

Rural Area Food Control.

BUTTER AND MILK PRICES FIXED.

A meeting of the Barnard Castle Rural Area Food Control Committee was held on Wednesday, Mr R. W. Raine presiding. There were also present Mrs Brown, Messrs R. Armstrong, E. C. Adamson, G. Linsley, J. W. I. Davidson, G. A. Thompson, John Thompson (Stotley), J. Taro, T. W. Balbridge (clerk), and R. Brown (Inspector).

Butchers' Prices.

The Clerk said there was nothing to report excepting that Mr Taro had gone through the list supplied by the Food Commissioner, which had been altered and reduced.—The Clerk thought it might be further reduced.

Coal Prices Order.

The Clerk reported that the joint committee of the urban and two rural food control committees fixed the prices of coal as already advertised, and the committee now confirmed the action.

The Sugar Order.

A Cockfield caterer's application for sugar had been refused, and a letter from the man expressed surprise. He said he would appeal, and the Chairman said 18 pounds of sugar for sixteen meals in eight weeks did not sound very proportionate, and he did not see why they should vary their previous decision.—Mr Davidson thought an opportunity might be given this hotel proprietor to attend and explain.—The Clerk: If you don't settle all these applications to-day they will be too late to place the vouchers with their suppliers. Therefore they might not get their supplies. It has all to do done before the 5th of November. Caterers will be able to make fresh applications before the end of April.—The application was refused.—Ten pounds per month was allowed to a Middleton innkeeper who did considerable catering.

Manufacturers.

A Middleton application asked for 56 pounds per month.—The Chairman: I believe the utmost we have allowed was to a lady at Middleton. She got eighteen pounds, or something like that.—The Clerk: They are entitled to 25 per cent. of what they had in 1915.—Ten pounds per month was granted in the application before the committee.—Two Gainford confectioners were allowed ten pounds each per month.—The Clerk said they had issued sugar cards covering 10,087 people, which number was over a thousand less than the population of last census.—The Chairman said they were well ahead of time. An immense amount of work had been done.—The next meeting was fixed for the 14th of November, at 2-45 o'clock, to deal with returns and applications from retailers, which have to be sent in before the 12th.

Potato Order.

There were a number of belated applications for licenses, which were allowed.

Bread Price Order: Singular Case.

A Staindrop application was made under peculiar circumstances. The request was that a provisional license be granted to sell bread at a higher price than that set out in the order, the fixed rate being 4d. for two pound loaf and 2 1/4d. for pound loaf.—It was agreed that the matter stand over pending investigations by the Inspector.

Uniformity in Butter Prices: Colonel Leith and the Newcastle Conference.

A letter on this subject was read from the Food Commissioner, and the Clerk said a maximum retail price would have to be fixed. The wholesale price need not be settled.—The Chairman said there had been confusion in the butter market, and if they could get some uniform method it would be better. As a matter of fact Barnard Castle market had been depleted: so had Kirby Stephen and Darlington. He understood farmers could make three pounds of cheese with the material it took to make one pound of butter. That was a very considerable margin, and they could hardly prevent people making the best use of their cream which they could.—The Clerk said a lot of butter was being transferred to other centres. The wholesale price in Barnard Castle was 2s. 2d., and the retail price 3s. 5d. There was no butter being sold in the open market in the west country.—A member asked what was to prevent dealers and others buying up butter.—The Chairman: The greatest complaint is that we are not getting butter, for some reason or other, because farmers will not bring their butter into the market. It does very badly in our district. We are hundreds of pounds short. This week, last week and the week before there were scores of persons who could not get any.—Mr Linsley said his son was one hundred pounds short. Other people came and took it clean out of the district. Had he been a dairyman he would have marketed his butter had he lost it. He suggested that buyer and seller should be brought to book.—Mr Armstrong said there was a scarcity of dairy cows right throughout the whole country—a tremendous shortage—and if they went round they would find that instead of ten, twelve and fourteen cows, farmers had not one-half that number.—The Chairman also thought there was a

Shortage of Dairy Cows.

and it was suggested that they had been slaughtered as food for the soldiers. He longed for greater harmony in the prices of Danish, Canadian and Australian butter and their own.—The Clerk said he had been invited by Lieut. Colonel Leith, the Food Commissioner for Northumberland and Durham, to attend a conference of Northumberland and Durham Executive Officers at Tilley's Room, Newmarket Street, Newcastle, the meeting at 2-30 and luncheon at 1 p.m., where a maximum retail price would be recommended. Penalties for a breach of the order would follow.—Mr Armstrong: If you don't fix the price throughout the whole district there will be a middle.—The Clerk: The maximum wholesale purchasing price must be 2s. 2d., and the maximum retail price 2s. 4 1/2d., according to the Food Controller's order.—Mr Davidson: There is no minimum price fixed.—Mr Taro said he was afraid there would be confusion of price.—The Chairman said the carriers from Middleton collected the butter up at Harwood.—Mr Taro: It will make no difference to Cockfield, because the butter is going to Newcastle.—It was agreed to fix the price of butter at 2s. 2d. as the maximum wholesale purchasing price, and 2s. 4d. retail in that rural area.

Rates for Milk.

It transpired that milk was sold at Middleton at 5d. a quart; 5d. at Cockfield and Woodland; and 6d. at Gainford. At Middleton the price had been 4d., but it was being raised. It was said that a majority of the people at Middleton thought that in a country place like that price should not be increased, as the

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Wounded Soldiers' Recent Visit to Whorlton.

The wounded soldiers stationed at Bishop Auckland Infirmary, accompanied by a batch from the Windstone V.A.D. Hospital, numbering fifty in all, in charge of Mr J. J. Aubin, the organiser of these outings, had another delightful trip by motor char-a-banc to Whorlton recently, when the villagers feasted them to their hearts' content. Included among the wounded in this outing was the repatriated Auckland soldier who was wounded and taken prisoner on October 26th, 1914, having fought in the Battle of Mons at Le Cateau, and later in the Battle of the Aisne. He had often heard of these outings both while he was in Germany and Switzerland, and spoke of the ladies' appreciation of them of all that was being done at home for the wounded. After dinner Dr. Headlam spoke a few kind words to the boys on behalf of the villagers, assuring them of their appreciation of what the soldiers had done.—A sum of money was forthcoming towards the cost of the char-a-bancs. Each wounded soldier was supplied with an abundance of cigarettes and a pocket wallet, including stationery, pencil, postage stamps, callender for 1917-18, and a list of words mostly used with the French translation, making a very suitable gift, and one which was greatly appreciated by the boys.

Staindrop Congregational Church Harvest Festival.

This event was held on October 21st. A shadow was cast over the services of the week-end by the death of the Rev. and Mrs R. W. Young's six-year-old little son. He died on Friday, October 19th, after a short illness. The burial took place on the Monday afternoon. Much sympathy was felt with the bereaved parents throughout the village and district. He was a bright active boy, and will be very much missed by all. Mr Young being unable to be present on the Sunday, Mr T. Taro conducted the morning service. In the afternoon a service of song was given by the members and friends, entitled "A noble sacrifice." The Rev. A. G. Bowman gave the connective readings. He also preached in the evening to a large congregation. Miss Copeland presided at the organ. Miss Hilda Metcalfe, the Teesdale contralto, being the soloist. Her beautiful rendering of "Nearer my God to Thee" and "Rock of Ages cleft for me," were much appreciated.—On Monday evening the Rev. A. G. Bowman gave one of his beautiful organ recitals. Miss Metcalfe, Mr Rand and Mr Betherington were the vocalists. Mr A. Copeland was in the choir. There was a large company present. The sale of fruit, etc., at the close was exceptionally good.

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The Police Court.

BARNARD CASTLE.

WEDNESDAY.—Before Messrs J. Smith (in the chair), C. B. Martin, J. W. Hartley, R. W. Raine, C. Hedley and W. H. Ralston.

The Baby Bereavement.

The Chairman regretted that at the last court, through an unfortunate oversight, appropriate allusion had not been made to the loss which Lord and Lady Barnard and Lady Eoid Vane had sustained in the death of Captain the Honourable Henry Cecil Vane. On behalf of the Bench he now wished an utterance of sympathy and condolence with the lady household to be conveyed to them by the Clerk, in their bereavement.—Mr J. W. B. Heslop on behalf of the bar, and Supt. Riddell, for the police, associated themselves with the kindly expression.

Juvenile Court: Bicycle on Footpath.

William Peacock (15), was charged with riding a bicycle on the footpath on Sunday, the 14th of October.—Defendant's father appeared, the youth working at Shildon shops.—P.C. Henderson said that at ten minutes past eleven in the morning in question he was driving a motor with side-car in Marwood, and, when opposite the Red Well Inn, he saw the defendant riding a bicycle on the footpath. Peacock, in dismounting, bumped against an old lady.—Defendant's father said his son had told him that he did not knock the old lady against the wall.—Supt. Riddell said he was present, and saw the female pushed against the wall. They chased the defendant in the direction of Barnard Castle, and caught up.—The Bench inflicted a penalty of 10s. inclusive.

Ordinary Court: Licensing Changes.

The license of the King's Head Hotel was transferred from Mr Frederick Dawson to Mrs Mary Margaret Dawson, his wife, the former having joined the army; and the license of the Railway Hotel, Bank, hitherto held by James Simpson, was made over to James Hopper.

Alleged Fabulous Charge: Bench Indignant With a Prosecutrix.

Elizabeth Allison charged Wilfred E. Allison (87), with the larceny as bailor of a set of china, on the 12th of May. This was the adjourned hearing. The complainant had lived in another house in Marwood, and had removed to Pine Tree Cottage, also in Marwood, and it was during removal operations that the set of china, ornaments and various other household articles, valued at £3 10s., were alleged to have been missed, and in respect to the alleged loss of which prosecutrix issued a summons against her son, the defendant, who is a farmer and miner. When the case was now called, prosecutrix applied to have it dismissed, and added, "the china was found in my house."—Asked how it was that she did not see the china before, prosecutrix said: "It came down a week before I came."—Defendant said that at the first hearing prosecutrix alleged that he had said, "Don't tell her where it is at." Now, he wanted to clear himself. That statement, he said, was wholly untrue, and it had done him a great deal of harm. He had never said such a thing, and he asked the Press to take note of his statement.—Mr Ralston (to the complainant): It is a very great grievance to bring a man here under such circumstances. As he says, he has suffered in character, and you ought to have been much more careful. I think he has been very harshly treated.—Mr Dawson: He has a right of action for malicious prosecution, and a very good one too.—Mr Ralston: It is very hard on you, and it is very great carelessness on the part of complainant.

—Prosecutrix: Well, they searched the house and could not find it.—The Chairman: We are quite satisfied that you are not guilty. There is no case against you, and the charge is dismissed. She will have to pay your costs. There has been very great carelessness on somebody's part.—Mr Hartley: He is quite entitled to bring an action for malicious prosecution.—Defendant: Can I demand an apology instead of going for expenses?—Mr Dawson: He had better pay 6s. 8d. and see where he is. (Laughter).—The Chairman: I think you had better let the matter drop.—The full costs amounted to £2 10s., which has been paid by complainant, and of this sum defendant gets £1 15s.

Keeper of a Famous Teesdale Hotel Fined.

Supt. Riddell summoned David Smith (76), landlord of the High Force Hotel, with supplying intoxicating liquor during closing hours on the 19th of October: a second charge was that of allowing intoxicating liquor to be consumed on his premises during closing hours, on the same date: and Matthew Ireland (75), the guide to the waterfall, was charged with consuming intoxicating liquor on licensed premises during closing hours: and alternately with attempting to consume intoxicating liquor on licensed premises during closing hours.—Mr J. I. Dawson appeared for the prosecution, and Mr J. W. B. Heslop for the defence.—Mr Dawson said the offences contravened the order of the Central Control Board for the North-East Area, and he submitted that part of the evidence would prove that the law had been broken deliberately.—Supt. Riddell said he had business with the landlord of the High Force Hotel on the day in question, and called upon him at ten minutes past three in the afternoon. When he went into the room the landlord was sitting on the window sill, another man was sitting next to him, and alongside the other man was the defendant Ireland. The latter reached out and got a glass, and when he got it so far from the table, he attempted to screen it by motion. He looked out and saw witness coming in at the door. Witness said: "Hello! What have you got here?" The Superintendent smelt at the glass and said it was whisky. At his request the landlord brought a small bottle (now produced) into which witness had poured the whisky.—The Chairman: Is it all whisky?—Witness: I could not say.—The Chairman: There is very little "whole" whisky now-a-days.—Witness, continuing, said he then charged the landlord with supplying and allowing whisky to be consumed during prohibited hours, and Ireland with consuming the same. Mr Smith made no reply at the time. Ireland said: "I got this whisky for holding a horse at the time."—Cross-examined: Ireland agreed that it was whisky, and it had been left by a man for him before closing time. He had laid two charges in each case on the advice of the prosecuting solicitor.—Mr Dawson: I have laid a double snare for my friend. He wants to try to get out of one, but he won't.—Mr Heslop said that although there might be a technical breach of the order there was no moral infringement of it, because the selling was done during opening time.—Matthew Ireland, gate-keeper at High Force, said the small "special" was given to him by two gentlemen for looking to a horse, and he left it standing on two ladies coming, whom he took over the fall top. Miss Jenny Nixon supplied the liquor at ten minutes past two.—David Smith said the whisky was bought and paid for for services rendered. He produced two medical certificates stating that Ireland was suffering, among other ailments, from heart trouble, and that he needed whisky.—Mr Dawson submitted that in a case like this a medical certificate must be acted upon instantly, and asked: Is it your practice to supply a man with whisky after closing hours if he has a certificate?—Witness: I should certainly serve it whether I am right or wrong.—Jane Nixon said Ireland paid 6d. for the hot whisky.—Robert Scott, Summary Hill, Newbiggin, was in the room, and he said he was surprised when the Superintendent came in. He said he heard these words: "Get that whisky off: he knew the Superintendent was up."—The Bench retired, and, on returning into court, the Chairman said the magistrates had decided not to be too hard upon Mr Smith, who was a very decent innkeeper, and they had decided to dismiss the first charge against him, and also the first accusation against Ireland. For the second offences the landlord would be fined £1, and Ireland 10s.—Mr Dawson, on behalf of the County, applied for solicitor's fee, which, with court costs, were allowed.

Excuse Lists: Personal Attendance.

An elderly woman, named Jane Armstrong, attended in respect to the sum of £1 5s. 4d., poor and special rates, applicant's name appearing in the excuse list submitted to the Bench by Mrs Liddle, assistant-overseer for Lynsack and Softley.—Applicant said she only had 7s. 6d. a week to live upon, and her son owned the house in which she lived rent-free. She said she could not pay any part of the rate.—Mr Martin said in towns the rates were compounded, and included in the rent, the landlord paying the rates, and charging the same to the tenant as rent.—The Chairman said it must never be forgotten that it was the property and not the person who was rated.—Mr Martin added that under such an arrangement as appeared now to prevail middle-class people escaped, and in this instance the applicant was placed in a false position. He contended that the provisions of the Small Tenements Act should be adopted and enforced, even in rural districts.—The case was adjourned to ascertain if the son would pay half the rate.

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