

"A WEE KEEK BACK"

BY

JIM CAMPBELL



***"CENTRAL AND WEST FIFE LOCAL HISTORY
PRESERVATION"***

("The Present Preserving the Past for the Future")

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THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES AND ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1895.
PROPOSED GOLF CLUB.

A meeting has been arranged for Thursday night, to consider the advisability of forming a golf club for Lochgelly. This is a matter that has been long talked of, but none of our public men have up until now have taken the initiative. The idea ought to meet with hearty support, and we hope to see ere long the Royal and Ancient game established in Lochgelly.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1895.
GOLF.

A meeting of golfers was held last Thursday evening in the Drill Hall. Mr James Connel presided and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to try to form a golf club for Lochgelly. The only obstacle he saw was the procuring of a suitable course, but that he had no doubt that difficulty would be overcome. Other gentlemen present expressed themselves in favour of the idea. Amalgamation with Cowdenbeath club was spoken of, but this matter was allowed to lie over in the meantime. A committee was appointed to see about a suggested course near Lumphinnans Farm, and the result of their enquiries will be laid before the next meeting, which takes place on Monday evening first.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1895.
GOLF CLUB.

At a meeting held on Monday evening it was agreed to form a golf club. The following office bearers were appointed: - President, Dr F. Dendle; vice-president, Mr J.D. Connel; treasurer, Mr A. Graham; secretary, Mr A. Westwater; committee, Messrs J. Irvine, F.W. Stiven, P. Anderson, R. Penman and J. Hickman. A suitable course adjoining the Spittal Farm was unanimously agreed upon and Mr Connel was left with full power to complete negotiations of renting the field in question. It was agreed on the suggestion of Mr Stiven to admit ladies to the club. The male members fee was fixed at 10s and the ladies at 5s.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1895.
LOCAL NOTES.

Lochgelly golf course is to be put in order at once, and the members expect to get a game on it very shortly. A great number of ladies and gentlemen have joined.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1895.
LOCAL NOTES.

Lochgelly golf course is now ready, and the first game is expected to-day.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1895.

GOLF.

The new golf course was opened last Wednesday. Though the ground was very soft, owing to the recent rains, and the greens a good bit from being perfection, the enthusiasm of the golfers seemed to overlook these deficiencies, and everyone appeared to thoroughly enjoy their game. We believe the game will be very popular in this district.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1896.

GOLF.

The first competition for the monthly medal took place last Wednesday. After the scores were handed in the lowest was found to be that of George Crombie with 95 minus 10. The nearest cards to this were those of Rev. P. McMahon, and W.W. Bethune, (both scratch) with 87 and 88 respectively. The medal was supplied by Mr Barclay, jeweller, Lochgelly.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1896.

KELTY.

THE LATE EARL OF MORAY'S BEQUESTS.

It may be remembered that the late Earl of Moray bequeathed a sum of £90,000, £50,000 of which he left to his trustees to divide among deserving charitable and other institutions in the city and county of Edinburgh, and the remaining £40,000 to the counties of Fife, Perth, Moray, Inverness and Nairn. The trustees recently have been engaged in the allocation of the money, but from inquiries that have been made it is understood that their labours in that respect have not yet been completed, though it is intimated that they will be in the course of the week. Allocations, however, have been made and intimated to various bodies. Among others of which intimation has been made so far are the following: - The United Industrial School of Edinburgh, £500; Church of Scotland Deaconess Hospital, £1000; and the town of Forres, £3450, divided as follows among the institutions of that burgh: - Forres Coal and Clothing Society, £1500; Forres Mechanic's Institute and Library, £750; Forres Leanoil Hospital, £700; Falconer's Museum, £500.

PUBLIC MEETING - A public meeting was held last week in Oakfield Hall to consider matters relating to the library. Mr James Terris, Keltyhead, chairman of the Library Committee, entered very fully into the means taken to participate in the bequests left by the late Earl of Moray for benevolent, religious, scientific, and literary purposes. To Mr Stewart, one of the trustees, and factor on the estate, they had forwarded an application for £500 to assist in the erection of a library, reading-room, and other suitable buildings. They found, however, that they had been premature, for such a sum was not adequate for these purposes. To strengthen their application for a larger sum, namely, £750, it was thought advisable to call a public meeting. The opinion was expressed by others that £1000 would be necessary. Mr James Terris jun., Dullomuir, explained that he had not shared hitherto in library affairs - not from any want of sympathy with the usefulness of the library, but that his hands were pretty full, and he felt the business was in good hands. He had endeavoured, however, to assure Mr Stewart personally that the library was a nondenominational institution, but somehow it was a very difficult matter. He might say that the trustees were in sympathy with the movement, and would, no doubt, treat the application generously. Mr Terris went on to say that he had seen Mr Ure,

architect; but he (Mr Ure) had not yet completed the rough sketch of the plans of the buildings contemplated, and which Mr Stewart desired to inspect. He therefore moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr James Cowie: - "That this public meeting of the subscribers to the Kelty Public Library, and of the inhabitants of Kelty, Oakfield, and Cantsdam, recognise the great advantages to be derived from the permanent establishment of a public library in their midst, which shall be accessible to all the inhabitants on equal terms; considering also the difficulty of meeting the expense of an adequate library and suitable building in which to place it by subscriptions obtained within the district, especially at a time characterised by a depression in the staple industry; recognise also the favourable opportunity now offered of overcoming the difficulties by obtaining a grant from the bequests of the late Earl of Moray, resolve to support the application made by the Library Committee, and to apply to his Lordship's trustees for a grant of £750 to provide the funds for the aforesaid purposes, and respectful to point out to the trustees that this district may fairly be held as possessing peculiarly strong claims for their consideration, as being the most important centre of the mining industry of his late Lordship's estate". The customary votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1895.

KELTY.

Golf.

Kelty has been seized with the golfing mania. Some enterprising gentlemen have formed a club and have already acquired a course. The course is of six holes, so that will entail three turns to make a round. We wish them every success.

LOCAL JOTTINGS.

On Sunday the Rev. Mr Sinclair intimated that the Parish Church recently built at Kelty has been granted £500 from the Earl of Moray's bequest, and that the church was now entirely free of debt.

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Kelty folk have been granted £800 from the Earl of Moray's bequest, in aid of their library and reading room. The members of the Cowdenbeath Reading Room have also got £100 from the same bequest, to assist in defraying expenses of library.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1896.

LICENSING COURTS.

The Licensing Court for the Kirkcaldy District of the County was held on Tuesday in the Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court Buildings. There was a large turnout of Justices, while the body of the hall was packed with those interested in the proceedings. Hon. George Waldgrave-Leslie was called upon to preside.

A Reminder to the License Holders.

Letter was read from Chief Constable Bremner, stating that he was desirous that the bench should remind license holders that it was important to continue the supplying of food and other refreshments as recommended by the Justice.

The Shank of Navity Again.

John Joseph McMenemy, jun., publican, Shank of Navity, applied for a public-house license for the premises just erected by him at Crosshill, near Lochgelly.

Mr Wallace, solicitor, appeared for applicant, and was proceeding to state his case, when Mr Johnstone, solicitor, interposed, and stated that he appeared for a party who applied for a public-house license for the same district as Mr McMenemy, and he held that the two cases should not be disposed of until both parties had been heard.

The Chairman - For whom do you appear Mr Johnstone?

Mr Johnstone - I appear for John Norman, grocer, Lochgelly.

Mr Wallace held that it was utterly incompetent to take the cases together, as each one was dependent on its own merits. As the Court was no doubt aware, his client held a public-house license for the Shank of Navity, and this was just a transferring of that license to a new and more convenient premises. Last Court day the bench refused to grant the license, but it was granted at Cupar. At that time various structural alterations were pointed out to make the premises suitable, the want of a suitable water supply being also a serious defect in connection with the present licensed premises. It was further suggested that it would be advisable to have such a house nearer to the populated district of Crosshill. Now his client had erected these premises, and carried out the suggestion of the Court, and should it now see its way to grant the application for the new premises the existing license would drop. It was considered by the Chief Constable and several Justices that the most suitable place for the new premises was at Crosshill, and it was on their suggestion they were built there. Mr Fysche said it was certainly understood last Court day that this license would not be received unless some alterations were made on the premises; in fact, it was suggested that a new house should be erected, and even a suggestion was made where it should be. There was a difficulty in getting a proper water supply at the Shank, while the whole house was condemned by Captain Bremner. Mr McMenemy had carried out all these requirements, and the least they could do was to grant the license for these new premises, and he moved accordingly.

It was reported on behalf of the Chief Constable that he had visited McMenemy's premises on two occasions quite recently, and when the building was completed and a supply of water Introduced, It would, in his opinion, be a very suitable house. The sanitary arrangements and other accommodations was very superior.

Mr Prentice supported the motion, for the reason that the applicant had not only carried out the suggestions of the bench, but had shown an anxiety to meet the wants of the Court. He, therefore, seconded the motion to grant the application to Mr McMenemy for new premises.

Mr Johnstone - before deciding the matter ——

Mr Wallace - I hold that Mr Johnstone's application is not before the Court Just now.

Mr Johnstone - I am merely wishing to point out that the invariable practice in this Court was when there were two applications made for the same place, they were both considered conjointly and decided on their respective merits.

Mr Prentice said that was the case where applications were made for new premises, but in this case it was merely transferring of an existing license to new premises.

Mr Johnstone - All I can say is, if you do not wish to hear my case, you are doing an injustice to the inhabitants resident in the vicinity of the present licensed premises.

Provost Stocks could not see how they could get over the Chief Constable's report.

It was then agreed to grant the license for the new premises on the condition that the old license was to drop.

A Lochgelly Application Refused.

John Norman grocer, Lochgelly, applied for a public-house license for new premises at Crosshill, Ballingry, Mr Thomas Johnstone, sen., Kirkcaldy, appeared for applicant and produced a petition signed by 345 persons in the neighbourhood of Crossbill in favour of the license being granted

Refused unanimously.

An Oft Repeated Application.

Henry Norman Andersen, grocer Station Road, Lochgelly, applied for a grocer's certificate for premises occupied by him there.

Objections were lodged by Lochgelly Iron & Coal Company, and owners and occupiers of houses in the vicinity of applicant's premises. The objectors stated that there were 17 licensed houses already in Lochgelly, and that no additional license was required. It was also adjacent to a field open to the public road, where card playing was carried on. The Pay Offices of the Company were only 150 yards off, and it was close to the station; while its locality made it difficult for the constables detecting any irregularity. An Important Point was made of the fact that this was the sixth time the application was made, it having always, with one exception, been refused by the Court. The exception was when the Court granted the license but the Confirmation Court refused to confirm it. They therefore urged that there being no change in the circumstances the application should not be granted,

A second set of objections based on somewhat the same grounds as the Lochgelly Iron & Coal Company's was submitted, signed by 54 occupiers or householders in the immediate vicinity of this shop, for which the license was sought.

Mr Husband, solicitor, appeared for applicant. He stated that his client was proprietor of the subjects for which the license was asked, and although he was situated in the burgh of Lochgelly, yet it was what might be called a detached portion of the town. There were three questions he held that the bench had to consider, the character of the applicant, the suitability of his premises, and whether or not a grocer's license was wanted. Mr Anderson

was well known, and the objectors could not say a word against him. He had put himself to some trouble to get at the exact population in the immediate vicinity. He found that within five hundred yards there were 114 houses, and taking these at five in each house, which was a very moderate figure in mining localities - daughter} -that gave them 570 people within five hundred yards of the premises. Within fifteen minutes walk they came upon another 187 houses with a population of over 700. It was quite true that there were 17 licensed premises in Lochgelly at present, but that had nothing to do with this application. Besides, this shop was half a mile away from Lochgelly. He also produced letters from the Provost and Magistrates of Lochgelly favourable to the license being granted, two of them being of opinion that it put a stop to Shebeening, which was alleged to be carried on in the district. He thought the opinion of such gentlemen ought to have some weight in court.

Mr Limes, as representing the objectors, also spoke, and contended there was no change of circumstances warranting the granting of this additional license. On the contrary, the granting of this license at Crosshill had swept away the grounds that might have existed for a grocer's license here.

After a long and animated discussion, Mr Drysdale moved that the license be granted, contending that the objections lodged were most trivial, and he was astonished to see them placed before the court at all.

Mr Prentice seconded.

Mr Connel moved that the application be not granted.

Mr Budge seconded.

The application was refused by 15 votes to 11.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELL Y TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1896.

THE DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

FIFE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Kirkcaldy District Committee

The monthly meeting of this committee *was* held on Saturday afternoon - Mr *Joseph* Budge presiding. The minute of meeting of Hospital Sub-Committee was read. It stated that the Committee has considered the whole question of hospital accommodation for infectious diseases in the district, and in that connection the proposal to erect a Joint hospital for infectious diseases in a central part of the district, and were of *opinion*.—

(1) That one central hospital should be built for the whole district, and for such of the burghs therein as might determine to join in the project; <2> that the site for the hospital should be on the Strathore Road, about *a* mile to the West of the village of Thornton, either on the lands of Rothies or Strathore; (3) that the interest on, and repayment of, loans to be raised for the building and equipment of the hospital, cost of site, salaries, and other permanent charges, should be borne by the District Committee and the burghs at a fixed rate per bed, and that each of the parties to the scheme should take and pay for one bed for each 1000 of its population; (4) that

the upkeep of the patients should be divided relatively among the contracting parties in the proportion that the number of days the patients are in hospital bears to the whole number of days aggregated by the whole number of patients. In a memorandum prepared by the chairman - Mr Budge - it was shown that the total population of Kirkcaldy District, exclusive of Royal Burghs, was, as per last census, 40,310. To this fell to be added the population of Cowdenbeath burgh, the Commissioners of which were anxious to join in the erection of a joint hospital. The population of Cowdenbeath was 4249; and deducting the burghs of Leslie and Leven, not joining, the total population was 38,384. Mr Glass observed that before proceeding with the scheme it should be made clear that the assessment was according to population, and not according to rental. It was then decided that the Clerk should communicate with the various parties and ask if they were prepared to join in the scheme. Some discussion took place with reference to the water supply at several farms and small villages. In regard to the water supply at Dogton Farm, which had been before the Committee for a considerable time, the Chairman moved that action be taken to compel the proprietor to provide a proper water supply, the present supply being 600 yards from the house. Mr Fysche seconded the motion, and expressed the opinion that they might as well cease to take in any further reports if there were to be no action taken in such cases which had been so often before the meeting. Mr Glass pointed out that the proprietor had done all he could to meet their wishes and find a supply of water nearer the houses, but it was impossible, and he moved that no action be taken in the matter. Mr Porter seconded the amendment, and on a division being taken the amendment was carried by 8 votes to 7. On the recommendation of the Committee it was resolved to take to action in reference to the right of way at Markinch.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1896.

AN IRON CHURCH FOR LUMPHINNANS.

An iron church has been secured for Lumphinnans, and this, we believe, mainly through the exertions of the Rev. Mr Muir. The Free Church Home Mission Committee have given a grant to shift it from its present position, and repair it. A site has been rented at the west end of the village on the north side of the road, and there it will be placed. The "F.C. Children's Record" for June has the following anent this church: - "It was subscribed for twenty years ago by the Sabbath scholars of the Free Church, and set down at Bailieston, where it cradled a congregation. Early in 1883 it was removed to Townhill (Dunfermline). There it remained till the neat stone church for the Townhill congregation was erected. Now it is given for the use of the Lumphinnans mission-station, and we trust that in this village also the work of the Lord will prosper with those who meet in the little iron "house of God". So much the contributions of a former generation of Free Church Sabbath schools have already done, and who can tell what further good use may yet be made of the iron church?"

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1896.

BEATH HEARSE SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Beath Hearse Society on 4th June last it was alleged that certain irregularities had taken place in connection with its affairs, and Messrs John Millar and George Black were appointed to audit the books. A general meeting of the members was held on Friday evening for the purpose of hearing and considering the auditor's report. Mr Robert Ferguson presided over an attendance which did not number thirty.

Mr Black, one of the auditors, stated that it was twenty-four years since the last audit took place. He proceeded with the audit as follows: - "We have gone carefully over the books of the Beath Hearse Society and have to report as under; - From 1872 to 1877 the income derived from new member's fees shows a total increase of 148 members, whereas the expenditure for that period contains a charge against the society of 6d each commission on 162 members joined, and from which we infer either that 14 names have been omitted to be entered in the income column or that commission has been charged on 14 members in excess of what actually joined -----"

The Chairman - I cannot allow this at all. You must either make out the books right or wrong. It will never do for the auditors to assume this or assume that. You must take the book as it stands.

Mr Millar - The book was taken as it stands.

The Chairman - I cannot allow any auditor to assume that this has been done and that has been done. They must take the figures in the book for their guide.

Mr Millar - Go on with the report.

Mr Black - That is how we find the books. We cannot say whether these fourteen persons joined, but we find the commission charged for them.

Mr James Kirk (the secretary and treasurer) - That is not a big mistake.

The Chairman - It is a mistake of the secretary. In taking his commission he has made a mistake of 7s. The auditors say that he has joined fourteen new members and not entered them in the book. I cannot allow that.

Mr Kirk - It has been done in the counting. It has been done in taking half-a-page more.

Mr Black - We did not know that that was so. We took the book for it. Either fourteen members have been joined, or commission for fourteen members has been charged too much.

Mr Kirk - It's easily seen it's too many charged for. ("Speak oot an' no gabble that way. We maun hear what ye're sayin".)

Mr Black proceeded to read the report as follows: - "In balancing income for 1884 a mistake of 6d appears, the income being set down as £7 16s 6d. whereas the actual income is £7 16s. In 1890 a mistake appears in the income column of one member, there being 26 new members instead of 25 as on balance, making actual balance for year £6 18s instead of £6 11s 6d. In the year from 31st May 1895 to 31st May 1896 there has been an increase of 49 members at 6s 6d and 3 at 2s 6d, instead of 50 at 6s 6d and 2 at 2s 6d as on balance for year, making the total balance for year £11 17s 6d, instead of £12 1s 6d. We regret that, with one exception, we have been unable to get any vouchers or receipts for the expenditure during the whole period, but taking the expenditure set down as correct, and assuming that the commission from 1872 to 1877 has been overcharged, we find that the total balance in the treasurer's hand at April 13th should be £74 17s 11½d, or assuming again that the names of 14 members have been omitted to be entered in the income column for that period the balance at hand should be £79 1s 11½d. With reference to the discussion raised at last general meeting as to Mr Bernard's membership, we find the name of Robert Bernard, Kirkford, as having joined the society in March 1874, but we cannot find Mr Thomas Bernard's name at all, nor that of Mr Kirk, the secretary.

The Chairman - It's here.

Mr Black -Where?

The Chairman -In this book.

Mr Black - When did he join?

The Chairman - On the 13th July.

Mr Black - July this year?

The Chairman - Yes. (Laughter.)

Mr Black continued reading the report, the next portion of which dealt with the population of the parish from 1871 to 1895. After the statistics the following occurred: - "Thus it appears that while the population of the parish from 1871 to 1881 increased by nearly 1900 the average yearly increase of membership of the society was either 9 or 11 less in the latter than in the former five years of that period. In the case of the ten years from 1881 to 1891, while the population in 1891 exceeded that of 1871 by 4764, the average increase in membership was still 4 or 5 less per annum than from 1872 to 1877, and in the case of the last three years the average increase per annum is 27, or 22 more than in the period from 1872 to 1877, 30 more than from 1877 to 1882, and just the double of that during the ten years immediately preceding. The total number of members who have joined the society is 957". A statement of the principal items of expenditure having been given, the report concluded thus: - "Thus it appears that while the purchase of a hearse and its upkeep from 1849 to 1872 - a period of 23 years - amounts to £34 14s 2½d, the upkeep alone for the similar period since then amounts to £67 11s 5½d. Also that while the building of hearse houses and their upkeep to 1872 amounted to £28 7s 10d, the amount paid for improvements and repairs on existing one of these since then is £32 10s 5d".

Mr Kirk - I had nothing to do with it for the first 22 years. You have taken Mr Scott's business in from the beginning.

Mr Millar - We have taken the book.

Mr Kirk - I have nothing to do with it until 1872. You talk about having the same number of members every year. I canna pit them in the book if they dinna dee. (Laughter.)

Mr Wm Wilson objected to the auditors dealing with the question of population.

The Chairman said that it was not to be expected that the membership would increase with the population; and he pointed out that a member might have the use of the hearse several times.

Mr Millar said he could not agree with the Chairman's view, which, he said, was something more than calculation could comprehend.

Mr Wilson said that it was perfectly erroneous for the auditor to go into the question of population. They were not appointed to overhaul the parish for thirty years.

Mr Black - I can see that members have been joined against their will.

Mr Wilson - I cannot see how that can be.

Mr Black - But I can.

Mr Wilson - No me.

Mr Black - There was a member joined in July this year against his will.

Mr Kirk - I have been a member. There are five or six I never got a penny from, and all I had to do was strike out a name. ("That'll no dae; a man canna be a member unless he pays his money.")

Mr J. Simpson wished to know why he was charged 6s 6d for entry money when he ought to have been admitted for 2s 6d.

Mr Kirk - I dinna ken. You didna report that, or it would hae been dune at once.

The Chairman - If your father was a member you were entitled to get in for 2s 6d.

Mr Simpson - Well, I have got my father's ticket with me.

Mr Kirk - If you had produced that and told me your father was a member, you would have got off for 2s 6d.

Mr Simpson - I did not know that at the time. I never got a copy of the rules.

Mr Black - Nor any other body.

Mr Kirk (handing Mr Simpson a copy of the rules) - Whaur dae ye stop when ye're at hame?

Mr Wilson said that it would have been a very simple matter for Mr Simpson to tell the secretary that his father had been a member.

Mr Peter Drylie - I believe that very few members knew that there was such a rule.

There was here a general demand for copies of the rules, which were handed out.

Mr Simpson said that if he had got a copy of the rules he would have gone to the secretary the following day.

Mr Kirk - It is only five or six years since we began to speak about that rule. It was because there was plenty of money.

Mr Black - It is sixteen years since I paid 2s 6d.

Mr Simpson - And I have a brother that paid it more than twelve years ago.

In the course of further discussion it was stated by Mr Black that if the assumption as to the fourteen members being admitted was wrong, the society was due Mr Kirk £1 19s 3d, and Mr Kirk stated that the interest on the society's money in the bank might account for that. Addressing Mr Millar, Mr Kirk said - You're an honest man, John, and you would mak' me a vagabond.

Mr James Cowie remarked that considering the time they had been without an audit

there was not much wrong, and he moved the adoption of the report, on the understanding that fourteen commissions had been overcharged.

Mr Wilson seconded.

The motion was ultimately adopted, and a discussion followed as to how affairs might be better managed in the future. It was agreed that there should be an audit annually, and that the rules should be modernised.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1896.
COWDENBEATH COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the above Company was held in the Co-operative Hall, Cowdenbeath, on Friday - Mr A.D. Smith-Sligo in the chair. In reviewing the work of the year, the Chairman said that the pits had generally worked somewhat short time during the most of the year, and to endeavour to regain the markets, constant reductions had to be made. Reductions had also been effected in wages, but, of course, not nearly to the extent of the fall in prices of a year ago. The unusual mild winter had an adverse effect on the sale of house coal inland, the sales in some of what were usually cold winter months being no better than in some of the summer months. There had not as yet been felt in coal trade the revival of trade so generally expected. The directors had stated in the report that they considered the result of the years workings as satisfactory, and when all things were considered he thought he might be allowed to congratulate the shareholders thereon. He hardly cared to venture a remark upon the labour market, but he might say that what had been done in the Midlands of England could hardly affect the County of Fife where a large part of the production was in keen competition with, he might say, all the rest of Europe. The percentage of coal exported by many districts where local consumption was large, was very trifling compared with their inland sales, and, unfortunately, the export of those districts being considered "surplus", was sold at a sacrifice in what was mainly the proper market of Fifeshire, because considerably more than half the production of this county had to find its outlets in export. The two new pits in progress at Lumphinnans were being laid out and equipped in first-class style, to yield a large output in the course of a few years. The directors regretted that already one fatal accident had taken place, but they trusted to have not less good fortune than attended the completion of the two pits lately sunk at Moss-side. These pits were each sunk to a depth of 300 yards without any fatal accident, or indeed without injury to more than one workman. The cost of the pits lately begun would, of course, entail a considerable capital expenditure. The rate of dividend on the ordinary shares was less than hitherto paid; but, in the circumstances of the trade, the Directors did not feel warranted in recommending more. He begged to move that the report of the Directors and the accountants be adopted, and that the dividend for the past half-year be paid on the preference shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and on the ordinary shares at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum. Mr G. Younger, Alloa, seconded, and the report was unanimously adopted. Messrs Menzies and W. Beveridge, jun., were re-elected directors.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1896.

LUMPHINNANS.

Opening of the Free Church.

The Iron Church which had recently been removed from Townhill to Lumphinnans, was opened for public worship yesterday afternoon. The church has been erected at the west end of the village, and thither a good congregation had assembled. The interior of the church has been brightly painted, and has a cheery and attractive aspect. The proceedings were taken part in by the Rev. Robert Howie, Govan, (Convener of Home Mission Committee); Rev. Peter Macainsh, Crieff, (senior minister for Lochgelly); and Rev. Wm. Muir, Blairgowrie, (convener of Special Commission on Home Mission Work). Mr Howie preached the sermon, and the others assisted in the services. The preachers text was "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me", - a text, he said, he had been requested to preach from by Mr Muir. Like Mr Muir, he believed this text to be the keynote of the Gospel and as giving a special pledge in connection with the church. The sermon was of an impressive nature and eloquently set forth. In the evening a social meeting was held, when the church was crowded. The social was a great success. The Rev. J. Muir, Cowdenbeath, occupied the chair, and all the speakers at the earlier service gave short and interesting addresses. The Rev. D. Brown, Lochgelly, and others, also spoke. A choir, under the leadership of Mr D. Kirk, rendered several pieces in a highly creditably manner. Mr P. Williamson presided at the harmonium.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1896.

LOCHGELLY NEWS.

We beg to call to the attention of our readers to the public meeting which takes place in the Drill Hall, to consider the advisability of procuring an ambulance wagon for Lochgelly and district. We trust this matter will be taken up in earnest, and there will be a large and enthusiastic meeting to-morrow night. We sincerely trust that no serious accident may occur in our midst and that the wagon may be seldom required, but in a community such as ours one never knows what may happen, and with a fully equipped ambulance wagon in a centre like Lochgelly, should a serious accident occur, the patient would be removed with the greatest comfort and speed.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1896.

AMBULANCE VAN FOR LOCHGELLY AND DISTRICT.

A meeting was held in the Drill Hall last Thursday evening for the purpose of taking steps to procure an ambulance van for Lochgelly and surrounding district. The meeting was large, and representative of all classes in the community.

Provost Melville, who presided, said the object they had in view was a worthy one. The district was increasing very much, and there was great necessity for an ambulance wagon. Every one there must know that such a thing would greatly alleviate suffering. He referred to the sinking of the new pits in the district and the corresponding increase of population. The size of the district fully justified them in getting one themselves. They had had ambulance lectures, which their medical friends had given; they were now going a step further. Having an ambulance wagon at their door, which could be had immediately an accident occurred, would save a great deal of suffering. He didn't know much about them, but he relied on his medical friends to amplify and explain all about them. He then called on Bailie Laing to read the letters of apology, which were numerous, after which Mr McQuillen proposed the following resolution: - "That the necessity for an ambulance wagon has been a long felt want in Lochgelly and district, owing to the fact that the nearest ambulance vans are in Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy, and that the delay occasioned by their being at such a distance proves a very serious matter indeed for patients who may require prompt removal." Speaking anent the resolution, Mr McQuillen said it was a wonder they had been content to be without an ambulance van so long. It was almost a necessary adjunct for surgical treatment. The number of coal pits in the district was increasing very fast, and this shows the necessity for having such an appliance. Unfortunately, they were not completely free from these calamities, which in spite of great care, will happen. The proper treatment of these men is of the very first importance - in fact, often means the difference between life and death. He was sure the resolution would meet with the approval of everyone in the hall. (Applause.)

Dr Rorie on seconding the motion said after what the proposer had stated there was no need for him to enlarge further. The question that now arose was how to settle about ways and means. There's an old proverb which says "Hercules helps those who help themselves.". He had there a catalogue of ambulance appliances from Messrs Carter, London, who were the best manufacturers, and they were willing to deliver a van free to Fife for £75. For a little more (£88) they could give Indian rubber tyres. They also supply pneumatic tyres but he thought it would be very unprofitable to get the latter in view of the condition of the highways in the district. (Laughter.) He didn't think there would be much difficulty in raising the £88. After the money was raised the best way of using the van would have to be considered. Before procuring the use of it, it would be better to have a medical certificate. However these matters could be left till after. He had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. (Applause.)

Mr Wm Cameron asked if the district in which the van was to be used was to be limited. If so to what extent?

Chairman - Yes. A radius of about three miles to take in Cowdenbeath, Ballingry,

and Auchterderran.

Mr Liddel, Cowdenbeath, asked if it was intended to take in Cowdenbeath and adjoining places?

Chairman - Yes.

The Rev T. Dewar proposed the second resolution, which was as follows: - "That this meeting pledge itself to do all in its power to make the object of the meeting a success by raising funds for that purpose; and that a committee of those present be appointed to carry out same." Mr Dewar said it gave him great pleasure to move that resolution. The first proposed was a very important one, viz, the question of having an ambulance wagon. Yet he thought this one was of even more importance, namely, the raising of the money. He did not think there would be the slightest difficulty in procuring the £88. He supposed more money would be required to carry on the work, but in the first place the money would simply be for the purchase of the wagon. (Applause.)

Dr Dendle said that he had much pleasure in seconding Mr Dewar's resolution. But he differed - as he occasionally did differ - from Dr Rorie, for he had been getting price lists from England while Scotland could very well supply their want. Dr Rorie had got a weakness for things English (Laughter) but he (Dr Dendle) thought they should go in for a modified form of Home Rule. But they would have to do something practical. The first thing to do would be to get subscriptions in, and then settle upon some other plan - a bazaar or perhaps a concert. The latter Mr Low had kindly consented to give. (Applause) He noticed Mr Liddel president of the Cowdenbeath Ambulance Class there, and he would like to hear what they were going to do with reference to helping them with subscriptions.

Mr Liddel said he had not had the time to gather information, but he knew they would do their utmost to gather as much money as they could. But they in Lochgelly had anticipated them. They had had this question under consideration for several months past. Nevertheless they would do their best and try to make the movement a success. (Applause.)

Chairman - Well, the gentleman from Cowdenbeath says they are going to help us, and I don't think there will be the least difficulty in getting an ambulance wagon. In the limit we propose there will be 14,000 people.

The meeting thereafter proceeded to appoint a committee.

In this connection the Rev. James Brown made the suggestion that on the committee they should have miners representatives. It was in their interest this movement was set afoot, and he considered if they had representatives on the committee it would give additional interest. If they got the miners to give on the pithead as they did for the Infirmary, and get others to supplement that, he didn't see but they could easily raise the money. They therefore ought to have the mining community represented - one or two from each place. They ought also to have the officials represented - in fact he would favour a general representation. (Applause.)

Dr Cumming supported what Mr Brown had said. It was a matter of the greatest good

to the greatest number, and they ought to have the co-operation of the miners. The committee should not be composed of one class but be representative.

The committee was thereafter completed and included all the clergy, medicals, pit managers, and oversmen, and a number of prominent citizens and representatives of the miners. Provost Melville was appointed convener; Bailie Laing and Dr Rorie, joint secretaries; and Mr A. Graham, treasurer.

The usual votes of thanks closed the meeting.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1896.
KELTY ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

Formal Opening.

The new Established Church at Oakfield, Kelty, was formally opened on Thursday afternoon last, by the Rev. Theodore Marshall, M.A., Home Mission Deputy. The congregation was large. Amongst those present were the Rev. Dr Mitchell, Dunfermline, Rev. Messrs Sinclair, Beath; Dewar, Lochgelly; Fairley, Dunfermline; West, Antrim; Auld, Carnock; Gordon and Hampden, Culross; Clark, Mossgreen; Ferguson, Inverkeithing; Gilmour, Cowdenbeath; Ritchie, Dunfermline; and Stephen, Kelty.

Mr Marshall preached from Rev. xxi., 22 - "And I saw no temple therein; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple if it".

Mr Marshall said that it was an important duty to see that, so far as was possible, the conditions of worship were properly fulfilled. Considering the whole matter, it seemed to him that two obvious duties rested upon them as members of the Church of Christ. The first was to make provision for the erection of places of worship wherever they might be required, and the second was to see that these places of worship should be suitable for and worthy of their object. These two conditions, he thought - and he was sure they would agree with him - had been fulfilled in the church in which they were met for the first time, and which they had now solemnly dedicated and opened for the worship of God. It was often said, and said with truth, that here and there over the country, it might be in many places churches were built which were not needed. But anyone who looked at the circumstances of that district and of the Parish would admit the need of church extension there. The population in the Parish had increased enormously within the last few years. In 1851, the population stood at 1200; and at the last census it was over 8000, and had greatly increased since then. In fact, it had more than doubled within the last twenty years. Not only was the population larger, but new centres of population had been formed. New villages in connection with their great mining industries had sprung up, several of them long distances from the Parish Church. In these circumstances, it would have been a clear dereliction of its national duty if the Church of Scotland had not made full for the religious needs of the new population, by the erection of additional places of worship and the appointment of additional ministers. He knew there were other churches belonging to other denominations at work in the parish, but, with the large increase in population, and

the special needs of the special population, he had no doubt there would be found ample scope for all the different denominations. At any rate, he was sure that the building in which they were now met, had been erected with no thought of unholy rivalry with any other body of Christians, but simply as a Church, and as a national Church. Here, he thought, he might venture to congratulate them. They rejoiced in the liberality of one noble Peer who had been taken away from them. At the beginning of the work, the late Lord Moray greatly assisted them, and his executors, within the past few weeks, had lessened the burden. He (Mr Marshall) congratulated them on the interest which all connected with the locality had shown in the new church. Might he remind them to make full use of it by regularly attending - full use of it by entering into the spirit of its solemn services - full use of it by coming there in every time of trouble, perplexity, doubt, sorrow, and sin, to receive the guidance, assurance, and forgiveness of the Lord? While it was the duty of the Church of Christ to erect buildings they had the further duty of seeing that the buildings which were erected were worthy of the object. They must always remember that they were to serve God with their best. It used to be said (but he was thankful to say it was hardly necessary to speak of these things now-a-days), that beauty and external adornments distracted men's minds from the worship of God. He thought that they had come to learn that ugliness did not secure spirituality. Ugliness or excessive plainness might distract men's minds from God's worship as much, perhaps more, than any amount of adornment. A humble penitent might come to the most gorgeous building; and, on the other hand, a proud self-satisfied Pharisee might worship in the plainest church. The newly-erected church was in keeping with the holy purposes for which it had been erected. As they worshipped there, amid external fitness and external beauty, let that external fitness and external beauty rouse and stimulate them to make all things beautiful within and without. While they worshipped Him in the beauty of outward adornment, let them have beauty and holiness in the inner lives and actions of their daily walk. Might God be ever with them, and might they ever realise His presence.

The choir of the Beath Parish Church led the praise and sang the following pieces in a highly creditable manner: - "Oh send out thy light and Thy truth," "What are these", "The Lord is my Shepherd", and the "Hallelujah" chorus. Mr J.M. Brown conducted with his accustomed ability, and Mr Wm. Brown provided excellent accompaniments.

On Sabbath at noon the Rev. John Sinclair, minister of the Parish, preached before a congregation which completely filled the church. Mr J.M. Brown presided at the harmonium.

Description of the New Church.

The site of the new church is among the best in the district, occupying one of the four corners at Oakfield. The building is cruciform in shape, with nave and transepts, which, with a gallery, provide sitting accommodation for 500 worshippers. The pulpit, which is elegant alike in design and workmanship, stands at the north-east corner on a raised platform. The latter is for the use of the choir. The session-house, cloak-room, and lavatory are behind the church, where there is still sufficient space for the erection of a hall or class-rooms. The whole church is heated by means of water pipes. The exterior of the building is neat and graceful, while the interior is elegantly fitted up, and presents a fine appearance with its open timbered roof. Mr John Houston, architect, Dunfermline, designed the building and superintended its

erection. The cost of the new church is £1600, to which the late Earl of Moray and his executors contributed £1000.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1896.

COWDENBEATH NEWS.

Protecting the Coal Trade.

At the Sheriff Court on Monday Thomas Boyd, pit sinker, Foulford Street, Cowdenbeath, was convicted on circumstantial evidence of stealing about fifteen pounds of coal from Cowdenbeath Colliery - Sheriff Gillespie, in imposing a fine of £1, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, said that unthinking people might say that it was very hard to punish a man for stealing a piece of coal worth a penny or three halfpence, but it had to be considered that if everybody helped themselves as they pleased, it would be a serious blow to the coal trade. The piece of coal stolen by Boyd was small, but the total stolen was very large indeed, it having been brought out in previous cases that sometimes a truck could not stand in a siding without a ton being stolen. The coal trade is slack enough already, and if a good deal was stolen, the less thriving collieries might have to be closed, and a great many people would be thrown out of employment.

KELTY.

The Heinousness of Night Poaching.

John Muirhead, miner, Kelty, pleaded guilty on Monday to a charge of night poaching along with two other men on Blairadam Estate. Sheriff Gillespie said that night poaching was often regarded as a very much more serious offence than day poaching, because it was apt to lead to collisions between the gamekeepers and the poachers, with serious results to the one side or the other. The punishment provided for by the statute was very severe, a man being liable for a third offence to transportation for seven years. Muirhead was fined £4, with the option of twenty-one days imprisonment.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1896.

COWDENBEATH NEWS.

The Coal Stealing Nuisance.

At the Sheriff Court, Dunfermline, on Friday, Joseph Wilkinson, miner, Little Raith Colliery Houses, Cowdenbeath, was convicted of having on Tuesday stolen eleven pound of coal from a bing at Little Raith Colliery. Sheriff Gillespie said that the coal stealing had become a crying evil in Fife, and he was determined to do all he could to put the evil down. Wilkinson would have to go to prison for twenty-one days. Two school boys, brothers from the same district as Wilkinson, were placed in the dock on a similar charge. The Sheriff said he was always unwilling to convict children. The charges against the boys would be departed from if their mother, who was present, paid down 10s for the funds of Dunfermline Cottage Hospital. He contemplated that the law would be so sharpened next year as to enable the authorities to deal with the parents - there could be no doubt the parents are to blame - in cases where children

were involved in coal stealing. The mother of the boys paid the 10s towards the funds of the Hospital and the charge was withdrawn.

KELTY.

Liabie to be Hanged.

At the Dunfermline Sheriff Court, on Thursday, Peter McCallum, miner, residing at Pleasance, Kelty, with his step-father, John Close, miner, was charged with assaulting his sister, his mother, and his step-father. He seized his sister by the throat, and struck her on the face and breast; his mother, who was in bed asleep, he dragged to the floor and kicked; and he knocked his step-father down. After evidence had been led, Sheriff Gillespie found the charge proven. He said he did not know whether McCallum was aware that by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, which was still in force, a man who struck his father or mother was liable to be hanged. McCallum - I am quite aware of that, sir. The Sheriff - I am glad to hear that. There were three previous convictions. The sentence was thirty days imprisonment and £3 caution for six month's good behaviour, or twenty-one days further imprisonment.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1897.

LECTURE BY KEIR HARDIE.

Mr Keir Hardie, the well-known agitator, delivered a lecture in the Drill Hall, last Wednesday evening, under the auspices of Lochgelly Co-operative Society. The lecture, which was naturally of a socialistic nature, was entitled "Our Native Land". The lecturer was somewhat late in arriving, it being fully half-an-hour after the advertised time before he appeared. Mr Alex Kerr, presided, and introduced the lecturer.

Mr Keir Hardie at the outset explained and apologised for his late arrival, and appealed for a patient hearing. Proceeding, he said we had every reason to be proud of our Native Land - a land early associated with the struggle for freedom, and, foremost in the fight for political and religious equality, our countrymen had given an incentive to pioneers and reformers in other lands. Just now we are continually being called upon to be patriots - now he spoke of Great Britain, not of Scotland alone. We maintained an enormous navy to defend the shores of our native land against invasion, we support a large standing army to protect our possessions at home and abroad. The people tax themselves, and would give their sons if need be to die in defence of their native land. We stand

AN UNQUONQUERED PEOPLE:

We owe homage to no foreign potentate; we are a free people, living in a free country, enjoying our own native land. But yet, thou it is always 'our' native land, how many of those present own a single yard of it unless perhaps in a cemetery, and then only after you bought and paid for it. It is 'our' native land, but mark you, if, worn and tired, you try and obtain food and shelter for yourself or family you are speedily 'run in' for having no visible means of support. You are not even permitted to lie in a field in "your own native land". It is curious, the people have

NO COMMON OWNERSHIP.

We pay two hundred and eighty millions of pounds every year for the mere privilege of being allowed to live in our own native land. If some foreign people had conquered us and we had to pay as much money to them, every patriot would be in arms against it; but what is the difference to whom it is paid. And why therefore is a free people required to pay this sum? Because the land, we are told, is owned by certain individuals. But these individuals should not own the land, and we have to try and discover a process whereby

THE LAND SHALL BE RESTORED TO THE OWNERSHIP OF THE PEOPLE.

Land is necessary for food; in it lies the coal and minerals without which all our national prosperity would speedily pass away. Now I don't see why the mineral wealth should belong to one section of the community. The mineral wealth was intended for the benefit of the whole of the people and not for the exclusive benefit of a section. (Applause.) To-night there are collieries in Fife not going full time because, we are told, there isn't a demand for the coal. And yet in our cities there are thousands of homes where women and children are sitting

SHIVERING OVER A FIRELESS GRATE.

The coal is in the land of abundance, but someone owns it and won't allow it to be produced unless it is sold at a profit and covers the royalty. One would imagine that coal had been provided simply to provide royalties for the landlords. Although people require the coal, and people are willing to risk their lives in working it, they are not allowed to touch it. - That is in 'our own native land.' I remember seeing women laden with bundles of sticks. The husbands were going idle because there was no demand for coal and these wives had to go out and search for wood to make a fire. But here was the colliery idle because there was 'no demand for coal'. And yet the coalowners will sing "Rule Britannia," and when half drunk "Scots wha hae" - (Applause.) You have the same in all trades - over production of the necessities of life and side by side you have poverty meeting the people who produce the wealth.

THE THREE CLASSES.

The population of the country is now forty millions. Of that number thirty-three millions belong to what is called the Working Class. We hear sometimes an outcry against setting class against class, but at the census of 1891 the conservative government ordered the population to be divided into three classes - The working class, the middle class, and the leisure class. The lecturer gave his definition of the classes. Proceeding, he said the working class produced the wealth of the land. The middle class were engaged in superintending the production of wealth and distributing. The leisure class, having blue blood, do not work. And so the one produces the wealth, another sees to its distribution, and the other collars it and sticks to it. (Laughter.) Therefore the working class is by far the most important and ought to be recognised as the "pre-dominate partner," and as such surely ought to receive a predominant share. (Hear, hear.) But the people who do the least work are the best

paid. Take the

ROYAL FAMILY.

This year we are celebrating the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign - (prolonged applause) - and I trust she will be long spared to reign. I'd rather a respectable lady on the throne than a disreputable son. Well, during all these years, she has never once interfered in the affairs of the nation. She gets millions - and all for being gracious! There's an object lesson going on in Wales just now at

LORD PENRHYN'S QUARRIES,

where 400 men have been locked out. The hill-side where the quarries are situated was at one time common ground. 'The Times' said this forty years ago. These quarrymen are willing to work, but they have been locked out because they have formed a Trades Union. The House of Commons, as representatives of the people, should take possession of the quarries, but they won't. You say you can't expect anything else from the Tories, but perhaps you are apt to forget that three years ago Sir C. Wilson, a ship owner, locked out his Dockers in Hull, and compelled them to leave their Trades Union. The Liberals were in power then, and they sent out soldiers to protect Wilson's property and blacklegs. What the Tories are doing for Lord Penrhyn, the Liberals did for Sir C. Wilson.

CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM.

We are nominally a Christian people. We make protestations of belief in Christianity, but how often do we remember the dogma of Christ - "Do unto others as you would do unto yourself." On Sundays that religion is expounded, and laid down with pith, but for the other six days of the week, it is left out of life. What common bond is there between employers and employee? In the one case the employer has invested his capital, and his interest is to get the most he can out of the money he has invested. And at the same time an employee will, if he can, take advantage of the employer. And so we have a conflict between the two. Yet both these men are Christians and attend the church on Sunday. People are worldly minded because the conditions of life make them so. One reason why I am a co-operator is not because of the dividend, but because co-operation is a way whereby strife between man and man and nation and nation shall give way, and bring business to all and injury to none. In concluding the lecturer said that when Scotland - the pioneer of freedom - comes to realise that socialism means applied Christianity, then "our native land" shall take its place once more amongst the people who are seeking to solve the social problem. (Applause.) At the close, questions were invited, but no one present responded to the invitation. The usual votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1897
BALLINGRY SCHOOL BOARD.

Meeting of the Ratepayers.
A Lively and Amusing Meeting.

"A Wee Keek Back"

In view of the early date of the School Board election, the ratepayers of Ballingry parish met last night to discuss matters. Mr McLellan, of Glencraig, was called upon to preside. There was a large turnout.

The Chairman thought they should first call upon the Chairman of the Board (Mr Liddel, of Navity) to address the meeting. He, however, was not present, an elector remarking that he would probably be in Edinburgh.

Rev. Mr Jamie was next called upon, but an elector thought Mr Wm. Hodge should be given the next opportunity, as he and Mr Liddel "wrought on party lines." Mr Hodge was accordingly called upon by the Chairman, but he also was an absentee.

A laugh was heard when a voice hinted that Mr Hodge would be at a prayer meeting, and the merriment was continued, when another elector suggested that he and Mr Liddel might be down at Flockhouse playing the new harmonium. Another voice called out that "none of the two were gentlemen", and the idea seemed to find favour with the meeting.

The Chairman thought, that, as they were representing the electors of Ballingry, they should have been at the meeting. And, if these were the gentlemen they had to put their trust in, the sooner they were severed from the connection the better. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Reid was thereafter called upon. He said he had been representing them for six years, and he had done what he could for the benefit of the children and the school at large. The last time he was elected he promised to try and get free books for the children. He didn't say he would be able to get it. He tried more than once and failed, but he still tried. At last he got the Board to grant them free copybooks and stationary, and that was so much of his pledge fulfilled. But he didn't stop there. He intended, if re-elected, to still try and get free books. A great many, he said, came into the district to get work, and the books they had were of no use. They, perhaps, weren't able to buy books at the time, and the children were at a disadvantage. They cannot get the books, and they won't go to school because they have an instinct of what they are to get. (Laughter.) There is another thing that has transpired during the last three years in the mineral under the school garden. There were negotiations between the landlord and the Board. By-and-bye we came to an agreement, they said they would give £100 to get the mineral under the site of the school. They were also to repair any damage that might be done. The price the Board paid for the site was £38, so it had turned out a pretty fair bargain when we were getting £100 when it only cost £38 originally. We have been accused of

SPENDING MONEY FOOLISHLY,

but, if one looks round and sees the school there from what it was three years ago, they would not know the place. We have almost re-seated the school. Some of the galleries were in such a state that it was dangerous for the children to climb up. This danger has been removed, and the whole of the rubbish cleared out. After doing all that, we are at the present time better financially than we were years ago. With reference to the little tittle-tattle at the corners, I am certain that everyone of the Board has tried to keep down expenditure. The Board has done its best for the children and

teachers of the school. (Applause.)

Rev. Mr Jamie was next called upon. He said he was glad to see the meeting called. Three years ago he took it upon himself to call a public meeting, but then he wanted particularly to say something; and while quite prepared to come to a meeting at the present time, he was not going to call one. There has been, he said, considerable progress during the last six years. This year we have got a very good grant -

THE HIGHEST GRANT,

I believe, that has been given for the school. We have also, on the whole, got very good reports. We have taken out all the old desks and replaced them with ones suitable for the children, beside a number of other improvements. The walls have been lined with diagrams and pictures. We have been most desirous of equipping the school in the best manner possible, while being careful of the pockets of the ratepayers.

FINANCES.

Our income comes from the Government grant, relief of fees, and also the rates. As Government grant we have this year, £195 17s 6d; last year, we had only £160. That grant which is given is based upon certain things the Inspector finds. There is a fixed grant of 10s given per scholar for attendance, so that we must see that we have a good attendance. This should be more attended to than at present. It is desirable we should have the money, and also the children for their own sake. I know there are sometimes difficulties in the way of regular attendance, but one's none the worse of getting a hint. The population is also fluctuating very much, or else we might have larger grant. The Board should see that the "whipper-in" does his duty. For discipline we only got 1s, which has, no doubt, been owing to overcrowding. Five years ago there was a portion taken off this parish and given to Kinglassie. We asked recompense, and got an opportunity of presenting our case before the Commissioners. For the loss of territory we were granted as compensation, £99 per year for five years. That is now all paid. With regard to the £100 we have got for mineral, it is capital, and is not to be used for ordinary expenses. It could, however, be used for bringing in the water. There were other

LITTLE MATTERS,

but perhaps you have got tired of discussing them. In the building of the washing-house, &c., the School Board were doing what they considered necessary. (Applause.)

Mr Ferguson, who was next asked to address the meeting, said there was very little left for him to say. Mr Reid went over one half and Mr Jamie has gone over the whole - (laughter) - and I am left without a word. There is only one thing I would speak on, and that is what Mr Reid said about free books. Unlike Mr Reid, I made no pledge. My reason is that there's a great many ratepayers old people in the parish who have educated their own families and have now none at school. The most of the rates come from these aged people, and that's the reason I objected to free books. Referring to the wash and coal house, he said the matter was laid before the Board, but before it

could be settled one member left that is what Mr Reid said about free books. Unlike Mr Reid, I made no pledge. My reason is that there's a great many ratepayers old people in the parish who have educated their own families and have now none at school. The most of the rates come from these aged people, and that's the reason I objected to free books. Referring to the wash and coal house, he said the matter was laid before the Board, but before it could be settled one member left, making the excuse he had to catch a train. Perhaps the train was earlier than usual that night - (laughter) - I don't know, but on every other occasion he had time to wait to the end of the meeting. He spoke of other minor matters, after which the Chairman invited

QUESTIONS.

There had been a lot said outside and now was the time to bring them forward.

For some time there was no response.

An Elector said if the other two members had been present they would have been more ready to ask questions.

A Voice - I think the meeting should move a vote of no confidence in them.

Mr B. Dowds asked what progress had been made for having the school supplied with water.

Mr Reid stated this case was pending in the Court of Session.

Mr McMenemy - Did the members present instruct the Chairman (Mr Liddel) to write to the Education Department about the returning officer?

Rev. Mr Jamie - He did it on his own responsibility, and didn't submit the correspondence to us.

Mr Frank Donnachie asked if it was possible to get Flockhouse included in the parish.

Mr Jamie pointed out many difficulties that stood in the way of this.

Mr R. Wilson asked if it was legal for a Member of the Board to hold office under the Board.

Mr Jamie replied in the negative.

Mr Watson - Then I want to know why there was a member of the Board employed to do work in connection with the sorting of the playground.

Mr Ferguson - There was a member promised to see the work carried out, but it was not intended he would work himself. He was expected to employ a labouring man.

Mr McMenemy said he believed there were members of the Board who had such respect for the place that they have got to employ spies to carry the news to them. (Applause.)

Mr Reid - That's hitting the nail on the head.

Mr Izaak McCallum - I propose a vote of no confidence in Mr Liddel and Mr Hodge. (Loud applause.)

The motion was seconded, and carried with much enthusiasm.

Mr A. Butters proposed a vote of confidence in the three members present. This was also enthusiastically carried.

Mr Robert McCallum asked if anyone present could prove that Mr Liddel knew of this meeting.

An Elector stated that a bill was sent to him.

Mr McCallum - Well, I know he didn't get a bill.

Mr Birrel Davidson - Seeing Mr Liddel is always having a report in the 'People's Journal', he should know about this meeting. They want a meeting for themselves. (Laughter and applause).

Mr J. Butters - The next time we send word to Mr Liddel we will have to send it in a registered letter. - (Laughter).

Mr Jamie - When the notices are put up publicly they certainly can't complain.

Chairman - When he can send reports to the 'People's Journal', he must be here sometimes, or have a reporter. (Laughter).

Mr B. Dowds - If the members present are returned would they be prepared to support the admission of the press to all their meetings?

Mr Jamie - The meetings of the Board are quite open; and, if any reporters came, they would certainly be admitted. (Hear, hear). For a time I undertook to supply paragraphs to the local papers, and we did it until we found that a correspondent of the 'People's Journal' sent other paragraphs after us throwing a false light upon the business. But, it would be much better if outsiders were to take the news for themselves. (Applause.)

Mr Ferguson - It would be better to have a reporter admitted to the meeting. It would prove these false statements appearing in the 'People's Journal'.

Mr Birrel Davidson - I make a motion that only the present five members stand again, and Mr Liddel won't come so often to the meetings. (Laughter.)

The motion was of course, incompetent, and was ruled out of order.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and the Board members present concluded an entertaining meeting.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1897.

KEIR HARDIE ON "SOCIAL PROBLEMS".

On Thursday night, under the auspices of Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath Socialist Society, Mr J. Keir Hardie lectured in the Co-operative Hall. Mr R. Canovan presided over a fair attendance. The Dunfermline Socialist Choir attended and sung, amongst others, "Marseilles Hymn", and "Liberty". After a few remarks from the Chairman, Mr Hardie proceeded with his lecture. At the outset he confined his remarks to the relations of the Temperance Question with Socialism. He was an abstainer himself, and he believed total abstinence to be good for the individual; but he did not advocate it as a remedy for the social evil. It made the problem more difficult of solution, and aggravated the evil, but it was not drunkenness which made a man's income 15s a week. The labourers in India, dying at the present time from starvation, and who received 3/4d a day, were all total abstainers. Referring to political parties, he advised his hearers not to be deluded by the promise of the Liberals. A smooth-tongued lawyer had come amongst them and talked about the greatness of the Empire, and that to uphold its honour and integrity the masses must return Liberal candidates. He was in Halifax where Tom Mann was fighting the cause of the people, and he noticed that the Liberals had issued a revised version of his address promising the voters everything and pledging himself to nothing. They knew the Tory, but the Liberal hid himself, and attempted deception. The latter went to Parliament to do duty to the capitalist, and he did his duty well. He was once an enthusiastic Liberal, but whether Tory or Radical gain he and his mate had to rise at half-past four the next morning just the same, with the same hard work and the same reward. Some persons had cried aloud for the workman to educate himself. He said so too; but was it not to make the workman's life more unhappy to create a desire without any means of gratification. These persons should take care and not stimulate passions which they could not curb, for with the quickening of the intellectual force of the nation, the progress of Socialism would be inseparably allied. They had much opposition. The last time he was in the district he had subjected himself to the torture of reading an article which appeared in a Cowdenbeath paper. (A voice - "Lochgelly.") That was so much for Cowdenbeath anyway. Even in America, where his appearance was greeted with a well-directed brick, and where the truth was regarded with little affection, he could not imagine more hopelessly incapable of understanding the simplest science of the day. For lack of a more forceable word, he would call it lack of intellect. (Loud laughter.) Some persons again preached thrift. His neighbour, the Marquis of Bute, obtained £1000 a day, while his labourers earned 15s a week. He could understand preaching thrift to the former, but to talk about thrift to the workman was only adding insult to injury. Speaking on Trade Unions, he said they were necessary to protect the workman. Under their influence the parties had been driven to introduce legislation for the masses. During the English coal strike, Lord Roseberry was as a cushion on which the employers might fall easy. Under a Socialist Government some said that freedom would be destroyed. As an example of that present day commodity, he read one of the Cowdenbeath Coal Company's rules. A man must work 11 days a fortnight, no idle day unless determined by the 'masters', to work according to other conditions, must be any kind of work they choose, and the orders must be obeyed or leave; and even then without losing. The workmen were in the shackles of the coal-owners. In a few years the coal-fields in Fife would be under the management of one huge company, and the workmen would suffer. There was no individual right in that,

no liberty of the subject. Their freedom was "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare." Under Socialism, the workman would be assured of his freedom. They were fighting the battle of independence, and no means were too drastic to overcome the injustice of the present social system. When the time arrived they would be free politically, and free economically. He urged them to come out of the mire of party politics and take their stand on the solid platform of true democracy. By these means they would help to bring about the time when our sons and daughters will live in happier days.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIME & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1897.

BALLINGRY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

Public Meeting.
A Rowdy and Uproarious Farce

Ballingry Public School was crowded on Saturday evening to hear Messrs Liddel and Hodge on their defence. The other three members - Messrs Jamie, Ferguson, and Reid - were also present, but occupied a back seat. Mr Peter Torley was called to the chair.

Mr William Hodge, one of the retiring members, was first called upon to speak. He said he had supported Mr Reid's motion in favour of free books and was still in favour of that. In connection with the £100 received for the mineral there was £15 paid for legal advice - an unnecessary expenditure, as Mr Liddel had already established the Board's claim. The had really only got £85. He didn't want to say anything against any member of the Board. There may have been differences which had probably been magnified. But on the whole they had got on tolerably well, and a lot of improvements had been made. He had always tried to make everything better than they had found them. He had at least done his best.

Mr Liddel then addressed the meeting. He had thought it right to ask the electors to meet him to exchange confidences. He would not trouble them with a long speech, because he had had plenty of speaking recently in connection with his candidature for Edinburgh School Board. Perhaps it would be better to wait till the heckling commenced - the favourite resort of British electors. The Board started what promised to be a prosperous voyage three years ago, but soon the business got thwarted. It was the same on all small Boards of five members, where one man can turn the whole thing. The storms that arose were probably the result of misunderstanding on both sides. Referring to Mr Reid, he said that no one had more regard for him than he, and as for his zeal, he fully applauded it. The only thing he had to complain of Mr Reid was being too fond of having his own way. Speaking of the mineral under the school, he said he did not consider it necessary to take legal advice; it was only throwing money away, because there was absolutely no doubt about the matter at all. A complaint had been made in the Inspector's report as to overcrowding in the Infant Department, and he (Mr Liddel) asked that something should be done. All he could get was Mr Constable's suggestion - "Open another window". Speaking of Mr Paton's claim of £1, he had asked what it was for, and it turned out that Mr Paton could give no answer, unless saying that this was a very bad School Board.

Mr Paton - That's not true.

The Chairman - Wait till the statement is finished.

Mr Liddel - Surely the Chairman is to rule the meeting.

Mr Paton - It's not true.

Mr Liddel - (continuing) - Then as to the reporters. In the previous Board I moved

that all meetings should be open. Mr Jamie took a middle opinion, and Mr Constable opposed it altogether. I think I am right Mr Jamie?

Mr Jamie ignored the question.

Mr Liddel - Mr Jamie won't answer.

THE HECKLING.

Mr R. McCallum - Perhaps the other members present would like to say something.

A Voice - I would like to know why Liddel and Hodge were absent at the previous meeting? (Applause).

The Chairman - That is out of order.

Mr Reid - Will I be allowed to reply to a little statement Mr Liddel made?

The Chairman - This is not the place for any casual grievance.

An Elector - I move he be allowed. (Applause)

The Chairman would not allow it.

Birrel Davidson - Well, I propose Mr Chairman, we fling you out the B----- door.. (hisses.)

The Chairman - I may say there is not a man in the place will chuck me out of that door.

Mr B. Davidson - I can do it in a minute.

The Chairman - You have no business here at all.

Mr Hodge - I think I can answer Mr Reid's question.

At this point there was great interruption, the meeting alternately cheering and hissing.

Mr McGregor - Mr Liddel said something against the members of the Board. Mr Reid says he wants to ask if he will be allowed to reply. I consider he is quite entitled. (Applause.)

The Chairman - Well, look here sir; if we get into these complications we will be here all night.

Mr B. Davidson - I am going to ask a few questions. I am going to do it. I see from the bills this is a public meeting.

The Chairman - There's no use. Your not gentlemanly at all.

Mr B. Davidson - threateningly) Am I not?

The Chairman - Why, man, don't make a fool of both of us.

Mr B. Davidson - I don't think I can make a fool of you. You're one already. (Great laughter, and cries of "sit down".)

The Chairman - You have small brain power.

Mr B. Davidson - (addressing Mr Liddel) - Are you a candidate for Edinburgh School Board?

Mr Liddel - Do you read the 'Scotsman'?

Mr B. Davidson - No, I read the 'People's Journal'. (Great laughter).

The Chairman - Birrell, you are out of order.

Mr B. Davidson - Never you mind, if I am out of order. If you had not been a "toe rag" you would not have been there. (Laughter.) I've another question, seeing you won't answer that one. Are you in favour of coal lying exposed to the weather?

Mr Liddel - I wish I had all my coal exposed to the weather. But I don't see your point.

Mr B. Davidson - Well, I am not an advocate.

Mr Liddel - You can speak very well. (Laughter.)

Mr B. Davidson - I can also read very well.

Mr Liddel - I really don't see your question.

Mr B. Davidson - Why are you opposed to a house for holding the school coal?

Mr Liddel - I never opposed it. I had no chance. It was done behind my back.

Mr B. Davidson- Why are you bringing the ratepayers into litigation

Mr Liddel - I am not bringing them; it's their own choice.

The Chairman - All your questions are out of order.

Mr McLennan - Didn't you invite questions from the ratepayers Mr Chairman?

A Voice - Yes he did.

Mr McLennan - And yet you rule them out of order. (Applause.)

The Chairman - Mr Davidson is not an elector.

Mr McLennan - He is asking direct questions and should get direct answers. (Great applause.)

A Voice - He said he was out of order after he had the question asked. (Laughter.)

The Chairman - Certainly he was.

A Voice - You are losing your head.

The Chairman repudiated this.

Mr B. Davidson - If I am not an elector I am a ratepayer, and as far as stultifying your speech ----

The Chairman - As far as what? (Laughter.)

Mr Davidson - I can speak with you and day in the week.

The Chairman - You are simply better fortified - (laughter) - which makes you think a lot of your physical propensities. (Laughter.)

Mr Paton questioned Mr Liddel at some length regarding £1 hitherto allowed him.

Mr Liddel said this School Board were made to pay what Lady Malcolm should have paid.

Mr Paton, addressing Mr Hodge, asked if he approved of the case at present in the Court of Session?

Mr Hodge - Yes.

Mr Paton - You are both in the same boat. Are you a large ratepayer Mr Hodge?

Mr Liddel - As much so as yourself. (Laughter.)

Mr Paton - I am not talking to you, Mr Liddel.

Mr Hodge - I think I can act according to my opinions. I am here to represent a certain part of the ratepayers in this parish.

Mr Paton - That appears to be an erroneous stipulation of the contract. (Great laughter.)

Mr B. Davidson - (to Mr Liddel) - You propose to supply water free of charge to the school houses?

Mr Liddel - This has reference to an action in the Court of Session. The judge will give you his decision.

Mr Davidson - Why do you want to charge £3 or £4 in the year when you led us to believe the water was to be a free gift.

Mr Liddel - I simply want to avoid speaking upon a case pending before a judge. I don't want to make a profit out of the Board, but £3 10s per annum is surely not a monstrous charge for an outlay of £150.

Mr Davidson - You led us to believe we were to get it free. Why do you want the money?

Mr Liddel - I simply do not want to be out of pocket. They want to make the water out bad. Does anybody think that water can be largely contaminated with sewage on a hill-side?

Mr Davidson - I don't think you should turn your coat.

The Chairman - That's personalities.

Mr Davidson - It's through personalities you're sitting there - stand up like a b----- gentleman. (Hisses and laughter.)

The Chairman - Could you tell me what a gentleman means?

Mr Davidson - There's not a gentleman between the two of you. (Loud applause and laughter.)

The Chairman - Hold you tongue.

Mr Davidson - Hold my tongue! I could scatter you against that window. (Great uproar.)

The Chairman - And I would retaliate. I think we should close the meeting.

Mr Bogie - I have a question. Why were Mr Liddel and Mr Hodge not at the last meeting?

Mr Liddel - I got a poster. It was signed by nobody, and it said that members were invited to attend. I hold it was an anonymous call, and I thought it not consistent to attend such a call. They might have sent a note.

Mr Hodge - I knew there was one section of the community got up that meeting. I am not afraid of that section, but if there had been a fair requisition signed I would have attended the meeting.

Mr Bogie - I propose a vote of no confidence in Mr Liddel and Mr Hodge, same as passed at the last meeting. (Cheers.)

Chairman - We'll close the meeting

Cries of "Put the No Confidence."

Mr Davidson - I propose, instead of closing the meeting, we close the mouth of the Chairman of the b----- house. (Great laughter.)

Chairman - I propose you come and try it. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr Ferguson heckled Mr Liddel at some length after this, but Mr Liddel seemed disinclined to answer questions.

Mr Ferguson said there was another thing he wanted to check him about.

Mr Liddel - You had your meeting. I didn't interfere with you.

Mr Ferguson - You talked about me.

Mr Liddel - Didn't you talk about me?

Another Elector said he would like to ask a question.

Mr Liddel - Well, be quick, for I must go to catch the train.

A Voice - Oh, we'll get a 'bus for you if you lose the train. (Laughter.)

An Elector - What would Mr Liddel do in the event of a servant not doing his duty?

A Voice - Send him about his business.

A Voice - Well, we'll do the same with him. (Laughter and cheers.)

The Chairman was asked to take up the motion of a vote of no confidence, but he didn't do it.

The meeting concluded amidst an uproarious scene of hissing and hooting.

(N.B. the above is an account of what took place at the Ballingry School Board, on the same page that this article appears there is a report of the public meeting that was held regarding the Lochgelly School Board, every bit as interesting and amusing and every bit as chaotic, but as it is a very long article it would take me too long to type it out.) Jim C.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1897.

THE IDLE-DAY DISPUTE AT COWDENBEATH.

With the return of better times, the idle-day question has again cropped up at Cowdenbeath. On this occasion, however, the issue is not so direct and distinct as it has been fought in previous conflicts between master and men. Not to go further back, it may be recalled that during the dull trade in 1895 there were more idle-days than the men cared for, with the result that if the pits happened to be going on the day originally fixed - the second Thursday of the pay - the men descended, and the regular fortnightly idle-day was lost sight of. When a change for the better was experienced in the trade upwards of a year ago, and the work was pretty steady for a few fortnights, the men attempted to fix the idle day as before. They were met with opposition from the Cowdenbeath Coal Company, however. The pits were kept open on a day which the men held was the idle-day, and a considerable number of men absented themselves. On the Friday morning those who had lain off on the Thursday were prevented from entering the cages, and great excitement prevailed in the burgh. A meeting was held, and Mr Weir and Mr Innes were deputed to have an audience with Mr Mungall. The upshot of the conference that bygones were allowed to be bygones, and an understanding was arrived at by which the Company would meantime reserve to themselves the right to fix the idle day, but that notice would be posted at the pitheads the day before the pits were idle. The men now allege that this undertaking has not been fulfilled, and that occasionally of late the pits have been kept going twelve days a fortnight. On Thursday, the 8th inst., the great body of men remained away from the pits, and the following morning notices were posted giving warning that those who absented themselves would be held liable in damages. This notice was disregarded, and on Thursday last week the men again lay idle. On Friday the following notice was posted at the pit heads: -

NOTICE.

Intimation is hereby given to those workmen who absented themselves from their work at the colliery on Thursday, the 22nd inst., in contravention of rule No. II. of the conditions of their employment, and we hold them liable for the loss and damage we have incurred by their absence, and that our claim for said loss and damage shall not be prejudiced by their being allowed to continue to work in the colliery.

The Fife Coal Company Ltd.,
D. Anderson, Manager.
Cowdenbeath Collieries, 22nd April, 1897.

The above notices do not seem to give much alarm, but some stir has been created by the fact that above a hundred of the men had received intimation of a claim in the following terms: -

COWDENBEATH, &c., COLLIERIES.
Leven, 20th April, 1897.

Mr -----

To the Fife Coal Coy., Limited.

You, being a workman employed by us under certain general regulations and conditions of employment, which inter alia stipulate that you are to work to us Eleven lawful days in each fortnight of your employment, which days are to be fixed by the Company, or their manager, did, during the fortnight ending 13th April, 1897, work only 10 days, without having a lawful excuse for not working 11 days, whereby you have occasioned us loss and damage amounting to 8s.

COWDENBEATH NEWS.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1897.
Fife Miners Idle Day.

The Fife Coal Company have taken small debt summonses against twelve of their Cowdenbeath miners. The general regulations and conditions of employment provide for the men working eleven days a fortnight, but during the fortnight ending 13th April, last, about one hundred men worked ten days or fewer, and observed an idle day fixed by the general body of the men, although the pits were kept open by the Company on that day. The cases raised are understood to be test cases, and the reason for so many summonses being served is that some of the men may have valid excuses. (Same column)

The Miner's Idle Day - Case in Court.

In the Small Debt Court, Dunfermline, yesterday, twelve cases were called, in which the Fife Coal Company sued twelve of their Cowdenbeath miners for payments ranging from 8s to 24s. The account appended to the summons in the first case was as follows: - "You, being a workman employed by us under certain general regulations and conditions of employment, which 'inter alia', stipulate that you are to work to us eleven lawful days in each fortnight of your employment, which days are from time to time to be fixed by the Company or their manager, did during the fortnight ending 13th April, 1897, work only ten days, and did during the fortnight ending 27th April 1897, work only nine days, without having a lawful excuse for not working eleven days in each of these fortnights, whereby you have occasioned us loss and damage amounting to £1 4s." Objection was taken to the relevance of the summons on the ground of want of specification of dates fixed by the Company as the idle days. The defence in some cases was that the men were unable from physical disability to work, and in others that they could not get work in consequence of fallen roads; and further, that the damages claimed were excessive. For the pursuers, it was stated that the real point of issue was whether the employers or the men were to fix the idle day. Sheriff Gillespie said that he did not know of any other trade in which the employees fixed the days that were to be worked. The cases were continued for a fortnight, the agent for the miners remarking that by a little negotiation an adjustment of the dispute might be arrived at.

(Same date, page 3.)

BALLINGRY.
Alarming Fire at Rosewell Colliery.

Last Friday afternoon an alarming outbreak of fire occurred in No. 3 pit, Rosewell

Colliery. It seems that the back shift men had been about four hours at work when smoke was observed to be issuing from the ventilating fan, and almost immediately afterwards the signal was given that the men were about to ascend. When they landed at the pit bank they reported that the pit was on fire. Other men followed, many of them without their coats. One of them was minus both coat and shirt, as they had caught fire whilst he rushed through the flame, and he had wisely divested them. The worse feature of the case was that

TWENTY-TWO MEN WERE COMPLETELY HEMMED IN

by the fire. The excitement created by the report almost caused a panic, but it somewhat subsided when it became known that the air was travelling from the men to the fire, thus carrying the smoke away from the men towards the shaft. Three of the workmen who had been working on the opposite side of the shaft again descended and attempted to reach the men through the smoke, but were driven back. Meanwhile a large crowd had congregated at the pit bank, and was always increasing in number. The manager (Mr Spiers) soon arrived on the scene, and a rescue party was got together, consisting of the manager, Thomas and William Lawson, David Herd, Dick Robertson, and L. Buchan, and these men immediately descended the shaft. The smoke at the shaft bottom was not so dense as in the roadway leading to the fire owing to the fact that it was mixed with the unburnt air from another section of the workings.

THE RESCUE PARTY

managed to get into the intake air-way, and proceeded towards the working places. They had to crawl on their hands and knees and wriggle themselves over "falls" for a considerable distance, and finally further progress was stopped by a fall that completely blocked the air-way. They could, however, hear the voices of the workmen on the other side and knew that they were busy clearing the way. A hole was soon made and the men were about to come through when the roof suddenly gave way without any warning, burying David Herd, one of the rescue party. He was, however, quickly extricated and carried to a place of safety. No bones were broken, but he was severely bruised. The fall was again attacked and a clearance made and the men got safely through.

HOW IT ORIGINATED.

The fire had originated in a dip drawing road which connects the return and intake airways. A screen of tar cloth is hung in this roadway to separate the two air currents. A line of steam pipes is also carried along this road to a special pump some distance further down. The road is closely timbered, and everything is perfectly dry, and would be easily set on fire. It is supposed that the screen had caught fire from the lamp of one of the pony drivers when passing through the screen. After the men had got safely out the steam pipes were cut some distance below the fire and the steam allowed to play on the burning parts. This soon extinguished the fire, and the mine was ready for work the next morning. Throughout the incident the manager displayed much coolness and foresight, and it is pleasing to note that his efforts and those who so ably assisted him were attended by so satisfactory results.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1897.
DUNFERMLINE.

The County of Fife has ninety policemen, who cost the authorities £10,393 per year. The average cost of each constable for pay and clothing is £79.16s.8d per annum.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS. COWDENBEATH.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 23, 1897

The Opening of the Fountain.

Cowdenbeath was 'en fete' yesterday over the Jubilee. From early morn large crowds paraded the streets, many coming in from the surrounding districts. In spite of the dull weather the burgh had an exceptionally pretty and imposing appearance, and it was evident that the celebrations were being heartily entered into by all classes. The streets were gaily decorated, buntings, flags, streamers, and other decorations being abundantly displayed. Most of the shops were more or less tastefully decorated and all combined to give the town an exceptional appearance. The centre of attraction was of course the Cross, where the Jubilee Fountain has been erected, and here the decorations were on a more magnificent scale. Four arches bore the devices "God Save the Queen", "'1837 - Victoria - 1897", "Long Live Our Provost", and "Prosperity to our Burgh". As the time for the opening ceremony drew near the scene in the vicinity was one of great animation, all endeavouring to secure a good point of vantage, and in this connection the riggings of surrounding buildings were largely utilised.

At 2.30 the children of the Foulford School were marched to the cross, headed by Kelty Brass Band playing "Men of Harlech". Immediately after, the children of the Old School were in a like manner conducted hither.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

Three o'clock was the hour fixed for the ceremony, and punctual to time Provost and Mrs Mungall arrived. By this time close on 6000 people were assembled, and as the Provost and his Lady made their appearance there was a spontaneous outburst of cheering which was renewed again and again as the company took up their position on the steps of the fountain. Within the barricade were assembled Provost and Mrs Mungall, Misses Mungall, Ex-Provost Landale, Dunfermline; Messrs W&J Mungall; Mr J. Stenhouse, Dunfermline; Rev. J. Sinclair, Beath; Dr Craig. and all the members of the Police Commission along with their wives.

Provost Mungall, who was again received with vociferous cheers, said the occasion on which they met was one of great rarity in the history of the nations. They were engaged in celebrating, along with their fellow countrymen, the sixty years reign of a Queen and Empress. The British Empire in regard to territory exceeded that of

Russia, while in wealth and moral influence it has no rival. It includes a vast number of foreign and colonial possessions in every quarter of the globe. It is an Empire we should be proud of. (Hear, hear.) The Provost then went on to refer to Queen Victoria passing through Cowdenbeath more than half a century ago, and before a railway was made. In speaking of the progress made morally during the era, he mentioned the great decrease in crime, and said that the present Sovereign would always be known by a far superior title - "Victoria the Good". (Applause.) No crowned head had been so venerated by her subjects. The people loved her, not as a sovereign alone, but as a woman, wife, and mother. If one section was more loyal to her Majesty than another he was sure it was the women. (Hear, hear.) Having the honour of being the Chief Magistrate of the burgh in this Jubilee year, he had decided to present to the community a fountain, to be known as the Diamond Jubilee Fountain. (Cheers.) He trusted it would prove useful and acceptable, and be a fitting memento of the good Queen, whose record reign they were just celebrating. He was sure they all prayed "God Save the Queen. (Great cheers.) He then called upon the assemblage to give three typical British cheers for Her Majesty, a call which was met with an enthusiastic response. The National Anthem was then rendered by the children, over 1000 of whom were present.

Bailie Laing, on accepting the fountain on behalf of the burgh, said that it was with the greatest of pleasure he accepted the very generous and excellent gift in the name of the inhabitants of the burgh of Cowdenbeath, and the more so because it gave them the privilege of celebrating, along with the rest of the Nation, the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. He proceeded to refer to the rise of Cowdenbeath during the last 27 years - the advent of Mr Mungall as manager of the Cowdenbeath Coal Company. There were only 1800 souls in the place then, and the work of the district was very ordinary - nothing very pushing about it - but through course of time it was seen that things had taken a move for the better through the energies of Mr Mungall. (Hear, hear.) He spoke of the happy domestic relations of Provost and Mrs Mungall. They had pulled well together, and there to-day they saw the fruits of their labours. Trade has rapidly developed, and now instead of 1800 they had a population of over 5000. He would just say that Provost Mungall had not been selfish for himself altogether. (Hear, hear.) He had taken a great interest in the education of the children. He had time and again been returned to the Board, and now he was Chairman of the Board. Municipal affairs found in him a guiding hand, and without him business would not go on so well. (Hear, hear.) He had been very valuable to the community, and these were gifts which silver or gold could not bring. (Applause.) The fountain was a very generous gift - useful and beautiful. There's nothing can be so refreshing for the thirsty than a draught of good water, and the Provost would have the blessings of those who came to quench their thirst. It would be a standing memorial of the greatness and goodness of the Provost, and he trusted the inhabitants of Cowdenbeath would make it their duty to keep it right and in proper order, and they, one and all, from the bottom of their hearts thanked him for his generous gift. (Cheers.) Bailie Wilson said there was a duty he had to perform and a very pleasing one it was. He had to ask Mrs Mungall to accept a silver goblet from the leading tradesmen of Cowdenbeath, take the first drink from the fountain, and declare it open. (Applause.)

Mrs Mungall very gracefully accepted the gift and performed the duty.

The Provost expressed thanks on behalf of his wife. He took the opportunity of saying

that the pretty decorations round the fountain had come as a great surprise to him, and he was sure they would all agree with him in saying they were very beautiful. (Applause.)

Mr Rattray proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Mungall. The fact of such a multitude of people assembling there that day shows in a great way how much the people of Cowdenbeath appreciate the valuable and useful gift. (Hear, hear.) He was sure they all wished the Provost and Mrs Mungall would be long spared to perform many graceful acts in the burgh of Cowdenbeath. He had to ask them to give a vote of thanks to that amiable lady, Mrs Mungall, and he hoped it would echo from the eastern to the western ends of the burgh. (Applause.)

This closed the proceedings at the fountain, and an adjournment was made to the banquet in the Co-operative Hall, while the children marched off to the Station Park.

BANQUET IN THE CO-OPERATIVE HALL.

In the Co-Operative Hall about four o'clock, a large company of invited guests were entertained to a cake and wine banquet by Provost Mungall. There would be about 200 present. The first toast given was "The Queen" by the Chairman. "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Royal Family" was given by the Rev. J. Sinclair. Bailie Laing gave "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces." This met with patriotic replies from Major Dewar and Ex-Captain Landale.

"TOWN AND TRADE OF COWDENBEATH".

Mr Stenhouse, in proposing "The Town and Trade," said - I am sure Cowdenbeath to-day has seen one of the most eventful days in it's history, and we all wish it may get on as well in the future as in the past. We have heard that only 27 years ago the population was 1800; to-day it's 5000. The toast will be very acceptable to you without me saying much about it. (Applause.) The toast was coupled with the name of Mr A. Hodge.

Mr Hodge in acknowledging the sentiment, said Cowdenbeath was only a short time ago a very small place, with single roomed houses, when seven or eight of a family lived in one room. He supposed that families of two or three require three and four rooms now. That was part of the rise and progress. (Laughter.) Mr Mungall came here some twenty-seven years ago. The output of coal at that time was under 300 tons; it is now many times more. At that time he was selling coals at 3s 9d a ton; I suppose he will be getting 7s now. (Laughter.) Mr Hodge then proceeded to ask Provost Mungall to accept an address from the traders of the town. The address, which is couched in eulogistic terms, was read by Mr Terris, town clerk. Mr Hodge, continuing, said they considered that in looking after his own interests the Provost was looking after theirs as well - that if he saves a sixpence to himself he will save a penny to the ratepayers. (Great laughter.)

The Chairman, in acknowledging the sentiment and accepting the address, said - It was a surprise to me when I learned of the address that was to be presented to me. I am almost at a loss to express my thanks. No testimony can be more grateful than the expression of good feeling of one's own neighbours, testifying to any little service that

may have been rendered to in terms far too flattering. Many times have you acknowledged your confidence in me at repeated elections of public boards. (Hear, hear.) And as Mr Hodge says they trust me because that in looking after my own interests I look after theirs. Still I cannot claim to deserve such an honour as this. Had accommodation of the hall allowed I should have liked to have seen more representatives of the workmen present. I am glad to say there are here to-day some workmen who have been associated with me during the whole twenty-seven years I have been here. I shall not attempt to describe the rise and progress of the burgh, but I am sure none of us are ashamed of it, and will witness with gratification its continued success. I have to thank you for the kindness I have received at your hands, and especially on this occasion when you have so highly honoured me. (Loud Applause.)

Bailie Wilson proposed "The Clergy of all Denominations", which was responded to by the Rev. W. Mitchell, Free Church.

"The Workmen of Cowdenbeath" followed, given by Rev. Jas Gilmour, and replied to by Mr P. Sinclair.

Dr Craig, in a happy and bright speech, gave "The Ladies". Rev. Mr Aitken responded on behalf of the ladies.

The proceedings closed with three hearty cheers for the host.

The purveying was in the hands of Mr A. Campbell, Commercial Hotel, and, needless to say, the viands and cake were of most excellent quality.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1897.
COWDENBEATH NEWS.

The Miners' Idle day Settled.

In the Sheriff Court, Dunfermline, yesterday, Sheriff Gillespie gave judgement in the test actions in which the Fife Coal Company sued 12 of their miners, employed at the Cowdenbeath Collieries, for from 8s to 24s, being the rate of 8s per day, as damages alleged to be due through the miners not working eleven days per fortnight as demanded by the conditions of employment. The Sheriff said that he must hold that the eleven days' rule formed part of the bargain between the parties, that it was legally enforceable, and that there had been no warning or abandonment of the rule, but, on the contrary, a steady assertion of it. The defenders pleaded that the company were to fix the working days, and that they had failed to do so. It would be a waste of time to discuss the effects of the employers not fixing the working days, seeing the pursuers had fixed the first 11 days of each fortnight as the working days at the collieries. The evidence showed that the company had stood definitely and consistently on their claim to the first 11 days of each fortnight. Ten of the defenders were accordingly found liable in damages to the company for failing to work on two Thursdays fixed by the men for idle days. In resisting the establishment of a fixed idle day in the fortnight, except in the form of a rest day on the last day of each fortnight for those

who put in 11 days work, the pursuers were avowedly looking in the first place to their own interest. They had shown beyond dispute that an idle day at Cowdenbeath would cause them heavy loss. The miners could not be expected to consult the coalmasters' interest, except in so far as it conceded with his own. But the pursuers had laid before the miners' representatives reasons, which intelligent men could weigh on their merits, for thinking that a fixed idle day in a fortnight would not be ultimately in the interest of the miners. The attractions of a fixed holiday in the fortnight, to which he was not insensible, would be dearly purchased if it had the effect of making employment less steady than it had been at the Cowdenbeath Collieries.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1897.
THE NEW PITS AT GLENCRAIG.

Messrs Wilson & Clyde Coal Company's works at Glencraig promise to develop into one of the largest collieries in the county. The compact little estate of Glencraig is situated about half a mile to the North of Lochgelly Railway Station, and the spot on which the two great pits have been sunk is just a little to the west of Glencraig House. The Lochgelly Splint has been struck in one of the pits at a depth of 185 fathoms, and in the course of a few weeks the same seam will be cut in the other shaft. It is the intention of the company to sink the pits to the Dunfermline Splint, a probable depth of 250 fathoms; but meantime the Lochgelly Splint and some of the upper seams are to be tackled. That the pits have been sunk in the very basin of a rich coal field will be apparent from the following journal, which shows the depth and thickness of the coals in the shafts: -

- 82 fathoms - Balbardie gas coal, 4 ft. 9ins.
- 108 fathoms - Little Splint, 4 ft.
- 144 fathoms - Main Coal, 4 ft. 6 ins.
- 153 fathoms - Top and Lower Jerseys, 4 ft. 6 ins. and 6 ft. 9 ins.
respectively.
- 180 fathoms - Lochgelly Splint, 7 ft. 9 ins.
- 186 fathoms - Parrot seam, 4 ft. 9 ins.
- 200 fathoms - Glassie, 3 ft. 6 ins.
- 230 fathoms - Mynheer, 3 ft. 6 ins.
- 240 fathoms - Five feet, 5 ft.
- 254 fathoms - Dunfermline Splint, 4 ft. 6 ins.

This means that between the surface and the Dunfermline Splint bottom there are upwards of fifty feet of coal. The coals passed through in the shafts are all lying in their usual position, and everything points to the conclusion that the quality is quite equal to anything worked in the immediate neighbourhood. Special attention has been paid to the lining of both shafts, pitch pine battens being carried from the concrete near the surface to the bottom. The pumps are of such dimensions that the engine will be able to raise from 1200 to 1300 gallons of water per minute from the Lochgelly Splint seam. The steam crane is a powerful machine which was supplied by Messrs Inglis and Company, Airdrie. The crane is guaranteed to lift 50 tons, and every possible care has been taken to have the ropes and other gearing of the same huge dimensions. With the completion of the slides, the work of running levels in the

Lochgelly seam will be pushed forward with all possible speed, and it is contemplated that before the expiry of the year the output of coals will be very considerable. It is estimated that when the seams are fully developed the output of the colliery will be at least 1500 tons per day. Deep as the shafts are, the fittings are such as should cope with from 1000 to 1500 tons a day easily. The works are fitted with the electric light. A railway has been made from the pits to the Thornton and Dunfermline main line at Cardenden Station, and a new locomotive is already puffing about the works. The company have acquired the old Contel Row for workmen's houses. A score of new houses have been built, and the old houses are likely to be brought up to modern ideas by the carrying through of extensive structural alterations. The engineering work has been supervised by Mr W.H. Telfer, the Company's Mining Engineer, and Mr George McLellan, the manager, has been in daily charge of the works from the commencement of operations. Mr Telfer and Mr McLellan are hard workers, and how excellently they have done their work will be apparent when it is stated that not a single accident, involving loss of life or limb, has occurred since the commencement up till now. Messrs Addie Brothers were the contractors for the sinking, and they have carried out their work with great skill and ability. Mr A. Wilson, Cowdenbeath, is contractor for the colliery buildings and the workmen's houses. As the colliery is developed the house accommodation will be added to, and the chances are that a hamlet of some dimensions will spring up at Glencraig in a comparatively short time. Of course the burgh of Lochgelly will provide housing for a considerable proportion of the workmen.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1897.

COWDENBEATH NEWS.

Proposed New Brass Band.

For some time past a feeling has been expressed in many quarters that the burgh ought to have a Brass Band. Many years ago an attempt was made to get up an institution of the kind; but the efforts of the enthusiasts at that time ended in failure, and Cowdenbeath had to be content with a Flute Band as an outlet for musical talent. The present movement, however, is likely to be more successful. On Thursday night a public meeting for the purpose of deciding as to the first steps to be taken in the formation of a Brass Band was held in Brunton's Hall. Previous to the hour of the meeting, the Flute Band assisted by several members of the Kelty Brass Band paraded the High Street, and were followed by a large crowd of people, who ultimately attended the meeting. At 7 o'clock the hall was packed in every corner by an attentive audience. Provost Mungall presided, and several Commissioners were present, but did not take a platform seat. The Provost said he had been asked a few evenings ago to take the chair at this meeting; but he must say that he was not the author of this movement to form a Brass Band. He did not know whether there was musical talent in Cowdenbeath or not. There were some bands pleasant to listen to; others certainly were not. Sometimes they heard German bands; and he did not know that these were any better than many of the other "made in Germany" articles. He might put it to the meeting whether there was a general desire to have a Brass Band in the burgh. Of course they must bear in mind that they had to get the necessary funds; and although they had instruments to-morrow they would be useless if they had not the men to

blow them. This meant that they must find the necessary musical talent. He put it to the meeting then, whether there was a general desire to have a Brass Band. The audience signified their approval with their feet. A gentleman present said that when subscriptions were collected for the purpose of forming a Brass Band 11 years ago, he and his family had contributed there mite. He had never heard where the money collected then had gone to, and he would like to know. Mr Miller said that those who were taking an active part in this movement did not know anything at all about the doings of the old committee. The treasurer of the old committee thereupon gave a full explanation of the mater, showing that their efforts to raise funds were most unsuccessful. A balance of £5, however, still lay in his hands, and this would be handed over to help the present movement. The following committee were then appointed to carry on the work of collecting subscriptions, &c.: - Messrs John Miller (secretary), David Sturrock (treasurer), Playfair, Samuel Nisbet, Robert Foster, James Syme, W. Imrie, James Henderson, John Paul; also, Bailie Laing and ex-Bailie Fortune (who were nominated in absence). The committee were give power to add to their numbers if that was found necessary. The Provost then wished them every success in their efforts, and after a vote of thanks, on the motion of Commissioner Barclay, had been accorded to him for presiding, the proceedings finished.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1897.
COWDENBEATH NEWS.

Golf Club.

A meeting of the Golf Club is to be held next week to consider what steps should be taken in view of the fact that they have got notice to quit their present course at Leuchatsbeath. At present they are in a dilemma how to proceed. Amalgamation with the existing clubs at Lochgelly and Kelty and the procuring of a central course is spoken of, and probably an effort will be made to secure the opinion of the two latter clubs on the matter. The idea is feasible enough, and were the proceeding brought about it would undoubtedly be advantageous to all concerned.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1897.
COWDENBEATH NEWS.

Golf Club.

A meeting of Cowdenbeath Golf Club was held on Thursday, when there was a good turnout of members. The meeting considered what steps should be taken anent the procuring of another course. The committee of the Club were instructed to inspect and report on two proposed courses - the one at Stevensbeath and the other at Tully Hill. This has now been done, and the general feeling seems to be much in favour of the latter place. The tenant of the land, Mr Stewart, has been interviewed, and he has expressed his willingness to negotiate as to terms, etc. The idea of the Cowdenbeath Club is that in the event of their securing the Tully Hill at a satisfactory rental, to approach Lochgelly Club with a view of a joint tenancy of the course.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1897.
LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Golf Club.

A meeting of Lochgelly Golf Club was held on Monday night in the Drill Hall, Mr J.D. Connel presiding. The secretary read a communication from Cowdenbeath Club on the subject of amalgamation and the procuring of a mutual course. The matter was fully discussed but no definite conclusion was arrived at, the question be left over till a future meeting. The feeling of the meeting seemed to be against retaining the present course at Spittal, and an effort will probably be made to secure either Cooperhall Park, or a field to the north of Lochgelly Station.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1897.
LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Golf Club.

The Golf Club met last Friday - Mr Connel presiding. It was intimated that the club's offer to lease Cooperhall Park at £10 per annum, had been accepted. It was resolved to reduce the subscriptions, these being fixed at 7s 6d for gentlemen, and 3s 6d for ladies. It is hoped that under these circumstances, there will be a large increase in the membership. The committee expect to have the course in playing order within a fortnight.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1897.
LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Golf Club.

The new course acquired by Lochgelly Golf Club, which embraces Cooperhall and the field adjoining, has now been laid out. The course furnishes nine holes, the cricket pitch and the gardens being distinctly avoided. The distance between the holes is considerably greater, and consequently an improvement on the old course at Spittal. The greens have not yet been perfected, but the course will be found in a playable condition, and will probably be occupied by members this week.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1897.
COWDENBEATH NEWS.

Pinning a Hutch.

At the Dunfermline Sheriff Court on Thursday - Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Davidson on the bench - Alexander Gear, miner, Lumphinnans, was charged with fraudulently removing a tally from a hutch of coal gotten by another man, and substituting his own tally. The man who had actually hewn the coal was thus defrauded to the extent of 9d. Sentence of seven day's imprisonment was passed.

LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Ballingry Hall.

Opening Services will be held in Ballingry Mission Hall on Sabbath first. These will be conducted by Rev. F.H. Williamson, B.D., Kinross. On Tuesday evening a social meeting will be held, when a large turnout is expected. Further particulars may be had from advt. and bills.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1909.

LOCHGELLY SCHOOL EXTENSION.

Opening Ceremony.

Lochgelly School board, like the majority of educational managers in West Fife, find it no easy matter to keep their accommodation abreast of the requirements. Within the present decade they found it absolutely necessary to enlarge Lochgelly Senior School, the most important seat of learning under their administration. The step had its critics at the time, but the policy has been completely vindicated. On Monday afternoon another addition to the spacious range of buildings was formally opened. This extension, substantial in character, and in complete harmony with the other parts, consists of four ordinary class rooms, each seated for 60 pupils; and four apartments for the tuition of laundry work, sewing, cookery, and chemistry. The internal arrangements are admirable. The laundry is furnished with tubs, boiler, stove for irons, and the requisite drying houses, the provision being made for about a score of girls. The sewing room will accommodate 96. The kitchen is replete with sink, range, gas stove, tables, and all other necessary fittings. Forty young cooks can be taught in it. At the laboratory a similar number of students will be able to engage in experimental and research work. The corridors are lined to a height of five feet with tiles of various tints. The buildings are heated by hot water on the low pressure system, and ventilated by natural means, having fresh air inlets and extractor fans in the ceilings. The extension has cost about £7000. Mr James T. Scobie, Dunfermline, was the architect, and the contractors were: - Builder, J. Somerville, Cowdenbeath; joiner, A. Proudfoot, Lochgelly; plumbers, A. Thomson & Co., Dunfermline; plasterers, W. & J. Easton, Kirkcaldy; slater, J. Robertson, Dunfermline; painter, G. Taylor, Lochgelly; and heating engineers, D. Low & Sons, Edinburgh. Mr W. Steedman acted as clerk of works.

As showing their interest in the new building, the general public turned out in considerable numbers. Mr John Paul, Chairman of the Board presided. He said he was very pleased to see such a large turnout for the opening of the addition to the Lochgelly Senior School. It points (he continued) to the great interest you have in the education of the young generation, and in the name of the School Board I bid you welcome. It will not be out of place to trace briefly the work and buildings previous to and since the passing of the Education Act, and perhaps you will bear with me while I endeavour to give this outline. At the passing of the Education Act in 1872 there were existing in the parish of Lochgelly three schools, namely - the Village school, the Lochgelly Iron Coy.'s School, and Lumphinnans Iron Coy.'s School. The Village school, the site of which is now occupied by the new Municipal Buildings, appears to have been built in 1833. The site was granted free by Lord Minto. The

Lochgelly Iron Company's School was built in 1849, and was the original part of the huge pile of buildings of which the new wing is the latest addition. This ground was also given free by Lord Minto. The Lumphinnans Iron Company's School was erected in 1863 on a free site granted by Lord Zetland, on the Lumphinnans Road. The school and schoolhouse were built by Lord Zetland. Unfortunately the books of the Village school and the Lumphinnans Company's school are not in our possession, but one of the original Log Books of the Lochgelly Company's school is still extant. Some of the entries in that Log Book may be of some interest. For example: - 14th September 1864 - "A very rainy day; the children warned against wetting their clothes by driving the rain water from the pools on each other". At that date, the "jotter" now in use had not been heard of, for on 16th September 1864, the entry bears: - "went round to see that all classes had sharpened slate pencil". The following date it is stated, "rule announced that those who come late are to be kept in to learn a task from 4 to 4.30, also rule that those whose lessons are not properly prepared are also to remain behind". The question of the abolition of home lessons was not known in those days. In the old gazetteers, Lochgelly is stated to be a market town, and on 21st September 1860, we find that, "some of the older boys are absent in consequence of a market in the village". The same month it is stated, "checked a rude game in which the bigger ones thumped each other with twisted handkerchiefs, took from the boys several tubes intended for shooters and cautioned them against bringing more to school, and punished a boy for climbing on the wall of the playground". "Several cases of nick-naming occurred, the offenders punished and school warned". One entry states that, "A boy in the fourth class punished for not submitting to hold out his hand when found in serious fault", and the paragraph pertinently continues "he submitted in the end". On 23rd November we find "through the kindness of Mr Landale the children visited a menagerie in the town", while the following also occurs: - "Found that the cause of the increase in the number of lates was owing to the school clock being seven minutes too fast; there is no public clock in the village". The lates were evidently not only confined to the pupils but included teachers, for during the subsequent period it is stated that the assistant and pupil teachers were punctual during the week. And so on ad infinitum. But to proceed. The Board after the first election met on 21st April 1873. Of the members they elected only two are still alive, one of whom the Rev. Mr Dewar is still among us, the other being the Rev. Mr Macainsh, now of Crieff. At that date there were 621 pupils attending the three schools. The Lochgelly Company handed over their school to the Board free of charge. The village school, which had been managed by a committee of feuars was also offered, but was declined as it was considered out of date and the building reverted to Lord Minto. The Board were willing to take over Lumphinnans school, but the conditions proposed by Lord Zetland were such that the negotiations fell through. The consequence was that the school now known as Lochgelly Infant School was erected, but only a small part of the present buildings. The Board's expenditure at that time amounted to the large sum of £520 per annum as compared with over £10,000 now. The number of pupils was, as stated, 621, compared with over 3000 now. The salaries at that time were as follows: - Head Master £160, Head Mistress £105, Male assistant £60, and Female assistant £45. Fees ranging from 2s 6d to 4s 6d per quarter were charged according to the age of the pupil, and the school rate was only 4d per £1. The first Inspector's report under the School Board's rule may be interesting. "The school is on the whole in a satisfactory condition and it is evident that the master has spared no pains to make his school efficient. Considerable attentions has been paid to specific subjects. Sewing has been most carefully taught

to the girls and many of them are well advanced in cutting out. To a few of the older ones practical instruction is given in cooking and house cleaning". The grant earned amounted to £206. But the population continued to increase, and on many occasions both the Senior and Infant Schools were enlarged. An Infant School was built at Lumphinnans, and subsequently a Senior School was added there. An Infant School was built at Glencraig and now is overcrowded. The last extension of this school was built less than eight years ago, with accommodation for about four hundred pupils. The Board at that time was adverse to criticism and it was considered that they had committed a grave error of judgement in making such a large extension but it has since been proved that they acted wisely. On the present Board taking office we found the schools almost filled and the Department pressing for accommodation being provided for the teaching of specific subjects. This, along with the large influx of children caused by the extending mining operations, compelled the Board to face this large extension. Roughly, the number of scholars for whom we are to provide in ordinary class work is 250 and four rooms set aside for special work fitted in the most up to date manner. Roughly, the cost works out at £7000, and I think the ratepayers will agree with me that this wing is pleasing to the eye, comfortable, and good value for the money expended. During building operations the classes have had to be accommodated in corridors, playsheds, and in any spare place whatever. The work was carried on under trying circumstances, and it is surprising that Mr MacDuff and his staff have been able to obtain such good results and the continued approbation of H.M. Inspectors. With our increased accommodation and appliances we will be justified in anticipating still better results for the future. In declaring this school open, which I now do, firstly for your inspection, and thereafter for the instruction of the young, it is the wish of my colleagues and myself that great benefit may be derived, and I feel sure that the scholars taking full advantage will be fitted to take their place in the world alongside those more fortunately placed in other respects. (Loud applause).

Ex-Provost Erskine having proposed a vote of thanks to the architects and contractors which was acknowledged by Mr Somerville, Mr Scobie, in name of himself and the contractors, presented the Chairman with a handsome suitably inscribed rose bowl.

The Chairman, in returning thanks for the beautiful gift, said no one could deny that the improved conditions of the modern school, with their attendant "sweetness and light", exercised a beneficial influence, both morally and physically, on the children. (Applause).

Mr R. Wilson indicated that their successors in office would also have to face the problem of accommodation and a burdensome school rate. He proposed a vote of thanks to the teaching staff, and read the eulogiums passed on their work by H.M. Inspectors. Mr MacDuff's acknowledgement expressed the belief that more success would attend their efforts, and alluding to the parochial system, said that then usually one or two brilliant pupils were crammed for University and the rest allowed to hang as they grew. Nowadays the aim was to give children an education to fit them for their position in life, whatever it might be.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1909.
COWDENBEATH NEWS.

Alleged Dirty Filling.

In the Dunfermline Sheriff Court on Thursday, David Kelly, miner, Cook's Buildings, Park Street, Cowdenbeath, and John Glass, drawer, 269 High Street, Cowdenbeath, were charged with having on 31st March, from the Glasee Seam, in the Gordon Pit, worked by the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, sent to the pit head three hutches loaded in all with 1200 lbs. weight of redd, which they intended to be weighed and paid for as coal, and thus attempted to obtain payment and to defraud the Company of tenpence. A plea of not guilty was tendered, and Mr MacBain, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the accused.

Duncan Livingstone, colliery manager, said that Kelly would know what sort of stuff he was putting out, and having regard to the narrowness of the place, Glass could not but see what sort of stuff he was working with.

David Arthur, pithead-oversman, Cowdenbeath, stated that at first sight the hutches looked as if they were all coal, and if he had not examined them he would not have known that there was redd in the hutches.

James J. Glen, weighman, residing at Lochgelly, when asked if he thought from the condition of the hutches whether the filling had been careless or deliberate, replied that he was not to say it was deliberate. He expressed the opinion that greater care should have been taken.

David Smith, check-weighman, Broad Street, Cowdenbeath, said he thought that the filling had been due to carelessness.

Police constable McIntosh, Cowdenbeath, said that when charged Kelly told him that the place where he was working was wet, and he did not know whether it was coal or redd that was being filled. Kelly, in the witness box, said that their working place was very wet, and the ventilation was not good. The atmosphere, too, was thick. He himself never filled the hutches complained about, and Glass had to shovel the coal out of a considerable depth of water. He disclaimed any criminal intention to defraud.

Glass corroborated regarding the condition of the place, and said that he had difficulty in seeing, owing to the "reek" hanging about. He was filling over the boot heads and he did not know what he was filling.

Sheriff Shennan said the difficulty he had was that he must have proof of fraud and the witnesses for the prosecution had not proved that. He did not think it was creditable that careless filling such as had apparently taken place in the case should go on. However, he did not think that there was any criminal intent, and he found the charge not proven.

William Mercer, miner, Moryfield, was charged with having from the Five Feet Seam

in Lochhead pit, of the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, sent up to the pit-head on 6th April, a hutch containing 694 lbs. weight of coal, and 146 lbs. weight of redd, and on 7th April a hutch containing 789 lbs. weight of coal and 135 lbs weight of redd, which he intended to be weighed and paid for to him as coal, and thus attempted to obtain payment and defraud the Company of five pence. He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr A.P. MacBain. After hearing part of the evidence, the Fiscal departed from the charge and the Sheriff accordingly found Mercer not guilty.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2. 1909.

GLENCRAIG NEWS.

Success of Glencraig Celtic.

There was great rejoicing at Glencraig on Saturday night, when the Local Celtic F.C. brought home the Fife and Cowdenbeath football cups. The players were carried shoulder high, and headed by the local pipe band, passed through the village rows to Lochore. The road leading to Lochore was so densely thronged with people that vehicles found it impossible to move along. The highest praise is due to the secretary (Mr Robert Chalmers) and his committee for the excellent manner in which they have carried through the season's work to such a successful issue. The three cup's (Fife, Cowdenbeath, and Fife and District) are now on view at the club's worthy president's, Mr Forte.

PASTIME FOOTBALL GLENCRAIG CELTIC V CUPAR VIOLET.

Cowdenbeath Junior Cup Final.

After a drawn game a fortnight ago, these teams met again at Reid's Park on Saturday to decide who should take possession of the above trophy. There was a large crowd present, the Celts being well supported and being accompanied by Glencraig and Lochore Pipe Band. The Violets had the assistance of a strong breeze in the first half, and opened the scoring from a penalty. A second point was added later, and Cupar led at the interval by 2 goals to nil. With the wind, Glencraig soon reduced the leeway, but it was almost on time before the equaliser came, a shot from the left going through amidst great cheering. An extra time half-hour had to be played to decide the issue. Once more Violet took the lead, the centre half finding the net with a great shot. A goal to the good Cupar crossed over, but with the wind Celts soon made their presence felt, and secured the equaliser. They added the winning goal a little later amidst much excitement, the game resulting - Glencraig Celtic, 4; Cupar Violet, 3. Glencraig were certainly the better team, but the Violet made a bold fight, and came near wresting the cup from the Celts in the first hour-and-half. While the Violets are to be consoled with, the Celts are to be congratulated on their victory, this being the third trophy they have won this season.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1909.
GLENCRAIG NEWS.

Husband of Sixty-Two Threatens to Marry Again.

John Docherty, a miner of sixty-two, living at 82 Waverly Street, Lochore, appeared in Dunfermline Sheriff Court on Thursday on a charge of having, at 34 Montrose Street, assaulted his wife by striking her and causing a disturbance.

He pleaded not guilty, and his wife stated in evidence that she had been living apart from him for the last three years. On the night in question she saw her husband coming towards her house, and she tried to lock the door. He said he was going to Dunfermline to take out lines to get another wife, and asked if she had anything to say.

The accused - You are talking bosh, woman; stop it. (Laughter).

Another witness stated that Mrs Docherty told her husband he could go and take a hundred wives if he liked.

Police-sergeant Morton explained that when he warned and charged the accused, he remarked "You'll make nothing of it; she will never appear against me".

The accused said that when he went into the house his wife gave an unearthly squeal. He lived 37 years with her, and never interfered with her. He would not think it worth his while meddling with her. He had a dram, but he was not a "boozer" as a rule.

A fine of £1, or eight days imprisonment was imposed.

**THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES &
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1909.
GLENCRAIG NEWS.

Lochore's Reputation.
A Special Court Tariff Will Be Set Up.

The Lochore district supplies a large percentage of the offences dealt with at the Dunfermline Sheriff Court, and when on Saturday, George Stratton and George Callaghan, miners, appeared before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Ross on a charge of fighting, Mr J.S. Souter, fiscal, stated that the district was one in which warnings and examples had been repeatedly made. As a matter of fact Sheriff Shennan said that people from that district would be dealt with in a different manner from those coming from other districts.

Stratton accused the other of having abused the name of his mother, who, he stated, would turn in her grave if she knew what had been said. Fines of 20s or six days

imprisonment were imposed.

LUMPHINNANS NEWS.

"Chastising" A Wife.

At the Dunfermline Sheriff Court on Friday - Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Robertson on the bench - James Cook, miner, 6 Beveridge Place, Lumphinnans, was charged with having, in his dwelling house on 8th June, created a disturbance, and assaulting his wife by striking her on the head and right arms with a pair of tongs, to the effusion of blood, and caused a wound which required to be stitched. The accused who pleaded guilty, had been previously convicted of wife assault and breach of peace in 1907.

Mr P. McLeod, solicitor, made a long statement on behalf of the accused, who, he said, had great provocation because of his wife's drinking habits. On the night in question the woman was under the influence of drink. The accused lost his temper, and the assault was committed. It was the law, he submitted, that a husband was entitled to inflict a moderate degree of punishment upon his wife.

The Sheriff - Physical?

Mr McLeod - Yes, physical.

The Procurator Fiscal - Show us your authority for that.

Mr McLeod - I have seen it stated frequently in cases that come up in the Courts of Session for separation and such like.

The Procurator Fiscal - That may be an idea that prevails, but I do not think that there is any legal authority for it.

Mr McLeod - I mean, of course, moderate chastisement. I admit there has been excessive chastisement here.

The Sheriff - I would like a man to be absolutely sober when he is inflicting chastisement, so that he understands what moderation means.

Mr McLeod, in further pleading for mitigation of sentence, said that although the punishment might have been excessive, the provocation was great.

The Sheriff said he sympathised very much with a man who might be cursed with a drunken wife. At the same time he was not prepared to concede that, even under these circumstances, he was entitled to take the law into his own hands and inflict the chastisement which Mr McLeod claimed that a man had the right to administer. It was a very dangerous proposition, and the man who sought to administer it would require to be most careful about his own condition at the time he inflicted the punishment. The Sheriff passed a sentence of a fine of £1, with the option of ten days' imprisonment.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1909.
THE TRAMWAYS.

There now appears to be little doubt that an early start will be made with the Dunfermline and district tramway scheme. From usually reliable sources it is ascertained that the promoters have their arrangements in a forward condition, and that all the preliminaries have been completed with a view of a beginning being made almost immediately with the laying down of the rails. At Charlestown Harbour this week, a Middlesborough firm of steel manufacturers have been making inquiries as to the facilities for unloading tram rails from vessels of from 400 to 600 tons capacity.

AUCHTERDERRAN NEWS.

New Gas Company.

The first statutory meeting of Cardenden's new Gas Company was held in the Co-Operative Hall on Thursday evening. In the absence of Mr R.A. Muir, Mr R.S. Ramsay presided. The report showed that 8,500 shares of £1 each had been allotted upon which the sum of 5s per share had been paid. The total amount of cash received by the Company to date in respect of shares allotted is £2,125. The estimated amount of preliminary expenses is £350. The Chairman stated that great progress was being made with the gasometer and building which would be completed in a few days. He also stated that the main pipe track would be introduced by October. The report was adopted, and on the motion of Mr Alexander Shand a vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman.

GLENCRAIG NEWS.

Mary Pit Disaster.

In connection with the explosion of gas which occurred in the Mary Pit, Lochore, about a year ago, when three men were killed and four injured, an indignation meeting was held on Thursday night under the auspices of the Lochore and Glenraig branch of the Miner's Union, in the public hall. The meeting was called for the purpose of protesting against the offers of the Insurance Company's. The attendance was large, and a vote condemning the offers made was unanimously passed. The offers are as follows: - Mr Abel, injured, £75; Mr Bell, Milton, injured, £80; Mr Thomson, Lochore, injured, £100; Mr Peggie, Lochore, £200; Mr Gibson, Crosshill, fatal, £150; Mr Law, Lochore, fatal, £100; Mr Stein, Lochore, fatal, £200. The relatives of Stein are now residing in Buckhaven. On Tuesday at the instance of the relatives of Gibson a test case will come up for proof in Edinburgh, when £750 is being asked for. This sum represents a larger amount than the amount offered for all cases.

Hall For Glenraig.

Of the profits of the East of Scotland Public House Trust, the village of Glenraig is to receive a large share. The village has already been presented with a library and reading-room from the Trust, who have licensed premises in the village, and information is now at hand that they are about to provide the funds to erect a hall and

a caretaker's house close to the present Institute. The amount of money mentioned is £900.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1909.
GLENCRAIG NEWS.

THE MARY PIT EXPLOSION.
HEAVY DAMAGES AGAINST THE COMPANY.

After three days trial in the Court of Session - before the Lord Justice-Clerk and a jury - verdicts were returned on Thursday in four actions of damages against the Fife Coal Company (Limited). The actions arose out of an explosion of inflammable gas in the Mynheer Seam of the defenders Mary Pit, Lochore, on 2nd February 1908, which resulted in the death of three miners and the injuries of a number of others. The Mynheer Seam is 180 feet above the Five Foot Seam to which the shaft is sunk. Inflammable gas was met with in the course of operations, and safety lamps only were in use. as the workings were developed the air current was found to be insufficient, and the defenders introduced into the Mynheer Seam a fan driven by an electric motor in connection with the ventilation. On the evening of Sunday, 2nd February 1908, several miners, prior to commencing work, were waiting at the mid-working station until the fireman completed his inspection of the workings. The fireman went to the motor and switched on the current. Immediately thereafter a terrific explosion took place. The pursuers said that the accident was caused by the defective system of working in the pit, and by the defenders failure to observe and carry in to effect the general and special rules in force at the pit. The defenders maintained that the accident was not attributable to their fault or to the fault of those for whom they were responsible for to any defect in their system of working the mine. Robert Gibson, sen., Crosshill, Lochgelly, sued for £750 for the death of his son, William; William Stein, miner, Strathern Road, Kirkcaldy, sued for £750 for the death of his son John; Thomas Bell, miner, Lower Milton, Lochore, sued for £500 in respect of personal injuries; Robert Thomson, miner, 22 Montrose Street, Lochore, sued for £500 in respect of personal injuries.

The jury, after an absence of three quarters of an hour, returned an unanimous verdict for the pursuers. They found Gibson entitled to £300; Stein, £300; Bell, £350; and Thomson, £500.

**THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES &
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1909.
LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Recreation Park for Lochgelly.

Plans were passed by the Town Council last week for a sports enclosure for Lochgelly, a scheme that is being promoted by the Lochgelly Recreation Company. The size of the enclosure, which is to be thoroughly enclosed with corrugated iron, is

200 yards by 110 yards, and should, when finished prove one of the finest in the East of Scotland outside Edinburgh. The ground is to thoroughly levelled, and for this purpose all the turf is to be lifted, and after the levelling process, relaid. At the entrance gates turnstiles are to be fitted up and a football pitch is to be laid off which will measure 120 yards by 80 yards. The cost will not be much short of £400. An extended lease of the ground, which is situated to the west of David Street, and which was officially known as the village land has been secured from the Earl of Minto, and meetings and sports of all descriptions can be carried on. It is intended to let the enclosure for all games, sports, demonstrations, etc., and no one will gainsay but that the town has been badly in need of something of this nature for many years.

The Public Brass Band.

An effort is being made by the Trustees of Lochgelly Brass Band to secure the consent of the workmen at Lochgelly Collieries for the granting of 1d a fortnight. The existing system of collecting books has never proved satisfactory and the Trustees recognise that something must be done to maintain its position as a first class band, and also bring it more under public control. If the present scheme is agreed to the band would be directly controlled by the public committee who would arrange all engagements and see that they turned out to local events at a nominal fee. They would also be enabled to get the best of tuition. Councillor Bain, who is secretary to the Trustees, has issued a bill which explains the object in view. In the event of the present scheme being acquiesced in it is intended to give a grant to the Public Pipe Band, and if a surplus of funds were to exist it might be possible to erect a band stand in the public park where the band could render programmes on week nights and Sundays, and also do their weekly practice. The amount asked for is small, and yet collectively it would come to a considerable sum. It may be pointed out that at Keltie and Cowdenbeath this system is in operation and has proved highly successful. It is hoped that the Lochgelly men will not oppose the proposal and let the town maintain a band worthy of Lochgelly's past reputation in this respect.

Dunfermline and District Tramways.

Active operations have been going on this week at Crossgates with the laying of the tramways. The knights of the pick and shovel have been away for a week, but on Monday a large squad started operations in connection with the laying of the siding from the Post Office to Bremona House. The laying of the rails and the whin-setting have now been practically completed on the route from the car-shed at Woodend to Dunfermline, and great expedition is being shown in erecting the overhead wires. The Tramway Company propose running twenty cars, and it may be assumed that a satisfactory service will be given. The cars will come in sections, but will be fitted up in a very short time; and the car-shed is now almost completed, and ready for the machinery. The Fife Electric Power Company are busily engaged laying the cables from Townhill to Cowdenbeath. They are laid underground as far as Townhill Plantation; thence they will be carried overhead to Cowdenbeath. If the power station at Cowdenbeath is not ready by the end of October, arrangements will be made by the Company to have sufficient current to work the cars from Townhill. The residence of Mr Shepherd, the tramway manager, is to be at Woodend. Good progress is being made with the repairing of the roads where the tramway is being laid. Hundreds of tons of road metal have been laid. Some parts of the road in the Crossgates area had to be raised over a foot to reach the level of the tramway lines.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1909.
THE TRAMWAYS.

The frost of last week precluded work on the tramway track in Lochgelly, but a start was made on Monday morning. The track is now dug well down Bank Street. Meantime, while the road is up round the Cross, vehicular traffic is being directed round Knockhill Close. When excavating work reaches the front of the Co-operative Store we understand that traffic is to be diverted round by Landale, David, and North Street.

GLENCRAIG NEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1910

District Nurse for the Village.

The second annual meeting of Lochore Public House Society, Ltd., was held on Saturday evening, Mr Chas O'Donnel presided. The balance sheet submitted by the secretary, Mr Alex Butters, showed that for the seven months to 31st December, the bar drawings amounted to £3558 5s 2d, and the restaurant drawings to £10 13s 7d. The net profit was £918 3s. The share holders authorised the directors to guarantee the funds necessary for the upkeep of a District Nurse and also granted the following donations: - £40 to Dunfermline Cottage Hospital, and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; £12 10s to Lochgelly Ambulance Van; £20 to Lochore Reading Room; £5 to Ballingry Golf Club; £5 to two local football clubs; and £5 to the Fur and Feather Association. Mr O'Donnel was re-elected Chairman of the Society, and Mr John Wilson, Lochgelly, vice-chairman. The three retiring directors, Messrs Watson, Bowman and Main were re-elected. Mr Alex Butters was re-elected secretary and treasurer.

**THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES &
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1910.

The Public Park.

A commencement will soon be made with the laying out of the public park. Offers for the erection of an unclimbable iron fence round the park have been considered and the work has been given to Mr A. Grieg, Cowdenbeath. The work of making two roads through the park has been given to Mr A. Wilson, jun. Both undertakings will cost the estimated sum of £1200. In the meantime, though the weather is unfavourable, good progress is being made laying out the golf course, and it is expected that play will be commenced in May.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1910.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN LOCHGELLY. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY PREMISES GUTTED.

Damages over £16,000

Late on Saturday night Lochgelly and the district surrounding was flung into a state of great excitement through the outbreak of fire at the Central Premises of the Lochgelly Co-operative Society in Bank Street. The conflagration proved the largest in West Fife for many a year and as far as Lochgelly is concerned it far eclipsed in its magnitude, its awesomeness and damage any previous fire in the town's history. The premises in which the outbreak occurred and which were fated to be completely gutted, were built about seven years ago. They had a frontage to Bank Street and Chapel Street of 100 feet, and were the main shops of the Society. The building which housed the grocery department and hall above dates back to 1886, whilst the drapery, crockery, &c., was erected in 1903.

DISCOVERY OF THE FIRE.

The premises were closed for business as usual at eight o'clock, and a quarter of an hour later all the employees and members of the committee were off the premises. The manager, Mr John Mitchell, walked through the premises before leaving, and noticed nothing amiss. About twenty minutes to nine o'clock Constable Wanliss was apprised by two boys "that the Store was on fire". He quickly found his way to the spot, and noticing smoke issuing from the furniture department he sent word to Mr Mitchell. The latter was soon on the ground. No key for the door, however, was available. The manager of each department keeps his own key and as delay was now becoming dangerous the constable quickly took steps to get into the shop. After wrenching off the iron gate he broke the glass door with his foot and stepped through into the shop. At that time there was comparatively little smoke. The door he now opened from the inside and along with Mr John Crawford, a member of the committee of management, the pair made a dash for the opposite end whence the smoke was issuing. The seat of the fire seemed to be a mattress hanging on the wall. By this time the crowd got in the shop and recognising that their way back to safety was blocked they turned and cleared the people out. The smoke was now increasing in volume and when the last effort was made to get at the fire the door at the other side was burst open. This created a draught and gave a great incentive to the fire and a hasty retreat to avoid suffocation had to be made.

LOCHGELLY FIRE BRIGADE HAMPERED.

Meantime intimation had been sent to the local fire brigade and they appeared on the scene with commendable promptitude. Their work, however, was retarded greatly by the thoughtless action of a number of men who in their eagerness to help stretched the hose pipes so that they broke from their couplings and the upstand and hydrant were even broken by their ill directed though perhaps well intentioned attempts that were made by the amateur firemen. It is quite conceivable that the local brigade might

have got the fire under control had they been allowed to do their own work. Smoke was now issuing from the drapery shop as well, carried through it is presumed by the openings in the wall for the cash railway which acted as an air course for the fire. Here again thoughtless actions of the individual did further harm, by breaking a plate glass window in the drapery shop and letting in the air there. The fire now assumed alarming proportions, and it was deemed advisable to summon the Dunfermline Brigade. Intimation was sent to them at nine o'clock, but it was somewhat after ten before they put in an appearance. Within twenty minutes of the outbreak being noticed the flames burst forth and it became apparent that the fire had got firmly rooted. In the rear of the premises plenty willing hands plied bucketfuls of water on the building, but their efforts were futile. It was now evident that the fire would be one of great magnitude. Fed by the inflammable nature of the stock and fittings it made rapid progress. When the plate glass windows broke the flames shot out, driving the people back, and lapping the windows of the second storey. The arrival of the Dunfermline Fire Brigade was eagerly awaited. By ten o'clock the aspect had become more threatening and neighbouring properties were seen to be in immanent danger. After consultation with Mr Main, Minto Hotel, and several representative of the Co-operative Society, Mr Small, Town Clerk, telephoned for the Buckhaven fire motor engine. The arrival of the Dunfermline Fire Brigade allayed the fears, but these were only renewed when it was seen how ill equipped they were to cope with such an outbreak.

DANGER TO ADJOINING PROPERTY.

So alarming did matters become that neighbouring residents began to remove their goods and chattels. Langley Villa, occupied by Mr Small and ex-Bailie Laing, several houses in Chapel Street and particularly Mr David Johnstone's cottage, were played upon by the hose and so intense was the heat that steam rose from the walls. The windows of several houses including the Union Bank were broken through this cause. The Society's premises in the rear including the van shed and stables the firemen had also to direct their attention. All the horses were kept in readiness for removal at a moments notice, whilst the Minto Stables, horses and vehicles were taken to a place of greater safety. The only hope at this juncture was that the South stone gable of the grocery premises would offer a barrier. Had the flames got beyond that as they threatened to do the whole block including the Minto Hotel most assuredly have been destroyed.

A WEIRD SIGHT.

Before ten o'clock arrived the flames belched forth from the roof and top storey windows, illuminating a big radius. Shooting high and wide it created a glare in the sky that was seen for miles around. Myriads of sparks filled the air and, carried by the moderate north westerly breeze, fell in showers all over the town, threatening danger to many quarters. Crowds by this time were flocking in from all points of the compass, the cars from Cowdenbeath being heavily laden, while busses plying from Lochore and Bowhill were in great demand. Bank Street was blocked for traffic and it is estimated that the crowd would exceed 10,000. Powerless to do anything to help, the people could only stand by, fascinated by the awesome sight.

POLICE DIFFICULTIES.

When the seriousness of the fire was apparent, Mr Small and Sergeant McLean recognised the necessity of a strong force of police to keep the crowd in check, and out of harms way. Telephone communication was opened up with all the police stations in the neighbourhood, and extra constables were drafted in from Cowdenbeath, Bowhill, Kelty, and Lochore. Inspector Wright, Dunfermline, and Inspector Mitchell, Cowdenbeath, being in charge, till eventually a force of thirty were gathered together. A considerable section of the crowd was in a most unreasonable mood. They would persist in encroaching on the firemen's work, hampering them considerably. Apart from that there existed great risk of injury through falling debris, and it was with the utmost difficulty that they were kept out of the danger zone. Through it all the police acted with remarkable forbearance, keeping their heads and their temper when they conceivably might have become exasperated. The attention of the police had also to be directed towards saving property from looters at the rear of the block.

BUCKHAVEN MOTOR ENGINE ON THE SCENE.

Between eleven and twelve o'clock the motor engine and staff from the Buckhaven burgh arrived. They came provided with a mile and a half of hose, and altogether were splendidly equipped. The engine was able to vastly increase the pressure of the water. The only one of its kind in Fife, it has a capacity for pumping 600 gallons per minute. They directed their attention to the south gable of the grocery section which was already offering a barrier to the flames, and to saving the van shed and grainery at the back. In this they proved successful, and indeed too much credit cannot be given them for the splendid service they rendered. Dunfermline Brigade was sent away at two o'clock, but all night long the Buckhaven men continued their exertions. The members of Lochgelly brigade also worked hard particularly in trying to detach the south wing at the roof, work in which Councillor Harvey was conspicuous.

FIREMEN'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Within two hours of the discovery, the roof fell in with a loud crash. A short time previously the public clock, which has proved such a boon to the town, collapsed along with the masonry in which it was built. It had started to chime the quarter to ten, but only reached its first double tingle, which sounded under the circumstances like a farewell note, when it swung round and crashed to the ground. The iron bars, expanded by the heat, were now bulging out the gables, and there was imminent danger from falling masonry. When the front gable eventually fell, several of the firemen ran narrow escapes. One of the Buckhaven men fell in the rush to escape as the wall gave way. It looked as if he had been caught by the falling material, but he rather miraculously got off with a slight injury to his hand. One individual dropped from a window at the back, falling fully thirty feet. He promptly picked himself up, shook himself and walked away. He too had had a wonderful escape.

FIRE BURNS TILL SUNDAY FORENOON.

The fire continued to burn through the night, but bit by bit it spent itself or was beaten down by the firemen. Between six and seven o'clock the front gable of the grocery

premises had assumed a dangerous list and it was deemed advisable in the interests of public safety to bring it down. This was done by means of a charge of gelignite. Thereafter a strong barricade was erected around the ruins and a staff of policemen and watchmen put on to guard the salvage. About nine o'clock the Buckhaven Brigade which had been under the charge of superintendent Telfer, burgh engineer, took their departure. All danger of further damage was now averted. The critical period had been about eleven o'clock on the Saturday night, when it looked as if the whole block and the Minto Hotel, as well as the neighbouring property, was doomed. The arrival of the motor engine undoubtedly saved the situation then. The splendid work of the Buckhaven brigade cannot be too highly praised.

On Sunday crowds flocked in from the surrounding districts.

EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE - FIRST ESTIMATE EXCESSIVE.

The whole of the wing was completely gutted. The departments on the ground floor consisted of grocery and cellar, furniture and crockery, drapery, gents outfitting department, and fish and fruit shop, while above were the workrooms for tailoring and dressmaking, the board room, manager's room, and educational committee room, along with the new hall. Absolutely nothing was saved. As to the value of the damage, a detailed calculation shows that the first estimate was much exceeded. Representatives of the Co-operative Insurance Company were in Lochgelly on Monday, and along with the committee and the manager went into the matter. We understand the amount which was amicably agreed upon was about £16,000. Salvage will amount to very little. Fortunately the strong room which is behind the office in the south wing was not in danger and there is no anxiety about the books. The only one lost is the minute book which was lying in the manager's room and to secure which Mr Mitchell made three separate attempts but was always driven back by smoke.

LOOTING.

A section of the crowd behaved in a most discreditable way. While the police were on duty at the front a number of looters it would seem had got to the rear of the fire by means of the Minto Hotel and entered various rooms on the south wing. To gain access they had to face the dangerous expedient of creeping along the roof of the building. Several were caught redhanded and one was taken to the police station. The police were first apprised of the state of affairs by the firemen. A few were there in an honest endeavour to do something to assist the latter but undoubtedly the majority had a sinister motive. The store room and millinery room on the top floor were the principle scenes of these depredations and from both a large quantity of stuff is amissing. The millinery store was left in a state of great disorder, their idea being to destroy what they could not carry away. Mr Main of the Minto Hotel has also suffered loss in this way. A crowd ran through his rooms pulling out the furniture and ransacking the drawers on the pretension of saving his property. Dozens of knives and forks have disappeared and a number of cruets, besides other goods; but the worse loss is a box of jewellery which in itself is valued between £40 and £50. In Chapel Street, Mr David Johnstone is still awaiting the return of the bulk of his furniture, which was removed when danger threatened his cottage to "a place of safety". Altogether the behaviour of a section of the crowd was despicable, and one

can only ruminate on what might have happened in endangering property and life, had the police not been gathered in force and faithfully performed their work.

A PATHETIC INCIDENT.

A fine retriever dog along with several pups was roasted alive. There was a touch of the pathetic in the death of the dog. It came whining to the front door of the shop, When Mr Mitchell opened the door to let it out it retreated back to its litter and though every inducement was made to get it out it would not leave, electing to face the flames and smoke beside its offspring. Several cats were also burned.

ENTERPRISE BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

While the fire raged the members of the committee of management, and also a number of the employees, did not spare themselves. in many directions their services proved valuable. In meeting the situation created by the catastrophe they showed commendable promptitude. A meeting was held at two o'clock on Sunday morning in the old hall, presided over by Mr Kerr, when arrangements were made for temporarily carrying on the business. Recognising that the first essential was a supply of provisions, attention was mainly directed to coping with this. It was decided to utilise the Reading Room as a grocery shop, and to ensure that a supply of goods would be forwarded by Monday morning, Mr Mitchell, the manager, went over to Leith on Sunday morning to the Co-operative Wholesale Stores, and ordered a complete supply of provisions, and had them delivered at Lochgelly Station by special train early on Monday morning. The goods were promptly un-packed and shelved, and by nine o'clock they were on sale. Arrangements have also been made for housing the drapery department in the present boot and shoe shop; the latter being transferred on the flat immediately above the present shop. The dressmaking and tailoring department will be accommodated in the old and the lesser hall.

PREVIOUS FIRES IN THE BURGH.

Saturday's was the largest outbreak of fire in the history of the burgh, which has had a remarkable immunity in this respect. Early in the Seventies there was a destructive fire at what was then Cooper's Grocery Stores at he corner of Bank Street and Berry Street, while in 1877 the Co-operative premises at the top of Bank Street were burned to the ground. In the eighties the Music Hall in Mid Street were threatened but the conflagration was got out before much damage was done; but nothing of a serious nature has taken place since the co-operative blaze of thirty-three years ago.

COMMITTEE'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The committee of the Lochgelly Co-operative Society desire to take this opportunity of thanking all those who assisted at the fire and also for the help so kindly offered them by the co-opters of Cowdenbeath and Kelty.

They further desire to state to the members of the society that the loss is thoroughly covered by insurance, and also to reassure them that complete arrangements have been made for the carrying on of the business, all of which will be complete this week.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1910.
AUCHTERDERRAN NEWS.

Historical Memorial Stone.

On Saturday afternoon the Memorial Stone of the New Established Mission Church in Cluny Road, Cardenden, was laid with Masonic honours by Andrew Goodall, Esq., J.P., Glasgow, a native of Auchterderran Parish. There was a large turnout of the general public. The Freemasons, Rechabites, Shepherds, and Juvenile Templars turned out in full regalia and took part in the opening ceremony. Auchterderran Boy Scouts lined the approach to the church door. The church will be called "St Fothad" after the Patron Saint of Auchterderran. It is interesting to note that the Memorial Stone is composed of a portion of the old Sundial of St Fothad dated 1059 which was lost in the year 1676 when the old ruin in the Kirkyard was demolished. The late Dr Murray, a former minister in the Parish long lamented its disappearance, but the Rev. A. McNeill Houston, the present minister, unearthed it just lately while some excavations were going on near the old ruin. The proceedings opened with praise and prayer and Mr Tennant, Lay Missionary, read the lesson. Mr Houston in a few remarks introduced Mr Goodall and called upon him to lay the Memorial Stone. Mr Myles, in name of the contractors, presented Mr Goodall with a silver trowel and level. Mr Goodall, in stepping forward to lay the stone said, "Ladies and gentlemen we shall now place this beautiful piece of stone with its ancient carving intact, in this cavity; and we pray God it shall stand here as a memento of our care and reverence for ancient sculpture and antiquarian lore; as a witness by the pulpit steps of our gratitude to him who gave us so much, and when our children's children look upon it, we hope they will be inspired as we have been; and helped by the grace of God and the faith of their fathers, they will carry on the traditions of our beloved church which have made Scotland both good and great". The Memorial Stone having been laid, Mr Houston, in name of the Kirk Session, thanked Mr Goodall for his kindness in doing this great service for the church. Several Memorial trees were planted in front of the church by Mrs Goodall, Mrs Houston, Mr Myles, Mr Hunter, and the minister. Mr J.C. Stevenson was present with his large camera and took several photographs at various stages of the proceedings.

New Gasworks Opened At Cardenden.

Cardenden Gasworks, built to supply the large and populous district of Bowhill, Auchterderran, Jamphlars, Clunie, and Cardenden, were formally opened on Monday, Mrs R.A. Muir, wife of the manager of Bowhill Coal Company, performing the ceremony by turning a wheel and allowing the gas to enter the gasometer. There was a large gathering.

Mr J.B. Scott, Cowdenbeath, engineer of the work, introduced Mrs Muir, who said she would like to congratulate the Directors for supplying the gas plant, they were supplying one thing necessary for the equipment of the village according to present day necessities. (Applause).

Mr Muir, replying for his wife, said nearly all the shares were taken up by inhabitants

of the district. There had been some difficulty in forming a lighting district, but this had been overcome, and he expected that within the next fortnight the power would be granted to have street lighting. (Applause).

Dinner was afterwards served in the "Gothenburg", over which Mr R.A. Muir presided.

Mr A. Fraser proposed "The Town and Trade", and, in replying, Mr Brown, colliery manager, said that in 1900 the wage bill in the district was £40,000; last year the wage bill was £160,000. Ten years ago there were only about 200 houses; now there were about 2000.

An exhibition of gas appliances was afterwards held in the Gothenburg Hall, at which Miss Dodds, teacher of cookery, gave an interesting lecture.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1910.

UNSAFE KINGLASSIE FREE CHURCH.

The monthly meeting of Kirkcaldy District Committee of the County Council of Fife was held at Kirkcaldy on Saturday - Mr George Prentice of Strathore presiding. In connection with the alleged nuisance at Kinglassie Free Church, Dr Dewar, the Medical Officer, reported that he had visited the place, and the Rev. J Deas Logie, the minister, pointed out to him the matters about which complaints had been made. He found the boiler house of the church to contain sewage to a depth of several inches, and to be in a very offensive condition, owing, as it appeared, to the regurgitation of the contents of a sewer or drain from premises to the east of the church, and drains to the west being apparently blocked. In several openings recently dug in the adjacent field sewage had also collected to a depth of several inches, thus confirming the above mentioned view as to the cause of the offensive conditions. As regarded the church, he had no hesitation in certifying the extent of the nuisance dangerous and injurious to health, since in its present condition it could scarcely be used with safety, and certainly not with comfort.

Mr Dixon, Markinch, asked if they would not order the church closed. (Laughter).

The Chairman said the difficulty was to declare the author of the nuisance. It was for the Committee, however, to call upon the proprietors of the church to remove the nuisance, although they knew the nuisance came from the other end.

Mr Ballingall, Sweetbank, said they had nothing to do with it.

The Clerk said the congregation were meeting in the church every Sunday, and it was reported to be dangerous.

It was unanimously agreed to call upon the proprietors of the church to remove the nuisance within a month.

A letter was read from the Town Clerk, Leslie, asking the Committee to repair the street with tar macadam, seeing the repair of the street had been delayed two years owing to the drainage scheme. Mr Archibald, Leslie, said there was considerable motor traffic in Leslie, and if the Committee were going to experiment he thought the

old town of Leslie should be the part on which it should be decided. The road there was very narrow and closely built upon, and the dust was past bearing. The Chairman said they would have to take into consideration what would be the policy in the future with regard to repairing the roads to any great degree. It was very likely that it would be forced upon them to use a great deal of tar macadam. The surveyor was asked to report on the question.

FIFE MINERS' OPPOSITION TO LABOUR CANDIDATE.

The other evening about 30 miners, from various parts of West Fife, and claiming to represent the opinions of a large section of miners in the town from which they came, met to discuss their position as members of an Association which was running a Labour Candidate against their wishes. Every one of the men present professed the utmost respect for Mr Adamson personally, but they held that he was only being exploited by the Socialists, that the decision of the Fife Miners' Board was dictated by that party, as was that of the Miners' Federation. Every satisfaction was expressed with the way in which Mr Hope was representing West Fife, and disappointment was felt that the Association, after the decisive victory in January, again think of splitting the vote. Before coming to any drastic decision the meeting adjourned to watch the course of events.

AUCHTERDERRAN NEWS. Rifle Club For Bowhill and District.

Bowhill and district is now in possession of a miniature rifle range. The new range, which is situated at the "Craggs", Woodend, the ground being granted by the Fife Coal Company, was formally opened on Monday afternoon by Mr C. Augustus Carlow, assistant managing director of the Company, who fired the first shot. The range is well situated in a small field adjoining the "Craggs", which forms a splendid range. The distances are 25, 50, and 100 yards.

Nursing Association.

The seventh annual report of the Auchterderran Victoria Nursing Association has just been issued to the subscribers. During the year ending 31st March, Nurse Sandison has nursed 171 cases and paid 3,100 visits. Including a balance on hand last year of £58 18s 10d, the total income was £193 18s 5d, and the expenditure, £121 14s 9d, now leaving a balance on hand of £72 3s 9d, which is very satisfactory. The report also states that Nurse Sandison continues to perform her arduous duties in a kindly and conscientious manner. The following shows the nature of the cases attended by Nurse Sandison - medical, 43; surgical, 67; operations, 4; puerperic, 57.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1910.

COWDENBEATH GOLF COURSE OPENED.

A Generous Gift.

The golf course laid out on the Tallo Hill, Cowdenbeath, for the Cowdenbeath Public House Society, Ltd., by Ben Sayers the well know professional player, was formally opened on Saturday afternoon before an immense gathering. The ceremony took place in front of the pavilion. Mr John Adamson, Vice-President of the Society, presided, and amongst the platform party were Mr J.D. Hope, M.P. for West Fife; Dr

Ross and Mr William Robertson, Dunfermline; Provost Barclay, Bailie Duncan, and Bailie Keir.

In opening the proceedings, Mr Adamson said it was just about six years since the shareholders of the Society began laying aside 25 per cent of the profits for recreation schemes. They thought a golf course would form a counter attraction to the public-house, and it was their earnest desire that it should be. The fees had been fixed at such a figure that all and sundry could join. There was no healthier recreation than golf, and he hoped that every one would take advantage of the facilities now afforded for playing. The laying out of the course with the erection of the pavilion had cost between £800 and £1000, and the Public Committee had had it handed over to them free of debt. Mr Adamson then called upon Mr D.B. Campbell, architect, to present, on behalf of the contractors, Mr Wm. R. Holman, the Chairman of the Society, with a gold key with which to open the pavilion.

What The Society Had Done.

On being handed the beautifully designed key, Mr Holman said he felt a deep sense of gratitude to the contractors for the handsome gift. He spoke at length on the work of the Society. It was nine years since a number of gentlemen formed themselves together and thought they would get a Public-House which they would work for the benefit of the community. The Society had spent £3000 on alterations and additions to their premises to make the house more suitable for supplying the wants of the community. Of a sum of £4000 borrowed to purchase the house, £3258 had been repaid. The sum of £800 or more had been spent on paying contractors for the golf course and the pavilion. There was also in the bank a sum of £1500, which was to be devoted towards providing a public park. They had paid annually £200 towards the Cottage Hospital and private nurse to the community. Over and above, they had given away many and many a gift, ranging from 2 guineas to £100. Referring to the golf course, Mr Holman said that the aim of the Society was to

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1910.
THE SANITARY STATE OF LOCHGELLY.

Surprising Conditions of Affairs.

At the Lochgelly Town Council meeting the following report on Sanitary affairs was read. Recently the sanitary committee of which Councillor Bain is convener has been making a weekly tour of inspection and the report summarises the result of their investigations: -

I beg to report that on Thursday 15th ult. the sanitary committee commenced their visitation of the burgh in the Moor district. Several defects were found in Hall Street, Hall Lane, and in different parts of the Moor.

The condition of the ash pits in Hall Lane were considered far from being sanitary and it was agreed to endeavour to get same removed as soon as possible. A considerable number of the fire-clay kerb and channel in Grainger Street, Auchterderran Road, Minto Street, Kennard Street, and at the corners of Melville and Hunter Streets were in need of being reset. This was agreed to be done as soon as possible so as to allow the free passage of surface water.

On Thursday 22nd September, High Street, South Street, Well Road, Mid Street, and district were visited. On a visit being made to the ash pits at Brewery Court it was agreed strong measures be taken to have the dry closets and ground adjoining kept in a more sanitary condition. The drains from the washing house at the High Street Model Lodging house being of a defective nature, it was agreed to notify the proprietor to get same put in a sanitary condition at an early date. It was also further agreed to draw the proprietor's attention to several other defects at the lodging house.

On a visit to South Street houses belonging to the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, satisfaction was expressed at the commencement being made with the removal of the ash pits there.

It was also agreed to call upon several proprietors in High Street and South Street to provide rhones for their respective properties. Attention was also drawn to the condition of a dry closet in Mid Street which was in a very insanitary condition, and also to another property in Mid Street. This property was found to be in a very dirty condition. Drains were defective, wood work of water closets was in a rotten condition and the brick floor of the wash house was also in a very bad condition.

On 29th September the West End of the burgh was visited including Main Street and the side streets adjoining, nothing untoward was noted until the property of one proprietor was visited when almost every house visited was found to have some defect either inside or outside. The rear of the houses in Main Street were found in a disgraceful condition. The drainage connections of a sink in a fish shop was also in a very bad state, the condition of which was reported to the proprietor some time ago, but he refuses to do anything in the matter, stating that he is not the author of the nuisance. Enquiry has been made as to the condition of this sink before the present

occupier took over this shop, and it is said to have been in the same condition at that time. The present occupier states that he is not responsible for the upkeep and repair of property. It is therefore quite evident that unless strong measures are taken in these cases it is impossible to keep the Burgh in a Sanitary condition.

On Thursday 6th inst., Grainger Square, Launcherhead and vicinity was visited. At Grainger Square the condition of the water channel was noted and the insufficient number of street gullies, which cause the whole of the refuse to be washed to the lower end of the Square, and remain there in a very dirty condition. The whole of this is caused by people in that vicinity having to deposit their water on to the street, no sinks being provided in the houses to allow the water being emptied.

At Stationhead everything was found in fairly good condition except that some parts of the water channel was in need of repair.

At Launcherhead attention was drawn to the road to the ash pits and it was agreed to discontinue the removal of the refuse from these ash pits and notify the proprietors and tenants of same.

The condition of the ground at a stable off White Street was also considered to be in a bad condition, and it was agreed to ask the proprietor to put it in a more sanitary condition, viz. - provide a proper manure pit for stable manure.

All the burgh has now been visited excepting Francis Street, David Street, and Berry Street, which streets it is agreed to visit on Thursday next.

From the information received in the course of the inspection of the already visited districts, the committee are agreed that it is necessary that strong measures be taken in all cases where the usual notices are ignored.

In the discussion which followed the reading of the report, Mr Hugh said he could not see how the burgh could be kept free from disease as long as they had unsanitary places like what was mentioned. There was no use the Council discussing sanitary matters unless the bigger proprietors were going to help all they could. In regard to the report, he would never stop till all these places were put right, and would go as far as the law would allow in forcing matters. Such a condition of matters was a disgrace to the town.

Mr Bain thought the visits of the Sanitary Committee had been justified. They should visit more. It would prove beneficial to the health of the town to see that sanitation was properly seen to.

Mr Millar - This report shows a filthy state of affairs which can't be allowed to continue.

Mr Harvey referring to an item in the report said he put in a drain to the Town Council's instructions and it cost him £22. He was not inclined to do that over again when it had been carried out before to meet the requirements. The whole case cost him £180. Now, they wanted him to take up the drain and put in another. It was pretty hard lines.

Mr Hugh - Its hard lines to have to do it a second time, but nuisances can't exist in he burgh as they are doing.

Provost Henderson said in regard to the flush closets that in summer they cut of the water at six o'clock. They were to blame for not giving water.

Mr Hunter - But you visited them just lately when the water was on full, and they were in a rotten state.

Bailie Walker - The state of affairs was very bad apart altogether from the water supply. They have never been made to comply with the requirements of the Act at all.

The Council agreed to take all steps possible to get these matters put right.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1910.

LUMPHINNANS NEWS.

Unsafe Miners Houses.

The monthly meeting of Kirkcaldy District Committee was held at Kirkcaldy on Saturday - Mr George Prentice of Strathore presided.

A report was submitted by Miss Gillchrist, district health visitor, in which she said that at South Lumphinnans the houses on the North side of Main Street were very difficult to keep clean and habitable owing to the want of accommodation for coals, which at present had to be stored under the beds or on the bare floor. Eighteen cwts. of coal were deposited on the footpath to be carried into the house. On a wet day the mess inside and outside was indescribable. She suggested that the owners of the property should be asked to provide coal bunkers. At Laudale Terrace, Little Raith, she considered the house were in a very unsafe state, and in danger of subsidence. She herself had seen and felt the road shake and vibrate in a most alarming manner during the passing of a heavy cart. At one of the house where she was visiting her attention was called to a heap of ashes opposite the house, and she was told that a little while ago a horse sank into the ground and could not be extricated, and so was buried where it fell, in close proximity to a water pump. She was afterwards told that the pump in question was not in use, the people going to the other end of the street for water, but of this she was not absolutely certain.

The Chairman said the report showed how necessary it was to have a lady to do the work. The Sanitary Inspector was instructed to attend to the matters referred to in the report.

In regard to the claim made for a grant under the Road Development Improvement Act, 1909, the Chairman reported that, as instructed by the Committee, he sent in four claims - namely, £6945 for tar macadam for going through the village; Auchterderran improvement, £400, including the amount required for acquiring the land; Leslie improvement, £315; and Smellbank, which they put last, as they could not see they

were getting any encouragement by contributions, or getting the land on easy terms. The road from Thornton right east to Wemyss was found impracticable, as it was to cost £11,000. There were great disadvantages in getting across the railway. If they went under the railway it would cost £4000, while it would cost £2000 to go over the railway. He thought it was quite useless to include that in the grant. The Chairman's actions were approved of.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1910.

FIFE TRAMWAY LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.

This concern is very little known among the general body of investors; nevertheless, the progress it has made since its inception is commencing to attract attention, and has caused us to look closely at its affairs. We understand that the net earning of the company from January 1st last, to the end of September, were more than sufficient to cover the debenture interest and preference dividend for the whole of the current year, so that whatever is earned during the final quarter of 1910 should be available for reserves or distribution amongst the ordinary shareholders. It should be noted, however, that satisfactory as are the present earnings, the company possesses powers in regard to the putting into operation of further lines which, when exercised, must greatly increase its net revenue. The undertaking was formed in July, 1909, and it now owns and operates the Dunfermline and District Tramways Company and also the Fife Electric Power Company, by virtue of the acquisition of the entire share capital of these two concerns. The tramways at present in operation run from Dunfermline to Townhill and connect the former place with Hallbeath, Crossgates, Cowdenbeath, Lumphinnans, and Lochgelly, while in a few weeks an extension will be opened to Kelty. Powers have also been acquired by Act of Parliament to build further lines to Glencraig and Lochore, Rosyth and Inverkeithing, and these rights will be exercised in due course. Here it may be pointed out that the important naval base now being constructed by the Admiralty at Rosyth ensures a great increase in the fixed population of that town. as regards the Fife Electric Power Company, the Act which this company carries on its business entitles it to supply electricity for power purposes in perpetuity throughout the entire County of Fife (with the exception of the burghs of St Andrews and Kirkcaldy), an area of about 500 square miles. As Fife is developing more rapidly than any other county in Scotland, save perhaps Lanarkshire, the potential value of these statutory rights is considerable. The power station is situated at Townhill, Dunfermline, and there are several sub-stations. Since the Fife Tramway, Light and Power Company acquired control of this concern its business has developed rapidly and new contracts are coming forward in considerable numbers. Among recent agreements entered into may be mentioned one with the Wemyss and District Tramways Company for the supply to that company of whatever electricity it may require, while the Wemyss Company has arranged to shut down its own power house entirely. Moreover, in the event and the conclusion was that in places like Lochgelly they must do more. They must not grudge or make their schools not only commodious but beautiful. (Applause.) That was why he was so pleased to see the hall in which they had met had been beautifully decorated. The accusation against elementary education when it was started was that it was spoiling a good artisans to make bad clerks. There was no doubt that for a long time it was too bookish; perhaps it was still too intellectual. Perhaps they thought too much of

children's brains, but they had begun to realise that they had a duty to children's bodies as well. (Applause.) After a complimentary reference to Mr Ross, who had been appointed headmaster of the South School, he declared the school open.

PRESENTATION.

Mr Jas Scobie, architect, presented Mr Smith with a key in a case as a memento of the occasion, and this was acknowledged.

Mr Wm Stewart proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Smith, to whom they were much indebted to for his splendid advice. Reference was also made to Mr Paul, late Chairman of the Board, who had had a great deal to do with the extension work at various schools.

Bailie Walker gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem. Miss Kate Steedman provided accompaniments to the singing.

The contractors for the work were: - Mason work, Gibbie and Dale, Lochgelly; Joiner, Adam Proudfoot, Lochgelly; Slater, John Robertson, Dunfermline; plumber, Alex Thomson & Coy., Lochgelly; painter, George A. Taylor, Lochgelly; Iron work, Jas Lessells, Dunfermline. The clerk of works was Mr Wm Steedman.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1911.

GLENCRAIG NEWS.

Glencraig and Lochore Nursing Association.

The first annual report of the Nursing Association, for the year ending 23rd April, has just been issued, and it speaks volumes for the formation of such in this district. Nurse Ross was appointed and entered on her duties on 23rd April, 1910, and during the year she has nursed 266 patients, made 5267 visits, and has been on duty 1761 hours, while she has also assisted at 18 operations. The Committee record their satisfaction with the admirably manner in which she has discharged her duties and they are pleased that her services have been so greatly appreciated by the patients. The Committee further gratefully acknowledge the generous aid given by the subscribers, and confidently appeal for their further support. President, Rev. Mr Jamie; Vice-Presidents, Messrs W.H. Telfer and Wm Lang; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr J.K. Park, Schoolhouse, with a large and influential committee. The Balance Sheet shows an income from all sources of £171 18s 9d, expenditure £113 6s 10d, leaving a credit balance of £58 11s 11d carried forward to next year.

DUNFERMLINE'S INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY.

Arrangements for New Policemen.

The Royal assent to the Greater Dunfermline Bill is expected to be received in the course of a fortnight.

The Dunfermline Magistrates met for the purpose of considering the policing of the new territory and the area of operations at the Rosyth Naval Base.

At present the Fife Constabulary by a financial arrangement with the contractors and the Admiralty supply the officers for the Rosyth Works.

Immediately the Royal assent is received the policing of the scene of operations will devolve upon the Dunfermline Corporation.

The Magistrates instructed Chief Constable Bruce to make arrangements for the obtaining of three policemen to do duty within the Rosyth Works area.

For the ground to the centre of the town which is to be annexed, two additional officers are also to be appointed.

The Magistrates decided that a cycle should be supplied for the officers on duty. The Magistrates had also under their consideration the question of policing Pittencrieff Park and Glen, which is also taken over by the town. At present the Constabulary supply an officer, who is paid by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust.

The Town Clerk was instructed to communicate with Carnegie Trust asking that the same arrangements be come to with the burgh.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1911. COWDENBEATH NEWS.

Cowdenbeath Range Opened.

The miniature rifle range laid out by the Cowdenbeath Club was formally opened on Saturday. Provost Barclay presided over a representative gathering, which included Mr Henry Rowan, Bailie Duncan, Councillor Blamey, Dr. Craig, Messrs W.A. Guthrie, D.J. Young, and D.O. Duff. The Provost, in calling upon Mr Rowan to open the range, mentioned that it was through that gentleman's assistance that the club had been given the site for the range, (Applause.) Mr Rowan said that while willing to do what he could to get them a site, it was a different thing for him, a man of peace, to come to open the range. He thought some of their Military friends should have done that. He believed in having an army, and an efficient army, the Rifle Clubs formed a unit that was of some importance. He was glad to know that Cowdenbeath was not behind in having a range, seeing that other parts of the country had responded to Lord Robert's call. They could turn out as good a Territorial corps as any other districts; indeed, Cowdenbeath was one of the few places that could raise a company above strength. He was of the opinion that they were not supported as they should be and just to show they had a little patriotism the people of the town should support the Rifle Club. (Applause) He had much pleasure in declaring the range open. (Applause.)

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1911.

TWENTY-SEVEN LOCHGELLY BOYS BIRCHED.

Charge of Malicious Mischief and Theft.

At a juvenile court held at Lochgelly last Friday, 23 boys were charged with malicious mischief, and 5 with theft. The ages in the former case were generally over 14 years only one being under 12, and all hailed from the "happy land" district. The charge was that on a recent Sunday they maliciously scattered about a quantity of pit timber and threw pit hutches off the pit head, causing damage to the Lochgelly Iron Coal Company of £5. All plead guilty though after some demure.

The Prosecutor said the Coal Company complained bitterly about this sort of thing. Great crowds of boys interfered with the bogies and other property, which they damaged. Especially at the Jenny Gray pit a great deal of this went on. The accused were all caught in the act and it could be understood a crowd like that could cause a considerable amount of damage. About half of them were left school and working, and one was 16 years of age.

Bailie Walker - I am exceedingly sorry to see such a lot of bright young lads brought here on such a complaint. We must do something. A great deal of mischief is done by young lads in Lochgelly. They are taught to behave alright in school, but whenever they come out they seem to do things almost in the nature of hooliganism. There are three things I could do, firstly fine the parents, which seems to do little good; secondly, send them to a training ship, which I don't want to do; and thirdly, the birch rod. This action I mean to take as a warning to you and as an example to the other boys of Lochgelly. All boys over 14 will get four stripes with the birch rod, and all those under 14, three stripes. I hope it will be a lesson and that we wont be continually troubled here as we have been with cases of this sort.

WEEPING AND WAILING.

Immediately judgement was pronounced a great wail went forth. All the parents were present, mostly mothers, and they also commenced to shriek. They made a rush for their boys in the dock, clasped them round the neck and defied the police to take them away. A scene of extraordinary confusion and excitement ensued, and it was with the utmost difficulty, and the use of a little force, that the boys were separated from their parents and lodged in an anteroom.

DARING THEFTS.

A second case in which five boys, three of whom were at school, were charged with theft on two counts was next dealt with. The charge was that on Glencraig Road they stole from a confectioner's van, a large box of chocolates and a box containing 12s in coppers; three of them were further charged with stealing from the office at Lochgelly laundry a purse containing a scarf pin and 10s in money.

The Fiscal said they were old hands at the game. One of the accused had a key for opening van doors. The chocolate they divided amongst them, and the 12s of coppers

was "tossed" for on a pit head, until one had won all the money from the others. It was a case for a severe penalty. The treatment boys had been getting in Lochgelly Court had had no effect. In the laundry theft, one went into a jacket hanging up and took the purse. The others shared in the spoil.

LOCHGELLY BOYS GETTING OUT OF HAND.

Bailie Walker said it was grievous work to come there and see young lads charged with crimes of that sort. There was something wrong somewhere. The boys of Lochgelly were getting out of hand. All of us could see the mischief that went on, and if they spoke to them they only got a lot of bad talk, and sometimes a stone thrown at their head. Some severe steps were necessary. They wanted to see young people grow up honoured and respected and a credit to the place. Instead of that they were growing up with the makings of criminals. The public had to trust to those in authority, and it should be made the duty of parents to use strong measures. Formerly, through humane feelings and pity, they had been let off with slight fines. They always hoped that the fact of them being placed in the dock would do them good, but they simply laughed and scoffed when brought there. He concluded by imposing a similar sentence as in the former case. He was sorry to have to do it, but people must know that the law must be kept. It had been a painful ordeal to him to impose the sentences, but he considered it in the interests of every one that his duty was to do it. One of the batch being 17 years he could not be birched and was fined 7s 6d.

ROWDY SCENES.

As the county authorities refuse to appoint an official "whipper" at Lochgelly, it was necessary to take the 27 on to Dunfermline, and a large brake was ordered. In the interval a large crowd, including the parents, collected outside the court room, and when the vehicle appeared a rush was made, and much confusion prevailed. The policemen were threatened and volubly abused and some ashes were flung. A few parents tried to get at their children, most of whom were crying bitterly, and two of the latter effected an escape. Ultimately the party drove off, the crowd cheering the youngsters. On the way to Dunfermline the turnout caused much speculation.

ARRIVAL AT DUNFERMLINE.

Not a few people were accosted in High Street, Dunfermline, on Friday afternoon, by women who desired to be directed to the Sheriff Court buildings. To the ordinary observer, it was evident that the women, several of whom, judging by their attire, had made a hurried departure from their homes, were in sore trouble. Anxiety was writ largely on their faces. The object of the quest for the building mentioned was not long in being revealed to those who sought to probe what at first was regarded as a mystery. "Is this the place were the boys get wheepit?" was a question which was asked by one of the women in front of the County Buildings.

Long before the arrival of the brake in Dunfermline, the mothers of a large number of the boys had reached the City by train. As the vehicle, with its remarkable freight, passed along High Street, it attracted much attention. In front of the Sheriff Court Buildings the disembarking operations were expeditiously effected, the boys among whom a boisterous spirit, curiously enough, seemed to prevail, quitting the brake from

sides and rear. Half an hour later a grim ordeal was proceeding in the basement of the court house. Individually, the lads were conducted to a cell, where, in the presence of Dr A MacGregor, a stalwart constable gave effect to the magisterial sentence, except in some cases where the doctor humanely ordered a reduction to three, and in some instances to two, of the application.

By two o'clock, at which time the crowd at the Cross had grown to several hundred strong, the boy's had "tholed their assize." With a view possibly to the prevention of a street "scene", although such a contingency was not likely to arise, the lads were liberated by the Guildhall Street exit. It required no close scrutiny to observe that the infliction of the "birch" had brought tears to the eyes of many of the boys, who, however, soon forgot their troubles when they sighted their maternal parents, who had remained almost within earshot of the yells which emanated from the cell of chastisement.

Before leaving the court house the boys had been told that the brake would be in readiness at a quarter to three o'clock to convey them home. Several of the lads accompanied their mothers home by train. The majority, however, preferred the more exhilarating experience of transport.

The two lads who escaped were later in the day taken to Dunfermline, and punished like their neighbours.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1911.
PUBLIC CLOCK PRESENTED TO LOCHGELLY.

Unveiling Ceremony.

A fine public clock was on Saturday at noon formally presented to the inhabitants of Lochgelly by the donor, Ex-Bailie Robert Philp, J.P., saddler and ironmonger. The clock has been erected at the front of the Town House. It has one dial four feet in diameter, and a bell which is hung outside and weighs fully six cwts.

A large crowd collected in the vicinity of the Town House to witness the ceremony. Provost Henderson, in name of the Town Council, presented Mrs Philp with a pair of silver scissors, and called on her to start the clock. With the scissors she gracefully severed the ribbon, simultaneously unveiling the clock, and setting it in motion. Loud Cheers were raised as the clock was uncovered and its bell in loud tones rang out the hour of noon.

Mr Philp then handed over the clock to the custody of the Town Council for behoof of the inhabitants of Lochgelly. He said that for a considerable time it had been his desire to do something for Lochgelly, and this being the coronation year of our King he thought it right to make it a coronation gift. (Applause.) He took Mr Small, his worthy friend, into his confidence and told him what he would like to do. Mr Small promised to convey his wishes to the Town Council, and he was glad to say they readily assented to his proposal. (Applause.)

His (Mr Philp) original idea was a four dial clock but the Council found that would land them into far greater expense than they were prepared to go, more especially seeing they had such a large expenditure in front of them irrespective of the clock. They were face to face with providing a more plentiful supply of water besides a drainage scheme, and other important matters, and they would agree with him that such things were far before the erection of a clock tower. After a consultation with him a one dial clock was agreed on, to be placed in front of the Town House. The work of making and erecting the clock was entrusted to Messrs J. Ritchie and Son, the noted clockmakers of Edinburgh, and he was sure their work would prove in future that their trust in them had not been misplaced. (Hear, hear.) He had now to hand over the clock to the custody of the Provost, Magistrates, and the Town Council for behoof of the inhabitants. (Cheers.) He wished it to be known that it was a coronation gift. He hoped the King would live for many years but he also hoped that the clock would outlive him, and that it would be to the entire satisfaction of the inhabitants of this burgh. (Cheers.)

Provost Henderson, in name of the Town Council and inhabitants of Lochgelly, said he had great pleasure in taking over the clock as a coronation gift to the burgh. Mr Philp was a gentleman who had spent the whole of his business life in their midst, and by paying assiduous attention to his business he found himself in the position of being able to hand over a splendid public clock as a tangible proof of his good feeling to the burgh. (Applause.) It was now 32 years since the burgh was formed, and during all that time till now they had not been able to boast a public clock. He hoped the clock would strike the hours for many years to come, and record the passing hours to many successive generations. (Cheers.) In conclusion, he said he had great pleasure in taking over the custody of the new clock, and he called for three hearty cheers for the donor, which met with an enthusiastic response.

Bailie Wilson moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs Philp for performing the unveiling ceremony. (Cheers.)

Ex-Provost Garry proposed a vote of thanks to Provost Henderson for so excellently carrying out his part in the ceremony. (Cheers.)

Mr Philp, in acknowledging, said the Co-operative Society erected a very fine clock on their building, but unfortunately it was destroyed in a great fire. The society had very considerably erected another clock, and he trusted it would long serve its purpose. (Hear, hear.) It was in a different part of the burgh, and he hoped the two would not clash. (Applause)

Cake and Wine Banquet.

Following the ceremony the Town Council entertained Mr Philp to a cake and wine banquet in the Council room. Provost Henderson presided, and among those present were Bailie Wilson, Councillors Garry, Bain, Hugh, Millar and Barclay; Mr David Philp, Aberdeen; Mr W.J.C McIntosh, Traquair; Mr Ritchie of Ritchie and Sons, Edinburgh; Mr Small, Town Clerk; Mr Lumsden, burgh surveyor. The King's health was loyally pledged on the call of the Chairman.

The Donor.

The Chairman, in proposing the health of the donor of the clock, said Mr Philp and he had been known to each other for over half a century, and all the time Mr Philp had been a steady, hard working Business man. He opened a shop in Lochgelly for a Cupar gentleman, but soon got the business for himself, and by working hard late and early he built up a business in honour and honesty. (Hear, hear.) He had risen greatly in the esteem of his fellow citizens, and to-day occupied a prominent position among the men of Lochgelly. (Applause.)

Mr Philp, in reply, thanked the Provost for the kind words he had spoken. He remembered the Provost as a very young man, who, in the words of the Provost himself used in welcoming Councillor Barclay, had then the bloom of youth on his cheeks. Continuing, Mr Philp said he succeeded to the business opened under his care at Lochgelly, and at it he worked very hard, often from early morning till late at night. Fortunately, he was very happily married, and to that was greatly due the credit of his success. A good woman had a great deal to do in the making of a man, for a wife would either prove a blessing or a curse. In recent years he had come in more direct contact with the Provost. They were fellow directors of the Gas Company, and he had found the Provost a very straight man, and his wise counsel assisted him in many things. There was never any humbug about him; he spoke to the point. They both just seemed to see eye to eye with each other, and he thought that was because neither of them proposed anything ridiculous. The Provost was a level headed man such as he would like to be himself - Speaking about his gift. Mr Philp said it was a freewill offering. He consulted his wife and family before he gave it out to the public, and they went into it as heartily as he did. (Applause.)

The Clock Makers.

Councillor Millar proposed the toast to Messrs J. Ritchie & Sons, builder of the clock. He said they had had for some time in their Town House a structure that would vie with many in towns of more pretensions than Lochgelly. One thing had, however, been lacking, something to give it a striking appearance, and that had now been made right. (Hear, hear.) A thing of beauty was a joy for ever, and in the beautiful clock which now graced the front of the town building the designers and builders were deserving much credit for the excellence of their workmanship, and the expedition with which they had carried through a difficult piece of work. (Applause.) As superintendent of works, Mr Lumsden had rendered valuable assistance.

Mr Leo Ritchie in reply, said the clock, he believed, would prove a credit to them, as to the donor. He trusted its tones would long be heard in the burgh of Lochgelly, and would continue to give the inhabitants accurate time. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs Philp and Family.

Ex-Provost Garry submitted the health of Mrs Philp and family. The family appeared to be following in their father's footsteps, and leading their lives in a business like manner. (Applause.)

Mr W.J.C. McIntosh acknowledged the toast.

The Town Council.

Mr David Philp gave "Lochgelly Town Council". In the course of an interesting speech, he said the high standard set by Mr Landale, first Chief Magistrate of the burgh, of what public men ought to be had been well maintained by his successors.

Bailie Wilson acknowledged the toast, and said the Council were anxious to improve the burgh, and did so as their resources allowed. With their low valuation and heavy expenditure it was difficult to carry out all the improvements they would like to see. (Hear, hear.)

The Town Clerk.

The Provost, in proposing the health of the Town Clerk, said he was the main man of the Council. He did not think there was one in the County of Fife with a better grasp of municipal matters than Mr Small. (Applause.)

Mr Small, in reply, said they all worked in harmony in the best interests of the burgh.

The Press.

Provost Henderson submitted "The Press", and Mr A. Westwater replied.

The Chairman.

Councillor Hugh, in proposing the health of the Chairman, said he was one who claimed Plantation Street as his abode. It used to be called "Knowledge" Street, and as it at the present time supplied three Councillors, it still deserved its old title. (Laughter.) They were not to let the honour of Plantation Street fall yet.

The Provost made a suitable reply, after which the company sang "God Save The King", and the proceedings ended.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1912.
FUNERAL OF THE REV. DAVID JAMIE.

The funeral of the Rev. David Jamie, M.A., B.D., Ballingry, took place from the manse to Edinburgh on Wednesday last, a service in the church being conducted by Messrs Rev. F. Williamson, Kinross; Rev. Jas Thorn, Fossoway; and Rev. J. Pollock, Portmoak, and was very impressive. Mr Shand, choirmaster, played as an opening voluntary "Oh Rest in the Lord", and closed with "The Dead March" in Saul. The service in the church on Sunday was taken by the Rev. John Muirhead, Strathaven, an old friend of the late minister. After a most impressive sermon, the rev. gentleman said he had known the Rev. David Jamie for over 30 years, and during all that time he had never heard an adverse word said of Mr Jamie. When he came to Ballingry there were only 500 parishioners, and now there were close to 6000. What that work was no one knew better than their late minister, and yet he went about his work in such an inoffensive, genial manner, spreading peace, light, and comfort wherever he went.

"A Wee Keek Back"

His own troubles he kept in the background. He still found time for literary work, and also devoted much of his time to the Hope Trust. He would be greatly missed by all who knew him, and the congregation would have to gather round their new man to assist him all they could, such a charge being no sinecure. Thereafter an edict was read from the Presbytery at Kinross declaring the church vacant and intimating the purging of the roll, etc.

(Note, there is another long article about the Rev. David Jamie in the weeks edition preceding this one, which gives a very interesting sketch of his career. Jim C.)

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1912.

OPENING OF NEW CHURCH AT CARDENDEN.

A grand new church, built for the U.F. Church congregation of Cardenden district, was opened in beautiful sunshine on Saturday afternoon by the Rev. James Wells, D.D., of Pollockshields, Glasgow, and Moderator of the U.F. Church of Scotland.

There was a good gathering of all denominations, including the local clergymen.

The church is built in the old Gothic style, situated on the side of the main road leading from Dundonald to Bowhill. The church is seated to accommodate about 600, the estimated cost being £2500. The sittings are very comfortable, having plenty of room in between, and the heating apparatus is up to date. Two large pipes run down the centre of the church, with pipes branched off every third seat, which should give plenty of heat during the winter. It is also splendidly lit up by gas; in fact both minister and congregation ought to be proud of such a handsome building to worship in, it reflects great credit upon both architect and tradesmen alike.

The coal strike was rather an unlucky affair for the prospects ahead. A bazaar was arranged to try and raise some money to clear off some of the debt, and should have been held last month, but on account of the strike the building committee very wisely put it off until the 18th of next month, and it is hoped that their decision will be handsomely rewarded by raising the sum aimed at, namely £600.

The membership of the U.F. Church is at present 320, but with a population in Bowhill and district of over 7000, their membership might well be increased.

Special services were conducted on Sunday, when the Rev. George Higgs, M.A., minister of the new church preached in the forenoon, while the Rev. John Lewars, M.A., Regent Place Church, Glasgow, preached both afternoon and evening. There were large congregations at each diet of worship.

It may be mentioned that previous to this new church being built, the congregation worshipped in an iron church for seventeen years, which will now be used as a hall.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1912.

LOCHGELLY MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The following are extracts from the annual report submitted to the Town Council by Dr. Aitken, Medical Officer of Health for the Burgh of Lochgelly: -

The influences or circumstances affecting the state of the burgh continue much the same from year to year. There are no changes to note in the industries of the place such as would affect the public health. The sanitary requirements of the district are being attended to, and there is a new drainage scheme being prepared to meet present and future requirements. The water supply, like that of other Fife burghs, became greatly reduced during the summer, and became quite insufficient to meet the ordinary demands of the population. The Local Authority fortunately secured a supplementary supply and so was enabled to get over the difficulty. By November the burgh got a full supply and was able to dispense with the supplementary water.

In my opinion there is no necessity at present for further measures being considered for the improvement of the burgh.

The Board having requested information as to the condition of the bakehouses in the burgh, with special reference to the health of the employees, your medical officer made a special examination of all the bakehouses, factory, and workshop bakehouses alike, in the place, and sent a report as to the same in January. That report dealt with the structural conditions of the bakehouses, the cleanliness, sanitary conditions and arrangements of the same, as well as with administrative difficulties in the control of bakehouses generally, and further the result of enquiries as to the health of the employees was also stated. It did not appear that the health of the employees suffered from their conditions of employment, as phthisis, bronchitis and allied complaints were not unduly prevalent among them.

The Piggery in Main Street.

Another matter which was reported on was the condition of the Piggery belonging to Mr John Whilie, Main Street. After inspection and taking all the facts into consideration, your medical officer of health was of opinion that if said piggery was cleaned out every day, and kept absolutely clean, there would be no nuisance to anyone.

The only matter about which advice was given was that of the free provision of diphtheria antoxin in necessitous cases. After considerable correspondence with the Town Clerk, I submitted to the Local Authority a scheme for the distribution of the said antoxin, which, in my opinion, would suit the circumstances of the burgh and be accepted by the Board.

There are no offensive trades in the burgh.

There have been no proceedings under the Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) neither as regards housing nor Town planning.

The public slaughter house in the burgh was inspected by me several times during the

year. On all these occasions I found the place dirty and unclean to a degree. That I reported more than once to the Local Authority, but without any result. However, at time of writing (March) I understand satisfactory arrangements have been come to by the Local Authority for the future conduct and cleansing of the place.

The burgh authorities have a share in the Thornton hospital for infectious diseases, and patients therefore are sent to said hospital as occasion requires. This is a well appointed hospital with modern arrangements in every way.

All the necessary apparatus for disinfection or destruction of infected articles are at Thornton hospital. To them the burgh has right of access when required. The said arrangements are adequate in every way.

The routine measure taken to prevent the further spread of disease are kept up as formerly, viz., the sanitary inspector visits every case reported, gives disinfectants as required, reports to the medical officer and at the conclusion of the illness disinfects the premises where the case occurred. If necessary the case is removed to the hospital.

The death rate for all diseases for the year was 21.6

The Local Authority have not adopted notification, but they have made arrangements with the local medical practitioners to inform the sanitary inspector as to cases occurring in their practices, so that the sanitary inspector may visit such cases and give disinfectants, &c., and such help as may seem necessary. In addition to this arrangement I am of the opinion that the Local Authority should also arrange with the registrar to notify all deaths from phthisis to the medical officer of health, so that he would have an official intimation of same. The medical officer could then instruct the sanitary inspector. I again refer the Local Authority to my report of 1909 (section I)

Waste of Infant Life.

The infantile mortality, i.e., the deaths under one year per 1000 births, is 103 this year, as against 113 last year.

Those figures show a great waste of infant life, which might easily in great measure be avoided if parents were duly instructed.

From the social and national point of view this is an important matter, and one which should not be ignored by those in authority. Nothing has been done in Lochgelly yet, but I would here refer the Local Authority to my annual reports of 1910 and 1909 respectively. No arrangements have been made as to the carrying out of the regulations as to Food Act 1907.

There is no trade in foreign meat in the burgh.

The sanitary inspector examines all meat at the slaughter house before it is removed to be sold.

The deaths registered in the burgh during the past year were 99, adding 17 deaths of persons belonging to the burgh which occurred in institutions elsewhere, the total for the year is 116. Estimating the population at the middle of 1911 as 9156, those

figures give a death rate of 12.6 per 1000 per annum. Last year the rate was 13.6.

The births registered in the burgh were 327, or at a rate of 37.3. The births exceed the deaths by 211, the natural increase of population for the year being 211.

LOCHGELLY MINER SENT TO PRISON.

For Theft of a Sheep.

James Clark, miner, appeared at a pleading diet of a Sheriff and Jury trial at Dunfermline on Monday, charged with having, on 6th or 7th April, at Pitcairn Farm, Auchterderran, occupied by James Bonthron, farmer, from the field known as Sharun Field, situated to the west of the farm, stolen two sheep. Alexander Stewart, miner, was also charged with having resetted a part of the sheep.

Clark pleaded guilty to having stolen one sheep, and this was accepted. Mr G. Crichton, speaking on the accused's behalf, said the case was really a sequel to the recent strike. The two men accused were both non-Union men, and they were very hard hit by the strike, which had lasted for five weeks. Clark was a married man with five of a family and Stewart was a married man with three of a family, the youngest about one month old. They were existing as best they could with the help of the Soup Kitchen, and they had been pawning every article in their house to keep themselves going.

On the 5th April Clark's children had gone supperless to bed, and it was in a sort of desperation that he was tempted to steal the sheep. He went to the field and killed one of the animals. He had sufficiently proved that there was great necessity in the case of the accused, although it was not an excuse. The sheep was at once cut up and used for food. it was not a matter of greediness which prompted him to commit the theft; it was simply a matter of his wife and family being served, and the temptation was too strong.

As regarded Stewart, it was not suggested that he had any part in the theft. Living in the same street, he certainly might have suspected that the sheep was not honestly obtained by Clark. But he was tempted to accept a portion. It was also used for consumption of the family alone.

Clark was sent to prison for forty days, and Stewart for twenty-one days.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1912.

LOCHGELLY BACK TO NORMAL.

Police Force Leaves

Last Wednesday afternoon, the auxiliary Police Force drafted into Lochgelly on account of the threatening attitude of lawless bands of young folk, left the district. They all declared that their experience of Lochgelly had been a pleasant one and were loud in their praises of the Lochgelly men, whom they described as the best type of miners they had ever met. From Monday, when all danger of further rioting was past, the policemen were allowed a good deal of latitude. In the Drill Hall on Tuesday evening they had a sing-song, when some excellent talent was produced by the "force". The Wednesday forenoon was spent in the Masonic Hall in card playing, dominoes, draughts, &C., and in walking about the streets, where many

acquaintanceship were made with the local folks.

At noon the whole force was mustered in the Recreation Park, and a photograph taken by D. Crawford. The total on parade, including the mounted men, was 346. Chief Constable Tennant Gordon sat in the front row, and was supported by the Superintendents and Inspectors. After the group had been photographed, Chief Constable Gordon said he was greatly indebted to the Glasgow Police Authorities for the promptitude with which they had dispatched a hundred men to aid the Fifeshire Constabulary in a situation that was menacing. He also thanked the other authorities who sent without delay detachments from their various forces. They were not to go away with the thought that the Fife miner was a disorderly character. On the contrary, they were respectable and honourable men, but it had to be confessed that there was a large fringe that could not come under that designation. It was this small coterie, combined with others who should have had more sense than associate with them, that caused the anxiety. He was aware that the Glasgow men had suffered hardships in consequence of the lack of proper lodgings, but everything had been done to make them as comfortable as possible. He had great pleasure in saying that the conduct of every man had been perfect, and this he would report to their respective Chief Constables. In his own name he thanked them most heartily for their willing and obedient service at a critical juncture, and he was commissioned by the Sheriff of the County and the Standing Joint Committee to convey a hearty appreciation of the excellent services rendered.

The remarks were loudly cheered.

Inspector Semple and Inspector Alexander, of the Glasgow and Forfarshire contingents respectively, thanked the Chief Constable on behalf of the aiding forces, for the great kindness shown while on duty in Fife. They had been most excellently treated.

In the afternoon a football match was played by an eleven selected from the Glasgow contingent and the local shopkeepers team. A considerable number attended and keenly followed the play, which was at times of a diverting nature. The following was the police team - Syme, Clive, Rae, Malcolm, E. Morrison, Ogilvie, Dick, Slater, S. Muir, McMillan and Duncan. The game brought out all the capabilities of Syme as goalkeeper. He was frequently cheered for his fine saves. Rae scored the only goal for Glasgow, who eventually lost by three goals to one. A collection was taken by Inspector Sepal on behalf of the West of Fife Hospital, and the sum of £2 13s was raised and handed to Mr Small, town clerk, who forwarded it to the proper quarter.

At four o'clock the Glasgow men left by special tramcars for Dunfermline, where special carriages were attached to the regular train for Glasgow. The Perthshire and Forfarshire contingent also left at the same time, and all had a hearty send off. Late in the evening those drawn in from Fife county districts, and from the burgh of Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline and from Aberdeen, were conveyed to their respective stations.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1912.

LOCHGELLY NEWS.

The Tramways.

Work proceeds apace on the new tramway line from Lochgelly to Lochore. The rails are laid over a considerable portion of Station Road, and it is the expectations of the Company that the line will be ready for the Board of Trade inspection within a month. The causewaying of the Station Road will be begun this week. The contractors for the works are Messrs Martin & McFarlane, Errol, and the cost to the burgh is £3000. The blocks will be laid to the burgh boundary beyond Grainger Square. The contractors have re-opened the whinstone quarry at Cartmore, and will use that metal for bottoming and cement chips.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1912.

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.

Weekly Wages.

The first payment of wages under the new system of weekly wages was made at the Mary Pit on Saturday. This is the first in Fife. Comparing the working arrangements with that of the previous fortnight, when wages were paid on Friday, the system was most satisfactory. Fully 50 per cent more were at work on Friday and Saturday than has obtained hitherto, and the output was correspondingly heavy, in fact, exceeded that of any former ordinary working day. In the licensed places of business the drawing were back to the extent of from £15 to £20 in each case, which was not made up on Saturday.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1912.

AUCHTERDERRAN NEWS.

Gas Light Company.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Cardenden Gas Company, Ltd., held in the Goth Hall on Wednesday, the following resolution was unanimously passed: - "That 2000 shares of £1 each (part of the Company's un-issued capital of 11,500 shares) be offered in the first instance at a premium of 1s per share to such persons residing in or about the village of Kinglassie, Fife, as the directors may choose, and that the directors be empowered to dispose of any shares not taken in response to such offer as they considered expedient in the interest of the Company". This is to enable the directors to extend the supply to the village of Kinglassie. Mr R.S. Ramsay presided.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1912.

LOCHGELLY NEWS.

The Tramway Line to be Inspected Tomorrow.

Intimation has been received from the Fife Tramway Company by Mr Small, Town Clerk, that a Board of Trade Inspector will make an inspection of the tramway line to Lochore tomorrow (Thursday). If he declares the line safe for traffic, passenger cars will be immediately put on.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1912.

OPENING OF THE TRAMWAY LINE TO LOCHORE.

Last Thursday the new tramway line from Lochgelly to GlenCraig and Lochore, a continuation of the Dunfermline to Lochgelly system, was inspected by Colonel Von Donop, representative of the Board of Trade, who passed it for traffic. The head officials of the Electric Power Company, the contractors for the work, and Provost Wilson and Mr A Lumsden, Inspector of works, Lochgelly, travelled in the inspection car along with the inspector. The latter fixed the various speeds, that of descending Station Road being four miles per hour, and that of Spale Inn Brae eight miles an hour. On Saturday the traffic from the northern villages was heavy, nearly all the cars being full.

DEATH OF LOCHGELLY'S OLDEST INHABITANT.

On Sabbath last there passed away at the exceptional age of 92 years Mary Bennet, widow of David Penman, South Street. Apart from her years, Mrs Penman was notable as the oldest surviving female who had worked in the mines before the law was passed which abolished female labour below ground. Deceased was a strong woman physically and constitutionally, and up to nearly the end did work which was simply marvellous for one of her years. Her birth register, which she kept framed, showed that she was born on May 13th, 1821, at Sheildhill, a village on the west side of Falkirk. When twelve years of age the family removed to Reddan district. From thence to Faskin, in the vicinity of Airdrie, they went shortly afterwards, and here Mrs Penman had her first experience of working below ground. Her work was that of "laving" water for her father and keeping his place dry. Later on she secured direct employment at 2s a day. This pit was sixteen fathoms deep, and there she drew hutches to the pit bottom and hung them on from whence they were drawn to the surface by a very primitive engine. The method of descending and ascending the mine then was in hutches, and extreme care had to be taken in guiding these up and down by touching the sides of the shaft. Each miner used his own particular hutch for this purpose, and when he arrived at the bottom took it on to his working place, used it during the day for wheeling the ironstone to the bottom, and came to the surface in it when his days labours were over. The working of ironstone is much harder and decidedly more unhealthy than the "howking" of coal, and it is all the more marvellous to find one who had experienced this survive to such an old age. Mrs Penman continued to work in the pits till the Act of Parliament was passed in 1842 prohibiting female labour in mines. For two years after this she worked at the pit head, and in 1845 - sixty-seven years ago - she married. removing to Fife in 1850. Mr and Mrs Penman took up their abode in Kennard Street, Lochgelly, then known as Plantin Row, not far from where the famous Lochgelly markets were held. Mrs Penman's family, who numbered eleven, have all been reared in Lochgelly. Of grandchildren she had the large number of 45, while her great-grandchildren totalled 46.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1913.

LOCHGELLY'S NEW PICTURE HOUSE OPENED.

The "Cinema de Lux" erected in Bank Street, was formally opened on Monday afternoon by Provost Wilson. There was a large and representative attendance.

The Provost said there were many opinions held about picture houses. He thought Lochgelly wanted such a thing badly, especially since the cars came in, for these took young and old out of the town to other places. To be in a picture house was better than walking the streets or sitting in a beer shop. Some people, of course, held up their hands in pious horror at these picture houses, and only last week they had an instance of these sort denouncing a picture of the life of our Saviour from the manger to the cross. For his, the Provost's part, he thought that was instructive. Then in London they had people who attended the picture house on Sunday accused of breaking the Lord's day. Proceeding, he said the Commercial Cinematography Company was inaugurated in 1910, having its head office in Bristol, and in the erection of their Lochgelly Cinema de Lux, they have given effect to everything which so far has been conceived for the safety and comfort of the public as gained by their experience elsewhere, coupled with that of the contractors. The erection, while completed in a remarkably short space of time, had been constructed on the world famed spierisque principle, which is universally recognised as the safest and best. No less than seven emergency exit doors have been provided, each of which is fitted with the most modern of approved panic bolts, and in the case of necessity the hall could be entirely cleared in two minutes time. This is a most important adjunct to a place of the kind. The directors of the Company are all successful business gentlemen, and being imbued with a proper sense of the good which such places of amusement afford their patrons when properly managed, they have adopted as their policy a choice and cheerful entertainment for the people at small cost, and so successful have they been so far in their endeavours that in these places where they already have other halls, the C.C. Pictures have become a household phrase. They have been fortunate in their selection of a general manager, Mr Tom Timmons, who, no less than the directors, has the same high sense of how such a place should be properly run. The greatest care has been exercised in the selection of the staff, and none but the latest and best of the world's moving pictures will be presented each week. The pictures will be changed twice weekly, on Monday's and Thursday's, and on Sunday's, special appropriate performances have been arranged for. A feature of the entertainment will be the music, which will be provided by an excellent pianist on a special orchestral piano. This instrument has been installed at great cost, and is in itself a full string band. The management intend to leave nothing wanting in giving the patrons of the hall what they most desire in the shape of moving picture plays, and no father or mother need have any scruples in allowing their sons and daughters becoming regular patrons of the Cinema de Lux. In view of these facts, it gives me great pleasure indeed to declare the hall now open, and I take the opportunity of expressing the hope that it will have the hearty support of the community, and of wishing the Company every success in its new venture. (Applause.)

Owing to the electric lighting supply not being up to expectations, the picture were rather dim. Otherwise they are exceptionally shown and remarkably steady. The light, we are assured, will be increased by fifty per cent, and this should secure excellent showing of pictures.

Cake and Wine Banquet.

At the conclusion of the opening performance, the Town Council and other guests were entertained in the Minto Hotel. Mr Wm. R. Milne, solicitor, Edinburgh, agent for the Company, presided, and Mr J.B. Thomson, accountant, Dundee, officiated as

croupier. A number of toasts were proposed and congratulatory speeches made. Provost Wilson proposed "The Commercial Cinematography Company", and Mr Milne responded. "The Burgh Officials" was submitted by Mr Thomson, and acknowledged by Mr Small, town clerk. The Chairman gave "The Town Council" and Bailie Walker responded. Councillor Harvey proposed "The Press", and Mr Westwater replied. "The Electricians" by Councillor Hugh was acknowledged by Mr Scott, and Councillor Paul very aptly proposed the health of the Chairman. The health of Mr Nicol, Kirkcaldy, proprietor of the ground, was pledged on the call of Councillor Harvey. A few songs by Councillors Barclay and Hugh, Mr Robertson &c., contributed to a very enjoyable meeting.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1913

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.

Miners Meeting.

A joint meeting of Lochore and Glencraig miners was held on Sunday in the Public Hall, Lochore, to consider the doctor question. Mr W. Graham, check-weigher, president, occupied the chair, and he was supported on the platform by Mr Sam Hynds and Mr Alex Bain. W. Graham called upon the secretary, Mr Robert Davidson, to read the report on the Mary Pit, which had been inspected on behalf of the miners by Messrs Philip Hodge and Duncan Beaton. The inspection took place on 11th, 12th, 14th, and 15th April, and was very exhaustive. On the whole the inspectors complimented the management in their efforts to improve conditions below ground, and in extending to them every courtesy in their work of inspection. A huge fan is being erected on the surface, and when this and other alterations are made at the pithead conditions in the Mary Pit will be much more comfortable and safer for the workmen. This report was considered highly satisfactory. Thereafter the Chairman called upon Mr Sam Hynds to address them on the doctor question and give them the benefit of his wide experience, advising them what would be the best course to pursue in the existing circumstances. Mr Hynds, who was well received, gave a rousing and effective address, reviewing the old system and how it was worked, and then when the new Act came into operation it was found necessary to make provision for their wives and families. Mr Hynds explained the Executive Board firstly had conferences with the doctors, and could not agree. After several meetings an arrangement was come to whereby a flat rate of 1½d per member for those above 16 years of age, and half that for those below that age for medical attendance only, but if the men in the district wanted free medicine the rate would be 2d. 1½d to go to the doctor, and ½d to a fund to meet the chemist bills for providing free medicine for their women folk and their families. Any deficiency in the chemist bills would, however, fall to be met by the men, as the doctors had distinctly refused to have anything to do with the scheme. The advantage of the scheme was uniformity. It relieved the men from compulsion, and allowed them to select their own doctor. The Colliery Companies would hand over the deductions to their committee, who would in turn disburse the money to the respective doctors, reserving the ½d to meet the medicine bills. In Lochgelly, however, this system was being tried, but they found that there was a deficiency of from £3 to £4 per fortnight. This would be spread over about 3000 men, but they were having a meeting to consider the question whether they should drop the medicine scheme and go back to the flat rate of 1½d per week for medicine benefit only. Mr Hynds then briefly referred to the organisation of the district, and said the executive

were more than satisfied with the high standard that had been reached in Lochore, due to the tactful nature and strong organising qualifications of their organiser, Mr Bain, who was now turning his attention to Glencraig, and very soon the whole district would be the best in the county. While Fife itself was the best organised in Great Britain, there was still a certain percentage outside, and the men should see that they were forced to join the Union. Mr Hynds then referred to a leaderette in the "Evening News" on Saturday evening, and condemned the Editor for using such tactics and said the unionists were perfectly justified in compelling outsiders to come into the fold. Mr Bain read the agreement to come to between the executive and the doctors, and said that although the scheme had not been so satisfactory at Lochgelly, this no doubt would be due to bad winter and illness, etc., very prevalent. Everything considered, he thought the 2d scheme should have a trial in the district. Further discussion took place, and on a vote it was decided to give the scheme a trial, appointing a medical committee to carry out the work. Messrs C. McCormack and Wm Chalmers were appointed for Glencraig, and Messrs Robert Davidson and J. Gibson for Lochore. These, with the colliery proprietors men from Fife Coal Company and Wilson & Clyde, would then meet the doctors and set the machinery in motion as early as possible.

THE LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1913

NEW PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION ROOMS FOR LOCHORE.

Lochore Public Park and new Billiard and Recreation rooms were on Saturday opened under very favourable circumstances. Bowhill Prize Brass Band was in attendance, while the opening ceremonies were performed by Charles Carlow, Esq., Chairman of the Fife Coal Company. He was accompanied by Mrs Carlow and Mrs Dunning. Mr James Roden, manager, Mary Pit, and President of the Reading Room Committee occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Messrs Robertson, architect; Mr Beveridge, Kelty; Rev. W. McDairmid, and Rev. Charles Mason.

Mr Roden, in a short and pithy speech, on behalf of the Library Committee, thanked Mr and Mrs Carlow for coming to open their park and rooms and reviewed the work of the past three years. As soon as the Committee saw that the rooms were too small, the chairman, when approached, generously provided funds to carry out the work, and his architect to look after and see it completed. The rooms about to be opened were, he thought, the best that any mining village in Scotland could boast of. They were also favoured with the beautiful park, which they had got for a mere song.

Mr Beveridge thanked the committee for the honour they had done him in asking him to perform the honours of the day, and said surely this would be a Red Letter Day for Lochore in having not only their respected chairman but also Mrs Carlow too. Three of four years ago a small committee was formed and approached Mr Carlow, who very generously gave them a double house, with free coals. This was soon found to be inadequate, and with ever increasing funds, they again approached the Company, and Mr Carlow again favoured them. The park, which extended to eleven acres, and was situated beautifully in the centre of the village, had been got on similar easy terms. Mr Beveridge then in a graceful manner, asked Mrs Carlow to accept a handsome 18-carat gold padlock, superbly inscribed, for the park, and a handsome

gold key, also inscribed, to Mr Carlow.

Mrs Carlow said – I have much pleasure in declaring the park open for the village, and hope that great good may be the result. (Applause.)

Mr Carlow said he thanked the committee and Mr Beveridge on his wife's and his behalf for the great honour they had done in asking them to come to Lochore. This was not Mrs Carlow's first visit, as on the 1st March, 1902, she cut the first sod for the Mary Pit, and it afforded her very great pleasure to be here again to-day to declare their park open. It was estimated in 1902 that the Mary would cost £10,000, but he regretted to say that to-day it had cost double that amount. Unfortunately it had not begun to pay back anything yet, but he had great hopes and foretold a great future for Lochore, when they got through their present troubles and away east, where he was confident there was a large field of coal. The Mary would turn out all right. Speaking of Lochore, Mr Carlow referred to ancient history and said that in 1620 the old castle was really surrounded with water, while later on, Sir Walter Scott resided here and wrote some of his best books, while his son married Bonnie Jeannie Jobson of Lochore. Referring to the bad name Lochore had got, some folks had got it into their heads they were bad, but the sooner this was dispelled the better. The Institute was proof of the good men to be got in Lochore. The clergymen would think a very good deal of themselves if they could if they could give such a good account as the Institute had. For the first three years they had gathered £778 to keep up their building, had expended £31 in prizes, and had a goodly sum in the bank. There were 542 books in the rooms, and these were turned out at a rate of 3000 per year, showing that men were alive to the fact that the sport was not everything. He was glad indeed when he saw there was such a spirit of independence amongst them, and he therefore could not do otherwise than help them in every possible manner. He expressed the hope that the Institute and Park would be well used, and that they would not mix it up with gambling and betting and such like bad practices, promising further that if acceptable, he would send along some books, and if the committee approached him at some future time he would fence off garden ground for them. Much had been said recently on Garden Cities. There was plenty of ground for such about them, and he would give every possible encouragement so that they might still further cultivate their minds in that direction. He thanked them on Mrs Carlow's behalf for the handsome padlock, and himself for the beautiful key, which they would cherish and prize very highly, and in a few words complimentary to the Institute, declared it open.

Rev. Chas. Mason and Rev. W. McDairmid moved a vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Carlow for their great kindness in coming to Lochore to join with them in their rejoicing and to help them in their prosperity

Mr Carlow briefly thanked them for their flattering remarks and certainly, he said again, he could not help helping them when they had done so much for themselves.

Mr Rowan congratulated Lochore on the splendid park they had acquired, and the beautiful rooms, and thought there was no more favoured mining village in Scotland.

Mr CC Reid moved a vote of thanks to Mr Roden for his conduct in the chair. He urged them to continue in the good work that they had set themselves to perform.

Mr Roden briefly replied, and the party adjourned to the new rooms, where a very pleasant half hour of inspection was made, and a foursome game of billiards was played between Messrs Carlow and Dawson and Messrs Rowan and Reid.

Thereafter the company was entertained to a cake and wine banquet in the Gothenburg Hall. Much credit is due to the Gothenburg Directors on this occasion, as they came very generously forward and provided a banquet, under the very able guidance of Mr Wilson, chairman, Mr Butters, secretary, and Mr Grey, manager. The whole was provided free. The guest of the committee were Mr and Mrs Carlow, Mr C.C. Reid, and Mrs Bunting, Messrs Wilkie, Wilson, Park, Rattray, Beveridge, Rowan, Laing, McMenemy, Drs Dickson, Moir, and Sinclair, and rev. W.H. McDairmid. The chair was taken by Mr Roden. After the toast of the King, the Army, Navy and Territorials, replied to by Dr Sinclair.

Dr Dickson, in an able speech, proposed the health of the Fife Coal Company, coupled with the names of Mr Carlow. He referred to the great undertaking and the indomitable perseverance and hard work of Mr Carlow. Professor Ostler prescribed “work” for all ailments, and the watchword he thought, must have been Mr Carlow, as he had no hesitation in saying it was due to his energies that the Fife Coal Company now stood foremost in the county as the largest mining industry. He referred briefly to the harmony that existed at all times between the workers and employers, as was abundantly evidenced a considerable time ago when the epidemic visited Lochore, when many sufferers were relieved. Now had come the crowing of their generosity in giving such terms to the committee as to enable them to carry forward the social work and raise the status of Lochore. (Applause.) The toast was most enthusiastically received, and “He’s a jolly good fellow” was sung.

Mr Carlow, who was loudly applauded, thanked the doctor for his kind remarks and the company for their hearty response, and took the opportunity of thanking the Gothenburg Committee for providing such an exquisite and sumptuous banquet for them free from expense. Referring to Dr Dickson’s prescription “work”. He detailed his own experience, having started work exactly fifty years this year in Beath office. He spent ten years of his time out of Fife, in hard work, returning forty years ago past in March, and has been hard at it ever since. The Fife Coal Company was a great concern, and naturally he was proud to be at the head of affairs. No doubt he had many controversies over every conceivable problem, but never had he at any time been so embittered as not to be able to shake hands all round. Mr Carlow gave some reminiscences of his experiences on the Housing Commission, and said he would do his best for the miners and see they were better housed. He thanked all for their extreme courtesy and kindness to Mrs Carlow and himself that day. Their reception would not be readily forgotten.

Other toasts which followed were: - “Village and Trade of Lochore,” by Mr McMenemy, replied to by Mr Park; “Success to Park and New Rooms,” by Mr Rowan, replied to by Mr McFarlane; “Absent Friends and Visitors,” by Mr Beveridge, replied to by Mr Wilkie; “Former Presidents,” by Mr C.C. Reid, replied to by Mr Lang; “Kindred Trades” – by Mt Wilson, replied to by Mr Rattray; “Mine Host”, by Mr McDonagh, replied to by Mr Wilson; and “The Chairman” by Mr Rowan.

During the evening Mr Davis Pratt, oversman, in a very neat and complimentary speech, presented Mr Robertson, architect, a solid silver cigar case, amber mouthpiece and silver holder, suitably inscribed, fir the able manner he had carried through the extension, and the many valuable hints given to the committee.

Songs were sung by Messrs McRea, Brierly, McLinie, and D'Ess. "Auld Lang Syne" closed a most enjoyable function.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1913.

CONFUSION IN STREET NAMES AT AUCHTERDERRAN.

In the populous districts of Fife there is alleged to be great confusion in the matter of street names, one place being designated under various names.

The Rev. A.M. Houston, Auchterderran, made an effort at Kirkcaldy District Committee on Saturday to have the anomaly rectified. He moved that the District Committee take steps to provide that the populous places included within the special lighting and special drainage district of Auchterderran be re-consolidated under one name, that the streets of the district be named, and the houses numbered so as to prevent confusion in registration and other respects.

The Rev. gentleman stated that the confusion he referred to affected him particularly as parish minister as he had to register births, deaths, marriages, and baptisms and sign many other certificates, and very often the places were called by three or four names. In asking them to consolidate the various places under Auchterderran district he was not creating any new name. As a Fellow of the Antiquarian Society of Scotland he wished to preserve old names, and he had ascertained that the name of Auchterderran went back as far as 718. The greatest living Celtic scholar has assured him of the accuracy of that statement.

The Chairman (Mr A, Bowman) - Are you wanting us to do away with the name Bowhill ?

The rev. Mr Houston - There is no such name as Bowhill. (Laughter).

The Chairman said it would be interesting if he explained how the name of Bowhill originated. Those who were associated with the mining industry at Bowhill suggested that as he (the Chairman) had been one of the promoters of the colliery there it should be called Bowman. He modestly resented, however, as an alternative the village was called Bowhill.

In answer to Mr Comrie, the Chairman said he thought the name of Bowhill should be retained. (Laughter.)

Bailie Walker considered it would be better if each place had its distinctive name, such as GlenCraig, Bowhill, Cardenden, &c.

Mr Forrester seconded the motion.

Moving the previous question, Mr Wilkie stated that as representing the Parish of Auchterderran he was not aware that any confusion existed at all in the matter of names. Letters had been addressed to him from far parts bearing nothing more than Bowhill, Scotland.

Mr Masterton seconded.

The Rev. Mr Houston gave instances of five blocks of houses in one street which was unnamed, and each block was only numbered up to nine. How was a person to be found under such conditions ? Just the other day he received a letter from a Fife source addressed to the "Registrar's Office, Auchterderran, Bowhill, Cardenden, Fife". (Laughter.) He intended to appeal to the County Council on the matter if his motion was defeated.

On a division 8 voted for the amendment and 3 for the Rev. Houston's motion.

GOLF.

LOCHGELLY GOLF CLUB.

Opening of New Pavilion and Extended Course.

On Wednesday afternoon a large company gathered to witness the formal opening of the handsome new pavilion which has just been erected. Mr Taylor, the President of the club, presided, and said that the club was never in a more healthy state, both numerically and financially. He gave a history of the club since its inception, and mentioned the difficulties they had overcome. The course was not just as how they would like it, but with a little hard work they would get it into something like a golf course. They had been indebted greatly to Mr Paul for his help, and the secretary read an apology for absence from him. He then called on Mrs Paul to declare the pavilion open.

Mrs Paul, in a few words, declared the pavilion open, and hoped the club would go on to prosper. Mr Taylor afterwards presented Mrs Paul with a beautiful silver-mounted cleek, with which she drove off the first ball in the extended course.

An exciting race among the ladies for the possession of the ball ended in Miss Stirling securing it.

Tea was afterwards served out to the company present.

The Chairman also mentioned that Mr Paul had presented the club with a flagstaff, and Mr Sands with a flag.

The extended course comprises about forty acres, and the length of the nine holes about 2500 yards.

A mixed foursome competition for prizes then took place, with the following results:- 1st prize, Miss Mulvahill and Mr Wilson, 100-12-88; 2nd prize, Miss Strachan and Mr Morrison, 102-10-92; 3rd prize, Miss McPetrie and Mr R.C. Anderson, 99-6-93; other scorers - Miss Cranston and Mr T. Grieg, 109-14-95; Miss Duncan and Mr

Ross, 104-8-96; Miss Philp and Mr Williamson, 109-12-97; Miss Stirling and Mr D. Gray, 108-10-98.

Men's Single Competition - 1st prize, Mr S. Hunter, 79-2-77; 2nd prize, (equal), Mr J. Adam, 87-2-85; and Mr W. Rolland, 93-8-85.

A social evening was spent in the clubhouse when Mr Paul presided over a packed house.

After Mr Paul had presented the prizes, the following contributed songs:- Mrs J.C. Westwater and Miss Muir, Messrs J. Williamson, A.W. Philp, D. McAllister, R. Gray, R. Park, Dr Dickson, J.N. McKinnell and H. Forrester.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1913

HUGE FAN AT THE MARY PIT, LOCHORE

At the Mary Pit there is at present in course of erection a huge fan which, when completed, will be the foremost ventilating plant in the country. The fan is a Walker Patent, indestructible type, made of steel, and is made for forcing or exhausting as the case may be. The same is fitted with an ant-vibration shutter to enable the fan to run at a very high speed, and to do away with all shock and vibration thereby. The whole is built up with fitted bolts, the vanes are all riveted to arms and secured to the shaft with eight stud keys, and is driven by ten cotton ropes, 1 ¾ inches in diameter. The engine is of the Corliss compound type, fitted with Dobson's valve gear, the driving pulley being 16 feet in diameter, 13 tons in weight. In case of break down each engine is capable of taking full load. The fan is capable of giving 300,000 cubic feet of air per minute at 5 inch water gauge. The engine etc., is supplied by Messrs Walker Bros., Limited, Wigan. A small pit is sunk from the surface to a depth of 84 feet, 16 feet in diameter, bricked throughout, from the bottom of which a stone drift is driven 12 ft. by 15 ft. and finishing at the main shaft 20 ft. high and 9 ft wide. The drift is bricked on either side with 18 inch brick work and girdered on the top every 18 inches. The shaft is protected longitudinally with girders built into brick side walls. The drift itself is sloped one third of its distance in a downward direction leading to the main shaft, which facilitates the passing of the air to the pit. The result of this great improvement will avoid the necessity of the fan at the Mary bottom and the altering of several of the principal main airways leading to the Aitken and Benarty Pits, and will have a very soothing effect on the workers in the Mary itself, as air will be in abundance. The cost of this undertaking means thousands of pounds to the Fife Coal Company, Limited. This is nothing compared with the great good that will accrue to the men. The engine has had a very satisfactory trial, and barring accidents, the whole plant will be going in the course of a few weeks now.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1913.

AUCHTERDERRAN NEWS.

Memorial Window.

A stained glass window which has just been placed in Auchterderran Parish Church by Dr L. Bowman, Craigderran, to the memory of his wife, was dedicated on Sunday by the Rev. A. McNeil Houston, B.D., minister of the parish, in the presence of a large congregation. The subject of the design is "The Rejoicing of Miriam", the text being "Sing ye to the Lord". Mr Houston preached a splendid sermon from Exodus, chapter xv., verses 20-21. After dwelling on the refrain of Miriam, "Sing ye to the Lord", Mr Houston said - There is much in common between Miriam and the lady whose memory we have met to perpetuate this day. Our Kirk Session will shortly take over the custody of this precious gift, namely, the Bowman Memorial Window, and in doing so they have charged me to say how highly they appreciate the honour of receiving it from the hands of Dr Bowman. It is good to beautify the house of God in these days when the just demand is made for the better and more artistic housing for the people, and to cluster around it gifts which will perpetuate those high qualities which ever confer distinction on men and women. Continuing, Mr Houston said - I desire to spare the feelings of those who loved Mrs Bowman and cherished her for her great qualities of wife, mother, and friend, as I personally suffered her loss to this church, and its good work with lasting grief. May the doctor's gift help us to keep green those fine womanly qualities, and teach us to know that all our gifts and graces are worthless unless we spend them upon others as she did. All the elders were upstanding while Mr Houston dedicated the window, and the choir rendered that beautiful anthem "Rock of Ages". The whole proceedings were very interesting and impressive. The window was designed by Mr J Ballantine, Edinburgh, and shows a splendid piece of art. At the base of the window is the following inscription:- "To the glory of God, and in loving memory of Isabella Henderson Cummings, wife of Lawrence Bowman, M.B., C.M., Craigderran. - Oct. 13th, 1912."

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLT TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1913.

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.

Telephones.

Some time ago attention was drawn to the antiquated and inadequate postal service in the district, and it is gratifying to note the power that be did make some amendment, yet not quite what was expected for such a large and growing district. There is still a great need for a telephone. Private traders are generous in the use of theirs. The Police office is not even provided for by this means. Petitions are talked off, but we hope that the powers that be will rise to the occasion before it is necessary to do this.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1913.

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.

Compulsory Teetotalism.

Joseph Hall, miner, Lochore, was charged at the Sheriff Court on Thursday of having committed a breach of peace at his dwelling house. Accused challenged his wife in the witness box with taking drink. Th woman indignantly denied the accusation, and explained that that was the cause of her husband's present position. Accused addressed his wife as "Jenny". Witness – Don't "Jenny" me. You are standing there telling nothing but a pack of lies. Accused – You don't want me to go home again with you? Witness – No, after standing there telling a pack of lies such as that. Accused – Then, My Lord, can you give me a separation? – Witness – If you go home again you have got to be teetotal. Police sergeant Clydesdale said that within the last three weeks the accused had three appearances before the court. Accused – If you give me a chance, I'll go home and be teetotal. The Sheriff – I think the best thing is that you should not have a chance to be anything other than teetotal; ten days imprisonment.

**THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES &
ADVERTISER.**

WEDNESDAY. AUGUST 6, 1913.
LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Burgh Street to be Lighted by Electricity.

Lochgelly Town Council, at a special meeting last Friday, took up consideration of the question of street lighting. Councillor Barclay moved, and Councillor Hugh seconded, that they accept the offer of the Fife Electric Power Company for lighting the Main Street, Bank Street, and Station Road with electricity on a five year contract. Councillor Harvey moved that the matter be delayed and an offer asked from Lochgelly Gas Company for supplying 22 power gas lamps. Councillor Miller seconded. On a division the motion was carried by four votes to two. It was agreed to accept the Gas Company's offer to light all the streets not electrically lighted for the sum of 24s and 6d per lamp per season, and to light the night lamp at the Post Office for £2 12s 6d. The Lighting Committee were empowered to put up what additional lamps in side streets, together with higher power gas lamps, where it was deemed necessary.

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.

Lighting of Lochore and District.

The Kirkcaldy District of the Fife County Council are presently engaged with a new scheme for lighting up the streets of the villages of Glencraig, Crosshill, and Lochore. The scheme, which is well advanced, shows that there will be close on 60 new lamps erected. Conference between proprietors and the council representatives have

arranged the lamps in such places as will give the most light to the greatest number of inhabitants at their residences. The scheme also includes the employment of two lamplighters, as it is found that the old system of self-lighting lamps in the district have been a failure.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1913

The Proposed Amalgamation of Lochgelly Clubs.

Two joint meetings of representatives of Lochgelly United and Lochgelly Football Clubs were held in the Bay Horse Tavern with a view of arriving at an understanding whereby there would be only one club. On Friday the new club formulated proposals for leaving United in possession, the idea being if the Senior club at the West End ceased, that a Junior club should be promoted. The United representative expressed their willingness to help forward amalgamation. The whole meeting recognised the futility of trying to run two Senior clubs in the town, but when the suggestion was made that United should pay a sum down of £10 to £15, their representative could not see their way to agree. It was stated that the West End Club had spent this sum since the season closed in signing on players, membership fees, and travelling expenses. The United pointed out they were not in a position to pay this amount at the present time without receiving anything in return beyond the opposition which the other club could give. Lochgelly then made the suggestion that an understanding be come to to avoid the matches clashing and arrangements made to play on different Saturdays, the intention being that when the West End Club had made sufficient profit to recoup their outlays that they would cease to exist. It was recognised that if such an undertaking was giving difficulties were bound to crop up. But it was decided that an amicable feeling should exist, and there be such intercourse as would be to the mutual advantage of both parties. Good feeling prevailed throughout the meetings, and it seemed to be the desire of all parties to do what is best for the game.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1913.

LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Death of Mr John Westwater.

The death occurred yesterday morning of Mr John Westwater at his residence, Myrtle Cottage, Station Road. Deceased was in his eightieth year. Mr Westwater had been in business in Lochgelly for something like sixty years, and with one exception was the oldest merchant in the town. He was born in Largoward in East Fife, and settled in Lochgelly very early in his life. He worked in the pits here till eighteen years of age, when he started a newsagency and bookselling business in a small way. By his steady application to business, on which he centred his whole activities, the business

grew, and as the town increased in size, was steadily extended. Some thirty odd years ago he added to his business a small printing office, a trade which has also steadily increased. In 1892 he started "The Times", and it has proved a very popular local paper. It was the first newspaper printed in the town. Shortly before that, local papers were issued in Lochgelly, but were printed in Kirkcaldy. While yet in his teens and working in the pit, he built one of the first houses in Bank Street – a but and ben – on the site where the business premises now stand, and it was also he who gave the name to the street. In his youth he read extensively, and improved his education, great friends of his at that period being Professor Gray, now sitting in Lord Kelvin's chair in Glasgow University, and another of the Grays who also rose to be a University Professor, and both of whom at that time were learning the trade of stone masons. Comparatively early in life his hearing became somewhat defective, but notwithstanding he acted as correspondent for most of the Scottish and Fife newspapers, and frequently was complimented on the terseness and phrasing of the numerous paragraphs sent in. From his earliest years he was a devoted adherent of the Free Church of Scotland, and was the last survivor of the original congregation of Lochgelly Free, now the Macainsh U.F. Church. His father came out in the disruption year, 1843, and because of the prominent part he took in the great ecclesiastical struggle of those days was dismissed from a good position by the Superior of Largoward. He was appointed an elder in Lochgelly shortly after coming to the place, and his son, now deceased, was early made a Deacon, an office he held until he relinquished it some years ago. Mr Westwater never took a prominent part in public affairs, though he took an active interest in them. In politics he was an advanced Radical. He was well known all over the district, and held in the greatest esteem. His business probity and honesty of purpose had their reward in the high esteem in which he was held by the newspaper publishing houses and the wholesale bookselling and stationary firms. For about seven years Mr Westwater has lived in retirement. Up till within two months ago he enjoyed excellent health, but following an attack of influenza in May, his strength began to fail. On Saturday he had a paralytic seizure and gradually weakened, death taking place peacefully at half past six yesterday morning. The funeral, which is a public one, takes place tomorrow to Lochgelly Cemetery.

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.

Peculiar Glencraig Custom.

At the Sheriff Court on Thursday, Wm Mallon, miner, 114 South Glencraig, was convicted on evidence of having made a disturbance in his own house. A Constable said that he had heard some extraordinary noises coming from the miner's houses, and when he went to Mallon's door he heard the accused challenging all and sundry to fight. In the witness box, Mallon's wife said it was quite a common custom in Glencraig for young men to come about houses and strike people. Accused himself said that he could never get the police when they were wanted. When there was a row one had to look all over the place for the police. A person could even be murdered and the police could not be got. The Sheriff said it was perfectly clear that the accused had been making a noise, although he might have had provocation. Sentence of a fine of 15s, with the option of ten days imprisonment was imposed.

Ballingry Parish Council Imposed Upon.

The Parish Council of Ballingry complained that English miners ostensibly desert their wives and families, leaving them chargeable to the rates, while all the time they leave for England in the knowledge of their wives, trusting that their better halves will be sent after them at the expense of the parish. Gilbert Germain, an English miner, lately residing at 23 Waverley Street, Lochore, was charged in Dunfermline Sheriff Court on Monday with deserting his wife. He was arrested at Bishop Aukland. Germain said that his wife knew he went to England to look for work. Mr J.W. Runcieman, who prosecuted, explained that the expenses to the Parish Council was £3 2s 4d. This sort of thing was becoming too common. Those English people went away, but arranged with their wives beforehand that the wives should go to the parish on the chance that the Parish Council would pay their expenses to England. Sheriff Umpherston imposed a penalty of £5, or thirty days imprisonment.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1913

NEW SANITORIUM FOR FIFE

SITE FIXED AT BISHOP HILL, SCOTLANDWELL

County Council's Committee and Insurance Act Amendment

The convener Committee of Fife County Council met at Cupar on Monday, and instructed the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Major Anstruther Gray, M.P.; Captain Gilmour, M.P.; and Sir George Younger, M.P. for the trouble they had taken in securing the amendment of the National Insurance Act, so that the County Council was specially declared as a Local Authority under the Public Health Act for tuberculosis purposes, and giving County Council's the power to borrow the capital sums required for the erection of sanatoria.

Sir Ralph Anstruther said that these points were put in the draft, but they were cut out for fear of overweighing the Act.

The Clerk said that sixteen of the burghs had not replied to their circular with reference to Joint Committees for the management of the sanatorium. A number of the burghs had agreed to join with the County. Mr Terris pointed out that many of the Town Councils had had no meeting since the circular had been sent out.

Mr William Low said there was no doubt the correct thing was a Public Health Committee for the whole County and Burghs.

The Clerk said that Kinross was desirous of joining with Fife, and that they had got encouragement to persevere in their effort to be disassociated from Clackmannanshire and Stirling.

Tuberculosis Draft Scheme.

A draft scheme for the treatment of persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in terms of the National Insurance and Public Health Acts was approved.

In providing for the appointment of a principal tuberculosis officer, with one assistant

(or two assistants if another be found necessary), at salaries commencing - That of the principal at £500, and that of the assistant at £300 per annum, in addition to travelling expenses. The County Council shall provide, manage, and maintain an institution for the isolation, observation, and treatment of persons suffering or suspected of suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. The institution shall provide accommodation for one hundred patients. The area of the site shall be such as to permit of exercise and work for the patients. The Board of Management of the institution shall arrange with the Public Health Authorities the terms on which non-insured persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis shall be admitted for treatment.

There shall be provided, if found necessary, a dispensary or dispensaries for the very populous parts of the county. Shelters or pavilions, if deemed necessary, shall be provided at the district hospitals and be made available at patients homes where suitable.

The establishment and annual maintenance charge shall be borne by the combining Authorities in proportion to the number of beds provided for such Authority, or in such other proportion as shall be equitable and fair to the interests of both bodies concerned.

Sanatorium Site Fixed.

The sub-committee (Mr William Low, Convener) appointed with reference to the site for the sanatorium reported on seven sites, and after discussion it was unanimously agreed to recommend the County Council to purchase the farm of Glen Lomond, on the north-western slope of the Bishop's Hill, Kinross-shire.

The property extends to about 89 acres. From most parts there is an open prospect - over Loch Leven into Clackmannan and Stirling shires. The tail of the Lomonds is on the east.

There are several sites on the farm which, in such respects a height, shelter, surroundings, and prospect, are very suitable for a sanatorium. The property is a short distance on the Kinross side from the boundary between Fife and Kinross shires, and not much more than two miles from Mawcarse Junction.

Mr Forrester, Leven, said it would be a big loss to the county to have the sanatorium outside the county.

Sir Ralph Anstruther said that seeing they could not have it in the county, all they could say was that it was not lost what a friend got. (Laughter.)

It was stated that there was an available water supply of 10,000 gallons per day. Mr Low said that probably there would never be more than 150 people in the sanatorium.

Mr D.J.B. Kirk -In a few years you will have more water than we have people.

Mr Dixon, Markinch - I think there will be more than 200.

It was agreed to ask the County Council to appoint the architect and the water engineer for the sanatorium at the meeting on 16th inst.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1913.
HUGE FIRE IN LOCHGELLY.

Store Premises Guttled.
Two Firemen Injured.

Early on Friday morning fire broke out in the Central premises of Lochgelly Equitable Co-operative Society in Bank Street, and caused damage which is estimated at from £15,000 to £20,000

A Handsome Structure.

The scene of the fire was that portion of the building which was re-erected and opened just two years ago following a disastrous fire in March 1910. In many respects the conflagration of three and a half years ago was similar to that of Saturday. The damage done was of about a similar amount, and the ravishes of the fire covered the same extent of property, stopping at the stone gable which separates the grocery department from the south wing. The building which was gutted was a handsome and substantial structure, not equalled in the district, with large frontage on Bank Street and Chapel Street.

Fire Noticed About Two O'clock.

It was about two o'clock that Police Constable Mitchell discovered the outbreak, and he promptly blew his whistle and raised the alarm. A baker named Alex Love, who was making an early start, also observed it about the same time, and he likewise raised an alarm. The fire was then in the large grocery cellar at the rear of the grocery shop. The news rapidly spread, and soon people were flocking to the scene

The Want Of Water.

The members of Lochgelly Fire Brigade were at once appraised, and were not long in having their hoses on the ground. Delay, however, was caused by the water being cut off for the night, as has been usual for the past two months owing to the scarcity. The water man, Mr Thomas Hugh, and the burgh surveyor, Mr Alex Lumsden, lost no time in having the supply turned on, but fully fifteen minutes had by then elapsed from the time the outbreak was first noticed.

Assistance Summoned From Cowdenbeath and Buckhaven.

It was clearly evident, however, that the town's brigade would be quite unable to cope with the fire, which by then had completely enveloped the cellar, and Mr Small, Town Clerk, got into telephonic communication with Cowdenbeath and Buckhaven, asking the assistance of their fire engines and men. The former, who only installed a fire engine a very short time ago, came along in fairly good time, and the finely equipped Buckhaven brigade arrived only quarter of an hour later.

Supply From Jenny Gray Considered.

The fire by this time had got such a hold that it was considered best to first of all try and cut it off at the south gable of the grocery shop. The water, which by natural pressure would not rise sufficiently high, was now, pumped by the engines, attaining an ample height. It was feared, however, owing to the comparatively small quantity in the Lochore reservoirs, that it might give out, and the question of pumping a supply from the Jenny Gray Pit was considered. Another car was sent to Dunfermline for extra hose, but these were found not to be in a satisfactory condition, and after a consultation between Mr Lumsden, Mr Burnett, Buckhaven, and Mr Rae of Cowdenbeath, it was decided that the idea was impracticable.

Accidents To Firemen.

On the arrival of the Buckhaven brigade two accidents took place, one of a serious nature. At the corner of Auchterderran Road and Bank Street, whence the motor turned at great speed, a fireman named Thomson fell off, and was fortunate to escape with nothing worse than a bruised hand. The other accident befell James Wallace, painter, a member of the brigade. He was jumping off the motor as it drew up, just at the moment an order was given for it to move forward and his left foot, resting on a chain, was drawn into a pinion wheel. He was assisted to a house in Erskine's Cottages, and Dr Blair and Dr Balkin who happened to be on the scene, examined the injury and dressed it. They found the foot badly crushed, several small bones being broken, while the big toe was almost severed. But for his heavy top boots the injury would have been even more severe. Wallace, who was suffering a good deal, was removed in a motor car to Wemyss Hospital.

Dog And Horses Removed.

Immediately the seriousness of the fire was seen it was decided to remove the horses, whose stables are very close to the cellar. This was accomplished very expeditiously, and they were taken to the Public Park and hobbled there. A watch dog, which was on the premises was got out early. There was also said to be a cat with kittens, but if so they had either made their escape or been destroyed.

Lochgelly Firemen's Good Work.

Meantime the firemen worked energetically. A serious attempt was made to arrest the fire's progress, but it was of little avail, and they found it more to the purpose to concentrate on the south gable referred to. Fortunately there was no wind, but there was always a chance of the flames lapping the windows of the adjoining departments, the next of which is the office and strong room. Some of the Lochgelly firemen did good work in this direction. The flames were beginning to appear through the apertures whence the cash railway runs, and they were able to beat it off there. As for the rest of the property nothing, however, could save it, and it was recognised to be a case simply of burning itself out. The clock tower, which had a dome covered with lead, was about the last portion to be destroyed, though the fire had earlier got to the clock works. The clock stopped at twenty minutes past three.

A Weird Scene.

The scene about three o'clock was weird in the extreme. The inflammable nature of the grocery and furniture stock created a great mass of flame, though in this connection the spectacle was not so awesome as the former fire. Reasons for this are that in the re-erection less wood work was used, and the fact that the fire spread from the one storey cellar up to the second storey of the main building and burned down. A great crowd assembled from all parts. In Lochgelly, where nearly everyone is interested in the Store, much excitement prevailed, and it looked as if the whole population had turned out. In Cowdenbeath the fire horn woke the populace there, and people crowded along in the wake of the fire engine. From Glencraig, Lochore and Bowhill, considerable numbers also came. Lochgelly's high altitude rendered the fire visible from a large radius. No unseemly scenes such as occurred at the previous fire took place. Inspector Cumming had out all his men, and also requisitioned other constables from the surrounding stations, but their duties were light. The crowd was perfectly orderly, and kept at a reasonable distance, giving the firemen every chance to do their best.

The Extent Of The Destruction.

The extent of the destruction covered the whole of the north wing, the central portion, to the end of the grocery department. It comprised the provision cellar, which held a large stock of inflammable goods, including fifty bags of sugar which were put in the previous day, the fish and fruit shop; the gents outfitting shop; the commodious drapery department; the furniture and crockery department; and the grocery shop on the ground floor, while above was the fine new hall recently decorated at a cost of £80; the directors and secretary's rooms; the dress making &c. work-rooms. The walls were not so badly destroyed as on the other occasion, and it is hoped that at least a portion of these will not require to be re-erected. Some inside walls which were left in a dangerous state were pulled down by the Buckhaven firemen, who throughout showed a fine knowledge of their work. They are a very capable body of men, and a credit to their burgh.

Fully Insured.

The damage is fully covered by insurance, and all claims will be met. A temporary grocery shop was opened in the Drill Hall on the Friday afternoon, and the fish and fruit department was housed in the Society's building at the top of Bank Street. There is very little salvage, for though considerable quantities of goods were not consumed, the water and smoke has rendered them of little value.

(Note: on the original article which appears in the newspaper, there are four photographs of the scene of the fire. Jim C.)

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1913.

LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Lochgelly Curlers Access To The Loch

The annual meeting of Lochgelly Curlers Club was held in the Jubilee Tavern on

Friday evening, Mr A. Westwater presided, and there was a good attendance. In the absence, through ill health, of the secretary, Mr Wm. Clark, the minutes and financial statement were read by the treasurer, Mr John Thomson. The reports were very satisfactory. Office bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:- Patron, the Earl of Minto; President, Mr A Westwater; vice-president, R. Suttie; chaplain, Dr McFarlane; secretary, Wm Clark; treasurer, John Thomson; committee - J. Armstrong, J. Dick, A. Linn, A. Clark, David Swan, E. Harvey, Dr Stephen, and Tom MacDonald. The following skips were appointed:- No. 1, David Swan; No. 2, Jas C. Thomson; No. 3, Jas Swan; No. 4, John Dick; No. 5, A. Clark; No. 6, Wm Campbell; No. 7, A. Westwater; No. 8, J. Armstrong. The annual fees were raised from 2s to 3s. It was agreed to enter the annual competitions of the Royal Caledonian Club, the West Fife Province, the Minto Province, and the Fife and Perth match. In connection with the intimation made last spring by the Earl of Minto prohibiting the curlers and public using the old way of access to the loch when bearing by Dovecot Park, the president said he had been in communication with Lord Minto's agents. He had pointed out to them that the curlers had used that road since the club was instituted eighty-two years ago, and that there was no other access for the carting of stones to and from the house at the bottom of Lady's Walk. The house was built on a site granted free of charge to the club by the present Earl's forbears. Tods, Murray, & Jamieson had now replied agreeing to withdraw the prohibition and restore the ancient privilege. They expressed the hope that the curlers would assist their overseer in prohibiting the public from doing damage to the trees, shrubs, and fences. The meeting expressed satisfaction with the reply. With regard to the artificial pond at Auchterderran Road, it was agreed to employ a man to spray it whenever frost set in. A short harmony followed. Councillor Harvey proposed the health of the Bazaar Committee, and referred to the success of their efforts, Dr Stephen, convener of the committee, replied. Mr Tom MacDonald proposed "The Secretary and Treasurer", Mr John Thomson replying. Songs were rendered by Messrs John Jackson, snr, Dan MacDonald, Wm Crombie, etc.

LOCHGELLY NEWS.

Women's Freedom League.

Lochgelly Branch.

Under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League, a reception and meeting was held in the East School on Tuesday evening to inaugurate the new branch which has been recently formed in the district. There was a good attendance of ladies, presided over by Miss Ada Broughton, organiser for the Scottish Council. The speaker, Miss A.B. Jack, of Edinburgh (secretary of the Council), in an eloquent address outlined the League's policy respecting militancy. It did not resort to acts of violence or to the destruction of private or public property, but was quite in accordance with the fundamental principles of the British Constitution, and it was pursued in a perfect constitutional manner. During the evening, through the kindness and generosity of Miss Eunice Murray, president of the Scottish Council, refreshments were served. Miss Jean McCallum recited "The Highland Woman", which was greatly appreciated. A cordial vote of thanks was proposed to the speaker by Miss Harvey. Several ladies joined the League. At the close of the meeting the members present met to appoint officials and to discuss plans for the winter season. It was resolved to hold fortnightly meetings to commence on Tuesday, October 21st.

AUCHTERDERRAN NEWS.

Local Enterprise.

The many patrons of Cardenden Picture House will be glad to know that Mr Livingstone has made arrangements with Mr Hunter, proprietor of the New Hall adjoining the Hotel, to carry on a picture show when not otherwise engaged for socials, dances, &c. The Picture House in Cardenden has always been considered too small, many having been turned away, and by this arrangement Mr Livingstone hopes to be able to give his many patrons satisfaction. Of course Mr Livingstone intends still using his Picture House in Cardenden when required, thus having always a picture show going. Hunter's Hall is comfortably seated for 600, with gallery upstairs, furnished with plush spring seats and carpeted floor. Patrons have access to any part of the hall by paying the price. The charges are the same as any other picture house.

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.

Lighting Scheme For Lochore And District.

The lighting scheme for Lochore and District was inaugurated on Saturday evening by ex-provost Garry turning on the light. There are an additional 26 lights erected, spread over Waverley and Montrose Streets and the New Road, and the village afterwards presented a very animated appearance. The scheme has given universal satisfaction and when the whole scheme has been completed, will add greatly to the amenity of Lochore, Crosshill Glencraig, etc. Ex-provost Garry has been a worthy exponent in this and other local benefits.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1913.
COWDENBEATH TOWN COUNCIL.

Broad Street.

Offers were submitted for the work of the alteration of the pavement in Broad Street at the property recently erected by the Fife Coal Company, and the lowest offer, that of Andrew Wilson, junior, £104 11s was accepted.

Broad Street Lighting.

Mr Rae submitted an estimate of the cost for the improving of the lighting in Broad Street from Park Avenue to the Fountain. With two additional pillars, and one between the Fountain and the railway bridge at Bridge Street, the new cable and fitting, the same as at the Bleachfield, 200 candle power, the cost would be £116 10s. If the council desired the same fittings as in the High Street the price would be £131 10s. That included taking up the existing pillars, which were not of a very good type. With the two extra lamps the pillars would in Broad Street be a little less than forty yards apart. They would be scarcely as high as those in the High Street.

Bailie Penman - We surely need as high a pillar in Broad Street.

Bailie Walker - I move the suggestion be carried out with the lamps, and the same

fittings as in High Street. It is certainly a very dark street just now.

Mr Watson - I second that.

It was also remitted to the Lighting Committee to move in a suggestion by Mr Rae in connection with the providing better lanterns for the top of the Fountain.

Foulford Road Improvement.

A letter was read from Mr J.B. Davidson, agent for Mr R. Mitchell, Foulford Road, stating that his client was willing to give a portion of the ground adjoining the street to the council for the improvement of the street. Of course the council would have to rebuild the dyke and the washing house, and pay the agent expenses, one guinea. The ground was 5 feet at the east end, and 7 feet at the west end.

The offer was unanimously adopted.

Park Avenue Bridge.

The Clerk submitted ground plans in connection with the proposed bridge over the railway between Park Street at Woodend Place, and Arthur Place, or between Park Avenue and Arthur's Place. He contended that there were various intricate questions involved, and suggested referring the matter to the Town Clerk's Association, and they would be advised free of charge. This was agreed to.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1914.

HOW LORD MINTO SUSPENDED PROGRESS IN FIFE COAL COMPANY'S BIG AMALGAMATION SCHEME.

The death of the Earl of Minto is of more than passing interest to West Fife. His personality was practically unknown to the residents, yet he held very large landed interests there. Superior of the thriving town of Lochgelly, he drew to what most people there is regarded as a princely income from royalties in connection with the Lochgelly Coal Company's mines, his annual revenue from this source being computed at £20,000.

With the Earl's passing the people in the district are wondering, not without apprehension, if the amalgamation or absorption by the Fife Coal Company of the Lochgelly Coal Company is likely now to take place. For a considerable number of years this scheme has ever been anon coming to the front. Its fruition is ardently desired by the shrewd head of the mayor Company, Mr Charles Carlow, and it has all along been believed that the Lochgelly Coal Company are not averse to the project. That it would ere this have been an accomplished fact is the firm conviction of the miners in the district, but for the attitude of the late Earl of Minto. He was not opposed to the project, but he stipulated certain conditions. The Earl saw that there was great danger of the output from the Lochgelly Colliery being diminished, with the consequence that his income from that source would be inimically affected.

Lord Minto's Stipulation.

Therefore, he said, they could go ahead with the proposal, but - then came the important point - only on condition that the output did not fall below certain limits, based, no doubt, on the average winnings of the Lochgelly Company over a number of years.

Obviously the stipulation did not find favour with the negotiating parties, for the scheme has been in abeyance since. Just after coming home from India his Lordship gave his ultimatum. That the people in the Lochgelly district were dreading, that if the output was regulated by the two Companies their workdays might be curtailed, and - like Lord Minto's - their earning would be diminished. How they viewed the project has been made manifest in public petitions, largely signed against it.

Assuming that the proposal was carried into effect, and the worst anticipation realised, it would be a harder blow for Lochgelly, than if the same thing occurred at any other centre. The reason is not far to seek. The Lochgelly miner in far greater degree than his fellow workers in other parts is attached to the district. He has been long there. In many cases he is feuar and owns his house. Therefore, he cannot easily pack up and leave Lochgelly. Probably from that cause more than anything else Lochgelly is anxious that the day may be far distant which will see a shrinkage of the income of the house of Minto from Fife mining royalties.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1914. **AUCHTERDERRAN NEWS.**

Bringing Back Old Name.

It will interest those who have followed the Rev. A, McN. Houston, B.D., J.P., in his attempt at Fife County Council meetings to retain the right of having "Auchterderran" as a name of the town entered in the valuation roll, to know that he has been successful in gaining his point. At a meeting of the Fife County Council on Tuesday last, Mr Houston moved, and Mr Watt, Balbarton, seconded, the following resolution:- "That it be remitted to the county valuation assessor to enter in the valuation roll for the next and subsequent years "Auchterderran" as the name of the whole of the area of the parish of Auchterderran, which includes the subjects within the boundaries of Auchterderran drainage and lighting districts, so that the residences of all occupiers of subjects within that area shall appear as of the town of "Auchterderran".

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1914.

LOCHGELLY SCHOOL BOARD DECIDE ON FREE BOOKS.

The principal discussion at the Lochgelly School Board meeting on Monday was raised on a motion by Mr Foote that the books and stationery be supplied to the parents of all school children in the Lochgelly Parish.

At the outset the clerk asked the proposer if he intended that books be also supplied to scholars residing in the parish but attending schools outside. This was in effect his

motion. Mr Foote said his motion was for scholars attending all schools within the parish only, and it was accordingly altered to meet his intention.

Mr Foote, speaking to his motion said he didn't think it was necessary to say very much in support of his motion. He thought that every member of the Board was intelligent enough to think the thing out for themselves. He would like to hear the thing discussed for and against. An Act was passed giving powers, and that was sufficient in itself. The Members of the House of Commons who passed it knew there was some necessity for it. It would prove an advantage to the teaching staff and the school in general and the thing should now be introduced here.

Working Class Conditions.

Mr Glencross seconded. He agreed with all that Mr Foote had said. As a matter of fact they lived in an age when education was very essential to the well being of the community. Education was the dictator and director of the future. The better facilities they put in the hands of the children the more they could look for a return. When the Government passed that Act they had something of that sort in view. They knew quite well the conditions under which the working classes lived and laboured. At the present time wages were not so high. Books were got reasonable in some respects, but it was difficult for the majority of the working classes to get these. The expense in getting them was drawn from their weekly earnings. He knew something about it, and had felt on many occasions when work was indifferent and wages not great, that it took away a part that was required for the maintenance of the children at home. There were many such in the Lochgelly area who he believed would welcome the free book system. He could not see how it could be considered unfair for those who were in a position to pay. Such as the Lochgelly Coal Company and landlords would feel it a little, but in a short time they would begin to see with the same eyes as us, and see that it was just and would be beneficial in the long run. Referring to the cost he said the rateable value of Lochgelly was not so high as Beath, but it could be done on a reasonable scale. He didn't believe it would cost over 1½d in the £. In Beath it was very much less.

Hygienic Point Of View.

Miss Steedman proposed a direct negative. She put the questions - Was there a need for free book ? Were many children without them. Regarding the latter, she saw from personal experience in Lochgelly Schools the number without books was so small that she was able to provide for them herself without being too much out of pocket. Had the teachers made any complaints? Were the parents unable to pay for them? She thought the parents were able to pay. Work was never so plentiful as it was just now, and she never saw wages better. Many parents objected to their children using other people's worn books, and she objected on sanitary grounds. She had been directly told of a school where free books were in use that teachers continually received notes from parents at the changing of the books not to give their children a used one. She had it from a doctor of good standing that he would prefer his boy to use another boys shirt rather than use another boys books. She had heard many parents in Lochgelly say that they would not allow their children to use common books. It added additional taxation needlessly on ratepayers already overburdened. It entailed a great deal of extra work on the teachers, especially the

heads of departments. It was penalising a whole community for the benefit of a very small section who were always ready to shirk their responsibility. There was a very old book that they had all been taught to revere, and there these people are described in much stronger language than she should dare to use - "if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his house, he has denied the faith and is worse than a infidel."

Mr William Barclay seconded. He said he had always been opposed to the free book system, and he had heard no argument adduced in the discussion which would lead him to change his opinion. One reason given for the proposal was that neighbouring Boards had adopted it. That was no argument. It had been said that the cost was not much, but he held that no matter what the cost was the general body of the ratepayers had to pay that cost, and it ultimately fell back on the working man ratepayer. Again it was pointed out that when a community bought books they could buy them much cheaper. But that had nothing to do with free books. The whole thing was, would there be any less money spent on books. He thought rather that there would be far more money spent. It meant that ultimately the small ratepayer would be paying that increased cost. The whole thing resembled the undesirable instalment system of purchasing, when one had to pay more for an article than you would if you paid ready money. Mr Glencross said the want of free books interfered with education. He (Mr Barclay), like Miss Steedman, didn't know of any case where the want of books interfered with a child's education.

Mr Bolan said Miss Steedman had pointed out that it was almost a sin to be in favour. People might think it was taking away their duties as parents to give free books, he believed it was only finishing free education. Books in the hands of teachers and pupils were like tools in the hands of a worker. Although people didn't always plead poverty they had to consider the condition of the people. Most people tried to hide their poverty. As far as the charity of the thing was concerned, it should be left aside altogether. What did they make of miners who reared their children to good positions ? There was always a sacrifice yet they didn't plead poverty. So far as Christianity standpoint was concerned he saw nothing in it. The principle of the thing was did they believe in free education and in initiating the thing. Mr Barclay pointed out that this would fall back on the working man. The working man understood that. But was it right that a Company should do that?

Mr Barclay - We are only tinkering with the whole social system, if you go to the bottom of those things.

Mr Bolan - The nation benefits through education, and if you can raise that and make the people more fit to supply the needs at home you will get a better class of scholar. Miss Steedman is the first teacher I have heard talking against this. It was the only real question that arose at the election.

Rev. Father Hogan said he had listened to the weighty arguments, but the reasons given by the supporters of the amendment were not sufficiently cogent to sway his mind. The arguments of the proposer and seconder were strong. To many men it was a struggle to pay for books. There were such privileges already in force, such as giving books to necessitous children, and this Board had done that on a generous scale. But there were many respectable people who didn't care about reporting their

position. It put them in the position of pleaders, and they felt if they were getting the doles they were getting charity. Men with families had a very hard struggle, and it would be a good thing to apply the Act in this district for the sake of the hard working classes who come up to the requirements of compulsory education.

Miss Steedman said she felt that the powers the Board at present were exercising were sufficient, and from her past experience she felt that the general adoption of free books was not required in this district.

Mr Foote - When I went on the Board three years ago, time and again reports came from Miss Steedman's school about so many children not having books. No school but had the same reports. I thought Miss Steedman knew better than ask how many were without books, and I can't tell her how many parents are able to pay.

Miss Steedman - I said "Are parents not able to pay".

Mr Foote - there's a percentage not able to pay, because the cost of living has gone up. Miners may make a good wage, but there are plenty of people with £1 or a little more a week. She also said many parents refused to use the books. I have come in contact with members of neighbouring Boards, and this is the first time I have heard it. Edinburgh was one of the first Boards in Scotland to have free books, and if they were the cause of disease Edinburgh would be up in arms. Yet in Edinburgh they want to extend the privilege to the Catholic Schools. I don't see what extra work it would be on teachers, and I don't see any penalising about it. If a community wants education they have a right to pay for it.

Miss Steedman - I have no doubt that after the last election, when free books were talked about so much, we had a good deal of trouble. But in the normal state of things the percentage of such children was very small. Only last week a teacher in Cowdenbeath told me that at the change of books she had an endless string of letters wishing her to see that their children didn't get second-hand books. As to infection in the schools, a teacher not a hundred miles away told me that since the introduction of free books they had never been free from horrid skin disease among the children.

The Chairman said a good many Boards had adopted free books, and it was very questionable if it had made for efficiency. Referring to the election results, he said the cumulative vote was given by Act of Parliament, but it never was intended that minorities were to rule. At the last election, if they took the total vote, the electors were against free books. But he was not influenced from that point of view only. But at the public meeting it was understood that a plebiscite would be taken on the question. They had that in Auchterderran parish, and the Board there carried the result of it into effect. In Edinburgh, he added, they don't give free books to voluntary schools.

The Vote.

was then taken as follows: Against free books - Miss Steedman, Mr Barclay, and the Chairman - 3; For free books - Messrs Foote, Glencross, Hogan, and Bolan - 4.

A short discussion ensued as to when the decision should be put in force. It was

decided to introduce the system gradually, and not put it in full effect till the beginning of another school year.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1914.

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.

Glencraig children's annual gala day was held on Saturday under ideal weather conditions. The bairns, close on 1,000, were marshalled in Glencraig playground under the direction of an able and energetic committee of workers with Mr Jas Harrower as secretary. The procession, headed by Lochore and Glencraig Pipe Band and Lochgelly Flute Band, marched via South and North Glencraig, thence to Park Street, Catherine Terrace and Lochcraig to Glencraig Celtic Football Club's ground, kindly granted for the occasion by that club, where the children received an abundant supply of refreshments and a new penny, after which a long and varied programme of sports was entered upon, the various items being keenly contested. A five-a-side football competition for badges was very interesting and well fought for. A marathon race for a handsome watch and gold badges was the principal event. A long list of other races for boys and girls at various ages for useful and ornamental articles was gone through. An old man's and old woman's races caused considerable amusement, and were keenly contested for. A pithead girls race for a valuable wristlet watch and gold brooch was also keenly contested for. A large and varied collection of hobbi-horses, side shows, variety entertainments, shooting galleries, etc., added considerably to the animated scene on the grounds. The various prizes were presented by Mrs Dawson and Mrs James Williamson, jun. Not the least important of the day's proceedings was the presence of a cinematograph under the able directorship of Mr Preston, Crosshill Picturedrome, and manipulated by Messrs Green from Glasgow, who took views of the procession from various points of vantage, and all the more interesting events of the day, together with the members of the committee, etc., the film being developed and shown on the screen at the picturedrome in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1914.

OVER 10,000 ATTEND LUMPHINNANS GAMES.

One of the most important of Scottish athletic meetings was held yesterday in the games park, Lumphinnans. The morning was dull, but the sun came out, and at one o'clock there were over 10,000 present.

The heavyweights were strongly represented, among those present being J. McKenzie, Partick; Graham and Nicholson, Dundee; Frame, Armadale; Parr and J. Little, Glasgow. J. McKenzie, Thornton, was judge of these events; James Drummond, Bowhill, for foot racing; and A. Alexander, Larkhall, for trotting.

McPherson of Backford made his first appearance at the games for jumping, making these games specially interesting ones.

Cowdenbeath and District Brass Band and Dr Guthrie's Pipe Band, Edinburgh, provided the music.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1914.
AUCHTERDERRAN NEWS.

Call To Arms.

The young men of this parish continue to respond loyally to the call for augmentation to the regular army. Many have enlisted during the past week, and the great send off they got from their parents, brothers and sisters, and townspeople, shows the patriotic feeling amongst both young and old. A recruiting officer from the Territorials has also managed to pick up a good many recruits, and it may be safely said that the parish has sent its share to fight for the freedom of our country. Over forty men took the oath of allegiance on Saturday to act as special constables, and were supplied with their badge of office.

GLENCRAIG AND LOCHORE NEWS.
 Lochore And Glencraig.

The men are still joining the army from this district. From the Mary Pit alone over 200 men have gone. Out of this number, 120 are married men, who will receive free house and coals from the Fife Coal Company Limited. Work has been pretty regular since the war started. At Glencraig five days per week have been given and likely to continue, but the want of underground workers is very sorely felt, and this colliery could put up about 150 more men. At the Mary Pit the want of workers is even worse, so much so, that commencing on Monday, the 14th, the pit is to go on single shift, and the brushers on the back shift. An effort is being made by the management to put up all workers. Still there is room for a large number of good colliers. An association has been inaugurated, to be known as "The Kelty and Lochore Colliery Officials Association," having for its object the collection of monies towards the National Relief Fund (Prince of Wales). Mr Beveridge has been appointed President, Mr Robert Spence, Lochore, treasurer, and Mr James Adams, Kelty, secretary. It was with some serious misgivings that the district heard and the practice put into force of the licensed premises being again opened till 10 p.m. This was not required, but a uniformity of hours throughout the country was very desirable. The farcical arrangement of our district closing at 7 p.m., and others at 9p.m., and the remainder at 10p.m., was very apparent, and some modus operandi could easily have been arranged to close all over the country at 8 p.m. The extension till 10 p.m. has, we understand, been granted on the strong and influential representation of the private traders under all manner of promises for the conduct of their businesses, which promises, we are afraid, will be more observed in the breach than in the observance, and, speaking generally, this is, to say the least of it, too conservative. During such a crisis as we are at present in the thick of, every man, woman, and child in the country, and every business more or less, has been affected, and every effort put forth on behalf of our beloved country and our brave Army and Navy. Why then, should this trade go on unscathed and unfettered. Better for the private traders had they at the very commencement of the war come forward nobly and in a body offering to close their premises, and hand themselves in an indissoluble body for the protection, support, and relief, of the wives, mothers and Bairns of those who have gone on active service. - Speaking locally, we regret the incident of longer hours, as the temptation now put so prominently before our unprotected, unfettered and gentler sex is too great to be

withstood, and is a menace to our district, and must be faced by the more responsible who are left behind.

SANITATION AND DISEASE IN LOCHGELLY. Half-Yearly Report.

The Lochgelly sanitary inspector's report for the half-year was read at Lochgelly Town Council meeting on Monday as follows:-

I beg to report that I made my half-yearly inspection during the week ending 27th June, and along with the medical officer of Health on Tuesday 4th and Monday 17th August, 1914.

The slaughter house is at present in a fairly clean condition.

During the half-year 56 cases of infectious diseases were notified under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Acts, while 2 cases of tuberculosis were notified under the Notification of Tuberculosis Orders of 1912 and 1914.

Of the above cases 27 were removed to hospital, viz.:- 2 cases of diphtheria, 20 of scarlet fever, and 5 of malignant fever.

The 2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were both treated at home.

There has been an increase of 6 cases of infectious diseases and a decrease of 5 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified as compared with the same period last year.

During the half-year 179 notices were sent out, viz. :- 13 repair defective rhones, 12 remove nuisance (choked drains &c.) 2 defective buildings, 17 road and footpath repairs, 135 repair defective water fittings.

In the case of several dwelling houses found with several defects full particulars are being obtained under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, and reports to the same will be submitted in due course.

There were three burst took place on the water mains during the half-year outwith the burgh, and 7 within the burgh. 18 repairs had also been made on street wells. 1 new hydrant was put in at the junction of Main Street and Bank Street.

A new 4 in., meter was fitted up at the outlet end of the 4 in. main from Craigencaat Burn at a cost of £63 13s. During the half-year the cleansing department was employed removing 2327 loads of refuse from the burgh, driving 258 loads of special material, consisting of road metal, setts and channel for streets, water and sewers, &c. The horses were also employed for 47 hours at special work sweeping streets, &c.

All the dairies and cowsheds were visited and found to be in a fairly clean and sanitary condition.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1912.

GLENCRAIG MINERS EARLY ASTIR

AND SO ARE THE POLICE.

But Successful Picketing Averts Scene.

An incident, the first of its kind in Fife, occurred early yesterday morning at Glencraig Colliery, belonging to Wilson and Clyde Coal Company, which at the time had a threatening aspect.

It seems that some 20 men had been employed underground there since the strike started doing repairs and keeping the roads in order. This number was augmented during the weekend, and the appearance of coals at the pithead gave the strikers the impression that coal getting was being surreptitiously carried out.

At three o'clock yesterday morning intimation was sent round the district, and by starting time a crowd of 2000 strikers had assembled.

In the interval the Glencraig manager had been appraised of the strikers intention, and he communicated with the authorities, the result being a force of 50 policemen were on the scene as early as four o'clock.

They were posted at all accesses to the pithead, but allowed the strikers to approach the workmen.

After a good deal of talk, the latter were prevailed upon to return to their homes. There was no attempt at rioting or destruction, but had persuasion failed some tempers would undoubtedly have been shown.

The Colliery Company have issued notices prohibiting anyone on their property, and have stopped coal-gathering at the Redd Bings.

How The Picket Turned The Men.

Another correspondent writing on the Glencraig incident says: - A meeting of the members of the Union was held on Monday night to consider what should be done, and it was agreed that a large picket should be sent out to met the miners as they went to work. Trouble was anticipated by the police, and about one o'clock yesterday morning the various police stations in the west of the county were communicated with. About three o'clock, constables began to arrive at Glencraig. Ultimately there were about 60 officers in readiness to meet any disturbance.

Wind of the affair had also got abroad in the neighbouring villages of Crosshill and Lochore, and enormous crowds collected in the vicinity of the colliery. When the men intending to work made their appearance it was observed they had provided themselves with their meat cans in readiness for a days work in the pit.

The strength of the picket awaiting them was formidable, and they were successful in persuading the men not to descend. At no time did the aspect of affairs become serious, and the early morning incidents were taken in good humour by all parties.

There was no calling for the interference of the police.

Superintendent Wright and about 20 constables returned to Dunfermline by brake about 8 o'clock, and as they drove through the streets such a large body of police created considerable conjecture. During the course of the afternoon Mr Michael Lee, assistant secretary of the Fife and Kinross Association, visited Glencraig and talked over the matter with the miners and the managers of the colliery.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1913.

HUGE FAN AT THE MARY PIT, LOCHORE.

At the Mary Pit there is at present in course of erection a huge fan which, when completed, will be the foremost ventilating plant in the country. The fan is a Walker patent, indestructible type, made of steel, and is made for forcing or exhausting as the case may be. The same is fitted with an anti-vibration shutter to enable the fan to run at a very high speed, and to do away with all shock and vibration thereby. The whole is built up with fitted bolts, the vanes all riveted to arms and secured to the shaft with eight stud keys, and is driven by ten cotton rope, 1 3/4 inches in diameter. The engine is of the Corliss compound type, fitted with Dobson's valve gear, the driving pulley being 16 feet in diameter, 13 ton in weight. In case of break down each engine is capable of taking full load. The fan is capable of giving 300,000 cubic feet of air per minute at 5 inch water gauge. The engine etc., is supplied by Messrs Walker Bros., Limited, Wigan. A small pit is sunk from the surface to a depth of 84 feet, 16 feet in diameter, bricked throughout, from the bottom of which a stone drift is driven 12 ft. by 15 ft. and finishing at the main shaft 20 ft. high and 9 ft. wide. The drift is bricked on either side with 18 inch brick work and girdered on the top every 18 inches. The shaft is protected longitudinally with girders built into brick side walls. The drift itself is sloped one third of its distance in a downward direction leading to the main shaft, which facilitates the passing of the air to the pit. The result of this great improvement will avoid the necessity of the fan at the Mary bottom and the altering of several of the principal main airways leading to the Aitken and Benarty Pits, and will have a very soothing effect on the workers in the Mary itself, as air will be in abundance. The cost of this undertaking means thousands of pounds to the Fife Coal Company, Limited. This is nothing compared with the great good that will accrue to the men. The engine has had a very satisfactory trial, and, barring accidents, the whole plant will be going in the course of a few weeks now.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1924.

LOCHGELLY FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Sir -

In my last letter I finished up at the building of the Union Bank. At that time the school was the only building between the bank and Stationhead, with a large hedge and trees on both sides of the road, and a dirty, soft side-walk on one side only. To walk that road in wet weather was no treat. The strangers now think it is a steep climb from Stationhead to near the manse, but in my young days it was worse. A large cutting was made, and many feet was taken off the top, and the earth was carted down to where the station is now, and, along with the slag from the furnaces, the site

was made up.

Where the Gasworks and Station is now, was in my time a field for grazing cattle, from the road to the wheel brae. There was no siding accommodation for goods of any kind. It was a passenger station only, and the station was on the west side of the road, where Anderson's houses stand. There was a wooden stair up to the platform. The booking office was a round paltry affair, just like a "doo's Dookit", room only for the agent and boy clerk. That was all the staff; no porter; no signalman; and only one signal, which was put up when the train was standing, and lowered when it went away.

The trains were few, and did not run to correspond with main line trains at Thornton. You could walk to Kirkcaldy and beat the train. At that time there was no platform on the bridge for trains coming from the east. The train was supposed to pull over the bridge before stopping.

I remember one night Tam Crawford and I were playing "bools" when the train came in, and it stopped the last carriage on the "brig". As we looked up a young woman jumped from the carriage over the railing, and landed on the road beside us. She came down like a ship in full sail. I believe it was the time of the crinolines, and it acted as a parachute.

She was carried to Mrs Grant's house in Stationhead (Dr Neilson, at that time, lived up the town, past the well at Birnie Braes, a good bit). However, she was able to be removed after a few weeks. The lady was a pupil teacher near the Shank of Ballingry. Tam and I nick-named her the "jumper".

If any one cares to look at the north side, when a carriage is standing on the bridge, they will see it was not difficult to jump over it. The toll road was higher up at that time, and the boys used to hang on the girders, and drop to the road.

Of pits there were only the Auld Gig, Jenny Gray, No.1 (at the bottom of the wheelbrae), and the Eliza, going at that time. Robert Fowler and David Paton were the winding enginemen at No.1 Pit, and the coal was nearly all sold as landsale. It was a common thing to see a score or more carts waiting their turn all the way from Leslie and Falkland.

Three out of the four furnaces were in full blast. No gas was made in the town, at that time, but the furnaces lit up the countryside for miles, and you could see the wild ducks and other sea birds, on the winter night, hovering over the light. Some got away, others fell victim of the sulphur fumes and the flames. There were a great number of carting contractors in the town, carting char and limestone to the furnaces. The limestone quarry was away on the south side of Lochgelly Loch - a long, heavy road for a horse.

Robt. Main

4 High Street, Anstruther.

COWDENBEATH.
A GRIEVANCE REMOVE.
 Local Patients Transport to Hospital.

A long standing grievance many people have had regarding the Dunfermline & West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital, is about to be removed.

When patients were discharged from the hospital a conveyance of some kind had, in many cases to be hired, in order that they could be taken home. This, in some cases, was a distinct hardship, as the financial resources of many were such that they couldn't afford to hire a motor car or other conveyance.

The Management Committee of the hospital, however, has decided that a motor car be purchased for the purpose of conveying patients to their homes after they have been discharged from the hospital, a reform which, no doubt, will meet the hearty approval of the general public.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1924.
 COWDENBEATH IN 1923.

A REMINISCENCE COMMENTARY
 ON THE YEAR'S EVENTS.

In making a review of the social and industrial life of Cowdenbeath during the year which is so near to a close, it cannot be said that it has been one of prosperity, as there has been, undoubtedly, trying times for the majority of the population.

Work at the collieries has, on the whole, been fairly steady. The wages of the miners, however, have fluctuated.

As is usually the case in mining areas, there have been a number of fatal accidents - promising lives having been cut short by falls from the roof, and other causes.

That there is a future for the mining industry in Cowdenbeath is apparent by the erection of a large and up-to-date workshops by the Fife Coal Company, Limited, to the east of the burgh, in Jubilee Park. Not only have the workshops been erected, but it is understood that new offices, and a number of houses, are also to be built there. In the Kirkford district the Company has embarked on an extensive housing scheme, which should considerably relieve the housing shortage.

At Messrs Erskine Beveridge's Linen factory trade depression has been felt rather acutely, the year being one of the quietest in the history of the works.

Shopkeepers have, in some cases, had a good year, while others complain of business having been quiet. That Cowdenbeath is considered a good shopping centre is evident by the number of large firms who now have business premises on the High Street - several additions to the number having been made during the year. The Co-operative Society's extensive alterations to the Broad Street property have been well advanced, and the coming year should see the new shops occupied.

There has been nothing of outstanding importance in connection with the municipal

affairs of the burgh. After many years of faithful service to the community, Bailie Wilson, in the spring of the year, emigrated to Australia, where he is reported to be prospering. The defeat of Bailie King at the municipal election was an "election surprise", but, no doubt, he will again be returned as a member of the Town Council.

The municipal housing scheme has made good progress during the year, about one hundred houses having now been erected and occupied. The burgh fire extinguishing apparatus having become a standing joke, the Town council decided to purchase a motor fire engine, which should prove to be a serviceable acquisition for the burgh when fire breaks out.

During the year there has been a notable absence of fever cases, which speaks volumes for the general sanitary condition of the burgh, and is a compliment to the sanitary officials and cleansing staff.

There has been no serious crime committed in the burgh during the year, and it is understood that the number of petty offences are considerably fewer than those of the previous year.

A poll under the Temperance (Scotland) Act, 1913, was taken in December, the result of which was an overwhelming majority in favour of the "No Change" option.

The purchase of the Drill Hall by the Roman Catholics, has greatly improved the interior of that hall, which is now known as the Catholic Institute.

By many ratepayers the Council have been reproached for not securing the premises as a Town Hall, the need of which is undoubtedly a felt want. At the beginning of the year a new R.C. High School was opened, there now being six schools in the burgh.

With regards to the religious life of the burgh, not much need be said, the only ministerial change being the departure of the Rev. J.J. Munro, Cairns U.F. Church, to Wingrove Presbyterian Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, after a ministry of fifteen years in Cowdenbeath. The Rev. Alex Stewart, M.A., a native of Kirkcudbright, who has the distinction of being the youngest United Free Church minister, was called upon to succeed the Rev. J.J. Munro, his ordination and induction taking place in September.

The Rev. J. Elder Watson, pastor of the Baptist Church, had a rather serious break down in health during the year, being off duty for four months in consequence of his indisposition.

During the year a large number of the natives of the burgh and others left for Canada, U.S.A., and Australia, in order to improve their position in other lands, where conditions were reported to be much better than those in Scotland.

The queues seen standing outside the Labour Bureau have indicated that there has been a good amount of unemployment during the year, although perhaps not quite so much as in the previous year.

Apart from the housing schemes there has been very little building done, the only

work of importance being the new Royal Bank premises in High Street, which are in course of erection, and when completed will add considerably to the amenity of the High Street.

The Parliamentary General Election in November resulted in Mr W.M. Watson, a citizen of the burgh, being again returned as Member of Parliament for the Dunfermline District of Burghs, his opponent, Mr John Wallace, London, being defeated by a majority of 1675 votes.

The reconstruction of the Empire Theatre into a Palais de Dance was an important event, Cowdenbeath now having one of the most up-to-date dancing halls in the Kingdom of Fife.

In the realm of sport it cannot be said that Cowdenbeath Football Club has excelled itself, except when it was fined £1000 by the Scottish Football League Committee for an infringement of the rules. Football in Cowdenbeath can claim to have many supporters, who are very desirous that the club should be promoted to the First League, as promotion would be a benefit to the burgh in various ways.

Golf has now many devotees in the burgh. During the summer months not only was the golf course well patronised, but the putting greens were very popular. The Cricket Club hadn't much success during the season, but notwithstanding, officials and players are determined to carry on in the hope that they will have better luck next season.

The obituary list includes quite a number of old folks.

A prominent figure who passed away was that of ex-Provost A. Wilson, who took and active interest in the public affairs of the burgh for 30 years.

in conclusion, we express the hope that 1924 will be more prosperous and happy for all readers of "The Times" than 1923 has been.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1924.

100 YEARS AGO.

THE ONCOST BOOK OF A FIFESHIRE COLLIERY.

Fife and coal are practical synonymous terms. For centuries now the mining industry has been the chief one in the county, and with all due respect to Dunfermline Linen, Kirkcaldy Linoleum, or even Markinch cabbages, it still occupies the premier place. Right down through the centuries from 1291, when the monks at Dunfermline were granted a charter to work coal on a certain part of the Pittencrieff estate, the black seam may be said to have spread its way through Fife history, cropping out here and there, along the coast principally in the old days, and which have led to the kingly simile of the county as a "beggar's mantle with a fringe of gold", and in its later developments embracing almost the whole of Fife inland.

No one yet has put on consecutive record the varying history of coal getting in "The Kingdom"; the ebb and flow of the industry in various districts, the development of some and the gradual decay of other fields. Spasmodic and localised writings have

appeared, but no scribe has tackled a comprehensive survey of Fife as one coal area, or attempted to link up the different fields, the influence on Scottish commerce or upon "human equation" in the county.

The subject of the present article is nothing so ambitious as that outlined in the last paragraph, but merely to chronicle a few of the interesting entries which appear in an old ledger described as "The Oncost Book of the Grange Colliery, Earlsferry, 1826". This field, which was situated about half a mile from Macduff's Cove, was "drowned out" in the early fifties, and little or no trace of the workings now remains.

In 1826, however, matters seem to have flourished although the colliery was a small one, and no difficulty, apparently, was encountered in disposing of the coal. On the output side of the book is entered the twenty odd names of the miners who found employment there, and many of the present day inhabitants of Earlsferry would recognise the familiar ring some of them have; indeed not a few of the descendants of these old miners are still in the town and district.

On the output side also, we find that Thomas Fernie, working from the 11th to 18th August, 1826, was able to produce 35½ lades of large and 62 lades of small coal, for which he received £1 7s 8½d. A "lade" was the measurement used, and weighed four cwts., so that it took five lades to make the ton. This system of weighing was long in use, the writer believe, in Largoward and Ceres. To return to the output entries, Alexander Pearson, working six shifts, did better than Fernie's total, for seven visits to the pit, being able to deliver 58 of the large and 65 lades of small coal, making £1 17s 8½ for the six shifts. Whether Fernie had struck a bad place, or Pearson was the better miner, is not placed on record, but one shudders to imagine the domestic recriminations that would ensue in the Fernie household should Mrs Pearson have so far forgotten what was becoming to a good Christian as to "point the moral and adorn the tale" in public of her husband's superiority.

Laying these intimate speculations on one side, and dipping again into the output side of the ledger, both James Patton and David Philp show up as "workmen not needing to be ashamed". Almost every entry against their names intimate that they were full timers with no idle or gala days. Unless they indulged in a surreptitious game on Sunday - perish the thought in such a God-fearing burgh as Earlsferry - golf had no attraction for them, neither had the littery of a day with the lines in largo Bay any lure. Work was their sole recreation, and they made it pay, for, taking one instance out of what was a regular thing, James, in twelve shifts, brought to the surface 119 large and 156½ lades of small coal, his earning for this being £4 2s 2½d, while David, with a similar number of shifts to his credit, produced 101 large and 223½ lades of small coal, his recompense being stated at £4 8s ½d.

For a fortnight's work our present day miner might not reckon himself overpaid at £4 8s 8½d, but during the time under review no mention is made of dissatisfaction with the earnings, and no strike of the Ferry miners ever came along to worry the management. Out of the wages, of course, would have to come the payment of the drawers, but as these auxiliaries in 1826 were generally the miners wives, their sons, and even their daughters, all the money earned would go into the common purse. It has also to be remembered that the miner then sat rent free, and was provided with coal at the hewing rate, i.e., the price paid him by the coalowner for hewing the coal

was the price he paid when he wished to replenish the domestic cellar. Such vexatious impositions as rent and tax money, national insurance items, or hospital contributions neither worried his working hours nor affected his dreams. Food and clothing were the only direct charges on his income - education was even considered a luxury beyond their means - so that after all, the old time miner's lot compares not unfavourably, so far as the monetary side is concerned, with that of his present day prototype.

One could enlarge on the personal element indefinitely as contained in these old records of coal getting in Earlsferry according to the output side, but the balancing items of the ledger claim attention as being of equal interest. In 1826, for instance, the price of coal was 1s 3d per lade for splint, and 10d per lade for chews. Of course, these figures varied a little, but there were none of the wonderful ups and downs of the present coal market. The variation throughout the year 1826 was only 1d or 2d per lade either way, 1s 4d being the top price paid recorded for splint and 10d for chews, while the lowest for the first quality was 1s 2d, and 8d for the second.

All the output was sold at the pithead, there being no entries to indicate any extensive export trade, even granting that the facility existed for such traffic, and taking the price at 1s 3d per lade for splint, this would give a ton rate of 6s 3d. Coals at 6s 3d per ton is enough to make the thrifty housewife sigh for a return of the "good old days", for, just now, supposing one's geographical location is suitable, 20s at the pithead is about the lowest figure at which a colliery manager will part with his "black diamonds".

Many quaint entries occur in the oncost expense side. Andrew Nicol is the oversman, whose fortnightly wage is £1 16s. For two months, however, the management open up their heart, and Andrew revelled in wealth at the rate of £2 per fortnight, despite the fact that at that time the price obtained for coal had dropped 1d per lade, but the reason for this transient burst of generosity, or why his "screw" was again reduced, is not given.

For six weeks, we are told, the toll charges came to £4 9s 7d, but as business got brisker in the winter months, as much as £5 5s 5d was paid under this heading. These toll charges were even paid to the carter on the occasion of the miner's "flittin", a piece of generosity that would no doubt be welcome at the present time.

Robert Keddie's name appears regularly in the fortnightly entry as receiving £2, and one assumes that he laboured as a Clerk, as his particular duties are not defined. If the surmise is correct, Robert was "some" clerk, a conspicuous neatness and copperplate handwriting distinguishing the whole book. He was also conscientious to a fault, for he enters that Henry Simpson goes to Leven for a rope and gets 1s for his trouble, while Andrew Russell, who also goes to Leven, but with no definite object, receives 2s. Keddie, if he it was who made the entries, was evidently a close student of human nature, and realised that a man with no definite purpose in view would have more time to spend money than a man on business bent, hence 2s.

One other excerpt from this dog-eared volume will suffice. "To whisky for carters on New Year's Day, 8s". That lends a human touch to this quaint old oncost book, and one closes it with the hope that, prohibition propaganda notwithstanding, it ushered in

a guid New Year to the drinkers.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1924.
LOCHGELLY REMINISCENCES.

(Continued.)

Continuing his reminiscences of Lochgelly, Mr R. Main writes:-

George Williamson was the carrier between Lochgelly and Cowdenbeath, and David Pryde to Kirkcaldy, before accommodation was made at Lochgelly Station for delivery of goods.

There were no unemployed in those days - plenty of work for boys and girls riddling char for the furnaces, which was a very cold job in the winter. There were no School Boards then, no janitors, or compulsory education. One could leave school at any age. Fourpence per fortnight was kept off everyone's wages, whether married or single, for the upkeep of the school.

The school, at that time, belonged to the Lochgelly Iron Company. Many a deputation went before Mr Landale over this vexed question, but he told them it was in their rules, and they had the remedy in their hands to get married and have children.

There was a private school at that time where the Town House is now, under Mr Johnstone, where fees were paid. A great rivalry existed between the two schools.

My school days were short. I was down the Eliza Pit at the tender age of ten, assisting "Sandie" Suttie at a wheelbrae, for the large sum of 9d per day, and fourteen hours from the time I left the house until I got back home. Truly, it was hard times ! The young folks were not brought up in these days, they were hauled up, and the miner's lot was not to be envied. Yet, all seemed more happier and contented than now. They had to be, for they were only serfs or slaves - call it what you like - and they were powerless to throw off the yoke.

My memory is bad in remembering names of people. We had a few worthies, but not altogether worthless. If they took a "dram" the most of them worked for the money to buy it, and did not cringe and sponge as they do now.

I remember the night that Cooper's Store (opposite the Parish Church) was burnt to the ground. Miss Kirk, the great singer at that time, was singing in Mid Street Hall, and we were on the way home from the hall when the fire broke out, and the Kirkcaldy Brigade came in, with the trumpets blowing for a clear road. "Davie" Dick had got a "wee drap" too much, and he was holding up "Johnnie" Westwater's corner, when he was heard to say - "That's the last trumpet blowing, boys; it's the last day, and me dry !" Another worthy said "the bread wisna up, as his wife got twa penny rows for tippence."

"Pindar", the local poet, became a soldier when I was six years of age, and I only made acquaintance with him after his army career. He was another great worthy.

Lochgelly, in my young days, was a quiet, sleepy town full of hard working, honest, and thrifty people. When I was thirteen years of age, I went every fortnight from the office to the bank with a wheelbarrow, and the banker put a black leather bag in the barrow containing thousands of pounds for the men's wages on Saturday. Sometimes a clerk was with me, and as often no one, and I trundled it down to the office, although there was not a house on the road. I rather fear if I tried it on now, there would be a hold up ! At that time there were many regardless Irishmen at the furnaces, roaming about, but I have found "Paddy" to be more honest and trustworthy than many of my own countrymen.

The only supply of water was from the Mine Well and the Well at the Birnie Braes, although there were many private wells, too. Large crowds of lads and lassies could be seen waiting their turn at the Mine Well with their pails, and many a young couple met there for the first time- and, as the story book say, got married and lived happily ever after.

Delaney's horsemanship was a great attraction for old and young in the summer time on the Birnie Braes, and we had "Shuffle Katie" in Johnstone's Hall in the winter nights, with his performing dolls - a very clever performance ! These happy days are now away. Delaney, too, has gone; and "Shuffle Katie" and his dolls, and many that looked on.

I would be proud to know if there is anyone alive in Lochgelly that was present at "Robbie" Burns centenary, in the school, in 1859 ? I was only six years and four months old at that time, but where father went, I followed, and I managed to slip in unobserved. Mr Landale was chairman, and, if my memory is right, "Tam" Kinnell and a lady recited "Wattie and Meg". I remember, when coming out at the gate, my father said to me - "You have a chance "Bob", in again celebrating "Rabbie's" centenary, but I will not see another". I was too young then to understand what he meant, but I have often pondered over his words. Nevertheless, I possess a very remote chance, as I am now in my seventy-second year.

I lo'e Lochgelly's hills and braes;
They aye are dear to see.
'Tis there my aged parents sleep,
That aye were guid tae me.

In conclusion, Mr Editor, I apologise for taking up your time, and I thank you for printing my few remarks. They may help to remind old schoolmates of the happy days that are away.

R.P.M.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1924.

AN EARLY VERSION OF "AULD LANG SYNE".

Burns' Verses with the above title are known and loved wherever the English tongue is spoken; But he was anticipated by Sir Robert Aytoun, a native of the "Kingdom" who was born at Kincaldie, in the parish of Dunino, in 1570. Burns'

"Auld Lang Syne" was but a happy paraphrase of Aytoun's poem, which he and Allan Cunningham both admired, while a beautiful song, "I do confess thou'rt smooth and fair", from the pen of Aytoun, Burns' did not improve in his Scottish version.

As a Fifeshire poet of note, Sir Robert Aytoun is worthy of a mention. He was educated at St Andrew's University, but proceeded to the Continent to complete his education, and was known in France as a poet and classical scholar of ability. The accession of James IV. to the English crown was the theme of an eloquent panegyric in Latin, addressed to the King, which received His Majesty's special recommendation. Aytoun was given a position at Court, and was employed by the king on diplomatic missions abroad, where he received the honour of knighthood. He was the familiar friend of Drummond of Hawthornden, Sir James Balfour of Denmylne, Ben Johnson, and Thomas Hobbes. Of the majority of Aytoun's poems little was known until Dr Charles Rogers (a native of Dunino) came upon a manuscript copy of Aytoun's works, which he published in 1844, giving a short biography of the poet.

In a note on Aytoun's version of "Auld Lang Syne", Dr Rogers said:- "This celebrated song has been ascertained to have been rendered in this form by Aytoun, who, however, was not the original author, but simply gave it an English version. It was probably written by one of the earlier Scots poets, as the language, in its original form, appears very antiquated. This song had evidently acquired much celebrity, as in both its English and Scottish dress it will be found highly appreciated in most of our collection of Scottish and English verses. It has undergone, what very few old songs or ballads have done, three different dresses, the latter of which was by Burns, with much more success than at his attempt on the former song Aytoun's version has been in great measure forgotten since it was remodelled by Burns; but I still think it deserves much applause among all the admirers of Old English poetry. Indeed many of the verses breathe an elegance and pathos rarely to be found in any songs, either ancient or modern". Though somewhat lengthy the poem is given entire, as follows:-

OLD LONG SYNE.

Part 1.

Should Auld acquaintance be forgot,
 And Never thought upon.
 The flames of love extinguished,
 And freely past and gone.
 Is thy kind heart now grown so cold
 In that loving breast of thine
 That thou canst never once reflect
 On old long syne?

Where are thy protestations,
 Thy vows and oaths, my dear,
 Thou made to me and I to thee
 In register most clear?
 Is faith and trust so violate
 To the immortal gods divine

That thou canst never once reflect
On old long syne

Is't Cupid's fears or frosty cares
That makes thy sp'rits decay,
Or is't some object of much worth
That's stolen your heart away ?
Or some desert makes thee neglect
Him, so much once was thine,
That thou canst never once reflect
On old long syne?

Is worldly care so desperate
That makes thee to despair -
Is't that makes thee exasperate
And makes thee to forbear
If thou of that were free as I,
Thou surely would be mine;
If this were true, we should renew
Kind old long syne.

But since that nothing can prevail,
And all hope is in vain,
From these rejected eyes of mine
Still showers of tears shall rain,
And though thou hast me now forgot
Yet I'll continue thine,
And ne'er forget for to reflect
On old long syne.

If ever I have a house, my dear,
That truly is called mine,
And can afford but country cheer
Or ought that's good within;
Though thou wert rebel to the King
And beat with wind and rain,
Assure yourself of welcome, love,
For old long syne.

Part II.

My soul is ravished with delight
When thee I think upon;
All grief's and sorrows take their flight
And Hastily are gone;
The fair resemblance of thy face
So fills this breast of mine,
No face or force can it displace
For old long syne.

Since thought of you do banish grief

When I'm from thee removed,
 And if in thee I find relief
 When with sad cares I'm moved,
 Now doth thou presence me effect
 With ecstasies divine,
 Especially when I reflect
 On old long syne.

Since thou hast robbed me of my heart
 By those resistless powers
 Which Madam Nature doth impart
 To those fair eyes of yours,
 With honour it doth not consist
 To hold a slave in pyne;
 Pray let your rigour then desist,
 For old long syne.

'Tis not my freedom do I crave
 By deprecating pains,
 True liberty he would not have
 Who glories in his chains;
 But this I wish, the gods would move
 That noble soul of thine
 To pity, since thou canst not love
 For old long syne.

Sir Robert Aytoun died in March, 1638, in his sixty-eighth year, and was buried at Westminster Abbey, where his nephew, Sir John Aytoun, erected a magnificent monument of black marble, with his bust in brass gilt. It is situated in the south aisle of the choir of the abbey, and is in excellent preservation. Dr Rogers, in summing up his biography of the poet says:- "What were Aytoun's personal attractions cannot now be ascertained. It is certain that, although he was the acknowledged favourite of the royal court, and daily increased in the estimation of his sovereigns, he was allowed to sing the disdain of his mistress to his latest hour, having died unmarried.

Every biographer and historian who recorded his name mention his amiability of manners and winning address. he appears to have been the perfect model of exquisite politeness and courtly accomplishments. These, added to his profound and extensive learning, and great poetical genius, ought justly to rank him among the prodigies of his age. To his other accomplishments Aytoun added that of extreme modesty, which prevented him from publishing his English poetic strains, and thus in great degree bereft himself of posthumous fame".

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1924.
COAL COY. TO BUILD 200 HOUSES –

IMPORTANT LOCHGELLY SCHEME.

Representatives of the Lochgelly Iron & Coal Company, Ltd., (Mr Paul and Mr Storrie), have had a meeting with a committee of Lochgelly Town Council and submitted proposals regarding a large house building scheme. They informed the committee that the Company proposed to town plan a piece of ground on the south side of South Street, beginning at a point about 100 yards west of Minto Lodge, and extending westwards meantime to a point opposite 40 South Street, and ultimately to Westerton Farm Road, this ground being a depth of 600 feet; that there would be two streets running parallel with South Street, with other streets connecting same to South Street.

They proposed to erect 200 houses, and would begin immediately with 50 houses as soon as arrangements for feuing the ground had been completed with Lord Minto's agents. The houses would be of three apartments, with bathroom and scullery, and the rents would probably be from £18 to £20. They have also enquired whether they could have in addition the unbuilt on portion of Newton Park site on which they would build a number of houses.

The proposals were discussed, and the question of water and drainage was also considered, along with the advisability of widening South Street by about 10 feet to make the building line on the south side in a line with the existing Spion Kop houses.

The Town Clerk was instructed to ask Messrs Hunter Duff, & Middleton, civil engineers, to include in their forthcoming report on the water question a water supply for these proposed houses, and in the event of additional main pipes, to enquire into the feasibility of joining with the Kirkcaldy District Committee in laying a pipe from the Dunfermline District Committee's connection above Kelty to the west end of Lumphinnans, and afterwards laying a new 6 inch pipe from that point to the burgh boundary.

The burgh surveyor was instructed to report on the question of drainage.

It was also agreed to communicate with Lord Minto and enquire whether he would give the necessary ground free for widening South Street.

The terms of the proposed subsidy were discussed, and the question was raised whether there could not be arrangements made for allowing an abatement on the owner's rate for a term of years.

With regard to the proposal to sub-feu a portion of the Newton Park, the Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Board of Health to have the rate of feu duty fixed by the District Valuer.

THE RENTS OF THE NEW HOUSES -
REDUCTION CARRIED.

The principal discussion at the monthly meeting of Lochgelly Town Council on Monday night, was a motion by treasurer Harvey to consider the rents of the new houses. Provost Walker presided, and all the members were present.

Mr Harvey - This is the third or fourth time I have brought this up.

Provost -Is it to propose an increase?

Mr Harvey - No, a decrease. (Laughter). Proceeding, he said the present rents for three, four, and five roomed houses were £24, £27, and £30. He thought they were ridiculously high. They were rack rented. At the time they were fixed the miners were making from 20s to 30s per day.

To a remark by Bailie Greenhorn, Mr Harvey retorted - I mean working miners.

Bailie Greenhorn - I understand; not working loafers.

Proceeding, Mr Harvey said at the time the rents seemed perfectly reasonable, but they were not now, and he hoped the working men present would support his motion. Just now a miner is lucky if he gets a frugal bite after he pays his rent. He went on to compare the rents with those of Cowdenbeath, which were lower, and proposed a reduction of £3 10s of three roomed houses, and £3 a year on four and five roomed houses.

The Coal Company are building houses and offering them at £18 to £20, and people are not going to give more for the town houses.

Mr Motion seconded, and claimed that there were a few hundred houses in Lochgelly at the present time where the rents are being reduced 12s to 17s per year. He didn't see why people in Lochgelly should pay more than in the outlying districts such as Lochore and Bowhill.

Mr Wm. Hunter, referring to a remark made by Mr Motion, asked how he got increased revenue by the rents being reduced, and he further enquired why the rents were fixed as at present.

Treasurer Harvey - Miners wages were high then.

Mr Hunter - That's entirely foreign to the question. Not half the houses are occupied by miners. Is that the only answer - the miners wage?

Bailie Greenhorn said he understood the burgh chamberlain took a census of the vocations of the people in these houses. Could he now give the figures ?

Mr Crombie said he had not the figures on him; but less than 50 per cent of the occupiers were miners.

Bailie Greenhorn opposed the motion. I am not out, he said, for popularity, but to

secure a fair deal for all. Some of those, he proceeded, who are complaining admit that if the rents were on an economic basis they would be double. No concrete case has yet been made out for the reduction. He went on to say that if it were possible to reduce the rents without adversely affecting the other ratepayers he would be for it. But to-night the supporters of the motion had just repeated the old story. They had given no further reason than what had already been advanced, and he could not see his way to change his attitude on the question.

Bailie Foote spoke in support of the motion. He didn't see why the Lochgelly houses should be higher than Cowdenbeath.

Mr Timmons - There was not the money being made now as when the rents were fixed. He thought Cowdenbeath should even be higher than Lochgelly, for it was a superior centre. He would, however, only be in favour of a reduction if it would not affect the rates. He thought the Board of Health would subsidise the loss.

Bailie Greenhorn - If they can point out how the ratepayers are not to suffer, then I am with them.

The burgh chamberlain, in reply to a question, said if Mr Harvey's motion was carried, the difference in valuation to the burgh would come to £435.

Bailie Greenhorn moved the previous question. The motion would give the people in these houses an additional advantage, which would put an additional burden upon the ratepayers of the burgh. The proposer of the motion had shown nothing to the contrary.

Dean of Guild Adam seconded Bailie Greenhorn. No new points had been brought forward.

In reply to a question, the town clerk said the Government were paying the burgh in subsidising over £6000 a year in respect of these houses.

When the vote was taken 6 supported the motion and five the amendment, and an application will now be made to the Scottish Board of Health to have the rents reduced accordingly.

The vote was as follows:- For the motion - Bailie Hunter, Bailie Bain, Bailie Foote, Treasurer Harvey, Councillors Motion and Hunter.

For the amendment - The Provost, Bailie Greenhorn, Dean Adams, Councillors Kelso and Ewing.

DEATH OF FORMER LOCHGELLY MINISTER.

The death occurred at Edinburgh recently of Rev. Mungo Reid, D.D., senior minister of Mearns Parish, Renfrewshire, and formerly minister of Lochgelly Parish Church.

Dr Reid was born in Glasgow, had reached the age of 85, and previous to being elected to Lochgelly, was assistant in St Andrew's Parish Church. Lochgelly was his first independent charge in which he succeeded the Rev. William Mair, also a D.D., and Moderator of the Church. Older residents in the town remember Dr Reid as a quiet, kindly, unobtrusive gentleman. Writing in a booklet published in connection with the Parish Church bazaar ten years ago, the Rev. D. Findlay Clark, in recording an interview with Dr Reid, said he found him intensely interested in the progress of his old parish, and wrote down the following impressions.

"I look back upon the three years, 1865 - 1868, which were spent in Lochgelly as minister of the Established Church there with sincere pleasure. With the enthusiasm of youth I entered upon the work of preaching and pastoral visitation, in both of which I found sources of much encouragement and met with much sympathy and helpful kindness from the congregation, from the office-bearers, and from the ministers of the immediate neighbourhood. The church was still a chapel unendowed when I was ordained, but most of the money required for the erection of a manse and securing endowment was already collected through the persevering efforts of my predecessor, the Rev. Dr Mair.

"Fifty years ago Lochgelly was a quiet country village, whose population, speaking generally, attended the various churches with much regularity. The contrast between Lochgelly as it was and Lochgelly now is very marked and wonderful. During a recent visit I paid to the neighbourhood I was amazed at the change that had passed over the small mining village.

"Fifty years ago there were three churches - the Established, United Presbyterian, and the Free Church; now there are five. At that time there were two schools, a small adventure school which disappeared on the death of the old school master, and the school erected by the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Coy. Now I understand there are four. Then, no gas in the village, no Co-operative Store, no Police Office, no Public Park, no electric cars, and no Cinema House. In these days the population were satisfied with a very quiet and unexciting life; An occasional concert, the Presbyterial examination and prize giving in the Public School, and walks along the Ballingry and Auchterderran pleasant country roads seemed to satisfy the desire for variety and relaxation.

"Lochgelly, I feel sure, will not forget the comparative innocence of its childhood and youth, and my earnest prayer is, that as material prosperity has so largely fallen to its lot, so spiritual prosperity may ever abound in its midst".

Reference in Lochgelly Parish Church.

On Sunday last week Rev. R.N. Paton, at the close of his sermon, made a reference to the death of Rev. Mungo Reid, D.D., a former minister of Lochgelly Parish Church. Although, he said, Dr Reid was only three years minister of this church, and it was fifty-six years since he left, there were still a few of the congregation who had kindly memories of his lovable, gracious personality. He did faithful and effective pioneer work in Lochgelly, and gave to the Church of Scotland a devoted lifetime of fruitful service. They thanked God for the long life of a faithful minister of Christ, and commended his sorrowing widow and daughter to the Divine sympathy. The

congregation stood in reverent silence as a tribute to Dr Reid's memory.

THE LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1924.

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF COWDENBEATH

Interesting Comments by the Burgh Chamberlain

The fortnightly meeting of Cowdenbeath Rotary Club was held in the D.C.I. Rooms on Thursday. In the absence of the President, Mr C.C. Reid, Councillor Hodge presided, and proved himself a very capable substitute. The speaker was Mr David Hardie, burgh chamberlain, who gave an interesting paper of "The Rise and Progress of Cowdenbeath". After a few preliminary remarks, Mr Hardie said: -

As a Village.

Before 1890 Cowdenbeath was regarded as a mere village, and its affairs were administered by the Parochial Board of the parish of Beath as the local authority for the parish.

this Board was created under the powers of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845, and it continued to discharge its functions as a Local Authority up to the formation of the Burgh.

Their principal duties consisted in discussing matters pertaining to Public Health, with which was incorporated the water supply for the landward part of the parish.

In 1887 the Parochial Board contrived to promote a Provisional Order for the construction of what is popularly known as Roscobie Reservoir which supply until recently the main source of the burgh's predominant necessity

The roads and highways were supervised and maintained by the County Council during this prehistoric period, and those of you who have resided in Cowdenbeath for any length of time will know how assiduous was the attention devoted to them.

The Birth of the Burgh.

Now I come to the birth of Cowdenbeath. Its sponsors were a few of the more progressive inhabitants, who conceived the idea that it was sufficiently important to have it formed into a burgh, and accordingly a petition was presented to the Sheriff, which, after the usual legal formalities had been observed, was duly granted. This was in the year 1890. Cowdenbeath seems to have derived its name from a family of the name of Cowden, and this name seems to indicate that part of the parish which at one time belonged to them, just as other parts are for the parallel reason called Stevensonbeath and Leachatsbeath, while the addition of Beath (derived from the Gaelic word "Beithe"), signifying birch tree, would appear to suggest that birch trees had grown in profusion in the parish at an early period. From 1890 to the introduction of the Town Council's (Scotland) Act, 1900, the new Local Authority were known as the Police Commissioners, but by the latter Act the more dignified title of Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors was assigned to them, while they still continue to rise.

It is with great regret I have to say that the majority of the men who piloted this measure of Local self-government are now no more. The buildings were almost without exception of one storey, and one thing which has forcibly struck me in my consideration of this question is the number of landmarks which have been removed following the path of progress.

The most notable improvements have been effected in our High Street, and such places as the Diamond Row, Kinnimonth's property, old Kinneils cottage, the old property at the rear of the Gas Company's present office, the former Masonic Arms, the property in Union Street now occupied by Police Judge Walker and others, Imries property, the buildings at the Level Crossing on either side of the High Street, not omitting "Uncle's Shop" carried on by the venerable Mrs Pollock, McArthur's property, including the Old Toll House, have within recent years been replaced by buildings of a modern description until to-day I can safely assert that for a provincial town our High Street cannot be emulated.

I also recall to your mind that at one time there were no houses beyond what is known as Cessyburn in High Street and the Free Church Manse in Broad Street. Moss-side Road consisted of a few houses, and Stenhouse Street was not in existence at all.

Lighting.

There is no one in this room to-day who, I am sure, that will admit that substantial progress has been made in the lighting of the town.

In the early days the somewhat primitive use of oil lamps was followed by acetylene gas. The latter, however, had a very short existence, as the company which produced the gas found that they could not carry on their business owing to the excessive cost of production, and for some time we were in the unfortunate position of being reduced to semi-darkness.

This company, however, took a new lease of life, and again started operations by manufacturing coal gas, so that the town was in the position of having a fairly satisfactory system of lighting. This condition of affairs existed for some time until there was dissatisfaction even with gas, the Council decided to install an electric plant of their own, which at its inception resembled a thin red wire. Undaunted with this experience, great improvements were gradually made on the plant, until to-day we have the most modern generating apparatus, the street lighting leaving nothing to be desired.

Roads and Footpaths.

The condition of the roads was a long-standing grievance. I can remember that when all of them, after a spell of rain, presented the appearance of a quagmire. It is no exaggeration to say that when subjected to such conditions, it was with a feeling of trepidation that one crossed the street. The footpaths were equally as bad as the roads at this time. As time elapsed these conditions were slightly remedied, and one could go safely about without the prospect of losing his or her footwear.

This process of improvement was continued, and when it was decided to introduce the tramways, the Town Council, alive to the interests of the ratepayers, had a clause inserted in the Company's order making it incumbent upon them to causeway the High Street between and 18 inches on either side of the rails. When this work was being carried out the Town Council decided to continue the good work by extending the causeway on either side of the rails to the channel, so that to-day we have a street which, though it may not be all that is desired, yet it is a very great improvement on the conditions which prevailed previous to this work being carried out.

This improvement has not been confined to the High Street, as the other streets have been receiving attention also. I venture to say that before long a number of other places will be greatly transformed, as for instance the making of tree lined boulevards.

Water Supply.

This is a matter which engaged the serious attention of the Council for many years. Just to show the advance which has been made, I would direct your attention to that imposing building in the West End of the Public Park. At one time that building formed the centre of distribution of our water supply. When that became inadequate filters were erected at Dalbeath, and continued to serve the needs of our community for many years. The water from Roscobie passed through the process of purification at these filters.

There was a cry for more water, so the Town Council extended Roscobie, and recently acquired under the Provisional Order of 1919, the works of Loch Glow, which were the property of Dunfermline District Committee.

With such a copious supply of water as we now have, I think that our future needs will not cause the Council sleepless nights and the rate payers many anxieties. It may not be assumed, however, that such a happy solution of this problem has been attained without considerable expenditure. I will refer to this phase of the question later on.

Sewage.

As you all know, we have a system of drainage in the burgh and a filtration plant in operation. Like the water question, the subject of drainage exercised the minds of the Council for many years. It was thought when the drainage scheme was completed all our troubles would be ended. But such was not the case. It is admitted that we have sewers in the ground, but what of the filtration plant? Our worthy president (Mr C.C. Reid) might be able to enlighten us on this point, as it is just probable that owing to the extent of the subsidence which has taken place at the works, the company which he represents is utilising the bricks for the construction of walls in their subterranean operations.

Those who are conversant with our drainage facilities know that conditions have been very much improved, so far as the service is concerned.

Fire Brigade.

The first equipment we had was a two wheeled barrow with a few reels of hose and a few brave fire fighters. This continued for a good many years until the acquisition of a steam fire engine, which it is admitted on all hands, was a very efficient machine when it reached the scene of operations.

There was one difficulty, however, which presented itself on many occasions, so that what might have served the needs of our town was made to look ridiculous in so far as the question of transport was concerned. Even in this department progress has to be recorded, as we are now the proud possessors of a new “Leyland” motor fire engine.

Population.

Statistics show the extent of the burgh in 1890 to have been 322 acres, and in 1911, when the boundaries were extended, 251 acres were added, making the present total acreage 573. Between 1890 and 1918 the number of inhabited houses had risen from 660 to 2784, while the following table indicates the increase of population which has taken place between 1890 and the 1921 census: - 1890 – 3306; 1901 – 7467; (125% increase) – 1911 – 14,029; (87% increase) – 1921 – 14,215.

Valuation.

The valuation of the burgh has correspondingly increased.

1890 - £8060; 1895 - £11,900; 1901 - £15,000; 1905 - £22,00; 1915 - £45,500; 1921 - £57,660; 1923 - £63,325

Finance.

The financial aspect is one requiring very careful consideration of the Town Council in relation to the progressive attitude which has been shown in recent years. The expenditure of the burgh has been steadily on the increase for a number of years, and of course during the same periods, the revenue has also increased proportionately with the extension of the burgh.

The duty of proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Hardie was in the capable hands of Mr Wm Reekie, who in doing so recalled some amusing incidents which happened in the early days of the burgh. The response to his request was unmistakably hearty.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1924.

NEW CHURCH FOR LOCHORE AND GLENCRAIG.

A large number of those interested witnessed last Thursday afternoon the ceremonial laying of the foundation stone of the new Roman Catholic Church for Lochore and Glencraig.

The site of the building is on the rising ground north of Glencraig Colliery, and on the east side of the highway. The building will be constructed with concrete blocks, finished to represent rock-faced ashlar. It will lie east and west. Showing the Romanesque style, and having a tower and domed belfry, it is a departure from the usual run of Catholic Chapels, and will be a landmark in the district. Seating accommodation in a nave 90 by 30 feet, and a gallery at the west end, will accommodate 550. At the east end there will be a semi-circular apse to accommodate

the alter, while to the rear of the alter will be the sacristy, ante-room, etc. The building will be heated throughout on the low pressure system. Messrs William Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge, have the contract for the whole works.

The priest in charge at Lochore is the Rev. James Mulhern.

The Right Rev. H.G. Graham, D.D., Bishop-Auxiliary of St Andrew's and Edinburgh, laid the foundation stone according to the ancient ceremonial of the church. A silver trowel was presented to him by Mr R. Mack on behalf of the contractors. He was supported by the following clergymen: - The Very Rev. George Canon Mullan, St Columba's, Edinburgh; Rev. Dean McDaniel, Lochgelly; Rev. Patrick Birnie, Kirkcaldy; Rev. Francis O'Brien, Cowdenbeath; Rev. Bernard O'Hanlon, Cowdenbeath; Rev. Dominick Hart, Inverkeithing; Rev. Anthony Sweeney, Valleyfield; Rev. James Mulhern, Lochore; Rev. Michael Whelehan, Kirkcaldy; Rev. Hugh Conway, Lochgelly; and Rev. Ewan Connolly, Bowhill.

The church is to be named St Kenneth, a companion of St Columba. It is not though, the first Roman Catholic Church in the parish of Ballingry, for there were religious houses in B'ingry in pre-reformation days, and a hundred years after that period Ballingry Church was under the Episcopal denomination for several years.

At the close of the ceremonial, Bishop Graham gave a short address. It was going to be a sacred building of the Holy Catholic Church, and it was met that at the beginning it should be blessed and sanctified. That day they had asked God's blessing, not only for the beginning, but for the continued progress of the church. It was a notable day for them to see a new church erected to the Glory of God. In a short time they would be free from the inconveniences of the School where they had worshipped for some time. The School had been the home of the faithful in the practice of their religious duties. But at the same time the school was not suitable, and so they were raising up a church for no other purpose than for the glory of God and His worship. I congratulate you and your priest (Father Mulhern), continued the Bishop, and we all thank God for his great blessing.

Bishop Graham went on to state that the church was to be dedicated in honour of one of their greatest Saints, St Kenneth. He was a companion of St Columba; one of those Irishmen who came over to this country and turned it from paganism to the true religion. His name was associated with the great Abbey of Cambuskenneth, and with regard to the village of Kennoway in Fife, his name is also supposed to be connected, and further he founded a monastery at St Andrew's. And so his name is held in honour in this country of Scotland.

It was fit and right that they should select one of those missionaries who brought the faith to this country. Although their neighbours were shipwrecked by the revolution of the sixteenth century, they could not forget those who brought the faith to this land. They would look upon St Kenneth and remember him for the many souls he brought to the Catholic Church, and for the perfection of those who are already Catholics. In conclusion, his Grace said he looked upon those around him to be generous to the priest in meeting the burden that had been laid upon him by building that church. You will be pleased with the structure, because it would prove a worthy place for the administration of the Holy Sacrament. The Bishop finished with an Episcopal

blessing.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1924.
UNIQUE WAR MEMORIAL AT LOCHORE.

IN MEMORY OF MARY PIT WORKERS.
ELOQUENT SPEECH BY LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Great interest was taken in the unveiling of a War Memorial at Lochore on Saturday, in memory of the seventy-six Mary Pit workers who sacrificed their lives in the defence of their country's honour.

The memorial is in the form of a huge white marble tablet in Lochore Workmen's Institute, placed on the interior east wall of the reading room. It is of chaste design, and was supplied by Mr Murdoch, sculptor, Kirkcaldy. It is seven and a half feet in length and three and a half feet broad. At the top, above the names of the fallen, is a cross and crown intersected, and at the bottom the inscription, "Faithful Unto Death". Encircling the tablet is a fine representation of a trailing vine, and this gives the memorial a beautiful finish.

A large number assembled to witness the ceremony, Mr Robert Stewart, Lochore House, manager of the Mary Pit, was Chairman, and was accompanied to the platform by Mr James Brown, M.P., (Ayrshire), Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly; Mr C.A. Carlow, of the Fife Coal Company; Mr and Mrs Kirkwood McNeil, Cowdenbeath; Mr John Ford, Crossgates; Mr Kennedy, secretary of the Fife Miners' Welfare Fund Committee; Mr J.K. Park, Ballingry Schoolhouse; County Councillor George Garry; Dr and Mrs Todd; Dr and Mrs Sinclair; Rev. George and Mrs Scanlon, Ballingry Manse; Miss J. Larnoch, District Nurse; Mr Robertson, Fife Coal Company Architect; and Mr Robert Penman.

A verse of the 100th psalm was sung, and prayer was led by the Rev. Mr Scanlon. The Chairman intimated apologies for absence from Mr Wm. Adamson, M.P., and from Mr Carlow Reid. Mr Adamson was extremely anxious to be present at this gathering, but a prior engagement in his capacity as Secretary for Scotland, demanded his presence at this hour in the South of Scotland. Mr Reid, who was looking forward to taking part in this function, has unfortunately taken ill and is confined to bed.

However, he proceeded, we are exceedingly fortunate, through the influence of our member of Parliament, in having with us to-day a very notable and welcome personage in Mr James Brown, M.P., who has made history in being the first commoner for centuries to be appointed to the high position of Lord High Commissioner of His Majesty in Scotland.

This memorial, which is about to be unveiled, he continued, is unique in many respects, and is probably the first colliery memorial to be erected in Fife, if not in Scotland. The funds for its purchase were raised through the efforts of the workers and their committee.

The Patriotism of the Miners.

"A Wee Keek Back"

The mining industry has reason to be proud of its patriotism in the early and critical days of the War. Indeed, so many miners voluntarily rushed to the Army, that those in authority had latterly to send many back to carry on the industry which was vital to the success of the war.

Lochore's Record.

I venture to claim that no district in the country had a better record in this respect than Lochore. Over 400 men enlisted from the Mary Pit, which was roughly around 50 per cent of the workers. The fact that this memorial has inscribed on it the names of no less than seventy-six heroes who fell during the war indicates in a striking manner our patriotism in our country's time of trial. We are proud of the fact that so many of our lads answered the call of their country, and it has been an honour and a pleasure to be associated with a scheme, which has for its object, the perpetuation of the memory of these splendid lads, whose graves are now scattered all over the world. I have now much pleasure in calling upon our honoured and much respected friend, Mr Brown, M.P., to address the gathering. (Loud applause.)

Sweet and Sacred Memories.

Mr Brown said many present would, like himself, be struggling with feelings which could scarcely be held in check. Sweet and sacred memories of our blessed dead are softening our hearts and thoughts and emotions are constantly with us however well we may hide them from the world.

In the providence of God we arrive at this day to do honour to our glorious dead. Over five years have passed since the bugles sounded peace to a war-weary and stricken world, and it may be that we are better able to-day than we were then to understand and to place the true value on the sacrifices of our boys and men who laid down their lives on the alter of their country.

Wounds may be re-opened to-day, and fresh tears may be shed when we look on the names written on this memorial stone of ours. Our spirits may be chastened and cast down when we remember what these men and boys were to us, whose remains lie in every part of the world to which they carried our victorious arms; but it will not be all sorrow and sadness, for we will be sustained and uplifted by the memory of their steadfastness and courage, and of their faithfulness, even unto death; and we will be encouraged and enabled to go forward hopefully through the darkness that surrounds us to the light of better and brighter times that lie ahead.

That we have hope of better and brighter times to come is due to the valour of that great army of men and lads who, from every part of our mighty Empire, flocked to the colours to defend and maintain the honour of our plighted word.

The appeal was made on behalf of suffering and outraged peoples, and never in the annals of mankind was an appeal responded to more spontaneously and heroically, giving proof again, if proof be needed, that the heart of the British race is sound.

These remembrances are a common bond throughout our great Commonwealth. These memorials are our endeavour to give expression to our gratitude and love for

our fallen heroes. They are erected in the market-places of our town and cities, and they stand on our village greens; they nestle in the glens and crown the hillsides, so that the passer-by may not forget the sacrifice of our valiant sons; and with humble and contrite hearts we gather here to-day to unveil and to dedicate and consecrate our own memorial to our own men and boys who left our own homes to fight for King and country.

"The tumult and the shouting dies,
The captains and the Kings depart;
Still stands thy ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart!
God of the nations hear us yet;
Lest we forget ! Lest we forget !"

It is right and proper for us to dwell on what the sons of the British race have done for the liberties of the world. And heaven is more real to us to-day and is nearer now than our loved ones have gone home, and we realise more intensely the longing and the truth of the poet's song -

"Oh, it's hame, hame, hame, hame fain would I be;
Oh, It's hame, hame, hame to oor ain countree!
"The great are a' gane, a' wha ventured to save;
The new grass is springing on the tap o' their grave !
But the sun through the mirk blinks blythe in oor e'e.
I'll shine on ye yet in oor ain countree."

That is what the unveiling of this memorial stone means for us; not death, but life; not tears and sorrow only, but hope and joy and pride; hope and joy that we shall see them again and pride in the achievements of our brave sons, for surely theirs was the greatest achievement in all the world's history. This stone will be the trysting place of their spirits and ours. Every name on it inspires us to go forward. We must be worthy of our heroic men. We tried to live worthily through those heart-searching years, we must not, we dare not be unworthy of them now.

To live carelessly and heedlessly when the world is crying out for strong men and women to help and to save it from despair is surely a betrayal of our trust. To refuse to take our part in the reconstruction of the world and of our country; to bear malice or suspicion or hatred would be a complete frustration of everything for which our gallant men laid down their lives.

For God's sake do not let us belie the faith of our boys who died in the full belief that they had fought for these high ideals. Let us so live and act now that we will not need to be ashamed to meet them on the other side, when "God shall have wiped away all tears from our eyes." To them was given the toil and the pain; and to them was given the grace and the courage to lay down their lives in defence of weaker peoples. To us in giving the cross of bereavement, of living, of longing, of waiting, of working, which we must accept. Though the cross may be heavy we must not shrink from it, but bare it bravely to the end.

"O cross that lifted up my head,

I dare not ask to fly from thee;
 I lay in dust life's glory, dead,
 And from the ground there blossoms red,
 Life that shall endless be."

Nurse Larnoch, Lochore, was called on to unveil the memorial and, after she had drawn aside the veil, she gave expression to some graceful phrases. dedicating it to the glory of God and to the memory of those who had made the supreme sacrifice.

Meantime the ex-service men of the district and the local police constables had mustered in front of the hall and, immediately the memorial was unveiled, they filed in and passed the memorial to their comrades, giving the salute of "eyes right". The Pipe band meanwhile played a lament. Dr Sinclair, an ex-officer, who has taken a deep interest in the ex-service men of the district, placed their memorial wreath at the base of the tablet, and a large number of other wreaths were also deposited. As the wail of the pipes died away, "The Last Post" was sounded on the bugle. It was altogether a very impressive interlude.

Mr Charles Augustus Carlow was asked to address the gathering. He paid a high compliment to the speech delivered by Mr Brown, and expressed his sympathy for the bereaved.

Proceeding, he said he had frequently been asked to meeting at Lochore and had always done his best to attend. Some of those were social meetings and some serious, but he had never been at one which had affected him so deeply or made such an impression on his mind. The memorial would ever remind them all of those brave men who gave their lives so that we might live. (Applause.)

Mr J.K. Park proposed a vote of thanks to Nurse Larnoch, Mr Brown, and Mr Carlow. Referring to the former, he said they had seen her that day in a new phase, and they all admired the very graceful way she had done her part. They congratulated Mr Brown on the high position to which he had been called in the Church of Scotland, and were sure he would fill it with credit to the Church and to himself. Mr Brown was in a special way able to speak on such an occasion as the present because he too suffered by the loss of a son in the war. Referring to Mr Carlow he said they knew him well. To-day they had him mingling with them in their sorrow. In the course of further remarks, Mr Park said he keynote of the whole proceedings had been "Duty". (Applause.)

County Councillor George G. Garry, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said Mr Stewart had proved an ideal Chairman for such an occasion. (Applause.)

After the ceremony, those who had taken part in the ceremony were entertained to tea in one of the rooms of the Institute, Mr Stewart presided.

Short speeches were made by County Councillor Garry, who said he had been assured that the district would double its size in the next few years; and by the Rev. Mr Scanlon who, as the son of a miner and one who had worked in the mines himself, said he was already in love with the district and its people.

Mr Fallen proposed the health of Mr Brown, M.P., and that gentleman in reply, said not only the Ayrshire miners but the colliery owners as well had congratulated him upon his appointment as Lord High Commissioner. Although his appointment was made through the Prime Minister, it had been recommended by Mr Wm. Adamson, the Secretary for Scotland. When Mr Adamson was working as a brusher, and he was doing his duty as a pitman in Ayrshire the two had been friends, and during the time they had been in Parliament together they had occupied the same room. They had lived together far more peaceably than man and wife (Laughter). He hoped that the result of the present negotiations regarding miners wages would be an agreement which would avoid the necessity of the fighting and disastrous stoppages which took place from time to time. (Applause.)

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1924.

LOCAL COAL MEASURES.

HOW LONG WILL THEY LAST.

The meeting of the Co-operative Men's Guild, held last week, was one of the most interesting of the session, as the subject dealt with by Mr John Ford, Crossgates, was one which appealed to all present. Mr Ford, in his opening remarks, referred to Cowdenbeath being a mining community, and preceded to give authoritative statements regarding the probable time the pits in the district would continue to produce coal.

Kirkford Pit, he said, is estimated to continue for 50 years.

Lumphinnans, 60 years.

No. 7 Pit, 40 years.

Donibristle, 15 to 20 years.

Mary Pit, Lochore, 150 years.

Aitken Pit, Kelty, 70 to 80 years.

Important development are likely to take place in Crossgates district, where a rich coalfield is known to exist, and will be developed by one of the largest colliery companies in the country.

Fewer Fatal Accidents.

The number of fatal accidents in the mines were discussed by the speaker, the fact that the death rate from accidents was now lower per cent. of the persons employed than what it was 50 years ago not being generally known

Miners' Institutes - How the Money is Spent.

The aims and objects of the Miners' Welfare Fund were stated, along with some interesting information as to how the money was expended. He stated that the income from 1d per ton of coal output up to 29th February, amounted to £2,608,180; there had been paid out to the District Fund, £837,779; and to the General Fund, £60,372.

District Committees receive four-fifths of the total income for expenses, and the

General Committee one-fifth for expenses. While in Fife Institutions were being erected, where required, the fund did not exist for that purpose alone, as nursing associations, ambulance classes, and educative organisations could receive grants from the fund. In a few years, the income of the fund would be so large as to exceed the income of any of the Carnegie benefaction.

Mr Ford mentioned that the Institutes erected were not for miners only, but for the whole community, the general public being at liberty to join any Institute by paying a small yearly subscription.

Interesting details were given as to the working of Institutes and the boon they would be if conducted on right lines and were well taken advantage of.

An animated discussion followed, when various points requiring elucidation were explained by the speaker. Those taking part in the discussion being:- Messrs J. Hoggan, J. Hughes, R. Pollock, A. Paterson, and J. Brown. The usual vote of thanks was accorded Mr Ford before departing.

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CRIMES AND OFFENCES IN COWDENBEATH.
A YEAR'S TRANSACTIONS IN THE BURGH COURT.

Some interesting details are given in the annual report just issued by Mr John H. Wright, Cowdenbeath, Burgh prosecutor.

During the year, he states, the number of crimes and offences reported amounted to 812, involving 941 persons, of whom 763 were males and 178 females. Proceedings were taken in 701 cases, of which 633 were disposed of in the Burgh Court, and 71 in the Sheriff Court.

The largest number of charges were for assault and breach of the peace, totalling 241; theft accounted for 128; and malicious mischief for 23. The others under Common Law were; Embezzlement, 1; indecent crime, 1; fraud, 7.

The number of offences under the Licensing Act were: - Drunk and incapable, 52; breach of certificate, 1; drunk in charge, 1.

Four cases were dealt with under the education Act, 2 under the Temperance Act, and 199 under the Burgh Police Act, and the others as follows:- Disease of Animals, 1; Children Act, 1; Poor Law Act, 3; Mine Regulations Acts, 1; Motor Car Act, 101; Pedlars Act, 3; Burgh Bye-laws, 32; Lottery Acts, 2 - total 812. The total number of persons brought before the Court in the year 1922 was 1058, showing a decrease of 117.

It is to be noted that the charges for assault and breach of the peace have increased by 55 since last year, but none of these cases were of a serious character. The charges for theft this year are only half of what they were in 1922. This is very gratifying, and I have every reason to assume that a further reduction will take place next year. There is also a very considerable reduction in the cases under the heading of malicious mischief, (100 in 1922, and 23 in 1923), and the hope expressed in my report for 1922 that the figures hereunder would soon return to normal has been realised.

In the Statutory Contravention the largest increase is under the Motor Car Act. The contravention's mainly consisting of cars passing through the burgh at excessive speeds and without proper lighting. The Sheriff deals with these offenders and therefore no comment by me is necessary, except to draw attention to the fact that the number of cases hereunder adversely affect the present report, in respect that the offences in nearly every case were committed by persons resident outwith the burgh.

I am again pleased to say that none of the crimes and offences dealt with during 1923 were of a serious character, and in no case was the Magistrate required to make a remit to the Sheriff.

The number of persons apprehended or cited who were known to be under the influence of drink when the crimes and offences were committed was 206 (an increase of 52 on last year), and the persons who had no fixed abode numbered 100.

The fines recovered for the past year, including pledges forfeited, amounted to - Police Court, £172 3s 6d; Sheriff Court, £49 17s 6d - total. £222 1s.

The number of licensed premises in the burgh are as follows:- Hotels, 3; public houses, 8; licensed grocers, 4; porter and ale licence, 1 - total, 16

There was only one special permission granted during the year to a licence holder under the Licensing Act. 1903. There are two Clubs registered under the same Act.

The number of article found and handed to the police during the year amounted to 167. Of these 58 were returned to the owners, 35 returned to the finders, and 74 remain in the hands of the police.

The number of theatres and places of public amusement is 3.

There are two registered lodging houses in the burgh with accommodation for about 189 persons. The number of pawn-brokers and licensed brokers within the burgh is 2.

There were 17 certificates under the Explosives Act granted during the year. There were 143 doors and windows of shops and other places of business found open or otherwise insecure. The owners or occupiers were duly warned by the police and the premises secured.

The number of registered places for public refreshment is 28.

The estimated population of the burgh is 14,600.

The number of police for the burgh at the end of the year was 1 inspector, 2 sergeants, and 12 constables, and I have again to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance which they have rendered to me in my office as Burgh Prosecutor.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1924.

BIG EXPENDITURE FOR LOCHGELLY.

IMPROVED WATER SERVICE TO COST £20,000

FURTHER £25,000 SCHEME DELAYED MEANTIME.

At a special meeting of Lochgelly Town Council on Thursday, the engineer's report on the question of improving the water supply and service was considered, and on the motion of Councillor Kelso, seconded by Dean of Guild Adam, it was decided to proceed at once with that portion of the report dealing with the question of water service, involving an expenditure of £20,780. The second part - that of enlarging the capacity of the reservoirs at Lochornie, estimated to cost £25,000 - was delayed. On the suggestion of Provost Walker it was agreed to approach the Unemployment Grants Committee for assistance with regard to the laying of the pipe track.

Inadequate.

In the course of a very full and lucid report on the question the engineers, Messrs Hunter, Duff, and Middleton, C.E., Edinburgh, state that they find as a result of their investigations that the water works are inadequate to meet the present needs of the burgh, and altogether so to meet those of the immediate future.

History of Lochgelly Water Supply.

The supply of water from Lochornie, they proceed, was introduced under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1878, which empowered the then Commissioners of Police of the burgh to construct a reservoir on Lochornie Burn and abstract water for the supply of the burgh under the obligation of sending down the stream 60,000 gallons of water per day as compensation water.

An increased supply was introduced about 1902 by the construction of a second reservoir at Lochornie under an agreement with Sir Charles Elphinstone Adam, dated 1902, by which the compensation water, in view of the increased storage and supply from the burn was increased from 60,000 to 100,000 gallons per day.

At the date of the construction of the second reservoir the population supplied was under 6000, but it has increased so rapidly that often there have been a shortage of supply, and you have been obliged to utilise, on terms arranged with Sir Charles Adam, the compensation water, and also to purchase water from the Dunfermline District Committee, in order to meet the water demands of the burgh.

It is the unexpectedly rapid rate of increase in the population that has caused the disappointment in regard to the additional supply of 1902 not having lasted longer. In order to show this clearly we annex a diagram giving a curve to show the varying rate of increase from 1831 on to the present time. It will be observed for the diagram how the rate of increase was almost nil from 1871 on to 1881, after which it rose quickly for twenty years to 1901, more quickly on to 1911, and then less quickly to 1924. It is right to point out also that had the 1881 to 1901 rate of increase continued till now, the population would have been only 9000 against the 12,000 it actually is, and the scarcity would not have been felt.

The Supply at Lochornie.

The first thing to be investigated is the amount of water that can be obtained from Lochornie. In wet years there will no doubt be plenty of water to meet the needs of the burgh, but in water works it is the supply in a dry year, or a series of dry years that has to be considered. The areas that drains in to Lochornie is almost exactly one square mile, and we have been informed that the capacity of the reservoirs is 31,240,000 gallons, of which 19,186,000 gallons are in the upper and 12,034,000 gallons in the lower reservoir.

The available rainfall in a series of three dry years (that is the depth of rain per annum which will run off the catchment area into the reservoirs after losses by evaporation etc., have been deducted) is 17 inches. Were sufficient reservoir capacity available, this would afford a supply including compensation water of 680,000 gallons per day. The necessary reservoir capacity would be 130,000,000 gallons, so that it will be observed that the actual storage is less than one fourth of what would be required to fully utilise the area at Lochornie.

With the actual storage of the 31,240,000 gallons a daily supply of at most 300,000 gallons could be relied upon in such dry years, but from this the compensation water has to be deducted, leaving 200,000 gallons per day for the supply of the burgh.

Ten Million Gallons From Glendevon

As referred to above, you are able to purchase the compensation water when necessary. Further, in terms of Section 17 of the "Dunfermline District Water Order Confirmation Act, 1918", you are entitled to a supply from the District Committee of 10,000,000 gallons per annum, and a further supply at the discretion of the committee, but it is provided that you shall not be entitled to take more than 80,000 gallons of water in any one day. No doubt it might be possible by agreement to obtain a greater quantity than 80,000 gallons per day, but it must be remembered that when the burgh is short of water the District Committee will probably be in the same position; if not now, at least later on as demands upon their supply grow. The 10,000,000 gallons at the rate of 80,000 gallons per day will last for 125 days, or practically four months of the summer, say from May to August inclusive.

Taking these additional supplies into account, the available daily supply for the burgh in a dry year will be: -

Possible Supply in a Dry Year.

Supply from Lochornie under Provisional Order of 1878, and agreement with Sir Charles Adam, 1902 not more than200,000

Compensation water can be bought100,000

Supply for 125 days from Dunfermline
District Committee80,000

Total gallons per day....380,000

We understand that it might be possible to purchase water from the Town Council of Cowdenbeath, a meter being already installed at Lochornie for measuring water taken from the Cowdenbeath main pipe from Loch Glow. But this supply cannot be demanded like that from the Dunfermline District Committee

Population and Rate of Supply

The population of Lochgelly is now about 12,000, so that the dependable supply from the present source would be equal to about 32 gallons per head per day to that population. Owing, however, to the capacity of the existing mains, and the shortage of night storage in the burgh, the whole supply has not actually been enjoyed by the people.

The Spion Kop Tank.

The present 5 inch main from Lochornie delivers into the tank at Spion Kop 77,000 gallons per day, about 67 per cent. of what the pipe would carry when new. It has been forty years in use.

The 7 inch main pipe delivers through the mechanical filters at Lumphinnans Road. It is not 20 years old, and should carry 275,000 gallons per day. But as there is no storage for the night flow, only about 206,000 gallons can be utilised by the people.

The present rate of supply is 25 gallons per head of population. 27 gallons should be supplied.

Fifty Per Cent. More Needed.

In any immediate works to improve the supply, we advise that a supply of at least 500,000 gallons per day be kept in view, about 50 per cent. more than the present demand.

As new houses go up and baths are introduced into them (and they will probably be introduced into older houses too) the supply per head will increase, so that the suggested daily provision would probably suffice for an eventual population of not more than 15,000.

Lochgelly Difficult to Supply

The water supply of Lochgelly has been rendered difficult by physical conditions and mixed methods of supply. The varying levels in the burgh necessitates it being high, intermediate, and low districts of supply. The construction of part of the filtration plant at the source of Lochornie and part in the burgh itself, necessitates separate mains from Lochornie, the one carrying the unfiltered water, which should not be, but sometimes are, mixed before being delivered to the people.

South Street Area.

The population of this district is 3936, but view of the proposed building operations of the Lochgelly Iron & Coal Company, Ltd., we propose to add 700 to this, and allow 27 gallons per head, plus 50 per cent. for increase in population and rate of supply per head, making a total supply of 188,000 gallons per day.

A new pipe, 8 inches in diameter, to supply this 188,000 gallons would be laid from Lochornie to join the west end of the 6 inch pipe recently laid down from Lumphinnans Road to the Spion Kop tank. The slow sand filters at Lochornie are large enough to deal with this.

To maintain the supply a steel or reinforced concrete tank to hold 90,000 gallons should be built on or near the site of the present tank, with the floor level 25 feet above the ground. From this tank a new 6 inch pipe would be laid to the south end of High Street.

Tank for the Middle District.

Water must be delivered to reach the highest houses in Main Street and Bank Street. To provide a night flow, the engineers suggested a tank to hold 200,000 to store the night flow from the 5 and 7 inch mains and supply needs during the “rush” hours. It will be placed at the west end of South Street, 510 feet above sea level. To take the water from this tank a 9 inch pipe is necessary from the filters across Cartmore Road near to the Minto Hotel.

Estimate of the New Works.

The following is an approximate estimate of proposed new works, but not including engineering, legal, land or way-leave charges: -

New pipe, 8 inches in diameter, from filters

At Lochornie to Spion Kop tank,

Following the line of existing 7 inch main £13,300

Elevated tank at Spion Kop to hold

90,000 gallons. £2,300

New Pipe, 6 inches diameter from Spion

Kop tank to south end of High Street £330

New pipe 9 inches diameter, from mechanical

Filters to the east end of North Street

Near the Minto Hotel, with a branch to new

Tank near South Street. £2,650

New tank to hold 200,000 gallons for

Intermediate district, situated near

South Street, with floor level 510,00

or thereby £2,200

£20,780

The Question of Storage.

The engineers, in concluding their report, states that a problem of considerable difficulty is that of storage reservoirs, and they submit proposals and estimates doe improvement.

The estimates cost of their proposals is £25,000, and the Town Council have decided not to tackle this question in the meantime.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1924 GLENCRAIG.

House Conveniences Improved.

The District Committee have received the following report from the Sanitary Inspector on the houses belonging to Wilson & Clyde Coal Company Ltd., Glencraig:-

Since the meeting with this Company at the end of January, the work of providing water closets and water supply to houses at North Glencraig has been pushed forward. One firm has practically completed the provision of these conveniences to twenty-eight houses, while another firm has thirty-six houses in hand at present. This will complete the Company's houses at North Glencraig, and offers are being taken for similar work at South Glencraig.

AUCHTERDERRAN Private Slaughter-Houses

It will be recalled that recently the District Committee ordered the closing of butcher's private slaughter-house in Bowhill, and that a public slaughter-house be used. The alternative left the butchers was to use either Lochgelly or Kirkcaldy. At the Committee meeting on Thursday, Mr Andrew Simpson, Bowhill, proposed a motion, of which he has given notice in the following terms: -

"I, the undersigned, Andrew B. Simpson, as a member of the Kirkcaldy District Committee, hereby give notice with the concurrence of six other councillors, that at the next meeting of the said Committee, which falls to be held at Kirkcaldy on Thursday, 24th April, 1924, I will move that the resolution or decision arrived at on Thursday 27th March, 1924, be rescinded in so far as it deals with the slaughter-house licences for the Auchterderran area, and on new considerations being granted, I will move that the applications of G. Berwick and A.P. Morris for licences at Auchterderran be granted, and thereby grant to this community the same facilities as were granted another community at last District meeting."

In a report on the buildings, read at a previous meeting, from the Medical Officer of the Scottish Board of Health, the following observations were made: -

Mr Morris's slaughter-house was erected in 1906, has a good water supply and drainage satisfactory. The number of animals killed at present are three cattle per fortnight, about two sheep a week, and a pig now and then. No cows are killed.

Slaughtering takes place two days each week.

With reference to Mr Berwick's at Jamphlars, it was erected in 1899, has a good water supply and satisfactory drainage. The animals killed per week are three to four cattle, three or four sheep, a pig occasionally. Slaughtering takes place on three days each week. The comments of Dr Leighton were not favourable.

Mr Simpson said he felt that there was a hardship being inflicted on Auchterderran in taking away the two private slaughter-houses in the district. Lochgelly was not at all suitable for the Auchterderran butchers, who, said Mr Simpson, had to wait until Lochgelly butchers had finished killing. He moved that both licences be granted until they could get a public slaughter-house. In this view he was supported by Mr Black, while the Rev. Mr Houston also spoke in favour of the motion.

An amendment was made by ex-Provost Paul, Lochgelly, (who was chairman of the meeting), that they allow the slaughter-houses in question to be open two days per week so that their Sanitary Inspector could be present. This was seconded by Mr J. Gray. Mr Fenwick, Thornton, suggested, as a compromise, that they allow these slaughter-houses to be opened three days a week, and this became the finding of the meeting.

COWDENBEATH LEVEL CROSSING SEVENTY YEARS OLD A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY.

A Court of Session decision forty-one years ago in connection with the level crossing in High Street, Cowdenbeath, is interesting just now in view of the controversy raised by the proposal to abolish it.

In April, 1855, the Road Trustees of the Great North Road entered into an agreement with the Forth Iron Company, who were then lessees of the minerals in the estate of Cowdenbeath, to construct the railway across the road, and for this privilege the county were to pay the Trustees £20 per year.

A Horse Railway.

The level crossing at first constructed was a horse railway, but steam was ultimately introduced.

In view of the fact that danger might arise to the public, the Company and the Road Trustees, in 1868, entered into an agreement for its regulation.

Limited to Mineral Traffic.

The line was to be solely used for mineral traffic to and from the pits, and "shall continue to be used so long as the Trustees think that public safety is not thereby endangered or the public not put to greater inconvenience".

The Cowdenbeath Coal Company, in 1870, succeeded the Forth Iron Company as lessees of the Cowdenbeath minerals, and became bound to fulfill that Company's obligations in regard to the level crossing, of which they made use.

In the Court of Session.

Tolls were abolished in 1878, and the Cowdenbeath Coal Company, as lessees of the Cowdenbeath minerals at that time, paid the assessment of fully £70 per annum. The Company declined to pay the £20 stipulated in the agreement of 1855 (£20 per year), and the matter was taken to the Court of Sessions.

The Court's Decision.

The finding of the judges is contained in the following interlocutor: -

“Cowdenbeath Coal Company are bound to pay the County Road Trustees of Fife the annual sum of £20 stipulated for in agreement between the Great North Road Trustees and the Forth Iron Company, in addition to the annual road rate or assessment leviable from them under the Roads and Bridges (Scotland) Act, 1878, in respect of ownership or occupancy of lands and heritages in connection with which said crossing exists and is used, so long as the level crossing to which said agreement refers continues to exist; find and declare that the Cowdenbeath Coal Company are not entitled to demand that the said crossing shall be allowed to exist and be used until the County Road Trustees shall declare that, in their opinion, the public safety is thereby endangered, or that the public is thereby put to greater inconvenience than they consider to be right; and that the County Road Trustees of Fife are entitled, without reason assigned, to require and compel the removal, at the expense of the Cowdenbeath Coal Company, of the rails and other material forming said crossing.”

The Road Trustees had to pay expenses

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1924

HOUSING CONDITIONS IN COWDENBEATH

“INCREDIBLE” OVERCROWDING
302 NEW HOUSES REQUIRED.

Mr Crawford A. Alexander, Sanitary Inspector, Cowdenbeath, in his annual report on the sanitary conditions of the burgh, states that the need for houses in the burgh is as great and pressing as ever.

The State Aided Housing Scheme (Mr Alexander says) is nearing completion, but I sincerely hope that the cessation of building operations will only be temporary. Under the scheme 100 houses have been built and occupied. These consist of 64 three apartment, 32 four apartment and 4 five apartment dwellings. A further development of 16 houses is in course of execution, and it is expected that these houses will be occupied by late summer.

In accordance with the Housing Act of 1923, the Local Authority resolved to offer a subsidy of £80 per house for a two roomed house and £100 for a three roomed house of dimensions in keeping with the limits laid down by the said Act, but it is hoped that legislation on the lines of the 1919 Act will be brought into operation to deal with further housing questions.

The Act of 1923, whereby Local Authorities are empowered to subsidise house-building by public and private enterprise is in a way acceptable, but it has been found that advantage is not being taken of this measure as was expected and the fact therefore still remains that this Act has not improved matters to any appreciable extent. In point of fact, only one private individual has so far submitted plans to rank for subsidy. On the other hand, applications for subsidy were made by Fife Coal Company, Ltd., in respect of 74 three-apartment dwellings. The applications were granted. Those houses are in course of construction and are situated – 34 in Foulford Road and 40 on the north side of Stenhouse Street, and it is expected that the majority of the houses will be ready for occupation by mid-summer. They will be comfortable houses to live in and of good appearance when completed, and will go a long way to relieve a good deal of congestion existing in this Company's present property.

There still remains the fact, however, which cannot be overlooked, that this scheme has been brought into being for the sole object of providing accommodation for the Company's workers, and that circumstances would have forced them to build in any event. It so happens that their need coincided with the decision to subsidise, or probably this decision has hastened the commencement of operations.

I dare say there are other concerns in exactly the same position, and whereas by law they are entitled to the subsidy, I do not imagine that the Act was brought out for this purpose. The Act, to my mind, was meant for the individual who required just that assistance to encourage him to build a house for himself and so release a house for some other person unable to build.

There is absolutely no hope at present for those persons not employed by the Company who are still unprovided for unless fresh legislation is brought in to allow Local Authorities to continue on the lines of the 1919 Act. The main point is that something is being attempted to relieve congestion and provide proper housing accommodation, even though the benefits may all be confined to one section. Somebody is going to benefit, and I am delighted to be able to say so.

I think it only fair to say that the officials of the Company referred to are anxious that matters pertaining to housing amenity generally should not continue as they are at present. The street known as School Street is to be demolished entirely and new dwellings erected to meet modern requirements.

The scheme will certainly take time owing to the necessity for finding accommodation, but it has the support of the officials determined to better conditions, and therefore the carrying of it through to completion need occasion no dubiety.

The houses required to relieve congestion where more than one family occupies one house number 171; To relieve congestion where overcrowding exists - 360 (less 52) - 308; To replace condemned houses - 173; A total of 652.

Deduct house released by relief of overcrowding - 308; Houses condemned and also overcrowded - 34; Houses vacant at time of survey - 3; A total of 350.

Total dwellings actually required - 302

- (1) There is a preponderance of two-apartment dwellings - 58% in fact.
- (2) The number of children per house decreases as the size of the house increases.
- (3) The number of outside water closets is high
- (4) Only 29 houses are without sinks, most of them being worn out and ready for demolition.
- (5) The number of houses with bathrooms - 388 - is surprising.
- (6) There were actually 8 vacant and perfectly habitable houses in the burgh at the time of the survey.

I have stated that 302 additional dwelling-houses are required to relieve matters, and this figure is given only after very careful scrutiny of the particulars of every household in the burgh. The overcrowding statement tells probably the worst tale, and it is not exaggerated unfortunately.

The cases tabulated run 5, 6, 7 and 8 persons in one apartment, in most cases the majority of the inmates being adults; 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14 and even persons in two apartments, the majority of inmates again being adults. It seems almost incredible, but there is actually one two-apartment house with 15 inmates, 7 adults and 8 children.

There are also 6 one-apartment houses with 8 inmates; Several two-apartment houses with 13 inmates; and one with 14 inmates. Needless to say, steps are being taken to deal with the worst cases, with a view of larger houses being procured for them.

Truly, one half of the world knows nothing of how the other half lives, and it is revolting to think that such conditions exist in the twentieth century. Legislation is able to deal with congested premises promptly where live stock is housed, and in this respect the lower animals are better off than human beings. Can it be wondered at, then, that men and women to-day are discontented and restless? I do not wonder. On the other hand, I am surprised that the conditions are put up with with so much fortitude. If we are to have better citizens and healthier children, then we must have houses.

The need is a pressing one, and I would urge that every effort be made by the Town Council to press for more houses. I think the Fife Coal Company should be again approached in light of the figures stated, with a view to their building a further batch of houses.

Houses.

There are 2809 houses in the burgh. Only 388 have bathrooms and 1932 have sculleries.

Of the houses, 350 or (12.5 per cent.) are of one apartment; 1633 (58 per cent.) are two apartment; 579 (20.6 per cent.) of three apartments; 138 (4.9 per cent.) of four apartments; 52 (1.8 per cent.) of five apartments; 18 (0.7 per cent.) of six apartments. The number of larger houses are as follows: - seven apartments, 14; eight apartments, 15; nine apartments, 6; ten apartments, 2; and only one house with over ten rooms.

The number of persons in the 350 one apartment houses number 784 adults and 392 children. In the 1633 two apartment houses are 5660 adults and 2073 children. The 579 three apartment houses provide accommodation for 2506 adults and 531 children, and in the four-roomed houses, 138 in number, there are housed 549 adults and 111 children. In the 109 houses in the burgh with five rooms or over, there are accommodated 429 adults and 50 children.

The average per house works out at five persons.

Overcrowded House in the Burgh.

The details of the report issued by the Cowdenbeath sanitary Inspector (Mr Alexander) are as interesting as his general comments. He gives the following list of overcrowded houses: -

	1 Apt	2 Apt	3 Apt	Total	
Bowling Green Street		1	-	-	1
Crosskeys	3	-	-	3	
Foulford Place	-	11	4	15	
Foulford Road	8	8	1	17	
Foulford Street	3	8	-	11	
Hall Street	2	3	-	5	
High Street	4	3	-	7	
Hill Street	-	2	1	3	
Mungall Street	-	7	3	10	

Pretoria Street	-	5	-	5
Prospect Street	1	-	-	1
Shamrock Place	-	2	-	2
Stenhouse Street	-	3	1	4
Burgh Road	-	2	-	2
Elgin Road	3	1	-	4
Factory Road	-	1	-	1
Fraser's Crescent	1	1	-	2
Gasworks Cottages	-	1	-	1
Gordon Street	2	-	-	2
Lochgelly Road	3	2	-	5
Moray Place	1	-	-	1
Perth Road	6	8	-	14
Parker's Place	-	4	-	4
Polworth Place	-	2	-	2
Union Street	3	17	2	22
Valleyfield Place	7	-	-	7
Barclay Street	-	2	2	4
Broad Street	29	15	1	45
Chapel Street	3	11	3	17
James Street	2	-	-	2
Moss-side Road	7	3	2	12
Natal Place	3	3	1	7
Paul Place	1	-	-	1
Stein's Place	5	-	1	6
South Street	5	3	-	8
Wardlaw Street	1	1	-	2
Woodend Place	-	-	2	2
Arthur Street	1	6	-	7
Arthur Place	2	15	1	18
Bridge street	2	1	-	3
Bruce Street	1	-	1	2
Burnside Place	-	3	-	3
Church street	6	1	-	7
Marshall Street	-	5	3	8
Park Avenue	5	2	-	7
Randolph Street	2	-	-	2
Rose Street	1	-	-	1
School Street	1	12	1	14
Thistle Street	3	13	-	16
Wemyss Street	3	1	-	4
Woodland Place	3	-	-	3

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1924.
LOCHORE.

THE PICTURE HOUSE AT CROSSHILL.

A report on the condition of the Crosshill Picturedrome was submitted to a Committee of the County Council at Cupar yesterday: -

The hall is seated for 830, it has three exits and is licensed in the name of Oswald A. Fraser, 28 Paul Street, Lochgelly.

The enclosure is situated in the gallery above the entrance door of the hall. It is not a substantial or permanent one, but is lined throughout with fire-resistant material. It has hitherto been considered impracticable to have the enclosure outside the auditorium.

The gallery is seated for ninety persons, half on either side of the operating box. The box is entered by means of four wooden steps placed at a very dangerous angle - almost perpendicular - and one unaccustomed to the use of the steps finds difficulty in climbing into and out of the box.

The situation and construction of the enclosure are not satisfactory, and it is recommended that the gallery be closed to the public, and that the licensee be required to erect a substantial and easily accessible enclosure. The present operating box is not ventilated.

The re-winding room is placed at the rear of the stage, and is about fourteen feet square. It has an exit to the open air and a large window. The fittings &c., are not fire-resisting, and the door is not self-closing.

There is no direct communication between the re-winding room and the auditorium, and the public are not admitted to that part of the building, consequently it is thought strict compliance with Regulation 12 is not necessary for public safety, but the licensee is willing to make the room and fittings as fireproof as possible.

The lighting is electric, while there is alternative gas lighting for safety purposes, and the exits are lit with gas.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1924.
AUCHTERDERRAN.

BOWHILL PICTURE HOUSE.

The following are observations by the local Police Inspectors on the two Bowhill Picture-Houses, submitted to a Committee of Fife County Council at Cupar yesterday: -

Gothenburg Hall.

This hall, which is licensed in the name of Andrew Burt Simpson, Secretary of the

Bowhill Public-House Society, is seated for 1200 persons, and has five exits.

It appears to meet requirements, with the exception of the following: - The re-winding room is entered by a separate door in the entrance hall, and disconnected with the auditorium. It is not lined with fire-resistant material, and it is recommended that it be so lined.

There are no means of ventilation, but it could be ventilated in the same way as the enclosure, which is by means of a tube one foot in diameter connected from the roof to the outside of the building, and through which fresh air is driven by an electric fan.

The Cinema.

This hall is seated for 650, and has four exits. The owner and licensee is Charles Hunter, Bowhill Hotel.

The enclosure is a permanent structure, situated at the back of the gallery and entered from the gallery through the re-winding room. The interior and fittings are not all fireproof, but the licensee is to comply with this condition. It is well ventilated and lighted by a large window.

The re-winding room adjoins the enclosure, and is likewise only partially fire-resisting, but the licensee is also to comply with the regulation and cover all fittings, &c., with fire-proof material. There is no direct ventilation except through the operating box, but means of ventilation are practicable, and it is recommended that it be insisted on.

The lighting throughout is electric, generated at the hall, and controlled from the operating box or the engine room. There is alternative gas lighting in the auditorium, but not in the exits, and the licensee has been requested to comply with the regulation in this matter.

This hall is in a very dirty condition, and it is suggested that a clause be inserted in the conditions of license requiring the auditorium to be kept ventilated and in a clean and healthy condition.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1924.
GLENCRAIG.

THE INSTITUTE AS A PICTURE HOUSE.

The following observations were submitted to a Committee of the Fife County Council at their meeting yesterday, on the People's Picture Palace, Institute Hall, Glencraig:-

This hall is the property of Glencraig Institute Committee, and the licence is in the name of Charles Barclay, chemist, Glencraig, and Thomas Timmons, cinematograph proprietor, Lochgelly. It is seated for 450, and there are three exits.

The enclosure is situated in the gallery above the entrance door of the hall. It is built of wood and lined with asbestos slate. The gallery is seated for sixty persons - thirty

at either side of the operating box.

The operating box is entered by four wooden steps, to which there is no handrail. There is no sunlight or ventilation in the box, but these can easily be provided as the box is built against a large window.

The present licensee states that the County Council considered it impracticable and unnecessary to have the operating box outside the auditorium, but for public safety it is recommended that the public be excluded from the gallery, and also that the enclosure be made more easily accessible by the erection of a substantial stair fitted with hand-rail.

The re-winding room is a specially built annexe on the outside of the building. It is fireproof and electrically lit. No special provision is made for ventilation, but this can easily be done by removing two bricks in the wall and putting in close ventilators.

The lighting is electric and is supplied by cable from the Power Station at Glencraig Colliery, and is controlled from the stage and not from the operating box. There is gas lighting for the auditorium and exits.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1924.

THE STORY OF LUMPHINNANS GAMES.

OFFICIALS AND ATHLETES.

Considerable excitement always prevails in the West of Fife area on the first Tuesday in June, when Lumphinnans Games are the utmost feature in the minds of the citizens of the surrounding districts.

In an interview with Mr John Beveridge, secretary of the games for eighteen years, and who has been connected with them from their beginning, I learned many interesting facts which are full of interest.

It is now over thirty years since the games begun in Furnace Park, which is situated on the other side of the village from which they are now held. At that time Mr Stewart, the farmer who owned the field, took no rent from them, although they gave him a present, such as a walking stick, every three years. Now they have to pay a very large rental, which then would have been considered a small fortune.

In those early days, Mr Birrel Davidson was secretary. John Malcolm also took a prominent part, while he was one of the committee. They could get a band for their refreshments only for the day, the minstrels considering themselves highly honoured by the invitation to play. David Campbell, a prominent figure in the village, would often keep the games going the day after by supplying prizes himself, and even enticing the local athletes to run races on the main road.

Mr Beveridge first took up the position of secretary in 1905, when there were only 19 of a committee, whereas now they have 25 of a committee and four officials. In the first few years of the games there was only a committee of 12. The old secretary stated that James Hynd was secretary the year previous to himself. That was in 1904,

when the late John Melville was president, and David Foster treasurer. Andrew Blackadder also took up the secretary's position for a spell, during which Archibald Bennett was treasurer. Mr Beveridge's office was held in the season 1912 -13 by Mr Robert King, although in 1914 Mr Beveridge again took up the office.

In 1914 Lumphinnans Games were the coming Games in Scotland. They had a large balance at the bank, and many well known athletes took part in the sports, but war came and upset their dreams.

Famous Athletes Who Took Part.

From the year 1914 till 1920 no games took place. Mr Beveridge stated that among the many great athletes who took part in these sports Keane, the American champion for the 300 yards sprint, had visited them.

Macrae, of Banknock, the long distance runner, had also participated in these sports, while Lindsay, the great Marathon racer, had run at the games which made Lumphinnans famous.

Mr Beveridge finished his term as secretary last year, and practically a complete change of committee and office-bearers has taken place. Mr Beveridge finished up stating that he was very ably assisted by George Pratt, Chairman; Robert Russell, treasurer; and John Fox, assistant secretary; and further stated that he had enjoyed the work for the benefit of the games. He expressed the hope that they would remain a permanent and successful feature in the village.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1924.
LOCHGELLY PRIEST HONOURED.
THE CEREMONY IN EDINBURGH.

On Monday the ceremony of installing the Rev. Peter McDaniel (Lochgelly) to the Chapter of Canons in the Diocese of Edinburgh and St Andrews was carried through in the Catholic Cathedral, Broughton Street, Edinburgh.

There was a large attendance, including fully 500 from Lochgelly, who availed themselves of special railway facilities.

The Installation was carried through by Mgr. Morris, Provost of the Chapter of Canons, and was of a very impressive nature.

The congregation of St Patrick's Church, Lochgelly, did honour to their priest on his election as a Canon in the Diocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

At a function in the Town Hall on Friday night he was the recipient of a set of canonical robes, and a wallet containing bank notes to the value of £50.

Mr Frank McGhee, who presided, was accompanied on the platform by Canon P. McDaniel, The Revs. John McDaniel, (Perth); Birnie, (Kirkcaldy); O'Brien (Cowdenbeath); Mulhearn (Lochore); Connolly (Bowhill); and Conway (Lochgelly);

Mrs Martin, (Glencraig); Mrs Watson, (Cowdenbeath); Miss McCormick (headmistress of R.C. School, Lochore); Provost Walker, Mr Small, (Town Clerk); J. McDaniel, (Dundee); J. Bolan; Drs Stephen, Nel, Foote, Greeson, and Louw, Councillors Kelso and Timmons, and Mr James Flannigan. Dr Dickson wrote offering his congratulations and regretting his inability to be present.

The Chairman read, among other apologies, a cablegram from the Rev. Father McDaniel, California, a brother of the Canon. Proceeding, Mr McGhee said the occasion was one in which they wished to express their love and gratitude to their good priest who, in the course of a day or two would be known as Canon McDaniel. (Applause). He was pleased that they had associated with them some of the leading citizens of the town, including their worthy Provost and Town Clerk and members of the Education Authority and medical profession. (Hear, hear).

The occasion marked a double event in Dean McDaniel's life for, in addition to the honour to be conferred on him, they also had to wish him many happy returns on his 60th birthday.

They were exceedingly proud of the great honour that had been bestowed on him by being raised to the Chapter of Canons. I was an honour both he and they had every reason to be proud of. (Applause.)

It was something like eight years since he came amongst them, in the middle of the war, when the people were sufferings from many trials and tribulations and home were stricken. Later they had to face the coal strikes, bring with it trial and difficulties, and it was the lot of their good priest to go about amongst them giving advice of the best kind and keeping them from getting downhearted. (Applause.) no one could possibly have done more for them in these trying times, and so for many reasons they reckoned it a great privilege to show their gratitude at this auspicious time. (Loud Applause).

The presentation of a Canon's Robe was made by a veteran member of the church, Mrs Martin, Glencraig. Speaking on her behalf, the popular young curate, Father Conway, told how Mrs Martin came to be chosen to do that service. Mrs Martin, he said, was born in Lochgelly 72 years ago. As a young girl she worked in Leslie Mills, walking to and fro each week-end, and earning no more than 5s a week. Later she went to Kirkcaldy, and was residing there when the then Father McDaniel was acting as assistant 37 years ago. It was he who performed an important ceremony in which Mrs Martin was one of the contracting parties. (Applause). Further, it was the first marriage that Father McDaniel celebrated. Many years later Mrs Martin again came under his ministry when resident in Bathgate. When she came to Glencraig she naturally thought she had lost touch with Father McDaniel, yet it so came about that he was again to be her parish priest. (Applause). Father McDaniel became Dean McDaniel, and now he was to be Canon McDaniel. (Loud applause). It is, he concluded, a great honour which is also reflected on the parish of Lochgelly.

Mrs Martin gracefully handed over the robes amid much applause.

Canon McDaniel, who was received with cheers, said he thought the remarks of the chairman were far to complimentary. He hadn't looked for any return for anything he

had done amongst the people of Lochgelly. Referring to his elevation to the canonry, he said it had been quite unexpected. He was not looking for such an honour, but it was all the more welcome on that account. (Applause). He felt like the little corporal who had been warned on parade the next morning to get two stripes. He thought he was in for physical punishment, but found to his happy surprise that they were stripes for good conduct. (Laughter). It had always appeared to him (the speaker) that in any work he had performed that his shortcomings far outweighed his qualities. After a humorous allusion to the fact that in the year of his birth (1864) there was a great scarcity of pennies on account of gold getting mixed with the copper in the re-minting and causing the issue to be re-called, he proceeded to refer to his early connection with Lochgelly 37 years ago. His first impression was that it was a barren wilderness – (Laughter) – but he soon discovered it had a history peculiarly its own and that it was really a very ancient district. As far as the ecclesiastical history of Lochgelly is concerned it is one of the oldest districts in the archdiocese, and it is the mother of many parishes and churches. (Applause) In my time, he continued, I have seen this district divided into seven or eight independent parishes, each with a church of its own. You will acknowledge that the early priests must have had a very hard task, but we have the consolation of knowing that there's no part of Scotland in which the faith is growing so much as this district of Fife. (Applause).

In concluding, and again acknowledging the gifts, he said there were many who were absent that night who were with them in spirit, and the testimony of that lay in the handsome presentation. It showed that everyone in the parish had done his or her part. (Loud applause.)

Canon McDaniel added a reference to members of the platform party. Referring to the priest, he said they live as neighbours on the friendliest of terms. He also wished to express his gratitude to Mr McGhee, their chairman. He was well fitted for the responsible position he filled in the church, fulfilling it with great credit to the people and to himself. He also wished to welcome their worthy Provost and Town Clerk, with whom he had many dealings in matters social and civil, and with both of whom he was always on the most agreeable terms. He further referred to the presence of the doctors and other friends. In Lochgelly the public men and citizens generally had always shown him the greatest courtesy. They in Lochgelly lived in the greatest harmony. (Applause).

Provost Walker, who was very cordially received, expressed pleasure in being present to add his congratulations to Canon McDaniel. They had been associated in many ways, especially in connection with the School Management Committee, and he had always found him very helpful. They were delighted to hear of the honour about to be paid him, for they all knew he thoroughly deserved it. He hoped the existing harmony would ever continue, and that the Canon would be spared to spend many years in Lochgelly. (Loud applause.)

Mr James Flannigan, who belongs to one of the oldest and most respected Roman Catholic families in Lochgelly, was called upon to make a further presentation to Canon McDaniel. It was a wallet containing a cheque for £50. Father Conway, in introducing him, said he was born in Lochgelly 64 years ago, and he knew much with regard to the progress of the churches in this district. In his young days there was no Catholic Church in Lochgelly. Mass was said in what was then known as

Henderson's Hall. Then the old church in Grainger Street was built by Father O'Hare. Latter on a school was built at Lumphinnans, and then the present church and school in Station Road. Mr Flannigan well remembers a young priest by the name of Father McDaniel coming to Lochgelly. That was at a time when difficulties seemed almost insurmountable. For three months he continued his ministrations, and then he was transferred to other fields of the vineyard of the Lord. Twenty-six years later Mr Flannigan saw this young priest come back to take full charge at Lochgelly, by that time a flourishing parish. (Applause.)

Mr Flannigan, in a few appropriate words of congratulations, then handed over the wallet of notes. He said the gift was in recognition of his long, strenuous and successful service to the church, and to mark his attaining his 60th birthday. All the money had been collected in the parish of Lochgelly, including Glenraig. (Applause.)

Canon McDaniel said he didn't know how to sufficiently express his thanks for this second presentation. The great kindness of the people of Lochgelly he would always treasure in his heart. He hoped he would be situated in Lochgelly and go in and out amongst his people. (Applause.)

Other speakers addressed the gathering, including the Revs. Fathers Birnie, Kirkcaldy; - Father John McDaniel (a younger brother of the Canon); - Father O'Brien, Cowdenbeath; - Father Mulhearn, Lochore; - Father Connolly, Bowhill; - all of whom spoke in terms of warm affection for Canon McDaniel.

Mr John Bolan conveyed congratulations to the canon from the Sisters, the children, and the congregation. Lochgelly, he said, had been very successful in their parish priests. He recalled Father McNamara, Father McMahan, and father Morgan. In referring to the canon, he said he had always taken a great interest in the school children, and they all realised how important a work lay in the schools. In conclusion he hoped he would enjoy a long, long life, and all the peace that could be attained in this world. (Applause).

Short speeches of congratulations were made by Dr Stephen, Dr Nel, Dr Foote, Dr Greeson, and Dr Louw.

The programme of singing etc., was of much merit. It included entertaining sketches by Willie Wallis, Cowdenbeath, who showed much talent in expression and mimicry. Councillor Kelso sang, among other songs, "Father O'Flyne". His voice still retains much of the richness and fullness of earlier days, and the audience showed unmistakable appreciation of his efforts. Very funny turns were given by Mr John Graham. Johnnie is a born comedian, and is the test of a comedian is to make one laugh, there was no mistaking Mr Graham's success. Miss Kelly, a singer from Kirkcaldy, and youthful Miss T. Laborde, Lochgelly, both charmed the audience with sweet singing. The former has a musical voice, well cultivated, and the latter's is rich in tone and range, and should develop into one of first-class quality. The accompaniments by Miss Healy were very tastefully played.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1924
AUCHTERDERRAN

Water Supplies To Houses

In the course of his monthly report Mr John S.E. Riddle, the District Sanitary Inspector, states that since the water main was extended past the houses at Murray Place, Pitcairn Road, Auchterderran, Mr Sinclair, one of the proprietors, has taken a supply into the sculleries of his two houses. The Fife Coal Company's house factor has instructions to take it into the house belonging to them and I expect this will be occupied by Mrs Ann Nicol and Alex Brown, which requires to be provided with a supply of water in terms of the housing, Cc, Act.

Conditions at Capledrae.

There are 17 houses at Capledrae Row, belonging to the Fife Coal Company, and occupied by George Kirk, Peter Flemming and others. The water supply for these houses is from a pump well at rear. This pump is often out of order and always requires to be "fanged" before water can be drawn. When this has been done there is always the danger of the well being polluted. The District Committee's water main passes in front of these houses, and I would suggest that the Company be asked to provide a supply inside each house as required by Section 40 of the Housing &c., Act. As these houses are without facilities for washing clothes the addition of sculleries would be a great improvement.

Street Lighting – Gas to Continue.

At Thursday's meeting of the District Committee, it was seen from a minute of the Special Auchterderran Committee that the Clerk had submitted to them a letter from the Fife Power Company, dated, 28th ulto., stating that they were not yet in a position to say whether they would be able to provide for street lighting of Auchterderran.

Cardenden Gas Company, Ltd., had also a letter offering to supply gas to the street lamps under the same conditions as at present for the sum of 1s 6d per lamp per week, or alternatively for medium mantles with super heaters for the sum of 1s 4d per lamp per week, it be a condition that all the lamps at present would be lighted by gas. It was agreed to accept the Gas Company's offer.

THE COWDENBAETH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1924
LUMPHINNANS

A Row In Beveridge Place.

At Cowdenbeath Police Court on Thursday, Marie McManus or Reekie, (30), housewife, 6 Beveridge Place, and Mary Ryan, (26), housekeeper, 7 Beveridge Place, Lumphinnans, were charged with conducting themselves in a disorderly manner and committing a breach of the peace in the rear of 6 Beveridge Place, on Thursday, 29th, May.

Mrs Reekie pled not guilty, whereupon proof was fixed for 26th inst. Mary Ryan pled guilty, but stated that she had great provocation for what she had done, as the other accused was always trying to take advantage of her, and this always happened when her father was out. She said she had nobody to stick up for her, and stated that Mrs Reekie had hit her that morning, and after that when she was again going out with the two bairns in her arms she was again hit by the accused, and it was then that the disturbance took place. I have even been told that she will get me some other time, stated Miss Ryan.

Mrs Reekie – It's a lie.

Miss Ryan – It's not.

Bailie Hogg – (to the accused) – Now, now, that'll do, I ken fine by the look o' things that they'll try to tak' advantage o' ye, but have ye no been here before?

Accused – No, nor anyone else belonging to me.

Bailie Hogg admonished and dismissed the accused.

A "Friendly Quarrel".

Before Bailie Hogg at Cowdenbeath Police Court on Thursday, George Flemming, miner, 18 Zetland Place, Lumphinnans, was charged with conducting himself in a disorderly manner and committing a breach of the peace in his house on Saturday, 31st May.

The accused, pleading guilty, stated that he had had a drink in the morning and that the disturbance caused was only a friendly quarrel.

The Fiscal - I don't know what a friendly quarrel is, I've never heard of one before.

The accused stated that he meant a family quarrel.

The Fiscal said had seemingly told his father something he hadn't known before, and was told to look for other lodgings. He didn't seem to pay for his keep.

The accused stated that he had two children to keep, and that it was his father he had the row with.

Bailie Hogg - You had no business striking your father.

Accused - I did not strike him, I was only explaining things to him.

Bailie Hogg - It's a disgrace setting up cheek to your father. You young generation think that whenever you start to work you can do what you like, and mind you all the advice your father gives you is for your own good. It's a disgrace.

A fine of £1 was imposed, with an option of ten days.

Only Swearing.

John Dow (25), miner, 39 Broad Street, Cowdenbeath, was charged at the Burgh Court on Thursday with conducting himself in a disorderly manner and committing a breach of the peace on the High Street on Saturday, 21st June.

On pleading guilty, the accused stated that he was only swearing.

Bailie Hogg - You needna say that to me, because I would very nearly hang ma ane father for swearin', and he's here in the court the noo.

A penalty of 7s 6d or ten days was imposed.

(note: My reason for including these three court reports is to draw to the readers attention the "down to earth" approach of Bailie Hogg, Cowdenbeath, when he was sitting on the bench. Jim C.)

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1924.
LOCHGELLY.

Housing Conditions in the Burgh.

The annual report by Mr Lumsden, burgh surveyor and sanitary inspector, for the year 1923 has now been issued. It contains interesting details.

There are over 400 defective houses in the burgh. There is difficulty, he says, in repairing them, as alternative accommodation is not available. In seven cases repairs were carried out while the tenants were in possession. The full repairs necessary could not, under the circumstances, be carried out, and the expense was far in excess of the improvement obtained. The property in High Street and Brewery Court known as the Dewar bequest, which was bequeathed to the Town Council, is in a very bad state of repair. The tenants, who are of the poorer class, are residing under deplorable conditions, due principally to the delay in getting arrangements made for the reconstruction of the property.

The following table gives some interesting information:-

		1918	1920	1923
Area Of Burgh acres	353	353	391	
Population	11,960	12,484	11,662	
Persons per acre	33.88	35.37	29.83	
Houses per acre	-??	5.69	5.55	
Persons per house	5.32	6.21	5.37	
Living Rooms	4401	4391	5119	
Persons per Living Room	2.71	2.84	2.27	

Population Decreasing.

It will be noticed that the population is decreasing, while the size of the burgh in acreage has increased.

With the erection of new houses an improvement has taken place in the number of persons per house and per living room.

The foregoing conditions, says Mr Lumsden, are far from satisfactory, large families of from ten to fifteen persons are living in two-roomed houses.

Fifteen Persons In Two-Roomed Houses.

Three cases, all living in two-roomed and scullery houses, came under his notice during the year.

In one, the number in the house was eleven adults and four children; in the second, six adults and four children; and the third, six adults and four children.

In all these cases both rooms were full of beds, most of which were in use night and day, due to the people being on different shifts.

What the Housing Scheme Provides For.

The housing scheme, promoted by the Local Authority under the State-aided scheme, provided for over 300 houses. Of this number, however, 140 houses have been completed and a commencement made with the erection of a further ten houses, making a total of 150 houses to be erected under this scheme, a reduction of the original scheme by half, the reason given for the reduction being the great need for economy; but, when you consider that young children are being reared under conditions just referred to, you are compelled to ask yourself the question - "Is there economy in discontinuing the work of improving the present deplorable housing conditions under which a large number of the people of this country live ? and if so - "Where" and in "What".

Allowing that the whole of the 150 houses were completed and occupied, an acute shortage of houses would still exist, and it would require the whole scheme of over 300 houses to make any appreciable difference on the shortage. The types of houses erected are good and are a great improvement on the existing type of houses, yet the people for whom the houses were primarily intended are not occupying them, solely owing to the prohibitive rents. The average householder with a young family simply cannot afford to pay the present rent under existing conditions.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1924.

LOCHGELLY'S WELFARE INSTITUTE.

Above is a sketch of Lochgelly Welfare Institute, which is in the course of erection in the Mine Well Green, Main Street. The scheme is being carried through under the Miner's Welfare Scheme, conjointly with Lochgelly War Memorial Committee.

It will be a large commodious building, containing on the ground floor, the entrance hall, from which access is got to the Women's Reading Room and Women's Recreation Room both to the front, also to the General Reading Room, Men's Recreation Room (for dominoes, draughts, cards, &c.,) and Free Access Library. The Reading Room and Women's Recreation Room are to be divided by a folding partition, so that the two may be thrown into one large room or hall for social meetings or dances. From the back of this large room access can be had to the kitchen, where tea, &c., can be prepared. From the entrance hall access can also be had by a staircase to the Billiard Room on the first floor, which is capable of housing four full-sized billiard tables. The basement contains work-shop and stores for the Library, store to accommodate forms and chairs, and heating chamber which supplies heat by low pressure hot water to all the apartments in the building, and also supplies hot water to the various lavatories.

The Institute is being erected to the designs of Mr A.D. Haxton, architect, Leven, and from the illustration which we give of the elevation, it will be seen that the building is to have a pleasing and handsome appearance, and will be a distinct acquisition to the street architecture of the town.

It is hoped to have the building ready for occupation not later than the end of the year.

The contractors for the work are:-

Mason work - Messrs Kirkwood & Smith, Ltd., Glasgow.

Joiner work - Mr John Reid, Crossgates.

Plumber work - Messrs Alex. Thomson & Co., Dunfermline.

Slater and roughcast work - Messrs John Robertson & Sons.

Plaster, cement and tile work - Messrs Lind Bros., Lochgelly.

Glazier work - Messrs John Haxton & Co., Kirkcaldy.

Electric work - Messrs Peters & Ellis, Lochgelly.

Heating work - Messrs Taylor & Fraser, Glasgow.

Wrought Iron railing and gates - Messrs Ramage & Whitehead, Glasgow.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1924.

LOCHGELLY.

Lochgelly Vital Figures.

Lochgelly Medical Officer (Dr Yule), in his annual report now issued, states that the general health of the burgh during 1923 was very satisfactory.

High Birth Rate - Low Death Rate.

Infectious diseases have been of comparatively low prevalence, no infection attaining epidemic incidence during the year. The birth rate has been high and has not been followed, as so frequently proves the fact, by a heavy infantile mortality rate. In the burgh as elsewhere throughout the county and Scotland generally; the infantile mortality rate has been low, and it is pleasing to be able to report that the rate for the past year has been 70 per 1000, the lowest rate, so far as I am aware, yet recorded for the burgh. The death rate from all causes has also maintained a satisfactory low level during the year. (12.3 per 1000).

The Most Overcrowded Burgh.

No new influence or condition likely to affect adversely the general health of the burgh has yet come to my knowledge during the year. Comment was made in the annual report for 1922 on the overcrowding of one and two-roomed houses in the burgh and the urgent requirement of additional houses at rents within the compass of the average working-class family requiring more accommodation. It should not be forgotten that overcrowding is more rampant in Lochgelly than in any other burgh of the county, and that the call for further new housing is proportionately more urgent. It seems unlikely, therefore, that the favourable mortality rates of the past year are likely to continue.

CONDITIONS IN "THE HAPPY LAND".

That part of Lochgelly known colloquially as "The Happy Land", is specially mentioned in the annual report of Dr Yule, the Medical Officer. After referring to certain suggestions made to the Town Council and the Lochgelly Iron and Coal

Company, who are the proprietors, he proceeds - As is commonly the fact in mining areas, the garden or yard space immediately behind the blocks or flatted houses of "The Happy Land" and abutting onto the entrances thereto is in use for general highway purposes to the exclusion of the streets constructed for the purpose. There is no need to describe the conditions arising during the wet season of the year from the constant use by light and heavy vehicles and passenger traffic of the clay-bed contiguous to the only entrance to the house. Such roadways prove a substantial source of discomfort and annoyance to residents of the neighbourhood and tend to be injurious to health.

The remedy recommended was the fencing off by the insertion of posts at suitable intervals of the whole of the yard-space behind the houses, so as to admit of foot - to the exclusion of wheeled - traffic, and work has been started on these lines. Attention was drawn to the habit of certain householders in this area disposing of domestic refuse anywhere in the neighbourhood of the houses which proved convenient and involved the minimum of trouble and effort. It is essential for the efficient scavenging of the district that the Council insist on the provision of suitable refuse bins to be deposited by the householders and emptied by the cleansing department within definite hours, and that the statutory provisions be enforced against those contravening the regulations on the subject. Cleanliness will only be secured in this part of the burgh by watchfulness and the penalising of delinquents.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1924.

KELTY.

Co-operative Society Jubilee Grand Parade and Sports.

Kelty Co-operative Society celebrated the jubilee on Saturday, when the members and their children were entertained to a treat which was held in a field near the Black Road.

The fancy-dress parade was a feature of the day and the children in procession along with a horse and lorry display marched through the village headed by the Kelty and Kinross Brass Band. The field was kindly granted by the Fife Coal Company.

The winners in the parade were 1st, Brothers Lee (three Red Indians); 2nd, Jessie Black, (Zulu Girl); 3rd, Cathie Clark, (Peace). The prizes in the decorative display were awarded as follows:- 1st, Charles Don, (Bakery Department); 2nd David Hutton, (Butchery Department); 3rd, John Clark, (Butchery Department); 4th, David Arnott, (Dairy Department).

The Rise and Progress of The Society.

Mr Robert S. Hunter, Chairman of the Society, gave a short address in which he spoke of the progress of the Society during its years of existence. He stated that now only one of the original board of management was left, that being Mr Alex. Burt, who, although no longer an official is still an enthusiastic member for the welfare of the Co-operation.

In 1874, the opening year of the Society, when the late Mr C. Carlow was Chairman,

there was only a membership of 71, there only being a grocery department in those days, whereas now they have grocery, butchery, bakery, millinery, and various other departments. In the first year of the Society, share capital was only £242, which at the end of the year showed a profit of £291. Comparing it with the past year he gave the figures of the sales and profits. He said that the sales had reached a figure of £200,000 while profits run between £5000 and £6000 per quarter.

The Society's original shop is now a dwelling house, and was decorated for this special occasion.

Delegates were present from various societies and were presented with souvenirs. Mr W. Lang, replied on behalf of the Fife Coal Company, Edward Miller on behalf of Dunfermline Co-operative Society, Mr John King on behalf of Cowdenbeath, while Mr Alex. Ritchie (auditor) was also present.

Mr Hunter expressed his regret at the non-appearance of Mr C. Augustus Carlow, who was unable to attend.

Selections by Kelty and Blairadam Brass Band and a Choir were beautifully rendered, and during the afternoon sports were held, which everybody enjoyed despite the unsettled weather.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1924.

AULD FIFE PROVERBS.

When I was a miller in Fife,
Losh ! I thocht that the sound o' the happer
Said "Tak' hame a wee flour to your wife,
To help to be brose to yer supper.

PROVERBS.

There's aye something (i.e. some little flaw), as the Gallatown wife said when her daughter married the black man.

Better a toom house than an ill tenant.

Cock's craw loodest on their ain midden heid.

As the auld cock craws the young ane learns.

Better late thrive than ne'er dae weel.

Little wit in the heid gi'es muckle trouble to the feet.

Facts are chieils that winna ding.

Troubles never come singly.

Let sleepin' dougs lie.

Ye'll nivir mak' a minister o' Jock.

His bark's waur than his bite.

Ye've a crap for a' corn.

Ye crack like a pen gun.

A lyin' man's worth twa deid anes.

Twa heids are better than ane, though they're sheeps.

Like the parrot, mair jaw than judgement
Ye've nae mair sense than a hen cud haud in its steekit neive.

The nearer the Kirk, the farer frae grace.

The hetter waur, the shuner peace.

A twa-luggit cat'll get a sicht o' the King.

Every doug has its day, and every cat its nicht.

A fu' wame mak's a stiff back.

They gang far roond that never meet.

It's an ill fecht when he that wins hae the warst o't.

He rides siccar that never fa's.

Keep the staff in yer ain hand.

"Let a' trades live" quo' the wife when she burnt her bosom.

He that blaws in the stoor fills his ain een.

He may find faut that canna mend.

He'll no sell h's hens on a rainy day.

"If ye're nae better, ye're snodder like", as the wife said when she cut aff the dugs lugs.

Ye needna mak' fish o' ane and flesh o' anither.

Gin ifs an' ans were pots an' pans, we'd hae nae use for tinkers.

We're a' ae 'oo.

If the grass grows green in Janaweer, 'twill be the waur for a' the year.

Nae fules like auld fules.

Changes are lichtsome, an' fules are fond o' them.

As the fule thinks the bell clinks.

Guid gear's made up in sma' bouk.

The best come hin' most, like the wife's dochters.

A' maidens are nice, but whaur dae ill wives come frae ?

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1924.

PROPOSED PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION FOR FIFE.

A meeting convened by James Martin, secretary of Glenraig Public Pipe Band, was held in the Crown Hotel, Thornton, on Saturday last. Mr Hugh Macdairmid, City of Dunfermline Pipe Band, presided over a representative gathering. He explained the object of the meeting.

Mr Robert Glencross, Glenraig, proposed, and Mr A. Kelly, Cowdenbeath, seconded that an Association be formed, and this was unanimously carried. The bands represented were:-

Kirkcaldy and District Caledonia Society.

Forth Works (Kirkcaldy).

St Andrews United Services.

Burntisland and District.

Cowdenbeath.

Michael Colliery

Lochore and Crosshill.

Kelty and Blairadam.

Dunfermline Scottish Pipers Society.

City of Dunfermline.

Glenraig.

Cupar and District.

A letter from Culross and District was read expressing their sympathy with the movement and asking that a report of the proceedings be sent to them. They were not represented at the meeting as it was their band drive.

The meeting went on to discuss various details, and a number of important matters were dealt with.

Officials were appointed as follows:- Chairman, Mr Hugh Macdairmid, City of

Dunfermline; vice-chairman, Mr Robert Glencross, Glencraig; secretary, Mr James Martin, McMenemy's Buildings, Glencraig; Treasurer, Mr John Nisbet, Cowdenbeath.

It was decided that a Committee consisting of one representative from each band, the same to be neither Pipe-Major or player.

It was agreed to secure copies of the Fife Amateur Brass and Association rules to assist in forming the constitution of rules to govern the Association, and that one copy of same be sent to the secretary of each pipe band, whose representatives will have instructions as to the rules they consider applicable for guiding the Association.

The next meeting to be held in the Crown Hotel, Thornton, on Saturday, 20th September, at 5.30 p.m., when it is expected that all bands in the County will be represented.

The secretary will give notice of meetings and secretarial work generally, but is to have no voting power.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1926.

AUCHTERDERRAN PARISH COUNCIL.

RELIEF SCALE INCREASED.

The monthly meeting of Auchterderran Parish Council was held in the Town House, Lochgelly, on Monday night, and the following members were present:-Messrs Wm. Cook, Chairman, Bird, Lumsden, Maguire, Kelly, Potter, (Auchterderran), James Martin, (Glencraig), A. Cook, D. Buchan, Geo. W. Dick, A. Nisbet, J. Garrity, P. Henderson, J. Clark and R. O'Neil (Lochgelly).

Mr Garrity, in terms of notice given, submitted a proposal to revise the scale of relief. He said he was of the opinion that some increase was required. Their present scale was totally inadequate to meet the present situation, and it was up to them to take into consideration the present high cost of living. He then submitted a scale he had drawn up, and he hoped the Council would adopt it.

Mr Paul Henderson seconded.

Mr George W. Dick said, before proceeding with any alterations on the scale, he thought it would be advisable to consider the scales in operation in neighbouring parishes. The new proposal meant a big addition, and there would be a big lot of money involved in it. He wanted to do justice to all, and they had to consider also the ratepayers who sent them there.

Mr O'Neil - There doesn't seem to be much of an increase.

Mr Martin compared the Beath scale with their present one, and pointed out that Beath was as high as 2s 6d more than Auchterderran.

Mr A. Cook said he didn't think the new proposal was much exceeding the Board of

Health scale. In cases where there were five or six children more it might be increased a little bit.

Mr Dick - Our last scale was not much below that of Beath, unless in one item.

The Clerk - We were lower all over.

Mr Nisbet asked if it would be advisable to have a uniform scale for the whole of the industrial area of Fife. They knew anomalies existed. If they were to delay the proposal meantime, and get into conference with the other parishes, they would know where they were, and might arrive at a uniform system. He moved accordingly. If they could secure this there would be no casting up as to what Auchterderran, or Beath or Ballingry, &c., were doing as compared with the others.

Mr Buchan seconded.

Mr O'Neil - That would have a tendency to bring it down. We know we have been a good bit below neighbouring parishes. I move we go on with it to-night.

Mr Nisbet - I don't think there is much wrong with our scale. In the last Council, when anomalies were seen, they were always willing to put them right. And since that scale was drawn up three years ago, they should not forget the cost of living had gone down eight points, so that we must be slightly better than we were then. Then the valuation of the parish had gone down £9000 to £10,000 this year, through the fall in the mining values, and any increase we make will come all the heavier on householders, and we all know they are not able to stand much more assessing.

Mr A. Cook - If we had equal ratings that would not apply.

Mr Nisbet - If the value of the coal mining falls, the rental falls, and the coalowner has not to pay.

The Clerk confirmed Mr Nisbet's Statement.

Mr Maguire - The coalowners' valuation may be up next year.

Mr Nisbet - I don't think it will.

Mr Garrity - We have a new Act coming into force with regard to Mr Nisbet's point. The one will balance the other. I cannot understand why you did not pay for more children than three before. It seems to me to be something like favouring birth control. Suppose there were six, seven or eight of a family. Is it right ? It's just as much right to give money for them as for one or two. With regard to the cost, I think you will find this a pretty fair scale, and if there are any discrepancies they can be removed as we go along.

A vote was then taken:-

For a conference, 6 (Messrs Nisbet, Buchan, Dick, Clark, Maguire, Potter).

For the new scale, 9 (Messrs W. Cook, A. Cook, Henderson, Bird, Lumsden, O'Neil, Garrity, Kelly, Martin).

Scale of Relief.

The following gives the old and new scales:-

	Old Scale	New Scale
Aged Couple (householder)		23/- 25/-
Other Couples (householder)	20/-	25/-
Single Person (householder)	13/-	15/-
Single Person (living with Relatives)	10/-	12/6
Couple with one child	25/-	29/-
Couple with two children	29/-	33/-
Couple with three children (2/6 each additional child)	32/-	36/-
Widow with one child	18/-	20/-
Widow with two children	22/-	24/-
Widow with three children (2/6 each additional child)	25/-	28/-
Orphan child with grandparent	5/-	6/-
Two orphan children with Grandparents	9/-	11/-
Three orphan children with Grandparents (3/- each additional child)	12/-	15/-
Boarded out children (each)	7/-	7/-
Boarded out lunatics	12/-	12/-

All income from every source, including net Friendly Society benefit, to be deducted. Cases in which members of household are working to be considered specially.

Children - From 3 to 6 years of age - Clothing value 10s and pair of boots; from 7 to 10 years - Clothing value 15s and pair of boots; from 11 to 13 years - Clothing value 20s and pair of boots. Maximum clothing allowances, £5 per family, and children two pairs of boots each year.

Adult Poor - £1 per annum for boots or clothing

No clothing to be granted for the first four months of chargeability.

Eight new applications for relief were then dealt with.

Of the 21 widows' claims allowed, 10 had ceased to be chargeable to the Parish Council, and 11 had had their aliment reduced, and of the five orphans' claims allowed, all had ceased to be chargeable to the parish.

On those claims already settled, it will mean a drop of £18 on the weekly aliment bill of the Council.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1926.
LOCHGELLY'S DISTINGUISHED SON.

"ENGINEERING" ON THE LATE PROFESSOR ANDREW GRAY.

An excerpt from "Engineering" has been sent to us by Mr D. Maxwell Bruce, a Lochgelly man, who holds an important appointment of electrical engineer for the city of Hull, which gives some notes on the late Professor Gray, whose career was referred to in these columns at the time of his death.

"Professor Andrew Gray, who died at Glasgow on Saturday, 10th October, 1925, came early under the personal influence of William Thomson, Lord Kelvin, Professor of Natural Philosophy at Glasgow and worked there most of his life as pupil, secretary, assistant, and, finally, successor of Kelvin.

Andrew Gray was born in 1847, the eldest son of John Gray, of Lochgelly, Fifeshire. From the subscription school of his birthplace he went, after a period of private education, to Glasgow, where he was elected Eglington Fellow in Mathematics in 1876. From 1875 to 1880 he was Thomson's private secretary, and for the following four years his official assistant. In 1884 he became Professor of Physics at the University College of North Wales. When Thomson resigned his professorship in 1899, Gray was appointed his successor, and he occupied that chair until 1923, when he retired with the title of Emeritus Professor.

His succession to man of eminence of Kelvin, who had ruled his department in the university for more than fifty years, did not in every respect facilitate his task, but it helped him carry through the large extension of the department and the erection of splendid new laboratories.

Early Service To Electrical Development.

Gray's best work was done in the early eighties, when the British Association Committee for constructing and issuing practical standards in electrical measurements took up this fundamental problem. Gray was not himself a member of this committee, but Kelvin was, and when Gray presided over Section A of the British Association in 1919 at Bournemouth, he had to record the recent deaths of two of its leaders, Carey Foster and Reyleigh. Gray's chief books were on "Absolute Measurements in Electricity and Magnetism" (1883), and on the "Theory and Practice of Measurements in Electricity and Magnetism," published in parts in 1888 and 1893, and, in a new edition, in 1921. Later he wrote a good deal on the teaching of physics, emphasising the importance of the study of dynamics in his "Dynamics and Properties of Matter" of 1901, "Treatise on Dynamics" of 1911, and in his "Gyrostatics and Rotational Motion" of 1919. In his compilation of the second book mentioned, his son, Dr J.G. Gray, himself Cargill Professor of Applied Physics at Glasgow, was his collaborator, and in the "Treatise of Bessel Functions" the late Dr G.B. Mathews. As Kelvin Memorial Lecturer at the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1915, Gray who had in 1908 published a book on the "Scientific Work of Lord Kelvin", dealt particularly with Kelvin's work on gyrostats (see "engineering," 19th February, 1915, page 207).

The chief subject of his presidential address at Bournemouth was the part that science took, or ought to have taken, in the war. Gray had suggested that the Royal Society, to which he belonged from 1876, should set up a scientific organisation especially for the shipbuilding industry of the north of the United Kingdom.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1926.

THE LATE MR ROBERT PHILP, J.P.

In our last issue we recorded the death of ex-Bailie Philp, one of our best know and most valuable citizens. He had attained the ripe age of almost eighty-nine years, and seventy of these he spent in this town.

A native of Cupar (where his remains were laid last Wednesday) he came to the then village of Lochgelly a young man of nineteen, and two years later started business on his own account as a saddler in a shop in the Main Street. Later he removed to other premises nearer the Cross and his former shop became the office of the Auchterderran Parochial Board and of the newly formed Police Commissioners, now termed the Town Council, when the burgh was formed in 1878. His business, to which he added ironmongery, prospered through his labour and method, and some thirty years ago he erected the more commodious premises further east in the Main Street, where the business is still carried on.

Lochgelly had in him one of the very best of citizens. The town indeed owes much to Robert Philp for he not only showed the example of industry and good living, but he gave his time ungrudgingly to public work. He served on the old Parochial Board and on the Town Council, covering a long number of years, and on the latter body was elevated to the bench. Shortly after the Town House was erected he presented the public clock which adorns that building besides providing a thing of utility. He was one of the founders of Lochgelly Gas Company, Limited, whose works took the place of the little private plant owned by Andrew Leitch. Mr Philp was a director of the Company, and for many years was its chairman. He was one of the founders and a trustee of the Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly Saving's Bank. He was also a trustee of the Lochgelly Parish Church, where he acted for a considerable period as Session Clerk. To these activities he gave all his leisure time; these and his garden, which he loved to cultivate.

Mr Philp was a Scotsman of a type which one likes to picture as characteristic of our race. He had such traits in his nature as made Scotsmen pre-eminent down the last century; traits which seem to be passing away, more's the pity. They seem to be getting fewer and fewer those Scots with the sturdy independence, the sense of thrift and prudence and providence; men who realised a duty, both to their fellows and their ain hearthstane.

He was spared to a long age; yet it can truthfully be said of him that not an hour was wasted. It was a full life, a useful life. No quarter was asked, but it was often given for he had a kindly and loyal heart under a somewhat austere exterior. He moved in an un-ostentatious way.

We can picture him, even then in middle age, working hard at his bench, early and late, laying down his tools to attend the front shop and returning as quickly as he

could to resume his labour at the bench. Yet he found time to keep his stock methodically with never an article out of place.

Throughout his long life he was blessed with a noble helpmeet, and to her and the members of the family we offer our sympathy. They will feel a justifiable pride in husband and father, and their grief must be tempered by thankfulness for a life so finely lived.

BEN ARTY.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1926.

GLENCRAIG.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS AND WATERSUPPLY AT SOUTH GLENCRAIG.

In a report to his Committee, Mr Riddel, District Sanitary Inspector recalls that a meeting two years ago in Glenraig Colliery Office, Mr McMeekin, general manager of the Wilson & Clyde Coal Company, undertook to have 110 houses at South Glenraig provided with water closets and inside water supply during that year; the same number last year, and complete the whole work by the month of June 1926. At the end of 1924, 126 closets and sinks had been provided, and work started on the other twenty houses. These twenty water closets and sinks were completed early last year, and contracts set for providing these conveniences to the ninety-six two storey houses.

At the end of the year the work on forty-eight houses was practically completed, except for the w.c. seats and extension of waste pipes, and the water was turned on.

This gives a total of sixty-eight for the year, being forty-two short of the number promised, but the work on the other forty-eight is well forward and will be finished shortly.

In October last Mr Riddel reminded the Company of their promise, and that ninety-two houses were due to be provided with so much by June. The house factor, Mr Hutton, has promised to push the work forward as quickly as possible. The Sanitary Inspector also reported that he had drawn the attention of the General Manager of the Company to the state of the roads adjoining their houses at both North and South Glenraig.

THE NELLIE BING.

At the Fife Education Authority meeting on Wednesday a minute showed that there was read to the Medical Inspection Committee, a report by the County Medical Officer of Health on a visit paid to the Nellie Pit bing, Lochgelly, in which the Medical Officer of Health expressed a view, that so far as he could judge, the Lochgelly Iron & Coal Company, were loyally carrying out the arrangement made about eleven months ago to remedy the nuisance.

The Clerk reported that he had sent a copy of the Medical Officer's report to Glenraig School Management Committee, which Committee had written expressing

dissatisfaction, and stating that the Rev. Mr Scanlan would give the Committee's views to the Medical Committee.

The Rev. Mr Scanlan stated that the effect of the fumes from the burning bing was particularly bad during a south-east wind, and that Glencraig School Management Committee were of the opinion that the fumes were prejudicial to the health of the children.

The Committee resolved as follows:-

(a) That the Clerk report the position to the Scottish Board of Health. (b) To recommend the Authority to approve of the closing of Glencraig School on any day which the fumes may be particularly bad. (c) That it be remitted to Rev. Mr Scanlan, Dr Smith, Dr Krause, and, if convenient, the County Medical Officer of Health, to visit the locus on a day on which the wind is blowing from the south-east., Rev. Mr Scanlan undertaking to advise when conditions are suitable. (d) That the County Medical Officer be advised of the foregoing.

GLENCRAIG EXEMPTION CASE.

At the meeting of Fife Education Authority on Wednesday the minutes of the Primary Education Committee contained a reference to a Glencraig application for exemption, which had been recommended by Glencraig School Management Committee. It was stated that the child was thirteen years of age; that the income of the household was £9 5s weekly (including wages of three sons); and that there was a family of six. Exemption was asked for on the ground that the girl was required for household duties. By five votes to four, the Primary Education Committee approved the granting of exemption.

Mr G.L. Wilson said he thought it was a clear case of this child being exploited by a family who had no financial necessity. In cases of exemption, the Authority's duty was chiefly to protect the child. This girl had not passed the qualifying examination, and it had always been the policy of those who had any desire for education that there must be a very clear case indeed before they granted exemption to a child of thirteen who had not passed the qualifying examination. If the mother, in this case, required assistance, there was sufficient money coming into the house to pay for it. The income given in the minute came to £481 per annum.

Mr Connelly, Lochore, replied that the financial factor was not the deciding factor in this case. The factor which weighed heavily with the School Management Committee was the physical condition of the mother, who was about to receive treatment in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Mr Wilson had said that they ought to be in a position to employ a servant, because they had an income of £481 a year. He ought to have said they had £4000 every ten years, and it would have made it look bigger. (Laughter). But if they divided the weekly income among the members of the household, they would find that there was not so very much for each individual.

The Rev. Mr George Scanlan, Glencraig, as Chairman of the School Management Committee, said that all the considerations mentioned by Mr Neil had come under their observation. He would like to point out to Mr Wilson that he was absolutely

wrong in coming to the decision that £9 5s a week was £481 a year. That figure of £9 5s only went back three weeks, and during all the summer before that the men at Glencraig Colliery had only been working three days a week. Their wages could not be represented by an annual amount. The greatest consideration after that was the fact mentioned by Mr Neil, that the girl was reported by the headmaster as dull, and the probability was that though she was kept at the school she would not be able to pass the qualifying examination.

On a division, the recommendation to grant exemption was carried by a large majority.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1926.

LOCHGELLY COMPENSATION CASE.

JAUNDICE IN THE PIT.
REMARKABLE EVIDENCE.

The history of an unusual disease - a form of infective jaundice - unknown in this country until a few years ago, and formerly found only in Japan and among soldiers in the trenches in France during the war was described in Dunfermline Sheriff Court on Thursday, when evidence was led in an action in which Mrs Mary Scott or Raeburn, 35 Berry Street, Lochgelly, widow of James Raeburn, Colliery Fireman, and as administratrix-in-law for her pupil sons, claims an award of £314 8s under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. The respondents are the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, Ltd. Claimant on record, stated that prior to 12th March, 1925, her husband was engaged, along with other workmen, in lifting and removing plant from certain sections of the Arthur Pit, Lochgelly. These operations included the removal of sleepers forming the roads in the workings, and the work was carried out in an accumulation of foul water, contaminated by sewage, and an atmosphere polluted by exhalations arising from the disturbance of the roads. As a result of exposure to these conditions, claimant alleges, he contracted infective jaundice. On 3rd March he became totally incapacitated for work. He was confined to bed and was under medical attention until his death on 12th March. The defenders, in their answers, maintain that Raeburn did not meet with an accident arising out of his employment.

Agent for the claimant was Mr George J. Sheriff; and for the defenders, Mr J.S. Macgregor, solicitor.

Dr Dickson's Evidence.

Dr D.L. Dickson, M.D., F.R.C.S., Lochgelly, the first witness for the claimant, said that he had been in attendance on Raeburn during the illness which terminated in his death. He had been called to see him about 4th or 5th March. His condition began with a very severe infection - apparently severe influenza - with the usual symptoms of a high temperature and a very rapid pulse. In a few days he developed jaundice. That gradually deepened, and he had haemorrhages underneath the skin and in various parts of his body, and apparently cerebral haemorrhages.

Mr Sheriff - By the time these subcutaneous haemorrhages had developed did you form an opinion as to the disease the man was suffering from ? - Yes. One has of

course, in all cases of illness under the National Health Insurance to put a label on them, and we put on the label of influenza on cases where there is no other obvious disease. By the time the other symptoms developed it was obvious that the infection was a much more severe one; a different one and more serious than typical influenza, and that it was infective jaundice, which was the cause of death. The post-mortem examination, held on 27th March, 1925, confirmed the ante-mortem diagnosis ? - Yes; all the conditions we expected to find present were present.

Previous to Raeburn's illness, had you been attending other patients who had presented symptoms of a similar character ? - Yes, I had two patients, John Reid, 14 White Street, Lochgelly, and William Arrol, 70 South Street, Lochgelly.

Did these cases, when you began your attendance about the middle of October, 1924, indicate symptoms similar to what you afterwards discovered in Raeburn's case ? - Yes; they presented exactly the same symptoms, but in a minor degree.

I think you formed the opinion that these men were suffering from the same disease ? - I reviewed my original diagnosis of influenza in these two cases as a result of Raeburn's case and the revised diagnosis in his case.

These men were both unfit for their work at the time Raeburn took ill ? - Neither of them were working at that time.

Disease Common In Japan.

What do you know of this disease ? - One saw it in France among soldiers who had been in the trenches - not to a very large extent, because the area in which I was serving was south of the area where it was more common.

Did you form the distinct opinion that Raeburn contracted the disease in the course of his work ? - I am quite definitely of that opinion.

From anything you know about Raeburn or the history of his illness, do you exclude the probability that he might have contracted it elsewhere ? - Yes; I exclude the probability.

Have you had any other cases of infective jaundice in Lochgelly ? - Not besides those mentioned.

Cross-examined by Mr Macgregor, witness said he had been in practice in Lochgelly for about 28 years, and during that time his practice had been almost entirely among miners. In all his experience in Lochgelly he had only come across three cases of infective jaundice, and these three had occurred within a few months. He did not admit that there might have been such cases in his practice before which he had not recognised at the time.

Mr Macgregor - Yet, all that time, the majority of your patients were working in pits, which, according to you, are places where you might expect to get this disease ? - No; one does not accept that. You must have a specific infection in the rats in the pit.

During that time the majority of your patients were working in places, which,

according to you, naturally lend themselves to the propagation of this disease. No; I object to that insinuation. Until you get a specific infection in the rats you may have as much dark and wet, and as many rats as you please, but you do not get the disease.

This infection of the rats is not a common condition in rats ? - Apparently not, else we would get the disease much more frequently.

Shingled Rats.

John Reid, 40 White Street, Lochgelly, who was also employed in the No. 14 Section of the Arthur Pit, stated that he took ill about the middle of April, 1924, and was off work for about six months. Raeburn worked in the same Section. On the day after Raeburn died, Dr Dickson told him that what he was troubled with was infective jaundice. No. 14 Section was very wet. There the water was stagnant, and there was a bad smell. There were plenty of rats about the section.

Were they pleasant-looking rats or otherwise, asked Mr Sheriff. The reply was - They were not very bonnie to look at.

In cross-examination, witness said that the ventilation was very fair. The section was only 30 fathoms deep, and was away from probable contamination from the surface. There were no stables in the section. They were a good bit away. The section was more infected with rats than other section.

Interrogated with regard to the appearance of the rats, witness said that some of them were very shabby looking, with the hair off them.

Probably, said Mr Macgregor, they had got shingled. (Laughter).

They might, replied the witness, amid further laughter.

Mr Macgregor - If I tell you that it was customary from time to time to poison the rats when they got too numerous, might that not have accounted for the appearance of the rats ?

Witness - It might. Nobody was in the habit of drinking the pit water in this section, the witness stated in reply to another question. Another man in the section, William Arrol, took ill at the same time as witness did.

Overrun With Rats.

Andrew Paterson, 60 Auchterderran Road, Lochgelly, who has been a contractor brusher in No. 14 Section of the Arthur Pit, described the conditions of the section as pretty bad. There were lots of stagnant water and the air was bad. The place was overrun with rats.

To a question as to whether the rats were rather unpleasant looking, the reply by the witness was that they were wild.

Witness said that nearly all the men under him complained of feeling ill. He had

heard Raeburn often complaining about being sick. Witness always warned the men against drinking pit water.

Asked, in cross-examination, if the rats were of particularly ferocious aspect, the witness replied in the affirmative. There were lots of big rats among them.

Mr Macgregor - Healthy looking specimens ?

Witness - They were ugly. Raeburn used to carry poison to keep them down. The place was overrun.

Mr Macgregor - Did you see some of them without hair ?

Witness - Yes; and without tails. I thought the tails had rotted off, and that there was some disease among them.

Alexander Lumsden, Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Lochgelly, stated that the property in Berry Street, where Raeburn resided, was a very good property and exceptionally well kept. He had not heard of any trouble with rats in the Berry Street property. There was nothing in the locality to encourage rats about the place.

The Widow's Evidence.

Mary Scott or Raeburn (43), the widow, stated that her husband had described to her the conditions under which he worked in No. 14 Section of the Arthur Pit. He had told her about the rats in the place, and he occasionally took "rodine" to the pit with him to try and keep them down. He enjoyed good health. A week before he took fatally ill he was off his work for three nights. During that week he had complained about pains in the bowels. Both Dr Dickson, Lochgelly, and Dr Tuke, Dunfermline - the latter of whom saw the patient two or three hours before he died - stated that her husband was suffering from infective jaundice. Witness had never known of rats being about her house.

Cross-examined, witness said that her husband met with a serious accident some years ago, which left him with headaches. These did not keep him off his work very often. Her husband carried his drinking water to the pit. He was very careful not to use the pit water for drinking.

Respondents' Evidence.

James Splitt, 109 South Street, Lochgelly, oversman at the Arthur Pit, stated that deceased was employed for about 19 years as a fireman at the colliery. In September, 1919, he sustained a severe injury to his head, his skull being fractured. After he resumed work, on the night shift, he was off sometimes. He said he had pains in his head, and that these culminated in copious bleedings of the nose, which, he said, relieved his headache. After it had been decided to close the pit, deceased was employed to superintend the work of removing the plant and lifting the rails. The place was properly ventilated, there being a pressure of about 1000 cubic feet of air per minute. There was no stagnant water whatever in the section. The water, which was clear, was habitually drunk by the pit ponies. The workers did not drink it. He

would not have hesitated to drink the water in necessary. There were no more rats than was customary in the section. Witness saw no special sign of disease about the rats in No. 14 Section. This was the first case of infective jaundice that he had heard of at the Arthur Colliery.

Cross-examined witness said that in order to keep the rats down in the pit the ostler periodically poisoned them. He did not think that the rats in No. 14 Section were any more loathsome than the rats in other sections. All rats were repulsive, but he had never seen them looking more repulsive through being diseased.

Conditions Satisfactory.

William Gray, manager, Little Raith Colliery, and previous manager of the Arthur Colliery, said there was no special accumulation of water about No. 14 Section, Arthur Colliery. Asked if he would have hesitated to drink the water in an emergency, witness replied that he would not have drunk it unless to save his life.

Cross-examined, witness said he had known pits where the men drank pit water, but two years ago colliery officials had been instructed to prohibit it. There was no foul smell in No. 14 Section of the Arthur Pit. He thought the means taken to keep down the rats in the section were effective.

Mr Macgregor intimated that he did not propose to call any further witnesses.

Mr Sheriff pointed out that it had been disclosed in the evidence that rats had been taken, for the purpose of examination, from No. 14 Section, and he complained that the result of that examination had not been disclosed. There must be someone who knew the result of the examination, and he submitted that it was of the greatest importance in the investigation of the case that the information should be available to the Court.

The Sheriff - What do you propose ?

Mr Sheriff replied that he proposed to ask his Lordship for a continuation, in order that he might have an opportunity of obtaining such evidence as might enable him to follow out the history of the examination which apparently had been conducted.

Mr Macgregor characterised this as a most extraordinary request. He said he did not see how Mr Sheriff could blame him if he was not bringing evidence to prove Mr Sheriff's case.

The Sheriff, having pointed out that one might draw an inference from the absence of the information sought by Mr Sheriff, said he did not think he could continue the case for the purpose asked.

The agent's debate on the case took place on Monday.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1926.
AUCHTERDERRAN.

BOWHILL GOTHENBURG.

The twenty-second annual general report of the Bowhill Public House Society, Ltd., was held in the Society's Supper Room on Saturday evening.

Mr John Duncan, Chairman, presided, and there was a good attendance of shareholders present. In moving the adoption of the balance sheet, the Chairman commented on the satisfactory position in which the Society stands at the present time. In all departments success had attended their efforts during 1925.

The bar and restaurant drawing for the year were £7,398 16s, showing a profit of £772 14s 11d.

In the restaurant department the Society holds the place of honour among other Societies in West Fife.

A highly creditable report was also submitted from the Picturedrome, where the total receipts amounted to £3, 013 2s 9d for the year.

Donations from the surplus profits, after allowing for interest on share-capital, were granted as follows: -

To each old age pensioner in the district the sum of £1, involving a probable outlay of £110 or more; the annual treat for school children, £110; Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, £50; Dunfermline and West Fife Hospital, Kirkcaldy Hospital, and Auchterderran Parish Nursing Association, £20 each; Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, £10; Bowhill and District Silver and Pipe Bands, £10; Auchterderran and District Homing Society, £10; Auchterderran Horticultural Society, £6; Bowhill Reading Room, Bowhill Institute, Bowling Club, Bowhill Quoiting Club, Auchterderran Schoolboy's Football Team, Cardenden Section Ambulance Corps, Bowhill and District Ornithological Society, Auchterderran Tennis Club, Auchterderran Curling Club, Auchterderran "Jolly Beggars" Burns Club, Auchterderran Cricket Club, Auchterderran Y.M.C.A., Dundonald Miners' Welfare Institute, and Bowhill and District Choir were each granted £5; Auchterderran Ploughing Association and Fifeshire Draughts Association, £4 each; Bowhill Plotholders Association, £3; R.S.S.P.C.C., Lochgelly Branch, £2; Bowhill Angling Society, £2; and in addition, Auchterderran Burns Club was awarded £5 for prizes in children's competition. The Society is also to provide the badges for quoiting and angling, and the sum of £2 each was set aside for the Christmas treat to inmates of Thornton Hospital and Glen Lomond Sanatorium.

A suggestion by Mr Wm. Reid that the Society should sponsor a choral union at the commencement of another session also met with unanimous approval of the shareholders.

For four vacancies on the Board of Management seven members were proposed, and

following a vote Messrs John Hutt, John Welsh, James Forrester and Thomas Seath were elected for the ensuing year. Mr John Duncan was elected Chairman, and Mr James Forrester vice-chairman for the next six months.

Mr A.B. Simpson was unanimously re-appointed secretary and hall manager, and Mr Alex. Arnott treasurer.

The hall is at present being redecorated on a lavish scale and under the able guidance of Mr A.B. Simpson, patrons are assured of comfort and pleasure at a very moderate cost.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1926.

LOCHGELLY.

FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Brigade Committee have accepted an offer from a Dundee firm to supply two firemen's axes, two firemen's waist belts, two firemen's axe pouches. two armlets, and two collapsible buckets at the total cost of £3 11s.

Lochgelly Iron & Coal Company, Ltd., has now paid over to the Council the sum of £29 3s, being sum which the Council had agreed to accept in full of claim for firemen's damaged clothing.

It was reported that the following payments had ben made by the Lochgelly Iron & Coal Company, Ltd., to members of the Fire Brigade in settlement of their respective claims for personal injuries and for damaged clothing, viz. : - Alexander Lumsden, £50; Robert Adam, £50; Andrew Adam, £50.

Zones have been fixed for the individual members of the Brigade, and it was also arranged to have six turnouts a year, on the last Saturdays in February, April, June, August, October and December.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1926.

PIT HEROES HONOURED.

INTERESTING CEREMONY IN LOCHGELLY.

On Friday night a company met at the headquarters of the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, Ltd., to witness the presentation of Carnegie Hero Trust rewards to two men who performed a signal act of bravery some months ago at Lochhead Pit of the Raith Colliery. The circumstances of their brave deeds were related at the time and will readily be recalled. A pit inspector, named Thomas Torrance, had gone into a disused part of the workings with the object of securing material to oblige some of the workmen. Foul gas was known to be present, a large portion of carbon dioxide. On his failure to return, John Mathieson, oversman, and Alex Burden, brusher, fully cognizant of the risk, entered the place, and after one failure they managed at the second attempt to bring him out. Artificial respiration was applied, but without success.

The company which met in the Counting Room, included in addition to the principal guests, representatives of the Carnegie Trust, Dunfermline, the principal officials, mining and commercial, of the Coal Company, and representative from the head office and local branches of the Fife Miners' Union. Ex-Provost Paul, a director of the Company, presided.

The Chairman, after welcoming the guests, said the officials all felt that a great honour had been conferred on the colliery by the gallant endeavour that had been made by these men to save the life of their comrade. (Applause). They were unfortunately not successful; yet they all felt that it was fitting that these men's deeds should be recognised by the Carnegie Trust. (Applause.) He then called upon the Rev. Mr Sanderson, Dunfermline, vice-convenor of the Carnegie Hero Fund.

A Fine Tribute To The Miner.

Mr Sanderson said it gave them special pleasure to be able to hand over a tangible expression of their appreciation of the acts of bravery performed by their comrades in Lochgelly. The cases that often come under their observations are often far away and the rewards had to be sent on to where the heroes dwelt, and thus they were given in a sort of second-hand way. Now that they were faced with the case which had taken place at their own doors, they felt that they would like to come out and show their personal recognition of the gallant deeds of these men. (Hear, hear.) Mr Carnegie had done munificent work for his fellows, but that which appealed to him personally was the work in connection with the Hero Fund Trust. It was a fine thing to provide baths and bandstands and institutes and other things, and he hoped they had brightened the minds and lives of the people. But the very finest idea of all was the Hero Fund. Many of the cases that came before them were acts of heroism, where, but for the Trust, would have resulted in women and children being left absolutely destitute by the loss of their gallant breadwinner, without the help that the Trust could bring. When widows and children were left in such a condition they were able to have them placed financially in as good, and sometimes even better circumstances than if the husband and father had been alive. (Applause.)

They had many cases on which they had to pass judgement. The bulk were rescues from drowning, but they had more direct cases of heroism in connection with miners than any other class in the country. There seemed to be no class of men who showed themselves more willing to risk their lives to save the life of a comrade. (Hear, hear.) The miner has never been backward in that, and it was always a joy for the Trust to do what they could in such cases.

They were there that night to recognise a courageous action.. All those present knew what that action was. What struck him most was that after they had risked their lives the first time they went again to face the danger in order that they might save a life. The whole incident must make an appeal to everyone. It certainly did to the Carnegie Trustees. They decided at once, without discussion, that it was a case they must recognise, and while happily neither Mathieson nor Burden lost their lives, and there are no dependants, they thought it right to give tangible recognition. They decided to present to each something they could hang up and hand over to their children as heirlooms, their honorary certificates, and, over and above that, they decided to give

them something that appealed to everyone of us, whether miner or minister - (laughter) - and that was to be a cheque for £20. And so he took great pleasure in handing over these tokens of appreciation to each of these gallant men. (Loud applause.)

Mr Mathieson and Mr Burden were each heartily cheered on accepting the gifts. Mr Mathieson, who is an ex-policeman and a native of Lochgelly, in replying on behalf of Mr Burden and himself, thanked the Carnegie Trust for their recognition. He could assure them that they both did everything in a very prompt manner. The moment they had got him out they tried artificial respiration and continued for about forty minutes, and did everything that was possible to bring the man round. I had every confidence in myself, and it was very disappointing not being able to do it. We failed, but we had carried on as long as there was a possibility. (Loud applause.)

Mr Hynd, Dunfermline, a member of the Carnegie Trust, in the course of some remarks, said that he was highly pleased to hear the fine tribute paid to miners by Mr Sanderson. To succour their comrades has always been a credit to the miners from time immemorial, and he hoped that tradition would always be maintained. (Hear, hear.) All his life he had been associated with coal mining, and he was delighted to see the miners recognised, especially at their own door, for they had in Fife a superior class of miner. The Fife miner had always been famed for being straightforward, good steady honest workmen, and I think that reputation is still being maintained. (Hear, hear.) Last year ten cases in connection with mining came before the Carnegie Trust and, of these, nine were awarded recognition.

The Chairman remarked that the father of Mr Hynd was at one time an official in the colliery where their two friends had performed their brave deed.

Mr James Robertson, agent of the Miners' Union, said Mr Adamson would have been present but for his Parliamentary duties in London. He made some interesting remarks, in the course of which he said that, at the Fatal Accident Inquiry, their two friends said nothing about their acts of heroism. They were typical Fife miners, who did a thing and said nothing about it. (Applause.) He knew, from long experience, that in the moment of danger a miner does not think of himself. It was a case of what can I do to save my comrade, and they risk their lives, and many lose their lives, in endeavouring to save others. He went on to relate in detail all the circumstances connected with the incident.

Mr Peter Henderson, general manager of the Company, said it gave them all the greatest satisfaction to know that they had men ready at any time to look after the safety of those in the pit. He felt proud of the recognition that had been given their two friends. The only regret was that they did not meet with the success that their heroic efforts deserved. (Applause.)

Mr Hugh McFarlane, Chairman of the Lochgelly Branch of the Miners' Union, and the representative of the Raith Branch, also spoke, and expressed the feelings of their fellow-workers that what Mathieson and Burden did had been so suitably recognised. (Applause.)

Mr Storie, commercial manager, and Mr John Gray, agent at the Raith Colliery, added

a tribute of congratulation. The latter said he was very proud of the fact that both men had been engaged by him.

The proceedings throughout were well worthy the occasion.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1926.
COWDENBEATH TOWN COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of Cowdenbeath Town Council was held last Thursday, Provost Russell presided, and the other members present were:- Bailies Hogg, Canavan, Sheddon, and Blamey. Hon. Treasurer King, Police Judge Walker, Dean of Guild Young, and Councillors Leslie, Slora, Primmer and Duncan.

FINES.

The Town Clerk reported that twenty-nine cases had been dealt with during the month of February and £16 17s 6d paid in fines, showing a decrease of 5 cases and an increase of £8 3s in fines compared with corresponding month last year.

WATER DEPARTMENT.

Mr C. Alexander, in his report, stated that there was an overflow of water at Roscobie and Loch Glow reservoirs. The total quantity supplied to the burgh this month being 19,260,500 gallons. The daily consumption for domestic purposes was 679,684 gallons, which is equal to 37.76 gallons per head daily.

INSPECTION OF FITTINGS.

During the month 1770 fittings were examined and 36 found to be defective.

PIPE SCRAPING.

The Council granted Mr Alexander permission to carry through the annual scraping of Roscobie mains as soon as circumstances permit.

BURGH SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr Alexander reported that 13 cases of infectious disease had been notified during the month, compared with 21 for month of January - of the cases referred to 7 were scarlet fever. There are at present 16 cases in Hospital under treatment.

HOUSING SCHEME.

Satisfactory progress is being made with the two schemes of 52 and 48 houses respectively.

DEFECTIVE PROPERTY.

Authority was granted to the Burgh Surveyor to serve notices on certain property

owners or occupiers, whose property was in a bad state of repair.

NURSING SERVICES.

Bailie Blamey reported that he had attended a conference at which the following representative were present:- Provost Russell, Bailie Hogg, Councillors Slora and Primmer, The Countess of Elgin, Miss Carnegie, Mrs W. Watson, and Mr Robert Small, representing Fife County Nursing Association. The suggestion before the conference was that the local Public Health Authority should combine with the Nursing Association in preparing a scheme whereby two or three nurses would be appointed to undertake general nursing, maternity and child welfare work for the Burgh. The local Authority to pay an annual sum in lieu of work done under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, it being understood that arrangements would be made to continue the service of the Health Visitor. At the close of the conference, the Convener stated that the whole subject would be dealt with by the Town Council, when a report to the conference was submitted.

Hon. Treas. King - Are we to understand from this conference report that we are to hand over the Health Visitor to the Central Authority, having no further control of her services, and, at the same time, we are asked to contribute for such services ?

Bailie Blamey - The Town Council are not committed in any way. We had a very free and frank discussion at the conference.

Provost Russell - I can assure Hon. Treas. King that we put our views before the conference as to the retaining of the Health Visitor.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Police Judge Walker reported that the Committee were moving very cautiously in this matter. He hoped the members of the Council didn't think his Committee were sleeping. As a large sum of money is involved in this scheme, they were taking expert advice as to the most satisfactory way of solving the problem of sewage disposal, with a view to secure an adequate and permanent being

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1926.

DENEND OLD HOUSES.

QUESTION OF REPAIR, RECONSTRUCTION, OR DEMOLITION.

The old houses overlooking the Den, built by the Denend Coal Company, and now taken over by the Fife Coal Company, are now in such a condition that the question has arisen of demolition. The Fife Coal Company do not consider that they can be reconstructed on an economical basis, and asked the Kirkcaldy District Committee to pass a closing order.

The Committee asked the Medical Officer of Health for the County (Dr Yule) to report on the question of whether they could be repaired without reconstruction, and the following is his report:-

"A Wee Keek Back

I visited the Old Rows at Denend in conjunction with Inspector Riddle on 3rd inst. Messrs Bird and Cook of the District Committee accompanied us in our inspection.

The East Row, which is again occupied after reconstruction, whereby the number of houses was diminished, part of the accommodation being utilised in the provision of a scullery (with sink), wash-tub, (and boiler), larder, and water closet, was inspected.

The number of houses in the remaining Rows is as follows:- South Row, 8; Long Row, 22; Short Row, 4; Mathieson's Row, 4; Office Row, 5; and Brick Row, 5 - about 48 in all. These houses are not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation in terms of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1925.

The Rows at Denend vary in age and condition of structure. It would appear that Long Row is the most recent in construction, and was probably built about 45-50 years ago.

In my opinion the Brick Row, Mathieson's Row, and Short Row may reasonably be condemned and closed as unfit for human habitation.

The Office Row is built into the ground behind, but in structure is substantial, and I think that, with the excavation of an air drain round the houses where the earth encroaches above floor level, reasonable repair, remedial measures for the dampness of the walls, and the furnishing of suitable water-carriage fitments to render the houses more tolerable consonant with latter-day requirements - bearing in mind that the Row is primitive in type, these houses would be perfectly fit for habitation, and it seems to me that no part of the work entailed could be interpreted as implying reconstruction.

The Long Row, apparently the most recently built, is also of sound and substantial construction, the walls (about 20 inches thick) being mostly well pointed and in good condition. The roofs also appear well slated, water-tight, and show, so far as I have observed, no sign of failure. The houses have no conveniences of any kind. With internal repair and renovation, removal of earth where it encroaches to some extent on the external walls, suitable provision for removal and drainage of stormwater and appropriate water-carriage fitments, the several blocks of this row of houses would prove in all respects fit for habitation for many years to come.

South Row - Of this row of houses I am doubtful whether they would not be better closed, and would like to visit them again before framing a final opinion. In this row are certain apartments which are ill-ventilated, and additional window-lighting area would be necessary to render these apartments reasonably habitable.

I don't not know how the word "reconstruction" in the proviso to Section 3 (1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1925, is defined or interpreted. The word would seem to connote radical interference with the internal structure, main walls, and roof of a house. I should not interpret "reconstruction" as including necessary renovation for wear and tear, remedial measures for damp walls (such as lining by lath and plaster or other means), and the addition of water-supply within the house, water closet, and such wash-house accommodation as is necessary to bring the dwelling into reasonable

semblance of approach to present-day statutory requirements.

I am not aware whether, if these houses were condemned and closed, the Fife Coal Company would forthwith utilise the site (and I understand that it is essentially a stable site) for the construction of an appropriate number of new houses. Otherwise, with the prevalence of sub-letting of single rooms as one apartment houses in the Cardenden area, I am of opinion that it would prove inexpedient for the District Committee to permit these houses to become derelict on the plea that they cannot be repaired without "reconstruction". - I am, yours faithfully,

G. PRATT YULE,
M.O.H., Fife County.

After consideration the Clerk was instructed to send a copy of the report to the Fife Coal Company, Limited, and ask them whether they were prepared to carry out the work required to put the houses at Long Row and Office Row into a reasonable state of repair, intimating at the same time that the Medical Officer of Health would be prepared to meet their architect and discuss with him the question of necessary repairs. It was further resolved in the event of the Company not agreeing to this proposal to recommend the District Committee to have a specification of the work required to make the houses in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation prepared and to serve a notice upon the Company requiring them to carry out these improvements in terms of Section 3 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1925, within a period of three months from date of notice. It was further agreed to recommend the District Committee to make closing orders in respect of the houses at Brick Row, Mathieson's Row, and Short Row.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1926.

MR ADAMSON'S TALK TO LOCHGELLY MINERS.

THE MINING CRISIS - DIFFERENCES NARROWED DOWN.

ADVICE TO THE MEN

A meeting of the Lochgelly branch of the Fife Miners' Association was held in the Co-operative Hall on Sunday afternoon. Mr Hugh McFarlane presided, and the Rt. Hon. Wm. Adamson, M.P., and Mr Jas. Cook, the secretaries of the Union. were present, and addressed the meeting.

Mr Cook gave a long detailed report of the various conferences they had attended in London on the present crisis, and he also explained very fully and clearly the various clauses of the Commission's report.

Mr Adamson, who obviously spoke with a feeling of deep responsibility, said he would try to focus his remarks on the situation that had developed since the report of the Commission was issued. The report was, of course, the outcome of the crisis of July last year when everyone thought there would be a stoppage of the coal trade. In that report they would find that the Commission then set up by the Prime Minister, had made a thorough examination into the conditions that applied to the coal trade.

OTHER MOTIVE POWER.

They knew that the same difficulties that faced them in this country existed in all the coal producing countries of the world. These difficulties had been brought about pretty much by the changed conditions. We live, he proceeded, in an ever-changing world, and some very big changes had taken place within recent years. We don't require to go far back to the time when we were supplying the world with its motive power. That has changed to a considerable extent. The world to-day is getting its motive power from a number of different sources. There was oil, and we had only to look to our own streets and highways to see the motor transport running without a single ounce of coal. Again, all over the world we have motive power being got from water, water that had been running waste for centuries, and which was now being harnessed for electricity. There are others methods too in treating coal that means considerable saving in its handling.

COAL TRADE IS NOT DONE.

Now the first thought is "if such is the position the coal trade is done". Frankly, I don't agree with the idea that the coal trade is done. Notwithstanding the competition of oil and water and other things, I believe that if wisdom and statesmanship is applied to the mining industry, our industry can, to a considerable extent, recover its former position. Only, the industry will have to be handled and reorganised and put in a position to make us able to supply our customers with motive power in the form in which they want it. And I hope all whose interests are centred in the industry are going to do everything in their power to force on the reorganisation. It won't matter whether it's nationalised or remains in private hands unless it is reorganised.

FORCE REORGANISATION.

I believe we can get as good results as in the past by the application of wisdom and statesmanship, and my appeal to you is that everyone of us be up and doing and force the reorganisation of the industry. Men who won't do it must step aside. (Applause.)

The Commission's report, he proceeded, was not long issued when the Prime Minister called the two parties together. He said in effect we, the Government, have carefully examined this report and while there are things in it that don't appeal very much to us, as a Government, we are prepared to give legislative effect to the report on condition both sides are willing to accept it in the same spirit. The research work needed and the reorganisation will cost money, but the Government are willing to shoulder a fair amount of it. He also said in effect that he would be prepared to give something to enable the two parties to taper off the readjustment of wages for a bit.

THE ISSUE NARROWED DOWN.

The two parties have met and discussed the question - and disagreed. Things have come to a deadlock. The miners have specifically stated what their position is - that there's to be no reduction in wages; no increase of hours; and that wages are to be treated on a National and not on the district basis they proposed. This is the mind of your Executive, and will be endorsed to-morrow by the Scottish Miners' Federation.

The coalowners have said there will require to be a reduction in wages. They have said in effect that the condition of the trade is that a large proportion of the coal produced in this country, if you cut away the subsidy, is being produced at a loss. We can't agree to reduction. (Hear, hear).

With regard to hours they said, we are not going to press the question of increasing hours. They said we would, however, like you to examine the question with regard to the minimum and percentage they wanted to arrange district by district. You see the position that arose, a deadlock.

Immediately that had taken place the Trade Union Congress, who had been acting in conformity with our people all through, decided to send a deputation to the Prime Minister. As a result of that meeting the Prime Minister again summoned a meeting of the Executive of the Miners' Federation, got their views and said he would call a another meeting of the owners. That meeting would take place within a few hours. Mr Baldwin also said to our representatives to be in London in the early part of the week because he wanted to be in close touch with us.

THE LAST LAP.

This brings us right up to the last lap in the crisis with which we are face to face. Our agreements terminate on 30th April unless some other is arranged to take its place.

My advice to you during this last period is to wait patiently until you hear from accredited sources the necessary information. We undertake to keep you in close touch with all developments and there's only one source for you - the British Miners' Federation and the Trades' Union Congress.

No outside body, no matter how big their pretensions, will have any say in it, and when the final decision requires to be taken, it's the members of the British Miners' Federation that will take it. (Loud applause.)

Don't be upset, he proceeded, by rumours that will be hawked about. The older men know from past experience that at a time like this rumours and counter rumours fly about. Don't be upset by them. You will be kept in close touch, and when the final decision is taken you men will get it first hand. You are the men and women to whom that knowledge will be passed. It's just possible that in the rush that takes place within the next ten days, I may not be able to come to Lochgelly as I would have liked.

IF THE WORST HAPPENS.

If the worst comes to the worst and there's to be a stoppage, as I earnestly hope against - I never prayed more earnestly that we may be able to avert it - I know the consequences. I know all the elements that are present here. But if we can't avert a stoppage I am going to say to you that the looking after our folks will be handled again by our own organisation, and nobody else. (Hear, hear.) We will make the effort to meet the interests of our people.

Don't let us be caught by any fancy scheme that may be presented to us - we have had

our lessons in the past. (Loud applause.)

A few questions were asked and answered.

BLACK FRIDAY.

In reply to one Mr Adamson said there had been close co-operation between the Trades' Union Congress and our people right up till now. As far as one can see they mean to stand by the miners.

Another questioner said there were individuals with grievances in the pits and direct action took place. He drew an analogy between such action and district agreements.

LOCAL "LIGHTNING" STRIKES.

Mr Adamson said if they were going to have national agreements the whole of the coalfield is expected to be in agreement with the terms of that agreement. It might be that here and there some men may not be making the wages provided by that agreement. In that case it was the duty of such men to immediately get in touch with their local committee. These things could be dealt with without the pits being thrown idle, without a lightning strike. Some men think that lightning strikes are more effective. I don't agree with that. I have always taken the line that you can get a difference that has arisen settled with the men working as well as with the men idle. I have always said with regard to strikes that we should make it the last weapon and not the first. (Hear, hear.)

Throughout Mr Adamson's remarks were followed with close interest.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1926.

THE MINING CRISIS.

DESPERATE EFFORTS TO AVOID CATASTROPHE.

At a late hour on Monday night it was announced that the Industrial Committee of the T.U.C. had placed before the Prime Minister the question of continuing coal negotiations on a national basis. The Prime Minister informed the trade union leaders that the coalowners were considering certain views he had placed before them.

This announcement was made at the end of a series of meetings and discussions which took place on Monday. The feature of the day's negotiations was the intervention of the T.U.C. Industrial Committee, to which have been added Mr Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., and Mr Arthur Henderson, M.P.

The negotiations began at noon, when the T.U.C. Committee met the Premier at Downing Street. Subsequently the committee and the Miners' Executive met separately and jointly at the House of Commons on Monday evening at the same time as Mr Baldwin was conferring with the owners also at the House. The outcome of these meetings was that the T.U.C. again met the Prime Minister.

Bills were posted up at the various collieries in Scotland on Monday by the coalowners terminating the existing agreement and explaining the wages to be paid as

from May 1.

COALOWNERS INTIMATE NEW CONDITIONS.
REDUCTION OF 1s 10d PER SHIFT.

Bills were posted up at the various collieries in Scotland on Monday by the coalowners explaining the wages to be paid to miners, underground workers, and surface workers, as from May 1. The recommendation of the Coalowners' Committee is that the wages to be paid during May will be at a minimum percentage of 87.5 above the 1888 basis (i.e., a nominal wage in Lanarkshire of 7s 6d per shift for a miner). This means in Scotland a reduction of 1s 10d per shift on the present rates. The notices are in the following terms:-

"NOTICE"

"As the Coalowners' Agreement with the Government, dated August 6, 1925, will come to an end on April 30, 1926, notice is hereby given that all contracts of service with this Company will terminate on the same date - viz., April 30, 1926.

This Colliery will be open for work on and after May 1 on terms and conditions which will be posted up before that date."

THE NEW CONTRACT.

The terms and conditions are contained in the subjoined notice:-

"The Coalowners' Agreement with the Government, dated, August 6, 1925, terminates on April 30, 1926, and due notice having been given at this colliery of the termination of all contracts of employment, intimation is now made of the wages that will be paid at this colliery during the month of May, 1926.

The wages of miners and underground workers at this colliery for the month of May, 1926, will be at the minimum percentage of 87.5 above the 1888 basis.

The wages of surface workers will be adjusted according to the usual practice in keeping with the percentage payable to piece workers.

All able-bodied male day-wage workers, underground and surface, of 21 years of age and over will be paid not less than 5s 3d per shift. By way of subsistence allowance there will be added such an amount as will bring wages up to 6s 9d per shift, subject to the maximum addition of 9d per shift.

Arrangements in regard to male day-wage workers under 21 years of age and all female workers will be adjusted in relation to the foregoing conditions.

If the 7 Hours Act were repealed and an 8 Hours' day adopted, then the minimum percentage of 87.5 would be increased to 112.5."

MR COOK'S HINT.

Mr A.J. Cook's, the miners' secretary, stated on Monday:-

"I am equally confident that no solution to the present situation will be found unless the Government is courageous enough to compel the owners to withdraw immediately their pit-head notices, and to permit time to be given for consideration of a new wage agreement.

Our delegate conference which is meeting on Wednesday will meet in the atmosphere of no compromise on the three basic questions on which they have taken the views of the men.

The conference comes to London with no mandate, and its duty will only be to hear the Executive's report and to supply reports from the districts.

The delay which has arisen is not of the miners seeking and while I am convinced that a settlement can be reached by a straight return to the Commission's proposals, and from them to a discussion on the basis of a national agreement. I see absolutely no hope of getting the miners to work after Friday on the terms posted by the Mineowners."

"SAFETY MEN" DEFINE THEIR ATTITUDE.

MEN ADVISED TO REMAIN AT WORK.

The attitude of the "safety men" in the event of a coal stoppage was discussed at a conference of the General Federation of Colliery Examiners and Deputies' Association of Great Britain held in London on Saturday.

The following resolutions were passed:-

"In the event of committees being set up at the mines to arrange as to who shall carry on as safety men, we advise our members to refrain from taking up positions on these conditions.

That in the event of a stoppage of work in the mines, and on condition that the existing rates of wages and conditions remain unaltered, we advise the members of the affiliated associations to remain at work when or where required to maintain the mines in a safe condition, but not to assist in the production or manipulation of coal for sale".

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1926.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

The "Times" this week is not so complete with local news as usual, the consequence of the general strike order affecting our staff. Our employees, in accordance with instructions from the Typographical Association, received by wire on

Monday afternoon, have ceased work. They volunteered however to carry on until the last minute and up until midnight they did all they possibly could to get the work forward to enable us to carry through the publication. Such work as has followed, some typesetting, the making-up, and putting through the press has been accomplished by ourselves.

We wish to publicly thank our staff for their assistance. They have shown their loyalty to their Trade Union order and at the same time they put forth their very best efforts to make it possible to give the people the service of their local news.

GENERAL STRIKE.

At midnight on Monday the general strike ordered by the Trades Union Congress commenced.

As far as is known all the trades embraced in the order to come out have done so.

There was no train service on Tuesday morning and those who travel by rail to their work had to return to their homes. This also applied to the tramcar and bus service.

At the Post Office no mails came in the morning but we were informed that there would be a delivery about seven o'clock on Tuesday evening.

The only daily newspaper to arrive to time was "The Scotsman". Its a non-union office. Later in the forenoon the Dundee papers arrived.

The district is quite and nothing of an untoward nature has occurred.

THE COAL STOPPAGE. A SERIOUS CRISIS.

One has to go back to the early days of the franchise and the Corn Laws to find a parallel to the situation that faced the country yesterday.

The negotiation for a settlement of the miners' wages and conditions' dispute definitely broke down on Friday night, and work in the mines stopped at midnight. The safety men, however, on this occasion are on duty.

Over the week-end it was hoped that some way would be found to solve the deadlock.

The Trades Union Congress practically took over the negotiations, and it was between them and the Cabinet that discussions were continued on Saturday and Sunday. In the early hours of Monday the protracted negotiation failed, and the parties separated without a bases for negotiations being reached.

The negotiations did not cease with the dispersal of the Cabinet, however. Discussions continued at No. 10 between Mr Baldwin and the representatives of the T.U.C., the Negotiating Committee, and the miners, with Mr J.H. Thomas and Mr Arthur Pugh acting as intermediaries between the Prime Minister and the miners.

The Government declared constitutional rights had been challenged, and no negotiations could proceed until Trade Unions withdraw instructions for a general

strike.

THE TRADES UNION CALL A GENERAL STRIKE.

The Trade Union Conference in London on Saturday decided to call what is virtually a general strike, as from midnight on Monday night, unless a settlement of the mining dispute had been reached before then.

A state of national emergency has been proclaimed.

Discussions between the Prime Minister and the Trades Union Congress General Council, which has taken charge of the dispute, were proceeding at a late hour on Sunday night. The T.U.C. representatives are believed to have stated that if resumed negotiations in the coal industry are in immediate prospect before midnight on Monday the threat will not be carried out.

The General Council state that an honourable settlement is still possible if the Government withdraw their demand for an undertaking from the miners leaders to consent in advance of negotiations to a reduction in wages, and if the owners notices were withdrawn.

INDUSTRIES CALLED OUT.

The industries in which the workers have been called out in the event of the strike proceeding, include:-

Transport - Railways, Sea and Air; Printing Trades, including the Press; Iron and Steel; Metal and Heavy Chemicals Group; Building Trades (except workers engaged on Housing and Hospital work); Electricity and Gas.

The Unions intend to maintain by voluntary arrangements the distribution of food-stuffs.

Arrangements made thus far in the envisaging of a national strike are considered absolutely satisfactory. Food conditions are described as normal, and it is declared that there is no need for public anxiety.

The Board of Trade have made emergency directions governing the distribution and use of fuel in order that available supplies may be conserved.

MR WM. WATSON, M.P., ON THE CRISIS.

Mr William M. Watson, M.P., for Dunfermline Burghs, speaking at Dalkeith on Sunday evening, appealed to the mine-workers to stand solidly behind their leaders, who were dealing with the most difficult conditions ever experienced.

The miners, he declared, were not having any eight hours, and with wages reduced to 7s 6d a day.

They had a Prime Minister who asked for peace and goodwill, but he had to realise that the British Miners Federation had to be treated decently. He expected Mr Baldwin to be taken to task in the House of Commons to-day for his conduct in the negotiation.

Mr J. Fotheringham, Lanarkshire, also addressed the gathering.

30,000 MEN CEASE WORK IN FIFE.

Apart from the Safety Men all workers at, or in the mines, ceased work on Friday night. As far as is known there was no effort on the part of any others to carry on, and this dispensed with any need for picketing though a watchful eye was kept on the pits in some parts.

It was hoped up till the last moment that a settlement would be arrived at, but this did not mature.

There was little of the excitement that existed on the eve of the stoppage of 1921, and there is no doubt but practically unanimity exists among the men not to accept the new conditions offered.

Friday was pay day, and no issue of strike benefit will be made for a week.

During the week-end motor vans were busy removing stores of explosives such as gelignite and detonators from the various collieries to the ordnance depot at Crombie, near Rosyth Dockyard. These vehicles were touring the district until late on Saturday night and they were again early on Sunday morning.

From the commencement everything has been quiet. The men who are at work in addition to the officials are attending to the pumps below ground, the boiler firemen, those who have charge of the pit ponies and, of course, the winding enginemen. Tickets have been issued to all these men engaged in safety work so that they can prove their position if challenged.

Not a great deal of coal is now lying about. The stocks were pretty well cleared out by Friday night.

During the week-end meetings were held in Lochgelly, Cowdenbeath, Kelty, and other places at which resolutions were passed reaffirming the position they had taken not to accept the terms offered.

Mr Wm. Adamson, M.P., and Mr Wm. Watson. M.P., were expected to speak at Kelty, but as they had other business on hand, the meeting dispersed.

While many have brought up their graith a considerable amount is still below ground.

EXPORTS STOPPED AT BURNTISLAND.

Consequent on the coal stoppage, the export of coal from Burntisland Harbour was stopped on Saturday.

Vessels arriving are meantime to be detained in the roadstead, no admission being given to the docks.

T.U.C. MANIFESTO.
REASONS FOR GENERAL STRIKE THREAT.

"HONOURABLE SETTLEMENT STILL POSSIBLE".

The General Council of the Trades Union Congress issued the following manifesto:-

The prolonged efforts of the Trades Union Congress General Council and the Miners' Federation have failed to effect a satisfactory settlement of the mining dispute. A situation of the utmost gravity has been produced by the action of the Mineowners in locking out more than a million mineworkers, and by the failure of the Government to make any acceptable proposals to enable the industry to continue without any further degradation of the standards of life and labour in the coalfields pending reorganisation.

The General Council, with the full approval and co-operation of the accredited representatives of the trade unions, has been compelled to organise united resistance to the attempt to enforce a settlement of the mining problem at the expense of the mineworker's wages.

At the special conference of trade union executives on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday last measures were taken by the General Council to bring about a stoppage of work in the transport services, the printing trades, and certain productive industries. Unless a settlement which the representatives of the Trades Union Congress can recommend the miners to accept is reached before midnight on Monday, workers in these essential industries and services will be withdrawn. The trade unions disclaim all responsibility for the calamity that now threatens. Their action is not directed against the public. Responsibility for the consequences that must inevitably follow a general cessation of work lies with the Mineowners and the Government entirely. No proposals for a national settlement of the mining problem were made by the Mineowners until within a few hours of the time fixed for the expiration of the lock-out notices, and after thousands of men had already left the mines under such notices.

By their refusal to require a withdrawal of these notices to enable negotiations to continue, except upon the condition that the mineworkers agree in advance to accept wage reductions, the Government made it impossible for the representatives of the Trade Unions to effect an honourable settlement. Throughout the crisis, and especially in the latter stages of negotiations, the Trade Unions representatives appealed strongly to the Government for more time to discuss a possible basis of a settlement. The miners representatives at the same time emphatically declared their willingness to consider any proposals for a national settlement made either by the Mineowners or the Government.

Conditions For Negotiations.

All attempts to reach an understanding based on acceptance of the Commission's proposals for the drastic reorganisation of the mining industry were frustrated by the Government's attitude as to free and unfettered discussion thereon. Even now, with a general stoppage of transport and productive industry within sight, the Trade Union

representatives believe that an honourable settlement can be reached. But it is in their view absolutely essential that the demand of the Government for an undertaking from the miners' leaders to consent in advance of negotiations to a reduction of wages must be withdrawn, and the notices must also be withdrawn to allow negotiations to proceed without the issue being prejudged.

Having regard to the earnest efforts that have been made, and the readiness of the workers representatives to discuss the report in its entirety, there is no shadow of reason why the miners should be locked out or the grave decision of a general stoppage should be allowed to take effect. If it does, then it must be repeated emphatically that the responsibility will lie with the Government and the Mineowners.

LAW AND ORDER. HOME OFFICE WARNING.

MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLIES.

The following notification by the Home Secretary, and issued from the Deputy Chief Civil Commissioner's Office, was made:-

Although discussions are still proceeding, in view of the action of the Trades Union Congress, the country must be prepared for a general strike in many industries and public services. The Government has taken all steps to maintain the supply of food, fuel, light and power, the protection of all engaged in these services, and for the preservation of law and order. Recruiting stations for volunteers will be opened on Monday and loyal citizens should hold themselves in readiness to assist the Government. In the event of any difficulty occurring in finding the right office, inquiries should be made at the nearest police station.

COMMITTEES FOR FOOD SUPPLY.

At the meeting, arrangements were provisionally made for arranging the food supply, &C., to the workers and their families, and to that end Committees were appointed.

MINERS' EXECUTIVE BACK IN LONDON. MR COOK ON LABOUR'S GREATEST EFFORT.

Members of the National Executive of the Miners' Federation began to assemble early on Monday at the London headquarters, in response to telegrams sent asking them to attend a specially summoned emergency meeting.

Interviewed prior to the meeting, Mr Cook said :- "The miners are locked out and are denied the right of a living wage. The last proposals received were from the Prime Minister with reduction in wages and longer hours. The whole Trades Union movement will prove to the Government the solidarity of Labour. This is Labour's greatest effort to protect the great mining community. We asked for peace and bread. The Government and coalowners are determined to give us a stone".

Crowds of people evinced keen interest in the comings and goings of Ministers to Downing Street. Sir William Bull, one of the Civil Commissioners, spent some time at the Government Whip's Office, and Sir Maurice Hankey, Secretary of the Cabinet, was in consultation with the Prime Minister. The police were kept busy directing men

and women to O.M.S. recruiting officers.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1926.

LOCHGELLY.

FEEDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The feeding of children in necessitous circumstances has been going on at the schools for a fortnight. There is a cook-house at each of the four schools. Last week the School Management Committee were faced with an unexpected situation in view of a circular from the Education Authority, which we published in our last issue. They put the onus of dealing with necessitous cases on the Parish Council. The latter, however, decided not to accept that liability, and the School Management Committee unanimously decided to carry on as they had been doing. A discussion took place on the matter at a meeting on Friday in Lochgelly of the Area Committee of the Authority, which comprises the members in Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly, Kelty, Auchterderran, Glencraig, and Lochore districts. A satisfactory understanding was arrived at. To keep themselves right with the legal aspect, Lochgelly School Management Committee summoned the parents and guardians who had made application to a meeting in the East School on Saturday afternoon, and about 400 people were interviewed. In three cases the applications were withdrawn owing to changed circumstances. In other cases the Clerk pointed out that on some forms a complete return of income had not been given. While such cases, as it happened, were not affected in the granting of meals, it was in the interest of the applicants themselves that full information should be given when they signed their name to the form.

The following is the return of children being served at the various schools up till the end of last week:-

Higher Grade (East School) 243

West School 155

South School 274

St Patrick's School 220

In addition to these, 244 cards have been issued by the Town Council for the feeding of children from two to five years of age, and their rations are also dealt with at the four centres most convenient to the applicants.

GUNS NOT WANTED.

The old guns in the Public Park were ordered to be removed by the Town Council. They were understood to be trophies of the Great War.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1926.

WEAVERS' RIOTS AND MINER' STRIKES 80 YEARS AGO.

INTERESTING WEST FIFE REMINISCENCES.

The following article is framed on the report of a West Fife newspaper, the "Dunfermline Monthly Advertiser", for the years 1841 and 1849. We are indebted to

the "Dunfermline Press" for its reproduction.

Particularly interesting at the present time when trade disputes loom so large in the public eye, is a report in the issue for November, 1845, of the trial in the High Court of Justiciary of three weavers, charged with mobbing and rioting, assault, and wilful fire-raising. The offences were committed in Dunfermline on 13th August of that year, when, according to the indictment, "the prisoners formed part of a mob who assembled in a riotous and tumultuous manner, and (1) did strike James Smith Donaldson, the Provost, to the effusion of his blood, and David Birrell, one of the Bailies of Dunfermline, who was thereby severely injured; and (2) attacked the dwelling-house of Thomas Alexander, manufacturer, in Abbey Place, and the warehouses in Canmore Street occupied by Messrs J & T Alexander; and (3) proceeded to Balmule, to the dwelling-house of James Alexander, and attacked it and two other building already mentioned with sticks, stones and other missiles, and broke the windows of the same, and also set fire to the house at Balmule.

The principle Crown witness was the Provost, who gave a graphic description of his adventures with the mob in New Row, where stones were "flying thick around." Struck several times with a stick, he was eventually surrounded by the mob and was rendered unconscious by a blow on the back of the head.

"Low wages", was the complaint of the weavers, according to the evidence of Bailie Birrell. His advice to them to go home was ignored. It was obviously impossible for the police force - consisting of a superintendent and three constables - to handle the situation, and the "military" were sent for.

The observations of the Lord Justice Clerk and counsel for the defence were singularly appropriate to the disorders which occurred during the general strike. Counsel for the defence "took the liberty of saying that to the weavers and the class to which they belong, violence, riot and tumult are always ruinous. Every disorganisation of society tells most severely on the working classes, who suffer even more than those whose property was injured, for the violation of Public Law and public peace disturbs the calm and clear atmosphere in which alone their industry can prosper, and the destruction of their employers' property impairs those resources from which alone their industry can be remunerated".

The Lord Justice Clerk, in pronouncing sentence, "enforced with great emphasis the earnestness the danger and crime of attempting, by violence or turbulence, to effect the rise in wages. Peaceful combination for their own protection was legal, but all violence, whether against employers or against fellow-workmen who are willing to take lower wages, is highly criminal. There is no tyranny more intolerable".

The serious view which was taken of such disturbances in these "good old days" may be gathered from the sentences imposed. One of the prisoners, found guilty of mobbing, rioting and assault, was sentenced to transportation for seven years; while his companions, against whom the charges of assault were found not proven, were sent to prison for twelve months.

"LOOK TO YOUR COAL CELLARS".

Under this heading, the following prophetic paragraph appeared in the issue for February, 1854:-

"We throw out this hint to the thrifty housewives of the town, in order that they may immediately lay in a stock of the black diamond, if need be, as there are at present rumours and apprehensions of a strike among the colliers for a rise in wages. All the coal hills are nearly bare, so that an increase of price will necessarily take place if the works stop. We trust this will be averted, as the spring trade will be on immediately, and if vessels cannot be supplied at the first, the whole season may be lost, and thus the extensive business and advantageous connections opened up by last summer's capital trade may be destroyed, and the interests of almost all the shipping ports on the Forth seriously affected."

WHAT WAS THE SPEED LIMIT ?

One is tempted to quote from these antiquated publications a host of other items of more general interest. For instance, unwary motorists who fall into police "traps" will be interested in a Sheriff Court report regarding a complaint of "reckless and furious driving on the Queen's highway" in December, 1846. A party of gentlemen, returning from a late diner, were driven in a "drosky" to Inverkeithing. On reaching Inverkeithing Brae the driver, to use a motoring phrase, went "full out," with the result that the conveyance was upset and his passengers flung against a wall. To keep matters in order, the authorities took the drastic step of summoning the whole party before the Sheriff. But the case was dismissed, for the very remarkable reason that only one of the gentlemen who journeyed in the "drosky" could swear to the identity of the driver !

LICENSING HOURS.

In the same issue, under the heading, "What Has 1846 Done For Dunfermline ?" appears the following:- "Our Magistrates enforced the closing of public-houses at twelve o'clock at night; on Saturday evenings at eleven; on Sunday nights at ten." Later in the same year, "The Magistrates and ministers recommended the entire abandonment of the drinking customs at funerals, which have now in consequence fallen into deserved disuse."

A "MONSTROUS" MACHINE.

It is amusing to find our grandfathers startled by the appearance of a machine which to-day gives us not a moment's thought. In November, 1846, we read that "the lieges were amazed at the appearance in Bridge Street of two monstrous boilers on wheels, with funnels like a locomotive engine. They were speedily employed in melting asphalt" for the purpose of making a new floor in a merchant's premises. The good folks who were amazed at this apparition in 1846 would scarcely have credited the fact that the same "infernal machine" would be employed for road-making in the burgh in the days to come. In 1846 road and street construction was not the advanced science which it is to-day. As a matter of fact, it was only in 1854 that stone pavements were introduced in Dunfermline.

It seems, however, that Dunfermline has always been in the throes of street

improvements. As far back as January, 1841, under the heading "Grey Dunfermline", the "Monthly Advertiser" contained the following:- "Our gude town is fast losing its ancient soubriquet; on every hand we see 'bright improvement on the cart of time', changing 'the old familiar faces' of our streets and localities. Last year witnessed the erection of a new church (evidently the North Parish Church); the improvement and beautifying of Queen Anne Place; an additional supply of water brought in; pavements widened, and any other alterations for the better - the result of individual enterprise. This year we have the prospect of yet greater things; the Independent Chapel will adorn the South; and the Episcopalian have, we hear, feued part of the garden belonging to the Queen Anne Street congregation, fronting the Mason's Hall, for the erection of an elegant place of worship for themselves; while those ugly old houses east of Mr Bonnar's, Viewfield Place, are shortly to make way for more modern mansions, and thereby complete the eastern approach. Verily, Dunfermline is going ahead !". Later on, in 1845, we find the following panegyric of Dunfermline's reformers:- "It always give us pleasure to record improvements in our gude town. With all thy faults, grey Dunfermline, we love thee still, and certainly not the less when we see thy streets improved, and thy unseemly portions remodelled." Then follows a catalogue of alterations effected by the Improvement Committee and the Magistrates.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1926.

LOCHGELLY.

RELIEF PAID TO MINERS.

The allocation of the British Miners' Federation Relief Fund was distributed here yesterday. All the members of the Fife, Kinross and Clackmannan Association received the sum of 4s.

THE HOUSES AT NORTH LUMPHINNANS.

The condition of the row of houses at North Lumphinnans has been engaging the attention of the District Committee, and a report on their condition was considered at their meeting last Thursday. The houses, says a report by the Medical Officer of Health, are situated in a hole, being enclosed on the one side by the mineral line banking, on a second side by the pit bing which it has been anticipated for years would obliterate the houses, and on the third side there is a natural bank separating the houses from the Fitty Burn. There is rain and slop water drainage to the houses, but the outlet pipe is now covered by the bing and might collapse at any time. In these circumstances Dr Yule did not think it feasible to suggest sinks and water closets, and in discussion with the Coal Company architect (Mr Robertson) the proposal was made that new ash pits be provided with doors above the ground level, and a pail closet for each house. Plans in accordance with these proposals are to be submitted.

COWDENBEATH.

THE LINEN TRADE.

The prolongation of the coal strike tends to still further accentuate the depression in the home trade. Few orders for linens have been placed this week, and these have

been of small bulk. United States business, to, seems to have received a set-back recently. Inquiries are being made by the South African Railways and Harbour Commissioners in respect of bed sheeting and pillow slips, an order which East of Fife manufacturers of these goods are making a bold bid to secure.

One of the largest linen firms in Dunfermline has made a drastic reduction of hours, the factory, till further notice, being to open only on alternate weeks. At another Dunfermline factory, three days a week are being worked.

IMPORTANT RATEPAYERS MEETING.

The Question of Relief.

A largely attended meeting of the ratepayers was held in the Co-operative Hall on Monday evening.

Bailie Sheddon presided, and, in the course of his opening remarks, said that the meeting was convened in order to explain the position of the Local Authorities in regard to the circulars issue by the Board of Health, dealing with the present emergency in granting relief to women and children who are destitute on account of the present stoppage in the coal mining industry. In co-operation with other Parish Councils, he said, we have fixed the rate of relief at 12s for women and 4s for children.

Continuing, the Bailie said they were determined to see that the relief schemes will enable the miners to put up a good fight and probably help him to win the battle. There are some, however, who are not of the working class who, although they get their living from the miners, would like to see him accept the conditions offered by the coalowners, as a slave bound by the chains of serfdom.

Bailie Canavan gave an account of the various stages through which the various relief schemes had passed since the beginning of the struggle. According to the Board of Health, we cannot grant any relief to the miner on strike, and we are therefore limited to the question of granting relief to the women and children. At a joint meeting of Parish Councils held recently, he had the pleasure of moving a relief scale of 15s per week for women and 2s per week for children. But on representations from the Board of Health the present scale, as stated by the Chairman, was agreed to. We can assure the ratepayers that we are not squandering their money, as we are really relieving cases of distress and destitution. We have agreed to grant 12s per week to women and 1s per week to each child, leaving the Education Authority to supplement this to the extent of 3s in the feeding of school children.

Mrs Watson referred to the feeding of children during past strikes, and said she had, during her 15 years of service, always stood for this principle - Ratepayers who are opposed to this charge on local rates should really support the Local Authorities with a view of securing the charges being made rather a county rate than a local charge. We must ever remember that a hungry child is unable to take advantage of education, and, on account of that important fact, it is the duty of the Education Authority to feed and clothe the child.

As there was no questions, the meeting was closed in the usual manner.

AUCHTERDERRAN.

THE OLD HOUSES AT DENEND.

Following a visit to Denend by Dr Yule, County Medical Officer of Health; Mr Riddle, Sanitary Inspector; Mr C.C. Reid, General Manager, and Mr Robertson, architect of the Fife Coal Company, the former points out to his Committee that he informed Mr Reid of his reasons for thinking that the houses without reconstruction could be made perfectly habitable by internal reconditioning and the addition of sanitary conveniences.

Dr Yule goes on to say that he formed the impression that, after seeing the houses, Mr Reid modified the opinion which the Fife Coal Company had formed that the houses ought to be closed. The Company were not desirous of the site for housing purposes despite the fact that in only three instances were the occupiers of the present houses working in pits which did not belong to that Company.

I reverted, proceeds Dr Yule in his report, to the plans for the addition of sculleries, etc., and Mr Reid instructed his architect to obtain prices for the work set forth in the plans. In 1921 the Company turned down the plan to reconstruct these houses on the basis that the prices obtained from the contractors were too high in view of what they considered the value of the houses.

LOCHORE.

OLD ROWS TO DISAPPEAR.

In a report on property at Lochore, Dr Yule, the County Medical Officer of Health, states that he visited the old rows at Lochore, Curfew, Caravan, Cannongate, etc., and learned from Mr Carlow Reid that a property has now been obtained and that a Miners' Welfare Institute will be built on the site. The one empty row will be pulled down by the Fife Coal Company, who are now anxious that the other rows in the hollow should be condemned and closed. This accorded with Dr Yule's own views, who states that the houses are done and have no conveniences.

OMNIBUS STANCE AND STOPPING PLACES.

The following have been fixed on by the District Committee:- that the stance at the car terminus at Lochore should be changed to the east side of Ballingry Road (known now as Fairport Road), and that the stopping places, proceeding south and west, should be as follows:- (1) Opposite the east end of New Road, immediately north of the Railway Bridge. (2) Picture House, Crosshill. (3) Opposite Manse Road. (4) GlenCraig Post Office. (5) Hunter's Bar. (6) GlenCraig School.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1926.

LOCHGELLY TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL

REQUEST THAT PARISH COUNCIL RECIPIENTS
BE SENT TO THE COMMUNAL KITCHEN.

At the monthly meeting of Auchterderran Parish Council on Friday night, a deputation, consisting of Bailie Russell and Mr George Stott, from Lochgelly Trades and Labour Council, was received.

Bailie Russell said the reason they had been sent was that they had held a meeting that night. Mr Wilson, the Clerk of Ballingry Parish Council, had called and said that his Council had agreed to the principle of communal feeding. In Lochgelly the Trades and Labour Council had instituted communal feeding for a section of the community who were destitute. Ballingry Parish Council asked them if they were prepared to assist them by catering for those people in the part of Lochgelly burgh which was in Ballingry Parish. The Trades and Labour Council had then discussed the matter, and they thought it would be better if the whole of the burgh was included in their scheme.

They recognised there might be a feeling against this, and were prepared to call meetings of the people concerned and explain to them the advantages to be had from this communal system. They, as a deputation, were desirous of guiding them in the matter.

Mr Stott also spoke. He said the point of their request was that it was only a question of dealing with the Board of Health allowance to women. The communal kitchen was dealing with other people who could not legally be dealt with by the Parish Council. The allowance given to the women, he held, could be put to better use by communal feeding than the use it is put to at present. There would be about fifty families in Lochgelly who reside in the Ballingry part of the burgh, and what they asked was that the Parish Council should take similar action regarding those in the Auchterderran part.

The Chairman (Mr Peter Lumsden, Bowhill) said the Council had not discussed the matter, but it would be raised that night.

Mr John Bird - What do you regard as an advantage ? Have you discovered any advantage resulting from your experience of communal feeding in Lochgelly ?

Bailie Russell - The money spent can go further in a communal centre than in the home. No one can produce the same amount for the same money.

Mr Bird - Have you any figure ?

Bailie Russell - I have got figures, but I would not like them to get in the papers at present, because they might not be complete enough. We have only recently started. Mr Russell then proceeded to give figures showing the results up to date, and he said the food they gave was thoroughly appreciated.

Mr Robert O'Neil - Do you intend that everybody should attend personally at the hall ?

Bailie Russell - Yes, we believe that is the safest way.

Mr Bird - Can you cope with feeding everybody at present in receipt of parish relief ?

Bailie Russell - At very short notice. On Monday morning we had 316 for breakfast.

Mr Bird - There are 661 on our roll, and if you multiply that by three that means a further 1800 for you from the Auchterderran part of Lochgelly burgh. And then there's the Ballingry portion, and, when you count that in, it means 6000 daily.

Mr A. Nisbet - Is that not too huge a thing ?

Bailie Russell - It could not all be done in the Town Hall. We might get the Salvation Army Hall.

Mr David Buchan - You might get the use of the Institute.

Mr Garrity - There's a hall in Grainger Street.

Mr Paul Henderson - And there's Harvey's Hall. (Laughter)

The picture-houses were also mentioned, but it was pointed out they would be unsuitable.

Mr O'Neil - What you propose is that you want us to advise all those in receipt of this 12s a week to pool it ?

Bailie Russell - We can do that. If they came to see the centre they would find they would get more attention there than they can get at home.

Mr Bird - Would it not be an inconvenience for the men and women to go there from the more distant parts of the town ? Have you considered the advisability of having distributing centres in the different areas ?

Bailie Russell - We were up against that when we agreed to communal feeding, and we thought it would be better not to have any carrying away if it could possibly be avoided.

Mr Bird - If you got so many extra you might not be able to cater for each.

Referring to the cost per meal given by Bailie Russell, and which was very low, Mr Bird said that the cost per meal would not be higher if they were carried away.

The Clerk pointed out that during the crisis of 1921 they had communal centres, and meals were carried home.

Mr Bird – That seems to me to be the only practical way.

The Chairman (to deputation) – You would realise before you came here the numbers you would have to cope with?

Mr Bird – I don't think they have. Six thousand meals a day is a big job, and they seem to be taken aback by the figures.

The Chairman – The Trades Council will have realised that.

Mr Scott – We had not the figures you have.

Bailie Russell – This morning we passed 300 meals in an hour. He went on to explain their system, starting at the top table. As the first lot were finished the rest took their places.

Mr O’Neil – It would take you practically four hours then in this case.

Bailie Russell – The system would have to be altered. The 300 are all that are marked on a register.

The Chairman – As time goes on the better organised you will become.

Bailie Russell – We have improved every day.

The Chairman – Have they ever tried to run the double on you? (laughter)

Bailie Russell – They tried that the first day, and we altered our system.

Mr Mathew Kelly suggested the discussion with the deputation had gone on long enough.

Mr Geo. W. Dick – What arrangements has Ballingry Parish Council made in the way of checking the cases?

Bailie Russell – They have not made any definite arrangements. Mr Wilson presented the case as told by his Council. We agreed on principal. They would grant each applicant a card every week, and that would be our authority. The card would be returned to him, and he would refund us. Mr Dick – How are they keeping this right with the law on the matter? We are granting this 12s a week to the wife. I am not quite clear on the point. I am wondering how Mr Wilson will keep himself right.

Bailie Russell – He said anyone who disagreed would get their 12s.

Mr Stott said it was the custom when relief was granted for boots and clothing that the parties were told where to go for them. In this case they would be told to go to the communal centre.

Mr Dick pointed out that, in the cases referred to, the Council had a contract with these shopkeepers to supply the goods.

Mr Stott – In this case it would also be a contract between the Parish Council and the communal centre. Mr Kelly said in this case they had an open choice where to spend their 12s, and it was quite different from the supply of boots and clothing.

The deputation then withdrew, and the Council proceeded to discuss their application.

The Clerk read the Board of Health circular, which showed there was no legal authority for any bulk payment to another agency for communal centres, but it was open to the Parish Council to pay for meals supplied on their order. They hoped Parish Councils would avail themselves of any such facilities. The Clerk added that if they made arrangements with a communal centre they could only pay the cost of the meals, but the Board of Health approved in principle of communal feeding, and they had no objection to a person handing over the card for 12s they get weekly to the communal committee. The Parish Council have, however, to satisfy themselves that the woman who is the recipient on the 12s is not underfed.

The Chairman – That means that the suggestion made by the Parish Clerk of Wemyss was contradictory to that circular?

Mr Small – No. if you can make a contract with these people, you can only pay for the meals supplied to the part in receipt of the relief.

Mr Bird – We could make a contract at the cost of 6 ½ d a meal.

The Clerk – If an applicant hands her card to the committee, we pay the account to the value of what is represented on the card.

Mr Bird – If we don't pay the money in bulk we will have difficulties. There are people who are getting children fed at the school and want to keep everything they can get.

Mr Nisbet – I disagree with Mr Bird. We are dealing with individual cases. I have no objections to anybody going to the communal kitchen, but I object to compelling people to go. We have plenty of folks who don't like feeding in public.

After further discussion regarding communal feeding, Mr Nisbet said the mother was the person to look after the home, and it was she who was getting the money from the Parish Council. If they wanted to go to the communal kitchen they could go, but he would not be a party to force anyone to do that.

Mr Dick – The communal centre would be like a grocer's shop, where they would want 12s value..

The Clerk – In a way that's true.

Mr Dick – If the folks think that they will get the greatest value they will go to the kitchen, and the Communal Committee would draw that amount.

Mr Nisbet – I see nothing wrong with that.

The Chairman – You have either to agree or disagree with the principal.

Mr Dick – If you are going to relieve these people, you can't compel them to go to the communal kitchen. Mr Bird – According to the Board of Health circular, this Council has power to give relief in any form the council think they can get the best value, and any we send to the communal centre we could justify on these grounds.

Mr Nisbet – Suppose, for instance, that any we give relief to would not go to the centre. If they were to starve, what position would we be in?

Mr Paul Henderson – I think they would go rather than starve.

Mr O’Neil – The party we give relief to may object that they are not getting their 12s worth there. If they have to get that 12s, and yet get only 4s value, I would not have it.

Mr Kelly – Is the person’s name on the card?

The Clerk – Each applicant must have her card.

Mr Kelly – A party, say, comes up here and objects. What position would the Council be in?

Mr Bird – It’s a case of giving a line in place of 12s. you would be giving relief in the form that was best, and if they did not take that, you can assume that they are not needing anything.

Mr Kelly – We can do nothing of the kind. The Board of Health lays down the law. They have the power to stop anything, and they could stop this.

Mr Bird – does the same apply whether they get the line or the 12s?

The Clerk – No, because the Board of Health’s decision is that you can relieve in kind.

Mr O’Neil – If you are spreading that 12s over three or more then the party would only get 4s.

Mr Dick – It would just be dictatorship over these people. We give these people a line to go to the grocer for the value of 12s. I think if you go to the length of saying that each one on the emergency roll must go to the communal kitchen it’s not feasible at all.

Mr Alex. Cook – Can we force any person to go to where we want? I don’t think so, though we recommend them to go to the Co-operative Store, but we cannot force them. I am a Co-operator myself, and I told them that. But we can’t force every individual to the communal centre. What position are we in with the Board of Health?

The Chairman – Mr Small has answered that. Mr O’Neil – It leaves you an option.

Mr Nisbet – I see no difficulty if we had started a communal kitchen ourselves. But I am not in favour of communal feeding.

Mr John Garrity – Neither am I. I am in favour of freedom of action, and I am not in favour of coercing anyone. We have enough of this in our class. I think as a Parish

Council we should satisfy ourselves in recommending them to go there the first week, the week following we may get more. The greatest opponents of going to the kitchen are the women. Most of them are opposed to it out and out.

Mr O'Neil – Agreed.

Mr Bird – Some would not come for Parish relief.

Mr O'Neil – The communal system has a tendency to break up the home system. And what's a wife for if not to make some grub, when it's in the house?

Mr Kelly – We know communal feeding would go further. We could get the bulk to go, but there are a few who we would have trouble with, and I think we should leave it to the people themselves.

It was suggested by the Chairman, in replying to a remark by Mr Garrity, that it should be an instruction to the Clerk when giving out the cards, that he pres the people to go to the communal centre.

The Chairman later said before there was any motion they would have to agree on communal feeding, or not agree to the principle at all.

Mr Dick – I object to that. It's a bit of high-brow dictation. If the people want to go to the communal centre we should let them go. I wont be a party to saying you have to go there.

Mr Nisbet – If communal feeding is the best thing the people will go. If not, things will remain as they are. I don't think we should coerce anyone. We have never done that.

Mr Jas. Martin (Glencraig) said he was not going to pledge himself for the Glencraig people for communal feeding, though he himself believed in it.

Mr O'Neil – A dictatorship of that kind is no good..

Mr Bird said he had giving the matter some consideration, and he thought the only way they were going to overcome the difficulties of the future was by communal feeding. He thought the Parish Council should make it obligatory on anyone that they admit to relief to accept such conditions. We already tell them where to go for boots and clothing. That's the power we exercise in general.

Mr Dick – In that case the recipients are given what they ask for, through us, from the contractors.

Mr Bird – This Council can provide the applicants with what they want, sufficient food to keep them alive, and that we can do by feeding centres. I have, he added, put the matter to meetings of both men and women, and the proposal was carried by overwhelming majorities and both meetings. Out of 600 men only 20 opposed. The women were in similar proportion. We know if we could pool all the 12s together, with money from voluntary sources, we believe we could struggle along and feed al

our people. The young are not being provided for, and there's no saying where it is going to end.

Mr O'Neil – With regards to your meetings, Mr Bird, the great majority of those present could not be drawing Parish relief.

Mr Kelly – There were 330 at one of the meetings. Mr O'Neil – According to his own figures you give more than are actually drawing relief. Others had no right to vote on that matter at all.

Mr Dick – What would be the position if we agreed to pay the Trades and Labour Council so much for the meals they provide to the recipients, and gave the remainder in goods? Are you going to have these people to make this profit out of it to augment any funds they have for anything else?

The Clerk – The view of the Chairman of the Board of Health is, if by spreading over the value of this 12s, to allow more meals to be supplied, he had no objections. You can't make an arrangement with them to supply meals, and then render an account. If they can make meals at 2d per head per meal, then you can only pay them that value. But if an individual is willing to hand over his card for 12s, then the Board of Health have no objections.

Mr O'Neil – If the recipient was forced to go there, and then say to us “We get only 3s 6d worth of meals in a week, and want the other 8s 6d of the balance”?

The Clerk – They would have no claim against the Parish Council, because it would be giving up their ticket there voluntarily. The idea of the Communal Kitchen Committee is that they should feed more than the individual who gets the ticket for relief, but if these go they must do it voluntary.

Mr Cook – We can't compel them; we can only recommend.

Mr Martin – I don't agree with Mr O'Neil's selfish outlook about them asking the 8s 6d. we might say you lived on 3s 6d last week, you can live on it this week.

Mr Nisbet proposed that the Council continue the present arrangement, and that they do not stand in the way of any who wanted to go to the centre.

The suggestion was further made that the recipients be recommended to go to the centre.

Mr Garrity – What would be the position with ordinary relief. Some women want more food than others, and it's putting a penalty on these women if you compel them to go to the kitchen.

Mr Bird – You ought to fix your scale to meet the wants of the women.

Mr Dick seconded Mr Nisbet's motion.

Mr Paul Henderson said he was also of the opinion because the people had not yet

reached the stage of seeing the advantage of communal feeding.

Mr Bird – I think if the people are animated by selfish motives we should kill it by all means at our disposal. I am going to move that we enter into a contract with the Communal Kitchen Committee to feed the people at present in receipt of poor relief.

Mr Bird's motion was not seconded, and Mr Nisbet's motion became the unanimous findings.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1926 THE HEALTH OF LOCHGELLY.

Medical Officer's Report.

The annual report of the Medical Officer for the Burgh of Lochgelly was submitted to the Town Council on Monday night.

Apart from an infantile mortality rate of 98, it states that that is the deaths of infants under one year as a proportion per 1000 registered births, the vital figures for the year 1925 taken as an index of the public well-being and sanitary intelligence of the burgh may be regarded as satisfactory. The birth rate is falling, the births being 47 less than in 1924.

The marriages have increased steadily in number during recent years; marriages would appear, therefore, less fertile of children. The illegitimate birth-rate, although comparatively low, shows no tendency to diminish. The number of deaths (113) was the same as in 1924; the death-rate from all causes has steadily fallen during recent years. The death-rate from tuberculosis was low, as was also that from the principal epidemic diseases despite the prevalence of scarlet fever in the burgh during September and October.

For the smaller burgh of Scotland during 1925 the death-rate was 13.1 per 1000; the infantile mortality was 98.

It will be noted that, compared with the returns for Scotland, the death-rate of Lochgelly is less, but the infantile mortality-rate greater. The tuberculosis death-rate for the burgh was less than half, and that from the principal diseases considerably less than the corresponding death-rate for Scotland.

Population.

The Registrar General has estimated the population to the middle of 1925 at 10,760; for 1924, his estimate was 10,488. the population at the census of 1921 was 10,666.

Visitations of the burgh were frequent during the year for survey and investigation of complaints, signed and anonymous. The Board of Health require the Medical Officer in his annual report to direct attention to any condition of influence injurious or dangerous to the health of the burgh. In my sanitary surveys, no new conditions likely to affect detrimentally the public health has come to notice.

Reference has been made in former reports to defective housing. The Town Council are steadily, if slowly, bettering matters in this respect, and doubtless, if the conditions in the mining industry improve, something more will be done than has been the case in the immediate past for the remedy of the defects and deficiencies of housing owned by industrial concerns and privately.

No general inquiry was found necessary during 1925. there were the usual investigations of conditions coming acutely to notice or persisting in a chronic form over a number of years.

Complaints of housing are numerous from certain properties, and not infrequently resolve into a tenant-landlord quarrel, or apathy or intellectual scruples on the part of the tenant to the payment of rent.

Investigation was made of the condition of the lane known as Richmond Place, which has been under consideration by the Town Council for some years, complaint of the state of its surface having been voluble in the past. The roadway was not at the time of my visit in such a state as to prove a nuisance, although obviously lowering of its existing level, grading of its surface, Impermeable paving and drainage would remedy present defects. Inquiry was also made into the accumulation of storm water in a depression to the south of Berry Street opposite the Ex-Servicemen's Club, the flooding water collecting here from un-drained areas further south and constituting a nuisance.

The Happyland.

The work referred to in last year's report as in progress on the roads and houses in this district of the burgh practically came to a standstill in the course of the year. The question of its continuance has been under discussion with the Coal Company concerned and will, I trust, be resumed at an early date for the obvious substantial improvement of this area.

The incidence of scarlet fever was heavy during the autumn months of the year. Towards the end of September, notification of scarlet fever became numerous and continued despite visitation of school and examination and exclusion where necessary of pupils therein. In October ther West School, which the great majority of the infected children attended, was closed for a week. On the re-opening of the school all children in attendance were carefully examined with a view to missed cases; one child was found suffering from scarlet fever and excluded. Thereafter the disease diminished in prevalence. Scarlet fever was generally prevalent throughout the larger towns of Scotland during the latter half of 1925.

The lodging houses, two in number, were under review, and are maintained in fair condition. The internal condition of that in the High Street is being slowly improved, and these premises are in a better condition than when first reported on.

The schools within the burgh are of comparatively recent construction and are maintained in sound sanitary condition.

Factories and Workshops.

The annual return to the Home Office on factories, workshops and work places within the burgh has been submitted. In all 153 inspections were made during the year; six defects were found, of which five were remedied on representation. In one case, the matter was referred to the Factory Inspector.

Housing.

Since the Great War the Town Council have built 150 houses. In addition, the Brewery Court slum-improvement scheme involving the demolition of old and insanitary property belonging to the Town Council, housing over 40 families, and its replacement by 23 new houses, of which 15 are now occupied. Towards the end of 1925 the Council resolved to build a further instalment of 60 houses in extension of their main housing scheme. On completion of this part of their housing scheme, 210 houses of the standard of the modern type will have been provided in the burgh.

The condition of all the houses in the burgh, in terms of the Housing (Inspection of District) regulations is on record, and defects and deficiencies are remedied in ordinary routine as opportunity offers.

Public Slaughter-Houses.

Considerable repairs and improvement in fitments have been carried out at the slaughter-house of late, and the buildings generally are in satisfactory condition for the work carried on. The booths are maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

At the end of the year Kirkcaldy District Committee had under consideration a proposal for co-operation with the Town Council for use of part of the slaughter-house by butchers in the surrounding landward area within reasonable radius of it. The proposal was probably prompted by the difficulties which arise in connection with the efficient supervision of private slaughter-houses in landward areas. Doubtless an arrangement might be readily arrived at by the authorities concerned. It does not necessarily follow, however, that the owners of private slaughter-houses in the adjoining extra-burghal area will avail themselves of it even if the District Committee refused to issue the licence necessary for their exist-slaughter premises.

Pollution of Rivers.

There has been no change in recent years, and the disposal of sewage continuing as formerly. The Board of Health are in possession of all the information regarding avenues of pollution of local water courses.

Hospital Accommodation.

Hospital isolation is secured in combination with Kirkcaldy District Committee at Thornton Fever Hospital. Adjoining the Fever Hospital, but at a suitable distance, is the Smallpox Hospital, which is so maintained as to afford accommodation at a moments notice. The cleansing of the block at Thornton Hospital is furnished with a large and efficient steam disinfecter capable of meeting all reasonable requirements. Thornton Fever Hospital is amply and competently staffed, and is efficiently administered.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1926.
LOCHGELLY MEDICAL OFFICER'S COMMENTS.

The Treatment of Children.

During 1925 the notification of infectious diseases numbered 186, an increase of 57 on the number for 1924. the patients notified during 1925 were:- Typhoid fever, 1; scarlet fever, 102; diphtheria, 9; erysipelas, 13; puerperal fever, 1; infective jaundice, 3; acute primary pneumonia, 27; acute influenzal pneumonia, 5; tuberculosis, 20 (pulmonary, 9; non-pulmonary, 11); and cerebro-spinal meningitis, 2. the patients removed for institutional treatment numbered 116, viz.: - typhoid fever 1; scarlet fever, 97; diphtheria, 8; erysipelas, 1; acute primary pneumonia, 3; acute influenzal pneumonia, 2; and tuberculosis, 4. the tuberculosis patients were treated at Glenlomond; the others at Thornton Fever Hospital.

Child Welfare.

During 1925 the number of births coming to the knowledge of the Health Visitor (Nurses Hall and Sowler) was reported as 261, of which 3 were not notified. Of the births 113 were male and 148 female. There were 3 plural births; 10 infants were still-born. The premature infants were reported as 14, a similar number being illegitimate. Of a total of 261, the births of 231 children were attended by midwives and 30 by medical practitioners. At the birth of two infants neither midwife nor medical practitioner was in attendance. The number of infants breast-fed was 238.

The total visits made by the Health Visitors was – Expectant mothers, 186; infants and nursing mothers, 1474; children 1-5 years, 1929; inspection of midwives in terms of the Midwifery Act, 1915, 19; and visits of tuberculosis patients, 1016. during the year ninety applications for additional nourishment were granted, the grants being renewed from month to month as occasion required. In approximately half of the cases, three months was the limit of the grant, indications being met by furnishing of additional food for one month only in a fair proportion of applications.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

With a view to the better treatment of children under five years of age suffering from measles and whooping cough, the Board of Health approved an arrangement under the provision of the Notification of Birth (Extension) Act, 1915, whereby children suffering from the above diseases will, in suitable circumstances, be removed to Thornton Hospital for treatment, and sanctioned the fixed annual amount of £15 as a specific grant in aid of the expenditure of the Local Authority for this purpose till May, 1927. The Town Council are required to send to the Board not later than August, a statement showing the number of children treated and for what period, etc.

The annual report of the working of the Midwives' Act, 1915, has been submitted.

I subscribe the report of Dr. Campbell, Medical Officer of the Maternity Service and Child Welfare Clinic for the year 1925:-

During the year 1925, the number of attendances of mothers with infants and pre-school children was 2018, as compared with 1072 in 1924, and 544 during 1923. The distribution was as follows:- Expectant mothers, 16; pre-school children, 53; and infants, 249.

The great increase in the number of attendances over the previous two years is very satisfactory, the numbers having practically doubled themselves each year since the Centre started.

That these mothers attend for the purpose of obtaining additional nourishment is refuted by the fact that such nourishment was granted to 90 families only. It has always been my policy to safeguard as carefully as possible the granting of additional nourishment, each case being carefully considered on its merits by the nurses and myself.

With the marked depression in the coal trade which persisted through the year, I think the Town Council may congratulate themselves that the outlay on additional nourishment is so small.

By far the greater number of the families in attendance at the Centre have been subsisting on unemployment grants during the past year. The predicted improvement in outlook of the coal trade did not mature, and it has been a constant wonder to me how these people manage to feed, clothe, and house themselves and their families on the meagre sums doled out weekly to them. That the process is a wearing one admits no argument, and I am certain that a considerable amount of silent suffering and self-denial is perforce practised by these people. I am convinced from observation that certain mothers are denying themselves that the rest of the family may benefit.

The additional nourishment granted is in no way intended for ordinary maintenance, but to tide mothers over their confinements, and to act as a restorative for ailing backward children. The forms of nourishment is confined to meal and milk as representing the best food value for the outlay.

During the year the premises set aside for the Centre on the upper floor of the Town House were vacated as unsuitable in themselves and on account of the disturbance to other officials by the crying of the babies. The nurses' room was utilised as the doctors consultation apartment, and the Burgh Court Room as the Centre. The furnishings of the Court Room do not readily adapt themselves for the work of an infant clinic, while the heating arrangements were found to be inadequate during the severe weather. It is a matter for regret that permanent apartments are not fitted out as has been done in the sister burghs of Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath for this important work.

Constipation still remains troublesome. One might expect this in artificially fed infants, but its continued prevalence in breast-fed babies is puzzling. The lack of proper balance in the mothers' feeding in these hard times is, in my opinion, at least a factor in this condition. A large number of mothers confess to me that ham, oatmeal, porridge, and tea formed their staple diet. Fruit for them is impossible, and they rarely taste butcher meat.

If conditions do not improve, one must look forward to increase in the defects and diseases of malnutrition. Rickets, however, is not yet gaining ground markedly, the incidence of this disease being very low previously, cases are, however, coming increasingly to notice.

Several cases of suspected abdominal tuberculosis were referred to the Executive Tuberculosis Officer. One received institutional treatment at Glenlomond.

Owing to the severity of the winter months, bronchitis and common colds were much in evidence. Mothers frequently taking their babies out at night rather than during the day, because the breadwinners are then free and visiting is then possible. The sudden transition from warm interiors to winter night air leads to certain trouble in a number of instances..

Worms still continue in evidence among the toddlers and pre-school children. Once cured, however, one rarely finds a recurrence in the same patient. I cannot assign a cause for the prevalence of this complaint, as there is not any evidence of unduly dirty home conditions among the Centre clientele.

In conclusion, I have again to record my appreciation of the indefatigable work undertaken by nurses Hall and Sowler at the Centre, to the ladies of the District Nursing Association who assist them with the clerical work, and to Mr Small for his continued guidance and unfailing kindness to me.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1926.

LUMPHINNANS MAN CONVICTED OF SEDITIOUS UTTERANCES.

There appeared at the Sheriff Court on Thursday, Alexander Moffat, miner, Main Street, Lumphinnans, who was charged with having – (1) – Between 12am and 1pm on the 8th June, at the road to No. 7 Pit, Cowdenbeath, addressed a public meeting of the unemployed miners and others and, inter alia, said that “At Lochgelly that morning police had attacked a picket peacefully on the way to a Pit led by women and children; that several of your comrades were batoned and knocked to the ground, and one old man, suffering from consumption and hanging on to a railing, was brutally batoned by every policeman who passed, and he was now locked up, that they must protect themselves from these police hooligans, who were illiterate and uneducated, and you could only call them fatheads”. (2) – Between 7 and 8 pm on 19th June, at Cocklaw Street, Kelty, when Chairman of a public meeting of unemployed miners and others, addressed by James Watt, unemployed miner, Lumphinnans, who, inter alia, said that the police were all curs, and on 18th June, at Lochgelly, had used their batons most unmercifully on poor defenseless workers, and had knocked them down and injured and arrested an old man suffering from asthma, who was only taking a walk; that the people of Kelty should send a contingent on 20th June to join the hunger march to Dunfermline Poorhouse; that “scab” and “blackleg” labour was to be stopped simultaneously on 22nd June at all Pits in the country, and so prevent police being transferred from Kelty to other places; and that the safety men should be withdrawn from the pits, and the meeting should pass a resolution to that effect, and which was done; you, inter alia, did say that all the said James Watt had said about the conduct was true, and that five hours after the baton attack, you had seen the street still covered with blood; (3) – About 11am on 21st June, at Thistle Street,

Cowdenbeath, you did address a public meeting of unemployed miners and others, and, inter alia, say that the arrangements for mass picketing on 22nd June had been cancelled, and there were 100 policemen at Lochgelly who would knock down the pickets like sheep; that the active workers would be the sufferers, but the young Communists would keep on until they tore down the Union Jack and hoisted the Red Flag on Westminster under a Soviet government, and then a time of retribution on the forces of the State would come, by all which he acted in a manner calculated to cause disaffection among the police force and civilian population, contrary to Regulation 21 of the Emergency Regulations.

The first witness was David Buchan, Inspector of Police, Cowdenbeath. He read his notes of the accused's speech, which corresponded with the extracts in the charge. Among other things, accused had been made by the Central Council of Action in Lochgelly in picketing the Jenny Gray Pit instead of picketing every pit in the district. Another mistake was that a picket of 700, which was to go from GlenCraig, had been an hour late in starting, and did not arrive at Lochgelly until after the baton charge. Accused said he was not surprised at the police acting in the manner they had done, because a number of Trades Council had been told by an inspector in Dunfermline that his men were illiterate.

Cross-examined, witness said that feeling was very tense at the time of the meeting, and the attitude taken up by the accused and the speech he made were very undesirable. The crowd had "booed" during his speech.

Mr Tinman - But you can hear "booing" at a football match.

Let Down By Lochgelly Leaders.

John Kay, police sergeant, Cowdenbeath, stated that, at the meeting in Thistle Street, Cowdenbeath, accused said that the Lochgelly Leaders had let them down, and the only one who had a reasonable excuse was Stewart. He went on to say that the forces of the State were evidently out to smash the Communists, and to imprison the whole lot of them. He made the statement quoted in the complaint regarding the hoisting of the Red Flag at Westminster.

Blyth Adams, constable, Kelty, said that the statements made by Watt at the Kelty meeting which accused said were true, were all to the effect that the police were all curs, and at Lochgelly they had used their batons unmercifully on the defenceless workers, and who had knocked down an old man who was taking his usual walk. He (Watt) had also said that work was to be stopped at all pits on Tuesday, 22nd June, at 7 a.m., to stop blackleg labour, and he urged the people to turn out that morning and engage the police, so that they could not be drafted to other places. The fact that the safety men had been left in the pits, he added, was hindering the cause of the workers, and he asked for someone to propose a resolution to have the safety men withdrawn. That was done, and the resolution was passed.

Mr Tinman - How do you know it was passed ?

Witness - I heard it being passed.

John Miller, miner, Cocklaw Street, Kelty, who had attended the meeting on 19th June, gave evidence as to the general purport of accused's speech, Cross-examined, he remarked, "I don't care for their speeches, but everybody's not like me. They could have spoken from that day until now, and it would not have affected me."

William Ogilvie, engine-keeper, Kelty, gave corroborative evidence.

No evidence was led for the defence.

Mr Tinman, in the course of a statement on the accused's behalf, said that the remarkable similarity in the evidence of the various policemen suggested that there had been collaboration in preparing the notes of the speeches. He also pointed out that accused was a young lad of twenty-two, and they all knew that the average miner was a man not easily to be moved, even by his own leaders, let alone by a young man like the accused.

Sheriff Umpherston found the charge proved, and passed sentence of two months imprisonment.

"To Fight If Need Be".

Against James Watt, miner, Nivingstone Place, Lumphinnans, three charges of a similar character were preferred. The first was that on 19th June, when addressing a meeting in the Public Park in Cowdenbeath, he said the police were out to round up all the active leaders and leave the miners without leaders; that old men were batoned and knocked down in Lochgelly by these callous, brutal men in blue; that the aim of the police was to cause trouble; that the Central Council of Action had resolved that all pits in Fife be picketed at 7 a.m. on 22nd June, and all "scab" and "blackleg" labour must be stopped at any cost.

The second charge was that, between 7 and 8 p.m., on 19th June, at Cocklaw Street, Kelty, when addressing a public meeting, he said that the police were all curs, and that on 18th June, at Lochgelly, they had used their batons most unmercifully upon poor defenceless workers, and had knocked down, injured and arrested an old man suffering from asthma, who was only out for a walk; that the people of Kelty should send a contingent on 20th June to join the hunger march to Dunfermline Poorhouse; that "scab" and "blackleg" labour was to be stopped simultaneously on 22nd June at all pits in the county, and so prevent police being transferred from Kelty to other places; and that the safety men should be withdrawn from the pits, and that the meeting should pass a resolution to that effect, which was done.

The third charge was that, on 21st June, when addressing a meeting at Thistle Street, Cowdenbeath, he said that men must come in a body to picket the pits in the morning, prepared to fight, and fight like hell if need be; that all "scab" labour must be stopped, and that not a pound of coal should be allowed to be filled.

Police officers who attended the meetings addressed by the accused, gave evidence as to their notes of his speeches, corresponding with the quotations in the charges.

Mr Tinman asked a police witness if it was not a fact that the police went to these meetings to cause trouble.

Witness - No; two would not be much use among a crowd of 1500.

Mr Tinman - How many police are lying in Cowdenbeath at the present time ?

Sheriff Umpherston - Look here; that is a question I don't allow.

No evidence was led for the defence.

The Procurator Fiscal, in summing up, pointed out that this was the first case they had had of directly inciting to violence, because accused had made the significant observation that the pickets should be prepared to fight, and fight like hell, if need be, for the purpose of stopping "scab" labour. This was about the worst exhibition they had had of the stupidity of these would-be public leaders, and of the extent to which they were prepared to go.

Sheriff Umpherston found the charge proved, and passed sentence of two months' imprisonment.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1926.

LOCHGELLY AND LOCHORE MEN IN IRELAND.

Collecting For The Distress Fund.

The following report has been handed us:-

One of the largest Labour meetings seen in Dublin since before the war was held in the Phoenix Park on Sunday, 18th July, when 20,000 working men and women pledged their loyalty and support, moral and financial, to the miners of England, Scotland and Wales, in their present fight against the coalowners and the employers of Great Britain.

The mass demonstration formed up in Beresford Place, a spot well known with memories for the Dublin workers, and, to the music of two Scottish pipe Bands and three Dublin Bands, marched to the Nine Acres, Phoenix Park, a meeting place famous for political gatherings in the past.

Councillor Crooks Speaks on Behalf of Fife Miners.

The case for the miners was placed before the meeting by Councillor Crooks, miners Representative from Lochgelly, Fifeshire, who had crossed over in the place of James Stewart, who was unavoidably detained. In sharp, biting sentences he described the conditions under which the miners and even their women and children had laboured in the past, and how the owners had met every effort to better conditions with the cry "It will ruin the industry," and he pointed out that the same cry was still being used to-day. Speaking on behalf of the miners in Fifeshire, he expressed their determination to fight and go down fighting rather than work under the hellish conditions like to those of the last century, which would be the result should the owners succeed in

enforcing their terms. Concluding, he appealed to the Irish working class for assistance for the women and children of the men on strike. Emphasising the fact that the miners were fighting the battle of the whole working class, and therefore were entitled to the aid, moral, physical and financial, of the whole Labour movement. He asked the audience to give to the relief funds in keeping with that reputation for generosity so often bestowed on the Irish workers.

Following the miners representative came Comrade Spellman, who, speaking for the unemployed in Dublin, expressed sympathy and loyalty to the miners in their struggle, and said that the unemployed men and women of Dublin, hungry and needy, thought they undoubtedly were more than glad of the opportunity of foregoing their own street collections of money in order to help in the feeding of the miners women and children.

The next speaker was one who has ever been foremost in all struggles against oppression and slavery by the capitalist class, Captain Jack White, who, in a short speech full of intense feeling, made known his sincere admiration for the miners in their present fight, and expressed the hope that they would achieve the victory to which their magnificent fight entitled them.

Frank Cooney, Lochore, on Working "Black Coal".

After Captain White, there spoke another miners representative, Frank Cooney, an Irishman, born in County Cavan, but living in Lochore, Fifeshire, who represented the miners of that shire in the relief campaign in Ireland. Opening his speech, he described an interview he had with an official of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, on the question of helping the miners in their fight. The Transport Union stated they had helped the miners to the extent of £100 out of their total funds of £71,000, and when asked for an explanation of the conduct of the members in working "black coal" at the Dublin Docks, pleaded their inability to control their rank and file. Comrade Cooney definitely charged them, not only with refusing to give a decent measure of financial support out of their large funds to the miners, but he also charged them with having officially allowed their members to "scab" on the miners by discharging "scab" coal from the Continent and America. He said that of all the aid and support given them throughout the whole of Great Britain, he thought the support of the Dublin workers was the most magnificent of all, because the Dublin men who had just come through a lock-out of twenty weeks had remained idle rather than work the "black coal" coming into the Port of Dublin, and in every case these men were members of the Workers' Union of Ireland, the only Union in the whole of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales who had loyally carried out the instructions of the Miners Federation for the embargo on "black coal".

Jim Larkin's Views.

The last speaker was Jim Larkin, who, speaking on the Eight Hours Bill for the miners, said that Baldwin, in so much as he was the person primarily responsible for the Bill, must stand before the whole world as the person responsible for the wholesale murder of the miners, who might be forced to work longer hours in the pits as a result of that Bill, because it was an established fact that the greatest number of accidents occurred in the last hour of the day, and that an extra hour would mean an

increase of 25 per cent. in the number of accidents in the pits. After dealing with many local, national and international subjects he devoted the remainder of his speech to an appeal for help for the miners. He said that the miners in Fifeshire in particular had claims on the workers of Dublin, because of the help they had sent to Dublin in 1913, and that anyone who claimed he was wholeheartedly with the miners and yet left that meeting with even a shilling in his pocket was not true to himself or the miners, and if they were imbued with the real spirit they would give until it hurts, aye, even to the coats on their backs or the boots on their feet. So effective was his appeal that the collection was a record one for Dublin, and will provide many hungry miners children with meals during the coming week.

Glencraig Pipers Win.

After the meeting a Pipe band contest was held, between the Scottish bands, all miners on strike, and an Irish band, the Fintan Pipers. The judging was by show of hands, and the prize, a silver cup, finally went to the Glencraig pipers.

The meeting closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by a Scots miner lad, and with cheers for the miners in the front line trenches across the water.

The total collections taken in Dublin since the campaign opened a week ago now totals £350, and it is expected that this figure will be eclipsed during the coming weeks, when the Scottish pipers intend to tour the country and raise further collections in the various towns they will pass through.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1926.

CHARGE OF INTIMIDATION – SIX

GLENCRAIG WOMEN FINED.

Six women, two of who carried infants, appeared before Sheriff Umpherston, at Dunfermline Sheriff Court on Thursday, charged with a contravention of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act.

The accused were Violet Ross, Annie Brown, Mary St John, Catherine Teviotdale, Annie Rattray, and Elizabeth Duncan, housewives, South Glencraig, and the charge against them was that, on 11th September, at South Glencraig, on the road between the bridge over the Fitty Burn and the house at 30 South Glencraig, occupied by Thomas Delop, mine fireman, with a view of compelling him to abstain from doing his work as a fireman at No. 1 Pit of Glencraig Colliery, they formed part of a disorderly crowd and followed him while he was on his way home escorted by the police, shouted and jeered at him, called him "blackleg" and "scab" and threw peas at him, and beset his house.

Mr J.T. Tinman, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the accused, who pleaded not guilty.

They again appeared before the Sheriff on Monday.

The Fiscal said it was the first case they had had of this sort, and he hoped it was going to be the last. It was obviously a case in which the men sent out the women to make a disturbance, and trusted to the results being indicted upon the women, so saving their own skins if possible. Possibly his Lordship would not feel it necessary to impose sentence of three months' hard labour, but their conduct was such that it could not be passed without some sign of disapproval from the bench.

Mr Tinman, solicitor, on behalf of the accused, did not agree that the women were sent out at the instigation of their husbands. he thought they all knew that the women were quite capable of coming out at their own instigation.

(the article does not give the Sheriff's judgement)

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1926.
BATON CHARGE AT GLENCRAIG.

Effort To Close The Pits.

Throughout the week-end considerable excitement prevailed in Lochgelly and Glenraig district, where a strong feeling has been against what is known as the safety men. These men, enginemen and firemen, mostly have, under the arrangements with the British Miners' Federation, continued to work so that when the resumption of work takes place the pits will be ready for a general start. In the big strike of five years ago it will be recalled that, as a result of the safety men being withdrawn, considerable flooding took place, and most of the pits were not in a state to give full employment, and much expense was entailed in getting them back to a workable condition.

Recently it has been alleged that safety men were engaged in coal winning beyond the requirements of the respective pits. Meetings have been held, principally in Lochgelly in this connection, and a lot of feeling has been caused over the matter.

Last Friday morning pickets were posted at the Lochgelly and Glenraig pits. A considerable number of safety men that morning did not leave their homes; some went past the pickets and some returned home. At Glenraig practically all the safety workers turned back in view of the menacing attitude of the crowd. At Lochgelly a man, who was amongst those who refused to be persuaded, came in for a lot of verbal abuse. On his return from work he was hailed by a large crowd, and since then he has been escorted to and from his work by the police. His home suffered to the extent of having an ash bucket pitched through the window, causing damage and disorder inside the house. Another safety worker's window was knocked in late on Monday night.

At Glenraig on Sunday excitement was maintained at high pitch by mass gatherings and processions. During the evening the parades were carried on to the accompaniment of singing and shouting. The night was dark and the police did not interfere.

In the early morning, however, a little after five, the authorities had mustered a strong force, the local contingent being reinforced by specials from Lochgelly and Cowdenbeath. They wore steel helmets. When the time came for the safety men to seek their way to the pit, altercations took place. The crowd was large and threatening, and the result was a baton charge by the police. What started this is not quite clear. The strikers seek to blame the police, and allege that they were innocent, and that all that was happening was an argument in the crown between a moderate and an extremist. On the other hand the authorities stated that stones were flung and that the police were compelled to use force. At all events they did get in amongst the crowd, which quickly scattered. A number of the crowd were knocked down, and as often happens one or two not of the pickets were also hit. The injured numbered less than a dozen. None are understood to be seriously hurt. One policeman got a blow on the side.

Baton Charge at Lochore.

Late on Monday night another charge with batons was made by the police, this time at Lochore. A crowd had gathered near the Institute, and when the police were passing it is alleged that a stone was flung at them. The police numbered about a score, and dispersed the crowd, using their batons. A number of the crowd were struck and several had to receive medical attention.

A policeman was rather severely injured about the head in a melee at the Raith Colliery on Monday night.

A feeling of tension prevails all over the district.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1926.

THROWING STONES AT POLICE - FORTY DAYS

FOR LUMPHINNANS MINERS

The sequel to a strike incident at Lumphinnans was heard at the Sheriff Court on Thursday, when the trial took place of John McHale, David McLeod and William Shepherd, unemployed miners, in custody. The men were apprehended on Wednesday morning of last week in connection with the stone throwing at the police. The charge preferred against them was that, in Main Street, Lumphinnans, at a part of the thoroughfare near the junction with Sligo Street, along with others unknown to the Procurator Fiscal, they assaulted Alexander McIntosh, police sergeant; John Cragie and John Brown, police constables, Cowdenbeath; Robert Falconer, police constable and James Ferguson, temporary police constable, Lumphinnans, all of Fife Constabulary, and in uniform, who were being conveyed in a charabanc east along Main Street, by throwing stones or other missiles at them, with intent to injure them. Accused were represented by Mr R.W. Currie, solicitor.

Police constable Robert Falconer, Lumphinnans, stated that about 12.25 am, on 22nd September, a motor omnibus conveying a contingent of police in uniform from

Lochgelly arrived at the Post Office, Cowdenbeath. He was then told that while the 'bus had been coming along west in Main Street, Lumphinnans, near its junction with Sligo Street, some stones or other missiles had been thrown at the police and had struck the side of the 'bus. He and some other constables then went into the omnibus in order to escort the driver through Lumphinnans on his way back to Lochgelly. About 12.30 a.m., stones were thrown at the junction of Sligo Street and Main Street. There were about a dozen men standing across the road. The driver stopped the 'bus, and they all got out. He chased three men down the Row and into Beveridge Place. They ran into Shepherd's house, and he followed them. The gas was lit in the kitchen of the house, and he recognised two of the men. One was Shepherd and the other was McLeod. An attempt was made to exclude him from the house. The men tried to shut the door in his face, but they did not manage it. His endeavour to apprehend them by himself were resented, and he went for assistance. A number of stones were afterwards found lying on the roadway. When warned and charged, McHale said, "Not guilty, I was with the rest, but threw no stones." McLeod said, "I am not guilty. I was at the corner with the rest, and was chased by you to Shepherd's house." Shepherd said, "I threw no stones. I admit I was with the others and was chased home by you."

Sergeant Alex. McIntosh, Police Constable John Cragie, Police Constable John Brown, and Temporary Police Constable James Ferguson, Lumphinnans, gave corroborative evidence, the last witness stating that he followed and captured McHale.

Other police constables who travelled in the 'bus gave corroborative evidence.

For the defence, evidence was led in support of an alibi in the case of Shepherd. Alexander and John Stephen, 35 Beveridge Place, Lumphinnans, and John Calligan, 76 Sligo Street, Lumphinnans, spoke to having seen Shepherd in a club hut until half-past twelve o'clock on the night in question.

Shepherd, in the witness box, said that when he left the hut to go home he met McLeod running down Sligo Street from the Main Street. He asked him what was wrong, and McLeod said the police were pursuing him. He (Shepherd) ran into his own house and McLeod followed him. He ran because there was a possibility of getting struck with a baton. He might have been taken for the wrong man.

McHale said he was coming forward to the corner when the 'bus stopped, and when he saw a policeman coming with his baton he thought he had better run.

The Procurator Fiscal - What possessed you to run ?

Accused - I was afraid of being struck by a baton.

The Procurator Fiscal - You don't suggest that citizens standing quietly at the street corner get hit by batons ?

Accused - Well, sir, There's that bad thing going about now. On Monday night at Lochore there were supposed to be men sitting at the corner batoned by policemen.

McLeod said that he too thought it the best policy to run in case he got a lick with a

baton.

Sheriff Umpherston, finding the charge proved, said that this was obviously a matter which could not be dealt with in a light-hearted manner.

Accused were each sentenced to forty days imprisonment.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1926.

LOCHORE.

Opening of U.F. Church Hall.

The hall attached to the Glencraig and Lochore U.F. Church was opened on Wednesday afternoon by Mr Mason, widow of the Rev. Charles Mason, the late minister of Glencraig. The service was held in the Church and conducted by Dr Morrison, Moderator of the U.F. Church Assembly. The Rev. Fredrick Smith presided, and there were also present the Rev. Mr Elliot, Dunfermline, Moderator of the Presbytery; the Rev. Mr Forbes, Cairneyhill; the Rev. Harry Law, Lochgelly; Rev. Mr Smith, Kelty; Rev. Mr Salmond, Cowdenbeath; Rev. Mr Miller, Milnathort; and several other members of the Presbytery. A silver key suitably inscribed was presented to Mrs Mason by Mr William McLeod, one of the senior elders, and who had acted as architect and master of works on the new building. He made favourable comment on the pioneering work of Mr Mason in paving the way for the erection of the handsome building which had just been completed. On Mrs Mason's acceptance of the key, the congregation adjourned to the Church Hall, where the opening ceremony was performed. In replying to Mr McLeod's remarks, Mrs Mason spoke of her late husband's devotion to the church and congregation. This day would have been a source of unbounded joy to him, and she would always look upon the hall as an additional memorial to his labours in Glencraig. She now appealed to the congregation to rally round Mr Smith and give him their wholehearted support during his ministry amongst them. Mr Smith gave a short address, and said he was proud to see the hall completed, although the plans were made and the foundation practically laid during his predecessor's lifetime. After several of the other clergymen had also spoken, the building was dedicated to the glory of God by the Rev. Dr Morrison. The praise was led by the Glencraig and Ballingry joint choirs, under the leadership of Messrs Philp and Watt, who have shown a fine spirit of co-operation recently in joining forces during the U.F. Church Campaign.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1926.

MINERS' PEACE TERMS.

NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FORMULATED.

THREAT OF MORE STRIFE.

FIVE YEARS' AGREEMENT IN NOTTS.

The national delegate conference of the Miners' Federation on Saturday approved unanimously general principals suggested by the Executive for the guidance of the

districts in negotiating local agreements.

The conference will reassemble on Friday first to consider reports on the results of the negotiations.

The miners principles provide for all district agreements being terminable by one month's notice on either side, whereas the "standard agreement" under the Government scheme was to be of at least three years' duration. The miners terms differ from the Government's in respect also of the ratio of division of net proceeds and reinstatement. No conditions are laid down as to the hours of work.

Mr Cook, speaking in Lancashire on Sunday, made it clear that a resumption of work on district settlement will not mean the end of strife in the coal industry.

The miners had been beaten, he said, but the fight was not yet ended. They would wipe out the Eight Hours Bill and build up one powerful national miners' union. "We shall start from the day we are back - but not to have peace."

Representatives of Nottinghamshire miners who have returned to work, led by Mr G.A. Spencer, M.P., have concluded a district settlement with the coalowners. The agreement, which is on the basis of a seven and a half hours day, is to be of five years' duration.

Excitement in the District.

The number of men at work in the pits in the district increased considerably last week. Their attitude is that no good purpose would be served by prolonging the sacrifice.

Mass meetings have been held, at which strong appeals were made to stand firm and also get the workers to cease working. So far this has not proven very successful, and on Monday nearly all the pits reported an increase in numbers. At the Lochgelly pits fifty new men turned up, but a dozen were off, leaving a nett gain of between 30 and 40. It may be mentioned that four of the five who were attacked on Saturday were not deterred. They turned out again on Monday.

Lochgelly Miners Attacked.

The town seemed to be seething with excitement on Saturday. a strong feeling was shown against the men who had resumed work, and following a mass meeting in the Town Hall, a large procession was formed and, headed by pipers, walked through a number of streets. The crowd was mostly composed of young lads, and there was a fair number of women in the ranks. On passing down Station Road they turned along Launcherhead and made a demonstration near the house of a Jenny Gray oversman. After this they made their way back to the Town Hall, greeting a head official of the Coal Company as he passed them with ironical cheers.

Another crowd, numbering fully 100 had made their way to the westward, and close by the barricade of the Recreation Park they intercepted five workmen returning from the Mary Pit and attacked them. The workmen came in for a good deal of vocal abuse and were also struck, some being very severely handled. On hearing of the melee two

policemen made for the spot, but on their approach the crowd fled, and at the time no arrests were made. Meantime the victims of the assault were assisted to their homes in Berry Street, and there was a feeling of great excitement and condemnation of what had taken place.

The men who were attacked were able to furnish the police with such information as led to a number of arrests. By Saturday night seventeen persons had been charged, and an other two were added to the list on Sunday.

Eighteen Lochgelly Miners Before the Court.

All Plead Not Guilty.

The sequel to the trouble which arose on Saturday between a number of miners who had returned to work and a crowd of those still out was the appearance before Sheriff Umpherston at Dunfermline on Monday of 18 men who were arrested by the police.

Accused were John Petrie, Lewis Kirk, John Duncan, John Watson, James Penman, James Geddes, Peter Kerr, James White, Peter Young, David Clark, John Stewart Smith, Peter Tait Johnston, David Reid, John Davidson, Robert Wands, William McCrory, Samuel Robertson, and Robert Newlands, all described as miners in custody.

They were charged that on 20th November, on Lochgelly Golf Course, near the east end of Lochgelly football field, and near the west end of Garry Street, Lochgelly, with a view of compelling Alexander McKinlay, James McKinlay, Samuel Nardone, Andrew Gibb, William Scott, Henry Hunter, Alexander Spence, Roger Dow, Charles Nardone, James Wilson, Allan Ford, Robert Laird, and Luigi Nardone, miners, Lochgelly, employed at the Mary Pit, Lochgelly, by the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, Ltd., to abstain from doing their work there which they had a legal right to do; they wrongfully, and without legal authority, formed part of a disorderly crowd of about 150 persons, watched and besetted the approach of said workers from the golf course to their houses and used violence and attempted to intimidate them from doing their work.

In particular, the charge alleged the accused, John Petrie, struck James McKinlay with his fist on the head and knocked him down and seized hold of Alexander McKinlay by his coat and butted him on the face; and James Duncan struck Allan Ford with his fist on the body.

All accused pleaded not guilty, and his Lordship fixed the trial for Friday, 3rd December, at eleven o'clock.

Bail for each of the accused was fixed at £2.

Glenraig Pit Attacked - A Serious Outbreak.

About two o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, a crowd made their way towards Glenraig Pit. The picket forced its way to the pithead. By this time all the dayshift

workers had been raised to the surface, and they took shelter in a part of the building. A crowd of 300 to 400 swarmed over the pithead and committed acts of destruction. They entered the winding engine-house, started the engine, and raised the cage to a position which left it hanging in the air just beneath the pulley wheel. The windows of the building were smashed. Another party got at the boilers, and broke the water gauges of the fire holes.

In the meantime police reinforcements had been sent for, and on their appearance the crowd melted away. Before the police were present in force several workers who had set out for their homes were attacked and mauled. A number of police were also injured. The workers who had remained in security were afterwards escorted home under police protection.

Further police reinforcements arrived on the scene, and during the night a large number of arrests were made.

Large Number of Arrests.

As the result of the disorderly scenes at GlenCraig and Bowhill on Monday, the police at night made a large number of arrests,

At the Sheriff Court yesterday, fort-eight men, who had been taken to Dunfermline under police escort, were charged.

Their arrival aroused considerable excitement, and a large crowd waited outside the Court house during the forenoon.

In the Court the men were judicially examined on charges of mobbing and rioting. Bail was allowed and fixed at £4 in each case.

A Lively Day at Bowhill - Workers Maltreated.

Exciting scenes were witnessed at Bowhill on Monday afternoon. Following a big meeting in WellsGreen Park, a demonstration went off to meet the workers returning from the pit. They met them near the hotel, and several workers were badly mauled. They went on to Fifteenth and Nineteenth Streets and there smashed windows, and furniture was also broken up.

The police on duty were not in sufficient numbers to stop the trouble, but reinforcements were sent for. By the time they arrived the crowd had dispersed.

A number of arrests were made.

Arrival of More Police Reinforcements.

A considerable addition to the present extra force of police in the district arrived yesterday afternoon.

Miners Who Will Never Find Work.

What is to be Done For Them ?

The question of the future of the large number of miners who cannot be re-absorbed in the coalfields is being regarded with anxiety in many quarters (says the "Westminster Gazette").

Speaking at Ramsgate on Saturday, Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, Secretary of State for War, declared that these men would number some hundreds of thousands. The total had been estimated in various quarters at from 250,000 to 350,000.

These men will be surplus to requirements through closing of pits, reorganisation, and other causes following the stoppage.

they will qualify for unemployment benefit, but a permanent settlement of the question of finding them work is bound to be a difficult one, and financial provision is generally regarded as essential.

At present, it is understood, no plans are in existence for dealing with this serious potential additional burden on unemployment insurance funds.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1926.

END OF THE COAL CRISIS.

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The coal strike finished in Scotland on Saturday, when the Scottish Miners' Federation approved by a large majority the provisional agreement that was arrived at earlier in the week between the Executive and the Scottish Mine Owners, and which had been before the Delegate Conference in London on Friday.

The struggle is the longest in mining history, having lasted for 30 weeks. During the past two months, many finding themselves at the end of their resources, have been drifting back in increasing numbers, and by the end of the week the total at work was 441,571. The biggest number who had returned was in Notts and Derby, where almost 110,000 were employed. In Scotland the number was 56,225. Locally the resumption went on slowly, but in the last two weeks it had become greatly accelerated though the percentage still remained small.

Messrs Robert Smillie, M.P., Lanarkshire, and Wm. Adamson, M.P., Fife, were the main negotiators on behalf of the miners at the joint meetings with the coalowners. The discussions occupied many hours, and the men's representatives did all they could to avoid the eight hours day, without avail. Certain concessions were, however, made by the coalowners, which will somewhat alleviate the situation. Only single rent is to be charged up till February, and after that rent and a half till arrears are paid up. It is hoped, too, though the point is not quite settled, that on Saturdays there will be a six hours shift.

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The New Scottish Conditions.

The arrangement between the Scottish Coalowners and the Scottish Miners' Federation is as follows:-

(I) - A Conciliation Board for Scotland for the regulation of the wages of the coal trade of Scotland shall be established, the constitution and rules of procedure is to be agreed between the parties; an independent chairman to be appointed with such powers as the Conciliation Board may determine.

(II)- The hours below ground shall be increased by one half hour per shift and surface workers shall work a normal week of 49 hours.

(III) - During the period of agreement the district minimum percentage shall not fall below 110 per cent. above the 1888 basis, this being the minimum percentage in operation from July, 1921 to June, 1924.

(IV) - After the temporary period provided for in clause X., and subject to the operation of the minimum wage provided for in clause III., wages shall be paid on the basis of ascertainments for Scotland for such periods as the parties may agree.

(V) - To determine the percentage payable in Scotland, 87 per cent. of the difference between the proceeds and the cost of production other than wages in Scotland during the period of ascertainment shall be taken. From the amount so determined shall be deducted the amount paid as subsistence allowances, and the balance so remaining shall be expressed as a percentage of the wages paid on the basis during the period of ascertainment. The principles to be followed for the purposes of periodical ascertainments shall be those contained in the Third Schedule to the Wages Agreement of 18th June, 1924, in so far as they are applicable, subject to such adjustments as may be made under Clause VI. hereof, excepting always that the only reference to an independent chairman shall be to the Independent Chairman of the Conciliation Board for Scotland.

(VI) - The principle of a reasonable and effective allowance in the ascertainment in respect of the introduction of new capital and the principle of effective recoupment are admitted. In dealing with the allowance in respect of the introduction of new capital, the Board shall take into consideration the effect upon ascertainment of the lowering of the wages cost as the result of the introduction of such capital. It is agreed that these matters shall be considered and disposed of at an early meeting of the Conciliation Board, and the question of whether an allowance for amortisation should be made shall also be dealt with by the Board. In the event of the parties failing to agree upon these matters, they shall be referred to the Independent Chairman of the Board for decision.

(VII) - Subject to the payment of subsistence wages during the Temporary Period, as provided for in Clause X., the minimum subsistence wages payable during the Agreement shall be the subsistence wages payable during the 1921 Agreement, subject to revision, if so desired, by either of the parties after one year after the date of

the Agreement, and, failing agreement, by the Independent Chairman of the Conciliation Board.

(VIII) - As regards transfer prices, the owners desire to remove to the fullest extent possible any doubt that may exist as to the methods adopted for determining these, and will be prepared to consider sympathetically any proposals made by the workmen's side of the Conciliation Board in this connection which appear to be reasonable and practicable.

(IX) - The Agreement shall be for a period of three years from the date upon which it is signed by the parties, and shall be subject to two months' notice of termination.

(X) - During a period to be called "the temporary period", the owners agree to pay 133.33 per cent. above the 1888 basis (this being the percentage which operated before the stoppage in May subject to a re-adjustment of the tonnage and other piece workers' rates by a percentage corresponding to the addition made to the rates when hours of work were reduced by Statute from 8 to 7. Subsistence Wages (as provided for in Clause 7 of the 1924 Agreement) which operated before the stoppage will also be paid during "The Temporary Period." It is proposed that "Temporary Period" should be the period between the date of the signing of the Agreement and April 30, 1927.

(XI) - As from May 1, 1927, the wages payable will be determined by the result of an ascertainment for the month of March, 1927; the wages for the month of June being determined by the results of an ascertainment for the month of March and April, and similarly thereafter by two monthly ascertainments until altered by agreement between the parties.

(XII) - The owners reserve for consideration such questions as the classes of workmen to whom the agreement applies, overtime and week-end payments and other questions which may fall to be disposed of within the agreement.

(XIII) - These proposals are handed to the representatives of the workmen for the purpose of further negotiations with the view to an agreement being entered into, but they are submitted without prejudice, and they may be subject to modification.

Note - In the terms and conditions posted by the owners at the end of April it was stipulated that if the Seven Hours Day Act was repealed, that the minimum percentage would be increased to 112.5, so that the agreement now made is equivalent to 2.5 per cent. less than was then offered for an eight hours day.

The coal strike started at midnight on Friday, 30th April.

Best Terms Obtainable.
Mr Smillie Advises Miners To Accept.

Mr Robert Smillie, M.P., took part in a series of meetings held on Sunday throughout Lancashire coalfields to lay before the districts the terms of the agreement with the coalowners. Mr Smillie said he did not consider the provisional agreement by any means satisfactory, but it was the best the Miners' Executive could do under the

circumstances, and he hoped the men would accept it and return to work at the earliest possible moment. More than anything else he hoped there would be no vindictive treatment of men because of the past, and no victimisation. He hoped they would be able to settle down for a fairly long period in the coal industry.

Other speakers in Lancashire included Mr Small, secretary of the County Union, who also advocated acceptance.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1926.

WELFARE INSTITUTE OPENED AT LUMPHINNANS.

RED LETTER DAY IN THE VILLAGE.

It is indeed a happy fact that the Miners' Welfare Committee keep close to modern thoughts and modern needs, and have all along been prepared to assume such a constructive programme of service, as is set forth in the many fully equipped institutes set apart for the welfare and well-being of mining communities in Great Britain.

The desire is to create a social science that recognises the importance of the community life for the individual. In pursuance of this policy a large audience gathered in the Welfare Institute, Lumphinnans, yesterday.

Mr David Adams presided at the opening ceremony, and, in a few well-chosen remarks, said - We are met to-day in the atmosphere of Christmas goodwill, and I trust the year upon which we are about to enter will be brighter and better for all of us. As you all know, we are met to-day under the auspices of the Miners' Welfare Committee. This Institute will supply a long-felt want in this district. This splendid Institute has been erected and equipped through the good offices of the Welfare Committee, and I hope the men of the district will take full advantage of all the facilities offered from a recreational and educational point of view. I have now great pleasure in asking Mr Charles Augustus Carlow of the Fife Coal Company to formally declare the Institute open. (applause)

An Appeal for Co-operation and the Personal Touch.

Mr Carlow said that it was with very great pleasure that he was taking part in this opening function. I am sorry, he proceeded, that in these days of great industrial concerns we have lost the personal touch as between employer and employee. I would like to spend, if it were possible, some of my time in a mine, so that I might re-establish that point of personal contact with the men. At this time of goodwill and peace I hope that we will all go forward in a spirit of unity in the days that are ahead. I think you can rely on the owners acting in the spirit of fairplay. I believe that the welfare of the coal industry is bound up with the people employed in the industry. We are now working on a profit-sharing basis, so our interests are mutual and we want that harmony, without which true success cannot be achieved.

From the re-organisation point of view, the two main questions facing us are, increased production and the elimination of waste. The mechanical efficiency of the mines in this country will compare with any other country in the world, and from a

safety point of view we lead the way. We are not perfect, however, and we are open to receive fair criticism. We have been criticised from a coal utilisation point of view, but the idea of turning the mining industry into a chemist's shop is only a dream.

It is now my duty, on behalf of the Welfare Committee, to declare this Institute open, and to ask the local Committee to accept same on behalf of this community, and I sincerely hope that it will be a centre of interest from a social, recreational and educational point of view. I can only say in closing that I will be delighted to come along on any occasion if requested to take part in any local function. (Loud applause.)

Mr Bruce Wallace, in accepting the Institute on behalf of the local Committee, said - I hope all the committee will work together and make this Institute a centre of attraction for the people of Lumphinnans.

Mr Rutherford, architect, Dunfermline, then, on behalf of the contractors, presented Mr Carlow with silver cigar and cigarette cases.

Mr Wm Adamson, in the course of a few remarks, said that these Miners' Welfare Institutes throughout the country were bound to improve the drab conditions of many of our mining villages, and would do something to bring sweetness and light into these communities. With regard to Mr Carlow's remarks on the loss of the personal touch in the mining industry, he thought if directors and managers could delegate their office work to others and take a more personal interest in the conditions of labour, it would be better for all concerned.

Thereafter a happy evening was spent in a social atmosphere with song and sentiment.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1926.

LOCHORE.

Explosive Charge Discovered.

What appears to have been a determined effort to put the Mary Pit, Lochore, one of the latest and most modern colliers in the country, out of operation is being investigated by the Fife County Police. It was only during the week-end that details of the affair leaked out, no mention of it having been made either by the police authorities or the colliery owners.

Power for the working of the pit is carried by overhead cables on huge standards from the Aitken Pit, Kelty, and the affair was first discovered when a piece of wood about three feet long was found to have been blown from a piece of one of the standards.

Investigation showed that samsonite, a high explosive, had been used by the wreckers in their attempt to blow up the standards, but the full charge had failed to explode.

In the next standard it was discovered that auger holes had been bored, and a quantity of some explosive inserted. In this instance, however, the detonators failed to work. Had the attempt succeeded there would have been a great danger of the pit flooding before cables could have been repaired.

The police are endeavouring to ascertain the source of the explosives used in the affair. Under the mining regulations it is a criminal offence for miners to take explosives out of the pit.

Coal As a Government Monopoly.

It is interesting in view of the protracted discussions on coal mining and coal distribution, to recall the fact that coal was once a Government monopoly. In 1592, a correspondent pointed out, the Crown Authorities saw in coal a valuable source of revenue, and exercising their prerogative, declared it a Government Monopoly. It may be added that the Act of Parliament declaring this has never been repealed.

The coal industry in England had its first real start when Henry III. granted a charter in 1284 to Newcastle to exploit the mineral. It developed into a great coal producing centre. Like most innovations, coal burning was not popular at first, chiefly on account of the smoke it produced. For that reason the Parliament of England petitioned the King (Edward) to prohibit the practice of coal burning, and ten years before Bannockburn was fought this King put a severe ban upon the use of coal for any purpose whatever.

Local Strikes.

Men out at Glenraig.

Following a short-lived stoppage at Bowhill on Friday, another strike has taken place at Glenraig Colliery.

About three-fourths of the workers had been absorbed, and the men were settling down. Notice was given by the management that the pits would open on Sunday and that shift wages would be paid for a seven hours shift, instead of time and a half as was the rule before the strike. Dissatisfaction was expressed at this change in conditions, and a large number who were to turn out stayed at home. A considerable number, however, went to their work.

Miners Complaint.

A mass meeting of the Glenraig miners was held in the Institute Hall on Monday. The back-shift being idle, the hall was packed. Complaint was made that several "strangers" had started in the colliery, with the result that work was not available or delayed for men employed previous to the big strike. It was admitted at the meeting that the places belong to the owner, who may employ whom he chooses, but it was alleged that an understanding was arrived at that every man would return to his former job at the coal face, where the condition were such as permitted of the work being carried on.

THE SCOTSMAN, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1920. THE MINERS OF SCOTLAND.

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS.

In these present times, when many people find it difficult to understand the miners, it may be helpful if some historical facts are stated - facts which will undoubtedly throw a great deal of light on many aspects of the industrial situation to-day. It is not so much the historian's business to express an opinion as to record impartially the true evolution of authenticated facts in a particular case. I shall therefore content myself with setting down a few of the many interesting things known to every reader of Scots history about the miners of our country.

Coal mining is a very old industry in Scotland - for, somewhere about 1210, a charter was granted by Seyer de Quincy to the monks of Newbattle, in which coal mining at Tranent is mentioned as an occupation of the monks - "In super carbonarium et quarrarium in territoria de Tranernent." Early in the fifteenth century AEneas Sylvius, a distinguished traveller in Scotland, who afterwards became Pope Pius II., speaks of coal mining in Scotland in these words:- "A sulphurous stone dug from the earth is used by the people for fuel." This was the "oily, diligent AEneas" of Carlyle, and it is interesting to know that he attributed his rheumatism to a pilgrimage which he made to Whitekirk in 1435, walking all the way from Dunbar on frosty ground with bare feet !

But few people living in Scotland to-day realise that, before other two centuries had passed, the coal miners of Scotland had become slaves, and remained in virtual slavery until the year 1799. Hugh Miller tells us that, in 1842, "when Parliament issued a Commission to inquire into the nature and results of female labour in the coal pits of Scotland, there was a collier still living that had never been twenty miles from the Scottish capital, who could state to the Commissioners that both his father and Grandfather had been slaves - that he himself had been born a slave - and that he had wrought for years in a pit in the neighbourhood of Musselburgh ere the colliers got their freedom

I regard it as one of the more singular circumstances of my life that I should have conversed with a Scotsman who had been born a slave". And I myself might add that it is just as singular a circumstance that I knew intimately an old woman of over 90 years of age in a mining district of the Lothians whose father worked along with Scots colliers who had been slaves. What then is the real history of the serfdom of these Scots miners ?

There is, so far as I know, no definite account of how the slavery of the miners in Scotland in olden times began. But we know for long that colliers, fishermen, and salters (or workers in salt pans) were singled out particularly from their fellow Scotsmen for a species of slavery. For example, in 1684 two fishermen on the estate of the Earl of Errol left his lands "without leave to his damage and prejudice." He immediately made application to the Privy Council to compel their return, on the ground that it was the universal custom of the North Country to thire "the servitude and service" of fishermen to the particular estate that bred them - and he held that it was contrary to all law "for any man whatsoever to resett, harbour, or entertain the fishers and boatsmen who belonged to another." The Council ordered the men to

return immediately. Twelve years later, in 1696, this custom was questioned in the Court of Session, when some fishermen entered the service of the Laird of Udney and a claim was made for their custody by Forbes of Foveran. The Lords took two years to deliberate, and then gave their verdict against Forbes. They "condemned it as a corrutela and unlawful, and tending to introduce slavery contrary to the principles of the Christian religion and the mildness of the Government." But, in this case several references were made to the condition of the colliers and workers in the salt pans, in regard to whose slavery no doubt seemed to exist. For as far back as 1606 they had been either placed or confirmed in slavery by Act of Parliament. In that year it was ordained by the Scottish estates that no-one should fee or hire any salters, colliers, or coal-bearers without receiving a testimonial from their former employer, signed by him in the presence of a Magistrate that they were free to do so. Should any proprietor engage a salter or collier, and the labourer was claimed within a year and a day, the new proprietor was to be liable to a fine of £100 Scots, and the worker was to be returned to his proper owner at once. This Act gave "Power and commission to all masters and owners of coal-heughs and pans to apprehend all vagabonds and sturdy beggars to be put to labour." So there can be no doubt that in 1606, according to this Act, all men and women who worked in the coal heughs and salt pans were slaves in the eyes of the law.

Then, in 1701, came an Act of Freedom, which forbade the arrest of Scots subjects - but, when it came to the colliers and salters there was an exception made; "the present Act in no way is extended to colliers and salters." Why this exception was made in the case of the colliers and salters I cannot say; but an example will show how hard the law was on colliers. A colliery proprietor, Sir Thomas Wallace Craigie, had given up working his coalfield for seven or eight years, and his colliers naturally sought and found employment elsewhere. They were engaged by William Cunningham of Brownhill, and when Sir Thomas Wallace Craigie resumed work in 1708 he raised an action against William Cunningham for their restitution. In the course of the case it was urged that Craigie was "by law empowered to lend or sell them," and the whole question was "whether they be slaves to Cunningham or to Craigie." The verdict was given in favour of Craigie, and the judge maintained that "coal being a great casualty, our law wisely considered that rent could never be secured without such a severity, none being capable of learning the art but such as are trained up to it from their infancy.

Even collier women were treated in the same way. One woman - Kate Thomson - who was a coal-carrier to Lockhart at Carnwath, ran off and took service in a colliery at Saltcoats. On her whereabouts being discovered she was compelled to return by law. Her new employer maintained that as a year and a day had expired since her removal, Lockhart had forfeited his rights to her. But the Court decided that, although on that plea no fine could be enacted, property in the women was not affected. So Kate had to return - and, when she pleaded that she had been cruelly treated at Carnwath, the judge answered that if severity had been practiced it was because she had run away before.

In 1752, when an estate was sold, the law laid it down that the colliers on it went by purchase with the land. Two years later, in 1754, a slightly better condition was attached to the old, grim law of 1606; for it was decreed that if colliers were bound to work, the owner of the estate was bound to find work for them. It may be said that

these colliers were not slaves in the strict sense of the word, but serfs, for they received wages which were paid partly in money and partly in produce. "Their wages," said Henry Gray Graham, "were not mean," being 1s 1d. a day in early years of the century, and by 1763, according to Adam Smith 2s 6d. a day, when day labourers had from 8d. to 10d., and the earnings of free colliers at Newcastle were only 10d. or 1s. a day. Still, the price of an estate depended on the value of the colliers on it; for, as late as 1771, an illustration has been cited in the "History of Barrowstounness," where "the value of forty good colliers, with their wives and children, was estimated to be worth £4000, or £100 for each family." If the son or the daughter of a collier or coal-hewer, once went to work he or she was "thirled" to it for life. A collier could actually steal himself. For Forbes tells us in his 'Institute of Law of Scotland' (1730) that "some servants are reckoned and punished as thieves for stealing themselves and their services from their masters, as coal hewers, coal bearers, and salt makers, receiving wages and fees, who leave their masters without a testimonial from him." So, servitude made colliers a kind of hereditary caste, quite aloof from their fellows. Their infants were often bound over to the master of the colliery at baptism, in presence of the minister and neighbours. When a collier was in need of money he sometimes sold the freedom of his child to his employer, who then gave "arles", or earnest money, to the father, promising to provide house and garden for the baby-serf, and protection in sickness and old age. So the "arled" child was bound to the pit. It is recorded in a paper of the last Earl of Winton, whose estates were forfeited, that James Forrest, chirurgon of Tranent, received in 1720 a salary of £300 (Scots) for his attendance on the Earl's colliers - and doubtless Chirurgon Forrest tended many an "arled" pit baby in Tranent.

Women and children acted as bearers of coal in the pits or coal heughs. There were circular stairways by which the workers descended into the pit, and long before underground tramways were instituted the coal was carried to the pit bottom in creels fastened to the women's backs. Strange to say, women and girls were preferred to men and boys for this work, for it was found that they could carry about double the weights. In McNeill's local 'History of Tranent' there is a woodcut of a woman crawling along a low gallery on her hands and knees yoked to a wooden tub (without wheels) full of coals, which she is dragging along the wooden "duckboards" of the pit. Mr Robert Bald, of Edinburgh, who took a leading part in agitating for better conditions for female labour in mines in the year 1808, tells of one married woman who came forward to him groaning under a great weight of coals and trembling in every limb, with the remark - "Oh, Sir, this is sair work - I wish to God that the first woman who tried to bear coals had broken he back, and none would have tried it again." The last of the East Lothian pitwomen died only in September 1912, at Musselburgh, at the age of 86, and the last in Bo'ness district died at Newtown in 1907, at an advanced age.

It was in the year 1755 that the scandal of the colliers' serfdom began to touch the nations conscience, and in that year the first attempt at a remedy was made in Parliament. Let Lord Cockburn continue our story in his own words: - "There are few people who now know that so recently as 1799 there were slaves in this country. Twenty-five years before - that is, in 1775 - there must have been thousands of them . . . The completeness of their degradation is disclosed by one public fact. The statute passed in 1701, which has been extolled as the Scotch Habeas Corpus Act, proceeds on the preamble that 'Our Sovereign Lord, considering it is in the interest of all his

good subjects that the liberty of their persons be duly secured.' Yet, while introducing regulations against 'wrongous imprisonment and undue delays in trials,' the statute contains these words: - 'And sicklike it is hereby provided and declared that this present Act is no ways to be extended to colliers and salters.' That is, being slaves, they had no personal liberty to protect . . . The first link of their chain was broken in 1775 by the fifteenth Act of George Third, chap. 28. It sets out in the preamble that 'many colliers and salters are in a state of slavery and bondage', It emancipates future ones entirely - that is, those who, after the 1st July 1775, 'shall begin to work as colliers and salters'. But the existing ones were only liberated gradually - those under twenty-one in seven years; those between twenty-one and thirty-five in ten years. The liberation of the father was declared to liberate his family, and the freed were put under the Act of 1701. But this measure, though effective in checking new slavery, was made very nearly useless in its application to the existing slaves by one of its conditions. Instead of becoming free by mere lapse of time, no slave obtained his liberty unless he instituted a legal proceeding in the Sheriff Court, and incurred all the cost, delay, and trouble of a law suit; his capacity to do which was extinguished by the invariable system of masters always having their workmen in debt. The result was that in general the existing slave was only liberated by death. But this last link was broken in June 1799 by the Thirty-ninth George Third, chap. 56, which enacted that from and after its date 'all the colliers in Scotland who were bound colliers at the passing of the Fifteenth George Third, chap. 28, shall be free from their servitude.' This annihilated the relic."

Such is a very brief account of the freeing of the colliers in Scotland from slavery. Many of the annual fairs, or ridings, or walks of the miners originated in that June day of 1799; and although to ordinary eyes these rather rowdy ridings often seem poor affairs, yet to the eye of the historian each marks the anniversary of the Great Day of Freedom. In reading a story like this, it strikes one how very slow the processes of history sometimes are. It is only 120 years since the Scottish miners or colliers were freed from virtual slavery. The pendulum of history often takes 100 years to swing to its full extreme in the opposite direction. Therefore, in this year of grace, 1920, let us mix our indignation with knowledge, and add to our knowledge patience.

T. RATCLIFFE BARNETT.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1953.

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF AITKEN COLLIERY

FROM "COAL REVIEW".

The Aitken Colliery, Kelty, is the subject of a very interesting article in the November issue of the magazine "Coal".

Under the title "Portrait of Aitken" the article gives a historical review of the Colliery by Sid Chaplin, and many personalities associated with the pit are featured in a series of photographs and pen sketches.

The story reveals that although sunk a little over 50 years ago the Aitken is linked to a mining tradition which began before the Reformation when ecclesiastical mining

engineers worked outcrop coal on Kelty braes.

The article goes on to give other interesting historical connections with coal mining in the Kelty area and tells of the developments which led to the sinking of the Aitken shaft in 1893 by the Fife Coal Company.

Below we give extracts from Mr Chaplin's excellent "portrait" of the colliery.

NEW PITS FROM PROFITS OF OLD MINES.

In those early days the company shrewdly created new pits out of the profits of the old. It was from Lindsay that a cross-measure drift was taken to what was to be the site of Aitken Pit, and all the underground preparatory work done for the new sinkings. Later (about 1900) Aitken was to be the base for the same process in the starting of its neighbour - Mary Pit.

AMUSING STORY OF CUTTING FIRST SOD OF AITKEN SHAFT.

Present at the cutting of the first sod of Aitken No. 1 shaft (in 1893) was a future managing director of the Fife Coal Company, C.A. Carlow. Here is his slyly humorous account of the ceremony - "In keeping with the magnitude of the task, the celebrations included the provision of a luncheon in a large marquee, to which a considerable number were invited. The prosperity of the venture was well toasted, and it is understood that some of the people had just a little difficulty in keeping on the narrow plank which formed a footpath between the tent and the railway station, when it came to the closing of the proceedings."

DAILY OUTPUT 1000 TONS IN 1897.

By early 1896 the cages were running to the Bank Coal Seam. At the end of 1897 output had already reached 1000 tons daily. Two seams - Dunfermline Splint and Five Feet - were discovered to be "glistening Navigation coals", ideal for steam raising - a semi-anthracite, in fact. Upon these navigation coals the colliery established a world-wide reputation. To-day, after a lapse of many years the famous Dunfermline Splint coals are being worked once more. Other seams worked are the Seven Feet, Top and Low Jersey, Top and Low Bank, and the Glassee. They range in thickness from 6 feet 6 inches to 20 inches.

LARGEST POWER STATION IN SCOTLAND.

After the First World War there was a period of reconstruction and expansion. No. 2 shaft was sunk. Surface and washery were reconstructed and a power-station was built, at that time the biggest colliery power station in Scotland - it supplied a total of 13 pits with electricity. Its two huge cooling towers are a landmark for many miles.

OUTPUT NOW 10,500 TONS WEEKLY.

The pit produces approximately 10,500 weekly. Owing to the coal being "easy got",

coalcutters were late in arriving. To-day all the coal is won by cutters, conveyed to central loading stations, and taken to the shaft by endless rope haulage. Two of these are controlled gravity haulers, run at a pre-determined speed of 1½ miles per hour, and are capable of handling 500 tons a shift. There are also two locomotive haulages.

PIT BENEVOLENT SCHEME AND WELFARE FEATURES.

As well as the usual welfare committee, Aitken possesses a pit benevolent scheme with some very original features. Every man at the pit pays a contribution of sixpence a week. A new member comes into benefit with his first sixpence. Off work through sickness he can draw 10/- to 15/- weekly for 26 weeks, followed by 25 weeks at half-benefit. A payment of £10 is made to widows after the death of a member. Wives of members in hospital are given a travelling allowance of 5/- a week. Average draw-out is £2,000 annually.

The welfare work at the colliery is also fully described. The surplus funds from this voluntary effort are devoted to a variety of good causes.

This year for instance, grants of £12 each will be made to eight nearby hospitals to finance Christmas parties for children and adult patients. Concert parties are also sent to hospitals. Donations are sent to old folk's associations, the blind, and many other Kelty bodies. Championship sports are held annually for 12 schools in the West Fife area, with shield, cups, and prizes to the value of £50. Pit veterans are given a day's outing in summer, a tea and concert in winter. There is also a picnic (to the seaside) for children and parents, attended by 1400 last year.

There is also subsidised buses to big soccer matches. Organised on a rota system some thirty workers go in turn every month during the season. All this entails a great deal of work for officials and committee, but the emphasis is on voluntary effort. Secretary and treasurer get a nominal fee for their work. Chairman Dick McHale, who has provided a great deal of the ideas and organisation of the scheme is unpaid and proud of the fact.

PERSONALITIES AT THE PIT.

A fine cross-section of the personnel employed at the colliery are the subject of pen sketches under their photographs. These range from the agent and manager to a woman screener, and embraces Alex. Menzies, the Cowdenbeath footballer, who is pictured in his everyday working clothes, complete with safety helmet and lamp.

STORY OF AGENT'S PROGRESSIVE CAREER.

Mr George Hutchison, agent for the Kelty Group of Collieries, and Mr James Haynes, manager of Aitken, are photographed together and are both sons of miners. Mr Hutchison began his working career when he left school at 14, to become a surface worker at Balgonie Colliery. At 17 he started night classes, went to Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh, on Saturday afternoons. One of seven students coached by his village schoolmaster, he alone stayed the full course and went on to gain his first class certificate. Appointed oversman at Aitken 30 years ago, he later became manager of the two pits and before returning to Kelty in 1949, in his present position, he was in

turn manager of Lumphinnans No. 11 and Mary Pits, agent for Bowhill, Comrie and Lochgelly groups.

He has therefore been in charge of all but two West Fife pits.

HARD WORK AND STUDY BROUGHT MANAGER'S RISE.

Mr Haynes' rise to managerial rank is also a tribute to earlier hard work and study.

He gained practical experience as a timber-drawer, shaftsman and fireman, and ten years study at Kilmarnock Technical College and Aye Academy evening classes brought him his first class certificate.

He was under-manager and then manager of Lady Helen Colliery and manager of Kinglassie before going to the Aitken in 1948.

DICK McHALE'S REMARKABLE CAREER IN WAR AND INDUSTRY.

The career of Dick McHale, who is supports economy officer, branch delegate, deputies association and chairman of both Pit Welfare Committee and Benevolent Scheme, makes very interesting reading.

He served with the Cameron Highlanders in France in the First World War, seeing most engagements, and the occupation of Germany. He also set up a unique record in the last war, after being transferred from the Scottish Horse to the Royal Engineers. As Company Sergeant Major with 178 Tunnelling Coy., spent over three years on Gibraltar, supervising 4½ miles of tunnelling within the Rock, including quarters for some 2,000 men, five hospitals and four cinemas, and storage place for five years' stock of ration and equipment. Major job was making room for equipment to turn salt water to fresh; later another member of the company an ex-miner, also a Kelty man, John Dunsmore, discovered an underground lake, the first fresh-water source ever to be found at Gibraltar. The lake was later sealed-up and the Gibraltar water-sellers still ply their trade. His comment on all this: Kelty left its mark on Gibraltar. He afterwards returned to England to help make the underground headquarters from which D-Day operations were conducted. Released to return to the mines (in 1944) he became deputy, the oversman at Aitken, until he lost an arm underground. Absent only eight weeks he returned to his present job.

A CRAFTSMAN BY VIRTUE OF COURAGE AND DETERMINATION.

Courage and determination are the qualities attributed to making 31-year-old Charlie Stewart a craftsman. He is featured as one of the fitters employed at the pit. At 12 he had septic poisoning in his leg. This left him permanently crippled. He served his apprenticeship at Aitken and studied mechanical engineering at Dunfermline Technical College.

THE ROLE OF GIRL SCREENERS.

22-year-old Lena Lister, who depicts the role played by the girl screeners at the pit, is

the wife of a Cowdenbeath No. 7 pit collier and a daughter of a miner. Leaving school at 14 she started work at a Dunfermline rubber factory making sandshoes. Married at 18 she later became one of some 30 girl screeners employed at Aitken.

"MING" REPRESENTS THE ONCOST WORKERS.

Alex. Menzies, the Cowdenbeath footballer, represents the oncost workers in the pictorial review of the variety of jobs offered at the Aitken.

A son of an Aitken collier, Alex. started there at 14. He is on the Committee of the benevolent scheme. He describes his most exciting experience when Cowdenbeath defeated Rangers 3-2 at Glasgow. After the final whistle Alex. and two team-mates danced the Highland fling on the pitch in front of a roaring appreciative crowd.

WILLIE MILL RECALLS OPENING THE FIRST CO-OP SHOP IN KELTY.

The final pen sketch and photograph is that of 54 year old Willie Mill, chairman of the pit's N.U.M., and a member of Fife County Council. Now a hole-borer, he started at Aitken in 1926 after working at a small drift mine near Kelty.

Mr Mill tells the interesting story of how his grandfather abandoned the pit to become the first manager of the Kelty Co-op. Society, founded by Lochgelly men whom Charles Carlow (founder of the Fife Coal Co.) brought to Kelty. These men complained that although the wages were better the increase was swallowed by high prices. With the help of Charles Carlow the first Co-op. shop was opened. Willie Mill helps to run the Old People's Welfare Society, financed by Aitken men, which provides some 40 old folk in the district with a meal on wheel service, chiropodist service, an Old Men's Club and annual concerts and trips. His proudest moment: When he helped Sassenach Bill Hamilton (son of a Durham miner) win the division for Labour with the biggest majority in Scotland.

COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1954.

JENNY GRAY COLLIERY CENTENARY.

PIT VETERANS ENTERTAINED.

The first event of the Jenny Gray Pit Centenary Celebrations took place on Saturday night in the Co-operative Hall. Appropriately it was an entertainment to the veterans of the pit.

The Jenny Gray, popularly known as "Lochgelly's Own", is the oldest pit in the district, a district where coal has been produced from very early times. Production on an economic basis dates back about two centuries. The first coalowner was Sir Gilbert Elliot who had acquired Lochgelly Estate through marriage. He was the father of the first Earl of Minto. He worked the mineral through a "grieve" or manager and about a dozen colliers were employed.

The pits of these days were shallow working surface seams. A main concern was

sitting them to secure a "water level" before the coming of steam power for pumping the water. Women then were employed underground, some as hewers, but mostly as 'bearers', who carried the coal from the face up the straight or spiral stair-ways to the surface. By an Act of Parliament in 1842 women were prohibited from working underground. A number of women colliers were still alive within the lifetime of many present on Saturday night.

We have tried to discover the origin of the name "Jenny Gray" by research and communication with the Elliot family in the possibility that it may have been named from one connected with the family. They are, however, unable to trace the nomenclature in their family.

There have been three developments in the "Jenny Gray". The first shaft is believed to have been within about sixty yards east of the present in the Berry Plantin, which became the Public Park nearly fifty years ago. The shaft was left, surrounded by a high protective fence, and was filled in when Lord Minto granted the ground for the Public Park. The second development of the colliery took place at the beginning of this century.

The function on Saturday night was presided over very successfully by Mr Dempster Smith, the present manager of the pit, and it proved highly successful in every way. Approximately 150 veterans attended. In addition were a few guests representing the managerial side of the industry, the Miners' Association and civic life of the Burgh. Mr George Mullin, Area Production Chief, was unavoidably absent. To all the guests the chairman gave a cordial welcome. The guests comprised Mr Miller, Agent for the Area; Mr Peter Ness, secretary of the Fife Miners' Association; Provost Drummond; ex-Provost Foote, a Jenny Gray veteran now 87 years of age, who got a special welcome; ex-Provost Timmons; ex-Provost Wilson; and ex-Bailie Alexander Westwater, J.P., Honorary Burgess. To all the chairman gave a cordial welcome. After grace by the chairman, a splendid high tea was served by the Co-operative staff. A company of artistes with Jack Dougary as compere provided an enjoyable variety entertainment.

The chairman said they intended to make this year a memorable one. It was fitting to entertain the veteran miners. Without them there would have been no Jenny Gray. Other social functions were planned, details of which would be given at a future date. A Centenary Fund had been started and Mr Smith said he would like publicly to thank Lochgelly Town Council, Lochgelly Co-operative Society, the National Union of Mineworkers, the National Coal Board and all other organisations who had contributed. He intimated that this money would be used for the future events because the finances for the entertainment of the veterans had been very generously provided by the men at present working at the colliery.

TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORT.

Provost John Drummond was the first speaker. He said it had been a unanimous finding of his Council to give a donation to the Centenary Fund as an expression of how they felt about such an event in a mining community. The Burgh itself was just short of being 100 years old, and, over the years, it had depended mainly on coal.

The burgh motto, "By Industry We Flourish", was itself a wonderful tribute to the miners of the community. It had been changed in recent years but only so that greater emphasis could be laid on the mining background of Lochgelly.

The Provost recalled that as a son in a mining home in the Lothians his father used to make his "squibs" in the scullery in the days when the miners carried home the explosives and prepared them for the next day. At that time there were many miners who used to argue that there was a right way and a wrong way to bite a detonator!

Continuing, the Provost said he was exceptionally pleased to associate the Town Council with this fine send-off for the Centenary Celebrations. He paid tribute to the organising committee and said he was pleased that they had consulted with others who might help to broaden out the aspect of the celebrations this year. The actual date the Jenny Gray had started producing coal was not certain, but this was the Centenary year. The decision to hold functions later in the season was a wise one for it gave time to organise the Centenary into more of a burgh function.

One proposal he had already put forward was that an approach be made to the Education Authority to see whether the one field they controlled in the burgh - Jubilee Park - might

be improved and properly fenced. Because of its close proximity to the Jenny Gray it might be held as a tribute to the pit and workmen. The Centenary sports could be held there.

In conclusion, the Provost pledged the Town Council to further support and co-operation and expressed the hope that this would be established as the "Jenny Gray Year."

A VERSATILE CAREER.

Mr John Miller, colliery agent, said he could claim to be an "old-timer" himself, because it was fifty years since he first started in the pits as a boy. He had worked at everything from the face right up to the winding engine. He knew the workers point of view from his own personal experience. The thought occurred to him that in these modern days of mechanisation where labour was helped and often displaced by machinery, there was something admirable about the men who sunk the Jenny Gray. In these days, without machinery the pit would be sunk in the old fashioned hard way with a "jumper". Nowadays an electric borer was used. This was only one indication of the progress made over the years. There had even been progress in terminology in which he noticed many changes. There was more politeness in the terms used at the present day. As a boy he could recall when a "strike" was a "strike", but to-day it was called an "unofficial stoppage". "Management of men" had changed to "Labour relations," and "idling" was "ca' canny". Emphasis was rightly put on consultation, but this was no new thing. The wise official in the old days was the man who travelled round the pit and consulted the man on the job.

Progress had been made and he was sure the veterans were happy to see the benefits going to the younger miners, because there was no gainsaying the fact that there were no harder working set of men in any country than the miners. People outside the

industry remarked about the money miners made, but Mr Miller was of the opinion that they had been too long in making that money. Coal had always been obtained far too cheaply, and he hoped they would never return to those days.

SANK THE RECONSTRUCTED SHAFT.

Ex-Provost John Wilson was introduced by Mr Smith as the man who sank the Jenny Gray shaft on the pit's reconstruction, and the chairman commented that he must have made a good job of it for even yet, after 100 years, it caused little trouble.

Ex-Provost Wilson said he was pleased to be amongst so many old friends. When he had started sinking there had been no machinery employed at all and the work had to be done by hand. It had been a laborious job to get the work done. The first shaft he had ever sunk was at a colliery near Ayr and no high explosives had been used in the entire sinking.

He came to Lochgelly district to "sink" the Minto Colliery on 5th March, 1901. He had not known one single person in Lochgelly, but he could honestly say that in no place he had been, since or before, had he made more friends. Lochgelly had been very different then.

Sometimes there had been long spells when there was not much work at all. When the Baltic was closed there had been practically no work, yet very seldom did you ever hear a man say he was "hard-up". Fife miners were in a different class from others he had worked with. They were looked upon as being steady and reliable. They had also been responsible for the introduction of the eight hours day and this had been celebrated for many years.

As far as the Jenny Gray was concerned he had sunk the last shaft there and the work had been carried out by hand. It had been a skill in itself for not many men could handle a "jumper". There was a "knack" in this work which had to be concentrated on. What a difference now with modern machinery and equipment. In the old days if they wore leggings they had to cut a hole and allow the water inside to enable them to keep their feet. He hoped these conditions would never return.

FORTHRIGHT SPEECH BY VETERAN EX-PROVOST FOOTE - A NARROW ESCAPE.

Ex-Provost Andrew Foote said he could also claim to be an old collier for he had worked 41 years in the pit. He believed that the Foote family was the last unit to work at driving a head from the Melgund to the old Jenny Gray. He could give them assurance that it had been a very dangerous job for the old Jenny Gray workings had been full of black damp. When the wind changed it was blown towards where they worked and it had been necessary to escape to the Melgund. He recalled working with his brother one night and they had just got the men on the level when the black damp rushed down. Their lights were extinguished and they discovered there had been a fall on the escape route. How they eventually got through he did not know. It was a strange thing that to-day, with all the modern machinery, the output per man was less than in the old days. Then they had to produce their 22 cwts. per man lying on their sides "howking" with a pick. There were no conveyers or coal cutters. Ex-Provost Foote concluded by saying that the miner had a right to a good standard of

living and good housing conditions. He hoped in the future they would continue to improve.

OLD FILMS.

Ex-Provost Timmons remarked that not being a miner he felt entirely out of the picture. He was very pleased at getting an invitation to attend. At a recent meeting of the Centenary Committee he had put forward some propositions, for he was always out to assist any worthy object of the burgh. At the Cinema-de-Lux he had quite a number of old films of events in Lochgelly twenty or thirty years ago. They would be of interest to the majority of Lochgelly folks and a showing could be arranged. It was very seldom there was a centenary to celebrate in the burgh and he hoped the functions would be successful.

In the old days there had been hardships but while the wages were low the £ went further, and he thought the old miners were happier then than to-day.

FORCEFUL SPEECH BY FIFE MINERS' OFFICIAL.

Mr Peter Ness, District Secretary of the N.U.M., said he had been an official for 25 years and while he had attended many functions this occasion surpassed them all. It was grand to meet such a large number of veterans who had been responsible for building up the industry to the efficiency to be found at the present time. He had worked as a miner at Kinglassie Colliery when all coal was procured by picks and he had believed then as now that safety was a first essential. He could recall when the "jumper" was used but had never practiced it. It had been a craft within itself.

He could not agree with ex-Provost Timmons that the miners had been happier in the old days, for the pittances earned had not allowed them to enjoy themselves as well as the present generation. There had been progress over the years, but not sufficient, for the miners still had to work very hard for wages that were not in keeping with the arduous nature of their employment and the present cost of living. Machinery had brought something detrimental to fellowship, had wielded them into a unity of a Corps or body that they highly prized, a unity which brought them there that night from their widely scattered dwellings to spend a few hours in happy fellowship together. (Applause.)

THE MINING SCHOOL MT CORPS RE-UNION DINNER

THE HISTORY OF THE CORPS.
DR PARKER ON THE HISTORY OF THE CORPS.

The annual re-union dinner of the members of the Mechanical Transport Corps, which went out from the Fife Mining School, Cowdenbeath, in the early days of the war, was held in the Gothenburg, Cowdenbeath, on Saturday. A company of over sixty attended.

Mr A Drysdale, Kelty, presided, and, after a splendid dinner, he expressed his pleasure at being amongst his former comrades of the war. He had no doubt that everyone was pleased to have this second re-union to meet old familiar faces and renew old acquaintances.

“I don’t think”, concluded Mr Drysdale, “that any of us will see another war, although the clouds are dark meantime, but let us live to-night in the old comradeship.”

ADDRESS BY DR PARKER.

The principal address of the evening was delivered by Dr. J. Parker of the Fife Mining School, who was actually responsible for the formation of the Corps.

The war, he said, was one vast and prolonged tragedy for humanity, and, although fourteen years had now passed since the booming guns had ceased, the outlook for international peace and disarmament was still gloomy. The world now suffered from an unparalleled industrial depression; the nations were erecting tariff barriers around themselves, seeking to become self-sufficient; thus trade was hampered, the outlook was dark, and, in the darkness, fear entered the hearts of men and panic was abroad. This was the terrible aftermath of a war which we were told would end wars. The obligation to defend their homes, which the great catastrophe imposed upon them, did not find them irresolute, but ready to do their duty. Those years of fellowship, in suffering and endurance, following the more genial years of student fellowship, had wielded them into a unity of a Corps or body that they highly prized, a unity which brought them there that night from their widely scattered dwellings to spend a few hours in happy fellowship together. (Applause.)

THE HISTORY OF THE CORPS.

Dr Parker went on to give an account of the early days of the Corps and what lead to its formation.

When the Mining School re-opened in September, 1914, they found themselves at war, and, as a goodly proportion of their men had enlisted, the enrolment for the session was down. Many of the more advanced students, who came along to discuss enrolment with the Principal, were undecided about enrolment, as they believed their services would be required elsewhere.

They were not bellicose but were anxious and ready to respond to their country's call.

They were keen to prosecute their studies, but also keen that, in the event of being "called up", they should be ready to do their part without any undue interval of military training.

They inquired of the doctor - "If we enrol for our studies, could not you arrange that, concurrently, we should receive such a military training as would readily fit us for the fray?" Thus the challenge came to him.

The situation was duly reported to the School Management Committee, and Dr Parker was given powers to proceed as best he might. When, however, he approached the War Office for their advice he found that they could not favour any scheme or training unless the men to be trained would enter a definite contract to respond whenever a call came for them to enter a definite branch of the Army. He knew that there would be no difficulty with the men about signing the "definite contract", and the only question that remained for discussion was which branch of the Army they should enter. At that time he learned that a large number of men were wanted for the Mechanical Transport Division of the Army Service Corps, and, on reflection, he considered that given some special training they would form an excellent Motor Transport Corps.

Dr Parker then explained his own position, and said he felt that he could not endeavour to train the students and remain at home himself, so he and 300 of his students signed the contract forms which were prepared.

Arrangements for drill and for gymnastic training were made, and he gave a series of lecture on the motor car, ably aided by Mr Rhodes, one of his assistants.

The chairman of Lochgelly Iron & Coal Company, at that time, later came to their assistance by sending along a Panhard car, which was jacked up; then the practical lessons began, in learning to start up, stop and change gears. Then they proceeded to romp about the playground, and next, armed with military driving licences, they ventured out along the narrow back roads around Cowdenbeath. Two additional old cars were procured, and he recalled that they not only learned to drive, but also to repair a car after a breakdown.

The Army Belsize lorry, which was used in connection with the Army tests, was also put into use, and, remarked the speaker, it was just as well the lorry did not belong to a trade union, and had no scruples about hours of working, and did not even object to a seven-day week. Late and early they were at work, and the result was that 240 of the finest men that ever entered the Army Service Corps, dully passed all tests, went forth to active service.

The years they spent on active service fully proved their valour and worth, and he was proud to know that they pulled their full weight in helping to win the war.

Regarding himself, concluded Dr Parker, it was considered by the War Office that he would be worth only one man in France, but that at home he would be worth many. (Applause)

TWO MINUTES SILENCE.

At this point the names of the members of the Corps who were killed in the war, and those who had died since, were read out by Dr Parker, and a most impressive two minutes' silence was observed to their memory.

"PRESENT AND ABSENT MEMBERS."

In proposing the toast "Members of the M.T. Corps: Present and Absent," Mr John McCallum said they owed Dr Parker a deep debt of gratitude for the part he played in forming the Corps. In fact many of them owed even their very lives to him for, had they not been placed in the M.T. Corps, in all probability they would have found themselves in some of the more active sections of the Army, where the chances of coming back to "Blighty" with a whole skin would have been much less.

Referring to the great bond of friendship which had sprung up between them during the war years, Mr McCallum said one could work beside a man for 20 years, and yet if one was in the Army for only 20 months the friendship was very much keener. This was a point he felt he could not explain, but the gathering present that night proved the statement. (Applause.)

Mr D. Moffat, Glasgow, replying, said he was very pleased to be present to meet the friends who had been associated with him during the war, and he thought that instead of looking forward that night, they should look back on their many experiences at the front.

Everyone of them, Mr Moffat remarked in jocular mood, thought the M.T. Corps the best unit of the British Army, and it was of great credit to Dr Parker that this particular unit received special mention from the Commander in Chief. They were very thankful to Dr Parker for that mighty brain of his which formulated the scheme which brought them together, and they all deeply appreciated what he had done for them. (Applause.) The company, upstanding, thereupon sang "He's a Jolly Good Fellow".

Mr Joe Parker, who was in a large measure responsible for the reunion being brought about, expressed his pleasure at so many being present, and intimated apologies for absence from 30 members.

Later in the evening, in response to requests, Mr McCallum gave a short resume of his visit to London on the occasion of the annual reunion dinner of the 32nd Division, M.T. Corps.

At intervals in the programme solos were rendered by Messrs A. Drysdale, Kelty; R.Y. Cook, Dysart; F. Fox, Lumphinnans; J. Hatelly, Cowdenbeath; Patrick Murphy, Cowdenbeath; D. Moffat, Glasgow; T. Wilson, Cardenden; R. Alexander, Dunfermline. A monologue was also given by Mr D. Moffat, while the pianoforte accompaniments were ably played by Mr F. Fox.

The function, which was most enjoyable throughout, terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

A meeting of the committee of the Corps was arranged to be held in the Gothenburg, Cowdenbeath, on Saturday, 14th January.

LOCAL SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE CORPS.

Members of the old Corps are now settled all over the world, and it is interesting to note that they are to be found in America, Australia, New Zealand, India, Africa, and many of the large cities in England and Scotland, while many have turned their training to commercial account.

The local surviving members of the Corps are: -

LOCHGELLY - William Beveridge, Edward Brown, John Frame, Alex. Hunter, Thos. Henderson, James McLeod, W.R. Hunter, James Spence, George Stark and A. Kelso.

LOCHORE AND DISTRICT - William Butters, John Donnachie, Michael Dunn, David Dawson, Duncan Harrower, Martin Halliday, William Hunter, John Law, George McAndrew, Frank McQuade and Alexander Halliday.

LUMPHINNANS - Frank Fox, John Flemming, John Hunter, James McLean, William McKay, R. Fox (now in Australia), and Robert Smith (now in Africa).

BOWHILL AND CARDENDEN - George Adams, William Cuthbert, David Cook, James Flemming, D. Hastie, Andrew O'Donnell, George Smith and Thomas Wilson.

COWDENBEATH - Joseph Allan, Thomas Black, Andrew W. Cargill, David Cree, William Duncan, Andrew Ferguson, George Guthrie, John Guthrie, Tom Glancy (Cowdenbeath F.C.), John Gardiner, John Hatley, William Hutchison, James Herriot, John Martin, M. McCue, John McCallum, Patrick Murphy, John Mitchell, Thomas Pringle, Frank Parker, J.R.M. Paterson, Harry Reid, Walter Richardson, Peter Russell, Mitchell Ramsay, John Sneddon, John Sundilands, Thomas Smith, James Taylor, John Taylor, George R. Waterson, George Wilson, J.T. Wallace and Alex. Walls.

KELTY - James Dalrymple, Alexander Drysdale, Alexander Gray, Andrew Hunter, Robert Hughes, Robert Izatt, John Penman, Frank Smith, Robert Thompson, William Wyse, Henry Adamson, James Brash, James Birrell, J. Balloch, William Milne, Archibald Cook and R. Mill.

MEMBERS KILLED IN ACTION.

P. Duffy, James Fotheringham, Lawrence Gourley, Campbell Guthrie, John Gillespie, George Hunter, R. Henderson, R. Henderson, John Izatt, A. Marshall, James Ness, Alex. Smith, Thomas Sneddon, Charles Scott, James Thomson, John Wood, T. Wilson, David Williamson and J. Young.

DIED SINCE THE WAR.

William Baxter, John Beveridge, J. Beattie, John Healy, Jas. Harrower, Daniel McNeil, David Renton, Alex. Sinclair, F. Anderson, T. Linton and John Hart.

THE COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER,
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1954.
THE STORY OF THE SCOTTISH MINERS. THEIR STRUGGLE TO BE FREE
MEN.

By George Mullin, West Fife Area General Manager, N.C.B.

(This article appeared in the 'Times' on the 18th and was continued on 25th)
 Mr Geo. Mullin, Area General Manager of the West Fife Area of the National Coal Board, was the speaker at a lecture organised by Fife Education Committee, in conjunction with the Education Committee of Lochgelly Co-op. Society and held in the Co-operative Hall on Tuesday night.

A fairly good attendance was welcomed by the chairman, Mr Joseph Orr, English teacher at Beath High School, Cowdenbeath.

Mr Mullin's address was both interesting and informative and there was added interest for the audience when a film on the recent mechanisation work at Bowhill Colliery was shown.

In the course of the discussion which followed the talk, Mr James Hutchison, Area Production Manager of the West Fife Area of the N.C.B., asked Mr Mullin how the social amenities of the British mining industry compared with European countries and America. Mr Mullin replied that that Britain was ahead of nearly all countries in this respect with the exception perhaps of Holland. In Russia, for instance, women still worked underground and this was something which had been abolished more than 100 years ago in this country. Miners' wages were higher in America but the British social amenities were much better than in the United States. One point to be remembered was that the British mines were the safest in the world and British coal was still the cheapest in Europe.

One questioner referred to the work of the Labour Relations Officers. If a manager sacked a man he could not start another but had to contact the Labour Relations Officer who would contact the Labour Exchange and then send a man to the pit. Were Labour Relations Officers necessary and was it not better when the manager could start a man at the pit?

Mr Mullin replied that there was only one Labour Officer who served both West and East Fife. If Labour Relations Officers could provide additional amenities for miners and their wives and families, then he would not mind an increase in their numbers. At the moment a manager could only sack a man for "serious industrial misconduct" and he felt that this was one of the defects of nationalisation. The Welfare Officer, however, had no power to employ men. His duty was to make the labour available but the manager had the final say.

In answer to a question by Hon. Treas. Bruce, Lochgelly, Mr Mullin said many of the old time prejudices concerning the management and the men still existed. There were many, including some of the miners' leaders in West Fife, who looked on the management as "the other side". There was only one side for, after all, the industry belonged to the nation.

Questioned about the administrative staff of the Coal Board, Mr Mullin said that in this connection the Coal Board administrative costs were much less than many other industries. There was a generalisation that the Coal Board was overburdened with staff. The ideas expressed that there were jobs created which had been unheard of before Nationalisation, that there were typists who could not type, Safety Officers who did not know what they were talking about, etc., was a lot of nonsense. The manual labour charges put up the costs not the administration.

Councillor Michael Cook, Lochgelly, referred to the welfare facilities of the miners. He asked if C.I.S.W.O. was not inclined to neglect the old towns and rather concentrate their efforts on the new townships. Lochgelly Institute for instance had had nothing from the Welfare Funds from 1926.

Mr Mullin agreed there was this inclination to concentrate on new towns. The answer was, of course, to make the mining industry more efficient and make a profit. If money was available things could be made much easier for the miners themselves. As things stood the miners were probably much better off for welfare than the majority of workers in big cities.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was expressed by Mr J. More, Lochgelly, who intimated that the next lecture would be on 7th December, when the speaker would be Mr W.D. Ritchie, former director of Education, now secretary of the Scottish Institute of Adult Education.

Mr Mullin's address was on the following terms:-

Social and Economic changes have been brought about in the mining industry over a period of years. It is true that some of these changes have been accelerated and amplified by Nationalisation, but it would be quite wrong to give the impression that they were brought about by Nationalisation. The specific changes which have taken place since Nationalisation he would deal with later on.

The picture might be clarified by a brief historical sketch showing the changes which have taken place over the years, because the changes which have taken place since Nationalisation have their roots in the dim and distant past.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW.

1579: In this year the Scots Poor Law ordained that a convicted vagrant might have his usual sentence of stripes and ear-burning commuted to one year's service with any private employer who would take him.

In the year 1592, an Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament which was intended to give some freedom to the miners, a freedom that some of us to-day would gladly accept ! In this Act "the miners were exempted from all taxation, charges and proclamations, whether in time of peace or war, and all their families, goods and gear taken under Royal protection and it was declared that any wrong or oppression done to them directly or indirectly would be severely punished as done contrary to His Majesty's special safeguard." The passing of this Act was not prompted by

humanitarian considerations; it arose from the need to attract new recruits to a profitable industry which was now expanding. So obviously a scarcity of labour was not unknown even in those days.

In 1597 the administration of the Act of 1579 was handed over to the Kirk Session and, in the towns, to the Magistrates, and they were empowered to take convicted tramps and their children into the mines for an indefinite period.

Any favours bestowed on the miners by the Act of 1592 were soon recalled and his freedom materially curtailed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1606 which reduced the colliers and salters in Scotland to a state of servitude; a position, in fact, little short of that of a common slave. His position differed from that of a slave only in this, that the masters had not the power to bring him out of the mine and dispose of him by public auction in the market place. Nevertheless, if the owner of the mine sold the mine to another individual, the miner was included in the sale.

In the year prior to 1606, an Act was passed in which employers were empowered to pick their own employees from the highways with the Sheriff's sanction. In the year 1617 the children of the indigent were legislated for as in the enactment already in force for dealing with tramps.

An Act was passed in 1621 which extended the privilege already granted to mine owners to other employers to apprehend labour whatever they chose.

In 1641 Parliament ordained that masterless men must labour at reasonable rates. This Act ratifies the Act of 1606 and the powers of the masters were still further strengthened by the installation of a clause which enslaved all other classes of workers in mines, namely "watermen, windsmen, and gatesmen," and in 1698 the coal owners were empowered to retain a child slave permanently.

Some insight into the miners and customs of the Scottish miners at that time can be gleaned from the concluding paragraph of this Act of 1641 which says:-

" Because the said coal hewers and salters and other workmen in coal pits within this kingdom do ly from their work at Pash, Yule and Whitsunday and certain other times of the year, which times they employ in drinking and debauchery, to the great offence of God and prejudice of their masters, it is therefore Statute and ordained that the said coal hewers and salters and other workers in coal pits in this kingdom work all the six days per week except the time of Christmas, under pain of 20 shillings Scots to be paid to their Masters for each days failure and other punishments to their bodies."

From this it appears that the Scottish collier of 1641 seemed to play himself as frequently as opportunity offered; a characteristic not unknown to his present day descendants !

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE.

In 1701 the Scottish Parliament introduced the Act preventing wrongful imprisonment and undue delays in trials - the Habeas Corpus of Scotland. The King was made to set forth in the preamble that he considered it to be in the interests of all his good subjects

that the liberty of their persons should be duly secured and to declare that the imprisonment of persons without expressing the reason thereof or delaying to put them on trial was contrary to law; but in the body of the Statute there appeared the Clause that the benefits of the Act: "should not in any wayes be extended to colliers." They - like the vagabonds and the masterless beggars disobedient to Church censures - were debarred from the reasonable rights extended to the rest of the population.

EMANCIPATION ACT.

The laws of the Scottish Parliament, which made the miners outcasts and serfs, remained in force for three-quarters of a century. At long last the British Parliament awoke to the consciousness of the fact that the mining population of Scotland was still in a state of slavery and bondage and an Act for their release, as well as for their rights of protection from wrongful imprisonment and undue delays in trials, was passed in 1755 (the Emancipation Act). But even this Act was not promoted solely by humanitarian sentiments. It derived mainly from economic necessity, for by this time it was beginning to be found impossible to keep the colliers strictly in servitude. There was also great difficulty in obtaining the necessary labour for an expanding industry. The preamble of the Act states:

"There are not a sufficient number of colliers, coal-bearers and salters in Scotland for working the quantity of coal necessarily wanted and many new discovered coals remain unwrought, neither are there a sufficient number of salters for salt works, to the great loss of the owners, and disadvantage of the public."

Because of the inherent defects of the Emancipation Act of 1775, a belief on the part of some colliers that it relieved coal-masters of some of their obligation to them, and the fact that many of them were already in debt to their masters, the Act brought release to very few colliers. Many continued in slavery all their days unless they survived till 1799, when Parliament came to recognise the injustice and passed an Act of humanity which gave unconditional freedom to all colliers in Scotland who still remained bound to their employers, and extended to them also the existing Act relating to the fixing of wages of labourers.

SLAVERY AND SERFDOM ABOLISHED.

Though slavery and serfdom were abolished it was long before there passed away the baneful effects of the old life in a race of men and women with natures mentally stunted, morally degraded and physically brutalised through long generations of miserable servitude and existence in hovels of dirt and wretchedness as vile as the pits in which they toiled.

"A MERE DEVICE".

Speaking of some of the colliers after their liberation, Sir Walter Scott remarked: "they were so far from desiring or prizing the blessing conferred on them, that they esteemed the interest taken in their freedom to be a mere device on the part of the proprietors to get rid of what they called head or harigold money, payable to them when a female of their number, by bearing a child, made addition to the livestock of their master's property".

A SLOW AND PAINFUL PROCESS.

The dawn of the 19th century, although it found the Scottish collier freed from his bondage, saw little improvement in his working and social conditions. More than 40 years were to pass before women and children were prohibited from working underground, and more than a century passed before housing and welfare were even given serious thought. The improvement in his lot was a slow and painful process. The improvement came from the intervention of associations of persons outside the industry, from the labours of a few influential and philanthropic men, and finally from the Associations of the Colliers themselves, who so stirred up the public conscience that the Government of the day was forced - step by step - to pass the much needed beneficial Industrial and Social legislation.

RAPID IMPROVEMENTS.

From the middle of the 19th century onwards, improvements came rapidly. After the passing of the Lord Ashley Act in 1842 prohibiting the employment of females and boys under 10 years of age, other Acts followed with equal success. Government inspection of underground workings was established by the Act of 1850 which made it compulsory for the owners to keep plans of all workings. This Act was further strengthened by two succeeding Acts - one in 1855 and one in 1860. As a result of the Hartley Disaster an Act was passed in 1862 which made it compulsory to have two shafts or outlets to every underground working. Further improvements were brought about by the Acts of 1872 and 1877, until finally a new Coal Mines Act was passed in 1911, which has been amended from time to time by additional regulations in relation to safety and efficient working of the mines. A new Mines and Quarries Bill was recently presented to Parliament, in which the mineworkers' interests are safeguarded. A significant feature is that the miners themselves, through their representatives were consulted and helped in the framing of the Act.

Many changes beneficial to the workers have taken place in the Mining Industry within recent years, including a limitation in the hours of work to 7½ hours per day, and these will be referred to later in more detail.

The effect of many generations of serfdom has left its mark on the mining industry, and although the miners to-day are amongst the most highly paid workers in Great Britain, they still retain their prejudices and are inclined to look upon their employers as enemies of their particular class. It will take some time before these prejudices - which are quite unwarranted now - are eradicated.

PRESENT DAY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES.

The main factors affecting the social and economic changes are:-

1. Wages;
2. Pensions;
3. Holidays with Pay;
4. Joint Consultation;

5. Miners' Welfare;
6. Modernisation of the Mines and equipping with new machinery to reduce the hard work and arduous tasks in and about the pits.

WAGES.

Prior to Nationalisation, the wages and conditions of the miners had improved out of all recognition and since Nationalisation the wages have increased more rapidly than in any other industry, e.g. the following show the position in 1947, 1948, 1950 and 1954:

1947, January, Face, 25/10.6.; Elsewhere below ground, 21/8.0.; Surface, 15/7.2.
Total, 22/0.0

1948, January, Face, 33/9.1.; Elsewhere below ground, 27/11.2 ; Surface, 20/0.1.
Total, 28/6.7

1950, January, Face, 28/6.7.; Elsewhere below ground, 30/2.5.; Surface, 21/11.6.
Total, 31/11.7

1954, September, Face, 51/2.8; Elsewhere below ground, 38/7.7; Surface, 29/5.8.
Total, 42/7.4

From the above figures it will be observed that the miners have gained a considerable advance in their wages since the advent of Nationalisation. While it is true that the cost of living has increased, I think it will be agreed by all that the increase in wages in the Mining Industry has been greater than the Cost of Living Index.

Another advantage gained by the miners before Nationalisation was the bringing out of the Essential Works Order, whereby if a miners' work was not available and he had to be sent home, provided that he had worked the remaining days in the week he was paid a Guaranteed Wage for the day on which his work was not available.

PENSIONS.

A demand for a Pension Scheme has existed in the coal industry for many years. Indeed, this demand was made before the introduction of the National Old Age Pension.

In 1946 the National Union of Mineworkers presented a Miners' Charter to the Minister of Fuel and Power, and a claim for a Pension Scheme occupied a prominent place in the Charter. The Minister accepted the principle, but it was agreed that the Charter should be implemented by instalments. During the 1951 fuel crisis the miners' leaders met the Prime Minister and the subject of pensions was discussed. On 11th January, 1951, the National Coal Board announced its acceptance in principle of a Supplementary Pension Scheme. The National Union of Mineworkers endorsed their agreement the following week. The wording of the announcement is significant:-

"The Board found itself unable to agree to the claim of the National Union of Mineworkers for additional paid holidays this year because of the loss of output that would thereby be entailed. They have already accepted the principle of additional

paid holidays. As an earnest of their determination to carry out the reform when the output situation permits, they have undertaken to make an initial contribution of two million pounds to a Supplementary Pension Fund when it is established," The scheme came into operation on the 1st January, 1952.

It is to be regretted that not all miners have agreed to participate in the scheme. Some refused to pay the contribution of 1/6 per week. Indeed, a great deal of persuasion was required before some miners agreed to join the scheme.

The chief effect of the Supplementary Pension Scheme on the miners' attitude will be to remove a long standing grievance. Miners have long wished for status and security, and they associate these assets with pensionable jobs. There is no doubt that this is one of the benefits which the miner has gained through Nationalisation.

HOLIDAYS WITH PAY.

Holidays with pay were introduced on the 29th January, 1941, when one week's holiday with pay was granted. In 1951, two week's holiday money was granted to the miners but only one week's holiday was taken. During the last two years the miners have had two week's holiday with pay and for the two weeks in 1954 the payment was:-

21 years of age and over, £19. 13s; 18 to 20 years inclusive, £15. 15s; under 18 years, £11. 16s.

Payment of Statutory holidays began in the first year of Nationalisation - 23rd May, 1947. Six Statutory holidays are granted each year and payment is as follows:-

21 years of age and over, £1. 12s. 9d per day; 18 to 20 years inclusive, £1. 6s. 3d per day; under 18 years, £0. 19s. 8d per day.

Since the five-day week was introduced in 1947, each miner who works a full five days in any week is paid a bonus shift, the rates being 16 per cent. of the aggregate earnings of piece workers, and one shift at the day wage rate for oncost workers.

EFFECT OF THE ABOVE THREE ITEMS ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE MINER.

These three items - wages, pensions, and holidays with pay - have a beneficial effect on the social and economic life of the mining industry:

Wages - The miner and his family can better afford the higher rents of the new houses which are a great benefit to the miner's wife. The new houses are better equipped and have additional labour-saving devices, which previously the wives could not afford. The miner and his family are not segregated from other members of the community to the same extent as hitherto; they are able to take a greater part in the social life of the community as a whole. This will become more pronounced as the older generation is replaced by the younger element in the mining community.

The parents can, if they so desire, give their children a higher standard of education

than they themselves received. I feel sure that as time goes on, more parents will take advantage of the opportunities afforded. This, I believe, will ultimately have the effect of getting rid of the many old prejudices which still exist in the minds of many members of the mining community, for which no justification now exists.

Pensions - The Pension Scheme will likewise have a beneficial effect on the social and economic life of the mining community. There has always existed in the minds of the miners - and, indeed in the minds of most workers - a fear and dread as to what would happen to them in their old age. The Pension Scheme will give an added feeling of security and will enable them to avoid application for public assistance, which many of them detest. It should also raise their social status and bring them into line with school teachers, civil servants, etc. I have one criticism to make of the Pension Scheme, namely that it should be made compulsory and not left on a voluntary basis as it is at present.

Holidays with Pay - In the days before the War many miners used to contribute voluntarily so much per week to enable them to have a holiday during the summer, and some continue this practice even to-day. Now that the Holidays with Pay Scheme is in operation, each miner can afford to take his wife and family for a holiday annually, and not have to do without other essentials throughout the year. It is gratifying to note that more and more families than ever before are going away for a holiday each summer. This is a distinct social advantage because they see different places, meet different people, and often make new friends; this widens their outlook and has a beneficial effect, both mentally and physically. I consider a holiday even more necessary for the miner's wife than for the miner. She has no five-day week, no 7½ hour day, and has not the same opportunity of indulging in recreation and hobbies as her husband. It is to be hoped that the miners will see to it that their wives are given this much needed holiday each year.

JOINT CONSULTATION.

The Coal Industry Nationalisation Act (1946) makes provision for Joint Consultation with appropriate organisations on matters of safety, health and welfare, and efficient operation of the industry, and all matters of common interest to the Board and their employees.

A Consultative Committee exists in each colliery and a Divisional Consultative Committee meets regularly at Divisional Headquarters. The Committees consist of representatives of the various grades of workmen and the managerial staff of the National Coal Board. These Committees are really an extension of the Production Committees set up in the mining industry during the war, but they have a much wider scope. It is considered that the four main objects of joint consultation are:-

- (i) To provide a channel of communication on matters affecting the interests of management and staff.
- (ii) To improve the efficiency of the undertaking.
- (iii) To promote a spirit of co-operation and to secure to the undertaking the benefit of the experience of all grades of staff; and
- (iv) to give the employees the opportunity to take an active interest in, and a greater

responsibility for, the conditions under which their work is performed.

It was hoped that joint consultation would result in a better understanding of the problems involved and thus help to promote good relationships between management and men. It cannot be said, however, that joint consultation has been universally successful. In many cases the results have been negative. A more realistic approach to consultation is necessary, both by the management and men. What is required is greater frankness and confidence with all concerned. The primary cause of the difficulty at pit level appears to be a genuine lack of interest on either side, or on both sides, or mutual suspicion and lack of understanding which is not justified. When misunderstandings occur, employees may lose confidence and suspect management of lacking a genuine desire to make joint consultation work.

Many of the suspicions and misunderstandings have their roots in the bitter struggles of the past; it is now time that these were forgotten. A new approach should be made on the basis that there are not now two sides but that we are all one, with the same common interest, namely, the safe and efficient working of this great industry to which we have the honour to belong.

Perhaps the greatest weakness in the consultative machinery is the failure to provide adequate ways and means for passing information about the work of the Committees to the men they represent. Only a small minority of the workmen at the collieries appear to have any great interest in joint consultation. A great deal depends on the ability and wisdom of the chairman. It was hoped that joint consultation would raise the status of the miner by giving him an interest in the work of his own colliery and giving him an opportunity to express his views on matters of safety, efficiency and welfare. The results to date are disappointing, though this may not be true of all divisions.

WELFARE.

Generally speaking, the mining communities are well provided for with welfare facilities.

At most of the collieries there are pithead baths and canteens, and at many of the larger collieries medical centres have been provided, with a fully trained nurse in attendance, and I think it is true to say that these medical centres have proved extremely popular with the majority of the workmen.

In nearly all the mining villages there are Welfare Institutes, bowling greens, tennis and badminton courts. An effort is now being made to bring the ladies more into the picture in the running of the Institutes. This would be a big help in introducing Arts and Crafts and such like, into the various villages.

NEW SINKINGS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS.

Large sums of money are being spent by the National Coal Board in new fittings and the reconstruction and modernisation of old collieries which have a long life. The idea is to employ mechanical means, both on the surface and underground, to reduce the hard and arduous work which had to be done by the miners in the past. Much had

already been done before Nationalisation and now the work is being intensified. This should help the miner take more interest in the working of his particular colliery.

THE WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW.

What is the worker's reaction to all this ?

The Acton Society Trust carried out a thorough investigation in one of the Divisions, not in Scotland, to find out the worker's point of view. In 1952 they published a booklet on the subject, price 2/-, and some of their findings are rather startling. Under the heading "The Miner's Knowledge," page 8, para. 3, reads:-

"It is probably not a coincidence that few of the miners had any personal knowledge of the staff concerned, as the questionnaire showed that 25 per cent did not know who was the chairman of the National Coal Board, 41 per cent did not know who was the chairman of the Division, while 26 per cent did not know who was the Area General Manager, and 74 per cent of them had never seen him. I should be added that only 9 per cent did not know who the National Union of Mineworkers' agent for Pollockfield (fictitious name) was, although slightly over 50 per cent had not met him.."

In the chapter dealing with the "Miner's Attitudes," pages 10 and 11, we read,

"It would be quite misleading to leave the account of what the miner knows and does not know without saying anything about the many things he believes himself to know, and the attitudes which underlie these beliefs. From the mass of information collected it emerges clearly that the mine, at least in Pollockfield, is dominated by three fixed attitudes, the force and rigidity of which is little suspected. The first is a persistent fear of the return of unemployment, the second is a deep suspicion of all those in authority who are thought to be idle or venal when not cruel or malicious. The third, perhaps less marked, is the belief that the public regards the miner as an inferior type of human being and almost a social outcast. These are strong words, but nothing weaker will convey the intensity of the miners' conviction.

"Often these three things are woven together; for example, it is said that the Coal Board is deliberately planning the return of unemployment by its policy of mechanising the pits; it is said that the reason why opencast mining is being conducted by private firms is to create unemployment in the mining industry - and the closure of pits, coupled with the importation of American coal, is thought to provide further evidence. Often the assertions contradict one another. For instance, it is also said that nationalisation is a device to restore the industry to good condition at public expense, so that it can be returned to the previous owners at a convenient political opportunity. It is said that the present coal shortage has been deliberately brought about by closing productive pits. It is said that the industry is purchasing large quantities of un-necessary stores of materials solely in order to enhance the profits of shareholders in the supply industry and give commission to agents. It is said that the administration is largely an organisation for providing well-paid sinecures for persons who have influence with the previous owners. Furthermore, these stories are elaborated; an inquirer in the district will be told that the administrative offices are filled with multitudes of non-productive staff, many of them completely unqualified - for example, typists who cannot type, and explosives officers who do not hold a

shotfirer's certificate.

If these stories, the very contradictoriness of which exposes some of them as fabrications, were simply retailed by a minority of malcontents, they would be of small significance. The important fact is that they were heard, in great variety, from a majority of those encountered, and indeed from others in the community not themselves miners."

On pages 12 and 13 we read:-

"A careful study of such stories, each of which was fully recorded when heard, reveals a fact of great importance; when the miners receives information he fits it into the pattern of his existing prejudices. The news that pits are to be closed are not interpreted in the context of an attempt to re-equip the industry - re-equipment which, by raising efficiency, may make possible the payment of higher wages - but is fitted into the traditional conception of the employer by seeing it as a deliberate attempt to create profit for private enterprise and do the miner out of his job. Similarly, the appearance in the pit of safety officers and other officials is interpreted not as an attempt to raise productivity or to improve the miner's lot, but as the creation of sinecures.

"Even the best intentioned measures are nullified in their effects. For example, in a pit in this district where an exhibition of colliery machinery was staged in the canteen with the price of each item given, with the object of encouraging in the miner an awareness of the importance of looking after costly machinery, the reaction was, 'So its economy they want. They'll be economising on us next!'" Instances of these attitudes could be produced ad nauseam; there is no question of these being complaints of a few embittered malcontents. As far as Pollockfield goes at least, they are general. After three months of continuous residence in the district during which contact was made with several hundreds of miners, and a detailed journal compiled, no room for doubt as to the frequency of these misinformed or cynical allegations exists."

CONCLUSION.

Perhaps it is because of these misconceptions and suspicions that the old attitude of bitterness and discontent still exists in some Divisions. This, in turn, may be the reason for unofficial stoppages which occur too frequently in certain areas, whereby hundreds of thousands of tons of much needed coal are lost to the nation and hundreds of thousands of pounds are lost in wages to the miners.

The word of the poet appear to give the reason:-

"We gather false impressions,
And hug these closer as the
 years go by,
Till virtues often seem to us
 transgressions.
And thus men rise and fall
 and live and die
Not understood."

Thus a responsibility rests on the shoulders of the management and the miners' leaders to ensure that accurate information is given to the miners in a form that they will understand. This may help to remove many of the misconceptions which at present appear to hinder the creation of an atmosphere of good will, confidence and trust which is necessary for the efficient operation of any industry and of the mining industry in particular.

COWDENBEATH & LOCHGELLY TIMES & ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1931.
TERRIBLE BOWHILL PIT ACCIDENT.

TEN MEN KILLED BY EXPLOSION

HEROIC BATTLE OF RESCUERS

RELATIVES ALL-NIGHT VIGIL ON PITHEAD.

Bowhill Colliery was, at the weekend, the scene of the biggest pit disaster Fife has ever known. Never before in the county have so many men been killed in the one accident. The only precedent of the same magnitude was the Donibristle Disaster, almost exactly thirty years ago, in which eight men were killed. "This is the direst calamity we have ever had," said Mr C.C. Reid, the general manager of the Fife Coal Company to a number of pressmen.

The victims of the tragedy were: -

JOHN DONALDSON, oversman, aged about 50, married, of 1 Newton Cottages, Balgreggie Park, Bowhill.

JAMES ANDERSON, fireman, aged about 50, married, of 35 Balgreggie Park, Bowhill.

ALEXANDER DEMPSTER, fireman, single, Helena Cottage, Cardenden.

ANDREW SMITH, miner, aged about 30, married, of 28 Long Row, Denend, Dundonald.

THOMAS SMITH, miner, aged about 32, married, of 13 Ninth Street, Bowhill.

JAMES SMITH, miner, aged 34, of 22 Sixteenth Street, Bowhill.

JAMES PATERSON, miner, aged 17, of 8 Eighth Street, Bowhill.

CHARLES FERNIE, miner, aged 19, of 4 First Street, Bowhill.

WILLIAM DODDS, electrician, single, Woodend Park, Bowhill

WILLIAM IRELAND, oversman, aged 37, single, of Clunie Road, Cardenden.
MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

The Rev. A. McNeill Houston, of Auchterderran Parish Church, received the following message from His Majesty, the King: -

Buckingham Palace.

"The Queen and I are distressed to hear of the serious explosion in the Bowhill Colliery, and we offer to the families of those who have perished our heartfelt sympathy in their suffering and tragic bereavement."

HOW THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED

The accident occurred at the east side of Hutt's Dook, a little over a mile from the foot of the pitshaft. The location of the accident was 360 fathoms underground. As there are no survivors, it is not known exactly how the accident took place. It is understood, however, that the men involved were engaged in shifting a fan nearer to the coal face. During the shifting of the fan, the gas may have accumulated. It is thought probable that, on the fan being restarted, friction between two of the blades caused a spark, and this ignited the gas.

The explosion must have been terrific, for the men were badly scorched. The men were, however, quite recognisable, and many must have been killed by the effects of the after-damp which are deadly. One man early on the scene saw a man lying gasping within twenty yards, but he was driven back by the fumes.

FIRST MAN ON THE SCENE - GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF TRAGIC DISCOVERY.

The first two men on the scene of the accident were George Crichton, Tenth Street, Bowhill, and James Clark, Balgreggie Park.

In an interview with a "Times" reporter, Crichton, who was at one time thought to have been involved in the accident, gave a graphic account of what happened underground.

"I was working with another man on the West side of Hutt's Dook," he said. "We were engaged in renewing props. All at once I felt a sudden rush of air in the section.

"Did you feel that?" my companion asked.

"Yes", I replied, "maybe it's somebody putting a race of hutches down the dip."

"When we were on the road back, we met two engineers, and they asked us if we had felt a waft of air. I said we had. Then I noticed that there were no hutches to go down the dip, and I knew something must be wrong.

"Then the oversman, Mr James Clark, came along, and the party set off to find Mr Donaldson, the oversman in the East section, to see if anything was wrong.

"We knew they would be working at the top of the section, so my companion and I went up the heading, and Clark went another way.

"When we came to the top of the heading, we felt a suffocating smell and there was a strange thickness in the air. We stumbled across a piece-box and a flask, half covered up.

"I went first with the safety lamp. We got in another fifty yards, and the air became so bad that we were forced to retreat. We knew that something very serious was wrong.

"SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED".

"We came back. Clark was missing, and we became anxious about him, so we set off along the road he had taken. It was a difficult road, and it was sore work to get along it. We were halfway up the run when we saw a light coming down. It was Clark.

'Something terrible has happened,' he said. 'I got to the men but could do nothing myself, I felt myself giving way, and I staggered back'.

"The three of us hurried back. One ran to phone for the under-manager and we rushed for all the assistance we could get. Mr McGuire, the under-manager, came down, and we tried the run again.

"I had the safety lamp, so I led the way. Soon the lamp was giving way.

"Try and get a little further', urged Mr McGuire. We crawled on a further 10 or 15 yards and then we lost the light altogether. That was a sign that we must retreat.

"By the time we got out, Mr Clark, the Manager, was down, and rescue men were being rushed to the scene. All day we worked strenuously, erecting screens and fans, and doing everything possible to rush back air into the section.

"Step by step we got forward, but it was slow and strenuous work. I was down the pit from 6 o'clock in the morning till nine at night, when rescue men wearing masks got into the men."

THE RESCUE WORK.

It was almost 1.30 on Saturday afternoon before news of the accident, which occurred between 11 and 12 in the morning reached the pithead.

Immediately the deserted pithead was transformed into a scene of incessant activity. Phones were ringing, and cars speeding out to bring in every available rescue-man.

In a short time motor cars, motor cycles, ambulances, and alarmed relatives were

pouring into the colliery.

Safety-men from Cowdenbeath, armed with the latest rescue apparatus, arrived within seven minutes of the call being received. In all, seven rescue teams, under the direction of Mr J.J. Ford, safety inspector, went down. Three local doctors accompanied them, and later the company was joined by Mr C.C. Reid, general manager of the Fife Coal Company; Mr Charles Augustus Carlow, managing director of the company, Mr Wm. Adamson, a former Secretary of State for Scotland; and other officials. The manager and under-manager were on duty for almost 24 hours.

The rescue party found themselves confronted with a heavy task. The afterdamp very quickly displaces the air, and by the time a fully-equipped brigade was at work, they were fully 100 yards from the scene of the accident.

Ten canaries were taken down the heading and the main level. Nine of them perished immediately, and the deaths of the birds showed there could be no hope for the entombed men.

REVERSING THE AIR CURRENT.

The huge task confronting the rescue brigade was that of reversing the air current. The natural heroism of the miners was displayed in the unremitting toil they accomplished in transferring fans, and erecting canvas screens. The rescuers wore gas masks. They could proceed only very slowly. When the first rescue party returned to the surface after nine hours, their work was taken up by others. The returning rescuers bore signs of a terrific assault on impenetrable positions.

Their faces were black, all expressions blotted out by a thick caking of coal dust. Some of them were sent home, exhausted and ill from the fumes.

The next team of rescuers bored into the scene of the explosion and got within fifty yards of the entombed men, but still the dense fumes drove them back.

PATHETIC PITHEAD SCENES.

In the meantime thousands of people had gathered on the pithead. Among them were relatives of the missing men. At this time it was not known who had been involved in the accident and who were staying down to take part in the rescue work.

Mr William Smith, a brother of Andrew and Thomas Smith who lost their lives, described to a "Times" reporter how news came to him of the loss of his brothers.

"I was sitting at my dinner," he said, "and we were wondering why Andrew, who stays a few doors along from me, had not come home from the backshift.

"We were just speaking about this when the door burst open and Andrew's wife came running in.

"She was greatly excited, and she cried that there had been an accident at the pit. When she said how many men were involved, I knew at once that my two brothers

were in that section.

"I put n my jacket and hurried down the road as fast as I could go.

"When I arrived at the pit the men standing near confirmed my worst fears. I at once rushed to the office and pleaded to get down the pit to help in the rescue work. I was sent to see the agent, and he allowed me to go down."

ANOTHER BROTHER'S ORDEAL.

Other relatives had equally trying ordeals. Weeping women and harassed men came hurrying and asking for information which was impossible to give.

A brother of the man Dodds, speaking to a "Times" reporter on the pithead, said he had been sitting in the house when he heard that William was in the affected section.

"I did not believe it at first," he said, "for I knew that it was not his regular shift. But I came hurrying down to the pit, and asked at the office if my brother was down the pit. I was told his check was there so that he could not be down the pit.

"I was greatly relieved, and I came away up the road again. I met people at different points of the road, and they all told me my brother was down the pit. Doubts began to come again, and I turned back. My heart sank when I was told that it was right enough - he was in the section where the explosion had occurred."

* * * * *

M.P.'s MESSAGE.

Mr John Wallace, M.P. for Dunfermline Burghs, sent the following message to Provost Motion, Lochgelly: -

"I was inexpressibly shocked when I heard of the tragic occurrence at Bowhill Colliery. Will you please convey to the bereaved relatives the expression of my deepest sympathy with them in their irreparable loss."

* * * * *

DOING COMRADE A GOOD TURN.

A poignant feature in connection with Dodd's death was that he was doing a friend a good turn by working his shift to let him away for some function. It was for that reason that his brother was doubtful about his being down the pit.

Mrs Dodds, sitting at her fireplace with several relatives, told a "Times" reporter that he son was always ready to do anyone a good turn. "He was very well liked," she said.

THE SUSPENSE OF WAITING.

As it was not known who was in the accident and who were taking part in the rescue work, many relatives were kept hours in suspense.

At one time it was thought that Mr George Crichton had been involved.

Mrs Crichton told a "Times" reporter that she had heard at the door that her husband was in the section where the explosion had taken place.

"I knew he was working in the West side of the dook," she said, "but it was quite possible that he might have gone into the other side. It was a terrible uncertainty.

"A neighbour went away down to the pit to see what had happened, and it was not until he returned that I knew that my husband was safe."

The relatives of Mr Ireland were also in great uncertainty as to whether he had been in the East side or the West side. Mr Crichton, speaking on this subject to a "Times" reporter, said - "Clark wanted Ireland to come into his section; Donaldson wanted Ireland to come into his; and it was a matter of heads or tails whether he would go with Donaldson or Clark. His choice was a fatal one.

FIRST JOB AFTER A PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

One of the most grief-stricken men on the pithead was Mr Paterson, whose 17 year-old son was involved. To a "Times" reporter he explained that it was his son's first job after a period of unemployment.

"Late on Friday night", he said, "a knock came to the door of my house. It was a contractor, and he offered a job to my son.

"I did not know where my son was, but I knew he would either be at the pictures or the dancing. I sent out for him, and he came home, put on his pit clothes and went out – for the last time."

The father of Mr Anderson described to a "Times" reporter the suspense he had undergone.

"I never went to bed on Saturday night," he said, "I did not get a wink of sleep, so worried was I. I could not remain in the house. All through the night I was back and forward to the pit to see if there was any word.

"My son was very well known in the place. He worked in Bowhill Colliery for thirty-six years – it is the only place he had ever worked in."

When our representative called at the house of Mrs Dempster, she was obviously overcome. Mrs Donaldson was so grief-stricken that she could not be seen. Mrs Fernie bore up well for her double bereavement. "I just can't realise Charlie won't come back," she said. "He was always smiling and whistling and he went off to his work this morning like that.."

TENSE SCENES.

The scenes at the pithead on Saturday night were heartrending. Thousands of men

and women waiting anxiously for any news there might be. Women wept silently, and several men shed tears openly. It was a trying time for hundreds.

Whenever rescue men came up for a few minutes relief they were besieged by harassed relatives. They could give little hope.

About five hours after the disaster occurred word went round – “Fifty yards to go – Difficulties tremendous – No hope.”

An hour later the meal-boxes and flask of the men had been passed.

Then darkness fell, and the pithead presented a tense spectacle.

Grim and gaunt, the silhouette of the surface-workings stood out in stark relief to the black sky. At a small lighted shed ambulances stood in readiness, and ambulance men were prepared with all their equipment. Men strove to comfort grief-stricken women, and the crowd of thousands grew every minute. A pale white moon shone down sadly upon it all.

Every turn of the pulley wheels was watched with anxiety. A message came up – “Twenty yards to go – Fumes terrible.”

Then, an hour later, a party of rescue men came up, one of them sobbing bitterly. He was William Smith, brother of two of the men involved. “They’ve been found.” Was all he was able to say.

One sentence, uttered by a rescue man, told the whole tale. “They’re all dead; they can’t be identified.”

The multitude heard the news as though stunned; then a woman’s sob broke the silence, and many women broke down completely. They were assisted from the pithead to their homes.

THE LAST STAGE.

The last stage of the rescuer’s work was a grim one. It is believed that a portion of the section is no more than 18 inches high, and through the coal there the rescuers slowly but doggedly cut their way, and at last came upon the bodies. They were reached by rescuers wearing gas-masks.

Nine of the men were huddled together almost in a position in which they had been working when the explosion occurred. The tenth was in a place still filled with gas.

It was still impossible to get the men out. Tons of fallen coal and “gum” had to be removed, and even this in itself was a Herculean task.

Word was sent to the surface that it would be hours before the men could be recovered. Many people returned to their homes, but hundreds of relatives, huddled together in corners, settled down for an all-night vigil in the cold, drizzling atmosphere. They were still waiting when the first glimmer of dawn lit up the dreary

spectacle.

THE LAST SCENE.

It was noon on Sunday before the last tragic sight was witnessed..

The pullet wheels began to turn very slowly, and immediately the big crowd, which had gathered in the morning, became hushed, fore-knowing that two dead bodies were being raised. The wheels stopped, and a few moments later worn and weary rescue men bore their dead comrades on stretchers across the wide space of barren ground. They showed signs of exhaustion as they stumbled across to the ambulances with the stretchers and their sad contents. The work was finished.

With barren heads the crowd watched the tragic procession as corpse after corpse was borne past. Some men and women crossed themselves. Near relatives of the deceased stepped across the yard and went to meet the silence of ten laden stretchers.

The men were quickly coffined and sent to their stricken homes. It was their last homecoming.

The crowd dispersed in a deep gloom, and at the beginning of this week the pithead has been a place derelict and desolate. The village itself has presented a quiet front. Groups of men stood about the streets discussing the tragedy.

THE FUNERAL.

The relatives of the deceased men met at Bowhill Miners' Welfare Institute on Sunday night and made arrangements for the funerals which will take place to-day. Donaldson will be buried at Kingskettle, but the other nine will go to their rest together and will be laid side by side.

The hearses from the Bowhill side of the village will meet at the Institute at 2pm and proceed to the playground of Denend School where all the hearses and the public will gather. A short service will be held and the cortege will then proceed to the cemetery.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1932
WHAT CAUSED THE BOWHILL MINING DISASTER

FORMAL VERDICT BY JURY FOUR DAY'S INQUEST

OVERSMAN COMPLIMENTED ON HEROISM

The inquiry into the cause of the catastrophe which overtook Bowhill Colliery on 31st October last, commenced in the Sheriff's Court-room, Dunfermline, on Thursday, and, after a four days' hearing, the jury returned a formal verdict.

Many from Bowhill, including relatives of the workmen who lost their lives, were present in the court room and listened to the various theories being put forward as a probable cause of the disaster.

Tributes to the gallantry of James Clark, an oversman at the colliery, were made during the hearing, and a reference to this was added to the jury's verdict.

The inquiry was conducted by the Procurator-Fiscal (Mr R.J. Waugh) before Sheriff-Substitute Umpherson and a jury.

The Fife Coal Company were represented by Mr R.M. MacGregor Mitchell, K.C. and Mr Murray, advocate. The Fife, Clackmannan and Kinross Miners' Union were represented by Mr William Adamson. Mr F.C. Watt, advocate, appeared for the relatives of Wm. Dodds, one of the victims of the accident, and the relatives of the others involved in the accident were represented by Mr R.W. Currie, solicitor, Dunfermline.

Before the inquiry began, Mr Mitchell, on behalf of the Fife Coal Company, expressed the great regret of the Company at the tragic occurrence. Their aim had always been and always would be to prevent such occurrences. They proffered to the relatives of the men involved their deepest sympathy.

THURSDAY'S HEARING.

The first witness called was Police Inspector Clark, Lochgelly, who had searched the bodies in the rescue station at the pithead.

On one of the bodies he had found seven Lucifer matches wrapped up in a paper; on another a pipe containing tobacco; and on another a pipe, tobacco and matches which were not only wrapped in paper, but contained in a closed tin.

Sergeant Cruikshanks, Cardenden, said he had also been present at the searching of the bodies. Only in the case of Anderson had anything contraband been found. As a result of an inquiry which he conducted, he found that the methods of search at the colliery before the men went down were thorough.

Dr. J.N. Young, Bowhill, stated that he had conducted an examination of the bodies with Dr Brackenridge, Bowhill, and he submitted a report describing the nature of the injuries. In his general remarks, he stated that the face and extensive surface of the arms and hands were the parts chiefly affected. Except in the case of Fernie and Anderson, there were injuries due to carbon monoxide gas. Death was due to severe burning and shock, and except in these two cases to carbon monoxide poisoning.

John Suttie McCallum, mine surveyor, Kelty, submitted plans of the colliery, which he certified as being accurate. The ventilation of the pit, he said, was supplied by a fan on the surface, but there was also an auxiliary system of ventilation in the east conveyor section, supplied by a fan.

Witness was cross-examined at length by Mr J. Masterton, H.M. Inspector for Mines in Scotland, regarding the technical particulars of the pit.

Mr Mitchell asked witness if the switch on the switch-box was on or off?

Witness – Off.

Mr Mitchell – as a matter of fact there was no man lying on the side where the switch was? – No.

Witness, in reply to further questions, said that at one man's feet were found a saw, a Sylvester and a chain.

In reply to the Fiscal, witness said that Donaldson was lying within reach of the switch-box. A man could operate the switch from either side of the box.

FOUR HOURS IN WITNESS BOX.

Mr John Clark, the colliery manager, was next witness. He was subjected to lengthily cross-examination by all parties, and, in all, he was four and a half hours in the witness-box.

The ventilation in the pit, he said, was supplied by a blower fan from the surface. There were in the pit certain sections where only safety lamps were permitted. Hutt's Dook and the east conveyor section were such places. The lamps were examined before the men went down and when they came up.

The Fiscal – How long have these been safety sections? – Ever since I came to the pit.

The Fiscal – I presume there are good reasons for having safety lamps there? – Oh, yes. There are reasons.

The Fiscal – Reasons of safety? – Yes.

Witness went on to say that electric plant had been installed in the section under consideration. The system of ventilation was worked by electricity. The original system of ventilation had been one whereby the air went to the top level and was propelled to the bottom. The system in operation at the time of the accident was one whereby the air was propelled in the opposite direction. This had been in operation for a year.

GAS IN THE SECTION.

The Fiscal then read excerpts from the firemen's reports, which, he said, were evidence of the presence of gas in the east conveyor section. There were several traces during 1930, and in 1931 there was a slight trace of fire-damp on 16th January. The next occasion was on 2nd August, when there was again a slight trace of fire-damp. Witness said the reports showed that the firemen were very careful in their duties.

The Fiscal – Although this was a temporary system of ventilation, you think it was perfectly sufficient? – Quite satisfactory. I never had any complaint from an official or a workman.

The Fiscal – We both agree in this, that inflammable gas was not normal in this section, but do you not think that it was likely to gather sufficient quantity to be indicative of danger? – Not in my opinion.

The Fiscal – When the fan had been stopped on a previous occasion, was there not an accumulation of gas? – It was damp. That was in August.

The Fiscal – Do you not think that the conditions were such that there was a definite risk that it was likely to occur again? – No. We had had no gas at the face for nine months.

NOT FLAME-PROOF APPARATUS.

The Fiscal – So you did not provide flame-proof apparatus? – No.

The Fiscal – Even thou it was in a safety lamp district? – No. In my opinion we could have worked with naked lights in the section during these nine months.

THE DEATH ROLL.

The victims of the Bowhill disaster were:-

James Drummond Paterson, miner, 8 Eighth Street, Bowhill

James Smith, miner, 22 Sixteenth Street, Bowhill.

Alex. Dempster, colliery fireman, Cluny Road, Cardenden.

Charles Baxter Fernie, miner, 4 First Street, Bowhill.

William Ireland, colliery oversman, Cluny Road, Cardenden.

James Martin Cairns, otherwise known as James Anderson, colliery fireman, 35 Balgreggie Park, Cardenden.

Thomas Smith, miner, 13 Ninth Street, Bowhill.

William Bruce Dodds, electrician, 6 Woodend Park, Cardenden.

Andrew Smith, miner, Long Row, Denend, Cardenden.

John Donaldson, colliery manager, Balgreggie Road, Cardenden.

* * * * *

Mr Clark went on to say that immediately on arriving at the pit on the day of the accident he went underground. He felt a bad smell whenever he went down. He came to the conclusion that the fan was out of action, and he had fresh air put in from the top road. He went up the top road himself with James Clark and Maguire with flame lamps. They got up as far as Mathieson's heading. The rescue brigade subsequently arrived with their canaries. They tried to get up and failed. They kept pumping in air for some considerable time. It was 7.30 before the rescue brigade got to the spot. They reported that the men were dead. It was four o'clock in the morning before people without masks got into the men.

The Fiscal - Did you form any idea of where the explosion occurred ? - We were not very long in seeing that the centre of the ignition seemed to be a considerable bit outside the fan towards the place where five men were clustered together.

The Fiscal - There was a man near the switch-box. Was he operating it at the time ? - I don't think so. The fan was not in a position for running. Only one lead was covered up, and two were bare. No electrician would do such a thing with the leads bare.

The Fiscal - Did you notice that the fan and the fan motor had been taken away up to the face ? - Yes.

The Fiscal - Did you notice the original switch-box as you went up ? - Yes. The lead was broken and the switch-box was out of operation. The coal-cutter switch-box further up was being utilised to get the connection to the fan.

Mr Masterton - Was the motor conveyor flame-proof? - To all intents and purposes.

Mr Masterton - Did you order it as flame-proof? - We got it from Cowdenbeath.

Mr Masterton - The coal-cutting machine cable was connected up to the switch-box, and from the other end of the switch-box there was a cable connected to the fan. Do you agree that it is quite a common thing for the electrician to touch the switch off and on to see whether they were making connection in the right fashion ? Yes, but the leads would be covered up. If anything happened in such circumstances, there would be a short circuit in the leads. No electrician would have done this.

MANAGER'S THEORY OF ACCIDENT

Mr Masterton - You wipe out the chance of the switch having been used and being the source of ignition ? - Yes.

Mr Masterton - What do you think caused the accident ? - The defective lamp. The men were working in the front of the fan. It is quite simple for a man to have let his lamp drop, for the bulb to have broken, and ignited the gas if that had been gathered. Mr Masterton - Do you exclude the sparking from the switch ? - Yes.

Mr Masterton - If there had not been gas present this accident could not have taken place ? - Agreed.

Mr Masterton - Can you explain how the gas came to be there at that particular time on that particular day ? - How it came to be in that position I do not know.

Mr Masterton - Were there any signs of a surge from the roof or anything out of order in the district ? - I have never investigated back to the seam to find that out.

Mr Currie, cross-examining the witness, asked if he had never conducted an investigation into where the gas could have come from.

Witness - No.

Mr Currie - You have never made any attempt to find out what was the prime cause of the explosion ? - I don't think the gas was the prime cause.

There were two necessary conditions to the explosion. The one was gas, the other light. Have you ever tried to find out where one or two of the indispensable causes came from ? - No. We have not investigated the seam.

You have not exhausted the possibilities of where the gas came from ? For all you

know, there is the potentiality of another outburst of gas coming from the same place ? - I don't think so.

In reply to Mr Macgregor Mitchell, witness said he had done everything possible in the way of tests to see that the section was properly ventilated. The job of moving the fan was an ordinary, simple, easy job, and there was more than an ample allowance of men for it. Three hours would be sufficient for it.

A man had been sent to do it, had broken the switch-box, and they had looked for another. They had taken the one which was used for the coal-cutter. That switch-box, in its original position was flame-proof. They had taken this box and formed a connection with the fan.

The position of the fan showed that it was not in a condition for starting up. Other things pointed to the conclusion that the fan had not been operated.

Witness had set himself to find the point of ignition, and he found it to be outside from the motor, and further from the switch-box.

The bodies of the men were in two sections, one on the west and one on the east of the points of ignition, and the bodies in these different sections pointed the same way. They indicated that the force of the ignition had gone in two different directions.

The lamp at the point of ignition was completely broken and the bulb was also broken. The filament showed that it had been in contact with the air, owing the oxygenation. This he gave as the cause of the ignition.

There was a strap, used for work on the roof, lying across the bodies of the men, and there were marks of tools being used for the strap. That suggested that the lamp might have been broken by a "back-lick" off a tool, or on the jagged side of the road, while the men were engaged on their work on the roof.

FRIDAY'S HEARING

Friday afternoon's sitting was occupied by the evidence of the under-manager at the colliery, Samuel Maguire, who stated he had considerable experience of mining and had seen the development of the east and west sections. He had found traces of fire-damp in oblique layers in the ill-fated section, but normally gas was not present, and conditions were not such as to be indicative of danger. In his opinion there was adequate ventilation, and spark-proof apparatus was not necessary. There was a natural airway in the section.

In examination, witness said the changing of the fan was made necessary by the roofing squeezing it down while in its former position. The fan stood 3 feet 8 inches in height.

He instructed Donaldson to get a squad of men to do the job on Saturday and gave him authority to procure an electrician. He thought the job would occupy about two hours. In the morning he saw the men going into the section shortly before six o'clock to start work.

About twenty minutes past one on the Saturday he heard there had been an explosion, and, on going down the pit along with others, he met a man Mackie, who said the accident had happened in the conveyor section and that they had made an attempt to rescue the men but had been driven back. Witness, along with a rescue party, tried to gain access to the ill-fated section, but their safety lamps went out and they had to retreat. They then tried to get along the top level but their lamps again went out.

USING EVERY REGULATION.

In cross-examination by Mr John Masterton, witness said they were using every regulation he was aware of.

Mr Masterton - Did you know there had been a whole series of ignitions ?

Witness - I don't know about that.

The biggest volume of gas witness had seen in the district was a "tail" of three feet. A certain quantity of gas found in December, 1930, was indicative of damp. Since then the district had gone steadily on, and, owing to its length always increasing, it was naturally more difficult for ventilation.

Mr Masterton - If these quantities of gas over these several days in 1930 were indicative of damp, is it not fair to assume that you might at any time find the same terms and at the same depth and working under the same conditions as in October, 1931 ?

Witness - No.

Mr Masterton - Do you agree about the decision for flame-proof gear at the working face, and do you think it is a safe thing to work with a coal-cutting with holes?

Witness replied that he had had no fear of gas and would have been prepared to work with open switches round the face and in the return airway for running the fan.

In questioning the witness about his instructions to Donaldson, Mr Masterton asked if there was anything unusual in his mind when he warned Donaldson to be careful about gas.

Witness - No.

Mr F.M. Watt - In the summer of 1930 the fan was stopped and you say it made no difference to the air current ?

Witness - Yes.

Mr Watt - Do you deny that when the fan was being shifted you ought to have had an auxiliary fan in ?

Witness - Yes.

In reply to a question regarding the accumulation of gas, witness said he was of the opinion that the accumulation took place owing to a roof surge, when the fan was stopped to be shifted. He did not at the time form an opinion as to what caused the explosion. he was more concerned with the removing of the bodies.

Mr Watt - Is it not the case that, having got the impression that there was no gas in the section, you had begun to take things easy and perhaps got lax in supervising it ?

Witness - No.

STOPPAGE RECALLED.

In answer to Mr R.W. Currie, witness agreed that the colliery was standing from 9th July to 3rd August last year, and that during that time the fan was standing, but he denied that prior to 2nd August a considerable amount of gas was discovered in the east side level, and that he made an alteration in the ventilation for the purpose of clearing the gas. They did not require at the end of the stoppage to take any special steps to clear out the east section.

Mr Currie - If anyone says that there had been, it is not true ?

Witness - No, it is not true.

Mr Currie - Did you know if there were kept at the pit two birds or mice under the regulations ?

Witness replied that they had four or five birds, and within half-an-hour of the disaster two of them were down the pit.

In reply to Mr R. MacGregor Mitchell, K.C., witness said there was no evidence of a violent explosion. It would be more accurate, he agree, to describe it as an ignition.

Mr MacGregor Mitchell - May ignitions be brought out by sparks from metal to metal, and have ignitions been caused by the breaking of the electric lamps the men carry ?

Witness - Yes.

When the Court resumes in the afternoon, the first witness was Michael Gunn, power station attendant, Cardenden, who gave evidence relative to electric plant.

Andrew Brown McKechnie, lamp-room attendant, Maidenhall, Bowhill, spoke of having issued the lamps to the ill-fated party.

FOUND A MAN BREATHING.

Evidence was then given by James Clark, oversman, 51 Balgreggie Park, Cardenden, who was the first person to be on the scene of the accident. He saw Donaldson and his party going to their work in bogeys between six and seven in the morning, and Donaldson informed him that they were going to shift a fan. Between eleven and

twelve o'clock one of Clark's party made a remark that there was a grand current of air coming in beside them, and on another man making a similar remark he thought they had better investigate. He was in company with two other men names George Mackie and James Crichton, and they made it up that they would go by the high side and Clark by the low side. "I managed to get right up the coal-face about eighty yards," witness continued, "and saw lamps burning. I found a man lying and he was breathing, and I tried to get him out but was unable owing to the lowness of the ceiling."

"The roof was only about 15 inches above the man", Clarke continued. He did not notice any foul air. When he met Mackie and Crichton he told the former to go and 'phone to the pithead that there had been an accident. Mackie 'phoned and got no reply, but witness 'phoned himself and got a reply. The three of them then made their way a distance towards where he had found the man, but they encountered black-damp and were forced to retire. About an hour and a quarter elapsed between his first and second attempts to rescue the man, and during that time the black-damp had spread down 30 yards. He, along with others, continued in their efforts to reach the men till three o'clock on the Sunday morning.

In cross-examination by Mr Masterton, witness agreed that if there was a natural current of air passing along the bottom level and up the face, instead of his not being able to reach the man the second time, the air would have been quite good.

Mr Masterton - You found the effects to be the opposite of that ?

Witness - Yes.

CLARK "ALL OUT"

George Mackie, oversman, 7 Woodend Park, Cardenden, one of Clark's party, then gave evidence.

He stated that when they met Clark after he had been up for the first time he seemed to be "all out", and said:- "There's a man lying up there."

In reply to Mr Waugh, witness said he used to work in the section where the accident took place. It was a safety-lamp section, and matches, pipes, &c., were forbidden. He and others were searched every morning before proceeding to work by an appointed searcher. He thought the system of searching was very thorough.

HEROISM AT BOWHILL DISASTER

Mr James Clark, whose efforts at rescue at the Bowhill Disaster, and were referred to in complimentary terms at the inquiry, has been a long time resident in the village. He is a native of Edinburgh, where he started work in a printing office. He is a very capable exponent of the art of boxing in its amateur status. As a referee, he is held in much esteem, and for his knowledge, firmness and fairness in this capacity is in much demand. Mr Clark served for a period on Fife Education Authority, and is at present secretary of Lochgelly and District Ambulance Wagon Association.

At the conclusion of the inquiry, his courageous work was referred to by Mr R. Macgregor Mitchell, K.C.; Mr F.M. Watt, advocate; Mr A. Mitchell, solicitor; and Sheriff Umpherston. The jury also added to their verdict a reference to Mr Clark's work.

In reply to Mr R.W. Currie, witness said that when they went up with Clark they did not go forward to the man owing to the danger. The fireman's lamp was practically out.

Mr Waugh - Was Clark physically distressed when he came down and reported to you his discovery of the man lying in the pan-run ?

Witness - Yes; he seemed to be "all out".

James Crichton, 24 Tenth Street, Bowhill, gave evidence on the lines of the previous witness.

One of the rescue party, James Black, contractor, 40 Balgreggie Park, said that by three o'clock in the afternoon they had got just a little past Mathieson's heading and would have gone on but they were only allowed to engage in this work for a certain period and by then it was their time to retire. The strength of a rescue team was the strength of the weakest man and some of the men were becoming exhausted.

Questioned about the canaries, witness said he thought there were three canaries hanging up at the pithead, but he was not sure. He didn't look particularly as he didn't ask for any. They got all they asked for and there was no room for any suggestion that there was any remissness in the rescue at all.

LAMPS BURNING

Another rescuer, John Birrell, oversman, Craigwood Cottages, Woodend, Cardenden, said his party got to the scene of the accident about 7.45 p.m. They found nine men lying in the return airway. All the men were dead. There were two electric lamps burning but he saw no flame lamps.

in reply to a question by Mr Currie as to what steps were taken to ascertain whether the men were dead or alive, witness said he did not think it was difficult to know when a man was dead. There was no movement of any description.

Mr Currie - But what steps did you take to ascertain if the men were dead ?

Witness - We looked at every man..

Mr Currie - Did you not feel their pulse or something like that ?

Witness - No, we did not touch them.

In reply to Mr Masterton witness said it was known that for hours and hours the atmosphere had been unbreathable.

Evidence with regard to conditions in the section was given by William Muir, 15 Ninth Street, Bowhill; John Patterson, 16 Eighteenth Street, Bowhill; and Thomas Millar, 17 Ninth Street, Bowhill, coal-cutting machinememen. these witnesses said they did not detect gas in the section, and on the night before the accident conditions were quite normal.

Charles Forrest, 26 Seventeenth Street, Bowhill; William Gray, 26 Gammy Place, Bowhill; and John Johnston, 22 Nineteenth Street, Bowhill, brushers, gave evidence to the effect that the section was free of gas on the night before the accident.

Asked by the Fiscal if he could account for any accumulation of gas at this corner, John Reid, roadsman, 132 Dundonald Park, Cardenden, said if there had been a "squeeze" there was a possibility of it letting out sufficient gas.

Robert Moffat, Orebank Cottage, Cardenden, an underground fireman, said it was part of his duty to search the underground workers at the start of the shift. This was always done.

In December, 1930, he said, there were several occasions on which gas was reported in this section. These were small quantities.

Evidence was given by Alexander Robertson, Burnfoot Cottages, Cluny Road, and John Grieg, Donaldson's Cottages, Jamphlars, Cardenden, fireman. The latter said that during the year he had never found gas in the section. On the previous night he had tested for gas and found none.

In answer to the Fiscal, witness said he did not think any of the men were likely to smoke.

Mr Waugh - Do you know that Anderson had a pipe and matches on him ? - I have heard reports about it.

Do you think he was likely to smoke on duty ? - No, I don't think so.

This concluded Friday's evidence.

SATURDAY'S HEARING

The first witness called on Saturday was John Thomson Kerr, Wester Bowhill House, foreman electrician at the colliery.

He spoke of having instructed Dodds to accompanying Donaldson's party for the purpose of carrying through the electric work. Dodds was an apprentice. The journeymen were all on other work. It was a job that an apprentice could easily do and in fact Donaldson had said he could do it himself but it was better that it should be done by an electrician.

Replying to Mr Waugh witness stated that the switch-box of the fan which was being shifted when the explosion occurred was not flame-proof and in reply to Mr Masterton he said that at no time had there been discussion between the colliery

officials and himself of the question as to whether flame-proof fixations should be installed in the section, although the matter of flame-proof fixations had been discussed in a general way. He did not think at the time of the explosion that there was any danger of gas.

Replying to Mr R.W. Currie witness said that after the explosion he observed that the electric switch-box was destroyed and that there were two defects in the main cable. These defects had developed in the course of the shifting operations. The damage to the switch-box could have been repaired but instead of repairing the switch-box the men had evidently moved the fan close to the gate-end box of the coal-cutter in order to obtain the electric current there.

Mr Currie - Does that not strike you as a little strange ?

Witness - Yes, it was.

Mr Currie - Do you think it would have been much easier to have repaired the switch-box?

Witness - Yes.

Mr Currie - And instead of that they took the cable to the gate-end box.

NO PRETENCE AT BEING FLAME-PROOF.

Mr Waugh - There is no pretence that it is a flame-proof switch-box?

Witness - No.

Mr Masterton - Can you recollect whether Mr Clark or the under-manager or any agent ever discussed with you the question as to where flame-proof apparatus should be put in?

Witness - Not that I remember. We have discussed the question of flame-proof apparatus but not the question of installing it.

Mr Masterton - Did either Mr Clark or the under-manager or any agent say the time had come when you should put fire-proof apparatus into the east dook?

Witness - No, Not at any time.

In further questioning by Mr Masterton, witness said he had asked for flame-proof apparatus for the east dook district.

Mr Masterton - Was it not in your power to say when and where flame-proof apparatus should be put in?

Witness - I would say it is partly. If I had occasion to think that flame-proof apparatus was required I would consult with the manager.

Mr Masterton - Did you get everything you required in the way of flame-proof

apparatus?

Witness in reply said that when it was a breakdown he got it very readily but if it was something that they did not have in stock he had to wait the ordinary course. He drew his supplies from a central workshop and he ordered his stuff through the manager. he had never been refused anything he asked.

Mr Masterton - If anything broke down and hindered the output of the colliery you got it without hesitation ?

Witness - Yes.

Mr Masterton - But apparatus for any other purpose you did not get with the same readiness ?

Witness - Yes. I can understand that of course, because they might not have it on hand.

In reply to further questioning by Mr Masterton, he said he was never refused anything so far as the east dook was concerned and in particular the east side section.

Mr F.J. Watt - I suppose you thought there was very little danger of gas in the section where the accident occurred ?

Witness agreed.

MINE INSPECTOR'S EVIDENCE

Mr Harold T. Foster, H.M. Inspector of Mines, said he went down the mine at half past eight on the night of the accident. With the face so low and the atmosphere so hot, it was necessary to crawl.

Describing the scene when the men were reached, he said the man nearest must have been in the act of switching on or off the fan motor. Switching of that kind required a good deal of effort, and the men very often knelt in the position that this man was in. His first impression was that the explosion had occurred within the fan motor, but he had later formed the opinion that it had occurred in the gate-end box.

Questioned with regard to the positions of the motor and the fan after the accident, witness said they were out of alignment, and the fan motor was jammed. The leads were connected up to the fan motor, but it was not a proper electrician's job. It was a rough job. All the evidence seemed to point to hurry.

Questioned with regard to the violence of the explosion, witness said there would be considerable violence at the time, but it could not be described as a violent colliery explosion.

Witness expressed the view that the system of ventilation operating in the section was deplorable. Both entries started from the same road, and, as they were only twelve yards apart, the pressure at the entrance to both must be practically the same.

"Clark did a most courageous thing in going as far as he did," added the witness, "To have asked him to bring the man out would have been asking him to do the impossible".

"INGENIOUS NONSENCE"

"That is just ingenious nonsense," was Mr Foster's reply when questioned about the supposed natural ventilation described as an overcast, which had been frequently mentioned by colliery officials in their evidence.

Witness agreed that when the work party started to put the motor in position close to the coal-face - the danger [art of the section - a safety-lamp ought to have been hung there.

The Fiscal - There seems to have been a looseness there? - A very great looseness.

Arising out of a suggestion by previous witness that the accumulation of gas might have been caused by a surge from the roof, the Fiscal asked if witness had noticed any sign of movement in the strata.

Witness - On Sunday morning I was very carefully observant to see if I could find anything to account for a sudden accumulation of gas, and I myself did not see anything. I should have been only too glad if anyone had pointed out to me any reason.

Mr Masterton - Do you think that this gas that was ignited was the first gas that had been present in that district for many months? - I should say very probably not.

Asked if the conditions in the district as regards gas were indicative of danger, witness replied that he was very definite on that. That being so, it was a section in which the regulation as to flame-proof apparatus operated.

Mr Foster was interrogated at considerable length by Mr R. Macgregor Mitchell, K.C.

Mr Macgregor Mitchell - You said that in your view the ventilation of this section was deplorable, although you had not visited it and although you had no tests or any other actual data to go on? - I had data to go on, but no tests.

You have only supposition? - I am making my statement on the mining conditions.

Of course, you may make a mistake? - No one is infallible.

under the Act, have you inspectors got power to take samples of air for analysis? - Yes.

NO AIR SAMPLES TAKEN

Were any samples of air taken in this section for analysis? - Not before the accident.

Has this section been visited by inspectors before the accident? - On two occasions.

Putting it frankly, if the conditions were deplorable, as you have described them, is it not a dereliction of duty on part of your inspector not to take a sample of the air and have it analysed ? - No.

Is it his duty to let it go by and then complain after the accident ? - No; not if he finds it.

Are you prepared to modify that rhetoric expression you used ? - No.

In answer to further questions, witness said that the fireman did not make an inspection for gas before the accident.

Are you going to condemn a man who is dead and say he made no inspection for gas on that occasion ? - I say he did not make an inspection.

What evidence have you got for that ? - Because his lamp was found at the position from which the fan had been removed.

Questioned regarding the theory that the ignition was caused by the incandescent filament of a broken electric lamp, witness said that he regarded that as a very remote possibility.

Harold C.W. Roberts, H.M. Junior Inspector of Mines, generally corroborated the evidence of the previous witness.

Captain C.B.M. Platt, superintendent testing officer, of the Mines Department Testing Station at Sheffield, gave a detailed report on the condition of the ten electric cap lamps which were sent to the testing station after the disaster. With regard to one of the lamps, he reported that it seemed clear that the filament, while still incandescent, had come in contact with the external atmosphere after the glass and bulb had been smashed. The filament could have ignited fire-damp if a sufficient quantity had been present. By reason of a short circuit, another of the lamps was also capable of igniting fire-damp in the surrounding atmosphere.

James A.B. Horsley, electrical inspector, Mines Department, giving evidence with regard to the electrical apparatus in the section, said that the gate-end box was designed to be flame-proof, but as he saw it in the mine it was not flame-proof. He had witnessed experiments at Motherwell which showed that, in the act of switching on that fan motor, coal gas was ignited as soon as an explosive mixture was made. Witness regarded a spark from the gate-end box switch as being the likeliest cause of ignition.

MONDAY'S HEARING

On Monday, witnesses were called on behalf of the Fife Coal Company, Ltd.

Andrew Bruce Muirhead, consulting engineer, Glasgow, said that he had examined the plant which was involved in the accident and investigated the place and the situation of the bodies after the accident, as shown on the plan. It was apparent to him that the fan (which the ten men were engaged in removing) was not in a position to run owing to the fact that the work of erection was far from completed. It would be

necessary also to erect a screen to divert the air into the fan. There was evidence that a part of the work had been started by making preparations to fix the first piece of timber. The gate-end box which was connected to the fan motor was in the "Off" position after the accident.

He had examined the gate-end box to see if there were any traces of ignition having taken place there. All the indications which he had found in many previous cases were absent in this case. The fan was not in a position to revolve as he saw it, and it would have been a very foolish thing to attempt to run the motor at the stage at which the erection of the fan was at that time.

He was present when tests were made to see if a spark would be generated in the gate-end box when the current was switched on, and it was found that a spark was generated both in switching on and switching off. If the ignition had occurred in the act of switching on, he would not have expected to find the switch in the "off" position after the accident. He formed the definite conclusion that the fire had not originated in the gate-end box.

Asked by Mr R. Macgregor Mitchell, K.C. (for the Company), if he had turned his attention to any other possible cause of ignition, he said that a difficulty arose in accounting for an ignition having occurred in this pit at all. When he saw the sketches showing the position of the bodies, he formed the opinion that the ignition had occurred at a point a few feet from the fan. The position of several of the bodies was compatible with the men having probably run a short distance.

One of the remarkable features of the whole case, he proceeded, was the absence of indications of extreme violence. The charring of the bodies was no more than would occur with a small inflammation in the vicinity of the men. From what he had heard as to the condition of the men's hair, he was led to the conclusion that the inflammation was near the roof.

He attached great importance to the broken lamp which had been in the possession of James Patterson, and his position indicated that he had been working near the roof. In so doing, it was quite possible that the glass and the globe of the lamp might have been accidentally broken. The condition of the filament confirmed witness's view that it must have been in contact with the atmosphere.

Counsel - What is your view as to the likelihood of this broken lamp causing the ignition? - I would expect that it would, and in my opinion is very much strengthened by the report of the Research Department on occurrences of a similar nature.

Would the source of ignition from that lamp be consistent with all that was found after the accident ? - I think that it would.

There is the other lamp in which there was a short-circuit. That cannot be excluded as a possibility ? - The fusion of the wires as shown would, in my opinion, be sufficient to ignite gas if present.

Questioned by the Procurator Fiscal (Mr R.J. Waugh) regarding the possibility of ignition from a spark in the gate-end box, he said that the clearance between the cable

and the metal of the gate-end box was not much more than an eighth of an inch, and there was just the chance that a flame would not pass through it to the outer atmosphere.

Professor Burns, of the Mining Engineering Department, of the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, who had examined the production and plans and heard the evidence already given, said that there were several possible causes of ignition which could not be ruled out. There was the gate-end box and the defective lamp, either of which could have caused the ignition. On the other hand, matches were found on one of the bodies, but he thought the general opinion of the witnesses was that they had not been used.

Looking to all the established facts before and after the accident, he came to the conclusion that it was very unlikely that the ignition started in the gate-end box. In the first place, he was very doubtful if the gate-end box was put into operation at all. In the second place, they had to suppose a mixture of between 5 and 6 per cent. of fire-damp, being only half the weight of air, would be very much denser up near the roof, and, had that been the case, he had not the slightest doubt but they would have heard more of violence and damage to the bodies of the unfortunate victims.

The position of the bodies indicated that the point of ignition was beyond the motor fan, and therefore further beyond the gate-end box. The defective electric lamp was found at the point where the ignition had taken place, and the condition of the filament indicated that it had been in contact with the atmosphere, and could have caused an ignition.

The fact that it was up near the roof favoured the view that the lamp was the cause of the ignition. He did not think there was an inflammable mixture at the "pavement" at all.

James Hamilton, Mining Engineer, Glasgow, a past-president of the Mining Institute of Scotland, concurred with the evidence of Professor Burns. He said that the broken lamp seemed to him the most probable origin of the ignition.

George Jenkins, an analytical chemist in the employment of the Fife Coal Company, said that he had taken samples of the dust inside the gate-end box, and he had found no signs of carbonisation.

Mr F.C. Watt, advocate, for the representatives of the deceased Mr Dodds, the electrician, in his address to the jury, pointed out that the section in which the accident had occurred was a safety-lamp section, and he submitted that, if this was an area in which there was reasonable cause to apprehend danger from gas, flame-proof electrical apparatus should have been in use.

Mr A. Mitchell, of Messrs Macbeth, Currie, Co., solicitors, Dunfermline, for the representatives of the other deceased workmen, submitted that the jury should add to their verdict an expression of opinion that the accumulation of gas was due to the absence of any adequate provision for the ventilation of this particular section on the day of the disaster.

Mr Macgregor Mitchell, K.C., for the Company, submitted that the attack which had

been made upon the system of ventilation was not well founded. Dealing with the cause of the ignition, he contended that there was no indication whatever in the gate-end box that a spark ever emanated from it.

On the other hand, for the breaking of the lamp causing the ignition, they had a satisfactory scientific explanation. He asked the jury to find that the cause of the ignition was the accidental breaking of the lamp, and that for the cause of the ignition the Fife Coal Company were not responsible.

The jury, on the direction of Sheriff Umpherston, returned a formal verdict stating that they were unable to say what was the cause of the ignition. They further agreed to refrain from saying whether, in their opinion, any person was to blame for the accident.

They added to their formal verdict the following recommendations:-

- (1) In regard to ventilation, that so long as men are working in the section with the present system of ventilation, an auxiliary fan ought to be constantly in operation, and that men should not be sent to work there unless there is an auxiliary fan in operation.
- (2) That all the electrical apparatus in the section should be constructed and maintained in a flame-proof condition; and
- (3) That the encasing glass of the electric cap lamps ought to be of laminated or triplex glass.

Sheriff Umpherston added that he was sure the jury would also desire to express their admiration for the courage and promptitude of James Clark, oversman, 51 Balgreggie Park, Cardenden; Joseph Mackie, oversman, 7 Woodend Park, Cardenden; and James Crichton, underground fireman, 24 Tenth Street, Bowhill, in their efforts to reach their comrades. In particular the feat of James Clark in penetrating so far along the face as he did without a safety lamp appeared to be worthy of the highest traditions on these occasions.

The jury, along with Counsel and agents, joined in his Lordship's tribute, and the suggestion was made from the Bar that these acts of heroism should be brought to the notice of the Carnegie Hero Fund Trustees.

THE FOLOWING ARTICLES APPEARED WEEKLY IN THE "LOCHGELLY
TIMES" IN 1926)

COAL MINING IN THE 19th CENTURY.

(BY WM. C. STEWART, LOCHGELLY).

(PART ONE)

The present coal crisis is an opportune time to give a short history of coal mining in Scotland during the last century.

Previous to 1800 the miners were held in bondage. Not, however, as slaves, for they could not be bought or sold, except the estate was sold. This state of matters was due to an Act of Parliament in the reign of James the First of England and Sixth of Scotland.

The unsettled state of the country, caused by continuous war, resulted in the country being overrun with idle men begging for bread. The whole power of the country was in the hands of the nobles. They induced King James to sign an Act of the so-called Parliament to give them the power to catch all sturdy beggars and tramps and compel them to work in the mines.

Coal was mined in Dunfermline from an early date, as early as the 12th Century by the Monks (history says little about it). An incident in the reign of King James I in 1608 is worth recording, when he was on a visit to Scotland and was guest of the Earl of Elgin. He was taken down a "dip" mine in Culross and brought up a stair pit which was surrounded by water, when the tide was in, King James seeing the water shouted "treason" and Lord Elgin assured him there was no danger. A boat with rowers was in attendance to bring him ashore.

There was practically little change during the following 200 years. James Watt, at the later end of the 18th Century, discovered the expansive power of steam. He established the first engineering works in Birmingham, England, and took for a partner a Mr Boulton, who was a man of some means. He had also associated with him a Scotsman from Ayrshire, William Murdoch, a real genius in the construction of machinery, who latterly became the head manager to Boulton & Watt, Soho Works, Birmingham. It is also fair to mention that Murdoch is not so well known as he should be, for it was he who first discovered or invented the lighting by gas, and gave his invention to the world, without a penny of profit to himself. The invention of the Steam Engine was the chief cause of the industrial revolution in the 19th Century.

The first blast furnaces in Scotland were erected at Carron, near Falkirk. The company got the assistance of Boulton & Watt who put up the first blowing engine in Scotland, to melt the crude iron ore; this was known as the cold blast method. This gave an impetus to the coal trade, and the Carron Company became famous all over the civilised world for munitions of war, for it was there that the iron balls were cast that beat the French fleet at Trafalgar in 1808.

Small quantities of coal were being mined along the shore of the Firth of Forth. The

landlords who were the coal masters were all well known in Fife, viz., Lord Elgin, then Fordell, Lochgelly, Dysart and Wemyss. The last remnant of the system yet remains. The Earl of Buckingham, the present proprietor of Fordell, is the last of the landlords to mine coal, though not in his own land but is leased from the aforementioned Carron Iron and Coal Company.

The agitation to free the miners from bondage was never allowed to sleep, for in the year 1789 the Emancipation Bill was passed and came into force on the 1st January, 1800. The miners then became free men, and the Landlords, as owners, were not at all pleased with the change, for they had blocked the Bill for many years. To defeat the true object of the Act they adopted the agricultural method, which still stands today. They gave notice that no miners would be employed except they bound themselves for a six months' period. The writer's maternal grandfather who did not belong to a mining family, bound himself at the age of 12 years to the Landlord who mined his own coal at Wellshot and Stonelaw near Glasgow, at a fee equal to 9d per day to drive a horse in a deep mine. This system prevailed only for a short period.

The demand for coal for iron smelting purposes induced the business men of the period to take an interest in coal mining. Early in the century the foundation of the great coal and iron companies were well and truly laid. Lanarkshire then became the chief centre of the coal and iron trade: all the great companies are yet in the trade. At a later date there were iron works at Lochgelly and Oakley, the ruins of which can still be seen to-day. With the introduction of private enterprise the coal trade was known as the "free" collieries, and this compelled the bond system of landlordism to become free collieries also.

Water and carbon acid gas, known locally as black damp, were the chief natural enemies of the miner. There were no artificial means of ventilation other than natural ventilation, of which the weather conditions sometimes helped, but at other times retarded. This depended very much on the unequal state of the temperature outside of the mines, and cold weather or very hot weather were the best conditions for ventilation; very mild or foggy weather or south-westerly winds were dreaded by the miners. This condition alone was the chief cause of much idle time, as coal mining could only be worked from the outcrop of the upper seams or beds of coal being near the surface.

FORDELL AND LOCHGELLY DAY LEVELS.

The accumulation of water in mines was also a serious question, and mines had to be abandoned in many cases where hand pumps were unable to cope with the growth of water. The proprietor of Fordell, to get over this difficulty, cut what is locally called a day level, starting at a point south of the Mansion House right up to the William Pit. This level drained a large field of the Lochgelly splint coal, and is kept open to the present day.

Sir Gilbert Elliot, ancestor of the Earl of Minto, proprietor of Lochgelly, also cut a day level, starting from the River Ore south of the Nellie Pit. This level was driven up past the old Mary Pit and drained the Lochgelly splint coal, much the same as Fordell. This water way is now obsolete.

There were no other means of getting coal except by mines dipping from the surface and horse haulage applied; different methods were tried, shallow pits were sunk, and a stairway was erected.

THE WOMAN WORKERS.

Female labour was employed to carry the coal upstairs in creels; made of basket work; light as possible, and contained when loaded various weights, according to the strength of the bearers. This was very strenuous work and could not last long, yet a thousand ton of coal was carried upstairs by the women of Scotland. Man's natural ingenuity over came this difficulty. The "Windlass" was the first system of raising coal up a vertical shaft, and was pretty hard work also. The horse, a great friend of man, was brought into use by the horse gin. Gin pits became principal means of haulage all over Scotland.

STEAM INTRODUCED.

Then James Watt stepped into the breach with his Steam Engine. The first engine erected by James Watt can be seen outside the Museum in the west end Public Park, Glasgow, and the same type of Engine can be seen at the upcast shafts of the Jenny Gray and the Mary Pit, Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company. James Watt's first engines were used for pumping water in deep mines. The principle was known as the "Walking beam engine", and this beam rocked from a centre point supported by a strong upright metal column; the outer portion of the beam had the pump rods attached, and the inside or driving portion was connected to the piston, where the steam pressure was applied. All the first engines were built on the same principal, but differently applied to suit the work. Watt's engines were used for driving looms for cotton weaving, &c., a considerable time before being applied to coal mining. At this period of mining history there were no railways or steam ships. Any coal mined was mostly used for household purposes, but the coming of the blast furnaces brought a greater demand for coal, and water ways were cut throughout Scotland. The first and greatest of these was the Forth and Clyde Canal, beginning at Grangemouth and ending at Bowling on the Firth of Clyde - a waterway from sea to sea. A branch canal was cut into the Monklands from Glasgow, ending at Woodhall, to tap the coal and ironstone found in large quantities. Another branch was cut through to Edinburgh from Grangemouth, and one from Paisley to Glasgow,

Foreign trade was opened up by the waterways, also large inland trade, both of minerals and other merchandise, and the system was highly developed in England and the continent of Europe many years before the advent of our railway system. The foregoing is only a brief outline leading up to the greatest industrial revolution of the 19th Century.

(The next instalment will contain a well written article by a Lochgelly miner, with a good account of the early coal mining in Lochgelly).

(PART TWO)

"THE AULD DAYS IN LOCHGELLY"

The following article written by the late Mr Archibald Cook (Bauldie Cook) has been in our possession for some years. At the present moment it may have particular interest. Mr Cook will be well remembered by the older Lochgelly generation. Mr Wm Stewart is utilising it as the second instalment of his interesting series, "Coal Mining in Scotland in the 19th Century."

BYGONE DAYS IN THE MINING AND BUILDING INDUSTRIES OF LOCHGELLY.

Lochgelly has been long known as a mining village, as coal was known to be wrought in it as early as 1642, and the place where it was known first to be wrought was round the Lochgelly House and through the wilderness. It was carried on for a great number of years, but on a very small scale. Only a few miners and their wives were employed, as the coal was carried to the bank by the miners wives and their daughters. The contractor's name that held the contract of the minerals of Lochgelly Estate was John Keeler. His seam of coal went on fire after many years hard working and he was obliged to give it up. The heat was that strong on the surface from the burning seam below that although a heavy fall of snow came, it melted almost as soon as it fell. When Mr Landale first came to Lochgelly, the oldest people that lived in it told him this and he was my authority. What I know of the mining industry of Lochgelly, before my own experience, was handed down from my father and my grandmother, she being amongst the oldest miners born on the Earl of Minto's estate. She could go through the history of it pretty clear, and any time the mining industry has been brought up through the public press, Hannah Hodge was always the leading character, the oldest and only female miner in Lochgelly.

In about the year 1775, Sir Gilbert Elliot began and opened up the coal himself in about where the furnaces were built, and wrought west towards Launcherhead. He started this Mine, called the Day-level, and drove it from the River Ore to the west of his estate, and that was to the bridge that crosses the railway going to Lumphinnans Farm, where the water travelled all out to the River Ore itself. You can follow the track of the level from the River Ore by the Pits, which were put down to carry the redd and coals out off. This enabled them to get all the coal to the rise of this Level wrought dry, as there were no pumping machines in these days. The miners wives and daughters had to do the winding, pumping and everything else, and they were only poor hard-wrought slaves. The Laid, Sir Gilbert Elliot, carried on the work himself until a man of the name of Chisholm and his sons came and took a lease of the minerals of Lochgelly Estate; and between father, sons and grandsons, they held the contract for over a hundred years. This Henry Chisholm was an Englishman, and, when he came first to Scotland, he began his first mining operations at a place called Blair Mill at the west of Benarty Hill. He put some pits there and wrought coal for many years. He wrought his pumping all with hand pumps and they were made of wood. After, Henry Ness wrought through on Chisholm's old workings and there were many curiosities to be seen in the different system of working and that day, and what is to be seen at this day - no machinery of any kind beyond a hand-pump, and it was of wood. Mr Dougal Baird, the manager of Raith Colliery belonging to the Lochgelly Coal Company, sent a man along with David Fisher, they travelled through the old workings and at the bottom of the Chisholm Pit they cut a piece of wooden pipe at great risk of their lives, carried it through the old workings, and got out at Henry Ness's Mine. Both, being sort of antiquarians, were always very keen to get

hold of any ancient tool or machine. Fisher serve all his time on Lochgelly work along with me. I may say that I know about the history of the Chisholms. The father and one of his sons got married on my two aunts, this was father and son married on two sisters, a marriage that does not happen often in Lochgelly, and through this relationship I have heard their whole life gone through many a time. Henry's two sons, William and Stewart, carried on Lochgelly work as long as they were able. Stewart had two sons, William and Henry, who both went to America and made a fortune before they died. They were the grand and great-grandsons of the remarkable female miner. Hannah Hodge, who lived all her life in Lochgelly.

I can give the number of miners employed in Lochgelly in the year 1777, who had their wives working along with them - Henry Chisholm, Robert Chisholm, James Chisholm, Charles Baxter, Henry Baxter, Hannah Hodge, James Hunter and George Erskine. Their daily output of coal was ten tons - not a great output, but when we consider that the women carried the coal through the workings and up a long stair - o good number of fathoms - we may think it a pretty hard day's work, with both scanty food and clothing. The regular burden of coal carried on their backs was twenty-one stone Dutch, equal to three hundred-weights, and, in a trial of strength, Janet Erskine and Hannah Hodge carried four hundred-weights.

Their wage was six shillings per week, and miners wages were set down at nine shillings per week. The working day lasted from twelve to fourteen hours. Each person had their own respective bit ground for laying their coals down, and the Laird employed a man to sell them. This man was known as a coal grieve. He advanced the workers money on their little bings of coal and as their stocks were sold he cleared up with them. In the winter season they never saw day-light, only on Sunday, and the abstract here gives a week's profit on Lochgelly work. In the year 1777, from 19th to 26th February, after paying wages and all oncost, he had £3 14s to himself. He considered that awful good. For a number of weeks previous to that, in the same year, he had only 4s 6d to himself after paying all expenses. A very small sum compared with the revenue at this day. It was only a hard life of slavery and serfdom, but as they knew no better they were quite happy with their lot. They had no dates for anything that happened then. They referred to the birthdays of their children as follows:- Oor Jock was born when the black soo was killed and Tam was born at tattie lifting time, Janet was born that year I shore at Pitcairn, and so on. That was how they got along.

Although the population was small - it was said to be something under four hundred - it had been a small body of believers of the Christian Faith. There was neither Church nor School. On the 30th August, 1688, Mr Andrew Thomson was appointed by the Kirkcaldy Presbytery, in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, to preach once a fortnight at the Meeting House in Lochgelly. There is no trace at this time of the existence of such a Meeting House, but there can be no doubt from the authority of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy records that religious services were conducted regularly in Lochgelly. The first record we have of the present Church is in the year 1853, when the Rev. P.M. Grant, the much respected minister of Auchterderran Parish, along with many members of the Church of Scotland in the district, took active steps towards the building of a Church, and the formation of the Quad Sacra parish to be disjoined from the parishes of Auchterderran and Ballingry. The late Earl of Minto kindly granted a site for Church and Manse at a nominal feu duty. The Church was built in 1856 at a cost of £1180, and the Manse was built at a

cost of £607. How changed are the days in Lochgelly since I remember. The spot where the Manse is built was called "The Quarry Hole" and the older generation had us persuaded that Old Nick lived there, and since I mind we were afraid to pass it even at twelve o'clock in the day. Superstition was very strong in these days, but the progress in Lochgelly proves the advance of education.

In Lochgelly we can look back to the time when a miner's wife had to take her six months' old child in her coal creel and let it lie at the stoop side until she wrought her day's work, giving it a drink as she had time. Now they are placed in a fine machine and hurled round the place until they can walk with freedom themselves. Miner's sons and daughters are now equal with any class of Society. We have miners' sons and daughters as teachers, ministers and business men of all kinds, well fitted to fill any situation in the country, and who can live in what is known as the fashionable world, very different from the olden times. Whatever article of dress we got, it was the fashion so long as it lasted. I happened to meet some friends in Dunfermline, whom I had not seen for some time. One of them was in for a hat his wife had ordered, and, as it was a common thing for old acquaintances when they met to propose a dram, we did so; but the man, who was in for the hat, said he could not do that, as, if he lost the train, the hat would be old fashioned and that would mean two hats.

Being amongst the oldest miners belonging to Lochgelly, and born on the Earl of Minto's Estate, I may give some particulars of the system of working. As I have already said, a man and his wife wrought together and if anything went wrong with the man, such a sickness or death, the woman had to be both miner and bearer. Such was the case with my grandmother. She was left a widow with five young children, and no way of supporting them except by her own hands. My father was only six months old and my uncle Baldy two years. The three girls were older, but there was nothing for her but to go and dig her own coals. She placed her two boys in her coal creel and carried them down the pit, laid them at the stoop side until she dug her coals, and carried them to the pit head. When she rested she gave my father a drink and my uncle a few spoonfuls of cold stoved potatoes, as oatmeal and potatoes were all their living in these days, and each days provisions were prepared the night previous before the people retired to bed. She wrought on in that way until her family were able to help her. Sit Gilbert Elliot openly declared that she had more coals to the bank every year than any miner on the work. She was a general miner as she drove a great part of the Day-level leading from the River Ore. She wrought where a light of no kind would burn; breathing the foulest air the mineral world could blow upon her, and the only light she had was the reflection from Fish Heads. Her family carried the coals and redd as they grew up. My father started when he was eight years old.

After Henry Chisholm's sons got up to manhood they did improve the system a little. Their first invention in the way of machinery was a windlass, which did away with the carrying of the coal and raised the output to fifteen tons per day. But this meant little ease for the women as they had to work the windlass. After working on this improved system for some time they introduced a Gin, which brought the output up to twenty-five tones, and which was wrought by horses. The women then became drawers. his was the highest point they ever reached, and were well contented with it. After holding the contract of Lochgelly work for over 100 years, the Chisholms finished up to Moorhead fields, belonging to Cartmore Farm. Henry Chisholm, who wrought along with William and Stewart when he was a very young boy, acted as their clerk

and time-keeper, and was recommended to Mr John Henderson as he knew all particulars of the work. He got the post of underground manager and held that post for over forty years. He was the son of Robert Chisholm, the contractors son, and James Chisholm was David Chisholm's father, and lived all his time in a little old thatched house, which stood in the Moor by itself for ages. David was born, lived and died i it. William and Stewart built the block of houses where John Henderson's Public House is, but the former died before they were finished. He left one to his mother, Betsy Cook, one to his sister, one to his brother Charles, Baker Chisholm's brother, while his brother Stewart got the southmost one. The latter had two sons, William and Henry, who both made fortunes. Henry was a joiner. They both went out to America and gained a fortune before they died.

In about the year 1827, Mr John Henderson took a lease of the minerals of Lochgelly Works, and fitted up machinery at the pits. This made the work more comfortable in every way. He was always kind to his workmen. The first pit he put down was called "Little Crafty". It was very abe - only a few fathoms. The Lochgelly Company's School is built right on top of it. The next pit he put down was the Lochend Pit, on the side of the Kirkcaldy road, about the year 1837. At that time care was taken to put down pits as near the public roads as possible, as the sales were all landsale. The daily output then was about thirty-five tons. The next two pits to be sunk were the Little Dean and West Pit, now the Newton Pit, in about the year 1839. They were not convenient for sales owing to the want of a road, but the Earl of Minto made a road to the Dean Pit and Mr John Henderson made a railway from there to Cowdenbeath, and this suited both pits. The latter opened up a coalfield and the coals were carted from Cowdenbeath and shipped at Burntisland. James Thomson was the wagon contractor. His son Alexander loaded the wagons at the pit-head and his son Thomas emptied them at Cowdenbeath. One would have had a long travel to find two stronger, more active men for the work. The output at Lochgelly was at this time fifty tons per day. I have seen as many as thirty carts standing at the pithead at four o'clock in the morning waiting on the miners commencing work. People came all the way from Perth and even further north for coals. I have heard of one man who came from Perth, and who was anything but pleased when he found that there had been a good rise in the price since his previous visit. A man named Henry Mitchell was the coal grieve at that time, and he said "You must mind that coals is coals now". "Well man, I am glad at that, for the last I got was stones," was the answer. It is nothing uncommon to get stones among the coals now. Henry was always very clever in his way. I have heard of a James Hunter, whose coals had gone done, and as the weather was pretty cold he went out with his wife to get some. Henry met him, and asked his reason for stealing coals. The man replied that there was none to put on his fire. Henry said, "That's not enough". "I ken, but the wife is comin' wi' more," was the reply.

In the year 1840, Messrs Russell & Company took a lease of the minerals of Lochgelly Estate, belonging to the Earl of Minto, and immediately put down two pits, namely, the Jenny Gray and Number 12. Both were a great success. In 1847 the annual output was 14,000 tons and now is over 40,000 tons, and will increase for many years to come. In 1847 the Blast Furnaces were built, and a number of ironstone mines and pits opened up. This gave employment to a great number f men of all classes, but after carrying on the work for a number of years without any profit - the natural ironstone was poor and had to be supplemented from other places - the Company agreed on blowing the furnaces out. At one time Lochgelly Coal could

command a sale for its quality and cleanliness through the whole country. About the year 1846, what was called the Nottingham Pit was opened, and it was in that my father finished his mining career. I have already stated that he was carried down in mother's creel at the age of six months in the year 1778. He died in 1848. In the house where he was born in old Launcherhead, three generations of us were brought up, and I am the only one left of all three. At that time Launcherhead belonged to the Earl of Minto.

Many changes have taken place in Lochgelly since then. It was both interesting and amusing to hear my friends go through their life's hardships, but they were happy all the time. I began as a miner in 1843 at ten years of age, that being the usual age for all boys commencing work. Beginning as a quarter man, I received a quarter of a man's wage, which was 2s per day. A boys wage was the handsome sum of 6d per day. James Thomson, who lived in the Baltic Cottage at Lumphinnans, along with a few others, including myself, pumped water in the Newton Pit at the rate of 6d for a day of 12 hours, and had to pay our light off that. I wrought steadily up to 1869, when I met with an accident of a serious nature. I was told by the highest medical authority in Edinburgh that I would never work again, but I had hope that I would, and we have to thank God for such a companion, although it sometimes seemed like hope against hope. I thought if ever I dug another ton of coal or worked another week I would chalk it very steady up to 1869, when I was fairly beat. I began again in 1873 and my average working days during that time was four and a half per week. My average output was 660 tons coal and 108 tons small coal per year, but I always had a boy for filling and drawing. I only claim the credit of removing the coal from its natural bed. The price per ton varied from 1s to 3s 4d. The average price during the 53 years would run about 1s 8d per ton of 22½ cwts. I think I will be quite safe to take that average all through. Taking this average for 53 years after being told I would work no more, my output for my boy and myself amounted to 32,980 tons in coal and 5724 tons in small coal, making a total of 38,704 tons of 22½ cwts. I believe this to be a steady miner's production.

I might mention a few of the men's names who fought during their lifetime for the freedom and comfort of the miner, urged on Acts of Parliament for the protection of his safety and better ventilation; caused his working day to be eight hours instead of twelve, and improved his conditions in every way. Such men are Normandsill, Pickard, Halliday, and Mr Alex. MacDonald. The latter named fought hard for the miner's rights up to the last hour of his consciousness. The miners of Fife and Kinross ought to have a memorial of Mr MacDonald placed in Dunfermline, which he visited so often and gave valuable instructions as to how the miners should act, and that memorial should be unveiled once every year in order to remind the young miners of the present day and those of coming generations what has been done for them, and by whom it was done. Since the introduction of the eight hours days in the year 1870, we have always had leading Secretaries and Boards of Management well qualified to fulfil their duties, and all men from our ranks, and as a rule the employers at Fife, Clackmannan and Kinross have wrought very harmoniously together.

(PART THREE)

"THE AULD DAYS IN LOCHGELLY"

The readers of "The Times" at home and abroad, would be pleased to read the interesting account of "Old Lochgelly", by a Lochgelly man. There can be no question about various incidents that he gives in his letter, I was well acquainted with Baldy Cook. He was a very intelligent man, had got a fairly good education, and was a good writer. He had a great fund of pawky humour, and could tell many good, amusing anecdotes. One incident is worth recording.

I told him that the Lochhead Pit (Raith Colliery) had been sunk down forty-six fathoms, and coals were drawn in five months. With a merry twinkle in his eye, Baldy said:- "Man, Wullie, they could far beat that in Lochgelly fifty years ago. If the farmers got word that a new pit was being sunk, they were there with their carts in the afternoon waiting for the coal." He died fifteen years ago at the ripe age of seventy-eight. The last job he had was Librarian and Reading Room Keeper for the Lochgelly Co-operative Society.

The population in the year 1801, taken from the first reliable and compulsory "Census", was 1,608,420. There were not a great many people engaged in digging coal. The principal industry in Scotland at this period was hand-loom weaving. Every village had its quota, but the introduction of the steam-loom practically killed the hand-loom trade. A large number of weavers were thrown out of work, many of whom found work in the mines.

It was not a simple job to learn coal digging at that period. Some authorities say it is unskilled labour. Well, up to the days of machinery, it certainly required highly skilled workmen to dig coal from its natural bed. "Learn young, learn fair" is a well known adage - boys who commenced work at an early age made the best miners.

Progress was slow during the first quarter of the century, and there was little change in the system of mining and wages were low. In Lanarkshire, 2/6d per day, boys being paid according to age, same as in Fife.

Combinations of workmen were strictly prohibited. The country was in a very unsettled state, for the end of the twenty year's war was only finished by the decisive victory of the Allies at the Battle of Waterloo, 1815. The ambition of that great soldier, Napoleon Bonaparte, to become master of the then known world, was crushed at that famous battle. The whole United Kingdom were still suffering by the after effects of the long, drawn-out campaign. All our resources were mostly used up in providing munitions of war, and we lost many of our best men in the flower of manhood. This crippled our country then, much as it is to-day, only in a lesser degree.

But the genius of our race was never daunted. In the year 1812 Henry Bell invented the first passenger steamboat, named "The Comet", which ran between Glasgow and Greenock. The rate was five miles per hour. This was practically the birth of Britain's command of the seven seas, and forerunner of the gigantic ocean liners of to-day.

It may be interesting, in passing, to say that the credit of inventing the steamboat must be given to Mr P. Millar, an Edinburgh banker, who made some trials of a steamboat (said to be the first of its kind in the world) on Dalswinton Loch, near Dumfries, in the year 1788. Robert Burns, our national poet, was present on that auspicious occasion. The trials were unsuccessful, but the genius of the banker was nipped in the bud for want of money and suitable material.

Water Power.

Previous to the invention of the steam engine, water was the great source of power. Many centuries before this was done by the water wheel or turbine. The largest of the kind was constructed at Catrine, Ayrshire. This was the place where Wm. Murdoch got his early training as a millwright, his father being manager of the cotton mill. The looms were driven by the great water wheel, thirty feet in diameter. Murdoch's father has the credit of being the inventor of the cog wheel, better known as the tooth and pinion wheel. The first of these was made of hard wood, by this means either power, or speed, could be attained with different sizes of the wheels. Greenock came next with a greater wheel, forty feet in diameter; then the Laxey wheel in the Isle of Man, the largest in the world. It was fifty feet in diameter, pumping water, by the power of water, from a lead mine. This powerful force, where it could be got, was adopted all over Scotland for grinding oats, wheat, and other cereals. It was better known as the Meal Mill, and is now practically obsolete.

Our Railway System.

The centenary of the first railway, opened 100 years ago, was celebrated in 1925.

George Stephenson's locomotive engine, named "The Rocket", won the prize being the fastest engine. This competition took place on the first railway made in England from Darlington to Stockport. The power of steam was limited to about twelve lbs. of pressure. George Stephenson, when a boy, was stoking boilers at a Northumberland Colliery. He noticed that a large amount of steam was wasted at the safety valve, and this gave him more work firing up. He got a piece of string and tied a brick to the lever of the safety valve, this increased the pressure of steam, with a saving of fuel, and less work for himself. The ingenuity of the boy was the introduction of the high pressure steam boilers, which has gradually increased. The pressure of steam now applied at the large collieries is from 100 to 180 lbs.; in steamships it has been increased recently by the Cunard Line to 700 lbs. Passengers, on board a modern liner, have no conception of the tremendous power bottled up under their feet. The construction of railways and steamships caused a boom in the iron and coal trade. The smelting of iron by the cold blast method required a large amount of coal. Five tons of coal and five cwts. of limestone were used to smelt one ton of calcined ironstone - limestone was used as flux. By this extraordinary demand for coal, pig iron increased in value, and every penny that could be borrowed was spent in building more furnaces. In the year 1840 there was a distinct cleavage between the iron and coal industry. There were iron masters men, and individual coal masters men, who sold their coal for domestic purposes. The value of iron ruled the wages of the sale-coal miners. Miner's wages increased gradually up to 5/- per day. The iron masters would not concede any more than 4/6d per day to their workers. The iron masters' workers

came out on strike at the end of 1842. The miners, who had got the 5/- per day, came out in sympathy with the others to force the 5/- per day all over. This was a most disastrous strike, and it lasted for twenty-six weeks. The miners were defeated, and had to go back to work at the lowest wage of 2/6d per day. This long strike, which paralysed the whole trade of the country, was the main cause of what was known as the "Hungry Forties".

Engineering.

Previous to the strike a large number of engineering works were commenced in a small way, also iron moulding, mostly in Glasgow and Coatbridge. Steam engines had been adopted at some of the larger collieries, and the large beam engines were constructed at all the blast furnaces. Engineering and iron moulding was a new industry in Scotland, although it had been commenced at a much earlier period in England. The invention of the steamship gave it the first impulse. Then the invention of the railways at a later date gave the trade another push on. The miners' strike stopped the supply of coal, all the men in the new engineering industry were thrown idle.

For the want of fuel some of the iron masters met with a serious mishap. They damped down the furnaces that were in blast, expecting the strike would fizzle out. They forgot that the miners came from the same stock - a dour, determined people when it came to a fight. The molten iron in the furnaces cooled down, and became a solid mass of iron, slag, and brickwork - all congealed together. A native genius solved the problem of their removal, he put down a bore hole and tested the depth of the soil, then excavated the soil from under the furnace, which gradually sank down to the surface level. This made a good foundation for the new furnace.

(PART FOUR)

"THE AULD DAYS IN LOCHGELLY"

There is no other industry in the world that can be compared to coal and other mining. Workshops, factories, shipbuilding, &c., remain a fixture. Situated on the surface, they have their own special dangers to contend with, but coal mining, shallow or deep, has natural enemies to contend with which surface workers have not. A coal mine never remains stationary. From the initial stage the miners dig their way slowly into the bowels of Mother Earth; inward and onward, longer and longer the roadways become, digging coal even at a distance of five miles under the sea. That is so at Whitehaven in England, and has begun at Wemyss in Fifeshire, also in the Lothians on the other side of the Firth of Forth, and at Bo'ness and Culross.

Modes of Working Coal.

The stoop and room method of working coal was general all over the country, both in Scotland and England, for more than fifty years of the 19th century. The system has various names - "Room and rance" and "bord wall" in England - had all the same meaning. It was the safest mode of working coal, and its only defect was the difficulty of ventilation. The stoops were cast in a square shape, the size depending on the depth of the strata, anything from six yards square to 22 yards or one chain - in

shallow pits, 12 yards. This was not only the safest but the cheapest means of getting coal, as there were no oncost workers, no brushing, and a great economy in the use of prop wood. All the upper seams in Fife and other parts of Scotland were of a height to admit of the above method being worked.

In Fifeshire the little splint (the top seam) was worked at an earlier period at the crop out. The 14 feet (the second seam) was taped at a later date. The well-known seam, first found at Lochgelly and named the Lochgelly Splint and parrot, and in some parts both seams were worked separate - the height of both was 15 feet in thickness. A full section of this seam was cut out at the Raith Colliery and sent to the Glasgow Museum - stood upright, a pinnacle 4 feet square and 15 feet in height.

There were many sections of coal from other parts of Scotland, but Lochgelly topped them all, and perhaps they yet remain there to this day. However, they stood there for exhibition in the year 1873.

The System of Digging Coal.

The places were usually 12 feet wide, and the coal had first to be undercut as far in as possible to an average of 3½ to 4 feet deep. Then to shear the coal up to the roof usually in the low side, here was a block of coal open at the bottom and on one side. The next operation was to get it down on the pavement (that is the common term for the floor of the mine). There was no blasting with gunpowder, iron or steel wedges being used. Both holing and wedging was hard work and required skilled labour to do it, and both hand and brain were necessary to bring down the coal by the hammer and wedge method. This system prevailed up to the introduction of gunpowder.

It should be noted here that a new generation of miners had risen, and there were yet a few descendants of the old bondage miner, also the progeny of those who entered the mines after the emancipation. These were the men who took part in the big strike in 1842-43. This strike was confined almost to Lanarkshire, the "hub" of the coal and iron industry. After the battle was over the men settled down - though defeated, were not disgraced - at the low rate of 2/6s per day. Parliament had conceded the right to combine, but there was no unity among the men, so they could not afford it for a time. But each separate colliery had unwritten laws of their own making, and there were various ways of paying the coal dug by the miners. The system that prevailed was payment by piece work, sometimes paid by the tub or hutch. The system most in vogue was so much per cart, of three hutches, total weight being 14 cwts. of clean coal, no dross. There was a good deal of trouble when a new seam of coal was opened up in fixing the "darg" or days work between masters and men.

A four feet seam was fixed at a rate of 2 tons 10 cwts. per man, clean coal. No one dare break the "darg" after being fixed. All were paid alike; boys according to ages, quarter of a man up to 12 years of age, a half up to 14 years, and a full man at 17 years, with one exception, the eldest son of a miner, 16 years of age. The hutches were made of the lightest material, the tare averaging two and a quarter hundredweights. They were easily handled, and when loaded contained about 7 cwts. of coal gross. A good deal has been said about boys commencing work at 7 years of age, but boys must have been giants in those days, and there were no rules nor regulations as to age. The real purpose was that the father was able to dig coal and get for his son a quarter of a man's wage. The first Act of Parliament was passed in

the year 1843, prohibiting women working underground. The prominent seams of coal in Lanarkshire - Top Seam, the ell coal (ell in Scottish means yard), when first discovered, was 3 feet thick. It varied in thickness and was found on both sides of the bed of the River Clyde, from 6 to 8 feet thick. This seam extended from Glasgow right up to Dalserf on the south side of Wishaw, and Law of Carluke on the north side. This seam was of no use for iron smelting, but became at a later date one of the best household coals in Scotland, and was known as the Wishaw ell coal. The pyotshaw, 4 feet (the second seam), was a rough hard coal of low value, and was worked at a later date. The famous seam called the Splint Coal, was discovered at Woodhall, at the head of the Monkland Canal. This seam was of the highest value for iron smelting, and is still used for that purpose at the present time. The deeper seams will be dealt with in another article.

Struggle For Better Conditions.

The agitation for better conditions was still going on. At this period of the early fifties, Alexander McDonald first made his debut as a miner's leader. He was born at Airdrie, and went to the mines at an early age. He got all his first education at the Session School. Not satisfied with that, he studied and spent all his spare time educating himself, his ambition being to become a schoolmaster. Latterly he entered the Glasgow College, and continued his studies, and at vacation time he worked hard and saved his money for the next session. He took part in the agitation by the miners for better conditions, was a born orator with a powerful voice, and was latterly acknowledged as the miners' leader without fee or reward. He worked hard to get a union of miners established. It was then a difficult task. However, by the year 1860, miners wages, by his efforts, rose to 4s per day. This wage continued up to the year 1872, and then came the first and greatest boom in the coal mining industry, wages being advanced to 10s per day. Mr McDonald at this period was a member of Parliament for the burgh of Stafford in England; Thomas Burt, M.P. for Morpeth, who lived to be the father of the House of Commons, and never un-seated; Mr Abraham, a Welsh miner, were the first Labour members in the House of Commons. The three men referred to spent the better part of their lifetime on behalf of the betterment of the miners and their conditions of working (will refer to "Sandy" McDonald in another article). They have now passed away, but their good work is not forgotten. There is a memorial standing in New Monkland Parish Churchyard erected to the memory of Alexander McDonald, who lived and died a bachelor.

(PART FIVE)

"INTERESTING REMINISCENCES."

There were no rules or regulations at the early period of coal mining in Great Britain. In daylight mines, as they were called, the miners could go in at any hour, and there was no inspection made.

Steam engines of the James Watt type had been adopted in nearly all the pits; most of them were shallow, seldom deeper than 20 or 30 fathoms. The engineman was early at work, for he had first to get up steam to let the men down at four o'clock in the morning, and the last man had to be down at 5.30. There was no boiler fireman, the engineman having to fire and look after his own boiler. His working day was fourteen

hours, at 3s 4d per day, six o'clock being the starting time. Inflammable gas, the miner's most violent natural enemy, was found in some of the English mines at an earlier period. Sir Humphrey Davy, the greatest chemist of his day, invented the safety lamp in 1815 that bears his name up to the present day. There was no inspection before commencing work, no banksman to see them down, and no bottomer to see them off the cage.

The First Great Mining Disaster.

I might pause here and remind the older people that the first great mining disaster took place at the Hartley Colliery in the north of England in 1859. This was one of the first large collieries in England. This pit was fitted up for a large output of coal. The pumping engine was one of the James Watt type, the rocking beam weighing 40 tons, the principle of which I explained before. This great beam split right through the centre. The outer part that the pump rods were attached fell into the pit, carrying everything before it, and the shaft was blocked. There was no outlet, 200 men being suffocated for want of air, and many months elapsed before a clearance was made.

This great disaster caused a panic all over the United Kingdom. A wave of sympathy spread over the people, and a large sum of money was contributed, sufficient to pay a weekly sum to all widows and children, the latter till twelve years of age. The fund lasted for many years, but was wound up a few years ago with a balance that still remains in the bank.

The panic became greater amongst the miners, for there were hundreds of pits all over England and Scotland that had no outlet shaft.

Demand For Safer Conditions.

The demand for legislation became urgent from all quarters, and Parliament was compelled by public opinion to pass an Act for compulsory outlets to all the pits in the United Kingdom. This Act came into force in the year 1861. It was a short Bill, with a few compulsory rules, boys being prohibited from the mines till ten years of age, and able to sign or write their own names, but this latter clause was not strictly enforced.

Another clause was the appointment of Government Inspectors, two mining managers being appointed for Scotland, viz., James Alexander, for the Western Division, and Ralph Moor, for the Eastern Division, which included Fifeshire. Another short clause was that in all mines where fire-damp was found, that part of the mine had to be examined before men commenced work, and no other inspector was enforced. Another clause, that safety gates had to be put on every open shaft.

How The Workmen Lived.

This query has been often put, but never satisfactorily answered. My experience is that they lived on plain homely fare. They had few luxuries, oatmeal porridge being a common article of diet for breakfast, taken with good buttermilk. Scottish broth, better known as "kale", made with vegetables in their season, and barley, a cereal for which Scotland was famous. This dinner was the principal meal of the day. Peasemeal

was used by some of the poorer families. It must be explained that miners and other workmen had large gardens attached to their houses and rents were cheap, 1s per week, but the accommodation was limited. Miners then had free coal, but they had to carry it home on their backs, or hire a carter to bring it. Most of the workers kept and reared pigs, which gave a good supply of pork. A good example of garden tillage can be seen at Fordell Rows, where compulsory gardening by the landlord is yet in force. Large plots of potatoes were grown with all the well known vegetables in large quantities.

Finest Class in The World.

From the homely and plain way of living Scotland bred and reared the finest class of miners in the world, and their fame as such has been carried into America and all the colonies of the British Empire. Our engineers and shipbuilders and other workers are also famous the world over for ships and machinery of all kinds, more especially on the Clyde, Glasgow, and the Tyne at Newcastle. Sheffield was famed for steel goods and all sorts of cutlery. They had also secret methods for smelting steel as far back as the 17th century, and can beat the world for steel good, etc., even up to the present day.

The Crimean War Aftermath.

During the interval in the early fifties came the Crimean War. Great Britain and France were involved in war in defence of Turkey, fighting the Czar of Russia. The latter was defeated. This was a short war.

Irrespective of the fact that the Repeal of the Corn Laws was gradually decreasing the cost of living, there was a set backwards, the 4 lb. loaf being raised to 1s, and oatmeal, the staple food of the people, rose in price also.

Again we were involved in war putting down the mutiny of the native army in India, who rebelled against British rule. The natives committed terrible atrocities on the white population. The Black Hole of Calcutta incident raised this country to a fury, Sir Colin Campbell being dispatched with a large army, mostly Highland Regiments. By this time the city of Lucknow was besieged by the rebels, and all the whites were drawn into the city. The garrison of British troops defended the people for many months, and they fought like demons. Well they knew that every soul would be put to the sword if the rebel troops got in. An incident took place while the garrison was in dire need of supplies. It is not out of place here, and should be kept green in our memories, for it appeals to every Scottish heart. Jessie Brown, a young girl, was working tending to the sick and wounded. Jessie startled the defenders one morning with a loud piercing cry, "Dinna ye hear it? Dinna ye hear it?" "Hear what?" they asked. "Why, the pipers are playing 'The Campbell's are Coming'." Not a soul heard a sound, and thought she was dreaming, but the time was noted, and latterly verified that the relieving troops of Scottish Highlanders was a full day's march from Lucknow when that tune was last played. The following day they arrived, and the rebels were beaten and the garrison relieved.

War at any time always creates some disturbance, and many a Scottish miner's home mourned for them who never returned.

The New Act of Parliament.

After the wars the country settled down to the usual routine of work and play. Work and wages remained at the same level. The new Act of Parliament caused some little stir all over the coalfields, for outlet shafts had to be sunk, and some of the smaller coalmasters were hard hit. Money had to be borrowed, and things were done slowly. Some of the new pits were sunk in a most peculiar manner to comply with the new regulations, outlet shafts having to be not less than ten feet apart. This was a grave mistake. However, it was altered later. One example as to how this regulation was rendered useless. Two pits were sunk at Broomhouse, four miles east of Glasgow, ten feet apart, and the pit head frame was widened to admit a long lying shaft with a pulley wheel at each end. There was only one engine and two cages winding coal out of the double shaft, and only one pit bottomer for two pits. The size of the shafts were 8 feet by 5 ½ feet. This complied with the Act, and there was little change for the next ten years.

Living later on was cheap, except sugar and tea, which was a luxury then. The passing of the Corn Law Bill in Parliament in the "Hungry Forties" by a gradual process cheapened the food of the people very much. Cheap food and low wages was the rule. It is even yet a controversial question whether cheap food and low wages are better than high tariffs. High wages, high cost of living that holds good in the United States of America and our own colonies. The reader will have to decide for themselves.

PART SIX)

"INTERESTING REMINISCENCES".

The population of Scotland in the year 1861 was 3,062,294. This was almost doubled in sixty years, irrespective of the fact that there was two epidemics of cholera - the first in 1847 almost decimated some of the mining villages, and this was followed by another outbreak in 1854 of lesser virulence. Smallpox was also a scourge in England, Ireland and Scotland. This was principally due to bad water and bad sanitation, but on the discovery of inoculation for smallpox, that disease is almost unknown. The increase in population is an absolute proof that the Scottish "race" was a virile, moral and healthy class of people, for there had been little or no emigration up to this period.

The very best of people survived and continued to propagate a healthy race. The compulsory Registration Acts for Births, Deaths and Marriages came into force on 1st January, 1855.

There was little change in the following ten years, neither in wages, which remained at 4s per day, nor in the manner of living. The cost of living had fallen to its normal condition.

The long hours of working still remained. This state of things was due to the slow means of getting the coal drawn to the pithead; slow winding engines, usually geared to the third or forth motion by the difference of the pinion wheels. It was power, not

speed, that was the rule. The boiler pressure of steam was only 30 lbs. to the square inch. The miners could easily finish their work in eight hours, and most of whom went home at one o'clock, but the boys were left to wait on till the whole "darg" was drawn, so it was a question of waiting instead of working. There had been no great strikes since 1842, but there were many sectional strikes about the fixing of the "darg", &c. Alexander McDonald was striving and working hard to get the miners of Scotland to combine and form a National Union. Great Britain had now become the workshop of the world, and every trade was booming; shipbuilding and engineering with railway construction, also the coal miners, were getting constant work, yet long hours and low wages was the rule in every trade and occupation.

Iron ships were now being built, to the credit of which belongs to Scotland. Mr Thomas Wilson, in the year 1818, manager of the Forth and Clyde Canal, built the first iron boat at Coatdyke near the head of the Monkland Canal. Local opinion and belief was that an iron boat would not float on the water, but this boat was of small dimensions and was intended to run on the canals to carry sixty tons of coal or other material. The day for launching this new boat arrived, and thousands of people were gathered to see the launch. Many people were walking up the towing path of the canal from the west, some of whom were laughing and joking about an iron boat floating. A woman, by an accident, had solved the question, and shouted over to them; "Ah ! I ken whit yer lauchin' at. You'll get a cheat for my parrich pat slippit oot o' my han' yesterday and it floated oot o'er tae the middle o' the watter, an' it didna sink. We hauled it in wi' a boat-hook an' no a drap o' watter in't". The boat was launched all right amid the rousing cheers of the multitude who had now witnessed the first iron boat in the world floating on water. Previous to this event all the canal boats were built of wood, and carried only forty tons of coal.

About this period a Labour newspaper was published in Glasgow, named the "Sentinel", and Alexander McDonald was appointed the Editor. This paper had a good circulation in the mining districts. Mr McDonald had high hopes of an advance of wages, for he noticed pig iron was rising in the market, and iron still ruled the coal prices. A great misfortune fell at the end of 1860, for a severe black frost set in at the beginning of December and lasted without a break to the middle of March. The whole country was frost-bound, every canal being frozen over, and the River Clyde was frozen down to Bowling. All outdoor work was stopped, and the miners were also thrown idle, some of whom got a few days work where the masters could stock or bring his coal. There was a coal famine in Glasgow, all arable land being frozen, but the farmers made an offer to cart the coals from pits in their district to Glasgow at a price per ton. The men and masters held meetings, and the men unanimously agreed to give an extra hutch of coal per shift to help to pay the carting cost to Glasgow. This was nature's way of bringing men and masters together, not as enemies, but in a friendly manner. When the thaw came in the middle of March the ice-breaker was used. This boat was built for that purpose and it took forty horses of the Clydesdale breed to haul the boat through the ice, which was 19 inches thick in the centre of the canal. All the other water-ways had to be opened up in the same manner.

This was the longest and severest storm in the memory of living men. (The nearest approach to it began at the end of 1894.) It took some little time to get the boulder ice down the canal, but work was resumed in the usual way after the stern fight with old Mother nature.

There was little or no change to work or wages until the dawn of 1870. The "Sentinel" was always on guard. Pig iron rose gradually to 60s per ton. The rule of thumb method was one penny for every shilling that iron was selling in the market. Miners' wages were advanced to 5s per day, the upward tendency being gradual. Wages rose by advances of 1s up to the middle of July 1872, till 10s per day was reached. This was the wage all over Scotland, but the "darg" system was still in force.

Parliament, some years before this, in 1868, passed the Burgh Franchise Bill, which gave the vote to all householders with a rental of £7 per year. The small burgh in Scotland were grouped, viz.:— The Falkirk Burghs, the Stirling Burghs, &c. On the appeal to the country on the new Franchise Bill the Liberal Party were returned to power for the first time, Mr W.E. Gladstone being the Party choice as their first Premier. Previous to this period political parties were known as Whigs and Tories. Mr Thomas Burt, paid Secretary of the Northumberland Miners' Association, was returned M.P. for the Burgh of Morpeth, and Alexander McDonald was defeated in one of the Scottish Burghs, but was latterly returned at a later date as M.P. for the Burgh of Stafford. They were the first Labour members to enter the House of Commons. The foregoing explanation was necessary for what come next.

Mr McDonald, with his powerful and impressive language, urged the Government to pass legislation to improve the conditions of the British mineworkers, and his lurid picture of the bad conditions impressed the Government so much that they introduced a Bill called the Coal Mines Regulation Act. The promoter of the Bill and most of the members of Parliament were in complete ignorance of coal mines, therefore it was left to the two Labour members to work out the various rules and regulations of the Bill.

The following is a description of the regulations of the Mines Regulation Act:— All colliery managers were to be certificated; managers acting at that date for one year to receive service certificates; a Board was set up to examine future applicants for the position; the manager had to appoint competent men, one on pithead to see all the miners safely down, and a bottomer to see them off the cage, both to attend to all signals; every working place to be examined by a competent man, called a fireman; the date and month to be chalked up at every miner's place; manholes every ten yards be made on all self-acting inclines and dook braes; where fire-damp was found safety lamps to be used for one year; all prop-wood to be cut in suitable lengths, sent to the point where the drawers got their empties, but previous to this clause boys had to go back to the pit and cut their own wood and in many cases took it down with them. Special rules were drawn up to suit the customs of the various districts, and hung up at the pithead for everyone to see. Managers, once a year, had to make out a report of all the men, boys and girls employed, and all the days the pit was working, with the total amount of tons of coal, ironstone, fireclay, &c. All accidents of a serious nature to be reported at once to the Government Inspector, and all managers' reports to be sent to the Home Office in London within twenty-one days. This Act came into force on 1st January, 1873. It was called the Second Miner' Emancipation Act, and was the dawn of a new era in coal mining.

(PART SEVEN)

"LOCHGELLY BUILT ON A 'TROUBLED PART'".

One of the other clauses in the new Act was that a current of air had to be conducted into every working place to render harmless all noxious gases found in coal mines. Ventilation has always been one of the most difficult operations in coal mining, and artificial methods had to be adopted.

It requires an explanation here that all the coalfields in Scotland lie at an angle of from 10 to 50 degrees. At Niddrie, in the Lothians, it is only a few degrees off the perpendicular; some of the pits in Fifeshire it was half edge, better known as one in one; in Lanarkshire and most of the other coal districts in Scotland the angle was one in six to one in eight. This angle is better known as the dip and rise. The Niddrie coal seams have to be worked by a different method, which need not be explained here.

The coal beds in Fifeshire are cut up by large faults or dykes, also by smaller faults called steps or hitches. As far as my knowledge of geology goes, the Lochgelly coalfields are more troubled with faults than any other colliery in Scotland.

It may be of some interest to the Lochgelly people to know that the town is built on one of the most troubled parts of the coal field. There are three faults that cut right through it, one on the south, one in the middle, and the well known Launcherhead Dyke on the northern fringe. The geographical direction of the main faults are north-east, but at times they change their positions, i.e., an upcast fault has been found to change into a downcast, and vice-versa. The displacement of the various seams of coal is the cause of much extra expense, and disturbs the course of ventilation. Some mines are driven in a direction to regain the coal seam, and a complete new opening out has to be done all over again.

Methods of Ventilation - The Blantyre Explosion.

The first real method to cause a continuous current of air to circulate through the workings was by a large furnace or cube. This furnace was placed in a chamber cut out in the stoop on the high side of the upcast shaft, and was set well back from the shaft. the roof and both sides being enclosed with brickwork. This was done to protect the coal from catching fire. The main return airway led right through the furnace and up the shaft. This was a most effective system of ventilation, although expensive, for a large blazing fire was kept going night and day. It served the purpose well, for a limited period, till fire-damp made its appearance. I may state here that the greatest fire-damp explosion in Scotland was in the Blantyre Colliery in October 1877, when over 200 men were lost. Three pits were involved, and all became total wrecks. There was no one left to tell the real cause of the disaster. This colliery was ventilated by a large furnace and, it being a fiery mine, the air was conducted by a dumb drift, i.e., a stone mine, driven at a steep angle up above the cube came through into the upcast shaft many fathoms above the furnace, and the airway into the furnace made airtight, so all the return current of air passed over the drift, and a pipe was led from the downcast shaft into the furnace to keep the fire burning. This was considered a safe method, even in fiery mines. It was latterly superseded by large powerful fans, which are still in use.

The second great disaster was at Udston in the year 1886, 120 men being killed. This was said to be a dust explosion caused by a blown-out shot. Udston was a dry and dusty mine, not a drop of water in it, and water had to be led down in pipes to water the horses. Here was another new element - dust - that no one previously ever dreamed of. This pit was ventilated with a large fan of the Guibal type, 30 feet in diameter, and every large colliery had now adopted this new method of ventilation. There were some very serious explosions in England previous to the above, the greatest occurring at the Oak Colliery where 500 men were lost owing to the workings catching fire, and a great many bodies were never recovered. The pits were never reopened.

The greatest disaster in the world's mining history occurred in France about the year 1895. There were five pits involved, all in communication with each other, causing 1200 men to lose their lives. This caused a terrible panic in France, almost to the verge of revolution.

Mining engineers have now decided that it is a dangerous system to have too many pits in communication, for it is bad not only for ventilation, but the accumulation of dust.

The system of ventilating stoop and room workings was done by Brattice boards, usually 9 feet long, 9 inches broad and five-eighths of an inch thick, and this made a dividing partition in the working place. Screen cloth was used to divert the current off and up to the working face, and the Brattice was the outlet. The longwall system was much simpler, for the air was conducted into the main level, every branch place being screened off, and the current of air circulated up along the working faces. Main headings were, in some cases, provided with tight doors, and air being an elastic body takes the shortest cut to the main return airway by the pull of the fan. Miners as a rule know all about the ventilation and will work in the midst of difficulty places under bad conditions when they are working for a new outlet for ventilation. To keep a mine or pit properly ventilated requires the daily vigilance of all the mine officials, and that was one of the most important rules laid down by the Mines Regulation Act of 1873.

Mine Surveying and Levelling.

There was no compulsory mine surveying previous to the Act of 1873, although landlords who owned the coal passed a Boundary Bill to protect their own coalfields from encroachment, and they employed civil engineers to make a surface plan of their estates. They sent their own men occasionally to make a survey to see that the coalmasters were keeping within their boundaries, the crossing which they had themselves made a capital offence. The 1873 Bill made it compulsory. A careful survey of every pit in the land had to be done twice yearly, and a copy of every plan to be sent to the Home Office in London. To find their way below ground is much the same as on a ship on the ocean, and is done by the mariner's compass. The captain of a ship has his latitude and longitude marked on his chart and the sun for his guide. The surveyor also requires a Meridian line to guide him.

At the sinking of a new pit the surveyor squares off the pit and marks the exact position on his plan, sets his compass about 100 yards back from the new pit to get a

straight line through the centre, then he selects some object not likely to be removed, and takes his bearings due north, magnetic pole. He then draws a long red line right through the centre of the pit on his plan. This then became the Meridian line, and every survey made has to be plotted from this line by using a parallel ruler and protractor.

The magnetic pole is yet a mystery, for it varies very slightly each year, and the surveyors have to check it every year and note the difference to keep their survey correct. The magnetic pole is at present about 15 degrees west by north, and in the course of 250 years or so it will have varied - the same distance to east and north. It is one of the mysteries of nature, and has no relation to the geographical North Pole. When a ship crosses the Equator, sailing west, the captain knows at once for the needle of the compass dips, and the attraction then becomes the South Magnetic Pole.

Another important matter in connection with coal mines is levelling. At stated times after a survey has been made (this applies to every pit) the surveyor comes with an instrument called a Theodolite and takes the levels. The height above sea level of every coal mine is marked on the plan, and this is taken from the Ordinance Survey of the district. The depth of the shaft is noted, and the levelling begins at the bottom of the shaft, while the levels are noted and marked on the plan at some particular points. On steep braes the levelling is done by a straight edge, with a spirit level. In a gradient of 1 ft. in 1 ft. a five feet board can only be used, but in flatter workings a ten feet board is used. A survey cannot be plotted on a flat surface of a plan, for allowance has to be made for the various angles of the roadways in all pits to get a correct plan of the workings.

The foregoing explanation may be very dry reading, but it is a most important part of coal mining.

(PART EIGHT)

"INTERESTING REMINISCENCES".

The year 1872 was a glorious time in the history of mining, and the miners in Scotland for the first time in the history of mining were earning wages beyond their dreams of avarice, while the cost of living did not rise more than 5 per cent. Work was plentiful everywhere, and the demand was so great there was almost a famine for coal. The price of coal in Glasgow rose from 10s to 30s per ton.

The pig iron trade was also booming, and the price of iron rose in the market to 146s per ton. There was a great demand for men, many strangers entering the mines to share in the big wages. Miners were paid so much per ton, and the average wage may be put at from 12s to 14s per day. New shafts were being sunk all over the country.

The slow winding engines were superseded by a new invention of coupled horizontal engines. The first was made by the Barclay firm in Kilmarnock, whose engines are famous up to the present day. Barclay's No. 1 engine, constructed at a colliery near Glasgow in the early sixties, is still winding coal at No. 1 Colliery, Newlands. This new type of engine was all on the first motion, and the steam pressure had now been raised to 50 Lb. per square inch.

New seams of coal had been found. The splint coal was first favourite, it extending for many miles beyond the place it was first discovered, and it was always in demand for iron smelting. The seam to the west and north of Woodhall was found with a valuable leaf of parrot coal; the bottom part (parrot), 2½ feet thick, and the top part (splint), 2 feet thick. This parrot seam was in great demand for making gas light, and no other was used, it costing no more to dig than any other seam, and it became a veritable gold mine to the coalmasters, fortunes being made from it while it lasted. Another valuable seam was found, named the main coal, and it was greatly in demand for domestic purposes, even superior to the Wishaw ell coal. It was the third seam in the Lanarkshire coal measures; 16 fathoms above the splint coal. This seam was very much like the best Dunfermline Splint in Fifeshire, from 4 feet to 5 feet thick. The roof and pavement were hard sandstone, and working was by the stoop and room method. Another seam was tapped below the splint coal, and the fifth seam of a series, 2½ feet thick when first found, was named the Virgin Coal. It had a good hard roof and pavement, and was worked on the long wall method, being famous for household use in Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

The Cause of The Big Wages.

A good deal of speculation about the cause of the big wages was the current topic of the day. There were different opinions about the unprecedented rise in the coal trade of England and Scotland, and the chief cause in the writer's opinion was that there had been a large emigration to America, and a great number of miners from Scotland and England, also labourers from Ireland, went to seek their fortune in the United States after the Civil War in that country was settled in the year 1866. Thousands of miners entered the United States up to 1870. The Franco-Prussian War commenced in this year, and both countries were under the conscription system; large numbers of miners being called to the ranks. The extraordinary demand for coal, iron, steel and munitions of War from Europe were the chief causes of the boom in this country.

Every trade in the country got its share in the good times. Another clause in the 1873 Act was that miners had to be paid by weight for all minerals, but previous to this they were paid in many different ways, and the miners were given the option of appointing a checkweighman to see their coal properly weighed. A grievance still remained that the checkweighman had to be chosen from a workman in their own pit. This clause was altered in a later Act, so that the former clause abolished all the old-time unwritten laws of the miners. All piece-work was now paid by the ton (gross). The "darg" system prevailed for a short time, but the weight of the tub or hutch of coal depended on the drawers, and the different heights of the roadways made wages unequal. The raising of the age of boys entering the pits to 12 years was only a short step for boys claiming a full man's turn. The Act came in force on the 1st January, 1873.

The First Education Act.

The Compulsory Education Act came into force on the 1st January, 1873, and every parish in Scotland was called upon to elect a School Board to carry out the provision of the new Act. The most important clause was that every boy and girl at the age of five years had to attend school, and had to pass the fifth standard before allowed to

leave school at 12 years of age.

Previous to this every Parish Church had their Session School. This was compulsory by the Church of Scotland after the Reformation in 1688. A large percentage of the children got a good education in the Session School and other non-sectarian schools. There was no lack of the means of education even before the Act came into force. Many new school were built to accommodate all the children at five years of age, but this early age was a blunder that yet remains. The building trade was booming, and their wages were increased in proportion to the good times.

Hot Blast Furnaces.

The hot blast furnace method of smelting iron was invented by Mr Beaumont Nelson of Sumerlee Iron Works, Coatbridge, as far back as 1830, but by the alteration of the furnaces a good few years passed before it came into general use. This economised coal so much that less than half was used in smelting iron, and fortunes were made by the new process.

Trades Union Formed.

The miners in every district were formed into a strong Union, and the various unions appointed men to look after their separate affairs, being paid at the rate of £3 per week. Alexander McDonald was the chief over all. Sixpence per week was the contribution to the union funds, and local Committees were appointed to collect the money. McDonald's Parliamentary duties kept him in London during the session, but a strange circumstance occurred three weeks before the end of 1872. The coalmasters posted up notices that a shilling reduction would come in force on the first day of the new pay, and the miners were amazed at the audacity of the coalmasters, for there was no reduction in pig iron or coal prices, and telegrams were sent to London without delay. McDonald wired back that all Scottish miners were to cease work, and said that instead of them having 10s they were entitled to 12s per day. The ironmasters' men, who were only paid 9s per day, were not affected, and did not come out on strike. This strike lasted six weeks, but the masters withdrew their notices, and work was resumed. For the first time in history the masters were beaten, and work in the mines went on smoothly through the whole year, 1873.

At the beginning of 1874 the demand for coal slackened down, partly due to the ironmasters adopting the new process of hot blast method. The ironmasters put all their surplus coal both in the home and foreign market. Miners wages were reduced by 2s per day, but the miners made a determined effort to stop the reductions, and came out on strike in the month of March, 1874. They remained out for six weeks, but were forced back to work beaten by the economic laws of supply and demand. Another shilling reduction left their wages at 6s per day.

(PART NINE)

"INTERESTING REMINISCENCES".

There was little change after the strike, and for the next three years wages had been reduced to 5s per day. Mr McDonald tried hard to get a Federation between England and Scotland. The English and Scottish Coalmasters competed in the foreign markets, and this reckless system had always the tendency to keep prices down, for the advantage was all in favour of the consumer. The Federation was intended to stem the tide of the market competition between both countries, but a coalition of the different mining districts was not a simple matter at that period, and the attempt ended in failure.

The Scottish miners had paid 13s each into the Federation Fund, and this money remained intact as a separate fund not to be used except for the purpose of a National strike, which never materialised. Alex McDonald was trustee of the fund, and he advised that all money be returned to the men who had paid it. The Scottish miners held a delegates meeting, one delegate from each branch, and it was unanimously agreed that each man give back 5s as a present to Mr McDonald as a small token of regard for his long and arduous labours on behalf of the Scottish miners – the sum totalled up to £800.

Mr McDonald retired from Parliament as he was now getting old, and his great career has never been written. He bought a small estate at Wellhall near Hamilton. He took little part in miners' affairs, for he had lived to see the great Union he had helped to build up be completely broken up by jealousy and distrust, into sectional parties with no cohesion nor organisation. Wages, still on the downgrade by the year 1878, were reduced to a miserable pittance of 3s 6d per day, but the various districts kept up a desultory sort of Union. When things were really at their worst, a meeting was called to adopt a new policy of restricting the "darg", and it was agreed to reduce their wages by one shilling per day. This policy was meant to keep down the supply of coal on the market and eventually raise their wages to a higher level. It was a foolish policy no doubt, and failed to be effective. Another plan was adopted, viz, the block system. This plan succeeded for a brief period. The delegates met and agreed to bring out all the men on a certain large colliery for a shilling on the day, and other pits were to be kept working and contribute so much per man to assist the men on strike. The miners, by this method, forced up their wages to 5s per day in the year 1880. The coalmasters, who never had any sort of Union, only met in a casual way when the miners were on strike. There was no Limited Companies at that period, all being private firms fighting for their own ends. They became alarmed at the new policy of the miners. However, trade took a turn for the better, and wages remained at 5s per day up to March, 1884, when three reductions of 6d per day in quick succession brought wages down again to 3s 6d per day. The whole trade of the country seemed to collapse, and pits were idle two or three days per week. The following five years were the worst ever experienced by the coal miners in Scotland. The miners were taken by surprise, and there was no unity among them, while they were powerless to stem the tide of depression that prevailed all over the country.

Limited Companies.

An Act of Parliament had been passed giving powers for individuals to form

themselves into Companies; to pool their money, and become what is now well known as Limited Companies. Previous to this all great concerns were joint stock companies, and the first of its kind in Scotland was the Calderbank Coal, Iron and Steel Company. It was instituted in the year 1880. A large number of miners put their savings into the pool and became shareholders. It did fairly well for the first three years, and paid a modest dividend of 5 per cent., but with the collapse of the trade in 1884 they failed to make any profit. It should be clearly explained to all the money of the shareholders was sunk into what is known as capital, and that means houses, machinery, pits, wagons, and everything in connection with the business. The Calderbank Company carried on till 1887, but paid no dividend for two years. The small shareholders were clamouring for their money back, but there was no money, not even a reserve fund. The directors had to borrow money to carry on, expecting a revival of trade. A general meeting of the shareholders was called, and it was agreed to go into liquidation. The upset price was £180,000, but they never got an offer at this price. The upset price was later reduced to £80,000, but still no offer was forthcoming. The fact remains that suppose anyone who had got the whole thing as a present they could not make it pay. Latterly the whole works were sold for what they could bring, and at the final wind-up the shareholders got the small sum of 6d per £ share. At a much later date the limited companies became general all over the country.

Every miner in Fife knows all about the fixing of a minimum wage in the year 1888 at 4s per day for miners, and 3s 7d for oncost workers (only those employed underground), and it is brought forcibly, even yet, into notice when wages are being adjusted. Trade took an upward turn in the year 1889, and miners wages were advanced to 6s per day. This continued up to 1894. Another depression in the coal trade set in at this period, but the Fife and Kinross Miners' Union had been established 25 years previous to this period, and remained without a break till a few years ago. They had also made a desperate effort to establish an eight hours' day, were successful, and the eight hours' day became the general all over the country in the year 1870. The Lanarkshire Miners' Union were always of a desultory character. Three unsuccessful attempts were made to establish the eight hours' day; the first in 1867, but they all failed till a much later date.

Alexander McDonald's slogan (he was born in 1821 and died in 1881), was put to the following stanza:-

Eight hours to work,
Eight hours to play,
Eight hours to sleep,
And Eight shilling a day.

Later on the eight hours' day was made compulsory by an Act of Parliament, and during the year 1894 large sectional strikes took place for an advance of wages. First in Wales, and this strike was carried on in a most determined manner, and riots took place, but they were beaten. After this the whole of the midlands of England were involved, but they were also beaten. Then Scotland, more especially Fifeshire, came out on strike in the month of June, 1894. It was a peaceful strike, and there were no blacklegging. The safety men were allowed to work and keep the pits in good order. The Miners' Union distributed their funds as strike pay. Each and all had to live by their own resources, but soup kitchens were commenced near the end for feeding the

more necessitous families. The strike ended without results in October, 1894, after lasting 16 weeks. The aftermath proved that it was a calamity for the miners. Trade depression had set in at the beginning of the year and still continued, wages being reduced down to the 1888 rates at the end of 1896.

Trade began to revive slowly up to the year 1899, and wages increased to 6s per day. After a further boom in trade, wages rose to 8s per day in the year 1900. the last year of the 19th century.

This was the second time in history of mining that mineworkers had a little more than a bare subsistence wage. With the two exceptions, 1873 and 1900, miners were never paid more for their labour than a bare living wage, and in many cases not even that. It was all very fine for some people to boast in the press and on the platform that Great Britain once was the workshop of the world. Yes, that was true, but Europe got coal, ships, machinery, material for railways, and other goods at very cheap rates, while the workers of Great Britain no doubt got cheap food and low wages, but only a meagre living for themselves.

(PART TEN)

“INTERSETTING REMINISCENCES”

Machinery was first used for cutting coal as far back as 1878. The first machine used in Scotland was made by the engineering firm of Harvey & Meiklejohn, and was a one cylinder type. This machine was difficult to work and did not prove to be successful. The Bairds of Gartsherrie improved it by a two-cylinder type, and this machine was used in their collieries before it was generally adopted. Both types of the above machines were in use at the Addiewell Oil Company's No. 15 Pit, near West Calder, in the year 1879.

The shale holing was very hard to pierce, and shale cutting by machinery was but a doubtful success. The motive power was compressed air – a large steam-blowing engine on the surface. The compressed air was conducted into the workings by a series of cast metal pipes. Coal cutting machinery was not generally adopted until this mysterious power, electricity, was discovered. This was a much simpler method of conducting power into the coal workings by large cables, both for pumping water and driving coal cutting and other kinds of machinery.

First Electric Engine in Fife.

The first electric engine in Fife was introduced by the Balgonie Colliery, near Thornton Railway Junction, in the year 1900. The next was put down at the Mary Pit, belonging to the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, to pump water out of a steep dook. The electric power was generated by a stationary steam engine on the surface, and this power was latterly used for endless rope haulage, also dook haulage and driving conveyors. The whole of this system was latterly scrapped by the planting of a large power station at the Nellie Pit on the three-phase system.

The Safety Hook.

The first patent safety hook to prevent over winding the cage was adopted by the Addiewell Oil Company. A very successful trial was carried out at No. 15 Pit by the patentees, King & Humble, and another patent by a man named Walker was tried at No. 12 Pit of the same Company. There were a large number of colliery managers present, for they were all interested in this new safety appliance. The trials were all a success, and King & Humble's patent gave the best results. This hook is still in use. They were not adopted generally, as most pithead frames were not suitable for them; but later on in the year 1912, an Act of Parliament made it compulsory that both winding ropes had to be attached to a cage by a safety hook, on all pits over 50 fathoms deep.

First Coal Boring Machine.

The coal-boring machine was invented by a blacksmith working at the same Company. "Necessity, it is said, is the mother of invention". At the sinking of the first haft at Addiewell, when the shale was reached, the sinkers found that an ordinary jumper could not pierce the shale, for it was like trying to bore a hole in a block of rubber. Operations were stopped and the manager consulted the blacksmith, who set to work. The blacksmith made the first boring machine, now well-known by every miner, and he took his idea from an engineer's ratchelly iron boring tool. This machine solved the problem of boring shale, and is now used successfully for hand boring.

Coal Production.

Lanarkshire up to the present time is the greatest producing county in Scotland for coal and iron smelting. It has been said that "Glasgow made the Clyde", but some maintain that the Clyde made Glasgow. To put matters right it was coal and iron that made both Glasgow and the Clyde what they are today. Within a radius of 12 miles round the city there were, in busy times, 44 blast iron furnaces, smelting iron night and day. A patent to extract ammonia and other chemicals had been adopted. All the furnaces that blazed forth flames and smoke lighted up the whole countryside at night, but are all now enclosed in at the top. It is only a slight gleam of gas that makes their presence now visible.

Fife Coal Development.

The late Mr Landale, who, for half a century, was connected with coal mining in Lochgelly, said, sometime before he died, that the coalfields in Fife had only been scratched. He was the only benefactor that Lochgelly ever had, and left the sum of £1000 for the purpose of a Public Park.

The coal development of Fife was slow, for they had no market for coal except shipments abroad, with local demand from Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, and Dundee. The formation of the Fife Coal Company, Ltd., in the year 1895, gave the first impulse to the development of the Fife coal trade. Some time previous to this, Mr Davis Adams, proprietor of Hill of Beath Colliery, sunk what was then the largest pit in Scotland, at Dalbeath. The dimensions were 30 feet long by 10 feet wide. He erected a large pumping engine of a new type. This long section was divided into five sections, one

for pumps, and four for winding coal. I believe it is the only pit of its type in Scotland with two sets of coupled engines winding coal out of one shaft. He was said to be somewhat eccentric. However, he sold out to the Fife Coal Company, of which he became one of the directors, and the late Charles Carlow, a man raised from the ranks of the working class, became the leading spirit of the company.

Aitken Pit a Great Enterprise.

The Aitken Pit was their first great enterprise; sinking operations commencing in 1890, and it was in working order by the year 1893. A powerful pumping engine was erected – the first of its kind – on the back-balance principle. The pan of the balance was made to hold 100 tons of metal, and the weight of the balance was adjusted to the weight of the pump rods – a great saving of steam. This pit for many years had an output of 2000 tons per day by the double shift system.

The next was Glenraig Colliery, constructed much on the same principal. There were two shafts sunk. The Aitken Pit got their first communication with the Lindsay Pit.

The next was the Bowhill Company, with two shafts sunk, sunk and fitted much on the same lines, and later on joined in with the Fife Coal Company. Their next great undertaking was at Lochore, the Big Mary – the deepest pit in Fife. The only change in the pumping was the adoption of the old Bell crank method of pumping water. This is the most economical system of pumping, with a double set of pump rods, for both sets become a perfect balance while in motion. With other development in East Fife, this company had an output of 10,000 tons of coal per day, and employed about 10,000 workers.

The Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company.

This company's pits, situated in the south, and nearer the crop seams, had a slower but gradual development, and were in existence long before the Fife Coal Company came into the trade. Their coalfields were all nearer the surface, but were more troubled with surface water than the deeper pits. Progressed commenced first under the general management of the late John Anderson, who had the Raith Colliery under his charge. The output rose to 1600 tons per day. Further developments were carried out by his successor, the late Mr Andrew Nisbet, who later on had charge of the Raith Collieries, also output of coal was raised to 2400 tons per day. Greater development were carried out by his successor, Mr John Paul. The Minto Colliery, the largest and most up-to-date pit, was sunk and commenced operations at the time of Mr Nisbet's sudden death in May, 1903. The Nellie Pit had stopped for some years, but was again re-opened. With the taking over of the Dundonald Colliery the output rose to 5000 tons per day. The Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company are the second largest coal producers in Fife. The Wemyss and Dysart Collieries have also been extended, with a greater output of coal, and the same applies to the Lothian Coal Companies on the other side of the Forth. The great Newbattle Pit is now the largest of its kind in Scotland, winding twelve large tubs of coal on each cage. Stirlingshire and Falkirk district have also been developing their coal resources, while Ayrshire, and old coal district, is yet keeping their reputation as a coal producing county.

Lanarkshire still maintains its reputation as being the greatest coal producing county in Scotland. There is one colliery worthy of recording here, the Earnock Colliery, which, when fitted up about 50 years ago, was called the model pit of Scotland, and produced over 1000 tons of coal per day – eight hours winding – for many years, and it is yet going strong.

Fifeshire stands second for coal production at present, and may in the near future take the laurels from Lanarkshire.

(PART ELEVEN)

“WHAT SCOTLAND HAS DONE FOR TRADE, COMMERCE AND CIVILISATION”

There are yet a few outstanding figures in the 19th century that require a special mention.

The discovery of paraffin oil, by Mr James Young, chemist, (who established the first oil works at Addiewell, near West Calder), out of a grayish piece of stone known as “shale”. He produced some marvelous products, also constructed a lamp to burn the oil without smoke. This was a great improvement on the old tallow candle, and is the best light possible, except gas or electricity. Other products were patent candles, patent tallow for miners’ lamps (mostly used in Fife). Ammonia and many other useful products have been extracted from shale.

Lochgelly Produces Eminent Scotsmen.

Another great Scotsman was Professor Simpson, M.D., Edinburgh, who discovered that powerful anaesthetic, chloroform. This has been the greatest boon to suffering humanity. Delicate operations could now be carried out without any suffering or pain to the patient. The rules of the medical profession are; Any discovery in medical science must be given to the world without money or price; Doctors are not allowed to advertise. Anyone violating these rules is prohibited from practising as a doctor, and is reduced to the level of a “Quack”.

Lochgelly has the honour of being the birthplace of three eminent Scotsmen, viz., Professor David Page, a great philosopher, born in Plantation Street, and is the author of many books on various subjects; Professor Andrew Gray, born in South Street, became assistant to the great Professor William Thornton, an Ulster-Scot. He was a scientific genius, and devoted his whole career to developing that mysterious element, electricity. The first real application of the electric lighting was seen at an exhibition of mining at Burnbank, Glasgow, in the year 1886. All the newest appliances in connection with coal mining were shown, more especially wire rope haulage, cola cutting machines, &c. Visitors were amazed at a touch of a button and magic light instantly appeared. Most people are now familiar with the magic light. Even at this period electricity had not been applied as a source of power, but came later and has become one of the greatest sources of power in the world. A complete revolution in coal mining has taken place by the aid of electric power. At the death of Sir William Thomson, the greatest scientist of the 19th century, Mr Andrew Gray, of Lochgelly was appointed his successor in the Glasgow University. His brother, Thomas Gray,

also studied science, and he emigrated to the United States of America where he was appointed to a Professorship in one of the great University of that Country.

Reaping Machines.

The reaping machine, now so familiar to everyone, was invented by a Scottish Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Patrick Bell, of Carmylie, Forfarshire, in the year 1831. The Scottish farmers are naturally conservative, not liable to drastic changes, and for many years continued to cut grain by hand labour. This was done mostly by the women folk by the old-fashioned hook or “heuk”, and was very strenuous labour. The best shearer was placed on the fore rig. It was a fine sight to see twenty women in the harvest fields blithe and merry, for their labour did not appear to be any burden to them. Scotsmen who had made their homes in America were the first to adopt the reaping machine. They came over to Scotland, copied and improved the machine, and set it to work on the great prairie lands of America many years before it was adopted in Scotland.

The first reaping machine in Scotland was installed by an enterprising farmer in Lanarkshire on a farm near Glasgow in the early sixties, and thousands of people invaded the harvest field to see this new marvel at work.

The reaping machine has now been so improved that it cuts, binds and throws out the sheaves ready for the stock. The credit of its invention remains to the genius of a Scottish Presbyterian minister, and a copy of the original machine can be seen in the South Kensington Museum, London. It seems a bit strange that there is not a specimen of this machine in the Industrial Museum, Edinburgh. This should be the proper place for it. However, all the reaping machines up to the present day had to be copied from Bell’s invention.

David Livingstone.

David Livingstone, another great Scotsman, was born in Blantyre. A young weaver to trade, he later became the greatest missionary on the 19th century, and entered darkest Africa without weapons of any kind except the Bible; mastered the language of the savage tribes, taught them, lived amongst them for many years, and never was molested, but was loved and revered by all who came in contact with him. This great man paved the way for the civilisation of Central Africa, and died at his post – a heroic example for all who followed in his footsteps.

William Ewart Gladstone, another great Scotsman, was born in 1809 and died in 1898, was the greatest reformer of the 19th century. He devoted the greater part of his career on behalf of the liberties of the people and the press, and one of his greatest acts as Statesmanship was the settlement of the Alabama claims for a breach of the laws of neutrality during the American Civil War. The United States of America at first claimed £100,000,000 but it was toned down to £9,500,000. The arbiters sat at Geneva and awarded £3,250,000. This was the first time in history that arbitration was adopted to settle disputes between nations. It prevented what would have been a suicidal war between Great Britain and America.

The “Truck” Store System.

Two great Scotsmen, viz., James Baird of Gartsherrie Iron Works, and James Merry, of Merry & Cunningham, of Glengarnock Iron Works, were two great magnates who took a great part in the development of the coal and iron industry in the 19th century. They were rival in the trade, always being opposed to each other. Baird was a Torry and Merry a Radical; they were both Members of Parliament.

The Truck system was rampant in all the large villages connected with their works. The workmen got cash daily, but one day during the monthly pay, every shilling had to be spent in the Company's store. There was a Bill in Parliament to abolish the Truck system, and James Merry did not oppose it. During the debate on the Bill, Mr Merry requested the adjournment of the House. When the House rose, Mr Merry wired at once to all his store managers to open up that day as free grocers shops. On the following day, Mr Merry opened the debate in favour of the Bill, and declared that there were no Truck stores in connection with his work now. The House laughed at Mr Merry's ruse, for he had gotten the better of his rivals, the Bairds were left the greatest sinners of the Truck system, which was later abolished by an Act of Parliament.

Co-operation.

The Baird firm adopted the Co-operation principal in all their stores. There was no compulsion now, but they still refused to give cash daily. Their dividend, declared at the end of each year, was fixed at 1s per £ of purchase, and any member who left during the year received no dividend. However, the working classes started co-operations amongst themselves in the early sixties. They had but indifferent success for the first few years, but later on became a well-established business, carried on by workmen committees. They have large productive works in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and manufacture a great deal of their own supplies for the distributive societies throughout the country. They pay a quarterly dividend to their members, many of whom have large sums of money to their credit in share capital, for which they pay interest from 4 to 5 per cent. The Co-operative movement had also a public press with two special publications, confined exclusively to Co-operative enterprise, and propaganda work to educate the people.

Telegraphy was also one of the wonders of the 19th century. Cables were laid on the Ocean bed to America, but since then the whole civilised world has been encircled by wires. The telephone came later, invented by a Scotsman, Mr Graham Bell, who latterly became associated with the great American Inventor, Edison. The Edison, Bell record, another wonder (the speaking machine) is now a household word.

Wireless telegraphy is the greatest wonder of the age. It was first tried by a Dundonian, who sent his first wireless message across the Firth of Tay. He was visited by the great Italian, Marconi, who got the initial idea. It requires powerful machinery to create the wireless wave that can now pass through the elements for 3000 miles.

The 20th century may produce greater wonders, but what is the wonder of today becomes the commonplace tomorrow.

(PART TWELVE"
(Final Article)

"CUSTOMS AND RECREATION"

The Fordel Parade.

There was one old custom held by the miners of Fordel for 120 years called the "Fordel Parade". This was to commemorate the emancipation of the miners in 1799. About twenty years previous to this a Bill was passed to free the miners by degrees, and this measure was so ridiculous it became a dead letter Act.

However, Laird Henderson, proprietor of Fordel, who was always on good terms with his works, called a meeting of his colliers, and he expressed his disapproval of the Bill in the most forcible language of the times. He told his men from that day forth they were free men, and invited all his workers down to the mansion next day. That morning the workers marched down to the Big House, led by one man riding a horse. They were received by the Laird and his Lady, who had a grand entertainment provided for them. The children at home were not forgotten. A cart with milk and scones and other dainties was sent to a field near the village, and this field is known by the name "Pannies" to this day. The parade continued down the century every year in the month of July, but by the change of conditions it lapsed in the year 1899.

The "Maiden" or "Kirn".

Another old custom in Scotland, handed down from the dim and distant past, was held annually at the end of the harvest. In some parts the last sheave was fixed to a pole and carried home to the farmer's house. All the workers, after refreshments had been handed round, were invited to a grand entertainment in the evening. The lassies brought their lads. The barn was the hall where the dance was held. This custom is known by various terms – in Fife it is called the "Maiden", in the West of Scotland, the "Kirn"; and in some places the "Harvest Home". This custom is yet carried out in some country districts. The introduction of machinery has sadly depleted the harvest field, and the same cause has abolished many old customs of the past.

Few Holidays.

In the early days of mining there were few holidays. The New Year's Day was always held sacred as a holiday, and this was the season for marriage and balls. The young and robust people contrived to find amusement to suit the time they lived in.

A wedding was a lively affair. It was the custom to walk to the manse to get married, sometimes as far as three miles, the wedding party being accompanied by a large crowd of young and old. Pistol-firing was common over the heads of the party, and it was a merry time. The Scottish people had no superstition about Friday, and every marriage was planned for that day if possible. They had to suit themselves about getting married on Hogmany, for this gave two days for the honeymoon. Hallow'een was another festive occasion, but no idle time except by the younger men who could afford to lose a day or two off work.

“Creeling”

This was a custom peculiar to miners, having come down from the days when the women folk carried coals in creels to the pithead. Every newly-married man had to go through the ordeal of creeling. There was no escape; resistance was useless. The first day the newly-married man put in his appearance at the pit all work stopped. He was seized by men and women and dumped into the largest creel, then hoisted on to the shoulders of the strongest woman and carried home in triumph. This was a festive occasion amongst old and young.

The young married couple had first to stand a treat, then the fun began, which usually ended in a dance. This custom was continued down through the century, but underwent an alteration when machinery and cages were adopted. The tub or hutch was then used instead of the creel, and the newly-married couple were hauled along the public roads in a tub on wheels, drawn with a rope by willing hands to their homes. In one case it nearly ended in tragedy. A newly-wed boasted he would never be creeled, and he was surrounded by half-a-dozen men who waited for his coming. They seized him, but he kicked and struggled to free himself. He was held down till a long piece of white rope was brought from the engine-house. His hands and legs were tied, and he was dumped into a hutch. There was a self-acting incline down to another pit. The hutch was run on to the rails and let off without sprags. The hutch jumped the rails at the foot of the brae and tumbled into a pond of water. He was dragged out more dead than alive, then hauled home in his wet clothes. His hands and legs were untied at his own request, and he was only too pleased to pay treat for himself and wife.

This custom is still in memory in Fife. When a newly-wed comes up from his work he is quickly surrounded by the pithead lassies and has to pay for their “fairing”.

The Gala Day.

The Fife miners, after the institution of their eight hours day, decided to commemorate the anniversary on the first Monday in June, and this had been carried out annually up to the present day. They select some large town for their demonstration. The first gala was held in Dunfermline, but they latterly went further afield, and on one occasion Dundee was selected. This took the form of an excursion by the railway. Their arrival at Dundee was a new experience for the Dundonians. The miners at this period were held in bad repute by the people in the towns and cities far removed from coalmining, and this also applied to Dundee. Great precautions were taken to receive what they imagined was a crowd of semi-barbarians. The miners, with their wives and children, all dressed in their best, marched decorously through the main street, with bands playing, up to the Public Park.

One old woman who had watched the procession from a safe vantage point came out after the procession had passed, and accosted a policeman with the query – “Where’s the colliers?” The policeman told her they were just newly past. She raised her arms in extreme astonishment, and exclaimed – “Michty me, they are jist like ither folk!” The miners, after their first visit, were always welcomed back to Dundee.

Strange as it may appear, Fife was the only county in Scotland to celebrate the victory. It is now a yearly holiday since the eight hour's day was legalized by an Act of Parliament.

RECREATION AND SPORT.

Curling.

This is a very old Scottish game, but depended very much on the weather conditions. Artificial ice rinks are used now by the lovers of the "Roarin' Game" when the weather is mild in winter. It appears there are longer intervals now between severe winters than prevailed 100 years ago. The game has become more popular among Canadian-Scots, where Jack Frost reigns supreme in winter months.

Quoits – Lochgelly Champions.

This game was very much in evidence in Scotland, and has been one of the favourite recreations for generations. Scotland stands unrivalled in this game, like other sports. There have always been a few outstanding players – champions of their day. In the early years of the century, James Walkingshaw of Carnwath, Lanarkshire, was champion for a time, followed by Alexander Gillespie of Lochgelly, who was champion for a short period, but emigrated to America in the early sixties. He was followed by Alexander Letham, Rosehall, Lanarkshire, who held the championship for a considerable period. Following this the championship changed in quick succession, but later on William Watters, a young player of Lochgelly, beat all comers at the game, and retains the proud title of Champion Quoit Player of the World to-day. This game has been almost confined to Scotland, except on various occasions when it was tried by a few Englishmen, who have failed to beat the Scots at their own game.

Bowling.

This game belongs exclusively to England, but has now become a popular game in Scotland. It is the purest and healthiest sport of to-day. It is gradually becoming more popular among the working man after their day's work is over. It is a delightful recreation and requires the least possible exertion. It is also free from the blight of professionalism, for the game is played for pure sport only. Every member pays his annual subscription, and all pay their own expenses. It is a summer game, and lasts about six months.

In concluding the article on Coal Mining in Scotland, a few words on coal may be interesting to your readers at home and abroad.

Coal.

Coal is one of the most wonderful substances in the world. It contains all the essence of every tree, shrub, and flower; contains all the vegetable substances that grew on the surface of the earth millions of years ago. Scientists differ as to the period of formation. From thirty to one hundred million of our years. These figures are too stupendous for the human mind to contemplate. The following are a few things that have been extracted from coal, or rather coal tar, that dirty sticky stuff: - The chemist gives us some of the most delicious perfumes, many beautiful dyes, also many valuable medicines, carbolic acid, and some powerful explosives. A chemist once told his class that he could make them a good cup of tea from coal tar with sugar to sweeten it, 400 times sweeter than that in daily use. Coal is

handled every day by millions of householders who have no conception that what they burn is the most valuable substance in the whole realm of nature.

In conclusion, I hope that my short history of miners and coal mining has been interesting to the present generation of readers, many of whom are the progeny of those who entered the mines 100 years ago. I have endeavoured to show that Scotsmen, both by science and invention, have contributed the greatest part to the industrial revolution of the 19th century.

(The End)