



Established 1854

No. 4851

LOCAL RATES DROP 2/3.

Councillor G. A. Carter's Discussion Amendment Rejected.

At the meeting of the Barnard Castle Urban District Council on Monday it was announced that the rate for the coming year will be 14s. 6d. in the £, as against 16s. 9d. for the year just ending. Together with a Water Rate of 1s., this makes the total rate payable 15s. 6d.

The drop is due to the decrease in the amount required to be paid to the County Council. Last year the sum of £16,628 was paid to the County Council, as against an estimate of £9,885 for the forthcoming year, a saving of the equivalent of a 5s. 4d. rate.

Against this, however, must be set the loss of the equivalent of a 1s. 4d. rate in Exchequer Grants and an increase of nearly £3,000 in the estimated expenditure of the council, due to increases in salaries, cost of improvement of the Galgate Enclosures and other expenses.

These increased local expenses equal a rate of 3s. 4d., which, deducted from the 5s. 4d. reduction to the County Council, leaves a surplus of 2s. 3d., which is passed on to the ratepayers.

The estimated net product of the rate of 1d. in the £ is £103, while the product of a 1d. Water Rate is £100.

In moving the adoption of the report of the Standing Committee, Coun. J. W. Collier stated that although there was a reduction of £6,643 in the amount to be remitted to the County Council there was an increased demand for salaries, £900 for the improvement of the Galgate Enclosures in order to keep the floating balance at £3,800.

MOVE TO REFER BACK.

Councillor G. A. Carter said that in view of a drop of 2s. 3d. in the County rate, he considered that the ratepayers should receive more benefit than a drop of 2s. 3d. He moved that the report of the Standing Committee be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

Mr. A. M. Harvey, seconding the motion, said that on principle he felt that the matter should have the most serious consideration. Such an important question should not be decided in a hasty manner, but had a chance to give the whole subject their full consideration.

The Chairman, County Coun. C. T. Singer, pointed out that the Council had appointed the Committee to consider the question and having done that should be prepared to stand by the Committee's decision.

Coun. Collier stated that exactly the same procedure had been followed as was adopted last year.

Coun. G. A. Carter insisted that it was wrong that a Committee could use the power of the Council on such an important matter. It had always been the practice for the Council to have an opportunity to go through the estimates.

On being put to the vote, Coun. Carter's amendment was defeated, whereupon he stated that in view of the whole question and having done that should be prepared to stand by the Committee's decision.

'COUNCIL OR CIRCUS?'

Coun. Harvey then rose to propose a further amendment that the estimates be referred back a week for further discussion.

The Chairman ruled that this was an identical amendment to that of Coun. Carter. As Coun. Harvey continued to attempt to speak the Chairman told him to sit down and a heated discussion ended by Coun. Harvey remarking, "Is this a Council or a Circus?"

A cordial invitation was extended to the General Manager of Glaxo Laboratories Ltd., to attend a meeting of the General Purposes Committee to discuss smoke, smell and other matters.

It was decided that one house on the Green Lane Housing site be allocated to the Durham County Constabulary.

An application for permission to convert and extend a wash-house at the rear of 101, Galgate, into a garage and the erection of an outside W.C. was refused as the plan did not comply with the by-laws.

Coun. Mrs. Rutter moved that the question be referred back for further discussion. Owing to unavoidable circumstances the plans had not been on show in the Council Chamber, as was the usual practice and she felt that the matter had probably not received the full consideration it might have had. She felt that it might be possible for the Surveyor to see the owner and plans could

then be submitted, which did comply with the law.

Coun. Harvey said that the Council had been guided by the Surveyor's ruling that the plans were not in order and they should respect their official's opinion.

Coun. G. A. Carter said that it was not proper that the Surveyor should run around in this way. It was up to the applicant to produce proper plans. When the 22-Service-men's Club had put in plans which were not acceptable no one had then suggested sending for the Surveyor.

Authority was given to the Surveyor to hire a bull-dozer for leveling the refuse tip.

It was decided that representations be made to the Ministry of Health for immediate approval to the site and road works necessary on the Victoria Road Housing site, and that if and when these works are carried out, the road be widened in front of Nos. 22 and 24, Victoria Road. A letter from Glaxo Laboratories Ltd., regarding the agreement for tenancy of the houses to be erected on the site, was referred to and the matter was referred to the General Purposes Committee for discussion at the proposed meeting with the General Manager.

FENCING RESERVOIR.

Approval was given to a recommendation by the Ministry of Health that it was now deemed advisable to erect some forms of temporary fencing around the reservoir, which would provide adequate protection, and if this was done there would be no necessity for a chlorination plant.

A letter from the Ministry of Works stated that maintenance work had been carried out at the Penicillin factory and that no licence had been granted. It appeared, however, to the Deputy Regional Licensing Officer that a genuine misunderstanding had occurred and in view of this it was decided that the Council should take no proceedings.

Concerning the application made by the Council for the re-timing of local trains to connect with main line trains, a letter was received from the Railway Executive stating that from 31st May the present 8-15 a.m. train from Barnard Castle to Darlington would be re-timed to provide a connection with the Newcastle to King's Cross train, though at present no alteration could be made to provide the desired connection from the King's Cross to Newcastle night train.

Further to the question of the increase in the cost of some of the newer houses it was decided, following an interview with the Secretary, North Eastern Housing Association Ltd., to make representations to the Urban District Council's Association and the Ministry of Health, for the introduction of legislation to enable Housing Associations to equaise the rents of houses on estates managed by them.

In order to permit cases of emergency re-housing to be considered it was decided that no allocation of houses be made more than three months in advance of the estimated date of completion of the houses.

In spite of a letter from the North-Eastern Housing Association requesting the Council to reconsider its decision in allocating a certain house, it was decided that the Council could not reverse its decision to allocate the house.

Coun. Mrs. Dorse attempted to move an amendment on this matter, but the Chairman ruled that an amendment of a decision of the Housing (Tenancy Selection) Committee was not in order.

RICHARDSON TRUST DECISION.

Following the meeting with the Trustees of the R. T. Richardson Charity, it was decided that the Ministry of Health be approached with a view to the building being taken over for hospital purposes under the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the Ministry's attention drawn to the lack of local hospital facilities.

The Trustees to be informed of the Council's decision.

At a special meeting of the Council on 8th March, to interview the three candidates chosen from the applicants for the position of Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Edgar Dixon, District Sanitary Inspector, Stockton-on-Tees Borough, was successful and will take up his appointment in May. It was agreed that the houses allocated to key-workers should be set aside for Mr. Dixon.

£80,000 SPENT LOCALY.

Other interesting details of the production at the factory which were revealed by Col. L. A. Gullick, General Manager, were that an average of 55,000 vials of penicillin are packed each day and contain instructions in 15 languages.

From the opening of the factory in 1946 until 31st December, 1947, more than £20,000 was paid in wages, and it is estimated that the wage bill will eventually be around £20,000 per year.

Of the 576 people engaged at the factory, only 57 are not from Barnard Castle and district, and these are mainly men and the technical staff with special scientific qualifications.

A further point of interest is that since the opening of the factory it is estimated that more than £80,000 has been spent with local tradespeople.

Every effort is being made to increase production and special permission has been obtained to import a machine from America and another is being made in England which will label, pack and fasten 65 packs of penicillin every minute.

The new factory at Ulverston is expected to start operations next month.

EASTER POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

GOOD FRIDAY.
On Good Friday there will be one delivery of letters and parcels.
Collections will be similar to Sundays.
The Counter will be open from 9 a.m. to 10-30 a.m. for the sale of Stamps, Telegraph business, etc.
Pensions due on Good Friday may be obtained the previous day.

EASTER MONDAY.
On Bank Holiday there will be one delivery of letters and parcels.
Collections will be made from the Town letter boxes at 4-45 p.m. and the chief office at 6-15 p.m.
The Counter will be open from 9 a.m. to 10-30 a.m.
Pensions and Allowances due on Easter Monday may be obtained a week in advance.
When the Counter is closed telegrams may be sent from a public telephone kiosk.

COVERS THE DALES—TEESDALE, SWALEDALE, WENSLEYDALE.

Teesdale Mercury

SOUTH DURHAM, NORTH YORK AND WESTMORLAND ADVERTISER.

Barnard Castle, Wednesday, March 24th, 1946.

Over 87 Years Service at Home and Overseas

CLARKES BLOOD MIXTURE

Sold Everywhere Liquid or Tablet Form

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.

Price Three Halfpence

TALK TO PENICILLIN WORKERS ON THE EXPORT GAP.

Further indication of the progressive state of things in Teesdale was given on Thursday, when Miss Ida Townsend, Export Sales Director of the firm, visited the Barnard Castle factory to give a talk to the employees on "Penicillin and the Export Gap."

The idea of the talks is to put the workers in the picture and give them information on the importance of the work they are doing in value helping the country to bridge the gap between exports and imports.

Sir Robert Hutchings, in introducing Miss Townsend, said that she had just returned from a tour of investigation of foreign markets, and as the one person with first hand information of the problems, had been elected to speak to the employees and give them the facts.

It would be of assistance to those engaged in the packing department particularly if they could appreciate the value of the packs they despatched to most of the countries of the world and if they knew something of the position.

Miss Townsend said that Penicillin was playing a great part in giving back health to sick people of the world and was making a real contribution to the welfare of his country.

Commenting on the distribution, she said that large quantities of penicillin were distributed by air to all parts of the world, but on reaching some of the countries it had to revert to some of the most primitive modes of transport, even camel trains and donkey packs.

Praising the good work already being done in speeding up dispatch at the factory, Miss Townsend gave a personal experience of an order in which she had been concerned. The order was placed in South Africa on the 3rd of the month for urgent delivery and this was relayed to England, with the result that delivery was made in Johannesburg on the 7th.

An explanation that a slight drop in production was due to foreign packs had been made, but it was obviously essential that the packs which went to different countries must contain instructions in the language of each particular country in order that doctors could readily understand them.

Speaking of her experiences in Mexico and Colombia, Miss Townsend said she had found the people very sympathetic towards Britain. They appreciated that we had suffered during the war and they were still suffering from the effects. They could not see their intention of helping all they were still frequently purchased from this country in preference to others, even when it meant paying a little more.

HONOUR FOR MIDDLETON BOY VIOLINIST.

To David Ragsdale have come, within the past few weeks, some notable achievements in the musical world. David is the son of Mr and Mrs B. Ragsdale, of Alston Road, Middleton-in-Teesdale, and he is 15 years of age.

On Thursday at the Darlington Competitive Musical Festival he failed by only one point to secure first prize for violin playing in the class for competitors of 15 years and under. Nothing deterred, David again in the evening was a competitor in the open senior section, and although competing against older opponents, he secured the Geo. Williams Cup, again for violin playing. In this class he received 57 points. This notable success has arrived very near to another great honour which has been given to David. Some time ago he had been given to David. Some time ago he had been given to David. Some time ago he had been given to David.

David's services are often in request at Middleton-in-Teesdale concerts. He attends the Barnard Castle School, to which he secured a scholarship, and is a member of the Barnard Castle Orchestra. Society of the outside world, who would be essential if further deterioration was to be prevented.

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SERIOUS DROP IN ATTENDANCE FEES AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

A resolution expressing the pleasure of the Bowes Museum Trustees at the welcome return of their Chairman was passed at the annual general meeting of the Trustees held on Friday.

Apologies for absence were received from L. Col. W. L. Watson, Mr. F. Newson, Father Knuckey, and Mr. S. Lavers, M.P., and the Chairman suggested it might be as well to consider changing the date of the meetings if some other date satisfactory to all the Trustees could be found, as at present the School meeting appeared to clash.

The report of the Finance and Park Committee was moved by the Chairman, Mr. W. Emerson. He said there was a credit balance at the bank of £768, after taking into account £1,236 received from the sale of War Louns from the Contingency Fund.

There was a deficit of £816 on revenue account, which, together with £360 transferred to Contingency Fund and £100 to Art and Literary Fund, left a total deficit of £1,254.

Admission fees at £87 showed a marked decrease, mainly due to petrol restrictions, but the receipts from tennis courts, were more than double those of 1936. Difficulty in replacing stocks had reduced the amount obtained from the sale of handbooks and postcards by £156, while light and heat rates cost considerably more.

The tea room had provided a new source of revenue. A profit of £287 was made and after deducting the cost of adapting the building a sum of £91 had been carried to the general balance sheet.

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BOWES MUSEUM DEFICIT

Lord Barnard also referred to a fine collection of pictures at Kipling Hall. Mr Wake had been to see the pictures and reported that they were badly in need of renovations which the owner was unable to carry out. He suggested that the pictures might be brought to the Museum on loan and they could then be renovated. It was decided to arrange for the pictures to be taken on loan.

The report also stated that the status of the Museum had been enhanced by loans to the National Gallery and other Museums and that many appreciative comments had been made by several specialists who had visited the Museum.

The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle had agreed to a three-years loan of four waltz, veneered chairs of about 1725.

Other gifts had been received from Mrs York, of Barnard Castle, and Mr P. Barkes, of Starforth.

BARNARD CASTLE COURT ROLLS.
The Library Committee reported a number of gifts, including a manuscript copy of the Court Rolls of Barnard Castle of the 17th Century by Mr J. Ingram Dawson. In moving the report, Mr Dawson said the Court Rolls were the work of John A. Nixon, who was articled to Barnes, the solicitor, who practised where the Post Office now stood. Mr Dawson also gave a copy of the first issue of the Barnard Castle, South Durham and Richmondshire Advertiser, dated July, 1847, now incorporated in the Darlington and Stockton Times.

Other gifts were received from Aireborough Public Library and a copy of the Centenary Celebrations of the Darlington and Stockton Times from the Editor.

Mr T. Wake, the Catalogue, stated in his report that there had been 44,537 visitors as against 61,906 in 1936. Voluntary contributions fell to £23 8s. 4d. compared with £299 in 1936.

Commenting on the rearrangement of the collections, Mr Wake said that the plaster casts of sculpture had been removed to one of the cellars, where they could be studied by students. The large room thus cleared had been utilised to show a selection of the best examples of porcelain, ivory, glass, jade, silver, etc., and gave a key to the general collection.

Discussions are in progress with the Durham County Education Committee with a view to a more intensive use of the Museum by school classes visiting the Museum.

Mr Wake stated tribute to the excellent work and co-operation of the staff and also to the invaluable assistance of Mr Freeland, who had voluntarily given one morning each week to assist with the clerical work.

Mr F. Wilkinson moved an expression of appreciation of the splendid work of redistribution of the exhibits due to Mr Wake. It was agreed that this Committee should be merged with the Arts Committee.

A message of sympathy was voted to be sent to Father Knuckey, wishing him a speedy recovery from his illness.

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