds were in aid of the new Sunday School fund.

Chester-le-Street

THUNDERSTORM.—A sharp thunderstorm, accompanied by torrents of rain, broke over Chester-le-Street between five and six o'clock on Tuesday night. Farm and garden crops sadly needed rain, but the fall was so heavy that it is questionable whether it would not do more harm than good.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SOCIETY.—In connection with this society a successful entertainment was given in the chapel on Wednesday evening by the children, which consisted of songs, solos, and recitations, the same being rendered in a creditable manner. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. Hindmarsh. The proceeds were in aid of the trust fund. On Wednesday afternoon last a successful tea was kindly given by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henderson, at which a large number were present. In the evening the Rev. A. J. Campbell lectured to a large audience upon "Hymns and hymn writers." The proceeds were in aid of the trust funds.

Castleside

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—The Rev. E. Sidney Savage, M.A., Rector of Hexham, will dedicate the new chancel screen next Wednesday. The service will commence at 3.15. There will afterwards be a public tea in the Church Schools.

Leadgate.

LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting was held on Tuesday night in the Miners' Hall, Leadgate, under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Keenleyside, there being a good attendance.—The Secretary (Mr. C. Morgan) reported that, after paying all expenses, there was a substantial balance in hand.—The election of officers resulted as below:—President, Mr. Thomas Keenleyside; vice-presidents, Messrs W. Whitfield and N. Robson; secretary, Mr. C. Morgan; treasurer, Mr. M. Keenleyside. A strong committee was also appointed.—Mr. W. Winter, Liberal agent for the division, delivered an address.

DEATH OF MR. NICHOLAS PARKER.—It is with much regret that we announce the death of Mr Nicholas Parker, stationer and newsagent, of Front Street, Leadgate. The deceased gentleman was seized with a stroke some weeks since, from which he never properly rallied, and he passed away this (Thursday) morning, at the age of 62 years. The late Mr Parker was a prominent member of the Wesleyan body and was held in the highest respect and esteem by all who knew him. He was of a quiet and unostentatious nature, preferring his own fireside to taking any conspicuous part in public affairs. His familiar figure will be much missed in Leadgate. The interment is fixed to take place at St. Ives Churchyard on Saturday afternoon.

Stanley

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.—Most of the business premises in Stanley are closed to-day (Thursday) in honour of the Queen's birthday.

Whickham

OBSCENE LANGUAGE.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Wm. Spoor, Whickham, was summoned by P.C. Carr for using obscene language at Whickham. In the evening an entertainment was held. 5/- and costs—12/- in all.

INTERESTING PRESENTATION.—At the Crown Hotel, Whickham, an interesting ceremony took place, when a large number of friends assembled for the purpose of presenting Mr. W. Prior, with suitable presents on the occasion of his leaving the parish, after a residency extending over nine years, during which time he has served in the capacity of coachman to Miss Williamson. The gathering was presided over by Mr. George Proud, who, in the course of a humorous speech, said it was decided that their friend, Mr. Prior, should not leave the parish, without taking with him some tangible signs of the esteem and respect in which he was held by a wide circle of friends. Mr. Prior was a gentleman whom to know was to esteem—(Hear, hear)—and they all admired his amiable disposition. (Applause.) The recipient, during his long residence in the parish had made many friends, who now regretted his departure. (Hear, hear.) They would all join with him in expressing the sorrow they felt at losing such a valued colleague, whose presence was ever welcome. As a story teller he was unequalled, and they all loved to listen to his reminiscences. (Hear, hear.) He was rich in rhetoric, and could almost tell four narratives at once. (Laughter and applause.) The chairman then called upon Coun. R. T. Swinburn to make the presentation, which consisted of a brace of pipes, tobacco pouch, silver match box, and a goodly supply of tobacco.—Mr. Prior suitably responded. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.

SERGEANT GRANT'S TREACHERY.

A WAR STORY.

[By J. McQuillen.]

It was after the successful sortie of December 8th; General Hunter's plan had been splendidly carried out; Lombard's Kop was reached, the sentries taken by surprise and bayonetted, and the position stormed, and a big gun destroyed. It was a stirring event which put new life into the beleaguered garrison at Ladysmith. But it is not of the event that I would write, glorious though it was; historians will deal with that later on. I would relate a happening which has come to my knowledge, of which the world knows nothing. Sergeant Grant had been out with a detachment of the Royal Engineers, taking part in the above-mentioned attack, and in the darkness had missed his company. He wandered into a donga, from which there appeared to be no outlet; so there was nothing for it but to await the daylight. He took cover and solaced himself with a pipe, and presently fell asleep. When he awoke it was broad daylight. There was no difficulty now in retracing his steps. It was in leaving the ravine that he came across one of the Natal Carbineers badly wounded, and evidently in great distress. At first Grant thought the man dead, but he was only in a faint. He was lying with a stump of a pencil in his hand and a scrap of paper before him, on which he had managed to scrawl "Dear Wife," and then, evidently, the effort had proved too much for him, and he had fainted. Grant got him round, but saw the case was hopeless—he was only able to gasp out—"Done for—wife in Ladysmith—kiss the ——" and his head dropped back, and the man was dead. Grant took the scrap of a letter, and the man's identity ticket, and went on to the town, and reported himself and the Carbineer's death. Without much trouble he found the wife—Mrs. Hildrop—and her two children. He broke the news as gently as a soldier might, and showed how she had been her husband's last thought, as her tears rained down on her husband's written words. Grant bent down and patted the children's heads, and then took them in his arms and kissed them. The fatherless bairns appealed to his kindly heart. He could scarce keep back his emotion, they were so helpless. He comforted the woman as well as he knew how. Just a few husky words and the pressure of a friendly hand; more he could not say or do.

The siege went on; day after day the shells burst over the town, doing more or less damage. Here and there a man was picked off every now and again, but bravely the garrison held out, and that in spite of short rations. The provisions in stock rose to famine prices, the bare necessaries of life could hardly be obtained. The fighting men felt the pinch, but not so much as the women-folk and the children; the rough fare was not fit for them, but they endured nobly. Grant did what he could for Mrs. Hildrop and her boys. He bought what little dainties were still procurable and within reach of his means. But the day came when he was reduced to despair. There was nothing he could buy. The last tin of milk had fetched ten shillings, and a pot of jam over thirty shillings, at an auction. He saw the lads getting thin and sickly, and the mother eating her heart out about them and in sorrow over her husband, and what could he do? The matter got between him and his wits, and was never off his mind. His own sorry condition never troubled him a whit. He tightened his belt and admired his genteel figure, and did his best to encourage his comrades to cheeriness. The monotony was fearful, and the uncertainty as to what the end would be; for news of General Buller's repeated attempts at relief had come to hand. Would he always fail, must he ever retire? They were sick with the sickness of hope deferred, waiting for death. The guns boomed the bells rang, the people rushed for shelter; the shells exploded, and the end was not yet. Rations got even lower and poorer in quality. Grant could bear the torture no longer, his resolve was made. Come what might of it, he would carry it through. Long and earnestly he stood on a gun emplacement at Caesar's Camp, looking towards Bulwana Hill. The distance was not great, and in the clear atmosphere looked less—four or five miles, that was all—and yet here starvation, there plenty. As he stood there someone clapped him on the shoulder.

"What cheer, Grant? Are you meditating a dash, or making up your mind to sell the garrison to the Boers?"

Grant started—he was taken unawares—and muttered some incoherent reply.

"Why, man, you look positively guilty." Grant vouchsafed no answer, turned on his heel, and left the spot.

"Gad, I don't like the look of Grant to-day. Wonder what's in the wind? I hope he's not up to some little game. If I thought that I'd put a bullet through him now and stop his mischief. When I come to think of it, he may have had a hand in other little games. The Boers have been precious knowing about our plans. There was Surprise Hill, that was a near squeak for us." So speaking to himself Digby Jones passed on and was soon busy among his men. He did not forget the incident, however. He kept his eye on Grant, and sure enough that night as he returned from changing sentries at the extreme outpost he could have sworn a man passed him, simply a black shadow in the darkness. He challenged. There was no reply. He fired. Still there was no response. But he fancied he heard the sound of speeding footsteps over the veldt. He followed up to the outer British line, and advised the sentries to be doubly alert, as he suspected treachery. Jones went immediately to Grant's quarters. He was not there. No one knew of his whereabouts; he was certainly not on duty. This confirmed the young officer's suspicions, and he straightway reported the matter to headquarters.

The first thing Jones heard in the morning was that Grant had been caught attempting to sneak through the lines laden with spoil—money, tobacco, and provisions. He was caught red-handed with the reward of his treachery. A court-martial was held, over which General White presided. Very grave, even sad, the general looked as the prisoner was brought before him.

To Lieutenant Digby Jones was given the task of detailing the evidence against the prisoner. Briefly, but succinctly, he stated his case, and pointed to the proofs of guilt. Grant admitted that he crossed the British line, and also that he had been in the Bulwana Camp, but denied that he had been guilty of treachery. The articles he had purloined; they had not been given to him as the price of dishonour. Furthermore, he had stolen the breach block of "Long Tom" and toppled it over a precipice.

Grant's story was so manifestly made up that it was not entertained for a moment. The officers composing the jury looked at each other. Doubt was on every face. Gen. White frowned, and asked Grant if he had no other plea to put forward. He had heard the evidence.

"None, Sir! I disobeyed orders, but otherwise I have been true to my Queen and country. The Lieutenant's story is quite correct as far as it goes. I can add nothing to it." Grant drew himself up squarely, and looked his judge straight in the eyes and went on:—"I can but die for my frolic, I beg for no mercy. Give me a soldier's death."

A hush fell on the assembly when the general again spoke.

"You will be shot at sundown. Not a soldier's, but a traitor's grave will be yours."

Sergeant Grant was removed under guard, and confined in a solitary "dug-out" until the evening. What his thoughts were no man may know. He was in the secret place of the Eternal.

Before he was led forth to his execution Jones came to him and expressed his regret at finding him in such a position, and asked if he could do anything for him. Was there any message he could send home? Had he any friends? Grant might rely upon him to soften matters, and throw the best light possible upon his death.

"No, I have no friends I wish written to. One thing you might look after. Those few things I brought in—money too; not the tobacco, give that to some of the men—give to Mrs. Hildrop for her lads. Tell her I bought them with my life—that's all."

It was a quiet night; the sun still lay athwart the hills and golden over the town. The natives moved listlessly about. There was nothing for them to do but starve and dodge the shells, and this they did marvellously, yet lazily. The day had dragged out as a hundred other days had done—dully, monotonously—and now it was sundown. A firing party detached itself from somewhere, and wound its way down to the Klip. They went slowly, for the task in hand was not to their liking. Grant was a popular man among them. Not one but would have given his own right hand to have had the charge disproved. But the guilt was too plain to be set aside. The traitor must die the traitor's death, and after all, with a British soldier duty is duty.

The paces were measured. From a stack of rifles, one out of ten loaded, the men took one each, none knowing who held the fateful weapon. Grant was led forward and stood with his back to the newly dug grave.

"No, not that," Grant said to the man who would have bound up his eyes. "I would rather see what is going on."

He looked round him wistfully. The sun was just dropping behind Bulwana Hill, tinging the sky with a glory of reddening gold. The day was dying, so was he. It was his last look. He clasped his hands till his nails were white. His heart throbbed painfully, but his face was unblanched. Fearlessly he faced the ten muzzles. A movement—a sound—click. The silence of death was in the air. The languorous murmur of the river seemed to die away. For a moment Grant closed his eyes. His lips moved as if in prayer, and then he was ready. There was no sign of the traitor about him. He looked every inch of him "a soldier of the Queen."

An orderly comes quickly up and speaks to the officer in charge. His message brings relief to the officer's face. He issues a brief command, and the firing party stand at ease.

"Sergeant Grant," he says, and his voice has a glad ring in it, "you are free. A Boer prisoner has just been brought in who corroborates your story about "Long Tom," and General White sends word that he has mentioned you in his despatches for promotion."

Dazed, Grant stands for a moment, and then he turned his head aside. The tears were in his eyes. His comrades crowd around him, and made him the hero of the hour. The story of his consideration for Mrs. Hildrop leaked out and made him still more popular, and for the remainder of Ladysmith he was second in popularity only to General White himself.

Annfield Plain Ambulance Class.

The above class met last week at the railway station waiting-room in order to wind up the business of the class for the session, and to receive from Dr Morison the certificates which they had won at the recent examination. There was a considerable number of railwaymen present. The following were the gentlemen entitled to a first-class certificate:—Thomas Nisbett, Richard Dunn George Fitzpatrick, Thomas Wennington, Alfred Dunwiddie. Mr. J. G. Waggett received a second year certificate, while the following received the medallion—the "blue ribbon" of the St. John's Association:—James Robinson, J. Mitchelson, Thomas Elliott, John Curry, and Lancelot Coxon. Dr Morison, who always has been the surgeon-instructor, was presented with a useful surgical case; the secretary, Mr Curry, a beautiful silver watch guard; and the treasurer, Mr Nisbett, with a set of silver studs. During the winter session the class has been most enthusiastic and assiduous in acquiring a knowledge of "first aid," and as a result of their labour all those who presented themselves at the local examination in the month of March were successful in passing most creditably. At the competition at Gateshead, open to the best ambulance men on the North-Eastern Railway, Mr Curry, Mr Mitchelson, and Mr Elliott stood respectively fifth, sixth, and eighth on the list, the first two of these receiving monetary prizes. The team, composed of five men, we are glad to learn, were also near the top, being only ten points below the first, and received 20s in prize money. There are now very few men around the Annfield Plain district employed on the rialway who have not qualified themselves for ambulance work, and very many are now in possession of the coveted medallion, which shows them to be competent to give assistance to the injured when required.

VOLUNTEER SHOOTING MATCH

"D" COMPANY (BEAMISH) v. "I" COMPANY (SACRISTON.)

This match came off on the Sacriston range on Saturday. There was a light rear wind with a hazy light. Bisley rules were observed. Beamish won by 100 points. Scores:—

BEAMISH.

	200	500	600	T'l's
Sergt. J. Grundy	29	26	31	86
Pte. F. Stephenson	30	34	27	91
Col-Sergt. F. Mole	28	30	26	84
Pte. J. Eland	22	29	32	83
Corpl. T. Clough	23	28	30	81
Pte. W. Lodge	27	24	29	80
Pte. H. Willey	26	21	30	77
Pte. J. Metcalf	22	27	23	72
Sergt. T. Wrangham	23	22	26	71
Pte. W. Early	25	22	22	69
Total				794

Sergt. J. Johnson ... 25 (Counted out.)

SACRISTON.

	200	500	600	T'l's
Pte. R. Elliott	25	30	29	84
Capt. Blackett	15	35	29	79
Pte. Straker	22	28	25	75
Pte. Kenny	23	24	27	74
Sergt. Melrose	25	25	24	74
Pte. Rigby	27	21	24	72
Col-Sergt. Moore	21	19	23	63
Pte. Henderson	17	23	21	61
Pte. Plummer	27	15	19	61
Pte. Dunn	21	11	19	51
Total				694

Pte. Johnson 28 ... 7 ... 2 (Counted out.)

BRIEF ANNALS OF SOUTH AFRICA

(By J. W. Fawcett.)

1879. Sir Bartle Frere, in a letter written in July, made a startling prediction what was destined to be fulfilled in every particular twenty years later:—"Any attempt to give back or restore the Boer Republic in the Transvaal must lead to anarchy and failure, and probably, at no distant period, to a vicious imitation of some South American Republics, in which the more uneducated and misguided Boers, dominated and led by better educated foreign adventurers—Germans, Hollanders, Irish Home Rulers, and other European Republicans and Socialists—will become a pest to South Africa, and a dangerous fulcrum to any European Power bent on contesting our Naval supremacy, or injuring us in our Colonies."

1879. Sir Garnet Wolseley was appointed Special High Commissioner for South East Africa, and went straight from Zululand to the Transvaal. He at once began to destroy any illusion which the Boers might have about retrocession. On his way to Pretoria he made the emphatic statement at a public dinner at Wakkerstroom that the Transvaal would remain British territory "as long as the sun shone," and that it could never, and would never be given back.

1879. A few days later, finding two of the Boer leaders inquiring for a reply to a memorial on this subject, Sir Garnet issued a formal proclamation, of which the following was the essential clause:—"Now, therefore, I do hereby proclaim and make known, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, that it is the will and determination of her Majesty's Government that this Transvaal territory shall be, and shall continue to be for ever, an integral portion of Her Majesty's dominions in South Africa."

1879. A still more striking declaration that there would be no retrocession on the part of Great Britain was made by Sir Garnet Wolseley at a banquet given to him at Pretoria, on December 17th, 1879, by the friends of the British Administration there. Referring to an idea which was then propagated that a change of Government in England, would lead to a change of policy, the High Commissioner said: "Nothing can show greater ignorance of English politics than such an idea. I tell you there is no Government, Whig or Tory, Liberal, Conservative, or Radical, who would dare under any circumstances to give back this country . . . . under no circumstances whatever can Britain give back this country. Facts are stubborn things. It is a fact that we are here, and it is an undoubted fact that the English Government remains, and remains here."

But what was the value of the High Commissioner's declarations when Mr. Gladstone by his Midlothian speeches treated the annexation as an outrage and a matter for review, and by so doing was sowing the seeds of a revolution?

FOOTBALL.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agt	Pts
Hamsterley	18	13	5	0	51	8	26
Byer Moor	17	11	3	3	[illegible]	17	25
Annfield Plain	17	10	4	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	23
Tantobie	18	9	5	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	22
Leadgate Park R.	18	9	6	4	41	30	22
Lintz Rovers	19	9	6	4	53	46	21
Burnhope	15	7	7	1	31	38	15
Consett Swifts R.	20	5	11	4	21	52	14
Blackhill St Cuths	19	4	12	3	19	41	11
Marley Hill	17	3	10	4	20	[illegible]	10
Tanfield Lea	18	3	13	3	24	60	9

All games ordered to be re-played and not played are deducted from this table.

Clubs applying for membership should send representatives to the annual meeting on Saturday first.

WM. PAYNE, Secretary.

Stanhope

SCHOOL BOARD.—Mr. Fenwick occupied the chair at Friday's meeting, and thanked the Board for electing him as vice-chairman. He added that their chairman, Dr. Livingstone, was still poorly, and he moved that a vote of sympathy be sent to him, with a hope that he would soon recover. A letter was read from the secretary of the Weardale Union of Teachers, with reference to the training and instruction of pupil teachers, suggesting how to meet the requirements under the new code. The matter was held over for a month.

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stops an ordinary cough in one night, and cures chronic coughs, bronchitis, asthma and whooping cough rapidly. It is vastly superior to ordinary cough mixtures or any kind of emulsions. Price 1/1½d and 2/9.

Sold at the Consett Co-operative Society, Milner, chemist, and Dawson's Drug Stores, Consett and Blackhill, and by all Chemists and Co-operative Stores. Ask for Veno's Remedies, and see you get them. Avoid the man who offers you a cheap mixture of his own. 721h.

HARE LAW BURIAL GROUND.

CONSECRATED BY DR. WESTCOTT.

On Friday afternoon the consecration of a portion of the unconsecrated burial ground at Hare Law took place. The Bishop of Durham, the Rev. Dr. Brooke Foss Westcott, performed the ceremony. The Annfield Plain Council, the petitioners, were very poorly represented. The Bishop was received at the entrance of the burial ground by the clergy of the parish of Collierley, the Rev. J. Gornall vicar, and the Rev. J. C. Douglas, curate; and Coun. W. Eltringham and Mr. T. L. Watchman (Clerk to the Annfield Plain Council), who presented the petition for consecration, when the Bishop signified his readiness to proceed to the consecration. A procession was formed, and was headed by Coun. W. Eltringham and Mr. T. L. Watchman, who were followed by the Church Choir, the registrar, Mr. J. B. Lazenby, the Bishop, and the local clergy, and proceeded round the ground to be consecrated, saying Psalm 49. Then the Bishop, standing near the table provided, said, "The Glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us: O prosper Thou our handiwork." The sentence of consecration was then read by Mr. J. B. Lazenbyy, and the Bishop said "By virtue of the authority committed to us in the Church of God, we do consecrate and for ever set apart from all profane and common uses this ground, to be a resting place of the bodies of the dead until the glorious Resurrection in the last day, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.—Amen," which ended, the procession wended its way to church, where the Bishop said in an impressive and solemn manner the following prayers:—"O God, who hast taught us in Thy Holy Word that there is a difference between the spirit of a beast that goeth downward to the earth, and the spirit of a man which ascendeth up to God who gave it, and likewise, by the example of Thy holy servants in all ages, hast taught us to assign peculiar places where the bodies of Thy saints may rest in peace, and be preserved from all indignities, whilst their souls are safely kept in the hands of their faithful Redeemer: accept, we beseech Thee, this charitable work of ours, in separating this portion of land to that good purpose, and give us grace, that, by the frequent instances of mortality which we behold, we may learn, and seriously consider, how frail and uncertain our condition here on earth is, and so number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom: that in the midst of life thinking upon death, and daily preparing ourselves for the judgement that is to follow, we may have our part in the Resurrection to Eternal Life, through Him who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and now liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.—Amen." "Grant, O Lord, that they who shall bring forth their dead into this place may be so strengthened and comforted by Thy Grace, that they may not be sorry as men without hope for them that sleep in Thee, but may render unto Thee hearty thanks for their brethren whom it hath pleased Thee to deliver before them out of the miseries of this sinful world; and, believing in Thy Son Jesus Christ, may commit their bodies to the ground in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen." "Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of Thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continually mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with Him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for His merits, who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen." "Almighty God, who through Thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life; We humbly beseech Thee, that, as by Thy special grace preventing us Thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by Thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.—Amen." "O Almighty God, who has knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Thy Son, Christ our Lord; Grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen." "Now unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the only wise God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory for ever and ever.—Amen." The Bishop then delivered a very appropriate address, in the course of which he said the service in which they had just joined spoke very plainly and very solemnly to all present. They would all have been struck with the great contrast which there was in the spirit of the Psalm which they had recited in walking round the ground, and the prayers in which they had joined in the church. The Psalm in itself, the fullest account of which was found in the Old Testament of the Jewish view of the future life, they would notice how the Psalmist was perplexed, as they were all perplexed, of the strange contrasts of wealth and poverty, and he felt that the struggles of the rich to gain for themselves what he might call earthly immorality, were utterly vain. They might call their houses after their own names, yet they could carry none of their earthly riches their earthly treasures, away. When the Psalmist just thought of those who forgot God in life the utmost he felt was that God would be faithful to himself, that He would do right. His confidence was strong in the justice of God. That was all that men could reach before our Lord brought life and incorruption to light, and so they would see the contrast when they passed from the Psalm to the collects. If they would follow them one by one they would see how the Great God was set before them in every form. In the first collect they would notice the natural reverence with which they regarded the burial place and the dead, and drew from it the duty of thought and preparation on their part that they might fit themselves, by God's help. When they passed to the second collect they would see how, when they laid those whom they had loved to rest, they laid them to rest in a sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life. It was an act of faithfulness and trust. In the following collect they would see how they could rest their faith, that death itself was the gate to life, that throught their life by continuous self-conquest they would be enabled to have not only the burial, the death of the Lord, but his rising to a new life. In the next collect they had what was one of the most impressive views of life they could ever gain, the great truth that the good desires which God put into their hearts were his call to them and the believer's life was simply an answer to God's call which must prevail. In the last collect they had yet another great truth opened to them, that death itself was not final separation from those whom they had loved. They confessed their faith that God had knit together His elect in one communion and fellowship in him—the dead and living were one glorious body. In the words of the Epistle to the Hebrews the Apostle taught them that they had already come to the heavenly zion, to an innumerable multitude of angels, to the spirits of just men made perfect, not that they would come to be perfect, but that now by faith in Our Lord and Saviour they could feel that they were united with all the ages past, that their life, even now was a life not only in fellowship with God, but in fellowship with all of those who were united in the Redeemer. In that way they saw how, step by step, the grandeur of their great Psalm was set before them. And so it was that such a service as that must constrain them all just to think for a little of life in the light of God, of life in the light of the resurrection, to consider how it helped them in some way to understand the strange contrasts of life, to form a right judgment of the constant misunderstandings of life, to form a real living estimate of what was the object of life. For a moment he asked them to think of those things. Of the strange contrasts of life. They, not less than the Psalmist, felt how at first sight it passed their comprehension that men should be so widely separated as hey were and always had been, in material circumstances—in wealth and influence and power, in the gifts of intellect, in power, of that power of expression, and the like. In personal gifts there were differences. What could they think of them? Were they to regard those things as something which finally decided the differences which might be. A very little thought would show that all those external things by which men were separated, one from another, were of time only. The rich man carried nothing of his wealth out of the world, the man with great eloquence and power carried nothing of the richness of his oratory or his influence into the other world. Vigour and beauty faded away, they left no final treasure. They saw that it was not by what they had, not by their endowments or their possessions or acquisitions that they were finally separated, but by the use which they made of them. In the parable of the talents the man who received five, and the man who received two were made equal, and although they had different endowments they were equally rewarded. What finally remained when all that had been committed to their stewardship passed away from them was the character which they had severally made by the use which they had made of their possessions, character alone; that was what they slowly came to be day by day by the use which they had made of the gifts and opportunities with which God had endowed them. The wealthiest was not further on in the way to final happiness, all in their character showed the use they had made of what they had received, much or little. At last stripped of everything that had arrested the admiration of men they were shown just as they were neither more nor less. And the Psalmist spoke to them also of the strange misunderstandings of life. When they thought by the graveside of the petty quarrels and jealousies which filled with vexation so large a portion of the time of their lives were they not constrained to form a very different judgment of them, and might they not look at the lesson of such a service as that was in regard to their daily conduct. If they could look at one another in the light of the only certain fact in life, they should form very different practical judgment of that which too often clouded the passing days. But yet there was a third lesson which that service brought to their hearts, and that was the true object of life. The German poet had spoken of them as "brothers in death," but if they knew anything of their Christian faith it should make them brothers in life. They all shared one life, they were all called to one work. A modern writer who knew more than any one of the state of the wealthiest and the poorest had given it as his deliberate judgment that with happiness riches and poverty had very little to do; it depended in the main, upon labour and love, and no one would deny that labour and love was open to every man. Then if their thoughts went back a little and they remembered that the first record of man's creation which gathered up the whole history of man's life, they were made in the image of God that they might, through communion with him, attain his likeness; that was the object of life, and in whatever position they were placed, however different their outward circumstances might be, yet the attainment of the likeness of God for which they were made was equally within their power. In the Cathedral at Durham he didn't know whether they had ever noticed the bishop's throne. It was supposed to be the most splendid bishop's throne in the world, and how was it built? The bishop who erected it, one of the greatest in the long line of his ancestors, first built his own tomb, and then arching it over raised his throne above it. He would never forget his first sight of that parable, that lesson which was not a lesson for him only, but for all. And perhaps they would know also what was the promise a Bishop was first made to give when he commenced on his office. He promised that he would be merciful to the poor and needy, and to all strangers, and the destitute. They should all live to be fellow workers with God. So might that service bring those thoughts home to their minds, thoughts of the spiritual world in which they were already placed, the service to which they were all equally called, the future which was equal before them all. If only they could realize that the presence of God and what they owed to Him, and if to Him then to their fellowmen, what a change would come over the world. If everyone was a fellow-worker with God, and strove to speak some kind word or do some kind act, how strangely changed their life would be. God was everywhere present, but in compassion to their infirmity He was pleased to make his presence felt in particular places in His house in which they were all gathered together to seek His presence in His fold, the burial ground, where He reminds us of that which they needed, that He was the Lord of the dead and living, that whether they lived or died it was unto Him.

The hymn "A few more years shall roll" having been sung the Bishop pronounced the blessing, and the service concluded.

WEARDALE.

DISTRICT COUNCIL.—Mr. J. W. Roddam presided over Friday's fortnightly meeting at Stanhope.—Mr. Muschamp gave notice to rescind a resolution whereby they agreed to pay Mr. Coulthard 5d for white stone at Harthope.—Mr. E. Peart wrote asking to be relieved of his contract for supplying limestone at Wolsingham. Owing to the fact that he had other contracts under the Council, the latter decided to notify Mr. Peart that being relieved of one would mean the release of all.—Mr. R. Peart asked to be allowed to supply machine-broken stone, instead of hand-broken, at 6d per yard less, on account of the scarcity of hand breakers. The Council declined to grant the request.—A communication was received from the County Council with regard to the Cross House Improvement at Wolsingham, in which they stated that they were prepared to give £90 towards the balance of the cost, the District Council contributing a similar sum. The public subscription, it will be remembered, was £400, the cost running out, therefore, at about £580.

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HAVE YOU TRIED THE POPULAR KYTE TEA? Sold at 1/6, 1/10, 2/-, 2/4, 2/6, 2/10, & 3/2. Aroma and Quality Delicious.
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Wholesale from ANTHONY OATES,
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THE LANCHESTER COMMON ACT.

Meeting at Leadgate.

Defence Association Formed.

On Thursday night last, there was a fairly large attendance in the Co-operative Hall, Leadgate, of ratepayers under the Lanchester Common Enclosure Act to consider their position in respect of the rate ordered by Quarter Sessions to compensate Mr. J. Oliver for damage done to his property on the Carribees Estate through colliery workings. It will be remembered that Mr. Oliver made a claim for £800 damages and asked for a threepenny rate to cover that amount and a further sum as cost of collecting the rate. Mr. Oliver obtained the order and having complied with the requirements of the Court respecting the holdings on the Common, and a time allowance having been made for possible objections to the levying of the rate the order was confirmed without opposition and the rate became fully legalised. When, however, the collectors went round they met with considerable opposition and indignation and as an outcome of that feeling it was decided to hold a public meeting in a place which would be most convenient for the various holders. Leadgate was considered to be the most central and the meeting accordingly took place there as stated. Mr. J. Palliser, Blackhill, was voted to the chair and he was accompanied on the platform by Mr. R. Eccles, Mr. H. Carss, Mr. Thompson Siddell, and Mr. J. Stelling. Among those in the audience were Mr. J. Oliver, Mr. J. M. Aynsley, Mr. J. Eltringham, Mr. G. T. Hyden, Mr. C. Stelling, Mr. Oswald E. Wiseman, of York (Rating Surveyor for the North-Eastern Railway Company)) Mr. Skelton, etc.

The Chairman said he would very much rather someone else had taken the chair. He had come to that meeting because he saw it was announced. He had not been one of the active party in getting that meeting up, although he would not have been ashamed of being so. But coming there as a stranger they had asked him to take the chair. He had read the bill which he believed was a copy of an advertisement in the "Consett Guardian." They were met that night not to take any active part against Mr Oliver, but to consider their position as to how they stood in reference to that rate. If that had been a voluntary rate to help anyone who had suffered loss he should have been the first to have submitted, but when it came to be forced upon them then he thought it was right to have a meeting of that character to consider how they stood. He had had a paper placed in his hands containing some draft resolutions. One was "that we, the property owners on Lanchester Common, form ourselves into an association to protect our rights and privileges." Before that resolution was moved he thought they ought to have some discussion about the rate, and about the payment of it. If that matter was allowed to go on, it was going to be very serious for property owners. They were highly enough rated and taxed in that district without extra taxes being imposed. It was therefore right without any feeling against Mr Oliver that they should have a talk on the matter, and consider whether it was legal for a gentleman to claim the rate and legal for them to pay.

Mr R. Eccles said he came there a perfect stranger to the subject, although one interested in it. He made no apologies to anybody when his interests were at stake. He hoped there was sufficient stamina left in the owners to stand against the payment of the rate, and he was there to assist in accomplishing that object. He did not profess to know anything about the Lanchester Common Act, but from opinions expressed he had been able to gather that there was something informal in the levying of the rate, which would justify the most extreme opposition to it. That being so he hoped those who had anything to say that night would have the courage to express themselves. As a ratepayer and an allotment owner he had not up to the present paid the rate, and let them, with all due respect to the interests of those who were attaking them, look after their own interests.

Mr Oswald E. Wiseman said on behalf of the North-Eastern Railway Company he might say that they were in cordial sympathy with the interests of that meeting. That matter was receiving their very careful attention. It was a serious matter to them, as that rate meant £107. For that reason the matter was receiving very careful attention. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Oliver asked if Mr Wiseman had submitted the matter to the Company's solicitor or to Mr Cooper (Messrs Cooper and Goodger)?

The Chairman said he thought it was scarcely right that any speaker should be interrogated in that way by anyone. (Applause.) He took it that the North-Eastern Railway Company would look after their interests. At the close they would be glad to have any questions, but not at that stage.

Mr H. Carss said they could not overestimate the gravity of that question. It was a very large one, and unless some steps were taken to prevent that assessment from being continuous it behoved them to see that no impost was made upon them other than their already overburdened rate. They were dealing with the Acts of 1771 and 1779, and the question was had any person whose land had been damaged power under the Acts to make such an assessment? He took it that Mr Oliver in the proceedings had been well advised on the question, and he took it that he had power to levy the rate. But could he levy a rate on the houses placed on Lanchester Common or on the North-Eastern Railway. He was glad the Railway Company was represented there that night. He would assume that Mr Oliver had been perfectly right in his proceedings. Therefore he submitted that their proper course was to try and get repealed those sections of the amended Act of 1879 which gave power to levy a rate by persons whose land was injured. He would substitute an arrangement by which the royalty owners and the colliery owners should pay the compensation. (Hear, hear.) Fancy the Ecclesiastical Commissioners receiving thousands every year out of the Lanchester Common and the coalowners also and the latter doing this damage and leaving the small property owners to pay the bill. Now would a rate be levied on house as well as land? He would suggest that counsel's opinion should be taken on the matter. He protested as a copyholder, and the rate gripped him harder than it did many of the wealthier people. But it was not a question of the rate, it was a question of justice and of principle. It was a question of what ought to be, and not of what is. It was a crucial point so far as that rate was concerned as to whether it could be levied on house property or factories. He found in conversation with several gentlemen that freeholds had been assessed, and he dared say a good many people in Consett had got demand notes. He could go back for 56 years, and people occupying property on that land were not liable. Should they seek to have the Act amended? He said yes. That and the question as to whether an assessment could be made on houses as well as land were the two points they required to keep before them. If they accomplished those objects then Mr Oliver's loss would be the Commoners gain. He had no doubt that Mr. Atherley-Jones would be very glad to introduce a Bill, and they would require to employ a solicitor. For that purpose they wanted money, and he took it that a shilling from every property owner would raise sufficient for the time being.

Mr Eccles said in order to get to business it was important to get themselves formed into an association. He moved, therefore, "that we, the property owners and ratepayers on the Lanchester Common form ourselves into an association for the purpose of protecting our rights and privileges."

Mr J. Frodick seconded the motion.

Mr Brown said he was a member of another association, and had paid his half-crown subscription. He would like to ask whether they as property owners could sue in the event of their property being damaged? He, as a member of that association, had been given to understand that they could. It if meant only compensation for land then he as a property owner should be out of it.

The Chairman said he thought these were questions that ought to be raised after they had formed their association. They would like that meeting to be practical and to form an association to enable them to defend their rights as far as they possibly could. He thought it was a pity that they had to have an association to defend their rights. He had been told that it was a shame the representatives on their District Councils did not take up a question like this. They would be called upon as ratepayers to pay a penny in the pound each to have the matter gone into. He did think the representatives on the three local Councils ought to have taken up the question and decided the matter. (Applause.)

Mr J. Eltringham here interposed, but was not permitted to proceed.

Mr G. T. Hyden: Will you allow Mr Eltringham to speak? I think he will show that the Councils have no power in the matter.

Mr Eccles said Mr Eltringham and he were friends, and if the chairman had taken occasion to speak about the Councils that was not the time to defend themselves as Councillors. He contended that Mr Eltringham must either speak for or against the motion.

The Chairman said he might have made a mistake in reference to the Councils.

Mr Eltringham said he was extremely sorry he was placed in an awkward position in not being allowed to refer to the remarks of the chairman. He thought they would agree with him that it was a very hard case for gentlemen sitting in the room and representing Councils, and to prevent them from making remarks after the chairman had forgotten himself.

Mr Thompson Siddell rose to a point of order. He understood Mr Eltringham had either to speak for or against the motion.

Mr Eltringham: Is this gentleman the chairman, or are you sir?

Mr Siddell: I am not going to be ruled by you.

Mr Eccles said it was quite evident there was a determination to break that meeting up. He had come there, and would not allow that object to be attained.

Mr Eltringham: I have come here because of certain remarks that have been made.

Mr Eccles: That is not in accordance with this motion. It is the motion we are here for.

A Voice: Chair, chair.

Mr Eccles: I will chair you. Mr Eltringham has simply come here to defend himself as a Councillor. I am a Councillor myself. There is a motion here to bring us into the way of defending ourselves, and I will not be harried and flurried by a lot of scum.

The Chairman: I ask you to keep yourselves calm and considerate. Mr Eltringham tells me he is going to speak on the resolution, and he has a right to do so.

Mr Eltringham then said that they met, as he took it to protect their rights and privileges. Now he was just as much interested as most gentlemen present as an allotment owner. He was perfectly satisfied that something required to be done. The chairman had said he was not opposed to paying Mr Oliver, and neither was he (Mr Eltringham.) If they could formulate some means of getting rid of the rate he was with them. He was in the position of having to pay rates for 41 houses said to be on the Lanchester Common, and therefore he was an interested party. But he paid Mr Oliver's rate because he thought he could not get out of it. If they could get it back he would be very glad. He never liked a man to come twice to his door for money. He thought that rate was the thin end of the wedge, and if they could form some plan to resist it he would be glad to assist them. The Act was a bad Act, but it was there, and he did not say Mr Oliver was wrong. As a matter of fact the magistrates in Quarter Session made the order. If the magistrates made a mistake and they could find a remedy by all means let them get it. He would be glad to put his hand into his pocket and pay another threepenny rate if they could get the Act amended. A gentleman told him the other day that the Act was a good Act when it was first passed. He (Mr Eltringham), however, would be glad if they could now get it altered. He was sorry Mr Eccles thought that he had come to that meeting as an enemy.

The Chairman thought Mr Eltringham's speech was in favour of the association being formed.

Mr Eccles: I think different.

Mr Siddell said his opinion was that it was not a question as to the Lanchester Common Acts, but as to whether the rate had been justly levied. His opinion was that it was not a just rate.

A Voice: Put the resolution.

The Chairman said he could not put the resolution until everyone had had a chance of speaking to it.

No other remarks being forthcoming the motion was carried nemine contradicenti.

Mr Eccles then proposed that the association should be called "The Lanchester Common Property Owners League."

Mr Carss seconded the motion.

Mr J. M. Aynsley said with regard to the name of the association he would just like to point out that there seemed to have been an assumption that some gentlemen had come there for obstructive purposes. He had heard one person speak of several present as "scum." He denied that he had ever done anything to deserve a name of that kind being applied to him.

The Chairman said they were not responsible for everybodys opinion. He (the chairman) did not say so.

Mr Aynsley said it appeared to be an assumption by the party who did. As far as the gentlemen present were concerned not one had come with obstructive intentions. He had been listening carefully and attentively to what had been said, and as far as the objects of their proposed association were concerned he did not see where they were in opposition to the association already existing. It had been suggested that the proper means would be to get part of the Act repealed.

Mr Eccles rose to a point of order.

The Chairman said if Mr Aynsley would speak to the name he would be glad to hear him.

Mr Aynsley said he would suggest that they do not have a name which would clash with an association already existing, otherwise it would lead to confusion in the matter of correspondence. He would suggest that they call it the North-West Durham Property Owners' Association.

Mr Eccles adhered to his motion. They had nothing to do with any other persons names.

Mr Hyden said he was sitting there among the so-called scum, but he had not yet paid the rate.

The Chairman objected to the remark. He trusted they were true minded. He believed Mr Eccles' remarks had reference to a person who had left the meeting, and not to any gentlemen present.

Mr Hyden said he had come there to learn something more before paying the rate. He was on the side of the gentlemen who were sitting on the platform, and he wished to suggest that there was a good deal of wisdom in the remarks made by Mr Aynsley.

Mr J. Stelling said he did not think the term scum was intended for any gentlemen present.

Mr C. Stelling thought the meeting was going on in an illogical manner.

Mr Eccles said he orginally had "North-West Durham Property Owners' Association" down, but it was suggested that it was too comprehensive.

Mr Aynsley moved that it be called "The North-West Durham Property Owners Association."

Mr Frodick seconded the amendment, but on a division it was lost by 25 to 32.

Mr Eccles thought the meeting ought to authorise an executive committee to prepare their case and submit it to some local man of their choice and ascertain their position under the Enclosures Act, the answer to be submitted at a future meeting.

Mr Carss suggested that the meeting should be adjourned. The election of officers would take a considerable time, and he presumed that that meeting was only a preliminary one.

The Chairman thought Mr Siddell would make a good chairman.

Mr Eccles moved that Mr Siddell be appointed.

Mr Frodick moved as an amendment that Mr Hyden be elected.

Mr Siddell's nomination was carried.

Mr Eccles then moved that Mr John Stelling be secretary, and the motion was agreed to without opposition.

The next appointment was that of treasurer, and Mr Frodick moved the election of Mr John Oliver. (Loud laughter.)

Mr Eltringham seconded the motion, and thought Mr Oliver would be able to look after their affairs. Renewed laughter)

Mr Eccles said he had not come there to be amused in that fashion. He had come there to do business, and if gentlemen present were not in sympathy with them they ought not to be against. He moved that Mr Jonathan Stephenson be treasurer.

Mr Stephenson said he could not accept the position. He thought someone representing a bank should be selected.

Mr Oliver said he must decline nomination.

Mr Skelton was thereupon appointed, and a committee having been formed the meeting was brought to a conclusion with the usual votes of thanks.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD INQUIRY AT HARE LAW.

On Thursday afternoon Colonel C. H. Luard, R.E., Local Government Board Inspector, held an inquiry in the Hare Law Board Schools, with respect to the proposal of the Annfield Plain Urban District Council to borrow the sum of £1,600 for the provision of public offices and the erection of two dwelling-houses for their officers. There were present, on behalf of the Annfield Plain Council, Coun. J. W. Taylor, J.P. (chairman of the Council); Mr. T. L. Watchman (Clerk); Mr. T. J. Trowsdale (Surveyor); Councillors J. G. Taylor, J. F. Smith, W. Eltringham; the Rev. J. Gornall, Mr. J. Moore, and others. There was no opposition to the proposal.

Coun J. W. Taylor, on behalf of the Council, stated that there had been an Urban District Council at Annfield Plain for about four years. The members of that body had conducted the business of the Council in the Burial Board offices, a small room some twelve feet by 10 feet. There were twelve members on the Council, three officers, and frequently, when contracts were being entered into, there were as many as three or four gentlemen as bondsmen in the room, together with the local reporters. Frequently there were some twenty persons in the room at one time. They had no special provision at all for the Clerk, who had to keep all his documents in the room. The Surveyor was in a similar position. They had a case fixed in the cemetery chapel for the surveyor. The Council found they could not rent a suitable place for their purpose under £75 a year, places being bad to get, an arrangement which would increase the rate. The Council thought that with that sum they would pay interest at the rate of 4 per cent. on £1,600, and the need for offices was so apparent that they considered the most advisable course would be to buy a place of their own. The site of the proposed buildings was in the centre of the area, which had a population on the north side of some 5,000, and on the south side 8,000. The Council had bought the land for the site on Nov. 21st, 1899, for £288 6s, the area being some 19,000 square yards, which they considered was a fair price. Land in that district valued itself and the Council had made the best bargain they could. They had bought it from Mr. W. Porter, of Carrmyers Farm, for 3s a yard, and paid for it out of the rates. In respect to the houses for the officers the Council had no statutory powers, but seeing that the district was such a scattered one, and frequently business was to be done by the Clerk and Surveyor at night time owing to the majority of the population being a working-class one, and night time being the most convenient time, indeed the only time for business, the Council thought that if the officers were located it would be most convenient when persons wished to do business with them. He thought the Local Government Board would help the Council in that matter. The houses would be rented by the officers, and there was great difficulty in getting houses in that district. There was a good supply of water from the Consett Waterworks. The rateable value of the district was £40,297; the assessable value for purpose of general district rate, £35,640; the population in 1891 was 9,827, and in 1899 it was estimated to be 13,000.

The Inspector asked if any other gentleman had anything to say upon the subject?

The Rev. J. Gornall said he entirely endorsed all the scheme except the borrowing; he didn't believe in borrowing. Two sixpenny rates a few months apart would clear the whole thing when the times were good.

Mr. Luard: But how would you get the money in the meantime?

Mr. Gornall: A single "pay" would pay one-half of the liability at once.

Mr. Taylor: The contention is that two 6d rates would clear off the whole debt on the building.

Mr. Gornall: And we shall have bad times to follow the present prosperity, and I think with two sixpenny rates we should pay the whole thing at once. As I shall only be living in the parish for some five years I would like to pay my share of the cost.

Mr. Taylor: A rate of 1d in the £ would wipe the debt off in sixteen years, and give us a surplus.

Mr. Gornall: But before those sixteen years we will have bad times again, and wages will be down to their normal condition. Before we had an Urban Council we agitated to get the place thoroughly lighted, drained, and sewered by special rate, and everybody was pleased when it was paid.

Mr. Taylor: But since that time we have created a lot of small property-owners, upon whom the pinch of a sixpenny rate would fall heavily.

Mr. Gornall: I have talked to a good many of them, and they think it should be paid for when the wages are good.

Mr. Taylor: The Council could have gone on with the scheme without the inquiry, only there was a doubtful point in the erection of the houses, and it should be borne in mind that we have a very heavy expenditure standing at us in the shape of new disposal works at Dipton, which will cost a large sum of money. We have also the system of electric lighting, which will probably be taken up during the summer, and which will involve us in another considerable outlay, together with road improvements, including the asphalting of footpaths which are impassable in winter time.

Mr. Gornall: I have no objection to the scheme, and if the Local Government Board sanction it let us pay for it at once.

Mr. Luard: You are not obliged to borrow; you may pay for it out of the rates, in which case the Local Government Board will not interfere with the scheme.

Mr. J. Moore endorsed Mr. Gornall's statement; and after the Inspector had made some suggestions for slight alterations in the plans, chiefly relating to the houses, the inquiry closed.

TOUCH UP THE LIVER

When you have a blue day or bad night with a dose of VEGELOIDS, the new and wonderful little digestive aperients and liver stimulants. "The best yet." One a dose, 100 doses in pocket vial 1/1½, of chemists; or by post of Messrs NEWBERY, 27, Charterhouse Square, London.

STANHOPE.

WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—The above anniversary was held on Saturday and Sunday. On the Saturday the children processioned the streets, singing hymns at intervals, after which they were regaled with a free tea. A public tea was held afterwards, and a supper in the evening. On Sunday afternoon the choir rendered very efficiently a cantata, entitled "The Beatitudes," the choir children giving the connective readings. Miss E. Branston presided at the organ. Mr. R. Ward conducted.

SCHOOL BOARD.—Mr. Fenwick occupied the chair at Friday's meeting, and thanked the Board for electing him as vice-chairman. He added that their chairman, Dr. Livingstone, was still poorly, and he moved that a vote of sympathy be sent to him, with a hope that he would soon recover. A letter was read from the secretary of the Weardale Union of Teachers, with reference to the training and instruction of pupil teachers, suggesting how to meet the requirements under the new code. The matter was held over for a month.

TEN THOUSAND POUNDS PER ANNUM MAY BE EARNED at too great a sacrifice, if we ruin our health and happiness during its accumulation. Although money is a necessary article to possess in order to obtain the means of existence, it cannot purchase love, friendship, or immunity from the dangers and pangs of disease. The millionaire has often envied the toiling labourer his hearty appetite and sturdy health, and would gladly have sacrificed a large amount of his wealth in exchange for these blessings. Holloway's Pills, however, can give health to the most delicate. They are the precious key which can open the door leading to the smiling valley of health. They purify the system and give the essentials of strength for the blood.

A DIPTON MAN IN CANADA.

A TRUE ALLY OF ENGLAND.

INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRY.

To the Editor of the "Consett Guardian."

London, Canada,
May 3rd, 1900.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed I send you a copy of letter, written by a school girl from Sompting, Sussex, for information regarding Canada, and an answer written by my daughter to the same. I thought it might interest some of your young readers, and give them a better idea of Canada than they get from their atlases. It will interest some of my old home friends in and around Dipton—the home of my boyhood. I have many friends living there yet.—Respectfully yours,

W. GEO. BELL.

The following letter and comments are from a Canadian paper:—

A LITTLE ENGLISH GIRL'S LETTER.

St. John, N.B., is going to have a good advertisement in the little village of Sompting, England. One of the letters which arrived at the St. John post office the other day was addressed as follows:

The elder girls,
c.o. The Head Teacher,
(Public) Girls' School,
St. John,
New Brunswick,
Canada.

The letter was sent to the Girls' High School of St. John, and being opened was found to read as follows:—

Sompting School,
Near Worthing, Sussex,
February 10th, 1900.

Dear Colonial Friend,—I expect you will be wondering who has written this letter from England. Well I am a Fifth Standard girl. I live in a very quiet little village called Sompting. If you look at the map of England in the county of Sussex you will find marked two towns Brighton and Worthing. We live 2½ miles from Worthing and 10 from Brighton. From our school playground we can see the South Downs. They are the nearest mountains to us, but I suppose you would call them "molehills." I expect they are nothing to your "Rockies." We graze sheep on the Downs. We have read about you in lessons and story books and lately we have heard how splendidly loyal you Canadians have been to our Queen in sending troops and money to South Africa.

Bravo Canada!

Now we want to ask you heaps of questions, and we hope you will be very kind and answer them, and we will try to answer any that you ask us. That improves both parties. How far have you to go to school? Do you wear snow shoes? Do you ever meet any nice "tame wolves" or red Indians, or hunters and trappers? What do you learn at school? What time do you go to school and come home? Are your trees as tall that it takes two men and a boy to look to the top of one? Do you ever go in canoes on the rapids? Do you learn drill at school or cookery? I am 11 years old, and I am very much interested in the geography of your country. Now, my dear friend, I hope your mistress will allow you to write a very long letter to us, for we shall be watching for the postman every day, and shall be so disappointed if no letter comes.—I am, your English friend,

A. G.

Any replies that may be sent will be read aloud to the children of Sompting School. The letters will be read not only by the children themselves, but also by their parents, and the result will be that Canada will be much talked about in the school district where they are received.

This idea of correspondence between the school children of Canada and England is an exceedingly good one. Such correspondence would not only increase the good feeling that now prevails between the two countries, but would be the means of attracting many immigrants to Canada.

Subjoined is the reply referred to:—

Aberdeen School, London,
April 26th, 1900.

My dear English friend,—I take great pleasure in answering your queries pertaining to Canada. I saw them in one of our weekly city papers. Canada is a very large country. It is as large in extent as all Europe. Its area is 3,600,000 spuare miles, and its population is about 6,000,000. The trees are not as large as you imagine them to be. They are the same size as your largest English trees—that is about 100 feet high. Some in British Columbia are 200 feet high, and 10 feet in diameter. I have never seen any of these trees, but I have read about them and seen pictures of them.

The wolves, hunters and trappers live among the mountains and up north, and we live in the south of Canada, so we never meet any. In regard to the Indians we meet them occasionally in the market, where they come to sell their goods, such as farm produce, whip shanks, axe handles, baskets, etc. They are all civilized in this province, and live in reserves set aside for them by the Government. Most of them are farmers, and some are wealthy. There are two reservations near here, one "Nuncey Town," and another "Six Nations Reserve." At the "Six Nations Reserve" some of the Indians still follow up their old customs and creeds, such as war dances and Indian assemblies. Out in the far west most of the Indians still retain their ancient modes of living, and do not mix with white men. We do not wear snow shoes, as there is not enough snow, but the travellers up north and among the mountains sometimes wear them. Some people go down the rapids in canoes, but I never have. The people of Canada are of English descent, except those of Quebec, who are French. I live in London, a city of 40,000 people. London is my birthplace. Here we have cement sidewalks (artificial stone sidewalks), electric street cars, manufactures of farm implements, boots and shoes, cigars, tobacco, buggys, wagons, etc. St. John, New Brunswick, where you wrote your letter to, is 900 miles east of here, and we cannot see the Rocky Mountains. Fifty miles is the farthest distance away at which they can be seen distinctly, and we are 2,000 miles away, and they are 2,900 miles away from them. To go to school I only have to climb the back fence, but I always go around by the back street. I go to school at a quarter to nine in the morning, and come home at 12 o'clock noon, and go a quarter after one in the afternoon, and come home at four o'clock. At school the studies I take up are arithmetic, history, of England and Canada, grammar, geography of all the world, drawing, writing, physiology, literature, reading, and spelling. We do not have drill or learn cookery in the public schools, but we have drill in our high schools. Our schools, from kindergarten to university, are free to all. Our school is a two-story brick building with ten rooms, a class in each room, and a teacher for each class. There are about 20 schools in London, and about 10,000 scholars attending the schools. The different schools of London are kindergarten, public schools, high school, business colleges, normal school, Helmeth College, and Universities. To go to the "Rockies" we travel westward; they are very beautiful with their streams, torrents, glaciers, and snow-capped mountains. The "Rockies" are classed among the finest scenery of Canada, but Niagara Falls is more beautiful, so beautiful that we cannot describe it. It has a fall of 160 feet. It is about 130 miles from here. There is a stone in the river just above a whirlpool, and those who pass this stone are beyond help, because the strong current draws them over the fall into the whirlpool. The stone is called "Past Redemption's Point." The minerals of Canada are gold, silver, copper, coal, iron, lead, and nickel. Our nickel mines are the most valuable in all the world. The farm products are:—The grains: wheat, oats, rye, barley, etc.; the fruits: apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, gooseberries, rasps, blackberries, thimbleberries, etc. Our fruit is very excellent and abundant. It is also cheap in fruit season. Our Government is the same as that of England. We have sent 2,500 men out to South Africa to fight. England will find in Canada a firm and true ally. The climate of British Columbia is the same as England. We live in the great lake regions of Canada. The great lakes are Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron, and Superior, which is the largest and most beautiful of all. It is 600 miles long and 200 miles wide. We hope Canada will be a great nation in time, as people from all over are coming to live in Canada. I am 12 years old and hope to be in the High School next term.—I remain, your Colonial friend,

LILY MAY BELL.
200, William Street, London,
Ontario, Canada.

LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE!!
N. ELSDON
IS AGAIN TO THE FRONT WITH HIS
Wines, Spirits, Mineral Waters, Ales, Stout, &c.

IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKY.

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.	Per ½ Gal.
2s 3d	3s 0d	12s 0d	6s 0d
2s 6d	3s 3d	14s 0d	7s 0d
2s 9d	3s 6d	16s 0d	8s 0d
3s 0d	3s 9d	17s 0d	8s 6d
3s 6d	4s 0d	18s 0d	9s 0d
	4s 6d	19s 0d	9s 6d
	5s 0d	21s 0d	10s 6d

RUM.

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.
2s 3d	3s 0d	12s 0d
2s 6d	3s 6d	14s 0d
3s 0d	4s 0d	16s 0d

SHERRY.

Per ½ Gal.	Per Bot.
6s 0d	1s 6d
7s 0d	2s 0d
8s 0d	2s 6d
	3s 0d

GIN,

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.	Per ½ Gal.
2s 3d	3s 0	13s 0d	6s 6d
2s 6d	4s 0	16s 0d	8s 0d

HOLLANDS:—3s per Bottle.

BRANDY.

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.	Per ½ Gal.
3s 0d	3s 9d	16s 0d	8s 0d
3s 3d	4s 6d	18s 0d	9s 0d
3s 6d	5s 0d	20s 0d	10s 0d
4s 0d	6s 0d	24s 0d	12s 0d
5s 0d			
6s 0d			

GINGER CORDIALS, &c., 1s 3d per Bottle. BLACK BEER, 1s 3d
GOOD PORT WINE, 1s 6d, 2s 3s, 4s, and 5s per Bottle.
FINE ALES (OCTOBER BREWINGS), IN BOTTLES.
PALE ALE ... 1s 6d per doz. Gills; Reputed Pints, 2s
MILD ALE ... " "
STOUT ... " "
BASS'S ALE ... 1s 9d per doz. Gills; 9-gal. Casks, 9s & 10s 6d
" ... 2s 9d per doz. Pints; 18-gal. Casks, 18s & 21s
SEND YOUR ORDERS BY POST and the Goods will be delivered promptly by my own men. Eight Vans on the road daily.
N. ELSDON.
DON'T FORGET THE ADDRESS:—NEAR THE NEW CONSETT STATION.

THE MEN AT HOME.

A WORD ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

Heavy responsibilities, usually in the form of wife and children, have alone restrained many men from offering themselves for service in South Africa, and thousands are fuming over the thought that they are not doing their share as Britons. But, by fulfilling their duty at home, these men are acting in the best way possible, though often that in itself becomes no easy matter. One case deserving of sympathy is that of a Leicester man named James Meason, living at 22, Middle Street. He is employed as "fettler" in a Leicester wool factory, and at an age when strong men are in their prime—forty years—he gradually fell sick and ailing.

"A great weakness came upon me," he said; "I lost my appetite, I became so debilitated that I could hardly walk about, and I lost two or three stone in weight. The complaint affected my chest and breath, and I suffered with a severe cough."

"I was under one medical man for nine months, but the nature of my illness was never stated on the certificates. I was just in that weak and sick state, not able to walk or get about; I was dreadfully worried, for I had never felt like it before. As time went on I became even worse, and the outlook was very gloomy for me, for doctors seemed to do me no good. I do not like to think what would have befallen me had not my mother persuaded me to try a box of Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people. She had read of many people cured by these pills, and bought the first lot for me. I commenced to take them, and by the time I had finished the contents of that box I began to feel stronger and better, and as though a weight had been lifted from my shoulders. I continued with the pills, taking six boxes altogether. Remember I had been laid up unable to work for nine months, but I went back to work after taking three boxes of Dr. Williams' pink pills. That was months ago, and I have been gaining my old strength and health ever since. I am as smart as any man at my work and I can truly say that I feel as right as possible. I've recommended Dr. Williams' pink pills to scores of people. They have done my wife good as well. For several years she suffered frequently with severe pains in her head, but the pills have set her up in health."

Mrs Measom, a lady forty-three years of age, confirmed the latter statement, stating: "We have tried all sorts of medicine, but nothing is like Dr Williams' pink pills. I had three boxes and they seemed to put new life into me." Here the interview ended.

The enthusiastic remarks of Mr and Mrs Measom afford clear proof of the beneficial effects of Dr. Williams' pink pills upon both men and women. The secret of their success lies in the fact that they cure the cause of weakness and disease, not merely acting to relieve the symptoms. In the case cited above Dr. Williams' pink pills restored tone to the nervous system and enriched the enfeebled blood. Acting the same way these pills have cured thousands of cases of anaemia, 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.

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:—

8,377. May 7th, 1900. T. H. Thomson, Whitley. Improvements in tubular locks.

8,401. May 7th, 1900. R. T. Blackett, Newcastle. An improved means of folding a crib or bedstead with mattress combined.

8,790. May 12th, 1900. E. Eugene-Brown, Newcastle. Improvements in dynamo electric machines.

DUNSTON.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—In aid of the proposed new Wesleyan Church a very successful tea was given by Mrs. C. Coulthard, on Wednesday last, which realised a good sum of money. In the evening an entertainment was held, at which a miscellaneous programme was rendered by a number of local ladies and gentlemen.

WHICKHAM.

OBSCENE LANGUAGE.—At the Gateshead County Police Court on Thursday, Wm. Spoor, Whickham, was summoned by P.C. Carr for using obscene language at Whickham. In the evening an entertainment was held. 5/- and costs—12/- in all.

INTERESTING PRESENTATION.—At the Crown Hotel, Whickham, an interesting ceremony took place, when a large number of friends assembled for the purpose of presenting Mr. W. Prior, with suitable presents on the occasion of his leaving the parish, after a residency extending over nine years, during which time he has served in the capacity of coachman to Miss Williamson. The gathering was presided over by Mr. George Proud, who, in the course of a humorous speech, said it was decided that their friend, Mr. Prior, should not leave the parish, without taking with him some tangible signs of the esteem and respect in which he was held by a wide circle of friends. Mr. Prior was a gentleman whom to know was to esteem—(Hear, hear)—and they all admired his amiable disposition. (Applause.) The recipient, during his long residence in the parish had made many friends, who now regretted his departure. (Hear, hear.) They would all join with him in expressing the sorrow they felt at losing such a valued colleague, whose presence was ever welcome. As a story teller he was unequalled, and they all loved to listen to his reminiscences. (Hear, hear.) He was rich in rhetoric, and could almost tell four narratives at once. (Laughter and applause.) The chairman then called upon Coun. R. T. Swinburn to make the presentation, which consisted of a brace of pipes, tobacco pouch, silver match box, and a goodly supply of tobacco.—Mr. Prior suitably responded. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.

WHICKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

SECOND CONCERT.

The members of the Whickham Choral Society have already an enviable reputation for good choral singing, but that reputation will be considerably enhanced by the creditable performance given by the members on Friday evening, when Edward Elgar's "Banner of St. George," and a well-drawn up miscellaneous programme, was submitted to a large and fashionable audience in the Whickham Parochial Schools, together with a composition, entitled "Men and brethren" from the words of Mr Wm. Allen, M.P., to music set by Mrs Wm. Brown, of Whickham. When the members of the society first announced their intention of directing their efforts to the "Banner of Saint George," the more sceptical doubted whether the society would prove themselves equal to the task they had set before them, but those who were present on Friday evening could not have helped but admire the creditable manner in which the members went through this intricate composition. Nothing but praise was heard on all hands, and never was praise more well merited. Not the slightest hitch was observable, and purity of volume, marked by excellent time, characterised the performance. Whickham was proud of its Choral Society, but it has now every reason to be doubly proud of its musical organisation. As to the work itself it might perhaps be mentioned that this was intended for the jubilee year, and although it has been rendered many times before, we believe that this is the first time that it has been submitted to a north country audience. It is pregnant with intricacies, and well calculated to test the merits of any society. Being a patriotic composition it was most appropriate for the occasion, and the entertainment was in it final stages when the glad news of the relief of Mafeking was heralded. The audience could hardly restrain themselves, but when the last notes were heard a deafening outburst of applause greeted the same. It was indeed a masterly performance, and one calculated to be long remembered by the music-loving community. It did infinite credit to a small village like Whickham, and will undoubtedly add still further lustre to the society's already golden reputation as a musical power in the district. The solo parts could not have been placed in more capable hands, the principals being Miss Maggie Wilson (soprano), Miss Marie Henri (contralto), Mr Maurice Pearce (tenor), and Mr John Heywood (bass.) The work under notice afforded plenty of scope for the principals, who proved themselves equal to their responsibilities, as was evidenced by the hearty applause bestowed upon them. Mr John Heywood in his rendition of "A soldier's song" clearly showed that he had not lost any of his power as a good baritone, but rather to the contrary. He was equally successful in "Simon the Cellarer." One of the features of the evening was a quartette and chorus, "Men and brethren." When it became known that the composition was to be presented at the society's entertainment, the submittal of the same was anxiously looked forward to, and not a few who were present had assembled ostensibly for the purpose of hearing the piece. It was entrusted to the four principals, who won for it the warmest approval of the audience, as was clearly demonstrated by the outburst of applause which greeted the last few notes. It has clearly brought before the public the talent of Mrs Brown as a successful musical composer, and all will be pleased to hear of her success. The congratulations which have been bestowed upon Mrs. Brown were truly well earned, and the village is proud at her success, and we join with her host of admirers in hoping that this may be the precursor to still further success, and that other equally brilliant work will emanate from her pen. Miss Maggie Wilson, who is a great favourite with Whickham audiences, sang in her customary able manner. Her efforts in "River dreams" and "Hushes" were much appreciated. Mr M. Pearce won the favour of his auditors in "I'll sing the song of Araby" and "An evening song." Miss M. Henri is endowed with a voice of rare sweetness, which was heard to advantage in "Gleaner's slumber song" and "Banks of Lock Lomond," both of which met with great acceptance. The entertainment proved the most successful ever given by the members of the society who are to be congratulated upon the brilliancy of execution, together with the purity of tone and volume that characterised their performance. To the conductor (Mr George Proud) every praise is due for the high state of efficiency that the members have attained under his guidance, and we have every reason to believe that still further success will attend their efforts. Mrs Proud discharged the duties of accompanist with consummate skill and ability. A pleasant feature were the decorations, which were most chaste. The emblem of St. George was most conspicuous upon the platform, while the breast of each member was adorned with an emblem, and even the very programmes and admission tickets were not allowed to escape attention. The members have worked hard to make the entertainment a success, and their efforts have been crowned with honour.

CONSETT.

GAS COMPANY'S SHARES.—There is amongst our advertisements this week announcement of a sale of the Shotley Bridge Gas Stock to take place on the 30th inst., at the New Town Hall, Consett. This is the first time the offering of shares by public auction has been adopted by this Company, and the idea of putting the minimum offer at £10 brings it within the power of any number of small investors to become shareholders in this concern.

CRAGHEAD.

PRESENTATIONS FOR BRAVERY.—At a well-attended public meeting held on Saturday night in the Miners' Union Lodge Room at the Craghead Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. John Wilson, M.P., the general secretary of the Durham Miners' Association, presented the Albert medals awarded by the Royal Humane Society to the three miners—Messrs Chris. Parnaby, Thomas Wilson, and Sydney Cooper—in recognition of their bravery in endeavouring to save the lives of some fellow-workmen in danger of being overcome by the fumes while at work in the shaft of the George Pit, Craghead, on Feb. 20th. The Rev. J. W. Ashton, curate of Holmside, also presented the three heroes with gold medals subscribed by the miners, while eight others (including P.C. Johnson) were the recipients of silver medals in appreciation of the assistance rendered on the same occasion. Selections of music were rendered at intervals.

APIOL and STEEL PILLS for females, a French remedy for all irregularities and obstructions, superseding bitter apple, pill cochiae pennyroyal, &c. Price 4/6 post free. Obtainable only from MARTIN, Foreign Chemist, SOUTHAMPTON.

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Burning Scaly
HUMOURS
Instantly Relieved by One Application of
CUTICURA

Warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, gentle anointings with CUTICURA Ointment, and full doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, will afford instant relief, permit rest and sleep, and point to a speedy, permanent, and economical cure when all else fails. Sold everywhere. Price, THE SET, 6s.; or CUTICURA SOAP, 1s.; OINTMENT, 2s. 6d.; RESOLVENT, 2s. 6d.; post. F. NEWBERY & SONS, London. E. C. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

MEDOMSLEY SCHOOL BOARD

The usual monthly meeting of this Board was held on Thursday evening, under the presidency of Mr. H. Palmer, J.P. (chairman.) Also present—Messrs W. R. Cooke, R. Moffitt, J. W. Jamieson, W. Robinson, W. Hogg, Rev. W. Cockin; and the Clerk (Mr. J. H. Coupland.)

HEAD TEACHERS' REPORTS.

Mr. J. W. Daniels reported as follows:—No. on roll, 315; admitted, 0; left, 7; average attendance, 282; average percentage, 88. During the last week I have examined the various classes, and have advanced 65 children a standard. These will remain in the upper standard if they attend regularly, so as to keep up with the new work.

Miss Watson reported:—No. on books, 199; admitted, 24; left, 3; average attendance, 154.5; average percentage, 78. The attendance is fairly regular, and steady progress is being made.

THE RELIEF OF MAFEKING.

A letter was read from Mr. Daniels asking whether it was the wish of the Board that, similar to other places, the children should be granted a day's holiday when the news of the relief of Mafeking came to hand?

The Chairman said the difficulty was how to know that the news was authentic? They had already celebrated the relief in many places. (Laughter.)

Mr. Cooke said he did not know about the teachers, but the children were expecting a holiday.

Mr. Hogg said supposing the news arrived about three o'clock in the afternoon they could not give the next day as a holiday.

The Chairman: Oh! no. The question was, how was Mr. Daniels to know that the news was correct? They would look very foolish if they gave the children a day's holiday and it turned out that the news was incorrect.

Mr. Robinson thought it best just to let matters go on as usual.

Mr. Moffitt agreed.

In reply to a question, Mr. Cockin said no arrangements had been made at Medomsley for giving the children holiday on the occasion of the relief of Mafeking.

The Chairman said the news had been given out from some pulpits.

Mr. Hogg: Then it should be correct. (Laughter.)

Mr. Robinson eventually moved that the Clerk be instructed to inform Mr. Daniels that the Board was not aware of any other schools in the district that had taken steps to give a holiday on the occasion, and they were not anxious to be the first, seeing that much uncertainty existed as to the authenticity of the reports.

Mr. Moffitt seconded the motion, which was carried.

THE ATTENDANCE.

The Attendance Officer (Mr. M. T. Milburn) reported that the total number on the books for all the schools was 1,129; average attendance, 962.; and the average percentage, 85.3.

NEW OUT-OFFICES.

The Chairman mentioned that Mr. Pawson, one of H.M. Inspectors had recommended that new out offices should be provided for the teachers, and kept private.

Mr. Robinson said this was a very desirable thing.

After further discussion, it was resolved that a committee consisting of Messrs Moffitt, Cooke, and Jamieson should examine the spot, consult with Mr. Daniels, and report to the Board.

HEATING APPARATUS.

Respecting the proposed improvements to the heating apparatus, a letter was read from Messrs Walker and Emley, offering to do the work for £39 15s, exclusive of mason or joiner work.

Mr. Robinson said the heating apparatus was going to be a dear affair.

Mr. Jamieson: It is not as much as I expected it would be.

Mr. Hogg said it would not be much improvement if all the windows were open the same as they were on the day they visited the school to inquire into the matter.

Mr. Cooke said one of the strongest points of the caretaker in applying for an advance was that he had to go at four o'clock in the morning. The engineer told them that six o'clock would be soon enough.

Mr. Robinson: If we are sure it will make a job of it it would be better to do it.

Mr. Cooke proposed that they accept the quotation.

Mr. Jamieson seconded. He supposed it was understood that it would be done before the cleaning of the school was started with.

The Clerk thought that it would not take more than a week to do it.

The motion was carried.

PAINTING THE SCHOOLS.

The Chairman said the schools had not been coloured inside for five years.

Mr. Hogg thought that they were not taking any serious harm. They might let it go till next year.

The Chairman: It is not in a bad state at all.

The Clerk said there was nothing done to the schools in 1893. It was only Mr. Daniels' house that was attended to.

The Chairman: If five years have elapsed since any painting was done to the outside it is time the wood work was seen to. We might ask the same three gentlemen who have been appointed the special committee to deal with the out-offices to examine the wood work outside, and if it wants painting to attend to it. We might leave the question of inside till next year.

Mr. Robinson moved that they adopt the Chairman's suggestion.

This was seconded by Mr. Cockin, and agreed to.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT.

The Clerk reported that the sum of £17 1s 10d had been received under this Act.

EVENING CLASSES.

The Chairman said that the grant for the evening classes came to £12 5s. The report stated that the schools continued to be successfully taught.

Mr. Cooke: But the profits are not large. (Laughter.) The expenses will be about £30.

The Chairman said it appeared to him that unless they could come to some arrangement at Crookwell it was useless to carry on the classes. It was no good having them at both places.

Mr. Cooke: It is just wasting money.

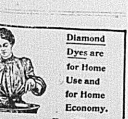
Mr. Moffitt: It is a dead waste.

FINANCES.

Cheques were signed for sums amounting to £96 14s 10d, after which the Board rose.

SWALWELL.

BAND OF HOPE.—The members of the Swalwell Band of Hope celebrated their 22nd anniversary on Saturday, when about 500 members processioned the village, headed by the Dunston Brass Band. In the afternoon a public tea was held in the Board Schools, at which the junior members and the widows in the village were entertained. In the evening a successful entertainment was held in the Presbyterian Church, at which an attractive programme was submitted.



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AUCTION MARTS

BLACKHILL.—There was an unusually busy day on Monday, Mr. Jackson Green having forward 129 fat sheep, 32 fat lambs, 23 fat beasts, 5 calves, 2 lots of pigs, and 4 horses from the Consett Iron Company, and various sundries. Fat cattle were a good trade, while sheep were not quite so brisk, but still there was a fairly satisfactory clearance at late rates. Lambs were a little easier. Prices:—Sheep: Mule hoggs to 55s 6d, top Mr. M. Anderson, Whitehall; half-bred hoggs to 53s 6d top Messrs Brewis, Whittonstall; ewes to 58s 6d, top Mr. A. Robson, Whinney House, and Messrs Annandale and Sons, Lintzford; fat lambs to 38s, top Low Waskerley Co-operative Farm; Mr. Ridley, Stocksfield 35s. Horses from £14 10s to £31. Pigs up to 25s 6d. Cattle: Heifers to £20 12s 6d, top, Messrs Brewis, Whittonstall; bullocks, £19 2s 6d, and £19 5s, top, Mr. J. Grahmn, Whittonstall Hall; fat cows to £19 15s, top, Mr. W Wilson; and calves to 53s, top Mrs. Suddes. Everything was cleared out.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr. James Turnbull held his usual fortnightly sale on Monday, and had forward 60 fat cattle, 72 fat sheep, 20 fat lambs, 2 veal calves. There was an entry of 25 as grand milk cows as could be seen. There was a small attendance of buyers for the same, and very few were sold. Cow buyers missed a good chance. Prices ruled from £15 to £17 10s. Fat cattle and sheep met a brisk trade. There was a large company present. Prime heifers to £24 2s 6d, top, Joicey and Co.; bullocks to £23 10s, top, Lee, High Carr House; Hedley Bros., heifers to £17, B to £14 5s; Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart., heifers, to £18 5s; Thornton Tribley, bullocks, to £17; Bell Bros., Holywell, bullocks to £21 10s; Stothard, Frankland, bullocks, to £20 15s; Webster, North House, bullocks, to £23 15s; Joicey and Co., Beech Grove, heifers, to £24 2s 6d; Joicey and Co., Pelton, bullocks, to £21 10s; Hutchinson, Bishop's Grange, heifers, £19 15s; Johnson, Low Urpeth, bullocks to £19 5s; Furness, Relly Farm, heifers, to £16 12s 6d; Lee, High Carr House, bullocks, to £23 10s; cows to £15 15s, Morris, Herrington, and Dixon, Sedgletch; lambs to 41s, top, Brewis, Waldridge; hoggs to 53s 6d, top, Bell Brothers, Holywell; a consignment of south-country hoggs made up to 52; ewes to 53s 6d, Rutter, White House; calves to 70s, top, Sir L. Wood, Rutter, White House, calf, 35s. Next sale, June 4th.

TOW LAW.—A special sale for store cattle and sheep was held on Thursday, when about 400 cattle and 1,000 sheep were presented for sale. The continued cold weather and want of grass tended to somewhat depress trade, and while a good clearance was effected, prices ruled altogether in favour of buyers. The sale commenced with the sheep at 10.45, and finished at 4.20. Mule ewes and lambs, 45s to 53s; gimmers, 35s to 42s; BF ewes and lambs, 16s 6d to 30s per couple; mule hoggs, 22s 6d to 34s 6d; BF wethers, to 21s; BF wether hoggs to 13s; BF gimmer hoggs, 15s to 22s 6d. Geld cows, £9 10s to £15 5s; SH steers, £11 10s to £14; do. heifers, £10 10s to £13 15s; stirks, £5 to £9 10s; blue-grey heifers to £13 10s; do. steers to £11 15s; bull stirks to £12.

Mr. Vickers had forward 40 dairy cows and heifers on Monday, 8 fat cattle, 12 calves, 80 fat sheep and hoggs, 18 fat lambs. Calved cows, £12 10s to £18 7s 6d; incalving heifers, £11 15s to £15 10s; incalving cows, £13 17s 6d to £18 10s; fat cattle to £17 15s, from Mr. W. Vickers, Eastgate; £16 12s 6d, from Messrs Johnson, Fawnlees; £15 5s, from Mrs. Craddock, Sunnybrow; £15, from Mr. J. Craig, Frosterley; £10, from Mr. F. Phillipson, Eastgate; calves from 25s to 39s each; fat sheep to 60s, from Mr. J. Emerson, Willow Green; 58s, from Mrs. Reed, Newlandside; 52s, from Mr. J. Coates, Wolsingham; 44s 6d, from Mr. J. Keenleyside, Hamsteels; 39s, from Mr. W. Newton, Coves House; 56s, from Mr. Reed, Intake; fat hoggs to 62s, from Mr. J. Keenleyside, Hamsteels; 47s, from Mr. F. Sanderson; 49s 6d from Mr. Gibson, Bewdley; 43s, from Messrs R. and G. Storey, Stob's House; fat lambs to 34s, from Mr. J. Allison, St. John's Chapel; 30s, from Mr. Coulthard, Westgate; 37s, from Mr. R. Hall, Old Park; 30s, from Mr. F. Holmes, New House; 28s 6d, from Mr. J. Craig, Elm Park; young pigs to 28s 6d each. Good trade all round. Beef, 8s to 8s 6d per stone; mutton, 10d per lb.; lamb, 11d to 1s per lb.

What ho!
CORNS?
ALLCOCK'S
CORN PLASTERS
relieve at once, and cure in a short time—by removing the pressure and extracting the Corn.

ALLCOCK'S PLASTERS
for Aches, Pains & Strains.

ANOTHER DIPTON MAN AT THE FRONT.

BREAD VERY DEAR.

EGGS THREE SHILLINGS EACH.

The following interesting letters have been received by Mr. Robert Calvert, 5, South Medomsley Cottages, Dipton, R.S.O., from his son, Private Joseph William Calvert, of the A Company of the 3rd Durham Light Infantry:—

Springfontein.
South Africa,
April 27th, 1900.

Dear Father, Mother, Wife, Sisters, and Brothers,—I write these few lines hoping to find you well, as it leaves me very good in health, but with very bad feet, for we have had a ten days' march with 104 waggons and 16 cows in each waggon, and only biscuits all the way. We have got to where we can buy some bread, but it is very dear, for you pay 2s 6d for as much as will just do your breakfast. However, we are glad to get it, I can tell you, and we are going to have a day or two's rest, and then we go for the last. And I wish it was to-day we were at it again, for you are more fretting when you are waiting for them than you are when you are fighting, for it is just like being at some sports to hear the shouting and shots going off. If you could get plenty to eat—but we do not get half plenty—and all the talk is of coming home now. I went into a shop for two eggs, and they cost 3s each, so when the war is over I think 5s at home is better than £1 out here. But the man told me I was in the land of gold, and I told him that I thought I was when I could pay 6s for two eggs. It is very hot yet, though it is the middle of winter, so what will it be in summer? I would like to see a white man or woman who has just left home, so I could see what I looked like, for I have not had a shave for three months, and only a wash every four days. I think everybody in England will like to see me—it will be like going to a show—but thank God we shan't be long now, and the sooner the better. Wishing you all my best wishes at home, and living in hopes that I will be home very soon after this letter.

April 29th, 1900.

Dear Father, Mother, Wife, Sisters, and Brothers,—I write to let you know that I got your letter, and was very glad to hear that you are all in good health, and to know that you got the things all right. Everything is so dear up the country that you can hardly live, for we have to pay 2s 6d for a very little bit of bread, and are very glad to buy it at that price, for we have been at places where we could not buy it at any price, and water is as scarce as money. We have to drink out of the same places as the horses. It is very hard for us too, for we only get two hours sleep out of every twelve, that is when we are waiting for the Boers, so it is better when you are fighting all the time, for then you know what you have to do; but it is fun when you are on a hill and them on the flat, for they have had a lot of that, so I think it is my turn for a little hill now. Tell Ned I will fetch a lot of Kruger's money home with me, and tell Jack Foster I was asking after him and Mr and Mrs Glenwright, and that I wish I was at the bar if I was only getting my pipe.

A GENUINE CURE
For Coughs, Bronchitis, Influenza, Asthma, and Whooping Cough.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE is the most successful remedy in England, vastly superior to the host of common, cheap cough mixtures or any of the emulsions. It cures as if by some mysterious power, even in seemingly hopeless cases. Ask for VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE, and see you get it. 1/1½ and 2/9. Sold by Dawson, Chemist, and Consett Co-operative Society, and all chemists everywhere.

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. 359a.

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.

MINERS AND THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Sir,—The following resolution was carried unanimously at our lodge meeting:—"We fully expected the Durham Miners' Council would have taken steps to obtain a holiday right through the county on the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. As they have not done so, we think the workmen should try to get the owners to make that day a holiday, as an expression of loyalty to Her Majesty and to the gallant men who are fighting for country and Queen in South Africa."—I am, etc.,

JOHN WARWICK,
Secretary East Tanfield Lodge,
May 18th, 1900.

WEST STANLEY CO-OPERATIVE STORE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Dear Sir,—A special meeting of this society was held on Saturday night. The first business was, why the policemen had been permitted into the hall to look through the windows to watch bookmakers in the street; and I think to every proper question asked a satisfactory answer was given; but I do think some things that were said were far from the point. I very much felt for the Chairman, Secretary, and the committee. Some of the members at the meeting seemed to have no respect for the feelings of the officials. I have been a member of the above store about 20 years, and I have always looked upon it as one of the best managed stores in the country. I consider we have always been very fortunate in having good committee men, secretary, and treasurer. Through good management the store has prospered every year, and a steady, increasing business has been maintained, so I think this reflects great credit on our managers. I hope the next meeting that is held will have in it a kindly spirit.—Yours, &c.,

W.M.

Andrew's House, May 21st, 1900.

WHAT VERDICT ON TYPHOID INOCULATION?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Sir,—Notwithstanding the suffering and deterioration to which our soldiers were subjected by their wholesale inoculation with typhoid serum, enteric fever has been and is still making fearful havoc amongst both officers and men in South Africa. According to a writer in the "New York Herald," who received the information from a well-known general in London the other day, nearly every officer of the Household Brigade has been suffering from it. Yet no statistics are furnished of the proportion which the inoculated bear to the uninoculated who have been attacked, or of recoveries of fatalities. As the vaccine was vaunted as a prophylactic against this deadly disease, and on the strength of the medical guarantee the men were allured into submitting to the painful and loathsome expedient, which rendered some so ill that on reaching the Cape they had to be sent home again as unfit for service, and incapacitated all for some days, it is the duty of the British Government to make full investigation into the results of the experiment, that the nation may be enabled to form its own independent judgment upon the protective efficacy of the nostrum, and the justifiability of its employment. Should the evidence show that it has been useless or worse than useless, a grave reponsibility rests upon those who without more adequate data than their own self-confident assumptions, have imposed this risky and objectionable ordeal upon our army. Anti-toxins like other commodities must be judged by their effects, and not by the opinions of those who are interested in exploiting them.—I am, sir, yours truly,

COURTNEY BRAKE.
69, Cromwell Road,
Montpelier, Bristol.

OVERTIRED?
Take a Bath to which a little
CONDY'S FLUID
Has been added.
The Invigorating Effect is Magical.
ALL SUBSTITUTES ARE INFERIOR.
Insist on buying "CONDY'S FLUID."
Of all Chemists and Stores at 1/- per bottle.

CONSETT SWIFTS FOOTBALL CLUB

Annual Meeting

On Saturday night the annual meeting of the Consett Swifts Football Club was held in the Queen's Head Hotel, Middle Street, in the room set apart for the use of the members of the club. Mr T. Henderson presided.

BALANCE SHEET.

Mr W. Reed, secretary, submitted the balance sheet, which showed that the expenditure had been £126 7s 2½d, and the income £121 18s 4½d, leaving a debit balance of £4 8s 10d on the year's working. The gate receipts amounted to £43 11s 4½d, and the travelling expenses to £34 0s 8d.

Mr Batey moved that the report be adopted, which was seconded by Mr H. McArdle.

Mr J. McArdle explained that the debt was about wiped off already.

The report was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

On the motion of Mr Batey, seconded by Mr McArdle, Mr J. Petherick was unanimously re-elected president.

The following vice-presidents were elected:—Messrs B. Mullen, J. Massey, P. O'Neil, J. Collins, and R. Franklin together with those already on the list.

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Mr Wm. Reed as secretary, and referred to the good work he had done during the past year.

Mr Batey seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mr J. McArdle proposed Mr R. Russell as treasurer, and the proposal was adopted.

Mr Robt. Wake was elected captain of the first team, and Mr J. Turley vice-captain. The election of captain of the second team was left in the hands of the committee.

The following were elected on the committee:—Messrs J. Finnigan, J. Batey, J. McArdle, T. Henderson, A. Frosdick, P. Smith, J. Walton, J. Little, J. Rafferty, C. Tennant, T. Allison, T. Grayson, and J. Faulkner.

FUTURE MATCHES.

The Chairman said he had now to ask them what Leagues they proposed joining for the next season. He thought they ought to apply for the Northern Alliance. The Northern League was no good, as it was more costly than otherwise.

Mr Massey proposed that they apply for admission to the Northern Alliance, and the motion having been seconded by Mr McArdle was agreed to.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The Chairman said the next item on the agenda was general business. It had been suggested that they should have some athletic sports, and he did not see why they should not. They had a field, and there was nothing to stop them. They would require some guarantors to make the sports a success. As a club they had not money in hand to do it.

On the motion of Mr McArdle, seconded by Mr Batey, it was resolved that sports should be held, and it was also decided to make arrangements at a subsequent meeting.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE MOST NUTRITIOUS.
EPPS'S
GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.
COCOA
BREAKFAST—SUPPER.

ALARMING FIRE AT BEAMISH

CO-OPERATIVE STORES DESTROYED.

NARROW ESCAPES.

One of the most destructive fires that has occured in the Beamish district during the last few years broke out on Wednesday evening week, the property involved being the Co-operative Store premises situate at Co-operative Villas, No Place, near Beamish. A couple of families named Gowland and Batey occupy two rooms each above the store, and it was in one of these that the fire was first discovered. At about twenty minutes past seven o'clock Thomas Batey—one of the tenants upstairs—detected a smell of something burning, and upon removing a portion of oilcloth near the fire place, smoke began to issue through the boards. Almost simultaneously two men named John Hogg and Henry Brennan, who were standing close by, also noticed smoke issuing from the premises. The alarm was quickly given and soon a number of willing workers were upon the spot. The fire seems to have spread with great rapidity, for in a very short space of time the place was in flames. Efforts were at once directed to save the belongings of the two families residing above the store, but it was found that the apartments occupied by Gowland and his wife were locked up and admittance could not be gained. The man Gowland was at work at Chophill Pit at the time of the occurrence, and was shocked to find upon his return that all his household effects, &c., had been destroyed. Despite the best efforts of those present practically the whole of the furniture, &c., belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Batey was destroyed, only a few chairs &c., being saved. This family intended removing to South Shields on the following day, and part of their furniture had already been packed up for the journey. A miner named Henry Brennan, who went to assist in removing the furniture from Batey's house, had a narrow escape. This man, along with another person named John Hogg, was endeavouring to remove a heavy piece of furniture from the house when it became fast in the doorway. Brennan was at the inmost side, and became overpowered with the smoke. The piece of furniture had to be pushed back into the room before Brennan could be removed from his dangerous position, which was done with all haste. Meanwhile Mr. Robert Cranston had proceeded to Stanley to apprise the members of the Stanley Fire Brigade, which arrived later on under the charge of Mr. Routledge. Mr. Frazer, the manager at the store, was also intimated of the occurrence, and lost no time in putting in an appearance. Sergeant Wynn (Pelton), together with P. C's Lawson (Beamish), Thomas (High Stanley), Ferguson (Shield Row), and Flegg (West Pelton), were also present, and worked energetically to subdue the flames, along with the villagers. Little more than five minutes elapsed before the Co-operative Store was in flames. It was known that a very large quantity of oil was stored upon the premises, and Mr. Robert Cranston, the popular landlord of the Red Robin Inn, made a gallant attempt to reach the oil but he was repulsed by the flames, and had to return. Ten minutes after the fire had been discovered the oil comprising 130 gallons, exploded with a terrific report, carrying away the roof, and scattering glass in all directions. An old woman named Morley, about eighty years of age, was cut about the arm by some falling glass, and the following day it was found necessary to put six stitches in the wound. When the oil exploded this had a terrifying effect upon the hundreds of people who had assembled, and a great rush was made away from the buildings. The fire continued to rage, and in a remarkably short space of time the Co-operative Store and the four rooms upstairs, occupied by Gowland and Batey, were completely gutted. Only a small quantity of the stock in the store could be saved. The fire was not got under until about ten o'clock, and even on Saturday the place was still smouldering. The premises were erected about two-and-a-half years ago by the West Pelton Co-operative Society, and damage to the amount of about £1,500 is estimated to have been done, part of which is covered by insurance. The fire is presumed to have originated from a beam located beneath the fire place in the house occupied by Batey. We understand that efforts are being made with a view to raising money to hand over to those who have suffered in consequence of the fire.

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

SKINNY MEN.—"Wells' Health Renewer." Greatest remedy on earth for dyspepsia, nervous weakness, indigestion, impotence of mind, limb or vital functions, mental and physical decline. All Chemists.

FLORILINE!—FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH. Thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasites or impurities, hardens the gums, prevents tartar, stops decay, and gives to the teeth a peculiar pearly whiteness and a delightful fragrance to the breath. Price 2s 6d for the liquid, or 1s per jar for the Floriline "Powder," of all Chemists and Druggists.

HOW'S YOUR LIVER? Why I never know I have one now, as I always keep a bottle of PATTRICK'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 PATTRICK, CHEMIST, 5, Front Street, Consett, who can cure almost any complaint. 371e.

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, remove all obstructions, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes, 1s 1½d and 2s 9d (contains three times the quantity), of all Chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 stamps, by E. T. TOWLE & Co., Manufacturers, Dryden Street, Nottingham. Beware of Imitations injurious and worthless. 823s

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DR. BARDSLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS—for eradicating all impurities of the blood from the system they have no equal. They have never failed to effect a cure, giving tone and strength to the system debilitated by disease. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 1s 1½d and 2s 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggist, Manchester.

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THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year, more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism.

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably, the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. Their effects are truly wonderful, and hundreds are happy today who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma, Loss of Voice, Hay Fevers, Hoarseness, Croup, or any other affections whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pills positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only cure for Throat and Lung affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d and 2/9. Boxes sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. William Mather, Wholesale Druggist, Manchester.

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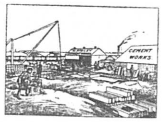

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ESTIMATES FREE.

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CONSUMPTION
CURE

G. Handyside gives his Medicine Free every Saturday from 2 p.m. till 4 p.m., at 12, Bentinck Crescent, Elswick Road, Newcastle, for 3 months to all who are unable to pay for it—(and those who have tried and failed)—for Consumption, Kidney Disease, Sleeplessness, Looseness of the Bowels, Cancer, Tumours, Bladder Diseases, and Rheumatism, indeed all diseases under the sun. Two remarkable cases have been cured lately. One was Blindness from debility. The reporter to the "Jarrow Guardian" came into the consulting room and saw the lady who was blind from debility, and he again saw after she was restored to sight. The case was made public through the "Jarrow Guardian." The cause of the Blindness was debility of the organs of sight. They were strengthened and the sight was restored. Blindness being produced by defective organs it will not cure, but there are thousands of people who can be cured who are blind from debility. The next marvellous case was one of Bladder Disease which was caused was all irritated gland at the bottom of the bladder. The irritation was removed, and the water is passed freely, and quite clear. About half of the cases of Cancer and Tumour have been cured, but in all cases where they have not been cured the agony and pain has been considerably reduced. This is a very dear medicine, and a good many people cannot afford to buy a sufficient quantity to cure bad cases. Cancer and Consumption often takes six months to cure them, and the medicine will cost 8/- a month, which thousands cannot afford to pay. I know of a case in York, where a person bought four lots of Consumption Cure, and it brought her out of bed, when her doctor had given her up. Her mother said to my agent—"The medicine I bought of you is curing my daughter, but our funds are exhausted. What is to be done?" I know of several similar distressing cases. No such cases need occur. It is given away freely every Saturday, and those who cannot believe the marvellous things this medicine does are welcome to come and see for themselves, for all the patients are glad to relate the change it has effected in them. Those who reside too far away to come for the medicine themselves, I will give it to any of their friends, and they can send it. This is a great boon to the working classes, and they should know its marvellous power, for when the head of the house is laid in bed with sickness, poverty and pinching dwells in their homes. For those who live too far away to come and see for themselves I will ask newspaper reporters to report the cases. If any factory employing above 500 elect a man to come to the dispensaries I will be glad to pay all the expenses in coming, and also pay for his time. One missionary in Glasgow came to me, and said he had heard of such remarkable cures by Handyside's Consumption Cure that he would like to know something more about the medicine. I replied to him that I was just going to dispense the Medicine, and he was welcome to come and hear what the people said it had done for them. I gave the Medicine away for two hours. I asked him what he thought of the power of this medicine, and he replied, that had anyone swore what he had heard he could not have believed it. Another one went to Sunderland, and heard from the people's own lips the cure of blindness through debility, being restored to sight, Cancer being cured, huge ulcers of the legs healed up, Consumption cases quite jaunty and gay, his amazement was so great that he could scarcely sleep. A person who went to my dispensary in Leeds, wrote to me and congratulated me on the Medicine and said it really looked as if Jesus Christ had come back to earth again. A layman of the Church of England entered a railway carriage in London where one of my assistants and I were sitting. He complimented my assistant on the wonderful work this medicine was doing. He continued, "had I not seen week after week the wonderful results I never could have believed it." When he was told that I was the owner of the Consumption Cure, he lifted his hat, and said, "I should be the happiest man in the world to be able to relieve so much suffering." I could mention several hundreds of similar cases, but to believe these miracles they must be seen. All that is needed to obtain this medicine is a note from any of their neighbours, to certify that the person has been under doctors' treatment and has not been cured. I will give my Handyside's Medicine for Bloodlessness. Youths of both sexes from 12 to 15 years old are often troubled with it. I have known several cases where Consumption was setting in perfectly cured by this medicine. [illegible] cured in early life, and prevent [illegible] high position [illegible] required.

"BUCHU-PAIBA."—Complete cure of all kidney and kindred diseases, irritation, inflammation. Of Chemists. F. NEWBERY & SONS, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

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VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or falling off use the MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER, for it will positively restore in every case, grey or white hair to its original colour. It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth. Price 3s 6d. per bottle.

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MR. PARSONS. 67a, CUTLERS' HALL ROAD, BLACKHILL FEBRUARY 23rd, 1900.

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I remain, a Wellwisher,
Miss POSTLE.

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DR. BELL'S TREATISE ON LIVER, p. 121.—"I believe I shall not err in saying, that when the disorders of the Liver are considered in their real extent, fully three-fourths of Diseases 'Liver Complaints,' they lay the foundation of the Consumption which occurs in this country."

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ARE WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.
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Cure Jaundice, Lumbago, &c.
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For Gravel, Scurvy and Scrofula.
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[illegible]
(Signed) W. HOWE, 2nd Royal Fusiliers, Field Force, Natal."
UNPRECEDENTED VALUE. EXTRAORDINARY SUPERIORITY, and an IMPORTANT CASH SAVING [illegible]
H. SAMUEL [illegible] "ACME" PATENT LEVER [illegible]
HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT [illegible]
SPECIAL FREE BONUS GIFT
[illegible]
SEND TO-DAY TO
H. SAMUEL, Dept. No. 214 [illegible] MANCHESTER.

ENGLISH'S
BUY IN BRADFORD.

A BIG LOT OF BLACK DRESS GOODS.
AT MUCH UNDER PRESENT MARKET PRICES.
ON

SATURDAY, MAY 26th. AND FOLLOWING DAYS

We shall offer for Sale an Extra Special Lot of
BLACK DRESS GOODS, ALL FASHIONABLE MATERIALS.
Which we have Bought in Bradford, at much below their present Market Value.
WE HAVE MARKED THE WHOLE LOT IN PLAIN FIGURES, at
EXTRAORDINARY LOW PRICES.

PLAIN BLACK ALPACAS (Double Width.)
Prices if bought at Ordinary Prices, 1s. 9d. and 2s. 9d.
English's Special Sale Prices, 1s. 4d. and 2s. 2d.

BLACK FIGURED ALPACAS (Double Width.)
NOW SO VERY FASHIONABLE.
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BLACK FIGURED DRESS MATERIALS.
Prices if bought at Ordinary Prices, 1s. 9½d.; 1s. 11½d.; 2s. 6d.; 2s. 9d.
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N.B.—The above are all SPECIAL LINES, and CANNOT BE REPEATED. We therefore advise all our Lady Friends who are desirous of Buying Fashionable Black Dress Materials at Extraordinary Low Prices, TO BUY EARLY, as the best BARGAINS ARE ALWAYS Sold First.

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS SEE BILLS.

ROBERT ENGLISH.

CHESTER-LE-STREET PETTY SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, May 23rd, 1900.—Before Mr. C. F. Forster (presiding), Mr. F. S. Newall, and Mr. H. Armstrong.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Benjamin Dawson, Frank Burn, and Thos. Trotter were proceeded against by P.C. Buckley for fighting at Chester-le-Street on the 13th inst.—The defendants were bound over to keep the peace for six months in the sum of £5, and were ordered to pay the costs.

Wm. Fenwick and Michael Willis were summoned by P.C. Jeff for a similar offence at Chester Moor on the 15th inst.—The defendants were bound over to keep the peace for six months in the sum of £5, and ordered to pay the costs.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Edward Wakefield, Thomas Weedy, Wm. Wakefield, James Georgeson, and Joseph Fletcher were charged with doing wilful damage to meadow grass the property of Robert Ayre, farmer, Birtley.—The defendants were fined 1/-, 1d damage, and costs.

DAMAGE TO MEADOW GRASS.

Stephen Robson and George Jackson were charged with doing wilful damage to meadow grass, the property of Lord Dunsaney and Partners.—A fine of 1/-, 1d damage, and costs was imposed.

James Heyes was charged with doing wilful damage to meadow seed, the property of Wm. Thompson, Pelton Farm.—It was stated the damage was caused by the defendants taking a short road to work.—The accused was fined 1/-, 1d damage, and costs.

PITCH AND TOSS.

Thomas Featherly, Garalot Elliott, Wm. Towers, Thomas Oliver, Henry Oakfield, Robert Ford, and Joseph Wilson were charged with laying at pitch and toss at Birtley.—P.C. Martin prosecuted.—The whole of the defendants were each fined 2/6 and costs.

Thomas McAvoy, John Henderson, John McNite, Thomas Kelly, and John Wm. Chapman were summoned by P.C. Martin for playing at pitch and toss at Birtley, on the 15th inst.—The defendants were each fined 2/6 and costs.

Joseph Stevens and John Wm. Chapman were summoned by P. C. Martin for playing at pitch and toss at Birtley on the 12th inst.—Each defendant was fined 2/6 and costs.

Wm. Liddle, Matthew Peel, Robert Redshaw, and John Barron were summoned by P.C. Meehan for playing at pitch and toss at Birtley.—The defendants were fined 2/6 and costs each.

GAMING WITH CARDS.

John Douglass was proceeded against by P.C. Meehan for gaming with cards on the 12th inst. near Team Colliery.—The accused was fined 1/- and costs.

COWARDLY ASSAULT UPON A WOMAN.

Wm. Hall was summoned by Mary Ann Hanson for assault. Mr. H. E. Ferens, Durham, who appeared to prosecute, stated that on Saturday night, the 12th inst., at about 11.45 the defendant, who had previously lodged with the complainant, came and knocked at complainant's door. Mrs. Hanson answered the knock and told the defendant to go away, whereupon he struck at her, knocking one of her teeth out, and cutting her lip, in consequence of which three stitches had to be put in. The complainant's husband came out and rushed the defendant out of the yard, into the road, where they had a "scuffle."—The defendant was fined 20/- and costs.

REFUSING TO QUIT.

John Duckshield was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of John Hardy, situated at Birtley, and further, with assaulting John Hardy.—The prosecutor stated that on the 7th inst, at about 10.30 p.m., the defendant came into his licensed premises in a drunken condition. The accused asked for drink, but was refused, and had to be ejected. While prosecutor was ejecting the accused he was struck two or three blows by the defendant.—The accused was fined 5/- and costs in each case.

ALLEGED ASSAULT.

Wm. Thompson summoned Robert Cowley for alleged assault at Chester-le-Street, on the 13th inst.—The prosecutor explained that the defendant, who had married his daughter, and resided in a room belonging to him, came up to him and wanted to fight. Prosecutor told the accused to go away, but he refused. The defendant then shoved him about the house. Prosecutor took a stick and "brayed" the defendant out.—The Bench dismissed the case.

NEIGHBOURS QUARREL.

Mary Oliver was summoned by Isabel Harvey for alleged assault at Chester-le-Street on the 7th inst. A cross-summons was issued against Harvey, charging her with assault. Mr. Fred Harle represented Harvey.—The case against Harvey was taken first.—Mrs. Oliver deposed that the defendant came and shook her mat near her house, which caused a lot of dust to go into the pantry. The accused subsequently came with a shovel full of soot, part of which went into the house, and spoiled some food. On the following day the accused called her bad names, and struck her.—Mr. Harle denied the offence.— The case was dismissed.—The charge against Mary Oliver was next taken, and the defendant was fined 10/- and costs.

ALLEGED GAME TRESPASS.

Thomas Walker and Joseph Hunter were charged with trespassing in search of game at Lamesley, on the 9th inst, on land in the occupation of Earl Ravensworth.—A gamekeeper deposed that he saw Walker, who had a gun in his hand, creeping towards a pheasant. Hunter was standing upon the roadway, and when Walker came away from the land he gave the gun to Hunter, and they subsequently ran away.—The charges were dismissed.

POOR LAW ACT.

Joseph Wilson was summoned at the instance of the Chester-le-Street Guardians to show cause why he should not contribute to the maintenance of his father, now chargeable to the Chester-le-Street Guardians.—An order for 1/- per week was granted.

HIGHWAY ACT.

John Miller was charged with a contravention of the Highway Act by riding a bicycle upon a footpath at Harraton, on the 8th inst.—A fine of 5/- and costs was imposed.

ALLEGED THREATS.

Robert Cowley was charged with using threats to his wife, Eliz. Ann Cowley, at Edmondsley.—The complainant said that the defendant had made up his mind not to use threats any more.—The defendant was bound over in the sum of £5.

GAMING WITH DICE.

Robert Crozier was summoned by P.C. Wise for gaming with dice at Birtley sports on the 12th inst.—The accused was fined 10/- and costs.

APIOL and STEEL PILLS for females a French remedy for all irregularities and obstructions, superseding bitter apple, pill cochia, pennyroyal, &c. Price 4/6 post free. Obtainable only from MARTIN, Foreign Chemist, SOUTHAMPTON.

HINTS FOR THE HOME

A GLASS OF WATER AT BEDTIME.

The human body is constantly undergoing tissue changes. Water has the power of increasing these changes, which multiply the waste products, but at the same time they are removed by its agency, giving rise to increased appetite, which in turn provides fresh nutriment. If you do not accustom yourself to drink water regularly, you are liable to have the waste products form faster than they are removed. Any obstruction to the free working of natural laws at once produces disease. Great weakness and languor on rising in the morning is generally due to a large secretion of these waste products, and the remedy is to drink a tumblerful of water—either hot or cold—just before retiring. This materially assists in the process during the night, and leaves the tissues fresh and strong, ready for the active work of the next day.

WHERE TO KEEP A MACINTOSH.

Woful is often the fate of a macintosh cloak, which always costs a certain amount of solid money, however cheaply we may get it. We wear it for an infrequent interval, and then, to our worry, we find that it has grown stiff and rigid, and almost stands alone. And, do what we will, it crackles dismally at every turn. To prevent such an undesirable state of affairs, we should remember these few rules: Never to hang it up in too dry a room; never to let it be dried in front of a fire or in the kitchen; always hang it up on a nail on a door or wall; never shut it up in a cupboard; and never attempt to fold it up when at all damp. A little oil rubbed into the macintosh will often soften it when hard.

LONG ENGAGEMENTS.

These are most certainly, if possible, to be avoided, especially if the young people live in the same place. Indeed, it is well to consider it a rule that no man should propose to a girl unless he has a definite prospect of offering her a home in about a year. Long, aimless, indefinite engagements generally end in one or both thinking they have made a mistake, going dragging on from an idea of honour, and marrying, when they do, with no capital of love with which to pay the claims of married life. If not this, there is a broken engagement, the best years and chances of a girl's life wasted, or a man embittered against all women. So, with rare exceptions, though there may be an understanding, there should not be a binding engagement entered into without a reasonably early prospect of marriage.

A CHEAP EVENING WRAP.

Unless one's purse or one's credit is very long, it is quite hopeless to sigh after the exquisite wraps that more fortunate women don when they go out in the evening—creations of silk and lace and fur that would take our dress allowance for the next ten or twelve years even to approach. But girls must have a wrap of some kind, and, of course, they want to look nice. So the prettiest thing to make is a shoulder-cape of grey cashmere, lined with cheap silk of a pale pink or yellow shade. Make a collar, covered with piece lace, and just a ribbon bow, with long ends at the neck, and fasten with hooks and eyes. In this you can defy criticism.

EATING BEFORE SLEEPING.

A short time since physicians held the eating of food immediately before retiring as almost a crime. The old theory is quite exploded. One medical journal, in commenting on the subject recently, said that while it is not good, as a matter of fact, to go to bed with the stomach so loaded that the undigested food will render one restless, still, something of a light, palatable nature in the stomach is one of the best aids to quietude and rest. The process of digestion goes on in sleep with much regularity, and so something in the stomach is very desirable for the night's rest. Some physicians have declared, indeed, that a good deal of the prevalent insomnia is the result of an unconscious craving of the stomach for food in persons who have been unduly frightened by the opinion that they must not eat before going to bed, or who have, like many nervous women, been keeping themselves in a state of semi-starvation. Nothing is more agreeable on retiring for the night than to take a small bowl of hot broth, oatmeal gruel, or some good, nourishing soup. It is a positive aid to nervous people, and induces peaceful slumbers. This is especially the case during cold winter nights, when the stomach craves warmth as much as any other part of the body. Even a glass of hot milk is grateful to the palate on such occasions, but a bowl of light, well-cooked gruel is better, and during the cold months of winter should be the retiring food of every woman who feels, as many do, the need of food and warmth at night.

FOR FALLING HAIR.

For falling off of the hair use directly on the scalp every night before retiring a preparation of five parts of olive oil and one part of eau-de-Cologne; the latter will evaporate at once, leaving the oil on the scalp. Do not use too much. Follow up the treatment about six weeks, then discontinue; go bareheaded all you can; use a light, well-ventilated hat when you must wear one; cut ends of the hair occasionally; invigorate your health by living more out of doors.

EFFECTS OF SUNSHINE.

The depressing effect of a week of cloudy weather is not felt alone by human beings, but the whole animal world as well. Cattle go moping around, horses put on a forlorn, forsaken look, the birds refuse to sing, the crows fly about giving voice to their discontent in mournful "caws," and everything, both great and small, shews the effect of cloudy, gloomy days, with nothing to brighten them up. But let a day of sunshine come, and behold the change! People meet each other with smiling, happy faces, the horses toss their heads and caper away over the hills, playful and happy, the birds sing as though it were the first day of creation, insects hum, and all nature is joyful. If the change from clouds to brightness is manifested so plainly in all things that live outdoors, why is it, asks *Enquire Within*, that so many people will persist in shutting up their houses as if the blessed sunshine carried a pestilence in its glorious beams, instead of bringing health and comfort?

TASTY TINNED MEAT DISHES.

Tinned meat may be made tasty by adding various seasonings when concocting pies, stews, or other dishes. It is nice served cold when there is plenty of stiff jelly round it to keep it in shape, and must be cut with a sharp knife, so as not to drag or tear it. Garnish it with sliced beetroot and hard-boiled egg. For those who like curry, the meat should be shredded with a fork and placed in a curry sauce made with curry-powder and the melted jelly which surrounded the meat in the tin. When quite hot, it should be dished and served with a border of rice. It needs scarcely any cooking, as it has already been thoroughly cooked. A good brand should invariably be selected. It makes a good Irish stew or Cornish pasty. For the latter it must be chopped small, mixed with potatoes, turnips, or other vegetables, seasoned to taste, placed in pastry, baked in a hot oven, and served with some good, thick gravy.

To make a good meat pie with tinned meat, melt the jelly, pour it into a saucepan, and boil up, with a chopped onion added to it. Then add a little gelatine previously soaked in a tablespoonful of cold water. Place the meat in a pie-dish, pour the gravy over it, and put one or two slices of cooked ham or bacon on the top. Add a little pepper, salt, and pieces of hard-boiled egg. Make a good short pie-crust, and bake in a quick oven—remembering that, as the meat has been already cooked, as soon as the crust is done the pie is ready for serving.

Corned beef and other kinds of tinned meat can be made into a variety of dishes suitable for breakfast and high tea, such as rissoles, kromeskies, mince, and similar forms of "cold meat cookery."

INTERESTING PRESENTATION AT BLACKHALL MILL

On Thursday evening a large company assembled at the house of Mr. R. Armstrong, Blackhall Mill, to take part in a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Storey, who have recently left Hamsterley to take up the management of the Pine Apple public-house, at the bottom of Westgate Hill, Newcastle. Mr. and Mrs. Storey were held in the highest esteem and respect in the district, and their friends felt that they were entitled to some tangible token of goodwill at their hands. Mr. Storey was a member of the Medomsley Parish Council since its inception, and also was a member of and took a great interest in the Hamsterley Colliery Brass Band. Mr. R. Berkley (Colliery Manager) presided, with Mr. Joseph Armstrong in the vice-chair, and amongst others present were Messrs R. J. Chaytor, Jas. Ferguson, John Brown, T. Milligan, R. Brown, J. E. Taylor, R. Armstrong, sen., A. B. Brough, J. Beckwith, R. Armstrong, junr., J. Charlton, John Anderson, P. Clark, R. Mordue, etc.

The Chairman gave "The Queen and Royal Family," which was loyally honoured.

The Vice-chairman next proposed "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," and said they had had their navy tried, and they had seen how some of their bluejackets had been successful in saving that important town, Ladysmith. (Applause.) The navy in the past had been able to cope with anything it was brought in contact with. Other countries envied their navy, and would like to be able to place a navy on the high seas as strong as theirs. However, he believed there was room for improvement. As regards the army they had done very very well, although there were mistakes at the beginning of the campaign. They had now got "Bobs" out—and he said it with all due respect to General Buller, who was a good officer—and he thought they were bound to have a successful issue, and their arms would conquer at the finish. (Applause.) He was glad that they had got men like the Yeomanry to go out. (Applause.) They had done their work nobly, and every credit was due to these gentlemen. He thought that after the war was ended the authorities might remedy their weaknesses, and give all the encouragement they could to those who were fighting for their country. (Applause.)

Mr. Robson Brown responded, and said he had a brother a volunteer at the front. They had had news from him, and he did complain of anything he had to put up with. (Hear, hear.) He had the pleasure of being a volunteer five years himself, and had he been able to get would have been at the front now. If any more were needed, he for one was willing to go to the front. (Applause.)

Mr. J. Brown proposed "The Trade of the District," and said there was plenty of trade. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that it would continue for a long time. He trusted that the war was not making the trade. It was perhaps an auxiliary, but, they had lost too many precious lives to hope that they had received the benefit through this. (Applause.)

Mr. Mordue, in replying, said that no one could deny that the state of trade in the country was very satisfactory. It seemed to put new life and energy into tradesmen when trade was prosperous. (Applause.)

The Chairman said they had now come to the principal business of the evening. He had had a very pleasant duty placed in his hands in handing over those small presents to Mr. Storey on behalf of his friends of the district generally. He would like to say that he was very pleased to be there to do that, and he took it as an exceedingly good sign that he, the manager, should be asked to hand over those presents to Mr. Storey, who, up to very recently, had been chairman of the local lodge. (Applause.) He found himself surrounded by men of different status. He believed that there were three checkweighmen present. (Hear, hear.) He thought that a feeling of mutual respect was being manifested towards the guest of the evening. (Applause.) He had known Mr. Storey for 3½ years, and had come a great deal in contact with him. Therefore he had a fair good right to realise his qualities. As far as he had seen, he had found their friend a man who endeavoured to do his duty in that state of life to which God had called him. (Applause.) He did not think he could offer any higher praise than that. He thought he might safely say that if they did that consistently and carried it out fully they would take no harm in that world or the world to come. (Applause.) In his work he had always found Mr. Storey regular, attentive, and industrious, doing his duty very thoroughly. He had done his duty in the first place to his employers, and earned his livelihood. In the second place he had provided a reasonable living for his wife and children, which was naturally the first duty of the head of the family. Mr. Storey had always been ready to give his services freely whenever he saw that they were likely to be useful. First of all, as an active member of the Miners' Union he must have undertaken what was perhaps often a disagreeable duty, but he never shirked it. (Applause.) Although Mr. Storey and he naturally sometimes had differences of opinion, he had always found him acting conscientiously up to his principles. (Hear, hear.) Further than that, in very many phases of life he had given his services where there was no remuneration or reward, except the knowledge that he was doing what he could to benefit his fellowmen. (Applause.) He had been for many years a member of the Medomsley Parish Council, and he (Mr. Berkley) had often heard him spoken of as an active and conscientious member, who endeavoured to carry out measures which he believed to be for the welfare of the people of the community. (Applause.) He thought he might add that in many other respects Mr. Storey had been called upon and not found wanting. He (the chairman) had several times had the pleasure of taking part in concerts for charitable purposes, etc., and they never had to call upon Mr. Storey for his services in vain. (Applause.) Even the very thankless office of accompanist Mr. Storey had ably fulfilled on many occasions. He thought at concerts or other musical entertainments there was no more thankless position than that of accompanist. If a song went wrong the accompanist got the blame, but if it was all right the singer got the praise. (Laughter and applause.) He wished Mr Storey every prosperity in the new line of life he had taken up, and they all hoped that the change would be to his advantage, and that he would go on and prosper. (Applause.) He also trusted that when any of Mr. Storey's friends were in Newcastle and needed refreshment, they would not forget him. (Applause.) Mr. Berkley then handed over a handsome gold albert and medallion to Mr. Storey, and a gold dress ring for Mrs Storey. The medallion bore the inscription:—"Presented to Thos. Storey by friends of Hamsterley and the district, as a mark of esteem. May 16th, 1900." The ring was a gift from Mr. Storey's old friends of the band.

The Vice-Chairman, in supporting, said he had known Mr. Storey for nine or ten years, and had been very intimately connected with him for seven years as a member of the Parish Council. He could not say anything that would enforce the remarks of the chairman. He had always found Mr. Storey to be a man, and always found him on the road of progress. (Applause.) Had their friend been backed up, and had the others taken the same interest they might have made more progress. Had they all acted as Mr. Storey had done they would have been considerably better that day. (Hear, hear.) He was very pleased that he (Mr. Storey) and others had tried to make the lives of the working classes better than they found them. He hoped that Mr. Storey would be successful in his new avocation. (Applause.)

Mr. Chaytor also supported, remarking that he had known Mr. Storey for 22 years—since he was a boy. They had been much associated in musical matters, and this had brought them together many times. Some things they did not agree upon, but they agreed not to differ. (Hear, hear.) Whatever Mr. Storey's opinions were about social or political matters, his arguments on these questions never interfered with his personal friendships. (Applause.) He said that a man of that description deserved to be honoured. (Applause.) He was glad to add his few remarks to the worthiness of Mr. and Mrs. Storey to the presents given to them. They came from a lot of people. (Applause.)

Mr. Storey's health was then warmly pledged with musical honours.

Mr. Storey, who was warmly received on rising to respond, said, on behalf of his wife and himself, he thanked them very heartily indeed for the presents handed to him that night. He was exceedingly pleased to hear the kind words uttered by those friends who had spoken. That affair had rather taken him by surprise for this reason—that the small efforts he had put forth for the benefit of the people of the district had been so generously recognised. Any remuneration he never thought of. He was pleased that the manager of Hamsterley Colliery was there to preside over that meeting. (Hear, hear.) As Mr. Berkley had said, they had been closely connected for some years. They had had occasion to differ on some matters, but whatever differences they had it never altered their friendship. (Applause.) He came there as a lad some 22 years since, and had tried to do his utmost in the way of assisting not only himself, but also his neighbours. (Hear, hear.) He had perhaps done some things that he ought not to have done, but they had evidently overlooked these shortcomings, judging from those high tokens of their esteem, which would be treasured, and would bring back recollections of the many pleasant days he had spent at Hamsterley Colliery. (Applause.) To say that he did not regret leaving Hamsterley Colliery would not be expressing the true sentiments of his mind. (Hear, hear.) He would always think of his old friends when he looked at that token of respect presented to him. Whilst he would do his best to make new friends, he would never forget the old friends left behind. (Applause.) Should it be that any of the people of the district paid him a visit he would try to make them comfortable to the best of his ability. (Applause.) He would like to add that he wished prosperity to the Hamsterley Colliery Brass Band. The band started under rather adverse circumstances. At the time it was formed, Mr. Allan, the then manager, gave them all the assistance he could. (Applause.) He was very pleased when he heard on the previous Saturday night that Hamsterley had won the second prize at the contest. He hoped they would stick together and win many more prizes. (Applause.)

The other toasts included "The Host and Hostess," "The Chairman," "The Vice-chairman," etc. Songs were rendered by Messrs Brough, Charlton, and others, whilst Mr. Milligan gave some capital violin solos, Mr. Storey proving an able accompanist. The committee who carried through the presentation consisted of Messrs Jas. Ferguson (chairman), John Brown, Robson Brown, A. B. Brough, J. Beckwith, R. J. Chaytor, T. Milligan, John Anderson, J. Charlton, and P. Clark (secretary.) The enjoyable proceedings terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

Death of Miss M. E. Buckham

Of Lanchester

We regret to have to record the death, which occurred at an early hour on Monday morning, of Miss Margaret Ethel Buckham, daughter of Mr. George Buckham, Registrar of births and deaths, and postmaster, Lanchester. Miss Buckham, who was only 19 years of age, had been ill for a considerable time, but had borne her sufferings with great fortitude. She, in common with the other members of the family, was held in great esteem in the locality, and the announcement of her death created general feelings of the deepest regret. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon, a service being held in the Wesleyan Church prior to the interment in Lanchester Churchyard. The officiating ministers were the Rev. G. E. Polkinghorne, Consett, and the Rev. J. W. Denham, Annfield Plain. Among the mourners and friends present were Mr and Mrs. Buckham (father and mother,) Mr. and Mrs. John Buckham, Lanchester, (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Hy. Mallams, Amble (sister and brother-in-law,) Mr. and Mrs. Henry Buckham, Newcastle (brother and sister-in-law,) Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, Elm Bank, Wylam, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas White, Hedleywest Riding, Stocksfield; Mrs. Maynard, Hill Top, Langley Park; Mr. Thomas Thompson, Shildon Hill, Stocksfield; Mr. George Green, and Miss Davison, Stocksfield; Mrs. Mallams, Mr. John Mallams, and Miss Mallams, Stanley; Mr. John Buckham, Lanchester; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Buckham, Lanchester; Mr. W. H. Ritson, Mr. W. Ramsay, Mr. G. W. Wilson, Lanchester; Mr. G. T. Wilson, Blackhill; Mr. Ralph Walton, Lanchester; Mr. J. Oliver, Stanley; Mr. J. Calvert, Stanley; Mr. Armstrong, Stanley; and many others. The bearers were Miss Wilkinson, Miss Keenleyside, Mr. Thomas Robson, Mr. Joseph Jackson, Mr. Forster Keenleyside, Mr. Joseph Innes, Mr. James Innes, Mr. Ernest Sadler, Mr. Herbert Parker, and Mr. John Hall. A number of beautiful wreaths were sent and were laid on the coffin which was of polished pitch pine, with brass mountings. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Hall, undertaker.

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Death of Mr. C. L. Stephenson

Of Blackhill

On Wednesday afternoon the remains of Mr. Charles Louis Stephenson, second son of Mr. Charles Stephenson, of Cemetery Road, Blackhill, who died at his home on Monday morning after a long illness, were interred in the Benfieldside Cemetery in the presence of a large company of friends. The deceased, who was 22 years of age, was well-known in the district and highly respected, having been a member of the St. Cuthbert's Church Choir since a boy. The services in the church and at the graveside were impressively conducted by the Rev. T. J. Storey, vicar of Blackhill, and Canon Ross-Lewin, vicar of St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside. The utmost sympathy was felt for the sorrowing relatives, as the host of beautiful wreaths testified. The bidders were Messrs. J. Symington, Consett, and Coates; the underbearers, Messrs. J. Hamilton, W. Fixter, T. Turner, J. Ayton, A. Ayton, and Chaytor. Beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave from Mr. Stephenson and family; Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Chaytor, Hamsterley; Mr. and Mrs. J. Sheffield, Blackhill; the fellow choristers of St. Cuthbert's; Mr. and Mrs. Erskine, Newcastle; Mr. and Mrs. C. Parnaby, Blackhill; Miss Linton, Blackhill; Mr. and Mrs. J. Whitehead, Consett; Miss Whitehead, Consett; Miss Greenwood, Blackhill; and the Clerks of the Consett Works. Amongst the mourners were Mr. C. Stephenson, father; Mr. G. P. Stephenson, brother; Misses Sarah Ellen Stephenson, Lottie Stephenson, Mary Stephenson, and Margaretta Stephenson, sisters; Mr. and Miss Whitehead, Consett; Mr. A. Proudlock, Mr. Geo. Proudlock, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stephenson, Washington; Mr. R. J. Porteous, Newcastle; Mr. J. Chaytor, Consett; Mr. Ernest and Miss Whitehead, Consett; Mr. W. Coupland, Muggleswick, and others; whilst amongst the general public were noticed:—Mr. S. Leybourne, Blackhill; Mr. W. I. Mackay, Catchgate; Coun. G. T. Hyden, Consett; Mr. J. Whinney, Blackhill; Mr. J. Sheffield, Blackhill; Mr. John Spraggon, Shotley Bridge; Mr. Brown, Benfieldside; Mr. C. Marshall, Benfieldside; Mr. P. Teare, Benfieldside; Mr. J. Collinson, Shotley Bridge; Mr. R. E. Kirsopp, Benfieldside; Coun. Ed. Sloane, Blackhill; Mr. R. Jackson, sen., Consett; Coun. C. Parnaby, Blackhill; Mr. J. Harker and Miss Harker, Blackhill; Mr. J. E. Davis, Dipton; Mr. Harrison, Mr. J. Gibson, Coun. R. Eccles, Blackhill; Mr. J. Palliser, Blackhill; Mr. J. Lynn, Blackhill; Mr. D. Jones, Consett; Mr. H. Walton, Blackhill; Mr. G. Pattrick, Consett; Mr. M. Lowden, Consett; Messrs. R. and W. Watson, Blackfine; Mr. W. Macfeggan, Blackhill; Mr. R. Heymer, Blackhill; Mr. A. Trotter, Blackhill; Mr. James Palliser, Blackhill; Mr. John Jacks, Blackhill; Mr. T. Scott, Consett; Mr. Jos. Murray, jun., Consett; Mr. G. A. Williams, Consett; Mr. W. Harrison, Consett; Mr. Geo. Johnson Mr. John Barrass, Highgate; Mr. H. Oliver, Hurbuck; Coun. G. D. Powell, Consett; Mr. T. Heslop, Consett; Mr. J. E. Parker, Blackhill; Coun. J. Davison, Consett; Mr. G. Dryden, sen., Consett; Rev R. H. Smallwood, Chester-le-Street; Rev J. T. Philp, Consett; Mr James, Consett; and many others.

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD

On Tuesday evening the monthly meeting of the Collierley School Board was held in the Board Schools, Dipton, Mr. J. T. Robinson (chairman). There were also present—Messrs T. Clark, S. Swalwell, W. Young, J. B. Armstrong; Mr. A. Philipson (Clerk), and Mr. H. Beatham (attendance officer).

THE SCALE OF SALARIES AGAIN.

The Chairman said there was one matter which he thought he should say a word or two about. Was it understood that the certificated assistant-masters should all rise to £100?

Mr. Clark thought according to the scale he did not see what they could make of it.

Mr. Swalwell: If the Chairman thought of any alteration it would be as well to move that the confirmation of the scale be left over until it was more fully considered.

The Chairman thought the point was they were going to bring all the other assistants up to the same salary as the first assistant, although they might not be qualified to take the pupil teachers. If they advertised for one at £75 it was a question whether they could get one.

Mr. Clark thought they could not get one to take the pupil teachers.

Mr. Swalwell: We want a better man who could take the place of the headmaster in cases of illness or any circumstance that might happen that he could not be at school. As long as they had Mr. Herdman there would be no need to make any change.

Mr. Clark: With the exception of taking the pupil teachers I don't see where the difference should come in. Of course there is that part to look at.

Mr. Armstrong: I think it would be the duty of the Board to consider whether the first or second assistant should be fully qualified. We want to have one who can take the pupil teachers.

The Chairman: Then there should be some difference in the scale.

Mr. Armstrong: I don't see there is a great deal of difference. They have to do almost the same work. After that point is disposed of there should be no difference.

Mr. Swalwell: It is an important point, though.

Mr. Young: Mr. Herdman has taken charge before and can do so again.

Mr. Swalwell: But if I understand the Chairman's question it is this—supposing we had not Mr. Herdman and no other assistant who can fill the place with regard to pupil teachers, and in that case the Chairman seems to think that a man who can take the pupil teachers should be paid higher with regard to salary than a man who cannot take them.

Mr. Young: He is standing higher now.

The Chairman: But according to the scale we will bring them to the same level.

Mr. Young: How long will it take the second assistant to reach the salary of the first assistant?

Mr. Clark: Five years.

Mr. Young: Make his salary £85 or £90.

The Chairman: I move that this question lie over for further consideration.

Mr. Swalwell: I don't know that there would be special notice required, Mr. Clerk, if we rescind the adoption of the scale.

Mr. Armstrong: I don't see that it wants altering much at all.

Mr. Swalwell: The way we have arranged the thing we cannot expect uncertificated men to stay with us, and we will have to be under the necessity of keeping certificated men.

Mr. Armstrong: I am under the impression that it was too high.

The Chairman: We are as far as the first assistant goes.

Mr. Armstrong: I don't see why we should alter anything.

Mr. Swalwell: The Chairman's question is, would you pay a man that was not qualified on a level with the first assistant, because if you do in one case you would have to do it in a few cases.

Mr. Clark: That is only the question where I see the difference comes in. As far as the teaching ability is concerned one does as much as the other, but because he is a stage higher there should be a difference.

Mr. Young seconded the proposal.

Mr. Swalwell: There is plenty of time to consider it before the scale comes into force.

The motion was carried.

TEACHERS' REPORTS.

Mr. W. McQuillen, head-master of the boys' school, reported that the school prizes to the number of 123 were distributed by Mr. Armstrong on Friday afternoon. The attendance for the past year was 93 per cent. Mrs. Weedy, of Burnopfield, commenced duties on Monday, May 21st.—Miss Dickinson, head-mistress of the girls' school, reported that the prizes for regular attendance were distributed on Friday afternoon.

On the motion of Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Swalwell, the report was adopted.

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

Mr. H. Beatham reported that since the last meeting of the Board he had visited 142 absentees, served 4 official warnings, and 4 bye-law notices on parents for withdrawing their children from school without permission. The attendance had been fairly good during the month, notwithstanding that sickness had been exceptionally heavy, there having been several cases of scarlatina and chicken-pox. The attendance was as follows:—Boys, average attendance 205.3, percentage 94. Girls, 225, percentage 93. Infants, average attendance 145.4, percentage 80. The average percentage for the year was—boys, 93; girls, 91; infants, 81.

Mr Clark moved, and Mr. Armstrong seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

After the usual business had been transacted,

Mr. Clark asked if the members had taken into consideration what steps should be taken taken to celebrate the Queen's birthday? On the relief of Mafeking all the schools in the the district had holiday excepting their own, and it was as little as they could do to give them holiday on Thursday, and try to develope loyalty and patriotism amongst the boys and girls.

Mr. Armstrong: I think there should be a field-day and a good tea.

Mr. Clark: The matter seems to have been overlooked.

The Chairman: There is hardly time to get a tea up now, although I would be willing to help.

Mr. Swalwell: We would have to seek subscriptions outside, besides what we would get from the members.

Mr. Young: They are going to have something in the streets.

Mr. Armstrong: It is no use making game of it, if we do anything let's do it well.

Mr. Clark: I think we should do something to celebrate the event—(hear, hear)—and the time is short. There has not been anything special in the neighbourhood further than giving them holiday.

Mr. Swalwell: A free tea was given to the children at some of the schools.

Mr. Clark moved that the schools have a whole day's holiday on Thursday.

Mr. Young seconded the motion.

Mr. Swalwell: Will you do anything further than that?

The Chairman: That matter can be decided afterwards.

The motion was carried unanimously, after which the Board rose.

LATE CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DURHAM MINERS ASSOCIATION AND ITS "LODGER" MEMBERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Dear Sir,—As your paper is read by so many of our members, and as the Local Secretary of the South Pelaw Lodge of D.M.A., I am instructed to appeal to our E.C. for them to take steps to get lodging money for all our bona-fide adult lodger members. This they (the E.C.) refused to entertain. I have also sent in a motion for our next council programme on the same subject, and by instruction I am now appealing to as many as we can reach, through the Press, for them to join with us, in this just and necessary appeal. Can anyone see, or state, a fair, honourable reason why a married man, who may hew say four tons of coals, say at 1/6 a ton, and thus earn six shillings a day, should be paid a shilling, or in some cases sixpence more for that shift than an unmarried man who may hew the same amount at the same price? It may not be generally known by all concerned that married men, living in colliery houses, are credited with consenting to a shilling a day deduction from their wages for the privilege of living, as they call it, "rent free." Plenty, I know, will be ready to say, "Oh, but look at the difference between a married man, with a family, and that of a young man with none but himself to keep." Has a young man, who pays fairly and squarely, lodging money for the privilege of being allowed to lodge, in some cases, with the very men who are paid more than he for the same amount of work—I say has he a right to be paid less for the same amount of coal gotten? Surely not. So now, ye young men, claim your just due, and insist that your product is of as much value to your employer as any other man's, and that no man has a right to be paid more than you; and ye married men, even you who are colliery house occupants, lend a hand to our young men to get their indisputable due. We sincerely hope that this question will commend itself to the editors of our several local papers, and to the many intelligent readers thereof, and that the public opinion, so potent in ripening such ideas, will eventuate in our young men of future days being better paid than they now are, or have been in bygone days. Thanking you in anticipation of seeing this in your next issue, —I remain, yours truly,

GEO. JACQUES,
Secretary, South Pelaw Lodge, D.M.A.
May 22nd 1900.

"AFTER THE BALL."

BREAKING INTO A WORKMEN'S CLUB AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

At the Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions on Wednesday, James Barton, James Perry, and Robert George all young men residing at Chester-le-Street, were charged on remand with unlawfully breaking into and entering the Chester-le-Street Workmen's Club, on the 13th inst. The charge was reduced to one of stealing, the articles specified being one bottle of whiskey, one bottle of wine, two pork pies, a quantity of tobacco and cigars, and also 25/- in money. The defendants pleaded guilty.

Robert Bell, caretaker at the club, stated that he left the premises on Saturday night, the 12th inst., at about 11.45 p.m., when they were then locked up, and the place left secure. On the following morning, when witness went back to the club, he found that the premises had been broken into and the articles enumerated in the charge removed. Witness afterwards gave information to the police. The tobacco witness now identified as belonging to the club.

Inspector McDougall deposed that on Sunday morning, the 13th inst., from information received he went to the residence of the prisoner Barton, and from what he learned he subsequently arrested Perry and Georgeson at their residences. They were then brought to the police-station. Perry handed witness 20/- in money and some tobacco. Later on witness went to Barton's father's house, where he found two empty bottles hidden in the fire-place, and also 5/- beneath the mattress in the bed where prisoner slept. When witness saw Georgeson he was helplessly drunk.

Mr. Fred Harle said he appeared on behalf of the prisoner Perry, although what he was about to say would apply equally to the others. He thought that the Bench would come to the conclusion after they had heard the evidence that this was in no sense what might be termed a burglary. It was more like a freak on the part of the prisoners in getting the stuff. The whole of the prisoners resided in Chester-le-Street, immediately adjoining the club; in fact one of them resided next door to the club. On the morning in question the prisoners were returning from a ball at Birtley—at an early hour. Georgeson remarked to the others that he would go into the club and get some cigars. He (Mr. Harle) was instructed that Georgeson went into the premises through a hole in the temporary cellar. The door of the premises, they alleged, was open, and there was no necessity for breaking anything. Georgeson went in with the intention of getting some cigars, but did not see any. There was some money upon a shelf, and he could not resist the temptation, and took it along with the other stuff. Georgeson, who got the bottle of whiskey, nearly killed himself by drinking the same, but he was fortunately found before it was too late, or otherwise he might have died. The prisoners told the Inspector about their movements. Two of the lads' fathers were members of the club, and they probably thought that they were not committing such an enormous crime as they did. The prisoners were all young men. Perry, for whom he appeared, was only 18 years of age, and he learned that the others were probably about the same age. Under these circumstances he would ask the Bench, as the prisoners were just commencing life, not to disgrace them by sending them to prison. He believed that the club authorities were not disposed to press the case unduly. As this was the first offence he would ask the Bench to inflict a fine in order that the prisoners might not have the disgrace consequent upon a conviction and imprisonment.

The Chairman (Mr. Newall) characterised the case as a bad one, because the prisoners had no right to go into the place even if the door had been left open. The Bench agreed with Mr. Harle that it was a pity to send the young men to gaol and damage their lives by associating them with prison. The Bench must, however, look upon it as a serious case. The prisoners would be fined 40/-, which must be paid that day, otherwise they would have to go to the prison for one month.

UNITED PROVIDENT ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

Few Assurance Companies have been started under more favourable auspices than that of the United Provident Assurance Company, Ltd. Though youthful in the term of its existence it is aged in experience and soundness on the part of those upon whom the management devolves. A stronger board of directors has seldom been brought together. They are all gentlemen of the highest commercial character who do not associate themselves with anything unsound, but only lend their countenance to properly and legally qualified transactions. This is clearly shown in the manner in which the prospectus has been drawn up. There is no attempt at undue elaboration; there is a plain unvarnished statement of facts which puts the professional company promoter sadly in the shade. Mr. S. J. Eyre Hartley, who has been appointed general manager, is a gentleman of very wide experience in assurance work and his success as an organiser has already been demonstrated by the way in which he has formed agencies throughout the country. For instance in Consett, where, we believe the society took root, he has Mr. E. Telford as Superintendent and some of the best canvassing agents have joined Mr. Telford's staff. As a result there has been a remarkable amount of business done in this district. The inducements to agents under the United Provident seem to be greater than in many other cases and this is bound to tell in favour of prospective policy holders. The company not only go in for industrial and ordinary life assurance, but "Investment with life assurance is another feature to which special attention will be devoted. The experience of several of the Industrial Insurance Offices proves that a scheme which combines investment of earnings with life assurance, and is based on a system of monthly or quarterly payments, is especially adapted to the social conditions and financial possibilities of small tradesmen, clerks, and other members of the middle classes, whose yearly incomes do not exceed say £200. At the same time this class of business can be done economically and profitably, as the agent can work it as an adjunct to the industrial business from which his income will be mainly derived." The authorised capital of the company, who have their chief offices in High Holborn, London, is £100,000 and the sum of £20,000 has been deposited with the Court of Chancery in harmony with the Life Assurance Companies' Act, as a special protection to policy-holders. As a matter of fact everything appears to have been done in a thorough manner. Mr. W. Blamyre Thornton is Chairman of the Board of Directors, which includes such well-known names as Ald. Samuel, M.P. for Stockton-on-Tees; Ald. Duckworth, M.P. for Rochdale, Mr. John F. Haworth, Manchester, and others of equal commercial standing. In addition there is a strong and influential body of shareholders who will back up the directors in doing the amplest justice to all policy-holders. The company seems to be one well worthy of support.

THE RELIEF OF MAFEKING

(Continued from Page 3.)

LANCHESTER.

The premature report on Thursday night of the relief of Mafeking reached Lanchester by means of distant bonfires and the sound of guns being fired. Although the hour was late, the town was soon astir, and merry peals were rung on the Church bells. On Friday and Saturday, when the more authentic news arrived, there were great rejoicings. The village was elaborately decorated, and at nights the place was crowded by a cheering and joyful populace. Fireworks were abundant and great enthusiasm prevailed. On Monday the school children were granted holiday, and to-day (Thursday) a demonstration on a larger scale is being held. A general holiday has been proclaimed, partly in honour of Mafeking, and partly of Her Majesty's 81st birthday. The programme for to-day comprises a general procession, headed by a brass band, a children's procession, a horse procession, and a bicycle parade. A tea on a large scale in the Assembly Rooms is also on the programme.

DUNSTON.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—In aid of the proposed new Wesleyan Church a very successful tea was given by Mrs. C. Coulthard, on Wednesday last, which realised a good sum of money. In the evening an entertainment was held at which a miscellaneous programme was rendered by a number of local ladies and gentlemen.

BRITISH WORKMEN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

The annual meeting of this Company was recently held in Birmingham, when the Chairman of the Board of Directors (Mr. F. Jefferson, J.P.) presided over a large gathering. The directorate of this company was re-formed some time ago, and in the space of three years the income increased by £145,000, and the assurance fund was doubled. In both the ordinary and industrial departments enormous progress had been made the claims having been disbursed with prompt punctuality. Especially was this the case in regard to the South African War. Referring to the ordinary prospectus a perusal will repay intending insurers, as it is explicit in its information, and the premiums charged will compare most favourably with the rates of other companies. It explains itself in a most clear and detailed manner in reference to its paid up policies and bonuses, etc., etc. Being of a progressive nature this office has gone a step further than other Insurance Companies by continuing their ordinary policy below £50 by issuing a special quarterly prospectus whereby a person, aged 25 years, may insure for £20 at death by paying a quarterly premium of 2s 2d or 4s 2d per half-year, or 8s per year; or by paying 5s 4d per quarter insure for £20 endowment in 20 years or at death if previous. The ordinary benefits are attached to these policies, namely, immediate full benefit if a satisfactory medical examination is passed. This policy carries a free policy the value of which goes to 12s in the £ of premium paid or a cash surrender of 5s in the £ of premium paid. The weekly or industrial policy benefits compare favourably with other companies, but carry a free policy value up to 12s in the £ of premium paid or a return of 5s for every £ of premium paid. It may be interesting to know that during the year ending April 1898, £17,537 was returned to members of 7 years' continuous membership, and £19,514 17s 4d during the year ending April 1899, and £11,435 for eight months ending Dec. 1899, or a total of £48,486 was returned to members during the past two years and eight months who had paid their premium for 7 years, and through various causes were unable to continue their payments receiving 25 per cent. of their premium in return for their policies. Any information required by anyone intending business may be fully supplied by Mr. J. Dunn, Supt., 48, Park Road, Consett; or Mr. J. White, Supt., 3, Dent Street, Shildon. Agents should note that the terms are most liberal and that there is no debit system.

The Chairman, when moving the adoption of the report, explained that the accounts were only for eight months, as they wished to close the year on December 31st, and so bring themselves into line with other companies. Thus they would avoid unfair comparisons. On the outbreak of hostilities in South Africa their board was the first to resolve that the company would pay all claims on existing policies in full without exacting any additional premiums in respect of war risks. Dealing with the accounts he said the practical results of the eight months' transactions were an augmentation of the total income of the company by £443,613. Out of that sum they had paid in claims and expenses the large sum of £375,167.—The report was adopted, and after several officers had been elected, a number of complimentary votes were passed, and a very harmonious meeting was brought to a conclusion.

It cannot be denied that the board of directors are straining every nerve to conserve the interests of the policy-holders, and to how in every possible way that the British Workmen's and General Insurance Company is one of the best.

SANGER'S CIRCUS.

Lord George Sanger with his Royal circus favoured Consett with another of his acceptable visits on Tuesday last. As usual there was a midday procession, which attracted large crowds of people, who generally regarded it as one of the best they have seen. The mammoth tent erected at Number One was crowded in the evening, when an elaborate programme was gone through. After an overture by the band and a performance by Koho, the Indian Chief, with Albert Austin as clown, Mr. Lane Linwood introduced the clairvoyant horse, "Tipster," which had been trained to perfection by Lord George Sanger. The performance was a remarkably clever one. After a number of items of the usual order the French Riding Machine was brought into the ring. This machine is so constructed as to lead to one round after another of laughable merriment. The tempting bait of five guineas to any lad who could ride round several times without falling off led to a number of venturesome youths having a try. They afforded a great amount of amusement, but retired minus the five guineas. The performances of the horse "Glencoe" were highly appreciated, as also was the graceful manner in which Mdlle Id. Stoodley proved her accomplishments as an equestrienne. "The double jockeys" by Harry and George Austin, described as the greatest equestrians in the world, elicited hearty applause. A most attractive programme was brought to a stirring conclusion by a grand naval and military spectacular production, the principal item being Great Britain's glorious victory in the Soudan, with Kitchener to Khartoum, the battle scene being very effective. After this event the audience left with the feeling that they had had a splendid night's entertainment.

The Population of Durham County

Mr. Ralph Eimey, Clerk of the Peace for Durham and clerk to the County Council of Durham, has just issued his handy and useful manual for 1900-1901. The book, which is neatly got up, gives a full list of the Durham county justices, with the divisions in which they act, deputy lieutenants, county officers, and borough magistrates in Durham. There is also a list of the Durham County Aldermen and Councillors with the constituencies they represent. The usual population statistics show the total estimated population of the county of Durham to be now 1,182,132, as against 1,106,452 in 1891. The present population of Sunderland is given at 147, 398; Gateshead, 109,403; South Shields, 105,677; West Hartlepool, 61,500; Stockton, 58,550; Darlington, 43,500; Jarrow, 41,500; Hartlepool, 26,000; and Durham City, 15,200. Since 1881, or less than 20 years ago, the Hartlepools have more than doubled their population, while South Shields, Gateshead, and Jarrow have almost, but not quite, done the same thing.

Licensing Prosecution from Birtley

Serving a Constable with Drink

At the Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions on Wednesday, Smith Potts, licensed holder of the Moor Inn, North Side, Birtley, was charged with unlawfully serving liquor, to wit, one half-pint of ale, to P.C. John Pallister, whilst on duty, without the authority of his superior officer. The defendant pleaded guilty.

Sergt. Grey deposed that on Sunday evening, the 6th inst., and 8.30 p.m., he visited the Moor Inn, North Side, Birtley. Upon looking in the parlour witness saw P.C. Pallister there along with two miners, each of whom had a glass of beer in his hand which he drank in the presence of witness. Sergt. Grey added that both the defendant and the constable had previously been cautioned for a like thing.

By Supt. Rutherford: How was the policeman dressed?

Witness: He was dressed in uniform.

Mr. Edward Clark, of Newcastle, who defended, said that in this case there was no other alternative but to plead guilty, as no doubt the constable was supplied. It occurred in this way: The officer had gone into the defendant's house, along with other two men. Drinks were ordered together, and the daughter of the landlord supplied these drinks, including drink which was no doubt intended for P.C. Pallister. The daughter erred in ignorance, but this was no excuse. She would have served the constable even had she known the drink was intended for him. There had been no conviction against the house since 1885—15 years ago. There had been nothing previously against the landlord, who had occupied these licensed premises for the last three years. He (Mr. Clark) understood—and perfectly right too—that the superintendent was anxious that this thing should be stopped. A mistake was made and they were sorry it had occurred. He would ask the Bench, seeing that this was the first case against the house since 1885, to let the summons be dismissed on payment of costs, and his client would be willing to give something towards some charitable fund.

The Chairman (Mr. Newall) said that seeing the defendant had been previously cautioned they could not look over the same without inflicting a fine. The defendant would be fined 40/- and costs.

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CRICKET

MEDOMSLEY v. OAKENSHAW.

At Medomsley. The following will represent Medomsley:—Rev. A. C. Blunt (capt.), M. Hedley, T. Walton, R. Charlton, W. Lovat, R. Cant, T. D. Dales, J. R. Lowes, E. Campbell, A. Whiteley, W. Cant. Wickets pitched at 2.30.

MEDOMSLEY II. v. CORNSAY II.

At Cornsay. The following have been selected to play for Medomsley II.:—M. Walton (capt.), S. Wheatley, J. Hetherington, T. Parker, Jos. Walton, W. T. Hutter, W. G. F. Thompson, E. Wilson, Jos. Marks, J. Wood, W. Wood.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Births

SWINDALE.—Blackhill, at Bessemer Street, on the 20th inst., the wife of James Swindale, chemist, of a son.

WALLSFORD.—Leane House, Blackhill, May 22nd, the wife of H. H. Wallsford, of a son.

Marriages.

LAWSON—WORTHY.—At Lanchester Church, May 21st., Joseph Lawson, youngest son of the late William Lawson, Black Horse Inn, Try-em-all, to Rose Ann Worthy, of Spennymoor.

SPARKS—McCOLVIN.—Sunderland, Barrington Street Wesleyan Church, 19th inst., by the Rev. Chas. J. Trafford, Thomas Watson Sparks, of Sunderland, to Jane (Jenny) McColvin, of Winlaton.

Deaths.

BROWN.—Foresters Arms, [illegible], on the [illegible] inst., aged 60 years, [illegible], wife of John N. Brown.

BLYTH.—Winlaton, on the 19th inst., George, the husband of [illegible] Blyth, aged 33.

BEWICK.—Hand-in-Hand, West Pelton, 18th inst., aged 2 years and 6 months, Robert, son of William and Mary Bewick.

BUCKHAM.—Lanchester Post Office, 21st inst., aged 19 years, Margaret Ethel Buckham, daughter of George and Hannah Buckham.

BLAMIRE.—At 15, Myddleton Street, Carlisle, on the 15th inst., aged [illegible], Sarah, relict of the late William Blamire, for many years a foreman at Cowen and Sheldon's Engineworks, Carlisle.

BRODIE.—At 5, Buckham Street, Blackfine, Blackhill, on the 22nd inst., aged 37 years, Jane, youngest daughter of the late Joseph Brodie. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Friday afternoon, at four o'clock. Friends please accept this intimation.

CHATT.—Medomsley Edge, May 22nd, aged 49 years, accidentally killed, Joseph, dearly beloved husband of Frances Chatt. To be interred on Saturday, at St. Ives Churchyard. To lift at two p.m.

HOWLETT.—Dunston-on-Tyne, Teams Cottages, on the 21st inst., aged 63 years, Jane, wife of the late William Howlett.

JACKSON.—Chester-le-Street, Thornton Cottage, on the 20th inst., aged 80, Martha Jackson, youngest daughter of the late Dr. William Jackson.

KNOX.—On the 7th May at Philadelphia, U.S.A., in his 63rd year, William Knox, joiner.

LEE.—Newcastle Junction, New South Wales, March 23rd, 1900, John, husband of Ellen Lee, late of Annfield Plain.

NICHOL.—Ryton, 11, Greenfield Place, on 18th inst., in her 76th year, Amelia Holmes (Emily), widow of the late George Nichol.

PEEL.—146, High Street, Langley Moor, 19th inst., Henry Peel, aged 54.

PUNSHON.—Woodbine Cottages, Chester-le-Street, 15th inst., Robert, husband of Ann Punshon.

PROUDLOCK.—Ravensworth, Hill Head, on the 14th inst., suddenly, aged 78, Robert Proudlock.

POTTS.—Newcastle, Royal Infirmary, on the 19th inst., aged 50 years, John Potts, husband of Hannah Potts, of 4, Buddle Road, South Benwell, late of Rookhope.

PARKER.—Front St., Leadgate, May 20th, aged 62 years, Nicholas, beloved husband of Jane Parker. To be interred at St. Ives, Saturday, May 26th. Friends please accept this intimation.

ROURKE.—Felling, Makepiece Terrace, 18th inst., Henry, husband of Elizabeth Rourke, late of Pelton Fell.

STEPHENSON.—Blackhill, 8, Cemetery Road, 21st inst., aged 22, Charles Louis, son of Charles Stephenson.

SHIRVINGTON.—Whickham, West Street, on the 16th inst., aged 50 years, Isabella Charlton, wife of William Shirrington, and daughter of the late Thomas and Ann Nesbit, of East Woodburn.

WILLIS.—Chester-le-Street, North Burns, 15th inst., in his 63rd year, Thomas, husband of Elizabeth Willis.

In loving memory of Annie Gibson, the dearly beloved wife of John Gibson, who died at Benfieldside, on the 24th, May, 1898.

Secure from every mortal care,
By sin and sorrow vexed no more;
Eternal happiness thy share,
Who art not lost, but gone before.
Thy will be done.

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