

Startforth Rural Council.

THE COMING RATE.

The monthly (six weeks this time) meeting of the members of the Startforth Rural District Council was held on Wednesday afternoon. Mr John Walton, J.P. (chairman), presided, and there were also present Messrs W. Dent, R. Raine (Holwick), J. Richardson, J. A. Preston, J. Raine (High Street), W. Errington, J. Peacock, J. Allison, W. Bowers, M. Scrafton, J. Raine (Mickleton), T. Bayles, T. W. Garth, T. Metcalfe, J. Longstaff, G. Nicholson (deputy clerk), T. H. Plews (surveyor), and W. Porter (inspector). The Surveyor reported that the steam road roller had crushed 1,495 yards of macadamised surface.

Finance: Clerk's Estimate and the New Rate.—The Clerk announced the bank balance to be £1,981 18s. 1d., and the current payroll was over £400.—The Clerk stated that the estimate would be exactly the same as that of last year. The sum required was £1,288 15s. 7d. The assessable value was £60,000, which, with an eightpenny rate, would yield £2,000; sixpence realising £1,500, and fivepence £1,250. With the present payroll deducted the credit balance at the bank would be £1,541 14s.—Mr Allison: I move the same rate as last year.—Mr Metcalfe: We have a good balance in hand. Could we not do with a little less?—Mr Allison: We had better keep safe on account of snow-cutting.—Mr Preston: It is an enormous balance in the bank.—Mr Metcalfe: I don't think we should collect money from the rate-payers to lay in the bank.—The Surveyor: There are three months' payments to meet before the next rate is laid.—Mr Dent: It is a very tight year for the last six weeks.—Mr Preston: Is the steam roller going to be laid up in the winter? If it is we shall not be at so much expense.—Mr Peacock: But we have sometimes run short at the bank.—The Chairman: Yes, we once had trouble, and I don't want it again.—Mr Metcalfe: I don't think you need be frightened.—The Chairman: I don't think it is legal to be overdrawn at the bank.—Mr Metcalfe: Then have we not so much money on loan?—The Chairman: I don't think we should reduce the rate less than fivepence.—The Surveyor: Fourpence for highways and one penny for sanitation.—It was agreed that the total rate be on the basis of fivepence in the pound.

Hutton Fields Road.
The Surveyor reported that the repairs had been carried out by the various owners, and the road was now in a fairly good state of repair. The length of road was 1,437 yards.—Mr Dent moved that the Council take over the road.—Mr Metcalfe: Has any councillor seen this road?—Mr Garth: I have had a certain amount to do with it, and I can certainly say this road is all right.—Mr Raine (High Street): The road is a great improvement.—The Chairman: And you think the road can be safely taken over?—Mr Raine: O, yes. I think so.

Assessment of Gilmore by Moor Sporting Rights.
The Clerk read a letter signed by Mr J. N. Walker and Mr T. Metcalfe, the overseers for Gilmore, of which the following is a copy:—"The Assessment Committee have reduced the rateable value of the sporting rights on Gilmore Moor by £221, and land occupied by Captain T. G. Dugdale by £51 during the currency of the present rate, and we respectfully ask for the present for the current half-year to be reduced pro rata on £256 10s. assessable value." [Half of the rateable value of £51 on land and fall on £211 (houses), thus reducing the amount of the rate by £4 17s. 11d.—ED.]

Medical Officer's Report.
Dr. Neligan acknowledged the receipt of five notifications of measles. Six births and no deaths had been registered, and the general health of the district was good.

Hospital Accommodation.
The Clerk said he had received a letter from Dr. Neligan pointing out that during the greater part of August he had been prevented by serious illness from conducting correspondence, but he would call at the Clerk's office at 10.30 that morning and explain the position with regard to suggested provision for the treatment in the Council's hospital of possible infectious disease arising in Doerholt Camp. Following sharply upon the receipt of the letter Dr. Neligan had personally interviewed the Clerk, and the latter being in possession of Major Whitehouse's letter, he was going to write to that officer.—The Chairman: That will be to say that the hospital was just built for our own accommodation.—The Clerk: And that any arrangement made at the camp will be subject to the ruling of the district council.

Blankets at the Hospital.
The Government were now controlling raw material, and asked for an estimate of any probable demand for blankets before April next.—The Inspector: We have one of the healthiest districts in the North of England, and we have no blankets to give away. We bought eight new blankets in February, 1912, at 12s. 9d. and 13s. 9d., and we have nine beds. We have no reserve blankets, though we got twenty new blankets since we entered the new hospital.—The Chairman: I think you can report that we have what will do till April, 1918, but we have no reserve.—Two poor persons at Boldron were excused their water-rate, amounting to 4s. 8d.

Public Meals Order.
The Inspector said he had visited sixteen licensed and five private houses, one place being registered. Meals exceeding 1s. 8d. were not served.—The Chairman: You must not go there if you are very hungry. Nobody will want any oyster oil. (Laughter).

Proposed Colony of Disabled Sailors and Soldiers.

To the Editor of the "Teesdale Mercury."
DEAR SIR—After visiting the exhibits at the allotment-holders' show on Saturday week, one wonders if a colony of disabled sailors and soldiers could be established in our midst, forming a self-dependant and happy community. Under scientific and intensive culture the products of their labour should reach a high standard of excellence, and could then be forwarded to the large centres of industry which surround us. If the "city fathers" approve, preliminary steps may be taken at once.—Yours faithfully, J. W. SMITH.
Darlington House, Barnard Castle, September 17th, 1917

Zenolite Skin Ointment is the Ointment with a 16 years' reputation. 1/4 per jar, from Hamor's Drug Stores, the Zenolite Depot, Barnard Castle.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY FURS.

Having bought my Stock of these Goods very early, before the serious advance in the price of all classes of Skins, I am able to offer

A Choice Stock of Specially Selected Furs

In all the New Shapes, at Prices Considerably Lower than To-day's Cost.

INSPECTION OF THE GOODS NOW ON VIEW IS SOLICITED.

ROBERT ORD, BARNARD CASTLE.

Memorial Service at the Thorngate Mission.

On Sunday evening week a touching service was conducted at the Thorngate Wesleyan Mission, Barnard Castle, by Mr T. Parkinson, in memory of Lance-Corporal W. Chapman, Private T. Chapman, and Private W. Waive, each of whom has sacrificed his life on the battlefield of France in the fight for honour and freedom. Taking as his text, St. Matthew v. 4: "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted," the preacher, in the course of a feeling sermon, said the earth appeared to be the battling-ground of gigantic forces, and the question had been asked why God permitted such sorrow and heart-breaking. But they must not forget that no man could be made perfect except through suffering, and afflictions were not worse than those whom sorrow visited. They would have to pass through much tribulation before they learned the lesson of submission to God's will on earth. Their suffering was not according to the dictates of a cruel will, but it was God's best wish to make better use of them.—Appropriate hymns were sung, and there was a fairly large congregation.

Bowes Museum Park.

Tomatoes and Vegetables Crown Instead of Flowers.
The action of the Trustees in deciding to suspend the cultivation of flowers during the War, and to devote the greenhouses and land to vegetable growing is being amply justified. A splendid crop of tomatoes has been raised, and these are being distributed gratuitously to V.A.D. and other Hospitals in the County, and at Newcastle, for the use of wounded sailors and soldiers. Already more than a thousand pounds of tomatoes have been sent, and that they are highly appreciated is proved by the numerous letters of thanks which have been received. As regards vegetables, these are to be sold in the first instance to persons in poor circumstances, of whom a list has been prepared, and to the wives of soldiers on active service, at one-half the Barnard Castle market price. Any remaining over will be sold to the general public at the full market price.

LOCAL PROPERTY IN THE MARKET.

On Friday night week, at the Central Sale Rooms, Messrs Parkinson and Sons offered various lots of property, all situate at Barnard Castle. The first lot consisted of a freehold dwelling-house, being 60, Newgate, Barnard Castle, together with stable, coach-house and loft adjoining, late in the occupation of Mr. E. W. Little. The house contains kitchen, sitting-room and pantry, together with two bedrooms and bath-room and was for many years occupied by the late Mr. F. W. Little, rural postman, and is situate at the east end of Newgate. The title shortly commenced with a deed executed between John Fryer and Edward Fryer of the first part, and Francis William Little of the second part, and is dated the 21st January, 1895. If sold the condition set out that the purchase must be completed on the 12th October, 1917. The first offer was £100, and the last bid was £160, which was made by Mr Thomas Hunter, Victoria-terrace. At this figure the lot was withdrawn.—Messrs W. J. and H. C. Watson were the solicitors in the matter, and the firm was represented by Mr A. H. Nicholson, the managing clerk.—The next property offered was to close a trust, Mr J. H. Holmes being solicitor to the vendor, who was selling as trustee. The first lot comprised a dwelling-house, being number 34, Balliol-street, Barnard Castle, now in the occupation of Mr T. Corney, and containing sitting-room, kitchen, two bedrooms, yard and outbuildings. The short title commenced with a deed of conveyance dated the 9th November, 1886, between Elizabeth Wigman on the one part and Martha Walker on the other part, and in case of a purchase being effected the date of completion was fixed for the 19th of October.—Mr J. Robson, who bid in the capacity of agent only, called the attention of the conductors of the sale to the condition that no bid should be less than £10. He said this was a small property, and he thought that a strictness of that nature was calculated to prejudice the sale.—Mr Holmes said he would leave the matter entirely in the hands of the auctioneers.—Mr T. Parkinson thereupon said he would accept bids of £5, and the sale proceeded.—The first offer was £120, and the property was declared to be in the market at £155, at which figure Mr Christopher Hadley became the purchaser. It transpired that there was a moiety of title payable in respect to this house.—The second lot consisted of a dwelling-house, being number 9, Bridgegate, Barnard Castle, late in the occupation of Mr William Gayles, Barnard Castle (the owner), and the title commenced with a conveyance deed dated the 13th May, 1900, between Frederick Brown, Robert Taylor Richardson, Harry Crawford Watson, William James Watson, Robert Wood, and Joseph Lowes on the one part, and William Gayles on the other part. The vendor was selling as trustee, and the overlooking windows belonged to Mr W. Ascoug and the Mission. The house contains two kitchens, two good bedrooms, two small rooms, yard shed and offices. The property may be let in two tenements, and there was a hen run included, which comprehended about eighty square yards. The property was started at £60, and withdrawn at £165, Mr William Gayles, son of the late owner, being the last bidder.

The "Munich Post" says that Dr. Michaelis is already confronted with strong opposition, and that a certain quantity of oil is still trying to make Prince von Rulow Imperial Chancellor of Germany.

BARNARD CASTLE SANITARY STEAM LAUNDRY

PROPRIETOR - - - A. STEELE.
Is the Only Steam Laundry in Barnard Castle & District
High-class Work in all its Branches.
Special Attention given to Household Work.
Vans Collect and Deliver in Home District.
Steam Laundry Works: NEWGATE, BARNARD CASTLE.

SUGAR CARDS.

We invite Customers to Note the following Dates:—
Saturday, September 29th:
Application Forms for Sugar Cards will be in Customers' hands.
Saturday, October 6th:
Last day Food Committee receives Application Forms for Sugar Cards.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5th:
Last day we can receive Sugar Cards for Registration.
WE SHALL BE GLAD TO SUPPLY YOU.
Register in Good Time.

G. CLARKSON HARKER, M.P.S.,
CHEMIST AND GROCER,
24, Horse Market, BARNARD CASTLE.

To Preserve Fruit without Sugar —

Choose sound dry fruit, and place in clean dry bottles or jars.
Place these in slow oven and gradually increase heat until moisture in fruit is absorbed (about 15 minutes).
Then fill with boiling water to half inch above fruit.
Seal while hot by pouring on half an inch melted "ATORA" Block Suet. Do not disturb until set and cold. Cover with paper.

ATORA Beef Suet

Shredded for puddings, pastries and mince pies.
In tins for cooking, baking and frying.
Of all Grocers & Stores 1 lb. tins, 1 1/2 lb. & 5 lb. boxes, 9d.

Sole Manufacturers:
HUGON & CO. LTD., Openshaw — Manchester.

Wounded Soldiers at Barningham.

The weekly motor tours organised for the wounded soldiers stationed at Bishop Auckland continue with as much life and enjoyment as has been experienced during the summer. On Friday week they were entertained by the villagers of Barningham. The outward journey lay by way of Igleton, Gainford, Wineson and Hutton, where, much to the amusement of the lads, the wrong turning was taken, and but for a timely warning Richmond would soon have been reached. On arrival at Barningham Mr Roberts, the jovial schoolmaster, bid them a hearty welcome in the absence of the Rector, whose gardens were open to the boys. Mr Pearson offered his services as guide to the moors, and some delightful walks were indulged in, while others sported themselves on the Rector's lawn at croquet. Tea was served at 4 p.m. at the Millbank Arms Hotel—thanks to the ladies, headed by Miss Coates, Mrs Roberts and Miss Gough, who were the first in the field to organise the catering. Other tours of the moors with various sports followed, and a light refresher was again served just before departure. Votes of thanks having been moved, rousing cheers were given by the soldiers to their entertainers, and a return home was made via Greta Bridge, Barnard Castle and Stalndrop, completing another delightful day's outing.—On Saturday evening they had a short trip to Cockfield, where sports had been arranged, followed by a substantial knife and fork tea, and an enjoyable dance in the evening.

The Late Second-Lieut. G. W. Berry.

The Primitive Methodist Church, Newgate, is in great sorrow by the sad news that 2nd Lieutenant G. W. Berry, of the 19th Durham Light Infantry, has been killed in action. The Rev. C. H. Lightfoot, in a recent service, voiced the sympathy that is felt for Mrs T. Berry, of 11, Montalbo-terrace, and for the family in their bereavement. The gallant soldier who has fallen in battle was greatly respected. His fine open countenance was a true index to his character. A noble son, his sympathy for his mother when his father, the late Mr T. Berry, died, was most tenderly expressed. The loss is felt keenly.

Whist Drive at the Conservative Club.

A successful whist drive and social, promoted by the Barnard Castle Conservative Club, was held in the club reading-room on Thursday night week. A large number of players were present, including many soldiers, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Messrs J. H. Hunter and A. Urquhart ably acted as masters of ceremonies for the whist drive. The prize-winners were:—Ladies: 1st, Miss J. Lowdon; 2nd, Miss Todd; 3rd, Miss Gibson. Gentlemen: 1st, Mr A. Hunter; 2nd, Mr Lander; 3rd, Mr Co-Sergeant-Major Surman. Mrs Horne (wife of Colonel Horne, of the York and Lancashire Regiment), kindly presented the prizes.—Mr Arthur H. Nicholson, honorary secretary, introduced Mrs Horne, to whom Mr T. Bell proposed a cordial vote of thanks, which was heartily endorsed.—The concert, which followed, was given entirely by artistes from the York and Lancashire Regiment, and was in charge of Sergt-Major Murphie, all of whom were heartily thanked for their services.

The Brothers Carrol.

To the Editor of the "Teesdale Mercury."
DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly publish the following appeal to the public on behalf of the brothers Carrol, who have each lost an arm in France? They are desirous to furnish a home, and would be grateful to receive any articles of furniture or anything needed for a home—especially a bed, bedclothes and a table. Their address is 4, Broadgates.—Yours truly,
J. W. WHITE
70, Galgate, September 18th, 1917.

BARNARD CASTLE RURAL COUNCIL.

The Housing of the Working Class.
Mr R. Armstrong, J.P., presided over a meeting of the above body on Wednesday.—The Clerk (Mr T. Bainbridge) announced the receipt of a letter from the Clerk of the Middleton Parish Council, who said the latter body agreed to the proposition of the Rural Council to pay half of the cost of the material in connection with the re-erection of the bridge over Hudeslope Beck.—The Surveyor (Mr L. Simpson) reported the completion of the work of repairing the road near the post-office, Stalndrop, and Mr T. Wright said he had inspected the place almost every day during the operations, and the work had been carried out most satisfactorily.—Messrs Pooley and Sons, Birmingham, who attended to the weighing machines, asked for an increase of 10s. per annum on their charges owing to the advanced cost of labour and material.—Mr Ralston: What are the present charges?—The Clerk: 35s. a year.—Mr Ralston: It is very reasonable, and I propose it be paid.—Carried.—As under the Workmen's Compensation Act an employee who was injured was now entitled to an additional 25 per cent., the insurance company wrote to say that they required an extra 10 per cent. on the premium.—Mr R. W. Raine: I think we had better pay the premium, and I move that.—Agreed.—Mr F. Wootton called attention to the very bad state of a lane, which was about 28 yards long, at Stalndrop, and which was much used by schoolchildren. He said the freeholders were willing to provide all the material, and they asked if the Council would allow their workmen to do the work. He moved that it be done.—Mr Wright seconded, and the proposition was adopted.

Health Matters.
The Medical Officer (Dr. Neligan) reported eight cases of infectious disease in the district. There had been sixteen births registered, and eight deaths. The general health of the district was good.—The Clerk stated that the number of gallons of water registered by meter supplied to Lynesack and Soffley up to August 1st, and chargeable to the Auckland Council, were 5,117,800. He had seen in the account, which amounted to £153 7s. 2d., and it had been paid. The figure was much higher than the average.—The matter of overcrowding at Cockfield was again before the meeting, and Mr Brown said that undoubtedly houses were very bad to get.—The Chairman: The time will come when something will have to be done.—Mr Raine: I think we are somewhat averse to take action during the war; but it is not that we agree with overcrowding.—The Clerk said the committee appointed to go into the scheme of the housing of the working classes, as proposed by the Local Government Board, had met that day to consider the desirability of erecting additional houses after the war, and they gave the following interesting figures:—Population in the rural district at the 1901 census, 10,824; 1911, 11,681; present estimation, 11,957. There had been no material increase or decrease in the working class population since the war commenced. The number of houses rated up to 28 per annum were 1,905; over 28 as under £16, 583; total, 2,488. The number of houses demolished or otherwise rendered unfit for habitation were 8. There had been 64 houses built since 1911 under the rateable value of 28, and 59 above that rateable value making a total of 123. The vacant houses in the district totalled 99 at the present time. The committee were of opinion that, in view of the number of unoccupied houses, it was unnecessary to take advantage of the Local Government Board's scheme.—The committee's recommendations were agreed upon.—Mr R. Hest was elected as the Council's representative on the county committee to deal with the question of venereal diseases.—The District Visitor wrote complaining that there were three cases of overcrowding at Woodland, by Dr. Neligan had inspected the dwellings and reported that the cubic measurements were in accordance with the bye-laws.—Mr Raine proposed that Dr. Neligan's report be sent to the County Medical Officer.—Carried.—Dr. Neligan read a communication from Dr. Hill, which the latter called attention to as necessarily for the immediate notification of births, and also of cases of tuberculosis. Dr. Neligan said there was no doubt about it, the consumption could be cured or greatly relieved if it was taken at the beginning. He said was no use a doctor waiting until a patient was about dead before the disease was notified. It must be done at the very onset to be of any use. He suggested that the Council use power to see that all notifications of infectious diseases were sent forthwith, or within a specified time of 48 hours.—Mr T. moved that the Clerk write to the medical officer in the district, reminding them that this must be notified.—Agreed.—Mrs W. Brown, of Cockfield, was appointed on the Food Council Committee, in the place of Mrs Eife.—The Clerk had been appointed executive officer that committee, and he asked that Mr Brown, the inspector, be allowed to devote part of his time to assist in the work.—Agreed.

Barnard Castle and Startforth Nursing Association.

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Dispensary on September 1st, Miss Nixon being in the chair. There were also present Mrs Holmes, L. Martin, Mrs Watson, Mrs Manby, Mrs B. Cooper, Miss Pleasdale, Mrs Bainbridge, Miss Harris, Mrs York, Mrs Douglas, L. Wells, Mrs J. R. Arrowsmith, and Miss Wall (assistant honorary secretary).—The income for August was 18s., made up of monthly subscriptions, 10s. 6d.; fees, 7s. 6d.—From the 24th of July to the 31st of August 145 visits were paid to 16 patients. Special thanks were expressed to Mrs Dawson and Miss Pleasdale for their kindness in undertaking the work of the district during the holiday of Mrs Dinkin.—A general meeting followed, at which the resignation of the secretary was received with great regret. Great appreciation of Miss Scarr's unflinching help and kindness during her years of office was expressed, and the good wishes of the association will follow her in her new sphere of action.—Mrs H. C. Watson was duly elected secretary.

IMPORTANT BOON TO LADIES.

NO Pills or Drugs used in this treatment. My never-failing remedy, and I guarantee to cure all female ailments. I invite cases that have failed elsewhere. Stamp for advice.—ROSS'S "LABORATORY," No. 8, Market Street, Cheltenham.

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EVERY WOMAN
Should send two stamps for our 32-page Illustrated Book containing valuable information how all Irregularities and suppressions may be entirely avoided or removed by simple means. Recommended by eminent Physicians as the only safe, sure, and genuine remedy. Never fails. Thousands of testimonials. Established 1862.
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CLAREMONT HOUSE, DALSTON LANE, LONDON.