Sales by Auction.

BARNARD CASTLE AND TEESDALE FARMERS' AUCTION MART Co., LTD.

AUCTIONEERS:
GEORGE TARN BAINBRIDGE, SON & HANDLEY, Darlington.
EDWIN HUCK, Soulby, Kirkby Stephen.
THOS. ADDISON, Bowes.

☞ TO-DAY.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31ST, 1926.
USUAL WEEKLY SALE OF DAIRY CATTLE, STORE CATTLE & SHEEP.
A Prize of £1 will be given for the best Dairy Cow (calved).
Judging 10 a.m. Sale 10-30 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 5TH.
WEEKLY SALE OF FAT CATTLE, SHEEP AND PIGS.
Sale at 11 a.m. prompt.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6TH.
SPECIAL SALE OF BULLS.
Class 1.—Bulls over 18 months old.
Class 2.—Bulls under 18 months old with all calf teeth.
Class 3.—Bulls under 12 months old.
PRIZES—1st, £2; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10s., in each Class.
Entry Fee of 1s. each Entry.
ENTRIES CLOSE THURSDAY MORNING, 1ST APRIL.

W. P. WALLIS, F.A.I., Secretary
Auction Mart, Barnard Castle.
Also 26, Horse Market, Barnard Castle

THE MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE FARMERS' MART, LTD.

AUCTIONEERS:
THOMAS ADDISON, Bowes.
G. E. THOMPSON, Stotley Grange.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6TH.
SALE of DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS, in conjunction with all Classes of STORE CATTLE, &c.
20 to 25 Dairy Cows and Heifers.
25 to 35 Bullocks and Geld Cattle.
Sale at 11-30 a.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13TH.
ANNUAL PRIZE SHOW and SALE of SHEEP, which includes Swaledale Wether and Gimmer Hoggs, Half-bred Hoggs, Cast Tups, and Tup Hoggs, in conjunction with the usual Sale of DAIRY COWS, STORE CATTLE, &c.
There will be Prizes in four classes, viz.:—
5 Best Swaledale Wether Hoggs
5 „ Swaledale Gimmer Hoggs
5 „ Half-bred Hoggs
Best Black-faced Tup Hogg
Sale at 11-30 a.m.
Entries solicited for these Sales in time to advertise numbers.

MARK PINKNEY, Secretary.
Lunedale, Middleton-in-Teesdale.

☞ SALE TO-DAY.
Messrs. G. Tarn Bainbridge, Son and Handley
WILL OFFER FOR SALE BY AUCTION
EMMS HILL FARM,
At the WITHAM HALL, BARNARD CASTLE,
TO-DAY, MARCH 31ST, 1926,
At 3 p.m.,
MESSRS W. J. & H. C. WATSON,
Solicitors, Barnard Castle.

☞ SALE TO-MORROW.
CENTRAL SALE ROOMS,
BARNARD CASTLE.
John Parkinson & Sons
Have removed from Middleton-in-Teesdale and other places, and will Sell by Auction in the above rooms, on
THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST, 1926,
A LARGE Quantity of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, CARPETS, &c.
Sale at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Special attention is called to this Sale as most of the Furniture is practically new, having only been in use six months.

TO CLOSE A TRUST.
BARNARD CASTLE.
FREEHOLD COTTAGES FOR SALE.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by
John Parkinson & Sons, Auctioneers,
At the CENTRAL SALE ROOMS, BARNARD CASTLE
ON FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH, 1926, at 6 p.m.
(in one or two lots as may be decided at the time of Sale),
ALL those Two FREEHOLD COTTAGES, being No. 3, Ware Street, and No. 5, Foundry Yard, Barnard Castle. The former contains Front Kitchen, Sitting Room, Back Kitchen and Pantry, with Two Bedrooms and Boxroom, and is in the occupation of Mrs Lee. The latter contains Kitchen, and Two Bedrooms and is in the occupation of Mr Charles Wilkinson. There is a Joint Yard to the Two Properties.
For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEERS; or to
MESSRS DAWSON & HICKS,
Solicitors, Barnard Castle.

GALGATE, BARNARD CASTLE.
GREAT SALE OF HARNESS.
M. W. DARWIN,
Favoured with Instructions from C. Bunyrat, Esq., will Sell by Auction,
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7th, 1926,
NUMEROUS Sets of New and Second Hand TRAP, FLOAT and GIG HARNESS, 12 Sets of Cart Harness, Saddles, Breaking Tackle, Neck Collars, and Numerous Lots.
Sale at 1-30 p.m.
On View Morning of Sale.
Offices: Richmond and Manor House, Skeeby.

ROKEBY, GRETA BRIDGE,
Near BARNARD CASTLE.
G. Tarn Bainbridge, Son, & Handley
Favoured with Instructions from Mr W. Armstrong,
Will Let by Public Auction,
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7TH, 1926.
THE EXCELLENT GRAZING of the ROKEBY PARKS, situate at Greta Bridge, near Barnard Castle.

NORTH PARK	... ...	18 acres.
WEST PARK	... ...	42 acres.
EAST PARK	... ...	37 acres.
THE LEVEL	... ...	10 acres.
ROKEBY GROVE FIELDS		9 acres.
		116 acres.

The Parks have been entirely free since December and will be let to December 31st, 1926.
Conditions of Letting to be announced at Sale.
Sale at 4-30 p.m.
To meet at the Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge. Mr W. Oliver, of Rokeby, will show the Parks to intending Purchasers by Appointment.

Sales by Auction.

BROUGHTON HOUSE,
NEWSHAM, Near BARNINGHAM.
G. Tarn Bainbridge, Son, & Handley
Favoured with Instructions from Mr A. Carter (who is going abroad),
Will Sell by Auction,
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH, 1926,
HIS FARMING STOCK, including:—
25 HEAD OF CATTLE.
35 B.F. EWES IN LAMB.
60 POULTRY. CUR DOG.
DAIRY UTENSILS.
Surplus FURNITURE, etc.
Particulars Next Week.
Sale to commence at 1 o'clock.
Office: 44, High Row, Darlington.

In the Estate of the late Mr Thomas Martin.
NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.
SALE OF VALUABLE MIXED FARM.
G. Tarn Bainbridge, Son, & Handley
Will Offer by Auction,
ON MONDAY, APRIL 12TH, 1926,
At the IMPERIAL HOTEL, DARLINGTON,
At 3 p.m.
(Subject to the Conditions of Sale to be then produced),
ALL that Desirable FREEHOLD FARM, situate and known as
LOW MERRYBENT FARM,
midway between BARTON and MELSONBY, and extending to 211.496 Acres or thereabouts, of which approximately 118.018 Acres are Arable and the remainder Grass; together with Superior DWELLING-HOUSE and Extensive Range of FARM BUILDINGS, HIND'S COTTAGE, and Two DUTCH BARNS.
VACANT POSSESSION.
For Further Particulars and Plans apply to the Auctioneers, 44, High Row, Darlington; or MESSRS. LUCAS, HUTCHINSON & MEEK, Solicitors, Darlington.

LETTING OF GRASS PARKS.
FORCETT PARK, FORCETT.
G. Tarn Bainbridge, Son, & Handley
Favoured with Instructions from C. P. R. Michell, Esq.,
Will Let by Public Auction,
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14th, 1926,
THE EXCELLENT GRAZING of Four Parks:—

No. 1 Park	... ...	40 acres.
2 „	... ...	38 acres.
3 „	... ...	20 acres.
4 „	... ...	25 acres.
		123 acres.

The Parks have been free since December 31st, and will be Let from date of Sale to December 31st, 1926. Conditions of Letting to be announced at the Sale.
Sale at 6 p.m.
To meet at the Entrance Gates, Forcett Park.
Mr J. Mawson, of Forcett Park, will show the Parks to intending Purchasers by appointment.
Office: 44, High Row, Darlington.

VACANT POSSESSION.
LARTINGTON,
NEAR BARNARD CASTLE.
G. Tarn Bainbridge, Son, & Handley
Will Offer by Auction,
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14TH, 1926,
At 3 p.m.,
At the Witham Hall, Barnard Castle (Subject to Conditions to be then produced),
A DESIRABLE COTTAGE and GARDEN, with a Frontage to the Main Road of 90 Feet.
Further Particulars from the Auctioneers, 44, High Row, Darlington; or
MESSRS DAWSON & HICKS,
Solicitors, Barnard Castle.

DRILL HALL SALE ROOMS.
John Huntridge, L.N.A.A.,
Will Sell by Public Auction,
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BOOTS AND SHOES,
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH, 1926.

PARKINSON & SONS,
AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS,
CENTRAL SALE ROOMS, BARNARD CASTLE.
Established 1875.

THOMAS ADDISON,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.
Sales of all Descriptions.
Prompt Settlements.
Salesman at Richmond, Barnard Castle and Middleton-in-Teesdale Farmers' Auction Marts.
ADDRESS:—BOWES, DARLINGTON

WM. TARN & SON,
AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS.
Sales of all descriptions undertaken.
Prompt Settlements.
HUNDERTHWAITE, ROMALDKIRK

MESSRS HUCK & WALLIS,
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS,
ESTATE & INSURANCE AGENTS.
Work of all Descriptions Undertaken.
Prompt Settlements.
OFFICES: 26, HORSE MARKET, BARNARD CASTLE.

J. HUNTRIDGE, AUCTIONEER,
Sales of all Descriptions undertaken.
Prompt Settlements. Terms Moderate.
Dry Storage Accommodation.
Office:—DRILL HALL, BARNARD CASTLE.

SYDNEY S. HODGSON,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
Sales of all descriptions. Prompt Settlements.
ADDRESS:—REDSHOLME FARM,
COTHERSTONE, via DARLINGTON.

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We can show you a really Smart Range of Cloths at Prices to Suit YOU.
Men's Ready-made Suits from 27/11
All sizes.
Boys' 3-Garment Suits „ 10/6
Size 3.
FRED NEVISON,
35-39, BANK, BARNARD CASTLE.

G. E. THOMPSON,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.
Sales of all descriptions. Prompt Settlements.
ADDRESS: STOTLEY GRANGE,
MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

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McVITIE & PRICE, Ltd., Robertson Avenue, Edinburgh

The Teesdale Mercury

BARNARD CASTLE, MARCH 31ST, 1926.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

[BY MERCURIUS.]

Gossip in Barnard Castle market on Wednesday largely concerned an adventure which Mr William Dent, junior, of Rutherford House, had with a bull which he was leading home from his father's farm at Naby to Scargill. During the journey the bull suddenly turned upon Mr Dent, knocked him down, and kneeling on him began to tease him with his horns. A gust of wind, happily, blew Mr Dent's hat off and sent it along the road. The bull went for the hat and gored it, enabling Mr Dent to climb over a wall and so escape the animal's further unpleasant attentions. Mr Isaac Dent, his brother, eventually captured the animal, which had run away. Mr William Dent, junior, has suffered considerable pain in consequence, but is recovering from the effects.

* * *

Widespread interest has been manifested in the photograph of the Rugby football team of forty years ago in last week's Teesdale Mercury, and a number of readers have written expressing their delight at seeing it. Among these is Mr E. Winpenny, of Stockton-on-Tees, a twin brother of Mr Albert Winpenny, who is in the picture. Mr Winpenny informs me that the one in the centre, sitting on the ground, is a player named Berry, who was groom to the late Dr. Munro, he thinks, and the one next to him is not Mr Theo. Badcock, as stated, but a gentleman called Siddle, who was a schoolmaster at Gainford at the time. Mr Winpenny does not remember the name of the gentleman on Mr Calvert's right. Five of the players are still living, says Mr Winpenny—viz., Messrs A. Winpenny, C. Badcock, C. Watson, R. J. Bailey, and Calvert.

* * *

News of the impending removal of Inspector T. W. Dennison from Startforth to Bedale came as a great surprise to all at the Greta Bridge Police Court on Wednesday. As a matter of fact, even the Inspector was not really aware of it until Superintendent Flynn arrived from Richmond with the actual order of removal in his pocket. Mr Liugford's expression of regret that the bench would soon loose Mr Dennison's services—he will be away before the next mouthly court is held—may be taken to represent the feelings of the whole community. In social life, Mr Dennison will be missed from several circles, not the least notable being the Barnard Castle Cricket Club, in which he was a useful playing member. Inspector Dennison will be succeeded at Startforth by Inspector Chisholme, from South Bank.

* * *

The Rev. Father Darley and Mr T. Errington, members of the Teesdale Golf Club, celebrated their respective 70th birthdays on the 25th and 27th of March by playing a golf competition. After the first game the veterans further celebrated the occasion by dining together. The match is for the best out of three games.

* * *

Good health! Dr. Welford, in his annual report as Medical Officer of the Barnard Castle Urban District, says that of the 61 residents who died last year more than half had reached the age of 65.

* * *

It is officially notified that on and after the First of April letters, etc., for delivery in Staindrop must be addressed—
Staindrop S.O., Co. Durham,
it being no longer necessary to add Darlington.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT.

The Rev. H. Marsden, the new Congregational minister, has arrived at Barnard Castle.

There were more houses built in Barnard Castle last year than in any year since 1900.

Up to yesterday the Barnard Castle Post Office had not had to deliver any parcels under the new C.O.D. (Cash on Delivery) regulations.

At Mr J. Huntridge's sale Mrs R. Pease, Sledwich, bought six Chippendale chairs for £8 each and a fine dinner service of Barnard Castle, etc., at £12.

Mr Jackson, Captain of the Barnard Castle Excelsior C.C., has received a letter from Miss Maud Porter, sister of the late Mr J. W. Porter, thanking the club for its kindly assistance.

An exceptionally interesting lecture on colour photography was given by Mr Richardson, Darlington, at the Witham Hall, on Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Barnard Castle Photographic Society. The Rev. Father Darley presided.

Teesdale friends, and particularly Cotherstone ones, will be interested to hear that Messrs W. and E. H. Porter gained two firsts and championship at Manchester Dog Show with their beautiful field spaniel bitch, "Rydygors."

Mr F. Sherratt, chairman of the Cotherstone branch of the British Legion, attended the funeral of Colonel Barker at Sunderland on Wednesday. Colonel Barker was president of the branch, the members of which sent a beautiful wreath.

Miss Phyllis Holdsworth, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Holdsworth, Barnard Castle, has passed the preliminary examination of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Miss Holdsworth was formerly a pupil at the Girls' County School, Bishop Auckland.

Mr A. H. Nicholson, J.P., Chairman of the Barnard Castle Urban Council has been appointed a governor of the Newcastle Royal Infirmary for the coming year in respect of the Bank Holiday street collection at Barnard Castle on behalf of the funds of the institution.

On Friday night the Barnard Castle Junior Imperial League held their fortnightly meeting in the Drill Hall. The subject for consideration was "Old English Customs," in the discussion of which Miss Q. Hewittson, Miss F. Brown, Mr W. J. Smith and Mr A. W. Kidd made interesting speeches. It was a profitable evening.

Through the efforts of the Staindrop British Legion it is hoped to resuscitate the brass band which formerly existed in the village. It was reported at a meeting last week that besides a balance of funds there are fourteen instruments available. Several old members of the band promised assistance and a committee was formed to arrange for practices.

Death of Mr J. H. Bourne.

We regret to record the death of Mr J. H. Bourne, of the Green, Cotherstone, which occurred on Sunday, at the age of 79. An old standard of the village, Mr Bourne will be remembered, among other things, for the work he accomplished in the resuscitation of the Cotherstone Conservative Association after the war. He was chairman of the organisation until last year, when he was succeeded by Mr J. H. Armory. Mrs Bourne and a family survive. The remains were interred at Romaldkirk yesterday.

Barnard Castle Town Band.

Mr A. H. Nicholson, J.P., presided on Monday evening at the annual meeting of the Barnard Castle Town Band. The accounts presented by Mr W. Parkinson, treasurer, showed a balance in hand of £5 7s. 1d., the receipts during the year totalling £42 0s. 6d. and the expenses £36 13s. 5d. The balance sheet was adopted on the proposal of Mr G. S. Stainsby. Mr W. Wilkinson accepted the secretaryship; Mr T. Wilkinson was appointed property man and Mr W. Parkinson treasurer. The committee was elected as follows: Members of the band—Messrs Maurice Wright, G. F. Hirst, J. Pattinson, Tess Wright and N. Allinson; outsiders, Messrs A. H. Nicholson and C. T. Singer, Dr. H. W. Clarke, Colonel H. C. Watson, and the Chairman of the Urban Council. An informal discussion took place on the question of providing the members of the band with uniforms, suggestions being made as to the way in which funds should be raised for the purpose.

The Late Mr R. H. Dobson, Barningham.

On Friday Barningham lost one of its most respected inhabitants through the death of Mr R. H. Dobson. Of a quiet, unassuming disposition, yet most courteous and kind to everybody, Mr Dobson will be much missed. The funeral took place on Sunday amid every manifestation of respect, a large concourse of inhabitants of Barningham, and many from Barnard Castle, and the surrounding district, attending to pay their tribute of respect to the memory of a genial friend. The bearers were Messrs R. Hird and W. Jones (fellow workmen), and H. Chilton, W. Powel, T. Walker and G. Brass. The chief mourners were Mrs Dobson (widow), Mr and Mrs R. Dobson (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Harris, Miss E. Dobson and Master Bobby Dobson (grandchildren), Mr and Miss Hedley, Mr F. Hedley and Mr C. Hedley. Amongst others were Sir F. Milbank, Bart, (Barningham Park), Mr Metcalfe and Son (Dalton Fields), Mr W. Johnson (Earby Hall), Mr and Mrs Lowes (Earby Lodge), Mr Carter (Barnard Castle), Mr W. Coates, Mr J. T. Baiubridge, Dr. Thomson, Mr and Mrs Thompson (Moor Lea), Mr J. Atkinson, Messrs N. and R. Jackson, Mr Leggett, Mr Blackett (Barnard Castle), Nurse Monk, Mr and Mrs Brown (Park House), Mr S. Coates (Long Green), Mr and Mrs Bulmer, Mr and Mrs Maude (Newsham), Mr and Mrs Crowther, Mr R. Woodhams (Barnard Castle), Mr R. Lee, Mr R. Spence, Mr Holmes, Mr Lynas, Captain W. Todd (Fairview), Mr and Mrs White, Mr E. Brown, etc.

NEWS OF THE UPPER DALE.

[BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Many readers will be sorry to learn of a serious accident which occured on the road near Grains-o'-Beck, on Saturday night, to Miss Mary Walton, daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Walton, host and hostess of the Grains o'-Beck Hotel. Miss Walton had been to a concert at Middleton and was returning in a car driven by Miss Bayles. The car drew up by the roadside to allow a passenger to alight, and Miss Walton, while changing her seat from the back of the car, was knocked down by a passing motor cyclist, her leg being very severely fractured. Dr. Beadle and Dr. Dawson were summoned and under their care Miss Walton is making steady progress.

An interesting exhibition billiard match was played at the Middleton Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday evening between Mr W. P. McLeod, Middlesbrough (Amateur Champion 1923 and 1924), and Mr J. Lowe, Middleton. Lowe, who is a promising young player, received 200 start. Interval scores: McLeod, 420 (breaks, 87, 78 and 65); Lowe (rec. 200), 347 (19, 29 and 42); closing scores: McLeod, 850 (70, 50, 132, 111 and 53); Lowe, 492 (19, 19 and 15). Mr McLeod also gave an exhibition of trick shots. He was thanked by Mr G. A. Thompson on behalf of the Institute members. Mr R. Ward was marker.

Concerts promoted by the Middleton-in-Teesdale Agricultural Show Committee and given by the West Auckland R.L.C.W. Quartette Party in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Saturday and Sunday evenings were very successful. On Saturday evening Mr R. W. Raine, J.P., presided and during the interval spoke on agriculture in general and of the need to support the show funds. An excellent programme was rendered. The soloists were Messrs Robinson, Liddle, Coulthard and Wearmouth, whose initials give the name of the party. On Sunday evening the party gave a sacred concert after the ordinary church services. The schoolroom on both occasions was crowded with a most appreciative audience.

High Force and Holwick Agricultural Society held a concert, supper and dance in the schoolroom, Newbiggin, on Friday night, in aid of the show funds. The chairman was Mr Joseph Watson, Bowlees. Songs, recitations, etc., were rendered by Mr T. Shearwood, Mr Fred Walton (the Butterknowle comedian), Miss M. Scott, Master T. Scott, Miss Temple, Miss L. Raine, Miss Harrison, Miss Janet Walton, Mr J. Heward, Miss Tallentire, Miss Wicks, and Mr A. Dowson. The accompanists were Miss J. Nattrass, Miss Swainston, Miss J. Walton, Miss Dowson and Miss Harrison. The hostesses at the supper were Mrs J. Watson, Mrs J. W. Wearmouth, Mrs Proud, Mrs Bainbridge, Mrs E. Bell and Miss Beadle. The attendance was large. All refreshments were given. The M.C.'s were Messrs Joe L. Robson and J. Beadle.

Holwick people are making a special effort for Newcastle Infirmary and Darlington Hospital on April 9th, when it is hoped that the effort will be a success for this worthy object.

The interment took place at Forest Churchyard on Friday, of Mrs Currah, wife of Mr John Currah, Harwood, who passed away on the previous Monday. The Rev. T. C. Showell, Primitive Methodist Minister, conducted a service at the home of deceased and also read the committal service at the graveside.

The death occurred at Darlington on Thursday of Mr John Hutchinson, aged 62 years, a native of Middleton, who was well known and highly respected throughout the dale. For many years Mr Hutchinson was a miner under the London Lead Co. An ardent Primitive Methodist, he was at one time secretary of the Middleton Primitive Methodist Sunday School and for fifty years without a break he attended the school anniversary. Mr Hutchinson removed to Darlington over 20 years ago and has been closely connected with Florence Street Primitive Methodist Church. He was a keen bowler and was associated with the formation of the East Park Bowling Club, of which he was president. He was president of the Darlington Bowling League in 1918.

BARNARD CASTLE GAS COMPANY

Mr R. T. Richardson, J.P., presided at the annual meeting of the Barnard Castle Gas Company on Thursday, the shareholders present being Messrs C. Smith and J. G. Johnson (directors), A. H. Nicholson, J.P., J. Guy, J. Ingram Dawson, W. Hodgson, R. Blenkinsopp, R. Woodhams, M. Scott, and C. T. Bell. The Secretary (Mr Robert Wood), and the Works Manager (Mr J. Shield) also attended.

The report of the directors stated that the profit and loss account showed an available balance of £497 3s. 6d. The Directors, having thought it prudent to defer the payment of dividend till the end of the year, now recommended the payment of 2 per cent. for the year, free of income tax, which would take £260 6s. 4d., leaving £236 17s. 2d. to carry forward. In view of the serious trade depression, it was considered not surprising that the sale of gas had dropped 3,588 Therms (=677 thousand cubic feet), and there had therefore been no upward response to the reduction in price made last year. The market for residuals, to which profits are greatly atttributable, was still very depressed; and this seriously affected the revenue—a fact experienced by most Gas Companies. There were, however, signs of an improvement in tar prices. Owing to the decrease in the sale of gas, etc., the Directors had reluctantly come to the conclusion that the reduction of 6d. per 1,000 c.f. made in the middle of 1924, was not justified, and there was no course open to them but to raise the price, as from 1st April next, by half the reduction then made—i.e. 3d. per 1,000 c.f. or .55d. per therm. With regard to the suggested supply of electricity, added the Directors, the Government proposals with regard to electricity supply demonstrated the futility of small towns initiating a separate supply. In the event of the scheme maturing and eventually reaching Barnard Castle, it was not improbable that this Company would be made the distributing agents.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and supplementing its contents, said the year had been an anxious one for the directors, the depression in trade generally not having passed away, but every effort had been made to economise. Although the accounts showed a considerable drop in the year's gas sales compared with those of the previous year, that was fully accounted for, and the general consumption was gradually overtaking the gap caused by lapsed consumers. The price was tentatively reduced by 6d. per thousand cubic feet in the middle of 1924, in the hope that conditions would justify it, but the directors found that this step was premature and were reluctantly obliged to withdraw half of the concession. The slump in residuals continued, there being a glut of coke in the country, and sulphate of ammonia was making no profit. Tar prices had been very low, but there was a better outlook in that respect. Coals had cost rather less and the directors had succeeded in getting easier prices for the current year. The manufacture of gas had cost about £500 less than in the previous year and about £100 more had been expended on mains and services maintenance. Broken mains had been traced in the town and broken services in the town and at Cotherstone, which accounted for a considerable amount of lost gas, and the directors were taking drastic steps to discover and stop the leakage which was taking place. At the last general meeting the directors put before the shareholders the engineer's report on the proposal for providing electricity in the town, the estimated cost being a deterrent from proceeding with the scheme. Since then the Government proposals now before the House of Commons had demonstrated the wisdom of awaiting the development of their schemes before taking up any local one.

Mr Johnson seconded the adoption.

Mr Dawson pointed out an apparent discrepancy in the return of coke sold compared with the amount received for it, the price being apparently only 14s. per ton.

Mr Johnson said that there was apparently something wrong with the figures. As much as 30s. per ton had been obtained.

The Secretary promised to go into the matter further and inform the shareholders by circular. [We understand this has been satisfactorily done.]

Mr Dawson inquired what was the percentage of gas lost.

The Secretary said it was 24·8 per cent.

Mr Johnson pointed out that the breakages referred to would account for the loss, but steps were being taken to prevent it.

Referring to the directors' belief that the Gas Company would be the distributing agency for electric current under the Government scheme, Mr Dawson said the local authority would most likely be the distributing agency.

The report was adopted and the dividend declared.

Messrs R. T. Richardson and H. C. Watson were re-elected directors.

Mr Dawson suggested the disposal of the Gas Company's concern for, say, 50 per cent. of the invested capital.

Mr Smith said the directors would be prepared to consider the suggestion. He believed that shareholders would have no difficulty at the present time in disposing of their shares at half their capital value. Five per cent. interest was paid last year and two this, so they had lost nothing.

GRETA BRIDGE POLICE COURT.

WEDNESDAY.—Before Mr Ernest Lingford (presiding) Sir Frederick Milbank, Dr. A. Smith, Messrs James Peacock and T. W. Garth.

The license of the "Travellers' Rest," Stang Foot, was temporarily transferred from the executors of the late Mr C. Hutchinson to his widow.

"PITY FOR THE HARE."

John George Whittaker, ex-soldier, Startforth, was summoned for having trespassed in search of game in Deepdale Wood on March 8th.—Game Watcher Malcolm said he was on the Lartington-road near Deepdale Cottage and saw the defendant, while on the footpath to the wood, pick up a hare, kill it, and put it in his pocket. Witness intercepted the defendant, who pulled the hare out of his pocket with a snare attached to its fore foot, and said, "I was going to bring it to your house."—Defendant told the bench he was going to see the hounds and found the hare caught by a wire. He thought it would be cruelty to leave the hare in the snare, as its leg had been skinned, so he took it out and killed it.—Fined 10/-.

INSPECTOR DENNISON'S DEPARTURE.

Before the court rose Mr Lingford said the magistrates were sorry to learn of the impending departure of Inspector Dennison. During the four years he had been stationed at Startforth there had always been the most amicable relationship between him and the bench and the bar, who had always received the utmost courtesy from him. He had been very efficient in carrying out his duty. He had never brought a case for the sake of bringing it, nor without reason. The bench were sorry he was leaving the district and wished him happiness in his new sphere.—Inspector Dennison suitably acknowledged the Chairman's kind expression and said he was glad to feel that his services had had their Worship's approval.

THE LATE MRS BARKER.

HOSTESS OF LANGDON BECK HOTEL.

Mrs Barker, of Langdon Beck, whose death we recorded last week, was known to a great many people and respected by all. This respect was witnessed to by the large number of people who were present on Saturday when her body was laid to rest in the churchyard of St. James-the Less, Forest. People had come from considerable distances and from almost every part of the North of England, and seldom have so many people been present together in Forest churchyard, for many more were there than could find room in the church. After a short service at the house the funeral party left for the church at 2-45 p.m., the coffin being carried on the shoulders of the bearers, preceded by the Vicar (the Rev. M. N. Coates), who conducted the Service. In the church a short address was given by the Vicar, who, speaking from Romans viii. 12 and 13, contrasted life in the flesh and life in the spirit. He said that although Mrs Barker had led a busier life than the majority of people, she did not on that account neglect spiritual things, but found time to worship God in church on Sundays and to attend to her own private personal religion. The favourite hymns of the deceased were sung—"Rock of Ages" and "Lead, kindly light."

The bearers were four nephews of the deceased, Messrs John Watson, of Skelton (Penrith), William Lowes (Cullercoats), Wm. Bainbridge (Moss House, Forest-in-Teesdale), and Thos. Gibson; Messrs John Sanderson (Valance Lodge), Fred Ireland (Forest), Thos. E. Tarn (Intack), and J. J. Storey (Garrigill), being relief bearers.

The chief mourners were: Mr and Mrs Wm. H. Barker (son and daughter-in-law), Mr Joseph Lowes, Cullercoats (brother), Mr Thomas Barker (son), Mr and Mrs J. Nattrass (son-in-law and daughter), Mr and Mrs J. J. Storey (nephew and niece, Garrigill). Mr Wm. Lowes, Cullercoats (nephew), Mrs J. A. Lowes, Middleton-in-Teesdale (sister-in-law), (Nurse Elphinstone (who had nursed Mrs Barker during her serious illness), Miss Annie Barker, Keswick, Miss Todd and Mrs Rutter, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Mrs Parker, Mrs Millen, St. John's Chapel, Mrs J. Smith, West Hartlepool, Mrs Wearmouth, Undburth (nieces), Mrs John Watson, Skelton, Penrith (nephew), Mr Thos. Gibson (Forcegarth), Mr and Mrs Wm. Bainbride (nephew and neice), Mr John Barker (cousin), Mr Wm. Coatsworth, Hudeshope (cousin), Mr Thomas Watson. Floral tributes were received from the family, Miss Barker (Keswick), Mr and Mrs Harold Staley (Forest), Mrs Lowes and family (Cullercoats), and Mr Monk (West Auckland).

The general public included Major Heslop, Messrs R. Woodhams, C. Hedley and F. Hedley, Barnard Castle; Mr J. Parkin, Mickleton; Mr Walton, Grains-o'-Beck; Mr Peacock, Lunedale; Mr and Mrs Raine, Park End; Mr and Mrs C. Raine and Mr T. Raine, Mr and Mrs R. Beadle, Holwick; Mr T. Allison and daughters; Messrs David Smith, Joicey Smith, G. S. Lonsdale and R. W. Raine, J.P., Middleton; Messrs M. Raine and Son, Egglestone; Mr John Thompson, Middleton; Mr Arthur Holmes, J.P., Messrs Ernest Holmes, Wm. Graham, and Herbert Richardson, Alston; Miss Raine, Thornhope, Northumberland; Mr and Mrs John Maughan, Messrs Thos. W. Pratt, H. Emerson, J. W. Dalton, and R. Collinson, Eastgate; Mr and Mrs T. Boddam and Mr Nelson Mushcamp, Westgate; Mr and Mrs Fred Peart, Wearhead; Mr J. Nichol Peart, and Mr Thos. N. Peart, Burnhope, Wearhead; Mrs O. Monkhouse, Stanhope; and Mr Richard Bright, Cowshill.

The funeral arrangements, etc., were admirably carried out by Mr Gibson Collinson, undertaker.

FOOTBALL.

Darlington St. Paul's 5, Barnard Castle Prims. 3.

Barnard Castle Junior Imperials Reserve 4, Barnard Castle Mission Stars 2.

The Barnard Castle Coriuthians defeated Hurworth on the latter's ground in the Darlington and District League by 3 goals to 2.

CHESS.

The last match of the season in connection with the Durham County Chess League Tournament took place on Saturday at Bishop Auckland, the contestants being the local team and Barnard Castle. The Bishop Auckland players were in grand trim and won comfortably. By their victory they become League Champions, while Barnard Castle occupies second place with only half-a-point behind.

HOCKEY.

Barnard Castle Hockey Club met a team from Barnard Castle School on the school ground on Saturday. A rather one-sided game ended in favour of the town club by 7 goals to 1. Mr Jeffery scored all the goals for the winners and the Rev. J. M. Herring the single goal for the school.

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

THE ZETLAND HOUNDS:

Tuesday, 6th April, Richmond Market Place...11-30
Thursday, 8th April, Raby Castle.....12-0

MARKETS.

MIDDLETON PROVISIONS, Yesterday.—Butter 2s. per lb.; eggs, 2s. per score.

DARLINGTON PRODUCE, Monday.—Eggs, 1s. 5d. per dozen; butter, 2s. and 2s. 3d. per lb.

KIRKBY STEPHEN, Monday.—Butter, 1s. 6d. per lb. wholesale, 1s. 9d. and 1s. 10d. retail; eggs, 1s. 10d. per score wholesale, 2s. 2d. retail.

MIDDLETON CATTLE, Yesterday.—Dairy cows: G. W. Bainbridge, Kelton, £33 5s.; J. Raine, Lunedale, £33; M. Dell, Stotley Hall, £31 10s.; others to £40. Bulls over 12 months—1, T. Collinson, Stanhope Gate, £22 5s.; Isaac Tarn, Step Ends, £22 10s.; J W. Dent, Fair View, £19. Under 12 months—1, H. Stokeld, Grassholme, £25 5s.; 2, T. Raine, Holwick, £14 15s.; 3, J. W. Robinson, Middle End, £12 15s.. Sheep: H.B. hoggs—R. Watson, 44s.; Swaledale gimmer hoggs—G. Cameron, 44s.; M. Walton, 39s.; Swaledale wether hoggs—F. Watson, 39s.; others to 38s.

BARNARD CASTLE CATTLE, Wednesday.—There were forward 75 dairy cows and 70 store cattle. Awards and prices: Calved cows—1, Mr Philip I. Pease, Sledwich, £34 15s.; 2, James Metcalfe, Dent Gate, £25; 3, W. Allison, Quarry Grange, £35. An unshown cow belonging to Messrs Walton Bros., Winston, sold for £46. In-calvers made to £31, and store heifers to £18 5s.

BARNARD CASTLE CATTLE, Monday.—There were forward 35 fat cattle, 107 sheep, six lambs, five calves, and thirteen pigs. An improved trade for beef, which made to 60s. per cwt. live weight. Calves made to 95s., lambs to 79s., hoggs to 99s., H.B. sheep to £4, and Scotch sheep to 61s. each. Pork pigs to £8 5s.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

DEATHS.

DOBSON.—On March 26th, at Milbank Arms, Barningham, aged 64 years, Robert Henry, beloved husband of Mary Ann Dobson. Interred Barningham Churchyard, March 28th.

RETURN THANKS.

METCALFE.—Mrs Metcalfe, Mrs Kidd and family, Romaldkirk, wish to thank the kind neighbours and friends for the great help and sympathy shown to them in their sorrow and bereavement.

LINGFORDS'
BAKING POWDER
SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS.