# PROJECTED LOCAL RAILWAY EXTENSION.

THE TEES VALLEY PROPER.

The Pencil Mill, near Cronkley, which formerly gave employment to a few hands, is now closed, the little industry having been killed by the cost of carriage. The Cronkley pencils were of excellent quality, and vastly superior to the hard gritty stones which are now used in our schools. Under more favourable conditions as to carriage, the pencil industry would probably revive, and not only revive, but assume larger proportions. Widdy Bank, a farm house which stands on the left bank of the Tees above Cronkley, has derived its name from the pencil mill, the stone from which the pencils were made being called widdy. In the estimation of the Teesdale school-boy, the widdy pencil ranks in value with the pocket knife and the marbles. CAULDRON SNOUT.

The supporters of the Ambleside Railway Bill contended that the projected extension from Windermere to Ambleside would be a great boon to the working classes of Lancashire, inasmuch as it would enable them to visit the Lake District, from which they were then practically excluded. Keswick and Bassenthwaite are now accessible from the North, and thousands of people from Tyneside and Sunderland visit them every year. The proposed extension would, it was said, render the lakes easy of access from the South also, and thus bring them within the reach of the Lancashire people. The fine waterfall at High Force, and the beautiful cataract, for such it really is, at Cauldron Snout, attract, at present. a considerable number of visitors to Upper Teesdale, chiefly from the East Coast. Can there be any doubt that a through line from the East to the West, passing within a very short distance of the Fall and the Cataract, would be the means of largely increasing the number of visitors? We think not. The presumption that the people of West Cumberland would avail themselves in large numbers of the opportunity afforded by the new line for seeing two natural objects so widely known as the High Force and Cauldron Snout is a reasonable one. We do not think, however, that this presumption will be taken into account by practical men, or, if taken into account at will be allowed to have much weight. They will attach much more importance to the fact that the Lodge Gill lead mine is only about two miles distant from Cauldron Snout and not half that distance from the route of the proposed line. The Lodge Gill vein yielded lead-ore in the Tyne-bottom limestone.

The Force Burn and Green Burn mingle their waters with the Tees above Lodge Gill, without, however, adding much to the volume of the river. Between the points of confluence, the Whin Sill is visible in the bed of the river, the Lead Measures having been entiring swept away by denuding agencies.

GREEN HURTH LEAD MINE.

Mining operations were at one time carried London Lead Company in the Green Burn, but they led to no useful results, the Dun Fell vein, which crosses the Burn, and which was the objective of their trial being found to be unprofitable. The uncertainty which attends metalliferous mining is as we have already said, very great. Whilst the London Company were spending money freely and vainly in exploring the south bank of the Tees, a local company, with little capital, had the good fortune to strike a rich lode on the north bank, which has yielded ore in large quantities. Greenhurth mine promised to continue rich for some time to come. The vein is said to bear well in the Whin Sill-a fact which is of great importance, inasmuch as it shows that the deposit of ore is not one of those "bellies" for which the Tees head and Tyne head districts are so noted, but regular and continuous, not only in a vertical but also in a of last year. He complasised the valuable longitudinal direction. The existence of such a mine as Green Hurth, about midway between | the Nursing Association's nurse, the association Middleton-in-Teesdale and Alston, and almost on the route of the proposed railway, could not at the time fail to exercise considerable influence over practical men. The ore was conveyed at considerable cost to the Alston railway station. The distance between the mine and the station is ten miles, and the road over one half of that distance is not good. During the winter of 1885-6, communication by means of carts was for a considerable time absolutely cut off by the snow, which blocked the road over Yad Moss. This gives some idea of the outlandish character of the district. THE TEES-SIDE MINES.

Of all the tributaries of the Upper Tees Crookburn is the one best known. tutes the boundary between the counties of Durham and Cumberland, between the manors of the Greenwich Hospital and Lord Barnard. and also between the manors of Lord Hothfield and Cofonel Byng of that day. In pre-reformation times it formed a portion of the southern boundary of the Manor of Priors Dale, which belonged to the Priory of Hexham. The junction of the Crookburn with the Tees is an interesting geographical point. Here the counties of York, Durham and Cumberland come together, and Westmorland is not a mile distant. Metal Band Lead Mine is situated at the foot of Crook Burn. It is an old mine, having been first opened by the Derwent Company, who put down a shaft into the Whin Sill. Tyne-bottom Limestone, Single Post, Cockle Shell, Scar, Five Yards, Three Yards and Great Limestone, with their associated sandstones and shales, basset in the immediate neighbourhood. A short walk from Metal Band towards the source of the Tees brings the traveller to the Tees side mines, once the seat of a considerable industry, but now almost abandoned. An Alston gentleman is said to have opened these mines, first by sinking a shaft into the Whin Sill. in the Providence Vein, and subsequently by driving levels in the vein. His efforts were rewarded by the discovery of about 1,000 bings of lead ore, for which he probably obtained a good price. The mine, after having been in the possession of various companies, was closed some years ago. We think that if the Teesdale and Alston line should ever be made, the Tees-side mines would probably be re-opened. The Hardshins Mine is situated on the right bank of the Tees and only about 200 yards above the Providence The London Lead Company raised some ore in the Hardshins Vein, but probably not sufficient to pay expenses. The voin is indeed very poor. The Lady's Vein is half-a-mile above Hardshins, on the north-east bank of the Tees. Small quantities of ore have been obtained from this vein in the Tyne-bottom Limestone, but not sufficient, we think, Portland Street, London, W. 1.

First Day: Tuesday, January 6th, 1920.

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Make a point of Shopping Early and secure the plums.

if they should ever be re-opened, would become

a source of revenue to the railway company.

Swathbeck mine is upwards of a mile above

Lady's Vein. It was at one time a profitable

concern yielding excellent ore in the Great Limestone. The other strata, above and below, have not, we believe, been tried, not-

withstanding that the configuration of the

land affords unusual facilities for the driving

of a level under the Four Fathom Limestone.

The ruins of the old mines are found still nearer the source of the Tees, but they are not worthy of particular notice. The Trout

Beck mine derives its name from a small

stream which rises in Dun Fell, and joins the

Tees near the Tees-side mines. It is simply:

continuation of the Hardshins Mine. A north

and south vein, which was cut by the miners at the distance of a mile from the Hardshins level mouth, yielded some ore, and might yield

more if epened out in a southerly direction.

A level driven south in this vein to the foot of

the mountain would cut the Nether Hurth

east and west veins, and probably others

which have not yet been discovered. Such a

level, driven in the Whetstone bed, would not

entail a large expenditure. The Nether Hurth veius have been worked for upwards of a

century, at intervals, and have yielded ore in

the Tynebottom limestone. Mining operations

on a small scale have been carried on in man

other places in the basin of the Trout Beck

but our space would not suffice for an account

greater facilities for the conveyance of ore and

mining materials were created. All the Trout

Beck mines, with the exception of Over

Hurth, are within the distance of two miles from the route of the proposed line. The old

mines in Maize Beck and Stake Beck are

practically inaccessible for any other means of transport than ponies. Whether, under any

remunerative is a matter upon which we

BARNARD CASTLE

DISPENSARY.

the Barnard Castle Dispensary was held on

Thursday last, Mr M. J. Dixon presiding. Mr

R. T. Richardson, the honorary secretary, read

the annual report. which was on the whole

satisfactory, though further subscriptions were desired. Dr. Leishman read his report on the

cases treated, the number 161 being in excess

assistance he received from Nurse Dickin,

nursing all dispensary patients free of cost, the dispensary subscribing £10 to the funds

of the association for this purpose. Nurse Dickin was formally thanked for her services.

The appointment of a dental surgeon was

discussed, and Mr Christie was to be asked to

fill the vacancy caused by Mr H. P. Friend

leaving the town. It was again suggested that a cottage hospital should be established

at Barnard Castle when funds allowed. Dr

Leishman was thanked for his work, and was

HALTING LOCAL FARMERS.

The South Durham and North Riding

County Branch of the Farmers' Protection Association convened a meeting for two o'clock in the Music Hall, on Wednesday.

One large landed proprietor and at most

dozen tenant farmers put in an appearance.

Councillor H. S. Sutherland, Chairman of the

Association, and Mr P. B. Kent, County Secretary, with Mr W. Dent, Naby View, the

local secretary, were in attendance. Other

engagements apparently occupying the attention of the farmers of the district, it was

agreed to adjourn the meeting to a date yet to be determined, when it was hoped the local

agricultural community would muster in large

numbers to hear important matters awaiting

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discussion and action, more especially the

urgent need for combination. meantime it was not deemed advisable to

PAINS OF ANY KIND.

open the meeting.

appointed medical attendant.

The annual meeting of the subscribers to

circumstances, they would prove to

Some of them might be resumed i

of them.

express no opinion.

ROBERT ORD, — BARNARD CASTLE

#### BARNARD CASTLE to remunerate the miners. It is at a point near Lady's Vein mine that the route of the new line would leave Teesdale and pass into SANITARY STEAM LAUNDRY. Tynedale. But before closing our account of the former dale, it may be well to notice one or two mines situated near Tees-head, which

PROPRIETOR - - A. STEELE.

Is the only Steam Laundry in Barnard Castle and District HIGH-CLASS WORK IN ALL ITS BRANCHES. SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO HOUSEHOLD WORK. Vans Collect and Deliver in Home District.

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#### RAILWAY LANDSLIP NEAR BROOMIELAW.

LOCOMOTIVE PLOUGHS THROUGH MUD. On Sunday morning, owing to alternating keen frost, soaking rain and high winds, about twenty-five yards of railway in what is known as "Bull Cutting," a mile from Broomielaw, a small wayside station chiefly used by the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, became blocked by repeated falls of earth or puddle from the embankment. The 7-20 morning train from Barnard Castle to Darlington shot through the obstruction, but covered the engine with sur The return train from Darlington for Middleton in Teesdale, however, became hopeless blocked, owing to more sloppy earth having fallen in the meantime. Mr J. C. Valentine chief engineer, arrived in a special, and M Lawrence, acting district superintendent, was with Mr Richardson, Barnard Castle, division inspector of permanent ways, soon on the spo A break-down gang from Darlington als quickly arrived. Some idea may be formed the nature of the substance to be dealt wit when it is stated that experts suggested th bringing of a few waggons of ballast in order to "lift" the puddle from the rails. A light train was made up at Barnard Castle, wit which Mr Cooper, stationmaster, travelled with a view of transferring the passengers wh were in the train detained on the Winston side of the obstruction. It was, however, no used, for, a little after eleven o'clock, tw vehicles and the engine were released from it Darlington train and sent on, the remaining vehicles following later, and which include four milk vans for Penrith, which left at 14 The mishap, which affected a single line rails only, was dealt with throughout in a me commendable and expeditious manner, fi 6-5 p.m. mail train being despatched as us to Darlington. There can be no doubt the the weather of the past few weeks has been the most trying description for earthworks all kinds, and it is needless to say that a share outlook is incumbent on railways in particular

### TEESDALE GUARDIANS.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS AND OUT-RELIEF

Mr M. J. Dixon, presiding at the usual men ing last Wednesday, said that as it was th first gathering of the year, he had pleasure wishing them all a very happy and prospers new year. He should like to impress upon the the necessity of regular attendance. As the were all aware they had many enemies in the country, and several people were ever trying to find flaws in the work of the Board, so was up to them to attend regularly as promptly, and thus carry out the work satisfactorily as possible.

THE LATE MR F. E. GIBSON. Mr Dixon also feelingly referred to the dea of an old friend in the person of Mr F. Gibson. The deceased gentleman had been a very good guardian, and a most usefu member of the Assessment Committee. moved that a vote of sympathy be sent to the family.—The Board concurred, all rising their feet. MATTERS OF FINANCE.

Mr Hall said the paybill was higher tis usual, and the Clerk remarked that several the parishes had not yet paid in their cal "We are wanting money very badly," adde Mr Bainbridge.—The Chairman: What d you do when these people do not pay up?-TheClerk: We usually send them a perempter notice. It is not fair to those who do pe regularly .- The Chairman : Send them special peremptory notice, then.

OLD-AGE PENSIONERS. The Clerk reported the receipt from the Minister of Health of an amendment in the Old Age Pensions Act - from Januar 2nd anybody being in receipt of out-for relief would not be disqualified for the pu-ment of old-age pensions. It did not apply s, except in cases where a perso receiving surgical or medical treatment.—To Chairman: We are all very glad to hear the better provision is being made for the old-w

CONTRACTS. The following tenders were accepted.

Butcher's meat, Mr H. F. Youngs; flour as meal, Mr J. T. Kearton; coals, Mr W. H. You boots and shoes, and clogs and clogging, Mr Thompson. The Board were asking for

better girl's boot than previously. COMING CONFERENCES AND OTHER ITEMS.

It was agreed that Mr H. L. Fife and # Clerk attend a conference of Assessmet Committees of the North of England to be held at Newcastle on January 30th, and Mess Fife, Hall, Hett and the Clerk were appoint to attend another conference at Durham the County Rating Committee, with a view having uniformity of assessment for comparating purposes.—The war bonus, as alrest in existence for the Board's officials, is to continued for another six months resolution from the Rugby Union, see support for the expenses of the Education Act, 1902, and the cost of main roads become a national charge, was ordered to lie on table.—The House Committee reported to the inmates had had a very enjoyal Christmas, and the thanks of the Guardin gifts, and also to Mrs Wilson, for giving the a free entertainment at the Victoria Pictoria Hall. There were 49 inmates, and 13 vagrant had been relieved during the month, again none for the corresponding period of last yest

### HUTTON MAGNA RAINFALL

The total rainfall for 1919 amounts The total rainfall for 1919 amounts 29-90 inches, being 2-37 inches below the average for the last 10 years. Rain fell of 176 days. The wettest month was October with 4 inches, the wettest day being October 12th, with 1-10 inch. The driest month was September, with a fall of 0-83, June being slightly higher with 0-87. The year 1919 highly layerst rainfall record since 1911 which the lowest rainfall record since 1911, which accounted for by the long drought of sum and autumn. The coldest day of the year registered. The year has exceptionally free from thunderstorms as this district is concerned .- A.W.M.C.

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