READ THE SERIAL STORY by David Whitelaw On Page 3.

CUMNOCK EXPRESS

AND AUCHINLECK, CATRINE, MAUCHLINE, MUIRKIRK, NEW CUMNOCK, OCHILTREE, STAIR AND KIRKCONNEL PRESS

FOOTBALL NOTES by "BATMAN" On Page 8.

No. 2. Registration Applied for. CUMNOCK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1934. Phone: 99. PRICE ONE PENNY.

DEATH.

EAGLESHAM.—At Darnconner Manse, Auchinleck, on 10th December, 1934, James Eaglesham, in his 79th year.

A GRAND

GYMNASTIC DISPLAY

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MUIRKIRK PHYSICAL CULTURE CLUB

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DUNDAS HALL,

On FRIDAY, 21st DEC., 1934.

Chairman—Rev. John Henderson, B.D.

Programme will consist of Club Swinging, Sword Swinging, Parallel Bars, "Hand Balancing Trio," Wrestling, Boxing, Pyramids, Tumbling, Muscle Control, Boys' Tumbling Team, etc., etc.

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PUPILS OF JOHN C. POLLOCK,

in

TOWN HALL, NEW CUMNOCK,

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LADIES' TWEED COATS, FUR TRIMMED—18/11.
LADIES' RAINCOATS—27/6 to 37/6.
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LADIES' SILK WATERPROOFS; All Colours—4/11 to 6/11, 8/11.
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4 Cakes, 2/6. -:- 6 Cakes, 3/9.
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IN

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ON

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Goods of every description at reasonable prices suitable for Christmas Gifts. Refreshments obtainable during Sale.

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Bargains For All.

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"Before the Dawn."

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At 6.15—

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TO-MORROW (SATURDAY)— BRUCE CABOT in **MIDSHIPMAN JACK.**	TO-MORROW (SATURDAY)— MARION DAVIES in **SPY 13.**
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WEDNESDAY— **NIGHT CLUB QUEEN.**	WEDNESDAY— **TWENTY MILLION SWEETHEARTS.**

SEE WINDOW BILLS.

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Arch Support Shoes stocked in all above makes.

WE ALSO SPECIALISE IN WIDE-FITTING SHOES.

We have on hand a very BEAUTIFUL SELECTION of

SLIPPERS SUITABLE FOR XMAS GIFTS.

For MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN at Prices to Suit All Purses.

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ALWAYS IN STOCK AT

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Family Grocer, Tea and Provision Merchant,

GLAISNOCK STREET, CUMNOCK.

Great Variety of Christmas Cakes.

Fancy Biscuits in Boxes—all Prices.

Sinclair's and Biggar's Finest Qualities FINEST SMOKED HAM. BUTTER and EGGS.
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CHEDDAR CHEESE of unequallel quality.

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ORDERS CALLED FOR AND DELIVERED FREE BY OUR OWN VANS.

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Hairdressing Specialists,

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A Whole Head Perm, 12/6.

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OIL MASSAGE. FRICTION. SETTING. WATER-WAVING. BOBBING. SHINGLING. POINTING and SINGEING.

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We have definitely the Finest and most Up-to-date Stock of China and Crystal goods in town——and the Prices are as fine.

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LADIES' ART. SILK UNDERWEAR, NIGHTDRESSES, PYJAMAS, AND VESTS.

LUMBER JACKETS, UMBRELLAS, STOCKINGS, AND DRESSING-GOWNS.

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GLOVES, HANDKERCHIEFS, TIES, PYJAMAS, SOCKS, SHIRTS, PULL-OVERS, ETC.
A SPLENDID CHOICE.

TOYS

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Public Personages. *No. 2.*

THE COUNTESS OF DUMFRIES

WITH LORD CARDIFF AND THE HONOURABLE DAVID CRICHTON-STUART

THE COUNTESS OF DUMFRIES before her marriage was Lady Eileen Beatrice Forbes, second daughter of the Earl of Granard, K.P., Master of the Horse. Born on 1st July, 1912, she was privately educated in London, Ireland, Paris, and America.

She was presented at Court in 1931 and the same year met the Earl of Dumfries for the first time at her father's home in Ireland, and came back with him on a return visit.

On 26th April of the following year she was married to Lord Dumfries in the Parish Church at Newtownforbes, County Longford.

The Earl and Countess took up residence in London where their twin sons, Lord Cardiff and the Honourable David Crichton Stuart, were born on the 27th of February, 1933.

Her ladyship, like her husband, is a member of the Eglinton Hunt. She is a very ardent member, hunting being one of her hobbies. It follows quite naturally that riding is another of her hobbies. Coming from a country where the love of a good horse is almost a fetish she is passionately fond of riding, and finds time almost every day to enjoy a gallop over the broad acres at her disposal. She is an excellent judge of a horse, and a very accomplished rider.

The Countess owns two steeplechasers, Humble Pie and Bachelor's Heart. The former is trained in this country by Mr Percy Woodlands, while the latter is trained in Ireland by Mr Farrell, Laughans, County Longford. Motoring is another of the pastimes in which she delights.

Her twin sons are now one year and nine months old. A visit to the nursery found these sturdy youngsters being prepared for bed, but glad of the respite to show their paces. Both children have curly hair, Lord Cardiff's being golden while the Honourable David Hair has very dark curls.

The children seem to have inherited the parental energy for they romped about the nursery, running from one side to the other and back again; crossing and re-crossing with laughing glee.

A glance at the Earl and the Countess showed the father and the mother. Fond eyes followed the antics of their children, while indulgent smiles reflected their pride in their greatest possession.

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THE WAY OF DANGER

By DAVID WHITELAW.

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTER.

CHAPTER I.—Brenda Freyne, secretary to Noel Cotsford, of Cotsford and Sons, silks merchants, filing her employer's letters one night after he has left the office, finds among them part of a written communication that is evidently not intended for his eyes. It is a single sheet of paper warning Mr Cotsford that he is being watched, mentioning murder and advising him to "keep the police out of this." She has noticed that her employer, who is about to take a holiday, has been worried for some time, and—thinking that his anxiety may have some connection with the sheet of paper—decides to take it to him at once. Entering the building in which his flat is situated, she notices a furtive-looking man hanging about the entrance, and when she mentions this fact to Mr Cotsford, after handing him the paper, he is obviously agitated. He gives her a letter with the request that she will deliver it the next afternoon to the person whose name is on the envelope. On her way home Brenda is followed by a man and a woman in a car, but manages to elude them.

A wild desire took her to cry out . . . call for the police. The man and woman in the car would not dare touch her then. Then the girl's courage that had been slowly ebbing returned to her. Mr Noel had said that he did not want the police in his affair . . . not yet. She set her lips into a line of grim determination.

She would play the game. Always she had prayed for excitement and she was not going to throw up the sponge at the first sign of danger. Giving herself no time for further thought she darted into the roadway, narrowly missing the bonnet of a great red omnibus that thundered past her.

She heard the shouting of the driver . . . then she was on the other side of the street. She looked back. The car had stopped and was waiting for a gap in the traffic to turn . . .

Brenda ran. A narrow alleyway leading up into the Brompton Road was her safety. At the other end an omnibus was drawn up waiting for the traffic signal. Mounting to the top, Brenda, as the bus reached the Hyde Park Hotel, looked back along Knightsbridge. The lights of the long-bodied car were stationary.

She sank back into her seat with a sigh of relief. And then, as she saw the clock at the Corner she thought of Ronnie Slade. She smiled a little to herself as she pictured the boy leaning back in his armchair seat watching some stereotyped drama of the underworld . . .

The big picture! . . . Ye gods! . . .

CHAPTER II.

"Bit thick keeping a fellow waiting like this. After last night at the Regal, too. . ."

"Oh, shut up, Ronnie! Can't you see I'm thinking."

The boy looked surlily down at the poached egg on toast that the waitress had placed before him. Old Hughes, Cotsford's manager, vested with a brief authority during Mr Noel's absence, had been difficult. Ronnie had not had a chance of a word with Brenda all day, and then, at three o'clock, she had left for the day, making, as she passed the shipping desk, a whispered appointment for tea. Six o'clock, she had said, and now it was a quarter to seven. And instead of saying how sorry she was for not turning up at the Regal the evening before she was actually telling him to shut up and let her think.

Brenda was not eating. She was sitting with a scone and butter and a glass of warm milk before her, nervously puffing at a cigarette. Her brow was furrowed into little lines of thought. Ronnie as he watched her allowed his resentment to cool. Brenda Freyne was prettier than ever when she frowned.

"What's the trouble, Brenda? Can I help?"

"I don't see how you can, Ronnie."

"Let me try. I'd do anything for you."

"Even keep a secret?"

"Try me."

Brenda, as was usual with her, took a quick decision. She had had a trying time and somebody had got to be told. Somebody's advice had got to be asked. She had passed a night when sleep had seemed to her to be a million miles away from the little room where she had lain, tossing from side to side and staring at the patch of star-powdered sky that was framed in her window. It had been the small hours before she had at last passed into a fantastic world of dreams in which she had been chased up and down Knightsbridge by long-bodied cars, dreams in which white-faced giants and carmined-lipped women had haunted her.

"What would you do, Ronnie, if you had been given something to do and found you couldn't do it?"

"Bit vague, aren't you? . . . How d'you mean?"

"I mean supposing Mr Noel had given you a job of work to do for him, and you found it impossible to do it. Suppose you knew that it was a matter of life and death . . . that it might even mean murder?"

"Good God! . . ." The boy looked up from the debris of his poached egg. His rather nice, blue eyes were wide open. The girl leant across the table towards him and lowered her voice to a whisper.

"Swear you won't say a word. Very well, then. Listen."

And in a few sentences Ronnie Slade heard the story of the night before. As he listened his heart, like the tea in the cup in front of him, grew cold. Brenda had reached the part of her story dealing with her visit to Mr Bristow in Wigmore Street at four that afternoon.

"He wasn't there, Ronnie," she said. "It's a sort of private detective bureau. There's a housekeeper there, and she says that she had a telegram from Mr Bristow from Manchester, and he won't be back for a day or two."

She paused and took from her bag the envelope that Noel Cotsford had given her to deliver, adding, "And here's the letter."

She laid it on the marble-topped table. Ronald Slade stared at it blankly and fingered his Old Baronian tie.

"Think I ought to open it, Ronnie?"

"Why not take it to the police? . . . What was that you were saying about them?"

"I'm not going to the police because Mr Noel said he didn't want the police in this affair. "Not yet," he said." And then, impetuously, and before Slade could do anything to prevent her, Brenda had caught up one of the table knives and was slitting the envelope. She took out the letter and read it through. Then sat silent, as though considering what she should do. And after a moment or two she handed it across to Ronnie without a word.

He read:

"I've tumbled on to it at last, and I simply can't wait for you to arrive. It's going to be real big. It's on the north coast of Cornwall. I'm just starting in the car, and I ought to make it in about nine hours. I'm taking Haines with me—we'll take the wheel in turns. Don't be far behind me. There's a fellow we both know waiting under my window as I write this, and he's ready to slip a knife into me as soon as look at me. But I've got the car parked half a mile away, and I'll give him the slip all right. Hurry, old man. These men won't stop at murder. Go to the post office at Zerran and inquire. It's a great life if you don't weaken, and judging by what you've learnt up North, I think we've got 'em where we want 'em. I'll be seeing you.—N.C."

Ronnie Slade handed back the letter.

"Run go," he said. "I'd take it to Scotland Yard at once if I were you."

Brenda's lip curled.

"But you're not me—that's just the difference. You're Ronnie Slade, and I'm Brenda Freyne. If I went to Scotland Yard there'd be all sorts of red tape and conferences, and all the time there might be long miles of road slipping down in this car. Suppose I'm wrong, and it's more than that—suppose I'm thinking of Brighton for my little holiday . . . I guess I'm going down into Cornwall instead."

"You mean you're going down into this God-forsaken hole, somewhere off the map? What on earth for?"

"Duty, Ronnie, my boy. Duty with a big, big 'D'—and a thirst for adventure. Mr Noel trusted me with this, and I'm all for 'the boy stood on the burning deck' stuff. I'm not going to let Mr Noel down. If I have to call in the police, I suppose there are cops down in Cornwall." She looked across the table at her companion. "Care to come along, Ronnie?"

"Me? Never fancied myself as a Sherlock Holmes. And murder, blue or any other colour, isn't exactly in my line."

"But think of the excitement."

Slade did not answer. He was fingering that Old Baronian tie of his, and toying with a table knife. Brenda leant back and looked at him through the blue haze of her cigarette smoke.

"Mind if I say something, Ronnie?"

"Fire away."

"Then listen. I like you, Ronnie, but I sometimes think that the war should have come just a few years later. You missed its hardening influences. You play a ripping game of tennis, and I suppose you knocked a cricket ball about at that school you're always spouting about. It's your imagination that's flabby, not your muscles. You just live in a pretty garden where you keep to the paths and cling on to nurse's hand. Don't you ever feel that you want to break away and have a scamper on the grass?"

"Here, hold hard, Brenda . . ."

"I won't hold hard. That's what you're doing—holding hard on nurse's hand. I wouldn't be telling you this if I didn't like you. I do like you, Ronnie, quite a lot. There are better things in life than pattling a ball across a net. You like to sit back in an armchair seat with a cigarette, and look at the 'big picture.' I like being in the picture, not watching it. See what I mean, Ronnie?"

"But mixing oneself up with murders, Brenda. Police courts and all that. Besides, I can't get away from the office. Old Hughes has been giving me hell all day."

"Oh, damn old Hughes and the office too. But I was only joking, Ronnie."

"I'll think it over, Brenda."

The girl rose and took up her gloves.

"That's just like you. Thinking things over while other men are getting down to them. Be a good boy and pay my bill with yours, will you? . . . glass of milk and one scone."

She led the way between the tables towards the door. Rather sheepishly Ronald Slade followed. But when he had paid the bills and counted his change—and had reached the pavement, there was no Brenda waiting for him. Then he saw a white-gloved hand waving from a taxi that was disappearing in the stream of traffic.

"Damn!" he said. It was one of the very rare occasions on which the carefully brought up Old Baronian had allowed himself the relief of an expletive. Something was stirring within him, something was struggling for expression.

Beneath the waistcoat of his "natty gent.'s suiting" the heart of Ronald Slade was beating as bravely as ever the heart of any of Arthur's knights beneath their shining armour. He paused on his way across London Bridge, and looked down, as he had so often looked down, on to the life of the river.

Boats and barges were huddled together at the landing stages. One of them, a tramp with dirty yellow smoke-stack and grimy decks, was sidling cautiously out into mid-stream. Ronnie found himself watching her. Here was something cutting adrift from safety, going adventuring. In a little while she would be making her way down Channel, or breasting the waves of the grey North Sea. Then storm and calm, fair breezes and foul weather . . . and some palm-fringed southern shore . . . sun-kissed harbours. The eternal song of London River. Adventure calling. The lilt of that song caught at Ronnie's heart, fitting itself to the words he had heard from the lips of Brenda. For the boy had all the very fine, old-fashioned ideals of his Old Baronian tie. The dingy room in Clapham . . . remained with him throughout the long hours of a sleepless night.

Old Hughes looked up from his desk as the young shipping clerk entered the office the following morning. He peered up short-sightedly at the clock. Then he peered at Ronnie Slade.

"I thought, Slade, that ten o'clock was the rule of this office. I see it's nearly seven!"

Ronnie took his seat on his high stool and drew towards him a sheaf of invoices and bills of lading. Scenting a thoroughly cowed victim, the manager went on:

"I suppose you think that because Mr Noel is away you can do as you like. You've lost an hour and . . ."

"I'm afraid I am a bit late, Mr Hughes. I didn't sleep very well last night."

"That's hardly the business of Cotsford and Son. I'm afraid that if you cannot fall in with the accepted rules of the office . . ."

He broke off and leant across the brass rail that separated the two desks.

"What's that you're mumbling to yourself, Slade?"

At that moment the barbs that Brenda Freyne had the evening before implanted in the soul of Ronald Slade, and that had tortured him throughout the night hours, turned again in their wounds.

"I was just saying that I was sorry, Mr Hughes . . . but now I find that I'm not a bit sorry." His voice lifted an octave. "Get that, Mr Hughes, not a bit sorry."

For a moment outraged dignity held Henry Hughes silent. Then.

"Of course this will be reported to Mr Noel on his return. We will not pursue the subject further. Look out that invoice for the consignment of poplins from Belfast, and compare prices with Hertzog's . . . I've said all I have to say."

For just three minutes Ronnie Slade sat with his eyes fixed upon the pile of invoices. His handsome face was white and red by turns. Clearly some battle was being fought out in the young man's mind. Then he slipped from his stool and reached for the hat that he had hung on the peg behind him when he came in.

"Mr Slade . . ."

"Oh, go to hell! You say you've had your last word. Well, I haven't—not by a long chalk. I'm quitting, Mr Hughes. D'you hear? I'm quitting. Fed up to the teeth. No, I've not been drinking—there's not open yet. You ought to know that—but I'm sick and tired of you and Cotsfords. I hate the sight of brocades and poplins and bills of lading and invoices. I've always hated 'em . . ."

"But, Mr Slade, you're mad."

"I was mad, you mean. I got all that nonsense knocked out of me last night. A girl knocked it out." Slade was halfway across the office towards the door, but he turned back and faced his superior. At the back of his mind he had dreamed of the time when he would throw off the shackles, and now that the great day had come he wasn't going to miss the opportunity of speaking what had been long in his mind.

"The trouble with you, Hughes, is that you just go doddering on in your own silly little way. Eight-fifteen in the morning and the seven-five home at night. And a foolish little game of chess in the evenings. And then some day you'll die and wonder what you were ever born for."

Old Hughes was on his feet. His shaking hand was reaching out for the bell connecting with the warehouse. But Slade had reached the door. With the handle in his fingers he delivered his parting shot.

"You're not a bad sort, Hughes . . . but don't you ever want to break away and have a scamper on the grass?"

Those were his last words. If Mr Hughes replied, Ronnie didn't wait to hear him. The revolution, bred of a girl's jibes, had been bloodless but swift. The boy was a little excited, a little frightened perhaps, but he had no regrets. He smiled a little to himself at the mental picture of a spectacled Henry Hughes capering on imaginary grass like an elderly lamb; then he crossed Cheapside to the tea shop where he had the evening before learnt his lesson. There he ordered coffee.

Also he asked the waitress to bring him an A.B.C. railway guide and a telegraph form.

* * * * * *

Brenda had decided to take the midnight sleeper, but second thoughts had dissuaded her. She had slept hardly at all the night before and she wanted, above everything, to be fit for whatever might lie before her.

She would wait for the morning train, which would land her in Penzance about five o'clock where, as she learnt from her guide book, a bus would be waiting to take her to Porthmedda, the nearest village to Zerran. The latter was, of course, out of the question. Whatever the business that had taken Mr Noel to Cornwall he would hardly thank her for butting into it unasked. But from Porthmedda she would be able to take her bearings for future actions.

Brenda spent the evening quietly in her little flat with guide books and a large scale map, and at ten the next morning, rested both physically and mentally, she sat gently out of Paddington on the first stage of her adventure. Leaning back on the cushions of the third class carriage and placing two very shapely little brogues on the seat before her the girl gave herself up to dreams. She watched the flying hedges and meadows . . . in a little while these flat fields and pastures would give place to the villages and woodlands of Somerset. Then would come the wide sweep of Devon valleys, shadow-stained hillsides and great tors raising their crested heads like tabled castles of Romance to the clouds.

If only Ronnie had not been so lacking in imagination. But why think of Ronnie? If the boy wanted to huddle himself across a desk adding up interminable rows of figures and scribbling bills of lading instead of going adventuring he must do so . . . and yet Brenda's heart was crying out for companionship. But she was happy. She was leaving behind her the dull routine, the old beaten paths of life, and was entering into a new and wonderful world where anything and everything might happen.

But as she stood that evening at the rain-blurred window of the bar parlour of the Tinner's Arms at Porthmedda looking out over the grey Atlantic she had doubts as to her wisdom in taking her employer's affairs on to her own shoulders. A sailor, a ragged, an epic of what Mr Noel had said, she should, having failed to get into touch with Mr Bristow, have taken Ronnie's advice and gone to the police. What if she had allowed her own burning desire for excitement to sway her, to beat down her discretion?

She was very tired now and not a little depressed. The long journey to Penzance had, after the first hour or two, palled upon her, and the wait in the grey old Cornish town for the motor 'bus to bump her in a driving rain over the twenty odd miles of moorland roads to Porthmedda had been demoralising. And, on arriving, she had learned that any thought of reaching Zerran that night was out of the question.

Zerran was seven miles out by the road, or three by the coastguard path over the cliffs, a path that in the darkness and storm it would be sheer madness to attempt. And the meal served in the damp-smelling bar parlour, a meal that would not burn, a bedroom tucked away under the eaves with the rain lashing the panes of the rattling windows and the moan of the Atlantic in her ears had done little to raise her spirits.

But Brenda was dog tired and it would have taken twenty moaning Atlantics to keep her awake. She was asleep as soon as her head touched the pillow, slept dreamlessly for seven hours and awakened . . . to a Paradise. To a Paradise of sea and moorland, the purple smudge of distant hills and gulls wheeling high in a cloudless sky. And in the air the tang of the sea and the fragrance of gorse and heather.

Brenda breakfasted in the bar parlour, and at a little after ten took the path leading across the cliff. A delightful path it was that zigzagged in and out among grey boulders and golden gorse, rising to the crest of one headland, dipping and lifting again to another, showing at each turn some new and more wonderful vista of sea and moor.

One jarring note, and one only, was there to mar the harmony of that walk . . . the house on the rock. She came upon it suddenly as she turned one of the headlands that jutted out, great gnarled masses of rock and herbage, into the blue of the Atlantic. A grey, forbidding structure perched on a plinth of granite that dropped sheer some hundred feet to the small sandy cove at its base.

The house held for the girl a message. In some vague way it symbolised her mission; told her that this was no holiday jaunt that she had come upon but grim reality, that behind the glory of this perfect autumn morning tragedy was waiting for her. Even in the golden sunshine there was something sinister, something evil about the place and about the gaunt skeleton of the ruined tin mine that reared the broken masonry of its shaft and power house beside its walls. Standing knee deep in the bracken on the opposite headland Brenda experienced the feeling one is supposed to know when someone walks over one's grave. For a moment the sun seemed to be darkened as though a shadowy hand had been passed before it.

But the next turn in the path hid the house from view, and the next after that opened out to the girl a picture of the village of Zerran nestling in a cleft of the cliffs below her, a small huddle of grey roofs with the square tower of a church and a crooked little street winding down to a tiny granite mole in the shelter of which brown-sailed fishing boats rocked gently at anchor. (To be Continued.)

CUMNOCK EXPRESS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1934.

To Begin

is half the work. Well, we have made a start by issuing the first number of the "Cumnock Express." Its reception by the general public has exceeded all our expectations, while the congratulations we have received have more than compensated for the work and worry involved in starting a new project.

Thanks!

Our thanks are due to our correspondents who gather the news. Friends have also contributed items and, as will be seen from our advertising pages, we have been well supported in that department also.

No Home Lessons?

Controversy has been rife during the past year on this subject, and the "Cumnock Express" wishes to identify itself with the movement for No Home Work for school-children. The present system of school training demands too much from the child in the time available to educate it. The result is Home Lessons.

Two and Three Hours' Work.

Some nights the child, who conscientiously does the allotted tasks, spends two and three hours at the job. Perhaps the work does not occasion this time, being taken, but the conditions under which it has to be done are distracting to the child. The rest of the family are talking—perhaps a visitor is present—and, unless there is accommodation elsewhere for it, the child has to concentrate on lessons with half its mind on the conversation of the elders. A divided mind cannot concentrate!

Teachers Will Agree.

Home lessons also mean extra work for the teachers, who have the exercises to take home and correct. Although they allocate the work, it is the system which compels it, and the teacher, in almost every case, would gladly see home lessons abolished.

What is the Remedy?

This lies with the Education Department, who will doubtless find the remedy if they consider the matter seriously. Glasgow Education Authority will very probably discontinue home work during 1935—this is more than a mere surmise. How soon will Ayrshire follow?

The Child's Health.

This is the greatest determining factor of all—or should be. Cramming is detrimental to the health, and by giving the child more than it is capable of assimilating our system of Higher Education risks defeating itself.

CUMNOCK.

WEST CHURCH WOMAN'S GUILD.

Mrs Briggs presided at the regular meeting of the West Church Woman's Guild on Tuesday. After tea the Rev. D. Briggs read passages from the works of the Poet Whittier. Some Whittier poems were sung by Mrs Mollie P. Wardrop, and recitations and songs by Miss Nan Spiers.

CUMNOCK B.W.T.A.

The B.W.T.A. meeting was held on Tuesday night in the hall of the Congregational Church and was well attended. Mrs Briggs occupied the chair. After singing "All Round the World" tea was served.

Miss Bain, of Irvine, was the speaker. She is greatly gifted and serves the cause of temperance nobly. It was an inspiration to hear her narrate her visit to the various Scandinavian towns as a delegate of World Christian Temperance Movement, and of the happy fellowship between these women gathered together from various lands, bound by the ties of this movement.

The musical part of the programme was ably sustained by Master Jim M'Kendrick, who played piano solos; and Master Peter White, who contributed three songs. Both boys were quite a special attraction.

The singing of the doxology brought this enjoyable meeting to a close.

MEN'S CLUB SOCIAL.

On Friday last a very enjoyable evening was spent in the Crichton Memorial Church Hall when the ladies of the church were the guests of the newly-formed Men's Club. During the evening the ladies were initiated into the interesting game of carpet bowls, and although the standard of play was not very high the excitement and enjoyment were none the less. Later in the evening tea was served, the men carrying out their duties as hosts in an admirable fashion.

BAND OF HOPE.

The speaker at the weekly meeting of Cumnock Band of Hope, in the Town Hall on Thursday, was Mr James Macdonald, Cambusdang. Mr Macdonald is very popular with the youngsters, and his short address and two humorous songs had a great reception. Master Peter White also sang, and Peter can sing. Miss Nancy Weir and Mr D. Hyslop rendered service at the piano.

BURGH COURTS.

Wm. M'Luskey, a vagrant, and his wife were charged at the Burgh Court on Saturday last, before Provost Hughes and Hadie Holland, for using obscene and filthy language and creating a breach of the peace in a lodging-house in Cumnock on the 7th December. Both pled guilty, and the male accused stated that he was drunk and did not remember what happened, but that if he got a chance this time he and his wife would leave the town. On these conditions both accused were admonished.

At the Burgh Court on Wednesday, before ex-Provost Neil, Peter Dugan, a vagrant, was fined 10s. or five days, for consuming Cumnock on 24th August last.

J.P. COURTS.

Before Police-Judge M'Call on Tuesday Peter M'Kewon and William Logan, two vagrants, were charged with being drunk and incapable. They were found lying on the road between Craigbank and Burnfoot beside a fire which they had kindled on the middle of the road. Both pled guilty, but were admonished on giving their word to immediately clear out of the district.

Ex-Provost Carruthers and Geo. M'Turk were on the Bench when John Hannersouts of no fixed residence was charged with creating a breach of the peace in Muirkirk on 18th April last. He pled guilty and was fined £1, or ten days' imprisonment.

MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION A.G.M.

This Association held their annual general meeting in the Town Hall on Monday. Ex-Provost Carruthers presided over the small but representative attendance. After minute of last meeting and financial statement (which showed a small credit balance) were approved, the following office-bearers and Committee for 1935 were elected:—Ex-Provost Carruthers, president; John B. Park, secretary and treasurer. Committee—Mrs Reid, Messrs J. Climie, R. Currie, Jno. Breckenridge, J. M'Ribben, W. Buck, and H. Connel. The question of closing for two days at New Year was again discussed, but failed to find sufficient support. Shops will close on New Year's Day (Tuesday), and as usual on Wednesday for the half-day.

The holidays arranged are as follows:—Tuesday—1st Jany.; Wednesdays—23rd Jany. (Pantomime Holiday), Feby. 20th, March 20th, April 24th (Ayr Show), May 22nd, June 19th (Mid Term Holiday), July 24th, Aug. 21st, Sept. 18 (Ayr Races), Oct. 16th, Nov. 20th, and Dec. 25th (Xmas). The Christmas Day holiday will be welcomed.

CEMETERY WORKERS' GRIEVANCES.

A meeting of the Joint Cemetery Committee was held last week at Millbank, when a deputation from the New Cemetery workers was received. Mr Lennox, on behalf of the workers, stated the men were being employed contrary to agreement (namely through Labour Exchange), and also men who were not in any Insurance scheme were being employed longer than the 4-week period. He was supported by Mr Hyslop and Mr White. The Committee promised to give their grievances every consideration, and the men retired. After consideration the Committee decided that all men who had worked 4 weeks were to be paid off, and it was agreed to notify the Exchange that the selection of men for this work was to be left entirely to them. The foreman was to be instructed accordingly, and the point emphasised that on no account was he to pay heed to local representatives or any other person who tried to use influence to get men work.

AUCHINLECK.

Correction.—We regret that in our report which appeared in last week's edition, under the heading **Whist Drive** in which we stated that sufficient funds had been gathered in connection with Auchinleck Old Folks Treat, was, we now learn, not quite according to facts. Much is still needed for this most laudable object, as we understand almost 300 oldfolks have to be catered for. We sincerely apologise for the error which crept in, and for any inconvenience it may have caused.

Masonic Installation.—On Friday evening last, 7th December, the annual installation of office-bearers of Lodge Boswell St James, 1011, took place in the Masonic Temple. The installing Master on the occasion were Bro. I.P.M. Jas. Millar, P.M. 22, and Bro. Richard Scott, P.M. 22. The following were installed:—Bro. A. Sharp, R.W.M.; Bro. Joseph Steel, I.P.M.; Bro. R. William Wilson, D.M.; Bro. Wm. Garven, S.M.; Bro. William M'Lelland, S.W.; Bro. Thoma Mickle, J.W.; Bro. A. M'Lelland, Treasurer; Bro. William M'Kie, Secretary; Bro. Hugh Nicol, S.D.; Bro. David Steel; Bro. John Nicol, J.D.; Bro. David Steel, I.G.; Bro. R. Milligan, I.G., Bro. G. S. Haggerty; Tyler, Bro. Robert Truesdale; S.S., Bro. G. Baillie; J.S., Bro. John Steven. The R.W.M. thanked his retiring master, and the Lodge then adjourned to harmony. Here, after the usual Masonic toasts had been honoured, Bro. Hugh Millin presented the I.P.M. to Bro. Bro. William Wilson, and a beautiful cut crystal vase to Mrs Wilson. A splendid musical programme was contributed by the following artistes:—Bros. R. Truesdale, J. Tanner, G. Steven, W. M'Lelland, M. C. Dale (290), G. S. Haggerty, A. Hodge (290), H. Millin, and R. Kilpatrick, (290). It was a large company present, and the evening proved very enjoyable.

Boiler Fireman Injured.—On Friday night last, when two Catrine miners were proceeding to their work at Barony Colliery, they found a bicycle lying on the side of the railway line which leads from Barony junction to the pit. Seeing no one about but they made closer investigation and discovered the owner, who had apparently been thrown into the ditch by the railway track. They lifted the injured fireman as best they could, and then hurried to the pit and reported the matter at the office. Assistance was immediately despatched. The injured man is Robert Rae, a boiler fireman living at Mill Street, Catrine. He had evidently been cycling to work, and it is surmised that his bicycle had skidded. He was suffering from slight concussion.

NARROW ESCAPE AT WHITEHILL.

Last week, while working on a new cable shot was being installed at Whitehill No. 2 Pit, Mr William Duncan, Skerrington, was struck on the head by some projectile which came down the shaft. He had one of his fingers broken, but the consequences could easily have been more serious.

Noted Bowler's Death.—We much regret to announce the death of Mr James Sandilands, who passed away after a short illness on Monday night last at the residence of his daughter, Mrs James Maider, Dalrymple Buildings. Mr Sandilands, a retired baker, came to our locality several years ago from the Motherwell district. He became attendant of the billiard rooms, and soon was a well-known personality. He was more than an attendant, he was a bowler, and was a keen exponent of this popular summer pastime. In his younger days he was a regular competitor at most of the big bowling tournaments, and was frequently amongst the prize-winners. Although not so successful latterly he continued to be an entrant, and last summer took part in the Cumnock, Auchinleck, Sanquhar, New Cumnock, and Moffat tournaments. He was also a keen angler, and spent many happy hours fishing the rivers of our locality. Mr Sandilands leaves a widow and grown-up family, for whom much sympathy is felt.

DARNCONNER MINISTER'S DEATH.

On Monday night there passed away at his residence, the Manse, Darnconner, a much respected citizen in the person of Mr James Eaglesham. Mr Eaglesham came to Darnconner and took over the duties of minister nearly 19 years ago. At that time the district was in a thriving condition, and he had a large and faithful congregation. With the help of his wife, who interested herself much in her husband's work, both were untiring in their labours on behalf of the Church, and there are many whose lives were made much brighter through his helpful advice. Ten months ago Mr Eaglesham was dealt a bitter blow through the death of his wife, and from the shock of this he never seemed to have recovered. For the past six months his state of health was such as to cause grave concern amongst his more intimate friends. He carried on and conducted a morning and evening service regularly every Sunday. A month ago, however, after having conducted the morning service, he collapsed, and was compelled to take to bed. He never rallied from this last illness, and as already stated passed away on Monday night.

Mr Eaglesham spent almost all his lifetime in missionary work, and for many years he did heroic service in the slums of Glasgow. He delighted to relate his experiences during his early years, and often remarked that he got more response and unsolicited help from these supposed outcasts of society than he received from those who had much better opportunities in life. Mr Eaglesham was also a strong advocate of the cause of temperance, and in his younger days was much in demand as a lecturer. His passing will be keenly felt, not only by his present royal congregation, but by all who were privileged to know him. He will be much missed for his kindly visits to the sick and ready response to every call made upon his services.

Mr Eaglesham had reached the ripe old age of 79 years. He had no family, but was faithfully nursed during his short illness by his sister-in-law, Miss Steel, who did everything possible for his comfort and wellbeing.

Men's Guild.—On Monday evening the weekly meeting of the Co-operative Men's Guild was held in the Toll Branch Hall, when Mr James Byrne presided over a fair attendance. The speaker was Mr M'Kinlay of Glasgow. Mr M'Kinlay took as his subject "The Dangers of Fascism," and gave a very illuminating and instructive address, much of his knowledge having been gained from his recent travels in Germany. At the close he was called upon to answer several questions. This he did to the satisfaction of all. The guild discussed thereafter met in committee, when, amongst other business, they made final arrangements for their annual Christmas party.

CATRINE.

Whist Drive and Dance.—Under the auspices of St Patrick's Church Building Fund, a whist drive and dance was held in the Wilson Hall, Catrine, on Friday evening last. Owing to Mr James Taylor, of Ayrbank, being unexpected the Rev. Marcus Doyle presided and extended a hearty welcome to all present. Owing to a misunderstanding the whist was delayed somewhat, Mr Taylor, who was expected, being late. Father Doyle was in charge, and play was very keen and most enjoyable. The following were the winners:—Ladies—1 Mrs M'Combe, Auchinleck; 2 Cathie Robertson, common; 3 Elizabeth Borland. Gentlemen—1 J. Skiller, Auchinleck; 2 P. Tannock; 3 T. Sloan, Auchinleck. Tea, daintily served by the Ladies' Committee, was greatly appreciated. The dance which followed was extremely well attended. This is the first dance held in the Wilson Hall since the trustees had the new floor of maple laid at a cost of over £100. The floor was ideal and was the subject of much favourable comment. Mr Park's Arcadian Band provided their usual fine dance music. Mr John Barr ably carried out the duties of M.C.

Cake and Candy Sale.—On Saturday afternoon last a most successful cake and candy sale was held under the auspices of the Catrine High Kirk Girls' Guildry in the Scout headquarters. There was a large turnout of prospective buyers present when the Rev. Jacob Morrison of E.U. Congregational Church, Ayr, rose to open the sale. Mr Morrison in his remarks spoke of the close association of himself and the John family. It was a great privilege to him to come and open this, the first sale of the Catrine High Kirk Girls' Guildry. He was delighted to be able to do this little bit to help Mrs John, their guardian, and incidentally the young folks on this occasion. He thought that all youth organisations attached to the Church were a source of inspiration to the minister and the community, and he was of the opinion that the sooner a branch was formed at his own church in Ayr the better he would be pleased. He had a communication from Miss Menzies, of Ayr, to Mrs John. He was pleased to declare the sale open and hoped it would be very successful. Mrs John then read the communication from Miss Menzies. She enclosed a cheque for £2 being part of the proceeds of a sale of work in Sandgate Church, Ayr, and was sent to help to buy sashes for the Catrine High Kirk Girls' Guildry. Mrs John expressed her surprise and pleasure at the gift. She then gave a short resume of the company since its formation in October last. They had started the movement on faith alone, and the large strides which had been made were the justification of that faith. They had a membership of 149, made up as follows:—Rosebuds, 10; Greenwood, 72; Company, 42. She wished to thank the 1st Catrine (40th Ayrshire) Group of Boy Scouts for the use of their very commodious hut, and for the very welcome assistance they had received from the members on the occasion of this sale. The members of the Ballochmyle Chapter of the O.E.S. were also thanked for placing the Ballochmyle Hall at their disposal for their weekly meetings. Then the Guildry had a godmother, not one of the fairy ethereal variety but a most practical one, who asked would they like a piano and bought one and presented it to the Guildry. She referred to their good friend Mrs Sloan. On behalf of these members she wished to thank all these generous friends for their kindness, and proposed hearty votes of thanks to them. The sale was representative of all kinds of useful articles and produce. The officials and members of the Guildry wish to take this opportunity of thanking the donors of the many and varied gifts handed in for the sale, when approximately £20 was raised for the funds—all four stalls being practically sold out.

MAUCHLINE.

Dance at Failford.—Many pleasant functions have been organised by the proprietors of Failford Cafe, and on Friday evening last another successful dance was held, a large attendance of country people. Music was supplied by a band from Tarbolton.

Bowlers Make Merry.—The members of the Bowling Club held their annual whist drive and dance in the Temperance Hall on Friday evening last. This is generally regarded as the social function of the season, and there was the usual large attendance. In the absence of Mr Tom Bell, president, Mr Daniel Hamilton, vice-president, welcomed those present and expressed the hope that they would all spend an enjoyable evening. Forty tables were engaged at whist, Mr James Harper conducting the games. Mrs Tom Bell, wife of the president, presented the prizes to the following successful players:—Ladies—1 Miss Martha Brownlie; 2 Mrs R. Gibson, Wishaw; 3 Mrs Tom Learmont; 4 Mrs A. D. M'Culloch; 5 Mrs Stewart; consolation—Miss Syd Alexander. Gentlemen—1 Mr John Gemmell, Catrine; 2 Mr Wm. Whitelaw; 3 Mr C. D. Ross; 4 Mr J. Lindsay; 5 Mr Neil Stewart; consolation—Mr James Laing. Excellent catering arrangements were discharged by the lady bowlers under the joint convenership of Miss Allan and Mrs G. Mitchell. Mr Jas. Harper proposed votes of thanks to Mrs Bell for handing over the prizes; to the members and friends of the club who gifted the handsome whist prizes; and to the ladies who provided the tea. Seventy couples assembled for the dance, which was conducted by Messrs Dan Hamilton and Matthew Allan. The Merridians Band supplied the music.

Burns Club.—The regular meeting of the members of the Burns Club was held in Poosie Nansie's Hall on Thursday evening of last week—Mr John Irving presiding. After the routine business the chairman called upon Mr George Brown, M.A., Kilmarnock, to deliver his paper on "Dr Blacklock and Robert Burns." Without giving a detailed account of the subject matter it is sufficient to say that the members listened with great interest to an excellent paper of high literary value by a scholar of rare ability. The paper entailed much research among contemporary writings, and the material was so carefully collected and arranged as to form an absorbing story. Remarks in appreciation of the paper were expressed by Messrs John Thomson, headmaster, Catrine, Wm. Johnston, A. D. M'Culloch, and John T. Gibb. On the call of the chairman Mr Brown was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his valuable contribution to the syllabus. A short time was afterwards spent in harmony. Messrs Jas. Hamilton and A. D. M'Culloch contributing humorous readings. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very successful meeting to a close.

Cake and Candy Sale.—A cake and candy sale organised by the Old Church Women's Guild was held in the Church Hall on Saturday afternoon last. The sale was opened by Mrs Briggs, Cumnock, and the articles on sale met with a ready purchase, and a satisfactory result is reported.

Football.—A league game between Mauchline Greenlea and Crosshouse Waverley was played at Mauchline last Saturday. Considering the treacherous condition of the pitch the teams put up a good hard game. The home lads carried off the points, the score being 3-1.

Harriers.—An ordinary run was held last Saturday, one pack covering five miles of heavy country. To-morrow a five mile cross country handicap will be decided, and keen competition is assured. It may be of interest to Cumnock readers to know that the Mauchline Harriers Club has been in existence for 26 years, and while the present membership is small the club is recognised as one of the best organised athletic institutions in the West of Scotland. It is a purely amateur body and should appeal to a wider circle of young men in the surrounding district. The Mauchline Club has produced runners who have won County, District, National, and International honours, and among those who figured prominently in the earlier days of its strength was Finlay M'Murdo, of Cumnock. The Harriers possess an ideal clubhouse, equipped with many fine training requisites. There are skipping ropes with ball-bearing handles, developers for juniors and seniors, trapeze, pair of rings, rowing machine, barbell, and punch ball. There is also a splendid hot-water bath measuring six feet square, and there is a cold spray in an adjoining cubicle. Handsome prizes are awarded every season for the various racing events—better prizes than one finds offered by harrier clubs around Glasgow. The reason is that most clubs have a struggle for existence as the nature of the sport precludes them from charging a "gate" to witness the races. The Mauchline Club is in a strong financial position, due to careful management. There are splendid opportunities for eligible youths, and the Committee extend a welcome to all such whether resident in Mauchline or elsewhere.

SORN.

CURLERS WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE.

A very pleasant evening was spent in the School at Sorn last Friday when the local Curling Club held a whist drive and dance. One hundred and twenty players took part in the whist, prizes for which had been gifted. At the close of play the following were declared the winners:—Ladies—1 Miss Toole, 177; 2 Miss Watson, 174; 3 Miss Cowan, 174; consolation—Mrs H. Thomson, 168. Gentlemen—1 Mr Jas. Anderson, 188; 2 Mr J. Stratford, 177; 3 Mr William Hatton, 176; consolation—Mr J. Robb. The prizes were presented by Mrs Niven. Mr Niven in a few words thanked the donors of the prizes. The votes of thanks proposed by Mr Jas. B. Anderson were loyally responded to. The next few hours were spent in dancing, music for which was supplied by H. Lorimer's Band.

MUIRKIRK.

Bible Class Social and Dance.—The members of the Old Parish Church and friends met in the Ironworks Institute on Friday last. There would be a hundred present, and the Rev. John Henderson, B.D., presided. After the blessing a splendid tea was served, and the purveying by Messrs Hogg seemed to satisfy everyone. Songs were rendered by Miss Jean Low, Messrs Steven Bradford, John Hazle, Low, Messrs Steven Bradford, John Hazle, James Hare, and Francis Lockhead. The dance which followed lasted until 2 a.m. Music was supplied bright music for Samson's Band supplied bright music for the dance, while Messrs John Turner and R. Davidson made efficient M.C.'s. Altogether it was an event to be remembered.

Silver Band Whist.—A well-attended whist drive was held by the Parish Silver Band Committee in the band practice-room on Monday evening, when Mr S. C. Matthews conducted the play. The prizes were won by:—Ladies—1 Mrs J. Murphy (189) after a cut with 2 Miss M. Gillilan (189); gentlemen—1 Mr D. M'Kay (174), 2 Mr T. Samson (168).

Pipe Band Whist.—There was a good turnout at a whist drive held by the South Ironside Pipe Band Committee in the Ironside Public Institute Gymnasium on Friday works last, and under the conductorship of Mr David Hendry a most enjoyable drive resulted. The prize-winners were:—Ladies—1 Mrs J. M'Millan (176), 2 Mrs Paterson (174), Gentlemen—1 Mr J. Morrison (172), 2 Mr T. Samson (171), 3 Mr J. Thomson (168).

Nursing Association Sale.—Under the auspices of the Muirkirk and Glenbuck District Nursing Association a cake and candy and jumble sale was held in the Dundas Hall on Friday last, 7th inst. Mr Norman M'Kenzie occupied the chair. Miss Thomson, county superintendent, performed the opening ceremony. Accompanying them on the platform were Mrs Peter Mackie (convener), the Rev. J. B. Wilson, and the Rev. John Richmond. Mr M'Kenzie in his opening remarks said he was pleased to see such a fine display in all the stalls, and also such a fine crowd of prospective buyers, and hoped that the stalls would be cleared in record time. He then called on Miss Thomson. Miss Thomson said she felt highly honoured at being asked to open their sale. She emphasised the good work done by Nursing Associations all over the country, and paid tribute to the nurses and Committee of the local Association. She then declared the sale open. Brisk business was done at the stalls, approximately £24 being cleared, a very gratifying result. Votes of thanks to donors and all assisting were moved by the Rev. J. B. Wilson and Rev. J. Richmond.

Sir Harry Lauder to Sing at Old Folks Party.—A meeting of the Old Folks Re-Union Committee was held in the Dundas Hall on Sunday night. In the absence of Mr John Gold (chairman), Mr James Anderson was called to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The secretary read a letter from Sir Harry, Lauder, in which he intimated that he would be pleased to sing at the Old Folks' Re-Union, and would come and sing a verse or two to our Old Folks. Great satisfaction was expressed by the Committee at this news, and the secretary (Mrs Love) was complimented on her adventurousness in securing Sir Harry for our Old Folks Re-Union. A concert party from the Irvine Valley is also engaged, while the local Co-operative will survey. A treat is in store for the Old Folks.

Bridge.—The monthly drive in connection with Muirkirk Bridge Association was held on Tuesday evening in the Lesser Dundas Hall, Mr D. Crosbie presiding. A large number of players took part. At the close of play handsome prizes were gifted to the highest scorers in the ladies' section, and also the gentlemen's. These proved to be Miss Mulvicky, and Mr Muir. Miss A. Smith very gracefully handed over the prizes to the winners. During the evening a most enjoyable tea was presided over by Miss Smith and Miss May. Mr Walter Weir, secretary, carried through the arrangements in an admirable manner.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

The Scottish Milk Marketing Board have struck the price for milk supplied during the month of November at 1s 0½d per gallon. Many farmers in this district who have a ½d per gallon haulage rate will receive 1s per gallon clear for their milk, while those with a penny rate will receive 11½d per gallon.

The price of 1s 0½d is made possible by the reduction of the distributor's margin by 1d per gallon—from 10d to 9d.

Fully one-quarter of the milk produced in November was surplus to the liquid market, and 200,000 gallons were manufactured into cheese.

November-made cheese do not command a high price. They should be ready for the market when the very first of Colonial summer-made cheese are being offered. Hence our November-made cheese is at a discount.

The month of December is the zero month of production.

The open weather is allowing farm work to progress, and ploughing is general.

A touch of good, hard, clean frost would gladden the heart of the farmer. "Midtheu" are accumulating, and this work is retarded by water-logged fields.

Farmers' wives are grousing at the price being paid in some districts for eggs. Last week Kilmarnock paid 1s 11d and Ayr 2s per dozen.

"Then let us pray the price we pay for eggs may fa' an' a' that,
That hens may multiply an' lay an' earn our praise for a' that;
For a' that an' a' that, their want o' sense an' a' that,
The honest hen tho' ee'ser aye puir is queen o' birds for a' that."

AYR EGG MARKET.

The price of standard eggs at this market on Tuesday again dropped by 2d in the dozen, as compared with last week, at 1s 10d per dozen. Mediums sold at 1s 4d per dozen, a drop of 2d from last week.

"EXPRESS"-IONS OF REGRET.

We ask the indulgence of our readers, correspondents, and contributors for being compelled, through pressure on space, to omit many items of news this week.

Area Jottings.

At long last a start has been made with the erecting of the bus stopping places. It seems to be noted that buses are not allowed to stop except at these places.

It is expected that Mr John Graham, Kelloholm, Kirkconnel, will be among the list of new Justices of the Peace for the County of Dumfries, which will be disclosed at an early date.

* * *

AYRSHIRE WILLS.

Mr Thos. Lindsay, Woodlea, Glebe Avenue, Mauchline, joiner ..... £13,931.
John Young Craig, farmer, Back Rogerton, Auchinleck ..... £1587.

* * *

The recent outbreak of diphtheria in Auchinleck, which had somewhat abated, has broken out afresh, several cases being reported during the last few days. Medical officials paid a visit to the school and took swabs of the children's throats.

* * *

We are pleased to note that Messrs W. Henderson & Sons, Catrine, have been awarded £100 in the Highland and Agricultural Society's competition, for a major improvement to a universal drawing machine.

* * *

Geo. Cunningham, Cumnock Juniors, has received an invitation from Workington to go and show his paces.

* * *

Robert M'Millan Dalziel, Roadside, met with a slight accident at the corner at Cairn Road on Wednesday when he came in contact with a motor lorry which was proceeding up C. in Road.

* * *

Cumnock Academy was broken into last Friday night, and a few odd shillings stolen. Access was gained by breaking a window of the Rector's room.

* * *

MATERNITY HOME AT ANNBANK.

Drumley Mansion House, Annbank, which was gifted to the Ayrshire County Council, is to be utilised as a Maternity Home.

Dr C. Bignold, the medical officer, says the home can accommodate 300 patients a year.

NEW CUMNOCK.

Burnside Housing Club Dance.—Under the auspices of the Burnside Housing Club a dance was held in Barnhoet hut on Saturday night. This was well patronised by a good turnout of dancers, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Are British Films on the Upgrade?—Last week-end two British pictures, "The Lost Chord" and "Lady of Killarney" attracted large crowds to Biddall's Picture House, and were highly praised. First-class acting and singing is always characteristic of British films.

* * *

Pantomime Trip.—The New Cumnock Co-operative Women's Guild held their usual "weekly" on Thursday, 6th December, in the Lesser Town Hall. Mrs J. Brown presided over a fair turnout of members. After a nice tea most of the evening was spent on discussions on a trip to the pantomime and the contents of the old folks parcel.

Preparations are going on this week by the shops for their Xmas displays. Goods are on show to suit all size of purses. Santa Claus is an old custom that is here to stay.

Weather.—Wretched weather conditions prevailed at the week-end, all the low-lying fields adjoining the Nith and Connel burn being flooded.

Women's Guild.—Connelpark and Craigbank Co-operative Women's Guild met on Thursday last, 6th December, in the Corner House, Connelpark. This was surprise night. A numbered ticket was issued to the members on entering for prizes. These were won by Mrs Maxwell, Lizzie Strachan, and Mrs Hill. Tea and dancing followed to music by Hart and M'Cormack.

Club Whist.—Ex-Servicemen's Club, Leggate, held their usual weekly whist drive in their clubroom on Monday. Prize-winners:—Ladies—1 Mrs S. Findlay, 2 Mrs W. M'Dickens; gentlemen—1 H. Purdie, 2 L. Gibson.

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POST OFFICE BURGLARY.

Bank was thrown into a state of great excitement on Wednesday morning when it became known that the post office had been burgled the previous night. It is not known yet the extent of the loss. The police were early on the scene, and are making diligent investigations.

The Arthur Memorial Church At Home took place in the Church Hall on Wednesday evening. Rev. Wm. Scott presiding over a packed hall. The Chairman welcomed the audience, and in his brief remarks stated this Saturday will complete 47 years' service. After a delightful tea a first class musical programme was contributed; also a sketch by the New Bank players entitled "The Bathroom Door." Over £25 was realised.

Free Gifts were offered by the Co-operative Society to any members guessing the amount of sales (or nearest) for the last quarter. Total sales—£17,415 0s 8½d; winner—£17,415 2s 10d. Winning vanman—A. Gilmour; winning salesman—J. Dickson.

Road Accident.—On Wednesday evening a hiring car driven by Andrew M'Kechnie and a butcher's van from Burnbank crashed at Nith Bridge on the Cumnock-Connelpark road. Luckily there were no serious injuries.

OCHILTREE.

Ladies' Night at Bowling.—Last Friday was the usual ladies' night, when a pairs competition (lady and gent.) resulted:—First prize, Mrs Thomson and J. Morton; second prize, Miss B. Morton and D. Morton.

KIRKCONNEL.

MASONIC INSTALLATIONS.

Lodge St Conal, No. 1193.

Office-bearers of Lodge St Conal, No. 1193, were installed for the current year at a well-attended meeting of the brethren held in the Church Hall on Thursday evening.

On the completion of the ordinary business the retiring R.W.M., Bro. Andrew Melvin, vacated the chair in favour of Bro. A. Walker, P.M., Lodge St John, No. 334, New Cumnock, who, assisted by a board of Past Masters, installed Bro. Alexander M'Anespie, W.S.W., as Right Worshipful Master for the ensuing twelve months.

The new R.W.M. afterwards received congratulations from sister lodges who were represented. In reply he thanked the brethren of the Lodge for electing him to office, the installing board, and the visiting brethren for their presence and wishes. The other office-bearers were installed by Bro. Kennedy, P.M., Lodge St John, No. 334, New Cumnock, as follows:—Bro. Andrew Melvin, I.P.M.; Bro. John Cowan, P.M., D.M.; Bro. John Richmond, P.M., S.M.; Bro. Thomas M'Naught, W.S.W.; Bro. Donald Shaw, W.J.W.; Bro. Robert Kerr, Secretary; Bro. David Nivison, Treasurer; Bro. Richard Irving, P.M., Almoner; Bro. William Cowan, Chaplain; Bro. John Skeoch, S.D.; Bro. William Nivison, J.D.; Bro. John Pollard, Inner Guard; Bro. Richard Irving, P.M., Director of Ceremonies; Bro. James Ruffell, Senior Steward; Bro. John Wilson, Junior Steward; Bro. John Kerr, Tyler; Bros. James Ruffell and John Wilson, Auditors.

The presentation of a Past Master's gold jewel was made to Bro. Andrew Melvin, P.M. The presentation was made by Bro. M'Anespie, R.W.M., and Bro. Melvin made an appropriate reply.

Following the installation ceremony the members and visiting brethren met in a social capacity. Bro. M'Anespie presided over a good attendance. Representatives were present from Lodge St John, No. 334, New Cumnock; Lodge Sanquhar, Kilwinning, No. 194; Lodge St John, Thornhill, No. 252; and Lodge Caledonian, Annan, No. 258. An excellent supper was served by the catering staff of the local Co-operative Society.

In the course of the evening the following toast-list was honoured:—"The King and Craft," the R.W.M.; "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Dumfriesshire," Bro. A. Melvin, P.M., reply, Bro. R. Irving, P.M., D. of C.; "Visiting Brethren," Bro. R. Irving, P.M., reply, Bro. A. Laing, R.W.M., Lodge Sanquhar, Kilwinning; "The Installing Masters," Bro. A. M'Anespie, R.W.M.; reply, Bro. Walker and Bro. Kennedy; "The New R.W.M.," Bro. T. M'Naught, W.S.W.; reply, Bro. M'Anespie, R.W.M.; "Lodge St Conal," Bro. A. Laing. A pleasant hour was spent in song and sentiment.

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KIRKCONNEL B.W.T.A.

Kirkconnel Branch of the B.W.T.A. held their monthly meeting in St Mark's Church last week. Miss Drife, president, presided over a good attendance. An interesting address was given by Miss Hamilton, Edinburgh, "Y" organiser, who spoke of her work among young girls, and mentioned the Temperance tournament to be held in June at Garscube, Glasgow. A musical programme, arranged by Mrs Cowan and Mrs Tom Copeland, was submitted, the following contributing:—Solos by Miss M'Iver and recitations by Misses Christie White, Agnes Adams, and Betty Thomson.

The following evening the "Little White Ribboners" were entertained to their annual party. There was a large attendance of children and adults and Mrs T. Copeland, president. After tea a short address was given by Mrs Davidson, National Superintendent of the Little White Ribboners, who was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks on the call of Miss Drife. The rest of the evening was spent in games, and recitations were given by a number of the children. Before the close the children were presented with toys and sweets. An enjoyable evening terminated with a vote of thanks to Mrs Copeland for presiding.

CONGREGATIONAL WHIST DRIVE.

On Friday evening a very successful whist drive, organised by the Ladies' Congregational Committee of the Parish Church, was held in the Church Hall. Twenty were 33 tables in play, and Mr J. E. Little, the Schoolhouse, presided and extended a hearty welcome to all present. At the close of play Miss Charleson, the Manse, presented the prizes to the winners, who were:—Ladies—1 Mrs Hardie, Holmhead; 2 Miss Goodall, Broomknowe. Highest first half—Mrs Murray, Kelloholm; highest second half—Miss M'Cormick, Cairn. Consolation—Mrs Fisher, St Conal's Square. Gentlemen—1 Mr J. Brown, Kelloholm; 2 Mr M. Broadfoot, Kelloholm. Highest first half—Mr J. Williamson, Cairn; highest second half—Mr C. M'Carney, Kelloholm. Consolation — Mrs Guthrie, Main Street (playing as gentleman). Tea was served by the Ladies' Committee. Miss Charleson was cordially thanked by Mr Little. The Rev. G. Forbes Charleson proposed votes of thanks to the donors of the prizes and the Ladies' Committee. The stewards were Messrs J. Steele, D. Easton, J. Loan, and A. Sloan. The following committees were responsible for the splendid arrangements which characterised the function—Mrs Little, the Schoolhouse (convener); Miss Charleson the Manse (secretary); Mrs Guthrie, Main Street (treasurer); Mrs A. Park, Mrs M'Keown, Mrs Waddell, Mrs Jas. Wilson, Mrs Sloan, Mrs Drife, Mrs M'Cormick, Mrs G. Millican, Mrs Boue, Mrs Loan, Miss Cavon, Miss J. M'Crone, Miss L. Monteith and Miss Jenny Pennock.

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GIFT TO SANQUHAR ACADEMY.

The pupils of Sanquhar Academy received a pleasant surprise on Tuesday morning when several cases of apples arrived from Canada and were distributed among them. The apples were gifted by Mr James Wilson, Montreal, a native of Sanquhar and a former pupil of the school. Mr Wilson's seasonable and generous gift was highly appreciated both by the staff and pupils of the school.

Sanquhar and Kirkconnel Colliery Motor Ambulance.

The annual meeting of the Ambulance Committee was held in the Colliery Office on Friday. The report which was submitted showed that during the year the ambulance had covered 6137 miles with 86 cases, 23 of which were accident cases. The average number of miles per run was 64.66, and the miles ran per gallon of petrol was 13.29. The average cost per run was £1 2s 8d, and the total expenditure for the year amounted to £109 1s 7d, which included wages, insurance, petrol, oils, tyres, tubes, and general repairs. The report was considered satisfactory, economy and efficiency having been rigidly observed.

SANQUHAR DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the District Council for the Sanquhar area was held in the Council Chambers, Kirkconnel, on Monday evening.

Mr David Robertson, J.P., Kelloholm, was unanimously re-elected chairman for the third year in succession. Mr Robertson is the local miners' agent, and is a native of New Cumnock.

The only other business was the consideration of claims for Poor Relief, and recommendations were forwarded to the Public Assistance Committee of the County, in accordance with the requirements of each individual claimant.

SCOUTING & GUIDING.

42nd AYRSHIRE (AUCHINLECK) BOY SCOUT TROOP.

On Friday last the Scouts held their usual weekly meeting in the School Gymnasium when 24 Scouts, under the supervision of G.S.M. Milne and A.S.M. Cunningham, carried out a full and varied programme. Inspection over, patrols settled down to instruction under P.L.'s. Many recruits who are showing keen interest in the great game passed their Tenderfoot tests. After a few games the Troop entered into an activity entitled "Burglar Tracking," which comprised Tenderfoot, second and first-class tests revision. Apart from being a simple, effective, and enjoyable Patrol competition it afforded every opportunity for Patrols to demonstrate, practically, their knowledge of map-reading, sense-training, knotting, tracking (including making of plaster casts), decoding messages, and ambulance work. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the whole competition and forgot that it was merely a tests revision. Points gained—Fewer Patrol, 47; Otter Patrol, 45; Beaver Patrol, 36; Wolf Patrol, 34.

For some time the members of the Troop have been keenly interested in handicraft, and as a result of their labours some very fine articles have been produced in the form of decorative vases, cane-work trays, and sets of decorative cork mats. These pieces are being sold, the proceeds going to swell the Troop funds.

A BROWNIE ENROLMENT.

A girl is not a real Brownie until she has passed the Recruit Test. She must know—The Brownie Promise, the Law, the Motto, the Salute, the Smile, the Good Turn, the Brownie Ring, and the Brownie Step.

To her own tie, do her own hair, wash up a tea things.

When Brown Owl is satisfied that she can do all these things, she is enrolled and thus becomes a fully fledged Brownie.

The Pack forms the Fairy Ring and the recruit steps up to the Totem, and then the ceremony begins.

Brown Owl—What is the Brownie Law?

Recruit—A Brownie gives in to the older folk.

A Brownie does not give in to herself.

Brown Owl—Do you know that if you now make the Promise you must always stick to it and do your best to carry it out? Do you still wish to make it?

While the recruit is saying her Promise the Pack salutes.

I Promise to do my best—1 To do my duty to God and the King; 2 To help other people every day, especially those at home.

Brown Owl then pins the Recruit Badge in the new Brownie's tie, and gives her the emblem of her Six. Thereafter Brown Owl, Tawny Owl, and the Six to which the new Brownie belongs welcome her in true Brownie fashion by shaking left hands. When a Brownie has been in a Pack for a year she receives a Service Star. This week Jen Reive and Jean Murray were enrolled into the 1st Cumnock Pack. After the ceremony six Service Stars were handed over amidst great applause.

Club Social.—On Thursday evening of last week the Cubs attached to the 1st Catrine (40th Ayrshire) Scout Group held a social meeting in the headquarters, when the Parents' Committee, and all Cub parents were entertained. Cubmistress Miss A. C. Wright presided over a large attendance. A fine display of intricate marching and various exercises opened the proceedings. "The Grand Old Duke of York" was played, grown-ups participating. Afterwards various Cub games were played, and great excitement prevailed watching the various tussles between the "sixes." A splendid tea was served, the Cubs waiting on their parents. This was greatly appreciated. A camp fire sing-song was next held, the various choruses being lustily sung. Recitations were given by Cubs Bobbie Bell and Samuel Truesdale, and a trio by Cubs J. Brown, W. Brown, and J. Hall. The sing-song concluded with "O God of Bethel." Thereafter a very pleasing feature of the function was carried through when each Cub presented his mother with a fine handkerchief. Proceedings terminated when Auld Lang Syne was heartily sung. Votes of thanks were proposed by Mrs H. Winning to the Cubmistress and to all members of the Parents' Committee who had assisted to make the social such a huge success.

WOLF CUB PACK.

The weekly meeting of the Pack was held in the School Hall, 25 Cubs being present. C.M. Law and A.C.M. Cunningham presented shields were also present. This was the last usual Pack meeting for this year, the much talked of party taking place next week as the final. The boys and grown-ups of the Pack were louder than ever, probably due to Christmas anticipations. However, some good work was carried through, especially in the Laws of the Jungle, the four knots, and a little more signalling. The handwork enthusiasm was as keen as ever, especially with the silver paper work, and the making of Christmas decorations. The game of Dick Turpin, a great favourite, helped to get rid of a little superfluous energy. G.S.M. Milne paid his usual visit to give a little word of encouragement.

IN TOWN TO-NIGHT?

YES, WE ARE ALWAYS IN TOWN!

Well, Don't Forget to Follow the Crowd to our Premises.

We have now in Stock ALL THE LATEST SONG and DANCE TUNES for December. From 1/- to 2/6. From His Master's Voice, Columbia, Parlophone, Regal, Zonophone, Decca, Rex, etc. Catalogues.

What about a New Radio for Chistmas?

We shall be pleased to help you pick one. We are Authorised Dealers for all the Leading Makes, including H.M.V., Ultra, Aerodyne, etc., etc., at PRICES TO SUIT ALL POCKETS.

Do You Wish some New Furniture?

See our Showrooms for all the Latest Designs in WARDROBES, SIDEBOARDS, DRESSING-CHESTS, EASY CHAIRS, Etc., Etc.

A VISIT TO OUR PREMISES WILL PAY YOU.

NOTE THE ONE AND ONLY ADDRESS—

J. SLONIMSKY & SONS,
18 Ayr Road, OLD CUMNOCK.

1935 DANCE.

Cumnock SCOUTS Again!

Our Resolution? No, Our REVOLUTION.

Password—ENTERPRISE

YOU ENTER—WE GIVE THE PRIZES.

CROONING CONTEST. DEMONSTRATION, Etc.

ORIGINALITY run RIOT.

Keep 1st JANUARY Free or Die of Regret.

BLACK BULL
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THE SQUARE, CUMNOCK.

Marriage Parties Specially Catered for.
Regular Boarders at Moderate Rates.
Breakfasts, Luncheons, Teas, Dinners. Excellent Cuisine.
Whiskies, Wines, Liqueurs, Etc., at Usual Prices.
Personal Supervision at All Times.

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Joiner, House Furnisher, and Funeral Undertaker,

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Legs, Mouldings, Beadings and all requisites for Amateur Woodworkers kept in Stock.

Enquiries after business hours call at House Address:

22 BARRHILL ROAD, CUMNOCK.

What Will Santa Claus Bring!

Let's hope it is one of these Exciting Games—

GRANDFATHER'S WHISKERS
Price 1/-
or
SORRY
Price 3/-

Both these Games provide great fun for children and grown-ups. No complicated rules.

These, and all the Latest and Most Popular Indoor Games are stocked by

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CHRISTMAS CALLING!

You are judged by the discriminating taste you show in giving presents, and we suggest to you that you cannot go wrong in choosing for the fastidious at

ROBERTSON'S,

The Square.

SUPERB CHOCOLATE BOXES, LUXURIOUS TOFFEES, and a host of CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES by all the Best-Known Makers.

We are Sole Agents for Birrell's Chocolates.

TRANSFER OF BUSINESS.

Mr ROBERT FORSYTH,

Cairn Road, CUMNOCK,

desires to intimate that he has taken over the business of

CONTRACTOR

lately carried on by Mr Hugh Dalgleish, and hopes the public will extend to him a share of its business.

DUMFRIES ARMS STABLES.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

CUMNOCK.

One of the most amusing and highly entertaining pictures will be screened to-morrow (Saturday) at the Picture House, "Midshipman Jack," starring Bruce Cabot, a thrilling story of the American Navy; also Bill Boyd and Pat O'Brien will be seen in "Flaming Gold." This situation is played to a dramatic finish against the ever colourful background of a semi-tropical oilfield. On Monday and Tuesday a brand new romantic team comes to the screen in the persons of Dick Powell and Ginger Rogers, who appear as screen lovers in "Twenty Million Sweethearts." The film concerns the life and loves of a radio crooner, and features such outstanding stars of the air as the Mills Brothers, Ted Tio Rito and his Band, and the Radio Rogues. On Wednesday "The Night Club Queen," a musical drama starring Mary Clare and Lewis Casson—a picture of London's night life on the greatest evening of all the year so far as night clubs are concerned—Boat Race night.

The Picture House.

AUCHINLECK.

"Spy 13," which will be screened at the Picture House to-morrow (Saturday) must be placed on record as one of the best historic productions to come from Hollywood in a long time. It serves as the newest starring vehicle for Marion Davies, the lovely blonde star, with the handsome Gary Cooper as her new leading man. Scenes famous in American history are authentically reproduced in the picture. Also several breezy songs have been composed and sung by the Four Mills Brothers of wireless and gramophone fame, and another is sung by Miss Davies. On Monday and Tuesday "The Night Club Queen," featuring Mary Clare, Lewis Casson, and Jane Carr. Thrills and dramatic interest combined with many eye and ear-pleasing musical sequences. On Wednesday "Twenty Million Sweethearts." A new romantic team is brought to the screen in this picture, with Dick Powell and Ginger Rogers as screen lovers—Dick as the singing cabaret waiter; and Miss Rogers has the role of Dick's radio singing sweetheart.

The Home Page

By "JANETTE."

A Delightful Evening Frock.

This is the festive season, and it brings in its train all the little parties and dances so dear to the maiden's heart. What a flutter of eager expectancy there is when a much coveted invitation is put into her hands, but suddenly the thought comes that she hasn't a rag to wear to such an important dance.

Well, never in the history of the ages has there been such an infinite variety of truly feminine frocks to choose from, and materials were never more charmingly appealing. The slim silhouette still holds first place, and for the maid with a pretty girlish figure what could be more suitable than this delightful evening frock. The front portion of the skirt is cut up to a point and has the side parts inlet. The bodice, as you will notice, is gathered and seamed at centre front, where covered piping cords are inserted, the cape being taken in in the same manner with the shoulder seams. It would look so sweet and youthful in pink taffeta, and if you are anxious to look your best let me whisper to you that you can obtain the paper pattern (19) for this frock at Roma's Pictorial Fashions, 291a Oxford St., London, W.

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Beauty Hints.

TO PRESERVE THE SKIN.

Every woman owes it to herself, as well as to her family, to look her best at all times.

The first consideration is the condition of the skin, which should be kept thoroughly cleansed by a good skin food. This can be easily and inexpensively made up at home, and has the merit of having the ingredients known to be beneficial to the user, and easily obtained from the local chemist.

CLEANSING CREAM.

To make a simple, inexpensive cleansing cream, place ½ lb. of the best lard in a basin. Pour over it sufficient boiling water to fill the basin. Leave till the water becomes quite cold and the lard floats on the top. Pour off the water and repeat the process twice more. Then put the lard in a clean basin, add 2 tablespoonfuls of rosewater, and beat to a cream.

COLD CREAM.

For a Dry Skin.—White beeswax, 1 drachm; spermaceti, 1½ ozs.; almond oil, 1½ ozs. Melt the above; remove from source of heat and add rosewater, 1½ ozs. Beat until creamy, not until cold, and when the cream begins to thicken add a drop or two of perfume if desired. Rub well into the skin each night.

WITCH HAZEL JELLY.

For an Oily Skin.—Tragacanth, 3 drachms; liquid extract of hamamelis, 2 ozs., 1½ ozs.; rectified spirit, 2 ozs.; glycerine. First put the spirit in a bottle, then add tragacanth and shake well, next add hamamelis and glycerine. Rub well into the skin each night.

HAIR WASH FOR DANDRUFF.

Borax, 4 ozs.; camphor, 2 drachms; oil of Rosemary, 30 minims.

HAIR TONIC.

Acetic acid, 1 fluid oz.; bay rum, 1 fluid oz.; glycerine, 1 fluid oz.; tincture of cantharides, 2 drachms; rosewater to make 8 ozs. Rub in with the finger tips night and morning.

DENTURE POWDER.

Cuttlefish bone, in powder, ½ oz.; myrrh, pulverized, 1 drachm; orris, pulverized, ½ oz.; chalk, pulverized, ½ oz. Mix thoroughly.

APHORISM.

You can't have a clean dish that has been dried by a soiled towel; and conversely you can't have a soiled towel from drying an absolutely clean dish.

COOKS—PLEASE NOTE.

These are three things a cook should aim at, according to Mr Iwan Kriens, headmaster of the Westminster Technical Institute:—

1 Aroma.
2 Pleasing the eye.
3 Pleasing the palate.

"What happens after it has gone past the palate," he said, "is no business of the cook's. The doctor will see to that."

RICH PUFF PASTE.

Ingredients.

1 lb. flour.
1 lb. butter.
Juice of half a lemon.
1 egg.
1 gill water.

Method.—Sift flour, make a bay, mix flour quite clear and free from scraps and slightly toughened with lemon juice, egg and water; allow to lie for ten minutes; then pin out to about 18 inch square; have paste a little thicker in centre than at sides; lay butter on paste and fold over ends of latter to entirely cover butter. After lying a little to lose its springiness the paste is given a first turn. The mode is to pin it out to a length of about 24 inches and 10 inches wide. The end furthest from operator is then folded over so as to cover two-thirds of paste; on top of this the near end is then folded and the paste firmly and smoothly but gently pinned out to about 1 inch thick. This constitutes one "turn." For the second "turn," which may be given immediately after the first, turn the paste round halfway and proceed as described. Cover this over with a damp cloth to prevent a skin from forming on top, and store 30 minutes, then give it another two turns. Repeat process again after paste has rested, making six turns in all. For Xmas pies pin paste out to ¼ inch, cut with round cutter, lay on baking pin and brush with milk, then place pie meat in centre. Place another piece cut paste on top and press down edges; brush over with egg and make a cut in top. Fire in a warm oven for about 15 minutes. This paste is also suitable for sausage rolls, steak pies, etc.

RECIPE FOR MINCEMEAT.

Ingredients.

½ lb. nauseate raisins (stoned); ½ lb. currants; ¼ lb. citronped; 4 apples 3 lemons; rind of 1 orange; 1 lb. beef suet; ½ nutmeg; ½ teaspoonful of mixed spice; ½ lb. minced steak; 2 lbs. moist sugar; 1 glass of port wine; a little brandy.

Stone raisins, peel apples, and put all ingredients through the mincer with the exception of the currants. Put in large bowl, then add nutmeg (grated) and spice; also the juice of three lemons and port wine and brandy.

If not desired wine and brandy need not be added.

THE GARDEN.

Where the soil is of a heavy nature digging should be proceeded with on all favourable occasions. One of the best ways in which to reduce heavy clay to a better condition is to throw it up in rough ridges in the autumn, and allow the wintry weather to act upon it. At the same time it is advisable to work in with the clay a quantity of grit—rough sand, rubble, or coal ashes—and also a liberal quantity of strawy horse manure, the aim being to get the air, rain and frost to penetrate it as finely as possible so that it will come to a porous and fertile state. In February the surface may be sprinkled with air-slaked lime, a handful or more to each square yard.

Gooseberries should be bunched up as much as possible to keep the birds from the buds, and may be drenched with soapsuds, afterwards being dusted with lime or soot. The pruning of fruit trees—apples, pears, and plums—may be proceeded with when the weather is favourable.

The rock garden should be cleaned and made tidy for the winter, and a light dressing of soil given where required.

Cut ivy on walls and complete the pruning and tying up of rambler roses.

Roses should have soil drawn up around the stems to a height of two or three inches so as to drain excessive moisture away from the "collar." Roses may still be planted provided soil is in condition. The following are the best exhibition varieties:—General M'Arthur, Lieutenant Chauvry, Portadown, Hadley, Etoile de Hollande, and Miss C. E. van Rossem.

Good pillar roses are:—Aviateur Bleriot, Paul's Scarlet Climber, Sander's White, Shower of Gold, Chaplin's Pink Climber, Allen Chandler, and Hugh Dickson. These are also suitable for planting against low fences, and may be trained horizontally along same.

INEXPENSIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO MAKE AT HOME.

"It's not how much it costs that matters—but the thought that goes with the gift."

Bath Salts.—Get 2 lbs. of carbonate of soda crystals from the local chemist. To colour, use a solution of strong tea. This should be poured over the crystals, a few drops at a time, until they are tinted a pale cream. After the crystals have been coloured mix in evenly six or seven drops of sandalwood oil. (This oil holds the perfume). Two teaspoonfuls of oil of verbena should next be added, or any other perfume you prefer. It is now ready to be put into glass jars. These can be bought very cheaply at any confectioner's shop, or use old pickle jars. Tie a bright ribbon round the neck, and put a little bunch of holly on it, and it is ready to give away.

Children's Corner

Dear Kiddies,—How did you like your column in last week's "Cumnock Express"? I hope you enjoyed reading it, and by next week you will have had time to write and tell me if you did.

Perhaps some of my little readers will have sent in an article which I will be delighted to print. Will yours be the first? I wonder!

—The Editor.

And he who gives a child a treat
Makes joybells ring in Heaven's street;
And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in Kingdom come.

—John Masefield.

What Am I?

Here is a little game which will make your party a success right from the start. As soon as your little guests arrive you pin a ticket, bearing the name of some well-known animal, on each of their backs. Each ticket has the name of a different animal written upon it, and, of course, the wearer cannot see what is on his or her own ticket.

Now the players start asking each other questions in an attempt to find out the name written on their ticket. Everyone asks, "Am I big?" "Am I small?" "Do I squeak?" "Do I bark?" "Have I horns?" etc. The answers, however, must be "Yes" or "No" to whatever questions are asked. After a while, by asking certain questions and receiving the answer "Yes," the players are able to discover the name of the animal on their ticket.

Isn't that a great game for starting a party? It helps all your little guests to know each other and lose their shyness.

How to Tell the Gear of Your Fairy Cycle.

So many boys and girls have fairy cycles or bicycles now, and it is interesting to find out just what the gear is. You can do this very easily yourself. This is how to do it—Divide the number of teeth on the large chain-wheel by the number of teeth on the small chain-wheel and then multiply the result by the diameter of your cycle wheel. Supposing the number of teeth on the large chain-wheel was 27; the number of teeth on the small chain-wheel 9; and the diameter of the cycle wheel 14 inches—the gear of your fairy cycle would be 27 divided by 9 and multiplied by 14—42.

About the Union Jack.

Did you know that the Union Jack is a combination of national banners of Scotland, England and Ireland? It consists of St. George's red cross, on a white background, which represents the banner of St George, England's patron saint; a blue flag with diagonal white cross, the banner of St Andrew, Scotland's patron saint; and a white flag with red cross, representing the banner of St Patrick, Ireland's patron saint.

The flag got its name because the soldiers of Edward III.'s time wore tunics or "jacks"—from which we get "jacket"—adorned with St George's Cross. When James VI. of Scotland became James I. of England, the Scottish banner was added and the combination called Union Jack.

The Irish banner was added in 1801.

ROBIN REDBREAST.

Everyone knows the little robin, for every winter there is sure to be one in almost every garden, and he is the favourite bird for adorning Xmas cards. He is such a bright little fellow and looks so important in his red waistcoat as he hops quite close to pick the crumbs you have put out for him.

In the spring he forsakes the garden. He goes off to search for a mate and build a nest. Robins nest in very peculiar places sometimes; any kind of hollow place that will hold a nest attracts them. They often build in outhouses; last year a friend of mine discovered a pair of robins that built their nest in a basket on a shelf in their store and hatched out their young ones quite regardless of people coming in and out.

The hen robin lays five to seven eggs, and these are a soft cloudy white with pale reddish-brown markings. The nest is made with dry grass, moss, and leaves, and lined with hair and some feathers.

Book-Marker.

You can easily make the latest style book-markers in half an hour for practically no outlay. It is a decorative shape—oblong, triangle, or diamond. Cut from cardboard and cover with odd piece of wallpaper or cretonne. A flap of cardboard should be fastened to back under which the page of book can be slipped. Try it!

Calendar.

Cut a piece of cardboard 9 in. by 6 in. and cover with wallpaper. Now cut out a brightly coloured picture from an old magazine and paste it in position, leaving room at bottom for calendar (which you can buy from any stationer for 1d or 2d). Having pasted on your calendar next pierce two holes at top and thread through a piece of ribbon to hang it up.

It will look very bright and pretty, and you will be so proud of it.

Guess!

When is a woman like a clock?—When she is run-down. (Some husbands say the answer should be, "When she is wound up.")

Why is the letter B like a fire?—Because it makes oil Boil.

What is the difference between an engine-driver and a schoolmaster?—One minds the train; the other trains the mind.

Why is a meadow with a cow grazing in it older than you?—Because it is past your age (pasturage).

TO MAKE YOU SMILE.

"Bash"-ful Motorists.

A British motor car manufacturer has stated that "he will back his car against any foreign car."

We know lots of motorists who are not so particular and would back their car against a Burgh house.

* * *

"Lapsus Linguae."

We would like to know if the old lady who referred to it as the Cumnock 'Clown' Council, made a slip or an innuendo.

* * *

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing . . . . . Peace on Earth."

200 men are engaged repairing the old shell factory on the coast between Irvine and Gailes at a cost of £15,000.

It would have saved the British public £15,000 if some folks had listened to the Herald angels singing.

* * *

Cynical.

A disillusioned correspondent says, "the ideal wife is blind and stone deaf."

That is unfair to the fair sex. We would have said, "slightly deaf and myopic."

* * *

Mrs Nag—"The couple next door are very devoted. He kisses her every time they meet. Why don't you do that?"

Mr Nag—"I don't know her well enough yet."

* * *

No Stymie.

The golfer ahead was bow-legged, and the player behind drove a ball right between them. The handy one protested. "Hi, you there, do you call that golf?"

"No," came the reply, "but it's jolly good croquet."

* * *

Honours 'Eaven.

She was an extremely vain young lady because a very distant relation had been elevated to the House of Lords, and talked about nothing else.

"I have a relative in the House of Lords. Have you any?"

"No," replied her acquaintance, "but I've two maiden aunts in the Kingdom of Heaven."

* * *

A bookie died in poor circumstances, and some pals were collecting to defray the funeral expenses. They went to a professional punter who had been having a bad run recently.

Pro. Punter—"Well, what do you want?"

Bookie—"A quid."

P. P.—"What for?"

Bookie—"To bury a bookie."

P. P.—"Here's a fiver. Bury five of the blighters."

* * *

He—"If I try to kiss you will you scream for help?"

She—"Yes, if you need it."

* * *

A man and his wife had decided to buy a car. Then the row started. He wanted an open car, she wanted a closed one.

However, the incident is now closed. He got the car.

* * *

"Most cooks refuse to do house work." Some do occasional "charring."

* * *

An Aberdonian went into a pub in town and ordered two glasses of beer. He drank one and left the other to "settle."

* * *

Last Friday traffic was held up on a road at Loversall, Doncaster, by thousands of rats crossing the road to a rubbish dump.

Can this be our slaughter-house contingent seeking new quarters?

* * *

America spent £600,000,000 on alcoholic liquor during the past year.

They do things big in America when the "spirit" moves them.

* * *

Fashion's latest foible are gloves with mail gauntlets which can be turned down over the hands in cold weather.

Our fashion leaders are already getting their hands in.

—o—

TO MAKE YOU THINK.

Monday.

Strew your path in life with the flowers of love, kindness, self-sacrifice, and they will spring up to bless you; scatter it with the thorns of selfishness, and they will turn and prick you at the last.

* * *

Tuesday.

Learn right at the outset of life not to play with the spoon before you take the medicine. Putting off an easy duty makes it hard, and putting off a hard one makes it impossible.

* * *

Wednesday.

You must love your work, and not be always looking over the edge of it wanting your play to begin.

* * *

Thursday.

Better to weave in the web of life
A bright and golden filling
And do God's will with a ready heart
And hands that are swift and willing,
Than to snap the delicate tender threads
Of our curious lives asunder;
And then blame Heaven for the tangled ends,
And sit, and grieve, and wonder.

* * *

Friday.

When happiness can be manufactured so cheaply, and sells so high, and is always wanted in the market, it seems a pity that more of us do not set up in business.

* * *

Saturday.

Four things come not back—the spoken word, the sped arrow, the past life, and the neglected opportunity.

* * *

Sunday.

Alas for him who never sees
The stars shine through his cypress trees;
Who hath not learned in hours of faith,
The truth to flesh and sense unknown,
That Life is ever Lord of Death
And love can never lose its own.

—J. G. Whittier.

You may have, stored in your mind, an inspiring thought or phrase which has comforted you in moments of loneliness or sorrow. If so, send it in to us and we shall be pleased to publish it in our "To Make You Think" column.

Jas. Goudie & Son

CARRIERS.

EXPRESS SERVICE
BETWEEN
GLASGOW & CUMNOCK

GOODS COLLECTED and DELIVERED.

Glasgow Quarters:
17 MILLER STREET (Phone—Central 1533)
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House Address:
1 Townhead Street, CUMNOCK.

Cumnock Municipal Bank, Ltd.

Chairman - - The Provost.

HOW IT GROWS.

Year.	Deposits.
1929	£1705—June 30
1930	£3158
1931	£3523
1932	£4302
1933	£5790
1934	£7531—Decr. 1

BEST RATES IN DISTRICT.

Agent: JAMES GIBB, Gibb's Printery. Next Post Office, Cumnock.

Don't Forget Your Yule Log.

Joe Bain,

Coal Merchant and Contractor,
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Best House Coal and Trebles at Keenest Prices.
In Bags or Ton Lots.
Firewood (in Bags or Carts).

All Removals Contracted for.

A P.C. will bring your order by return.

BUTE COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

THE ANNUAL

Whist Drive and Dance

will be held in
TOWN HALL, CUMNOCK,
on
WEDNESDAY, 26th DECR., at 7.30.

Tickets - - - 3/6.

-:- YULETIDE -:-

The Season of Good Cheer, and exchanging of Kind Wishes and Xmas Greetings. How suitably they can be expressed by making your choice from the Delightful Selection of

BOXES OF CHOCOLATES,
NOVELTIES, TOFFEES,

now being displayed at the "WEE CORNER SHOP."

J. T. Gilchrist,

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FISH FOR BRAINS!

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FINEST QUALITY OF ALL FISH
FRESH DAILY. POULTRY, ETC.

Orders Promptly Attended.
Van Calls Daily.

ROSES, FRUIT BUSHES, ETC.

ROSES, CLIMBING, DWARF, and POLYANTHUS.
Over 30 Varieties to choose from.
FRUIT BUSHES, BLACK and RED CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, RASPS; also STRAWBERRIES.
ORNAMENTAL PLANTS for XMAS.
Customers own Bulb Bowls filled. (Bulbs now coming into Flower).
HOLLY WREATHS, CROSSES, ETC.
Our Own Make.

BRUCE,

Market Gardens,
Auchinleck Rd., CUMNOCK.
Phone 93.

CUMNOCK TOWN COUNCIL.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE FOR CUMNOCK.

Slaughter House to be demolished.

Provost and Bailie Bridges Disagree.

UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION OF WORK ALLEGATION.

DEAN OF GUILD COURT.

CO-OPERATIVE'S PLANS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF GIBB'S CLOSE PASSED.

Prior to their meeting on Monday the Town Council sat as a Dean of Guild Court when plans by Auchinleck Co-operative Society for the reconstruction of Gibb's Close, Cumnock, were considered. The Clerk intimated that adjoining proprietors had been cited, but none appeared to offer objections. The Burgh Surveyor reported the plans to be in order. Mr Morrison was present, and intimated that it was their intention to remove the cottage at the head of the close to give room for a yard.

Provost Hughes moved the plans be passed. Councillor Scoular seconded. Agreed.

CUMNOCK TOWN COUNCIL.

Monthly meeting in Council Chambers on Monday. All present except Councillor Douglas. Provost Hughes in the chair

The Council received a deputation from the "Scottish Council for Community Service during Unemployment. The deputation consisted of Mr Arthur B. Wright, visiting adviser; Mr C. Cameron, regional organiser, from Glasgow. On the invitation of the Provost Mr Wright said the Council for Community Service was a voluntary body set up to encourage local bodies to become centres to relieve what he might call, the tedium of the unemployed person's leisure hours.

The duties of the Council are advisory, i.e. the stimulation, guidance, and co-ordination of voluntary efforts in which unemployed workers, with the backing and help of local communities, may find ways of putting unoccupied time to useful and healthy purposes. The Council is in no way concerned with the relief of material distress, or with the provision of normal employment, nor is it its duty directly to organise local action or to control local initiative.

The purpose of Community Service occupation centres or clubs is to give men and women during unemployment the chance to develop new interests and hobbies, and to help their families if able to do so. Except in this sense the centre or club is not to be regarded as a training centre or workshop. There should be no selling or exchange of products or labour which would react unfairly upon the normal course of trade, or upon the interests of persons in employment.

All over Scotland these clubs were springing up spontaneously, and on the whole were operating without cause for complaint. The unemployed man had so much time on his hands that he had to do something. They found this something in card-playing, draughts, or dominoes. If they got a little encouragement they would perhaps go on to woodwork or art craft. The first step was premises for a centre, and the second a little encouragement.

Cards, etc., was their only means of killing tedium, and they could hardly be blamed for it.

Mr Cameron—Mr Wright has outlined the general policy of the Council. We suggest things that can be undertaken in these clubs. Crafts—Those things occasion the use of hand, eye, and mind, principally the mind; art crafts, woodwork, carving, etc. Recreation—This was a difficulty in clubs after the men had spent leisure in playing cards. But card-playing could be a fine thing, as it required craft to play. Lectures—These had been found successful. Keep fit side—On the whole one unemployed for any length of time could not be expected to possess great stamina, but where the opportunity for physical exercises is given it finds great response. Then there were wireless talks on which discussions took place. In some places one night each week was devoted to an explanation of local affairs. That was one way of developing civic interest. The setting up of a centre in a town made a Council realise there is a problem to face in unemployment.

Provost—What do you want us to do?

Mr Wright—There are approximately 400 unemployed persons in your burgh. Your Council could consider calling a meeting of representative citizens—that is, representatives from merchants' and all other associations in the town—and sponsor the formation of a voluntary committee to set up such a centre here.

Provost—Who finances these clubs?

Mr Wright—That can be done in three ways—(a) By voluntary contributions (local); (b) the Secretary of State for Scotland would approve of the Town Council giving a grant for these; and (c) we have certain funds available and can help initiate the club. These funds are only available to districts where unemployment has been 25 per cent of the working population, or over, for the past three years. Cumnock comes within that category.

Bailie Bridges—What kind of building is required?

Mr Wright—We find the better the building the better the centre. But all sorts of buildings have been converted to the purpose. In Milngavie the club is in two sections—a church hall is used for recreational purposes, and

AN OLD SLAUGHTER-HOUSE

recommended for demolition has been converted.

Here Mr Wright was interrupted by the slaughter of the Councillors.

Mr Wright—It is unrecognisable as a slaughter-house now, of course.

Bailie Bridges—They did not demolish the slaughter-house?

Provost—Is the Marquis of Bute claiming it now that it has been done up?

Mr Wright—The premises are really determined by what is available locally. Our work is still partially in the experimental stage. Ayr is spending £1400 to £1500 on a centre. Sometimes an old factory building is made serviceable for the purpose. At Maucbline an old condemned cottage was handed over, and a wall was removed, and two rooms made into one. It makes a comparatively comfortable club that serves the purpose meantime.

Provost—Regarding the crafts and industries undertaken. Do they sell the articles made in competition with the local tradesmen?

Mr Wright—In the early days that happened. It is quite definite in our policy that there should be no selling. Where the Committee is thoroughly representative there is a merchant on the Committee, and the question of selling would not arise. Dunfermline is the only place where selling takes place; they deal in fish, potatoes, and meat. There they have various sub-committees. The chairman is acting chairman of the Co-operative Society, and there are also two tradesmen on the Committee. As a Council we are definitely not in favour of selling at all.

P.-J. M'Call—Does the unemployed man pay anything?

Mr Wright—That is an important question. It is absolutely essential that he does, and the amount, when the expenses of running the club are discovered, should be such as to make—as near as possible—the centre self-supporting. In Clydebank the contribution is 1s per year, in other places it ranges from 1d to 4d per week.

P.-J. M'Call—Do they appoint a man to look after the club?

Mr Wright—In many small clubs the duties are shared by the House Committee; in other larger clubs a retired man has been appointed to look after it—that is allowed for in contribution. With regard to the discipline of the club it has been found beneficial to retain in membership a leader who perhaps is intermittently in employment.

Provost—Would it not be better to call a meeting of the unemployed first to see if they favour this? These men do not like to be patronised.

Mr Wright—There are two viewpoints. Hall of our centres have been set up having such a meeting convened first. In the other hall committees have set them up. It takes a certain amount of time to arrange for premises. If a meeting is called and the setting up of the centre months away the men are not so enthusiastic. On the whole it is better it a local committee makes all arrangements and then asks them, "Would you like this? If they say "No" that is all that need be done.

Provost Hughes—I'm glad to see gentlemen like you taking an interest in unemployment. Our view is, "to find work is the best solution." I quite realise your Council is doing useful work in organising their leisure and giving them an interest in life. We will give everything you have said consideration.

The deputation thanked the Council for its courtesy and retired.

Provost—Shall we refer this to the Magistrates' Committee?

This was unanimously agreed.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

Bailie Holland moved adoption of minute of last monthly meeting and P.-J. M'Call seconded. Agreed.

Minute of special meeting held on 15th November:—

"Road letter dated 15th November from the Department, re butchers regarding the closing of the slaughter-house. The Burgh Surveyor reported that he had informed Mr Hastings of the Council's decision, but the butchers defied the Council and were going to continue to slaughter. The Surveyor also reported that a padlock which he had put on the slaughter-house gate had been removed. Bailie Bridges objected to Provost Hughes speaking before a motion was made, and refused to accept the Provost's ruling. The meeting was adjourned for ten minutes owing to the refusal of Bailie Bridges to obey the Chair. On resuming Bailie Holland moved, seconded by Police-Judge M'Call, that the slaughter-house be demolished. Bailie Bridges moved as an amendment, seconded by Police-Judge Neil, that the Council endeavour to come to an amicable understanding with the butchers. Bailie Bridges, Police-Judge Neil, and Councillor Meikledjohn (3) voted for the amendment; and Provost Hughes, Bailie Holland, Police-Judge M'Call, and Councillors Mrs Hughes and Scoular (5) for the motion, which was declared carried.

"It was agreed to close Elbow Lane for three months until demolition of that area be completed."

Complimentary Exchanges Over Slaughter-House.

Bailie Bridges—This meeting was taken in Committee; the Press was not invited!

Provost—Yes.

Bailie Bridges—In view of that the whole question can be reopened.

Provost—It must be moved and seconded first. I'll move it.

Bailie Holland—I'll second it.

Bailie Bridges—I move the rejection of this report because it was held in Committee and the viewpoint of those supporting the amendment was not aired. We maintain the slaughter-house can be put in good repair at little expense.

Provost—Mr Hunter, was it a Committee meeting?

Mrs Hughes—It's not on the minute.

Provost Seizes His Opportunity.

Provost (tapping table)—Order!

Mrs Hughes subsided, smiling.

Clerk—Notices were not sent to the Press.

Mrs Hughes—Was it not on the agenda that it was a special meeting?

Provost—My view is that discussion is out of order.

Clerk—It was my fault the Press was not here.

Bailie Bridges tried to resume, but—

Mrs Hughes—The Press were not here, but a report appeared in all the papers next morning. If that is not public what is?

Bailie Bridges—I move we reopen the question. Little expense is necessary for the purpose of putting this slaughter-house in order, and getting rid of that recurrent phrase in the Burgh Surveyor's report, "the slaughter-house is in fair sanitary condition." At reasonable expense and with reasonable supervision this should have read, "in good condition." As a matter of fact we have the authority that in the opinion of a Board of Health inspector it could be put into good condition by connecting a drain to a sewer and providing galvanised bins for the offal.

Provost—No.

Bailie Holland—I consider the whole Council is out of order in discussing this. The Standing Orders must be rescinded before this discussion can take place.

P.-J. Neil—Not at all.

Provost—Let him go on.

Bailie Bridges—A suggestion was made by the Moderate members that the offal be removed daily. If that had been done any danger of infestation would have been prevented. The walls are good; the roof was good; the killing-house floor was in splendid condition. In the byre floor was a small rat-hole; surely that could have been remedied. It was suggested it would take over £800 to put it in order. In my view that is extravagant. Mr M'Call said the killing-house door was riddled with rat-holes.

P.-J. M'Call—Point of order. I said round the slaughter-house was riddled with rat-holes. I must say you are a liar, and you glory in it.

Bailie Bridges—And you make a success of it.

Bailie Bridges—Provost Hughes suggests a hot-water system would require to be installed for pig-killing. It is not necessary in Scotland where the system of killing is different from that in England. The butchers came forward with a reasonable offer of £45 in dues each year. It is dangerous when rates are rising to turn down an offer of £45. To ask the butchers to go to Auchinlock to kill subjects the carcases to contamination on their way back to Cumnock. It is our duty as Town Councillors to encourage, and not discourage, the merchants of this town. It would be the honourable thing to do to rectify our mistake and put the slaughter-house into good condition. I move accordingly.

P.-J. Neil—I second that. If a plebiscite had been taken in this town the Labour group would find themselves on the wrong side. Mr Forbes, who asked you to go to Mr M'Kissock and instruct him to remove the slates?

Mr Forbes—It was on the instruction of this Council.

P.-J. Neil—We were told the meeting was over, then another meeting was held.

Provost—Was another meeting held, Mr Hunter?

Mr Hunter—No.

P.-J. Neil—When did you instruct Mr M'Kissock?

Mr Forbes—That night after the meeting. [illegible] after meeting.

Bailie Bridges—Did you get your instructions at the general meeting?

Mr Forbes—Yes. To a further question he said £4 odds had been incurred by the removal of the slates.

The Slates Came Back.

Councillor Meikledjohn—Have the slates been returned?

Mr Forbes—I reported them missing to the police, but was informed by them that they had been found behind the slaughter-house. They are now in the burgh yard.

Bailie Bridges—Who gave the Convener legal advice that we were entitled to demolish?

Bailie Holland—I applied to Mr Hunter and told him the butchers were defying us. He advised calling a special meeting and demolishing the slaughter-house.

Hot Words Over Press Report.

Provost—This time I hope it is finally closed. This question is really out of order and discussion is out of toleration. I regret the Press was not supplied with a proper report of the meeting and not the garbled version which appeared in the daily newspapers and which was handed out by Mr Bridges.

Bailie Bridges—You are an absolute liar. I ask you to withdraw that statement.

Provost—The statement is absolutely accurate.

Bailie Bridges—I supplied no information to the Daily Press, and you'll withdraw.

Provost—I'm quite prepared to admit you did not give it to the Daily Press, but to a Press man.

Bailie Bridges—Not as a Press man.

Provost—I don't wish to do Bailie Bridges an injustice, but I would suggest when he has conversation with a Press man he is more careful.

Bailie Bridges—I was asked a question by the man, not the Press man. I answered it. What happens does not imply I gave information to the Press.

Provost—You have already explained.

Here pandemonium reigned, with the Provost, Bailie Bridges, and Mrs Hughes involved.

Mrs Hughes—Point of order.

Bailie Bridges—Never mind your point of order.

Mrs Hughes—Bailie Bridges said he spoke to a Press man, and now he denies it.

Bailie Bridges—The gentleman to whom I spoke is here.

Provost—If you'll sit down.

Bailie Bridges—You'll withdraw. You are not going to be allowed to proceed. I want an apology.

Provost—You'll get no apology. I am prepared to ask the Press man.

Bailie Bridges—If he gave the information to the Daily Press.

Provost—Let's say Bailie Bridges gave information to an individual who supplied it to the Press without Bailie Bridges' permission.

Bailie Bridges—That is a withdrawal.

Provost—The Press should not publish reports from one side. It could be got from the Town Clerk or myself, but in my opinion the Press should be invited to all our meetings, then there is the responsibility. It is unfair to say we had written communication from the Board of Health.

Bailie Bridges—I did not say that; withdraw.

Provost—All right. Keep your temper.

Bailie Bridges—You'll need that advice before the night's out. You lost yours last meeting.

Provost—The Board of Health official decided this slaughter-house was sanitary. I met him in Mr Hunter's office. He put it as his legal point of view that Auchinleck butchers could be compelled to kill in Cumnock, but dropped that when Mr Hunter showed him otherwise. He thought a drain might possibly be the solution. We never had a written communication saying this slaughter-house is fit. No vetermary surgeon would pass it. We postponed the closure three months on his request. We were asked by him if the Town Council would meet the County Council under his chairmanship; we agreed and have never had one word from the Department of Health. The Town Council is not acting contrary to the Board of Health. It is quite true the butchers made an eleventh hour offer of £45 dues per year. At the election we were told the dues for the past year were £60 and that the killing of pigs would mean another £60 in dues. Altogether next year's dues would amount to £100. Instead of £100 it is down to £45. When any written communication is received by us from the Department of Health the public will be taken into our confidence, but until then I would warn them to be very careful before crediting the rumours that are abroad.

The vote was taken and resulted as follows:—Amendment, 3 (Bailie Bridges, P.-J. Neil, and Councillor Meikledjohn).

Minute, 5 (Provost, Bailie Holland, P.-J. M'Call, and Councillors Mrs Hughes and Scoular).

This means the demolition of the slaughter-house.

Bailie Bridges—I want it mentioned in minute that I protest.

Clerk—Is it not sufficient that you are the mover of the amendment; that shows you protest.

Bailie Bridges—I want it specially mentioned.

In the minutes of June 9, 1884, it states that a letter was received from Mr C. G. Shaw, who visited the slaughter-house and was prepared to grant a 99 years lease, and would ask Messrs J. & F. Anderson to prepare the lease.

Bailie Bridges—Have you got the lease?

Clerk—I never found it among any papers I received.

Bailie Holland—I want definite instructions.

Clerk—Will I ask Mr Hendrie to instruct Edinburgh of our intention?

Provost—No, do it yourself. Well, that's the slaughter-house once again.

At a special meeting on 26th November the Council, in Committee, decided to serve statutory notices on 43 and 49 Tower Street and 86 Towhead Street as being houses unfit for human habitation.

Burgh Surveyor's Report.

This bore that all the houses except two are now occupied at Keir Hardie Hill, and all work is practically finished. At Hardshaw Place [illegible] are as low as possible, but as bottoming at present rate of progress is likely to drag for months; there is a dearth of bottoming material.

Unfair Distribution of Work?

Bailie Bridges—How many men are engaged at Hardshaw Place?

Mr Forbes—Last week there were two men.

Bailie ridges—Do you think this work is being fairly distributed?

Mr Forbes—In my opinion it is.

Bailie Bridges—In May to October this year you employed a plumber (Geo. M'Call) 74½ hours. There are other unemployed plumbers—there are two young chaps entitled to some consideration.

Mr Forbes—Does that refer to the men on the job?

Bailie Bridges—To a Phinn lad who has had 91 hours, and a lad Nicol who has had 80 hours.

Mr Forbes—I do not go and look for men; they come and ask for work.

Bailie Bridges—Has Phinn been to you and refused?

Mr Forbes—He came when we did not require a plumber.

Bailie Bridges—Was Phinn sacked and M'Call taken on?

Mr Forbes—Probably.

Bailie Bridges—Do you think that fair?

Provost—You've asked your question.

Mr Forbes—I'll take note of what you have said and try to rectify it. I did not pay any attention to the number of hours worked.

Bailie Bridges—You gave instructions to Mr MacMillan to build a wall round the Burgh yard.

Mr Forbes—I asked him to do it, but he was working at a farm. Bricklayers came and asked the work. I gave it—that was Carson and M'Call.

Bailie Bridges—Was M'Call unemployed at the time?

Mr Forbes—He said so.

Bailie Bridges—When that work was finished you were finished with Carson—a ratepayer—and still employed M'Call.

Mr Forbes—Not now.

Bailie Bridges—Till Saturday.

P.-J. M'Call—Did I ever ask you for work for any of my boys?

Mr Forbes—Never.

Bailie Bridges—I never said you did.

P.-J. M'Call—Maybe not, but it is easy to see what you are trying to infer.

Provost—You would have been no work for anybody if we had not started Hardston Place. Bailie Bridges opposed that.

Bailie Bridges—That's camouflage. The men are not getting "fair do," and never will from you.

P.-J. M'Call—We know the men are not getting a fair deal. I have discovered that some came straight off cemetery work on Saturday and started work on Monday. I was for that reason I suggested applicants produce their stamped cards. It is only labourers I have to deal with; I have nothing to do with tradesmen.

One of the houses at Keir Hardie Hill is reserved for Mr Harry Smith, Tanyard. The Clerk said they would have to serve him with another notice.

Bailie Bridges—The last notice was addressed to No. 9, which is empty, and Mr Smith occupies No. 11.

Provost—I think this is a matter for demolition. I understand we can do so if, three months after notice is served, the proprietor has not done so.

Clerk—Three months after house becomes vacant.

Provost—I think we can do it now.

Clerk—We will need to be careful in charging proprietor up with cost of demolition, less what we obtain for the material.

Bailie Bridges—Was a man Johnstone transferred to Keir Hardie Hill?

Mr Forbes—Yes.

Bailie Bridges—Was his house condemned?

Mr Forbes—It is in a Clearance Area, but that has not yet been agreed to by the Board of Health.

Bailie Bridges—We won't get the grant.

Mr Forbes—We will, later on.

A minute of meeting of Streets and Lighting Committee held on 15th November bore that it was agreed to take over Mr Morrison's Pavement provided it is passed by the Burgh Surveyor.

Mr Pearson's Wall,—It was agreed that the members should visit this property in daylight, and that the action to be determined on should be taken by the Council as a body.

It was unanimously agreed that the Surveyor should be instructed to get on with the road work recommended. Furthermore, the pavements should also be remade with asphalt, and a hand-roller of the type suggested by Mr M'Call should be purchased to enable this work to be done properly.

Lighting.—The Burgh Surveyor was instructed to see that the lamp at the east end of Gemmell Avenue is lit. It was also suggested that a lamp should be placed in the Oval at the bottom near Mr Jackson's house.

Instructions were given to have an extra lamp placed in a somewhat dark area at Keir Hardie Hill.

Bailie Bridges—I omitted a suggestion by Councillor Scoular to put a railing and steps at the foot of John Baird Street. This has been in an unsatisfactory state for years, and I think Mr Forbes might be instructed to find the cost of above.

A minute of meeting of Housing Sub-Committee held on 22nd November bore that it has been arranged for Mr Campbell to start bottoming work on Monday, 26th November.

We discussed the arrears of rent and we that recommend that we ask our treasurer, Mr Lorimer, to collect the arrears and rents of some of the worst cases weekly, and that Mr Hunter notify these people.

Councillor Scoular—Has the collection of arrears and rents been put into operation?

Provost—We went over the list carefully. Owing to the success of weekly collections at Keir Hardie Hill we thought we might apply the same to difficult cases in other schemes. The Clerk is to write them, then ask the Treasurer to collect weekly.

A minute of Conference between Magistrates and Chief Constable Munro, held in the Town Clerk's Office on Saturday, 24th November, bore:—Present—Provost Hughes, Bailie Bridges, Bailie Holland, Chief Constable Munro, Superintendent Duffus, and Inspector Lobban.

The Chief Constable explained that he had asked the Magistrates to meet him for the purpose of discussing the questions of [illegible] the Road Traffic Act, 1934, to enable him to make recommendations to the County Council as the Highway Authority.

It was agreed to recommend that the whole Burgh, with extensions in Auchinleck Road to the hospital entrance and in Glaisnock Street to Sherrington House be deemed to be a built-up area for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act, 1934, Section 1.

It was also agreed to recommend two crossings for foot passengers in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 of the Road Traffic Act, 1934, as follows, viz.:—(1) At the School Gate in Hamilton Place; and (2) in Barrhill Road at a point between Bank Avenue and the school, to be decided by the police.

The report for the quarter ended 30th September showed there had been 24 births (24.9) and 12 deaths (12.4) in the Burgh for that period.

Motion by Provost Hughes.—"That the Town Council remit to the Public Health Committee to enquire and report regarding overcrowding in the Burgh."

Provost—By the end of 1935 we hope to complete our Slum Clearance Schemes, and be able to say we lead in finishing the 8 years' Housing Scheme. But there will still be the question of overcrowding to face. Of the 16 burghs in the county there are only four worse in this respect than ours. The figures are Mr Bignold's. We are going to have more legislation on this question, and I think we should be prepared to take advantage of it as soon as it is put on the statute book. I move we remit to the appropriate committee to obtain the facts and figures as to state of overcrowding in our burgh. Councillor Scoular seconded.

There was read a letter from the Department of Health for Scotland with reference to overcrowding was read:—

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR SCOTLAND.

Sir,—

Housing (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Act, 1933.

I am to refer to paragraph 16 of the Department's circular dated 30th May last, from which the Local Authority will observe that Section 1 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Act, 1933, empowers them, with the Department's consent, to promote housing schemes assisted by an annual subsidy of £3 per house for 40 years.

This State subsidy is available only to Scottish Local Authorities and has been sanctioned by Parliament because of the recognised need in Scotland for the provision of alternative accommodation for the unduly large percentage of the population living in overcrowded houses and able by reason of their economic circumstances to pay only a restricted rent.

In order to qualify for subsidy the houses must be completed before 30th June, 1935. In view of the limited time within which this special subsidy is available the Local Authority will realise that the question of providing houses with its aid demands their prompt consideration.

The Census returns show that overcrowding is very general, but is found in more aggravated form in particular localities, and the Department desire to bring under the notice of the Local Authority a few of the statistics on the subject as ap-

(Continued on Supplement).

Sports Page

FOOTBALL.

Talbot Get The Points.

WESTERN LEAGUE.

By "BATMAN."

At Beechwood Park.

About a couple of hours before the advertised starting time on this Western Junior League match at Auchinleck rain fell very heavily, and I fully expected to find, on my arrival at Beechwood Park, that the pitch would be in a bad state. I was surprised, however, to see that, while the ground looked heavy, conditions were not so bad as one would have imagined they would be, and certainly not so bad as I have seen the same ground on many another occasion. What struck me as likely to prove more troublesome to the players than the underfoot conditions was a strong wind which swept the field of play and which came in strong gusts from the pavilion end. The visitors' captain guessed correctly the spin of the referee's coin, and promptly booked the assistance of the elements. I prepared myself to watch how the home defence would comport themselves, feeling, naturally, that they would have many opportunities of showing what they could do against such a strong wind. The visitors' left wing immediately strengthened this belief as they came bearing down on the home goal. Crowley was first in action, and he cleared his lines confidently. Hutton, Talbot's inside-right, fastened on to this clearance, beat Young, the visitors' left-ball, and transferred nicely to Findlay. The outside man ran a few yards and crossed beautifully. "Newman," the home centre, was on the spot and promptly shot past Brown, to give Talbot the lead after five minutes play. I rather liked the way in which "Newman" (a trialist, I learned) accepted this chance. The Victoria at once set about altering this state of affairs, H. Campbell coming through on the right. He, however, parted weakly and Wyllie cleared with a hefty kick. Back the visitors came, this time via the left. Crowley was equal to the occasion, and after heading clear a cross from Kelly, he immediately intercepted a pass from Dempster, and kicked well upfield. Hutton again gained possession, and again he placed nicely to Findlay. The right winger, without wasting time, centred strongly. Donnachie attempted to head clear, but only succeeded in sending the ball a few yards out, to where Hutton, unmarked, tried a first-time shot, his effort rebounding back off Taylor, and M'Call taking this on the drop left Brown helpless with a terrific shot. Time played, fifteen minutes. Two goals up, and playing against the wind, things were looking bright indeed for the homesters. The Irvine fellows so far had never even threatened danger; a more inept forward line than theirs I have not seen this season. You will have some idea of their ability when I tell you that, besides having the benefit of the wind, they were opposed by a half-back line which, to me at least, didn't appear too strong. Yet Crowley and Wylie were able to step in and clear without any great difficulty every time the half-backs were beaten. M'Caffer in the home goal was seldom tested, and I noticed him carrying on quite a lengthy conversation with some spectators behind his charge. For quite a long period before half-time play was, to say the least of it, very uninteresting, and but for an occasional flash of cleverness by Hutton and M'Call, the two Talbot inside men, would have been dull as dishwater. I almost forgot to mention Findlay, the home outside-right; he, too, had some sparkling runs, and his well-timed crosses caused the visitors' defence no end of worry. From one such, indeed, Talbot almost increased their lead. Newman shot against the post, and with Brown full stretch on the ground M'Call had a try which was luckily stopped on the goal-line by Dale. Shortly afterwards the half-time whistle sounded with the score—Talbot, 2; Irvine Vics., 0.

Without leaving the field the teams commenced the second half, and with the wind now behind them I, like a few others round about me, expected the homesters to run up a tall score. A smart dribbling run by Hutton in the opening minutes almost started the expected rout, only a fine save by Brown averting a score. Dempster changed the scene with the smartest bit of play shown by a visiting forward so far. He cut into the middle, beating both M'Aulay and Morrison en route, and sent out a long pass to Hendry; the winger, however, was slow to connect, and Wyllie cleared. M'Call was next prominent with a nice bit of play which he ended by letting Currie away on the left. The outside-left cut in several yards and lofted in a nice centre. Newman, standing on the six yards line, got his head to this and piloted the ball into the corner of the net. A splendidly taken goal which left Brown, the visitors' goalkeeper, helpless. Time, five minutes. The visitors now began to show up much better, and I could trace this to a wonderful improvement in the play of Dempster, their inside-left. How he proved so inept in the first half is a mystery, because hereabouts he was just about the cleverest forward afield. He could now beat M'Aulay with seeming ease, and his passes were the acme of precision. Unfortunately for his team he got little support, and his good work was generally wasted by the others. After 20 minutes' play, however, he had the satisfaction of seeing his labours rewarded. He transferred a long pass out to the right. Hendry raced ahead, but lost possession in a scramble out near the corner flag. Either Wyllie or Hood, I thought, should have cleared. Both, however, attempted to do so at the same time, and got in a hopeless tangle. Hendry regained possession and dipped the ball inside to H. Campbell, who from about ten yards gave M'Caffer no chance with a good shot. We had now reached the 20th minute, and with the visitors' showing improvement things were becoming more interesting. Ten minutes more and the position became alarming from a Talbot point of view. H. Campbell started the bother this time. He beat Hood and adroitly side-stepped a desperate tackle by Wyllie. In moving forward following this he kicked the ball a little too far ahead. Crowley, who had run across from the right, seemed to me certain to clear, and should have done so. He, however, elected to dribble past the oncoming Campbell, and, as often happens, failed to do so. The inside man promptly passed across the goal, where Dempster, standing unattended, just as promptly banged home another goal. M'Caffer had no chance whatever to save. I must put the blame for this goal on Crowley's shoulders. Yes, "Bobbie," you should have cleared first time. This was rather a facer for the homesters, and right away they set about putting a different complexion on matters. After several good chances had been wasted by Findlay, who, by the way, has gone off match from his first half showing, Currie got a chance. He let go a terrific shot, but Brown brought off a marvellous save. Shortly afterwards he had to punch clear a lob from M'Call, and incidentally, and I might here add accidentally, knocked out the home centre-forward, who appeared badly winded. He soon recovered, however, and the game resumed. M'Caffer was next called upon to save a couple of long tries. This he did confidently. With the end drawing near Talbot pressed, and made great efforts to increase their lead. The visitors' defence held out, however, and no further scoring took place.

Talbot—M'Caffer; Crowley and Wyllie; M'Aulay, Morrison, and Hood; Findlay, Hutton, "Newman," M'Call, and Currie.

Irvine Vics.—Brown; Taylor and Dale; Ross, Donnachie, and Young; Hendry, H. Campbell, M. Campbell, Dempster, and Kelly.

Referee—Mr Spraggs.

Talbot, 3; Irvine Victoria, 2.

Summing-Up.

Not a game one will be likely to remember. Play was scrappy, and seldom reached even a moderately good standard. I have no hesitation in saying that Talbot deserved their victory, but I am not handing them any bouquets for their success, because I shall be not only much surprised but equally disappointed if they encounter such weak opposition again this season. Had the homesters played as well in the second half as they did in the first they would have won handsomely, but during the second period of the game they reduced themselves to the level of a poor Irvine team, and for spells were even inferior to the opposition. Now for the players. I am fully aware that Talbot are trying out several young players meantime, with a view, I believe, to preparing themselves for next season, but I therefore don't want to be too severe in my criticism. M'Caffer was safe in goal; there are few better keepers than "Chic." Crowley at right-back surprised me by his display in this unfamiliar berth. Playing in pre-war days he was the best back afield. In the second half, however, he fell off considerably; this was noticeable as the visiting forwards improved. Still for a youngster he did remarkably well, and with experience, which he will certain, develop into a good defender. Wylie at left-back I can only put down as fair. He is too erratic for my liking. M'Aulay, the right-ball, tried hard enough, but seemed unaccustomed to the position and was of little assistance to his forwards. Morrison, the centre-half, I can only say was eager, but otherwise didn't please me. Hood at left-half, with the experience Willie has I expected much from him. He was sadly disappointed, however, and I noticed was woefully weak with his left foot. Hood has gone back greatly since I saw him last in Talbot colours. Now for the forwards—In Findlay I think the Talbot officials have hit on a good outside-right, and as he is young he will improve. His first half display was good enough for anything. The inside-right, Hutton, is also a clever young player and knows the game. Yes, I put this one down as above the ordinary. "Newman, who performed at centre-forward, took both his goals cleverly enough; indeed his second counter I put down as the work of an artiste. Unfortunately, apart from his goals he was only moderately successful. M'Call at inside-left performed as I always have held he can. George is a brainy player, and when in the mood has few superiors. At times in this match he was in the mood, but didn't take things seriously enough. When he did he was the best forward on view. Currie, who operated on the left touchline, was a curious mixture. Sometimes he did some smart things, and at other times he did things that were anything but smart. Still, he did sufficiently well to merit another run.

I will only deal briefly with the visitors. Brown in goal was not to blame for his team's defeat, and indeed was responsible for some clever saving when goals looked certain. The backs were only moderate. Dale being best. Donnachie was their best half without being brilliant. Forward Hendry, H. Campbell, and Dempster were best, with the last named, especially in the second half, the best of the lot.

—o:—

Glen's Still Winning.

WESTERN LEAGUE.

A good crowd braved the elements on Saturday for this Western League game at Connel Park, New Cumnock. The Glens showed one change from the team selected, the versatile "Barney" Jackson taking the outside-left berth in place of Hawthorn, unfit. Before the game started a series of photographs were taken of Glenafton players, thus delaying the start.

Glenafton won the toss and booked a strong wind. Immediately after the kick-off the home team started the pressure and were soon in the vicinity of the Saltcoats goal. Ballantyne was early prominent with his stylish play, purveying to his forwards. The visitors were seldom over midfield, the strong play of Brown kept them at bay. M'Callum worked hard to feeding the play upfield, but the Glens' half-backs were masters. Smart play by Irvine, Miller, and Lamont ended by the latter passing back to Miller who promptly netted. Shortly afterwards the home team were awarded two corners in succession, Jackson's corner crossing to Irvine, who scored with a nice drive. The Glens continued to press, and Irvine again scored. The direct methods of this winger was a worry to the Saltcoats defence, especially Burrett, who was playing a good game.

Saltcoats opened the second half with more life. M'Callum was prominent, forcing the play on both sides of the field, his first-time try skimming the crossbar. Long shots by Conlin and Hayburn were easily dealt with by M'Ewan. Two corners were the only consolation to the visitors at this period. The Glens then took a hand in the game, a run through by Lamont being luckily stopped by Calderwood. (Talent spotters call again please). Drab midfield play followed to the end.

Glenafton—M'Ewan; Brown and Sim; Logan, Gray, and Ballantyne; Irvine, Miller, Lamont, Campbell, and Jackson.

Saltcoats—Calderwood, Stevenson and Burrett; Campbell, Rainey, and Edwards, Hayburn, M'Callum, Conlin, Sanders, and Hughes.

Referee—Mr T. Whirter, Glasgow.

Glenafton, 3; Saltcoats Vics., 0.

—o:—

Kello Collect.

WESTERN LEAGUE.

Kello Rovers travelled to Irvine on Saturday to meet the Meadow, and for economic reasons had to make a number of team changes. Two Sanquhar juveniles, Henderson and M'Dowall of Crawick Thistle were introduced to the defence, and they acquitted themselves quite satisfactorily. Aided by a strong gale the Rovers became dangerous right away, Smith being conspicuous with a fine solo run. Reggans then darted through, but was unceremoniously cased off. Kello appealed strongly for a penalty without success. Then Meadow took up the running and pressed heavily, but Henderson and Crawford proved stout defenders and warded off several likely attacks.

The wind was proving a valuable asset to Kello, who again made headway. Howard was a great rader, and his crosses were accurate and well-timed. Reggans missed a great opening from one of these, but later tested M'Kay with a deft header. A few minutes from the interval Reggans put Kello ahead when M'Kay dropped a neat shot from Crimin.

On resuming Meadow had the best of matters, and Oxford equalised in five minutes. Even play followed, and then Meadow were awarded a penalty, and Templeton scored from the spot to give his side the lead. The Rovers then played surprisingly well against the wind, and M'Kay saved grandly from Reggans. Keeping up a sustained pressure Howard scored the equaliser. Meadow retaliated on the left and Traguair delivered a rocket shot which Davidson saved in spectacular style. The closing minutes were rather exciting, and Davidson, the Kello 'keeper, proved a hero, saving grandly with three opponents rushing in on him.

Irvine Meadow—M'Kay; Milliken and Linlsay; Meek, Devlin, and Clotworthy; Honeyman, Oxford, Templeton, Kelly, and Traguair.

Kello Rovers—Davidson; Henderson and Crawford; M'Leod, Crimin, and M'Dowall; Howard, Smith, Reggans, Torrance, and Tennant.

Referee—Mr T. Purves, Glasgow.

Meadow XI., 2; Kello Rovers, 2.

Summing-Up.

A keenly contested game, though a high wind made ball control rather difficult. Kello deserved the point because of their greater alertness at goal. In Howard and Smith they had the best wing on view. The defence, a makeshift one—rose to the occasion, and their marking and positional play was ahead of that displayed by the Meadow defence.

—o:—

BLUEBELL BEAT BARTONMOLM IN AYRSHIRE CUP.

At Recreation Park, Skares.

In this fourth round tie Skares opened strongly against a stiff wind, Goudie just failing to score in the first minute. Play opened out more, and the Skares defence stood up well against the strong wind which was blowing right down the field. Had dame fortune been smiling on the Bluebell they might have been leading at the interval.

In the first minute of the second half Goudie opened the scoring for the home club after good play by Gorman. Five minutes later Goudie scored a second goal. This put the visitors on their mettle, and during this pressure Laird scored. At this time the game was very interesting despite the heavy conditions underfoot—both teams striving their utmost to gain a place in the semi-final. Goudie completed his hat-trick after 25 minutes of the second-half had gone. Two minutes later Orr scored a fourth goal for Skares. Gorman had to retire about this time for attention, but was soon back again. The visitors, although down 4-1 and playing against the wind, were putting up a good show, and certainly the spectators had nothing to grouse about—play being keen and thrilling. Five minutes from time Goudie scored his fourth and the Bluebell's fifth goal. The game ended with Skares entering the semi-final worthy winners I a good game.

Bluebell—M'Millan; Nimmo and Johnstone; Orr, Hayes, and Sloan; Kerr, Gorman, Goudie, Richmond, and Pearson.

Bartonholm — Bannerman; Muir and Clark; Howie, M'Inally, and Hopkins; Moore, Orr, Cunningham, Robb, and Laird.

Skares Bluebell, 5; Bartonholm U., 1.

—o:—

1st ROUND SCOTTISH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS SHIELD.

Area No. 5 v. Glasgow R.C.'s.

At Beechwood Park, Dalmarnock Bridge, Glasgow, last Saturday in miserable weather, our Area team as given in our last issue kicked off against a very strong wind. This, coupled with the fact that it was an ash pitch, pretty well accounted for our boys being in arrears at the interval. Half-time—R.C.'s, 3; Area No. 5, 1.

Even with the elements in their favour the Ayrshire boys did not show up too well except for the last ten minutes. The home lads had, however, increased their lead to 5-1 by this time. In the last five minutes our boys scored twice, but alas it was too late to have any effect on the tie. The visitors were also served by Brown (Muirkirk), who had also one of the goals to his credit. Other scorers for the local team were Dickson (Cronberry) and Nesbit (New Cumnock). Result:—

R.C.s, 8; Area No. 5, 3.

—o:—

SPORT PARS.

Glenafton's successful season is shown as follows:—

League and Cup-tie games:—Played 28, won 21, lost 2, drawn 5. Goals for, 78; against, 25. Eighteen games without a defeat. Fourteen consecutive wins.

On Saturday they play Darvel at Darvel; kick-off, 2.15. Team:—M'Ewan; Brown and Sim; Logan, Gray, and Ballantyne; Irvine, Miller, Lamont, Campbell, and Hawthorn.

Arrangements have been completed for the Scottish tie with the Buffs on New Year's Day. Kick-off, 1.30 p.m. Special leaves, 11.30 a.m. Fare, 2s 8d return.

The enthusiastic Glenafton Ladies' Supporters' Club held a whist drive in the Town Hall on Saturday night. The turnout of players did not come up to expectations. Prize-winners:—Ladies—1 Mrs W. Dickson, 2 Mrs M'Comb; gentlemen—1 A. Megget, 2 T. M'Ginn.

All the enclosure tickets for the Scotland v. England International on 6th April, 1935, have been reserved by tourist agencies. All the parties come from England except one of 60 which is coming from Paris. Perhaps Scottish football supporters will get listening-in on the radio. That is about our only hope in this district.

It's a better League this morning! Watch Celtic!

"Joey" Brown, of Troon Athletic, is in the limelight. This player has great ball control, and is one of the best inside forwards in Ayrshire junior circles.

Kello Rovers are economising. The Western League guarantee is only £2, which means a heavy loss when the Rovers travel to North Ayrshire, especially when the early kick-off means leaving Kirkconnel in the forenoon. They have decided to field players who are available without having to lose work, and who have the minimum amount of travelling to do.

Ayr United v. Queen of the South in the Scottish Cup first round will be the attraction for Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire on 26th January. Will Somerset hold the crowd? This is one of the most promising ties of the draw.

New Cumnock Higher Grade School and Cumnock Academy 2nd Eleven XI. played a friendly hockey match last Saturday at the Glebe Park. Miserable weather spoiled the game, which the home team won by 6 goals to 0. A nice tea was enjoyed by the players after the game.

Followers of "midget" football were interested in the 1st round Scottish Schoolboys' Cup. Five locals were selected in the area team:—Miller and Nisbet, New Cumnock H.G.; Wight, Shankland, and M'Clymont, Bank School. There were expressions of disappointment when the result was known—Glasgow R.C., 8; Cumnock Area, 3. This game was played in Glasgow.

Who is going to stop Glenafton's run of success? Fourteen wins in succession! Let's hope it is not the Buffs in the "Scottish."

GLENAFTON ATHLETIC F.C.

AYRSHIRE'S "SCOTTISH" HOPE.

(By kind permission of Scottish "Daily Express.")

(Back row)—A. Stewart (treasurer), D. Logan, H. Brown, W. Gray, M. M'Ewan, J. Sim, G. Ballantyne (captain). Front row)—J. Irvine, J. Millar, D. Lamont, J. Campbell, R. Jackson, R. Hawthorne.

FOOTBALL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By "BATMAN."

Murphy, the stockily built centre forward whom Talbot signed at the beginning of this season, and whom Oldham picked up a couple of months ago, turned out for his new club for the first time last Saturday, against Norwich City. The ex-Talbot player made a splendid debut, and, beside being on the winning side, scored a couple of goals. Keep it up, Murphy! I learn that Irvine Vics. have taken a fancy for Tommy Wright who is on Talbot's books. Can tell you more, Talbot are willing to release him. The matter was discussed by the officials of both clubs after the game on Saturday last.

Now let us have a look at to-morrow's fixtures! Darvel v. Glenafton, Saltcoats Victoria v. Kello Rovers, Cumnock Juniors v. Auchinleck Talbot. All under Western League auspices. How will these games go?

Darvel v. Glenafton—Don't think this is a walk-over for the Glens. Darvel will fight hard, but I think the New Cumnock boys will still be undisputed on Saturday night. Yes, a narrow win for the Glens.

Saltcoats Victoria v. Kello Rovers—This is a ticklish problem. If the Rovers were not so erratic I would take them at least to draw, but I am afraid they will drop a couple of points here. I take Saltcoats to win.

Cumnock Juniors v. Auchinleck Talbot. It is always difficult to tell how a local derby will end, but judging by recent displays I fancy Cumnock can win this game. They impress me as being the better balanced side and more penetrative forward. I'm risking Cumnock to win.

I am asked to give certain teams as officially selected for tomorrow's derby at Townhead Park. Here they are! Cumnock: Jardine; Craig and Penrose; R. McCall, Robertson and Russell; Donnelly, Doolan, Mitchell, Marshall, and Dick.

Talbot—M'Caffer; Crowley and Newman; M'Aulay, Baird, and Strang; Findlay, Hutton, Newman, M'Call, and Boyle.

The R. M'Call who will appear at right-half for Cumnock Juniors to-morrow is a younger brother of Tommy M'Call's, who played many fine games for Cumnock Juniors himself before going to Queen of the South. Cumnock followers will, I feel sure, be quite satisfied if this younger member of the family plays half as well as Tommy did.

I would also name the "Newman" who figures at left-back for Talbot, but I have promised not to mention his name meantime. He is, however, a prominent juvenile player, and will be recognised by many when he takes the field. Now guess the player referred to.

The quarterly meeting of the Auchinleck Talbot F.C., which was held in the clubhouse on Friday night last, was a very orderly affair. The treasurer was able to report a credit balance on behalf of the quarter's working. This, I may say, was quite a surprise announcement, and probably silenced the malcontents.

I hear that Harry Boyle, Kello Rovers popular little centre-forward, returned to something like his old form on Saturday last. Besides notching a cleverly taken goal, he kept the Meadow defence on interlocks throughout. Harry's form has been off colour during recent weeks, and I am glad to hear of this more pleasant news concerning him.

I should like to draw the attention of whist players to the whist drive which is being held by Auchinleck Talbot in their clubhouse to-night (Friday). Besides doing your bit to help the club's finance, you stand a sporting chance of taking away a splendid easy chair. There is one of these being given as first prize to the winning lady, and one to the successful gentleman. There are in addition four other valuable prizes being offered. The clubhouse, I understand, can accommodate 200 whist players, but I am certain that Secretary Jimmy Holland will be pleased to procure the use of a room or two in the Coal Road nearby if necessary, should more than that number need catering for. So roll up in your hundreds.

I notice in one of last Sunday's papers that a well-known "scout," who gives careful attention to junior clubs, gives it as his considered opinion that Bowhill Rovers, the Fife Junior club, will win the Scottish Cup this season. Well, I'm willing to bet this "scout" a glass and a pint that if his tip for the cup and Glenafton get through their next round safely, and the fifth round decrees that Bowhill come to New Cumnock, his fancy won't win the cup this season. If he is "T.T.," and I never knew a "scout" who was "T.T.," I'll make the bet a new hat. I hope this catches his eye, as I feel confident I'm on a good thing. Money for nothing in my opinion.

—o:—

CLUB NOTES.

The Alton Recreation Club, Castle Green, once the property of the Ex-Servicemen's Club, is a paying concern these days. This hut, with billiard tables and fittings, was bought from the ex-Servicemen two years ago by the young men of the lower district. The money was borrowed from local tradesmen, and has been paid back in full this week.

The Mauchline Carpet Bowling Club held their weekly whist on Friday instead if Saturday last week and the turnout was less than usual, 12 tables. Prize-winners were:—Ladies—1 Mrs A. Gray, 2 Mrs J. Blair; gentlemen—1 Mr G. M'Murdo, 2 Mr W. Milligan.

—o:—

RACING FIXTURES FOR AYRSHIRE, 1935.

The dates of the Ayr and Bogside race meetings for 1935 have been fixed. A change is made in the days of the Ayr Spring and Summer meetings; these will now be on the Saturday and Monday instead of Friday and Saturday as previously. The following are the fixtures:—

Ayr.—May 25 and 27 (Saturday and Monday); June 29 and July 1 (Saturday and Monday); July 15 and 16 (Monday and Tuesday); September 18, 19, and 20 (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday).

Bogside.—April 12 and 13 (Friday and Saturday); July 19 and 20 (Friday and Saturday); September 21 (Saturday).

Phone: Cumnock 99.

"Cumnock Express," Printed and Published by D. Connell & Co., Cumnock. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1934.

rather than pay this amount 37 of them have indicated that they will take in the gas for cooking purposes. My impression is that the question of gas versus electricity enters very little into the dispute. As one of our tenants states that on no consideration would he change over, as he has taken careful note of the cost in comparison with the same size of a house supplied with gas only, and claims electricity to be cheaper, cleaner, and in every way more satisfactory. My advice is get into touch with the Board first, if you have not done so already.—Yours faithfully,

John A. Aird,
Convener Kilmarnock Housing Committee.

3rd December, 1934

Dear Sir,—

Housing Scheme—Electric Cookers.

I have your letter of the 30th ulto.

My Council installed electric cooking apparatus at two of their Schemes some years ago, but recently, as a result of persistent complaints by the tenants, who were far from satisfied, they arranged with the Corporation Gas Department to supply, on simple hire terms, gas cookers and wash boilers to the tenants who desired to have such apparatus in preference to the existing electrical apparatus. The tenants, of course, pay the hire charges direct to the Gas Department.

I enclose a Statement showing the existing tariff of charges which I received from the Ayrshire Electricity Board in 1933, and also a new Optional Tariff of Charges which came into force then, amended in accordance with a recent reduction. I understand that most of the tenants in 1933 changed from the then existing tariff of charges to the new optional tariff of charges.—Yours truly,

N. J. Campbell, Town Clerk.

Bailie Bridges also read a letter from Treasurer Carney, Kilmarnock, substantiating his previous statement that a number of tenants in Scott Road all-electric houses were changing back to gas.

Provost—I think we should circulate this information among the members and ask Mr Bexon and Mr Graham to supply statements which could also be circulated. After that we could ask these gentlemen to meet us, when we could ask questions.

P.-J. M'Call—I am not pleased at the terms offered by the Electricity Board.

Provost—The correspondence does not supply all the information. I move we ask both the representatives to meet us.

Meeting authorised execution of mortgage by the Public Works Loan Board to secure £6000 and interest.

An application, dated 19th November, from Mr A. Withers, to erect a shed 7 ft. by 6 ft. in his garden at Keir Hardie Hill was remitted to the Housing Sub-Committee with powers.

Council confirmed a resolution of 9th December, 1934, to borrow (1) £200 for water mains at Barr's Park (extension site); (2) £225 for sewers at said site; (3) £3200 for construction of streets at east side of Glaisnock Street site; (4) £360 for water mains at said site; and (5) £650 for sewers at said site.

Letters from Town Clerk, Kilmarnock, and Ayrshire Electricity Board regarding "all-electric" houses.

It was agreed to ask them for the 20th inst., and to consider contractors' offers on 7th January. Appeals against assessments will be heard on 24th inst.

Fire Brigade.

Provost Hughes—We hear various suggestions from time to time about the local fire brigade. There is a feeling of dissatisfaction regarding it, and I think we should meet this by investigation. I move we remit it to the Magistrates' Committee. Agreed.

Lively Wind-Up.

Bailie Bridges—I was approached by two men last week applying for two appointments to be made in this connection early in the year. I told them I was unaware of any such thing.

Bailie Holland—Mr M'Kissock told me he heard it was to come before Council, but neither his son nor son-in-law mentioned it to me.

Provost Hughes—I do not know the men.

Bailie Bridges tried to raise the matter of Mr M'Millan's account, but was informed by the Provost that the meeting was adjourned and would now sit in Committee.

Bailie Bridges insisted on a hearing, but Provost Hughes was adamant, and the Press retired with Bailie Bridges asserting the Provost was a "Pinchbeck Hitler."

Cumnock District Council.

The statutory meeting was held at Millbank on Monday, 10th inst.—Mr Geo. M'Turk in the chair. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Messrs J. Trotter, J. Colthart, and T. Flynn. The Rev. J. Henderson moved that Mr M'Turk be reappointed to the chair, and this was unanimously agreed. This is the third unanimous appointment of Mr M'Turk to the chairmanship.

Mr M'Turk thanked the members for this expression of confidence.

A letter from the County Clerk acknowledged receipt of petition to repair Cornmill Street, Catrine, and stated the matter was receiving attention.

Mr Anderson—This came before the Highways Committee, and I was informed it is not on the list of highways. This street is over 100 years old, and has been maintained by the County. The only excuse given for not maintaining it now is the change of roadmen.

Rev. J. Hill—How long has the County repaired it?

Mr Anderson—Since the change over of administration.

The point is it is not on the list of highways, and the County has maintained it. It is not in bad repair; the proprietors keep it in fair order. The Highways Committee refused point blank to put it on the list. One member jocularly suggested the County should charge the proprietors for repairs.

The Clerk said he would receive an official reply from the County Clerk, and it was agreed to leave the matter as it is.

A letter from County re Sorn lighting had been referred to the County Engineer to obtain further particulars. The question had not been raised by the District Council, but had originated from the Sorn Estate.

Chairman—I have no fear but Sorn will get the same consideration as other parishes, and if we proceed cautiously we shall see electric lighting at Sorn.

Rev. J. Hill—It's not caution you need, it's patience.

A letter from the County Clerk stated that the Property and Works Committee are seeing the work of erecting two additional lamps at Mill Square, Catrine, carried out.

Mr Allan intimated that warning notices had been posted to head teachers asking them to warn pupils re the mischievous practice of tampering with and misuse of 'phone at telephone kiosk, Connelpark. This matter arose out of a New Cumnock minute. Mr J. Nicol, Bank School, had replied saying he had warned pupils of his school.

The Clerk submitted the following copy of letter he had sent to the Secretary of National Playing Fields Association, Edinburgh:—

4th December, 1934.

Captain E. D. Stevenson, M.C.

Dear Sir,—

Ochiltree, Catrine and Sorn Play Parks, and New Cumnock Play Park.

I duly received your favour of 28th ultimo., and have since been in communication with the County Clerk, who has been carrying out our legal work in connection with Play Parks. I enclose letter received from him. Regarding para 2 of page 2 of his letter, I think it would be better to have one formal Deed of Dedication to include the four play parks above mentioned. I enclose excerpt minute of meeting of the District Council resolving to dedicate the play parks in perpetuity and agreeing to complete a formal deed of dedication when all the conveyances are duly recorded in the Register of Sasines. I shall be glad to hear from you as to whether you agree to accept this as sufficient for your purpose. The County Architect is preparing for me the "marked" survey sheets requested in yours of 27th ultimo., and so soon as these come to hand I shall let you have them.—Yours faithfully,

John Allan.

P.S.—In asking you to accept excerpt minutes it was not the legal cost of preparing the deed I was concerned about but the "law's delays."

The next monthly meeting was due to fall on Christmas Eve, and it was agreed to dispense with it altogether; the various conveners to deal with any matters arising in the interim.

Mr Anderson submitted the following letter he had received from the County Architect:—

County Buildings, Ayr,
30th November, 1934.

Jas. B. Anderson, C.C.,
Sorn, by Mauchline.

Dear Mr Anderson,—

Catrine Housing (1930) Act.

With regard to the housing at the above development I understand from the Convener of the Housing Committee that you desire some information regarding progress at the above scheme.

I have had a good deal of trouble with the plasterer here, and I am glad to say that he is now making good progress.

The weather has also been better for drying purposes. I shall be glad to explain the action I took to try and expedite progress.—Yours faithfully,

William Reid.

P.S.—I enclose herewith for your further information a report of the progress at present.

Mr Anderson—The point is I was unaware of there being any hold-up on this work. I gave notice at the County meeting I was going to ask this question at the close, but the meeting was adjourned. I asked the chairman, who was aware of it, but had not heard officially.

Mr Cook—The report is pretty accurate. There has been a great delay due to the plasterer. Unfortunately the weather has been bad for plaster work.

Mr Pollock—I think, Mr Chairman, the correspondence bears out the statement made at last meeting.

Chairman—The matter is now being remedied.

Mr Bushell—I would like to ask that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Highways Committee drawing attention to the deplorable state of the footpaths in Auchinleck—particularly at Main Street, Old Avenue, and Park Road. There was flooding some time ago, but now the ground has settled I think the time is ripe for having these repairs done. Agreed.

Mr Bushell—I would like similar measures to be taken to expedite the demolition of the old buildings at Mauchline. These are in a dangerous state. The tenants at Burnside complain of stones falling from the old building there. The one at the Knowe is opposite the church, and when it is a windy day worshippers are subjected to great inconvenience from dust blowing. The last time this Council wrote Ayr on the matter the roofs were removed. Four months ago a recommendation went from here to have them cleared away. I hope you will agree to send on that recommendation again.

Chairman—I have no objection; these old houses can become very dangerous.

Rev. J. Hill—It is the proprietor's duty to remove them; they get three months in which to do so.

Col. Adair—Those houses have not been condemned. I got one removed from High Street. All we can do is try and get them cleared away.

Mr Bushell—I understand a Demolition Order was taken.

Col. Adair—The man in High Street gave up the ground to the Highways Committee on condition the County cleared away the building.

Clerk—I can take this up with the County Council. Agreed.

This concluded the business.

COMMUNION SERVICES.

Old Church.—Holy Communion was celebrated in the Old Church last week-end. Although the weather conditions were far from desirable, there was a large attendance.

On the Friday evening the customary preparatory service was held, when the officiating ministers were the Rev. J. D. M'Clymont, B.D., and the Rev. W. G. Alexander, M.A., of Muirkirk. The visiting minister preached on Psalm 116, v. xiii.—"I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord." Thereafter the minister of the Old Church admitted 27 catechumens to the full communion.

On the Sunday the dignified and impressive service of Holy Communion was conducted by the Rev. J. D. M'Clymont, who also preached, taking as his text—"And he went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God" (I. Kings, 19-8). The organist, Miss Jean Rankin, L.R.A.M., played at both services. The number of communicants would be about 450.

Cumnock U.F. Church of Scotland.—The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed on Sunday, 9th December. The Rev. Cossar Walker, of Meigle, occupied the pulpit morning and evening, and preached to a large congregation.

West Church.—The Holy Communion was dispensed in the West Church last Sunday morning by the Rev. Douglas Briggs, assisted by the Rev. F. M. Musk, B.A., Dundee. In the evening the thanksgiving service was conducted by the visiting minister.

TOWN COUNCIL

pearing in the 1931 Census returns referable to the area under the jurisdiction of your Local Authority.

As might be expected, the incidence of overcrowding is greatest in houses of one or two apartments, and the Department observe that in the burgh the percentage of these small houses to the total number of occupied houses is no less than 52.4. Further, the percentage of the burgh population living in these houses is returned as 51.8.

If a standard for overcrowding of more than two persons per room is accepted, the number of families in the burgh living under overcrowded conditions is 252. Even if a standard of three or more persons per room is taken, the number of overcrowded families is 174.

Shortage of houses is a primary cause of sub-letting, which in its turn leads to overcrowding. The latest Census figures reveal that the number of sub-let houses in the burgh is 15, being 1.7 per cent. of the total number of occupied houses.

The Department have set out these statistics on overcrowding as they feel that their presentation in this abbreviated form will emphasise to the Local Authority the extent of the evil in their district. Its menace to the population needs no elaboration. Overcrowding engenders impairment of the health of young children and the spread of infectious diseases, and should obviously be dealt with on grounds of decency and morality.

The Department consider it their duty to emphasise the extent of overcrowding that prevails in the burgh and the opportunity for dealing with it which the Local Authority have by reason of the subsidy specially provided by Parliament for this purpose.

The capitalised value of the State subsidy based on the current rate of interest (3¾ per cent.) charged by the Public Works Loan Board is approximately £63 per house—a substantial contribution with building prices at their present level and one that the Department are confident the Local Authority will find attractive if they have careful regard to the low rates at which Local Authorities can borrow, and to the economies, referred to in paragraph 21 and 22 of the Department's circular of 30th May, which can be practised in plans and specifications.

The Secretary of State directs me to express the hope that, so many and pressing are their other duties and obligations, the Local Authority will not overlook so favourable an opportunity of removing one of the gravest aspects of their housing problem, and he trusts that the Local Authority will see their way to formulate proposals in time to make the fullest possible use of the special subsidy.

I shall be glad if this communication may be submitted to an early meeting of the Local Authority or their appropriate Committee for their consideration and due intimation made to me of the result.—

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
Alex. M'Kenna, Assistant Secy.

A circular, dated 12th November, from the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland regarding the Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Bill was held over pending action of the County on the matter.

A letter, dated 13th November, 1934, from British Empire Cancer Campaign asked permission to hold collection on 25th May, 1935. This was left to the Clerk to arrange a day.

A letter, dated 29th November, was read from the North British Exhibitions regarding booking of Town Hall for Trades Exhibition. It was agreed to send terms and refer them to hallkeeper.

A circular, dated 29th November, from Department of Health for Scotland regarding rates of interest on loans received from Public Works Loan Board stated rate to be 3½ per cent. for housing loans for any period; other loans 3½ per cent. for period of 30 years; 3⅝ per cent. for 50 year loans.

A letter, dated 28th November, from Mr John M'Culloch stated that the house at 17 Shankston was inadequate for his purpose.

A report by the Burgh Surveyor confirmed the estimate given by the Board that half the houses in Cumnock were 1 or 2 apartment houses, and that half the population lived in these houses.

It was agreed to circulate a communication from the Scottish Association for Mental Welfare appealing for subscriptions.

The following letters were received by Mr R. D. Hunter, town clerk, Cumnock:—

County Buildings, Ayr,
30th November, 1934.

Dear Sir,—

Ayr County Water Order.

The Committee of the County Council promoting this Order have resolved to send you, for the information of the Cumnock Town Council, the enclosed print of the Draft Order as lodged in terms of the General Orders with the Scottish Office along with a Petition to the Secretary of State.

The Committee desire to give due consideration to any observations which the Town Council desire to make on the Draft Order and to meet as far as possible any objections.

It may be that the Town Council would prefer the constitution of a Joint Board representing the County Council, Town Councils and other water undertakers for the administration of water supply in the whole area rather than the proposed transfer to the County Council, and, if there is agreement among the local authorities to this effect, the County Council would be prepared to negotiate the terms and conditions of such an agreement, to avoid a conflict with other local authorities.

If there is any further information required to enable the Town Council to consider the proposals, the Committee will be glad to supply such information so far as it is available.—I am, yours faithfully,
James Shaw, County Clerk.

In the same matter a letter dated 1st December called a meeting of Burgh representatives at Ayr on 7th inst.

ALL ELECTRIC HOUSES.

The following letters for and against "all electric" houses were read:—

County Buildings, Ayr,
6th December, 1934.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter, dated 30th Nov., addressed to the County Clerk, and which was passed to me on 1st December. I hope to give you the information asked for at an early date.

I am afraid that I have not much to say in favour of the all-electric house, but will state my reasons when replying to Mr Shaw.—Yours faithfully,
William Reid, County Architect.

Greenholm Street, Kilmarnock,
5th December, 1934.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 30th ulto., and am pleased to learn that your Council have under consideration the proposal to build 166 all-electric houses.

My Board are prepared to charge the Town Council on the same basis as the Irvine Town Council for their all-electric houses, namely, your Corporation to pay to my Board a sum equal to 15 per cent. of the assessed value of each house, the minimum assessment in each case to be £20, and all units as registered on the meter to be charged to the consumer at ½d per unit. At these rates there is no doubt that electricity is the cheapest proposition.

I understand the Irvine Town Council collect the £3 by means of an extra charge on the rental, which is more suitable to the consumers than collecting payment in one sum. The unit charge of ½d is so small that the quarterly account only amounts to a small sum.

I have looked up some of the consumpts of consumers in the Irvine Housing Scheme and I find that the average of the highest consumers is 16s each per quarter, and the average of smaller consumers in the same housing scheme is 13s each per quarter; in fact there are some cases where the consumpt is practically only 100 units per quarter, which amounts to 4s 2d.

In looking up another all-electric housing scheme where the consumer pays the sum under the assessment, the total cost of an all-electric house, including cooking, heating, a wash boiler, and water heating averages between £6 and £8 per annum.

In regard to the latter part of your letter my Board are unable to give preferential treatment. We charge the consumers on our ordinary tariffs, but you might let me know what you mean by the "cheapest terms."

A representative of the General Electric Co., Ltd., called for me on Monday last, and mentioned that the cookers in the new housing scheme would each be of a capacity of over 6 kilowatts, and, if such cookers are installed, then the assessment sum will be reduced from 15 per cent. to 12½ per cent.

I shall be glad to call and discuss the matter with your Council, should they so desire.—Yours faithfully,
Ayrshire Electricity Board,
William C. Bexon.

Greenholm Street, Kilmarnock,
5th December, 1934.

Dear Sir,—I have written to you to-day specifically in reply to your letter of the 30th ulto., but I feel after reading in the Press your Council's discussion on all-electric houses that I should place certain facts before you.

First of all, in regard to Mr Miller's remarks, I cannot agree with him that gas is cheaper than electricity, at the rates which my Board offer, and I cannot agree with his figures that 200 cubic feet of gas equals 100,000 British heat units. The heat units depend on the value of the gas, which, as probably you are aware, varies in many gas undertakings.

We have a few thousands of electric cookers now installed, these cookers having replaced gas cookers, and in some instances the price of gas is less than that at Cumnock. I think, therefore, this proves that electricity for cooking is more efficient than gas.

According to the Press report Bailie Bridges enquired whether the Council were aware that at Scott Road, Kilmarnock, the tenants had asked for gas to be installed, to replace an all-electric system. In the year 1924 Kilmarnock Corporation launched out on the Scott Road Housing Scheme, and, as the electricity undertaking was then in the hands of the Corporation, the late Bailie Cumie, who was a member of the Town Council, was anxious that these houses should be all-electric. The Electricity Committee therefore agreed that they would, as an experiment, and at their own expense, instal radiators, a wash boiler, an electric cooker, an immersion heater in the tank, a kettle and an iron in each house. The charges for the current consumed were as follows:—

Four-roomed house.—250 units, a certain number allocated to each quarter during the year to be charged at 6d per unit, and all in excess per annum at 0.8d per unit.

Three-roomed house.—200 units, a certain number allocated to each quarter during the year to be charged at 6d per unit, and all in excess per annum at 0.8d per unit.

This tariff was slightly in excess of the ordinary tariff at that time, the increase being partly to cover the cost of the electrical apparatus which the Electricity Committee had provided free of charge to the tenants.

As you will appreciate, the charges for electricity have been reduced, and also there have been considerable improvements on electric cookers. Quite a number of the tenants in the Scott Housing Scheme wished the Board to provide an up-to-date cooker, free of charge, and also to charge them on the ordinary tariff. This practically meant that they wished the Board to provide them with all the electric apparatus free of charge, and also to have the lowest charge for electricity. My Board could not agree to this, but they were prepared to provide cookers on the ordinary basis and to charge for electricity at the standard tariffs. By so doing, the consumers in practically every case would have saved on their annual electricity bill.

A number of tenants in Scott Road did agree to this and were thoroughly satisfied, but there were others who were dissatisfied, and, in view of this, the Corporation Gas Department laid a gas main recently for the purpose of giving a supply for gas cooking. I am led to understand that although the gas main has been laid, very few of the tenants of this housing scheme are going to take advantage of the gas main by installing a gas cooker, and I would recommend that representatives of your Council visit the Scott Road Housing Scheme, as I think the tenants there will be able to give an unprejudiced opinion of electric cooking.

I rather welcome the fact that a few tenants in the Scott Road Housing Scheme have installed gas cookers, as, after a year's run, it can be definitely proved whether all-electric housing is a better proposition than the lighting and small domestic apparatus being electric, and the cooker being gas.

I have ample evidence and figures to show that the cost of an all-electric house is cheaper than gas. As can be expected, the British Gas Association have been, and are doing, everything possible to prevent the installation of electricity for lighting, cooking, and heating. I can remember when the writer was endeavouring to get electricity for street lighting in a burgh, a leaflet was circulated pointing out that electricity for street lighting would be very much more expensive than the existing method of gas. It may interest you to know that the lighting of this burgh, since electricity has been installed, amounts to approximately £198 per annum, whereas with gas the cost was approximately £322 per annum, thus showing a saving of £124 over a year.—Yours faithfully,
Ayrshire Electricity Board,
William C. Bexon.

4 Princes Street,
Kilmarnock, 8-12-34.

Dear Provost,—Our Scott Road all-electric scheme consists of 60 houses and was occupied in 1924 with all the electric appliances supplied free by the Electricity Board.

In order to give our tenants the benefit of the now cheaper rate of electricity and the use of a modern cooker, the Board want to charge an annual rent for the cooker of 30s, which they resent, and