

David Leask's Maddiston Pages

Muiravonside Parish, the way it was.

- David E Leask
- A "Walk" though the villages
- PHOTO ALBUMS
- Ariel Photo Page
- Maddiston School
- Local History Workshop
- Chrisella Terrace
- Simpson Drive
- Carronview or The Blocks
- St. Catherines
- Greenhithe Terrace
- Allison Place
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- A Little of the History
- Gemmes we used to play
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- Religion
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- Your Memories Page
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- Workhouse (or) Pairshoose
- Guestbook
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- Haining & Parkhall
- Muiravonside in the papers
- War Dead

Muiravonside Parish through Newspaper reports.

1700's

1771

Caledonian Mercury 13th March, 16th March 1771

SALE of WOODS.

TO be SOLD, by public roup, to the highest bidder at the house of Muiravonside on Tuesday the 2d day of April next, betwixt the hours o eleven and twelve forenoon, The WOODS of MUIRAVONSIDE, consisting chiefly of Oak, with some Ash and Birch, all fit for any manner of country uses. The said wood lies upon the side of the river of Avon, within the shire of Stirling; two short miles above the bridge of Linlithgow : and will be shown by Alexander Masson Gardener at Muiravonside, to any person that inclines to view the same, any day before the day of roup.

1774

Caledonian Mercury 27th June 1774

On Wednesday, the 22 instant, died at his home of Parkhall, William Livingston of Parkhall; Esq; His friends and relations will please accept of this as a notification of his death.

1793

Caledonian Mercury Monday 6th May 1793

ROADS IN STIRLINGSHIRE TO BE REPAIRED BY CONTRACT.

Notice is hereby given THAT the following LINES of ROAD are to TO BE REPAIRED by CONTRACT for the current year .

Linlithgow Bridge to Falkirk,
Camelon to Hollandbush
Falkirk to Torebridge,
Hollandbush to Killyth,
Torebridge to Banockburn Bridge,
Bannockburn Bridge to Stirling,
Killyth to Inchbellybridge,
St. Ninians to Auchinbowie,
Auchinbowie to Avonbridge,
Avonbridge to Loanhead.

Perfons willing to contract for putting thefe roads in proper and fufficient repair, may give in estimates to Mr. Thomas Wingate, writer in Sterling, for one or more of the divifions, as they may choofe, flating however the feparate expence of each divifion, as well as the mode they propofe for repair of thefe roads:-John Perry, near Loanhead, will fhew undertakers where materials have ufually been got for repair of thefe roads — and a general meeting of the Truftees is to be held at the house of Mr. Dearn, at Falkiik, on Thurfday the 16th of May, to receive and confider the propofals then laid before them; and it is expected that thofe interefted in the estimates will attend for contracting with the truftees as they may determine.

1798

Caledonian Mercury 16th August, 20th September, 26th November, 10th & 17th December, 1798

JUDICIAL SALE OF LANDS IN THE COUNTY OF STIRLING.

To be Sold, by authority of the Court of Session, within the Parliament of New Session House of Edinburgh, upon Wednesday the 19th day of December curt, between the hours of five and seven afternoon, THE ESTATE of MUIRAVONSIDE, which comprehends the Lands of Bowhouses, and part of the lands of Compston, situated within the parish of Muiravonside.— The lands are capable of great improvement; and there is a seam of excellent coal, which, at a trifling expence, may be wrought to very great advantage. The Estate affords two freehold qualifications, and lies at the distance of two or three miles from Linlithgow. The mansion house with the orchard and planting (which is extensive, and in a very thriving state) is pleasantly situated on the Water of Avon, and is justly reckoned one of the most ----- beautiful situations in Scotland The farms are mostly out of lease. The lands lie contiguous, and there is a quantity of growing wood now fit for use, which may he sold at a considerable price.

From the Memorial and Abstract it appears the estate is divided into the following Parcels:

1. — The LANDS and BARONY of MUIRAVONSIDE comprehending the Mansion-house and Mill of Muiravonside ; the free rent of which at present is 277 l. 8s. 6d. 2-12ths; but as the lands are mostly out of lease, it was therefore thought pro- per to prove what rent they would bring upon a nineteen years lease; and it appears, from the testimony of two witnesses, who have known the estate for many years, that the lands comprehended in this parcel, upon a Nineteen years lease might yield 256 l. 18s. 6d. 2-12ths Sterling, the upset price of which, as affording a freehold qualification, is 7450 l. 18. 1d. 4-12ths. The lands are held blench of the Crown, and the proprietor has right to the tiends.

2. II.— The LANDS of WESTER and MIDDLE BOWHOUSES, &c. The proven free rent of these lands, which are out of lease, is 31 l. 12s. 8d. but upon a nineteen years lease, they might bring 45,l. Sterling. It does not appear that the proprietor has right to the tiends, so that a 5th part of the rent will fall to be deducted on that account; and the upset price, after such deduction, is 1044 l. Sterling. The lands are held blench of a subject superior.

3. 111. — The LANDS of COMPSTON. The present rent is 115 l. 10s., but on a nineteen years lease, they would be worth 91 l. 3s. 6d. Sterling. — These lands are held feu of -subject superior for payment of 10s. Sterling yearly. The proprietor has right to the tiends of part of the lands;— it does not appear he has to those of the farms of Newhouse, Easter and Wester Draffins; but the tiends of the farms are valued, as instructed by a decret of valuation in 1772.- The upset price of this parcel is 2644 l- l s. 6 d. Sterling. — The reason of the present rent of this parcel being higher than what would be got if the lands were on a 19 years lease

is, that they were let formerly for pasture, but lately for tillage.

4. IV.- SUPERIORITIES and FEU-DUTIES of the lands of REDFORD, and Part of CANDIEHEAD. The annual value of these Feu-duties is 2 l. 2 s. 2d. 4-12ths Sterling. They are- classed with the above lands, in order to make up a Freehold Qualification, and the upset price is 52 l. 14s. 6d. 4-12ths.

5. V.— WOOD growing upon the Lands of Muiravonside, BOWHOUSES, mid COMPSTON.—The value of the wood under sale, is proved to be 1037 l. 11s. 6 d. Sterling.

6. VI.— The COAL in the Lands of BOWHOUSES.— The Coal is not wrought at present owing to the level being choaked up, but which might be set agoing at little expense; and it is proved, that after deducting that expense, this Coal when upon a 19 years lease, might bring 400 l. Sterling, which is therefore fixed on as the upset price of this lot.

7. VII. — SUPERIORITIES and FEU-DUTIES of COXHILL. These Superiorities are classed separately, as they make a Free- hold qualification. The Feu-duties payable out of these lands are 5 l. 13s. 4 d. 5-12ths Sterling yearly, and the upset price, as affording a Freehold Qualification is 341 l. 14 s. 2d. 5-12ths Sterling. The composition for an entry of Singular Successors is not taxed.

The articles of roup, and a plan of the estate, with copies of the Memorial and Abstract, will be seen in the office of Mr. Jeffery, Depute-Clerk of Session, and in the hands of Mr. Keay, accountant, or Hector Macdonald Buchanan, writer to the signet, to whom intending purchasers may apply for further information.

Alex Meason, gardener at Linlithgow, will shew the estate.

N. B. Since the Sale was advertised, an application has been made to the Court of Session for authority to sell the estate in lots ; in consequence of which the estate will be sold in two lots.

The first, composing the six first parcels, and the second, the seventh parcel, being the Superiorities and feu-duties of Coxhill, &c so that any intending purchaser has thus an opportunity of purchasing a freehold qualification, besides the feu-duties, at an easy rate, while at the same time the purchaser of the first lot will have right to vote.

1799

5th January 1799

JUDICIAL SALE OF LANDS IN THE COUNTY OF STIRLING.

As last year

Caledonian Mercury 16th & 21st September 1799.

PRESERVATION OF GAME.

MR LIVINGSTON of Parkhall, requests that no Gentle- man will shoot on his Estates in the parishes of Polmont, Muiravonside, and Falkirk, without his permission in writing. The tenants have particular orders to pay attention to this. Poachers and other unqualified persons will be prosecuted

Caledonian Mercury 21st November 1799

Lands in the Parish of Muiravonside.

To be sold by private bargain

The following lands, lying in the parish of Muiravonside, and the shire of Stirling.

The Lands called Drumbroider, containing about twelve acres Scots measure, with a steading thereon, lying upon the north side of the road leading from Linlithgow Bridge to the West Bridge of Avon.

Likewise the LANDS called HOWLOAN, containing six acres, three roods, and thirty falls Scots measure, with a steading thereon, lying to the south of said road leading from Linlithgow Bridge to the West Bridge of Avon.

All the leases are expired; the purchaser may have immediate possession of the lands.

For further particulars applications may be made to Provost James Andrew, Linlithgow, or to James Aitken, writer in Falkirk, in whose hands are the title deeds, and who has power to conclude a bargain.

1800's

1800

Caledonian Mercury Saturday 23rd August 1800

STIRLING—

August 21, 1800. THE Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Stirling intimates to all concerned, that the MICHAELMAS HEAD COURT this year, falls to be held on Tuesday the 30th day of September next, at twelve o'clock noon, and that Claims are lodged with him for enrolling the Gentlemen after named, viz. 1. Alexander M'Leod, Esq. of Muiravonside.

2. Thomas Dunmore, Esq.

3. John Dunmond Napier, Esq. of Ballikinrain.

4. Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Abercromby of Airthrey, Knight of the Bath.

ALEX. DOW, Clk. Dep.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 6th October 1800

SALE OF GROWING TIMBER.

To be sold by public roup, at Muiravonside, by Linlithgow, on Tuesday the 28th day of October BETWEEN Seven, and Eight Hundred Ash, Elm. Oak, and other HARD WOOD TREES ; and a considerable number of full-grown SCOTS PINE. Roup to begin at 11 o'clock forenoon, and cre----- till Whitsunday next, on proper seen -----.

1801

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 28th February 1801

SALE OF LANDS IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

To be SOLD by public roup, within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh, on

Wednesday the 25th day of March next, at two o'clock afternoon, -

THE LANDS of GREENKNOW, or MUIRSIDE. in the parish of Muiravonside, within three miles of Linlithgow, and five of Falkirk, in the immediate neighbourhood of coal, and within four miles of extensive lime works. These Lands are inclosed and subdivided, and extend to upwards of 80 acres, all arable, besides about 8 acres in belts of planting, which having been formed upwards of twenty years ago, afford at present both ornament and shelter. There is an excellent Mansion-house on the estate, and also substantial Offices. The mansion-house which was built within these ten or twelve years, and cost e nearly 1000 L, consists of kitchen, hall, laundry, and servants room on the ground floor; a good dining- room, drawing-room, and two bed-chambers on the principal flat.; on the third fiat are four bed-chambers, and above is a large garret, which, at a small expence, may be converted into several apartments. A purchaser may enter immediately into possession of the mansion-house, garden, and about five acres of grass, and to the remainder of the lands (which are let for two years as pasturage) at the term of Martinmas 1802.

At same time will be Sold,

The LANDS of STANDRIDGE, consisting of about 38 arable acres, situated also in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, about two miles westward of Muirside, and nearly four from Falkirk. Both the above properties hold of a subject superior, for payment of small

feu-duties, and the other public burdens are inconsiderable.

The title-deeds, articles of sale, and plans of the of land, are in the hands of Mr. Boswell, W. S. to whom or to Mr. George Cunningham, writer in Linlithgow, those wishing for further information may apply. Walter Gib, at the mansion-house, will show the lands, and point out the boundaries.

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 2nd May 1801

MARRIED,

Yesterday, by special licence, at Lullingstone Castle, Kent, the seat of Sir Joseph Dixon Dyke, Bart. by the Rev. Marmaduke Lewis, Alexander Macleod, of Muiravonside, Esq. late of Jamaica, to Miss Dalmahoy, sister of the late Sir John Hay Dalmahoy, Bart.

FURNISHED HOUSE & GARDEN TO LET.

To be Let for such time as may be agreed to, GREENKNOW HOUSE, Furnished, with a Garden well stocked with Fruit, lying in the parish of Muiravonside, about three miles to the westward of Linlithgow. A Park containing about Five Acres of Pasture will also be let, if the tenant chuses.

For particulars apply to Andrew Cassils, Leith.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 13th August 1801

PRESERVATION OF GAME, &c. IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

HIS Grace the Duke of Montrose

The Earl of Dunmore

Lord Dundas

Lord Elphinstonie

Sir William Bryce, of Stenhouse, Bart.

Sir James Riddell, Bart.

Major-General Maxwell, of Parkhill

Mr. Dundas of Fingask, and his Guardians

Mr. Bruce of Kinnaird

Mr. Livingstone of Parkhall

Mr. Williamson of Polmont

Mr. Stewart Nicholson of Carnock

Mr. Moerehead of Herbertshire

Mr. Cadell of Banton

Mr. Edington of Gargunnoch

Mr. Drummond of Blairdrummond

Colonel Duncan of Glenfuir

Mr. MacLeod of Muiravonside

Mr. Ogilvie of Gairdoch

Mr. Lennox of Woodhead

Mr. Lennox of Antermony

Mr. Baird of Manuelmill

Wishing to prevent poachers and unqualified persons from destroying the Game, Fences, and Growing- Corns, on their respective Estates, hereby offer a Reward of ONE GUINEA to the informers, upon the conviction of each delinquent; and have empowered Thomas Wingate, writer in Stirling, as their joint agent, to carry on the necessary prosecutions, and to pay the said Reward.

Stirling, August 8, 1801.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 12th October 1801

WINTER PASTURE, WITH A COMMAND, OF STRAW.

To be LET from October to 15th April

ABOUT Two Hundred Acres of OLD PASTURE, on which very little stock has pastured during the last summer. More than half of the marches is fenced with stone dikes, and it comprehends one inclosed field. It is well watered, and lies within half a- mile of the Drove loan, by Avonbridge, and about eight miles from Falkirk. Along with the pasture, the tenant will be furnished with a considerable quantity of STRAW, and be accommodated with a Court to put his cattle into at nights, or in severe weather, having shades on the north and east sides, open to the court. A more commodious place for wintering cattle is seldom to be met with, and its situation is very favourable for extensive dealers, carrying their cattle from the north to the south country markets.

For further particulars apply to James Thomson, at Couston, near Bathgate.

1802

Caledonian Mercury Thursday 25th February 1802

LINLITHGOW AND STIRLINGSHIRE HUNT

THE Members are requested to meet at the Hunt Inn, Linlithgow, on Monday the 1st March.

ALEX. MACLEOD Esq. of Muiravonside, PRESES.

J. BOYD, Secretary.

Caledonian Mercury Thursday 26th & 30th August 1802

SALE OF LANDS IN STIRLINGSHIRE

To be SOLD, within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh, upon Wednesday the first of September next, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon (if not previously disposed of by private bargain) THE Following LOTS of LANDS, situated in the parishes of Muiravonside and Polmont, and county of Stirling:

LOT I. - Comprehending the LANDS of PANNIE, COMPTING-HALL MUIR, with the FEU-DUTY of the Lands of Wallace ridge.

II.-The LANDS of GLENHEAD.

III.-The LANDS of SNABHEAD.

IV.-The LANDS of GILMEADOWLAND.

V.-The SOUTH PART of the Lands of Whiteridge.

The above lands are pleasantly and advantageously situated on the great road, and about half-way betwixt the towns of Linlithgow and Falkirk. They are all inclosed and subdivided, and consist of a good a and very improvable soil. The farm houses and offices are in the best-repair; and on Whiteridge there is an excellent Farm Steading, with thriving plantations. The whole of these lands abound in coal and ironstone. Both coal and lime are wrought in the immediate neighbourhood; and as the grounds abound in freestone, buildings of every description, for which, there are many eligible situations, may be erected at a very moderate expence. The premises are out of lease, and the public burdens affecting them are inconsiderable.

For particulars apply to Michlael Linning, writer to the signet, St. James's Square, Edinburgh, who is in possession of the title-deeds, plans of the several lots, &c.

John Graham, the gardener, at, Clarkston, by Falkirk, will show the grounds.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 20th September 1802

STIRLINGSHIRE. FARMS FOR GRAZING.

To be LET by public roup, for one, two, or more years, within the house of Mr. Turner, vintner, Falkirk upon Monday the 4th of October, at two o'clock in the afternoon, if not previously let by private bargain, THE FOLLOWING FARMS FOR GRAZING, viz.

I.-The FARM of GREENWELLS, comprehending 112 acres or thereby.

II.-The FARM of BURNSIDE, extending to 46 acres or thereby.

III -The FARMS of GLENEND and WEST MANUEL, extending to 102 acres or thereby.

IV. -The FARMS of WEST KNOWHEAD. CRAIGEND, and North Half of WHITERIG extending to 43 acres or thereby.

V.- The FARM of EAST KNOWHEAD, consisting of 43 acres or thereby. The above farms are very conveniently situated for grazing, being near the great road from Stirling to Edinburgh, and about half way betwixt Linlithgow and Falkirk.

As they are almost entirely in pasture, and in the natural possession of the proprietor, immediate entry may be obtained thereto. They are all inclosed, well watered, and sheltered. As also, the Following FARMS for TILLAGE, on a Lease of Nineteen Years:

The FARM of NICOLTON, extending to 109 acres or thereby. Immediate entry may be obtained to one half of said farm, and to the other at Martinmas 1803.

PARKHALL PARKS with the ENTRY-HEAD, comprehending 122 acres or thereby- Entry Martimas 1803. These two farms are also very advantageously situated as to the means of improvement, being in the immediate vicinity of coal and lime, near the great road from Stirling to Edinburgh, and within four miles of Falkirk, Linlithgow, Bathgate, and Grangemouth. They are also inclosed, subdivided, well watered and sheltered. Proposals, with the view to a private agreement, will be received by Thomas Livingstone, Esq. of Parkhall, at Clarkston, or Michael Linning, W. S. Edinburgh, to either of whom application may be made as to further particulars.

John Graham, the gardener at Clarkston, near Falkirk, will shew the grounds.

LANDS IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

To be Sold, within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh, upon Wednesday the 24th November next, at two o'clock in the afternoon,

I. THE LANDS of GLENHEAD, extending to 56 acres, or thereby.

II. The LANDS of SNABHEAD, comprehending 82 acres, or thereby.

III. The South division of the LANDS of WHITERIDGE, consisting of 86 acres, or thereby.

IV. The LANDS of GILMEADOWLAND, extending to 20 Scotch acres, or thereby.

The above lands lie in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, and are very advantageously situated as to the means of improvement, being in the immediate neighbourhood of coal and lime, and only four miles distant from the market towns of Falkirk, Linlithgow, and Bathgate, and the sea port town of Grangemouth, to all of which they have easy access. The lands abound in freestone, and buildings of every description, for which there are many eligible situations, may, owing to the cheapness of materials, be erected at a very moderate expence. They are all inclosed and subdivided, well watered and sheltered, and consisting of a good and very improvable soil. The farm houses and offices are in the best repair, and on Whiteridge there is an excellent farm steadling, with thriving plantations. The lands are out of lease, and the public burdens affecting them are moderate. They will be disposed to hold blench of a subject superior for payment of an elusory duty. For further particulars, apply to Michael Linning; writer to the signet, St James Square, Edinburgh, who is in possession of the title deeds, and plans of the several lands. John Graham, the Gardener at Clarkston, by Falkirk, will show the grounds.

1803

Aberdeen Journal - Wednesday 23rd February 1803

EDINBURGH, FEBRUARY 19.

The King has been pleased to present the Rev. William Macall, preacher of the Gospel, to the Church of Muiravonside, vacant by the death of the Rev. John Bertram.

1804

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 2nd & 23rd January 1804

ADVERTISEMENTS & NOTICES

FARMS IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

To be LET for such period of Years as shall be agreed upon, and entered into immediately,

THE following ARABLE FARMS situated in the parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling,

1. NICOLTON consisting of 109 Acres.
2. WEETSHOT, consisting of 46 Acres.
3. HIRST and GREENWELLS, consisting of 82 Acres.
4. GLENEND, consisting of 113 Acres.
5. EASTER and WESTER KNOWHEAD consisting of 124 Acres.
6. BURNSIDE and PARKNOOK or Tappock, consisting of 41 Acres. -.
7. CRAIGEND, and part of whiterig, consisting of 80 Acres.
8. SNABHEAD, consisting of 89 Acres.
9. WEST MANUEL, consisting of 42 Acres.

The above Farms, (which will be allotted in what-ever manner offering Tenants may reckon most commodious, and sized accordingly), consist of a very improvable soil, are well watered and sheltered, inclosed and subdivided. They possess many local advantages, being situated in a populous Country, within a few miles of the market Towns of Falkirk, Linlithgow, and Bathgate, and within a mile of the great turnpike road from Stirling to Edinburgh. They also possess very favourable means of improvement. Coal of an excellent quality is wrought in the farm of Greenwells, and Lime can be procured at no great distance or expence. The Farm-houses and Offices are, in general, in good repair. For particulars, application may be made to the Proprietor at Parkhall by Falkirk, or to Michael Linning, writer to the signet, St. James's Square, Edinburgh, to either of whom offers may be transmitted in writing, any time betwixt (?) and the 15th of February first.

1806

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 2nd August 1806

ADVERTISEMENTS & NOTICES

COUNTRY RESIDENCE, STIRLINGSHIRE. to be LET FURNISHED, for Three, Five, or Seven Years, from Whitsunday next, 1807, THE MANSION-HOUSE of MUIRAVONSIDE, 1. OFFICE-HOUSES, LAWN, ORCHARD, and GARDEN, as presently possessed by John Smellie, Esq. This House is beautifully situated on the banks of the water of Avon, within three miles of the town of Linlithgow, and nineteen of Edinburgh, is fit to accommodate a large family, the house consisting of dining-room, drawing-room, parlour, library, six bed-rooms, with, four dressing closets, servants apartments, &c. The furniture is new and fashionable, and the offices, which were lately built, are commodious and in excellent condition, Particularly two coach-houses, stables for 12 horses, byre, &c. The Orchard and Garden are extensive, and well stocked with fruit trees, and there are many delightful walks out through the woods on the river side. The tenant will have an opportunity of being accommodated with grass in the adjoining parks. The House may be seen on Tuesdays and Fridays, from twelve to three o'clock, during the month of August; and for farther information application may be made to Mr. Macdonald, W. S. Prince's Street.

1807

Caledonian Mercury 22nd August 1807

To be Sold, upon Wednesday the 18th of November next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, if not previously disposed of by private bargain, entire or in lots, as purchaser may incline.

Parts and Portions of the LANDS of Maddiston, with their Pertinents situated in the parish of Muiravonside and county of Stirling, consisting of 52 acres less or more, and lying in the immediate vicinity of the village of Maddiston. The premises possess many local advantages.

—A great road is about to pass through them, which will greatly facilitate their intercourse with the towns of Falkirk, Linlithgow, and Bathgate, from which they are not above four miles distant. — They are well worth the attention of persons desirous of providing themselves with a house and a few acres of land. Immediate possession may be obtained. For particulars apply to Michael Linning W.S.E.

1809

Morning Post - Friday 7th July 1809

COLLIERY to LETT.—

The valuable and extensive COLLIERY of RUMFORD, upon the Estate of Parkhall, in the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling. This Colliery comprehends a very large and proven field of excellent Coal, possesses an extensive sale, is level free, works a good Seam of 3 feet, at a depth of from seven to eight fathoms only, is well roofed, will turn out any quantity of coal of the very best quality, enjoys the advantage of good roads, and is situated at a very populous and thriving country, being little more than four miles from the towns of Falkirk, Linlithgow, and Bathgate, and about the same distance from the sea-port of Grangemouth, and the Great Canal betwixt the Clyde and the Forth. The premises in particular are well worth the attention of an Iron Company as there is abundance of Ironstone upon the Proprietor's Estate of the very best quality, and as the Coal has upon trial been found to be peculiarly adapted for furnaces. A Tenant may be accommodated on lease with whatever quantity of ground he may wish around the works. — Offers in writing, specifying fixed rent, or optional royalty, may be made to Alexander Livingston, Esq. of Parkhall, the Proprietor, at Clarkstone, by Falkirk; or to Michael Linning, Clerk to the Signet, Edinburgh. — Mr. Foster, at the Colliery, will shew the works.

1810's

1811

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 4th May 1811

The Gentlemen of Stirlingshire, at their late annual meeting, unanimously voted twenty guineas, to be paid by the County Collector, to Matthew Boyd, at Muiravonside, as a testimony of their approbation of the great activity and exertion, successfully used by him, in pursuing, apprehending, and bringing to justice, two men, who had robbed him in the Sheriffmuir, of a large sum of money.

1812

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 22nd June 1812

Advertisements & Notices

NOTICE TO THE NEAREST OF KIN. —

ALEXANDER MEASON, late Gardener at Muiravonside, in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, having died intestate, the Rev. WILLIAM MCCALL, of Muiravonside, took the charge of his funeral and the management of his affairs, said there being a small balance in his hands, after payment of the necessary expenses, he hereby requires such persons as have an interest therein, to make application to him, within two months from this date, shewing their relationship, with a title to discharge; certifying that those who do not make such application will be cut off from any division of the funds.
Muiravonside, June 19, 1812.

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 12th December 1812

FOR SALE, PROPERTIES AND SUPERIORITY IN THE COUNTIES OF LINLITHGOW AND STIRLING,

Being part of the Sequestrated Estate of THOMAS DOUGLAS, of Easter Inch.

There will be exposed to public SALE, within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 13th day of January next, at one o'clock afternoon, THE said PROPERTIES and SUPERIORITY, in the lots after-mentioned, viz. —

Lot I. —

The LANDS, called the EASTER INCH of BATHGATE, lying in the parish of Bathgate, and county of Linlithgow, and containing, of Scots Acre.

Arable Land. - - - 120 14

Pasture and Moss - - - 22 7

Planting - - - 1 7

In all 144 54.

Lot II. —

The LANDS of WESTER INCH, lying in the parish and county foresaid, and containing 69 acres 146 dec. Scots of arable, and 34 acres 26 dec. of pasture land, making together 103,406 acres. —

Lot III. —

The, FREEHOLD SUPERIORITY of certain parts of The Barony of BLACKBURN, lying in the county of Linlithgow, to the extent of L.417 14s. 4d. 9-12ths Scots, in virtue of which Mr. Douglas is already on the roll

Lot IV. —

PART of the LANDS of FALSIDE, to the extent of 24 acres 2 roods 6 falls Scots. —

Lot V. —

SUNDRY HOUSES, forming one large tenement, in the centre of the town of Bathgate,

yielding at present about L. 16 of yearly rents. —

Lot VI. —

A PORTION of LAND, consisting of 1461 feet in length, and 72 feet in breadth, with the houses built thereon, lying along the great Fall road through the village of Blackburn in the parish of Livingstone, and county of Linlithgow, and immediately adjacent to the said village..

Lot VII. —

THE LANDS of CRAIGMAILAN, or WEST FIELD LANDS of TARTRAVEN, lying in the parish of, and about three miles from Linlithgow.

Lot VIII. —

The LANDS of KENDIESHILL, being part of the Lands of Greenknows, or Muir-edge, lying in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, and about four miles from the towns of Linlithgow and Falkirk. This property contains 48 acres 20 falls of arable land, and 4 acres 2 roods 24 falls in plantations, making in all 52 acres 2 roods 4 falls Scots. The lands are all in old grass, and are subdivided into inclosures with hedges and stripes of thriving planting. They contain valuable seams of coal and ironstone, which have been wrought for some time by the proprietor to great advantage. The vicinity of the Carron Company's Iron works renders the latter mineral an object of peculiar interest - There is a commodious new dwelling-house upon the premises, and the public burdens are trifling.

Further particulars regarding these properties may be learned by application to James Brown, accountant in Edinburgh, the trustee who is in possession of the title-deeds and plans; or to Thomas Darling, writer, Union Street.

59. George Street, Nov. 25 1812.

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 2nd 9th January 1813

FOR SALE, PROPERTIES AND SUPERIORITY IN THE COUNTIES OF LINLITHGOW AND STIRLING,

Being part of the Sequestered Estate of THOMAS DOUGLAS, of Easter Inch. There will be exposed to public SALE, within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 13th day of January next, at one o'clock afternoon, THE said PROPERTIES and SUPERIORITY, in the lots after-mentioned, viz.-

Lot I.-

The LANDS, called the EASTER INCH of BATHGATE, lying in the parish of Bathgate, and county of Linlithgow, and containing, of Scots Acre.

Arable Land. - - - 120 14

Pasture and Moss - - - 22 7

Planting - - - 1 7

In all 144 54.

Lot II-

The LANDS of WESTER INCH, lying in the parish and county foresaid, and containing 69 acres 146 dec. Scots of arable, and 34 acres 26 dec. of pasture land, making together 103,406 acres. -

Lot III.-

The, FREEHOLD SUPERIORITY of certain parts of The Barony of BLACKBURN, lying in the county of Linlithgow, to the extent of L.417 14s. 4d. 9-12ths Scots, in virtue of which Mr. Douglas is already on the roll

Lot IV.-

PART of the LANDS of FALSIDE, to the extent of 24 acres 2 roods 6 falls Scots.-

Lot V.-

SUNDRY HOUSES, forming one large tenement, in the centre of the town of Bathgate, yielding at present about L. 16 of yearly rents. -

Lot VI. -

A PORTION of LAND, consisting of 1461 feet in length, and 72 feet in breadth, with the houses built thereon, lying along the great Fall road through the village of Blackburn in the parish of Livingstone, and county of Linlithgow, and immediately adjacent to the said village..

Lot VII -

THE LANDS of CRAIGMAILAN, or WEST FIELD LANDS of TARTRAVEN, lying in the parish of, and about three miles from Linlithgow.

Lot VIII. -

The LANDS of KENDIESHILL, being part of the Lands of Greenknows, or Muir-edge, lying in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, and about four miles from the towns of Linlithgow and Falkirk. This property contains 48 acres 20 falls of arable land, and 4 acres 2 roods 24 falls in plantations, making in all 52 acres 2 roods 4 falls Scots. The lands are all in old grass, and are subdivided into inclosures with hedges and stripes of thriving planting. They contain valuable seams of coal and ironstone, which have been wrought for some time by the proprietor to great advantage. The vicinity of the Carron Company's Iron works renders the latter mineral an object of peculiar interest - There is a commodious new dwelling-house upon the premises, and the public burdens are trifling.

Further particulars regarding these properties may be learned by application to James Brown, accountant in Edinburgh, the trustee who is in possession of the title-deeds and plans; or to Thomas Darling, writer, Union Street.

59. George Street, Nov. 25 1812.

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 17th April 1813

Advertisements & Notices

LAND FOR SALE THE LANDS of GREENKNOW, HOUSE, OFFICES, &c.

containing 29 acres, 1 rood, and 19 falls, Scotch measure, situated in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling. Distant about 20 miles from Edinburgh, 4 from Linlithgow, and 5 from Falkirk. The ground is all inclosed and subdivided into six inclosures, the whole being surrounded with belts of wood of a considerable age, which afford both shelter and ornament to the property. The lands are all in pasture grass, and Let until Christmas next. The mansion house is substantial, commodious, and fit for the accommodation of a large family; the sunk storey contains kitchen, washing room, servants room, and other apartments. The first floor, dining, and drawing-rooms, and two bed-rooms. The second floor, four bed-rooms, closet, &c. And the attic storey, sleeping apartments for servants. The offices suitable to the property. A large garden inclosed by a stone wall, eight feet high, stocked with fruit trees. The public burdens are very trifling. The house, garden and offices may be entered to immediately. To be sold by public roup, in the Royal Exchange Coffee house, on Wednesday the 12th: day of May 1813, at two o'clock afternoon; proposed upset price, L. 2000 Sterling. For particulars apply to Mr. Brown, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, or Mr. Gray, solicitor at law, 10, Hanover Street, in whose hands the title deeds are. 16th April 1813.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 29th April 1813

STIRLINGSHIRE TAXES

THE COLLECTOR requests immediate payment at the CESS OFFICE, Stirling, of the following Duties and taxes, now due : - LAND TAX, BRIDGE MONEY, &c. for 1812. MILITIA FAMILIES Relief Assessment, for 1812, of 16s. Steling per L.100 Scots of land, or L.12 Sterling of House Rents, and all preceding Arrears. If the above Duties are not paid directly, persons will have themselves to blame, for the compulsory measures which the Collector must otherwise unavoidably adopt. Cess Office, Stirling, 15th April 1813.

The PROPERTY DUTY and ASSESSED TAXES of the County, Being in future to be collected by Sub-Collectors. These Duties for all the Parishes of the County (except the Falkirk District) must be paid immediately to Mr. WINGATE, at STIRLING Who Entreats the utmost punctuality from those concerned, to the orders of the Court of Exchequer, under the late statutes, for diligence being enforced, regarding all arrears, are urgent and premptry.

N.B. - The Property and Assessed Taxes for the parishes of

AIRTH,

BOTHKENNAR,

FALKIRK

MUIRAVONSIDE,

POLMONT, and

SLAMANNAN

to be paid to the Sub-Collector at Falkirk.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 27th May 1813

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE BARGAIN,

Altogether, or in lots, as purchasers incline,

ABOUT TWENTY ACRES of LAND, all arable, and capable of great improvement, being south lying land, well waterstead with springs, and are part of the ten shilling lands of Blackstone, and ten pound lands of Ballenbrech, and certain parts of Muiravonside Muir, now called Heather Stacks, and Houses thereupon, all belonging to Allan, Mair, and with such teinds and servitudes thereof as belong to the proprietor, all lying in the old Barony of Callander, and shire of Stirling. Lime and coal are not distant more than three miles. The lands are situated about an equal distance from the market towns of Liniithgow, Falkirk, and Bathgate. The public and parochial burdens are trifling.

For particulars apply to the said Allan Mair, residing on the lands; or to John MacIsaac, at Mr.

Foreman's, W. S. 15, Catharine Street, Edinburgh.

Manchester Mercury - Tuesday 20th July 1813

On Sunday afternoon, was a dreadful storm of thunder, lightning, and hail, at Falkirk and its neighbourhood, which continued without intermission from four till six o'clock. In Falkirk, a house was struck the lightning, and received considerable damage, and the and iron and tin articles in the house thrown about, but no person within was injured; it also unroofed a byre and struck a boy, who is deprived the use of one of his sides, but he is recovering. Six persons returning from Avon-bridge sacrament were knocked down by the lightning, but so far recovered as to be able to walk home, some of have, however, been since confined to their beds with swollen legs.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 23rd September 1813

Advertisements & Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT application is intended to be made to Parliament, In the next Session for leave to bring in a bill for making and maintaining a, NAVIGBLE CANAL from at or near the TOWN of FALKIRK, in the county of Stirling, to the CITY of EDINBURGH, in county of Edinburgh, to join the Forth and Clyde Navigation; at or near Lock No. 16, and thence to or near to the town of Falkirk, both in the parish of Falkirk, to or near to the village of Redding and the Brighton Stone Quarries, in the parish of Polmont near to the Kirk and Manse of Muiravonside, and near Manuel Mill, in the parish of Muiravonside, all in the county of Stirling – and etc etc.

1815

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 28th September 1815

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW CANAL.

NOTICE is hereby given, that application is intended to be made, during the ensuing Session of Parliament, for leave to bring in a Bill for making and maintaining a NAVIGABLE CANAL, from the Monkland Canal, at or near Iomimir - nook, in the parish of Old Monkland, and county of Lanark, to the city of Edinburgh, and which Navigable Canal will pass through the parishes of Old and New Monkland, in county of Lanark, Cumbernauld, in the county of Dumbarton; Falkirk, Polmont, and Muiravonside, in the county of Stirling; Linlithgow, Ecclesmachan, Abercorn, Dalmeny, the Earliston, and Uphall, in the county of Linlithgow; Ratho, Nidrie, Callington, and St. Cuthberts, in the county of Midlothian; And also, for power to extend the said Canal from Edinburgh to the Wet Docks Leith, through the parishes of St. Cuthbert's, Canongate, North and South Leith, in the county of Mid Lothian, provided the necessary subscriptions are obtained for such extension.

1817

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 16th August 1817

Advertisements & Notices

ESTATE IN STIRLINGSHIRE WITH A FREEHOLD QUALIFICATION.

To be Sold by private bargain,

THE ESTATE of MUIRAVONDSIDE, in The county of Stirling, consisting of above 500 acres beautifully situated on the banks of the Avon, about three miles from Linlithgow, five from Falkirk, and 16 from Stirling. This property has been highly improved and embellished, the plantations are thriving and tastefully disposed, and the mansion-house is delightfully situated in the sheltered vale of the wooded banks of the Avon. A more desirable country residence seldom presents itself. A large proportion of the price will be allowed to remain in the purchaser's hands on security of the property.

For further particulars application may be made to Michael Linning and M. N. Macdonald, clerk to the signet, at their chambers 20, Hill Street, Edinburgh, 8th August 1817.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 2nd 16th 23rd October 1817

Advertisements & Notices

BEAUTIFUL ESTATE IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

To, be SOLD by private bargain,

THE ESTATE of MUIRAVONDSIDE, described in former advertisements.

For particulars apply to Michael Linning and M. N. Macdonald, Clerks to the signet, at their chambers, 20, Hill Street, Edinburgh.
Edinburgh, 30th Sept. 1817.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 9th October 1817

Advertisements & Notices

SALE OF HERITABLE PROPERTY IN THE COUNTIES OF LINLITHGOW AND STIRLING, AND

AN EXTENSIVE BREWERY,

Being part of the Sequestrated Estate of Mr. THOMAS ANDREW of Gillandersland, Brewer in Linlithgow, To be peremptorily SOLD, by public roup, within McKenzie's Inn, Linlithgow, upon Friday the 7th day of November 1817, at 12 o'clock noon,

I. - THAT Extensive and commodious BREWERY, situated in the burgh of Linlithgow, lately occupied by Mr. Andrew, and now by the trustees on his estate, with the brewing utensils, malt barns, granaries, and other, houses thereto attached; and the large adjoining DWELLING HOUSE and Garden, presently possessed by Mr. Andrew. This property highly merits the attention of a person of capital, desirous of carrying on a brewery on an extensive scale, for which it possesses many peculiar advantages; and in order that a purchaser may enter with all the benefits arising from the business which has been long established, it will be continued by the trustee on Mr. Andrew's estate, until the purchaser assume possession, which may be immediately after the sale.

II. - That GARDEN on the south side of the road leading by the back of the town of Linlithgow, called the PLUMB containing an acre of land or thereby, well stocked with fruit trees.

III. - The CROWN INN of LINLITHGOW, with the stables and garden thereto belonging, as presently possessed by James McFarlane, lying at the west end of the town, on the north side of the High Street IV. - That DWELLING HOUSE lying near the west end of the burgh, upon the south side of said street, presently possessed by John Taylor, weaver, and others.

V. - The LEASE of the FARM of PARKHEAD lying on the north side of the loch of Linlithgow, of which there are 21 years to run after Martinmas next. It contains about 110 acres of land, of good soil, in excellent condition and quite adapted for any method of cropping. The present rent is only, L.90, and the vicinity of the farm to Linlithgow and the sea port of Borrowstounness confers on it many advantages. The purchaser's entry will take place immediately after the sale. A new thrashing machine on the farm, of six horsepower, on the most improved principles, will also be sold at same time.

VI. - All and Whole the FARM and LANDS of GILANDERSLAND and CABERTOWN, lying in the parish of Muiravonside and shire of Stirling, consisting of 70 acres or thereby, as lately possessed by Mr. Andrew, situated within four miles of the towns of Linlithgow and Falkirk, and within a quarter of a mile of the line of the Union Canal. - There is an excellent thrashing machine on the lands, lately erected.

VII. - All and whole the LANDS of GREENKNOW, also as lately possessed by Mr. Andrew, consisting of thirty acres, or thereby; lying contiguous to Gilandersland. There is an excellent mansion house of three storeys on Greenknow, with coach-house, stable; garden, and every other convenience. These lands are all in high condition, and are intersected with thriving belts of planting.

VIII. - All and whole the FARM and LANDS of STANERIG, as presently possessed by James Broom, consisting of 12 acres or thereby, also lying in the parish of Muiravonside and county of Stirling.

Note -The public burdens of the different lands comprised in these three lots are trifling, and they will be sold together or separately, as may be thought most suitable.

IX.-That excellent DWELLING.HOUSE, with offices and others thereto attached commonly called CARRON LODGE, presently possessed as an Inn by Hugh Steven, with the three roods of land or thereby upon which the same are situated, lying in the parish and within a mile of the town of Falkirk, and less than a quarter of a mile of the old established and flourishing work of Carron. X.-That SEAT in the CHURCH of LINLITHGOW, marked No. 24, belonging to and possessed by Mr. Andrew.

For particulars application may be made to Mr. Roberts, writer Linlithgow, trustee on Mr. Andrew's estate; or to Messrs Horne and Easton W. S. 17, Heriot Row; or Mr. Napier,23, Albany Street, Edinburgh. Linlithgow, 15th Sept. 1817.

1818

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 23rd April 1818

CIRCUIT INELLIGENCE.

Stirling, April 18. This day the Circuit Court of Justiciary was opened here by the Right Hon. Lord Pitmilly.

The Court next proceeded to the trial of Henry Taylor and Robert Galloway, carters at Craigend, in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, accused of theft by stealing and theftuously carrying away from a field adjoining the high road leading from, Linlithgow to Falkirk, six sheaves of oats or thereby, all the property of Robert Harvie, residing in Linlithgow. The case as to the pannel Taylor was not gone into.- The Jury found the pannel Galloway guilty; and after a suitable admonition, Lord Pitmilly sentenced him to six months imprisonment in the jail of Stirling. This ended the criminal business at this place.

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 27th April 1818

Advertisements & Notices

UPSET PRICE REDUCED.

TO be SOLD by public roup, within McKENZIES Inn, Linlithgow, on Friday next, the 1st of May, at 12 o'clock noon.

THAT PROPERTY, called STANERIG, lying in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, near the line of the Union Canal, consisting of 12 acres or thereby, as presently possessed by James Broom, and forming part of the sequestrated estate of Mr. Andrew, brewer, Linlithgow.

For particulars apply to Mr. Roberts, writer, Linlithgow, trustee on Mr. Andrew's estate, who is possessed of the title- deeds and articles of sale.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 9th 30th July 6th 13th 27th August 3rd September 22nd October 1818

LANDS IN STIRLINGSHIRE TO BE SOLD.

BY VIRTUE OF POWERS IN A BOND AND DISPOSITION IN SECURITY.

To be SOLD by public roup, within the house of John -Thomson, vintner, Falkirk, on Thursday the 17th September 1818, at two o'clock afternoon, if not previously disposed of by private bargain. ALL and, Whole the Just and equal HALF of the LANDS of BLACKSTONE, viz. all and whole that TEN SHILLING LAND) of BLACKSTONE, anciently fued to William Black of Blackstone, and James Black, his son, as a part and portion of the Ten Pound Lands of Balenbreich, together with certain parts and portions of the Mosses of Muiravonside and Drumbroider with houses, pendicles, and pertinants, all lying within the Barony of Callender, parish of Muiravonside and sheriffdom of Stirling. these lands are held of a subject superior for payment of a trifling feu-duty. They are situated about four miles from Linlithgow, and at an equal distance from Falkirk. They extend to twenty seven acres or thereby, mostly arable, and are susceptible of considerable improvement. There are plenty of coal and lime in the neighbourhood. The road from Linlithgow to Airdrie, by Avon Bridge, passes through the lands, and the cross road from Falkirk to Bathgate is within a short distance of the property. For farther particulars application may be made, to Mr. Alexander Monro, writer, Falkirk, or William Waddell, W.S. 40, Northumberland Street, Edinburgh, in whose hands are the articles of roup and title deeds.

Alexander Malcolm, at Broadhead, will shew the premises
8th July 1818.

1819

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 8th February 1819

There was held at Bathgate, on the 15th ult., a numerous and highly respectable meeting, in the Antiburgher meeting-house, to consider on the propriety of a union between the Burgher and Antiburgher churches; members from Whitburn and Avonbridge congregations were among them. The greatest cordiality prevailed, and a number of spirited resolutions were carried in favour of the union.

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 26th July 1819

Advertisements & Notices

RESIDENCE IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

To be SOLD by Private Bargain,

THE HOUSE and LANDS of VELLORE, in the parish of Muiravonside, nineteen miles from Edinburgh, three from Linlithgow, and five from Falkirk. The house is very conveniently laid out, and the public rooms, which are spacious, command one of the finest and most extensive views in Scotland. There are also a coach- house, stable, and other offices, and a good kitchen garden. The lands extend to fifty-two English acres, and are subdivided into five inclosures, by thriving plantations well grown. They are all arable and of good quality. The Union Canal, which, when completed, will afford water carriage to Edinburgh and Glasgow, passes within half-a mile, and there is a good butcher market within a mile of the house. Major Bogle, who occupies the house, will give directions for showing the property and to him; or Donaldson and Ramsay, writers to the signet, Hanover steet, Edinburgh, application may be made for farther information. The latter are in possession of the title-deeds and a plan of the lands.

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 6th September 1819

Advertisements & Notices

JUDICIAL SALE OF PARKHALL AND CLARKSTONE.

To be SOLD by public roup, within the Parliament or New Session House of Edinburgh, upon Wednesday the 17th November 1819, betwixt the hours of five and seven in the afternoon under the authority of the Lords of Council and Session, and in presence of the Lord Ordinary officiating on the bills,

THE, LANDS and ESTATES of PARKHALL and, CLARKSTONE, lying in the parishes of Muiravonside, Polmont, and Falkirk, and county of Stirling, in the following lots :-

Lot I-

The LANDS of NICOLTON, WESTSHOT, HILLHEAD0 or HILLSIDE, GILMEADOWLAND, and PARKHALL, CRAIGEND, or WESTER and NORTH ROOMS of MADISTON, and the other parts of MADISTON, and FEUS thereof, and the two MANUEL.RIGS, lying in the baronies of Manueffouils and Haining respectively; ROWANTREERYARDS, WHITERIG, and EASTER part of GILSTON ; under which lands are comprehended as parts thereof the lands known by the names of Parkford, Tappoch, Easter Knowhead, Wester Knowhead, Cairinyhill, Burnside,

Croy, Greenwells, Hirst, Glenhead, Glenend, and Snabhead ; the lands of Battock, or Over Gilstone, and the Superiority of the lands of Wester Blalmitchell, In the parish of Slamanan; and of the lands of Maukinlees, part of the barony and lands of Kerse, and the Mid Superiority of that, part and portion of the ten pound lands of the barony, of Haining, lying beneath the moor called Nether Gillandersland.

The gross land rental of this lot is -L.1099 0 6 3-4ths

Deductions for feu and blench duties, public burdens, and surface damage to tenant for working coal quarries, &c.71 0 1 4-12ths

Free Land rent, L.1028 0 5 5-12ths.

Twenty eight years purchase, as the proven value thereof, is -. L.28,784 12 7 8-12ths

Deduct proven value of the current leases of parts of this lot let to Mr. Wright .1154 17 1

L. 27,629 15 6 8-12ths Amount of feu-duties L. 1 9 8

Twenty years purchase, as the proven value thereof, 29 13 4 Ten years purchase of L. 10, the present rent of the stone quarry, being the proven value thereof 100 0 0

Proven value of the superiority 700 0 0

Proven value of the wood - 4535 12 0

Total proven value, being the upset price of lot L.82,995 0: 10 8-12ths

LOT II. –

SUPERIORITY of certain TENEMENTS in the town of FALKIRK. Amount of fue-duties L.9 8 0 2-12ths. Twenty years purchase, being the proven value thereof L.63 0 8 4-12ths.

Value of the casualties 50 0 0

Total proven value, being the upset price of lot 2d.L. 113 0 3 4-12ths.

LOT III.-

The LANDS of CLARKSTONE, those parts of the LANDS of POLMOTHILL, acquired in excambion from the Duke of Hamilton, and those parts of STEPMILL and DUMBRECKS , acquired in excambion from Lord Dundas, and the NORTH PART of the LANDS of GILSTON, and the LANDS called EASTER BURNBRAE, and the SUPERIORITY of those parts and portions of the BARONY and LANDS of KERSE, (under the exception of Maukinlees, contained lot 1st.)

The total rent of this lot is L.370 8 10 ½

Deductions for fue-duties and public burdens5 16 11 1/2.

Free land-rent . . L.364 1 11

Thirty-five years purchase, being the proven value thereof, is L.12,760 17 1

Deduct proven value of current leases on parts of this lot let to Mr. Wright 844 8 2

L.11,916 8 11

Proven value of the superiority 700 0 0

Proven value of the wood 790 19 9

Total proven value, being the upset price of lot 3d L.13,407 8. 8

The articles and conditions of sale are in the possession of John Pringle, Depute-clerk of Session; and farther information will be obtained upon applying to Alexanders Douglas; W. S. 40. Albany Street, the common agent in the process of ranking and sale, or to Mr. James Wright, writer in Stirling

1820's

1820

Caledonian Mercury – Monday 10th January 1820

Advertisements & Notices

JUDICIAL SALE OF PARKHALL AND CLARKSTONE.

To be SOLD by public roup, within the Parliament or New Session House of Edinburgh, upon Wednesday the 17th November 1819, betwixt the hours of five and seven in the afternoon under the authority of the Lords of Council and Session, and in presence of the Lord Ordinary officiating on the bills,

THE, LANDS and ESTATES of PARKHALL and, CLARKSTONE, lying in the parishes of Muiravonside, Polmont, and Falkirk, and county of Stirling, in the following lots :-

Lot I -

The LANDS of NICOLTON, WESTSHOT, HILLHEAD or HILLSIDE, GILMEADOWLAND, and PARKHALL, CRAIGEND, or WESTER and NORTH ROOMS of MADISTON, and the other parts of MADISTON and FEUS thereof, and the two MANUEL RIGGS, lying in the baronies of Manuefouils and Haining respectively; ROWANTREEYARDS, WHITERIG, and EASTER part of GILSTON ; under which lands are comprehended as parts thereof the lands known by the names of Parkford, Tappoch, Easter Knowhead, Wester Knowhead, Cairinyhill, Burnside, Croy, Greenwells, Hirst, Glenhead, Glenend, and Snabhead ; the lands of Battock, or Over Gilstone, and the Superiority of the lands of Wester Blalmitchell, In the parish of Slamanan; and of the lands of Maukinlees, part of the barony and lands of Kerse, and the Mid Superiority of that, part and portion of the ten pound lands of the barony, of Haining, lying beneath the moor called Nether Gillandersland.

The gross land rental of this lot is -L.1099 0 6 3-4ths

Deductions for feu and blench duties, public burdens, and surface damage to tenant for working coal quarries, &c.71 0 1 4-12ths

Free Land rent, L.1028 0 5 5-12ths.

Twenty eight years purchase, as the proven value thereof, is -. L.28,784 12 7 8-12ths

Deduct proven value of the current leases of parts of this lot let to Mr. Wright .1154 17 1

L. 27,629 15 6 8-12ths Amount of feu-duties L. 1 9 8

Twenty years purchase, as the proven value thereof, 29 13 4 Ten years purchase of L. 10, the present rent of the stone quarry, being the proven value thereof 100 0 0

Proven value of the superiority 700 0 0

Proven value of the wood - 4535 12 0

Total proven value, being the upset price of lot L.82,995 0: 10 8-12ths

LOT II. –

SUPERIORITY of certain TENEMENTS in the town of FALKIRK. Amount of fue-duties L.9 8 0 2-12ths. Twenty years purchase, being the proven value thereof L.63 0 8 4-12ths.

Value of the casualties 50 0 0

Total proven value, being the upset price of lot 2d.L. 113 0 3 4-12ths.

LOT III.-

The LANDS of CLARKSTONE, those parts of the LANDS of POLMOTHILL, acquired in excambion from the Duke of Hamilton, and those parts of STEPMILL and DUMBRECKS , acquired in excambion from Lord Dundas, and the NORTH PART of the LANDS of GILSTON, and the LANDS called EASTER BURNBRAE, and the SUPERIORITY of those parts and portions of the BARONY and LANDS of KERSE, (under the exception of Maukinlees, contained lot 1st.)

The total rent of this lot is L.370 8 10 ½

Deductions for fue-duties and public burdens5 16 11 1/2.

Free land-rent . . L.364 1 11

Thirty-five years purchase, being the proven value thereof, is L.12,760 17 1

Deduct proven value of current leases on parts of this lot let to Mr. Wright 844 8 2

L.11,916 8 11

Proven value of the superiority 700 0 0

Proven value of the wood 790 19 9

Total proven value, being the upset price of lot 3d L.13,407 8. 8

The articles and conditions of sale are in the possession of John Pringle, Depute-clerk of

Session; and farther information will be obtained upon applying to Alexander Douglas; W. S. 40. Albany Street, the common agent in the process of ranking and sale, or to Mr. James Wright, writer in Stirling

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 7th August 9th 16th October 6th November 1820

Advertisements & Notices
JUDICIAL SALE OF PARKHALL.

To be SOLD by public roup, within the Parliament or New Session House of Edinburgh, upon Wednesday the 22nd day of November 1819, betwixt the hours of two and four in the afternoon under the authority of the Lords of Council and Session, and in presence of the Lord Ordinary officiating on the bills,

THE FOLLOWING LOTS of LANDS and ESTATES of PARKHALL, lying in the parishes of Muiravonside and Polmont, and county of Stirling :-
LoT III.

As formerly advertised, comprehending the LANDS of CRAIGEND and WHITERIG, KNOWHEAD, WESTER the MANUELIRIG, that part of EASTER MANUELIRIG lying on the west side of the road leading from Falkirk to, Bathgate, BURNSIDE, CROY, GREENWELLS,HIRST, and GLENEND, and these parts of TARDUFF MUIR allocated to the estate of Parkhall, all which lands are bounded partly on the east by the said road leading from Falkirk to Bathgate, on the north by Parkhall coal road and on the west by the Drove Loan. The free land rent of this lot is L.297 13s. 8d. 2-12ths: the wood is valued at L.3725 12s. ; And it was formerly exposed at the price of L.12,410 9s. 6d. and will now be exposed at the reduced upset price of L. 10,000.

LOT IV.

Comprehending the LANDS of GLENHEAD, lying on the west side of the Drove Loan, formerly exposed at the price of L.932 16s; and will now be exposed at the reduced upset price of L.800.

LOT V.

Comprehending the LANDS of SNABHEAD, lying on the west side of the Drove Loan, formerly exposed at the upset price of L.942 11s. 8d. and now to be exposed at the reduced upset price of L.800.

LOT VI.

Comprehending that part of the LANDS of BATTOCH called AVONSD E COTTAGE, that part of BATTOCH and NICOLTON, lying on the west and north sides of the Parkhall coal road, and that piece of GROUND and PLANTATION, part of PARKHALL, called TAPPOCH, lying on the north side of said coal road; all which lands are bounded on the south and east by the aforesaid coal road. The free land rent of this lot is L.179 17s. 6d. 6-12ths: the wood is valued at L.200; and it was formerly exposed at the upset price of L.4876 18s. 3d and is now to be exposed at the reduced upset price of L.4000.

The articles and conditions of sale are in the hands of Mr. John Pringle, Depute-clerk of Session and farther information will be obtained upon applying to Alexander Douglas W.S. 40. Albany Street, Edinburgh, the common agent in the process of ranking and sale, or to Mr. James Wright, writer in Stirling.

1821

Morning Post - Saturday 8th December 1821

The Members of the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt met at Linlithgow on the 22d ultimo, when there were present The following : The Right Hon. Lord Abercromby, the Hon. C. Elphinstone Fleming, the Hon. George Ralph Abercromby, Sir Thomas Livingston, of Westquarter, Bart. Sir James Dalryell, of Binns, Bart.; Thomas Graham Stirling, Esq. of Airth ; Colonel Andrew Gillon, of Wallhouse , Major Norman Shairp, Jun. of Houston ; Major C. L. Bruce, of Kinnaird ; Colonel L. H. Ferrier, of Bellside; Alex. Macleod, Esq. of Muiravonside; D.M. Binning, Esq. of Softlaw; James Johnston, Esq. of Straiton ; Colonel F. Simpson, of Plean ; and M. Bruce, Esq. jun. of Stenhouse.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 13th 20th September 1821

LANDS IN STIRLINGSHIRE FOR SALE.

To be SOLD by public roup, on Wednesday the 26th September next, within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse Edinburgh, at two o'clock afternoon, if not previously disposed of by private bargain, THAT PART of the LANDS of MAIDSTON called NORTH PARKFORD, the LANDS of SOUTH PARKFORD or DAVIESTON, and PART of GILMEADOWLANDS, all generally included under the name of DAVIESTON, consisting of upwards of 30 acres, Scots-measure, lying in the parish of Muiravonside, within three miles of Linlithgow and eleven of Stirling. These lands were formerly a part of the Parkhall estate which, with the lands of Mr. Drummond of Valore, bounds them on the east. They are all arable and subdivided, and in a high state of cultivation, having all been laid down in grass this season. A suitable steading is on the ground, and there are several thriving belts of planting on the lands. A purchaser may get the natural possession of them at Martinmas next. The public burdens are extremely trifling, and the terms of payment of the price will be made agreeable to a purchaser. The Union Canal passes within a few paces of the ground, and the public road to Edinburgh within about one mile of the property. A more beautiful and convenient situation for a villa could not be had.

For farther particulars apply to the proprietor, or to David Greig, W.S. 1, Forth Street, who is in possession of the plan and title deeds, and has power to conclude a bargain William Johnston, the tenant at Maidston, will shew the lands.

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 3rd December 1821

The members of the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt met at Linlithgow on the 22nd ult, when there were present the following :-

The Right Hon; Lord Abercromby, the Hon. C. Elphinstone Fleming, the Hon. George Ralph Abercromby, Sir Thomas Livingston of Westquarter, Bart., Sir James Dalryell of Binns, Bart., Thomas Graham Stirling, Esq. of Airth, Colonel Andrew Gillon of Wallhouse, Major Norman Shairp, younger of Houston, Major C. L. Bruce of Kinnaird, Colonel L. R. Ferrier of Belside, Alexander Macleod, Esq. of Muiravonside, D. M. Binning, Esq. of Softlaw. James Johnston Esq, of Straiton, Colonel F. Simpson of Plean, and Michael Bruce, Esq. younger of Stenhouse.

The meeting elected for the ensuing year-- Sir JAMES DALYELL of Binns, Bart. to be Preses. Sir Gilbert Stirling of Larbert, Col. L. H. Ferrier of Bellside, Council J. Boyd, Esq. Treasurer and Secretary.

1822

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 29th June, Glasgow Herald 8th July 1822

RESIDENCE IN STIRINGSHIIRE.

To be SOLD by private bargain, THE HOUSE and LANDS of VELLORE, in the Parish of Muiravonside, 19 miles from Edinburgh, 3 from Linlithgow, and 5 from Falkirk. The House is modern, commodious, and substantial, and the public rooms, which are spacious, command one of the finest and most extensive views in Scotland. There are also a suitable Coach House, Stable, and other offices, and a good Kitchen Garden. The Lands extend to 52 English acres, are subdivided into 5 inclosures, and are well sheltered, and ornamented by numerous stripes and clumps of panting. They are all presently occupied as Grass Parks, and

are out of lease, so that a purchaser can have immediate possession. The Union Canal passes within less than half a mile of the Property on which elegant passage boats ply four time a day between Edinburgh and Glasgow, thus affording daily communication by the most pleasant conveyance, and at a very easy rate. Major Bogle, who occupies the House, will give direction for shewing the property, and to him, or Mr. James Orr, 100South Bridge or Mr. John Brown, Fountain Bridge; or Messrs Donaldson & Ramsay, W. S. 73. George Street, application may be made for farther information.

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 3rd December 1821

NOTICE.

THE Rev. WILLIAM M'CALL, Minister of the PARISH of MUIRAVONDSIDE, in the presbytery of Linlithgow hereby intimates to the Titulars and Tacksmen of the Teinds, Heritors, and Liferenters, and all others having or pretending to have interest in the Teinds of the Parish of Muiravonside, that he has raised a Summons of Augmentation, Modification, and Locality of his Stipend, which will be called in Court on Wednesday the 29th day of November next. Edinburgh, 27th Sept. 1822.

1824

Caledonian Mercury - Saturday 10th January, 5th, 19th, 26th 1824

RESIDENCE IN STIRINGSHIRE.

To be SOLD by private bargain, THE HOUSE and LANDS of VELLORE, in the Parish of Muiravonside, 19 miles from Edinburgh, 3 from Linlithgow, and 5 from Falkirk. The House is modern, commodious, and substantial, and the public rooms, which are spacious, command one of the finest and most extensive views in Scotland. There are also a suitable Coach House, Stable, and other offices, and a good Kitchen Garden. The Lands extend to 52 English acres, are subdivided into 5 inclosures, and are well sheltered, and ornamented by numerous stripes and clumps of panting. They are all presently occupied as Grass Parks, and are out of lease, so that a purchaser can have immediate possession. The Union Canal passes within less than half a mile of the Property on which elegant passage boats ply four time a day between Edinburgh and Glasgow, thus affording daily communication by the most pleasant conveyance, and at a very easy rate. Major Bogle, who occupies the House, will give direction for shewing the property, and to him, or Mr. James Orr, 100South Bridge or Mr. John Brown, Fountain Bridge; or Messrs Donaldson & Ramsay, W. S. 73. George Street, application may be made for farther information.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 8th April 1824

DAY FOR PURLIC ROUP FIXED.

PARKHALL COLLIERY TO BE LET,

For One, or more years, from 25th May next, The Well-known LEVEL- FREE COLLIERY, belonging to the Estate of the late ALEX. LIVINGSTON, Esq., of Parkhall, in the parish of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, is now to be LET for one or more years from 25th May next, by public roup, within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh on Wednesday the 5th day of May next, at two o'clock afternoon. The coal is known to be of excellent quality, at present working at the rate of about 14,000 tons yearly; and having a market now opened to any extent by means of the Edinburgh Union Canal, which passes through the estate. The articles of roup will be shown, and every other information given by John Stuart, accountant, Trustees' Office, Edinburgh.

N. B. - Every offerer must be ready to give sufficient sureties.

Edinburgh, 5th April 1824.

Caledonian Mercury - Thursday 18th November 1824

WAIF STOTS AND A BULL FOUND.

THERE were found straying, about the last October Falkirk Tryst, TWO STOTS, upon the Lands of Ellrigg in the parish of Slamannan, and county of Stirling, and a BULL, upon the Lands of Crawhill, in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling; and application having been made by the Procurator-Fiscal to the Sheriff of Stirlingshire thereanent, he appointed them to be advertised, certifying the lieges, that unless they are claimed, and the property proved, they will be sold to defray the expence of their keeping, and of the legal proceedings, To which all concerned are requested to attend. Stirling 16th Nov. 1824.

1825

Caledonian Mercury - Monday 31st January 1825

Died

At Edinburgh, on the 25th current, Mr. WILLIAM CALDER student of divinity, aged 26, son of Mr. Patrick Calder, schoolmaster, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire.

Caledonian Mercury Saturday 13th , Monday 15TH August 1825

MUIRAVONDSIDE COAL AND IRONSTONE.

To be LET, for such number of years as may be agreed on, THE Valuable SEAMS of COAL, lying in the LANDS of MUIRAVONDSIDE, and county of Stirling, which have been worked to some extent by means of a Day Level. The Main Seam has been lately opened up, and found to be of very good quality, particularly for Smithy purposes. The COAL FIELD, which is about a mile from the Union Canal, and from which a good cart road passes to the shipping place at Causewayend Bridge, is well adapted for supplying the Edinburgh market, and, as it can be easily fitted and worked with a small capital, is well worthy the attention of those engaged in the Coal Trade. From the situation of this Coal, there is every probability of an extensive country sale; and the town of Linlithgow; which is distant only four miles, will be a principal market. There is also BAND and BALL IRONSTONE in the property, of good quality, which can be worked at little expence, as these in part form the roof of some of the coals. The Coal Field will require to be fitted by a Steam Engine of moderate power; but the depth of the engine will not be great.

Farther information will be given by Michael Linning, Esq. 22, Hill Street, or Mr. Geddes, at Mr. Bald's, 15, Dublin Street.

John Gardener, at Muiravonside, will show specimens of the coal; and, as the old waste is open, intending offerers will have an opportunity of inspecting the Coal and Ironstone, by applying at Muiravonside House. Edinburgh, 10th August 1825.

1826

Caledonian Mercury Thursday 27th , , April, Glasgow Herald - Monday 14th March,

Friday 28th April 1826

STIRLING CIRCUIT.

Stirling Circuit was opened on Thursday by Lords Meadowbank and Mackenzie. John M'Graddy and John Corran or Curran, were placed at the bar, charged with stouthrief or theft, accompanied by housebreaking, or one or other of these crimes, in having broken into the Manse of Muiravonside, and carried away several articles of wearing apparel, nine silver tea-spoons, and a gold watch.

The prisoners pleaded, Not Guilty.

Rev. Wm. McCall, at Muiravonside, said, that his manse is near the Union Canal, and was broke into on the 1th of Dec. last, about one o'clock in the morning. About that hour he heard a noise, which he conceived to be proceed from the servants finishing their work. Sometime

after he heard a loud noise, which made him rise, though he still thought it was occasioned by the servants. He came to the head of the stair and saw a light about twenty feet below, and in a few minutes two men rushed up stairs. One of them had on something resembling a Spanish cloak, or a great coat, muffled up, which concealed his face. One of the men was armed with a pistol and the other with a sword. The man with the pistol said, "If you do not give up your money I shall shoot you". (Here a sword and a pistol were shown the witness, but he could not be certain that they were those with which he was threatened.) The two men forced witness from the bed room, and went to a chest of drawers, which they ransacked. They took away a gold watch that was suspended at the window; it was there the preceding evening when he went to bed. The witness saw them take the watch away. The money taken away in the handkerchief consisted of two pounds of the Commercial Bank, and the rest of silver, half crowns, shillings, &c. The thieves afterwards forced witness down stairs. They said they wanted his money, and did not want to hurt him. They went into the parlour, and whilst there they threatened to bind him. In the press were an antique silver tea-pot and some other antique things, which they left, but they took away some silver tea-spoons marked W.M. They proceeded thereafter to the dining-room. Witness did not go into the room with them; but when he saw them at the press, with their backs turned to him, he unlocked the front door and got out, and went for assistance to Mr. Reid, a farmer, about 400 yards distant. The men were all disguised. Their hair was brought forward, and frizzed very much. Whenever they were looked at, they threw the arm before the face. Witness does not exactly know what property was taken away. The pannels have the appearance and size of the men who took away the articles, but he never saw their faces, because they always covered them. There were more than two men engaged in the plundering. Cross-examined.- From the accentuation of the word "money," he judged the persons to be Irishmen. The night was perfectly dark, but, from the light upon the stair, saw all they did. Two female servants proved the robbery of their master's property. Graddy was like one of the robbers. Edward Quin, a Roman Catholic, sworn upon the gospels, said, he had ill-will against the pannels; but being cross-examined, said he was not so swayed by ill-will as to swear any thing to their prejudice or injury. The Court here informed the witness, that the Public Prosecutor, in committing him as an evidence there, had passed from every charge against him, and that in telling the truth he had no cause for alarm. He said he was a boatman on the Union Canal in the boat No. 61; McGraddy was along with him in that boat, they sailed last Upon the 9th of December, before he was taken up; they left Edinburgh upon the Friday night; witness did not, see M'Graddy that Sunday morning; first heard of the manse having been broken into when the officers were searching the different boats; McGraddy told witness that the manse had been broken into, and that he (McG.) was one of the persons engaged in it; witness sailed for Edinburgh on the Tuesday, and when they got to Kincauld Quarry they were apprehended. The officers found a pair of stockings among the coals; never wore that pair himself, but saw McGraddy wear pair like them, which he had on before the officers came up; could not say that McGraddy had ever before worn stockings like them. Two sheriff-officers proved having apprehended the pannels on board a boat on the Union Canal, and of having found a pair of stockings with Mr. McCall's initials on them, which they identified. The declarations of the prisoners were produced. A letter from McGraddy to Mr. Sawers, the procurator fiscal, was read, requesting him to have him brought before the Sheriff, that he might make disclosures relative to the house - breaking, on the promise of being allowed to be King's evidence; but no such promise was made. He was, however, examined and emitted a declaration, confessing his being guilty of the crime libelled, and that Quin and Curran were his companions in the housebreaking and robbery. The Jury, without leaving the box, returned a verdict, finding McGraddy Guilty of stouthrief, as libelled, and Curran Not Guilty, who was dismissed simpliciter from the bar. After an impressive address, Lord Mackenzie sentenced the unfortunate young man to be executed at Stirling, on Friday the 26th of May next.

1829

London Standard - Wednesday 7th January 1829

BURKE THE MURDERER.

(From the Edinburgh Evening Post.)

As every thing relating to the ruffian Burke may be interesting at present, we add the following particulars about him during his residence in the parish of Peebles: He and Helen McDougall resided in that burgh in the years 1825 and 1826, and part of 1827. "I find," says our correspondent, "that he is a native of Armagh, in the north of Ireland; that he was a Roman Catholic; was a labourer, and employed in working on the roads and in cutting drains. He made considerable pretensions to religion, as I recollect on my first visit to his house, he had one or two religious books lying near him, which, he said, he read; being, at that time, confined by a sore leg. He seemed a man of quiet manners; and, on my questioning him about his country and profession, there appeared a mystery about him. Since he has gained a guilty notoriety, I have made inquiries among his neighbours of his character; and I am informed that he was an inoffensive man; but that he kept suspicious hours. On the Saturday nights and the Sabbath- days his house was the scene of riot and drunken-ness with the lowest of his countrymen. When he left this place he owed the woman from whom he rented his room between 40 and 50 shillings. He was then going to the harvest, and promised to return and pay the rent, which he never did. On application being made to him afterwards in Edinburgh for payment he sent word to the woman to meet him at the head of Edlestone Water, a wild and desolate part of the road leading from this place to Edinburgh. The meeting was to be at ten o'clock at night, when he would pay her. Recent disclosures have fully proved for what purpose such a meeting was to take place. He is now about 37 years of age. "Helen M'Dougall told me she was his wife, and always passed as such in this parish. She had no children by Burke, but a daughter of the name of Dougall by a former marriage, as she pretended. She is native of Muiravonside parish, in Stirlingshire. Her character was not so good as Burkes. She is about his age. "In the Post of Saturday last you term Burke's pretended trade as a shoemaker, and I consider you are correct. He passed here as a labourer; and I believe he was no trade whatever."

Huntingdon, Bedford & Peterborough Gazette - Saturday 10th January 1829

THE LATE MURDERS IN EDINBURGH.

(From the Scotsman.)

The irritation and alarm, excited in this city by the West Port murders, is beginning to subside. Hare and his wife are still in close confinement, and there is a possibility that they may both be yet brought to the punishment they deserve. If, as was stated in our last, the public prosecutor can command evidence sufficient to satisfy a Jury, that Hare, or any of his associates, has been accessory to any other murders than those libelled in Burkes indictment, they will certainly expiate their crimes with their lives. The silence and solitude of his cell have given the monster Hare his opportunity of reflection, and the latent sparks of feeling and humanity are beginning to revive in his breast. He is fully aware, that a likeness of his horrid physiognomy will be taken, to excite the indignation and disgust of posterity, and he seems resolved to prevent it so far as lies in his power. He is seen by gentlemen in authority only, and when any of them enter, he instantly muffles himself up in the bedclothes, so that nothing more than his eyes and forehead can be seen. Yesterday he declined to avail himself of the felon's privilege of walking his time in the ward, and chose to want, or run the risk of wanting, his supper, rather than go for it to the gate like other criminals. His wretched wife also remains constantly in her cell, and maintains a dogged silence respecting the atrocities of their past lives. With respect to Burke, it is not likely that his name will again pollute our pages till he ends his life on the scaffold. Indeed he would not have been mentioned at present had it not been that two circumstances were omitted in the hurry of getting up our last report. It was

mentioned already that he denied, when in the lockup, that he was present at the murder of James Wilson, known by the name of "Daft Jamie," and he gave the following details: "When I was at work, Hare's wife came and told me that they had a lad of the name of Daft Jamie in the house, and were intending to "do him" for the doctors. She stated that she had already got a good deal of whiskey, and asked me to come and help them to finish him. She told me to come in and ask if he had got any whiskey, and if he said yes, I was to send for more. I was detained with a shoe for about twenty minutes, and when I went to the door it was fastened; but I was told by a female voice to stop about three minutes, and all would be over. When I got in I saw Hare, his wife, and another man I'll not name, and Jamie lying quite dead. The body was stripped, and when I looked at the clothes, I said these clothes will answer -----, and they were sent to him." When asked if he had no compunctious visitings of nature no remorse stings of conscience he replied, that for a long time after he had murdered his first victim, he found it utterly impossible to banish for a single hour the recollections of the fatal struggle the screams of distress and despair the agonising groans and all the realities of the dreadful deed. At night the bloody tragedy, accompanied by frightful visions of supernatural beings, tormented him in his dreams but he ultimately became so callous, that a murder added but little to his mental anguish. It is something consoling to reflect that this revolting monster has been overtaken in his path of blood, and is soon to expire on the gallows. (From the Edinburgh Evening Post.) As every thing relating to the ruffian Burke may be interesting at present, we give the following particulars about him during his residence in the parish of Peebles: He and Helen M'Dougall resided in that burgh in the years 1825 and 1826, and part of 1827. "I find," says our correspondent, "that he is a native of Armagh, in the north of Ireland; that he was a Roman Catholic; was a labourer, and employed in working on the roads and in cutting drains. He made considerable pretensions to religion, as I recollect, on my first visit to his house, he had one or two religious books lying near him, which, he said, he read; being, at that time, confined by a sore leg. He seemed a man of quiet manners; and on my questioning him about his country and profession, there appeared a mystery about him. Since he has gained a guilty notoriety, I have made inquiries among his neighbours of his character; and I am informed that he was an inoffensive man; but that he kept suspicious hours. On the Saturday night and the Sabbath days his house was the scene of riot and drunkenness with the lowest of his countrymen. When he left this place he owed the woman from whom he rented his room between forty and fifty shillings. He was then going to the harvest, and promised to return and pay the rent, which he never did. On application being made to him afterwards in Edinburgh for payment, he sent word to the woman to meet him at the head of Eddlestone Water, a wild and desolate part of the road leading from this place to Edinburgh. The meeting was to be at ten o'clock at night, when he would pay her. Recent disclosures have fully proved for what purpose such a meeting was to take place. He is now about 37 years of age. "Helen M'Dougall told me she was his wife, and always passed as such in this parish. She had no children by Burke, but a daughter of the name of Dougal by a former marriage, as she pretended. She is a native of Muiravonside Parish, in Stirlingshire. Her character was not so good as Burke's. She is about his age." "In the Post of Saturday last you term Burke's 'a pretended trade as a shoemaker,' and I consider you are correct. He passed here as a labourer; and I believe he was no trade whatever."

CONFESSIONS OF BURKE.

(From the Caledonian Mercury.)

The information from which the following article is drawn up we have received from a most respectable quarter, and its perfect correctness in all respects may be confidently relied on. In truth, it is as near as possible a strict report, rather than the substance, of what passed at an interview with Burke; in the course of which the unhappy man appears to have opened his mind without reserve, and to have given a distinct and explicit answer to every question which was put to him relative to his connexion with the late murders. After some conversation of a religious nature, in the course of which Burke stated, that while in Ireland, his mind was under the influence of religious impressions, and that he was accustomed to read his Catechism and Prayerbook, and attend to his duties, he was asked, "How comes it, then, that you, who, by your own account, were once under the influence of religious impressions, ever formed the idea of such dreadful atrocities, of such cold-blooded, systematic murders, as you admit you have been engaged in how came such a conception to enter your mind." To this Burke replied, that he did not exactly know; but that becoming addicted to drink, living in open adultery, and associating continually with the most abandoned characters, he gradually became hardened and desperate; gave up attending chapel or any place of religious worship, shunned the face of a priest, and being constantly familiar with every species of wickedness, he at length grew indifferent to what he did, and was ready to commit any crime. He was then asked how long he had been engaged in this murderous traffic. To which he answered, "From Christmas, 1827, to the murder of the woman Docherty, in October last." "How many persons have you murdered, or been concerned in murdering, during that time? Were there thirty in all." "Not so many; not so many, I assure you. How many?" He answered the question, but the answer was, for a reason perfectly satisfactory, not communicated to us, and reserved for a different quarter. "Had you any accomplices?"

"None but Hare. We always took care, when we were going to commit a murder, that no one else should be present thus no one could swear he saw the deed done. The women might suspect when we were going to do it; they never saw us commit any of the murders. One of the murders was done in Broggan's house, while he was out; but before he returned, the thing was finished and the body put into a box. Broggan evidently suspected something, for he appeared much agitated, and entreated us to take away that box, which we accordingly did, but he was not in any way concerned in it." "You have already told me that you were engaged in these atrocities from Christmas, 1827, till the end of October, 1828; were you associated with Hare during all that time?" "Yes. We began with selling to Dr. ----- the body of a woman who had died a natural death in Hare's house. We got ten pounds for it. After this we began the murders, and all the rest of the bodies we sold to him were murdered." "In what place were these murders generally committed?" "They were mostly committed in Hare's house, which was very convenient for the purpose, as it consisted of a room and a kitchen. Daft Jamie was murdered there. The story told of this murder is incorrect. Hare began the struggle with him, and they fell and rolled together on the floor; then I went to Hare's assistance, and we at length finished him, though with much difficulty. I committed one murder in the country by myself. It was in last harvest. All the rest were done in conjunction with Hare. "By what means were these fearful atrocities perpetrated?" "By suffocation. We made the persons drunk, and then suffocated them by holding the nostrils and mouth, and getting on the body. Sometimes I held the mouth and nose, while Hare went upon the body; and sometimes Hare held the mouth and nose, while I placed myself on the body. Hare has perjured himself by what he said at the trial about the murder of Docherty. He did not sit by while I did it, as he says. He was on the body assisting me with all his might, while I held the nostrils and mouth with one hand, choked her under the throat with the other. We sometimes used a pillow, but did not in this case." "Now, Burke, answer me this question - Were you tutored and instructed, or did you receive hints from any one as to the mode of committing murder?" "No, except from Hare. We often spoke about it, and we agreed that suffocation was the best way. Hare said so, and I agreed with him - We generally did it by suffocation." [Our informant omitted to interrogate him about the surgical instruments stated to have been found in the house; but this omission will be supplied.] "Did you receive any encouragement to commit or persevere in committing these atrocities?" - Yes; we were frequently told by Paterson that he would take as many bodies as we could get for him. There was commonly another person with him, of the name of Falconer. They generally pressed us to get more bodies for them." "To whom were the bodies so murdered sold?" - "To Dr. ----- We took the bodies to his rooms in -----, and then went to his house to receive the money for them. Sometimes he paid us himself; sometimes we were paid by his assistants. No questions were ever asked as to the mode in which we had come by the bodies. We had nothing to do but to leave a body at the rooms, and go get the money." "Did you ever, upon any occasion, sell a body or bodies to any other

lecturer in this place?" - "Never; we knew no other. ""You have been a resurrectionist (as it is called) I understand?" - "No; neither Hare nor myself ever got a body from a church-yard. All we sold were murdered save the first one, which was that of the woman who died a natural death in Hare's house. We began with that; our crimes then commenced. The victims we selected were generally elderly persons. They could be more easily disposed of than persons in the vigour of health." Such are the disclosures which this wretched man has made, under circumstances which can scarcely fail to give them weight with the public; and after being strongly admonished, he declared, upon the word of a dying man, that every thing he had said was true, and that he had in no respect exaggerated or extenuated any thing, either from a desire to inculpate Hare, or to spare any one else. The unhappy man is, moreover, perfectly penitent, and resigned to his fate. As often, however, as the subject of the late trial is mentioned, he never fails to assert that Hare perjured himself in the account he gave of the murder of the woman; repeating the statement we have already given, that, so far from sitting by, a cool and unconcerned spectator of the crime, Hare actively assisted in the commission of it, and was upon the body of the woman, co-operating with himself in his efforts to strangle her.

Manchester Times - Saturday 31st January 1829

EXECUTION OF BURKE.

On Wednesday morning, between eight and nine o'clock, William Burke, the Edinburgh murderer, paid the forfeit of his many crimes at the head of Libberton's Wynd, Edinburgh. As the period approached which was to terminate his career, the excitement, which has been all along so deep in that place, was, greatly increased; and great fear was entertained that some tumultuous exhibition of public feeling would be made at the execution. Fortunately, however, no such occurrence took place. For some days past, tickets had been exhibited on the windows in the neighbourhood, intimating them to be let for the occasion at from five shillings to one and two guineas, Burke was removed from the Calton jail on Tuesday morning at four o'clock with the strictest privacy, and was lodged in the lock-up-house behind the Parliament square, and in the near neighbourhood of the place of execution. Here he was visited by the catholic priests, and received from them every attention. The measures adopted by the authorities did not afford any opportunities to those in attendance on him to acquire any information, nor did he seem inclined to be communicative. He exclaimed at one time, "O that the hour was come, which is to separate me from the world" He ascribed the commencement of his enormities to a harvesting, which, it is presumed, was meant the formation of his intimacy with McDougal. On being asked on the subject of Daft Jamie's murder, he said that Hare's wife decoyed him into Hare's house, and that Hare and his wife murdered him. During the night he slept soundly for several hours. In the afternoon, measures were begun to rail off a portion of the street for the erection of a scaffold, and crowds attended the place all the time of its erection, and about midnight, and the midst of a heavy rain, the crowd gave three cheers, when the cross beam to which the rope is affixed was placed in its position. By half-past six the whole of the Lawn Market and High-street, as far as a view could be obtained, were crowded, as well as the windows and tops of the houses adjoining; and the number was generally estimated at about 25,000. At about half-past seven o'clock, the crowd began to exhibit symptoms of impatience, and gave a series of loud and long continued shouts, which they repeated at intervals till Burke was brought out. About four o'clock this morning he complained to Mr. Christie, the keeper of the lock-up, of the weight of his fetters, and requested that they might be taken off. This was instantly granted, and, on holding up his leg to let them off, he exclaimed, "So let all my earthly fetters fall." He was attended afterwards in his cell by his instructors, and at seven he was ushered into the keeper's room, where the magistrates and others were waiting. To this room no reporters, save one belonging to an Edinburgh paper, were admitted; the magistrates having refused their permission. Messrs Reid and Stewart, the priests, administered such consolations as his religion afforded, and afterwards Burke thanked them and the governor of the jail for their kindness to him, and particularly thanked Mr. Christie, the keeper of the lock-up, for his attentions. He was then pinioned by the executioner, and shortly after was about to retire to another apartment, but he was stopped by the executioner; on this Burke coolly remarked, "It is not your time yet." After a short absence he returned, and, after some farther devotional exercises, was offered, by one of the magistrates, a glass of wine. This he accepted, and on drinking, said, "Farewell to all my friends." Precisely at eight o'clock, the procession began to move up Libberton's Wynd, from the lock-up, the city officers being first with the Lochaber axes, and the magistrates following. Burke was next, and was supported by the two priests, and several of the authorities followed. He was dressed in a new suit of black clothes which had been presented to him by the magistrates, and wore a white neckcloth. When the crowd discovered the movement, consequent on the approach of the culprit, they raised a loud cry of exultation, mixed with groans and hissings, from every part of the dense mass of spectators. Burke, who had walked at first with rather a firm but somewhat undetermined step, seemed to understand the cause of the shouting - his steps became embarrassed and faltering, and his countenance displayed strong agitation. He shut his eyes before he reached the head of the Wynd, and did not open them till on the scaffold. He seemed to be afraid of the reception he might meet with from the crowd, but he was assisted up the stairs to the platform. On his appearance there the shouting was renewed; and Burke, turning his face towards the crowd, gave them a look of such scornful defiance, that the groans were redoubled. He then knelt down with the priests, and the Rev. Mr. Marshall offered up a short but fervent and appropriate prayer. Even during this period of the public devotions, the crowd continued to shout and groan, and persisted in so doing in despite of the exertions of the magistrates and others to keep them quiet. After Mr. Marshall finished, a few minutes were spent in conversation with the priest, during which Burke seemed to be suffering dreadfully but resumed a portion of his firmness on receiving the handkerchief and mounting the drop. On stepping up, he gave a singular look upwards to the hook to which this rope was affixed. The executioner then proceeded to adjust the rope, upon which vehement cries were raised from every quarter, of "Burke him," "Burke him." Here he seemed to have lost every feeling; he repeated, as if unconsciously, the words whispered to him by the priest; his face assumed a colour as if he had been already suffocated, and he allowed the cap to be drawn over his face without a motion. At each step of the executioner's duty, the crowd raised another shout, and when the cap was drawn over the face, a cry was raised to keep it off altogether. The authorities then left the scaffold, and in half a minute the signal was given, and the drop fell. Here the shouting, groaning, and hissing, became louder than ever. The rope seemed to be too short, as it was evident he had but a short fall, and the struggles which followed, showed that he suffered much. His hands were extended convulsively, and once or twice he was observed to breathe deeply. The cry for punishment on Hare now became general. "Bring out Hare;" "Now for Hare," and one continued cry was kept up many minutes. This was kept up at intervals till he was cut down at nine. At this moment the crowd called for three cheers "for humanity," and one person from a window cried out "one cheer more," and was answered by the whole crowd. The crowd at this time seemed greatly agitated, and fears were entertained for the public peace, but they were fortunately unfounded. The strong body of police, indeed, which was present, under the charge of Captain Stewart, would have quelled any riotous movement, and the military were under arms in case of necessity. When the body was lowered into the coffin, previous to its being taken to the lock-up-house (from whence it would be afterwards sent for dissection), great anxiety was displayed by a number of persons to possess themselves of pieces of the rope; and when disappointed is in that, they were content to secure a few of the shavings with which the coffin was stuffed. It should have been mentioned, that it was the intention of the authorities to have a psalm sung on the scaffold, and the precentor was there for that purpose; but the idea was prudently relinquished, on observing the state of feeling among the crowd, and the service was rendered as short as was consistent with the occasion.

LIFE OF BURKE THE MURDERER.

(From the Scotsman.)

Burke was born in the parish of Orrey, county of Tyrone, in Ireland, in 1792. When Burke was at school, he was distinguished as an apt scholar. Becoming anxious to learn some trade, he agreed with a baker in Strabane. He next became a linen weaver. He then enlisted in the Donegal militia. While in the army, he married a woman in Balinha. He shortly afterwards obtained the situation of groom and body servant to a gentleman in that vicinity, with whom he remained for three years. As there was then a great demand for labourers for the Union canal, he abandoned his wife, and came to Scotland. This woman never had any children, and so far as is known, she yet survives, and resides in Ballinha. He commenced work at the Canal, near the village of Muiravonside; he took jobs, which he let out to his countrymen; and it was there he became acquainted with the woman McDougal. She then resided under her parents' roof, and though tolerably good looking, merry and good-natured, she was considered of easy virtue. She soon became remarkably fond of Burke - she followed him every where; and fled with him from the house of her afflicted parents. On leaving Muiravonside, Burke and his paramour went to the east country to the harvest. He had acquired a partial knowledge of shoe-mending while in the militia. He repaired to Leith in search of work, and wrought some time with an eccentric character, Charles McGranachan. He soon tired of McGranachan's heavy work and small wages, and he went and laboured in the country. He engaged again on the canal near Winshburgh, but left it and went a second time to the harvest, he next resided in Peebles for some time, where he wrought on the roads. From Peebles he went a third time to these harvest, and when the crops were cut down, he returned to Edinburgh. Next day he went out in pursuit of some way of subsistence, but, after long and fruitless enquiry, he and Macdougall resolved to visit Glasgow. When passing through the West Port, on their way to the canal-boat, they went into a house for refreshment. Fatally for them, they there met Hare's wife, who persuaded them to stop a few days in her house; and there Burke, it is believed, was initiated into the appalling trade of kidnapping and murdering his fellow creatures, and trafficking in their bodies. In the present state of affairs it would be highly imprudent to say any thing respecting Hare's previous life and transactions. Over the entry leading to his horrid shambles, "Beds to Let" was painted in large letters, and his general charge was 3d a night. Shortly after he had taken Burke into his domicile, a poor forlorn man arrived from a part of the kingdom which it is needless to name, and after some time's illness expired. No enquiry after him being made, the body was sold for dissection. The money being expended, Burke sallied out for the first time in search of a person in whose blood he might imbrue his hands. In a short time fell in with a woman well up in years, who belonged to a village a few miles south of this city, and decoyed her to Hare's abode. The usual preparations being completed, Burke sprung like a tiger on his unsuspecting victim; - he was then only a novice in murder - the struggle was severe, but humanity would shrink at the appalling details. He was a man of remarkably strong passions - by no means of a quarrelsome disposition, but when once roused into a passion, he became altogether ungovernable to reason and utterly reckless, he raged like a fury, and to tame him was no easy task.

MRS. BURK -

It was formerly mentioned that this wretched woman would be driven from place to place, and that she could only hope for a permanent residence where she was utterly unknown. Even her own kindred have intimated their resolution to drive her hence should she approach them. It appears that after leaving Edinburgh, she went to the neighbourhood of Carnwath. As she had been in that quarter two harvests with Burke, she was instantly recognised, and roughly treated at Newbiggan and several other places.

London Standard, Morning Chronicle - Saturday 31st January 1829

LIFE OF WILLIAM BURKE

[FROM THE SCOTSMAN.]

The biographical sketches of the felons who figure in the pages of the Newgate Calendar are perused with considerable interest, though with little profit. Their whole lives were a career of wickedness and crime, bold, reckless, adventure, desperation, and hair-breadth escapes, till they were cut off by the gallows. On the contrary, till within these eighteen months, the incidents of Burke's life were of the most common and least interesting description; and hence, though anxious to satisfy the public curiosity, the main object of the following outline is to hold out a warning to transgressors, by shewing how surely and how closely punishment dogs the heels of crime. Burke was born in the parish of Orrey, county Tyrone, in Ireland, in the spring of 1792. His parents were poor, but respectable; and, in the fond hope that their sons might one day rise above the toil, poverty, and irksome dependence of the Irish cotters, they gave them a better education than, was then common among their caste of their countrymen. When Burke was at school, he was distinguished as an apt scholar, a cleanly, active, good-looking boy, - and though his parents were strict Catholics, he was taken into the service of Presbyterian Clergyman, who requested them to allow him to reside with him, to run messages and attend in the hall. When he outgrew the minister's work he was recommended by him to a gentleman in Straban, in whose employment he remained for several years. Becoming anxious to learn some trade, he agreed with a baker in the above town, but he remained with him, only five months. He next became a linen-weaver, but he soon got disgusted with the close application that was essential to earn a livelihood at that poorly-paid, irksome employment, and he enlisted in the Donegal Militia, His brother, Constantine, had then attained the rank of non-commissioned-officer in that corps, and William being, as before observed, a cleanly, smart fellow, he was selected by an officer for his servant, and demeaned himself with the strictest fidelity and propriety. While in the army, he married a woman in Balinha, in the county of Mayo, and after seven years' service, the regiment was disbanded, and he went home to his wife. He shortly afterwards obtained the situation of groom and body servant to a gentleman in that vicinity, with whom he remained for three years. As there was then a great demand for labourers for the Union Canal, he abandoned his wife and came to Scotland. This woman never had any children, and, so far as it is known, she yet survives and resides in Ballinha. He commenced work at the canal, near the village of Muiravonside; he took jobs, which he let out to his countrymen; and it was there he became acquainted with the woman McDougal. She then resided under her parents' roof, and though tolerably good-looking, merry, and good-natured, she was considered of easy virtue. She soon became remarkably fond of Burke, and followed him every where; she frequently carried him spirits and beer to refresh him, when at his heavy toil in the hot and sultry days of summer; and at last, by her conduct, reducing to practice the fanciful theory of the poet, "curse on all laws, save those which love has made!" she put herself fairly under his protection, and fled with him from the house of her afflicted parents. Though it rarely happens in such circumstances, her confidence was not misplaced; Burke treated her with the greatest kindness, acknowledged her as his wife, and she was passionately fond of him in return. Rather than give the least information regarding the murderous deeds of her ruthless husband, she boldly stood her trial with him, and though she escaped, she wept bitterly when separated from him for ever by the stern mandate of the law. This flagrant violation of a solemn and sacred contract - this contemptuous disregard of the best feelings of human nature - this gross outrage on morality, common decency, and the laws of the country, was the first guilty step in Burke's life. As he had ever afterwards no fixed place of residence, no particular calling, but wandered about the country picking up a scanty and wretched subsistence, it may be considered decisive of his, future destiny. Indeed, times without number, in the bitterest accents of regret, he attributed the commencement of his iniquitous career to his inclination for the company of depraved women. On leaving Muiravonside, Burke and his paramour went to the east country to the harvest. When the shearing, was concluded he came into Edinburgh, and lodged some time with a man of the name of Cullen, who then resided in the West Port, he had acquired a partial knowledge of shoe-mending while in the militia, but being utterly unknown, he got very little, or rather no employment. He repaired to Leith in search of work, and wrought some time with an eccentric character, Charles McGranachan, a countryman of his own. He soon tired of McGranachan's heavy work and small wages, and he went and laboured in the country. He engaged again on the canal near

Winchburgh, but left it and went a second time to the harvest, He next resided in Peebles for some time, where he wrought on the roads, or took jobs at hedging, ditching, and trenching, and was, in short, considered an industrious and efficient sort of master- of-all-work in the labouring way. It has been already mentioned that he was brought up a professor of the Catholic faith, but he occasionally attended Protestant places of worship; he was no bigot, or rather he was then indifferent about the dogmas and denunciations, the promises and consolations, of all creeds. He generally spent the Sundays in drinking and unholy revelry with the wretches he had in his employment. From Peebles he went a third time to the harvest, and when the crops were cut down, he returned to this city. Next day he went out in pursuit of some way of sustenance, but, after long and fruitless inquiry, he and Macdougall resolved to visit Glasgow. When passing through the West Port, on their way to the canal-boat, they went into a house for a refreshment. Fatally for them, they there met Hare's wife, who persuaded them to stop a few days in her room; and there Burke, it is believed, was initiated into the appalling trade of kidnaping and murdering his fellow-creatures, and trafficking in their bodies. In the present state of affairs it would lie highly imprudent to say anything respecting Hare's previous life and transactions. Over the entry leading to his horrid shambles, "Beds to Let" was painted in large letters, and his general charge was three- pence a night. Shortly after he had taken Burke into his domicile, a poor forlorn man had arrived from a part of the kingdom which it is needless to name, and after some time's illness expired. No inquiry after him being made, the body was sold for dissection. The money being expended, Burke sallied out for the first time in search of a person in whose blood he might imbrue his hands. In a short time he fell in with a woman well up in years, who belonged to a village a few miles south of this city, and decoyed her to Hare's abode. The usual preparations being completed Burke sprung like a tiger on his unsuspecting victim; he was then only a novice in murder - the struggle was severe, but humanity would shrink at the appalling details. In our impression of the 3d inst, it was mentioned, that while Burke was in the lock up after his conviction, in alluding to the great difficulty he experienced in bereaving this unhappy woman of life, he stated, that "for a long time after he had murdered his first victim he found it utterly impossible to banish for a single hour the recollection of the fatal struggle - the screams of distress and despair - the agonising groans, and all the realities of the dreadful deed. At night the bloody tragedy, accompanied by frightful visions of supernatural beings, tormented him in his dreams. For a long time he shuddered at the thought of being alone in the dark - during the night he kept a light constantly burning by his bed-side, but he ultimately became so callous, that a murder added but little to his mental anguish." He was a man of remarkably strong passions - he was good-tempered - by no means of a quarrelsome disposition, but when once roused into a passion, he became altogether ungovernable - deaf to reason and utterly reckless -he raged like a fury, and to tame him was no easy task. Such, in a few words, have been the principal incidents in the life of William Burke. The narrative, short and unvarnished as it is, affords ample materials for grave and serious consideration. Murder, it is truly said, is the worst of crimes, and in a few months Burke has attained the summit of the "bad eminence" of being the worst of murderers. The long and dark array of common thieves, burglars, robbers, and homicides dwindle into absolute insignificance when brought in juxtaposition with this Colossus in crime. His name will stand conspicuous - it will mark an era in the black record of human delinquency - and future ages will shudder at his horrid deeds, and fling back their curses at the name which the inhuman monster bore.

REMOVAL OF BURKE TO THE LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[FROM THE EDINBURGH WEEKLY JOURNAL.]

Burke was removed from the jail to the lock-up house yesterday (Tuesday) morning, between four and five o'clock, in a carriage, attended by Mr. Rose, the governor, and one of his assistants. He has for the last few days been remarkably calm and collected - sleeping soundly, and entering familiarly into conversation with such persons as had access to him. He is represented as a man of strong, but not much cultivated mind. He has, however, an excellent memory, and is pretty well acquainted with the Scriptures. He writes rather well for one in his station of life. He expresses the utmost contrition for his crimes, which he says have been very great. He did not like Hare or his wife, whom he considers as bad, if not worse than himself. Of the woman M'Dougall he has always spoken in the kindest terms; a mutual attachment appears to have existed between these wretches. They first became acquainted when Burke was working at the canal; she at that period lived with her father, we believe, in the parish of Muiravonside. His lawful wife resided in the parish of Orrey, in the county of Tyronne, Ireland, of which he was a native. When informed that inquiries were making after her, he stated he was sorry that should be done, for he bore a good character there, and a knowledge of his crimes and fate would bring disgrace on those connected with him. After being in the army, it would appear he had followed various occupations, being at one period employed as a baker, at another as a weaver, but principally as a labourer, and latterly he professed to be a cobbler. The wound which has caused Burke so much uneasiness was in the groin, and was received while he was working at the canal. Since Burke's condemnation he has been attended with unremitting assiduity by the Rev. Mr. Reid, Roman Catholic clergyman, but he was willing to receive religious instruction from any quarter and frequently joined in worship with the indefatigable and pious chaplain, Mr. Porteous. The Rev. Mr. Marshall was in the habit of calling occasionally, immediately after his condemnation; but we have been informed that Mr. Reid was afraid that the few days the criminal had to live could not be so profitably employed, if he were liable to be distracted by conflicting opinions on matters of faith; consequently Mr. Marshall's visits were, at Burke's request, discontinued. On Sunday last, Mr. Marshall was Preaching in the jail, and Burke expressed a wish to be present; but as that was at the hour Mr. Reid had appointed to be with him in his cell, he did not attend the chapel. We have authority to say, that Burke particularly requested the Rev. Mr. Marshall to attend him on the scaffold, and that this request was made yesterday (Tuesday), in the Lock-up-house, where Mr. Marshall spent some time with him. We understand that the real number of murders committed by this infamous gang is 16 - 4 in Burke's house when it was occupied by Broggan, who though he might know what had taken place, was not, we believe, present as accessory; four after Broggan left the house; six in Hare's house, and two in his stable adjoining. The first body said was that of a pensioner who died in Hare's, and for whom a mock funeral was got up - the coffin being filled with tanner's bark. All the seventeen corpses are said to have been disposed of to the same person, at prices varying from eight to ten pounds. The greater portion of the unfortunate individuals who were murdered, were persons far advanced in life. Workmen were employed yesterday afternoon in fitting up strong wooden barriers to keep off the crowd, which was expected to be very large. So great was the anxiety to secure a place from which to witness the execution, that as high prices as a guinea have been paid for one window, while some are disposed of by retail, at the rate of 2s. 6d, for permission to have a look from one. Placards were displayed in the neighbourhood of the scaffold, of "windows to be let," even up to the sixth and seventh floors.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 9th March 1829

Advertisements & Notices

COUNTRY RESIDENCE IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

To be LET, Furnished,

THE HOUSE of CANDIE, with the Offices, Garden, and Pleasure Grounds, lying in the parish of Muiravonside, within a short distance from the Union Canal and the post road between Linlithgow and Falkirk. The house is genteelly and comfortably furnished, the garden den stocked, and the tenant can be supplied with farm produce. He will have the exclusive right of shooting on the property. Christopher Meikle, at Candie, will show the place and for farther particulars apply to Messrs Ferrier, W. S. Edinburgh.

1830's

1834

Northampton Mercury Saturday 18th January 1834

Died

At Muiravonside Manse, the Rev. Wm. M'Call, Minister of that parish.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 31st March 1834

Advertisements & Notices

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC ROUP

Within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 4th June next, at two o'clock afternoon.

THE LANDS & ESTATE now know by the name of LAURENCE PARK, lying in the Parishes of Muiravonside and Polmont, and county of- Stirling extending to 226 Scotch, or 285 imperial acres, or thereby. The rental, including a valuation put upon some field in the natural possession of the proprietor, including value put on the house and garden, will be upwards of L.700 per annum. The Mansion-House, which is beautifully situated, and commands an extensive view, has been built within these few years, and contains every accommodation suitable for a large family, and has a conservatory communicating with the drawing-room.

There are also suitable-offices, and an extensive garden, inclosed with a brick wall, and well stocked with fruit trees and a vinery. The property marches, with the Union Canal, and with the turnpike road leading from Edinburgh to Stirling. The teinds in the parish of Muiravonside are valued and exhausted, and there is an heritable right to the teinds in the parish of Polmont. Entry of the purchaser at Martinmas 1834 - For farther, particulars apply to John L.

Learnmonth, Esq. of Parkhall, by Falkirk; and to Alexander Douglas, W.S. 17, Drummond

Place, Edinburgh, who is in possession of a plan of-the property, and of the titles.

The HOUSE, completely Furnished, and Garden, at being at present unoccupied will be LET on moderate terms.

Apply as above.

Caledonian Mercury -Saturday 24th May 1834

The Rev. James Macfarlane was ordained minister of Muiravonside on the 16th instant, upon which occasion the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie of Borrowstouness preached and presided. The attendance of the congregation was very numerous, and nothing could exceed the cordiality with which the new minister was welcomed by his parishioners. Sunday last Mr. Macfarlane was introduced to his flock by his relative, the Moderator of the present General Assembly, and afterwards preached to an overflowing congregation.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 11th August 1834

QUOITING. -

A match took place between Torphichen and Muiravonside, on Monday the 4th inst. at that manly, invigorating, and ancient game, with nine players on each side, for 94 shots. After a close contest between the parties, and much good play exhibited, "by covering the quoit," and driving the paper home, to the pin, the Torphichen players claimed victory by 22 shots.

1835

Caledonian Mercury Monday 20th April 1835

Advertisements & Notices

SALE OF BOOKS, PICTURES, PRINTS, SILVER PLATE, GOLD WATCHES, GUNS, CABINETS, SCAGLIOLA TABLE, And Numerous other Articles of Virtu.

MR. C. B. TAIT begs to intimate, that on FRIDAY FIRST, and ten following days (Sundays excepted), he will SELL by Auction, in his Great Rooms, No. 11, Hanover Street, an extremely Valuable Collection of BOOKS, PICTURES, DRAWINGS, PRINTS, SILVER PLATE, GOLD WATCHES, GUNS, CABINETS, SCAGLIOLA TABLE, BOOKCASE, and numerous other Articles of Virtu; comprising the Library of Alexander Macleod, Esq. of Muiravonside - the Library of a Gentleman lately deceased - a portion of the Stock of a Bookseller - the Silver Plate, Gold Watches, and Snuff Boxes of the s late Alexander Greig, Esq. Accountant - the Drawings and Sketches of Mr. Robert Gibb, S.A. and R.I.A. - the Pictures of the late Alexander Osborn, Esq. Commissioner of the Customs. A Share of the Edinburgh Subscription Library, &c. Catalogues (Part First) of this varied and extensive Sale, are now ready, and may be had on application. 11, Hanover Street, April 20.

1836

Caledonian Mercury Monday 18th January 1836

Advertisements & Notices

STIRLINGSHIRE FOR SALE,

By public roup, within the Old Signet Hall, Royal Exchange, Edinburgh, on Friday 29th inst. at two o'clock afternoon,

1. THE LANDS of GOOSSEDUBS,

Situated on the banks of the Water of Avon, and lying within the southern part of the parish of Falkirk, but quad sacra in the parish of Slamannan, and county of Stirling. This desirable property has a south exposure, consists of about 100 acres of arable and rich meadow, and about 10 acres of wood. The wood is uncommonly thriving and valuable. The high road from Falkirk runs through the property, and from which place it is distant about three miles, and the proposed Railroad between Edinburgh and Glasgow is likely to pass within a short distance of the property

2. The LANDS of THACKRIDGE,

Lying within the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling. These leans extend to about 28 acres, and are situated about four miles west from Linlithgow, and three from the Union Canal. The tenants will point out the boundaries; and farther particulars will be communicated by James Brown, Esq. Accountant in Edinburgh; Mr. Alexander Monro, writer, Falkirk; MacRitchie, Bayley, & Henderson, W.S. 11, Royal Exchange, Edinburgh, who are in possession of the title-deeds and plans. Edinburgh, 11th January 1836.

Newcastle Journal Saturday 11th & 18th June 1836

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser Saturday 25th June 1836

SUPERINTENDENT OF RAILWAY WANTED.

THE SLAMANNAN RAILWAY COMPANY being about to commence the Formation of the Slamannan Railway, wish to receive Applications by qualified Persons, who may willing fulfill the Office OF RESIDENT ENGINEER when the Work is being executed, and of a SUPERINTENDENT after the Railway is opened for Trade. The Railway extends for about 12 1/2 Miles from the East Extremity of the Ballochney Railway, in the Parish New Monkland and County of Lanark, to the Edinburgh and Glasgow Union Canal at Causewayend, in the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling. Applicant must be acquainted with Earthwork and Masonry, and the other Operations required in forming and working a Railway, and with making and upholding Bridges, fences, and other Works therewith connected, and must

produce satisfactory Testimonials of his Talents and Character. It will be an additional Recommendation that he is acquainted with the Practice of a Surveyor in making Plans and taking Sections, and with the Construction of Locomotive Engines. A Salary of £150 a-year, with a Free House, will be given to a Person duly qualified and preferred to the Situation. Further Particulars may be learned Application to John Macneill, Esq., Civil Engineer, 7, St. Martin's Place, London ; or to the Subscriber, the Clerk of the Company, No. 36, Miller Street, Glasgow ; and Applications, addressed the Company, must be forwarded (Post-paid) to the Care of the Clerk, before Thursday, the 30th Day of June Current.
By Order of the Committee of Management, JAMES MITCHELL, Clerk,
Glasgow, 2nd June, 1836.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 12th 14th & 21st November 1836

Advertisements & Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT application is intended to be made to Parliament, in the ensuing Session, for leave to bring in a BILL or BILLS for making and maintaining a Railway, for the conveyance of Passengers and Goods, and the passage of Coaches, Chaises, Waggons, Carts, and other Carriages, properly constricted, to be drawn or propelled by locomotive engines, steam, or other power, together with Inclined Planes, Viaducts, Bridges, Tunnels, Archways, Depots, Warehouses, Wharfs, Offsets, turning, passing, and loading places, roads, communications, and all proper Works and conveniences connected therewith, to commence at or near to a house or building called the Weigh-house, in the Parish of the High Church of Edinburgh, in the City and County of Edinburgh, and to terminate at or near to the North end of North Queen Street in the Parish of Saint George's, in the City of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark; which said Railway is intended to pass from, in, through, and into the several Parishes, Towns, Burghs, and places following, viz. the City of Edinburgh, the Parishes of High Church, Canongate, Tolbooth, St Andrew's, and St George's-Edinburgh, and Saint Cuthbert's, Corstorphine, Currie, and Ratho, or some of them, all in the County of Edinburgh; the Parish of Kirkliston, in the Counties of Edinburgh and Linlithgow, or one of them; the Parishes of Dalmeny and Abercorn, and the Parish and Burgh of Linlithgow, or some of them, in the County of Linlithgow; the Parishes of Muiravonside and Polmont, the Parish and Burgh of Falkirk, and the Parish of Denny, or some of them, in the County of Stirling; the Parish of Cumbernauld, in the Counties of Stirling and Dumbarton, or one of them; the Parish of Kirkintilloch, in the County of Dumbarton ; the Parishes of Chryston, Cadder, otherwise Calder, Barony-Glasgow, Maryhill Glasgow, Inner High Church-Glasgow, Ramshorn, otherwise St David's -Glasgow, St George's - Glasgow, and the City of Glasgow, or some of them, in the County of Lanark: Also, for making and maintaining a Branch Railway, with proper Works and conveniences connected therewith, to lead from and out of the said last-mentioned Railway, at or near to the house on the north bank of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Union Canal, and near to the west end of the Tunnel on the said Canal, in the Parish of Falkirk and County of Stirling, and to pass in and through the said Parish and Burgh of Falkirk, and to terminate in or near to a certain Field or Garden near to the building called the United Secession Church, in the same Parish of Falkirk, all in the said County of Stirling: And it is intended to apply for power by such Bill, to deviate from the line or lines of the said Railway and Branch Railway respectively, or either of them, as laid out or intended to be laid out end delineated on the Maps or Plans thereof, to be deposited with the Clerks of the Peace for the several Counties before mentioned, to any extent, not exceeding one hundred yards on either side of such line, or lines, where the Property lying within the said distance shall be included in the said Plans and in the Books of Reference, to be deposited therewith, and also for power to alter vary, and divert highways, roads, tram roads, paths, passages, rivers, canals, brooks, streams, waters; and water-courses.
Dated the 9th day of November 1836.
A. & D. J. BANNAYTYNE, - Solicitors for the Bill.

1837

Caledonian Mercury Thursday 18th & 26th October 1837

Advertisements & Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT application to Parliament is intended to be renewed or made, in the ensuing Session, for leave to bring in a Bill, or Bills, for making and maintaining a Railway from Edinburgh to Glasgow, with a Branch therefrom to Falkirk, for the conveyance of passengers and goods, and the passage of coaches, chaises, waggons, carts, and other carriages, properly constructed, to be drawn or propelled by locomotive engines, steam, or other power, together with, inclined planes, viaducts, bridges, tunnels, archways, depots, warehouses, wharfs, offsets, turning, passing, and loading places, roads, communications, and all proper works and conveniences connected therewith; which said Railway is intended to commence at or near to a place called the Haymarket, situated in the Parish of St. Cuthbert's, or St George's, Edinburgh, in the County, or City, and County of Edinburgh, and to terminate at or near to the North end of North Queen Street, in the Parish of St George's in the City of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and is intended to pass from, in, through, or into the several Parishes, Cities, Towns, Burghs, and places following, viz. the aforesaid City of Edinburgh, and Parish of St George's, Edinburgh, and the Parishes of St Cuthbert's, Corstorphine, Currie, and Ratho, or some of them, all in the County of Edinburgh; the Parish of Kirkliston, in the Counties of Edinburgh and Linlithgow or one of them ; the Parishes of Uphall, Dalmeny, and Abercorn. and the Parish and Burgh of Linlithgow, or some of them, in the County of Linlithgow; the Parishes of Muiravonside and Polmont, the Parish and Burgh of Falkirk, and the Parish of Denny, or some of them, in the County of Stirling; the Parish of Cumbernauld, in the Counties of Stirling and Dumbarton, or one of them; the Parish of Kirkintilloch, in the County of Dumbarton; the Parishes of Chryston, Cadder, otherwise Calder, Barony-Glasgow, Maryhill-Glasgow, Inner High Church-Glasgow Ramshorn, otherwise St David's- Glasgow, and the aforesaid Parish of St George's Glasgow, and City of Glasgow, or some of them in the County of Lanark: And which said Branch Railway is intended to lead from and out of the said last mentioned Railway, at or near to the House on the North Bank of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Union Canal near to the West end of the Tunnel on the said Canal, in the said Parish of Falkirk, and County of Stirling, and to pass in and through the said Parish and Burgh of Falkirk, and to terminate in or near to a certain field or garden near to the building called the United Secession Church, in the said Parish of Falkirk, all in the said County of Stirling: And it is intended to apply for power by such Bill or Bills, to deviate the line or lines of the said Railway and Branch Railway respectively, or either of them, as laid out or intended to be laid out and delineated on the maps or plans thereof, to be deposited as after-mentioned to the extent of one hundred yards, except where passing through any town, and in such cases, to the extent of ten yards on either side of such line or lines, provided the lands or property included within the limits of such deviation, shall be marked upon the said maps or plans. And also, for power to alter, vary, and divert highways, roads, tramroads, paths, passages, rivers, canals, brooks, streams, waters, and water courses, where requisite for the construction of the said Railway, or Branch Railway, and Works, and to levy tolls, rates, and duties, on and for the use of the said Railway, and Branch Railway, and Works, aforesaid. And it is intended that Maps or Plans, and Sections, describing the line and levels of the said intended Railway, and Branch Railway, said the lands to be taken for the purposes thereof, together with Books of Reference thereto, containing the names of the reputed Owners, Lessees and Occupiers of such lands, shall be deposited on or before the 30th day of November eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, in the offices of the principal Sheriff- Clerks, as follows; that is to say, in the City of Edinburgh, for the said County, and City and County of Edinburgh; at Linlithgow for the said County of Linlithgow; at Stirling, and also at Falkirk, for the said County of Stirling; at Dumbarton, for the said County of Dumbarton; and at Lanark,

and also at Glasgow, for the said County of Lanark: And it is also intended to deposit, on or before the said thirtieth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, with the schoolmaster, if any; and if there shall be no Schoolmaster, then with the Session-Clerk of each of the said several Parishes through which the said Railway, and Branch Railway, are respectively intended to be made, at their respective residences, and also with the Town Clerk of each of the said Burghs of Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Falkirk, and Glasgow, at their respective offices within the said Burghs, a copy of so much of the said Maps or Plans, and Sections, as relates to each of the said several Parishes and Burghs, together with a Book of Reference thereto.

A. & D. J. BANNATYNE, Solicitors to the Bill.
SWAIN, STEVENS, & CO. Parliamentary Solicitors.
Glasgow, September 14, 1837.

1839

The Operative Sunday 10th February 1839

Glasgow, September 14, 1837.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.-

Upon Tuesday last, while the workmen were employed at the commencement of the Glasgow and Edinburgh Railway, at Muiravonside, the bank gave way, and fell upon nine men, two of whom were killed. One is a young man, about eighteen years of age; the other has left a widow and three children. Another account says, "When dug out, one of them was dead, and the other, though alive, is so dreadfully bruised, that little or no hope is entertained of his recovery.

"Glasgow Chronicle."

1840's

1840

Caledonian Mercury Saturday 21st March 1840

Births

At the Manse of Muiravonside, on the 14th current, Mrs. MACFARLAN, of a daughter.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 4th May 1840

Advertisements and Notices

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

LIST of the HONOURS AWARDED in the several FACULTIES and CLASSES FOR SESSION

MDCCCXXXIX-XL. FACULTY OF ARTS.

HUMANITY CLASSES.

JUNIOR CLASS.

I. Latin Verses,

2. James Wardrop, Muiravonside

SECOND CLASS

II. For a Translation of the Menexellus of Plato.

James Wardrop, Muiravonside ;

1841

Caledonian Mercury Monday 18th January 1841

Advertisements & Notices

NOTICE.

THE TRUSTEES of the 7th DISTRICT of STIRLINGSHIRE, comprehending the Parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside, and part of Bothkennar, intend to borrow the Sum of One Hundred Pounds on the Security of the Funds leviable by virtue of the Parish, Road Act to be applied in repairing the Highways within the said district; of which notice is hereby given in terms of the said Act.

THOs GIRDWOOD, Clerk to the Trustees.

Polmont, 15th Jan. 1841.

1842

Caledonian Mercury Monday 26th December 1842

LIST OF MINISTERS who have concurred in the Second Series of Resolutions adopted by the late Convocation, since the publication of the memorial to her Majesty's Government.

(Amongst whom was)

Mr. James M'Farlane, Muiravonside

1843

Morning Post Tuesday 4th April 1843

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. –

We have been favoured with a letter from the Rev. James M'Farlane, Minister of Muiravonside, dated "Muiravonside Manse, Linlithgow, 23d March, 1843," requesting us to announce that he has "withdrawn from the Convocation, because they refuse to accept a settlement on the principle of the Liberum Arbitrium, plainly offered by Parliament, when their spiritual jurisdiction would be sufficiently secure."- Edinburgh Constitutional.- I am in a condition to inform you, that when the Convocationists have seceded from the Establishment, we shall receive the most zealous and efficient assistance, both from the Roman Catholic journals and Members of Ireland, in our efforts to crush that Establishment. - London Correspondent of the Dundee Warder.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 3rd April 1843

Advertisements & Notices

LANDS IN THE COUNTIES OF LINLITHGOW, STIRLING, & EDINBURGH.

Upset Prices Reduced. To be SOLD by public roup, within Stevenson's Sale Rooms, Royal Exchange, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 12th day of April next, betwixt two and three o'clock afternoon, if not previously disposed of by private bargain,

THE LANDS OF DRUMCROSS AND GATESIDE, lying in the parish of Bathgate and shire of Linlithgow.

ALSO,

The LANDS of BLACKRIGG, lying in the parish of Muiravonside and shire of Stirling.

The Lands extend to 471 acres imperial measure or thereby, and lie within four miles of the market town of Falkirk, and little more than a mile of the Slamannan Railway. There is a suitable Steading, and the Lands are surrounded by the well-known Coal Fields of Parkhall and Standrigg, where coal is now being wrought; and there is no doubt the seams of coal now wrought there extend under the greater part of the property. The Lands are at present let from year to year.

The following PROPERTIES in the COUNTY of EDINBURGH:-

Entry to the Premises at Whitsunday next, or sooner, if purchasers incline. And, as all these Properties must be peremptorily sold off immediately, the Upset Prices will be fixed at low rates.

For particulars apply to Mr. Thomas Bauchope, Brucefield ; Alexander Stevenson, Heriot Row ; or to Messrs Young, Aytoun, & Rutherford, Nelson Street, in whose custody the articles of roup and title deeds will be found.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 1st June, Leicester Journal 2nd June, Northampton Mercury; West Kent Guardian; Kendal Mercury Saturday 3rd June 1843
A labourer of the name of Allan Mair, about 82 years of age, residing at Candyen, near Avon-bridge, in this county, was apprehended last week on a charge of murder, perpetrated under the following circumstances:—It appears that on the morning of Sunday, the 14th instant, a quarrel arose between him and an old woman who lived with him as his wife, concerning some trifling circumstance, when he swore at her and beat her dreadfully on the head, arms, and chest with a large stick. The neighbours, hearing her cries, ran to the spot to render her assistance, but Mair, on learning their intention, with horrid imprecations, threatened to shoot anyone who should approach. They were thus compelled to desist, as he was known to be a reckless person and to possess firearms. In the morning, however, information was given to the police, who proceeded to the house, and finding the woman very ill in bed, immediately took Mair into custody. Her arms and chest were dreadfully lacerated, and her head bruised; and the injuries altogether of a nature so severe that she lingered in great agony till early on Tuesday morning, when she died. A post mortem examination of the body immediately took place, and we understand the report of the medical gentlemen was, that the woman died in consequence of the injuries she received. Mair has been examined by the Sheriff and fully committed to Stirling gaol on a charge of murder.— Stirling Advertiser.

London Standard Tuesday 19th September; Morning Post Thursday 21st September; Lincolnshire Chronicle Friday 22nd September; Sheffield Independent Saturday 23rd September;

Northern Star Saturday 23rd September 1843

MURDER BY A MAN 84 YEARS OF AGE AUTUMN JUSTICIARY CIRCUIT Stirling, Sept. 13. Allan Mair was accused of the murder of Mary Fletcher, or Mair, his wife, on the night of Sunday the 14th, or morning of Monday, the 15th May last, within his house, at Candiend or Curshort, in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, in so far as he did, with a stick, or other weapon, beat and abuse the said Mary Mair, of which injuries she came by her death. He pleaded Not Guilty. Helen Bennie or Nimmo - Knows Mair, and identified him. Mair came to reside there in May, 1842. Had a woman that had stopped with him 30 years. Heard her say so on the 14th May last. She passed as his reputed wife. Her name was Mary Fletcher. She died on the 16th May, at four o'clock. Witness was with her when she died, and was in the constant habit of seeing her since she came to reside there. Visited her once or twice a-day. Told witness she was 85 years old. Looked fully that age. Deceased could not walk well - had got a hurt in her back. Deceased never was unwell but once while there, and this was about the new year. Said that she did not get her victuals as she ought from Mair. Said so in Mair's presence. Panel gave deceased some abusive language, and wished she was in hell and her soul burning. Never knew them want victuals in the house, but he kept them locked up. Many a time he starved her, but witness always gave her something to eat, and some of the neighbours did so too; but this was always done when panel was out. Deceased seemed a well-disposed person. Mair always abused her, and heard him often wish she was dead. Deceased often said, "Oh, Allan, we could live like the king on the throne, although we are poor, if you were good to me." Had seen the panel strike her about three weeks before, on a Tuesday, with a spade, when she was on the ground. The deceased was crying murder. Panel was swearing at her. Witness called prisoner an old cruel villain. The deceased cried like a child. Saw her on the 14th May at seven at night, and gave her some supper. She was then in her usual state, and took her victuals hearty. Witness was in bed, and heard the clock strike 11, when Jean Letham came to the door and knocked. She told me something that made me get up and put on my clothes, and go with her, and I heard the cry of murder. Knew deceased's voice. Heard the strokes. Was distant a few yards. Heard the cries repeated, and the blows continued. I went to the door. The blows were very heavy, like the blows of a hammer. When witness was at the front, she heard deceased say to Mair, "Let me lie, and die in peace, and don't strike me anymore." Panel said he would make her put in the sneck of the bed, and then he would let her alone. Deceased said she could not do it, as she could not see. He said he would put her hand to it. Panel said she would need to undergo the punishment. Witness then heard blows and cries of murder. Witness cried to Panel to let her alone; but he said, whoever it was he would blow their brains out with a pistol. The people at the door were Thomas and Jane Letham. A Witness heard him say, "I will make you glad to put in the sneck, and the wedding is just beginning." Heard blows and cries of murder again. Panel said he did not care although all the ministers and elders were there, he would make her put in the sneck. It was a box bed. He was in bed. Heard him get out of bed, when he threatened to shoot. I went to Letham's, as they had gone into their own house when he threatened to shoot. Still heard cries of murder. Letham came to his own door, and wanted me to go for my husband. Only a wall divides Letham's house and panel's. Heard the cries of murder continued, and did not see Letham go to Mair's house. Still heard the blows, and panel telling her to put in the sneck. When I went home it was about half-past one. Saw her next morning about seven. Panel opened the door and said that deceased had been fighting with the bed doors all night, and breaking them. Witness spoke mildly to him, as she was afraid, and asked him what ailed him and her. Panel said he had got no sleep with her smashing them. Said he was going down to the manse with the key, and to tell the minister to make a snuff box of Mary, his wife. Witness had taken some tea for her, and went to bed, but did not see her, and asked him what he had done with her, as she was not there. Panel swore at her, and said, "Where could she be?" -Witness looked again, and she was crouched up at the foot of the bed. She had a cap on, and an old piece of cotton cloth about her shoulders. The front of her shift was all blood. Her arms were bare. Saw a deal of blood about the bed. When I offered her the tea, she was not able to lift her right hand, but could move the other. She took some of it, and pointed to Allan, and said it was he that did that, meaning the bruises that she had got. I sent for a police officer, who came on the Monday at night, and took the panel into custody. Deceased was alive at that time, but thought she died of the wounds received, as she was in good health previously. Dr. Girdwood read a paper of the examination held upon the body. The statement bears that the injuries inflicted were the immediate cause of her death. Mr. Logan, in a speech of great ability, contended that the panel was insane in regard to his conduct towards his wife, although his reason, in other respects, might not be affected. Lord Moncrieff having summed up at considerable length, the jury retired, and after an absence of 20 minutes returned, bringing in a unanimous verdict of Guilty as libeled. His lordship then addressed the prisoner, who is 84 years of age, in a very impressive manner, and sentenced him to be executed here on Wednesday, the 4th of October, between the hours of eight and ten, and his body to be interred within the precincts of the gaol.

Hull Packet Friday 13th October; Cork Examiner Friday 13th October; Leeds Times Saturday 14th October; Reading Mercury Saturday 14th October; Westmorland Gazette Saturday 21st October 1843

EXECUTION OF AN OCTOGENARIAN MURDERER.—AWFUL SCENE.

Stirling, Thursday Night. Yesterday, the wretched culprit, Allan Mair, who was in his 84th year, convicted at the last Stirling Circuit before Lord Moncrieff, on very clear evidence, of the wilful murder of Mary Fletcher, his reputed wife, aged 85, the month of May last, in the village of Candie-end, in the parish of Muiravonside, by beating her to death with a stick or some heavy substance, was executed at the usual hour in front of the Court-house. The execution was attended by circumstances of most appalling character, and has produced a very painful sensation throughout the whole of this part of Scotland. As the morning approached on which he was to terminate his existence, he became more quiet and resigned, but still appeared to be impressed with feelings of the most inveterate detestation of the witnesses on his trial. On Tuesday evening, being that previous to his execution, he appeared calm and thoughtful, and seemed to be endeavouring to restrain his grief. He was engaged in religious exercises with the Rev. Messrs. Watson and Stark till nearly 10 o'clock, when they retired. He remained very quiet for a considerable time, and then fell into a profound sleep, about 11 o'clock. About

awoke, and, hearing the noise made by the workmen in erecting the scaffold, anxiously inquired the occasion of the noise, and immediately added "O, ay, they're putting up the gibbet. What a horrible thing to be hanged like a dog!" He then fell into a disturbed sleep, from which the striking of every hour awoke him, and he would exclaim, "That's an hour less I've to live. About 5 o'clock yesterday morning he awoke from his disturbed slumbers, when one of the men who kept watch over him read some portions of Scripture, and conversed with him on religious subjects. A little after 5 o'clock he was waited upon by the Rev. Mr. Stark, who proposed to read some tracts to him which had been put into his hands for that purpose, but the unhappy man would hear none of them, and vehemently told Mr. Stark to "gang awa' wi' his tracts. He didna want to hear them. He seemed to be very ill-tempered, and repeatedly declared his intention of addressing the people from the scaffold, in order to let them know how unjustly he had been treated, and this resolution no persuasion could shake. As the hour approached he became very restless, and on leaving the cell was very much, agitated and wept bitterly. He had previously declared his resolution not to walk, and had accordingly to be supported by two men, who led him into the Court-House, which he entered about a quarter past 8 o'clock, and was received by the Provost and magistrates, along with the Rev. Messrs. Stark and Leitch.' The unhappy man was bent almost double, and appeared to be much more feeble than he was at the time of his trial. He was weeping bitterly—the tears streaming down his cheeks and from between his bony fingers, which he pressed upon his face. He was set down at the green table, when Mr. Leitch gave out eight lines of the 51st Psalm, during the singing of which the poor old man sobbed long and convulsively, rocking himself backward and forward, and was evidently much overcome. Mr. Leitch then addressed him solemnly and affectingly, quoting passages of Scripture applicable to the melancholy situation in which he was placed, after which Mr. Stark offered up most impressive prayer. After the exercises had been concluded, a glass of wine was brought to him, but he resolutely refused it, declaring that he would not go into the presence of God Almighty drunk." Here the executioner, who was singularly attired in a light jacket and trousers, seamed with red and black, and a huge black crape mask, entered the room, on seeing whom, Mair started back, and every limb appeared to quiver with the intensity of his excitement. The executioner then advanced to pinion him; but shrank away, evidently alarmed at his approach. On the rope being passed round his arms, he complained that it was hurting him. "O dinna hurt me," said he, "dinna hurt me, I'm auld—I'll mak nae resistance. An' O! when I gang to the gibbet, dinna keep me lang—just fling me aff at once." After some difficulty he was pinioned, and the mournful procession being formed, he was led out between two officers to the scaffold. On emerging from the Court house, and when the gibbet and the immense crowd met his gaze, he held down his head, and groaned piteously, lifting up his hands and ejaculating, "Oh Lord Oh, Lord!" He was instantly led to the drop, but he declared he was unable to stand; and, he had expressed resolution to address the multitude, a chair was brought for him. On sitting down, he appeared to gather additional strength and resolution, and addressed the crowd in the following awful and revolting manner: I hope you will listen attentively to what I am now about to say to you, as this is the first time I have been permitted to tell mind to the public. I have been most unjustly condemned through false swearing; and here I pray that God may send his curse upon all connected with my trial—I curse the witnesses with all the curses of the 109th psalm. There is one person connected with the parish who brought in fake witnesses to condemn an innocent man. When in prison this person came to visit me, but I told him that it was a wonder the God of heaven did not rain down fire and brimstone upon him, as he did upon Sodom and Gomorrah. He it was who brought false witnesses against me, who brought Roman Catholics, who worship stocks and stones, and others, to swear away life—but God will curse and eternally d—n him! They told me that witnesses would be got to defend me; but no one appeared, and I was left to the mercy of false swearers. I wished them to allow me to get paper drawn up of what my little house contained, so that the articles might be sold, but they would not let me. If they had I would have got witnesses myself, and I would not have been here to-day." After going on in a similar strain for minute or two, he paused for a little space, upon which the executioner, thinking he had concluded, stepped towards him, and inquired if he was done. No, Sir, am not done!" replied he warmly, lifting up his clinched hand and striking it violently upon his knee, "I'm not done; I'll say much more if they will allow me. Before this multitude, in whose presence I am to be sent into eternity, there to appear before God, I declare I am innocent. And do you think [raising his voice to a high pitch] would appear before Christ' with a lie in my mouth I have been unjustly accused, falsely sworn against, and unlawfully condemned. I say these things that the people from my parish, when they return home, may tell those who have so sworn against me what I have said regarding them, and how my curse was poured out upon them. The moment I am thrown into eternity may their plagues commence —may they be eternally blasted! My most fervent hope is, that the Almighty God may speedily and everlastingly d—n them!" In this appalling manner did the wretched old man continue for about five minutes more to address the people assembled, whose feelings of sympathy soon changed into subdued shouts of horror and detestation. The depravity of mind which his awful imprecations evinced, and the feelings of vengeance which seemed to absorb his whole faculties at so awful a moment, instead having the effect intended on his hearers as to his asseverations of innocence, had quite a different j one, for one and all seemed to feel that the wretched being who was capable of uttering all they had heard had gone far to prove in their own presence that he was capable of perpetrating the awful crime which had been brought home to him. The Rev. Mr. Leitch then offered up a most fervent and impressive prayer, which appeared to touch the heart of every one except that of the unhappy person in whose behalf mercy was supplicated. After prayer Mr. Leitch bade him farewell, when he stretched out his hand, saying, Farewell, Sir, farewell. I'll soon be in eternity." The executioner then put the cap on the old man's head, adjusted the rope, and placed the signal handkerchief in his hand. At this time he was sitting in the chair on the drop, and although the cap was drawn over his face, continued muttering his anathemas against all who had connexion with his trial. He was then desired to rise from the chair, in order that it might be removed, but he replied that he could not wept piteously, and while the act of exclaim "May God be —" the fatal bolt was withdrawn, and the wretched old man, uttering a heavy groan was launched into eternity. For moment he raised one of his hands, which had not been properly pinioned the back of his neck, seized the rope convulsively' and endeavoured to save himself, but his grasp instantly relaxed, and after struggling violently for some time he ceased to exist. After hanging for the usual time, the body was lowered into a coffin, and removed to a cell, where cast was taken of the head. The body was then buried the passage leading into the court-yard. The crowd assembled to witness the execution was very large, and appeared to be composed chiefly persons from the country, among whom were a great number of women.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 4th December 1843

Advertisements & Notices

VALUABLE COLLIERY IN THE COUNTY OF STIRLING FOR SALE.

To be SOLD by public roup, within the Old Signet Hall, Royal Exchange, Edinburgh, on Tuesday the 5th day of December 1843, at two o'clock the afternoon, Upset Price L.5600, THAT well-known COLLIERY of STANDRIGG, in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, with the COLLIER HOUSES, CHAR KILNS, THREE STEAM ENGINES, and other VALUABLE MACHINERY of the most approved description, and recently erected at great cost, being in the best possible order, and at present in operation; together with a QUANTITY of CAST-METAL RAILS, above and under ground, and a LOT of NEW PUMPS of considerable size. The Coalfield consists of two seams, one of splint In and the other of soft coal. The splint has been wrought to a considerable extent, and to great advantage, and consists of about 32 acres. The soft coal consists of above 60 acres, and both seams are about three feet in thickness, of very superior quality, and of great value. The Coal is well known in Edinburgh, where it has met with an extensive sale for several years, and it also commands a ready market in the populous neighbourhood adjoining the Colliery, including the

towns of Falkirk, Laurieston, Polmont, &c. It is also shipped to advantage at the port of Grangemouth. The Union Canal and Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway both pass within a short distance of the Colliery, and there is a wharf on the Canal at which the Coals are shipped. To a person of skill and experience as a Coalmaster, this Colliery would yield a handsome annual return. The works have only been carried on to a limited extent for the last two years, and though under the most unfavourable circumstances, the profit arising therefrom has been considerable. The output of Coal might be increased to double the present quantity, and would yield a profit of from L.1400 to L.1560 a year. 21 Farther particulars may be learned on application to

Mr. Alexander Macfarlane, of Thornhill, Falkirk; Mr. Henry Salmon, Falkirk; Messrs Davidson & Syme, W.S. Edinburgh; or to Mr. John Archd. Campbell, C.S. Edinburgh.
November 24, 1843.

1844

Glasgow Herald Monday 29th January 1844

At Ballure Cottage, Argyllshire, on the 17th inst., Clementina, eldest surviving daughter of Charles Lockhart and Elizabeth Macdonald, of Muiravonside, and Largie.

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th April 1844

AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL.

A letter in this paper of the 28th ultimo, in reference to the treatment of a female teacher, in the parish of Larbert, leads us to notice the almost parallel position of affairs as regards Avonbridge School. Some years ago a tack was granted of a piece of ground to four parties - "Managers of Avonbridge School Society, for behoof of themselves and the other Members of the said Society, present and future, and to their assignees," for the period of 999 years after Whitsunday, 1837. Mr William Bryce Garvie having been introduced as teacher of the school erected on the piece of ground so leased, has continued to discharge his duties with most exemplary assiduity and faithfulness, marked by eminent success among his pupils, whose proficiency is unquestioned. About two years ago, a small section of oppositionists to Mr. Garvie sprung up, and would, latterly, fain expel him from his office. Two or three of the tacksmen, and the great majority of the members and subscribers to the school, and of the parents and guardians of children attending thereat, and heads of families in the district, continue warmly attached to Mr. Garvie, and the attendance of pupils goes on increasingly prosperous. The oppositionists, failing in an attempt to expel Mr. Garvie, at Whitsunday, 1843, introduced a rival teacher, to starve Mr. G. out, as was said; but Mr. Garvie's success not having been affected by this device, the rival shared the fate intended for Mr. G. The small knot of oppositionists, and a precious, and partly a notorious, portion of the Church Residuary, recently laid their sage heads together to effect Mr. G.'s expulsion. He was asked to do what it was previously known he would not do, viz., subscribe, implicitly, the Westminster Confession of Faith. What greater crime could he be guilty of than refuse this so sectarian request! The knot, unknown to the lessees and the bulk of members patronising the school, advertised for candidates for the office of teacher, to appear on the 25th ult. On that day the knot and a trio of the Church-Residuary, (Messrs Davidson of Slamannan, Macfarlane of Muiravonside, and Branks of Torphichen,) with Mr. Cuthbertson, preacher at Avonbridge, met there to examine candidates, and elect a successor to Mr. Garvie. In limine objections were stated to the title of the clergymen to appear or examine, and to the contemplated proceedings in toto. In vain was it urged the clergymen had no status there - that it was ultra vires in them to interfere - that the lessees being against the proceedings, rendered them null - that at all events the great bulk of the school supporters and members being against the proceedings, and determined to retain Mr. Garvie, the threatened proceedings should be quashed. The reverend gentlemen, most reverently sagacious, said these objections were all irrelevant, and of this the minister of Slamannan was certain! In vain was a protest taken. The knot proceeded making a minute of their own, representing their sentiments only, and excluding everything urged by several of the lessees, and by the members, or their mandatories, if favourable to Mr. G. Thus the latter, in defence, held themselves as constituting the meeting, while the former proceeded, and it is supposed, went through the farce of electing a teacher to terrify away Mr. G. Since then the knot has raised a process of removing, before the Sheriff, against Mr. G. at the instance - aye, at the instance of whom? - Of the tacksmen? No. Of the whole members, or a majority? No; but at the instance of six individuals, as "a majority of the committee of management," pretended to have been named. The other four are in favour of Mr. G., together with one of those named as pursuers, his name being so used unauthorisedly, and who accordingly disclaims the action. Another name, it is said, is used likewise without authority. Thus the pretended committee is equally divided at least, or rather, probably, six against the action, and four for it!! Even if otherwise, however, is such conduct correct? So late as November, 1842, the resident Dissenting clergyman (Mr. Craig) at Avonbridge, warmly applauded Mr. G. by a holograph testimonial - while prior to that date, and even since, the minister of Muiravonside was equally warm in his favours towards Mr. G. But as even the Avonbridge folks have their ideas of Church politics, and are more attached to nonintrusion than otherwise, and as some folks, even though changelings, like to show their zeal, it seems the Church in the district is thought to require all her nurseries - must guard all her outposts - thence it is said the school must belong to the Church! Is it possible so absurd an idea can be cherished? We know it has been said. We shall see. Now, Mr. Editor, through the columns of your paper, I hope the facts related may appear unobscured by that eye-film of intolerant, narrow sectarianism which doubtless dims and darkens the visual organs of parties. (who know, and ought to know better,) when in their own rural district, and if so, two wise purposes will be served - litigious fools will save their money from the cormorant maw of the knights of the quill, and Mr. Garvie will be left in happy quiet to teach the young idea how to grow.
Communicated.

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th April 1844

FARM TO LET.

THE FARM of GREENKNOWES, in the parish of Muiravonside, containing about 90 Acres Scotch measure, or thereby, presently occupied by Wm. Johnstone, will be Let, for such number of years as may be agreed on, and entered to at Martinmas first. The Farm is judiciously laid out, and is well watered and sheltered. The soil is excellent and suited for all kinds of crops; and the steading is commodious and mostly slated. The Towns of Falkirk, Linlithgow, and Bathgate at each of which there is a weekly grain market are within short distances: the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway and Union Canal pass within a mile of the lands, and a station of the Slamannan Railway adjoins them, thereby affording great facilities for sending the farm produce to market, and procuring a plentiful supply of manure; and Lime of a good quality is to be had in the neighbourhood at a moderate price. Thomas Duncan, at Greenknowes, will point out the boundaries; and the conditions of set and farther particulars may be learned by applying to Messrs Hutton, Writers, Stirling; with whom offers in writing must be lodged on or before the 7th day of June next.
Greenknowes, 10th April, 1844.

Stirling Observer 2nd May 1844

COAL AND FEU-DUTIES FOR SALE.

To be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Red Lion Inn, Falkirk, upon THURSDAY the 30th day of May, 1844, at One o'Clock Afternoon, the following Subjects belonging to the Sequestered Estate of the late William Johnston, of Meadowbank,

1. THE COAL, IRONSTONE, and other MINERALS, within All and Whole that portion of the Muir of Muiravonside, formerly called Wainrigg, now Moss-side, effering to the Lands of Easter Candy, lying within the parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling.

2. All right competent to the Estate of the said William Johnston, in the Coal, Ironstone, and other Minerals within the Weedings Moss, which right is understood to extend to upwards of 8 acres of the said Minerals.
3. A FEU-DUTY of £2. 10s., and another Feu-duty of 5s. 3d. per annum, with several smaller sums, payable to Mr Johnston's Estate, from Property in Redding.
4. A small STRIPE of GROUND adjoining the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, and on the North side of the road leading from Redding to Maddiston.
- Further particulars will be learned on application to Mr. James Russel, Jun., Banker, Falkirk; Messrs Nairne & Bertram. W.S., Edinburgh; or Messrs Russel & Aitken, Writers, Falkirk.

Stirling Observer Thursday 6th June 1844

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

"Thursday between the terms" is one of the famous fairs for which Falkirk has long been familiar to all the farmers in and around one of the finest grain districts in Scotland. On 30th ult., however the interest of the occasion was vastly enhanced in consequence of its being the day fixed judiciously by the committee of our excellently conducted and now influential Association, for the Show that has been look forward with no little anticipatory interest. From the list of premiums, it was certainly to be argued that a grand test would be afforded of the importance of the carses and moorlands of Falkirk, as fitted to produce cattle and horses for agricultural and other purposes second to no other in this country; and certainly the result has completely borne out our previous asseverations of what would be achieved by the united exertions of a body of enlightened gentlemen such as form the nucleus of our Association, backed as they are by the devoted, intelligent, and well-directed doings of our long-renowned farmers, both proprietors and tenants. While tile-draining and guano are at work underhand, to exhibit by and bye the rearing grain fields that are destined to insure an abundant sickle work, it is pleasing to see that the agriculturists all over our neighbourhood are wide awake to the importance of rearing stock. We have heard some carping theorist, with all the over-caution that resisted, long ago, improvements and reforms among the farmers, urge that the business of cattle-breeding, and the production of fat stock, was less an affair of real excellence than to exhibit what amount of good could be got from poor feeding, alias an "empty stall." Now, taking it all over-head, while the rich resources of our carses, and the more favoured of our moorland farm-steads, are able to turn out the very best animals, we take it that others follow in the wake with a bright encouragement before them, and, as will be seen from the award of the judges, very oft with signal success over their more favoured competitors. No, no, let the thing take its full sweep, and there is little fear but ultimately a taste, if no more, will extent itself, fitted to develop the energies and capabilities of even our poorest soils. We must hasten to our immediate business, however, and seldom upon any previous occasion have we had the pleasure of recording altogether a more successful Show, even after the many creditable exhibitions that have crowned the continued purpose of the Society. We are necessarily precluded, from mere want of space, from offering a few observations which we intended, not only on the individual appearances of the splendid animals shown, but on the peculiar aptitude of certain localities in the eastern district of Stirlingshire to produce stock, which is now at the top of the list of all similar produce, and was long previously known and appreciated.

AYRSHIRE BREED –

For the best Bull of any age, under 5 years old, Mr. Rennie, Craighburn; for the second best do., Mr. James Jarvie, Greencraig.

For the best two-year-old Bull, Mr. Reid, Hainingvalley; for the second best do., Mr. Andrew Taylor, Broomage.

For the best Cow having a calf this season, or near calving, Mr. Reid, Hainingvalley; for the second best do., Mr. Reid, Hainingvalley; for the third best do., Mr. Coubrough, Thorn.

For the 3 best Cows out of one byre, Mr. Reid, Hainingvalley; for the second best do., Mr. Dobbie, Seamores.

For the best Cow bred in the district. Mr. Rennie, Craighburn; for the second best do., Mr. Dobbie, Seamores; for the third best do., Mr. Rennie, Craighburn.

For the best two-year-old Quey, in milk, or near calving, Mr. Dobbie, Seamores; for the second best do., Mr. Rennie, Craighburn.

For the best two-year-old Quey not in calf. Mr. Stirling of Glenbervie.

For the best pair of do. Mr. Stirling of Glenbervie; for the second best pair of do., Mr. Reid, Hainingvalley.

For the best year-old Quey, Mr. Rennie, Craighburn; for the Second best do., Mr. Rennie, Craighburn ; for the third best do., Mr. Rennie, Craighburn.

For the best pair of do., Mr. Calender of Woodburn; for the second best pair of do., Mr. Stirling of Glenbervie; for the third best pair of do. Mr. Stirling of Glenbervie.

For the best yearling Bull, Mr. Rennie, Craighburn ; for the second best do. Mr. John Borthwick, jun. Kerse; for the third best do. Mr. Arthur, Pirleyhill.

For the best Bull Calf, Mr. Stirling, Glenbervie; for the second best do. Mr. Wm. Nelson, Green wells.

For the best Quey Calf, Mr. Rennie, Craighburn; for the second best do., Mr Stirling, Glenbervie.

HORSES. –

For the best brood Mare for agricultural purposes, foaled, or to foal. Mr. Stirling, Glenbervie; for the second best do., Mr. Reid Hainingvalley.

For the best brood Mare, not in milk, Mr. Michael Smith, Falkirk; for the second best do, Mr. Wilson, Nicolton; for the third best do., Mr. Forbes of Callendar.

For the best three-year-old Filly, Mr. J. Borthwick, jun. ; for the second best do., Mr. Reid. For the best two-year-old Colt, Mr. Forbes; for the second best do., Mr. Bowie,

Gilmeadowland.

For the best two-year old Filly, Mr. Stark, Camelon; for the second best do., Mr. Rennie.

For the best yearling Colt, Mr. James Jarvie.

For the best yearling Filly, Mr. Robert Bowie.

SWINE –

For the best Boar, in full condition, and having produced stock, Mr. Forbes.

For the best brood Sow, in pig, or having littered, Mr. Forbes; for the second best do, Mr. Forbes.

BUTTER –

For the best 8 lbs of Fresh Butter, produced in the district, and made up in half-pound rolls, Mr. John Neilson, farmer, Crossgatehead; for the second best do., Mr. Stark farmer, Westerglen; for the third best do., Mr. Arthur, Pirleyhill; for the fourth best do., Mr. Clark of Newlands [The Butter shown by Mr. Neilson was, superb, and does great credit to the dairy of Crossgatehead, and the superior management of Mrs. Neilson. The cows are all fair grass fed, with the addition of a little bean meal.]

SWEEPSTAKES - AYRSHIRE BREED.-

For the best pair of yearling Queys, open to all members, Mr. Rennie.

For the best yearling Bull, Mr. Rennie.

After the more immediate business of the day, the annual dinner took place in the Red Lion Inn. The chair was appropriately filled by Chas. Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside the President of the Society; Sylvester D. Stirling, Esq. of Glenbervie, our energetic agriculturist, doing the duties of croupier, with all his wonted spirit and tact. We have only to congratulate all parties on the bright results of this very interesting and most excellent Show.

Fife Herald Thursday 25th July 1844

BOARD IN ST ANDREWS. MRS. GRAHAM, Widow of the late Alex. Graham, Surgeon, Polmont, having Removed to SOUTH STREET, ST. ANDREWS, is desirous to receive into her Family a few BOYS as BOARDERS, to attend the Madras College. Tutors - Twenty-five Guineas per annum for Boys under Twelve. A Tutor will attend in the evening. Mrs. G. begs to refer to the following Gentlemen :- Rev. Dr. Haldane, Rev. Dr. Buist, Rev. Br. Ferrie, and Professor Alexander, St. Andrews; Rev. John Ker, Polmont; Rev. James M'Farlane,

Muiravonside ; Rev. George Boag, Uphall; Rev. James Fowler, Ratho ; Rev. Charles Nairne, St. John's, Glasgow ; Dr. John M'Farlane, 114, St Vincent Street, Glasgow ; Professor Simpson, Dr. Thatcher, and Dr. Wm. Campbell, Edinburgh.

Caledonian Mercury: Stirling Observer; Thursday 15th ; Morning Chronicle; Morning Post, Friday 16th August 1844

FALKIRK TRYST.

SKYE, LEWIS, AND MORAY CATTLE, &c

A small lot of Lewis' cows were bought by Mr. A. Walker, Avonbridge, for L.3 16s.

Stirling Observer Thursday 21st November 1844

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

TURNIP COMPETITION.

The importance of this species of crop is so widely acknowledged, and of such increasing value, that the energetic committee of our flourishing Association have done well in offering a handsome premium for the best three acres of yellow turnips grown on the exhibitors farm within the district. The very competent judges, Messrs Hope, farmer, Carbrookmains, and Nielson, Gallowmoor, accordingly, at the close of last month, made their interesting tour over the fields of the eight competitors who came forward with the submission of their productive skill for decision; and we may safely defy any other locality in Scotland to be able to come up either to the efficiently competent farming that was evinced, or the abundance and quality of the stock produced. By the kindness of Mr. T. Girdwood the secretary, we are enabled to quote the words of the judges' decision : - "After inspecting the turnips pointed out by you on the different farms, in the first place, we must acknowledge that we were highly pleased to find so great a breadth of superior turnips in the district, and we have at last, after a hard task, come to the conclusion that Mr. Stark, farmer, Camelon, has the best, and Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside, the second. We may scarcely state that we remarked wherever guano had been applied, it has wrought a charm on the above crop." This, it will be observed, as applying over a wide extent of first-rate soil, and with all the appliances of splendid farming, is no mean praise. It would have been of no little importance, had we been able to afford a notice of the system pursued by the different competitors in the culture of their crops. Mr. Stirling took a very judicious and effective method of applying the guano. He had the field prepared in the usual way. Three cwt. of the article was then sown broad cast over the drills, which were then split with the plough. The seed was then put in. By this mode the guano was more generally mixed with the soil, and not so likely to injure the seed by its too great strength. At all events, three cwt. so applied to a single acre has resulted in a second prize, where all was of a high character. We may only add that on no former occasion have the labours of the Association been crowned with greater success; and we congratulate them on their continued solicitude for the cause of agriculture over our fertile carse and moorlands.

Stirling Observer Thursday 3rd October 1844

FALKIRK.

The harvest is now nearly completed around Falkirk. In the carse and muirlands the crops are most abundant, and brought into the barn-yard in excellent condition. Seldom has such a harvest been recorded, and now we may look with confidence for low markets during the remainder of the season. The potato operations will be general next week, and they are of a very superior quality, and it is expected will be about 5s. per boll. Several cargoes of foreign wheat have been imported to Grangemouth of fine quality; but in consequence of the sliding scale, these bounties of God's providence are put under bond, perhaps to be devoured by vermin, while a storehouse is being erected for guano, several cargoes of which are expected to that port, and will be of great advantage to the carse farmers and gardeners in the locality so that while foreign produce is taxed, foreign manure will be free of duty. SLAMANNAN RAILWAY. -

On Saturday the 21st ult., while the passenger train was returning from Causewayend to Airdrie, it went into an off-let opposite Mr. Gardner's sawmill, near Avonbridge, and came against a waggon filled with stones, with a tremendous crash, propelling the waggon a good distance from the lye, but luckily none of the passengers were very severely hurt. One person perceiving the danger sprang from the coach, and fortunately escaped unhurt, which was rather miraculous, as the engine was going with great velocity. After the above occurred, all the passengers went away on their feet. It was subsequently ascertained that the accident was owing to the man who took the waggon into the offlet having forgot to shut the switches.

1845

Stirling Observer 13th March 1845

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

The Spring show of this industrious association took place on Thursday last, and was characterised by unwonted vigour and excellence on the part of the various competitors, and a corresponding degree of interest among the farmers and other strangers who were in town - it being the March fair. The Corn-Market, which is excellently adapted for such occasions, except perhaps on the score of room, was during the exhibition crowded by a large assemblage, who expressed high satisfaction with the various produce brought forward, comprising as it did a greater amount of skilful intelligence and efficient success than has ever yet marked any previous show. The seed grain, as a principal article, was justly esteemed as peculiarly fitted for the northern and southern parts of the eastern district of Stirlingshire; and will no doubt tell in the crops raised. On no former occasion have such capital specimens of fat stock been shown. The Angus West Highlanders, and Ayrshire cattle, of which seven pairs were shown, were distinguished for the superior points that satisfy the judgment of dealers and brought, immediately after, high prices. Of the butter and cheese, for which the neighbourhood has always been famed, the whole was decidedly fine; and we heartily congratulate the patrons that their efforts have thus again been seconded by the united efforts of the committee, and the tangible exertions of the agriculturists all over one of the most favoured localities in Scotland. The following list comprises the result of the competition: - GRAIN. For the best 4 qrs. of barley, grown in the southern part of the district 1st, William Forbes, Esq. of Callendar; no competition.

For the best 4 qrs. of do., grown in the northern part of the district 1st, Mr. Geo. Mitchell, Heuk; 2d, Mr. Reid, Haining Valley.

For the best 4 qrs. of oats, grown in the northern part of the district 1st, Mr. Fulton, Sunnyside; 2d, Mr. George Mitchell.

For the best 4 qrs. long oats, grown in the southern part of the district - 1st, William Forbes, Esq.

For the best 4 qrs. of do., grown in the northern part of the district 1st, Mr. Fulton; 2d, Mr. Thos. Stark, Camelon.

For the best 4 qrs. beans, grown in the district - 1st, Sylvester D. Stirling, Esq. of Glenberrie; 2d, Mr. Johnstone, Beancross.

For the best 2 qrs. of perennial ryegrass seeds, grown in the southern part of the district - Wm. Forbes, Esq.

For the best 2 qrs. of do., grown in the northern part of the district - Mr. Alex. Taylor, Broomage Mains.

FAT CATTLE. For the two fattest cattle - 1st, Mr. William Callander of Mungal Cottage; 2d, Mr. Reid. For the fattest animal, exclusive of the above - Wm. Forbes, Esq.

CHEESE. For the best specimen of full milk cheese, made by the Exhibitor, within the district, in 1814, the quantity not being less than half-a-cwt. - Mr. Rennie, Craigie Burn. For the best

specimen of skimmed milk, do. do. do. - Mr. Robert Arthur, Wester Pirly Hill.
SALT BUTTER. For the best lot of salt butter, made by the Exhibitor within the district - 1st, Mr. Robert Arthur ; 2d, Mr. Stirling, Muiravonside ; 3d, Mr. John Stark, Wester Glen. The judges for the grain were Messrs Thomson, Inveravon ; Mitchell, Kinneil Carse; Brock, Overton. Those for the cattle being Messrs Gray, Edinburgh ; and Neilson and Thomson, Glasgow. The butter and cheese were judged by Messrs Kier and Hosie, grocers. At the close of the more immediate business of the day, a dinner took place in the Red Lion Inn, numerously attended by the friends of the association. The chair, in absence of Mr. Forbes of Callendar, the president, was well filled by Captain Forbes, his brother, supported right and left by S. D. Stirling, Esq. of Glenberrie, and Urquhart, Esq. of Vellore. The croupier was John Borthwick, Esq., factor to the right hon. the Earl of Zetland. The toasts were followed by many for the prosperity of the farmers, and the welfare of all classes who depend on the productions of the soil Malcolm did his duty as usual, and the dinner and wines were excellent.

Stirling Observer Thursday 10th April 1845

PROPERTY AND INCOME TAX. COUNTIES OF STIRLING, CLACKMANNAN, AND LINLITHGOW. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, to PERSONS ASSESSED under the PROPERTY and INCOME TAX ACT, that as the COURTS appointed for hearing APPEALS against Assessments for the abovementioned Tax are now past for the year ending 5th April, 1845; and as all parties interested got due Notice of the Meeting of said Courts, and consequently had an opportunity to appeal, if they felt so disposed, no further opportunity of appeal can now upon any account be allowed. And as the Assessment Books are in the hands of the Collector, strict injunctions have been given him to proceed in his collection, and levy the duties with all despatch ; and upon no pretence whatever to accept of a plea for delay from any person on the ground that an appeal is to be lodged against the Assessment, as none can now be received or attended to. For the greater convenience of the Public, the following Days and Places of Collection have been fixed on, when the Collector will attend personally to receive payment, viz.:
At Polmont, upon Tuesday the 29th current, within Walker's Inn for the Parishes of Polmont, Muiravonside, and Slamannan.

Stirling Observer 5th June 1845

SCOTTISH NEWS.

Call On Tuesday, the 20th instant, the United Associate Congregation of Avonbridge, Stirlingshire, gave a unanimous call to Mr. W. Hownam, preacher of the gospel, to be their pastor. Mr. Hownam has also received a call from the congregation of Whitehaven.

Stirling Observer -Thursday 12th June 1845

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

Ever since the institution of our Association, conducted as it is, and situated in a locality that embraces at once the garden of the carses and the valuable farms of the moorlands, there has been every scope for a full working out of the views of scientific farmers. How successfully the members have availed themselves of its advantages - and they include every one of spirit and intelligence connected with the soil within a wide circuit - let our reports of the proceedings testify. Perhaps in no other district of Scotland can a greater amount of real solid benefit be pointed to, than that which characterises the improved condition of the farms in our locality, either as relates to the mode of culture, the superior breed of horses and cattle, or the high fame of the grain, which has justly rendered the stock market of Falkirk among the most important in the county. The feelings, besides, of generous rivalry among the classes more immediately interested, while they blend and amalgamate all in a common cause, will ever secure their own esteem, the encouragement of landlords, the blessings of the consumer, and the thanks of the public. The present show was for cattle, horses, swine, and butter; and to say that the breeds of cattle met the entire approbation of the judges, and rendered their duty one of no little difficulty, would be only the unvarnished fact; that the horses shown were the best of their kind, would be equally true; and that the pigs might have gained premiums at any English show, was pleasingly demonstrated. The butter also maintained its long-established celebrity. A commodious field on the Callendar estate was appropriated by William Forbes, Esq., M.P., the energetic President of the Association, for the show. The arrangements of the committee were complete, and the greatest order was maintained - the single attendance of Thomas Gentles, one of the most active of the county police, being sufficient. On the whole, we but express the general opinion, in declaring this show to have been one of the most creditable to all parties that has hitherto crowned the labours of the Association. The following list comprises the award of the judges: -

CATTLE.

For the best Bull of any age, under 5 years - 1st, Mr. Henry Reid, Haining valley; 2nd, Mr. Taylor, Broomage Mains.

For the best two year old Bull - John Borthwick, Esq. factor, Kerse.

For the best Cow, having a calf this season, or near calving - 1st, William Forbes. Esq. M.P.; 2d, Mr. Reid; 3rd, Mr. Dobbie. Seamores.

For the best 3 Cows out of one byre - 1st, Mr. Dobbie; 2nd, Mr. Reid.

For the best Cow bred in the district -1st, Mr. Couborough, Thorn; 2nd, Mr. Forbes; 3rd, Mr. Dobbie.

For the best two year-old Quey in milk, bred in the district - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Renny Craighurn.

For the best two year-old Quey in calf, or near calving - 1st, Mr. Robertson, Myrehead; 2nd, Mr. Callander, Mungal Cottage.

For the best two-year-old Quey not in calf 1st, Mr. Renny; 2nd, Mr. Dobbie; 3rd, Mr. Learmonth, Caermuir.

For the best year-old Quey - 1st, Mr. Dobbie; 2nd, Mr. J. Stark, Wester Glen; 3d, Mr. Renny.

For the 3 best year-old Quey 1st, Mr. Stark ; 2nd, Mr. Renny; 3rd, Mr. Stark.

For the best yearling Bull - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Robertson; 3d, Mr. Arthur, Pirliehill.

For the best Bull Calf - 1st, Mr. Dobbie; 2nd, Mr. Neilson, Greenwells.

For the best Quey Calf - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Taylor.

HORSES.

For the best Brood Mare for Agricultural purposes, foaled, or to foal - 1st, Mr. Forbes; 2nd, Mr. Thomas Stark, Camelon; 3rd, Mr. Bowie, Gilmeadowland.

For the best Brood Mare, (not in milk) - 1st, Mr. Forbes; 2nd, Mr. Wilson. Nieolton; 3rd, Mr. Reid.

For the best three year-old Filly - 1st, Mr. T. Stark; 2nd, Mr. Forbes.

For the best two-year old Colt - 1st, Mr. Thos. Stark; 2nd, Mr. Waddel, Waukmliton.

For the best two-year-old Filly - 1st, Mr. R. Mitchell, Redding; 2nd, do.

For the best yearling Colt - Mr Forbes.

SWINE.

For the best Boar, (in full condition, and having produced stock) - 1st, Mr. Forbes; 2nd, do.

For the best Brood Sow, (in pig, or having littered) 1st, Mr. Oswald, Gilston; 2nd, Mr. Forbes.

BUTTER.

For the best 3lbs of Fresh Butter, produced in the district, and made up in half pound rolls - 1st, Mr. Arthur; 2nd, Charles Stirling, Esq. Muiravonside; 3rd, Mr. Neilson; 4th, Mr. Coubrough.

SWEEPSTAKES.

For the best 5 home-bred Cows, either in calf or giving milk, open to all members - Mr. Dobbie.

For the best year-old Bull of the Ayrshire breed - Mr. Reid.

For the best fat Pig or Sow, under 22 months old - Mr. Dobbie.

The judges for stock were, Messrs JBaird, Highcross ; Anderson, Curtriod ; and Scott, Easter Calder.

For butter, Messrs Hankine, Keir, and Hosie.

After the more immediate affairs of the day had been gone through with so much satisfaction, the usual dinner took place in the Red Lion Inn. The chair was appropriately filled by Mr. Forbes - Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside, doing the duties of croupier. The Chairman intimated his continuance of his donation next show of £20. The croupier gives £5, and Mr. Henry Reid a similar sum.

Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser Tuesday 24th June 1845

This day is published, in 8vo, price 5s cloth, A VERSION of the PROPHECIES of EZEKIEL; retaining, for the most part, in English, the same order of Expression which occurs in the Hebrew Original. By the Reverend James M'Farlan, Minister at Muiravonside. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh

Morning Post Wednesday 2nd July 1845

This day is published, in 8vo, price 5s cloth, A VERSION of the PROPHECIES of EZEKIEL; retaining, for the most part, in English, the same order of Expression which occurs in the Hebrew Original. By the Reverend James M'Farlan, Minister at Muiravonside. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh

Stirling Observer Thursday 31st July 1845

AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL.

Under this head it may possibly be recollected that an article appeared in our columns in April, 1844, referring to certain proceedings against Mr. Garvie, the teacher of this school. These proceedings having been successfully resisted by him, and latterly terminated in his favour in a court of law, we deem it proper to notice the issue now as important for the information of associations similarly organised, or having objects and interests in view akin to those of the Avonbridge School Society; and also, as instructing the propriety of tile remarks we then threw out for the consideration of the parties. The article referred to ran thus: - "A letter in this paper of the 28th ultimo, in reference to the treatment of a female teacher, in the parish of Larbert leads us to notice the almost parallel position of affairs as regards Avonbridge School. Some years ago a tack was granted of a piece of ground to four parties - Managers of Avonbridge School Society for behoof of themselves and the other Members of the said Society present and future, and to their assignees," for the period Of 999 years after Whitsunday, 1537. Mr. William Bryce Garvie having been introduced as teacher of the school erected on the piece of ground so leased, has continued to discharge his duties with most exemplary assiduity and faithfulness, marked by eminent success among his pupils, whose proficiency is unquestioned. About two years ago, a small section of oppositionists to Mr. Garvie sprung up, and would, latterly, fain expel him from his office. Two or three of the tacksmen, and the great majority of the members and subscribers to the school, and of the parents and guardians of children attending thereat, and heads of families in the district, continue warmly attached to Mr. Garvie, and the attendance of pupils goes on increasingly prosperous. The oppositionists failing in an attempt to expel Mr Garvie at Whitsunday, 1843, introduced a rival teacher, to starve Mr. G. out, as was said; but Mr. Garvie's success not having been affected by this device, the rival shared the fate intended for Mr. G. The small knot of oppositionists and a precious, and partly a notorious, portion of the Church Residuary, recently laid their sage heads together to effect Mr. G.'s expulsion. He was asked to do what it was previously known he would not do, viz. subscribe, implicitly, the Westminster Confession of Faith. What greater crime could he be guilty of than refuse this so sectarian request! The knot, unknown to the lessees and bulk of members patronising the school, advertised for candidates for the office of teacher, to appear on the 25th ultimo. On that day the knot and a trio of the Church Residuary (Messrs Davidson of Slamannan, Macfarlane of Muiravonside, and Branks of Torphichen,) with Mr. Cuthbertson, preacher at Avonbridge, met there to examine candidates, and elect a successor to Mr. Garvie In limine objections were stated to the title of the clergymen to appear or examine, and to the contemplated proceedings in toto. In vain was it urged the clergymen had no status there - that it was ultra vires in them to interfere - that the lessees being against the proceedings, rendered them null - that at all events the great bulk of the school supporters and members being against the proceedings, and determined to retain Mr. Garvie, the threatened proceedings should be quashed. The reverend gentlemen most reverently sagacious, said these objections were all irrelevant and of this the minister of Slamannan was certain! In vain was a protest taken. The knot proceeded making a minute of their own, representing their sentiments only, and excluding everything urged by several of the lessees, and by the members, or their mandatories, if favourable to Mr. G. Thus the latter, in defence held themselves as constituting the meeting, while the former proceeded, and it is supposed, went through the farce of electing a teacher to terrify away Mr. G. Since then the knot has raised a process of removing, before the Sheriff, against Mr. G. at the instance - aye, at the instance of whom? - Of the tacksmen? No. Of the whole members, or a majority? No; but at the instance of six individuals, as "a majority of the committee of management," pretended to have been named. The other four are in favour of Mr. G., together with one of those named as pursuers, his name being so used unauthorisedly, and who accordingly disclaims the action. Another name, it is said, is likewise used without authority. Thus the pretended committee is equally divided at least, or rather, probably, six against the action, and four for it!! Even if otherwise, however, is such conduct correct? So late as November, 1842, the resident Dissenting clergyman (Mr. Craig) at Avonbridge, warmly applauded Mr. G. by a holograph testimonial - while prior to that date, and even since, the minister of Muiravonside was equally warm in his favour towards Mr. G. But as even the Avonbridge folks have their ideas of Church politics, and are more attached to Non-Intrusion than otherwise, and as some folks, even though changelings, like to show their zeal, it seems the Church in the district is thought to require all her nurseries - must guard all her outposts - thence it is said the school must belong to the Church! Is it possible so absurd an idea can be cherished? We know it has been said. We shall see. Now, Mr. Editor, through the columns of your paper, I hope the facts related may appear unobscured by that eye-film of intolerant, narrow sectarianism which doubtless dims and darkens the visual organs of parties. (who know, and ought to know better,) when in their own rural district, and if so, two wise purposes will be served - litigious fools will save their money from the cormorant maw of the knights of the quill, and Mr. Garvie be left in happy quiet to teach the young idea how to grow. The process of removing raised by the pretended committee or majority, it is right to state, was favourably disposed of for the pursuers in the Inferior Court; but the sentence having been brought under review in the Supreme Court, the result was otherwise, and it was, amongst other things, there found that the action was irregular and incompetent. Mr. Garvie has, moreover, obtained a decerniture for the expenses incurred by him in both the Supreme and the Inferior Court. The judgment, of which we have been favoured with a copy, containing these findings, is in these terms :- " 5th June, 1845. - The Lord Ordinary having heard parties' procurators, and considered the closed record, and whole proceedings : Finds that a school has existed for some years at the village of Avonbridge, and that the same has been supported by persons subscribing from time to time : Finds that on the 6th of Jan. 1838, a tack of a piece of ground was granted for the period of 999 years, at a tack duty of one penny sterling, yearly, on which ground the present schoolhouse and schoolmaster's house were built; and that the parties in whose favour the tack was so granted, were Robert Inglis, John Gilchrist, William Gardner, and Matthew Anderson, the present managers aforesaid of the said Avonbridge School Society, and to their successors in office, for behoof of themselves and the other members of the said society, present and future, and to their assignees: Finds it admitted that at a meeting of subscribers to the said school, held on the 29th of November, 1839, the suspender was chosen teacher of the school from that time until Whitsunday, 1840, and was subsequently elected for another year, viz. until Whitsunday, 1841, and that he was, in pursuance of this appointment, put in

possession of the schoolhouse and schoolmaster's house : Finds that the present action was instituted in the name of Alexander Main, farmer, Bogo, preses of the committee of management of the subscription school at Avonbridge; Alexander Walker, flesher, Paixhole; James Gardner, Wright, Avonbridge; John Walker, weaver at Shuttlefield, Pleasance; John Gilchrist, mason at Strathloanhead, and Robert Weir, labourer, Crumleyfield ; a majority of the said committee of management." Finds that the respondent, John Wallace, ; has disclaimed the action, and that no appearance is made therein for any of the parties named in the foresaid tack, with the exception of John Gilchrist: Finds no evidence of the defender having been dismissed from his office of Schoolmaster at any regular meeting of the subscribers, and finds that no authority was given by the said subscribers to a majority of the committee of management, in which character alone the pursuers insist in this action to institute the same; and, therefore, finds that the pursuers have no title to insist in the said action, and decerns : Finds that the action is also irregular and incompetent, in respect it is laid down on the act of sederunt, 14th Dec. 1756, which is applicable to the removing of tenants alone, and that the defender not being in possession of the schoolhouse, or schoolmaster's house, in the character of tenant, or Sub-tenant, no action of removing could be directed against him under the foresaid act of sederunt: Therefore suspends the decree and charge complained of and whole grounds and warrants thereof; and declares the interdict perpetual and decerns: Finds the suspender entitled to expenses incurred by him both in this Court and the Inferior Court, of which allows an account to be given in, and remits the same to the auditor of court to tax and report. (Signed) P. Robertson For Suspender - George Deas, Esq, advocate; Wm. Waddell, Esq, W.S.; Adam Smith, Esq, writer, Falkirk ; agents. For Respondents - George Monro, Esq, advocate; Messrs T. & R. Landell, S.S.C.; Thomas Liston, Esq, writer, Falkirk; agents. Mr. Garvie's opponents, we understand, have acquiesced in the above judgment, which, we trust, will do much, when known, to modify that spirit of sectarianism out of which all the proceedings may be said to have arisen - a spirit too frequently exhibited, and so often, in its manifestations and practical consequences, going to destroy the peace and quiet of whole districts. In rural localities in particular, especially when fostered by spiritual pride, with a due admixture of personal spleen, occasioning the almost total absence of everything like charity or Christian toleration, it never fails to prove itself the bane of amity, of social concord, and of domestic or family happiness. In our searches or zeal for truth, it is, we humbly conceive, our duty to be meek and charitable towards those who conscientiously differ in doctrine or opinion from us, using the power of friendly persuasion, instead of grunting sectarian dogmas, sometimes not very clearly understood even by parties adopting and proclaiming them, at the hazard of thereby narrowing, instead of extending, the Messiah's kingdom. Gravely - how can we think of grace, or expect it for ourselves, if, instead of being gracious, we become bigoted and oppressive? Should we give a stone to the hungry, or put a stumbling block before those who are in a wrong path? Let every man be firm in his own conviction, is, we think, an exhortation of St. Paul: and, if so, surely little can be more absurd, nay, sinful, than to be overbearing in our deportment or conduct towards brethren, who, in mutual intercourse, may not at once signify an opinion or perception, in matters either civil or spiritual, in all respects chiming in with our own. It is an excellent and appropriate advice, which is exposed by some beautiful lines of Dr. Watts, running, if our memory is correct, nearly in these terms:- " Pick up the truth where'er 'tis found, On heathen or on Christian ground; The flower's divine where'er it grows - Reject the prickle - seize the rose !" May these sentiments be cherished and acted upon by all, and their truth and value be recognised through even the dingy obscurity of legal subtlety, or the gloomy darkness of mental conception, occasioned by a lost plea. - Communicated.

London Standard Monday 6th October, Morning Chronicle Tuesday 7th October, 1845
PROSPECTUS of the SCOTTISH CENTRAL and CALEDONIAN JUNCTION RAILWAY
ensuring the nearest and most direct communication between England and the Midland and Northern Districts of Scotland.- Capital £250,000, in Shares of £20 each. Deposit £9 2s. per share.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE.

Sir James Campbell, Glasgow, director of the Scottish South Midland Junction Railway.
John Learmonth, Esq., of Dean, chairman of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway.
Alexander Denniston, Esq. of Golhill, director of the Edinburgh and Bathgate Railway.
Major Maitland, of Freugh, director of the Scottish Southern Railway.
John Fleming, Esq., of Clairmount, Glasgow, director of the Glasgow, Kilmarnock, and Ayr Railway. Alexander Drysdale, Esq., Glasgow, director of the Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Scottish South Midland Junction Railways.
Alexander McNeill, Esq., advocate, director of the Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Stirling and Dunfermline Railways.
Engineer-John Miller, Esq., F.R.S.E.
Acting Engineer-Alexr. J. Adie, Esq., C.E.

Bankers-

The Bank of Scotland, the Union Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow ; Messrs. Glyn and Co., London ; the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, Liverpool.
Solicitors-Messrs. Deans Dunlop, and Hope, Fludyer-Street, Westminster; Messrs. A. and A. MacGeorge, 21, St. Vincent-place, Glasgow.

This short but very important line will start from a point on the Edinburgh Branch of the Caledonian Railway, near the Cobinshaw reservoir, and passing through or near to West Calder, Bathgate, Torphichan, Muiravonside, &c, will join the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway between Polmont and Linnithgow, at the point where the Slamannan Railway joins the Edinburgh and Glasgow. A direct communication will thus be formed with the Scottish Central and other northern railways, which, by the existing or projected lines could only be reached from the south by a very circuitous route. The proposed line will pass through a populous district, abounding in minerals. It will cross, and, if necessary, form junctions in its progress with, the projected Edinburgh and Bathgate, the Airdrie and Bathgate, and the Lanarkshire and Lothian Railways. A peculiar feature of this line is, that it interferes with no other scheme. Many lines have seen projected running east and west, but there is none which crosses this important district of country, or provides so direct a communication with the north. This is a feature of great importance in the scheme, independent of the connection which it will establish between the great trunk line from the south, and the Scottish Central and other northern railways. It will likewise provide what is so greatly needed, a direct communication from West Calder and Bathgate, and that district of country, to different points on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway. The line has been already surveyed. The length will be less than 12 miles. The gradients are very easy, and the country presents no engineering difficulties.

Applications for shares may be made to Messrs. J. R. Dennistoun and James Jardine, Renfield-street, John MacGeorge, 32, Exchange-square; and James Brown, 112, Exchange-square, Glasgow ; Thomas Miller, Edinburgh; George Irvine, Liverpool; and J. A. Gloag, Perth

Stirling Observer Thursday 23rd & 30th October, 6th November 1845
THE STIRLINGSHIRE MIDLAND JUNCTION RAILWAY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT application is intended to be made to Parliament in next Session, for leave to bring in a Bill or Bills for making and maintaining a Railway or Railways, and all proper Works and Conveniences connected therewith, from the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, at or near the Polmont Station of the said Railway, in the parish of Polmont, or at or near Causewayend, in the parish of Muiravonside, to, and to communicate with, the Scottish Central Railway, at a point in the parish of Larbert or the parish of Falkirk, near to the Village of Larbert, with a Branch Railway from the Main Line to Carron Iron Works; and another Branch Railway from the Main Line to Falkirk Iron Works; which Railway and Branch Railways, and the works to be connected therewith, will be situate in, or will pass from, through, or into, the several parishes

of Polmont, Falkirk, Larbert and Muiravonside, or some of them, in the County of Stirling. And Notice is also Given, that Plans and Sections, describing the Lines and Levels of the said intended Works, and the Lands and Property which may be required to be taken for the purposes thereof, together with Books of Reference to such Plans, containing the Names of the Owners or reputed Owners, Lessees or reputed Lessees and Occupiers of such Lands and Property, will, on or before the 30th day of November next, be deposited for public inspection in the offices in Stirling and Falkirk respectively, of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Stirling; and that a copy of as much of the said Plans, Sections, and Books of reference, respectively, as relates to each of the parishes before specified, will, on or before the 31st day of December next, be deposited for public inspection with the Schoolmaster, or if there be no Schoolmaster, with the Session-Clerk of each of such parishes, respectively, at the place of abode of such Schoolmaster or Session-Clerk. And Notice is further Given, that it is intended to take power to deviate, in the construction of the said Railways and Works, from the Lines delineated on the said plans intended to be deposited as aforesaid, to such an extent as will be defined on the plans; and also, to alter and divert such Highways, Turnpike or other Roads, Railways, Streets, Paths, Passages, Rivers, Canals, Brooks, Streams, Sewers, Waters and Watercourses, as it may be necessary or expedient to alter or divert, for the purpose of making and maintaining, or more conveniently making and maintaining or using the said Railways or any of the Works connected therewith. And Notice is Also Given, that it is intended to Incorporate a Company for the purpose of making, maintaining, working, and using the said Railways and the Works connected therewith, and for other purposes in relation thereto, with powers to such Company for the compulsory purchase of Lands, Houses, and other Property; and it is intended to vary or extinguish all existing rights and privileges connected with the Lands, Houses, and Property so to be purchased, or which would in any manner impede or interfere with the construction, maintenance, or use of the said Railways and Works, and to confer other rights and privileges: As also, with powers to the Company to be so Incorporated, to levy Tolls, Rates, and Duties on, and for the use of, the said Railways and Works, and for the Conveyance of Passengers and Goods; and it is intended to confer certain exemptions from payment of such Tolls, Rates, and Duties, and certain other rights and privileges in relation thereto: As also, with powers to the said Company to enter into and carry into execution with any Companies or Corporations, or any Commissioners, Road-Trustees, or other Bodies or Persons, such Arrangements and Agreements as may be expedient or proper, for the making or maintaining the said intended Railways and Works, and for the use of the same; as also with power to the said Company to make and carry into effect, arrangements for Leasing or Selling the said Railways and Works, or any portion thereof, to any other Company or Corporation, upon such terms as may be mutually agreed upon.

RUSSEL & AITKEN, Falkirk. ARCHIBALD GRAHAME MONCRETEFF & WEEMS, 30, Great George Street, Westminster.
Dated the 18th day of October, 1845.
STIRLINGSHIRE MIDLAND JUNCTION RAILWAY.
THE LISTS have now been Closed, as previously announced, but in consequence of the immense number of applications, the Letters of Allocation cannot be issued for a few days.
A. SMITH JAFFRAY, Interim Secy.

Morning Chronicle Friday 7th November 1845

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW-

(From our Correspondent.)-The shareholders of this line are, we learn, shortly to meet for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the prosecution of the following measures :-

- 1st. The several lines and branches mentioned in the notices now given by the company in terms of the standing orders of Parliament, and of which a copy is herewith published.
- 2d. A branch from Avon-bridge to Borrowstouness, for which notices have also been given by this company.
- 3d. An amalgamation between this company and the three Monkland Mineral Railways, viz., the Monkland and Kirkintilloch, the Balochney, and the Slamannan Railways, and also an agreement entered into by the directors with them under the powers conferred on this company by their present acts.
- 4th. An amalgamation between this company and the Scottish Central, and also an agreement entered into by the directors with said company, under the powers conferred on this company by their present acts.
- 5th. An amalgamation between this company and the Wishaw and Coltness; and also an agreement entered into by the directors with said company, under the powers conferred on this company by their present acts.
- 6th. Agreements entered into, or about to be entered into, by the directors of this company to lease and work the following projected lines, to execute which parliamentary powers are to be applied for next session, viz. --The Stirling, Dunfermline and Queensferry; the Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Dumbartonshire Junction; the Edinburgh and Bathgate; the Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth; and the Stirlingshire Direct Midland Junction Railways.
- 7th. An agreement with the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock, and Ayr Company, as to the promoting a bill for the proposed West of Scotland Junction Railway, intended to connect this company's line and the other lines on the north of the river Clyde, with the lines situated on the south thereof; and also for the purpose of giving the directors full powers to carry such of these measures as shall then be approved of.

Glasgow Herald Friday 7th November 1845

Advertisements & Notices

AVON WATER MINERAL JUNCTION RAILWAY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That application is intended to be made in the ensuing Session of Parliament for leave to bring in a Bill or Bills for making and maintaining a Railway or Railways, with all proper Works and Conveniences therewith connected, to be called the "AVON-WATER MINERAL JUNCTION RAILWAY;" which Railway is to commence at a point on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway at or near to the Castlecary Station of the said railway, in the parish of Falkirk and County of Stirling, or in the Parish of Cumbernauld and County of Dumbarton, and to terminate at a point on another intended Line of Railway, called the "Scottish Central -and Caledonian Junction Railway," upon, at, or near to the Lands of Bridgehouse, in the Parish of Torphichen and County of Linlithgow, together also with a Branch Railway from the said intended Main Line of Railway, to diverge therefrom at or near to the Lands of Threaprig, or Jawcraig, in the Parish of Falkirk and County of Stirling aforesaid, and to terminate at a point on, or near to the Lands of Blackbraes, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling aforesaid; which intended Railway, and Branch Railway, and Works therewith connected, will be situate in or will pass from, through, or into the several parishes and places, following, or some of them, respectively, viz., The Parishes of Falkirk, Slamannan, Muiravonside, and Polmont in the County of Stirling, the Parish of Cumbernauld in the County of Dumbarton, and the Parish of Torphichen, in the County of Linlithgow: And it is intended, by the said Bill or Bills, to take powers for altering and diverting such Highways, Turnpike and other Roads, Railways, Streets, Paths, Passages, Rivers, Canals, Brooks, Streams, Sewers, Waters, and Watercourses, as it may be necessary or expedient to alter or divert, for the purpose of making and maintaining, or more conveniently making and maintaining, and using the said Railway or Railways, Extensions, Branches and Works, and Conveniences connected therewith: And it is also intended to take powers, in the said Bill or Bills to deviate in constructing, the said intended Railway or Railways, Extensions and Branches, from the Line or Lines laid down in the Maps or Plans thereof, to be deposited, as aftermentioned, to each extent as is, or shall be defined on the said Plans: And it is also intended by the said Bill or Bills, to incorporate a Company for making, maintaining working and using the said Railway, and Branch Railway, and Works, and for Conveying Passengers, Goods and Minerals thereon, and on other communicating Railways, and for other purposes; with powers for the compulsory purchase of Lands, Houses, -and other and Heritages, for the

purposes thereof: And it is farther intended for to take powers to vary or extinguish all existing rights and privileges connected with the Lands, Houses, and other Heritages so to be purchased, and to confer other rights and privileges in relation thereto: And also with power to the said intended Company to levy Tolls, Rates and Duties, on and for the use of the said intended Railways and Works, and for the conveyance of Passengers and Goods as aforesaid: and to confer certain exemptions from payment of such Tolls, Rates and Duties, and certain other rights and privileges in relation thereto; and also with power to the said intended Railway Company to enter into, and carry into execution, with any other Companies or Corporations, or any Commissioners, Road-Trustees, or other Bodies or Persons, such Arrangements and Agreement as may be expedient or proper, for the making and maintaining of the said intended Railways and any Works, or for the use, or for the working the same, or any portion thereof, or for amalgamating and incorporating the said intended Railways and Works, or any portion thereof, with such other Companies, Corporations, and others, as may be considered expedient: And it is further intended, by the said Bill or Bills, to enable the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, or the Scottish Central Railway Company, or either of them, to Purchase, Rent, or take on Lease, the said intended Railways and Works, and to enable the Company so to be incorporated to Sell, Let or, Lease the same. AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN, That Duplicate Maps or Plans and Sections, describing the Lines, or Situations, and Levels of the said intended Railways, and other Works, and the Lands, Houses, and other Heritages which may be taken for the purposes thereof, together with the Books of Reference to such Plans, containing the names of the Owners or Reputed Owners, Lessees or Reputed Lessees, and Occupiers of such Lands, Houses, and other Heritages, respectively, will be deposited for public inspection, on or before the thirtieth day of November next, in the Office in Stirling of the principal Sheriff- Clerk Of the County of Stirling as also at the Office of the Sheriff- Clerk of the said County of Stirling, at Falkirk; in Dumbarton, in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Dumbarton; and in Linlithgow, in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Linlithgow: And that a Copy of so much of the said Plans, Sections, and Books of Reference, respectively, as relate to each of the said Parishes before mentioned, will on or before the thirty-first day of December next, be deposited with the Schoolmaster, if any, and if there be no Schoolmaster, with the Session-Clerk of each such Parish, at the usual place of abode of such Schoolmaster or Session-Clerk.

W. JOHNSTON, Bathgate.
DEANS, DUNLOP & HOPE, Fludyer Street, Westminster.
Bathgate, 16th October, 1845.

Stirling Observer Thursday 13th November 1845

TEACHER WANTED.

WANTED, for the Subscription School at Avonbridge, in the Parish of Muiravonside, a TEACHER qualified to teach the usual Branches in a Country School. The number of Pupils attending average from 60 to 100. A School and Schoolhouse are provided to the Teacher gratuitously. Applications to be lodged with Mr. Allan Bryce of Blackston; or Mr. Matthew Anderson at Lintmill, Avonbridge, on or before the 20th current.
Avonbridge, 8th November, 1845.

Fife Herald Thursday 13th Thursday 20th Thursday 27th November, Stirling Observer Thursday 13th Thursday 20th Thursday 27th November 1845

EDINBURGH & GLASGOW RAILWAY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT it is intended to apply to Parliament, in the ensuing Session, for an Act or Acts to Alter and Amend, Extend, or Enlarge the Powers and Provisions of the several Acts relating to the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, passed respectively in the First and Second, the Third and Fourth, the Fifth, the Seventh and Eighth, and the Eighth and Ninth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, together with an Act relating to the Slamannan Junction Railway, passed in the Seventh and Eighth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty; and an Act relating to the Glasgow Junction Railway, passed in the Eighth and Ninth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, - which two said last mentioned Railways respectively now belong to the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company, - by which intended Act or Acts it is proposed to enable the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company to Make and Maintain the following Railways, or some of them, or some part or parts thereof, with all proper Works and Conveniences connected therewith, viz. First, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, at or near to Broomhouse, in the Parish of Corstorphine, in the County of Edinburgh, and terminating at or near to South Queensferry, in the Parish of Queensferry, and to Newhalls, in the Parish of Dalmeny, or one of them, both in the County of Linlithgow, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Corstorphine, Ratho, Currie, Kirkliston, and Cramond, in the County of Edinburgh, and of Kirkliston, Dalmeny, Queensferry, and South Queensferry, in the County of Linlithgow. Second, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, by two forks, at or near to where the said Railway crosses the River Avon in the Parish of Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to Kersie-Neuk in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Muiravonside, Polmont, Falkirk, Bothkennar, Larbert, Airth, and St Ninian's, in the County of Stirling and Borrowstouness, in the County of Linlithgow, or some of them. Third, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway last above described, at or near to Chapelton, in the Parish of Borrowstouness, in the County of Linlithgow, and passing from and through and terminating in the same Parish and County, at or near to the Town and Harbour of Borrowstouness. Fourth, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway secondly above described, at or near to Kerse Mains, in the Parish of Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near the Town and Harbour of Grangemouth, in the Parishes of Falkirk, Bothkennar, and Polmont, in the County of Stirling, or one of them, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, and Places of Falkirk, Bothkennar, and Polmont, in the County of Stirling, or some or one of them. Fifth, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway secondly above described at or near to Bell's Dyke, in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling, and passing from and through, and terminating in the same Parish and County, at or near to Higginsneuk. Sixth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, at or near to where the said Railway crosses the Edinburgh & Glasgow Union Canal, in the Parish of Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, and passing from and through and terminating in the same; Parish and County, by a Junction with the intended Railway secondly above described, at or near to Kerse Mains. Seventh, - A Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway secondly above described at or near to Powbridge, in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling, and terminating by a Junction with the Line of the Scottish Central Railway at or near Skeock, in the Parish of St Ninian's, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Airth and St Ninian's in the County of Stirling, or one of them. Eighth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Slamannan Junction Railway, at or near to where the same crosses the Edinburgh & Glasgow Union Canal, in the Parish of Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to Gardrum in the Parish of Falkirk, in the said County, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Muiravonside and Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, or one of them. Ninth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway at or near to Seabegs in the Parishes of Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to the Town of Denny, in the Parish of Denny, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Falkirk, Dunipace, and Denny, in the County of Stirling, or some of them. Tenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, at or near to the Croy Station thereof, in the Parishes of Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch, in the County of Dumbarton, or one

of them, and terminating by a Junction with the Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway, at or near to Garnqueen Loch, in the Parishes of New Monkland and Cadder, in the County of Lanark, or one of them, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch, in the County of Dumbarton, and of New Monkland and Cadder, in the County of Lanark, or some of them. Eleventh, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway at or near to Springvale, in the Parish of Glasgow or Inner High Church Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the Village of Callander, in the Parish of Callander, in the County of Perth, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Glasgow, Inner High Church of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, and Cadder, in the County of Lanark, of East or New Kilpatrick, in the Counties of Dumbarton and Stirling, of Baldoonock, Strathblane, Killearn, Balfron, and Drymen, in the County of Stirling, and of Aberfoil, Port-of-Monteith, Kincardine, Kilmadock, and Callander, in the County of Perth, or some of them. Twelfth, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway last above described at or near to Duntreath Castle, or alternatively at or near to the Village of Strathblane, both in the Parish of Strathblane, in the County of Stirling, and terminating by a Junction with the Line of the Branch to Lennoxton of Campsie of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway at or near to its proposed termination in the Parish of Campsie, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Strathblane and Campsie, in the County of Stirling. Thirteenth, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway eleventhly above described, at or near to Spittal Ballat, in the Parish of Drymen, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to the Village of Balfron, in the Parish of Balfron, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the said Parishes of Drymen and Balfron, both in the County of Stirling. Fourteenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Branch Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, called the Branch to the Cut of Junction Canal, at or near to Gourlay's Distillery, in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and passing from and through and terminating in the same Parish and County, upon the Quay of Port-Dundas Basin, at or near to the Glasgow Distillery. Fifteenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to where Regent-Street intersects Wellington-Street of Blythswood, in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and passing from and through, and terminating in the same Parish and County, at or near to Blythswoodholm. Sixteenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to where the same is authorised to cross Main-Street of Anderston in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the Slip Dock near Kelvinhaugh, in the said Parish and County, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, and Anderston, or some of them, all in the County of Lanark. Seventeenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to Napier's Dock in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the Slip Dock near Kelvinhaugh in the said Parish and County, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, and Anthrston, in the County of Lanark, or some of them. Eighteenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to its termination at Hyde Park-Street, in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the North end of Glasgow Bridge, in the Parish of St. George's of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, St. George's of Glasgow, and Anderston, or some of them, all in the County of Lanark : And it is intended by the said Act or Acts to authorise the alteration of so much of the Line of the said Glasgow Junction Railway as lies between Regent-Street and Douglas-Street of Blythswood, in the City of Glasgow, and the abandonment of the said Line as at present authorised to be made between the said Streets, and the formation, by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, of a New Line of Railway in lieu thereof, from, or from near the North termination of Wellington Street of Glasgow, in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, through and terminating within the said Parish by a Junction with the Line of the said Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to Douglas-Street of Blythswood. And Notice is hereby Given, That it is proposed by the said Act or Acts to enable the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company to purchase and take, or to lease and to maintain and work the Ferry over the River Forth between Kersie Neuk, in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling, and the Town of Alloa, in the Parish of Alloa, in the County of Clackmannan, and the Ferry over the River Forth, between Higgin's-Neuk, in the Parish of Airthin in the County of Stirling, and the Town of Kincardine, in the Parish of Tulliallan, in the County of Perth, or one of them, and also to purchase and take, or to lease the harbour of Borrowstouness, and the Tolls, Rates, and Duties leviable by the Trustees of such Harbour, or some part or parts thereof, or to purchase or procure an exemption from such Tolls, Rates or Duties, and to enter into such other ' agreements with the said Trustees for facilitating the improvement of the said Harbour, or its use for the purposes of the said Railways and Works as shall be mutually approved of, and to enable the said Trustees to make and complete such Sale, Lease, or Agreement; and with that. object to alter and amend, extend or enlarge, and in part repeal the powers and provisions of an Act relating to the said Harbour passed in the Seventh Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, and to alter the Tolls, Rates, and Duties thereby authorised to be levied. And Notice is hereby further Given, That Plans and Sections describing the Line or situation and levels of the said intended Railways, and also describing the Lands to be taken and used for the purposes aforesaid, together with Books of Reference to such Plans containing the Names of the Owners, or reputed Owners, Lessees, or reputed Lessees, and Occupiers of such Lands, will be deposited on or before the Thirtieth day of November, in the present Year, in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Edinburgh, at Edinburgh ; in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Linlithgow, at Linlithgow ; in the Offices of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Stirling, at Stirling and also at Falkirk ; in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Clackmannan, at Alloa ; in the Offices of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Perth, at Perth and also at Dunblane; in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Dumbarton, at Dumbarton; and in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Lanark, at Glasgow ; and that a Copy of so much of the said Plans, Sections, and Books of Reference, as relates to each Parish and Royal Burgh, in or through which the said Railways are intended to be made or altered, will be deposited on or before the Thirty-first day of December next, with the Schoolmaster, or, if there be no Schoolmaster, then with the Session-Clerk of each such Parish, at their respective Dwelling-places, and with the Clerks to the Royal Burghs of South Queensferry, Stirling, and Glasgow, at their Offices in South Queensferry, Stirling, and Glasgow, respectively. And Notice is hereby further Given, That it is proposed by the said Act or Acts to enable the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company to acquire compulsorily Lands and Houses for the purposes aforesaid, and to levy Tolls, Rates, and Duties, on and for the use of the said Railways, Ferries, and Works, and to alter the existing Tolls, Rates, and Duties, authorised to be levied by the said recited Acts, or any of them, and to confer, vary, or take away exemptions from the payment of such Tolls, Rates and Duties, and to vary, alter, or extinguish all existing rights and privileges which would in any manner interfere with the objects aforesaid, and to confer other rights and privileges; and power is also proposed to be taken by the said Act or Acts to divert, alter, or stop up temporarily or permanently, within the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or places aforesaid, all Turnpike and other Roads, Streets, Railways, Tramways, Canals, Rivers, Streams, and Water-Courses, which it may be necessary to interfere with in the construction or alteration of the said intended Railways, Ferries, and Works. And Notice is hereby further Given, That it is proposed by the said Act or Acts to take power to divert and alter, and permanently to shut up and appropriate the sites of certain Streets or Lanes, or intended Streets or Lanes situated within the Parishes of Barony of Glasgow, Saint George's of Glasgow, and Saint David's of Glasgow, which will be shown upon the said Plans, as intended to be so diverted, altered, or shut up and appropriated. And Notice is hereby Given, That it is intended by the said Act or

Acts to exempt the Traffic passing along the said intended Railways or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, from all Customs or Duties leviable, or claimed to be leviable, by the Magistrates of the Burgh of Linlithgow in respect of Animals or Goods entering or passing through the said Burgh, or passing over the River Avon, under and by virtue of certain acts relating to such Customs or Duties, and to the said Burgh, passed by the Parliament of Scotland in the Reigns of His Majesty James the Sixth, of His Majesty Charles the Second, and of His Majesty James the Seventh of Scotland, or under and by virtue of certain Charters and Deeds following thereon, and also to exempt the said Traffic from all other Customs or Duties leviable or claimed to be leviable by any other Corporation or person in respect of Animals or Goods entering into or passing through any Town, or over any River, on the Line of the said intended Railways, and with the above objects, or otherwise to alter, fix, or limit such Customs or Duties, and to vary, extend, or repeal the powers and provisions of the Acts relating to the Burgh of Linlithgow, and the Customs and Duties leviable there, herein before recited. And Notice is hereby further Given, That it is proposed by the said Act or Acts to unite and amalgamate or incorporate with the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company, the following Railway Companies, or some of them, viz. The Scottish Central Railway Company; The Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway Company; the Ballochney Railway Company; and the Slamannan Railway Company; or alternatively to take power to the said last mentioned Companies, or some of them, to unite and amalgamate or incorporate with the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company, or to Sell or Lease to such Company their respective Undertakings, and to enable the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company to unite and amalgamate or incorporate with the said Companies, or some of them, or accept it Sale or Lease of the said respective undertakings, or some of them, and to empower the said respective Railway Companies, or some of them, and the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company, to enter into agreements with each other, fixing the terms upon which such Amalgamation, Sale, or Lease shall take place, and upon which the Traffic on the said Railways shall be conducted, and for the above purposes to alter and amend, extend or enlarge, and in part repeal the powers and provisions of the several Acts hereinafter recited, and to alter the Tolls, Rates, and Duties thereby authorised to be levied, and to confer, vary, or extinguish exemptions from payment of such Tolls, Rates, and Duties and other rights and privileges, viz. the Acts relating to the Scottish Central Railway passed in the Eighth and Ninth Years of Her present Majesty - the Acts relating to the said Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway, passed respectively in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty George the Fourth, in the Third and Fourth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty William the Fourth, and in the Second and Third, Sixth and Seventh, and Eighth and Ninth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty - the Acts relating to the said Ballochney Railway, passed in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His late Majesty George the Fourth, the Fifth and Sixth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty William the Fourth, and the Second and Third and the Sixth and Seventh Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty - the Acts relating to the said Slamannan Railway, passed in the Fifth and Sixth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty William the Fourth, and in the First, and the Second and Third Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty; - and an Act entitled "An Act to alter, amend, enlarge, and in part repeal the Acts relating to the Wishaw & Coltness Railway," passed in the Seventh and Eighth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, so far as such Act relates to the Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway.
BANNATYNES & KIRKWOOD, Glasgow.
W. O. & W. HUNT, 10 Whitehall, Westminster.
Glasgow, 17th Oct. 1845.

Caledonian Mercury Thursday 13th November 1845

SCOTTISH CENTRAL AND CALEDONIAN JUNCTION RAILWAY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that application is intended to be made to Parliament in the ensuing Session, for leave to bring in a BILL or BILLS for making and maintaining a RAILWAY or RAILWAYS, or some part or parts thereof, and all proper Works and Conveniences in connection therewith, leading from a point on the proposed Edinburgh Branch of the Caledonian Railway, at or near the sluice-house of or on the Cobinshaw reservoir, partly in the Parish of Carnwath, in the County of Lanark, and partly in the Parish of West Calder, in the County of Edinburgh, or in one or other of these Parishes, or from a point on the said Branch of the Caledonian Railway at or near to Torphin, in the said Parish of West Calder and County of Edinburgh, and to proceed through or near to West Calder, Bathgate, Torphichen, Muiravonside, and other places, and to terminate, by a Junction, with the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, at a point between Polmont and Linlithgow, in the Parish of Linlithgow, at or near the place where the Branch of the Slamannan Railway joins on is intended to join, the said Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway; or to join the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway at a point near the Farm or Lands of Muirhead, in the Parish of Muiravonsid in the County of Stirling; together with a Branch from the said intended Main Line of Railway, from a point at or near to the Town of Bathgate, in the Parish of Bathgate, to, the Town or Village of Whitburn, in the Parish of Whitburn and County of Linlithgow, and with a Branch from the said intended Railway, to or near to the Village of Blackburn, in the Parish of Livingston, or in the Parish of Whitburn, or in both or either of these Parishes, in the County of Linlithgow, and to terminate at or near to Whitburn, aforesaid, or to terminate by a Junction with the proposed Edinburgh and Hamilton Direct Railway, at or near to Whitburn aforesaid, with all proper Works and Conveniences connected therewith, as the same will be shown on the Plans to be deposited as aftermentioned. Which Railway or Railways, Branch Railway, and other Works, will be situate in, or will pass from, through, or into the several Parishes and Places following, or some of them, viz., the Parish of Carnwath, in the County of Lanark, the Parish of West Calder and the Town or Village of West Calder, in the County of Edinburgh; the Parish of Livingstone; the Parish of Whitburn the Town or Burgh of Bathgate; the Parish of Bathgate; and the Parish of Torphichen, all in the County of Linlithgow and the Parish of Muiravonside, and the Parish of Polmont, in the County of Stirling. And for the purpose aforesaid, it is intended to incorporate a Joint Stock Company, for making, maintaining, working, and using the said Railway or Railways, Branch or Branches, and Works; and, for conveying Passengers and Goods on the said Railway or Railways, Branch or Branches, and on other communicating Railways and for other purposes; with powers to take and acquire, by compulsory purchase, or otherwise, such Lands, Houses, and other Heritages, as may be necessary; also with powers to deviate in the construction of the said Railway or Railways, Branch, and Works, from the Lines delineated on the said Plans to such extent as will be defined on the said Plans; also with powers to alter, vary, and divert the Lines, Levels, and Inclinations of Tarnpike Roads, Highways, Roads, Streets, Tram Roads, Railways, Paths, Passages, or other Roads, Rivers, Canals, Brooks, Reservoirs, Water, Water Courses, Mill and other Ponds, where requisite for construction of the said Railway, Branch, and other Works; and with power to levy Tolls, Rates, and Duties for the use of the said Railway and Branches, and the Engines, Warehouses, Depots, Stations, Landing Places, with any Conveniences connected therewith, and for the passage and carriage of Passengers, Merchandise, Articles, and Things, upon or along the same; and also for raising Money for the purposes of the said undertaking by the creation of Shares, or some other mode to be authorised by the said Act. And it is intended to vary, alter, or extinguish all existing rights or privileges and exemptions in any way connected with site Lands, Houses, and other Heritages so to be purchased, or which would in any manner impede or interfere with the construction, maintenance, or use of the said Railway or Railways, Branch, and Works; and it is further intended, by the said Bill, to take powers to authorise the Company so to be incorporated as aforesaid, to Sell or Lease the said Railway and Work to the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, or the proposed Edinburgh and Bathgate Railway Company, or the Caledonian Railway Company, or other Railway Company or Companies; to authorise the said Company so to be incorporated, to contract with the said Railway Companies, or either or any of them, for the use of their stations, for the purposes of the said intended Railway, or for the working or use of the same; with power to the said Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, or the Caledonian Railway Company, or the

proposed Edinburgh and Bathgate Railway Company, or any of them, to Purchase or take on Lease the said intended Railway or Railways, Branch, and Works, or to enter into such contracts as aforesaid accordingly; and so far as may be necessary for the aforesaid purposes, or any of them, to alter and amend the acts relating to the said Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, and Caledonian Railway respectively. AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN, that Plans, and Sections, and Duplicates thereof respectively, describing the Line or Situation and Levels of the said intended Railway, Branch, and Works, the Roads and others to be diverted as, aforesaid, and showing the extent to which power will be taken to deviate from such Line in executing the said Works, and the Lands and other Heritages to be taken for the purposes aforesaid, together with a Book of Reference thereto, containing the names of the Owners or Reputed Owners, Lessees or Reputed Lessees, and Occupiers of such Lands, will be deposited on or before the 30th day of November next, in the Office, at Edinburgh, of the Principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Edinburgh; in the Offices at Lanark and Hamilton respectively, of the Principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Lanark; in the Offices at Stirling and Falkirk, of the Principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Stirling and in the Office, at Linlithgow, of the Principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Linlithgow respectively; and that on or before the 31st day of December next, a Copy of so much of the said plans and sections as relate to each of the said several Parishes in or through which the Works are intended to be made, together with a Book of Reference thereto will be deposited with the parish Schoolmaster, if any, and if there be no parish Schoolmaster, then with the Session-Clerk: of each of such parishes, at their respective residences and a copy of, so much thereof relates to the Town of Bathgate, with the Town Clerk of that town.

A. & A. MACGEORGE, GLASGOW. DEANS, DUNLOP, & HOPE, WESTMINSTER
Dated this 18th October 1845.

Glasgow Herald Monday 24th November 1845

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That application will be made to Parliament in next Session for leave to bring, in a Bill, or Bills, to enable the SLAMANNAN RAILWAY COMPANY to take and maintain a Railway, or Railways, with all proper Works and Conveniences in connection therewith, and approaches thereto, to commence at or near to the Town of Bathgate, in the Parish of Bathgate, and so proceed to a point in the said Parish, or in the Parish of Muiravonside, or in the Parish of Torphichen at or near to Luggiebrae, and from thence to diverge on the east to, and to terminate by a Junction with the SLAMANNAN RAILWAY, at or near to Glensplace, in the Parish of Muiravonside; and on the west to and to terminate by a Junction with the said SLAMANNAN RAILWAY, at or near to Blackstone in the said Parish of Muiravonside, with a Branch Railway or Branch Railways, to connect the said intended Railway, or Railways, with several contemplated Railways terminating at or near to the Town of Bathgate aforesaid, or some one or more of the said contemplated Railways, which intended Railways, and Works, will be situated in and will pass from, through; or into the Parish of Muiravonside in the County of Stirling, and in the parishes of Torphichen and Bathgate, in the County of Linlithgow, or some of them: and also to enable the said Company to make or form and complete a Branch Railway or Railways, and all proper Works and Conveniences in connection therewith, and approaches thereto, from the Main Line of the SLAMANNAN RAILWAY, where the same passes through the Lands of Pirnie Lodge, to, or towards, into or through the Lands of Jawcraig, the Lands of Oaker's Dyke, the Lands of Middelrighead, the Lands of Stonyridge, the Lands of Nappyfaulds, and the Lands of Wester Jaw. Or some of them, and to unite and incorporate the same with the SLAMANNAN RAILWAY, and to maintain and uphold the same; which lastmentioned Branch Railway or Railways are and will be situated in the Parishes of Slamannan and Falkirk, and County of Stirling, or one of them.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN, That Plans and Sections describing the Lines and Levels of the said intended Works, and the Lands and Property which May be required to be taken for the purposes thereof, together with Books of Reference to such Plans containing the names of the Owners, or reputed Owners, Lessees, or reputed Lessees, and Occupiers of such Lands, and Property, will, on or before the Thirtieth Day of November next, be deposited for public inspection in the office in Linlithgow of the principal Sheriff Clerk of the County of Linlithgow, and in the offices in Stirling and Falkirk, respectively, of the principal Sheriff Clerk of the County of Stirling, and that a copy of as much of the said Plans, Sections and Books of Reference, respectively, as relates to each of the Parishes before specified, will, on or before the Thirty-first Day of December next be deposited for public inspection with the Schoolmaster, or, if there should be no Schoolmaster, with the Session Clerk of each of such Parishes respectively, at the place of abode of such Schoolmaster or Session Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, That it is intended by the said Bill, or Bills, to take powers to deviate in the Construction of the said several intended Railways and Works from the Lines delineated on the said plans intended to be deposited as aforesaid, to such an extent as will be defined on the said plans, and also to alter and divert such Highways, Turnpike, and other Roads, Railways, Streets, Paths, Passages, Rivers, Canals, Brooks, Streams, Sewers, Waters, and Water Courses, as it may be necessary or expedient to alter or divert for the purpose of making and maintaining, or more conveniently making and maintaining or using the said intended Railways and Works.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that it is intended by the said Bill or Bills to take powers for the compulsory purchase of Lands and Houses, and it is intended to vary or extinguish all existing rights and privileges connected with the Lands and Houses soto be purchased, or which would in any manner impede or interfere with the construction, maintenance, or use of the said Railways and Works, and to confer other rights and privileges: and also with power to the said Company to levy Tolls, Rates, and Duties on and for the use of the said Railways and Works, and for the conveyance of Passengers and Goods, and it is intended by the said Bill or Bills to confer certain exemptions from payment of such Tolls, Rates, and Duties, and certain other rights and privileges in relation thereto. And it is intended by the said Bill or Bills, to confer powers on the said Company to enter into and to carry into execution, with any other Companies or Corporations, or any Commissioners, Road Trustees, or other Bodies or Persons, such arrangements and agreements as may be expedient for making the said intended Railways and Works, or maintaining the same and the said SLAMANNAN RAILWAY, or for the use of the same or of the said SLAMANNAN RAILWAY, or of any Railway or Railways communicating therewith or for the Sale or Lease of any portion of the said intended Railways, or of the said SLAMANNAN RAILWAY, or at the said Works, or of any Railway communicating therewith. AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN. That it is proposed by the said Bill or Bills, for the purposes foresaid and for other purposes, to Alter, Increase, Amend, Enlarge and in Part Repeal the Powers and Provisions of the following Acts, relating to or concerning the said SLAMANNAN RAILWAY respectively, viz :-Of an Act passed in the Session of Parliament held in the Fifth and Sixth Years of William the Fourth: and of an Act passed in the Session of Parliament holden in the First Year of Queen Victoria; and of an Act passed in the Session of Parliament held in the Second and Third Years of Queen Victoria; and to Alter the Tolls, Rates, and Duties granted by the said before-recited Acts, or some of them, or some of the said Tolls, Rates, and Duties; and to Vary or Extinguish any Exemptions from Payment of such Tolls, Rate sand Duties, and other Rights and Privileges in relation thereto and to the said SLAMANNAN RAILWAY; and to Confer certain Exemptions from Payment of the said Tolls, Rates, and Duties as they do now exist or may be so altered, and certain other Rights and Privileges in relation to the same, and in relation to the said SLAMANNAN RAILWAY, or the said intended Railway, and Works; and it is intended to take powers to the said Company to raise an additional sum of Money, by the creation of New Stock, or otherwise, and to alter the gauge of their rails.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That it is intended by the said Bill or Bills, to exempt the Traffic passing along the said intended Railways from all Custom or Duties leviable or claimed to be leviable by the Magistrates of the Burgh of Linlithgow, in respect of Animals or Goods entering or passing through the said Burgh, or passing over the River Avon, under and

by virtue of certain Acts relating to such Customs or Duties, and to the said Burgh, passed by the Parliament of Scotland in the Reign of his Majesty James the Sixth, of his Majesty Charles the Second, of his Majesty James the Seventh of Scotland, or under and by virtue of certain Charters and Deeds following thereon, and also to exempt the said Traffic from all other Customs or Duties Leviable, or intended to be Leviable by any other Corporation or person in respect of Animals or Goods entering into or passing through any Town or over any River on the Line of the said intended Railways, and with the above objects or otherwise to alter, fix, or limit such Customs or Duties, and to vary, extend, or repeal the powers and provisions of the said Acts relating to the Burgh of Linlithgow, and the Customs and Duties leviable there, herein before recited.

MITCHELL, HENDERSON & MITCHELL, Glasgow.

ARCH. GRAHAME, MONCRIEFF & WEEMS, Westmister, Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 16th day of October, 1845.

Fife Herald 27th November 1845

Scotch Bankrupts

Sequestrations

William Johnston, farmer, cattle-dealer, and grain-dealer at Castlehill, in the parish of Muiravonside.

Fife Herald Thursday 27th November, Stirling Observer Thursday 27th November, Thursday 4th December 1845

EDINBURGH & GLASGOW RAILWAY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT it is intended to apply to Parliament, in the ensuing Session, for an Act or Acts to Alter and Amend, Extend, or Enlarge the Powers and Provisions of the several Acts relating to the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, passed : respectively in the First and Second, the Third and Fourth, the Fifth, the Seventh and Eighth, and the Eighth and Ninth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, together with an Act relating to the Slamannan Junction Railway, passed in the Seventh and Eighth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty ; and an Act relating to the Glasgow Junction Railway, passed in the Eighth and Ninth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, - which two said last mentioned Railways respectively now belong to the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, - by which intended Act or Acts it is proposed to enable the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company to Make and Maintain the following Railways, or some of them, or some part or parts thereof, with all proper Works and Conveniences connected therewith, viz. First, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, at or near to Broomhouse, in the Parish of Corstorphine, in the County of Edinburgh, and terminating at or near to South Queensferry, in the Parish of Queensferry, and to Newhalls, in the Parish of Dalmerney, or one of them, both in the County of Linlithgow, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Corstorphine, Ratho, Currie, Kirkliston, and Cramond, in the County of Edinburgh, and of Kirkliston, Dalmerney, Queensferry, and South Queensferry, in the County of Linlithgow. Second, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, by two forks, at or near to where the said; Railway crosses the River Avon in the Parish of Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to Kersie-Neuk in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Muiravonside, Polmont, Falkirk, Bothkennar, Larbert, Airth, and St Ninian's, in the County of Stirling and Borrowstouness, in the County of Linlithgow, or some of them. Third, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway last above described, at or near to Chapelton in the Parish of Borrowstouness in the County of Linlithgow, and passing from and through and terminating in the County, at or near to the Town and Harbour of Borrowstouness. Fourth, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway secondly above described, at or near to Kerse Mains, in the Parish of Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near the Town and Harbour of Grangemouth, in the Parishes of Falkirk, Bothkennar, and Polmont, in the County of Stirling, or one of them, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, and Places of Falkirk, Bothkennar, and Polmont, in the County of Stirling, or some or one of them. Fifth, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway secondly above described at or near to Bell's Dyke, in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling and passing from and through, and terminating in the same Parish and County, at or near to Higginsneuk. Sixth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, at or near to where the said Railway crosses the Edinburgh & Glasgow Union Canal, in the Parish of Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, and passing from and through and terminating in the same Parish and County, by a Junction with the intended Railway secondly above described, at or near to Kerse Mains. Seventh, - A Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway secondly above described at or near to Powbridge, in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling, and terminating by a Junction with the Line of the Scottish Central Railway at or near Skeock, in the Parish of St Ninian's, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Airth and St Ninian's in the County of Stirling, or one of them. Eighth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Slamannan Junction Railway, at or near to where the same crosses the Edinburgh & Glasgow Union Canal, in the Parish of Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to Gardrum in the Parish of Falkirk, in the said County, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Muiravonside and Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, or one of them. Ninth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway at or near to Seabegs in the Parishes of Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to the Town of Denny, in the Parish of Denny, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Falkirk, Dunipace, and Denny, in the County of Stirling, or some of them. Tenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway, at or near to the Croy Station thereof, in the Parishes of Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch, in the County of Dumbarton, or one of them, and terminating by a Junction with the Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway, at or near to Garnqueen Loch, in the Parishes of New Monkland and Cadder, in the County of Lanark, or one of them, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch, in the County of Dumbarton, and of New Monkland and Cadder, in the County of Lanark, or some of them. Eleventh, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway at or near to Springvale, in the Parish of Glasgow or Inner High Church Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the Village of Callander, in the Parish of Callander, in the County of Perth, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Glasgow, Inner High Church of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, and Cladder, in the County of Lanark, of East or New Kilpatrick, in the Counties of Dumbarton and Stirling, of Baldernock, Strathblane, Killearn, Balfroon, and Drymen, in the County of Stirling, and of Aberfoil, Port-of-Monteith, Kincardine, Kilmaddock, and Callander, in the County of Perth, or some of them. Twelfth, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway last above described at or near to Duntreath Castle, or alternatively at or near to the Village of Strathblane, both in the Parish of; Strathblane, in the County of Stirling, and terminating by a Junction with the Line of the Branch to Lennoxton of Campsie of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway at or near to its proposed termination in the Parish of Campsie, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Strathblane and Campsie, in the County of Stirling. Thirteenth, - A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway eleventhly above described, at or near to Spittal Ballat, in the Parish of Drymen, in the County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to the Village of Balfroon, in the Parish of Balfroon, in the County of Stirling, and passing from, through, or into the said Parishes of Drymen and Balfroon, both in the County of Stirling. Fourteenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Branch Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, called the Branch to the Cut of Junction Canal, at or near to Gauley's Distillery, in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and passing

from and through and terminating in the same Parish and County, upon the Quay of Port-Dundas Basin, at or near to the Glasgow Distillery, Fifteenth - A Railway diverging from and out of the Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to where Regent-Street intersects Wellington-Street of Blythswood, in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in County of Lanark, and passing from and through, and terminating in the same Parish and County, at or near to Blythswoodholm. Sixteenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to where the same is authorised to cross Main-Street of Anderston in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the Slip Dock near Kelvinhaugh, in the said Parish and County, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, and Anderston, or some of them, all in the County of Lanark. Seventeenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to Napier's Dock in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the Slip Dock near Kelvinhaugh in the said Parish and County, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, and Anderston, in the County of Lanark, or some of them. Eighteenth, - A Railway diverging from and out of the Line of the Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to its termination at Hyde Park-Street, in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the North end of Glasgow Bridge, in the Parish of St. George's of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, and passing from, through, or into the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or Places of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, St. George's of Glasgow, and Anderston, or some of them, all in the County of Lanark: And it is intended by the said Act or Acts to authorise the alteration of so much of the Line of the said Glasgow Junction Railway as lies between Regent-Street and Douglas-Street of Blythswood, in the City of Glasgow, and the abandonment of the said Line as at present authorised to be made between the said Streets, and the formation, by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, of a New Line of Railway in lieu thereof, from, or from near the North termination of Wellington- Street of Glasgow, in the Barony Parish of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark, through and terminating within the said Parish by a Junction with the Line of the said Glasgow Junction Railway, at or near to Douglas-Street of Blythswood. And Notice is hereby Given, That it is proposed by the said Act or Acts to enable the Edinburgh A Glasgow Railway Company to purchase and take, or to lease and to maintain and work the Ferry over the River Forth, between Kersie Neuk, in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling, and the Town of Alloa, in the Parish of Alloa, in the County of Clackmannan, and the Ferry over the River Forth, between Higgin's-Neuk, in the Parish of Airth, in the County of Stirling, and the Town of Kincardine, in the Parish of Tulliallan, in the County of Perth, or one of them, and also to purchase and take, or to lease the Harbour of Borrowstouness, and the Tolls, Rates, and Duties leviable by the Trustees of such Harbour, or some part or parts thereof, or to purchase or procure an exemption from such Tolls, Rates or Duties, and to enter into such other agreements with the said Trustees for facilitating the improvement of the said Harbour, or its use for the purposes of the said Railways and Works as shall be mutually approved of, and to enable the said Trustees to make and complete such Sale, Lease, or Agreement; and with that object to alter and amend, extend or enlarge, and in part repeal the powers and provisions of an Act relating to the said Harbour passed in the Seventh Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, and to alter the Tolls, Rates, and Duties thereby authorised to be levied. And Notice is hereby further Given, That Plans and Sections describing the Line or situation and levels of the said intended Railways, and also describing the Lands to be taken and used for the purposes aforesaid, together with Books of Reference to such Plans containing the Names of the Owners, or reputed Owners, Lessees, or reputed Lessees, and Occupiers of such Lands, will be deposited on or before the Thirtieth day of November, in the present Year, in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Edinburgh, at Edinburgh; in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Linlithgow, at Linlithgow; in the Offices of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Stirling, at Stirling and also at Falkirk; in the Office of the principal Sheriff -Clerk of the County of Clackmannan, at Alloa; in the Offices of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Perth, at Perth and also at Dunblane; in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Dumbarton, at Dumbarton; and in the Office of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Lanark, at Glasgow; and that a Copy of so much of the said Plans, Sections, and Books of Reference, as relates to each Parish and Royal Burgh, in or through which the said Railways are intended to be made or altered, will be deposited on or before the Thirty-first day of December next, with the Schoolmaster, or, if there be no Schoolmaster, then with the Session-Clerk of each such Parish, at their respective Dwelling-places, and with the Clerks to the Royal Burghs of South Queensferry, Stirling, and Glasgow, at their Offices in South Queensferry, Stirling, and Glasgow, respectively. And Notice is hereby further Given, That it is proposed by the said Act or Acts to enable the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company to acquire compulsorily Lands and Houses for the purposes aforesaid, and to levy Tolls, Rates, and Duties, on and for the use of the said Railways, Ferries, and Works, and to alter the existing Tolls, Rates, and Duties, authorised to be levied by the said recited Acts, or any of them, and to confer, vary, or take away exemptions from the payment of such Tolls, Rates and Duties, and to vary, alter, or extinguish all existing rights and privileges which would in any manner interfere with the objects aforesaid, and to confer other Rights and privileges; and power is also proposed to be taken by the said Act or Acts to divert, alter, or stop up temporarily or permanently, within the Parishes, Townships, Burghs, or places aforesaid, all Turnpike and other Roads, Streets, Railways, Tramways, Canals, Rivers, Streams, and Water-Courses, which it may be necessary to interfere with in the construction or alteration of the said intended Railways, Ferries, and Works. And Notice is hereby further Given, That it is proposed by the said Act or Acts to take power to divert and alter, and permanently to shut up and appropriate the sites of certain Streets or Lanes, or intended Streets or Lanes situated within the Parishes of Barony of Glasgow, Saint George's of Glasgow, and Saint David's of Glasgow, which will be shown upon the said Plans, as intended to be so diverted, altered, or shut up and appropriated. And Notice is hereby Given, That it is intended by the said Act or Acts to exempt the Traffic passing along the said intended Railways or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, from all Customs or Duties leviable, or claimed to be leviable, by the Magistrates of the Burgh of Linlithgow in respect of Animals or Goods entering or passing through the said Burgh, or passing over the River Avon, under and by virtue of certain acts relating to such Customs or Duties, and to the said Burgh, passed by the Parliament of Scotland in the Reigns of His Majesty James the Sixth, of His Majesty Charles the Second, and of His Majesty James the Seventh of Scotland, or under and by virtue of certain Charters and Deeds following thereon, and also to exempt the said Traffic from all other Customs or Duties leviable or claimed to be leviable by any other Corporation or person in respect of Animals or Goods entering into or passing through any Town, or over any River, on the Line of the said intended Railways, and with the above objects, or otherwise to alter, fix, or limit such Customs or Duties, and to vary, extend, or repeal the powers and provisions of the Acts relating to the Burgh of Linlithgow, and the Customs and Duties leviable there, herein before recited. And Notice is hereby further Given, That it is proposed by the said Act or Acts to unite and amalgamate or incorporate with the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, the following Railway Companies, or some of them, viz. - The Scottish Central Railway Company; The Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway Company; the Ballochney Railway Company; and the Slamannan Railway Company; or alternatively to take power to the said last mentioned Companies, or some of them, to unite and amalgamate or incorporate with the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company, or to Sell or Lease to such Company their respective Undertakings, and to enable the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company to unite and amalgamate or incorporate with the said Companies, or some of them, or accept a Sale or Lease of the said respective undertakings, or some of them, and to empower the said respective Railway Companies, or some of them, and the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company, to enter into agreements with each other, fixing the terms upon which such Amalgamation, Sale, or Lease shall take place, and upon which the Traffic on the said Railways shall be conducted, and for the above purposes to alter and

amend, extend or enlarge, and in part repeal the powers and provisions of the several Acts hereinafter recited, and to alter the Tolls, Rates, and Duties thereby authorised to be levied, and to confer, vary, or extinguish exemptions from payment of such Tolls, Rates, and Duties, and other rights and privileges, viz. the Acts relating to the Scottish Central Railway passed in the Eighth and Ninth Years of Her present Majesty - the Acts relating to the said Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway, passed respectively in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty George the Fourth, in the Third and Fourth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty William the Fourth, and in the Second and Third, Sixth and Seventh, and Eighth and Ninth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty - the Acts relating to the said Ballochney Railway, passed in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His late Majesty George the Fourth, the Fifth and Sixth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty William the Fourth, and the Second and Third and the Sixth and Seventh Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty - the Acts relating to the said Slamannan Railway, passed in the Fifth and Sixth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty William the Fourth, and in the First, and the Second and Third Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty and an Act entitled "An Act to alter, amend, and in part repeal the Acts relating to the Wishaw & Coltness Railway." passed in the Seventh and Eighth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, so far as such Act relates to the Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway. BANNATYNES & KIRK WOOD, Glasgow.
W. O. & W. HUNT, 10 Whitehall, Westminster.
Glasgow, 17th Oct. 1845.

The Examiner Saturday 29th November 1845

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.
W. Johnston, Muiravonside, farmer.

London Standard Saturday 29th November 1845

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.
William Johnston, Castlehill Muiravonside, farmer, Dec. 5th & 26th, at 2 o'clock, at the house of Mr. Gaff, Falkirk.

Morning Chronicle Saturday 29th November 1845

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.
WILLIAM JOHNSTON, of Muiravonside, farmer, December 5th and 26th, at two, at the house of Thomas Gaff, Falkirk.

Perry's Bankrupt Gazette Saturday 20th December 1845

Meetings under Sequestrations in Scotland.
FRIDAY the 26th of DECEMBER
Johnston W. farmer, Muiravonside Ch. Trustee, Gaff's hotel, Falkirk.

Stirling Observer Thursday 4th December 1845

PLANS AND BOOKS OF REFERENCE Lodged with the Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Stirling, on and before November, 30 1845, for the Railways afternamed, viz. Avon Water Junction - From Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, near Castlecarry, to the Scottish Central and Caledonian Junction Railway, near Bridgehouse in Torphichen parish, with a branch to Gardrum in Muiravonside.
Scottish Central and Caledonian Junction - From the Caledonian near Torphin in Linlithgowshire, to the Edinburgh and Glasgow, near Haining Valley, in Muiravonside.

Sheffield Independent Saturday 6th December 1845

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.
WILLIAM JOHNSTON, of Muiravonside, farmer, December 26th, at two, at the house of Thomas Gaff, Falkirk.

Leeds Times Saturday 6th December 1845

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.
WILLIAM JOHNSTON, of Muiravonside, farmer, December 26th, at two, at the house of Thomas Gaff, Falkirk.

1846

Stirling Observer Thursday 8th January 1846

FARM STOCKING, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, FARMING & DAIRY IMPLEMENTS & UTENSILS, AND SUNDRY OTHER EFFECTS.
There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, on the Farm of Castlehill, in the Parish of Muiravonside, occupied by Mr. William Johnston, on SATURDAY, 10th January, 1846, THE entire STOCKING on said Farm, and CROP thereon of 1845, with the whole AGRICULTURAL and DAIRY UTENSILS, and other EFFECTS belonging thereto, embracing
1. BESTIAL.
2 Horses. 2 Mares. 1 One-year-old Quey. 7 Pigs. 2 One-year-old Bulls, and 4 Calves. 3 Milch Cows.
2. CROP.
23 Stacks of Oats. About 9 Scots Acres of Excellent Turnips. 5 Stacks of Barley. 2 Stacks of Wheat. A lot of Hay Seeds. 1 Hay Rick. A lot of Barley and Oat Straw. A lot of Potatoes.
3. AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, &c.
A Thrashing Mill and Machinery, with Water Wheel 2 Ploughs. 1 Bulking Plough and a Stone Roller. A Pair of Fanners and Barn Utensils. 2 Cast-metal Boilers. 3 Carts, with Wheels and Iron Axles. 4 Sets Cart and Plough Harness.
4. AN ASSORTMENT OF DAIRY UTENSILS;
As also a quantity of MANURE and some GUANO, with various other effects.
Sale to begin at Ten o Clock Forenoon.
Three Months Credit on Approved Bills.
Falkirk, 2d January, 1846.

Perry's Bankrupt Gazette - Saturday 31 January 1846

Meetings under Sequestrations in Scotland.
TUESDAY, the 3d of FEBRUARY.
1845 Johnston W. farmer and grain dealer, Muiravonside. To decide offer, House of Gaff, innkeeper, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald, Observer 12th March Stirling, Glasgow Herald 13th March 1846

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.
The spring show took place on Thursday last, the 5th curt, within the corn-market, Falkirk. Long previous to 12 o'clock, when the different lots were brought forward, an anxious crowd had besieged the gates of the show-yard, which continued to increase during the day, and kept up a scene of much bustle and animation. The following list comprises the award of the judges, who were Messrs. Thomson, Inveravon; Mitchell, Kinniel-carse; and Hardie, Bonessmains, for grain; and Messrs. Laing, Rankine, and Ewing, of Glasgow, for fat cattle. And we are simply doing justice by recording the difficulty they had to combat, where all was so nicely balanced.
GRAIN.
For the best 4 qrs. barley, grown in the southern part of the district - 1st, Mr. Forbes of Callendar; 2d, Mr. Forbes.
For ditto, grown in the northern part of the district - 1st, Mr. A. Thomson, Newtonmains; 2d, Mr. Henry Reid, Haining-valley.

For the best 4 qrs. short oats, of the potato or Flemish kind, grown in the northern part of the district - Mr. Mitchell, Island, Grangemouth.

For the best 4 qrs. long oats, in the southern part of the district - 1st, Mr. Forbes; 2d, Mr. Forbes. For the best ditto, grown in the northern part of the district - 1st, Mr. Stark, Camelon; 2nd, Mr. Fulton, Sunnyside.

For the best 4 qrs. beans, grown in the district - 1st, Mr. Hardie, Bothkennar; 2nd, Mr. Johnstone, Beancorse.

For the best 2 qrs. perennial ryegrass seeds, grown in the southern part of the district - Mr. Renny, Craighurn.

For do. do., grown in the northern part of the district - Mr. Stark, Camelon.

FAT CATTLE.

For the two best cattle, of weight, symmetry, and quality for the flesher - Mr. Henry Reid, Haining-valley. For the two second best ditto - Mr. Forbes.

For the best one, exclusive of those gaining the above two prizes - Mr. Callander, Woodburn. CHEESE. For the best specimen of full milk cheese, made by the exhibitor, within the district, in 1845, the quantity not being less than half a cwt. - Mr. Arthur, Pirliehill.

For the best do. skimmed milk do. do. - Mr. Arthur.

SALT BUTTER.

For the best lot of salt butter, made by the exhibitor, within the district - 1st, Mr. John Stark, Westerglen; 2nd, Mr. Renny, Craighurn; 3rd, C. Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside.

Immediately after the show, a sale, by public roup, took place, of a large number of fat cattle, including the animals that had been exhibited and taken prizes. When we state that this important sale was entrusted to the management of Mr. James Neilson, auctioneer, whose peculiar tact and thorough knowledge of such stock was quite calculated to do it justice - and, on such an occasion as this, he had ample scope to give credit at once to the splendid animals and their rearers - we are sure it will not excite surprise that some sixteen pair of fat cattle realised £527 10s. besides a pair bought in at £52s. This is certainly flattering to all parties, and must influence the next show. We would add, that on no previous occasion have finer specimens of fat stock graced any show. Those of Mr. Reid were truly superb; outdoing any former evidence he has given of his established skill as a rearer. The same may be said of the others; and we heard the judges declare that the Highland Society's exhibition never elicited better. The business of the day concluded with a dinner in the Red Lion Inn. Besides a numerous assemblage of members, many gentlemen, connected with agriculture, from a distance, were present. The chair was occupied by William Forbes, Esq. of Callendar, M.P. Captain Forbes, of the Coldstream Guards, acting as the efficient croupier. The usual loyal, and many other appropriate toasts were heartily responded to; and, amid much interesting matter, it was insisted that sound seed is the sole salvation on which will depend this year's crop of potatoes. Mr. Stirling, of Glenbervie, whose experience as a farmer ranks so high, was listened to, on this and other topics, with much profit, we trust, and high pleasure. In concluding our brief report of this now influential society's show, it may simply be necessary to state, what, indeed, we have before reiterated, that it seems only necessary for the grand march of agriculture in this country, that a few influential landlords, backed by skilful and energetic farmers, have to put their resolute hands to the plough; and all 'looking back' will only, as in this instance be to behold luxuriant fields, doubly-filled stackyards, rich dairies, and the most splendidly-thriving breeds of cattle and horses; in a word, abundance for ourselves raised by ourselves!

Falkirk Herald, 12th March 1846

STRIKE OF RAILWAY LABOURERS.

At the Slamannan and Edinburgh & Glasgow Junction Railway, presently in the course of formation through the parish of Muiravonside, a strike for increase of wages took place last week among the labourers employed on the line. There were fully 200 employed here, and at first the whole of them struck work, but, after standing out for a day or so, about one-half of that number intimated to the contractors their readiness to return, provided they were protected from violence at the hands of those who still stood out. A body of county police was accordingly procured from Falkirk, and attended at the works for nearly two days, by which time the whole of the disaffected were paid off and left the place; and the others, we are now glad to learn, are proceeding peaceably with the work.

Stirling Observer Thursday 19th March 1846

EXTENSIVE SALE or VALUABLE FARM STOCKING, SPLENDID MILCH COWS, YOUNG CATTLE, FIRST-RATE DRAUGHT HORSES, CORN AND BARLEY STACKS, HAY, New TRASHING-MILL, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c. &c. AT CROSSCRAES. To be Sold, by Public Roup, on SATURDAY, the 21st day of March, 1846, on the Farm of Crosscraes, in the parish of Muiravonside, THE whole CROP, MILCH COWS, YOUNG CATTLE, DRAUGHT HORSES, THRASHING- MILL, FARM STOCKING, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other Valuable Effects thereon, belonging to the deceased Mr. Robert Boyd, comprising:

16 Stacks of Oats and Barley.

3 Stacks of Seed Ryegrass Hay, and one large Hay Stack.

2 Particularly famous Draught Horses.

1 Draught Horse, aged.

11 Milch Cows, the finest stock that has been rouped for several years, and the greater part of them very near the calving.

4 Two-year-old Queys.

6 One year-old Stirks, and one two-year-old Bull.

3 Close-bodied Carts, with wheels and axles.

2 Open Carts and Hay Waggons, full mounted.

1 Cart with Water Barrel. 2 Iron Ploughs, and 2 Pair of Harrows.

A most complete three horse Thrashing Mill, not more than 3 years old, erected by Mr. Law of Shetleston, on the newest and most improved principle.

1 Pair of new Barn Fanners, as recommended by the Highland Society.

2 Sets of Cart and Plough Horse Harness.

A Land Roller and Frame.

A Machine Cheese Press, and 8 Stone Troughs for Cattle.

20 Bolls of Thrashed Oats. 4 Loads of Oat Meal.

12 Bolls of Seed Potatoes, and a few tons of Turnips; with the whole of the Farming Implements and Dairy Utensils, &c. &c. Likewise.

Household Furniture, consisting of a set of Mahogany Dining Tables.

2 Mahogany Escritoirs, Stuff-bottomed Chairs, a large Convex Mirror, with gilt frame;

4 Bedsteads and Bedding; also, Sheets, Linen, and other Napery;

3 splendid Kitchen Range or Grate, with Boiler and Oven for a round-about fire - very valuable; an Eight-day Clock, several Napery Presses; and an immense variety of other valuable articles and effects, which cannot be described within the limits of an advertisement.

The whole to be Sold without reserve.

Three months Credit will be given on bills, or discount for Cash.

Roup to begin at Ten o'Clock Forenoon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th; Glasgow Herald Friday 26th; London Standard; Hereford Times Saturday 27th; Sussex Advertiser, Tuesday 30th June; Derby Mercury Wednesday 1st; Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 2nd July, 1846
FALKIRK.

Waterspout.- A. striking and unusual phenomenon was observed at Falkirk on Wednesday the

17th inst. The day had been unusually warm, perhaps the hottest of the season - the thermometer standing at 78 in the shade, and a suffocating sultriness gave the heavens quite a tropical character. Towards six o'clock p.m. a dark thunder-cloud was borne slowly along from the west, and when its centre was seemingly over the Black Loch, a spout rather suddenly appeared till its extreme end was hidden behind the Callendar Wood. We have since learned that the spout discharged itself, or broke, as the country people termed it, at Cross Road, a rising ground about a mile west from Avonbridge. An immense body of water deluged the immediate spot, and for about a mile round there was a heavy rain, but beyond not a drop fell. The rivulets all around were flooded, and the river Avon assumed, for a short time, all the appearance of a spate.

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th June 1846

The Weather.

For the last three weeks the weather was in general very warm, the thermometer standing about 70 degrees in the shade. Often the heat was most oppressive. With such genial weather the crops never looked better, and are considered from fourteen to twenty days earlier than in ordinary seasons. - Of late a number of rare phenomena have been observed. The mock suns were seen to great advantage about three weeks since. On each side and equidistant from the sun an arc was formed, and at each of these points a beautiful image of the sun appeared, also a display of the prismatic colours. It was about six o'clock evening and the appearance continued for some time. - On the afternoon of Monday last, the falling of the barometer indicated a change of weather. After a lowering sky the rain fell in copious showers, accompanied by a thunder storm, throughout the evening. On Tuesday the air was cool, with a heavy fall of rain. The fields appear fresh and luxuriant, promising for the present an early and abundant harvest.

London Standard Friday 18th September, Morning Post Saturday 19th September, 1846

THE HARVEST

FALKIRK DISTRICT.

The carse and dry- field farmers in this district have got their crops nearly all secured in the barnyard; and the muirland farmers are making rapid progress with theirs also, and will have the fields generally cleared by the end of this week, if the weather continue favourable. Wheat in the carses here may be said to be an average crop this season ; but oats are under the average. Barley and beans are very deficient on both carse and dry - field. Beans will not average above four bolls an acre Scotch, if they even come as high; and barley will not average above five bolls per acre, when taken carse and dry-field together, which may be said to be a deficiency of three and a half bolls on the acre of beans, and three boll's on the acre of barley, from the average of ten years, supposing the beans to be seven and a half, and the barley eight bolls as average crops per acre. The oats in the muirlands at Slamannan and Muiravonside may be said to be an average crop. The turnip crop is rather deficient in many-cases here, although there are some good fields in the neighbourhood. The turnips upon stiff clayey lands suffered much from the wet weather in July and August. Hay is an excellent crop here, and I have never seen the pasture grass looking better at this season than what it is just now, for the last ten years.

Edinburgh Weekly Register.

Stirling Observer Thursday 12th November 1846

COUNTY OF STIRLING. PROPERTY TAX.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

That MEETINGS for Hearing Appeals against Assessments for Property and Income Tax, for the Year 1846, will be held at the following places, on the days undermentioned, at 11 o'Clock Forenoon each day, viz.

FALKIRK DISTRICT, Comprehending the Town and Parishes of FALKIRK, MUIRAVONSIDE, AIRTH, SLAMANAN, BOTHKENNAR, POLMONT, within the Court-Room, Falkirk, on THURSDAY the 26th instant.

1847

Caledonian Mercury Monday 11th January, Aberdeen Journal Wednesday 13th January, Stirling Observer 14th January 1847

BIRTHS.

At Muiravonside Manse, on the 7th instant, Mrs. McFARLANE, of a daughter.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 15th February 1847

Private Correspondence

LINLITHGOW.-On Saturday last, one of the keenest and best contested games at curling that has taken place this season, came off at Bathgate, between 24 curlers from each parish, and comprising six rinks. At the close of the game, the numbers were Linlithgow, 138-Bathgate, 135-majority, three shots the curlers of Linlithgow seem to be quickly regaining their long lost preeminence amongst the curlers of Scotland, having, on Tuesday last, beat the far-famed curlers of Muiravonside, in Linlithgow Loch, by a majority of 26 shots! There being 20 players on each side - and having won several other matches this season.

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th March 1847

STIRLING AND CLACKMANNAN.

ASSESSED TAXES. - 1846-7.

THE COMMISSIONERS have fixed the following days for hearing APPEALS against the ASSESSMENT for the Year ending 25th May, 1847. Parties aggrieved must lodge Appeals, in writing, with Mr. CAMPBELL, Surveyor, Port Street, Stirling, at least eight days before the respective Courts, and must appear personally, on the undermentioned days in support of the same, otherwise they will be held as departed from: -

For DISTRICT of FALKIRK, Comprehending Parishes of Falkirk, Polmont, Muiravonside, Slamannan, Airth, Bothkennar, and Larbert - In the CROWN INN, FALKIRK, on TUESDAY the 30th March current, at Twelve o' Clock Noon.

Stirling Observer 25th March 1847

FOR SALE, A PROPERTY,

Consisting of about 4 1/2 imperial acres of Arable Land, with DWELLING-HOUSE, BARN, and BYRE, situated at Maddiston, in the Parish of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, presently occupied by Mr. William Robertson, one mile from Polmont Station on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, affording a Vote for the County. The public burdens are trifling. For particulars apply, to J. H. Brown, 6, Hanover Street, Edinburgh; or to James Lowrie, Bankhead, Dalkeith, by whom offers will be received until the 15th April next.

Stirling Observer Thursday 1st April 1847

PROPERTY AND INCOME TAX.

COUNTIES OF STIRLING, CLACKMANNAN, AND LINLITHGOW.

NOTICE is Hereby Given to all Persons Assessed under the Property and Income Tax Act, that the Tax for the year to 5th April, 1847, became due upon the 20th instant, and as peremptory instructions have been received to make an early collection for the current year, all parties liable are hereby required to make payment without delay. For the greater convenience of the public, the Collector will attend personally to receive payment at the places

and at the times undermentioned, and it is particularly requested that parties will avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them of making payment in their respective districts :-

At Polmont, within Walker's Inn, upon Saturday the 24th April, from 10 to 1 o'Clock, for the Parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside.

ROB. CAMPBELL, Jun., Collector.

OFFICE OF STAMPS AND TAXES Stirling, 25th March, 1847.

Stirling Observer 15th , 22nd & 29th April 1847

There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the House of Mr. Thomas Gaff, Innkeeper, Falkirk, on THURSDAY the 20th day of May next, at Two o'clock Afternoon, ALL and WHOLE that ANGLE of GROUND of TARDUFF MUIR, bounded by a part of said Muir on the West, by the road leading to Linlithgow Bridge on the South, and by another road on the East and North parts, as particularly mentioned in the Titles thereof, together with the DWELLING-HOUSES and BUILDINGS thereon. The above subjects, the present tenants of which are Messrs Alexander Rintoul and John Duncan, are held upon a Lease for 999 years, and the Houses and Buildings are new, let readily, and commands good tenants. The gross rental for the ensuing year is fixed at £11 9s. The vacant Ground might be most advantageously built on. For particulars apply to Adam Smith or Alexander Smith, Writers, Falkirk, either of whom will exhibit the Titles and Articles of Roup. Falkirk, 5th April, 1847.

Stirling Observer June 17th 1847

THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW.

The stock which appeared at this show on Thursday the 3d current was quite equal to that of former years; and as the day was singularly fine, there was a good attendance of farmers and others interested in the promotion of farm industry. The following is a list of the premiums awarded :- AYRSHIRE BREED. For the best Cow, bought or bred, by Mr. Henry Reid, Hainingvalley, a silver medal, value 3 sovs., and 1 sov., in addition by Mr. Oswald, Gilston - Mr. Reid, Haining valley;

For the second best do., 1 sov., by Henry Aitken, Esq., writer, and 10s. from the Society - Mr. Reid.

For the best two cows out of one byre, 2 sovs., given by Joseph Dawson, Esq., Carron Works - William Forbes, Esq. of Callander, MP;

For the second best do., 1 sov. by Mr. Hamilton, landsteward, Callendar, and 10s. added by the Society - Mr. Reid, Hainingvalley.

For the best cow bred, 2 sovs., by Andrew Milne, Esq. of Haypark Mr. Rennie, Craighurn;

For the second best do., by Mr. Rennie, Craighurn, 1 sov. - Mr. Rennie.

For the best pair of Cows bred, 2 sovs. by Mr. Reid, Hainingvalley - Mr. Robertson, Myrehead;

For the second best do., 1 sov. by Robt. Adam, Esq., banker, Falkirk - Mr. Taylor, Broomage Mains.

For the best Cow, bought or bred, with her last year's Calf, by Henry Salmon, Esq. of Bonnyside, 2 sovs., and 1 sov. from William M'Kenzie Learmonth, Esq. of Craighend - Mr. Reid; For the second best do., by Mr. Rennie, Craighurn, 1 sov., and 10s. by the Society - Mr. Rennie.

For the best three-year-old Quey, bought or bred, by Mr. Rennie, Craighurn, 2 sovs. Mr. Reid;

For the second best do., by Wm. Callander, Esq. of Woodburn, 1 sov. - Mr. Stark, Wester Glen.

For the best two-year-old Quey in milk, bought or bred, by Graham Hardie, Esq., Falkirk Iron Works, 1 sov. - Mr. Robertson, Mvrthead ;

For the second best do., by Mr. John Jones, Falkirk 10s. - Mr. Reid.

For the best two-year-old Quey in calf, by Mr. Jas. Hardie, Laurieston, 1 sov., and 5s. by John Urquhart, Esq. of Vellore. - Mr. Hardie, Laurieston;

For the second best do., by Mr. John Urquhart, 15s. - Mr. Reid.

For the best two-year-old Quey, not in calf, by John Gardner, Esq. of Milnquarter, 1 sov. - Mr. Rennie; For the second best do., by Mr. Morton, Laurieston, 10s., and 2s. 6d. from the Society- Mr. Hardie;

For the third best do., by Mr. Morrison, Grangemouth, 10s. - Wm. C. L. M'Kenzie, Esq. of Craighend.

For the best Bull of any age, not exceeding 5 years old, by John Wilson, Esq. Bantaskine, 2 sovs., and a silver medal by Mr. Stark, Camelon, value 2 sovs., also a sovereign from the Society - Mr. Reid;

For the second best do., by Alexr. M'Farlane, Esq. of Thornhill, 1 sov., and 2 sovs. added by the Society - Mr. Taylor, Broomage Mains.

For the best two-year-old Bull, by Wm. Callander, Esq. of Woodburn, 1 sov., a silver medal, value 1 sov. by the Secretary, and 1 sov. in addition by the Society - Mr. Reid;

For the second best do., by the Secretary, a silver medal, value 1 sov. - James Clark, Esq. of Newlands; For the third best do., by Mr. Arthur, Pirleyhill, 10s. 6d. - Mr. Ronald, Cauldhame.

For the best one-year-old Bull, by Geo. Gray, Esq. of Windyett, 1 sov. Mr. Rennie;

For the second best do., by Mr. David Smith, innkeeper, Falkirk, 10s. - Mr. Reid.

For the best one-year-old Quey, by Mr. Rennie, Craighurn, 1 sov. - Mr. Robertson, Myrehead;

For the second best do., by Mr. Smith, innkeeper, Falkirk, 10s. - Mr. Robertson;

For the third best do., by Mr. Guy, farmer, Polmont-hill, 5s. - Mr. Rennie.

For the best pair of year-old Queys, by Jas. Russell, Esq., Clydesdale Bank, 1 sov. - Mr. Robertson;

For the second best do., by Mr. Alexander Nimmo, Whiterigg, 10s. - Mr. Stark, Wester Glen. Competed for by Tenants whose Rent does not exceed £100.

For the best Cow, bought or bred, by Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside, 2 sovs. - Mr. Arthur, Pirleyhill;

For the second best do., 10s. from Mr. Fulton of Sunnyside, and 10s. from Mr. Menzies - Miss Anne Taylor, Manuelburn Bridge.

For the best Cow bred, by Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside, 1 sov. - Mr. Taylor, Barleside;

For the second best do., by William Gray, Esq. of Summerhouse, 10s. - Mr. Taylor, Barleside.

For the best two-year-old Quey in milk, by the Society, 1 sov. - Mr. Stark, Wester Glen;

For the second best do., by Alexander Smith, Esq., writer, Falkirk, 10s. - Mr. Jarvie, Greencraig.

For the best two-year-old Quey in calf, by Mr. William Nelson Greenwells, 10s. - Mr. Arthur, Pirleyhill;

For the second best do., by Mr. Herriot, V.S., Falkirk, 5s. Mr. Taylor, Barleside.

For the best two-year-old Quey, not in calf, by Geo. Law, Esq., factor, Kerse, 1 sov. - Mr. Arthur;

For the second best do., by A. Smith, Esq., writer, 10s. - Mr. Taylor, Barleside.

For the best one-year-old Quey, by Mr. John Stark, Wester Glen, 12s. 6d. - Do.do.;

For the second best do 7s 6d Mr. Stark.

BUTTER.

For the best 3 lbs. of Fresh Butter, produced in the district, and made up in half-pound rolls, by Bailie Kier, grocer, Falkirk, a gold ring, value 1 sov. - Mr. Stark, Wester Glen ;

For the second best do., by Mr. Henry Weir, cooper, Falkirk, a Lady's Work Box, value 15s. - Mr. Reid;

For the third best do., by Mr. Andrew Taylor, Broomage Mains, 10s. - Jas. Clark, Esq. of Newlands-

For the fourth best do., by the Society, 7s. Gd. - Mr. Guy Polmonthill.

For the best lot of Powdered Butter, produced in the district, the quantity to be not less than 6 lbs., by Mr. Thos. Miller grocer Falkirk, a handsome Silver-mounted Tea-pot, Sugar-bowl, and Cream-pot, value 27s. 6d. - Mr. Gays ;

For the second best do., by Mr. Burns, cooper 10s., and 5s. from the Society - Thomas C.

Burns, Esq. of Avondale ;
For the third best do., by the Society 10s. - Mr. Rennie, Craighburn ;
For the fourth best do., by the Society, 7s. 6d. - Mr. Taylor, Barleyside. Draught Horses.
For the best Brood Mare for agricultural purposes, foaled, or in foal, by Wm. Callander, Esq. of Woodburn, 2 sovs. - Mr. Bowie, Gilmeadowland;
For the second best do, by Dr. Walker of Polmont Bank, 1 sov. Mr. Dobbie, Seamores;
For the third best do., by Mr. John Learmonth, Carmuir, 10s. - Mr. Rennie.
For the best Blood Mare for agricultural purposes, not in foal, by Mr. John Wilson, Jinkabout, 1 sov., also by James Aitken, Esq. of Gartcows, 1 sov. - Mr. Arthur. Pirleyhill;
For the second best do., by Wm. Callander, Esq. of Woodburn, 1 sov. - Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout;
For the third best do., by Mr. Arthur, Pirleyhill, 10s. Mr. Wilson.
For the best two-year-old Filly, by Mr. Alexander Thomson, Newton Mains, 1 sov. - Wm. Forbes, Esq. Callendar, M.P. ;
For the second best do., by Mr. Maxwell Irvine, 10s. - Mr. Bowie, Gilmeadowland.
For the best year-old Filly, by James Nelson, Esq., auctioneer, Falkirk, a silver medal, value 21s. - Mr. Learmonth, Carmuir;
For the second best do., by Mr. Robert Mitchell, Redding, 10s. - Mr. Stark, Camelon, -
For the best year-old Colt, by Mr. Dobbie of Seamores, 1 sov. - Mr Dobbie;
For the second best do., by Mr. R. Robertson, Myrehead, 10s. 6d. - Mr. Robertson.
For the best Foal, 1 sov., from Mr. Bowie, Gilmeadowland - Mr. Bowie.
A Sweepstakes took place between Mr. Reid and Mr. Rennie, for the best three-year-old Queys and three-year-old Bulls, gained by Mr. Rennie.
The judges were Messrs Baird, Lochwood; Young, Harvieswood; and Anderson, Smithston.
After the show, the usual dinner took place in the Red Lion Inn - Chas. Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside in the chair; Bailie Kier acting as croupier.

Stirling Observer Thursday 19th August 1847

INTIMATION.

IN an Application presented to the Commissary of Stirlingshire for Ann Miller, residing in Bainsford; Mary Miller, Wife of Hugh Caldwell, Miner, Carronshore ; and the said Hugh Caldwell, her Husband, for his interest; Janet Miller, Wife of Alexander Murdoch, Collier at New Cairnbro; and the said Alexander Murdoch, her Husband, for his interest; Ann Mitchell, Wife of James Crauford, Mason in Lauricston; and the said James Crauford, her Husband, for his interest; MARGARET GRINDLAY, Wife of James Offingham, Printer in Edinburgh ; and the said James Offingham, her Husband, for his interest; Jean Grindlay, residing in Dean Street, Edinburgh, Widow of the deceased James Horn, Mason there; and James Grindlay, Currier, lately residing at Otley, near Leeds, in Yorkshire, now residing in Linlithgow - craving his Lordship to restrict the Caution to be found in a Confirmation to be expedie by them as Executors dative qua nearest in kin to the deceased Miss BETHIA DICK, of Campston, in the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling, who died on or about the twentysixth day of April last, to the sum of Fifty Pounds Sterling : - the Commissary, by interlocutor, dated 11th August, 1847, appointed the Petitioners to intimate by Advertisement in the Stirling Journal, and Stirling Observer, and North British Advertiser, the import of the prayer of the Petition, that all interested might be cerciorated of the application ; and ordained any persons having objections to the prayer of the Petition being granted to lodge the same with the Clerk of Court within ten days from the date of the Advertisements, with certification: of all which intimation is hereby given accordingly.
LISTON & SALMON, Petitioners' Agents.
Falkirk, 12th August, 1847.

Stirling Observer 9th September 1847

On Saturday last, two boys met with a sudden and melancholy death at Blackbraes Colliery, owing to the wagons, which run on an inclined plane, coming in contact with them. A third was severely bruised, but he is recovering.

Glasgow Herald Friday 8th October 1847

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.

(From the Edinburgh Gazette of Tuesday, October 5th)

Oct. 2. JOHN WHYTOC, proprietor of Thatchridge, in the parish of Muiravonside; and county of Stirling, and coal dealer, residing there. Creditors to meet within the writing-chambers of Messrs. Liston and Salmon, writers in Falkirk, 13th October and 3d November, at twelve o'clock.

Perry's Bankrupt Gazette Saturday 9th October 1847

SEQUESTRATIONS IN SCOTLAND.

WHYTOCK John, coal dealer, Muiravonside; 13th Oct 3d Nov. twelve, chambers of Liston and co. Falkirk. Claims to be lodged by April.

London Standard Saturday 9th October 1847

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

John Whytock, of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, coal dealer, Oct. 13, Nov. .T, at 11 o'clock, at the chambers of Messrs. Liston and Salmon, Falkirk.

Fife Herald 14th October 1847

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS

SEQUESTRATIONS

John Finnie and Company, steel manufacturers at Avon Steel Works, parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling. The Company carrying on business as merchants in Glasgow, under the firm of Ewing, Smith, and Aird, and in Calcutta under the firm of Smith, Ewing, and Company.

Perry's Bankrupt Gazette Saturday 16th October, 11th December, Hull Packet, Friday

22nd October

Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury , Sheffield Independent Saturday 23rd October 1847

Meetings under Sequestrations in Scotland.

WEDNESDAY, the 20th of OCTOBER

1847 Finnie and co. steel manufacturers, Muiravonside Ch. interim fctr. Red Lion, Falkirk

Leeds Intelligencer Saturday 16th October 1847

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. Whytock, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, coal dealer, Oct. 13, Nov. 3, at 12, at the chambers of Messrs Liston and Salmon, Falkirk.

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper Sunday 17th October, Perry's Bankrupt Gazette Saturday

30th October, 6th , 20th November 1847

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. Whytock, coal dealer, Muiravonside, Stirling, to meet Oct. 13 and Nov. 3, within the chambers of Messrs Liston and Salmon, Falkirk, at twelve.

Stirling Observer 21st October 1847

Marriage.

At Bowhouse, Stirlingshire, on the 15th instant, by the Rev. J. Ker, of Polmont, John Grubb Urquhart Esq., younger of Vellore, to Jessie, youngest daughter of Alex. Kincaid, Esq. of Bowhouse.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 25th October; Fife Herald Thursday 28th October, 1847
At Edinburgh, on the 19th current, the Rev. A. DODDS, of Avonbridge, to ELIZABETH WAUGH, daughter of the late George Anderson, Esq. of her Majesty's Customs, Greenock.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 25th October; Northampton Mercury Saturday 30th October 1847

On the 21st instant, at Parkhall House, by the Rev. James M'Farlane, of Muiravonside, George Adam, Esq., late of Bombay, to Miss Colville Livingston Learmouth, of Parkhall, sister of the late John Livingston Learmouth, Esq., of Parkhall, Stirlingshire, and formerly of Calcutta.

Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser Tuesday 9th November, London Daily News Wednesday 10th November, Aberdeen Journal Wednesday 17th November 1847
SUPPOSED MURDER.

On Tuesday morning last, the body of a woman was found in the Union Canal, near Causewayend, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, and the circumstances under which it was discovered readily induced strong presumptions that the deceased had met her death by unfair means; but the perpetrators of the malevolent act, it is feared, will never be brought to the bar of justice, in consequence of the absence of all clue to circumstantial or presumptive evidence in the case. The body appeared to have been from ten to twenty days in the water, and bore marks of numerous stabs or cuts with a sharp weapon. She was found almost naked, but the vestiges of her attire which remained were of the most threadbare description, and seemed to mark her out as a pauper or vagrant. Her age was from about forty-eight to fifty-five; she was rather stout-made, and above the ordinary size. She cannot be recognised by any persons in the immediate district; it is therefore probable she was a stranger, or that the murder had been committed somewhere between Edinburgh and Falkirk, and the corpse conveyed by a coal boat or lighter and thrown into the Canal near the place where she was discovered.

1848

Falkirk Herald 10th February 1848

THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

Patron. WM. FORBES, Esq. of Callander, M.P.

President. The Right Hon. the EARL of ZETLAND.

Vice-Presidents. Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside. Henry Salmon, Esq. of Bonnyside. Joseph Dawson, Esq., Carron. Andrew Milne, Esq. of Haypark.

Committee. Dr Walker of Polmont Bank. J. B. Ralston, Esq. of Glen James Aitken, Esq. of Gartcows. Ellrig. Mr Stark, Camelon. Mr Reid, Haining Valley. Mr Robertson, Myrehead. Mr Wilson, Nicolton. Mr Dobbie, Seamores. Mr Johnston, Beancross. Mr Hardie, Laurieston. Mr Arthur, Pirleyhill. Mr Walker, Jaw. Mr Morrison, Mungalhead.

THE promoters of this Association beg to submit to the favourable consideration of the public, the peculiarly strong claims they have upon the Inhabitants of the Eastern District of the County, and of the County generally, for support and co-operation. The great, indeed it may be said the sole object of this Association, which has now been in existence for a number of years, is to promote the interests of Agriculture, by exciting amongst the practical Farmers and Graziers in the district a spirit of friendly and wholesome emulation; and although, unfortunately, the sphere of its operations has not been so wide and comprehensive as might have been desired, yet even in its comparatively circumscribed state, it has, to a great extent, realised the hopes and fulfilled the expectations of its originators, - - and it is believed that many of the improvements introduced of late years into this neighbourhood, in the cultivation of the ground as well as in the rearing and feeding of cattle, may be justly attributed to the stimulus the Association has afforded, and the spirit of competition it has created amongst the Agriculturists in the district. The funds subscribed are distributed yearly at stated times in the shape of Prizes, amongst those Competitors who exhibit the greatest skill, and attain to the greatest excellence, in the various branches of Practical Agriculture; and there can be no doubt that this system of awarding Premiums acts as an incentive to practical men to use extra exertions in the management of their Farms and Stock, and is thus productive of real and permanent benefit to the Competitors, - - to those parties for whose behoof the Society was originally constituted and is now maintained. It is a matter of regret that the efforts of the promoters of this Association, although so far successful, have not met with such cordial support as might have been expected, considering the disinterested and public-spirited objects they have in view: and as this is an Association designed to advance the public good, and capable of conferring benefits not only upon Farmers and Graziers, but likewise upon Proprietors and the community at large, it is hoped that it may, for the future, receive an enlarged degree of countenance, and be enabled to rank amongst its supporters the names of men of all grades and professions. The promoters of the Society earnestly trust that renewed exertions will be made to increase its efficiency, by increased subscriptions, and that all parties will join in a liberal and hearty desire to maintain and extend its usefulness. It is meant and desired that the Association should be of advantage to all classes of Agriculturists. It has always been kept scrupulously free from individual and party influences, and the present Directors will, to the best of their ability, conduct its affairs with the strictest impartiality, and with an eye only to the advancement of its true and legitimate purposes trusting that it will, for the future, enjoy the benefit of the zealous cooperation of all classes who wish well to Agriculture in our district.

The promoters of the Association regret to have to say that, for the past, their exertions have been much narrowed by the smallness of the funds placed at their disposal; and it is only by a more extensive support that they can expect, for the future, to render the Association more effective. It should be kept in view that in general the subscriptions of individual members have been of small amount, and it is therefore only by a large body of subscribers coming forward that sufficient funds for the carrying out of the objects of the Association can be procured; and whilst it is earnestly hoped that the Association may derive and encouragement from all classes, it must not be forgotten that it is chiefly by the vigorous and cordial support of Practical Agriculturists themselves who are the parties most interested in its success and prosperity that it can be maintained and strengthened. The Subscription - book will be found with GEO. M. SALMON, Esq., Writer, Falkirk the Treasurer of the Association, who will be glad to enter the Names of the Subscribers, to receive their Subscriptions and to afford all information required.

Falkirk, 1st February, 1848

Glasgow Herald Monday 6th, 13th, 17th, 20th, 24th, 27 & 31st March, 3rd, 7th, 10th April 1848

Advertisements & Notices

LANDS AND MINERALS IN STIRLINGSHIRE FOR SALE

To be Sold by Public Roup, within the Zetland Arms Inn, Falkirk, kept by Mr. Wallace, on Thursday the 13th day of April next, at One o'clock P.M., in virtue of the Powers of Sale contained in a Bond and Disposition in Security, ALL, and WHOLE that just and equal part and portion of the Commonry and Common Muir of MUIRAVONSIDE, effering and corresponding to the Lands of Crownland, conform to the valuation thereof, being valued at the sum of Seventy- six Pounds, Fifteen Shillings and Foarpence Scots, called THATCHRIDGE, and Houses, Biggings, Yards, Parts, Pencilles, and Pertinents of the same whatsoever, consisting of Twenty- Two Acres of Arable Land and Six Acres of Moss, in the

Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, all as bounded and described in the Title Deeds thereof. The Lands are productive and pleasantly situated, and the Coals therein have been recently partially wrought, and, besides being of excellent quality command a ready market in Linlithgow, &c. &c., and the most ready means of conveyance thereof to Edinburgh and other places, by both Railway and Canal.
For further particulars, application may be made to Adam & Alexander Smith, writers, Falkirk, in whose hands may be seen the Titles of the Property and Articles of Roup.
Falkirk, 26th February, 1848.

Falkirk Herald 11th May 1848

BLACKBRAES COALS.

THE BLACKBRAES DIAMOND, SPLTNT, and COXROD COALS may now be had at the Falkirk Station of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, at the following reduced prices, viz.: -
Per Cart of 14 Cwt.

Per Ton.	
Diamond Coal, of very superior quality,	5s. 7d
8s. Od. ,	
Do. delivered in Falkirk and Grahamston,	6s.
7d	9s. Od.
Splint and Coxrod Coal,	5s. 3d
7s. 6d.	
Do. delivered in Falkirk and Grahamston,	6s. 3d
8s. 6d.	
Dross, very clean and good,	3s. Od.
Do. delivered in Falkirk and Grahamston,	4s. Od.

The Diamond Coal is a splendid Coal for room fires, where cleanliness, durability, and great heat are wished; and, for the same reasons, it is admirably adapted for bakers' ovens, Orders for these Coals, given to any of the town's carters, or left with Mrs. Maxwell, King's Court, or sent to the Coal Grieve at the Station, will meet with immediate attention.
Tickets of weight and price always given along with the Coals.

Falkirk Herald Thursday June 8th 1848

BLACKBRAES COALS.

THE BLACKBRAES DIAMOND, SPLTNT, and COXROD COALS may now be had at the Falkirk Station of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, at the following reduced prices, viz.: -
Per Cart of 14 Cwt.

Per Ton.	
Diamond Coal, of very superior quality,	5s. 7d
8s. Od. ,	
Do. delivered in Falkirk and Grahamston,	6s. 7d
9s. Od.	
Splint and Coxrod Coal,	5s. 3d
7s. 6d.	
Do. delivered in Falkirk and Grahamston,	6s. 3d
8s. 6d.	
Dross, very clean and good,	3s. Od.
Do. delivered in Falkirk and Grahamston,	4s. Od.

The Diamond Coal is a splendid Coal for room fires, where cleanliness, durability, and great heat are wished; and, for the same reasons, it is admirably adapted for bakers' ovens, Orders for these Coals, given to any of the town's carters, or left with Mrs. Maxwell, King's Court, or sent to the Coal Grieve at the Station, will meet with immediate attention.
Tickets of weight and price always given along with the Coals.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th June 1848

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW.

The annual competition of Live Stock and Butter took place at Falkirk, on the 1st curt. There was a good display of the celebrated Ayrshire stock. The judges - Mr. M'Kain, Lumloch; Mr. Thomas Bowman, Hallhill; and Mr Hay, Inchterf after mature deliberation, awarded the prizes as follow :-

For the best Cow, bought or bred - 1st, Mr. Forbes of Calendar; 2d, Mr Forbes.
For the best two Cows, out of one byre - 1st, Mr. Reid, Haming Valley; 2nd, Mr. Taylor, Broomage Mains. For the best Cow, bred-1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Robertson, Myrehead.
For the best two Cows, bred-1st, Mr. William Neilson, Greenwell; 2nd, Mr J. Stark, Wester Glen.
For the best Cow, bought or bred, with her last year's Calf - 1st, Mr Reid; 2nd, Mr. Rennie, Craighburn.
For the best three-year-old Quey, bought or bred - 1st, Mr. Rennie; 2nd, Mr. Robertson.
For the best two-year-old Quey in milk, bought or bred - 1st, Mr. Rennie; 2nd, Mr. J. Stark.
For the best two-year-old Quey in calf - 1st, Mr. Robertson; 2nd, Mr. Dobbie of Seamores.
For the best two-year-old Quey not in calf - 1st, Mr. Robertson; 2nd, Mr. Robertson; 3rd, Mr. Learmonth, Carmuir's.
For the best Bull of any age not exceeding five years 1st, Mr. James Jarvie, Greencraig; 2nd, Mr Reid.
For the best two-year-old Bull - 1st, Mr W. Neilson; 2nd, Mr. Bowie, Gilmeadowland; 3rd, Mr. Rennie. For the best one-year-old Bull - 1st, Mr Forbes; 2nd, Mr. Rennie.
For the best one-year-old Quey - 1st, Mr. J. Stark; 2nd, Mr. J. Stark; 3rd, Mr. Robertson.
For the best two year-old Quey - 1st, Mr. Rennie; 2nd, Mr. Forbes; 3rd, Mr. J. Stark.
Premiums competed for by Tenants whose rent does not exceed £100.
For the best Cow, bought or bred - 1st, Mr. Arthur, Pirleyhill; 2nd, Mr. Arthur.
For the best Cow, bred-1st, Mr. Taylor, Barleyside; 2nd, Mr. Arthur.
For the best two-year-old Quey in milk - 1st, Mr. J. Stark. For the best two-year-old Quey in calf - 1st, Mr. J. Jarvie; 2nd, Mr. W. Neilson.
For the best two-year-old Quey not in calf - 1st, Mr. J. Stark; 2nd, Mr. Arthur.
For the best one-year-old Quey - 1st, Mr. W. Wilson, North Broomage; 2nd, Mr. Allan, Tamfourhill.
For the best 3 lbs. Fresh Butter - 1st, Mr. J. Stark ; 2nd, Mr. Arthur; 3rd, Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside; 4th, Mr Reid.
For the best lot of Powdered Butter - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Arthur; 3rd, Mr. J. Stark; 4th, Mr. W. Neilson.
For the best Mare for agricultural purposes, foaled or in foal 1st, Mr. Forbes; 2nd, Mr. Rennie; 3rd, Mr. Learmonth.
For the best Mare for agricultural purposes, not in foal - 1st, Mr. Wilson, Nicolton; 2nd, Mr. Stark, Camelon; 3rd, Mr. Wilson.
For the best two-year-old Filly - 1st, Mr. Bowie; 2nd, Mr. Smith, Lochlands.
For the best year-old Filly - 1st, Mr. Bowie. For the best year-old Colt - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Taylor.
For the best Foal - 1st, Mr. Rennie,
For the best yearling Colt, for road or Field 1st, Mr. Robertson; 2nd, Mr. Gardner of Millquarter.
After the competition, a number of the members of the Association, along with the judges, repaired to the Zetland Arms Inn, where an excellent dinner awaited them. Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside, ably discharged the duties of the chair. In the course of the evening, the Chairman announced that Mr. Forbes would give his usual donation of 20 sovereigns for next

year's show. Henry Salmon, Esq. of Bonnyside, acted as croupier.

Falkirk Herald June 8th 1848

TO MILL-WRIGHTS AND OTHERS.

WANTED, a THRASHING-MILL, of from 3 to 4 Horse Power. Parties having such to dispose of may hear of a purchaser by applying, by letter (post-paid), stating lowest price, to J. G. U., Vellore, by Linlithgow. June 7th, 1848.

Caledonian Mercury -Thursday 10th August, Perry's Bankrupt Gazette, London Standard, Saturday 12th August, 2nd September 1848

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

WADDELL James, farmer, grazier, and cattle dealer, Waulkmilton Parish, Muiravonside; 18th Aug. 8th Sept. one, Red Lion inn Falkirk. Claims by Feb. 8.

Falkirk Herald 9th November 1848

[To-morrow]

SALE of DRAUGHT HORSES, MILCH COWS, CATTLE, SIXTEEN ACRES OF TURNIPS, POTATOES, FARM STOCKING, THRASHING MILL, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c. At Waulkmilton, on Friday the 10th November. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 10th day of November, 1848, on the Farm of Waulkmilton, about 2 miles West of Linlithgow, possessed by Mr. James Waddell, The whole of the excellent Farm Stocking, Draught Horses, Milch Cows, Cattle, Turnips, Potatoes, Household Furniture, &c. on the above Farm, and which comprises
16 Acres of Turnips,
35 Bolls of Potatoes,
3 Draught Mares,
4 Six-quarter-old Queys,
2 Stots and a Bull,
1 Hay Waggon,
4 Close-bodied Carts, with Wheels and Axles,
2 Iron Ploughs,
A Thrashing Machine,
1 Pair of Hand Fanners,
1 Turnip Sowing Machine,

with the whole of the other Agricultural Implements and Utensils, Dairy Dishes, &c. &c.; also, the Household Furniture and Plenishing, - all of which will be Sold without any Reserve whatever, and Three Months' Credit given on Bills, or Discount for Cash.

Roup to begin at 11 o'clock forenoon exactly.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 9th November 1848

EXTENSIVE SALE OF LARCH, SPRUCE, AND SCOTS FIR WOOD, On the Estate of Muiravonside, On Saturday the 1&th November. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 18th day of November, 1848, on the Estate of Muiravonside, belonging to Charles Stirling, Esquire, THREE LARGE PLANTATIONS of excellent FIR WOOD, which comprises Two Plantations at Drumbowie, containing upwards of Six Scots Acres of Growing LARCH, SPRUCE, and SCOTS FIR, averaging from 3 to 9 inches through, and numbering many thousand Trees. The above to be Sold in Two Lots. Likewise, at the same time will be Sold, at Castlehill, East of Drumbowie, on the same Estate, in Lots to suit purchasers, about TWELVE HUNDRED very fine heavy LARCH, SPRUCE, and SCOTS FIR TREES, averaging from 10 to 15 inches through, and which are remarkably hard grown, and cannot fail to give the utmost satisfaction to Purchasers. The usual Credit to be given on Bills, or Discount for Cash. Roup to begin with the two Plantations of Small Wood at Drumbowie, at 11 o'clock forenoon exactly, and to be continued with the Heavy Wood at the West end of Castlehill. The Lots may be seen any day previous to the Sale, by applying to James Bartholomew, at Muiravonside Tile-work. The Slamannan Railway and Union Canal pass through Muiravonside Estate, three miles West of Linlithgow and four miles South-east of Falkirk, and near to the Wood. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Glasgow Herald Monday 27th November 1848

A TEACHER WANTED, for the SUBSCRIPTION SCH00L. at Avonbridge. who can Teach the statutory Branches of Education. Examination of candidates to takeplace in the School Room. on Friday 1st Decemberat 11o'clock Forenoon.-For further particuars app to Mr. James Barker or Parker? wood merchant, Avonbridge, by Airdrie. Avonbridge. 22nd Nov., 1848.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th December 1848

SA LE OF FAT CATTLE

At Muiravonside Offices, on Tuesday the 26th December.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 26th December, 1848, at Muiravonside Offices, 25 Very Fine Fat SHETLAND and LEWIS CATTLE, belonging to Charles Stirling, Esquire.

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock noon exactly.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

1849

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th March, Stirling Observer Thursday 8th March 1849

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHERE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION'S SHOW.

The Spring Show of this Association took place at Falkirk on Thursday the 1st current. The quantity of grain brought forward on this occasion was fully equal to former years. -

The following is a list of the premiums awarded: -

Seed Grain of Crop 1848, raised in the District.

For the best 4 qrs. of Barley, grown in the southern part of the district, 1 sovereign - Mr. Forbes of Callendar.

For the second best, 10s. - Mr. Gray of Windyyett.

For the best 4 qrs. of ditto, grown in the northern part of the district, 1 sovereign - Mr. Hardie, farmer, Bellsdyke.

For the second best, 10s. - Mr. Forbes.

For the best 4 qrs. of Short Oats, of the Potato or Flemish kind, grown in the southern part of the district, 1 sovereign - Mr. Forbes.

For the best 4 qrs of ditto, grown in the northern part of the district, 1 sovereign - Mr. Robertson, Myrehead.

For the second best, 10s. - Mr. Reid, Haining-valley.

For the best 4 qrs. of Long Oats, grown in the southern part of the district, 1 Sovereign - Mr. Forbes.

For the second best, 10s. - Mr. Rennie, Craighburn.

For the best 4 qrs. of ditto, grown in the northern part of the district, 1 sovereign - Mr. Forbes.

For the second best, 10s. Mr. Stark, Camelon.

For the best 4 qrs. of Beans, grown in the district, 1 sovereign - Mr. Johnston of Beancross.

For the best 2 qrs. of Perennial Ryegrass Seeds, grown in the southern part of the district, 10s. - Mr. Rennie. For the best 2 qrs. of ditto, grown in the northern part of the district, 10s. - Mr Stark.

FAT CATTLE.

For the best two Cattle, of weight, symmetry, and quality, for the flesher, 2 sovereigns - Mr.

Robertson. For the second best two ditto, 1 sovereign - Mr. Reid.

For the best one, 10s - Mr. Learmonth, Carmuir.

CHEESE.

For the best specimen of Full Milk Cheese, made by the Exhibitor within the district, in 1848, the quantity not being less than half a Cwt, 10s. - Mr Arthur, Pirleyhill.

For the second best ditto, provided the quantity shown be not less than a quarter Cwt. 5s. - Mr. Rennie. For the best specimen of Skimmed Milk ditto ditto, 10s. - M. Arthur.

For the second best ditto, 5s. - Mr. Rennie.

SALT BUTTER.

For the best Lot of Salt Butter, made by the Exhibitor within the district, 10s. - Mr. Rennie.

For the second best ditto, 5s. - Mr. Arthur.

After the Show, a number of the members of the Association dined in the Zetland Anns Inn, - Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside, in the chair; Henry Salmon, Esq. of Bonny-side, acted as croupier.

The judges were - Messrs Thomson, Inveravon; Hardie, Bo'ness Mains; and Shanks, Deans, Bathgate.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th March 1849

OUF OF GRASS PARKS ON THE ESTATE OF MUIRAVONSIDE.

On Tuesday the 20th March. To be Let by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 20th March curt., THE GRASS PARKS on the Estate of Muiravonside, for Feeding and Grazing Cattle and Sheep, &c, comprising in all about 200 Acres of Old PASTURE GRASS, on the Lands of Wester Bowhouse and Drumbowie.

Credit till Martinmas on Bills.

Roup to begin at Wester Bowhouse, at Twelve o'clock noon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

1st March, 1849.

Stirling Observer Thursday 15th March 1849

PROPERTY AND INCOME TAX.

COUNTIES OF STIRLING, CLACKMANNAN, AND LINLITHGOW.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all Persons Assessed under the PROPERTY and INCOME TAX ACTS, that the Tax for the Year to 5th April, 1849, becomes due upon the 20th instant, and as peremptory instructions have been received to make an early collection for the current year, all parties liable are hereby required to make payment without the least delay. For the greater convenience of the public, the Collector will attend personally to receive payment, at the places and at the times Undermentioned; and it is particularly requested that parties will avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them of making payment in their respective Districts

At POLMONT, within Walker's Inn, upon SATURDAY the 31st day of March current, from 10 to half-past 12 o'Clock, for the parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside.

Stirling Observer Thursday 15th, 22nd, 29th March, 15th November 1849

ADJOURNED SALE OF LANDS AND MINERALS IN STIRLINGSHIRE,

At a Greatly Reduced Upset Price. To be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Zetland Arms Inn, Falkirk, kept by Mr. Wallace, on SATURDAY the 17th day of November next, at Twelve o'Clock Noon, in virtue of the Powers of Sale contained in a Bond and Disposition in Security, ALL and WHOLE that just and equal part and portion of the Commonly and Common Muir of Muiravonside, effeiring and corresponding to the Lands of Crownertland, conform to the valuation thereof, being valued at the Sum of Seventy-six Pounds Fifteen Shillings and Fourpence Scots, called THATCHRIDGE, and Houses, Biggings, Yards, Parts, Pencilles, and Pertinments of the same whatsoever, consisting, of Twenty-two Acres of ARABLE LAND and Six Acres of MOSS, - in the parish of Muiravonside and , county of Stirling, all as bounded and described in the Title deeds thereof. The Lands are productive and pleasantly situated, and the Coal therein has been recently partially wrought, and besides being of excellent quality, commands a ready market in Linlithgow, &c. &c, and the most ready means of conveyance thereof to Edinburgh and other places, by both Railway and Canal. For farther particulars, application may be made to Adam & Alexander Smith, Writers, Falkirk, in whose hands may be seen the Titles of the Property and Articles of Roup.

Falkirk, 18th October, 1849.

Stirling Observer - Thursday 22 March 1849

ASSESSED TAXES. -

COUNTY OF STIRLING, APPEAL COURTS.

THE COMMISSIONERS will meet at the places and days undermentioned, to hear and

determine all Appeals against the Assessment of the current year : -

FOR DISTRICT OF FALKIRK, Comprehending Parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Falkirk, Muiravonside, Larbert, Polmont, and Slamannan, in the Crown Inn, Falkirk, on THURSDAY the 5th April next, at Eleven o' Clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th April 1849

EXTENSIVE SALE OF ELM, ASH, OAK, PLANE, BEECH, AND FIR WOOD, ON THE ESTATE OF MUIRAVONSIDE,

On Saturday the, 28th April. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 28th day of April, 1849, on the Estate of Muiravonside, belonging to Charles Stirling, Esq., 2141 HARDWOOD TREES, consisting of Elm, Ash, Oak, Plane, and Beech, varying in size from 4 to 12 inches through.

Also, 340 heavy LARCH and SCOTS FIR TREES, averaging from 10 to 15 inches through.

The Hardwood comprises 72 lots, and the Firwood 36.

The whole to be Sold without Reserve.

Roup to begin at 12 o'clock noon precisely.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th April 1849

FALKIRK SCHOOLS -

The English and Grammar Schools of this parish were examined by a committee of the Presbytery of Linlithgow, on the 20th ult. The examiners were : - Rev. Messrs Davidson of Slamanan, Ker of Polmont, M'Farlane of Muiravonside, Begg of Falkirk, Playfair of Abercorn, Holdom of Redding, Dickson of Grangemouth, and Oswald of Camelon. We observed the following among other influential individuals of the town and neighbourhood present, viz.: T. C. Hagart, Esq. of Bantaskine; Sheriff Grant; Provost Adam of Springbank; Henry Salmon, Esq. of Bonny-side; Rev. Paul Maclauchlan; John Wilson, Esq., surgeon, R.N.; John R. Reid, Esq., surgeon, R.N.; James Rennie, Esq., Gowan Bank; James Russel junior, Esq., banker ; James Girdwood, Esq., surgeon; Henry Aitken, Esq., writer. In addition to the above, there was a large and respectable attendance of the parents of the children, and others, who seemed to take a lively interest in the proceedings. The examiners expressed themselves highly delighted with the proficiency of the pupils, and passed a well-merited eulogium on the abilities and success of the teachers (Messrs Middleton and Burns), who are so well entitled to the countenance and support of the community. It is creditable to our community, that the clergymen of the various denominations of professing Christians into which it is divided, should thus meet, extend to each other the right hand of fellowship, and take part in an object which ought to be one of common interest to all, namely, the education of the people. It is to

be regretted that the like liberality of feeling and enlightened views on this all-important subject do not more extensively prevail. Until the clergy of the innumerable sects which prevail throughout the country are brought to regard the school-room as a place in which all may meet, it is vain, we suspect, to look to any ministry for that greatest of all boons which any government could confer, a National Education.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th May 1849

TWENTY-SEVEN FAT CATTLE TO BE SOLD AT MUIRAYONSIDE BYRES,
On Tuesday the 22d May. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 22d May, 1849, at Muiravonside Byres, near Causewayend, belonging to C. Stirling, Esquire, 15 Prime Fat Heavy NORTH-COUNTRY STOTS, and 12 Prime Fat FOUR-YEAR-OLD QUEYS. –
The Cattle are thoroughly fed, and of extra-fine quality.
The usual Keep will be given to the Cattle.
Roup to begin at 12 o'clock noon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th May 1849

Accident to Mr Forbes, M.P. –
Mr. Forbes of Callendar, the respected member for the county, met with an accident on the 13th ultimo, whilst riding quietly along the turnpike road near to Avonbridge. His horse stumbled, and came down, falling upon its rider's leg, which was broken. He has since been confined; but the limb, we are glad to say, has been mending satisfactorily, and Mr. Forbes will shortly, it is to be hoped, be able to move about again. This accident, to a gentleman so widely known and so much respected, excited a sensation in the district, and his recovery from it is regarded as a public blessing.

Fatal Accident-

Upon Monday last, a man of the name of David Sharp, employed upon the inclined plane of Causewayend, on the Slamannan Railway, was bruised between some waggons which came in contact with each other, and died within a few hours after the accident. No blame is attachable to the company, or, we believe, to any of their officials.

Murder. –

The poor woman, Euphemia Bourhill, whose body was found in the Canal in October 1847, was lately exhumed for the purpose of recognition, in consequence of information given by a boy, implicating three boatmen upon the Union Canal. These men have been apprehended, and a thoroughly minute investigation is in progress of being made; but it is questionable whether the statement of the boy will be corroborated or strengthened. The men are still in custody; and if the statement of the boy turns out to be a fabrication, he ought to be visited almost with the punishment which he seeks to bring upon others.

Commissioners of Supply.-

We understand that this body, at a meeting lately held, have, resolved to station an additional policeman in the Falkirk District. This was much wanted, and is a step in the right direction.

Stirling Observer Thursday 10th May 1849

APPREHENSION OF SUPPOSED MURDERERS.

(From the Witness.)

On the 2d of November, 1847, as we intimated at the time, the body of a female, apparently about fifty years of age, was found in the Union Canal, near to Causeyend, parish of Muiravonside. The body, which appeared to have been from ten to twenty days in the water, was dreadfully disfigured by numerous stabs and cuts, evidently inflicted with a large knife, or some similar instrument, and the head was also severed from the neck. As it was evident that the woman's death was caused by violent means, the matter underwent judicial investigation at the time; in the course of which it was discovered that the deceased, whose name was Euphemia Bourhill, belonged to Edinburgh, and that she was in the habit of travelling up and down the country making a livelihood by selling gingerbread, apples, and pears, at fairs and similar places. It was also ascertained that she had been last seen alive about midnight, on the 10th October, on her way home from Calder Fair, which she had attended in the pursuit of her vocation, and two or three miles from the Union Canal. When last seen alive, she was fully dressed, and had about 20s. in her possession, the proceeds of the sale of her wares at the fair. When, however, her body was found in the Canal, she was almost in a state of nudity, and her clothes were found at some little distance in the water. They appeared to have been torn from her person, and used for the purpose of wiping the blood from the instrument with which her death was caused. A reward of £50 was offered at the time for the discovery of the murderer; and a man, who was also an itinerant vender of gingerbread, was apprehended on suspicion, the woman having been last seen in his company, at a distance of twelve or thirteen miles from the place where her body was found. It singularly enough happened that this individual had marks of blood on his coat and other parts of his clothing, and a severe wound on his eye, and that he was also on his way home from Calder Fair. Nothing, however, having transpired beyond these circumstances - all which might have occurred at the fair, where fights ure of no rare occurrence - he was liberated, and the matter has been enveloped in mystery ever since. About ten or twelve days ago, however, information was, we understand, communicated to the authorities, that a young lad, employed in driving the horses attached to the Canal boats, had a knowledge of the guilty parties, and of the circumstances connected with the perpetration of the murder. He was immediately brought before the authorities; and, in consequence of the information he gave, two boatmen employed at the Canal were apprehended on Friday week - one at Linlithgow, and the other at Ratho - on suspicion. Their names are James Turnbull and Mungo Duff. Another boatman of the name of James Gray, who was suffering imprisonment at the time of these disclosures for another offence, is also said to be implicated. We have also heard that Turnbull was at large upon bail for an assault when he was apprehended. It is almost unnecessary to say, that various rumours are afloat as to the manner and place in which the murder was committed. Among others, we have heard that it took place at Hermiston, in the parish of Currie, and that the body was then conveyed in one of the Canal boats to Causeyend. We have also heard it stated that the parties have been remitted for trial.

Falkirk Herald, Stirling Observer Thursday 14 June 1849

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION'S SHOW.
This show took place on Thursday the 7th inst., in a field near the Falkirk Station on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway. The exhibition excited more than usual interest in consequence of an open competition being allowed for the first time by the Association for a considerable portion of the premiums, - an arrangement which has given general satisfaction, and will, it is confidently expected, extend the usefulness of the Association by its continuance on future occasions. The weather was fine, and the number of visitors greater than on former years. The judges of the Cattle were Mr. Robertson, Haughs, Paisley; Mr. Rennie, Corrie, Kilsyth, and Mr. Murdoch, Cornton, Glasgow; and of the Dairy Produce, Mr. Rankine, Rosehill; Mr. John Wyse and Mr. Thomas Miller, Falkirk. The judges gave the greatest satisfaction to all parties, and awarded the prizes as follows: -

FIRST DIVISION. Confined to Members in the District.

For the best Cow, bought or bred - 1st, Mr. Rennie, Craigburn; 2nd, Mr. Reid, Haining-valley.

For the best Cow, with her last year's Calf, bought or bred 1st and 2nd, Mr. Rennie.

For the best Cow, bred in the district - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Taylor, Broomage Mains.

For the best pair of Cows, bred in the district - 1st, Mr. Taylor; 2nd, Mr. Reid.

For the best bred animal of the Cow kind, bred by the Exhibitor and never out of his

possession - 1st, Mr. Reid.
 For the best Three-year-old Quey, bred in the district 1st, Mr. Rennie: 2nd, Miss Ann Taylor, Manuelburn-bridge.
 For the best Two-year-old Quey, bred in the district, in milk, - 1st, Mr. Rennie; 2nd and 3rd, Mr. Reid.
 For the best One-year-old Quey, bred in the district - 1st, Mr. Taylor; 2nd, Mr. Reid; 3rd, Mr. Forbes, of Callander.
 For the best Bull, above two and under six years of age, bought or bred - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Rennie. For the best Two-year-old Bull - 1st, Mr. Rennie; 2nd, Mr. Robertson, Myrehead.
 For the best One-year-old Bull 1st, Mr. Forbes; 2nd, Mr. Rennie.
 For the best brood Mare, for Agricultural purposes, Foaled or in Foal - 1st, Mr. Robt. Bowie, Gilmeadowland 2nd, Mr. Robertson.
 For the best Two-year old Filly - 1st, Mr. Thos. Taylor, Barleyside; 2nd, Mr. Rennie.
 For the best One-year- old Filly - 1st, Mr. Forbes; 2nd, Mr. Bowie.
 For the best One-year-old Colt 1st, Mr. Rennie. For the best Foal - 1st, Mr. Bowie; 2nd, Mr. Forbes.
 For the best One-year-old Colt or Filly, for road or field - 1st, Mr. Robertson; 2nd, Mr. Reid. Completed for by Tenants under £100 Rent.
 For the best Cow, bought or bred - 1st, Mr. Rintoul, Laurieston ; 2nd, Miss Anne Taylor.
 For the best Three-year old Quey - 1st, Miss Anne Taylor; 2nd, Mr. Thos. Taylor.
 For the best Two-year-old Quey, in Milk or in Calf - 1st and 2nd, Mr. Stark, Wester Glen.
SECOND DIVISION.
 For the best 3 lbs. of Fresh Butter - 1st, Mr. Cuthel, Gilandersland; 2nd, Mr. Arthur, Pirleyhill; 3rd, Miss Anne Taylor; 4th, Mr. Binnie, Avonbank.
 For the best 3lbs. of Powdered Butter - 1st, Mr. Gay, Polmonthill; 2nd, Mr. Arthur; 3rd, Mr. Reid; 4th, Mr. W. Neilson, Greenwells. **THIRD DIVISION.** For open Competition. For the best Milch Cow - 1st, Mr. John Anderson, Smithston, Cumbernauld; Mr. Rennie.
 For the best Cow, bred by the Exhibitor - 1st, Mr. Rennie; 2nd, Mr. Taylor.
 For the best pair of Milch Cows - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. Rennie.
 For the best Three-year-old Quey, in Milk - 1st, Mr. Taylor; 2nd, Mr. Rennie.
 For the best Two-year-old Quey, in Milk - 1st, Mr. Rennie; 2nd, Mr. Reid.
 For the best pair of Two-year-old Queys - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. John Anderson.
 For the best One-year-old Quey, bred by the Exhibitor - 1st, Mr. Taylor, 2nd, Mr. Anderson; 3rd, Mr. Reid.
 For the best Bull, not exceeding Six years of Age - 1st, Mr. Alex. Muirhead, Willisfield by Denny ; 2nd, Mr. Reid.
 For the best Two-year-old Bull - 1st, Mr. Reid; 2nd, Mr. John Anderson.
 For the best One-year-old Bull - 1st, Mr. Rennie; 2nd, Mr. John Anderson.
 For the best Mare, for Agricultural Purposes - 1st, Mr. Arch. M'Kerrow, Auchinsterry; 2nd, Mr. Alex. Battery, Monkland Iron and Steel Works.
 For the best Two-year-old Filly - 1st, Mr. Thos. Taylor; 2nd, Mr. Anderson.
 For the best Two-year-old Colt - 1st, Mr. Forbes; 2nd, Mr. Taylor.
 For the best One-year-old Filly - 1st, Mr. M'Kain, Lumloch; 2nd, Mr. Forbes.
 For the best One-year-old Colt - 1st, Mr. Rennie.
 After the show a number of the members of the Society and their friends dined in the Zetland Arms Inn : - Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside, in the Chair; Colonel Forbes officiating as Croupier.

Stirling Observer Thursday 2nd August 1849
MINISTERS' STIPENDS AND TEINDS IN SCOTLAND.

Gross Value of Teinds as existing in Victual or Money	Ministers' Stipend and Communion Elements as Modified in Victual or Money	Unexhausted Teinds converted to a Money Value
Muiravonside, £320.4s.5d. £88.19s.9d.	£231 4s. 8d.	

Glasgow Herald Monday 20th August 1849
 Advertisements & Notices

LANDS IN THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE, AND COUNTY OF STIRLING, FOR SALE.
 To be Sold, by Private Bargain, in whole or in Lots, to suit intending Purchasers,
 1. THE LANDS OF BANKHEAD, with the SAWMILL, situated on the Property lying on each side of the Slamannan Railway, and within a quarter of a mile of the Glenellrig Station on that Railway. The Lands extend to about 50 Acres Imperial, and are at present Let for £60 yearly, and the Sawmill is Let to a separate Tenant at a rent of £10 yearly. There is considerable planting on the Farm, and the Land would be easily drained and improved. The Superior has a reserved right to dig for Coal and Limestone; but beyond this, the Metals and Minerals belong to the Proprietor.
 2. These parts belonging to the Monklands Railway Company, of the Lands of BRIDGEHILL, situated a little to the eastward of the Lands of Bankhead, as presently possessed by William Duncan, extending to about 24 Acres or thereby, Imperial. The present rental of the Lands is £35. There is a QUARRY of the best Freestone in the Lands, which formerly Let at a rent of £30, or in the option of the Landlord, at lordship of Ten per Cent, on the output.
 For further particulars application may be made to Mr. George Knight, Secretary to the Monklands Railway Company, 113 St. Vincent' Street; or Messrs. Mitchell, Allardice, and Mitchell, 36 Miller Street, Glasgow, who are in possession of the Title Deeds.
 Glasgow, 9th August, 1849.

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th, Newcastle Courant Friday 26th October 1849
COALFIELD IN STIRLINGSHIRE FOR SALE.
 To be Sold, by Private Bargain,
 THE CR AIGEND COALFIELD, as situated in the Parish of Muiravonside, near Falkirk and Linlithgow. The Coalfield extends to upwards of 400 acres, of various thick seams of coal, the first of which is only about six fathoms from the surface, and no pumping is required. Amongst other seams of fine quality, the field includes a very large extent of the celebrated Cox Road Coal, which is now so well known as a favourite coal in Edinburgh and elsewhere, and which commands a ready sale in any district. The Shieldhill Branch of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway passes close to the mouth of the pits presently working, and from which there is not only a ready and direct communication with the district, but also by Railway and Canal with the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, Campsie, Scottish Central, and other Railways. The Boness Short Railway is now in rapid progress, and, when completed, will afford a most extensive and ready shipment of the coal at Boness, where there is an excellent and safe harbour for large vessels. The Engines and whole Machinery, together with the Colliers Houses, are in the very best order, and will either be Sold with the Minerals, or handed over to the purchaser at a valuation, and part of the price may remain on the security of the property. An investment so safe and encouraging as the above is seldom to be met with.
 All farther particulars will be learned by applying to the Proprietor, at Craighend House, by Linlithgow.

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th , Glasgow Herald Monday 29th October, Stirling Observer 1st, 8th, 15th November, 13th December 1849
ADJOURNED SALE LANDS AND MINERALS IN STIRLINGSHIRE,
 At a Greatly Reduced Upset Price.

To be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Zetland Arms Inn, FALKIRK, kept by Mr. Wallace, on SATURDAY the 17th day of November next, at Twelve o'Clock Noon, in virtue of the Powers of Sale contained in a Bond and Disposition in Security.
ALL and WHOLE that just and equal part and portion of the Commony and Common Muir of Muiravonside, offering and corresponding to the Lands of Crownerland, conform to the valuation thereof, being valued at the Sum of Seventy-six Pounds Fifteen Shillings and Fourpence Scots, called THATCHRIDGE, and Houses, Biggings, Yards, Parts, Pencilles, and Pertinments of the same whatsoever, consisting of Twenty-Two Acres of ARABLE LAND and Six Acres of Moss, - in the parish of Muiravonside and county of Stirling, all as bounded and described in the Title- deeds thereof. The Lands are Productive and Pleasantly situated, and the Coal therein has been recently partially wrought, and besides being of excellent quality, commands a ready market in Linlithgow, &c. &c., and the most ready means of conveyance thereof to Edinburgh and other places, by both Railway and Canal.
For farther particulars, application may be made to ADAM & ALEXANDER SMITH, Writers, Falkirk in whose hands may be seen the titles of the Property and Articles of Roup.
Falkirk, 18th October, 1849

1850's

1850

Caledonian Mercury Thursday 17th January 1850

Advertisements & Notices

IMPORTANT INTIMATION.

CHEAP COAL, 2s. OF A REDUCTION.

THE MUIRAVONSIDE COLLIERY COMPANY beg to inform the Inhabitants of Edinburgh, that they are still Selling at the REDUCEDPRICES, although there has been a general rise at all the Coal Depots in Town. This Company's Coal will be found of a very superior quality. It is large, durable, gives a strong heat, and is very clean, producing nothing but a little heavy brown ash. In short, the great increasing demand is a sufficient guarantee that this Coal is giving general satisfaction. Reduced Prices:-

Jewel9s. 0d. per Ton.

Diamond.....8s. 6d. per Ton.

Household8s. 0d. per Ton.

Cartage additional 1s, within Tolls.

All Orders must be addressed MUIRAVONSIDE COLLIERY COMPANY, Main Entrance, Port Hopetoun, Union Canal.

Glasgow Herald Friday 15th,22nd,29th, Stirling Observer 21st,28th, March 1850

Advertisements & Notices

LANDS IN THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE AND COUNTY OF STIRLING, FOR SALE.

There will be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Royal Exchange Sale Rooms, Glasgow, upon Wednesday the 3d day of April, 1850, at Two o'clock P.M.

1. THE LANDS of NORTH BANKHEAD, with the SAW-MILL and WATER-POWER, lying on each side of the Monkland Railways, and distant one mile or thereby from Avonbridge Station, as the same are at present possessed by Thomas Forrest and James Gardner respectively. The Lands are at present Let for £60 yearly, and the Saw-Mill at an annual rent of £10. There is a considerable extent of the Lands planted with Trees of from 30 to 50 years standing. The Lands and Plantations extend to about 65 Acres, 2 Roods and 13 Poles, Imperial.

2. The LANDS of BRIDGEHILL, situated a little to the Eastward of the Lands of North Bankhead, as presently possessed by William Duncan, extending, with Plantation and Quarry, to about 27 Acres and 30 Poles Imperial. The present Rental is £35. There is a Freestone Quarry in the Lands, which formerly Let at a Rent of £30. To ensure a Sale, the Lands of NORTH BANKHEAD, &c. will be put up at £1500; and the Lands of BRIDGEHILL, &c., at £900.

The LANDS of FOGGERMOUNTAIN, containing 50 acres, or thereby, with the FARM STEADING, &c., are also for Sale. These Lands adjoin the Lands of Bridgehill, and are in the immediate vicinity of Avonbridge. For further particulars application may be made to Mr.

George Knight, 113 St. Vinscent Street; or to Messrs. Mitchell, Allardice, & Mitchell, 36 Miller Street, with whom are the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup.

Glasgow, 12th March, 1850

Glasgow Herald Monday 22nd April 1850

COAL FIELD IN STIRLINGSHIRE FOR SALE.

TO BE SOLD, BY PRIVATE BARGAIN,

THE CRAIGEND COAL FIELD, as situated in the Parish of Muiravonside, near Falkirk and Linlithgow. The Coal Field extends to upwards of 400 acres of various thick Seams of Coal, the first of which is only about six fathoms from the Surface, and no pumping is required. Amongst other seams of fine quality, the Field includes a large extent of the celebrated Cox Road Coal which is now so well known as a favourite Coal in Edinburgh and elsewhere, and which always commands a ready sale in any district. The Shield Hill Branch of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway passes close to the mouth of the Pits presently working, and from which there is not only a ready and direct communication with the district, but also (both by Railway and Canal) with the Cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, Campsie, Scottish Central, and other Railways. The Bo'ness Short Railway is now in rapid progress, and when completed, will afford a most extensive and ready shipment of the Coal at Bo'ness, where there is an excellent safe Harbour for large vessels. The Engines and whole Machinery, together with the Colliers Houses, are in the very best order, and will either be Sold with the Minerals, or handed over to the purchaser at a valuation. A part of the price may remain in security of the Property.

An investment so safe and encouraging as the above is seldom to be met with.

All further particulars may be learned by applying to Mr. G Geddes, Mining Engineer, 49 Albany Street, Edinburgh.

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th April, 2nd, 9th May 1850

BY ADJOURNMENT.

FOR SALE, LONG LEASE OF SUBJECTS IN MUIRAVONSIDE.

There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the Office of Adam Smith, Writer, in Wilson's Buildings, South side High Street, Falkirk, on FRIDAY the 10th day of May next, at Twelve o'Clock Noon, - A TACK of, and the Leasehold Right and Property in, All and Whole that ANGLE of GROUND of TARDUFF MUIR, bounded by a part of said Muir on the West, by the road leading to Linlithgow Bridge on the South, and by another road on the East and North parts, as particularly mentioned in the Tack or Titles thereof: together with the DWELLING-HOUSES and BUILDINGS thereon, excepting the piece of said Ground subset or assigned to, or lately occupied by John Duncan, but with right of relief from a part of the Tack-duty effering to such excepted ground. The above Subjects, the present tenant of which is Andrew Bartholomew, are held upon a Lease for 999 years, current from Whitsunday 1838, and the Houses and Buildings are nearly new. The Vacant Ground might be most advantageously built on, or Subset or Assigned.

For particulars, apply to Adam Smith, Writer, Falkirk, who will exhibit the Titles and Articles of Roup. Falkirk, 25th March, 1850.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th August 1850

OATS, BARLEY, LINT, AND POTATOES, AT STRATHAVON, On Saturday the 17th August. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 17th day of August, 1850, on the Farm of Strathavon, about one mile east of Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Wm. Waugh, the whole Growing Crop and Hay on the above Farm, comprising - 25 Acres of OATS, 9 Acres of LINT, 2 Acres of BARLEY, 3 Acres of PRINCE REGENT and AMERICAN EARLY POTATOES, ready for lifting, and 1000 Stones of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in ricks. The Crops are extra fine - indeed first-rate - and very early, and will be Sold in Lots without reserve. Four Months' Credit on Bills, or Discount for Cash. Roup to begin at 12 o'clock noon. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer Thursday 26th September 1850

STIRLING CIRCUIT COURT OF JUSTICIARY.

The Autumn Circuit Court of Justiciary was opened here yesterday morning, at ten o'clock, by the Right Hon. the Lord Justice-Clerk, and the Hon. Lord Wood. E. F. Maitland, Esq., Advocate-Depute; James Aitken, Esq., Clerk.

5th Case.

Alexander M'Kenzie, charged with the theft of a hen from a farm in the parish of Muiravonside, aggravated by his having been five times previously convicted of theft, pleaded not guilty. After the examination of witnesses, Lord Wood summed up the evidence, and the jury found the panel guilty as libelled. He was sentenced to transportation for seven years.

Falkirk Herald, Stirling Observer, Thursday October 10th 1850

THE FARM OF GLENHEAD TO LET, ON A LEASE OF 19 YEARS.

To be Let, on a Lease of 19 years, the FARM of GLENHEAD, upon the estate of Craigend, in the parish of Muiravonside, belonging to W. C. Learmonth McKenzie, Esq., and which extends to 96 Acres, or thereby, imperial measure, besides 30 Acres of Moss, &c. . The Farm has been occupied by the Proprietor for the last four years past, and is now all thoroughly drained in every furrow, 16 feet apart, over the whole of the Arable Land. A considerable Division is in Grass, and has been laid down in the best condition. The greater part of the Farm is of a dark deep loamy Dryfield soil, and well adapted for raising Potatoes and Turnips; and the other portion of the Farm is well suited for growing Wheat, Beans, and Oats. There is an excellent new and most respectable FARM STEADING, with OFFICES complete, built upon the Farm within the last two years.

For farther particulars, apply at Craigend House, where written offers will be received for the Farm up to the 20th October current.

Craigend House, 5th October, 1850.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th November 1850

TWENTY CORN STACKS, MILCH COWS, FAMOUS DRAUGHT MARES, AND THE WHOLE FARM STOCKING, At Drumtassie, on Saturday, 23d November. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 23d day of November, 1850, on the Farm of Drumtassie, one mile south from Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. John Yetts, THE whole CROP, HORSES, MILCH COWS, CATTLE, and FARMING IMPLEMENTS, &c. &c, on the above Farm, comprising - 20 Stacks of Oats, 500 Stones of Ryegrass Hay in Ricks, 1 Stack of Ryegrass seed Hay, 2 Ricks of Meadow Hay, 1 Stack of Oat Straw, 1 Rare five-year-old Draught Mare, 1 Draught Brood Mare in foal, 1 Capital Horse Foal, 3 Ayrshire Milch Cows, in calf, 4 Ayrshire Milch Cows, farrow, 3 Three-year-old Ayrshire Queys, in calf, 3 Six-quarter-old Queys, 4 Calves, 1 Fat Cow, 1 Fat Sow, 1 Acre of Yellow Turnips, 20 Bolls of Potatoes, 2 Close-bodied Carts, with Wheels and Axles, 1 Iron Plough, by Gray of Uddingston, 2 Pair of Harrows, 1 Wooden Land Roller, 2 Sets of Cart and Plough Horse Harness, 1 Pair of Hand Fanners, and the whole of the small Farming Implements, Barn Utensils, Dairy Dishes, &c. &c. &c, all of which will be Sold without reserve, as the Exposer is leaving the Farm.

Three Months' Credit on Bills or Discount for Cash.

Roup to begin at Eleven o'clock forenoon. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Glasgow Herald Friday 15th & 29th November 1850

Advertisements & Notices

MONKLAND RAILWAYS

(DEVIATION OF SLAMANNAN AND BORROWSTOUNESS RAILWAY; EXTENSION OF TIME; AND AMENDMENT OF ACTS.) BILL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.

That application is intended to be made to Parliament, in next Session, for leave to bring in a Bill for the purposes following, or some of them, that is to say, to empower the Monkland Railways Company to deviate from and Alter the Lines and Levels of the Railway and Branch Railway authorized by "The Slamannan and Borrowstouness Railway Act, 1840," between the points following, viz. :-As regards the main line of Railway, authorized by the said Act, from the point at or near Causwayend, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, and near the Northern Terminus of the Slamannan Railway which is described in the said Act as the point of commencement of the said main line, to a point near the east side of Kinneil Iron Works, in the Parish of Borrowstouness and County of Linlithgow; and as regards the said Branch Railway, from the point in the said Parish of Muiravonside, at or near which the said main line will Cross the occupation road, leading eastward from Myrehead to the Parish Road to a point in the said last mentioned Parish, near Myrehead, where the said Branch Railway will join the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway; and to make and maintain all proper works and conveniences in connection with the said deviations, and to take powers for the compulsory purchase of Lands, Houses, and other Property, for the purposes, of such deviations and other works; which intended deviations and works are or will be situate in, or will pass from, through, or into, the Parish of Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling, and the Parish of Borrowstouness, in the County of Linlithgow. And Notice is further given, that duplicate Plans and Sections, describing this Lines, Situation, and Levels of the said intended Works, and the Lands, Houses, and other Property- in the Line of the said Works, or within the limits of deviation as defined on the said Plans, or which may, be required to be taken for the purposes of such Works, together with Books of Reference to such Plans, containing the names of the Owners or reputed Owners, Lessees or reputed Lessees, and Occupiers of such Lands, Houses, and Property, and a Published Map, to a scale of not less than half an inch to a mile, with the Lines of the proposed Works delineated thereon, so as to show their general course and direction, and a copy of this Notice, as published in the Edinburgh Gazette, will, on or before the thirtieth day of November current, be deposited for Public inspection in the Office, at Stirling, of the principal Sheriff Clerk of the County of Stirling, and in the Office, at Falkirk, of the principal Sheriff Clerk for the Eastern District or Division of the said County of Stirling, and in the Office, at Linlithgow, of the principal Sheriff Clerk of the County of Linlithgow; and that a copy of so much of the said Plans, Sections, and Books of Reference, as relates to each of the said Parishes, and a Copy of this Notice, will also, on or before the thirtieth day of November current, be deposited, for Public inspection, with the Schoolmaster, or, if there be no Schoolmaster, then with the Session Clerk, of each of the said Parishes, at the usual place of abode of each such Schoolmaster or Session Clerk. And Notice is further given, that it is intended by the said Bill to take power to deviate in the construction of the Works before set forth from the Lines delineated on the said Plans, intended to be deposited as aforesaid, to such an extent as will be defined on the said Plans, and also to cross, alter, and divert such Highways, Turnpikes and other Roads, Railways, Bridges, Streets, Paths, Passages, Rivers, Canals, Brooks, Streams, Sewers, Waters, and Water Courses,, as it may be necessary or expedient to cross, alter, or divert, for the purpose of making, maintaining, and using the Works before set forth, or any portion thereof, or any of the conveniences connected therewith. And Notice is further given, that it is intended by the said Bill to vary and extinguish all existing rights and privileges connected with the Lands, Houses, and other Property, to be purchased as, before said, or which would in any manner impede or interfere

with the construction of the Works before set forth, or any of them, or with the maintenance or use thereof, and to confer other rights and privileges; and also, to take Powers to the Monkland Railways Company to levy Tolls, Rates, and Duties, on or for the use of the said intended Works, and to confer, vary, or extinguish exceptions from payment of Tolls, Rates, and Duties. And Notice is further given, that it is intended by the said Bill to extend the time granted by the said recited Act, for the compulsory purchase of Lands, Houses, and other Property, and the completion of the Works thereby authorized. And Notice is further given, that it is intended by the said Bill to empower the Monkland Railways Company and the Magistrates and Town Council of the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, to enter into agreements with each other in regard to any Customs, Rates, Tolls or Duties, leviable -by the said Magistrates, or Magistrates and Town Council, in respect of any traffic upon the lines of Railway authorised by the said recited Act, or to be authorised by the said Bill, or in regard to the commutation, or the purchase or lease, by the said Monkland Railways Company, of such Customs, Rates, Tolls, or Duties. And Notice is further given, that it is intended by the said Bill to vary or extinguish all such rights and privileges as may in any manner interfere with the objects aforesaid, or any of them. And Notice is further given, that, for the above and other purposes, it is intended by the said Bill to alter and amend the said recited Act, and "The Monkland Railways Act, 1848," and, so far as necessary, the several Acts therein recited.
MITCHELL, ALLARDICE, & MITCHELL, Glasgow.
GRAHAME, WEEMS, & GRAHAME, Westminster.
Glasgow, 9th November, 1850.

1851

Dundee, Perth and Cupar Advertiser Tuesday 21st ; Aberdeen Journal Wednesday 22nd January 1851

APPLICATIONS FOR CESSIO BONORUM.

William Gentleman, cattle dealer, residing at Bulliondale, near Avonbridge — to be examined in Sheriff's Office, Falkirk, 24th February, at twelve o'clock.

Elgin Courier Friday 24th January 1851

APPLICATIONS FOR CESSIO BONORUM.

Wm. Gentleman, cattle-dealer, residing at Bulliondale near Avonbridge, present prisoner in the jail of Stirling.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th February 1851

The following cases at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, were disposed of summarily before Mr. Sheriff Robertson, on Monday last:-

1. Charles Boyle and John Gallacher, boatmen on the Union Canal, and belonging to Edinburgh, were charged with having, on the night of the 4th inst., stolen two bushels of potatoes from a potato-pit on the farm of Gilandersland, in the parish of Muiravonside. The accused pled not guilty, but after evidence was led, they were found guilty, and sentenced to 40 days' imprisonment each. The potatoes were traced to the prisoners, and found concealed in the boat under their charge, then lying in Causeyend Basin.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th February 1851

SHERIFF-COURT.- The following cases, at the instance of Mr. Gair, Procurator-Fiscal, were disposed of at Stirling, on Monday last, before Mr. Sheriff Robertson and a Jury.

2. James Binnie, a labourer, from Middierigg, in the parish of Muiravonside, was accused of breaking into the house of George Thomson, a broker in Falkirk, on the night of the 17th of January last, and stealing a quantity of wearing apparel. The charge was aggravated by three previous convictions. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th March 1851

BIRTHS.

At Muiravonside Manse, on the 5th instant, Mrs. McFARLAN, of a daughter.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th March 1851

THE MONKLANDS RAILWAY COMPANY AND THE EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW RAILWAY COMPANY. —

The Monklands Railway Company have for some time past been engaged in the construction of a passage for their Bo'ness branch, beneath the Edinburgh and Glasgow line, in the parish of Muiravonside, and about a mile and a-half on this side of Linlithgow. The roof of this tunnel consists of timber supported from below by piles. Such a construction, which of course is to be only temporary, could not but be endangered by the rapid passage along it of heavy trains. The Monklands Company accordingly made application on Friday last to the Second Division of the Court of Session to interdict the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company from running their trains at a rate of more than five miles an hour over the tunnel. The complainers alleged that the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway run some of their trains at the rate of from twenty-five to thirty miles an hour over the site of the works, to the hazard of the lives of the parties in the trains, as well as to the danger of the works and the workmen employed at them. The Edinburgh and Glasgow alleged that the complainers had entered upon their grounds without legal warrant or legitimate authority; that the Monkland Company had erected posts and given signals which they had no right to do; and that the opinions of Mr. Stevenson, C.E., who had been consulted in the case, as to the rate of speed that should be followed, were in no way binding upon the respondents. After hearing counsel both for and against the granting of the interdict, their Lordships pronounced the following interlocutor - The Lords having considered the note of suspension and interdict, and the report of the Lord Ordinary (Dundrennan), and having heard counsel, grant the interdict ad interim as craved, prohibiting the respondents from passing their engines or trains across the site of the complainers' works referred to, at a rate exceeding five miles an hour, or exceeding such other rate as shall be fixed by Mr. Stevenson, as the works of the complainers shall proceed, at their highest peril, and remit to the Lord Ordinary to pronounce such other orders as the circumstances may require in the progress of the works; and direct Mr. Stevenson to inspect the operations and the speed at which the trains of respondents pass over the works, and report to the Lord Ordinary on the bills; and instruct the Lord Ordinary not to pass the note till the meeting of the Court in May, and then to report the case to the Court."

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th March 1851

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS, On TUESDAY the 18th MARCH. To be Let by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 18th day of March, 1851, THE GRASS PARKS on the ESTATE of MUIRAVONSIDE, belonging to Charles Stirling, Esq., for grazing and feeding Cattle and Sheep, viz.: - THE GRASS PARKS AT DRUMBOWIE, THE CRASS PARKS AT CASTLEHILL, and THE GRASS PARKS AT SEATREES. The above comprise upwards of 20 different fields of various sizes, 4 of which are Young Grass. The fields are all well Fenced and Watered. Also, at the same time will be Sold, immediately after the Roup of the Parks, belonging to the said Proprietor, about 1400 Stones of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in Three Ricks. The whole to be Let and Sold on the usual terms. Roup to begin with the Drumbowie Parks, at 12 o'clock noon. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer Thursday 27th March 1851

SHERIFF CRIMINAL TRIALS. On Monday last, the 24th inst., the following criminal cases were tried at Stirling before the Sheriff and a Jury: -

At the instance of John Gair, Esq.

6. Peter O'Hara pleaded not guilty to a charge of the theft of 4s. 10d. from the person of John Roy, farmer, Muiravonside, in the Kirk Wynd of Falkirk, on the 30th day of January last. Witnesses were examined, and the jury found O'Hara guilty.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 27th March, 3rd , 10th April 1851

TO BE SOLD OR LET, A WRIGHT'S and SMITH'S SHOP at Avonbridge, by Airdrie, with the GOOD-WILL of the BUSINESS, and a complete assortment of TOOLS; also, a DWELLING-HOUSE, with Three Rooms, Kitchen, Closet, &c. The Premises are in excellent order, and the locality - within a short distance of the Slamannan Railway - is a good one for business. Entry to be had at Whitsunday first, as the Proprietor is leaving the place, having embarked in another business.

Apply to Mr. James Gardner, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 3rd April 1851

Summary Cases. -

The following cases, at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, were tried before Mr. Sheriff Robertson on Monday last: - 1. Andrew Dunsmore, charged with committing a theft at Avonbridge, in the parish of Muiravonside, aggravated by a previous conviction. He denied the charge, but on evidence being led, the Sheriff found him guilty, and sentenced him to 40 days' imprisonment.

Stirling Observer, Falkirk Herald, Thursday 17 April 1851

SHERRIFF CRIMINAL TRIALS.

Preparatory to the Circuit Court of Justiciary, which opens here this day the following cases were tried, on Monday last, before the Sheriff and a Jury:-

At the instance of JOHN GAIR, Esq.

4. Edward Herbert pleaded guilty to stealing two pairs of trousers from a dwelling-house at Wester-Bows, parish of Muiravonside. Four previous convictions being proved against the prisoner, he was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment.

Agent - Mr. Alex. Monteath.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th May 1851

New Horse and Cattle Fair at Slamannan. -

At a large and influential meeting of farmers and others held at Slamannan in March last, it was resolved that two markets or fairs be held annually at that place for the sale of horses and cattle, in May and November. The first fair was, accordingly, held on Tuesday last. The stock began to arrive at a pretty early hour, and by ten o'clock almost all the beasts had taken their ground. The village presented a very animated appearance, and the turn out of dealers and stock promises fair to establish the Slamannan market. In addition to a large number of buyers and sellers from the neighbourhood, some dealers were present from Strathaven and Perth. The number of beasts was much larger than had been expected, upwards of 100 head of cattle being on the ground. They were, for the most part, small, and none of them brought very high prices. The following are some of the prices realised for this description of stock: - Two of the best cows in the market were shown by Mr. Waddell of Rachiehill, and the price asked for them was something under £20. They were sold pretty early in the day. Mr. Bryce of Bogside sold a farrow cow to Mr. Reid, Haining Valley, for £6 10s. Another cow was sold by Mr. John Arthur, Balcastle, to a dealer from Bellshill, for £5 10s. Another farrow cow was sold by David Stark, Greenhill, to Mr. James Graham, Myothill, for £6 10s. Three queys were sold to Mr. John Gentleman of Avonbridge by Mr. John Downs, Slamannan, for £9 10s. The same gentleman sold a quey to Mr. Rennie, Tippetcraig, at £4. Mr. Speirs, Rigend, sold three queys to Mr. W. Brown of Drumshantie at £7. Mr. Scott of Binniehill sold two queys at £7 to Mr. Leishman, Camelon; also, a two-year-old bull at £2 15s. to the same gentleman. Mr. Russell, Parkhead, sold a cow to Mr. Graham, a dealer from Perth, for £7 12s. 6d.; and Mr. Graham also purchased twelve milch cows at about £7 10s. a-head. There was also a very fair show of horses, which were very much superior in breeding and condition to the cattle present. They were principally farm horses, but a few good saddle horses were also shown. For this sort of stock there was a pretty good demand, but the high prices asked by dealers prevented many sales from being effected. Good farm horses averaged from £20 to £35, and inferior animals £16 to £20. Mr. A. Smith, Falkirk, bought a very superior mare at £40 or guineas. Mr. John Shanks, Blackriggs, sold a farm mare to Mr. Murphy, Grahamston, at £30. Mr. Brown, Middlerigg, sold a horse to a Glasgow dealer at £20. Mr. John Downs, Slamannan, sold a horse to a dealer from Glasgow for £40. A superior three-year-old stallion was shown by Mr. Bowie, Gillmeadowland, which was very much admired; and a horse, the property of Mr. Alexander Binnie, Craigend Colliery, which was shown at Linlithgow, and for which a high price was offered, was particularly inquired after, but the horse being in a different part of the country was not shown at the fair. A considerable quantity of the stock remained unsold, especially horses, for which buyers were unwilling to give the high prices asked. The establishment of this fair at Slamannan cannot fail to be very beneficial to the village and country round, in encouraging the breeding and rearing of cattle. We are sure had there been a larger supply of large and well conditioned cows, they could not have failed to bring remunerating prices. There was a considerable number of visitors and pleasure-seekers from the country, but though a good many showed signs of being "top-heavy," the utmost decorum was observed during the day. Nearly the whole of the stock had left the ground by four o'clock, but the most of the country people seemed disposed to stay and entertain themselves after the business of the day. On the whole we cannot but congratulate the farmers and agriculturists connected with the country round Slamannan, on the very promising commencement of their markets, and we trust they will combine to support the fair so well begun.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th May 1851

SUMMARY CASES. -

The following cases, at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, have been disposed of before Mr. Sheriff Robertson during the past week: -

1. Margaret Crombie or Brown, charged with theft at Middlerigg, in the parish of Muiravonside, pleaded not guilty, but on evidence being adduced, the Sheriff found her guilty, and sentenced her to 60 days' imprisonment.

CARTS & WHEELS, WOOD, IRON, SMITHS' & WRIGHTS' TOOLS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c. &c.

At AVONBRIDGE, on 17th May. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 17th day of May, 1851, THE Whole Stock of IRON, CUT WOOD, SMITHS' and WRIGHTS' TOOLS, NEW FURNITURE, CARTS and WHEELS, and other EFFECTS, belonging to Mr James Gardner, Wood and Iron Merchant, &c., Avonbridge, who is removing to Kirkintilloch, and which comprises - 2 CARTS, WITH WHEELS AND AXLES, 60 Gangs of Spokes and Treads for Cart Wheels, and a great quantity of Cut Wood in Deals and Planks, Slots, &c.; 1 pair of Smiths' Bellows, 2 Anvils, a Vice, a Cast-iron Plate for ringing Cart Wheels, and Iron Block for bending Rings; also small Working Tools, such as Dies and Tops, Screw Plates, Hammers, Cresses, Mandrils, Tongs, &c.; together with a great quantity of Wrights' Tools, 18 New Chairs, and 4 Tables.

3 Tons of BAR IRON, of various sizes.

6 Tons of SCRAP IRON, and an immense variety of other Articles and Effects.

Likewise, about 500 Stones excellent RYE-GRASS HAY.

Three months' Credit on Bills.

Roup to begin at Eleven o'clock forenoon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk, 8th May, 1851.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 22nd May 1851

May Fair. –

This large horse and cattle fair was held here last Thursday, on the Callendar Riggs. There was a very fair turn out of stock, and a considerable number of dealers were present. The cattle fair was held first, of which description of stock there were about 300 on the ground. They were generally very good animals, and there were a few first-rate beasts.

Notwithstanding the dealers' complaint that the market was rather dull, a great proportion of the stock changed hands, and a comparatively small number were driven off as unsold. There was a fair attendance of dealers from the south, who made very considerable purchases. We subjoin a few quotations of prices realised. Mr. Leishman, Camelon, sold a quey to a south country dealer for £7 10s. Mr. Wyse, Bainsford, also sold a quey to a southern dealer for £6 10s. Mr. Laurie, Camelon, sold seven milk cows to southern dealers at prices ranging from £6 to £8. Mr. Dingwall, Redding, sold a three-year-old quey to Mr. Gentleman, Avonbridge, for £4 10s. Mr. Learmonth, Laurieston, sold a quey to Mr. Robertson, Maddiston, for £5. Mr. Reid, Haining Valley, sold a milk cow to Mr. Young, Bormie, at £10 or guineas. Mr. James Graham, Myothill, sold a lot of sixteen milch cows, at prices ranging from £7 to £11, to south country dealers. Mr. Graham also sold a lot of fat stots at ten guineas each to Mr. Muirhead, Grahamston; also a lot of lean stots to Mr. Morrison, Grangemouth, at £6 10s. each. Mr. Neilson, Greenwells, sold two queys at £7 10s to Mr. Graham, Perth. Mr. John Allan, Carmuir, sold two stots at £5 10s. to Mr. Wm. Cuthell, Shieldhill. Mr. Cuthell also sold a cow at £7 to a southern dealer. Mr. John Brown, Denny, sold two cows at £1 each to south country dealers. Mr. Donaldson, Pendershill, sold a milch cow to a southern dealer at £6 15s. Mr. Ronald, Carronvale, sold two queys to Mr. Bauchop of Drum, at £7, and one to an Edinburgh dealer at 7 guineas. Mr. G. Hamilton, Muiravonside, sold a milch cow to a southern dealer at £7. Mr. Aitken, Avonbridge, sold a lot of 7 cows at prices ranging from £5 to £7 10s.; he also bought 3 cows at prices from £5 10s. to £7 10s. A south country dealer, whose name we could not learn, sold a lot of 5 milk cows at from £6 to £9 each. Mr. Ronald, Carronvale, sold a cow at £7 to a person from Grangemouth. Mr. Liddell, Denny, sold one cow at £11 - probably the best in the market. Mr. George Cuthill, Lochcote, bought a lot of two-year old stots from Mr. Graham at 4 guineas each. The horse market was not nearly so brisk as the cattle, though the show was very good, there being about 90 in the market - some of them very superior. Prices for good draught horses were about £25 to £32, and inferior animals brought prices varying from £15 to £20. Saddle and harness ponies were from £8 to £12, and good riding horses from £20 to £30. We quote one or two prices. Mr. Main, Hill, sold a young work-horse at £19. Mr. Shanks, Headswood, sold a three-year-old colt at £22. Mr. Murphy, Grahamston, sold a good draught horse to Messrs Aitken, brewers, for £31. A comparatively small number of horses changed hands, and a great number remained unsold; the supply being evidently much greater than the demand. There were about a dozen excellent stallions shown, one wearing 5 prize medals. On the whole, the market was of rather more than an average description, both for number and quality. There was during the whole day a considerable influx of strangers into the town, and the fair terminated about 5 o'clock.

Summary Cases. -

The following cases at the instance of the Procurator Fiscal have been disposed of before Mr. Sheriff Robertson, during the past week –

6. Robert Heaps and Alexander Hunter, colliers at Blackbraes, charged with malicious mischief and rioting, and breach of the public peace; pleaded guilty to two of the charges, and were sentenced to pay a fine of 25s each, or to suffer 20 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 3rd July 1851

The Weather. –

Within the last week an extraordinary change has taken place in the weather, which has already had a very marked effect upon vegetation of all kinds. On Saturday, although the wind was in the east, the heat was very great, and on the following day it rose to 120° of the thermometer in the sun, and 85° in the shade. The heat continued very oppressive during Monday and Tuesday, but a copious shower which fell on the evening of the latter day, accompanied by some thunder and lightning, had a sudden cooling effect, and throughout yesterday the air was rather chilly. Should we again be visited by heat the progress of the crops, all of which are promising uncommonly well, cannot fail to be very rapid.

Post-office Alterations. -

As will be seen from our; "Post-office Notabilia," considerable alterations have been made in our postal arrangements. We have now an additional mail to London and the South, and Edinburgh and the North, at 7.10 p.m., which is a considerable acquisition. A local post has also been appointed to Avonbridge, Blackbraes, and the surrounding district, the want of which has been long felt, in the difficulty and uncertainty of postal delivery in that quarter.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th July 1851

EXTENSIVE SALE OF Spade and Shovel Handles, Cart Spokes, FILLIES, SLOTS, DEALS, TURNING-LATHES, &c. &c.

At Bankhead Saw-Mills, near Avonbridge, On Tuesday the 15th July, 1851. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 15th day of July, 1851, at Bankhead Saw-Mills, near Avonbridge (four miles south of Falkirk), THE whole of the Extensive Stock of FINISHED SPADE and SHOVEL HANDLES, CART SPOKES, FILLIES, SLOTS, TRAMS, TURNINGLATHES, SLIDING and other BENCHES, CIRCULAR SAWS, &c. &c, belonging to Mr. Jas. Gardner, who is retiring from the Bankhead Saw-Mills; and which comprises as follows : - 700 Doz. made and well-finished Spade and Shovel Handles, 2400 Cart Spokes, 120 Gangs of Cart Fillies, 1100 Cart Slots, Trams and Slots for 200 Coal and Ironstone Hutches, 400 Yards of one-inch Larch Deals, 300 Yards of three-fourth-inch Scotch Fir Deals, 22 Pairs of Oak Cart Trams, and a large quantity of Barrow Wood cut up, 1000 Feet of Ash and Wood, in trees not cut up, 20 Pairs of Cart Naves, A full set of Shovel Handle Benders, A Boring Machine for Railway Fencing, Sheep Flakes, &c, 3 Turning-Lathes, 2 Circular Saw Arbours, 8 Circular Saws, with Belts and Gearing, &c, 1 Sliding and 1 Fixed Sawing Bench, A Grinding Stone, and an immense quantity of undescribed Wood and other Effects connected with the Mills, all of which will be sold at the same time. The whole to be Sold in Lots, and Four Months' Credit given on Bills in the usual manner, or Discount for Cash. Roup to begin at 11 o'clock forenoon precisely. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 31st July 1851

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BATHGATE AND BO'NESS. –

We understand that it is the intention of the directors of the Monklands Railway Company to construct a branch from the main line east of Slamannan to the town of Bathgate. The line has been surveyed by Mr. Murdoch, civil-engineer, by whom plans have been drawn and the probable cost estimated. It will be about four miles in length leaving the Monklands or Slamannan line at a place called Blackstone, in Muiravonside, it will proceed nearly south-east, intersecting the parish of Torphichen to the west of that village, and then taking a more easterly direction, it will run in on the north side of Bathgate. Here it is intended to erect a terminus, and there will likewise be branches to the Edinburgh and Bathgate line, and to the Wilsontown Branch of the Caledonian Railway. It is not expected that many difficulties will be encountered in constructing the line, the worst gradient being only 1 in 100 and the expense, it is estimated, will not be very great. We have not learnt whether it will be necessary to apply for an act of Parliament, but we believe that it is intended to commence operations whenever

the preliminaries are arranged. The great advantage of this branch will be the establishment of direct communication between Bathgate and Bo'ness. The neighbourhood of the former town has recently attained considerable importance as a mineral district, and this branch will afford a direct outlet to the east coast for the valuable produce of the surrounding works. Bo'ness will benefit, to a corresponding extent, as the port for shipping the goods, which are at present put on board at Leith. To the inhabitants of the district generally, the branch will greatly improve the railway communication between the shores of the Forth and the inland parts of Linlithgowshire, which has hitherto been very circuitous and inconvenient.

Stirling Observer Thursday 31st July 1851

DEATHS

At Avonbridge, Falkirk, on the 18th instant, the Rev. John Craig in the 47th year of his ministry.

Falkirk Herald 14th August 1851

OATS AND HAY, &c, AT GLENHEAD,

On Wednesday the 20th August. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Wednesday the 20th day of August, 1851, on the Farm of Glenhead, upon the Estate of Craigend, belonging to W. C. Learmonth M'Kenzie, Esq., 23 Acres of uncommonly fine Heavy OATS, 13 Ricks of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, 6 Lots of FITCHES, and 6 Prime FAT CATTLE, Four months' credit on bills, or discount for cash.

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock noon precisely,

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Railway Accident.

On Saturday evening the keeper of the gates at the level crossing of the Slamannan railway at Avonbridge had inadvertently retired to rest and shut the gate across the line, thinking that all the trains had passed for the night. Such, however, was not the case, for at twelve o'clock a very long train of coal waggons going towards Airdrie, and drawn by two engines, came up and went through both gates, dashing them to splinters. We are glad to say the train passed on its way without any further accident. The consequences might have been very serious, and we learn that the porter at the gate has since been dismissed for his negligence.

Falkirk Herald 14th & 21st August 1851

5000 Stones Ryegrass and Clover Hay, AND 17 ACRES OATS,

On Monday, 25th August. To be sold by Public Roup, on Monday the 25th day August, 1851 - on the Lands of Castlehill, upon the Estate of Muiravonside, belonging to Chas. Stirling, Esq., FIVE THOUSAND STONES of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in 24 Ricks, of particularly fine quality and SEVENTEEN ACRES of capital OATS. UP to Four months' Credit on Bills, or Discount for Cash.

Roup to begin with the Oats, at 12 o'clock precisely.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer Thursday 14th August 1851

BY ADJOURNMENT.

LONG LEASE OF SUBJECTS IN MUIRAVONSIDE FOR SALE.

There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the Office in Wilson's Buildings, South side High Street, Falkirk, of Adam Smith, Writer there, on THURSDAY the 21st day of August current, at Two o'Clock Afternoon, A TACK of, and the LEASEHOLD RIGHT for 999 years after Whitsunday, 1838, and PROPERTY in, All and Whole that ANGLE of GROUND of TARDUFF MUIR, bounded by a part of said Muir on the West, by the road leading to Linlithgow Bridge on the South, and by another road on the East and North parts, as particularly mentioned in the Titles thereof; together with the Dwelling Houses and Buildings thereon, excepting the piece of said ground subset or assigned to, or lately occupied by John Duncan, but with right of relief from a part of the Tack-duty effering to such excepted ground. The above Subjects are presently tenanted by Andrew- Bartholomew and others; and the House is Licenced for Sale of Spirits. The gross Rental for the current year is about £10 15s. The vacant Ground may be advantageously built on, or subset or assigned.

For particulars, apply to Adam Smith, Writer, Wilson's Buildings, Falkirk, who will exhibit the Titles and Articles of Roup.

Falkirk, 8th August, 1851.

Falkirk Herald 21st August 1851

STRATHAVON SALE OF GROWING CROP, MILCH COWS, HAY, &c.

On Saturday the 23d August. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 23d day of August, 1851, on the Farm of Strathavon, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. William Waugh, THE whole of the very first-rate CROP of OATS, BARLEY, LINT, &c. &c, upon the above Lands, and which comprises -

30 Acres of OATS,

3 Acres of BARLEY,

5 Acres of LINT.

2 Acres of PRINCE REGENT POTATOES,

1 Stack of OATS.

6 Stacks of SEED HAY,

3 MILCH COWS.

1 Two-year-old BULL,

1 BROOD MARE, 1 BROOD SOW and 5 PIGS,

2 Half-grown SWINE.

The whole to be Sold in Lots; 4 Months' Credit on Bills.

Roup to commence at 11 o'clock forenoon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

5000 Stones Ryegrass and Clover Hay, AND 17 ACRES OATS, At Muiravonside, on Monday, 25th August. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Monday the 25th day of August, 1851, on the Lands of Castlehill, upon the Estate of Muiravonside, belonging to Chas. Stirling, Esq., FIVE THOUSAND STONES of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in 24 Ricks, of particularly fine quality, and SEVENTEEN ACRES of capital OATS.

Four Months' Credit on Bills, or Discount for Cash.

Roup to begin with the Oats, at 12 o'clock precisely.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th September 1851

To the Editor of the Falkirk Herald.

Sir, - You are no doubt aware that there is a yearly tax levied on the labourers, artizans, &c, of the parish of Muiravonside in common with many other parishes, entitled the "Statute Labour Conversion Money," which is said to be appropriated to the repairing of roads, bridges, &c.

Now, Sir, whether the money raised for this purpose is laid out to the best possible advantage or not would perhaps, be deemed presumption on my part to say. One thing, however, I know, that the roads in this part of the parish are non-improved the last six years. This is not an exaggerated assertion - it is a stubborn fact. I have had the pleasure of travelling over a good part of Scotland, and must say that I have never seen any roads so bad as these in this parish, and those of Slamannan! What is the reason, Sir? Is it because they are not regularly metalled? No! This is not the reason. I have kept my eye about me a good deal of late, and I have discovered that the reason is to be found in the fact, that the water is not kept off them. I

apprehend they may lay on as many square yards of metal as they can afford to do every year, but so long as no attention is paid to keeping the water off, we will never be able to vie with many neighbouring parishes for good roads. Only on Sabbath week, between Blackbraes Colliery and North Blackstone, there were three several parts of the road so flooded, that we were obliged to have recourse to the tops of dykes, the backs of hedges, and the crown of lea-riggs to get along. Were this a thing of rare occurrence, I would be the last man to say a word on the subject - but it occurs often. During last winter I know not how often I had to wade knee deep to get along, and many besides me. For this I see no necessity. I have taken the trouble of measuring the depth of the water several times, and found it to vary from 14 to 22 inches, and covering a surface of not less than 220 square yards in some places. And, Mr. Editor, it does not require a week of incessant rain to produce this state of things. No; only one day's constant rain does it, at any time. The trustees need not tell us they have no control over the weather, and therefore we must just put up with it. This we know; but have they not the power of causing the ditches to be scoured, and the water courses to be kept clear? If this were done, I see nothing to prevent us from having as good roads as we have near the dwellings of the aristocracy. If this is not to be remedied, I would suggest that we be furnished with three small boats, manned with a ferryman each, to take us through these places during soft weather. It is indeed a hard task to take people's money, and cause them to walk through standing water to the bargain. We can have foot baths in our own houses, Mr. Editor, if we need them, and therefore have no desire to take them while walking. I hope, Sir, the next time the charge for road money is sent us, it will come entitled "Taxation for furnishing the public with the privilege of walking through water."
"ONE WHO PAYS ROAD MONEY."

Falkirk Herald Thursday 25th September, 2nd October 1851

TO MILLERS.

THAT OLD ESTABLISHED MILL at STRATHMILL is to be LET for such a Term of Years as may be agreed upon, with immediate entry.

Avon-Bridge Station, on the Slamannan Railway, is within one mile of the Mill.

Apply to Mr. Walter Gowans, Gowanbank, by Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 2nd October 1851

MINERAL SPECULATIONS. -

For the last two or three mouths the tract of country to the south of this, comprising chiefly the parish of Muiravonside and the high grounds of the parish of Falkirk, has been subjected to a very careful and extensive search for minerals. There being a prospect of the exhaustion, at no very remote period, of the ironstone in the Airdre district, the iron-masters there are finding it expedient to explore the minerals in other localities with a view to a future supply - in one case going even so far as the county of Fife - and they are accordingly directing their attention to this locality, in which the black band, clay band, and ball ironstone have already been worked, but only to a very limited extent. Leases have accordingly been entered into with the proprietors in the district by a number of well-known houses. Carnmuirs has been let to Messrs Adie, Miller, & Rankine by Mr. Forbes. The same firm have taken a lease of Bonnside from Mr. Salmon; and they have also leased the Drum from Mr. Russell, the Beam from Mr. Wishart, and Thornton from Sir John Strachan. Lochgreen has been taken by Messrs Merry & Cunningham of Glasgow. The Grangemouth Coal Company have leased the Earl of Zetland's property at Castlecary. Woodend, the property of Mr. Scott, is let to the Summerlee Company. Bonnyfield is being explored by Mr. Russell, the proprietor. Tippetcraig, Greenrig, and other farms adjoining, the property of Mr. Forbes, are taken by the Carron Company, and Messrs Russel & Son; and the latter firm also hold leases of Strathavon from Mr. Wardrop, and of other properties. Windy-yetts has been let to the Messrs Baird of Gartsherrie. Besides these estates, we learn that the minerals in one piece of land have been let within the present week at a rent of £1000 a-year and a lordship. The unfertile moorlands are thus in a fair way of being at a premium shortly. Everything, however, will depend upon the result of the search now going on. It has not yet been prosecuted long enough to afford any idea of the probable issue, but we believe that, within the last few days, black band of considerable thickness has been discovered by a firm who have lately been very fortunate in their mining adventures, and whose success in this instance we have no doubt our readers will be glad to hear of when circumstances enable us to give a more particular account of it. The same description of ironstone of very superior quality, and upwards of three feet thick has been worked by Messrs Merry & Cunningham at Lochgreen, for the last eighteen months. We are informed that in some cases in which the same seam has been come upon, it has been found to be of such an inferior quality as not to be worth working. We hope, however, that the discovery of good ironstone in the places mentioned will be followed by success in the others. Should such be the case, very extensive "diggings" will be immediately commenced in our neighbourhood, giving employment to a dense population; and, although the unequal distribution of splint coal is an obstacle, there is nothing very improbable in the anticipation that the revival of the iron trade, which it is to be hoped is not far distant, will stimulate not only the mining, but the manufacture, of that important metal in the district.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 9th October 1851

SOCIAL

Meeting and Presentation. - On the evening of Tuesday the 16th ult., a number of themembers and adherents of the Evangelical Union Church, Avonbridge, entertained their pastor, the Rev. R. Anderson, and his partner in life, to a service of tea, as a mark of respect and esteem for him, when about to leave them and enter on a wider sphere of labour. Addresses on various subjects were delivered, and the meeting separated after having spent a very pleasant evening. On the evening of the 7th inst., a few of Mr. Anderson's friends waited on him and presented him with a number of valuable and useful works, bearing suitable inscriptions.

Stirling Observer Thursday 16th 23rd October 1851

LONG TACKS of SUBJECTS in MUIRAVONSIDE TO BE SOLD.

There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the House of James Bell, Innkeeper at Avonbridge, on SATURDAY the 25th day of October next, at Twelve o'Clock Noon, THE TWO TACKS aftermentioned of the respective SUBJECTS therein described, viz. :-

1st, A tack for Three Hundred Thousand Years, from Martinmas 1738, of ALL and WHOLE that part and portion of the deceased Archibald Bryce of Easter Hillhead of Ballenbreich, his outfield Lands of Hillhead called Jock's-Bought's-Face, near Half-an-Acre of Land or thereby, bounded by the Driftloan on the East, Kaes Bryce's Lands on the South and North parts, and the Lands of Ballenbreich on the West parts, - lying in the parish of Muiravonside, Barony of Ballenbreich, and Sheriffdom of Stirling - with the Tiends, and with power and privilege of casting two dargs of peats yearly from said Archibald Bryce's part of Drumbroider Moss.

2nd, A Tack for Three Hundred Thousand Years, from 20th May 1740, of ALL and WHOLE these two ridges of Land that belonged to the deceased William Eadie of Sharpsbanks - bounded by Jock's-Bought's-Face on the West, Allan Bryce's Lands on the South, East, and North parts thereof, - all lying within the parish, Barony, and Sheriffdom aforesaid, with the Tiends. Together with the HOUSES and BUILDINGS on said Lands, all as now occupied by Mary Inglis and others. The Lands extend to about or fully an Acre, The annual Tack Duties amount only to 6s. 8d. Scots, and therefore the Subjects present an eligible opportunity of creating a County Vote.

Apply to Adam Smith, Writer, Falkirk. Falkirk, 22d September, 1851.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 30th October 1851

Jury Trials. -

The following cases, at the instance of Mr. Gair, procurator-fiscal, Falkirk, were tried before Mr. Sheriff Robertson and a Jury at Stirling, on Monday last: -
6. Andrew Crawford, accused of stealing a silver watch, in Muiravonside, pled guilty, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 30th October 1851

TURNIPS, MILCH COWS, QUEYS, DRAUGHT MARE. &c. &c, At STRATHAVON, on Monday the 3d Nov.

TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Monday the 3d day of November, 1851. on the Farm of STRATHAVON, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Wm. Waugh:

3 Acres of the very best Yellow Turnips,
2 Milch Cows, near the calving,
2 Farrow Cows.
2 Milch Cows, to calve in March,
4 Two-year-old Queys,
2 Highland Cows, for Marts,
1 Draught Mare, in foal,
1 Fat Sow,
4 Half-grown Pigs,
1200 Stones of Ryegrass and Clover Hay, in a stack,
1 Stack of Seed Hay,
20 Bolls of Potatoes,
2 Wooden Ploughs,
and 2 Water Barrels.

Three Months' Credit on Bills, or Discount for Cash.

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock noon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 6th Glasgow Herald Monday 10th November 1851

Slamanan Horse and Cattle Fair. -

The second of the half-yearly fairs lately established in this locality was held on Tuesday last. The show of stock was less than last market, but it was generally considered to be of very superior quality. If this market be kept up, which we trust will be the case, we have no doubt it will be greatly for the benefit of the neighbourhood, and encourage the rearing of good stock. There was a very poor show of horses, and most of them inferior. Good work horses brought from £18 to £25, and inferior from £14 to £17. Calving cows were in good demand at high prices, some few bringing £10, and the average being about £8. There was rather a good turnout of people from the neighbourhood, and all the usual concomitants of a fair were visible in the crowded street of the village. We subjoin a few quotations: -Mr. Henry Aitken, Cattle-dealer, Avonbridge, sold a cow at £6 5s., and another at £4 10s. Mr. Nicol, Denny, bought two farrow cows at £10 5s., and another cow sold at £5. Mr. Gentleman, Avonbridge, sold three calving cows at £27 10s. Mr. John Neilson, Cocksill, bought a spot at £3 5s. Mr. A. Nimmo, Muiravonside, bought a calving cow at £10 10s. Mr. Alex Shanks, Gavil bought a quey at £8 considered the best in the market, Mr. James Scott, Binniehill, bought a two year-old filly at £25, considered the best of the age in the market. Another two-year-old colt was bought by Mr. John Shanks, Slater Hill, at £23. Mr. Shanks, Oakerdykes, sold a work horse at £18, and another good work horse brought £24. The market was reckoned dull.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th November 1851

DEATHS

At Avonbridge, on the 10th instant, William Bell, in the 79th year of his age.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th November 1851

Sheriff Criminal Court. -

The following cases, at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, have been disposed of summarily before Mr. Sheriff Robertson during the past week: -

3. Andrew Dinsmore, accused of theft at Avonbridge, aggravated by two previous convictions; pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th December 1851

TWO EWES FOUND.

THERE were FOUND at AVONBRIDGE, on the Tuesday of the last October Tryst, Two BLACKFACED EWES. Application to be made to James Bell, Innkeeper, Avonbridge, within ten days from this date; and if not claimed by that time, the Ewes will be sold to defray expenses.

Avonbridge, 3d Dec. 1851.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 18th December 1851

ACCIDENT -

An accident occurred on Tuesday morning at one of the Carron Company's ironstone pits at Candiehill, in Muiravonside, by which a young man named John M'Lachlan nearly lost his life. He was in the act of descending the pit by the unusual method of swinging himself down by the rope. It appears that a bucket full of ironstone was standing at the time at the pit-head, and was attached to the rope. The weight of the man turned the gin above, and the consequence was that the bucket was raised from the ground and Part of the contents thrown down the pit. Some of the stones struck the man on the head and injured him very severely. He is now, we believe, lying in a very precarious state.

1852

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th January 1852

SHERIFF AND JURY TRIALS. -

The following cases at the instance of Mr. Gair, Procurator-Fiscal, Falkirk, were disposed of before Mr. Sheriff Handyside and a jury, at Stirling, on Saturday last:-

1. Magaret Easton, lately a servant to Mr. Allan Bryce, of Blackstone in Muiravonside, was accused of the theft of a £10 note belonging to her master, from a chest of drawers in her master's house ; she pled guilty and was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 22nd January 1852

AVONBRIDGE. -

The pupils attending the Adventure School, taught by Mr. Dick, were examined, on the 15th instant, by the Rev. A. Dodds, minister, Avonbridge, and Mr. W. G. Gilchrist, Ashburton Grammar School. In reading, penmanship, and arithmetic, they showed much proficiency, and their attainments in Biblical instruction and English grammar were particularly gratifying. Altogether the proceedings were highly satisfactory, and reflected great credit on the talent, energy, and tact of the teacher.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 1st April 1852

TEACHER WANTED AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL.

He must be qualified to teach the usual branches of Education.

Apply to Alexander Main, Farmer, Bogo, by Avonbridge, on or before the 13th instant.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th, 11th March 1852

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS TO LET, AND 19 RICKS OF RYEGRASS AND CLOVER HAY TO BE SOLD.

On Monday the 15th March.

To be Let by Public Roup, on Monday the 15th day of March, 1852, THE extensive GRAZINGS upon the ESTATE of MUIRAVONSIDE, belonging to Charles Stirling, Esquire, which will be Let for Feeding and Grazing Cattle, Sheep, or Horses, viz.: - THE GRASS PARKS at DRUMBOWIE, The GRASS PARKS at BOOS, The GRASS PARKS at CASTLEHILL, and The GRASS PARKS at SEATREES, Comprising in all 25 Enclosures of various sizes. The Fields are all well Fenced and Watered. Also, immediately after the Let of Grass Parks, there will be Sold, NINETEEN Large Ricks of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, of famous quality.

Credit till Martinmas on the Grass Parks, and Four Months' Credit on the Hay, on Bills. Roup to begin with the Grass Parks at Drumbowie, at Twelve o'clock noon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Perry's Bankrupt Gazette Saturday 13th March 1852

SCOTCH PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Gazette-Feb. 20, 1852.

HOWGATE GEORGE, WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH, and HENRY HOWGATE of Muiravonside, steel converters, refiners, & general merchants, 12th Feb. Debts by Hawksworth.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 25th March 1852

SHERIFF AND JURY TRIALS. -

The following cases at the instance of Mr. Gair, Procurator Fiscal, Falkirk, were disposed of before Mr. Sheriff Robertson and a jury, at Stirling, on Monday last:-

1. Donald M'Leod, labourer, Laurieston, was charged with stealing some tools from a quarry near Polmont in January last, and also, about the same time, with breaking into a workshop on the Slamannan and Bo'ness Railway, in the parish of Muiravonside, and stealing therefrom a great number of articles; a previous conviction of theft was libelled on. The accused pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th April 1852

STIRLING SPRING CIRCUIT.

The spring circuit of the High Court of Justiciary was opened at Stirling on Tuesday last, - the Lord Justice Clerk and Lord Wood presiding; Mr. Aitken, clerk; Charles Bailie, Esq., Advocate-Depute.

WILLIAM DAVIDSON, a collier, residing at Blackbraes, in the parish of Muiravonside, was charged with assaulting or using indecent practices to a girl of tender years, near the farm-house of Blackbraes. The prisoner pled guilty to the second count, and after a very impressive address, was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

ALEXANDER MONTEITH, junior, and WILLIAM CONOLLY, baker, Avonbridge, were charged with assault and robbery, in so far as (1), on the 21st November last, the said Alexander Monteith did, within the house in Cow Wynd of Falkirk, occupied by Janet Turnbull or McLaren, attack and assault the said Janet Turnbull, and wounded her to the effusion of her blood and injury of her person. (2) On the 21st or 22d November last, both or each of them, in the same house, did attack and assault James Pirie, Inland Revenue officer, Grahamston, and did seize hold of him by the collar, and did with their fists strike him several blows on the face and throw him down on the ground, and did take from his person an ink-glass, an excise permit, a handkerchief, and a hat. The charge was aggravated by two previous convictions. Conolly, who did not appear, was outlawed, and Alexander Monteith pled guilty to the charge of robbery, but not of assault, and the case consequently went to trial. After evidence being led the jury found the prisoner guilty, and Lord Wood sentenced him to 7 years' transportation. The prisoner on leaving the dock said, "I thank you, my Lord, I hope I will have the pleasure of dancing on your corpse when I come back."

Falkirk Herald Thursday 22nd April 1852

SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. -

The following cases, at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, have been disposed of summarily at this Court during the past week: -

3. James M'Geadie, labourer, Camelon, accused of a Violent assault on Andrew Bryce in Muiravonside; pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 40s., or to suffer 40 days' imprisonment.

GRASS PARKS TO LET, AND SALE OF MILCH COWS AND PIGS,

AT HILLEND, On Monday, April 26, 1852.

TO be exposed by Public Roup, at Hillend, near Avonbridge, belonging to Mr. Thomas Wyse, on Monday the 26th April, 1852,

House Park, containing 12 Acres,

Middle Low Park, containing 10 Acres.

4 Milch Cows, near the calving.

3 Farrow Cows.

7 Swine, from 4 to 6 months old.

10 Pigs, 5 weeks old.

Usual Credit given.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock afternoon.

WILLIAM GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 29th April 1852

SLAMANNAN FAIR -

The usual half-yearly fair was held in Slamannan on Tuesday last. The day was most delightful, and the crowds of people who assembled was certainly something new to the quiet village of Slamannan. The fair, for quantity of stock exhibited and the number of persons present, was the largest that has yet been held; and we are glad to say that this market, which we have no doubt will prove a great boon to the locality, may now be said to be established.

The cattle brought forward were of fair average quality, though some of them, owing to the long continued drought and consequent want of pasture, did not show so well as might have been wished. The number of purchasers forward were pretty considerable, and prices for good quality were well supported. Inferior beasts were not in great demand, but for milk cows good prices were realised. Sellers seemed on the whole to consider it a very tolerable market. Good cows brought from £8 to £9, Mr. Rennie of Craighburn having sold perhaps the best beast in the market at something like the latter figure, and two others at £8 and £7 respectively. Mr. Shanks of Wester Jaw sold two farrow cows at £13, and another cow at £5. Mr. Barrie, Shortrigg, sold nine stots, seven at £28, and another pair of two-year-olds at £13. Mr. Gentleman of Avonbridge sold a pair of heifers at £8 8s.; and Mr. Taylor of Loch-house sold one quay at £4. Another gentleman we heard of sold three farrow cows at £14 10s. Mr. Henry Aitken of Avonbridge sold eight cows at prices ranging from £4 to £7 10s. The horse market was but poorly supplied with good beasts, though a few animals brought high prices. Mr. Brown of Middlerigg sold a pair of excellent work horses at £59 the pair. There were a great many inferior beasts, a number of which were unsold at the close of the market. A few, but very few, cattle were also driven off unsold. One or two excellent stallions were shown. On the whole the market was the best that has yet taken place in Slamannan, and it is hoped that it will be still better supported, as a more convenient place for a thriving fair cannot be found in that locality.

SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. -

The following cases at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal have been disposed of summarily

before Mr. Sheriff Robertson, during the past week: -
2. Daniel Cassels, collier, Blackbraes, accused of assault there, pled guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 20s., or to suffer twenty days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th May 1852

The following cases, at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, have been disposed of, summarily, at this Court before Sheriff Robertson during the past week: -

6. Andrew Dinsmore, from Avonbridge, accused of falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition; pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 6th, 13th May 1852

SALE OF WOOD AT MUIRAVONSIDE

On Tuesday, 18th May.

To be Sold by Public Roup on Tuesday the 18th day of May, 1852, on the Estate of Muiravonside, belonging to Charles Stirling Esquire, about FIFTY LOTS of FULL-GROWN TIMBER, consisting of SAUGH, LARCH, SPRUCE, AND DASH WOOD. Most of the Trees are of large size and fine quality.

Four Months' Credit on Bills, or Discount for Cash.

Roup to commence at One o'clock afternoon.

The Wood is lying along the side of the Avenue leading to the Mansion-House, Muiravonside is near to Causewayend Station on the Slamman Railway.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th, 17th June 1852

TO LET, IN THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE AND COUNTY OF STIRLING,

ALL the MINERALS belonging to the Kirk- Session in the Lands of Candyend, consisting of upwards of 30 Acres. The Lands lie alongside of the Slamman Railway.

For particulars, apply to Mr Henderson, Session- Clerk, with whom Offers may be lodged on or before 25th current. Muiravonside School, June 7, 1852.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th July 1852

TWO SHEEP LOST.

There was Lost from a flock of Sheep travelling between Bathgate and Avonbridge, on Wednesday last, TWO WETHERS or EWE HOGS. Whoever has found the same, on restoring them to Mr. Marshall, Avonbridge, or to Mr. Gowans, of Gowanbank, will be Rewarded.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th August 1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. -

On Monday afternoon a man named Peter Binnie, a meal and cheese dealer, belonging to Avonbridge, met his death in a very sudden manner, in consequence of a fall from his cart while he was working in a field of hay on the farm of Bulliondale. He did not fall more than six feet, but, unfortunately, he lighted upon his head, and dislocated his neck, causing almost instantaneous death. The deceased was well known in Falkirk and other market towns in the neighbourhood, which he regularly frequented.

THE CROPS AND THE HARVEST.-

From present appearances on all the early soils in this neighbourhood, there is every likelihood that the shearing; of barley will commence very generally in the beginning of next week. Some fields indeed are already so far advanced as to be quite ready for the sickle. On the uplands the crops are also well advanced, and promise to be ready as much before the usual time as the produce of the carse. The appearance of the potato disease in different parts of the country seems to have caused some uneasiness. So far as this neighbourhood is concerned, and we doubt not also the other localities where it has broken out, there, is no ground as yet for any alarm, for we believe the symptoms of the disease are not so general as they were last year, and last year's crop turned out the best since the blight first made its appearance.

SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. -

The following cases, at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, have been disposed of summarily at this Court, before Mr. Sheriff Robertson, during the past week: - Robert Roberts, accused of assault at Avonbridge; pleaded guilty. and was sentenced to pay a fine of 15s. or to suffer 15 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th August 1852

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

MRS. MARGARET MARSHALL or BINNIE, Widow of Peter Binnie, Corn Merchant at Newhouse, near Avonbridge, by Falkirk, requests that all persons having CLAIMS against her late Husband, will lodge the same, within fourteen days from this date, with William Storie, Writer in Falkirk.

Newhouse, 7th August, 1852.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th , Caledonian Mercury Thursday 12th August 1852

MARRIAGE.

At Haining Valley, Muiravonside, on the 3d instant, by the Rev. James M'Farlane. Mr. William Ritchie, farmer, Plean Mill, St Ninians, to Mary, eldest daughter of Henry Reid, Esq. STRATHAVON GROWING CROP, HAY, HORSES, &c,

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th 12th 19th August 1852

On FRIDAY the 20th AUGUST. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 20th day of August, 1852, on the Farm of Strathavon, one Mile east from Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. William Waugh, THE whole GROWING CROP, OATS. LINT, HAY, &c, upon the above Farm, comprising

30 ACRES of OATS,

10 ACRES of LINT,

2 ACRES of PRINCE REGENT POTATOES, ready for using,

1000 STONES of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY in Ricks,

1 DRAUGHT HORSE,

2 BROOD MARES, and 2 FOALS;

1 CART, with Water Barrel, Wheels, and Axle, and 1 SET of HORSE HARNESS for Carting.

The Crops are heavy and evenly (*heavy or early?*)

The whole to be Sold in Lots, and 4 Months' Credit given on Bills, or Discount for Cash.

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock noon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th ,19th , 26th August 1852

MUIRAVONSIDE OATS AND HAY,

On FRIDAY, 27th AUGUST.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 27th August, 1852, on the Farms of WESTER BOOS and Castlehill, upon the Estate of Muiravonside, TWENTY-ONE ACRES of OATS, and 2500 STONES of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in Ricks. To be Sold in Lots, and the usual Credit given.

Roup to begin with the OATS at Wester Boos, at Three o'clock afternoon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th August 1852

GROWING OATS, LINT, FARM STOCKING, MILCH COWS, &c, FOR SALE.
To be Sold by Public Roup, at Ellrig Side and Newhouse, near Avonbridge, on Friday the 27th day of August, 1852, THE GROWING CROP, FARM STOCKING, &c, which belonged to the late Mr. Peter Binnie, consisting of
8 ACRES of OATS,
1 ACRE of LINT,
2 MILCH COWS,
4 QUEYS and STIRKS,
1 DRAUGHT HORSE,
2 Carts, 1 Iron Plough, 1 Pair of Harrows, 1 Pair of Fanners.
Horse Harness; together with the whole Barn and Dairy Utensils, and a variety of other articles.
The Usual Credit will be given.
Sale to begin at One o'clock afternoon.
WILLIAM CHRISTIE, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 2nd September 1852

SALE OF CROP, HAY, HORSE, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c,
At CROSSRIGG or GREENCRAIG, near Avonbridge,
On Tuesday the 7th September, 1852. To be Sold by Public Roup, on TUESDAY the 7th day of September, 1852, by virtue of a Warrant from the Sheriff, THE whole CROP and FARM STOCKING, &c, upon the Farm of Crossrigg or Greencraig, in the Parish of Muiravonside, possessed by James Aitken, comprising about 18 Acres of OATS,
5 Ricks of RYEGRASS HAY,
1 Acre of TURNIPS,
A Plot of POTATOES, also,
A quantity of POTATOES, GREENS, &c, in Garden.
About 15 Acres PASTURE GRASS to LET,
A Draught Horse and set of Horse Harness, 1 pair of Hand Fanners, 1 Cart with Wheels and Axle, 3 Milk Barrels, a quantity of Manure, a quantity of Straw, Stack Props, &c. Also.
Household Furniture, viz :-A Chest of Mahogany Drawers, 3 Close Bedsteads with Bedding, 8 Chairs, 2 Tables, Dressing Glass, Cupboard, Dresser, and other Household Furniture, Dishes, &c. &c. READY cash.
Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock noon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 16th September 1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. –
On Friday last, while a breaksman on the Bo'ness and Slamman Railway, named Robert Heddley, was sitting or standing between two trucks of a goods train which was in motion, by some accident he fell down between them, and the whole of the remainder of the train, consisting of three carriages and the engine, passed over his thighs, separating his legs from his body. The train was immediately stopped, and the unfortunate man conveyed to Bo'ness, where he expired in a few hours afterwards. The accident took place about a quarter of a mile from the junction of the Bo'ness branch with the Edinburgh and Glasgow line, near Myrehead, in the parish of Muiravonside. We understand the young man was unmarried and had been but a short time in the company's service.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 23rd September 1852

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT CHRISTIAN HUNTER, now or lately residing at Rumford, in the parish of Muiravonside, and shire of Stirling, has been committed by the Sheriff of Stirlingshire to a place of safe custody, as a Dangerous Lunatic, on an application at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal; and that the Sheriff has fixed Monday, next, the 27th day of September current, at One o'clock afternoon, within the Sheriff's Chambers, in Sword's Wynd of Falkirk, for taking evidence of the condition of the said Christian Hunter, with a view to her ultimate disposal, in terms of the Statute 4th and 5th Victoria, cap. 60.
JOHN GAIR, Procurator-Fiscal. Falkirk, 22d September, 1852.
SHOE AND HARNESS LEATHER.
DICK & GARDNER, TANNERS AND CURRIERS, BEG to intimate to Shoemakers, Saddlers, &c, that they have opened a TAN-WORK at AVONBRIDGE, where they are manufacturing the different sorts of Leather generally in use, and which they intend to dispose of at the lowest prices FOR cash.
Avonbridge, 22d Sept., 1852.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th October 1852

STRAYED
From near Kincardine Ferry, on Tuesday last. A TWO-YEAR-OLD BROWN QUEY, apparently within three weeks of Calving. Any person having found the same by giving notice to Alex. RATTRAY, Innkeeper, Falkirk, or Alex. NIMMO, Farmer, Whiterigg, Muiravonside, will be handsomely rewarded.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th November 1852

Correspondence
TORPHICHEN ROADS.
(To the Editor of the Falkirk Herald.)
Sir,
My attention has been called to a letter in your paper of last week, dated Falkirk. 24th Oct., 1852, and signed "J.," calling your attention to the state of the parish roads of Torphichen, which, according to his description, are in a most wretched state, but your correspondent appears to be very ignorant of the boundaries of the parish. He says "I cannot help admiring the patience of the farmers and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood of Avonbridge, to which part of the parish I particularly refer, in submitting to have their roads in such a disgraceful state, &c." I dare say I need not inform you or any other person who has the slightest knowledge of that locality, that Avonbridge is situated in the parishes of Muiravonside and Slamannan and county of Stirling, and that all the roads in that district are under the management of the Trustees of these parishes, the roads in Torphichen parish not commencing till you cross the Linn-Mill Bridge, which is half a mile distant from Avonbridge, where, I think, your correspondent will be at a loss to point out any water holes that would drown a sparrow, far less a Falkirk gallant. But your correspondent appears to be as ignorant of the other matters in Torphichen parish as he is regarding the boundaries; he says "that nearly £100 a year is raised in road money" -this statement is incorrect. The amount raised by assessment for the maintenance of the roads in the western division of the parish of Torphichen is £81 6s. 6d. yearly, from which deduct clerk and collector's salary, with expense of advertising and recording the accounts, £3 9s. 3d., leaving less than £78 to be laid out on nearly 17 miles of roads, with 3 miles of bye-roads which are occasionally repaired, - making altogether about 20 miles of roads, which, I think, will stand a favourable comparison with any road in the district. I leave the public to judge of this. Regarding the latter part of his

communication, about a wonderful patriotic and model Road-Trustee, I have just to state, that the road to the south of that individual's property, which he rendered utterly impassible by his carting operations when he built his house and steading, was repaired at the joint expense of him and the road funds, and the road to the west was made at the expense of the road funds, with the exception of a few carts of stones given by this individual, and carting the earth from the sides of the road (which I dare say would not have been done had it not been to serve himself.) Indeed last year the whole fund allocated to that district was laid out by this person upon the road bounding his own property and a few yards beyond it, leaving upwards of two miles without a single stone laid upon it or a track drawn in. This matter was brought before the annual meeting in April last, when this model Trustee confessed he had never even seen the extremity of the district he pretended to take charge of. However, if he wishes to have the roads made in the same manner as the Turnpike road from Queensferry and Cramond to Edinburgh I dare say the other Road-Trustees will have no objections, provided he does so at his own expense. Hitherto he has not been very profuse in giving any assistance out of his private funds; indeed there are other gentlemen in the neighbourhood who have given liberally both of their valuable time and private funds to improve the roads, and made no noise about it. Hoping that your correspondent, the next time he addresses you, will endeavour to get more accurate information before he ventures to make such statements, -
I am, &c, ALEXANDER WARDROP
Convener of the Road-Trustees of the Western Division of Torphichen. Crawhill House, 2d Nov., 1852

Stirling Observer Thursday 11th, 18th 25th November 1852
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

That application is intended to be made to Parliament, in the ensuing Session, for leave to bring in a Bill for the purposes following, or some of them, that is to say, to empower the Monkland Railways Company to make and maintain the following Railways, or some of them, viz. First, A Railway diverging from and out of the line of Railway belonging to the Monkland Railways Company called the Slamannan Railway, at or near to Blackstone, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, and terminating at or near to Boghead, in the Parish of Bathgate and County of Linlithgow, by a junction with the Branch Railway belonging to the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company, leading from the main line of the Wilsontown, Morningside, & Coltness Railway, also belonging to the said last-mentioned Company, near Whitburn, to Bathgate, which intended Railway will pass from, through, or into the Parish of Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling, and the Parishes of Torphichen and Bathgate, and the Town or Burgh of Bathgate, all in the County of Linlithgow, or some of them. Second, A Branch Railway, diverging from and out of the intended Railway above described, at or near to Kaemuir, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, and passing through and terminating in the aforesaid Parish and County, by a Junction with the said Slamannan Railway, at or near to Candie, in the said Parish and County. Third, A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway first above described, at or near to South Coustoun, in the Parish of Bathgate and County of Linlithgow, and passing through and terminating in the said Parish and County, at or near to Armadale Toll, Fourth. Another Branch Railway from and out of the intended Railway first above described, at or near to Bathgate Mill, in the Parish of Bathgate and County of Linlithgow, and terminating at or near to Bathgate Mill aforesaid, in the said Parish and County, and passing from, through, or into, the said Parish of Bathgate and the Town or Burgh of Bathgate, in the County of Linlithgow, or one of them. Fifth, A Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway first above described, at or near to Boghead, in the said Parish of Bathgate and County of Linlithgow, and terminating at or near to Cowdenhead, in the said Parish and County, and passing from, through, or into the said Parish of Bathgate, and the Town or Burgh of Bathgate, in the County of Linlithgow, and the Parish of Shotts, in the County of Lanark, or some of them. Sixth, A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway fifth above described, at or near to Boghead, in the Parish of Bathgate and County of Linlithgow, and terminating in the said Parish and County, at or near to Boghead aforesaid, by a Junction with the said Branch Railway, belonging to the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway- Company, leading from the Main Line of the said Wilsontown, Morningside, & Coltness Railway, near Whitburn, to Bathgate, and passing from, through, or into the said Parish of Bathgate, and the Town or Burgh of Bathgate, in the County of Linlithgow, or one of them. Seventh, A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway fifth above described, at or near to Whiteside, in the said Parish of Bathgate and County of Linlithgow, and passing through and terminating in the said Parish and County, at or near to Torbanehill. Eighth, A Branch Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway fifth above described, at or near to Trees, in the said Parish of Bathgate and County of Linlithgow, and passing through and terminating in the said Parish and County, at or near to Armadale Toll. Ninth, A Railway diverging from and out of the intended Railway fifth above described, at or near to Cowdenhead aforesaid, and terminating at or near to Colliertree, in the Parish of New Monkland and County of Lanark, by a Junction with the Clarkston Branch of the Ballochney Railway, belonging to the said Monkland Railways Company, and passing from, through, or into the said Parishes of Bathgate and Torphichen in the County of Linlithgow, and Shotts and New Monkland in the County of Lanark, or some of them. Tenth, A Railway diverging out of the Clarkston Branch of the said Ballochney Railway, at or near to Colliertree, in the Parish of New Monkland, and County of Lanark, and terminating at or near to the Monkland Iron & Steel Works, in the Parish of Old Monkland, and County aforesaid, which intended Railway will pass from, through, or into the Parishes of New Monkland, Old Monkland, and Bothwell, and the Burgh of Airdrie, all in the said County of Lanark, or some of them. And to make and maintain all proper Works and Conveniences in connection with the said several Railways, and to take powers for the compulsory purchase of Lands, Houses, and other Property, for the purposes of such Railways and other Works. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, That Duplicate Plans and Sections, describing the Lines, Situations, and Levels of the said intended Railways and Works, and the Lands, Houses, and other Property which may be required to be taken for the purpose of such Railways and Works, together with Books of Reference to such Plans, containing the Names of the Owners or reputed Owners, Lessees or reputed Lessees, and Occupiers of such Lands, Houses, and Property, and a published Map, with the Lines of the proposed Railways and Works delineated thereon, so as to show their general course and direction, and a copy of this Notice, as published in the Edinburgh Gazette, will, on or before the 30th day of November current, be deposited for public inspection, in the Offices, at Stirling and Falkirk, of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County; in the Office, at Linlithgow, of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Linlithgow; and in the Offices, at Glasgow, Hamilton, and Airdrie, of the principal Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Lanark; and that a copy of so much of the said Plans, Sections, and Books of Reference as relates to each of the said Parishes, and to the said Town or Burgh of Bathgate, and to the said Burgh of Airdrie, and a copy of this Notice will also, on or before the 30th day of November current, be deposited for public inspection, with the Schoolmaster, or if there be no Schoolmaster, then with the Session-Clerk of each of the said Parishes, at the usual place of abode of each of such Schoolmaster or Session- Clerk, and with the Town-Clerk of the said Town or Burgh of Bathgate and Burgh of Airdrie, respectively, at the respective Offices of each such Town-Clerk. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, That it is intended by the said Bill to take power to deviate the construction of the Railways and Works before set forth, from the lines delineated on the said Plans, intended to be deposited as aforesaid, to such an extent as will be defined on the said Plans ; and also to cross, stop up, alter, and divert, such highways, turnpike and other roads, railways, bridges, streets, paths, passages, rivers, canals, brooks, streams, sewers, waters, and water-courses, as it may be necessary or expedient to cross, stop up, alter, or divert, for the purpose of making, maintaining, and using, the Railways and Works before set forth, or any portion thereof, or any of the conveniences connected therewith. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, That it is intended by the said Bill to vary and extinguish all existing rights and privileges connected with the lands, houses, and other

property, to be purchased as aforesaid, or which would in any manner impede or interfere with the construction of the Railways and Works before set forth, or any of them, or with the maintenance or use thereof, and to confer other rights and privileges ; and also to take powers to the Monkland Railways Company to levy tolls, rates, and duties, on or for the use of the said intended Railways and Works, and to confer, vary, or extinguish exemptions from payment of tolls, rates, and duties. And it is also proposed by the said Bill to authorise the said Monkland Railways Company to raise Money, for the purposes aforesaid, or any of them, by the creation of Shares, with or without a guaranteed preference or priority in the payment of dividend, or by Mortgage or Bond, or by all or any of such means ; And it is also proposed to authorise the said Company to fund the whole or any part of the Loans which the said Company have received, or may hereafter receive, on Mortgage or Bond, or to raise the amount of such Loans or part thereof, by creating new Shares or Stock in the said Company, with a guaranteed or preferential Dividend, of such amount and with such special privileges as may be fixed by the said intended Bill. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that it is intended by the said Bill to vary or extinguish all such Rights and Privileges as may in any manner interfere with the objects aforesaid, or any of them. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, That, for the above and other purposes, it is intended by the said Bill to alter and amend the following Acts, or some of them, viz. The Slamannan & Borrowstouness Railway Act, 1846 ; The Monkland Railways Act, 1848 ; and the Monkland Railways (Slamannan & Borrowstouness Deviation) Act, 1851 ; And also, so far as necessary, the several Acts therein recited, or some of them. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, That printed copies of the said Bill will be deposited in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, on or before the 31st day of December next.

Dated this 3d day of November, 1852.

MITCHELL, ALLARDICE, & MITCHELL, Solicitors, Glasgow.

G. H. LANG, Parliamentary Agent . Westminster.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 18th November 1852

Correspondence

THE ROADS IN THE PARISH OF TORPHICHEN.

(To the Editor of the Falkirk Herald.)

Mr. Editor, I have just seen in your journal what Mr. Alex. Wardrop, convener of the Road-Trustees in the Western Division of Torphichen, intends as a reply to a few observations which I made in your paper a week or two ago. I have no doubt that Mr. Wardrop considers it as proving in a remarkable manner that the Road Trustees are a body of men exceedingly zealous in the improvement of their roads ; but I have been unable to discover in his letter any trace of a reply to my objections to the state of the roads. Mr. Wardrop begins by accusing me of the most thorough ignorance of where Torphichen is, and consequently insinuates that for me to talk of the roads is most unheard-of presumption. He then proceeds to tell me, with great gravity that the "village of Avonbridge is situated in the parishes of Muiravonside and Slamannan, and county of Stirling." Now, though Mr. Wardrop may think he has conferred a favour by telling me where Avonbridge is, still I may be allowed to say that I did not require to be enlightened by him on the subject, - though, in the beginning of my letter, speaking of the neighbourhood of the village, I afterwards inadvertently said that it instead of its neighbourhood was in Torphichen. By Mr. Wardrop's own showing the roads half a mile from the village are in Torphichen. so that even if I had been ignorant, which I was not, such a slight mistake, and one not bearing on the subject, is excusable, in one confessedly nothing more than a traveller in that locality. But even taking Mr. Wardrop's argument at its full value, I am at a loss to see how it can weigh against a plan for the improvement of the Roads in Torphichen, that Avonbridge is situated in the parishes of Slamannan and Muiravonside and county of Stirling. Such, however, is Mr. Wardrop's first argument; and he winds it up with affirming that there is not in the roads of Torphichen above the Linn-Mill Bridge - the commencement of the parish - a hole that would drown a sparrow, One of two things must be true - either that Mr. Wardrop has not lately seen the roads, or that the sparrows he sees at Crawhill are of monstrous dimensions, compared with those we have at Falkirk. I said that nearly £100 was collected, and Mr. Wardrop has shown it to be a sum not vastly less. I still say, however, that £81 6s. 6d. judiciously spent yearly in forming the roads, where they can have metal so easily as in Torphichen, should soon make them all that could be desired. However, Mr. Wardrop conceives, and justly too, that his roads will bear a comparison with the others in the district. If this is all the comparison they can bear, they must surely, Mr. Editor, be bad enough. But, Sir, if Mr. Wardrop had no reply to make, save to stigmatise me as ignorant, I cannot help thinking that all parties would have reaped more benefit if he had set about improving the roads, rather than have penned anything on the subject. The former course of conduct the public could have appreciated, and thanked him for, while the latter, I am afraid, will not be so much thought of. I think, therefore, his better plan is to mend his ways. In regard to the not very becoming language used by Mr. Wardrop in reference to one of the Trustees, it is but just in me to say that that gentleman is entirely guiltless of any of the "noise," as Mr. Wardrop terms it, that I have made about the roads. Had none talked, however, but those having as good a right as that gentleman, you would not, Mr. Editor, have been troubled with some of the communications you have published on this subject. In conclusion, Mr. Editor, as a very talented author once said, that though he never answered any attacks upon his book, yet he saw by the railing of Warburton that it was getting into good company, - so I may say that the railing of the convener is a proof that I have been the means of causing a consideration of the subject at headquarters, which was all I intended. My end having been gained, I have done; and I shall patiently wait, and sincerely hope that the result of such consideration on the part of the Road-Trustees will be that the roads under their charge will soon bear a favourable comparison, not with such roads as those of Slamannan, but with other well-regulated trusts in the kingdom. -

I am, &c. J.

Falkirk, 10th Nov. 1852.

P.S. - Since writing the above, Mr. Editor. I am glad to learn that the effect of my letter has been a very great improvement upon the roads under review. Into some of the holes which Mr. Wardrop said would not drown a sparrow, cart-loads of stones have been emptied, and the road now presents, as you may believe, a very great contrast to its former state. This, sir, is a far more tangible reply to my communication in regard to the roads than the letter you published from Mr. Wardrop, while it is at the same time the best reply I can give to his letter. It is a result with which I am sure all parties will be highly satisfied.

London Standard Friday 17th December 1852

DEATHS.

On the 9th inst., at The Elms, Surrey, Char: Sarah, last surviving daughter of the late Charles Lockhart. Lee and Carnwath, and Elizabeth Macdonald, of Largie and Muiravonside.

Falkirk Herald 23rd December 1852

FOR SALE,

A Strong, Active, Serviceable, and Handsome GREY MARE, Seven Years old, 15.1 high ; pleasant to ride and perfect in harness ; warranted sound, and free from vice.

Apply to Messrs William Robertson & Son, Farmers, Village of Maddiston, between one and two miles south of Polmont Junction.

1853

Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser Friday 29th April 1853

Births

At Muiravonside Manse, near Linlithgow, on the 25th current, of a daughter.

Glasgow Herald 14th March 1853

ROUP OF TOLLS, AND MEETING OF TRUSTEES, ON THE BATHGATE AND ARDRIE ROAD.

A GENERAL STATUTORY MEETING of the TRUSTEES, on the Turnpike Road, from the New Bridge over the Water of Almond to Baillieston by Bathgate and Airdrie, will be held at West Craigs, on Saturday- the 2nd day of April, 1853, at 12 o'clock Noon. At this Meeting, orders will be given for the erection of a Toll or Check Bar at the West end of the town of Bathgate, between the Houses and the Parish Road leading to Avonbridge by Bathgate Mills. The Trustees will there, (at West Craigs,) on the same day, at One o'clock P.M., proceed to Let the Toll Duties exigible for the year, from 15th May, 1853, to 15th May, 1854 at the following Bars, viz.:-

NEWLISTON, BEDLORMIE,
BROXBURN, AIRDRIE,
BATHGATE, and ARMADALE.
COATDYKE and BAILLIESTON.
AND OTHER CHECK AND SIDE BARS.

Intending Tacksmen must be prepared to produce instant sufficient Caution, or their offers will be rejected.

The Articles of Roup will be seen in the hands of William Waddell, W.S., 10 Carlton Terrace. Edinburgh, 12th March, 1853.

Glasgow Herald 9th September 1953

MONKLAND RAILWAYS COMPANY.
BATHGATE BRANCH RAILWAY.

THE DIRECTORS of this COMPANY are prepared to receive TENDERS for the construction of the above named Branch Railway, diverging from their Slamannan Railway at Blackstone, and terminating with a Junction with the Wilsontown, Morningside, and Coltness Railway, near Boghead, being a distance of about Four Miles and Fifty-six Chains. The Plans and Specification, &c., may be seen at the Office of the Resident Engineer, Mr. Joseph Cochran, Royal Terrace, Linlithgow, on and after Thursday the 15th inst.; and on Tuesday the 20th inst., the Engineer will be at this Company's Avonbridge Station at 11 o'clock, to point out the Line to intending offerers. Forms of Tender may be obtained here, or at the Office of the Resident Engineer, and Tenders in any other form will not be received. Sealed Tenders addressed to the Directors of the Company, and marked "Tenders for Works," must be lodged here not later than Monday the 26th instant. The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender. By Order of the Directors. B. B. REED, Engineer and Manager. Monkland Railways Office, 37 West George Street, Glasgow, 6th September, 1853.

Stirling Observer Thursday 29th September, London Standard Friday 23 September 1853

Deaths

At Eltham, Kent, on the 21st instant, Walter, youngest son of Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside.

1854

Inverness Courier Thursday 12th January 1854

MAN FROZEN TO DEATH. – Last week it was our painful duty to record the death from exposure of a poor sailor, who, in a state of inebriation, lay down in Grahamston one night and was found next morning frozen to death. Already we have to record another melancholy case of the same kind. The victim is a poor man, a stranger to the district, name unknown. He had lately been employed in a quarry at Armadale, between Bathgate and Avonbridge. On the night of Friday last he was seen staggering about, evidently intoxicated, in the vicinity of a stackyard at the back of Mr. Shaw, baker, Avonbridge. Next morning he was found lying against a stack, quite dead. He is thought to have been about thirty years of age. – Falkirk Herald.

Glasgow Herald Friday 16th June 1854

Advertisements & Notices

STIRLINGSHIRE.

A MINERAL FIELD TO LET

THE COAL and IRONSTONE in the Estate of Redford, in the Parish of Muiravonside, containing about 400 Imperial Acres, is to be Let on such terms as may be agreed on. From bores and a pit shanked upon the Lands, both Coal and Ironstone have been found, the Coal being from three to four feet in thickness, and of an excellent quality. The Slamannan Branch of the Monkland Railways intersects the Lanes, affording a ready means of transit to the Iron Works in the Monkland district and the chief mineral markets.

Apply to John Graham, Esq. of Redford, by Linlithgow, the Proprietor; or to A. & J. Graham, Writers, 42 George Square, Glasgow.

Caledonian Mercury 11th September 1854

A few days ago a cat at a house in Maddiston brought forth a kitten having two heads, four ears, and three eyes

Stirling Observer Thursday 14th, 21st December 1854

ASSESSED TAXES 1854-55.

APPEAL COURTS, COUNTY OF STIRLING.

THE Commissioners of Supply for the several Districts of the County of Stirling will meet, on the days and at the places undermentioned, to hear and determine Appeals against the charges made by the Surveyor for the current year :-

For the Parishes of Airth, Bothkenner, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont and Slamannan – in the Court-House at Falkirk, on Thursday the 4th January next, at Twelve o'clock Noon.

Glasgow, February 23, 1856.

ROOKLAND RAILWAY.
ON SATURDAY, 23rd INSTANT, THE PASSENGER TRAINS WILL RUN AT THE FOLLOWING HOURS—
GLASGOW TO AIRDRIE.
 At 11:30 A.M.
 6:30 P.M.

AIRDRIE TO GLASGOW.
 At 8:00 A.M.
 3:00 P.M.

FARES.—
 First Class, 1s. 6d.; Second Class, 1s. 0d.
 Third Class, 1s. 0d.

AIRDRIE TO ROYNS AND BATHGATE.

	A.M.	P.M.	From Airdrie	To Glasgow
at 7:00	8:00	8:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 7:30	8:30	8:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 8:00	9:00	9:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 8:30	9:30	9:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 9:00	10:00	10:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 9:30	10:30	10:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 10:00	11:00	11:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 10:30	11:30	11:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 11:00	12:00	12:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 11:30	12:30	12:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.

ROYNS AND BATHGATE TO AIRDRIE.

	A.M.	P.M.	From Rohns	To Airdrie
at 8:00	9:00	9:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 8:30	9:30	9:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 9:00	10:00	10:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 9:30	10:30	10:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 10:00	11:00	11:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 10:30	11:30	11:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 11:00	12:00	12:15	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.
at 11:30	12:30	12:45	1s. 0d.	0s. 0d.

NOTES.— The Union between Airdrie and Leith is not yet completed. Trains will stop at Airdrie, and then above there will be a stop at Leith. Passengers are allowed to take with them 10 lbs. of Baggage, and 10 lbs. of other articles, without extra charge. All former advertisements are hereby withdrawn.
 Glasgow, 23rd February, 1856.
BY ORDER.
 GLASGOW, LEITH, ROYNS, AND BATHGATE.

RECEIVED THE REVUE.
AT GLASGOW—FOR MALTA.
 THE fine establishment A. I. British built ship HINDA, 220 tons register, is now ready, and having the greater portion of her cargo engaged, will be despatched for Malta. For freight or passage, apply to
ALLAN C. GOW,
 21 Union Street.

AT GLASGOW FOR NEW YORK.
 THE fine American Clipper Ship BRANTLEY BAKER, 200 tons register, Captain M. W. ALLEN, is now in port, and is ready to receive passengers, and will sail on the 24th inst. For freight or passage, apply to Messrs. John Aitken & Co., 11 Dixon Street; or to
ALLAN C. GOW,
 21 Union Street.

RECEIVED THE LARK.
AT GLASGOW—FOR SAN FRANCISCO, DIRECT.
 THE beautiful New Clipper Ship AAR, 600 tons register, Captain J. F. GIBSON, Commanding Officer of the vessel of Glasgow will continue to receive passengers, and will sail on the 24th inst. For freight or passage, having beautiful Cabin accommodations, apply to
ALLAN C. GOW,
 21 Union Street.

AT GLASGOW—FOR VALPARAISO, DIRECT.
 RECEIVED THE LARK.
 THE fine New Clipper Ship AAR, 600 tons register, Captain J. F. GIBSON, Commanding Officer of the vessel of Glasgow will continue to receive passengers, and will sail on the 24th inst. For freight or passage, having beautiful Cabin accommodations, apply to
ALLAN C. GOW,
 21 Union Street.

AT GLASGOW—FOR HONG KONG, ALEX.
 THE fine New Clipper Ship BRANTLEY BAKER, 200 tons register, Captain M. W. ALLEN, is now in port, and is ready to receive passengers, and will sail on the 24th inst. For freight or passage, apply to
ALLAN C. GOW,
 21 Union Street.

RECEIVED THE REVUE.
AT GLASGOW—FOR MALTA.
 THE fine establishment A. I. British built ship HINDA, 220 tons register, is now ready, and having the greater portion of her cargo engaged, will be despatched for Malta. For freight or passage, apply to
ALLAN C. GOW,
 21 Union Street.

1855

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 23rd; Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th January 1855
 The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire fox-hounds will meet on Thursday the 24th January, at Avonbridge; and Saturday the 26th, at Dechmont, each morning at a quarter before eleven o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 28th 31st ; Glasgow Herald 28th 30th January 1855
 The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire fox-hounds will meet on Tuesday the 29th January, at Barnton House; Thursday the 31st, at Dechmont, and Saturday the 2nd February, at Avonbridge, each morning at a quarter before eleven o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 7th February 1855
GRASS PARKS TO LET, AND SALE OF MILCH COWS.
 AT HILLEND, On Saturday the 9th February, 1856. To be exposed by Public Roup, at Hillend, near Avonbridge, belonging to Mr. Thomas Wyse, on Saturday the 9th February, 1856, THE GRASS PARKS at HILLEND; also, TWO MILCH COWS near the Calving. The Fields are well Watered, Fenced, and Sheltered.
 Roup to commence at One o'clock afternoon.
 WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

Glasgow Herald Monday 14th May 1855
LANDS NEAR FALKIRK FOR SALE.
 UPSET PRICE, £700
 To be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Red Lion Hotel, Falkirk, upon Thursday the 17th current, at Two o'clock Afternoon, (unless previously disposed of by private bargain)
 THE LANDS of FOGGERMOUNTAIN and Others, lying near to the village of Avonbridge, about six miles south of Falkirk, end the same distance west of Linlithgow, with the Ironstone and Fire Clay therein. The Lands extend to 42 1/2 Acres, or thereby, Scottish measure, - and are capable of much improvement. The Slamannan Railway, which intersects the Property, would afford a ready means of transport for the the Minerals. Immediate Entry may be given. The Feu-duty and public burdens are small.
 Further particulars will be obtained on application to R. R. Glen, Esq., Writer, Linlithgow; or to Messrs. Mitchell, Allardice & Mitchell, Writers, 36 Miller Street, Glasgow, who will also exhibit the Title' Deeds and Articles of Roup.
 Glasgow, 5th May, 1855.

Stirling Observer 21st June 1855
Marriages
 At Maddiston, Stirlingshire, on the 12th instant, by the Rev. Jas. M'Farlane.
 Mr. James Bain, stationer, to Elizabeth, second daughter of William Baird, Esq., Hollandbush.

Aberdeen Journal Wednesday 20th, Stirling Observer Thursday 21st, June 1855
VALUABLE DISCOVERIES OF IRONSTONE. -
 Adjoining Avon Bridge, in the parish of Muiravonside, in this county, some most valuable seams of ironstone have recently been discovered. Ironstone of the best kind has also just been found out by the Messrs Baird of Gartsherrie, near Bridgehill, on the lands of Bogo, at a depth only of fifteen fathoms. The Messrs Russell of Falkirk, moreover, have also just discovered another most valuable mineral bed of the finest ironstone on the property of George Gray of Windy Yettes, while the appearances in a quarry not far distant in the same locality have been considered by mineralogists to indicate the existence of blackband at not a very great depth beneath the surface.

Stirling Observer Thursday 20th September 1855
Births
 At Muiravonside Manse, on the 14th instant, the wife of the Rev. James M'Farlane, of a son.

Stirling Observer Thursday 11th October 1855
FALKIRK
BITING OFF A MAX'S NOSE. -
 On Friday a case of assault of a very vicious character occurred in the parish of Muiravonside. Peter Forgie, flesher there, and John Gardner, quarryman, had been drinking together for some time in a public-house on their way home. Gardner, without any apparent provocation, turned round upon Forgie, caught him by the hair of the head, and, ruffian-like, bit off a part of his nose.
 The accused is in custody.

Stirling Observer Thursday 27th December 1855
ASSESSED TAXES, 1855-56.
APPEAL COURTS, COUNTY OF STIRLING.
 THE Commissioners of Supply for the several Districts of the County of Stirling will meet, on the days and at the places undermentioned, to hear and determine Appeals against the Charges made by the Surveyor for the current year :-
 For the Burgh and Parish of Falkirk, and the Parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan - In the Court- House at Falkirk, on Monday the 7th

day of January, 1856, at Twelve o'Clock Noon.

Stirling Observer Thursday 27th December 1855

SHERIFF JURY TRIALS. On Monday last, the following cases were disposed of before John Morrison Duncan, Esq., Advocate, Sheriff- Substitute of Falkirk, and a jury : - ASSAULT - DAMAGING A MAN'S NOSE.

John Gardner was charged with having, on 28th September last, assaulted Peter Forgie, a fleshier, in a field known as Loanhead Park, parish of Muiravonside, and with knocking him to the ground, and inflicting a severe wound upon the said Peter Forgie's nose, and tearing off a portion of his right nostril, to the great effusion of his blood and severe injury of his person. The prisoner pled not guilty at a former diet, but now gave in a plea of guilty, and was sentenced to three calendar months' imprisonment, two of them with hard labour.

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.		
FOX HOUNDS.		
Name.	Days of Meeting.	Meet at
Lindlithgow & Stirlingshire.....	Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10.45,	Wallhouse.
.....	Saturday, 25, at	Hangingstone.
Stirlingshire harrers,	Friday, Dec. 25, at 10.30	Avonbride
Pife,	Thursday, Dec. 24, at 11.0	Dalmahoy.
.....	Saturday, 26, at	Lady Bank.
Earl of Wemyss's, Wednes.	Dec. 23, at 10.30	Rochester.
.....	Thursday, 24, at	Copeland.
Duke of Buccleuch's	Saturday, 26, at	Allanton Bridge.
.....	Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10.0	Eckford.
.....	Saturday, 26, at	West Gordon.
Leamington & Renfrewshire.....	Saturday, Dec. 26, at 10.45	Cloghburn.
.....	Tuesday, 29, at	Castlemilk.
.....	Saturday, Jan. 2. 1856, at	The Kennel, Houston.
Dumfriesshire.....	Friday, Dec. 25, at 10.30	Dalton Village.
.....	Tuesday, 29, at	Dalswinton.
Lothian,	Thursday, 24, at 10.30	Akieside.
.....	Saturday, 26, at	Salton Kennels
Mr A. D. Tait's,	Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 11.30,	Grange Mains.
.....	Saturday, 26, at	Rowenat Gate.

1856

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th 21st, 28th, February 1856

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS,
ON MONDAY the 3d March. To be Let by Public Roup, on Monday the 3d day of March, 1856, THE GRASS PARKS on the ESTATE of MUIRAVONSIDE, comprising SEVEN ENCLOSURES at DRUMBOWIE, to be Let for Cattle and Horses; and FOUR ENCLOSURES at SEATREES, to be let for Sheep. The Fields are all Fenced and Watered, as formerly. Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie, at One o'clock afternoon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th February 1856

QUARTERLY RETURN OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN SCOTLAND.
The following are the returns from the parishes in our district:-
Births. Deaths. Marriages.

Muiravonside.	20	9	12
Slamannan.	38	13	7
Torphichen,	11	5	4

Falkirk Herald Thursday 6th March 1856

SALE OF CROP AND FARM STOCKING,
ON THE FARM OF CANDYEND, On WEDNESDAY, 12th MARCH, 1856.
To be Sold by Public Roup, by a Warrant from the Sheriff, on Wednesday the 12th day of March 1856, on the Farm of Candyend, in the Parish of Muiravonside, possessed by John Nimmo,
THE whole Crop of OATS, BEANS. BARLEY, HAY, LINT, POTATOES and TURNIPS, grown upon the Lands of Candyend and Howloan, in 1855.
Also,
2 Milch Cows,
3 Two-year-old Queys,
1 Draught Horse,
1 Sow,
2 Close-bodied Carts,
1 Dreg Cart,
1 Plough and Pair of Harrows.
A Stone Roller,
2 Sets of Horse Harness, and A quantity of Household Furniture.
READY CASH.
Roup to begin at One o'clock afternoon precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 27th March 1856

DEATHS
At Melbourne, on the 8th December last, William Taylor youngest son of the late Mr. James Taylor, Manuelburn-bridge, Muiravonside.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 3rd 10th 17th 24th April 1st 8th May 1856

HOUSE NEAR AVONBRIDGE TO LET.
To Let, with Entry at Whitsunday next, THE LOWER FLAT of HILLEND HOUSE, suitable for a respectable family; together with Byre, Milk-House, &c, and a large Garden fully stocked with Fruit Trees and Bushes. Hillend House is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Avon, and is within five minutes' walk of the Railway Station at Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th April 1856

ADJOURNED SALE
OF CROP AND FARM STOCKING,
ON THE FARM OF CANDYEND, On TUESDAY 15TH APRIL 1856.
To be Sold by Public Roup, by a Warrant from the Sheriff, on Wednesday the 12th day of March 1856, on the Farm of Candyend, in the Parish of Muiravonside, possessed by John Nimmo,
THE whole Crop of OATS, BEANS. BARLEY, HAY, LINT, POTATOES and TURNIPS, grown upon the Lands of Candyend and Howloan, in 1855.

Also,
2 Milch Cows,
3 Two-year-old Queys,
1 Draught Horse,
1 Sow,
2 Close-bodied Carts,
1 Dreg Cart,
1 Plough and Pair of Harrows.
A Stone Roller,
2 Sets of Horse Harness, and A quantity of Household Furniture.
READY CASH.
Roup to begin at One o'clock afternoon precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th April 1856

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
THAT ROBERT LOVE, son of and residing with Agnes Fyfe or Love, a widow, at Stanrig, in the parish of Muiravonside and shire of Stirling, has been committed to a place of safe custody in Falkirk as a DANGEROUS LUNATIC, on an application at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal of the Eastern District of Stirlingshire, and that the Sheriff has fixed Monday the Twenty-first day of April current, at Ten o'clock forenoon, within the Sheriff's Chambers, Bank Street, Falkirk, for taking evidence of the condition of the said Robert Love, with a view to his ultimate disposal in terms of the Statute 4th and 5th Vict., cap. 60.
JOHN GAIR, Procurator-Fiscal.
Falkirk. 16th April, 1856.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th April, 1st, 8th, May 1856

EXTENSIVE SALE OF HEAVY LARCH AND SAUGH WOOD, &c. AT MUIRAVONDSIDE, On Saturday the 10th May. To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 10th day of May, 1856, on the Estate of Muiravonside, about two miles west from Linlithgow, upwards of 400 HEAVY LARCH TREES, many of them containing from 30 to 40 feet of wood; also, a few Lots of SCOTCH and SPRUCE FIR, and SAUGH WOOD, of Large Dimensions; likewise, a quantity of PIT WOOD. The whole to be Sold in Lots, and Four Months' Credit on Bills, or Discount for Cash. The wood is situated within half-a-mile of the Union Canal and Slamannan Railway.
Roup to begin at Muiravonside Eastern Approach, near Causewayend, at 12 o'clock noon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Glasgow Herald Monday 12th, 26th, May, 2nd, June 1856

NOTICE.
INTIMATION IS HEREBY GIVEN, That DAVID CARRICK ROBERT CARRICK BUCHANAN, of Drumpeller, Esquire, Heir of Entail in possession of the Lands - of Middle Blairlin, and various other Lands and Heritages situated in the counties of Lanark, Stirling, Linlithgow, and Dumbarton, commonly known as the Lands and Estate of Drumpeller, has presented a Petition to the Court of Session, (First Division, Mr. Walker, Clerk,) in terms of the Act 11th and 12th Victoria, cap. 36, entitled "An Act for the Amendment of the Law of Entail in Scotland," and of the Act 16th and 17th Victoria, cap. 94, entitled "An Act to Extend the Benefits of the Act of the 11th and 12th years of her present Majesty, for the Amendment of the Law of Entail in Scotland," for authority to DISENTAIL and acquire in fee-simple the Lands of Bogo, Bogohaugh, Dalquarnhaugh, Bogoknows, Loanend, and others, part of said Entailed Lands and Estate, lying in the Parishes of Muiravonside and Slamannan and County of Stirling, and particularly described in the said Petition: On which Petition Lord Curriehill, Ordinary officiating on the Bills, has pronounced the following Interlocutor: "Edinburgh, 22d April, 1856. -The Lord Ordinary officiating on the Bills appoints this Petition to be intimated on the walls of the Bill chamber and in the Minute Book for Fourteen Days, and to be served on the persons for whom it prays for an order for service to be made, and them to answer the same, " if advised so to do, within the proper periods, in terms of the Statute and relative Acts of Sederunt; and appoints the same to be publicly advertised, once in the Edinburgh Gazette, and once weekly for six successive weeks in the North British Advertiser and Glasgow Herald Newspapers. (Signed) "JOHN MARSHALL." WALKER & MELVILLE, W.S., Petitioner's Agents. Edinburgh, 110 George Street, 25th April, 1856.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th June 1856

TEACHER WANTED, AN UNMARRIED MAN, for Avonbridge School.
Application to be made, on or before 8th July, to Mr James Bell, Preses, Avonbridge, by Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th July 1856

TEACHER WANTED, AN UNMARRIED MAN, for Avonbridge School.
Application to be made, on or before 15th July, to Mr James Bell, Preses, Avonbridge, by Falkirk.

Glasgow Herald, 11th 15th, 22nd, 29th August, 5th, 26th September, 6th, 10th, 13th October 1856

Advertisements & Notices
FARMS FOR SALE, FORMING A DESIRABLE SMALL ESTATE.
TO BE SOLD, BY PRIVATE BARGAIN,
THE FARMS of BOGO and LOANEND, containing 267 Acres, 2 Roods, and 21 Poles, Imperial measure, or thereby, situated at Avon Bridge, four miles from Falkirk, viz.:-
1st, BOGO, containing 180 Acres, 6 Poles Arable, and 45 Acres, 3 Roods, 12 Poles occupied by Roads, Fences, Feus, Moss, Pasture, and Farm Steading, -altogether, 219 Acres, 1 Rood, 29 Poles, situated in the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Linlithgow. This is a very desirable Farm, having the Avon Water for its south boundary, the Slamannan Railway passing through the centre of the Farm, and the road to Falkirk passing the east end of it. It is susceptible of great improvement, and contains some very fine land of the Banks of the Avon. The Steading was nearly all rebuilt a few years since.
2nd, LOANEND, containing 41 Acres, 3 Roods, 3 Poles, Imperial measure, situated in the parish of Slamannan and County of Stirling. This Farm is altogether Arable, and lies very compact, being nearly square, and having the Avon Water for its north boundary, and the road from Airdrie and Slamannan on the south. It is very seldom so desirable a small Estate is in the market, and it is only proposed to be Sold or Exchanged for a Property the Proprietor can acquire nearer his other Estates.
Offers in writing will be received by Mr. Henderson, Union Bank, Coatbridge, who will give any further particulars required; or G. Fyffe Christie, Writer, 24 Gordon Street, Glasgow, with whom are the Title Deed of the Farms.
9th August, 1856.

Stirling Observer Thursday 14th August 1856

SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. On Friday last the following cases were disposed of before Sir John Hay, Bart., Sheriff-Substitute of Stirlingshire. The following cases were disposed of at the instance of John Gair, Esq., Procurator-Fiscal, Falkirk,
PLACING AN OBSTRUCTION ON A RAILWAY.
John Anderson was charged with a contravention of 3d and 4th Victoria, cap. section 15,

inasmuch as on Tuesday the 24th of June last, he did wilfully and unlawfully, or maliciously and recklessly, place and leave railway-chair of cast iron upon the Bathgate Branch of the Monkland Railway, at a part which passes by the lands of Kaemuir, Muiravonside, a short distance to the north of the viaduct over the river Avon, in a manner calculated to obstruct a locomotive engine and tender, with a passenger carriage attached thereto. The indictment goes on to specify the names of the gentlemen and others occupying such passenger carriage, and how the engine or tender came in contact with said railway chair and broke it, whereby the engine was obstructed and the lives of said persons endangered. The prisoner pleaded guilty to the statutory offence and was sentenced to receive 36 stripes, and to be imprisoned for two months' with hard labour; or three months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th August, 4th, 18th 25th September 1856

MILLS TO BE LET.

For Seven, Ten, or Fifteen Years.

Entry at Martinmas next.

THE FLOUR, BARLEY, and CORN MILLS of MANUEL, Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling, as presently possessed by Mr. Brock. They are situated upon the Water of Avon, within two miles of Linlithgow and six of Falkirk; have a plentiful supply of Water, and being in the neighbourhood of the Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Slamannan and Bo'ness Railways, and the Union Canal, command ready access to the best Markets. There is also a suitable Dwelling-House and Offices. If wished, a Tenant can be accommodated with any quantity of ground, not exceeding 55 Acres Imperial, of the best quality, and suitable for all kinds of crops. Offers to be lodged with Mr. Glen, Writer, Linlithgow, or MACTITCHIE & BAYLEY, and HENDERSON., W.S., 11, Royal Exchange, Edinburgh, betwixt and the 1st of October next, and to whom application may be made for further particulars.

N.B. - The present Tenant is not to be an offerer, and the Proprietor is not bound to accept the highest offer.

Edinburgh, 25th August, 1856.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 11th September 1856

Births

At Compston, Muiravonside, on the 8th instant, Mrs. JAMES CLARK, of a son.

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th September 1856

COUNTY OF STIRLING. VALUATION OF LANDS AND HERITAGES. STATUTE 17 and 18 VICT., CAP. 91.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That ADJOURNED COURTS will be held for HEARING APPEALS against the VALUATIONS made by the ASSESSOR, under the above-mentioned Statute, at the times and places undermentioned, viz. :—

At FALKIRK, within the Crown Inn there, upon Monday the 29th instant, Half-past 11 o'Clock Forenoon, for the Parishes of FALKIRK, POLMONT, LARBERT, MUIRAVONSIDE, AIRTH, and BOTHKENNAR, SLAMANAN.

ROB. CAMPBELL, Assessor.

17th Sept., 1856.

Falkirk Herald 18th September 1856

CUPID IN THE DETECTIVE FORCE. —

On Friday last two rustic swains, in love with two country belles residing at a farm near Avonbridge, after the expiry of the day proceeded to the farm in order to spend a few hours of the night in the company of the expecting maidens. While watching for the preconcerted signal which was to inform them of the coast being clear, - in other words, of the 'auld folks' being off to bed; the enamoured youths espied another young man coming with "Tarquin's ravishing strides" towards the farm. Thinking that the approaching stranger might be a rival, and wishing him in a certain warm region at the antipodes, they concealed themselves in order to watch his proceedings. The third party, however, had "metal more attractive" in his mind's eye than the maidens of the farm, and was in search of a gratification less sentimental in its character than a two hours' loving conversation; for, instead of tapping at the kitchen window or tirling at the pin of the kitchen door, in token of his desire to be admitted, he proceeded at once to the dairy, which he forcibly entered, and, taking possession of four cheeses, "revisited the glimpses of the moon" with his prize. The concealed lovers, who, doubtless, were but too happy in discovering that the stranger preferred the farmer's cheeses to his handmaidens, gave the alarm, and the thief dropt his booty. Information having been given to Mr. Gair, Procurator-Fiscal, the thief himself was secured on the following morning, and now lies in jail waiting his trial.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 30th October 1856

OATS, BEANS, HORSES, MILCH COWS, THRASHING-MILL, AND FARM IMPLEMENTS, At Kendie's Hill, Muiravonside. On MONDAY, the 3d November, 1856. Wm. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer, begs respectfully to intimate that he has been instructed to Sell by Public Roup, at Kendie's Hill, Parish of Muiravonside, on Monday the 3d November, 1856, the whole CROP and FARM STOCKING, comprising

24 Stacks of Oats.

9 do. Beans.

1 do. Straw.

3 Draught Mares, two of which are supposed to be in Foal.

1 Draught Horse.

1 Two-year-old Colt.

1 Milch Cow.

2 Two-year-old Queys in Calf.

3 One-year-old Queys.

2 One-year-old Stots.

1 One-year-old Bull.

1 Calf. 2 Iron Ploughs.

2 Pair of Grain Harrows.

1 Grubber and Bulking Plough.

1 Stone Roller.

2 Boilers and Furnaces.

1 Pair of Hand Fanners.

1 Corn Chest.

2 Sets of Cart and Plough Harness.

2 Riding Saddles and Bridle.

1 Churn.

And a great variety of Dairy Utensils and Farming Implements.

Also, A THREE-HORSE THRASHING MACHINE, in good order, and

2 ½ ACRES of YELLOW TURNIPS.

Usual Credit given.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock forenoon.

Stirling Observer Thursday 6th November 1856

SHERIFF JURY TRIALS. On Monday last the following cases were tried before Sheriff Robertson and a Jury, at the instance of Robert Sconce, Esq., Procurator Fiscal:

THEFT HOUSEBREAKING.

John Walker, charged with having, on 13th September last, broken into outhouse at Avonbridge, parish of Slamannan, Stirlingshire, occupied by Robert Marshall, and with

stealing therefrom four cheeses, pleaded not guilty. Evidence having been led, and the declaration of the prisoner read, he was, by a plurality of voices, found not guilty, and was accordingly discharged from the bar.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 6th November 1856
STIRLING SHERIFF AND JURY TRIALS.

The following cases, at the instance of the Fiscals at Stirling and Falkirk, were disposed of before Mr. Sheriff Robertson and a Jury, at Stirling, on Monday last :-
2. John Walker, charged with theft of four cheeses, by housebreaking, at Avonbridge; pled not guilty, and after evidence was led, the jury by a majority found the libel not proven, and the panel was dismissed from the bar.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 6th November 1856

WANTED AT MARTINMAS,
A BOY about 16 years of age, to take charge of a Horse and Gig, work in the Garden, and make himself generally useful. –
Apply to Mr. GRAHAM, Redford, Muiravonside.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th November 1856

FARM TO LET, IN THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE.
To be Let for 19 years, THE FARM OF CANDYEND and HOWLOAN, Belonging to the Kirk Session of Muiravonside, containing about 40 imperial acres.
All necessary particulars will be learned and offers received at Craigend House ; or by Messrs RUSSELL & AITKEN, Falkirk, up to 5th December Next.
Falkirk, 18th Nov., 1856.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th November 1856

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.
The Stirlingshire harriers will meet on Saturday next at Larbert, on Tuesday the 25th at Avonbridge, and on Friday the 28th at Dunipace Bridge - each day at eleven o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 27th November, 4th December 1856

SALE OF CROP AND FARM STOCKING, &c AT CANDYEND.
To be Sold by Public Roup, by a Warrant from the Sheriff, on Saturday the 6th day of December, 1856, on the Farm of Candyend, in the Parish of Muiravonside. possessed by Mr. John Nimmo,
THE whole CROP, MILCH COWS, CATTLE, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, and HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE on the above Farm, comprising –
9 Stacks of Oats,
4 Stacks of Beans,
A quantity of Barley Straw, Thrashed Barley, and Barley Dust,
3 Milch Cows,
2 Calves,
1 Grey Draught Filly,
1 Cart with Wheels and Axle,
2 Ploughs,
Stone Roller and Frame,
Cart and Plough Horse Harness,
A Pair of Barn Fanners,
A Threshing Floor,
A Cheese Press;
Also, Spades, Shovels, Grapes, Tubs, Pails, Riding Saddle and Bridle, Boiler and Furnace,
3 Bags of Potatoes, an Iron Axle, Stack Ladder and other small Farm Implements,
Dairy Utensils, &c; a Stack of Peats, and a quantity of Stable and Byre Manure.
Likewise, The whole HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, viz.,
Eightday Clock.
Chest of Drawers,
Beds and Bedding,
Chairs, Tables, and other Household Furniture, &c. &c.
Ready Cash.
Roup to begin at 12 o'clock noon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 27th November 1856

ASSESSED TAXES, 1856.
APPEAL COURTS, COUNTY OF STIRLING.
THE Commissioners of Supply for the several Districts of the County of Stirling will meet, on the days, and at the places undermentioned, to hear and determine Appeals against the charges made by the Surveyor for the current year :—
For the Burgh and Parish of Falkirk, and the Parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan —in the Court-House, Falkirk, Thursday the 11th of December next, Twelve o'Clock Noon.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 27th November 1856

RETURNS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.
During the third, or summer, quarter of 1856, there were registered in Scotland 24,593 births, 12,849 deaths, and 4488 marriages; being, for the estimated population, at the annual rate of one birth in every 30, one death in every 59, and one marriage in every 169 persons.
BIRTHS. 24,593 births were registered during the quarter ending 30th September, 1856, being an increase of 744 above those of the corresponding quarter of the previous year; but a diminution to the extent of 2227 as compared with the births registered during the second quarter of this year. Allowing for increase of population, the births were in the annual proportion of 324 births to every 10,000, or one birth to every 30 persons living. This proportion varied greatly in the different counties; being so low as 265 and 281 births to every 10,000 persons in the almost stationary populations of the North-Western and Northern counties; whilst it was so high as 408 births to every 10,000 persons among the manufacturing and rapidly increasing population of the South-Western counties. Of the individual counties, the lowest proportion of births occurred in Orkney, and the highest proportion in Linlithgow, being in the proportion of only 222 births in every 10,000 of the population in Orkney, but in Linlithgow in the high proportion of 444 births, according to the census of 1851, or allowing for increase of population 419 births for every 10,000 persons. The difference between the proportion of births in the town and country districts of Scotland is not less striking. In 138 town districts, embracing all the populous towns, and containing, according to the census of 1851, nearly an exact half of the population of Scotland, there were registered during the quarter, 13,576 births, being in the proportion of 376 births for every 10,000, or one birth for every 26 persons; whereas in the 870 rural districts, with an equal population, the births amounted to 11,017, being in the proportion of 305 births to every 10,000, or one birth to every 32 persons. The births in the town districts thus exceeded those in the rural districts by 2559. Of the 24,593 births, 12,578 were males, and 12,015 females. 8638 of these births were registered during July ; 7934 during August; and 7971 during September.
DEATHS. 12,849 deaths were registered during the quarter ending 30th September, a number lower by 139 than the deaths registered during the corresponding quarter of the previous year, and 1791 lower than those of the second quarter of the current year. Allowing for increase of

population, this would give the annual proportion of 169 deaths in every 10,000, or one death in every 59 persons - a lower proportion than appears ever to have been attained in England, since the registration act came into operation in 1837. The proportion of deaths in the different counties corresponded closely with that of the births, being lowest in those counties in which the births were fewest, and highest in those in which the births were most numerous. The difference between the rate of mortality in the town and rural districts is very striking. In the 138 town districts, which include all the large towns, and embrace one half of the population of Scotland, the deaths numbered 7997 during the quarter, while in the rural districts, with an equal population, they only amounted to 4852. In other words, the populations in the towns died during the quarter at the annual rate of 221 out of every 10,000, or one death in every 45 persons; while in the country, the population only died at the rate of 134 out of every 10,000, or one death in every 74 persons. The excess of deaths, therefore, in the town districts, during the quarter, amounted to 3145. Of the 12 849 persons who died, 6578 were males, and 6271 females. 4405 of the deaths were registered during July; 4201 during August; and 4243 during September.

INCREASE OF POPULATION. As the births amounted to 24,593, and the deaths to 12,849, the natural increase of the population from births alone amounted, during the quarter, to 11,744 persons. From this number has to be deducted the number of persons who emigrated during the quarter. It is not known how many have emigrated to England, but from a return furnished to the Registrar-General by the Emigration Commissioners, it appears that during the quarter, there emigrated from the ports at which there are government emigration offices, 50,228 persons, of whom 3069 were Scotch; and adding the proportion of those whose nativity was not ascertained, viz., 422, the number of emigrants amounted to 3491, thus showing the actual increase of population, during the quarter, to have been 8253 persons.

MARRIAGES. 4488 marriages were registered during the third quarter, being in the annual proportion of 59 marriages to every 10,000 of the estimated population, or one marriage to every 169 persons. The marriages thus exceed by 295 those of the corresponding quarter of the previous year, but fall 695 below those of the second quarter of the current year. The habits of the people in the various counties have great influence on the proportion of marriages during the different quarters. Thus, during the third quarter of the year, a considerable proportion of the young men of the Northern and North-Western Counties are absent at the herring and other fishings, or in search of work in the more Southern Counties, and do not contract marriage till their return for the winter; hence the proportion of marriages in these counties, during the quarter, is very low. Of the 4488 marriages, 1866 were registered during July 1363 during August and 1269 during September. The disparity between the proportion of marriages in the town and rural districts was much greater during the third quarter than was that of the births or deaths. Thus, of the 4188 marriages, 3087 occurred in the 138 town districts, while only 1401 occurred in the rural districts, though containing an equal population. It thus appears, that during the quarter, more than two marriages were contracted among the inhabitants of towns for every one contracted among the rural population. Comparing this fact with the previous returns, it will be seen that it is among the rural population that the fluctuations in the quarterly number of marriages chiefly occur; while in the towns, the proportions during the several quarters remain much more steady.

HEALTH OF THE POPULATION. The health of the population has, as a whole, been most satisfactory during the quarter, and has reached a lower percentage than is believed ever to have been attained among the inhabitants of a large country like Scotland, where at least one-half of the population is congregated in towns. Once only since the Registration Act came into operation in England, viz., during the third quarter of 1845, did the mortality there reach the low proportion of 176 deaths in every 10,000 persons; but during the third quarter of the current year, the mortality in Scotland reached the very low proportion of 169 deaths in every 10,000 of the population; while, for the rural districts, it was only in the proportion of 134 deaths in the same number of persons. The Registrars' notes must, however, satisfy every one that even this proportion might be reduced, seeing that the complete absence of all sanitary arrangements in the dwellings of the rural population - their undrained cottages being surrounded by every kind of pestiferous nuisance - at present encourages the outbreak and spread of typhus fever and other epidemics, and thus largely increases the mortality. A mild form of typhus and gastric fever has prevailed pretty extensively over some districts in the northern and north-western counties. In other respects, these counties have been wonderfully free from disease of all kinds. Small-pox has appeared here and there, chiefly in over-crowded localities, and where the sanitary arrangements were defective. After the conclusive evidence, which has been again and again furnished, relative to the protecting powers of vaccination against that loathsome disease, it is surprising that parents do not protect their children against its ravages by having them vaccinated. Several of the registrars append to their returns notes bearing on this point. Thus, the registrar of St Nicholas District, Aberdeen, remarks, that "during the quarter there have been 24 deaths from small-pox, in all of which cases, with one or two exceptions, the persons had not been vaccinated." The registrar of Old Kilpatrick, in Dumbartonshire, states that "five children, all under eight years of age, have died from small-pox, and that they were not vaccinated." The registrar of Kirkmichael, in the county of Ayr, remarks, of the deaths from small-pox, that "None of the deceased were vaccinated, adding, that "When vaccination has been attended to, the cases have been of a milder type. Scarlet fever, which was so prevalent in the southern and south-eastern counties during the second quarter, has, to a great extent, disappeared. But it seems to have broken out afresh in some districts of the south eastern counties, or in others to which it had not previously extended. The great focus of the disease, if such a phrase may be used, has been, and continues to be, the towns of Edinburgh and Leith; though, generally speaking, the disease is not of such a virulent type as when it first made its appearance. Hooping-cough is noticed as having appeared here and there over the country, but generally of a mild type. Glasgow seems to have suffered more from that disease than any other locality.

WEATHER. The weather during the quarter may be generally characterized as having been cold and wet, with few warm summer days. The south-west of Scotland and certain districts in the northern parts of the island have proved exceptions to this remark. The mean temperature of the quarter has been below the average, having, over Scotland, given a mean of only 54° 8 Fahr. This defect was most remarkable in July and September, the mean temperature of July having only reached 56° 4, while that of September was only 50° 9. The rain-fall also was in excess during the quarter, amounting to no less than 10.65 inches in depth, as the mean for Scotland. The month of September, usually a tolerably dry month, gave a mean of no less than 4.64 inches of rain. The barometer was, over Scotland, rather lower than the average of the quarter, indicating a mean of 29.849 inches. This weather, however hurtful it may have proved to the crops, seems not to have acted injuriously on the human frame, as the population was never healthier then during the past quarter. The following are the numbers of the births, deaths, and marriages in the towns and parishes of our district

	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Muiravonside	28	6	3
Polmont	28	9	2
Slamannan	39	10	2
Torphichen	9	1	4

Falkirk Herald Thursday 11th December 1856

SHERIFF AND JURY TRIALS.

The following cases, at the instance of the Procurator- Fiscal at Falkirk, were disposed of before Sir John Hay, Sheriff-Substitute, at Stirling, on Friday last :-

1. James Smith, a watchmaker, or repairer of watches, lately residing at Loan of Muiravonside, charged with theft of three watches entrusted to him to repair, &c, aggravated by previous conviction; pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.
2. Edward Reid, from Crownierland, in Muiravonside, charged with theft of two silver watches from the farm steading of Greenwells; pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to four months'

imprisonment.

THE HOUNDS.

The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire foxhounds will meet on Thursday (to-day) at Dalmahoy, and on Saturday the 13th at Champfleurie - each morning at a quarter before eleven o'clock. The Stirlingshire harriers will meet at Linlithgow Bridge on Wednesday the 17th, and at Avonbridge on Friday the 19th - each day at eleven o'clock.

STORM.

On Tuesday night there was a severe storm of wind, which lasted from about seven P.M. until an early hour on Wednesday morning. Since the storm of February last, which left so many traces of its vengeance over the entire country, we have not heard such a loud wind. Beyond the knocking down of a few tiles and chimney cans, we have not heard of any damage having been done by it.

DEATHS.

Suddenly, at Wester Strath, Avon-Bridge, on the 8th inst., John infant son of John Smith, inspector Bathgate Railway.

Stirling Observer Thursday 11th December 1856

SHERIFF CRIMINAL TRIALS.

The following cases were tried on Friday last before Sir John Hay, Bart., Sheriff-substitute, at the instance of John Gair, Esq., Procurator Fiscal, Falkirk :-

THEFT AND PREVIOUS CONVICTION,

James Smith, a watchmaker, was charged with having, in the month of September last, theftously taken away a silver watch, a guard chain of German silver, two watch keys and a seal, which had been entrusted to him for repair by Margaret Bryce, daughter of John Bryce, mason, residing at Laurieston, parish of Falkirk; also with having, in the above month, appropriated in similar manner a silver watch, a braid chain and watch key, the property of James Kay, farm servant; further, with having, in the above month, appropriated silver watch, steel chain and watch key, the property of Alex. Baird, mason, residing at Maddiston, parish of Muiravonside. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.

AGENT—Mr. Mathie.

THEFT.

Edward Reid was accused of having, on 16th October last, feloniously stolen a silver watch, a guard chain of German silver, a watch key, and a shell, from a stable loft at Greenwells, parish of Polmont, Stirlingshire, occupied by William Neilson, farmer, and the property of William Nisbet, a servant to Mr. Neilson; also with having stolen a silver watch, a guard chain of German silver, and three watch keys, the property of John Hynd, servant to the said William Neilson. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, one of these with hard labour.

AGENT— Mr. Mathie.

1857

Falkirk Herald 22nd January 1857

THE HUNT. -

The Stirlingshire Harriers will meet on Tuesday the 27th at Laurieston, and on Friday the 30th at Maddiston Kennel each morning at 11 o'clock

Falkirk Herald, Glasgow Herald 29th January, 2nd, 12th, 16th, 26th February, 5th, 19th, 26th March 1857

FARMS AND HOUSE PROPERTY IN STIRLINGSHIRE TO BE SOLD.

To be Sold by Public Roup, upon Thursday the 5th day of March, 1857, within the Red Lion Inn, Falkirk, at. Two o'clock afternoon, if not previously Sold by Private Bargain, -

Lot I THOSE PARTS (1st) of the LANDS of CROSSRIG. (2d) of EADIE of SHARPSBANK'S PROPERTY. (3d) of the ALLOCATION of the MUIR of MUIRAVONSIDe, and (4th) the PARTS of the LANDS of HILLEND, - the whole being now conjoined and known by the general name of GREENCRAIG, extending to 65 Imperial acres or thereby, conform to plan and measurement thereof by Alexander Black, Land Surveyor in Falkirk, in 1849. This property lies in the parish of Muiravonside and county of Stirling, and is presently occupied by Mr. Andrew Baird.

Lot II. Those PARTS of the LANDS of CASTLERANKINE, in the parish of Denny and county aforesaid, known by the general name of FISHERACRE, presently possessed by Mr. William Nicol, and extending, conform to measurement thereof by the said Alexander Black in 1857, to 50 Imperial acres or thereby. Both these Properties are presently under Lease to substantial Tenants, and will be parted with at prices on which the rents payable will yield a handsome return to the Purchaser.

Lot III. These HOUSES and GARDEN situated at the entry from Carron Road to Mungal-Mill presently occupied by James Walker, change-keeper, and other Tenants. The situation of this Property, which nearly adjoins Carron Works, readily secures Tenants for it at good rents.

Farther particulars will be learned on application to Mr. John Boyd, 17, Gordon Street, Glasgow; or Messrs RUSSELL & AITKEN, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald 5th February 1857

THE HARRIERS. -

The Stirlingshire harriers meet at Laurieston Kennel on Tuesday, and at Maddiston on Friday - each morning at 11 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 19th, 26th February, 5th March 1857

GRASS PARKS TO LET.

To be Let, for Pasture for the ensuing Season, on Monday the 2nd day of March next.

SEVERAL GRASS FIELDS of the Property of MANUEL, Parish of Muiravonside, consisting of:

-		
A.	D,	
1.	The Lawn to the East and South of House,	13 0
2.	Park behind Entry-head,	2 374
3.	South division of Hillend, in Young Grass,	4 668
4.	North division of do., next Public Road,	2 424
5.	Pond Park, Causewayend, Young Grass	4 215
	Park West of do.,	5 157
9	372	
6.	Park West of South division of Railway Station,	4 563

Roup to begin at Entryhead, at One o'clock afternoon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

16th February, 1857.

Caledonian Mercury Tuesday 24th February 1857

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

The Stirlingshire harriers meet to-day at Linlithgow; and on Friday, 27th, at Avonbridge-each morning at 11 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th 19th 26th March 1857

TO LET, THE MILL at STRATHMILL, near Avonbridge, for such a number of Years as may be agreed on; Entry at Whitsunday. - Apply to the Proprietor.

Caledonian Mercury 17th March 1857

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE

Hunting Appointments -

The Stirlingshire harriers meet to-day at Denny and on Saturday, 21, at Maddiston - at eleven o'clock morning.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th March 1857

DEATHS

At Ridgehead, Muiravonside, on the 20th inst., aged ninety-one years, AGNES RUSSELL, relict of the late Mr. John Waddell.

Falkirk Herald 30th April 1857

TERRIER FOUND.

FOUND on the 17th inst., at Polmont Station, a small BLACK TERRIER DOG, with a Silver Collar and Brass padlock around its neck. The owner may have the Dog on paying expenses. - Apply to Alexander Dick, Maddiston Quarry, by Linlithgow.

Falkirk Herald 30th April 7th 14th May 1857

FEMALE SERVANT WANTED.

WANTED, a FEMALE SERVANT between 30 and 40 years of age, to attend to cows, poultry, &c, and to work out of doors when required. She will have for remuneration a comfortable house rent free, with coals, and 5s per week.- Apply, personally, at Gowanbank, by Avonbridge, or at the Herald Office here. None need apply unless satisfactorily recommended.

Glasgow Herald Monday 4th, 18th May 1857

COUNTRY HOUSE TO LET (FOR THE SUMMER SEASON)

THE MANSIONHOUSE OF TORAVON, with a good walled GARDEN of about a Quarter of an Acre, excellent OFFICES, with STABLING for Four Horses, and PASTURE of the LAWN round the House, if desired. The House, which is of modern architecture, is well Furnished, and contains Three Public Rooms, Six Bed Rooms, with Dressing Room, besides Kitchen, Laundry, and Servants' accommodation. The situation, on the ridge of the Muiravonside Hills, is one possessing great advantages as a healthy Residence, and commands extensive Views over a beautiful surrounding country, and the opposite shores of the Firth of Forth. The Polmont Station of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, to and from which there are constant Trains in communication with Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the North, is distant less than two miles, the town of Linlithgow four, and the town of Falkirk five miles. The distance from Edinburgh by the Road is 21 miles. The Parish Church of Muiravonside is within three-quarters of a mile, and the Free Church of Polmont District within one and a half miles. Orders to view the House will be obtained on application to T. H. Ferrier, W.S., No. 95 George Street, Edinburgh.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 11th, 18th June 1857

EXTENSIVE SALE OF SMITH'S TOOLS, MALLEABLE IRON, &c.

To be Sold by Public Roup, at Whitcross, in the Parish of Muiravonside, (2 ½ miles west from Linlithgow), on Monday the 22d June current, THE WHOLE STOCK-IN-TRADE belonging to Mr. George Wilson, Blacksmith, and comprising 4 pairs Bellows - 2 of them nearly new, 4 Anvils, 3 Vices in excellent order, a Press Drill with Cast-steel Bits to suit, a Cress Block, a Turning Lathe - 7-inch heads, a powerful Screw Punching Machine, Wheel Shoeing Plate and Skeathing Furnace, 60 superior Screw Tops and Plates, a set Dies, 40 Bolt and Rivet Borers, Cast-steel Punches and Mandrils, 12 Top and Bottom Cresses, 6 Flatteners, Handled Punches and Chisels, 5 Fore and 12 Hand Hammers, 2 sets Horseshoeing Tools. Docking Shears, Beam and Weights, Files and Rasps, about 1-1/2 cwt. Horse Nails, 40 pairs Tongs, Plough Mounting, including Sibs, Reists, and Sides, a quantity of Cast and Blister Steel, about 3 Tons Malleable Iron of all sizes, 3 Tons Scrap Iron, besides all the other Tools used in a large Implement Manufactory. The whole to be sold off without reserve, as the proprietor is leaving the place. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock forenoon. TERMS CASH. ROBERT SANDERSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 16th July 1857

NOTICE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Eastern District of Stirlingshire Agricultural Association will be held in my Office, Wilson's Buildings, on Thursday the 23d July, 1857, at One o'clock P.M.

WILLIAM GILLESPIE, Secy.

NOTICE.

INTENDING COMPETITORS for the Prizes to be awarded by the Eastern District of Stirlingshire Agricultural Association, for the Best Kept Cottages, and Gardens connected there with, occupied by Farm Servants in the parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside, are requested to give in their names without further delay to the Secretary, William Gillespie, Wilsons Buildings, Falkirk, as the gentlemen appointed are just about to commence their inspection.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 16th, 30th July 1857

FARM TO BE LET.

To be Let for such period as may be agreed on, with Entry at Martinmas 1857, THE FARM of CRAIGMAD, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, as presently possessed by Mr. John Shanks, to which there is intended to be added the Fields of Blackbraes Farm, lying between Mr. Shanks' possession and the public road from Falkirk to Avonbridge. This Farm adjoins the extensive Collieries in the West end of the Parish of Muiravonside; and from this circumstance, as well as by the adjoining Railway, Manure is readily procured for it, and the Farm Produce easily disposed of. A considerable part of the Farm has recently been drained with Tiles, and every reasonable encouragement will be given by the Landlord for drainage and similar improvements.

Further particulars will be learned on application to Russel & Aitken, Writers in Falkirk.

The present Tenant voluntarily leaves the Farm, and will not be an Offerer for it. Falkirk, 13th July, 1857.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th August 1857

CROP AND FARM STOCKING FOR SALE.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 28th Aug., 1857, at Craigmad, Muiravonside, possessed by Mr. John Shanks,

THE CROP and STOCKING on the above Farm, consisting of
15 Acres of Oats,
200 Stones of Hay,

a quantity of growing Potatoes, and a Field of Barley ;
3 Milch Cows,

3 Queys in Calf,

1 one-year-old Quey,

1 Calf, 1 Draught Horse,

1 Pig,
2 Close-bodied Carts,
1 Iron Plough,
Harrows, Cheese-Stone, Harness, Boiler, and a variety of Dairy and Farm Utensils.
Sale to begin at Eleven o'clock forenoon.
USUAL CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN.
WILLIAM CHRISTIE, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 3rd & 10th September 1857

WANTED, A Good Steady JOURNEYMAN BLACKSMITH. - Apply at Maddiston Smithy

Falkirk Herald 8th October 1857

STIRLINGSHIRE HARRIERS.-
Owing to the Falkirk Tryst being held on Tuesday next week, the harriers will meet on Wednesday the 14th at Avonbridge, and on Saturday the 17th at the Kennel, Laurieston - each morning at half-past 10 o'clock.

REPORT of the COMMITTEE of the EASTERN DISTRICT of STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, appointed to Award the COTTAGE PREMIUMS given by the ASSOCIATION for the BEST KEPT COTTAGES in the Parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside.

The Committee appointed to Award the Premiums given by the EASTERN DISTRICT of STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION for the BEST KEPT COTTAGES and GARDENS in the Parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside, having been furnished with a List of the Competitors for said Premiums, proceeded to inspect the several Cottages and Gardens (eleven in number), and, after a very careful and minute inspection of the whole, unanimously adjudged the Premiums as follows, viz.: -

1. MATHEW DICK, Grange.
2. JAMES CRAWFORD, Bowhouse.
3. JAMES DRUMMOND, Carronflats.
4. ANDREW SCOTT, Maddiston.
5. GEORGE HILL, Grange.
6. DAVID GRAHAM, Bowhouse.
7. JESSIE DONALDSON, Little Kerse.

The Committee have much pleasure in reporting the satisfaction they felt in the discharge of their duty, from the very excellent state of keeping of the Cottages of the Competitors; at same time, while much pleased with the Cottages inside, they regretted to find that there is generally less attention paid to the outward decoration than is desirable, either on the ground of amenity or health. They recommend that, in offering Premiums in future, a special reference be made to this matter.

By Order, WILLIAM GILLESPIE, Secretary.

Falkirk Herald 22nd 29th October 1857

MUIRAVONSIDE MORTSAFE.
THE MEMBERS of the MORTSAFE ASSOCIATION in Muiravonside are requested to meet in the Parish Schoolhouse, Muiravonside, at half-past Six on Friday the 30th October.
WILLIAM JOHNSTON, Secretary.

Falkirk Herald 29th October, 5th November 1857

CROP, HORSES, MILCH COWS. CATTLE, POTATOES, TURNIPS, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c &c, AT GLENHEAD, On TUESDAY the 3d November.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 3d day of November, 1857, on the Farm of GLENHEAD, on the Estate of Craigend, possessed by Mr. John Neilson, THE WHOLE CROP, DRAUGHT HORSES, MILCH COWS. QUEYS. CATTLE, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other Effects upon the above Farm, comprising -

- 9 Stacks of Oats.
- 4 Stacks of Barley.
- 2 Capital Draught Mares.
- 2 Famous Milch Cows.
- 4 Ayrshire Queys.
- 2 Six quarter-old Ayrshire Bulls.
- 1 Bull Calf.
- Pig, Six months old - fat.
- 3 Excellent Close-bodied Carts.
- 2 Iron Ploughs.
- 1 Iron Scraping Plough.
- 1 Pair of Grain and
- 1 Pair of Grass-seed Harrows.
- 1 Pair of Iron Drill Harrows.
- 1 Turnip Sowing Machine, Double Sowing.
- 2 Stone Rollers with Iron Frames.
- 3 Sets of Cart and Plough Horse Harness.
- 13 Stone and Fire-Brick Troughs for Cattle.
- 1 Pair of Improved Hand-Fanners.

A Pair of Bellows and Anvil.

With the whole of the small Farming Implements and Dairy Utensils, &c. &c. Also, the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, viz.: -

- A Chest of Mahogany Drawers,
- 6 Stuff-bottomed Chairs,
- an Eight-day Clock,
- Mahogany Table,
- Tent Bedstead and Curtains,
- 6 Hardwood Parlour Chairs.
- 6 Kitchen Chairs,
- a Kitchen Range with Hot-water Boiler and Oven,
- 2 Register Grates, with Fenders, &c.; and allother Effects of every description and denomination. Likewise,
- 2 ACRES of First-rate YELLOW TURNIPS, and
- 8 TONS of WALKER'S EARLY & RED POTATOES.

The whole to be Sold entirely without reserve, as the Exposer is going abroad.

THE USUAL CREDIT ON BILLS.

Roup to begin at Eleven o'clock forenoon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

DRAUGHT HORSES, MILCH COWS, AND FARMING IMPLEMENTS, AT GLENEND, On Saturday the 7th November.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC ROUP, ON SATURDAY THE 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1857. ON THE FARM OF GLENEND, UPON THE ESTATE OF CRAIGEND, POSSESSED BY MRS. ROY,

THE whole FARM HORSES. MILCH COWS, CATTLE, and FARM IMPLEMENTS, &c, on the above Farm, comprising, -

- 2 Draught Horses,
- 3 Milch Cows in Calf,
- 2 Six-quarter-old Queys,
- 1 Bull Calf.
- 2 Famous Hay Waggons with Wheels and Axles,

1 Close-bodied Curt with Wheels and Axle,
4 Close-bodied Cart without Wheels.
1 Iron Plough,
2 Pair of Grain Harrows,
1 Pair of Hand-Fanners, with the whole other Farming Implements, Cheese Press, Dairy Utensils, &c. &c. Also,
ONE ACRE of YELLOW TURNIPS.
To be Sold without Reserve ; the Exposer is leaving the Farm.
THE USUAL CREDIT.
Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock noon precisely.
JAMES NEILSON. Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 29th October 5th,12th,19th November 1857

FARMS TO LET.

To be Let for 19 Years,

1. THE FARM of GLENHEAD, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, measuring about 97 Imperial Acres of excellent soil, and produces first-rate Crops. Every Furrow is drained in a substantial manner. The present Tenant leaves in consequence of his going abroad.

2. The FARM of GLENEND, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, as possessed by the late Mr. John Roy, measuring about 68 Imperial Acres of excellent soil and produces first-rate Crops.

Offers will be received for either of the above Farms, on or before the 6th of November.

The highest Offerer may not be accepted.

For particulars apply to the Proprietor, at Craigend House.

Craigend, October, 1857

Falkirk Herald 5th November 1857

THE HUNT. –

The Stirlingshire harriers will meet on Tuesday 10th Nov. at Avonbridge, and on Saturday 14th Nov. at Stenhousemuir - each morning at half-past 10 o'clock.

HIRING FAIR.-

The autumn hiring fair was held on Thursday last. The day was good, and there was consequently a large turn-out of lads and lasses. The fees, we understand, were high, and there was a keen demand for good servants.

Falkirk Herald 9th November 1857

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

The Stirlingshire harriers meet to-morrow at Avonbridge; and Saturday, Nov. 14, at Stenhousemuir;-at half- past 10 o'clock morning.

Falkirk Herald 19th 26th November 3rd December 1857

CROP, DRAUGHT HORSES, MILCH COWS, CATTLE, and FARMING IMPLEMENTS, At BOGA, on FRIDAY the 4th December.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 4th day of December, 1857, on the Farm of Boga, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Alexander Main, THE whole CROP, FAMOUS YOUNG DRAUGHT HORSES and MARES, celebrated AYRSHIRE MILCH COWS, QUEYS, CATTLE, &c. and FARM STOCKING on the above Farm, comprising –
20 Stacks of excellent Oats.

4 Ricks of Hay.

Likewise, the following Rare Stock of HORSES, viz. –

1 Six-year-old Draught Horse.

1 Four-year-old Draught Mare.

1 Three-year old Draught Colt.

1 Two-year-old Draught Filly.

1 Draught Filly Foal.

ALSO, 12 Famed Ayrshire Milch Cows and Queys, in Calf, a Fine Stock.

4 Ayrshire Queys.

1 Ayrshire Bull - a beauty.

1 Ayrshire Stot.

6 Ayrshire Calves.

3 Close-bodied Carts, with Wheels and Axles, almost new.

2 Iron Ploughs.

2 Pair of Grain Harrows.

1 Large Wooden Roller and Frame.

1 Stone Roller.

1 Three-Horse Iron Grubber - the best.

1 Iron Drill Scraping Plough.

1 Pair of Hand Fanners.

4 Sets of Horse Harness.

A Dog-Cart and Set of Harness.

12 Fire-brick Troughs for cattle.

4 Tons of Walker's Early Potatoes.

2 Boilers and Furnaces.

A Capital Three-Horse Thrashing-Mill, with Fanners attached.

Together with the whole of the small FARMING IMPLEMENTS, DAIRY UTENSILS, &c. &c.

THE USUAL CREDIT.

Roup to begin at Eleven o'clock forenoon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 10th December 1857

THE HUNT.

The Stirlingshire harriers meet on Friday (to-morrow) at Polmont, on Tuesday the 15th at Avonbridge, and on Friday the 18th at Dunipace - each morning at half-past 10 o'clock.

SUMMARY TRIALS. –

The following cases have been disposed of summarily, before Mr. Sheriff Robertson, at the Sheriff-Court here, during the past fortnight: -

4. Mary Dunsmore or M'Farlane, residing at Avonbridge, charged with assault there ; pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 15s or suffer 15 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 23rd December 1857

Stirlingshire Harriers, Friday 25th December, at 10.30. Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 31st December 1857

THE HUNT.

The Stirlingshire harriers will meet to-morrow at Slamannan Village; on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at Maddiston; and on Friday the 8th at Stenhousemuir - each morning at half-past ten o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 31st December 1857

TO TEACHERS.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, an Unmarried and Energetic TEACHER for the numerous attended School at Avonbridge, by Falkirk, now vacant by the removal of Mr. Liddell.

Apply to Mr. James Bell, Preses, with whom Testimonials are to be lodged on or before 9th January, 1858.

NOTICE.

ALL parties having CLAIMS against the deceased Mr. ALEXANDER BAIRD, Quarryman and

Grocer at Maddiston, by Falkirk, are requested to lodge the same, duly vouched, in the hands of Mr. John Hay, Shoemaker, Calderbank, by Airdrie, for behoof of the next of kin, within fourteen days from this date. 31st December, 1857.

1858

Falkirk Herald 7th January 1858

TO TEACHERS.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, an Unmarried and Energetic TEACHER for the numerous attended School at Avonbridge, by Falkirk, now vacant by the removal of Mr. Liddell. Apply to Mr. James Bell, Preses, with whom Testimonials are to be lodged on or before 9th January, 1858.

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Falkirk Herald 14th January 1858

The Hunt. —

The Stirlingshire harriers will meet on Wednesday the 20th inst. at Maddiston, and on Saturday the 23d at Avonbridge - each morning at half-past 10 o'clock.

Caledonian Mercury 18th January 1858

Hunting Appointments

Stirlingshire Harriers meet on Wednesday January 20th at Maddiston, and January 23rd at Avonbridge at half-past ten o'clock morning.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 21st 1858

THE HUNT.

The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire foxhounds will meet to-day at Cockerloi, and on Saturday the 23d at Broxburn - each morning at a quarter before 11 o'clock.

The Stirlingshire harriers will meet on Saturday the 23d at Avonbridge, on Wednesday the 27th at Laurieston Kennels, and on Saturday the 30th at Powmill Toll-bar - each morning at half-past 10 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 21st, 28th, January & 4th February 1858

LANDS IN MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH

To Let upon a Five Course Rotation of Cropping.

THOSE FIELDS, PARTS of the LANDS of TORAVON, extending to 27 acres imperial measure, or thereby, and consisting of Four Inclosures, all well fenced and watered. Those Lands lie to the east of the Village of Maddiston, on the ridge of the Muiravonside Hills, and have been thoroughly drained within the last few years. The Fences will be kept up by the Proprietor during the Lease. The boundaries of the Lands will be pointed out by David Henderson, farm servant at Toravon. Offers addressed to T. H. Ferrier, W.S., 95, George Street, Edinburgh, will be received till 15th February, 1858. Edinburgh, 15th January, 1853.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th February 1858

THE HUNT.-

The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire foxhounds will meet to-day at Wallhouse, and on Saturday the 6th at Dechmont Toll-bar - each morning at a quarter before eleven o'clock.

The Stirlingshire harriers will meet on Saturday the 6th at Millfield Gate, on Wednesday the 10th at Denny, and on Saturday the 13th at Avonbridge - each morning at half-past ten o'clock.

WEATHER. - On Monday and Tuesday we had a keen frost, which promised good sport to the curling fraternities, but yesterday morning thaw made its appearance, and last night we had a heavy fall of rain.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 11th February 1858

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS. —

The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire foxhounds meet this day, (Thursday, 11th January,) at Hopetoun House; and Saturday, 13th January, at Uphall Inn - each day at a quarter before eleven o'clock.

The Stirlingshire harriers meet on the morning of Saturday next, the 13th inst., at Avonbridge, at half-past ten o'clock.

WEATHER.-

For the last three days there has been a strong east wind blowing, which begets a feeling of very severe cold, besides being productive of colds to a wide extent. Nevertheless, bean sowing is proceeding rapidly and successfully. As much of the ploughing which is usually performed in spring has been accomplished during winter, we may expect the seed-time now at hand to get on well.

THE LATE JAMES RUSSEL, ESQ. OF BLACKBRAES.

We have already stated the circumstances connected with the death of James Russel, Esq. of Blackbraes, senior partner of the firm of Russel and Aitken writers, and of the firm of James Russel and Son, coal and iron-masters. On Thursday last he attended his business as usual; met a large number of gentlemen belonging to the town and neighbourhood, on professional and business matters generally. He spoke to his son, James Russel, Esq., banker, a few minutes before four o'clock, with as firm a tone of voice as on former occasions, and immediately afterwards he wrote a letter with his own hand, the penmanship of which was distinguished by that boldness which was so characteristic of the calligraphy of Mr. Russel. He left the office, as we have already stated, about a quarter past four o'clock, walked home, and had seated himself on a sofa to rest for a few minutes before going to dinner, and immediately after was struck down dead. The deceased gentleman had sustained one or more attacks of the fatal malady under which he laboured, viz., heart disease, previous to that which terminated so suddenly in his death, so that, although the shock was sudden, and certainly not anticipated at the time by his family, it did not take them altogether by surprise. Mr. James Russel, who succeeds his father to Arnotdale, Blackbraes, and the extensive coal and iron works owned by the firm, resides in Edinburgh, and had left for that city upon Thursday afternoon before his father's death. Mr. John Russel, however, his youngest son, was in almost immediate attendance, and medical assistance was promptly secured. All was done, in short, which the case demanded, or which affection could dictate, but all was of no avail, the vital spark had fled even before Mr. John had reached his father's house; and on the same evening Mr. James Russel was summoned by special express to Arnotdale, to find that his father, whom he had seen a few hours previously apparently in good health, stretched in the "cold obstruction" of death. The life of Mr. Russel, if fairly written, would be found to contain most important lessons. He was one of those men who, by a combination of natural shrewdness and sagacity, acute intelligence, indomitable perseverance, industry, and integrity, have not merely gained an honourable social and professional position for themselves, but have contributed principally to the greatness of the land of their birth. Mr. Russel was born on the 4th May, 1787, and was the eldest son of James Russel, Esq. of Blackbraes, a property in the pastoral parish of Muiravonside, which had been in the family for three generations. The family of which the subject of this notice was the eldest, consisted of four sons, viz., James, John, Alexander, and Henry, and three daughters, Elizabeth, Helen and Mary. Mr. Russel's mother, Margaret Russel, was the daughter of a proprietor whose land lay in the neighbourhood of Blackbraes. In 1795, the family removed from Blackbraes to Falkirk, where they resided on a small property near the eastern extremity of Kerse Lane, which had been

purchased by the father of Mr. Russel, and on which he built a house. The family were accordingly brought up and educated in Falkirk; James attending school with the other boys of the town, and signaling himself in the sports and pastimes incident to school-boy-hood, as well as in the more serious duties of class hours. After having received a good education he was placed as an apprentice in the office of James Aitken, Esq., one of the most respectable writers of his day, and the father of Henry Aitken, Esq., the partner of the late Mr. Russel. On the expiry of his apprenticeship Mr. Russel was sent to Edinburgh in order that he might have the advantage of studying his profession under the auspices of metropolitan instructors. At this period he spent several years in the office of David Thomson, Esq., W.S., a gentleman who combined with the duties of his regular profession those of a keen electioneering agent of the Tory party. Under the training of this gentleman Mr. Russel not only acquired an intimate acquaintanceship with the law of Scotland, but, in all likelihood, received his first bias in favour of the political tenets of the party with which he was subsequently connected, and in whose behalf in his future career he fought such vigorous battles. At this time he was distinguished for his general intelligence, energy, and professional acumen, and did our limits permit, several circumstances might be quoted in proof of what we have just stated. One fact, showing as it does the energy of the man and furnishing as it does the present innoxious age a striking rebuke, we must mention, The young writer had received an invitation to a ball in his native town while in Edinburgh, and as a young man not insensible to the charms of such gay reunions determined to be present. Railways were, of course, unknown in those days, and as he could not leave until the labour of the day was over, and had to return to his office in time to resume the duties of the succeeding day, the ordinary mode of conveyance probably did not suit those hours. Be that as it may, Mr. Russel left his office in Edinburgh at four o'clock in the afternoon, walked to Falkirk, took a full share, no doubt, in the dancing, walked back to the city in the morning, and was at his desk at the usual hour of commencing business. We question whether there be a young man in Falkirk at the present moment who could accomplish the same feat. About the year 1809 Mr. Russel returned to Falkirk, and immediately commenced business as a writer on his own account. His office, we believe, was in the Robert's Wynd, a small place, presenting a striking contrast to the suite of rooms in which the business which sprang from the germ planted in 1809 is at present carried forward. We are not aware what the extent of his business was when he first started; but a short time subsequent to this an event occurred which threw a amount of business into his hands, and which gave him ample opportunities for the exercise of his great talents and sagacity. We allude to the suspension of the Union Bank of Falkirk. Mr. Russel was appointed trustee, and discharged the complicated and disagreeable duties devolving upon him with general approbation. His professional reputation, and, as a consequence, his professional duties and influence, were immensely increased by the manner in which he had acquitted himself as trustee in connection with this banking concern, and in 1813, four years after he commenced business in Falkirk, and when he was twenty-six years of age, he married Catherine Crawford, daughter of the then late Mr. John Crawford, a prosperous and generally esteemed merchant in Falkirk. By this marriage Mr. Russel had two sons, James and John, and six daughters, two of whom preceded their father to the Spirit Land. The rest of his family he had the happiness of seeing settled in life, and all in affluent circumstances. In the year 1818, five years after his marriage, Mr. Russel took Mr. Henry Aitken, the son of his former master, into partnership, and the firm of Russel & Aitken, thus formed, has gained, during the 40 years which it had existed at the death of Mr. Russel, not merely a reputation which has not been equalled by that of any legal firm in Stirlingshire, but we question whether any legal firm - out of the metropolis - in Scotland has acquired such a wide, and we may remark, just celebrity. Gentlemen in the profession to which Mr. Russel belonged can scarcely fail to have enemies. The loser in litigation naturally overlooks the weak points of his case, and attributes his failure to the ingenuity of the lawyer who has been the means of securing that failure, but, from all we have learned of the professional character of Mr. Russel, during the brief space that we have had an opportunity of knowing him personally, and from enquiries we have made with the view of preparing this brief, and necessarily imperfect, notice of his career, we think we are warranted in asserting that there have been few gentlemen in the profession, actively engaged in it for so long a period, and having been employed in such a variety of cases, with clients of all tempers and dispositions, who have left fewer enemies than the late James Russel, Esq. of Blackbraes. We cannot, however, enter into details respecting the professional character of Mr. Russel. That it was high there cannot be any doubt if his success on the one hand and the character of many of those who entrusted the firm, of which he was the senior partner, with the management of business of the most delicate and complicated character, on the other hand can be accepted as evidence upon this point. The Falkirk Bank commenced business in 1787, the year in which Mr. Russel was born. In 1826, in consequence of a proposition made by the Government of the time to abolish the circulation of £1 notes, the bank was given up. Mr. Russel acted as law agent, and in consequence of his judicious and energetic management, the partners in the concern realised £1650 for every £100 pound share, a fact worth noting at the present time. Not only was Mr. Russel celebrated as an intelligent, acute, and eminently successful law-agent. At an early period of his life he had devoted considerable attention to mineralogy, and in 1845 he turned his knowledge in this department of practical science to account by commencing to work the minerals on his own property of Blackbraes. Under his management the mineral resources of that district were rapidly developed, and a large colony of busy workmen speedily sprung up in what had been one of the most thinly-peopled districts of the county. Ever active and enterprising, from his love of activity and enterprise, in 1849 he leased, or more properly the firm of James Russel and Son leased extensive and rich mineral fields in the vicinity of Bathgate. The now celebrated Boghead gas-coal formed an important feature in the mineral wealth of the Bathgate property. Manufacturers of gas at first entertained strong prejudices against the new mineral, but Mr. Russel, from careful and frequent analysis, had convinced himself of its superiority over any other gas-coal in use, and persevered in the working, ultimately triumphing over all prejudice, and reaping an appropriate reward. In 1850, the firm leased the Torbanehill mineral field, now so famous, and since that period the works in that district have been prosecuted with great vigour to the material improvement of Bathgate. The admirable qualities of this coal are now completely established, and consequently an extensive market, principally through the knowledge and exertions of Mr. Russel, has been found for it, not only on the Continent of Europe, but in more distant parts of the world, it having been ascertained that in consequence of its lightness, and the great proportion of inflammable gas which it contains, it is better adapted for distant carriage than any other coal. In addition to the extensive coal fields owned by the firm, it is in possession of large fields of ironstone, and to render these fully available, a site was selected in a most suitable locality, on which the Almond smelting furnaces were erected. Two of these were at work in 1854, and a third is nearly finished. In connection with the coal and iron works, the firm keep about 1500 men in constant employment, and we are happy to learn that these works will be carried on as formerly, go that there will be no diminution of labour in consequence of the death of Mr. Russel. At Blackbraes and Bathgate Mr. Russel, who took a deep interest in education, had established efficient schools for the training of the children of his workmen, and, as an employer, he at all times evinced a hearty interest in the welfare and comfort of his men. We need not inform our Falkirk readers of the vast amount of good the deceased gentleman has done in connection with the Charity School. His contributions to it in money, and in clothing and shoes for the scholars, have at all times been most liberal; he has been the means of securing handsome donations to it from other gentlemen, and at his death he was making arrangements for erecting a new and more suitable school-house than the present. In all useful charities he took the most lively interest, freely contributing to them in money, was always ready with advice, and there are many deserving people in the town, to whom old age had come attended by want, who will be among his most sincere mourners. For many years Mr. Russel has been clerk to the Feuars, and has conducted the business of that body in the most praiseworthy manner. He took a warm interest in everything relating to the improvement of the 'guid auld toon;' and we may mention that a few days previous to his

death, he intimated to two or three gentlemen connected with the town his intention of aiding in the movement for securing a special Police Bill for the burgh. Mr. Russel, we believe, held the honorary office of Interim Sheriff-Substitute for Stirlingshire, and was in the Commission of the Peace for the counties of Stirling and Linlithgow. In proof of the estimation in which he was held by his fellow townsman, it is proper to state that in 1851 he was presented with a handsome silver Epergne at a public dinner in the Red Lion Hotel, the chief magistrate at that time - Robert Adam, Esq., Springbank - being in the chair. The following is the inscription on the testimonial: -Presented to JAMES RUSSEL, Esq. of Arnotdale by his fellow Townsmen and Friends, As a testimonial of Personal respect and Esteem. 22d July, 1851, Falkirk. His residence was the beautiful villa of Arnotdale the grounds and gardens of which are laid out with great taste, and in which Mr. Russel took great pleasure and pride. Last season he threw them open for the annual Flower Show of the Falkirk Horticultural Society, an institution of which he was president, and which he liberally patronised. Of late years Mr. Russel was deprived of deafness from the full enjoyment of society; but his abundant and hearty hospitality was well known in the district, and although his death will be mourned by all his townsmen, those who had the happiness of ranking amongst his intimate friends can alone know the full extent of the loss to the community involved in that event. The tribute of respect paid to Mr. Russel yesterday in the Sheriff-Court by Mr. Sheriff Robertson, before the business of the day commenced, was at once graceful and well deserved, and we are sure that the venerable Mr. Liston expressed the sentiments of the procurators, when he said that they would all have regretted had they not had an opportunity of testifying their respect for the memory of the dead, and their sympathy with his family in the great bereavement they had sustained. Yesterday all that was mortal of Mr. Russel was consigned to the grave, in the family burying place in Muiravonside church-yard. The funeral cortege was the most imposing that ever has been witnessed in Falkirk. The mournful procession started from Arnotdale, at a few minutes past one o'clock, and some idea may be formed of its magnitude, when we state that in addition to a great concourse of gentlemen belonging to the town, who accompanied the procession beyond the precincts of the burgh on foot, there were, including the hearse, and the mourning coaches containing the members of the family, forty carriages present besides a number of gentlemen on horseback. At one o'clock the bells began to toll, and continued so doing for the space of an hour. Along the high street, the route of the procession every shop was shut, and crowds of people lined both sides of the street, looking in solemn silence on the imposing cortege as it passed slowly along bearing to its last resting-place the body of one whose living form was recently so familiar to them. "After life's fitful fever he sleeps well;" and when we look back upon the untiring energy with which he fought the battle of life, the practical sagacity with which he encountered every question which arose for his decision, the vast amount of good he has accomplished by the judicious application of capital to labour, and his extensive and unostentatious benevolence, may not the noble line of Horace be inscribed upon his monument as an appropriate epitaph.

EXEGI MONUMENTUM AERE PERENNIVS.

TO BE EXPOSED BY PUBLIC ROUP, ON SATURDAY THE 13TH FEBRUARY, 1858, belonging to Mr. Thomas Wyse.

THE GRASS PARKS of HILLEND, and One Field of YOUNG GRASS for a Crop of Seed Hay. The Fields are well Watered, Fenced, and Sheltered.

Roup to commence at Two o'clock p.m.

WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 18th, 25th February 1858

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS,

On Saturday 6th March. To Let by Public Roup, Saturday the 6th day of March, 1858,

THE GRASS PARKS on the estate of MUIRAVONSIDE, comprising ELEVEN ENCLOSURES, to be Let for Cattle, Sheep, and Horses, as formerly.

Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie at One o'clock afternoon, and to finish with the Parks at Seatrees.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 25th February 1858

Births

At Knowhead, Maddiston on the 20th inst., Mrs. David Robertson, sen., of a daughter.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 11th March 1858

THE HUNT.

The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire foxhounds meet on the first regular hunting day at Golthall Kennel - at a quarter before eleven o'clock morning.

The Stirlingshire harriers will meet on Tuesday the 16th, at Avonbridge, and on Saturday the 20th, at Linlithgow - each morning at half-past ten o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 29th April 1858

SLAMANAN.

Cattle Market.- This half-yearly market for cattle and horses was held on Tuesday, on the usual stance fronting the St. Lawrence Inn. The number of cattle shown was not so great as we have seen it, and by no means equal to the demand. In fact, the stock shown was bought up by eleven o'clock. The prices realised were much the same as the last Linlithgow market. There were no fat cattle on the ground. The market on Tuesday was the briskest that has taken place since its establishment - a fact which speaks well for its future prosperity.

Purchasers were much disappointed at the paucity of stock shown, which may be accounted for, perhaps, from the circumstance of Larbert fair taking place next day, the following are a few quotations: - Mr. John Shanks, Wester Jaw, sold, before coming into the market, an excellent calving cow at £15 5s; Mr. Waugh, Gartness, also sold 10 grass beasts, two and three-year-olds, at £6 10s a-head; Messrs Gentleman, Avonbridge, purchased a calving cow at £10 10s, which they afterwards sold to Mr. Joseph Graham, of Perth, for £12; Mr. Rennie, Gartcows, sold an excellent milch cow to Mr. Wm. Neilson, of Greenwells, at £14; Mr. John Shanks Blackrigg, sold a calving quey at £8 12s 6d; Mr. Wm. Wilson, Glentore, sold one calving cow at £9 10s; Mr. James Scott, Meadowfield, Monklands, sold a three-year-old calving cow at £8 10s; Mr. James Tennant, Greengairs, sold a calving cow at £9; Mr. Laurie, Camelon, sold four three-year-old calving queys at £9 a-head; Mr. James Reid, Strathaven, sold three grass beasts, two of which brought £15; Mr. Henry Aitken, cattle dealer, Avonbridge, sold 9 grass beats, 4 of these to Mrs. Ferguson, and 5 to Mr. Matthew Nimmo, Foot o' Green, at prices from £7 to L.8 a-head; Mr. Robert Brown, Wester Lothead, sold a farrow for L.7 10s., which was afterwards resold for L7 15s; Mr. Bryce, Bogside, sold 2 two-year-old Ayrshire queys at L13 the pair. The show of horses was also very limited, and few changed hands; Mr. John Downs, Balquhatston, sold a fine draught colt for L.37; Mr. Wm. Paton, Dnunclair, sold a steel-grey three-year-old colt to Mr. Thomas Kirk, near Bo'nesa, at L.21; Mr. James Waugh, North Arnloss, sold a fine saddle pony, fit for harness or saddle, at L.7; Mr. Christie, horse dealer, Stirling, purchased a light grey horse for L.17 10s; Mr. John Wilson, Melians Place, showed a beautiful dark bay stallion.

Falkirk Herald 20th & 27th May 1858

MUIRAVONSIDE MORT-SAFE ASSOCIATION.

AS the SAFES have not been used for a considerable time, the Committee have thought it proper to advertise, in the Falkirk Herald, for a GENERAL MEETING. It is hoped that all having Claims will attend, as it is considered that there will be a Dividend of the Funds. The Meeting will take place on Friday the 4th June, in the School-Room of Maddiston, at Seven o'clock Evening.

ANDREW BOWIE, Preses.

Falkirk Herald 27th May 1858**MAY FAIR –**

This market for cattle and horses took place on Thursday last on the usual stance, CalanderRiggs. The weather being most favourable in the forenoon, and pasture ground looking well from the late previous rains, conducted in bringing out a large attendance of dealers, farmers and others, who entered at once on business with spirit and earnestness. The number of cattle exposed for sale was nearly 400, larger than any previous May Fair held for many years past. The number and quality of the horses shown was considerably above the average. Milch cows are still high in price, for which in general there was a good demand, though buyers were somewhat reluctant to give the prices asked. There were a few lots of young grazing cattle, but the prices realised were not quite as high as expected. The following are a few quotations : - Mr. Rennie, Gartcows, showed few quotations : - Mr. Rennie, Gartcows, showed the highest one sold brought L.18, another L.16, the highest one sold brought L.18, another L.16, others from L.12 to L.14; ten calving cows L.10 10s a-head - all sold. Mr. Liddell, cattle dealer, had thirty-five cows in the market, four of which he sold to Mr. Thomson, Perth, at L.16 a-head, five to Mr. Moncrieff, Perth, at L.13, others from L.12 to L-15; for one of the above separately, Mr. Liddell of cows this season. Mr. John Gaff, Redding, exhibited a lot of excellent beasts - not all sold. Mr. Graham, Myothill, had thirty - six cattle in market; another lot at L.5 12s 6d, a lot of grass queys at L.6, another lot at L.5 12s 6d, a lot of grass queys at L.6, a lot of cows at L.11, and was offered L.26 for two fat queys. Mr. Christie, cattle dealer, Stirling, showed twenty-one head of cattle - sold three three-year-old calving cows at L.14; three farrow cows at L-7 7s; two two-year-old stots at L.15 per thirteen head of cattle - sold three three-year-old thirteen head of cattle - sold three three-year-old queys at L.28 10s; five calving cows to Mr. J. Graham, Perth, at L.11 5s a-head on an average; one milch cow at L.14; calving cows at L.8 10s a-head; one quey at L.11; one ditto at L.9 15s. Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge, had nine cattle in market - sold three four-year-old grass beasts to Mr. Wm. Neilson, Galamuir at L.7 10s a-head; a milch cow to Mr. Martin, Edinburgh, at L.12 10s - all sold, year old queys at L.6 10s. Mr. Walter Jardine, year old queys at L.6 10s. Mr. Walter Jardine, Blackrigg, sold to Mr. Wm. Gardner, Westfield, a This animal was purchased from Mr. Oswald, Gilston. This animal was purchased from Mr. Oswald, Gilston. Mr. John Shanks, Wester Jaw, sold three calving cows at L.35 per lot. Mr. Jardine, Standhill, Bathgate, sold one cow at L.10, another at The demand, however, fell considerably short of the supply. Mr. Dunlop, Bo'ness, showed four fine supply. Mr. Dunlop, Bo'ness, showed four fine animals-sold two at L.28 and L.46 refused L.80 for the remaining pair. Mr. Miller, Linlithgow, showed ten useful horses some of which were sold at prices from L.25 to L.40. Mr. Charles Otto, bought two roadsters and one cart horse, at prices from L.17 to L.33. L.33. Mr. James Nimmo, sold a fine draught horse at L.38

Falkirk Herald 17th , 24th June & 1st July 1858**MUIRAVONSIDE.**

THE Members of the Mort-Safe Association met, according to advertisement, on the 2d of June, in the School-room, Maddiston, when it was agreed to sell the Old Metal and Dissolve the Association; and if there is any person considers they have a claim, that were not at the Meeting, they are requested to lodge their claim, in writing, with William Johnston, Secretary to the Association, Grossar Crags, near Rumford, as no verbal claim will be sustained, on or before the 10th of August: and there will be a GENERAL MEETING in the School-Room, Maddiston, upon the 20th August, at 6 o'clock Evening, when the Business will be all wound up.

Falkirk Herald 19th 26th July 1858

BOGO HAY AND POTATOES. On FRIDAY, 27th AUGUST. TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 27th August, 1858, on the Farm of BOGO, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. James Kirkwood, 3000 Stones of finely-mixed RYEGRASS & CLOVER HAY in 16 Ricks.

1 Very Famous Clydesdale DRAUGHT COLT, rising three years old;

3 Fat QUEYS, prime fat.

ALSO, Three Acres of WALKER'S EARLY POTATOES, A MOST prodigious crop.

Roup to begin with the Hay at 5 o'clock, and with the Potatoes at 6.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

AVONBRIDGE.

OATS, WHEAT, POTATOES, TURNIPS, MILCH COWS, QUEYS, AND FARMING IMPLEMENTS.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 27th day of August, 1858, at Avonbridge, belonging to the Heirs of the late Robert Marshall, Esq., THE Whole GROWING CROP of OATS,

WHEAT, POTATOES, TURNIPS ; also HAY in Ricks, Splendid Ayrshire MILCH COWS and

QUEYS, and FARMING IMPLEMENTS, &c, comprising –

5 Acres of famous Oats.

1 Acre of do. Wheat.

2 Acres of do. Turnips.

1 Acre of do. Potatoes.

Half-an-Acre of Fitches.

2 Ricks of Ryegrass Seed Hay.

1 Rick of Meadow Hay.

11 Acres of Pasture Grass – to be Let till Martinmas next.

4 Pure Bred Ayrshire Milch Cows - fit for the Prize Ring, one of which is newly Calved.

1 Six-quarter-old Ayrshire Quey.

1 Ayrshire Calf. A Fat Sow.

A Close-bodied Cart with Wheels and Axle, Iron Plough, Barn Fanners, and the whole of the

Farming Implements and Utensils, &c, & c .

Four months' credit.

Roup to begin at Eleven o'clock.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 29th July 1858

CROP, DRAUGHT AND HARNESS HORSES, MILCH COWS, QUEYS, &c, At REDFORD,

On FRIDAY, the 13th August.

TO be sold by Public Roup, on FRIDAY, the 13th August, 1858, at REDFORD, belonging to

JOHN GRAHAM, Esq., THE Whole GROWING CROP and OLD CORN STACKS, rare

CLYDESDALE DRAUGHT HORSES and HARNESS HORSE, AYRSHIRE MILCH COWS and

QUEYS, &c., &c., on the above lands, comprising: -

15 Acres of Capital Oats.

5 Acres of do. Beans.

4 Large Stacks of Oats - crop 1857

2 Powerful Short-Legged Clydesdale Draught horses, famous stamps and rare workers.

1 Harness and Riding Pony, 14 1/2 hands high with perfect action.

3 Grand Ayrshire Milch Cows, also a number of young Young Cattle.

The whole to be Sold, without reserve, as the Exposer has given up Farming.

Four Months' Credit on Bills.

Roup to begin at twelve o'clock noon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 12th 26th August 30th September 1858

STRATHAVON CROP, HORSES, &c, On SATURDAY the 14th AUGUST.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 14th day of August, 1858,

THE whole GROWING CROP, with Three Draught HORSES, &c, on the Farm of Strathavon,

near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. William Waugh, comprising comprising –

3 Acres of Lint, and

4 Acres of Walker's Early Potatoes, first quality.

ALSO,
2 Draught Horses.
1 Famous 3 year-old Clydesdale Draught Filly.
2 Hay Waggons.
A quantity of Cut Wood, Stack Props, Stack Ladders, &c.
The Crops are remarkably fine.
The whole to be Sold without reserve, as the exposor is leaving the Farm at Martinmas.
Four Months' Credit on Bills.
Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 26th August
CROP, HORSES, MILCH COWS, CATTLE, AND FARM STOCKING, AT CRAIGEND, On TUESDAY, 24th AUGUST.
To be Sold by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 24th August, 1858, on the Farm of Craigend, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Robert Thorn,
THE Whole of the Capital CROP, HORSES MILCH COWS, CATTLE, & FARM STOCKING, upon the above Farm, comprising –
21 Acres of Oats.
4 Acres of Barley.
2 Acres of Beans.
3 Acres of Turnips.
2 Acres of Potatoes.
1000 Stones of Perennial Ryegrass Seed Hay in Stacks.
1 Very Rare five-year-old Clydesdale Draught Mare and Foal.
1 Clydesdale Draught Horse. 7 First-class Ayrshire Milch Cows, nothing better.
3 Two-year-old Ayrshire Queys in calf.
3 Six-quarter-old Ayrshire Queys.
4 Ayrshire Calves.
1 Fat Pig, eight months old.
2 Close-bodied Carts with Wheels and Axles, and 3 Sets of Horse Harness.
1 Iron Plough.
1 Iron Land Break, by Potter.
1 Iron Land Grubber, by Wilson.
1 Iron Drill Grubber, by Taylor.
1 Pair of Saddle Harness, by Potter.
2 Pair of Grain, and 1 Pair of Grass-Seed Harrows.
1 Turnip Sowing Machine.
2 Land Rollers.
With the whole of the Small Farming Implements and Utensils of every description and denomination. Four Months' Credit.
The whole to be Sold without reserve, as the Exposer is giving up Farming.
Roup to begin at Eleven o'clock.
AMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 26th August & 2nd September 1858
MUIRAVONSIDE.
AS the Old Metal of the Safes is Sold, if there is any who consider themselves entitled to a Dividend, they are requested to attend in Maddiston School-Room, on Friday the 3d day of November, at -Half-past 6 o'clock Evening, to receive their share of the Money, as all will be divided. Those failing to attend will have themselves to blame.
JAMES ROBERTSON, Preses.

Falkirk Herald 16th September 1858
SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
Janet Grey or Pettigrew, and Mary Forgie, from the Loan near Avonbridge, pled guilty to the theft of some coals from off the Railway at Avonbridge. They were each sentenced to pay 5s or go to prison for 5 days. The fines were paid.

Falkirk Herald 7th 21st 28th October 1858
To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 30th day of October, 1858, on the Farm of Strathavon, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Wm. Waugh,
THE Whole of the Famous MILCH COWS, QUEYS and CALVES, HORSES, CROP, and FARM STOCKING, &c., on the above Farm, comprising –
10 Favourite Ayrshire Milch Cows in Calf.
3 Ayrshire Queys in Calf.
2 Six-quarter-old Queys.
3 Ayrshire Calves.
1 Six-year-old Draught Mare in Foal.
1 Draught Horse.
1 Draught Foal.
7 Stacks of Oats.
4 Stacks of Barley.
2 Stacks of Meadow Hay.
3 Close-bodied Carts, with Wheels and Axles.
1 Water Cart, with Wheels and Axle and Water Barrel.
1 Stone Cart.
1 Hay Waggon.
2 Wood and 1 Stone Rollers, with Frames.
2 Turnip Sowing Machines, 1 for Double and Single Sowing.
1 Iron Plough, by Gray of Uddingston.
1 Drill Grubber.
3 Pair of Grain Harrows.
3 Sets of Cart and Plough Horse Harness.
1 Cheese Press and 2 Cheese Stones.
1 Cattle Boiler. &c.
2 Meal Girnals and 1 Horse Corn Chest, with the whole of the small Farming Implements and Utensils, &c. &c. Likewise,
A THREE-HORSE THRASHING-MILL, And a large quantity of MANURE, and some articles of Household Furniture. The whole to be sold without reserve, as the- Exposer is leaving the Farm.
The usual credit.
Roup to begin at 11 o'clock Forenoon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 7th 14th 15th October 1858
EXTENSIVE SALE OF CORN STACKS, MILCH COWS, QUEYS, CALVES, &c.; AND GRASS PARKS TO LET, AND LAND FOR CROPPING, AT BULLIONDALE, ON MONDAY, 18th OCTOBER.
To be Sold by Public Roup, on Monday the 18th day of October, 1858, on the Farm of Bulliondale, near Avonbridge, belonging to Mr. Andrew Mungal,
THE Whole CROP, MILCH COWS, QUEYS, CALVES, POTATOES, and TURNIPS, &c, on the above Lands, comprising -
27 Stacks of Capital OATS.
1 Acre of TURNIPS.

Half-an-Acre of POTATOES.

6 First-Class Ayrshire MILCH COWS, four in Calf and two Farrow.

2 Ayrshire QUEYS in Calf. 4 Six-quarter-old Ayrshire QUEYS.

6 Ayrshire CALVES.

Also, at the same time will be Let for Ploughing,
ONE TEN ACRE FIELD, to be Cropped with Oats or Lint;

AND FIVE GRASS PARKS for next Season's Grazing, varying in size from 4 to 10 Acres, all of which are well Fenced and Watered.

The usual credit.

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 14th October 1858

The Harriers - The Stirlingshire Harriers will meet on Monday the 18th inst. at Linlithgow, and on Friday the 22d inst. at Maddiston, each morning at half-past ten o'clock

Glasgow Herald 22nd October 1858

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.-

The Stirlingshire and Linlithgow foxhounds meet at Eastend on Saturday, 23d Oct., at 10.45.

The Stirlingshire harriers meet at Maddiston on Friday the 22d Oct., at 10.30.

Falkirk Herald 28th October 1858

The Stirlingshire harriers meet on Monday at Avonbridge; and Friday at Larbert House, each day at half-past 10.

Falkirk Herald 4th November 1858

FARM IN MUIRAVONSIDE TO BE LET.

To be Let for 19 Years,

THE FARM of WESTER DRUMBROIDER on the Estate of Redford, in the Parish of Muiravonside, as possessed by Mr. Andrew Stevenson. Entry to Houses and Lands at Martinmas first;

Offers to be given in to John Graham, Esq., the Proprietor, at Redford House; or to James Neilson, Auctioneer, Falkirk, on or before the 10th November next.

Falkirk, October 16, 1858.

STOCK AND CROP FOR SALE.

There will be Sold by Public Roup, at HILLEND, near Avonbridge, on Saturday, the 6th November next, THE following STOCK, &c, belonging to Mr. Jas. Binnie, consisting of -

2 Excellent MILCH COWS, in Calf.

1 Farrow COW, in good condition.

1 Two-year-old QUEY, in Calf.

2 Prime Fat PIGS.

ALSO, 2 Stocks of OATS, well got.

1 Stack of STRAW.

1 Rick of MEADOW HAY.

A Small Field of YELLOW TURNIPS;

And a considerable quantity of Dairy Utensils.

USUAL CREDIT GIVEN.

Sale to begin at One o'clock p.m.

WM. GILLESPIE Auctioneer.

Hillend, 30th October, 1858.

SLAMANNAN FAIR. -

This half-yearly market for cattle and horses was held on Tuesday. The bulk of the stock exhibited was about the average. The market for all kinds was considered dull, though a good many sales were effected at prices a shade below those obtained at the last Falkirk Tryst. In the evening a concert was held in the Free Church School-room, and dancing was maintained with some spirit in the hall attached to the St. Lawrence Inn. The day was observed generally as a holiday.

FEEING FAIR. -

On Thursday last, the half-yearly (Martinmas) hiring fair for servants was held here. By an early hour all the roads and entrances to the town were literally crowded with "bairdly chieils and bonny lasses," wending their way in high spirits to the place of rendezvous. The arrival of the early trains from both stations also brought a large proportion of masters, servants, and other visitors; and by ten o'clock the principal portion of the High Street was blocked with people; so much so, that forcing a passage through the crowd was next to impossible. The number of servants apparently open to a hiring fee was above the average for a Martinmas market, and the fees were down from £1 to 30s, for servant who were changing their places, but those who were re-engaged by their former masters were allowed the same wages as formerly. Female servants' fees ranged from £3 to £4, and in some cases £4 10s, for the half-year. Ploughmen (young lads) would have about £7; experienced hands from £9 to £10; and foremen from £11 to £13. Feeing continued brisk till about one o'clock, about which time it was considered that a large proportion of those wanting places were engaged.

IMPORTANT LAW POINT.

In the Small Debt Court, yesterday week, Sheriff Robertson gave a decision in a case - Dykes v. Bryce - arising out of the following allegations, and involving what may be much curious legal lore: A few weeks ago the herd of Mr. Bryce was driving from the pasture his herd of cows and bull, and, on the way, met the pursuer's cows on the road leading between Avonbridge and Linlithgow, near to Blackstone; the bull gored and seriously injured one of the pursuer's cows, as he alleged, and for this injury damages, &c, were claimed to the amount of £7 odds. For the defendant it was denied that his bull injured the pursuer's cow, and he pled that even had the fact been otherwise, he was not liable, in respect of the legal rule that "one who is not culpable is not liable to repair any damage which he may have done, and that one who, jure suo utitur, or does no more than he has a right to do, is not bound to repair the loss he hath caused another to suffer." The defender founded on a statute of David the Second, which, as a curiosity in law literature, may here be quoted - viz "Ane man passand be the king's hie way, callis before him twa schiep bund together with ane tow and with the twa ends thereof; and be chance ane horse, havand ane sair back, is lyand in the samine hie way: swa the ane of the schiep passes be the richt side, and the other schiep by the other side of the horse; and the tow, quherewith they are bound, tuiches his sair back; wherethrow he is moved to rise up, and carries the schiep hingand ane upon his ane side and the other upon the other side, here and there in sundrie places, and throw the fieldis until he comes to ane open miln without ane keiper, havand ane fire in the middle flure; and the fire being scattered, the miln is brunt with the twa schiep and the horse. It is demanded quha sail answer for this skeath and damages? It is answered, the owner of the horse sail pay for the twa schiep, because the king's hie way would not be occupied be the horse; and the milner sail answer for the burning of the miln, for the horse and for the schiep, and for all other skaith and damage done in the miln because he left the miln open, and fire in it without ane keiper. The recent ease of Major Orr and Captain Fleming was also pled in defence. After a lengthened proof, the Sheriff sustained the defences with costs.

Agents for pursuer - John Smith & Wilson; for defender - Adam Smith.

Falkirk Herald 11th November 1858

APPRENTICE WANTED FOR the BLACKSMITH BUSINESS. -
Apply at Maddiston Smithy.

Falkirk Herald 23rd December 1858

NOTICE.

IN an APPLICATION to the Commissary of the County of Stirling, at the instance of Jean Orr or Hardie, residing at Avonbridge, to have the Caution to be found by her as Executrix dative of the deceased Mary Orr or Waddell, who died at Boxton, in the Parish of Muiravonside, restricted to £50 Sterling, the Commissary-Depute, of this date, appointed the Petitioner to intimate, by advertisement in the North British Advertiser, Stirling Journal, and Falkirk Herald newspapers, the import of the prayer of the Petition; and that she had applied to the Commissary to restrict the Caution to be found by her to the sum of £50, that all parties might be certiorated of the Application; and ordained all parties having objections thereto, to lodge the same with the Clerk of Court within Ten days from the date of the advertisement, with certification.

Of all which intimation is hereby given.

Stirling, 20th December,

1859

Falkirk Herald 6th January 1859

The Stirlingshire harriers meet at Maddiston on Monday next, and on Thursday following at Linlithgow – each day at half-past ten o'clock.

Caledonian Mercury Thursday 20th January 1859

LAW INTELLIGENCE

TEIND COURT

AUG.-THE MINISTER OF MUIRAVONSIDIE V. THE HERITORS.

The last augmentation was granted so long ago as 1822, since which date the population has increased from 1500 to 3000. The stipend was fixed at 14 chalders, with L8 6s 8d for communion elements. The rental is L14, 932, and there is sufficient free teind. The minister asked an augmentation of, 4 chalders, and an increase of the sum, allowed, for elements to L10. The heritors made no opposition.

The COURT granted the augmentation, Counsel for the Minister - Mr. Cook. Morton, Whitehead, and Greig, W.S., Agents. –

Glasgow Herald Thursday 20th January 1859

TEIND COURT-

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19.

AUGMENTATIONS OF STIPEND.

The Court allowed an augmentation of four chalders to the stipend of Muiravonside, raising it to eighteen chalders, and raising the sum for communion elements to £10; and an augmentation of two chalders to the stipend of Old Deer, raising it also to eighteen chalders, there being no opposition on the part of the heritors of either parish. Mr. Cook stated the case for both ministers.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 27th January 1859

SLAMANAN.

Slamanan Ploughing Match. –

The above match came off on Friday the 14th inst., at Middlerigg, the farm of Thomas Brown, Esq. The day was most favourable, and at 9 A.M. sixteen ploughs started. By 3 P.M. the work was over, and the judges - Messrs Shanks, Gartliston, old Monkland ; Wilson, Kendyshill, Muiravonside; and Mitchell, Maidrox, New Monkland - after a very critical inspection of the work done, declared the following as priz men: - Seniors - 1st, John Jarvie, servant to Mr. Scott, Binniehill; 2d, William Wilson, farmer, Drumclair; 3d, George Nisbet, farmer, Longrigg; 4th, William Hodge, Wester Jaw; 5th, John Findlay, Todsbughts; 6th, James Shanks, jun., Oakersdykes. Juniors, under 20 years of age - 1st, Henry Shanks, Hillend ; 2d, James Ballantine, son of Mr. Ballantine, Jawcraig; 3d, Henry Brown, servant to Mr. Downs, Balquhatston. The society have to acknowledge the receipt of several articles of value to be given as prizes ; among the rest, a silver medal from Mr. Watt, Roughrigg; a collar, from Mr. Pender, saddler, Falkirk ; ditto, from Mr. Ballantine, Jawcraig; a pair of blinders, from Mr. Martin, Highstonerigg - and an excellent riding bridle from Mr. Smith Camelon; as also, £1 subscription from Mr. Horne, minister of Slamanan. After the labours of the field, the members, judges, and several gentlemen from a distance, sat down to a substantial dinner in the St. Lawrence Inn. Mr. Downs, president of the society occupied the chair, and Mr. Robert Taylor very ably discharged the duties of croupier. The usual loyal, patriotic, and local toasts were drunk and responded to, often with very telling effect, and the company, after spending a most harmonious evening, separated about 10 P.M.

Falkirk Herald 3rd February 1859

The Stirlingshire harriers meet at Laurieston kennel, to-day ;on Saturday the 5th at Maddiston ;on Monday the 7th at Linlithgow ;on Thursday the 10th at Avonbridge; and on Saturday the 12th at Larbert House - each day at half-past ten o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 3rd February 1859

PLOUGHING MATCH. –

On Tuesday a match, open to all who choose to compete, took place on the farm of Wester Bowhouse, in the parish of Muiravonside, possessed by Mr. John Binnie. The competitors, twenty-seven in number, came from considerable distances to test their powers in this almost artistic trade. The ploughing commenced at eight o'clock in the morning, and terminated some time in the afternoon. It was allowed on all hands that the ploughing performed was far above an average; indeed, we have rarely, if ever, witnessed it done in better style. The judges were, Messrs William Neilson, farmer, Greenwells; John Walker farmer, Inch ; John Deas, farmer, Clarendon ; John Wilson, farmer, Kendieshill; and James Russell overseer, Muiravonside; and who awarded the prizes as follows : 1st prize, to Daniel Russell, farmer, Dales, Whitburn; 2d, to John Hunter, servant to Admiral Hope, Carriden; 3d, to John Jarvie, servant to Mr. James Scott, Binniehill, Slamanan; 4th, to George Walker, servant to Mr. John Walker, farmer, Inch, Grangemouth; 5th, to John Wilson, Melonsplace; 6th, to A. Russell, farmer, Dales Whitburn; 7th, to Henry Brown, servant to Mr. Thomas Struthers, farmer, Frinleymire.

Mr. Binnie entertained the judges, and several other gentlemen connected with the ploughing, to dinner at Bowhouse, in the evening. John Graham, Esq. of Redford, occupied the chair, and the evening was spent with the greatest hilarity.

Caledonian Mercury Thursday 3rd February 1859

NOTICE.

IN the Process of Augmentation, Modification, and Locality, at the instance of the Rev. JAMES McFARLAN, Minister of the Parish of MUIRAVONSIDIE, in the Presbytery of Linlithgow, and County of Stirling, against the Heritors of said Parish, the Lord Ordinary, by an Interlocutor, dated on the 28th ult., appointed the whole Heritors to MEET in STEVENSON'S Salerooms, ST ANDREW SQUARE, Edinburgh, on TUESDAY the 15th day of FEBRUARY current, at Half-past One o'Clock afternoon, for the purpose of naming a person to be suggested to his Lordship as Common Agent for conducting the Locality of the Pursuer's Stipend, and ordained the Heritors to produce their rights to Teinds, and Valuations thereof, in the Clerk's hands, betwixt and the 28th day of April next, under the usual certification.

MORTON, WHITEHEAD, & GREIG, W.S., Agents. Edinburgh, 2d February 1959

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th February, 3rd March 1859

MUIRAVONSIDIE GRASS PARKS,

On SATURDAY, 5th MARCH.

To Let by Public Roup, on Saturday the 5th day of March, 1859, THE GRASS PARKS on the Estate of Muiravonside, comprising ELEVEN ENCLOSURES, To be Let for Cattle, Sheep, and Horses, as formerly, Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie at One o'clock Afternoon, and to finish with the Parks at Seatrees, &c.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Stirlingshire harriers meet at Avonbridge on Monday the 28th instant, and on Thursday the 3d March next, at Linlithgow: each day at 11 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th February 1859

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND OTHER EFFECTS FOR SALE.

There will be exposed to Sale by Public Roup, on Saturday the 5th day of March next, at the Dwelling-House, Garden, and Premises at Dykeneuck, Muiravonside, possessed by the late John Duncan, Blacksmith there, and now by Helen Morton, his Widow, THE Following Effects, - viz., Two Chests of Mahogany Drawers, a Pembroke Table & Cover, Grates, Fenders, and Fire-Irons, two Dressing-Glasses, a Cupboard ; also a Pig, and numerous other Effects. Sale to commence at 12 o'clock noon. Falkirk, 21st February, 1859.

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED ON SCOTCH RAILWAYS. –

From a return presented to Parliament on Monday, we learn that the number of men employed on Scotch railways on the 30th June 1858 was 12,647. The number of miles of railway opened for traffic on the same date was 1311, and the number of stations thereon 434. The number of miles of lines and branches in course of construction on the same day was 142; and the length of line authorised, but not commenced, 396 miles. On the lines in course of construction 6333 men were employed.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 31st March 7th April 1859

NOTICE.

ANY Persons having CLAIMS against the late Mr. ROBERT MARSHALL, of Bridgend, Avonbridge, are requested to lodge the same with Messrs Russel & Aitken, Writers; and all Parties INDEBTED to the deceased are requested to make payment of their Debts, to Russel & Aitken, within Four Weeks from this date. Falkirk, 18th March, 1859.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 7th April 1859

AVONBRIDGE.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT. - Yesterday morning about half past nine o'clock, a man named William J Dick, aged 60 years, and employed as a gatekeeper at the level crossing, near Blackstone, on the Monkland Railway, met with his death under the following melancholy circumstances. An engine was coming up the line, and deceased, having closed one gate was crossing the line to close the other; the engine, however, came upon him before he had time to get out of its reach, and he was killed on the spot. The body, when lifted up, was much mutilated, an arm and leg were broken, and his skull fractured. A post mortem examination of the body was shortly afterwards taken by Dr. Kirk, Bathgate. As far as we have learned, no blame is attributable to the engine-driver.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th April 12th 19th May 1859

SMALL FARM IN STIRLINGSHIRE TO LET,

For 19 Years, now or at Martinmas.

THE FARM OF FOGGERMONT, at the Avonbridge Station of the Slamannan Railway, about five miles from Falkirk, six miles from Bathgate and Linlithgow, and 22 miles from Glasgow, containing about 50 imperial acres, including a piece of Moss. Nearly the whole of the arable land was thoroughly drained three years ago. The Farm has been in the hands of the Proprietor for some years, and can be let either at Whitsunday or Martinmas first. James Brown, the Foreman, will show the Lands; and further particulars will be given on application to R. G. Balderston, Bishopbriggs, who will receive offers till the 22nd of this month. Bishopbriggs, 2nd April, 1859.

Caledonian Mercury Friday 29th April ; Glasgow Herald Monday 2nd ; Fife Herald Friday 5th ; Aberdeen Journal Wednesday 11th May 1859

PULPIT-GOWN ESTABLISHMENT

NEW STYLE OF CLERGYMEN'S GOWNS.

THERE being no good reason why improvements should not be made on this part of Clerical Costume as well as any other parts of Gentlemen's dress, the Subscriber begs to announce that he has recently succeeded in adding to his large and varied Stock of Gowns one of the most Elegant and Comfortable Styles yet introduced; it is very much admired, and gives general satisfaction; hence the large increase to his business in this Particular department.

LADIES, AND CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES, who may take an interest in such matters, are respectfully invited to call and see the various Styles (prices ranging from £3 3s to £12 12s.) But, if this be not convenient, a Box with a few gowns can be sent on sight to any part of the United Kingdom when requested.

BY

JAMES MIDDLEMASS,

18 SOUTH BRIDGE STREET.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th May

FAMOUS FARM HORSES AND FARM STOCKING.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 20th May, 1859, on the Farm of FOGGERMONT, near Avonbridge, belonging to R. G. BALDERSTON, Esq.

THE Whole First-Class FARM STOCKING &C., on the above Farm, comprising –

1 Rare Clydesdale Brood Mare.

1 Draught Three-year-old Clydesdale Colt, out of the above by Heather Jock, perfection.

1 One-year-old Ditto.

1 Farrow Cow.

2 Ricks of Ryegrass Hay.

2 Close-bodied Carts with Wheels and Axles.

1 Hay Waggon. 2 Sets of Cart and Plough Horse Harness.

1 Iron Plough,

1 Iron Grubber.

1 Boiler and Furnace. Grain Harrows. Water Barrel, Grain Bags; with the whole other Farming Implements and Utensils, &c., &c., all of which are little worse than new. - Also, 3 Acres of Young Ryegrass and Clover Hay.

THREE MONTHS' CREDIT.

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th May

CATTLE MARKET. –

The May fair for cattle and horses was held on Thursday. There were between 400 and 500 head of cattle exhibited, consisting principally of milch cows and queys, and a short supply of grazing cattle. The numbers were considerably less than we have seen at corresponding markets of previous years. The other fairs which have taken place so recently in the neighbouring districts gave intending purchasers an opportunity of being supplied. There were no fat cattle shown. The market, in the morning, was somewhat brisk, but sales afterwards

were effected slowly, not because there was a scarcity of purchasers, but on account of the high prices asked. Prices were a shade lower than last Linlithgow market, but higher than those realised at Denny. The greater number of the cattle changed owners by one or two o'clock, when clearance was effected to make room for the horsemarket. In this department a number of good draught horses were shown, but few sales of any moment made. There seemed little demand for horses, owing to agricultural labour being in an advanced state. Of the general market the following are a few quotations:- Messrs Gentleman, Avonbridge, sold two excellent Ayrshire cows for £35. Mr. A. Liddell, Denny, had thirty-eight milch cows in market (as usual of good quality), eight of which were sold in one lot at £15 a head; others at prices ranging from £12 to £15 - all sold. Mr. Graham, Myothill, exhibited fifty head of cattle, consisting of milch cows, queys, two and three year old stots, and a few Highland queys: he sold a lot of four cows for £56; calving queys at £11 a head; a lot of stots at £9; two-year-old queys at £5 10s; farrow cows at £8 a head, and five Highland heifers for £28 2s 6d per lot; a lot of back calving cows brought £9 a head. Messrs Rennie, Gartcows, showed twenty excellent milch cows, at prices averaging from £9 to £16 a head. There was also a fine display of stallions on the Callendar Road at two o'clock. The greater number of these were noticed at Larbert fair, so that any farther description of them would be superfluous.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 30th June, Dunfermline Press Thursday 28 July, Dunfermline Saturday Press Saturday 30 July 1859

ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF POOR OF THE COUNTIES OF STIRLING & CLACKMANNAN.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING of this ASSOCIATION was held within the Council Chambers, at Linlithgow, on the 25th inst., when the following Office-Bearers were appointed for the current year, viz. :- Mr. JOHN BEEBY, Falkirk, President.

Mr. THOMAS RUSSEL, Clackmannan, Secretary and Treasurer.

Messrs REID, Torryburn,
STEWART, Carnock,
HENDERSON, Muiravonside, Councillors.
MITCHELL, Larbert,
HARDIE, Linlithgow.

Since this Association was formed a few years ago, it has been the means of diffusing much useful information, tending to clear the ambiguities which experience has proven to be connected with the working of the Poor Law, more than almost any other law. Many disputed cases have been amicably arranged, thereby preventing litigation, and thus saving the funds of Parochial Boards for their legitimate purposes, whilst the members themselves have been mutually benefited by the friendly interchange of individual experiences acquired in the discharge of their onerous duties. This Association, though still comparatively local, is not now singular, as many of a kindred nature have more recently sprung up; and such is the confidence with which Parochial Boards have been inspired by the decisions of disputed cases submitted to some of these Associations, that several of these Boards have voluntarily agreed to submit disputed points for their decision, thus stamping them with their approbation, and proving that what was at first intended to be more immediately a personal benefit has resulted in subserving the public interest.

Glasgow Herald Monday 1st August 1859

MILLS TO LET,

For Seven, Ten, or Fifteen Years, Entry at Martinmas Next: -

THE FLOUR, BARLEY, and CORN MILLS of MANUEL, Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, in consequence of the death of the late occupier, Mr. Brock. They are situated upon the Water of Avon, within two miles of Linlithgow and six of Falkirk; have a plentiful supply of Water; and being in the neighbourhood of the Edinburgh and Glasgow and Monklands Railways, and the Union Canal, command ready access to the best markets. There is also a suitable Dwelling House and Offices. Along with the Mills there will be Let about 29 ACRES Imperial of LAND, of the best quality, and suitable for all kinds of Crops, as possessed, by Mr. Brock.

Offers to be lodged with Messrs. MacRitchie, Bayley and Henderson. W.S., 11 Royal Exchange, Edinburgh, betwixt and the 10th of September next: by whom, or Mr. Alexr. Brock, Randyford, by Falkirk further particulars will be given.

N.B.-The Proprietor not to be bound to accept the highest Offer. Edinburgh, 20th July, 1859.

Falkirk Herald 4th August 1859

DEATHS

At Maddiston, Stirlingshire, on the 27th ult., John, aged 19 months, son of James Bain, bookseller, Glasgow.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Assault upon Police-Officers. -

On the evening of Saturday or Sabbath morning last, James Hunter, hawker, Avonbridge, entered the house of James Simpson Stewart, police officer, Slamanan, and assaulted him by striking him several blows about one of the eyes and face. The police-officer, however, got hold of Hunter, and succeeded in detaining him until more assistance arrived, when the hawker was secured. He was brought up on Monday, before Interim-Sheriff McFarlane, and upon pleading guilty, he was sentenced to pay a fine of 30s or 30 days' imprisonment.

Caledonian Mercury Saturday 6th August, Stirling Observer Thursday 11th August 1859

MARRIAGES.

At Muiravonside Manse, on the 4th inst., by the father of the bride, Archibald Campbell, Esq., Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, to Christian, second daughter of the Rev. James M'Farlan, minister of the parish of Muiravonside.

Falkirk Herald 11th August 1859

GOWANBANK CROP AND HAY On FRIDAY the 19th AUGUST.

TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 19th August, 1859, on the Lands of Gowanbank, near Avonbridge, belonging to the Trustees of the late Walter Gowans, Esq.,

13 Acres of SANDY OATS,

13 Acres of AYRE SEED OATS,

and 13 Ricks of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY.

The Oats are heavy and fine, being after green crop and old lea land; and the Hay is of sterling quality. FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock Afternoon, immediately after the Sale at Foggermont.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

BIRTHS.

Here, at Bank Street, on the 4th inst., the wife of Mr. James Forgie, pawnbroker, of a daughter. At South Logie Brae, Avonbridge, on the 2d inst., Mrs. John Miller, of a son.

Falkirk Herald 11th 18th August 1859

GROWING CROP, MILCH COW, &c, AT FOGGERMONT, On FRIDAY the 19th AUGUST.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 19th August, 1859, on the Farm of Foggermont, near Avonbridge, belonging to R. G. Balderston, Esq.,

THE Whole GROWING CROP, MILCH COW, &c, on the above Farm, comprising-
18 Acres of Oats.

4 Acres of Wheat.

2 Acres of Beans.

2 Acres of Turnips.

And Half-an-acre of Potatoes.
Also, 1 Favourite Ayrshire Milch Cow.
The whole to be Sold without reserve, as the Proprietor has let the Farm.
THE USUAL CREDIT.
Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 25th August 1859

GROWING CROP AND FAT CATTLE AT CRAIGEND,
On WEDNESDAY the 31st AUGUST.
To be Sold by Public Roup, on Wednesday the 31st August, 1859, on the Farm of Craigend,
possessed by Mr. David Robertson,
THE Whole GROWING CROP, Old WHEAT STACK, and FAT CATTLE, on the above Farm,
comprising –
23 Acres of Sandy, Hopeton, and Dun OATS
4 Acres of BEANS,
4 Acres of BARLEY,
1 Large Stack of OLD WHEAT, and
6 Fat QUEYS.
FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.
EXTENSIVE SALE OF CROP AT KNOW HEAD AND MANUEL-RIGG,
On WEDNESDAY the 31st AUGUST.
To be Sold by Public Roup, on Wednesday the 31st August, 1859,
On the Farms of Know-Head and Manuel-Rigg, near Maddiston, possessed by Mr. David
Robertson,
THE Whole GROWING CROPS and HAY on the above Farms, comprising –
55 Acres of Sandy, Dun, and other OATS,
10 Acres of BARLEY.
8 Acres of BEANS,
2 Acres of WHEAT, and
700 Stones of Ryegrass and Clover HAY, in Ricks.
The whole to be Sold without reserve, as the Exposer is leaving the Farm.
Four Months' Credit.
Roup to begin at Two o'clock Afternoon, immediately after the Sale at Craigend.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th September 1859

POTATOES.
TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday, 10th September current, on the Farm of Glenend,
Parish of Muiravonside, and belonging to Mr. John M'Laren, about TWO ACRES OF
WALKER'S EARLIES, a capital Crop, of first-rate quality.
Roup to begin at Five o'clock Afternoon.
R. SANDERSON, Auctioneer.
Linlithgow, 3d Sept 1859
ROUP OF POTATOES AT EASTER STRATHAVON. TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Monday
12th September current, upon the Farm of Easter Strathavon, near Avonbridge, and belonging
to Captain Ovenstone, about FOUR ACRES GROWING POTATOES, PRINCE REGENTS.
The Crop is one of the most abundant in the district, and the quality is unsurpassable.
Roup to begin at Half-past Five o'clock Afternoon.
ROBERT SANDERSON, Auctioneer.
Linlithgow, 5th Sept.,
SHERIFF AND JURY TRIALS. –
At a Sheriff and Jury Criminal Court, held at Stirling on Monday, presided over by Mr. Sheriff
Robertson, of Falkirk, the following cases, at the instance of John Gair, Procurator-Fiscal,
Falkirk, were disposed of:
Daniel Cassells was placed at the bar charged with assault on a pregnant woman, and
previous conviction, in so far as on the 6th of July last near the house at Blackbraes, parish of
Muiravonside, then occupied by the prisoner, he did wickedly and feloniously attack and
assault Margaret Kindred or Heaps, then in a state of pregnancy, and did with his foot kick her
violently to the injury of her person. Four certified copies of previous convictions were also
produced against the prisoner, who pled not guilty, but after evidence was led, Cassells was
found guilty and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th October 1859

GREENWELLS TURNIPS, On SATURDAY, 22d OCTOBER.
To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 22d October, 1859, on the farm of Greenwells,
possessed by Mr. William Neilson, FIVE ACRES of ABERDEEN YELLOW TURNIPS, which
are quite equal to the Crops of former years. Credit as usual.
Roup to begin at Four o'clock precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th 27th October 1859

FAT CATTLE, POTATOES, & TURNIPS, AT GOWAN-BANK, On SATURDAY the 29th
OCTOBER.
TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 29th October, 1859, on the Lands of Gowan-
Bank, near Avonbridge, belonging to the Trustees of the late Walter Gowans, Esq.,
6 PRIME FAT CATTLE;
12 TONS OF POTATOES, WALKER'S EARLIES,
A Treat to Eat; and
8 ACRES OF FIRST-CLASS TURNIPS.
THREE MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at One o'clock Afternoon precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.
DISPLENISHING SALE OF CROP, MILCH COWS, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE, &c.,
AT MUIRHEAD, NEAR AVONBRIDGE, On FRIDAY the 28th OCTOBER.
TO be Sold by Public Roup, at Muirhead, near Avonbridge, on Friday the 28th October, 1859,
belonging to Mr. Thomas Dykes, comprising :-
4 Stacks of OATS.
1 Rick of HAY.
2 MILCH COWS in Calf.
1 QUEY in Calf, at the drop, rising three years old.
1 Wooden House.
1 Stone Roller.
A Barn Floor.
Chest of Mahogany Drawers, Mahogany Table, two Close Beds, Kitchen Chairs, Milk Barrels,
2 Churns, and a quantity of Dairy Utensils, and other Articles.
Three Months' Credit on approved Bills, or Discount for Cash.
Sale to commence at One o'clock Afternoon,
WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th November 1859

A SMITHY and DWELLING HOUSE at Strathloanhead, in the Parish of Torphichen and
County of Linlithgow. Business has been carried on in the above line for upwards of fifty years;

and for a steady, good tradesman such an opening seldom occurs. For further particulars, apply to Mr. Wm. Shields, at Strathloanhead, by Avonbridge.
A PUBLIC ROUP of the SMITHY TOOLS, &c, which belonged to the late Wm. Marshall, will take place at Strathloanhead, on Tuesday the 15th November current, at Twelve o'clock Noon.
M. CHAPMAN, Auctioneer.
Strathloanhead, 2d Nov., 1859.

Stirling Observer Thursday 17th November 1859

ASSESSED TAXES, 1859-60.
APPEAL COURTS-COUNTY OF STIRLING-
THE Commissioners of Supply for the several Districts of the County of Stirling will meet on the days, and at the places undermentioned, to hear and determine Appeals against the changes made by the Surveyor for the current year: -
For the Burgh and Parish of Falkirk, and the Parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan - in the Court-House at Falkirk, on Wednesday the 30th of November current, at Twelve o'Clock Noon,
JAMES CHRYSAL, Clerk to the Commissioners. King Street, Stirling, 16th Nov., 1859.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th November 1859

LOST.
ON Wednesday the 16th current, between Polmont and Muiravonside, or between the latter place and Linlithgow Bridge, a SABLE BOA. -
Whoever has found the same will receive a suitable Reward, by returning it to Mrs. Reid, Smallburn House. Falkirk, 23d November, 1859.
AONBRIDGE
MELANCHOLY CIRCUMSTANCE.
On the evening of the 10th inst., a man named Thomas Rae, a labourer, residing near Avonbridge, retired to rest with a son about fourteen or fifteen years of age. On the following morning the son on waking was horrified to find his father lying upon the floor of the apartment apparently lifeless, and a cat perched upon the body tearing away at the face of the unfortunate man. The young lad immediately arose, drove the cat off, discovered that his father was dead, and that the animal, with an instinct peculiar to its race, had succeeded in eating off a part of the nose of the deceased. A post mortem examination was held upon the body the same afternoon, when it was concluded that death had been caused by the bursting of a blood vessel.
Rae was 55 years of age.

Stirling Observer Thursday 22nd December 1859

BIRTHS
At Muiravonside Manse, on the 13th inst., the wife of the Rev. James McFarlan, of a daughter.
CORN STACKS, MILCH COWS, QUEYS, YOUNG HORSES, &c,
AT EASTER DRUMBROIDER, On SATURDAY, 24th DECEMBER.
TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday the 24th December, 1859, on the Farm of Easter Drumbroider, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Andrew Stevenson,
6 Large Stacks of Oats, part of which is crop 1858.
2 Stacks of Barley.
2 Stacks of Beans.
1 Rick of Ryegrass Hay.
4 Tons of Seeds Potatoes, Walker's Earlies.
A quantity of Turnips.
3 Ayrshire Milch Cows in Calf.
1 Farrow Cow.
2 Two-year-old Ayrshire Queys in Calf.
4 Six-quarter-old Ayrshire Queys.
4 Ayrshire Calves.
1 Two-year-old Draught Short-legged Clydesdale Colt.
1 Draught Foal,
1 Iron Plough.
A Dreg Cart and Barrel, and a quantity of Farming Implements and Utensils, Dairy Dishes, &c,
&c.
THREE MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

1860's

1860

Glasgow Herald Saturday 14th January 1860

The Laurieston fox-hounds will meet on Monday the 16th January, at Avonbridge; Friday the 20th; at Maddiston-each morning at half-past ten o'clock.

Glasgow Herald 26th & 30th January 1860

The Laurieston fox-hounds will meet on Friday the 27th January, at Craigieburn; Monday the 30th, at Maddiston; and Friday the 3d February, at Torwood Toll-each morning at half-past ten o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 2nd February & Glasgow Herald 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, February 1860

The Laurieston fox-hounds will meet on Monday the 6th February, at Maddiston; Friday the 10th, at Craigieburn; Monday the 13th, at Denny; Friday the 17th, at Slamannan Village-each morning at half-past ten o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 2nd 9th February 1860

CORN STACKS, MILCH COWS, PEATS, &c, AT MOSS-SIDE,
On MONDAY the 13th FEBRUARY.
TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Monday the 13th X February, 1860, on the Farm of Moss-Side, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. James Johnston,
4 Stacks of Oats,
2 Ayrshire Milch Cows, near Calving,
1 Six-quarter-old Ayrshire Quey.
1 Ayrshire Calf,
1 Stack of Peats,
A Pair of Hand Fanners,
A Boiler and Furnace.
And a quantity of Dairy Dishes and Utensils.
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.
THREE MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at One o'clock Afternoon precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 9th February 1860**SHEEP-STEALING. –**

On Tuesday night or Wednesday morning week, a sheep, the property of Mr. Wm. Cuthill, Gillandersland, parish of Muiravonside, was stolen from the flock and taken to an adjoining field, where it was slaughtered and carried off, with the exception of the fleece, head, and feet, which the thieves left on the spot, so as more easily, we would suppose, to escape detection. The authorities, though using every exertion to find out the delinquents, have hitherto been unable to bring home the perpetration of the crime to the offending parties.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 9th 23rd February 1860**MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS,**

On SATURDAY, 25th FEBRUARY.

To be Let by Public Roup, on Saturday the 25th day of February, 1860.

THE GRASS PARKS on the Estate of Muiravonside, comprising ELEVEN ENCLOSURES, To be Let for Cattle, Sheep, and Horses, as formerly.

Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie at One o'clock Afternoon, and to finish with the Parks at Seatrees, &c.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

GOWANBANK GRASS PARKS, AND LAND TO LET FOR LINT,

On SATURDAY, 25th FEBRUARY.

To be Let by Public Roup, on Saturday the 25th day of February, 1860, on the Lands of Gowanbank, near Avonbridge, belonging to the Trustees of the late Walter Gowans, Esq., 2 FIELDS of fine Feeding Pasture Grass - viz., 14 acres and 7 acres; and 1 FIELD of Young Grass for Hay, acres; also, 1 FIELD to be Let for being Cropped with Lint, 12 acres.

CREDIT TILL MARTINMAS ON BILLS.

Roup to begin at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Glasgow Herald, Caledonian Mercury, Morning Post, Wednesday 22nd, Fife Herald, Sheilds Daily Gazette, Thursday 23rd Newcastle Courant, Friday 24th, The Examiner Saturday 25th, February 1860**SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.**

(From the Edinburgh Gazette of Yesterday.)

SEQUESTRATIONS.

Feb. 18. DAVID TURNER, sometime farmer, Coxhill, in the parish of Muiravonside, in the county of Stirling, and now residing at Candiehead, in the said parish of Muiravonside, Creditors to meet within Stevenson's Rooms, 4 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, 28th February, at two o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 1st, 8th, March 1860**MANUEL GRASS PARKS.**

TO BE LET, for Pasture for the ensuing Season, on Wednesday the 14th of March next, SIX GRASS PARKS, On the Property of Manuel, in the Parish of Muiravonside. The Parks are of various sizes, and are all good Grass.

Roup to begin at Entryhead at One o'clock Afternoon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th, March 1860**SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.**

(From the Edinburgh Gazette of Yesterday.)

SEQUESTRATIONS.**EXAMINATIONS.**

David Turner, sometime farmer, Coxhill in the parish of Muiravonside, in the county of Stirling, and now residing at Candiehead, in the said parish of Muiravonside, to be examined within the Sheriff Court Room, County Buildings, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, 21st March, at twelve o'clock. Creditors to meet within the, Chambers of James Latta, chartered accountant, 32 India Street, Edinburgh, 30th March, at two o'clock.

Glasgow Herald Saturday 31st March 1860

The Laurieston fox-hounds will meet on Monday the 2d April, at Avonbridge: and Friday the 6th, at Torwood Toll-each morning at half-past ten o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th April 1860**TOLLS TO LET.**

To be Let by Public Roup, within Campbell's Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling, on Tuesday the 10th day of April, 1860, commencing at 11 o'clock Forenoon, for the Year from Whitsunday 1860 to Whitsunday 1861, THE TOLL DUTIES EXIGIBLE at the FOLLOWING BARS :-

1. On the Road from Redrow to Peathill, &c. 1. The Bar at Dunipace Bridge, and other Bars and Side-bars connected therewith. 2. The Bar at Powmill. 3. The Bar at Higginsneuk Ferry. Mr. James Monteith, Writer, Stirling, Clerk.

1. On the Road from Bridge of Drip, by Blairdrummond, towards Doune and Callander; and from Blairdrummond, by Burnbank, to Bridge of Frew. 1. The Bar at Bridge of Drip, and Check-bars at Lochhills Wood and Kirklane. 2. The Bars at Frew.

Mr. P. J. Stirling, Writer, Dunblane, Clerk.

1. On the Road from Parkend (near Polmont), by Kerse Bridge and Airth, leading to Alloa Ferry and Stirling. 1. Beancross Bar. 2. Kerse Bridge Tolls and Pontage. 3. Kersie Bar. And the following Bars on the Road from Dalgrain to Haining. 4. Dalgrain and Grangemouth Check-bars. 5. Avonbridge Bar.

Mr. J. Bruce, W.S., 38 Frederick Street, Edinburgh, Clerk.

1. On the Road from Linlithgow Bridge to Stirling, and other Roads in the County of Stirling. 1. The Bar at Sheriffmuirlands, and Side-bar at Cornton Loan. 2. The Bar at St Ninians. 3. The Bar at Torwood. 4. The Bar at Laurieston. 5. The Bar at Linlithgow Bridge. 6. The Bars at Parkfoot and Bonnybridge. 7. The Bar at Queenzieburn. 8. The Bar at Kildean.

An Adjourned Meeting of the Trustees of the said Roads will be held within the Golden Lion Hotel, at Ten o'clock a.m. of said day.

Mr. John D. Mathie, Writer, Stirling, Clerk.

1. On the Road from Burnbank to Thornhill and Port of Monteith. 1. The Bars at Port of Monteith. 2. The Bars at Thornhill, Mackeanston, and Cessentully.

Mr. John Maclaren, Middleton, Thornhill, Clerk.

1. VI. On the Road from Crieff to Longcausewayhead, near Stirling. 1. The Bar at Muthill, and Check-bar at Bridgend of Crieff. 2. The Bar at Balhaldie, and Check-bar at Braco Village. 3. The Bar at Bridge of Allan, and Check-bar at Spittal.

Mr. P. J. Stirling, Writer, Dunblane, Clerk.

The Articles of Roup and Tables of Tolls for the above Bars respectively will be shown, and every information given, by the Clerks above-mentioned. And as those preferred to the Leases of the Tolls at the different Bars must find Caution for the Rents, immediately after the Roup, it is requested that Offerers will bring sufficient cautioners with them on the day of Roup, otherwise their offers will be rejected.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th July 1860**MARRIAGES**

At Avonbridge, on the 2d inst by the Rev. William Eoyal, Siamannan. Mr. JOHN BOYD, cooper, to JANE PATON. relict of the late Thomas Forrester. The united ages of the bride and bridegroom number 143 years.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 19th July 1860

JULY FAIR -

This summer fair for cattle and horses was held on Thursday last, on the Callendar Riggs. The supply of stock, as is always the case at the July market, was exceedingly scanty. There were few dealers on the ground. The cows exhibited however, were in excellent condition, but prices generally were back from those realised at the May fair. Calving cows were sold at prices ranging from £8 to £14, and an excellent Ayrshire, purchased from Mr. John Mitchell, Laurieston, by Mr. Andrew Liddell, brought £17. Mr. Gentleman, sold five excellent cows to a gentleman from Perth at £9 per head. Mr. Graham, Myothill; Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge; and Mr Robert Davie, also sold cows, queys, and grazing cattle at remunerative prices. The horse market was considerably busier than might have been expected, and several fine animals changed owners. Serviceable work horses were sold at prices ranging from £15 to £35.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th July 1860

GOWANBANK CROP, On FRIDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER.

TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 21st September, 1860, on the Lands of Gowanbank, near Avonbridge, belonging to the Trustees of the late Walter Gowans, Esq., 24 ACRES of OATS, and 8 ACRES of WHEAT.

The above Crops only require to be seen to be admired.

FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT ON BILLS.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock precisely.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

POTATOES AND OATS, AT DALQUAIRN,

On FRIDAY the 21st SEPTEMBER.

TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Friday the 21st September, 1860, on the Rich Old Pasture

Land of Dalquairn, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Thomas McFarlane,

NINE ACRES OF POTATOES, which are the admiration of the district, and have been recommended to be entered for the Highland Society's Prize.

also,

A LOT OF POTATO OATS, quite equal to the above, the usual credit.

Roup to begin at Half-past Five o'clock.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Dumfries and Galloway Standard Wednesday 12th Stirling Observer, Dunfermline Press, Thursday 13th Dunfermline Saturday Press, Saturday 15th, September 1860 MARRIAGES

On the 6th instant, at Arngomery House, Stirlingshire, by the Rev. James M'Farlan, Muiravonside, the Rev. W. L. M'Farlan, minister of Tongland, Kirkcudbrightshire, to Isabella Leckie, second daughter of William Leckie Ewing, Esq. of Arngomery.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th, 18th, 25th October, 1st, 8th, 16th 22nd November 1860

TO FARMERS.

DAVID BURNS, General Smith and Agricultural Implement Maker, Whitecross, Muiravonside, has much pleasure in returning his sincere thanks to his numerous Customers, and the Agricultural Public generally, for the kind patronage they have hitherto rendered him; and he hereby further intimates that he still continues to Manufacture and Repair all sorts of Farm Implements, at the most moderate charges; he hopes, by a regular personal attention to business, to receive a continuance of past favours. D. B. has much pleasure in introducing to the Agricultural Public his CAST STEEL MOULD-BOARDS for Ploughs, adapted for any soil; he feels assured these only require to be known to be duly appreciated - their lightness of draught, their cleaning properties, together with their durability, make them highly preferable to the Cast Iron Board. Numerous References can be made to parties using them.

Whitecross,

October, 1860.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th November 1860

THE LATE JAMES RUSSEL, ESQ. OF BLACKBRAES.

Now that the tremor in the public mind, caused by the announcement of this gentleman's demise, may be supposed to have subsided, and that the earth, scarce consolidated over the remains of the father, has just closed over those of the son, we should fail in our duty as local journalists were we to permit the sad event to pass without special record at our hands. By descent, on the maternal as on the paternal side, by birth, by early training, by engagement in the activities of business, and by connection with institutions, educational and charitable, Mr. Russel was, in the fullest sense of the term, a Falkirk man. Early in life it was intended he should have followed the legal profession, and with this view he attended law classes in Edinburgh University, where he became a distinguished student; but neither this success nor the large and lucrative practice in which his father was engaged, and to which he was naturally destined to succeed, sufficed to attach him permanently to a calling for which he felt himself by taste and temperament unsuited. Leaving the turmoil of legal practice for the quieter and more congenial duties of bank agent, Mr. Russel, whilst yet a very young man, received the appointment of manager of a branch in Falkirk of the Clydesdale Bank, and up till a recent date, when he resigned his office, he discharged its duties, at all times delicate in a small town, with a degree of discretion and courtesy which placed the branch on a firm footing and in a flourishing condition. For the last ten or twelve years Mr. Russel took the active management of several important undertakings in which his late father was concerned, and the success attendant upon these rendered his position one of affluent independence, with the prospect, or rather certainty, of realising at no distant date, a fortune of colossal dimensions. It is at this point in his career, with a bright, or we might say brilliant, future before him, and whilst still at the threshold of middle age, that we are called upon as a community to lament the loss of one whose abilities, acquirements, and amiable qualities peculiarly fitted him for a foremost place amongst the commoners of the land. The esteem in which Mr. Russel was held, and the deep and general feeling of regret with which his death is regarded, find testimony stronger than words of ours in the account which we subjoin of the funeral, and in the tribute, to which we here give place, paid to the deceased by Mr. Sheriff Robertson on opening his Court on Tuesday. As announced in our obituary of Thursday last, Mr. Russel expired at his residence, Arnotdale, on the morning of the 31st ult., and his remains were interred, on Tuesday last, in the family burial place in the parish churchyard, Muiravonside. The funeral cortege, consisting of nearly forty carriages, besides a numerous attendance of gentlemen on foot, left Arnotdale shortly after one o'clock, and proceeded slowly on its mournful journey. As a mark of respect, and as showing the general esteem, entertained for the deceased gentleman, the whole of the shops in the High Street were closed from one to two o'clock. The appearance of the public streets and the expression visible on the countenance of every person we met was that of pure and undisguised sympathy for the bereaved and regret for the departed. From the time the cortege left Arnotdale until it had passed a considerable distance beyond the town, the funeral bells, at measured intervals, pealed forth a mournful and impressive requiem.

At the meeting of the Sheriff Court yesterday, Mr. Sheriff Robertson thus addressed the Bar, in reference to the late Mr. Russel, one of the interim Sheriff-Substitutes of the County : -Gentlemen, - Before commencing the business of this day, I should not do justice to my own feelings, and I think I would not do justice to yours, were I not to allude to the loss which we have all sustained, since we last met together, by the removal from amongst us of one universally esteemed and honoured, and who for years has occupied, as one of the Magistrates of Stirlingshire, and as one of the interim Sheriffs of this district, a seat on this bench. By the death of the late Mr. Russel of Blackbraes, this district and county has sustained a loss - which, standing by his grave yesterday, and thinking over all that he was,

and all that, had Providence granted him longer life, he was likely to become -it is impossible to regard but as one of the heaviest which this district could sustain, and one which assuredly we can see no present probability of being repaired. Kindly, liberal, and enlightened, with the inclination and the power to do much good, no one has, in my memory, passed from amongst us, of whom it could more truly be said, that rarely has the tomb closed over one in whom there was so much to praise and so little to censure as the late James Russel. His early death, in the full possession of all his intellectual gifts, and in the exercise of his benevolent disposition, and just as a wider sphere and greater means of usefulness had opened to him - is one of those mysterious dispensations of the Divine will which our present limited faculties are unable to understand or explain, and which only tends to convince us of the perfect truth of the words of the great apostle to the Gentiles, when he says, "that now we see through a glass darkly." To you, gentlemen, who knew Mr. Russel from youth to manhood, and who are perfectly conversant with all his merits, his gentleness, his judicious benevolence, his unassuming simplicity of character and manner, it would be idle to dilate upon his many virtues; but I am sure that I only give utterance to your sentiments - indeed, I may say the universal opinion of this town and neighbourhood, when I say that, since the death of his father, on the 4th of February, 1808, no death has occurred in this district or county which will be more widely felt or more sincerely lamented

ROBERT ADAM, Esq. of Springbank, rose and said As the senior member of the Faculty of Procurators present in Court to-day, I rise to express my entire concurrence, and, I am sure, the entire concurrence of the whole members of this Faculty, in the observations which have now fallen from your Lordship, and which, I am sure, will meet with the unanimous approval of all who knew the late Mr. Russel, and had an opportunity of estimating and appreciating his character and conduct through life.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th, 22nd, Stirling Observer 29th November 1860

ASSESSED TAXES-1860-61-

THE Commissioners of Supply for the several District of the County of Stirling, will meet on the days and at the places undermentioned, to hear and determine Appeals against the charges made by the Surveyor for the current year: -

For the District of FALKIRK, comprehending the Burgh and Parish of Falkirk, and Parishes of Airth, Bothkenner, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan, - in the Red Lion Hotel Falkirk, on Tuesday, the 4th December next, at Twelve o Clock Noon.

1861

Falkirk Herald Thursday 31st January 1861

GRASS TO LET, BY PRIVATE BARGAIN.

To be Let for Pasture, for the Season from the 1st of May 1861 to Martinmas 1861. THE LANDS of SUMMERHOUSE, as sometime possessed by Mr. David Steel, extending to about 102 acres, reserving therefrom the Lands and Houses East of the public road leading from Balmitchell to Crossroads; and also the PLANTING and SMALL PARK adjoining, West of the public road, the reserved Lands extending to about 30 acres. and also,

The LANDS of CROSSHILL, as sometime possessed by Mr. Robert Johnston, extending to about 80 acres, reserving Crosshill House and Yard. If desired, the New Grass on these Lands, extending to about 50 acres, may be cut for Hay before the 15th July 1861, and afterwards pastured. The Lands are situated about four miles south of Falkirk, and one mile west of Avonbridge Station of Monkland Railways.

Apply to William Storie, Writer in Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 7th February 1861

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE MILITIA. -

The Stirlingshire Militia are to be immediately disembodied, having been recalled in divisions from their present quarters to Stirling for the purpose. The regiment numbers about 700 men. The Rev. JAMES MUIR acknowledges the receipt of one pound sterling from a gentleman in or near Avonbridge, signing himself "Garibaldi," and to be devoted to the circulation of Bibles in Italy.

Mr. M. has to-day forwarded the above sum to the proper quarter.

WINTER FAIR

The winter fair for cattle and horses was held on Thursday, on the usual stance in the Callendar Riggs. The stock exhibited was very limited in point of numbers, though, all things considered, in fair condition. A considerable number of farmers, dealers and others were in attendance, but the amount of business transacted was short of what might have been expected. The market was far from being a brisk one-intending purchasers not coming up to the prices asked for their stock by sellers. Indeed, it was apparent that a fall in the price of cattle is looked for. The reason of this state of matters is obvious the weather having set in fresh for the last few weeks, and turnips and straw being abundant. These facts seemed to weigh in the minds of buyers, and caused them to be shy in striking bargains. Upon the whole, it was a dull market, and speaking generally, not in favour of the exposers. Calving cows and grass beasts, however, we may state, were in fair demand. Messrs Liddle and Graham, Denny; Messrs Gentleman, Avonbridge; Mr. H. Aitken, Foggermountain; Mr. Rennie, Gartcows, and other local dealers, were upon the ground and showed, as usual, some fine milch cows. We observed also several dealers from Edinburgh. These, however, did not purchase to any great extent. The horse market was somewhat brisk, and good draught houses were in demand. The show of animals in this department was superior to what is generally seen at a winter Falkirk fair. For good draught, prices would average £30 to £40, and others at corresponding prices according to quality and conditions. Few saddle or harness were shown. At the close of the market, over the general stock, a clearance was not effected.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th February, 14th March 1861

MANUEL GRASS PARKS.

TO be LET, for Pasture for the ensuing Season, on Tuesday the 19th of March next, SIX GRASS PARKS on the Property of Manuel, in the Parish of Muiravonside. The Parks are of various sizes, and are all good Grass.

Roup to begin at Entryhead at Twelve o'clock Noon.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

23d February, 1861.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th February, 7th March 1861

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS

On TUESDAY, 12th MARCH.

TO be Let by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 12th day of March, 1861, the GRASS PARKS on the Estate of Muiravonside, comprising

ELEVEN ENCLOSURES.

To be Let for Sheep, Cattle, and Horses, as formerly.

Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie, at One o'clock Afternoon, and to finish with the Parks at Seatrees, &c.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 21st March 1861

District Intelligence

MUIRAVONSIDE.

School Examination.

The Parochial School of Muiravonside was on Tuesday examined by a committee of the Presbytery of Linlithgow, consisting of the Revs. Mr. Begg, Falkirk; Mr. Kerr, Polmont; Mr. Oswald, Camelon; and Mr. M'Farlane, Muiravonside. We also observed Mrs. Stirling of Muiravonside, and Miss Stirling; Miss M'Arthur, and Mr. M'Laren, mission agent, Blackbraes. The school was more numerously attended than formerly, and a marked improvement was apparent in the style of English reading, and also in orthography. At the close the Rev. Mr. Begg delivered a suitable address to the scholars. We may mention that Mrs. Stirling kindly treated each of the pupils, after the examination was over, to a bun, which they received with evident marks of satisfaction. The female school at Maddiston was examined upon the same day, and the rev. gentlemen expressed themselves satisfied with the manner in which the pupils acquitted themselves.

CHEAP WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, FOR THE COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

On SATURDAY the 18th MAY, 1861, PRICE ONE PENNY, will be issued, the first number of THE BATHGATE EXPRESS, AND CHRONICLE FOR THE COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW: A News Register for Bathgate, Linlithgow, Bo'ness, Carriden, Torphichen, Armadale, Whitburn, Longridge, Crofthead, Greenburn, Blackburn, Livingston, Dechmont, Houston, Uphall, Broxburn, Dalmeny, Carriden, Torphichen, Armadale, Whitburn, Longridge, Airdrie, Coatbridge, Falkirk, Blackbraes, East, West, and Mid-Calder, &c. Queensferry, Kirkliston, Avonbridge, Slamannan, and etc. and etc. (the report blabbers on about nothing of interest really.)

Caledonian Mercury, Glasgow Herald, Wednesday 27th, Dunfermline Press Thursday 28th, Dundee Courier, Carlisle Journal, Friday 29th, Perry's Bankrupt Gazette Saturday 30th March, Sheilds Daily Gazette Thursday 4th April 1861

SCOTS BANKRUPTS.

SEQUESTRATIONS

George Husband Baird Brock, otherwise George Baird Brock, miller and farmer at Manuel Mill, in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling- creditors meet in the Blue Bell Inn in Falkirk, 4th April, two o'clock-
John Smith & Wilson, writers, Falkirk, agents.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 2nd May 1861

AVONBRIDGE.

Mr. Dick's School.-

We have had the following handed to us, which we willingly print : -

Muiravonside Manse, 24th April, 1861. - Having lately examined Avonbridge School, as taught by Mr. Dick, with Rev. Messrs Home and M'Laren, on the part of the Presbytery of Linlithgow, we were exceedingly pleased with the orderly conduct of the children, with their accurate and extensive knowledge of Bible history, and excellent appearance on the Catechism. Their reading and pronunciation was generally good, and they were well grounded in the meaning of what they read. Their proficiency in geography and arithmetic was fair, and we have good wishes for the prosperity of the school.

JAMES M'FARLANE, minister.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 16th 23rd May 1861

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE TO BE LET ON LEASE,

FURNISHED, With Entry at Whitsunday 1861.

THE MANSION-HOUSE of CANDIE, with good Garden, excellent Offices, and Right of Shooting over above 200 acres (pasture fields, if desired). The House, which is partly modern and well Furnished, consists of Dining-room, Drawing-room, and five good Bed-rooms, besides Kitchen and Servants' accommodation. The situation commands an extensive prospect over the surrounding country, and both sides of the Frith of Forth. Distance from Linlithgow five miles, Falkirk six miles, and Polmont Junction Railway Station three and a half miles. The Parish Church of Muiravonside is within three miles.

For further particulars application may be made to T. H. Ferrier, Esq., W.S., 136 Princes Street, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh, 10th May, 1861.

Falkirk Herald 8th August 1861

GROWING POTATOES FOR SALE, AT CROSSCROES, NEAR BLACKBRAES, On MONDAY, 12th AUGUST, 1861. TO be Sold by Public Roup, at Crosscroes, near Blackbraes, on Monday the 12th August, 1861, belonging to Mr Andrew Muirhead - About FIVE ACRES OF POTATOES, WALKERS EARLIES. The above are a particularly fine Crop, a proportion of which having grown upon ground which has not been broke up for many years. To parties wishing a change, they will be found peculiarly well adapted for Seed. To be put up in Lots to suit purchasers. THE USUAL TERMS. Sale to commence at Half-past Five o'clock Afternoon.

WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

HAY AND POTATOES AT PARKHEAD, belonging to Mr John Barclay.

About 1400 STONES of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY,

and TWO ACRES of POTATOES,

on Thursday the 22d August, 1861.

For particulars, see future Advertisement.

WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

SUNNYSIDE POTATOES,

BELONGING to Mr John Brock, on Friday the 23d August, -1861.

For particulars, see future Advertisement.

WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

GROWING OATS FOR SALE,

AT TORAVON, near Maddiston,

on Saturday, 24th August, 1861.

For particulars, see future Advertisement.

WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 15th & 22nd August 1861

Mr. Gillespie's Sales.

SALE THIS EVENING.

HAY & POTATOES FOR SALE, AT PARKHEAD,

On THURSDAY, 22d AUGUST, 1861.

TO be Sold by Public Roup, at Parkhead, on Thursday the 22d August, 1861, belonging to Mr John Barclay -

About 1400 STONES of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in Ricks ; also,

TWO ACRES of POTATOES, Walker's Earlies.

The Hay has been secured in first-rate condition, and the Potatoes a fair average Crop.

THE USUAL CREDIT GIVEN.

Sale to commence with the Hay at 5 o'clock P.M. and with the Potatoes at 6.

WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.

GROWING POTATOES FOR SALE, AT SUNNY SIDE,

On FRIDAY, 23d AUGUST, 1861. TO be Sold by Public Roup, at Sunnyside, on Friday the

23d August, 1861, belonging to Mr. John Brock,

A FIELD OF POTATOES,

An Extraordinary Fine Crop, and very Early.

To be put up in Lots to suit Purchasers.

THE USUAL TERMS.

Sale to commence at Six o'clock Evening.
WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer,
GROWING OATS FOR SALE,
AT TORAVON, near MADDISTON,
On SATURDAY the 24th AUGUST, 1861.
TO be Sold by Public Roup, at Toravon, near Maddiston, on Saturday, 24th August, 1861,
ABOUT SEVEN ACRES of GROWING OATS,
A Splendid Crop.
THE USUAL CREDIT GIVEN.
To be put up in Lots to suit Purchasers.
Sale to commence at Five o'clock Afternoon. WM. GILLESPIE, Auctioneer.
Mr. Neilson's Sales
THE WHOLE GROWING CROP AND HAY ON THE FARM OF CRAIGS,
On WEDNESDAY, 28th AUGUST.
To be Sold by Public Roup, on the 28th August, 1861, on the Farm of Craigs, Rumford,
possessed by Mr. Robert Stirling, the whole GROWING CROP and HAY on the above Farm,
comprisingc –
14 Acres of Oats,
2 Acres of Beans,
1 Acre of Barley,
and 300 Stones of Ryegrass and Clover Hay.
The Crops are well known in the district, and require no further commendation.
The whole to be sold without reserve as the Exposer is leaving the Farm.
FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at Two o'clock precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 27th June 1861

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.
Caution to Bathers. - On Thursday the 2d inst., two men, Wm. Taylor and John Hodge,
servants to Mr. Andrew Reid, Haining Valley, went into the Union Canal at Muiravonside "Stop
Gate," to bathe. Hodge was nearly drowned; but Mr. James Robert, gardener to the Rev. Mr
M'Farlane, happened to come up at the time. He at once leapt in - all his clothes on, from hat
to boots - and took him out very much exhausted. Taylor could swim, and got out safely
himself. Great credit is due to Mr. Robert for his prompt exertions, which, we are glad to know,
were so successful.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 27th June 1861

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS. -
The weather now is everything that could be desired, copious showers and genial sunshine
being the prevailing characteristics. Under such favouring influences vegetation is assuming
vigorous proportions, and the crops are making rapid progress. Wheat appears, upon the
whole, strong and luxuriant; barley is showing a healthy breadth, and is coming rapidly into
ear; oats also bids fair for a good crop; beans are in bloom, and the fragrance from the fields
as the traveller passes by is very agreeable. This crop, however, will not equal anything like
an average yield. Potatoes are filling the drills well, and promise to be an abundant crop. The
turnip fields present a very excellent appearance. Ryegrass, which in some instances is
already being cut, is better than was anticipated some time ago, yet taken as a whole the hay
crop will not equal the average of many previous years. This is owing, no doubt, to the long
continued drought. The gardens in the town and neighbourhood are looking well, but there will
be a great deficiency in fruit generally - the opening blossoms having been nipped by the
protracted frosty mornings.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th 15th August 1861

OATS, BARLEY, HAY, AND POTATOES
AT MANUEL MILL, On TUESDAY, 20th AUGUST.
TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 20th X August, 1861, on the Lands of Manuel
Mill, possessed by Mr. George R Brock, the following very Excellent Crops of OATS, BARLEY,
HAY and POTATOES, comprising 7 Acres of Oats. 3 Acres of Barley, 700 Stones of Clover
and Ryegrass Hay, in Ricks, and 2 Acres of Potatoes. The Crops are in every way most
abundant, and will be sold in Lots without reserve. Four Months' Credit given on Bills, or
Discount for Cash.
Roup to begin at Two o'clock precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.
3000 STONES OF HAY, AT BOWHOUSE, On TUESDAY, 2th AUGUST.
TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 20th August, 1861, on the Farm of Bowhouse, on
the Estate of Muiravonside, possessed by Mr. John Binnie: -
THREE THOUSAND STONES OF Splendidly-got RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in 15
Ricks.
Four months' credit.
Roup to begin at Four o'clock precisely.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Dundee Courier Tuesday 13th August 1861

CONFERENCE OF PAROCHIAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON THE LUNACY ACT.
A meeting of representatives from various Parochial Boards in Scotland, was held on
Saturday, by invitation from the City Parochial Board of Edinburgh, in the chapel of the City
Poorhouse to consider the amendments required by the state of the various parishes on the
present Lunacy Act and to take such steps as might be thought proper to bring the views
expressed at the meeting under the notice of the Legislature. There was an attendance of
about 90 or 100 gentlemen, including representatives from the Parochial Boards of the City, St
Cuthbert's and Canongate (Edinburgh); City, and Barony Glasgow; Brechin, Cupar-Fife,
Dundee, Dunfermline, and Scoonie, &c. Bailie Blackadder, chairman of the City Parochial
Board, Edinburgh, was called to the chair. Inspector George Greig was appointed clerk. The
Chairman said there were several provisions in the present Act which required amendment for
the public interest; and the great object which they had in view, and which they ought always
to keep in view, was to get the provisions of the Act placed upon such a footing as would be
most conducive to the interests and comfort of the pauper lunatics belonging to their several
parishes, and then, that this should be accomplished with as little expense to the ratepayers
as possible. Letters sympathising with the object of the meeting, and expressing regret at
inability to be present, were read or intimated from Lord Kinnaid, Mr. Maxwell of Munches,
&c. Lord Kinnaid, as well as several of the other correspondents, stated that he thoroughly
concurred in the proposal that the Board of Supervision should have the entire control over
the management of the lunatic poor. Bailie Macnab, Leith, moved the first resolution, as
follows. - "That in the opinion of this meeting the Lunacy Act 20 and 21 Vic, cap. 71, is most
imperfect in its provisions and in many of its clauses injudicious and prejudicial both to the
poor brought under its operation and to the public interest." In supporting the resolution Bailie
Macnab expressed his belief that the duty of superintending the care and management of
pauper lunatics throughout the country might with all safety be left in the hands of the Board of
Supervision. (Applause.) Mr. F. Molison of Mayfield, chairman of the Dundee Parochial Board,
seconded the resolution. He cordially agreed in what had been said as to the competency of
the accommodation and arrangements existing in connection with most of the poorhouses for
the care of the pauper lunatics of the parish. He was speaking from personal observation
when he said that a large proportion of lunatic paupers at present confined in asylums were so
quiet and harmless that they might be left perfectly well under the care of the Board of
Supervision, as they used to be. (Hear.) Permission was given some time ago by the Board of

Supervision to the Board of which he was chairman to erect wards to contain forty of such lunatics in their poorhouse; and after they were erected, they applied to the Lunacy Board for a license, but were refused. The result was that, after incurring a large expense for buildings, they had a large number of lunatics in asylums at a great and totally unnecessary expense, under the care of the Lunacy Board, (Hear.) Mr. Molison next referred to the great expense and trouble consequent upon the necessity, according to the present law, of bringing the lunatic before a Sheriff, and after undergoing several inquiries and formalities, getting a warrant for his confinement. This provision called for some reform in a new bill. The next matter to which he took exception was the interference of the Lunacy Board with the payments to be made to the lunatic asylums by the Parochial Boards for the keep of their pauper lunatics. He thought the committee of the Parochial Board and the managers of the Asylum were quite competent to settle that matter. He thoroughly concurred with what had been said by Bailie Macnab as to the confidence which ought to be reposed in the Board of Supervision in reference to this matter. Let the Board of Supervision be the authority with whom the Parochial Boards had to deal, and he was quite sure that there would be no well-founded complaints with regard to the management and care of the lunatic poor.

(Applause.) Mr. I. Bayley, W.S. representative of the parish of Muiravonside, said a case had come under his own knowledge illustrative of the expense to which parishes were sometimes put, in order to apprehend "dangerous lunatics" and get them lodged in an asylum. In this case a drunken, worthless fellow, who was sane enough when he kept from drink, had been twice apprehended and cognosed before the Sheriff within twelvemonths, at an expense of L.22 each time the parish. After a drinking bout he had an attack of delirium tremens, and became excited and "dangerous;" and after being brought before the Sheriff he was sent to the Dundee Asylum. He was dismissed in six weeks perfectly well; but in the course of a month or two he again fell into drink, relapsed into mania, and the apprehension and examination had to be gone through over again at an expense to the parish of L.22 more. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The resolution was then adopted by acclamation. Mr. M'Innes, Abbey Parish, Paisley, moved the second resolution, as follows:—"That the real interests both of the poor and ratepayers require that the whole question of the treatment of the insane be reconsidered, and that a statute ought to be passed dealing equitably with the interests of all, and this after due investigation and deliberation. Mr. Hay, writer, Dundee, had pleasure in seconding the motion of Mr. M'Innes. He might say that there was no desire on the part of the Parochial Boards to curtail the proper treatment of the poor, quite the contrary. Most, however, were agreed as to the imperfections of the Lunacy Act, but when it was considered in what manner it was passed, there need be no surprise as to the imperfections. It was based on the report of Lunacy Commissioners, whose data has now been shown, at least to a large extent, to have been erroneous, and many of the facts highly coloured. No one could read the masterly and unanswerable refutation of that report by Sir John M'Neill, without seeing the errors on which the Commissioners proceeded. The bill, besides, was very hurriedly passed through Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Such being the Act we are considering, it was fairly open to criticism. It did not follow that we were antagonistic in the matter to the Lord Advocate—he received suggestions from any public body on all subjects on which legislation was desired. He considered the views suggested by the different parties, and did what he thought best in the circumstances; and he had no doubt His Lordship was open to consider whatever suggestions the Parochial Boards made on this important question. (Hear, hear.) That there was great injustice under the present Act both as to the poor and the public he had no doubt; and in corroboration of what was said by Mr. Molison, chairman of the Dundee Board, and also by the mover of the first resolution, he would instance the fact that Dr. Cox, one of the Lunacy Commissioners, in his recent inspections, in writing recommended the Superintendent of the Dundee Lunatic Asylum to endeavour to have a number of the patients there confined sent to be boarded in the country. The Doctor further stated that a great number of the inmates of that Asylum, which is one of the old-established institutions, were of an incurable nature and harmless, and to whom no good could arise by their being continued in that curative establishment, while their removal would give room for the recent cases requiring such treatment. Now, all this showed the necessity of having the insane properly classified, so that the public should not be called on unnecessarily to pay a very high board for the poor who required safe custody merely. (Hear, hear.) It also proved the impropriety of erecting throughout the country large curative asylums in the meantime, until this whole question was properly investigated and discussed. (Hear, hear.) That there will be a classification of some kind was clear, and many of these buildings might be made of a less expensive kind, and suitable for such purposes. The question would also arise how far it was sound policy to congregate together all classes of insane in large asylums. Take the cases of simple-minded, harmless people. These, by being closed up in such places with raving maniacs, as referred to by Bailie M'Nab, would become worse instead of better—(hear, hear)—and he thought that something of the home-training system might be found the more preferable, where harmless imbeciles might by mingling with the family be better and more advantageously located. In any view, it was unnecessary to charge the public assessments with sums of from L.20 to L.26 a-year for keeping a class of poor who did not require the lunatic asylum treatment. (Hear, hear.) Then it was said that the Lunacy Act expired in 1863; but that was not so. The Board only ceased, but their duties were transferred to the lunacy inspectors. That was much worse, for just now we have a board in Scotland to deal with, but after 1863 the inspectors are to have irresponsible powers, only to be controlled by the Secretary of State in London. (Hear, hear.) Now, he thought this was a strong instance of that sort of legislation which removed from the country the control by localities of the management of their local rates and affairs; and in any amendment of the Act this ought to be opposed. (Hear, hear.)

Considerable difficulty occurred in practice as to the term "lunatic." The word in the Lunacy Act is restrictive, as there must be some danger to the safety of the person himself or to the public apprehended before he could come under the term. The Board of Supervision took the opinion of counsel on the subject, and the present Lord Justice-Clerk and the Lord Advocate were of opinion that the definition was attended with difficulty; but they were clear that it did not include parties who, from weakness or facility of mind, were unable to manage their own affairs. But the Lunacy Commissioners tried to get the better of all such difficulties by having inserted in the bill, a few days ago withdrawn from Parliament, two lines to the effect that all persons were lunatics under the statute who were not of sound mind. (Hear, hear.) Now, that clause had little connection with the general context of the abandoned bill, but it just showed how necessary it was for all parochial boards to watch all r(L?)egislation on this question. He would only farther refer to the question of dangerous lunatics. He had no objections to the Procurator-Fiscal investigating such cases. But if it was put as a question of the public safety as stated by Mr. M'Innes, then clearly the public ought to bear the expenses. (Hear, hear.) It was unfair in parishes where any such party might be apprehended, to force them to pay the heavy expenses, and the subsequent support of the individuals. It may be that he had only been an hour in the parish, and it was unjust to subject it to such a burden for the public interest. In addition to the cases of the nature mentioned, he knew a very bad case a few months ago:—An Englishman, stout and able-bodied, happened to be passing through a parish in the north of Scotland, and frightened a woman in a barn, when the police constable was called in, and the Englishman was brought in custody to the county town, a distance of forty miles. The Fiscal petitioned the Sheriff to have him declared a lunatic, and it was done, and he was removed a distance of 160 miles to a lunatic asylum in this county, where he now was at the expense of this Highland parish, which, besides being obliged to support this stranger, it may be for forty years, was found liable to the Fiscal in all expenses besides. All the while, the man was not truly of the character which requires his detention. Such cases are of common occurrence; and it was the abuse of the clause to which complaint has been made, and in any amendment of the Act it ought to be rearranged. He begged most cordially to second the resolution. The motion was then put, and carried unanimously. Bailie Johnston, St Cuthbert's Board, moved the third resolution as follows:—"That for these purposes it is most important that the Parochial Boards of Scotland unite, so that by joint action a proper

legislative enactment may be obtained in next session of Parliament." Mr. Deas, Kirkcaldy, seconded the resolution, which was likewise unanimously adopted. Mr. Ewing, Barony Parish, Glasgow, moved: — " That a committee be appointed for the purpose of collecting information from the county authorities and parochial boards on the subject, and to prepare the heads of a measure which, while it would secure the due treatment of the insane poor, would at the same time meet the wishes of the country, to be submitted to another general meeting, to be afterwards called." This motion having been agreed to, a general committee was appointed, among whose members are Lord Kinnaird; Sir J. G. Baird, Bart. ; Mr. Maxwell, of Munches; Mr. Mollison, Dundee; and Mr. Hay, Dundee; Bailie Urquhart, Aberdeen; and Provost Whitelaw, Dunfermline. The proceedings then terminated.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 29th August 1861

Sheriff Summary Court. -The following cases, since our last publication, have been disposed of before Mr. Sheriff Robertson: -

Mary Brannan or M'Vey, and Mary Bryson or Sweenie, both from Crounerland, Muiravonside, we're placed at the bar, charged with the theft of a quantity of coals from off the Slamannan and Bo'ness Railway. The accused pled guilty, and after a suitable admonition from the bench, were each sentenced to be imprisoned for ten days, or pay a fine of 10s. James Baird, mason, Maddiston pled guilty to the charge of assault, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 25s, or the alternative of twenty-five days' imprisonment. Thomas Hamilton, miner, Maddiston, charged with assault and breach of the peace, pled guilty and was sentenced to be imprisoned for twenty days, or pay a fine of 20s. John Todd, miner, Maddiston, accused of assault, pled guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 20s, or be imprisoned for twenty-five days.

Caledonian Mercury Tuesday 17th September 1861

STIRLING CIRCUIT COURT. Yesterday, the Circuit Court of Justiciary sat at Stirling for the trial of criminal cases. The Lord Justice-Clerk was the judge, Alexander Burns Shand, Esq., officiated as Advocate- depute. The following cases were brought before their Lordships:- THEFT BY HOUSEBREAKING.

William White and Michael McCann were charged -

(1.) with having, on the 9th of July 1861, stolen from the house of Newcraig Cottage, occupied by Cecilia Raffan or Nasmyth, widow, a pair of trousers, belonging to Alexander Nasmyth, engineer, her son;

(2.) with having, on 31st August 1861, broken into the house near the policy grounds of Lawrence Park, Muiravonside, occupied by Charles Rankin, gardener, and stealing various articles. The charge against White was aggravated by two previous conviction under the name of James Davie, before the Sheriff Courts of Berwickshire and Haddingtonshire. The prisoners pleaded guilty. William White was sentenced to penal servitude for six years, and Michael M 'Cann to 18 months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 19th September 1861

STIRLING AUTUMN CIRCUIT COURT.

The Stirling Circuit Court sat in the Justiciary Court-room there on Monday and Tuesday last-the Lord Justice-Clerk presiding, Alexander Burns Shand, Esq., Advocate-Depute. His Lordship arrived from Edinburgh by the 10.30 train on Monday and, proceeded by the Provost and Magistrate and other civic officials, proceeded to Mr. Campbell's Royal Hotel where a guard of honour of the 42nd Highlander under the command of Captain McPherson, Lieutenant Farquharson, V.C., and Lieutenant Baille was drawn up. The Provost and Magistrates, the military, with the Castle band, accompanied his Lordship to the Court House. The Court was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, of the North Established Church, when the following cases were called: -

THEFT BY HOUSEBREAKING.

William White and Michael M'Cann were charged (1) with having, on 9th July, 1861 house of Newcraig Cottage, occupied by Cecilia Raffan or Nasmyth, widow, a pair of trousers, belonging to Alexander Nasmyth, engineer, her son; (2) with having on 3d August 1861 broken into the house near the policy grounds of Lawrence Park, Muiravonside, occupied by Charles Rankin, gardener, by breaking a pane of glass in a window, and introducing their hand and removing the snib or fastening in the inside, and then opening the window and entering, and stealing three coats or thereby, a vest, two handkerchiefs, a pair of mittens and 2s 6d in silver belonging to Chas. Rankin; as also a pocket-bible belonging to Elizabeth Young, servant of Major-General James Kerr Ross, Lawrence Park; as also from a lockfast chest in the house which they opened by means of a false key or picklock, or the true key which they stole for the purpose, a pocketbook five £1 notes, and 25s in silver, belonging to Rankin. The charge against White was aggravated by two previous convictions under the name of James Davie before the Sheriff Courts of Berwickshire and Haddingtonshire. The prisoners pled guilty. William White was sentenced to six years' penal servitude, and Michael M'Cann to eighteen months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th October 1861

TURNIPS AT BOWHOUSE.

MUIRAVONSIDe, On WEDNESDAY, 30th OCTOBER,

TO be Sold by Public Roup, on Wednesday, 30th October, 1861, on the Farm of Bowhouse, upon the Estate of Muiravonside, possessed by Mr. John Binnie, FOUR ACRES of Aberdeen Yellow TURNIPS,

The Crop of which is an honour to the Parish.

THREE MONTHS' CREDIT.

Roup to begin at Four o'clock precisely.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 21st November 1861

LINLITHGOW

LINLITHGOW UNION POORHOUSE AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE TEST.

"A Ratepayer," writing to the Scotsman in favour of rigorously enforcing the poorhouse test in order to reduce pauperism, refers in this manner to the Linlithgow Union Poorhouse: -

"Permit me to observe that it appears, from the last report to Parliament on the pauperism of the three kingdoms, that while there has been a decided decrease of registered poor in Ireland, there has been none in England and Scotland, a result which has been in like manner ascribed by a writer in a leading London journal to the strict enforcement of the workhouse test on the former portion of the United Kingdom. It is true that none of our poorhouses can contain the whole poor on the roll of the parish; but it is notorious and much to be regretted that many of the berths are not occupied so far as they can be so with propriety. Take, for example, the Union Poorhouse lately erected at Linlithgow by the parishes of Linlithgow, Borrowstouness, Bathgate, Whitburn, Carriden, Kirkliston, Muiravonside, and Abercorn, at a cost of not under £10,000, and which has been in operation for some years past. In 1860, the parish of Linlithgow, with a roll of 216 registered paupers and 70 berths in the house, had only an average for the year of 38 inmates, thus leaving 32 berths unoccupied; Borrowstouness, with 122 registered paupers and 61 berths, had 8 occupied, leaving 53 vacant; Bathgate, with 144 paupers and 42 berths, had 25 occupied, leaving 17 unoccupied; Whitburn, with 62 paupers and 25 berths, had 12 in the house, 13 being unoccupied; Carriden, with 64 paupers and 20 berths, had 4 occupied, leaving 16 vacant; Kirkliston, with 76 paupers and 20 berths, had 7 occupied and 13 unoccupied; Abercorn, with 35 paupers and 9 berths, had none occupied; and Muiravonside, with 44 paupers and 15 berths, had 3 occupied, leaving 12 berths vacant. From this it appears that, while the house contains accommodation for 262 ordinary paupers, the average number of berths occupied during the year specified was 97,

leaving vacant 165, which could surely have been easily filled by a selection from the 666 out-door paupers. It is true that during the current year the house has been better filled, but it is still unoccupied to the extent of one half of the berths. It may hardly be observed that the main objects of these institutions are to remove the poor from their filthy and miserable abodes, and to secure them a comfortable home, to prevent the generation and spread of disease, to prevent those misapplications of relief which generally accompany the out-door relief system, to educate the pauper children, and rear them with sound constitutions, and in habits of industry and morality, and especially to test the honesty of those claiming parish relief, and if such be the case, although a few vacant berths should be kept in reserve for this last purpose, yet to secure the thorough working of the establishment the berths should be filled up at least to the portion required as a test, so far as there are out-door paupers to occupy the berths. Undoubtedly, the practice of administering out door relief in so many cases proceeds from amiable but misdirected feelings, which should not be exercised at the expense of the wellworking of the establishment, both within and without doors. There is no reason why the Scotch paupers should be treated more tenderly than the Irish; and if a contrary rule is to be continued by our Parochial Boards, the cost of the poorhouses might as well have been saved. It was well observed by Dr Wood "that there was something radically wrong in our administration, and that it was a hard thing that those who were working for their bread by honest labour should be made to pay so large a sum for the maintenance of those who preferred to eat the bread of idleness and dissipation to the bread of honest labour, and the bread gained by the sweat of their brow." In the Linlithgow combination poorhouse there are 55 children, all carefully tended in every point of view. Upwards of 30 of the boys are exercised in gymnastics and military drill, and those of sufficient age are apprenticed to trades. Nor is the education of the girls in every department suitable for their condition in life neglected. While such is the case, it is to be feared that many of the children connected with the parishes of this Union, in place of participating in these advantages, are scattered about wherever they can be boarded, and where neither their comforts, education, nor morality can be properly secured, and where many of them may pursue a little begging trade perhaps under the eyes of those with whom they reside.

Falkirk Herald 28th November

Local Intelligence
Coal-pit Accident. —

About ten o'clock on Monday forenoon, a man, named Alexander Ure, thirty-four years of age, residing at Maddiston, met with an accident while employed at his usual avocation, in Mungallrigg Ironstone Pit, belonging to the Carron Company. He was engaged "holeing," when a part of the roof gave way, falling upon and injuring him severely on the back and left side. We believe the unfortunate man, who is married, and has a small family, is progressing favourably.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th December 1861

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thursday, December 5th
FIXTURE, "KINNEIL." —

Few honoured this meet with their presence, but those who came not may regret it. Thanks to Mr. Wilson of "The Dean" for the welcome he gave us, and for the fine fox he had so carefully kept for us (having never fired a shot in the big wood.) No sooner were the hounds thrown in than they told us all was right. "A quick find," said some; but a quicker get away than was ever seen from this covert put a stop to farther "parley." Away went the pack at a fearful pace for "Tod's Mill," and, nothing daunted by the water, crossed the Avon, and on to Haining Wood; rattling through this, the pack swam the canal, and on through Park Hall grounds to Polmont Station. Here a trifling check took place (time without check, thirty-five minutes.) Hit him off again, when Reynard took a southerly direction, skirting Maddiston, right on to Muiravonside, crossing the Avon at Woodcockdale Cottage; run through Bellesyde Woods to William Craigs, over Cockleroy, to Hillhouse quarries: turning then eastwards, he made for Bee Craigs, meaning Champfleurie if possible; but the noble pack forced him out of his reckonings, and obliged him to retreat on Linlithgow. Getting no shelter, even in the Poorhouse, he fled to the grounds surrounding Mr. Adie's house, and failing in his leap at a low wall into the garden, he was then and there broken up by the eager and well-deserving pack -time, one hour and forty minutes, with only two very trifling checks.

I am, &c.,

One who was There,

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th Dunfermline Saturday Press 14th December 1861

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Alarming Fire —

A Cottar's Home Burned Down. - About ten o'clock on Tuesday evening, Craigmill Cottage, near Avonbridge, tenanted by James Carlaw, was observed by some of the neighbours to be on fire. The occupants, consisting of Carlaw, his wife, family, an aged relative, and a lodger who tenanted an attic room, had retired to rest at the usual hour, and were not aware of the circumstance until they were awakened up and apprised of the danger by those who observed the roof on fire. The occupants escaped with difficulty, the lodger having effected an egress by the attic window. Every article of food and clothing of the poor but honest cottagers have been destroyed, so that at this inclement season they must be sadly put about, and the sooner a subscription by the right-thinking neighbours is set on foot the better, to compensate the sufferers for the damage they have sustained.

Falkirk Herald 26th December 1861

Deaths.

At Maddiston, on the 24th inst., William Baird, grocer.

1862

Stirling Observer Thursday 23rd 30th January 1862

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS

On SATURDAY, 1st FEBRUARY.

To be Let, by Public Roup, on SATURDAY the 1st February, 1862, THE GRASS PARKS on the Estate of Muiravonside, comprising ELEVEN ENCLOSURES, to be Let for Sheep, Cattle, and Horses, as formerly. Likewise, immediately after the Roup of the Grass Parks, there will be sold at Muiravonside Offices,

FIVE FAT SHETLAND STOTS, of the First Quality.

Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie, at One o'Clock, and to finish with the Parks at Seatrees, &c. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Dundee Courier 22nd February 1862

MARRIAGES

At Holybush Cottage, Maddiston, on the 18th inst., by the Rev. Mr. McFarlane. Mr. John Baillie (late of Bathgate), clerk, Almond Ironworks, to Miss Baird, daughter of the late Mr. William Baird, builder, Maddiston.

Stirling Observer Thursday 3rd April 1862

DUNCAN. - Suddenly, at Whiterigg, Mr. Thomas Duncan, Lochhead, Muiravonside, aged 64 years, factor to the late Miss Wilson, Greenknowes.

Dundee Courier Monday 7th April 1862

GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. Thomas Duncan, factor to the late Miss Wilson, Greenknowes, near Muiravonside, was binning some hay on a cart at Whiterigg, on Monday, when the rope broke, and he was thrown to the ground. He fractured his skull, and died in about an hour.

Stirling Observer Thursday 1st May 1862

LIST OF NEW APPLICATIONS LICENSE CERTIFICATES, presented for hearing at the JUSTICE OF PEACE LICENSING COURT for STIRLINGSHIRE, to be held at Stirling, on TUESDAY, 6th May, 1862.

The applications marked a are for Premises at present Unlicensed.

Those marked b are for Premises already in possession of Applicant, under transfer of former Tenant's Certificate.

Those marked c are for an Alteration in the character of an existing License, from Grocers to Publicans, or Innkeepers, as the case may be, or for the addition of the Spirit License to that for Ale, &c. already held by Applicant; and the remainder are the Applications of New Tenants, entering upon Licensed Premises.

The Certificates applied for are, except where otherwise expressed, for Spirits, Porter, &c.

PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE

b Mrs. Ann Fisher or Stewart,

Widow of the late Robert Stewart or McCulloch, Publican, Linlithgow Bridge, -----

----- Public House, Linlithgow Bridge.

FAT CATTLE AT GOWANBANK, ON TUESDAY, 6th MAY.

TO be Sold by Public Roup, on TUESDAY the 6th May, 1862, at the Feeding Byres at GOWAN BANK near Avonbridge, belonging to James Gowan, Esquire, 11 FAT CROSS SHORT-HORN STOTS, of First Quality. Roup to begin at Two o'Clock precisely. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer Thursday 15th May 1862

LICENCE APPEAL COURT.-

An adjourned Court of the Justices of the Peace for the county was held in the Town-House, when the following Justices were present, viz William Leckie Ewing, Esq. of Arngomery, who presided; John Millar, Esq. of Millfield; Alex. Macfarlane, Esq.; Colonel Dundas of Carronhall; Robert Curror, Esq.; Thomas M'Micking, Esq.; and William Wright, Esq. of Broom.

Licences were granted for two hotels at Falkirk and one at Larbert; for one public house at Airth; eight at Falkirk, one at Muiravonside, and one at Polmont; one grocer's licence at Larbert, and two at Polmont. Two certificates were refused - one at Larbert the other at Polmont. A case continued from last week, for a licence at Bridge of Allan, was granted.

Stirling Observer - Thursday 22nd, 29th, May, 18th, 25th September 1862

LANDS IN THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE, TO SELL.

To be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Crown Inn, Falkirk, on THURSDAY, the 23d day of April next, at One o'Clock Afternoon,

ALL and WHOLE the LANDS locally known as STANDBURN, being part of the Lands of Farrenridge, as they sometime belonged to Mr. Nimmo, extending to Eight Acres, Nine Poles, conform to Measurement; with the HOUSES thereon. Valuable Coal exists in the Lands, and is wrought in adjacent Property-

Apply to Adam Smith, Writer, Falkirk.

Falkirk, 26th March, 1863.

London Standard, Morning Post, Saturday 28 June, Dundee Courier Tuesday 1st July, Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 3rd July, Stirling Observer Thursday 10 July 1862

DEATHS

STIRLING.— On the 36th inst., at 18, Curzon-Sreet, Mayfair, London, Charlotte Dorothea, wife of Charles Stirling Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, and only daughter of the late Vice Admiral Charles Stirling (?) of Woburn Farm Surrey.

Caledonian Mercury 16th Wednesday; Stirling Observer Thursday 17th July 1862

LINLITHGOW HORTICUCLTURAL SOCIETY.-

The summer exhibition of this very flourishing Society was held on Tuesday in the Town Hall, Linlithgow. In the gardener's department there was an admirable display both of flowers and vegetables, the quality being excellent, although the varieties were not numerous. Mr. John Hardy, banker, exhibited some choice fuchsias in pots, which were much admired; and a number of beautiful plants from the conservatories of Rockville and Longcroft, added considerably to the floral display. The only fruits exhibited were strawberries; and one sample from the garden of Admiral Sir James Hope at Carriden, was particularly large and ripe. In the amateur's department, the show of vegetables was exceedingly good; indeed, considering the late ungenial weather, anything like it could scarcely have been anticipated. In the afternoon the exhibition was open to the public, and was numerously patronised. The following gentlemen officiated as judges:- Messrs Mickel, Avonbridge; Kilpatrick, jun. Wallhouse; Juck, Kinniel; and Scott, Millfield.

Glasgow Herald Monday 21st July 1862

ADJOURNED SALE OF VALUABLE COAL FIELD AND GOING COLLIERY IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

UPSET PRICES REDUCED.

THE Extensive COAL FIELD on the Estate of CRAIGEND, In the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling, with the Whole of the Present WORKING PLAN of the COLLIERY, as formerly advertised will be re-exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, (unless previously disposed of by private bargain.) at Reduced Upset Prices, within the Rooms of Gay and Black, 65, George Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 11th August, 1862, at Two o'clock.

Particulars may be had from Mr. Learmouth McKenzie, Craigend House; Messrs Russel & Aitken Writers, Falkirk; or Messrs. Gibson-Craig, Dalziel & Brodies, W.S., Edinburgh, in whose hands are the title Deeds, Plans, and Articles of Roup.

ADJOURNED SALE OF LANDS IN THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE, AND COUNTY OF STIRLING.

UPSET PRICES REDUCED.

THE LANDS of GREENWELLS, HIRST, CROY, GLENHEAD, GLENEND, and Part of MANUELRIG, and MOSS CANDLE, and HOUSES in the VILLAGE of RUMFORD, forming the Unentailed Parts of the Estate of Craigend, as formerly advertised will be re-exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, (unless previously disposed of by private bargain.) at Reduced Upset prices, within the Rooms of Gay & Black, 65 George Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 13th August, 1862, at Two o'clock.

Particulars may be had on application to Mr. Learmonth McKenzie, at Craigend House; to Messrs. Russel & Aitken, Writers, Falkirk; or to Messrs. Gibson-Craig, Dalziel & Brodies W .S, Edinburgh, in whose hands are the Deeds Plans, and Articles of Roup.

Stirling Observer Thursday 24th July 1862

MARRIAGES

HUNTER - MARSHALL.

At Avonbridge, on the 14th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Horn, Thomas Hunter, Esq., Alloa, to Janet fifth daughter of the late Robert Marshall, Esq., of Avonbridge.

Glasgow Herald Monday 4th August 1862

ADJOURNED SALE OF CRAIGEND BRICK AND TILE WORK.

UPSET PRICE REDUCED.

This Work, situated In the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, with upwards of 12 Acres of LAND, Containing FIRE and COMMON CLAY of first quality, and with TENANT'S DWELLING HOUSE, DWELLING HOUSES for, WORKMEN. STABLE. &c., and all the MACHINERY requisite for Grinding and Manufacturing Fire and Common Clay, Will be re-exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, (unless previously disposed of by private bargain) at a Reduced Upset Price, within Cay & Black's Rooms, No. 65 George Street Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 13th August 1862, at Two o'clock.

Particulars may be had from Mr. Learmonth McKenzie, Craigend House; Messrs Russel & Aitken Writers. Falkirk; or Messrs. Gibson-Craig, Dalziel & Brodies. W.S. Edinburgh, In whose hands are the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup.

Stirling Observer Thursday 7th August 1862

BIRTHS

BLACK. - At Hillend, Avonbridge, on the 27th ult., the wife of James Black, Esq., of a daughter.

Dunfermline Saturday Press Saturday 9th August 1862

NEW ROUTE FROM BATHGATE TO GLASGOW. -

We understand that the new line of railway, from Bathgate to Airdrie, and thence direct to Glasgow, will be opened for passenger traffic in a day or two. The Government inspector passed over the line towards the end of June, and recommended some alterations at different points. These have now been improved upon and completed, and the line will therefore be formally opened almost immediately. The line, we believe, from Bathgate to Cowdenhead, was formed several years ago, but was only employed for mineral traffic. The railway is now extended from Cowdenhead, to Airdrie and Coatbridge, thus joining the other lines at present in operation to the western metropolis. This new route will be a great boon to the inhabitants of Bathgate. The former line via Avonbridge and Slamannan resembled much the old coach system of travelling. One passage only could be effected each day from Bathgate to Glasgow. We hail with much satisfaction the completion of the works of this portion of the Monkland Railways Company.-

Glasgow Herald

Stirling Observer Thursday 14th August 1862

COUNTY OF STIRLING. REGISTRATION OF VOTERS' COURTS. INTIMATION IS HEREBY MADE, That the SHERIFF of the COUNTY of STIRLING has given Notice, in terms of the Acts 2d and 3d William IV. chap. 65, and 24th and 25th Victoria, chap. 83, that on the days, and at the places after specified, he will hold open Courts, for the purpose of Revising and Correcting the Register of Voters for the County of Stirling, and deciding on the merits of all Claims for Registration within the same, Objections to these Claims, and Objections to Persons continuing on the Roll of Voters, viz.:-

At FALKIRK -

And within the Sheriff Court- House there, on the 8th day of September next, at 12 o' Clock Noon, for the Parishes of FALKIRK - So far as not comprehended in the Burgh of Falkirk. AIRTH, LARBERT, BOTHKENNAR, POLMONT, MUIRAVONSIDE, and SLAMANNAN.

THOMAS L. GALBRAITH,

Sheriff-Clerk.

Sheriff-Clerk's Office, Stirling, 7th August, 1862.

Stirling Observer Thursday 28th August, 4th September 1862

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Valuation of lands and heritages, . Statute 17 and 18 Vie, Cap. 91.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the Commissioners of Supply of the County of Stirling will hold a Court, upon the days and at the places undermentioned, for the purpose of hearing Appeals against the Valuations made by the Assessor for the current year, under the above mentioned Statute, viz : -

At Falkirk, upon WEDNESDAY the 10th of September, within the Court-House there, at 12 o'Clock Noon, for appeals from the parishes of AIRTH, MUIRAVONSIDE, BOTHKENNAR, POLMONT, FALKIRK, SLAMANNAN.

Notice is farther given, that to entitle parties to be heard on Appeal, notice in writing must be given to the Assessor at least six days prior to the foresaid 9th and 19th days of September, that the Appellant intends to maintain his Appeal; and the amount of valuation he alleges should be substituted for the amount assessed by the Assessor, must be specified in said notice .

By Order of the Convener.

ROB. CAMPBELL, Clerk of Supply.

Stirling, 27th August, 1862.

Glasgow Herald Monday 15th September 1862

ADJOURNED SALE OF VALUABLE COAL FIELD AND GOING COLLIERY IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

UPSET PRICES FURTHER REDUCED.

THE Extensive COAL FIELD on the Estate of CRAIGEND, In the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling, with the Whole of the Present WORKING PLAN of the COLLIERY, as formerly advertised will be re-exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, (unless previously disposed of by private bargain.) at Reduced Upset Prices, within the Rooms of Gay and Black, 65, George Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 11th August, 1862, at Two o'clock.

Particulars may be had from Mr. Learmonth McKenzie, Craigend House; Messrs Russel & Aitken Writers. Falkirk; or Messrs. Gibson-Craig, Dalziel & Brodies, W.S., Edinburgh, in whose hands are the title Deeds, Plans, and Articles of Roup.

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th 29th September 1862

THE ADJOURNED SALE OF LANDS IN THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE, AND COUNTY OF STIRLING.

UPSET PRICES FURTHER REDUCED.

THE LANDS of GREENWELLS, HIRST, CROY, GLENHEAD, GLENEND, and Part of MANUEL RIG, and MOSS CANDLE, and HOUSES in the VILLAGE of RUMFORD,

As formerly advertised, on Wednesday, 22d October, 1862, at Two o'clock, at greatly reduced Upset Prices

Particulars may he had on application to Mr. Learmonth McKenzie, at Craigend House; to Messrs. Russel & Aitken, Writers. Falkirk; or to Messrs. Gibson-Craig, Dalziel & Brodies W ,S, Edinburgh, in whose hands are the Deeds Plans, and Articles of Roup.

Stirling Observer Thursday 2nd 9th October 1862

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE in STIRLINGSHIRE, FOR SALE.

There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the Faculty Hall, Saint George's Place, Glasgow, on WEDNESDAY the 22d day of October, 1862, (unless previously disposed of by Private Bargain.) THE ESTATE of LAURENCE PARK, in the Parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside, and County of Stirling, consisting of about 286 Imperial Acres, situated on the High Road from Edinburgh to Falkirk, about 4 miles from the latter. The Mansion House is a large and commodious modern building, containing Dining Room, Drawing Room, with Conservatory entering from it, Parlour or Library, and Six Bed Rooms, two of which have Dressing Rooms attached, with Kitchen, Attics and ample accommodation for Servants. There is Water in the House and all modern conveniences. It is advantageously situated between

the Polmont and Linlithgow Stations of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, about 2 1/2 miles from each. The Pleasure Grounds are extensive and tastefully laid out. There is a good walled Garden, with Forcing House, Vinery, and Melon Pit, and a large Kitchen Garden. About 35 Acres are under Plantation. There are two Lodges, and the Stable accommodation is ample. Of the Agricultural portion of the Estate about 110 Acres (Scotch), are Let on a Lease which expires at Martinmas, 1868. The remainder is in the occupation of the Proprietor. The Public Burdens amount to about £21 per annum. A considerable portion of the Price will be allowed to remain on the security of the Property. For further particulars, application may be made to M'Grigor, Stevenson & Fleming, Writers, Glasgow, in whose hands are the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup. Glasgow, 25th September, 1862.

Stirling Observer Thursday 16th October 1862

LIST of APPLICATIONS for CERTIFICATES for the SALE OF EXCISEABLE LIQUORS for the COUNTY OF STIRLING, for New Premises, by New Tenants or Occupants, and for Renewal of Transferred Certificates: Name, Designation, and Residence of Applicant - John Heaps, Miner and Grocer, Moss candle Cottage, near Blackbraes, Muiravonside. Place and Parish of County of Premises - Blackbraes, Parish of Muiravonside. Class of Certificate applied for - Grocer's License. Name and Address of Landlord or Factor of Premises - The Applicant, Proprietor.

Dundee Advertiser Saturday 25th, Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser, Tuesday 28 October 1862

The Craigend Brick and Tile Work, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, was sold on Wednesday, for £2000.

Glasgow Herald Friday 7th November 1862

ADJOURNED SALE OF THE CHOICE AND DESIRABLE ESTATE OF GREENKOWE, IN THE COUNTY OF STIRLING.

To be held, by Public Roup, within the Red Lion Hotel., Falkirk, on Thursday the 27th November, 1862, at Two o'clock Afternoon, THE BAUTIFUL SMALL ESTATE OF GREENKNOWE which belonged to the late Miss Katherine Wilson, situated in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling about Three Miles from Linlithgow, Five from Falkirk, and Two-and-a-Half from Polmont Station on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, and about three-quarters of a mile from Causewayend Station on the Monklands Railway. The Property is bounded on the west and south by the Public Roads leading to Falkirk and Linlithgow, and extends to 151 Acres, or thereby, of true bearing alluvial soil, including 16 Acres of Plantations. The Mansion House is delightfully situated on the south side of the Property, and consists of Dining Room, Drawing Room, Library, five Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Scullery, Butler's pantry, Laundry, and Servants' Apartments; with Stables, Coach House, and Offices attached. The Farm of Gillandersland on the Estate, Possessed by Mr. Wm. Cuthill, an enterprising Tenant, has been mostly Drained, and is capable of bearing all kinds of Cereal Crops; and there is also an Excellent Farm Steading, with every necessary accommodation for Carrying on the Farm. The gross Yearly Rental of the Property, including Mansion House, &c, is £288. The Public burdens are moderate. UPSET PRICE, £6000. For further particulars, apply to Mr. John Gair, Writer, Falkirk, in whose hands may be seen the Title Deeds, Articles of Roup, and Plan of the Estate. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer, Falkirk, 29th October, 1862.

Stirling Observer Thursday 13th November 1862

MILCH COWS, HAY, MANURE, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c. AT REDFORD, On MONDAY the 17th NOVEMBER. TO be Sold by Public Roup, by a Warrant from the Sheriff, on MONDAY the 17th November, 1862, on the Premises at Redford, Muiravonside, possessed by Mr. Henry Main, who has gone abroad -viz.: - 7 Excellent Ayrshire Milch Cows, 2 Pigs, 4 Ricks of Ryegrass Hay, A Quantity of Byre Manure. Also, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Consisting, of Eight-day Clock, Kitchen Dresser, Tables, Chairs, Dairy Utensils, &c. Ready Cash. Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer 13th November 1862

WEATHER AND CROPS.- To all appearances sterile winter has commenced his reign in this locality, a considerable quantity of snow having fallen for the last two days, which lies at present about four inches deep. This is somewhat to be deplored, on account of its earliness, and the lateness of certain of the cereal crops still to be cut down and secured in the barn-yard. We understand that there is still to be cut down a field of oats, of nine acres extent, in the neighbourhood of Causewayend Furnaces; besides other fields of grain farther to the west, near Maddiston and Slamannan.

Stirling Observer Thursday 4th December 1862

COUNTY VOTERS. The list of voters has now been published, and a glance at the undernoted statistics will show the good effects already accomplished by the Act passed last session to amend the law regarding the registration of County Voters in Scotland. Not less than 797 votes have been expunged from the roll, as representing voters either dead or disqualified, and 894 new votes entered on register - showing altogether an increase in the County constituency of 97 votes. Voters on Register of 1861. Dead or Disqualified. Entered on Register 1862. Roll as amended 1862.

Polmont	67		27	
30		70		
Muiravonside	68		28	31
		71		
Slamannan	70		37	
51		87		

Stirling Observer Thursday 4th 11th, 18th, December 1862

ASSESSED TAXES, 1862-63. APPEAL COURTS. - COUNTY OF STIRLING. COMMISSIONERS OF SUPPLY for the Several Districts of the County of Stirling, will meet on the days and at the places undermentioned, to Charge and DETERMINE APPEALS against the Charge made by the Surveyor for the current year: - For the DISTRICT of FALKIRK - comprehending the Burgh and Parish of Falkirk, and the

Parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan – in the Red Lion Hotel, Falkirk, on TUESDAY the 23d December current, at 11.30 a.m.

Stirling Observer Thursday 1st January 1863

WILSON. –

At Kendie's Hill, Muiravonside, on the 24th ult., Agnes Barrie, wife of Mr. James Wilson, farmer. Friends will please accept of this intimation.

Glasgow Herald Friday 30th January; Fife Herald Thursday 5th February 1863

FALKIRK CATTLE FAIR.

The winter fair for cattle and horses was held yesterday I on the usual stance in the Callander Riggs. The stock exhibited was limited in point of numbers, though, all things considered, in fair condition. The various lots, however, as they took up their respective positions, presented a somewhat tardy appearance, owing to the wetness of the day. The attendance of dealers was considerable, but the amount of business done was not great. The market throughout was dull, and at the close a few animals were driven off unsold. Prices were back compared with those obtained at the corresponding market last year. The follow- The following are a few quotations :- Mr. A. Liddle, cattle-dealer, Denly, sold his Ayrshire cows at from £11 to £12. Mr. Graham, Myrthill, Denny, sold his milch cows at from £10, 10s. to £12 a-piece. Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge, exhibited some very fine milch cows, which he sold at prices ranging from £11 to £14. He sold some grass beasts at £6 each. A good many horses were shown, but few sales were effected.

Stirling Observer Thursday 12th 19th 26th February, 5th March 1863

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS. On SATURDAY, 28th FEBRUARY. To be Let, by Public Roup, on SATURDAY, the 28th February, 1863, THE GRASS PARKS on the Estate of Muiravonside, comprising ELEVEN ENCLOSURES; to be Let for Sheep, Cattle, and Horses, as formerly.

Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie at One o'Clock Afternoon, and to finish with the Parks at Seatrees, &c.

JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer Thursday 26th February 1863

SUMMARY COURT CASES. –

On Monday, John Robertson, baker, Avonbridge, was brought up before Sheriff Sconce for riot and assault, and was fined 10s. or 10 days' imprisonment.

Elgin Courier Friday 27th February 1863

AVONBRIDGE - COLLISION ON THE MONKLANDS RAILWAY. –

On Thursday morning about ten o'clock two goods trains came into serious collision at or near Avonbridge. We understand that several trucks were smashed, and that considerable damage was done to both engines. The men in charge of the engines were unhurt.

Glasgow Herald Friday 13th February 1863

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE IN STRLINGSHIRE FOR SALE.

UPSET PRICE REDUCED.

For Sale, by Public Roup, within the Faculty Hall, St. George's Place, Glasgow, on Wednesday the 25th day of February, 1863, at Two o'clock Afternoon, (unless previously disposed of by private bargain THE ESTATE of LAURENCE PARK, in the Parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside and County of Stirling, consisting of about 286 Imperial Acres, situated on the High Road from Edinburgh to Falkirk, about 4 ½ miles from the latter. The Mansion House is a large and commodious modern building, containing Dining Room, Drawing room, with Conservatory entering from it, Parlour or Library, and Six Bed Rooms, two of which have Dressing-Rooms attached, with Kitchen, Attics, and ample accommodation for Servants. There is Water in the House and all modern conveniences. It is advantageously situated between the Polmont and Linlithgow Stations of the Edinburgh and Glasgow, Railway, about 2 ½ miles from each. The Pleasure Grounds are extensive and tastefully laid out. There is a good walled Garden, with Forcing-House, Vinery, and Melon Pit, and a large Kitchen Garden. About 35 Acres are under Plantation. There are two Lodges, and the Stable accommodation is ample. Of the Agricultural portion of the Estate about 110 Acres (Scotch), are Let on a Lease which expires at Martinmas, 1868. The remainder is in the occupation of the Proprietor. The Public Burdens amount to about £21 per annum. A considerable portion of the Price will be allowed to remain on the security of the Property.

For further particulars, application may be made to M'Grigor, Stevenson & Fleming, Writers, Glasgow, in whose hands are the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup.

PETER BURN &, CO., Auctioneers.

Glasgow, 10th January, 1863.

Stirling Observer - Thursday 2nd, 16th, April 1863

LANDS IN THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE, TO SELL.

To be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Crown Inn, Falkirk, on THURSDAY, the 23d day of April next, at One o'Clock Afternoon, ALL and WHOLE the LANDS locally known as STANDBURN, being part of the Lands of Farrenridge, as they sometime belonged to Mr. Nimmo, extending to Eight Acres, Nine Poles, conform to Measurement; with the HOUSES thereon. Valuable Coal exists in the Lands, and is wrought in adjacent Property-

Apply to Adam Smith, Writer, Falkirk.

Falkirk, 26th March, 1863.

Stirling Observer 9th April 1863

LIST OF APPLICATIONS for CERTIFICATES for the SALE OF EXCISABLE LIQUORS for the COUNTY of STIRLING, for NEW PREMISES, by NEW TENANTS or OCCUPANTS, and for RENEWAL of TRANSFERRED CERTIFICATES

Name and Designation and Residence of Applicant	Place.	Parish	Place and Parish of County,	Class of Certificates applied for.	Name and Address of Landlord or Factor of Premises.
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FOR NEW PREMISES

Alexander Cunningham, Groceries	Grocer	Maddiston	Muiravonside,	Dealer in Groceries	Applicant
Maddiston, Muiravonside, Provisions		Proprietor			and

Stirling Observer Thursday 7th May 1863

CIRCUIT COURT.

The Spring Circuit Court for the Stirling district was opened here on Tuesday - Lords Jarviswoode and Neaves presiding. The Judges marched in procession from the Royal Hotel to the Court House, accompanied by the usual military escort. The Rev. William Wilson inaugurated the proceedings with an appropriate prayer; and the Court thereafter proceeded to empanel the Jury. Mr. Thoms acted as advocate depute, assisted by Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Hamilton Bell as clerk. The counsel present were Messrs A. B. Shand, M'Kie, Couper, Lamond, Orphort, Balfour, Cattanach, and M'Laren. Among those present in Court we

observed Sheriffs Moir, Tait, Robertson, Sconce, Provost Murrie, and the Magistrates.

THEFT.

Margaret Dick and *Mary Ann Godfrey* were charged with theft, aggravated by previous conviction, in so far as, on the 20th Dec, 1862, they stole eight and a half feet of lead or metal pipe, at or near the mansion house of Candie, in the parish of Muiravonside. Both panels pled guilty, and Margaret Dick was sentenced to 4 years' penal servitude and Mary Ann Godfrey to 9 months' imprisonment.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 17th June 1863

SCOTCH BANKRUPTPTS.

(From the Edinburgh Gazette of Yesterday.)

APPLICATIONS FOR CESSIO BONORUM.

Thomas Malcolm, sometime farmer, and residing at Broadhead, in the parish of Muiravonside, thereafter residing at Ballenbreich, in said parish, and presently a prisoner in the Prison of Stirling.

Stirling Observer Thursday June 18th 1863

FAIRS.

LINLITHGOW CATTLE FAIR.

Friday, June 12. The Linlithgow June Fair for cattle and horses was held to-day on the usual stance at the extreme west end of the burgh. The weather, though somewhat dull, was highly favourable to the exhibition of stock. The number of cattle on the ground was very much less than last year, and compared with the stock shown some ten years ago it sinks about one-half. It would be difficult to say the cause of this periodical falling off, but no doubt it is partly and indeed to a great extent attributable to the facilities now afforded by railway for the transit of cattle to other and more important markets. And in respect to the proceedings of to-day the fact of Renfrew Fair falling to be held on the same day told considerably against Linlithgow, because some dealers prefer taking their stock to the former market when such a coincidence as that mentioned occurs. The stock upon the ground to-day consisted chiefly of Ayrshire cows and grazing cattle, with several large lots of Irish calves and bullocks. The demand for good Milch cows was fair, and prices were considered to be about an average with those obtained at Rutherglen this week. Good grass beasts were specially picked up at remunerative prices, and it seemed to be the general impression that compared with the rates current at recent markets for this kind of stock, those realised to-day were if anything a shade better. The Irish grazers - as they have been at the bulk of the fairs on this district - were quite a drug, very few sales being effected, and these unimportant. Milch cows were selling at from £8 to £10 10s., and from £11 to £15, and calves at from £8 to £13. Grass beasts sold at from £7 10s. downwards. The following are a few sales:- Mr Andrew Liddell, cattle-dealer, Denny, showed a lot of good milch cows, a few of which he sold at prices ranging from £10 to £13 10s. Mr. Aitken Foggermountain, sold his grass boasts at from £6 10s. to £7 10s., and calving cows at from £12 to £13. Mr. Nimmo, Bathgate, sold several Milch cows at from £9 to £15. Mr. Graham, Myoithill, Denny, showed about fifty head of cattle, consisting of Milch cows and grass beasts. He sold an excellent milch cow to Mr. John Martin, Edinburgh, at £14 10s., and a lot of grazers to Mr. Johnstone, banker, Bathgate, at a remunerative figure. Mr. William Gentleman, Avonbridge, sold a lot of grass beasts at £5 a-head, and a lot of calving cows at from £8 to £10. Mr. Charles Owens, from county Tyrone, Ireland, sold two small lots of Irish bullocks at from £7 to £8 a-piece. As a whole the market was considered a fair one for sellers. In the horse market little was done, and no sales worth particularising were effected.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 29th June; Stirling Observer Thursday 2nd July 1863

RONALD-PENDER-At Linlithgowbridge, on the 26th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Scrymgeour, Mr. Robert Ronald, Avonbridge, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Pender, corn dealer, Linlithgowbridge.

Dunfermline Press Wednesday 19th; Stirling Observer Thursday 20th August 1863

MAILER - MARSHALL.- At Avonbridge, on the 11th inst., by the Rev. Robert S. Home, Slamannan, Mr. John Mailer, builder, Alloa, to Margaret, daughter of the late Robert Marshall, Esq., Bridgend, Slamannan.

Caledonian Mercury Wednesday 2nd September 1863

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.

SEQUESTRATIONS.

Robert Geekie Dunn & Company, lately tenants of Glenrig Tile Works, near Falkirk, and now farmers at Collonshields and Gateside Farms, in the parish of Muiravonside and county of Stirling - creditors meet in the Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, Stirling, 10th September, twelve o'clock-

Jas. Peddie, writer, Stirling, agent.

Fife Herald, Dundee Courier, Thursday 3rd Perry's Bankrupt Gazette Saturday 5th September 1863

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.

SEQUESTRATIONS.

Robert Geekie Dunn & Company, lately tenants of Glenrig Tile Works, near Falkirk, and now farmers at Collonshields and Gateside Farms, in the parish of Muiravonside and county of Stirling, and Robert Geekie Dunn, farmer at Collonshields aforesaid, and Alexander Dunn, lately tenant of Teemvally Tile Works, county of Durham, and now farmer at Gateside aforesaid, the only individual partners of said company, as partners thereof, and as individuals.

Stirling Observer Thursday 3rd September 1863

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

VALUATION OF LANDS AND HERITAGES, Statute 17 and 18 Vie, Cap, 91.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the Commissioners of Supply of the County of Stirling Will hold a COURT, upon the days and at the places under-mentioned, for the purpose of hearing APPEALS against the Valuations made by the Assessor for the current year under the above-mentioned Statute, Viz.: -

At FALKIRK, upon TUESDAY the 15th day of September, within the Court-House there, at

Half-past Twelve o'Clock, for Appeals from the Parishes of

MUIRAVONSIDE,

POLMONT.

SLAMANNAN.

Glasgow Herald Saturday 5th September 1863

FARM TO LET,

With Entry to the Lands and Buildings at Martinmas.

THE FARM of GILLANDERSLAND, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, consisting of 160 Imperial Acres, or thereby, the whole of which is Arable. The Farm is within half a mile of Causewayend Station of the Slamannan Railway, two miles and a half from the Polmont Station on of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, and three miles from Linlithgow. By the Union Canal, Manure, &c., can be laid down within a mile of the Farm. The Boundaries will be pointed out by James Rynie, Tarduf House; and Offers will be received and other information given by William Stirling, 179 West George Street, Glasgow.

Hampshire Advertiser Saturday 5th September 1863

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.

R. G. Dunn and Co., Muiravonside, Stirling, farmers

Stirling Observer Thursday 17th September 1863

BURGH POLICE COURT. -

Thomas Turnbull, labourer, Avonbridge, for a breach of the peace, was ordered to pay a fine of 5s. or go to prison for five days.

Dundee Advertiser Monday 28th September 1863

FALKIRK.

Fatal Accident.—On Thursday night, a carter, named John Shaw, residing Avonbridge, fell off his cart, and rolling in before one of the wheels, it passed over and injured him fatally. Deceased was married, and has left a wife and family.

Stirling Observer 8th October 1863

BURGH POLICE COURT - At this Court on Monday -

Baillie RUSSELL on the bench

on MONDAY, Alex. M'Pherson, and James Ure, aged respectively ten and seven years, sons of miners residing at Maddiston, were brought up before Sheriff Sconce for shifting the points on the Blackbraes and Causewayend Railway, and also for placing two pieces of wood and a stone upon the rails at the same place, with the apparent intention of throwing a train off the line. Fortunately, however, both malicious acts were observed in time to prevent any accident. The boys, on account of their youth, were dismissed from the bar.

A DEAR TURNIP. - On Wednesday, Wm. Dailly, drawer, Blackbraes, for stealing a turnip from Craigend farm, was fined 2s. 6d.

Dunfermline Saturday Press Saturday 24th, Caledonian Mercury Monday 26th, Stirling

Observer Thursday 29th October 1863

MARRIAGES

STIRLING - GROTE. - At Trieste, on the 14th inst., by the Rev. Samuel Tucker, H.M. Consular Chaplain, Commander Charles Stirling, R.N., second son of Charles Stirling, Esq., of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, to Selina Matilda, daughter of Arthur Grote, Esq., Bengal Civil Service.

Dunfermline Saturday Press, Saturday 14th 21th 28th, Caledonian Mercury, Saturday

14th November, Glasgow Herald Saturday 28th November 1863

GLASGOW AND NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY.

(Incorporation of Company to Make and Maintain a Railway from Glasgow to Edinburgh, with Branches connecting it with the Glasgow and Paisley Joint Railway, the Monkland Railways, the Charleston Railway, and the South Queensferry Branch Railway - Branch to Grangemouth Docks and other Works and Connections - Powers to and Working and other Arrangements and Agreements with the North British Railway Company - Amendment of Acts, and other purposes.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That it is intended to apply to Parliament next Session for leave to bring in a Bill to incorporate a Company (hereinafter called "The Company") for making, using, and maintaining the following Railways and Works, or some of them, with all necessary conveniences connected therewith that is to say, - 1. A Railway commencing at a point in the City of Glasgow, and county of Lanark, in or near Blackfriars Street of the said City, 150 yards or thereabouts eastward of the Junction of Blackfriars Street with High Street, and terminating by a Junction with the authorised line of the North British (Edinburgh, Dunfermline, and Perth No. 1 Railway) at its Western terminus - viz., at a point 210 yards or thereabouts north-eastward of the Bridge carrying the North British, late Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway, under the Turnpike Road leading from Leith to Queensferry, called the Queensferry Road, in the Parish of St Cuthbert's and County of Edinburgh, and which said intended Railway will pass from, in, through, or into the several Parishes, Royal Burghs, and other places following, or some of them, "that is to say : -Glasgow, St James' of Glasgow, Blackfriars' or College of Glasgow, St John's of Glasgow, St Thomas' of Glasgow, Barony of Glasgow, Camlachie, Shettleston, Old Monkland, New Monkland, and the Royal Burgh of Glasgow, in the County of Lanark ; Cumbernauld, in the County of Dumbaron; Slamannan, Falkirk, Polmont, and Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling ; Linlithgow, Borrowstouness, Carriden, Abercorn, Dalmeny, Cramond, Kirkliston, and the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, in the County of Linlithgow; Kirkliston, Corstorphine, Cramond, North Leith, St Cuthbert's, the Royal Burgh of Edinburgh, and the Burgh or Town of Leith, in the County of Edinburgh, and In the County of the City of Edinburgh. 2. A Railway commencing by a Junction with the line of the Glasgow and Paisley Joint Railway, at or near a point 35 yards, or thereby, south-westward of the Bridge carrying the said Joint Railway over Cook's Street, Tradeston of Glasgow, in the Parish of Govan and County of Lanark, and terminating by a junction with Railway No. 1, at or near the foresaid Terminus thereof, in Blackfriars' Street of the City of Glasgow aforesaid ; and which said intended Railway will pass from, in, through, or into the several Parishes, Royal Burgh, and other places following, or some of them, that is to say: - Govan, Laurieston, Gorbals, Glasgow, St Enoch's of Glasgow, Tron or St. Mary's or Laigh Kirk of Glasgow, St Andrew's of Glasgow, St James' of Glasgow, Blackfriars' or College of Glasgow, St John's of Glasgow, and the Royal Burgh of Glasgow, all in the County of Lanark. 3. A Railway commencing by a Junction with Railway No. 1 at a point in the parish of Old Monkland and County of Lanark, 140 yards or thereabouts westward of the Gartsherrie Station of the Caledonian Railway, and terminating by a Junction with the Monklands Railway at a point 240 yards or thereabouts southward of the farm buildings of Hollandhirst, in the said parish of Old Monkland and County of Lanark, and which Railway will be situate in the last named Parish and County. 4. A Railway commencing by a Junction with the Railway No. 1 at a point in the parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, 200 yards or thereabouts southward of the Bridge carrying the Monkland Railways Company's Slamannan and Borrowstouness Railway over the Union Canal, and terminating by a Junction with the said Slamannan and Borrowstouness Railway at a point in the parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling sixty yards or thereabouts south-westward of Muiravonside Cottage, all in the said Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling. 5. A Railway commencing by a Junction with Railway No. 1, at a point in the Parish of Abercorn and County of Linlithgow, 300 yards or thereabouts, measuring in a northeasterly direction from the Farm Steading of Mannerston, and terminating by a Junction with the Charleston Branch of the North British Railway Company, at a point in the Parish of Dunfermline and County of Fife, 420 yards or thereabouts, measuring in an easterly direction from the Bridge on the Road between Crossford and Limekilns, called the "Coal Bridge," and which said intended railway will pass from, in, through, or into the Parishes and extra parochial, and other places following, or some, or one of them, that is to say, - Abercorn, Carriden, Borrowstouness, and the bed and soil of the Firth of Forth, in or near to the Parish of Carriden, in the County of Linlithgow, and Inverkeithing, Torryburn, and Dunfermline, and the bed and soil of the Firth of Forth, in or near to the parish of Torryburn, in the County of Fife, and the bed and soil of the Firth of Forth, situated between the said parishes of Carriden and Torryburn. C. A Railway commencing by a Junction with Railway No. 5, at a point in the Parish of Carriden and County of Linlithgow, 490 yards or thereabouts westward of the Farm Steading of Burnshot, and terminating by a Junction with Railway No. 1, at a point in the said Parish of Carriden and County of Linlithgow, 220 yards or thereabout eastward of the Farm Steading of Champany, and which said intended Railway will be situate in the Parishes of Carriden and Abercorn, and County of Linlithgow, or one of them. 7. A Railway commencing by a Junction with Railway No. 5 at or near the point of commencement of Railway No. 6, in the Parish of Carriden and County of Linlithgow, and terminating at a point in the Parish of Bothkennar, and County of Stirling, at or upon the South Quay or Wharf of the Grangemouth Docks, measuring 310 yards or thereabouts north-eastward of the existing Grangemouth Railway Station, and which said intended Railway will be situate within the parishes of

Carriden, Borrowstouness, Polmont, Falkirk, and Bothkennar, or some or one of them, in the Counties of Linlithgow and Stirling, or one of them. 8. A Railway commencing by a Junction with Railway No. 1, at a point in the Parish of Dalmeny, and County of Linlithgow, 370 yards or thereabouts measuring in a northeasterly direction from the farm buildings of Wheatlands, and terminating by a Junction with the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company's authorised branch to South Queensferry, at a point in the said Parish of Dalmeny, 420 yards or thereabouts measuring in a northerly direction from the point on the road leading between Wester and Easter Carlowrie, where such road is authorised to be crossed by the said branch to South Queensferry, and which said intended Railway will pass from, in, through, or into the Parishes following, or some or one of them; that is to say, - Kirkliston and Dalmeny, all in the County of Linlithgow. And Notice is Hereby also Given, That power will be taken by the said Bill to the Company for the following among other purposes: -To deviate in constructing the said intended Railways and Works from the line or lines and levels delineated on the Plans and Sections to be deposited as aftermentioned, to such extent as will be defined on the said plans and sections, and be provided by the said Bill. To cross, alter, divert, and stop up, and to alter the lines, levels, and inclinations of such highways, turnpike, and other roads, railways, streets, paths, passages, rivers, canals, navigations, brooks, streams, firths or estuaries, sewers, waters, water-courses, gas and water pipes, and other works as may be necessary or expedient, for the purpose of making, maintaining-, and working the said Railways and Works, or any part thereof. To acquire by compulsory purchase, or otherwise, all such lands, houses, and other heritages, and property within the several Parishes, Burghs, Towns, and other places aforesaid, or some of them, as may be necessary for the purposes of the said Railways and Works, and to authorise and empower all owners of land, whether persons or corporations, or others holding under entail or other legal disability to convey, to sell or convey their lands and heritages, or any part thereof necessary for the purposes aforesaid, to the said intended Company, or for such annual feu-duty, ground-annual, or rent-charge, or for such consideration in shares, mortgages, or bonds of the said proposed Company as may be fixed or agreed on as the value of such lands and heritages, and to provide that such feu-duty, ground-annual, or rent-charge shall form a preferable lien and burden on the revenues and property of the said intended Company. To vary or extinguish all existing rights and privileges connected with the lands, houses, and other heritages, so to be acquired, and all other rights and privileges which would in any manner impede or interfere with the construction, maintenance, or use of the said Railways and Works, and to confer other rights and privileges in relation to all the matters aforesaid. To levy tolls, rates, and duties on and for the use of the said intended Railways and Works, and for the conveyance of passengers, goods, and other things thereon, and to confer certain exemptions from payment of such tolls, rates, and duties, and certain other rights and privileges in relation thereto. To empower the North British Railway Company to maintain and manage the said proposed Railways and Works, or some of them, or some parts thereof, and to work the traffic thereon, and provide the necessary plant therefore, and to fix, collect, and apportion the tolls, rates, and charges to be levied in respect of such traffic, and to provide for the appointment of a Joint Committee of the Company; and the North British Railway Company, with all usual and necessary powers for the regulation, management, and control of the said proposed Railways and Works, or some of them, or some parts thereof, and of the traffic thereon, as also to empower the said North British Railway Company, and the Company to enter into agreements with each other in relation to the aforesaid matters, or any of them, or otherwise in relation thereto, and to confirm any agreements between the Company and the North British Railway Company, with reference to any such matters as aforesaid.

Dunfermline Press Wednesday 18th Dunfermline Saturday Press 21st November 1863
 COURT OF SESSION - FIRST DIVISION.
 EXTRAORDINARY AFFILIATION CASE.

Margaret Robertson, Hillhead, Parish of Muiravonside, v. James Cowie, Airdrie. This was an action of affiliation. The pursuer was thirty-two years of age, and the defender at the time he was said to have been father of the child was thirteen years of age. He was in the house along with the pursuer, as he was learning to be a farmer with her brother, to whom the house belonged, the pursuer being the housekeeper. The pursuer in her evidence said she only allowed the defender to use liberties with her because he said to her if she fell with child he would marry her, and after that she allowed him to do as he pleased. The defender denied that he ever had any criminal intercourse with her. The Sheriff-Substitute of Airdrie found the defender liable to the pursuer as the father of the child. The Sheriff Principal altered that interlocutor, and found that the pursuer had not proved that the defender was the father of her child. He said the pursuer being a woman of thirty two years of age, and the defender only a lad of thirteen, was evidently the seducer and he the seduced; but, apart from the pursuer's own testimony, there was no evidence any weight against the defender. He therefore found that she had failed to establish that he was the father of the child, and absolved him from the conclusions of the action.

Stirling Observer Thursday 3rd 10th December 1863

ASSESSED TAXES, 1863-64. APPEAL COURTS - COUNTY OF STIRLING. THE COMMISSIONERS OF SUPPLY for the several Districts of the County of Stirling, will MEET, on the Days and at the Places undermentioned, to hear and determine Appeals against charges made by the Surveyor for the current year :-
 For the Burgh and Parish of Falkirk - and for the Parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan - in the RED LION HOTEL, Falkirk, on WEDNESDAY the 16th day of December current, at Twelve o'Clock Noon.

Stirling Observer Thursday 17th December 1863

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SPURS TO REFLECTION.
 The Registrar-General's report on the Births, Deaths' and Marriages during the quarter ending 30th September, 1863, showed that over the whole of Scotland the births were in the annual proportion of 1 in every 29 of the population, the illegitimate births being as 1 in every 10 births; the deaths, 1 in every 17; and the marriages, 1 in every 159. It may interest our readers if we now give the results of these tables as regards every separate parish in the Stirling district.
 In Stirling during the quarter 1 in every 9 births illegitimate; the deaths in the annual proportion of 1 in every 37; and the marriages in the annual proportion of 1 in every 92.
 Falkirk, (burgh and landward,) 1 in every 13 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 52; marriages 1 in every 101.
 Alloa, 1 in every 26 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 37; marriages 1 in every 184.
 Campsie, 1 in every 11 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 43; marriages 1 in every 231.
 St. Ninians, (including Bannockburn,) 1 in every 8 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 49; marriages 1 in every 151.
 Kilsyth, 1 in every 11 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 40; marriages 1 in every 127.
 Tillicoultry, 1 in every 4 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 21; marriages 1 in every 126.
 Denny, 1 in every 24 births illegitimate ; deaths 1 in every 36; marriages 1 in every 156.
 Kirkintilloch, 1 in every 12 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 34; marriages 1 in every 136.
 Larbert, 1 in every 13 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 45 ; marriages 1 in every 178.
 Clackmannan, 1 in every 18 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 21; marriages 1 in every 368.
 Auchterarder, 1 in every 3 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 53; marriages 1 in every 210.
 Crieff, 1 in every 4 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 45; marriages 1 in every 280.
 Polmont - curiously enough, there are no births, deaths or marriages in this parish during the quarter. Alva, 1 in every 9 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 45; marriages 1 in every 410.
 Kimadock, 1 in every 6 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 103; marriages 1 in every 276.
 Dunblane, 1 in every 5 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 129; marriages 1 in every 193.
 Logie, 1 in every 7 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 54; marriages 1 in every 435.

Muiravonside, 1 in every 25 births illegitimate ; deaths 1 in every 66; marriages 1 in every 95.
 Blackford, 1 in every 3 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 40; marriages 1 in every 521.
 Callander, 1 in every 3 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 38; marriages 1 in every 419.
 Kincardine, no illegitimate births; deaths 1 in every 49; marriages 1 in every 592.
 Lecropt, no illegitimate births ; deaths 1 in every 29; marriages 1 in every 132.
 Aberfoyle, no illegitimate births; deaths 1 in every 282; marriages 1 in every 282.
 Port of Monteith, no illegitimate births ; deaths 1 in every 68; marriages 1 in every 343.
 Dollar, 1 in every 8 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 41; marriages 1 in every 222.
 Airth, no illegitimate births; deaths 1 in every 25; marriages 1 in every 99.
 Baldernock, 1 birth, and that one illegitimate ; deaths 1 in every 44 ; marriages 1 in every 90.
 Balfron, 1 in every 5 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 63; marriages, 1 in every 250.
 Bothkennar, 1 in every 23 births illegitimate; deaths, 1 in every 108; marriages 1 in every 430.
 Buchanan, no illegitimate births; deaths 1 in every 33; marriages 1 in every 352.
 Drymen, 1 in every 6 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 40; marriages 1 in every 401.
 Dunipace, no illegitimate births; deaths 1 in every 18; marriages 1 in every 72.
 Fintry, no illegitimate births; deaths 1 in every 57; marriages 1 in every 85.
 Gargunnoch, no illegitimate births; deaths 1 in every 182; marriages 1 in every 364.
 Killearn, no illegitimate births; deaths 1 in every 42; marriages 1 in every 580.
 Kippen, 1 in every 6 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 61; marriages 1 in every 143.
 Slamannan, 1 in every 12 births illegitimate; deaths 1 in every 38; marriages 1 in every 145.
 Strathblane, 1 in every 7 births illegitimate ; deaths 1 in every 173; marriages 1 in every 694.
 This summary shows some very extraordinary results, particularly as regards the state of morality in the district; and that our readers may see and judge for themselves at a glance, we reiterate its results in a tabular form. During the quarter ending 30th September, the illegitimate births have been, in –

In the ratio 1 in every	In of the ratio of 1 in every
Aberfoyle	Fintry
Airth	Gargunnoch
Alloa 26	Killearn
Alva , 9	Kilmadock 6
Auchterarder 3	Kilsyth 11
Baldernock 1	Kincardine
Balfron 5	Kippen 6
Blackford 3	Kirkintilloch 12
Bothkennar 23	Larbert 13
Buchanan	Lecropt
Callander 3	Logie 7
Campsie 11	Muiravonside 25
Clackmannan 18	Polmont
Crieff 4	Port of Monteith
Denny 21	Slamannan 12
Dollar 8	St Ninians 8
Drymen 6	Stirling 9
Dunblane 5	Strathblane 7
Dunipace	Tillicoultry 1
Falkirk 13	

Correspondents residing on the spot would greatly favour us if they could throw any light on the puzzling state of things indicated in the above table. How does it come that in Alloa only 1 in every 26 births are illegitimate, and in the neighbouring parish of Tillicoultry it is 1 in every 4, and in Alva 1 in every 9 ? Is the manufacture of ale more conducive to virtue, than the manufacture of shawls ? What peculiar and unfortunate cause is at work in the Western District of Perthshire, to raise the parishes therein to an almost uniform illegitimate notoriety - Callander in every 3; Auchterarder ditto; Crieff ditto; Dunblane 1 in every 5, and Doune 1 in every 6. The inhabitants of these parishes are, generally speaking, engaged in agricultural pursuits; at least contrasted with mining and manufacturing places like Campsie, Kirkintilloch, Kilsyth and Denny, they are as the parish of Fintry to the town of Glasgow. And yet the four last-named parishes are twice as virtuous, though they contain a larger proportion of what is ignorant and loose in human nature. Is there anything in the air, whisky, or water, which can possibly explain away the low state of morality which seemingly prevails between this and Perth, and the comparatively high ditto between this and Glasgow. Then, again, travelling westwards, we find Drymen, Kippen, and Balfron, about a par of wickedness, and the contiguous parishes of Killearn, Fintry, Gargunnoch, Kincardine, and Port of Monteith, paragons of innocence and morality. But to come still nearer home, how does it come that Bannockburn and St Ninians are worse than Stirling, and Stirling very much worse than Falkirk ?

Stirling Observer Thursday 24th December 1863

PROPERTY AND INCOME-TAX, 1863-64.

COUNTIES OF STIRLING, LINLITHGOW, Sc CLACKMANNAN.

THE COLLECTOR respectfully intimates to parties charged under the PROPERTY and INCOME TAX ACTS, that he will be at the undermentioned places, to receive Payment, on the days and hours specified; and as he will only have Receipts with him, applicable to the different Districts, parties are requested to attend at the places mentioned, and bring their Printed Notices with them: -

POLMONT –

Within Maxwell's Inn, upon Wednesday the 13th January next, from 9.30 a.m. to 12 Noon, for the Parishes of POLMONT and MUIRAVONSIDE.

1864

Stirling Observer Thursday 7th January 1864

PROPERTY AND INCOME-TAX, 1863-64.

COUNTIES OF STIRLING, LINLITHGOW, & CLACKMANNAN.

THE COLLECTOR respectfully intimates to parties charged under the PROPERTY and INCOME TAX ACTS, that he will be at the undermentioned places, to receive Payment, on the days and hours specified; and as he will only have Receipts with him, applicable to the different Districts, parties are requested to attend at the places mentioned, and bring their Printed Notices with them: -

POLMONT –

Within Maxwell's Inn, upon Wednesday the 13th January next, from 9.30 a.m. to 12 Noon, for the Parishes of POLMONT and MUIRAVONSIDE.

Glasgow Herald Monday 25th ;Caledonian Mercury Wednesday 27th; Stirling Observer Thursday 28th January 1864

MARRIAGES. At Auchengain, on the 22nd instant, by the Rev. William Begg, Mr. John Robertson, farmer, Avonbridge, to Janet, daughter of Mr. Thomas Johnston, farmer, Auchengain.

Glasgow Herald Saturday 20th January 1864

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS, (From the Edinburgh Gazette of Yesterday.)

APPLICATION FOR CESSIO BONORUM.

Robert Aitken, sometime spirit-dealer, Kelvinhead, near Kilsyth, now labourer or mineral borer, Avonbridge, and presently prisoner in the prison at Stirling.

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th 25th February 3 rd March 1864

MUIRAYONSIDE GRASS PARKS,
SATURDAY, 5th MARCH.

To be Let, by Public Roup, on SATURDAY the 5th March, 1864, THE GRASS PARKS on the Estate of MUIRAYONSIDE, comprising ELEVEN ENCLOSURES, to be Let for Sheep, Cattle, and Horses, as formerly. Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie at One o'Clock Afternoon, and to finish with the Parks at Seatrees, &c.
JAMES NEILSON. Auctioneer.

Dundee Advertiser Saturday 5th March 1864

FALKIRK.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Wednesday the 24th ult, a young boy, named David Smart, residing Redding Muir, about three miles from Falkirk, met with an accident which terminated fatally on Monday morning last. The deceased had accompanied his sister to the smithy at No. 5 Pit, and while returning home with their father's picks, which were at the blacksmith's for being sharpened, the poor lad stumbled and fell over a pin which was projecting above the old wagon road, on which he was travelling. The consequence was that one of the points of the pick which the boy was carrying penetrated his windpipe, injuring him fatally. The unfortunate lad was seven years of age.

Dundee Advertiser Saturday 5th Belfast News-letter Monday 7th March 1864

MARCH FAIR.

This annual fair for cattle and horses was held Thursday, at Callander Riggs. There was an unusually large attendance of dealers and farmers. Numerically the show stock was about an average, but the quality all kinds was indifferent. Business opened stiff, and continued so throughout. Prices were nominally unchanged, though practically weaker in some cases. Mr. Duncan, cattle-dealer, Newton of Falkland, Fifeshire, bought a lot of milch cows at an average of £12 a-piece. Mr. William Brock, Denny, sold his milch cows at from £10 to £13. Mr. Rennie, Bonnyfield, sold his milch cows at from £11 to £12, Mr. Gentleman, Avonbridge, sold a lot of grass beasts at from £4 to £6 13s. Mr. John Goodwin, Peathill, sold milch cows at from £10 to £12, and one — a neat little beast—at £16. Mr. Andrew Liddell, Denny, sold his milch cows at from £11 to £13. Mr. Aitken, sold milch cows at from £10 to £12, Mr. Andrew Liddell, Denny, sold his milch cows at from £11 to £13. Mr. Aitken, Fogger Mountain, Linlithgow, sold his milch cows at from £9 to £11 and £13, calving cows at £8, and grass beasts at £5 a head. One lot of one-year-old Highlanders fetched £5 a-piece. The horse market was dull.

Stirling Observer 24th March 1864

SHERIFF PLEADING- DIET.

On Friday, before Sheriff Robertson, the following cases were brought at the instance of John Gair, Esq., Procurator Fiscal, Falkirk: -Andrew Jolmie, was charged with theft and previous conviction, in so far as on the night of the 25th, or morning of the 26th December, 1863, he stole from a gatekeeper's lodge, on the Slamannan and Bo'ness Railway, at Blackston Junction, the following articles, the property of Matthew Russel, or Magaret Shanks or Russel his wife :- A pair of sheets, fine pillow-slips, a linen shirt, two pair of stockings, cotton screen, a quilt, a bedcover, a tin-pitcher, two pinafores, two child's bibs, and a harn bag; as also two pairs of stockings, two pair scissors, a crotchet collar, cap or "mutch," a wincie frock, a pair of stockings, a shift, a handkerchief, and two short-gowns. Also on the night of the 14th January, 1864, at a mineral bore on the farm of Candie, occupied by Robert Mirke, farmer, he opened a lock-fast chest, and stole an oil can, a saw, a hammer, and axe, the property of William Bell, mineral borer, Avonbridge; also, from the hedge adjoining the farm of Mainsland, on the 20th January, 1864, he stole a pair of blankets, the property of James Taylor, He pled not guilty, and was adjourned to Friday next

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 20th April 1864

GRASS PARKS &c to Let

TO BE LET, the GRAZING on the FARM of HEIGHTS, near Avonbridge. The Grazing over the whole of this Farm, extending to about 200 Acres, exclusive of the Moss Ground, is to be Let for the Pasturage of either Cattle or Horses, from 2nd of May to the 11th Nov. next. James Black, Gamekeeper, Tannoch, near Heights, will point out the Boundaries; and Offers will be received either by G. Fyffe Christie, Writer, 62 George Square, Glasgow, or H. Robertson, Factor, at Drumpellier, by Coatbridge, up to 26th Inst.
Drumpellier, 12th April, 1864.

Glasgow Herald Tuesday 26th Stirling Observer Thursday 28th April 1864

FALKIRK

FATAL ACCIDENT, -

A young man 17 years of age, named Robert Wilson, son of David Wilson, farmer, Glenside, near Muiravonside, was accidentally killed on the Blackbraes Railway, about five miles from Falkirk, on Thursday evening, while attempting to jump on to a train while in motion. It would appear that after he had run a short distance alongside of the trucks he leapt up on one of them, but missed his hold, and fell upon the rails, when one of his feet was severed from his body, and a hurled to a considerable distance. He was also so severely injured in the abdomen that his bowels protruded, and he died in ten minutes after the accident in the arms of the engine-driver, who had stopped the train and gone to his assistance.

Newcastle Journal Monday 23rd May, Fife Herald Thursday 26th May, Newcastle Courant Friday 27th May 1864

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS. (From the Edinburgh Gazette of Friday, May 20.)

WM. ANDERSON, Craighbank, near Avonbridge, county of Stirling builder.

Dundee Courier Monday 23rd May 1864

William Anderson, builders: Craighbank, near Avonbridge, in parish and county Stirling — Creditors meet in Red Lion, Falkirk ..., 31st May at two o'clock.

Dundee Advertiser Monday 23rd May 1864

MAY FAIR.—

The annual Falkirk May Fair for the sale of cattle and horses was held on Thursday at Callender Riggs. The display of stock was about an average, and there was a numerous attendance of buyers and dealers. Business opened languid, and continued so throughout the day; but prices for all kinds were pretty well maintained. Altogether, the market was regarded as a low dear-selling one; and at the close a number of animals remained unsold. The following are the principal quotations Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge, sold a lot of grass beasts at £10 a-head to Mr. Jones, flesher, Falkirk. Mr. John Goodwin, Peathill, Denny, sold his milk cows at from £12 to £18. Mr. David Nicoll, livestock agent, Falkirk, bought a lot of grass beasts at from £7 to £9, and milk cows at from £12 to £14. Mr. William Brisk, Denny, sold his calving queys at from £10 £12 12s, and grass beasts at £7 5s. Mr. Petter Scott, Yetts-o'-Muckhart, bought calving cows at from £12 to £15. Mr. William Duncan, Fife, bought a lot milch cows, selected from the general stock, at £14 on the average. Mr. David Duncan, Falkland, bought a lot year-old stots at £1 5s a-piece, and a lot of calving beasts at from £10 to £10 10s. Mr. James Graham, Myothill, Denny, sold a lot of two-year-old stots at £8 15s; a lot ditto at £7 10s; a lot of two-year-old queys at from £7 10s to £8; and milch cows at from £9 to £14 10s. Mr.

Andrew Liddell, Denny, showed a capital lot of milch cows, and sold at from £12 to £16. He refused £36 for pair of three year-old queys. There was a good show of horses, but the market was dull, and no sales effected of any importance. A show of stallions in connection with the fair took place at two o'clock, when number of splendid animals were exhibited.

Perry's Bankrupt Gazette Saturday 28th May 1864

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS. - May 20, 1864. ANDERSON William, builder, Craighbank, near Avonbridge, in Slamannan: 31st May 2, Red Lion hotel, Falkirk. Claims Sept. 20

Glasgow Herald Tuesday 7th, Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 9th June 1864

MARRIAGES

June 2, St. James's, Piccadilly, by the Hon. and Rev. John Sandilands, Captain and Brevet-Major William Stirling, R.A., third son of Charles Stirling, Esq., of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, to Anne Douglas Stirling, daughter of the late Sylvester Douglas Stirling, Esq., of Glenbervie, Stirlingshire.

Stirling Observer Thursday 16th June 1864

FAIR.

LINLITHGOW JUNE FAIR.

Friday, June 10. This fair was held to-day on the usual stance at the west end of the burgh. The stock brought forward consisted of Ayrshire milch cows, grazing beasts of different breeds, and a few young bulls. The show was about an average of the corresponding markets last year, and so was the quality of all kinds. There was a want of buyers, and sales were dull. In point of fact, the market was bad one for sellers, and at the close a great many animals remained unsold. The prices of all descriptions of stock were a shade less than those current at recent markets. The following may be accepted as the general prices of the day:- The best, milch cows from £12 to £16; secondary kinds from £6 to £11 10s; two-year old Ayrshire grass beasts at from £7 10s to £8 10s; and yearlings at from £5 10s to £6 10s; and Irish year olds at from £4 10s to £5. We subjoin few of the chief transactions :- Cattle. Mr William Duncan, Falkland, Fife, bought a lot of calving cows at £12 a piece, and lot of stirks for grazing purposes at £6. Mr Gentleman, Avonbridge, near Linlithgow, sold his calving cows at from £16 downwards, and grass beasts at £11. Mr Gentleman bought milch cows at £17 to £18. Mr Andrew Liddell, Denny, showed a large lot of milch cows, and sold at from £12 to £16. Mr Arkley, Kingsfield, sold his calving queys at £8 10s., and queys for grazing at £7 2s 6d. Mr Peter Scott, Yetts o' Muckhart, bought lot of one and two year old grazing beasts from £7 to £9; a lot of Irish calves at £4 10s; and a lot of milch cows at from £10 to £12. Mr Henry Aitken, Linlithgow, sold his milch cows from £13 to £15; and a two-year old bull at £7. Mr James Graham, Mythoill, sold a large lot of grazing two-year-olds at £6 10s; a lot of milch cows at £10 10s; and a pair of two-year-old Ayrshire bulls at £7 a piece. - Horse Market.-There were not many horses shown and no sales of any importance were made. Mr Miller, Linlithgow, had the largest stud, and found a very dull market.

Stirling Observer Thursday 23rd June 1864

MARRIAGES

WALKER - MORRISON. - At Boxton, Muiravonside, on the 17th inst., by the Rev. Wm. Tullo, George Walker Panston Green, to Miss Jean Morrison, daughter of Mr. James Morrison, farmer, Boxton.

Glasgow Herald Monday 27th June, 8th 11th July, 30th August, 27th September 1864

DESIRABLE ESTATE AND RESIDENCE IN THE FAVOURITE AND FERTILE COUNTY OF STIRLING,

FOR SALE. UPSET PRICE, £20, 00.

To be Sold, by Public Roup, at Dowell's, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 27th July next, at Two o'clock, unless previously disposed of by private bargain, THE ESTATE of CRAIGEND, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling. This Property is judiciously subdivided and tastefully intersected by thriving Plantations. The Arable Lauds are nearly all Drained, and except such as are occupied by the Proprietor, are Let to substantial and enterprising Tenants. The House is surrounded by fine Timber, with beautiful Shrubberies; has an approach of nearly a mile in length, with Porter's Lodge and Gate; and Is situated about two miles distant from the Polmont Station of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, and situated about four miles from Linlithgow and Falkirk. The Game has been strictly preserved, is abundant, and the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Foxhounds hunt the district, If desired, the Mineral on a considerable portion of the Estate can be had. The Public Burdens are very moderate.

For particulars, apply to Messrs. Gibson-Craig, Dalziel & Brodies, W.S., Edinburgh; Messrs. Russel & Aithen, Writers, Falkirk; or to the Proprietor, at Craigend House.

Glasgow Herald Monday 27th June 1864

LINLITHGOWSHIRE.

SALE OF MILLS, MILL LANDS, HOUSES, AND VALUABLE WATER-POWER, NEAR LINLITHGOW BRIDGE,

To be Sold, by Public Roup, within Cay & Black's Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh, upon Wednesday the 13th day of July, 1864, at Two o'clock Afternoon, in virtue of the Powers contained In a Bond and Disposition in Security, ALL and WHOLE the MILLS and MILL LANDS of LINLITHGOW, DWELLING HOUSE, STABLE, and GRANARIES connected therewith, and the astricted MULTURES and PERTINENTS of the same, situated upon the River Avon, near the Village of Linlithgow Bridge, and about a mile to the west of the Town of Linlithgow, all a presently tenanted by Mr. John Braes, The Mills consist of Corn, Barley, Flour, and Malt Mills,- and they are driven by Water-power, of which there it an abundant supply. A Steam-Engine of Ten Horse-power, which has been little used, was erected some years ago, and will be Sold along with the Mills. The Mills being within a mile of the County Town of Linlithgow, and about the same distance from the Station of the Monklands Railway at Causeswayend, are most eligibly situated for carrying on a very extensive Trade; and as the Water- power from the River Avon is constant and valuable, it might be applied to more extensive works, erected either in connection with the Mills or as a separate establishment, For particulars, apply to Mr. John Walker, W.S., 2 Queen Street, Edinburgh; or to Messrs. Glen & Henderson, Writers, Linlithgow,

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th August 1864

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That in terms of the 8th Section the Act 24 and 25 Victoria, Caput 83, LISTS of PERSONS entered in the REGISTER of VOTERS for the COUNTY of STIRLING who have Died or become Disqualified, and of Persons who have become entitled to VOTE in the ELECTION of MEMBER of PARLIAMENT for the said COUNTY, have been prepared; and that Copies of such Lists will be open to the inspection of all Persons, without payment of any fee, at the Office of the Assessor, 12, Murray Place, Stirling, between the hours of Ten o'Clock in the Morning and Four o'Clock the Afternoon of each day, except Sunday, from the 15th to the 25th days of August current, both inclusive. Persons qualified to Vote, whose names have been erroneously struck out or omitted from the said Lists, may lodge claims with the Assessor on or before the 25th instant. Persons whose names are entered on the Register of Voters may object to the name of any other Person being entered

or remaining on the said Register, provided notice of such objection be given to the Assessor, and person objected to, on or before the 25th instant.
WILLIAM VOST,
Assessor of the County. 12, Murray Place, Stirling,
11th August, 1864.

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th 25th August 1864
COUNTY OF STIRLING.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS' COURTS.
INTIMATION IS HEREBY MADE, that the SHERIFF of the COUNTY of STIRLING has given notice, in terms of the Acts 2d and 3d William IV., chap. 65, 19th and 20th Victoria, chap. 58, and 24th and 25th Victoria, chap. 83, that on the days, and at the places after specified, he will hold Open Courts, for the purpose of REVISING and CORRECTING the REGISTER of VOTERS for the COUNTY of STIRLING, and deciding the merits of all Claims for Registration, within the same, Objections to these Claims, and Objections to Persons continuing on the Roll of Voters, viz. :-
for the Parishes of FALKIRK - So far as not comprehended in the Burgh of Falkirk.
AIRTH, LARBERT, BOTHKENNAR, POLMONT, MUIRAVONSIDE, and SLAMANAN.
THOMAS L. GALBRAITH, Sheriff-Clerk.
Sheriff-Clerk's Office, Stirling, 16th August, 1864.

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th August 1864
HAY AND POTATOES, AT GREENWELLS,
MONDAY, 22d August.
TO be Sold, Public Roup, on MONDAY the 22d day August, 1864, on the Farm of possessed William Neilson,
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED STONES OF RYEGRASS AND CLOVER HAY 17 Ricks;
THREE ACRES POTATOES.
The usual Credit.
Roup to begin with the Hay Five o'Clock, and with the Potatoes at Half-past Five,
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Caledonian Mercury, Glasgow Herald Tuesday 9th London Standard, Dundee Courier, Wednesday 10th Western Daily Press, Birmingham Daily Press, Thursday 11th Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Dundee Perth and Cupar Advertiser, Friday 12th Leamington Spa Courier, Bristol Mercury, Saturday 13th August 1864
SERIOUS AND FATAL COLLISION ON THE MONKLANDS RAILWAY.
A serious and fatal collision occurred on Friday night on the Bo'ness' branch of the Monklands Railway, by which one man lost his life and six others sustained injuries of greater or less severity. The accident, occurred at Binniehill Colliery, about half a mile from Slamannan, and the circumstances which gave rise to it are as follows:- about ten o'clock in the evening in question the driver of an engine, -which was in at Kipps for repairs, received orders to proceed to Avonbridge to lift loaded waggons and carry them through to Bathgate. The driver, whose name is Robert Stirling, having been officially informed that the line- which is a single one - was all clear, at once proceeded to carry out his instructions. Contemporaneous with the dispatch of this engine it would appear that another was under orders to proceed from Borrowstouness to Binniehill Colliery, which, we believe, is about midway between the two starting places, which are clearly the opposite extremes of the line. Neither of the engines, it is reported, carried lamps, though the night was dark and telegraphic communication suspended through the offices being closed. The consequence was that both engines were approaching close quarters before either was descried by the men in charge, and a frightful collision occurred near the place already indicated. The effects of the concussion, though most severe and alarming, was in a measure neutralised by the immediate application of the brakes on the engines coming in sight. As it happened one man was sacrificed, and nine others placed in extreme peril. Six of these however, received injuries more or less of a severe character. It is a remarkable fact that the man who lost his life and those wounded all occupied places on the engine which was going from Kipps to Avonbridge. Nine of the men in the engine conveying the waggons from Bo'ness to Binniehill were not hurt in any way, a circumstance which is no doubt to be attributed to the fact that the effect of the shock was deadened by the weight of the waggons behind. One of the trucks was completely destroyed, and the engines were damaged to the extent of £300. The name of the man who was fatally injured was James Moffat, line inspector, aged forty years. Mr. Moffat was badly scalded in addition to sustaining other injuries, and died on Saturday evening. The following are the names of the other six men who were injured:- Robert Stirling, engine- driver, bruised on right shoulder and right thigh; Joseph Ramsay, fireman, Bo'ness, severe shock' to whole body; Robert Robertson; James Crossley, - Brownrigg, badly scalded on thighs and legs; Hugh McManus, labourer, Brownrigg, cut on right side of head; and Edward Cassidy, bruised on right knee and left ankle.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 17th August 1864
THE HOME FARM OF PARKHALL TO LET,
As at Martinmas, 1864.

THE HOME FARM and LANDS of PARKHALL, in the Parish of Muiravonside, and Shire of Stirling extending to 145 Acres, or thereby. The Farm lies within about 4 1/2 miles from Falkirk, 3 1/2 from Linlithgow, and 1 1/2 from Polmont Station on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, is of good quality and capable of bearing all kinds of crops. The Union Canal bounds the Farm, and is convenient for bringing forward manure. The Farm will be Let for 19 Years, or such other period as may be agreed on. The present Tenant does not offer.
For particulars, apply to the Proprietor, T. Livingstone Learmonth, Esq. of Parkhall.; or to Russel & Aiken, Writers, Falkirk, with either of whom Offers may be lodged up to 31st August next.
Falkirk, 7th July, 1864.

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th August 1864
GROWING CROP, LINT, HAY, DRAUGHT HORSES, &c
On the FARMS of MANUELIRIGG & CRAIGEND, TUESDAY, 23d AUGUST.
Sold, by Public Roup, on TUESDAY the 23d August, 1864, on the Farms of Manuelirigg and Craigend, in the Parish of Muiravonside, belonging to J. L. Learmonth M'Kenzie, Esquire, THE Whole GROWING CROPS, HAY, and HORSES, on the above Farms, comprising -
65 Acres of OATS,
10 Acres of BARLEY,
2 Acres of BEANS,
11 Acres of LINT,
3 Acres of POTATOES,
6 Ricks RYEGRASS HAY,
1 Five-year-old BAY DRAUGHT HORSE,
1 Five-year-old DARK CHESNUT MARE,
Four-year-old BROWN DRAUGHT HORSE, and GREY DRAUGHT HORSE, rising Four years old.
The Crops are very Excellent, and the Horses are First-class, and True-drawing.
Four Months' Credit on Bills, or Discount for Cash.
Roup to begin with the Crop at Manuelirigg at Eleven o'Clock.
JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th August 1864

County Voters. The following list of the voters for 1863-1864, from which it will be seen that there is decrease of 21:

Falkirk District.

	1864	1863
Falkirk,	200	202
Airth,	49	49
Larbert,	72	73
Bothkennar	34	32
Muiravonside,	66	69
Polmont,	74	70
Slamannan,	87	84

Stirling Observer Thursday 25th August, 1st September 1864

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

VALUATION OF LANDS AND HERITAGES, Statute 17 & 18 Vic, Cap. 91.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the COMMISSIONERS OF SUPPLY of the COUNTY OF STIRLING will hold COURT, upon the days, and at the places under-mentioned, for the purpose of hearing APPEALS against the Valuations made by the Assessor for the current year under the abovementioned Statute, viz. :-

At FALKIRK, upon THURSDAY the 15th day of September next, within the Court-House there, Half-past 12 o'Clock Afternoon, for Appeals from the Parishes of

AIRTH,

BOTHKENNAR,

FALKIRK,

MUIRAVONSIDE,

POLMONT,

SLAMANNAN.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, That to entitle Parties to be heard on Appeal, Notice in Writing must be given to the Assessor at least Six Days prior to the aforesaid 14th and 15th days of September, that the Appellant intends to maintain his Appeal, and the amount of Valuation which alleges should be substituted for the amount stated by the Assessor must be specified in said Notice.

By order of the Convener,

ROB. CAMPBELL, Clerk of Supply.

Stirling, 24th August, 1864.

Glasgow Herald Friday 26th August 1864

DEATHS.

At Redford, Muiravonside on the 23d instant, John Graham, Esq. of Redford.-Friends are requested to accept of this intimation.

Morning Post Monday 5th, Glasgow Herald Tuesday 6th, Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 8th, Hampshire Telegraph Saturday 10th September 1864

At St. Jude's, Southsea, on the 1st instant, by the Rev. Robert Wedgwood, rector of Dumbleton, Gloucestershire, assisted by the Rev. T. B. Brownrigg, incumbent of the district, Andrew, eldest son of Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, to Georgina Louisa, second daughter of the late Sir Henry Martin Blackwood, Bart.

Glasgow Herald Thursday 6th October 1864

MARRIAGES

At Parkhall, Muiravonside, on the 5th instant, by the Rev. James M'Farlane, Andrew Brown, draper, Linlithgow, to Jessie, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry Mungall, farmer.

Glasgow Herald Thursday 19th October, Dundee Courier, Stirling Observer, Thursday 20 October 1864

MARRIAGES

At Avonside Cottage, Muiravonside, on the 18th inst, by the Rev. Don. McLeod, Robert Spence, Esq., M.D., Linlithgow, to Christina Miller, eldest daughter of John Wilson, Esq., Almond Ironworks .

Stirling Observer, Thursday 27th October, 3rd 10th November 1864

STIRLINGSHIRE.

TO LET, For such a term of Years may agreed on, with Entry at Martinmas first, 1864, THE FARM BOXTON, with the TWO PARKS at BOXTON-RIG-HEAD, all situated in the Parish of Muiravonside, and lately possessed by the late William Salmond, and now by his son.

For particulars, apply to Trail & Murray, W.S., 7, Melville Street, Edinburgh.

Stirling Observer Thursday 17th 24th November 1st 8th 15th 22nd December 1864

ASSESSED TAXES, 1864-65. APPEAL COURTS-COUNTY OF STIRLING.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF SUPPLY for the several DISTRICTS of the COUNTY of STIRLING will MEET, on the Days and at the Places undermentioned, to hear and determine Appeals against Charges made by the Surveyor for the current year. :-

PARISH of FALKIRK - and for the Parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan - in the Red Lion Hotel, Falkirk, on THURSDAY the 22d day of December proximo, at Twelve o'Clock Noon.

JAS. CHRYSTAL,

Clerk to the Commissioners.

Stirling, 16th November, 1864.

London Daily News Saturday 19th November 1864

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.- The following gentlemen having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 18th inst., viz. :- (Among others) John Moorehead McFarlan, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire.

Stirling Observer Thursday 22nd 29th December 1864

FAT CATTLE, FAT SHEEP, AND MILCH COWS,

AT THE CROWN INN, FALKIRK,

THURSDAY, 29th DECEMBER.

MR. JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he will Sell by public Roup, at the Crown Inn, Falkirk, on THURSDAY the 29th December, 1864.

8 Fat Shetland and Cross-bred CATTLE, from the feeding Byres of Muiravonside, of First Quality.

Also at the same time will be Sold 20 Fat SHEEP, and 10 Pure-bred Ayrshire MILCH COWS, recently calved, or near the Calving.

THE USUAL CREDIT.

Roup to begin at One o'Clock precisely.

Stirling Observer Thursday 29th December 1864

PROPERTY AND INCOME-TAX. YEAR 1864-65. PARTIES CHARGED under the PROPERTY and INCOME -TAX ACTS for the current Year, will have an Opportunity of Paying their Assessments to the Collector, at the following Places, the Days and between the Hours mentioned, viz.:-

POLMONT - For the Parishes of POLMONT and MUIRAVONSIDE, within MAXWELL'S INN,

on SATURDAY the 14th January, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Railways.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY COMPANY.

IMPORTANT
TRAIN ALTERATIONS.

IMPROVED SERVICE
BETWEEN
GLASGOW AND HELENSBURGH,
AND
OPENING OF MANUEL STATION.
ON
1st JANUARY, 1865.

On the above date the present Arrangement of Trains between AIRDRIE, SLAMANNAN, BATHGATE, and BONESS will be superseded by the following, when also a New Station will be opened at MANUEL, and a

NEW TRAIN SERVICE
BETWEEN
BONESS, EDINBURGH, AND GLASGOW (Via MANUEL)
put in force as under:—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, AND SLAMANNAN, BONESS, &c.

Miles.	Stations.	Classes	1 3		1 3		1 3		1 3	
			A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
	Edinburgh ..	dep.	7 0	11 30	2 0	4 45	..	..	..	..
	Manuel ..	arr.	7 10	12 17	2 50	5 35	..	..	..	..
	Glasgow (Queen Street) ..	dep.	7 0	11 45	1 50	5 5	5 5	5 5	6 17	6 17
	Manuel ..	arr.	8 12	12 50	3 50	6 17	6 17	6 17	6 17	6 17
	Manuel ..	dep.	8 15	11 55	3 55	6 40	6 40	6 40	6 40	6 40
	Boness ..	arr.	8 25	1 5	3 15	6 50	6 50	6 50	6 50	6 50
	Boness ..	dep.	7 30	..	..	6 0	..	..	..	..
	Manuel ..	arr.	8 15	..	..	6 30	..	..	..	..
	Causewayend ..	arr.	8 18	..	..	6 23	..	..	..	..
	Bowhouse ..	arr.	8 24	..	..	6 29	..	..	..	..
	Blackston Junction ..	arr.	8 30	..	..	6 35	..	..	..	..
10	Westfield ..	arr.	8 36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	Bathgate ..	arr.	8 44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Do. ..	dep.	8 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Westfield ..	arr.	8 56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Blackston Junction ..	arr.	9 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Avonbridge ..	arr.	9 2	..	..	6 27	..	..	..	..
18	Slamannan ..	arr.	9 12	..	..	6 47	..	..	..	..
18	Longriggend ..	arr.	9 22	..	..	6 57	..	..	..	..
18	Whiterigg ..	arr.	9 30	..	..	7 5	..	..	..	..
18	Rawyards ..	arr.	9 35	..	..	7 10	..	..	..	..
20	Commonhead ..	arr.	9 40	..	..	7 15	..	..	..	..
20	Airdrie (Hallraig Stn) ..	arr.	9 45	..	..	7 20	..	..	..	..

BONESS, SLAMANNAN, AND EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, &c.

Miles.	Stations.	Classes	1 3		1 3		1 3		1 3	
			A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
	Airdrie (Hallraig Stn) ..	dep.	6 35	..	..	4 30	..	..	..	..
	Commonhead ..	arr.	6 40	..	..	4 35	..	..	..	..
	Rawyards ..	arr.	6 45	..	..	4 40	..	..	..	..
	Whiterigg ..	arr.	6 50	..	..	4 45	..	..	..	..
	Longriggend ..	arr.	7 0	..	..	4 50	..	..	..	..
	Slamannan ..	arr.	7 10	..	..	5 5	..	..	..	..
	Avonbridge ..	arr.	7 19	..	..	5 15	..	..	..	..
	Blackston Junction ..	arr.	7 22	..	..	5 17	..	..	..	..
12	Westfield ..	arr.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	Bathgate ..	arr.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Do. ..	dep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Westfield ..	arr.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Blackston Junction ..	arr.	7 28	..	..	5 23	..	..	..	..
14	Bowhouse ..	arr.	7 35	..	..	5 27	..	..	..	..
16	Causewayend ..	arr.	7 38	..	..	5 30	..	..	..	..
16	Manuel ..	arr.	7 53	..	..	5 50	..	..	..	..
	Do. ..	dep.	8 15	..	..	5 40	..	..	..	..
	Boness ..	arr.	8 25	..	..	5 50	..	..	..	..
	Boness ..	dep.	7 50	11 5	2 25	5 15	6 0	..	..	..
	Manuel ..	arr.	7 40	12 15	2 45	5 35	6 10	..	..	..
	Manuel leave for Edin. ..	arr.	8 12	12 52	3 59	6 17	6 17	..	..	..
	Edinburgh ..	arr.	9 15	1 45	3 55	7 20	7 20	..	..	..
	Manuel leave for Glas. ..	arr.	7 50	12 17	2 50	5 55	..	..	..	..
	Glasgow (Queen St.) ..	arr.	9 15	1 50	4 0	7 0	..	..	..	..

Passengers from and to Glasgow (Queen Street), Edinburgh, Slamannan, and Boness change Carriages at Manuel Station.

The 8.50 A.M. Train from Glasgow (Buchanan Street) will run to Airdrie, South Station, instead of Hallraig.

For minor and consequent Changes, see the Company's published Time Tables.

THOS. K. ROWBOTHAM, General Manager,
Edinburgh, 24th Dec 1864

1865

Stirling Observer Thursday 5th 12th January 1864

PROPERTY AND INCOME-TAX.

YEAR 1864-65.

PARTIES CHARGED under the PROPERTY and INCOME -TAX ACTS for the current Year, will have an Opportunity of Paying their Assessments to the Collector, at the following Places, the Days and between the Hours mentioned, viz.: -

POLMONT -

For the Parishes of POLMONT and MUIRAVONSIDE, within MAXWELL'S INN, on

SATURDAY the 14th January, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Stirling Observer Thursday 12th January 1864

DEATHS.

Forgie. - At Lochead, Muiravonside, on the 4th inst., Mary Forgie, in her 78th year.

Dunfermline Saturday Press 25th March 1865

FALKIRK.

Fatal Accident on the Blackbraes Railway A boy named John Thomson, aged thirteen years, a greaser on the Blackbraes Railway, and residing with Anthony Murray, Causewayend, accidentally lost his life on Tuesday afternoon. He was seated in one of a number of waggons which were being removed from Blackbraes to Causewayend, when three of them, including the one on which he was riding, ran off the line near the bridge at Maddiston. Thomson was thrown out upon the line, and eight of the trucks passed over him in succession, cutting his body in two.

Glasgow Herald Monday 27th March, 23rd June 1865

ESTATE IN THE COUNTY OF STIRLING FOR SALE.

UPSET PRICE REDUCED.

To be Sold, by Public Roup, within the Faculty Hall, St. George's Place, Glasgow, on Wednesday the 5th day of April, 1865, at One o'clock Afternoon, THE Very Desirable ESTATE of TARDUF, This Property consists of the Lands of Greenknowe, Over and Nether Gillandersland, Cairneymount, and other, all lying contiguous. It is situated about four miles west from Linlithgow, and two and a half miles from the Polmont Station of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway at which station trains from Edinburgh and Glasgow stop almost every hour of the day. The property extends to 163.453 Acres of which the great portion is Arable, the remainder lying either under plantation or occupied with the house and B---- and three small Fues. The Mansion House has recently been greatly extended, but is not yet finished. It

contains Dining Room, Drawing Room, Library, Seven Bed Rooms, four Dressing Rooms, ample Servants' accommodation, and all necessary conveniences for a large Family. There is a Three Stalled Stable, Double Coach House, Harness Room, and other Offices, all in good order. The rental is about £370, and the Public and Parochial Burdens are about £20 per annum.

The term of Entry will be Whitsunday, 1865.

The Property will be shown by Lames Rynie, Overseer at Tarduf; and for further particulars application may be made to James Wylie Guild Esq., Accountant, Glasgow; Messrs Dundas & Wilson O.B. (?), Edinburgh; or Messrs Stevenson & Fleming, Writers, Glasgow, the last of whom are in possession of the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup.
Glasgow, March, 1865

Dundee Advertiser Tuesday 23rd May 1865

FALKIRK

MAY FAIR – The May fair at Falkirk was held on Thursday. The show of cattle and horses was rather better in point of numbers than that of last year. In cattle the prices were dear, and the sales, although not brisk, fair in number. "Fancy" prices were common, ranging from £13 to £18. Ayrshires in calf being in strong demand. Mr. Graham of Myothill sold 46 grazing and milch cows at prices ranging from £12 10s to £15 10s to Mr. Johnstone, banker, Bathgate; he sold a lot of three-year-old queys at £11 each to Mr. Stewart, flesher, Bo'ness, and a lot of fat Highland queys at £10 10s each. Mr. James Hillhouse, sold a couple of Ayrshires in calf at £38. Mr. Hardie, Eskend, sold a good fair Ayrshire at £15 10s, and a grazing ox at £9. The leading buyers – including Mr. Aitken, Avonbridge; Mr. Goodwin, Peathill, Denny; and Mr. Duncan, Fife – were present, and transacted business; but owing to the stiffness experienced, a considerable number of beasts were driven off unsold. The horse market was pretty extensive in bulk, but prices were remarkably low, and a very dull sale.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 9th August 1865

DESIRABLE ESTATE AND RESIDENCE FOR SALE, AT A CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION ON FORMER UPSET PRICE.

To be Sold by Public Roup, at Dowell's, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 20th Sept., at Two o'clock, unless previously disposed of by private bargain, THE ESTATE of CRAIGEND, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling. This Property is tastefully intersected by thriving Plantations, and the House beautifully surrounded by Shrubberies and Timber, having an Approach of nearly a mile, with Gate and Lodge, and, is about two miles distant from Polmont Junction of Edinburgh and Glasgow railway.
For particulars, apply to Messrs. Gibson-Craig, Dalziel & Brodie, Thistle Street, Edinburgh.

Stirling Observer Thursday 10th August 1865

CAUTION TO BULLET PLAYERS

On Wednesday, John and Gilbert Fowler, miners, Arnloss, were brought before Sheriff Sconce, for contravention of the "Statute Labour Roads Act," for having been guilty of bullet playing on the road leading from Arnloss to Avonbridge. John was fined 10s. and 15s. expenses; Gilbert, 5s. and 10s. expenses.

Stirling Observer Thursday 31st August 7th September 1865

COUNTY OF STIRLING. VALUATION OF LANDS AND HERITAGES, Statute 17 & 18 Vic, Cap. 91.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the COMMISSIONERS of SUPPLY of the COUNTY of STIRLING will hold a COURT, upon the days, and at the places under-mentioned, for the purpose of hearing APPEALS against the Valuations made by the Assessor for the current year under the abovementioned Statute, viz.: -
at FALKIRK, upon THURSDAY the 14th day of September next, within the COURT-HOUSE there, at Half-past 12 o'clock Afternoon, for Appeals from the Parishes of

AIRTH,
BOTHKENNAR,
FALKIRK,
MUIRAVONSIDE,
POLMONT,
SLAMANNAN.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, That to entitle Parties to be heard on Appeal, Notice in Writing must be given to the Assessor at least Six Days prior to the aforesaid 11th and 14th days of September, that the Appellant intends to maintain his Appeal, and the amount of Valuation which he alleges should be substituted for the amount stated by the Assessor, must be specified in said Notice.

By order of the Convener. ROB. CAMPBELL, Clerk of Supply.
Stirling, 24th August, 1865.

Dundee Courier Thursday 14th September 1865

FALKIRK TRYST

WEDNESDAY, September 13.

The proceedings of this market were concluded to-day, when the show of cattle was the largest that has been seen on the third day of Falkirk September Tryst for a number of years. This was caused by a fresh contribution of cattle from Ireland, which arrived in Glasgow yesterday. The remainder of the stock on sale was the residue of the previous days' market, and consisted of Irish stirks, and a few West Highland queys. All the lots were examined by the inspectors as they entered the market, and pronounced to be in a healthy state. There were very few buyers in attendance, and the most of the lots of cattle in consequence stood desolate all the day. Bargains were very slowly made, and any sales effected were slightly under the prices current yesterday. Among the attractions, the following took place: - Mr. MaNaughton, near Castlecary, sold a lot of 20 Highland queys at £6.10. Mr. Donald McCrimmon, Glenelg, sold a lot of three-year-old Highland stots at £12 a-piece; and a lot of 40 stirks at £3 10s. Messrs Spence and sons, salesmen, Glasgow, sold a lot of Irish stirks at £5 5s. Mr. Murray, Ireland, sold a lot of 20 Irish bullocks to Mr. James Graham, Myothill, at £9 10s each. Mr. Hope, Carbrock, bought a lot of Irish stots at £5 3s 6d. Mr. Wm. Dawson, Dunipace, sold on Tuesday a lot of 20 crosses two-year-olds at £13 each. Mr. Alex. Graham, Larbert, sold a very superior calving quey to Mr. John Wilson, Avonbridge, at £26. The number of horses on sale to-day was considerable. The show included some very good Irish animals, but the others were of an inferior stamp. Mr. Christie, Stirling, sold to Mr. William Dunse, Newcastle, 20 Highland ponies at £7 a-piece, other 20 at from £4 to £6, and cart horses at from £15 to £34. Mr. Scott, Yetts of Muckhart, sold cart horses at from £25 to £30, and one at £40. Mr. Robert Allan, Glasgow, sold cart horses at from £15 to £27. At the close a good part of the Irish cattle and the most of the horses remained unsold.

Dunfermline Saturday Press Saturday 16th September 1865

DISTRICT NEWS

STIRLING.

Pit Accident. - Alexander Ballantine, aged 20, engineer in a coal pit near Campbelltown, was killed last week by being struck on the head with a shaft while in motion. Deceased was of excellent character, and a native of Blackbraes, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire.

Stirling Observer Thursday 16th November 1865

ASSESSED TAXES, 1865-66. THE COMMISSIONERS of SUPPLY for the several DISTRICTS of the COUNTY of STIRLING will MEET, on the Days and at the Places

undermentioned, to hear and determine Appeals against Charges made by the Surveyor for the Current year : -

For the BURGH and PARISH of FALKIRK - and for the Parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan - in the Red Lion Hotel, Falkirk, on THURSDAY the 16th day of November proximo, at Twelve o'clock, Noon. JAS. CHRYSAL, Clerk to the Commissioners. Stirling, 25th October, 1865.

Glasgow Herald, Lancaster Gazette Saturday 18th November 1865

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY.

A Railway, hereinafter called Railway No. 4, commencing in the Parish of Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling, by a junction with the Slamannan and Borrowstounness Branch of the North British (late Monklands) Railway, at a point thereon 600 yards or thereabouts southward of the Bridge which carries the Turnpike Road between Linlithgow and Polmont over the said Branch, and terminating in the Parish of Muiravonside, in the same County, by a junction with the North British (late Edinburgh and Glasgow) Railway, at or near a point thereon 140 yards or thereabouts west from the west end of the Viaduct which carries the last-mentioned Railway over the River Avon; which Railway and Works will be wholly situated in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling. And it is proposed by said intended Act to authorize deviations from the line of levels of the intended lines of Railways as shown upon the Plans and Sections thereof hereinafter referred to, within the limits usually authorized by Parliament, or to be prescribed by the said Act, and to confer power for the compulsory purchase of lands and buildings in the several parishes, townships, and places aforesaid, or some of them, and also for the purchase of lands and buildings by agreement; and to cross, stop up, alter, or divert, temporarily or permanently, all or any roads, streets, highways, railways, tramways, river, streams, reservoirs, canals, navigations, waters, water-courses, mains, pipes, bridges, telegraphic wires or apparatus, erections, or works of any description, which it may be necessary or convenient so to stop up, alter, or divert, for the purposes of the undertaking, and to vary or extinguish all existing rights and privileges connected with any land or building to be purchased, or which would or might in any way prevent or interfere with carrying into effect any of the objects of the intended Act, and to confer other rights and privileges; and to levy tolls, rates, duties, and charges, and to alter existing tolls, rates, duties, and charges, and to confer, vary, or extinguish exemptions from tolls, rates, duties, and charges.

1866

Stirling Observer 4th 11th January 1866

PROPERTY AND INCOME-TAX.

YEAR 1865-66.

THE COLLECTOR respectfully intimates to PARTIES CHARGED under the PROPERTY and INCOME TAX ACTS, that he will be at the undermentioned Places to receive Payment, on the Days and Hours under specified; and as he will only have Receipts with him applicable to the different Districts, Parties are requested to attend at the places mentioned and bring their Printed Notices with them :

POLMONT -

For the Parishes of POLMONT and MUIRAVONSIDE, within MAXWELL'S INN, on SATURDAY the 13th January, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Stirling Observer 25th January 1866

FALKIRK

Sudden Death. -

On Wednesday night, a quarryman, residing at Maddiston, named James Kay, died suddenly in bed. He retired to rest along with his wife in his usual good health, but about 11 o'clock, Mrs. Kay heard a gurgling in her husband's throat, and spoke to him without getting any reply. She then at once got up, and called in a neighbour, only to find her husband, however, lifeless. Deceased, who was 34 years of age, leaves a child on the breast of his widow

Stirling Observer Thursday 10th May 1866

SUDDEN DEATH. -

On Saturday as John Gray, labourer, was returning home from Avonbridge, and when about fourteen yards to the South of Avonbridge Railway Station, he observed a man lying on the road with blood issuing from his mouth and nose, apparently dying. Gray at once went to the public house of James Bell, of Avonbridge, and secured the assistance of the landlord and another man. The three immediately went to the spot where the man was lying, and identified him as Robert Paterson, sixty-seven years of age, a hawker, residing in Avonbridge. Immediately after being lifted up, he drew a long breathe and expired.

Glasgow Herald 14th September 1866

BOY DROWNED IN A WELL.-

An accident of a most distressing nature took place near Maddiston on Saturday, under the following circumstances:-Shortly after one o'clock on the afternoon of that day, a boy named John Stavert, eight years of age, residing with his grandfather at Cairneymount, in the neighbourhood of the village of Maddiston, was sent to draw water from an open well a short distance from the house. For this purpose he was provided with a small pint pitcher. About ten minutes after the boy left the house, his grandmother went out to seek him, and on looking into the well was horrified to find that he had fallen into the water. Assistance having been procured, the body was taken out, and medical aid sent for. Dr. Hadden was shortly afterwards in attendance, and did all he could to restore animation, but life was found to be quite extinct. The mournful event has cast quite a gloom over the village, and much sympathy is felt for the bereaved relatives. The well, we may state, is only five feet in depth, and it is conjectured that the accident happened by the boy missing his footing.

Stirling Observer 18th October 1866

LIST OF APPLICATIONS for CERTIFICATES for the SALE OF EXCISABLE LIQUORS for the COUNTY of STIRLING, for NEW PREMISES, by NEW TENANTS or OCCUPANTS, and for RENEWAL of TRANSFERRED CERTIFICATES

Name Designation and Residence of Applicant for	Place and Parish of County of Premises.	Class of
Certificate	Name and Address of Landlord	applied
for	Place. Parish.	
	or Factor of Premises.	
	BY TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS	
Charles Rankine, Publican, House, Maddiston, Muiravonside, Farmer, Netherton	Maddiston, Muiravonside, Robert Robertson,	Public
		Proprietor

Glasgow Herald Saturday 27th October 1866

FALKIRK

SERIOUS - ACCIDENT – A HORSE KILLED.

An accident happened on Thursday night at Avonbridge, a few miles from Falkirk, by which a horse was killed, a gig destroyed, and another considerably damaged. It would appear that Mr. James Waddell, farmer, Woodend, in the parish of Torphichen, was on his way home from Falkirk Feeing Fair in a gig, and was returning from Bulliondale Farm, where he had been calling, to get on to the turnpike road, about ten o'clock on the night in question. At the same time it unfortunately happened that a "hire" from the Crown Inn, Falkirk was going towards Bulliondale Farm, and in consequence, as it is alleged, of Mr. Waddell taking the wrong side of the road, the two horses came into violent collision, and resulted in the immediate death of the Crown Inn horse, one of the shafts of Mr. Waddell's gig entering its breast and penetrating the heart. The gig belonging to the Crown Inn was completely destroyed, and one of the shafts of the other machine was broken. None of the men in the gigs were injured. The Falkirk police were engaged yesterday investigating the matter, and the information they obtained is likely to result in Mr. Waddell being brought up on the charge of malicious mischief – he having, it is alleged, broken open the front door of Bulliondale farmhouse, and smashed the fan glass immediately above it.

FEEING FAIR

This great half-yearly hiring market for farm servants was held yesterday, and was as usual very numerously attended both by male and female servants. Long before mid-day the High street was so crowded from side to side as to be almost impassable, and presented a scene of bustle and gaiety only to be witnessed twice a year, and perhaps not surpassed at any other market of the kind in Scotland. The number of servants open to engagements was quite as large as that at the April Fair, and there being the brisk demand for both males and females a slight rise in wages took place. This was particularly the case with good hands, who experienced little difficulty in obtaining engagements, as well as an advance on their former fee. It was remarked that the wages were considerably higher than those current in the Lothians, as some men from these parts could have been engaged at less money than is being paid in the Stirlingshire district. First-class men were getting from £12 to £15 per half-year, with the usual allowances; second class from £8 10s to £11 10s; third class, from £6 to £8; and young lads from £3 to £4. Female servants – dairymaids, from £3 10s to £5; second class from £2 15s to £3 5s; and girls from £1 5s to £2 10s. The weather was uncommonly fine, and the ordinary amusements of the occasion were engaged in heartily throughout the day.

1867

Stirling Observer 3rd 10th January 1867

PROPERTY AND INCOME-TAX, 1866-67.

COUNTIES OF STIRLING, LINLITHGOW, & CLACKMANNAN.

THE COLLECTOR respectfully intimates to parties charged under the PROPERTY and INCOME TAX ACTS, that he will be at the undermentioned places, to receive Payment, on the days and hours specified; and as he will only have Receipts with him, applicable to the different Districts, parties are requested to attend at the places mentioned, and bring their Printed Notices with them: -

POLMONT - Within Maxwell's Inn, upon Saturday the 12th January next, from 10 am to 1 p.m., for the Parishes of POLMONT and MUIRAVONSIDE.

Falkirk Herald 10th January 1867

THE FOXHOUNDS – The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire foxhounds meet to-day (Thursday), January 10, at Winchburgh; Saturday, Jan. 12, at Bathgate Toll; Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Laurieston Kennels; Thursday, Jan. 17, at Avonbridge; Saturday, Jan. 19 at Hainingside – each day at 10.45 a.m.

Falkirk Herald 17th 24th January, 7th 14th February 1867

TO LET,

THE FARM OF COXHILL, in the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling.

The Farm contains 89 imperial acres, or thereby, of excellent land, all drained, every 18 feet, within the last seven years. There is a first-rate House of 5 Rooms, W.C., Kitchen, and Servants' Room. The other Buildings are ample for the land. Bowhouse Station is half-a-mile from the Farm.

Offers will be received up till the 15th February, by Alex. Cuthill, 51 Rose Street, Edinburgh.

Stirling Observer 24th January 1867

CURLING

DENNY (LESLIE PARK) V. MUIRAVONSIDE. –

These clubs met on Thursday to compete for one of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club medals. The match took place on Larbert Loch, and each club was represented by four rinks. The ice was very much twisted, but the play notwithstanding was, on the whole, tolerably good. At the close, the Muiravonside Club was declared victorious by the large majority of 49 shots. This is the first time the Leslie park curlers have suffered defeat for a number of years. Mr. James Laing, Denny, officiated as umpire, and at the close of the game handed over the medal to the winning club.

Falkirk Herald 31st January 1867

CURLING.

SLAMANNAN V. MUIRAVONSIDE. –

On Tuesday week the Slamannan and Muiravonside Curling Clubs had a friendly game, on Ellrigg Loch. The weather was brisk and frosty, and the ice was in beautiful condition. There were three rinks from each club, and the play generally was good. After three and a half hours' exciting play, victory declared itself in favour of the Slamannan club by a majority of forty-three. The following is the score:

SLAMANAN.	MUIRAVONSIDE.
George Waddell, 39	Peter Forgie 13
Matthew Hay, 26	John Baird, 14
James M'Killop, 24	John Robertson 19
89	46

Majority for Slamannan, 43.

POLMONT AND WESTQUARTER CLUB.

Jan. 19th –

Polmont and Westquarter Club met the Vellore Club on Vellore Pond with three rinks aside, and after a contest of three hours, Polmont and Westquarter gained by 36 shots. At the close of the game, J. G. Urquhart, Esq., gave the players a substantial luncheon. It may be mentioned that the Vellore Club was only formed this year through the energy of J. G. Urquhart, Esq. of Vellore, who has at great expense constructed a pond for the benefit of the club, which shows that he is also a keen supporter of the roaring game, as well as of other sports.

Falkirk Herald 31st January 1867

Local Intelligence

Fatal, Railway Accident. Peter Duncan, a railway guard on the North British Railway, residing at Craigend, near Muiravonside, met his death on Tuesday last on the North British Railway, near the Almond Iron Works, in a very singular way. Deceased, along with a companion, named Felix Hart, were engaged shunting several trucks on to the main line of rails by means

of a rope attached to an engine. The rope having been fastened to the engine and the trucks, deceased gave the signal to the driver to start the engine, which was accordingly done. Deceased, who happened to be betwixt the two lines at the time, was struck somewhere about the head by the rope, and fell insensible on the ground. He was at once removed to the office of the Almond Ironworks, where he died in about five minutes afterwards. Dr. Moffat of Polmont was immediately in attendance, but his services were of no avail, as life was quite extinct. Deceased was 42 years of age, and has left a wife and family to mourn his loss.

Falkirk Herald 7th 14th February 1867

CROP STOCK, AND STOCKING, AT GLENEND.

On FRIDAY, 15th FEBRUARY.

To be Sold by Public Roup, at Glenend, in the Parish of Muiravonside, on Friday the 15th February, 1867, the Whole CROP, STOCK, and STOCKING, belonging to Mr. John Heigh, consisting of

8 Stacks of Oats,
1 Stack of Beans,
1 Rick of Ryegrass and Clover Hay,
2 Ricks of Seed Hay,
2 Work Mares,
3 Milch Cows,
2 Six-quarter Bulls,
1 Quey Calf,
1 Shot Pig,
2 Carts, with Wheels and Axles,
1 Hay Cart, Wheels and Axle,
2 Iron Ploughs,
1 Iron Drill Plough,
1 Iron Grubber,
1 Pair Iron Drill Harrows,
2 Pair Harrows,
1 Turnip Sowing Machine,
1 Stone Roller and Frame,
2 Sets of Cart and Plough Horse Harness,
2 Boilers, with Furnaces complete,
A Four-horse Thrashing Mill,
A large Quantity of Manure ;
With the whole of the Small Farming Implements, Dairy Utensils, &c. ;
Also, 1 1/2 ACRES OF YELLOW TURNIPS, AND Several Articles of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

THREE MONTHS' CREDIT ON BILLS, OR DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock. DAVID NICOL, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 7th February 1867

AVONBRIDGE.

CURLERS' SUPPER. –

The annual supper of the Muiravonside Curling Club took place in Middlestone School-room, on the evening of Tuesday the 29th ult. - James Dougall, Esq., of Craigend Brickworks, in the chair. Grace having been said by the chairman, an excellent supper, served up in Mrs. Cunningham's best style, was partaken of. The chairman then gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were all duly honoured and cordially responded to; after which he called for a special bumper for the toast of the evening, "Curling, and the success of the Muiravonside Curling Club," which was received with boisterous applause. Other toasts were, "The President, John L. Learmonth M'Kenzie, Esq., of Craigend," by Mr. James Bell; "William Stirling, Esq., J.P., of Tarduff, and family," "Success to our noble opponents, the Slamannan curlers." The chairman then presented Mr. Andrew Stevenson with a handsome pair of curling-stones and silver-mounted handles, given by the club. Mr. Stevenson made a feeling reply. Several other toasts were given, and a number of excellent songs enlivened the meeting; and after joining in a verse of "Auld Lang Syne," the company broke up at a seasonable hour.

Falkirk Herald 14th February 1867

MUIRAVONSIDE.

The third annual ploughing match of the Muiravonside Ploughing Society took place on Wednesday last week, on the farm of Hillhead, possessed by Mr. Robertson. Twenty-four competitors appeared on the ground, being an increase over former years, which shows that the efforts of the society are being appreciated by the agriculturists in the parish.

The judges - viz., Messrs Robert Ferguson, farmer, Greenrigg; Donald McArthur, overseer, Inveravon; and Peter Gray, overseer, Woodbank - awarded the prizes as follows: - Senior Class 1st, £1, and Highland and Agricultural Society's Medal, John Gentleman servant to Mr. Learmonth, Parkhall; 2d, £1, David Bennie, servant to Messrs J. & J. Dougal, Knowhead; 3d, 15s, Alexander Taylor, servant to Mr. Inglis, Easter Manuel; 4th, 10s 6d, James Bennie, servant to Mr. Walker, Candy end; 5th, 7 s 6d, George Strathie, servant to Mr. Inglis, Manuelhaugh; 6th, 5s, John Graham, servant to Mr. Learmonth, Parkhall; 7th, a whip given by Mr. William Roberts, saddler, Polmont, Samuel Smith, servant to Mr. Robertson, Maddiston.

Junior Class. 1st, 10s 6d, given by Messrs J. & J. Allan, Bo'ness, and a medal given by Mr. Bauchop Castlehill, Andrew Baird, servant to Mr. Stevenson, Drumbroider; 2d, 10s, given by Mr. Robertson, Hillhead, Peter Morrison, servant to Mr. Robertson, Kaemuir; 3d, 6s, John Meikle, son of Mr. Meikle, Candy; 4th, 3s 6d, Thomas Storer, son of Mr. Storer, Gateside. Extra Prizes. A pair of leather leggings, given by Mr. Calder, draper, Falkirk, for the most useful pair of horses on the ground, Mr. Kirkwood, Bogo.

A number of members of the society afterwards met in the house of Mr. James Bell, Avonbridge, where an excellent dinner was discussed, Mr. Bauchop, Castlehill, occupying the chair.

Falkirk Herald 14th February 1867

MANUEL GRASS PARKS.

MR. JAMES NEILSON will Let by Public Roup, for Pasture, for the ensuing Season, on Tuesday the 5th March next, SIX GRASS PARKS On the property of Manuel, in the Parish of Muiravonside. The Parks are of various sizes, and are all good Grass. Roup to begin at Entryhead at Twelve o'clock Noon. February, 1867.

Falkirk Herald 14th February, Glasgow Herald 27th February 1867

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE.

To be Let, for One or more years,

TORAVON HOUSE, about a mile South of Polmont Station, Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway. The above is beautifully situated on the rising ground of Muiravonside. The House consists of dining-room, drawing-room, parlour or library, 8 bed rooms, laundry, scullery, &c., with Coach House and four-stalled Stable, Walled Garden of about Half an-Acre, Gardener's House, abundance of spring water, and every accommodation for a Family, More or less Ground could also be given. Grates and a considerable quantity of Furniture already in the House.

The premises can be seen on any lawful day.
Rent Moderate.
Apply to Messrs Whytock & Co., 9 George Street ; or W. H. Muir, 18 Picardy Place,
Edinburgh.

Falkirk Herald 14th February 1867

THE LATE PETER CRAWFORD.

The death of Sergeant Peter Crawford has removed from the scene the best known man, perhaps in this part of the country. While Peter distinguished himself as a police-officer, he was a big hearted man, obliging and ever pleasant – elements which are frequently said to be foreign to the nature of policemen. Peter's death was not unexpected but still it has none the less excited general regret in the community; and the esteem of all classes, the vagrant section included, have followed him to the tomb. Though Peter may be said to have died in harness, he was, for a year previous to event, in indifferent health, and it was only within the last fortnight that he relinquished his duties, after an uninterrupted service extending over a period of 25 years. Before he finally lay down he was seen to visit the grave in which he now lies buried and we may suppose that he was not unmindful of heavenly things, and that he knew full well his end was rapidly approaching. On Sunday night he breathed his last. Peter was born at Linlithgow Bridge in the summer of 1802, and was consequently coming into his 65th year. He spent his early manhood in driving a milk cart, and was afterwards employed as policeman at Slamannan while the railway there was in course of construction. In 1842 he was appointed rural policeman for Falkirk and by the excellent performance of his multifarious and unenviable duties, he soon found favour in the eyes of the people. Indomitable energy, complete self-mastery, instinctively shrewd and smart in the adoption of the means to the end, and of a strong constitution, singled him out as a man eminently fitted for the position to which he was elected. The criminal classes knew this well, for few indeed who committed any crime escaped the penalty with which it was associated. Peter was familiar with all his "children," and was moreover thoroughly acquainted with their respective tendencies, and could lay his finger on them when wanted. While he was esteemed by the well-doing people, he was a terror to them who did evil. He was not harsh, however, in his treatment of those who might unfortunately come under his notice, and instead of using force would say, kindly "K'wa, k'wa, the fiscal wants to speak to you ; he'll no hinder ye a minute - maybe ye'll get half-a-crown for being a witness." Many instances are told in which this policy succeeded, while had the more high-handed method been adopted the consequences would probably not have been so satisfactory or so pleasant. In one case it is related that a strong, fearless moulder, at one time employed in Carron, was wanted for a serious assault, and despite every effort he for a long period escaped detection. The matter was entrusted to Peter, who having ascertained that the moulder was at his occupation at Carron, hired a vehicle and went down to apprehend him if possible. Peter's quick eye was not long in finding the delinquent, and going towards him, he gave his familiar tap on the shoulder, and says "K'wa, k'wa - the fiscal's wanting ye." The moulder turned round fiercely, and demanded what the fiscal wanted with him. "Oh," says Peter, "to be a witness in that business - " ye'll be paid for't - "never mind your coat, ye'll no be lang hindered." The bait took, the result was that the hitherto unapproachable moulder got 60 days' imprisonment for the assault with which he was charged. In the means which Peter adopted to find out thieves he was none less successful. On one occasion a sheep went amissing about Stenhousemuir. The circumstance was reported to Peter, and he at once proceeded to investigate the matter. The first thing which he did was to go into one of the schools in the village, and put the following question to the scholars: - "Noo, bairns, just tell wham a ye a' had beef the day to your dinner?" There was no response, and Peter proceeded to the next school and repeated the question, when one little urchin, more honest than his parents, exclaimed, had beef the day, and the skin's lyn below bed." Peter had now all the information he wanted and, on examining the house where the boy's parents resided, he discovered the state of matters to be exactly as the little fellow had represented. There was sufficient evidence to prove the case, and the parties involved got seven years' transportation each, incidents similar to this could be multiplied by the score but the one given is sufficient to show the astute manner in which Peter went about his work in his eventful history, and in all the disturbance which he appeared as the conservator of the peace, Peter escaped invariably without injury. On one occasion, however, while bringing a man from Glasgow for cow stealing at Carmuir, he made a somewhat extraordinary escape with his life. At this time trains were what were called the stand-ups, and Peter was handcuffed to his prisoner. Unobserved the fellow got the carriage door opened, and threw himself out, and by the suddenness of the movement, Peter was nearly following, when he seized a firm hold of the side of the carriage and bore himself and his prisoner up till he received assistance from the passengers, the thief was reinstated to his old position. He was pretty severely hurt by his escapade, and one Peter's wrists was cut and bruised. The charge this case was proved, and the cow stealer was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. In 1843 he assisted in the apprehension of Allan Mair for murder of his wife at Muiravonside, and in all the crimes which have since disgraced the history of district, Peter, generally, had some important office to discharge in their expiscation. In 1845 he was presented with a handsome silver watch by the public of Falkirk for the faithful performance of his duties, and in a few years thereafter he received another present in the shape of a purse of sovereigns. Till the passing of the General Police Act in 1858, Peter was the only constable in the district, and the reader may estimate the immensity of his work, while the older bairns can say how well it was executed. Indeed, it may be safely said that Peter, in his palmy days, was one of the best officers in Scotland. He appointed a sergeant in 1858, and continued so till his demise. On Wednesday, all that remained of him was consigned to the grave in the Established Church-yard in presence of the most influential company of mourners that has been seen at a funeral in Falkirk for a lengthened period. The bell tolled out its solemn note on the occasion, and the streets through which the funeral cortege passed were lined with hundreds of spectators. The body was carried shoulder high by Peter's co-workers, and the peagant altogether was solemn and suggestive. Considering the harrassing and fatiguing nature of his work, Peter may be said to have died full of years, and no lessfull of honours. General esteem has followed him to his last home, and we believe that even with the lamp of a Diogenes no one could be found who would speak otherwise than kindly of the memory of "Lang Peter."

Falkirk Herald Thursday 21st February 1867

**FAT CATTLE AT GOWANBANK
ON MONDAY, 4TH MARCH.**

MR JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he will sell by Public Roup, on MONDAY the 4th March 1867, at the FEEDING BYRES of Gowanbank, near Avonbridge, belonging to James Gowans, Esq., 12 FAT POLLED ANGUSHIRE BULLOCKS, which have been fed upon Turnips and Hashed Grain, and are of the first quality.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

MANUEL GRASS PARKS

MR. JAMES NEILSON will Let by Public Roup, for Pasture, for the ensuing Season, on TUESDAY the 5th March next,

SIX GRASS PARKS

On the property of MANUEL, in the Parish of Muiravonside.

The Parks are of various sizes, and are all good Grass.

Roup to begin at Entryhead at Twelve o'clock Noon.

February, 1867

Falkirk Herald 21st 28th February 7th March 1867

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS,

On SATURDAY, 9th MARCH.

MR. JAMES NEILSON will Let by Public Roup, on the Estate of Muiravonside, belonging to Charles Stirling, Esquire, on Saturday the 9th March, 1867. THE GRASS PARKS On the Lands of Drumbowie, comprising 5 ENCLOSURES, To be Let for Cattle and Horses; also, ONE FIELD OF YOUNG GRASS, To be Let for Sheep. Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 21st 28th February 7th March 1867

LET OF GRASS PARKS

ON AVONHILL. STIRLINGSHIRE.

THREE ENCLOSED PARKS OF PASTURE GRASS will be LET for the Season. Mr. MAIN, Loanend, Avonbridge, will point out the fields; the Offers may be addressed to CHARLES McBEATH, Fraserburgh, the Proprietor, till 8th March ensuing, when the Grass will be Let.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th February 1867

TEACHER WANTED

A TEACHER WANTED for DYKEHEAD SCHOOL, with Free House and Garden, and Sum of Money may be added – Applications with Testimonials, to be lodged with the Preses, JAS. JOHNSTON, Barns, Avonbridge, Falkirk, on or before Tuesday the 5th of March next. Dykehead, 27th Feby., 1867.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th February 14th 21st 28th March 4th April 1867

(Special Circular for Gentlemen)

TAILORING DEPARTMENT

MESSRS GEO. FORRESTER & CO.,

64&66 STIRLING STREET, AIRDRIE,

Beg to inform Gentlemen residing in Slammanan, Avonbridge, Camelon, Bonnybridge, and Neighbourhood that they have just added a TAILORING Department to their General Drapery Business, and have been successful in securing the services of a First-Class CUTTER, who was trained in the first Houses in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and who can be depended upon in giving a Good Fit.

Always on hand a Large Assortment of

BROAD BLACK CLOTHS, DOESKINS, SCOTCH TWEEDS, WITNEY'S MELTON'S &c.,

To select from, and Made Up on the shortest notice;

BOYS' KILT & KNICKERBOCKER SUITS,

Very Neatly Made Up;

Also, LADIES' JACKETS & PALETOTS.

FASHIONS RECEIVED MONTHLY.

Patterns Post-free on application.

Parties can be measured at their own residence (if the distance does not exceed 20 miles) without extra charge, and the Clothes returned by Rail, Cattiage paid.

All Suits warranted from 10s to 20s less than Edinburgh or Glasgow houses.

Falkirk Herald 7th March 1867

Situations

DRAINERS.

A NUMBER of MEN Wanted. –

Apply to Samuel. M'Kenzie, Glenend Farm, Muiravonside.

LABOURERS WANTED.

LABOURERS WANTED at STANRIGG COLLIERY, Slamanan.

Also, a Steady, Active MAN who can write and take charge of the weighing of the Coals on the Pithead, and who is acquainted with Waggon Trimming. –

Apply at the Colliery on or before Saturday, 9th March.

Mr. NEILSON'S SALES - Continued

MILCH COWS, QUEYS, CALVES,

AND FARM IMPLEMENTS,

AT STRATH MILL,

ON SATURDAY, 23RD MARCH.

MR. JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he has been instructed by Mr. Walter Gowans,

Esq., to Sell by Public Roup, on SATURDAY the 23rd March, 1867, his very Select Stock of

MILCH COWS, QUEYS, CALVES, and FARM IMPLEMENTS, at STRATH MILL near

Avonbridge, in consequence of the Lands being laid down in permanent Pasture, comprising –

4 Famous Ayrshire Milch Cows, near the Calving,

3 Ayrshire Queys, in Calf,

2 Cross Shorthorn Stots, First Class Beasts,

3 Ayrshire Calves; and

A Quantity of the Newest Improved FARM IMPLEMENTS, by Ponton.

THREE MONTHS CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS.

Roup to begin at One o'clock.

Stirling Observer Leeds Times 16th March 1867

THE OLD BODY-SNATCHERS AND THEIR CRIMES.

When Burke and Hare were arrested, and Burke convicted, in 1829, on a charge of murdering a poor old Irish mendicant, who had accepted their hospitality, all Scotland rang with execration on the number and villainousness of their crimes. Burke having obtained his priest's permission, made a full confession of his crimes. He owned to sixteen murders between the spring and the October of 1828. He and Hare had been first set on to it by an old drunken pensioner named Donald, dying of dropsy in Hare's house. After his coffin was closed, they decoyed the undertaker away with drink, took out the corpse, and filled the coffin with tanner's bark. They took the body in a sack to Dr. Knox, who gave them seven pounds ten for it. The first person they murdered was a woman from Gilmerton who came to lodge with Hare. After a revel, Hare closed her mouth and nose, and Burke lay upon her to keep down her arms and legs. They then put the corpse in a chest, and met Dr. Knox's porter by appointment at night at the back of the Castle, who took the box on to the class-rooms. The next victim was a miller named Joseph, who lay ill at Hare's lodging-house, as it was supposed of a fever, which kept away other lodgers. Burke held a pillow down over his mouth, and then lay across the body until he was dead. The price of the old pensioner's body had been a temptation which these monsters could not resist. On one occasion Burke met a policeman dragging a drunken woman to the West Port watchhouse. Burke, who had a good character with the police, volunteered to see her home; he took her to Hare's, and they murdered her like the others. One of the most revolting of Burkes murders was that of Daft Jamie, a poor halfwitted, barefooted lad, with a withered hand, who used to sing and dance about the Old Town, and pick up what alms he could. Mrs. Hare decoyed him to her house, under pretence of taking him to his mother, of whom the lad was peculiarly fond. Burke was taking a dram at the time at Rymers's shop, and Mrs. Hare came in for a pennyworth of butter, and stamped on his foot as a signal. Jamie would not take much whisky; but as he lay on the bed, Burke, eager, kept saying to Hare "Shall I do it now?" Hare replied, "Bide awhile; he is too strong for you yet; you had better let him alone awhile." Burke at last, irrestrainable, threw himself upon the poor harmless lad, and they fell off the bed struggling. Roused to a sense of the imminent danger, Jamie leaped up, and by a dreadful effort threw off Burke, who then closed with him. Burke was for a moment almost overpowered. Shouting that he would run his knife into Hare unless he came and helped him. Hare ran, tripped up Jamie, dragged him about with Burke lying on him, and held his hands and feet till he was dead. It was after breakfast when Jamie was lured in. By twelve his body was in a clothes-chest of Hare's, and on its way to Surgeons-square. Burke gave the cloths to his brother's children, and they

quarreled about them. The dress of the other persons had been destroyed to prevent detection. Burke also murdered a poor girl of loose character called Mary Paterson. He had taken her home, given her breakfast, made her drunk, and then butchered her. When inquiries were made, he said she had gone off to Glasgow with a packman. There were other murders still more terrible committed by these wretches. Hare one day invited a poor Irishwoman to his house, with her deaf and dumb grandson. They intoxicated her and then suffocated both herself and grandson. They crammed the two bodies into a herring-barrel. This they put in Hare's fish-cart and at dusk set out for Surgeons-square. The horse, a miserable half-starved beast, at the entrance to the Grass-market refusing to go a step further, a crowd assembled. Burke said he thought at that time that the old horse had risen up in judgment against them. While the crowd tugged at the horse, Burke and Hare hired a porter with a hurley, and put the barrel on it to carry to Surgeons-square. The wretched horse was, in revenge, instantly taken to a tanyard and shot. While Burke and his wife were on a visit at Falkirk, during the festival of the anniversary of Bannockburn, Hare decoyed home a drunken woman, murdered her unaided, and sold her body for eight pounds. When Burke returned, and asked he had been doing any business, Hare replied in the negative; but Burke ascertained from Dr. Knox that he had brought a subject, and Hare then confessed the secret to his partner. They also murdered a married cousin of Burke's wife: Hare taking the chief part in the horrible business, because he was not a relation. They put the body in a "fine trunk" Paterson supplied. Broggan, in whose house they were, discovered the murder, and they gave him three pounds, and sent him out of Edinburgh, to keep the secret. Another of their victims a Mrs. Hostler, a washerwoman at Broggan's. She had ninepence-half penny in her hand when they smothered her, and they could scarcely remove it after she was dead, it was clutched so hard. This poor woman had been heard on the evening of her murder singing "Home, Sweet Home," with Burke. The only person Burke murdered by himself was the daughter of Mrs. Holdane, whom they had previously disposed of. Burke also confessed that Hare's wife had urged him to murder the woman with whom he lived, but he would not agree to it. They were distrustful of her because she was a Scotchwoman. The plan was that he was to go into the country after the murder, and write word to Hare that she had died there, so as to deceive the neighbours. Nine of the people had been murdered in Burke's house (five of these in an inner room where he used to cobble shoes—it looked out only on the waste ground and the pig-stye), four in Broggan's room, two in Hare's stable, and one in Burke's brother's house. They had marked out a great many for murder, but were disappointed of them in various ways. They were generally drunk when they committed these murders, and also while the money lasted. They very often did not know the dates of the murders, nor the names of their victims. They had arranged a plan that Burke and another man were to go on a tour to Glasgow and Ireland, and to forward bodies to Hare for the surgeons. Their regular price was ten pounds in winter and eight pounds in summer. Burke said they had got so daring, that he believed they might have gone on even to seize people in the streets. At first they removed bodies only in the dark: latterly they grew more bold and went in the day time. When they were carrying the girl Paterson, some boys from the High School-yard followed them, crying, "They are carrying a corpse." They nevertheless got her safely delivered. Hare could sleep well after a murder, but Burke kept a "twopenny candle" all night by his bed-side, and a bottle of whisky. If he awoke, he sometimes gulped half a bottle at a draught, and that made him sleep. When their money was spent, they pawned their clothes, and took them out again as soon as they got a subject. The excitement in Edinburgh during Burke's trial was unequalled in intensity. The mob shouted for the blood of Hare, the two women, and Burke's other accomplices. Two guineas were offered the turnkeys for one peep at the murderer. Eager enthusiasts paid enormous sums for Burke's shoemaking hammer, and Hare's whisky-bottle brought a high price. The blood-soaked bed was cut up into relics, and the chairs were hollowed into snuff-boxes, Mrs. Burke, venturing back into the West Port, was nearly torn to shreds, and was besieged in the watchhouse. Finally, she left the town and went to Glasgow. Mrs. Hare, alias Lucky Log, was pelted nearly to death with snowballs, mud, and stones; was nearly killed also at Glasgow; and eventually escaped to Belfast, quite indifferent to her husband's fate. It was felt to be a blot on Edinburgh, and a stain on Scotland; for although the two men were Irish, the woman who had been deepest in it was a native of Maddiston, in the county of Stirling. The populace were savage, also, against the doctors. The night of the trial, Dr. Knox's and Dr. Munro's class-room windows were broken, and, but for a stormy night, their houses might have been destroyed. The night before Burke's execution, the gibbet had been raised by torchlight. An immense crowd remained till two in the morning, cheering as every fresh beam was fixed. Hundreds slept in the adjacent closes and on stairs, and at the windows of neighbouring houses in the Lawn Market. Many well-dressed ladies were among the spectators, and half a crown for a single hasty look from a window was freely given. By seven o'clock the rain had almost ceased. When the raw cold day had begun, every avenue to the High-street was thronged, and the area between the West Port and the Tron Church was one close-wedged mass of heads. About forty thousand persons were waiting eagerly for St. Giles's clock to strike eight. There were crowds on the Castlehill and in Bank-street, and stragglers as far as the Advocate's Library. The rough and ribald jests and street-cries changed to a demoniacal roar of joy when Burke appeared ascending the stairs to the platform; then there rose yells, savage curses, and stormy cries of "The Murderer!" "Burke him!" "Choke him, Hangie!" "Hang Hare, too!" An Edinburgh mob is always fierce, and now their deepest passions were thoroughly roused. Burke stood before them at last, a thickset, cadaverous man, with very light hair, an old black coat too large for him, a white neckcloth, and mouldy boots. He turned deadly pale, and shook when he heard the appalling shouts: but he still cast at the heaving mob one look of fierce and desperate defiance. He then knelt and prayed, with his back to the people, and told the priest that he died in the full assurance that he should be saved. When he arose, he took up the silk handkerchief on which he had knelt, and carefully put it into his pocket. He looked at the gallows, and took his place on the drop, giving a withering scowl at a man who pushed him a little on one side. He told the hangman how to untie his neckcloth. As he put on the white cap, the yells grew tremendous. "Don't waste rope on him," they cried. "You'll see Daft Jamie in a moment." But the murderer stood unflinching, and even manifested a repugnance to the cap being drawn over his face. He then said the Belief, uttered a cry to God, and, jerking the signal handkerchief from him angrily, fell and died with hardly a struggle.

Falkirk Herald 28th March & 4th April 1867

MR. NEILSON'S SALES.
TORAVON GRASS PARKS,
On FRIDAY, 5th APRIL.
MR. JAMES NEILSON
Will Let by Public Roup, on Friday the 5th April, 1867, THE GRASS PAKKS on the LANDS of TORAVON, Near Maddiston, Belonging to W. H. Muir, Esq., For Grazing Sheep, Cattle, and Horses.
Roup to begin at Two o'clock

Falkirk Herald - Thursday 4th April 1867

SALE OF
MILCH COWS, YOUNG CATTLE, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, AT BEEDYKE,
NEAR AVONBRIDGE,
ON MONDAY, 15TH April.
To be sold by Public Roup, at BEEDYKE (about half a mile from Avonbridge), on Monday the 15th April, 1867
3 Milch Cows, 3 and 4 years old, 2 of them calved,
1 Two-year-old Quey,
1 One-year-old Do.,
1 One-year-old Bull,
1 Pet Ewe,

1 Fat Pig.

ALSO

A Chest of Mahogany Drawers, Eight-Day Clock in Mahogany Case, Close Press with Drawers, 3 Harwood Tables, a Dozen Hardwood Chairs; Grates, Fenders, and Fire Irons, with the whole of the Kitchen and Cooking Utensils, and a lot of Dairy Utensils.

THREE MONTHS CREDIT ON THE CATTLE

The whole to be Sold without Reserve, as the Exposer is leaving the country.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock Afternoon.

DAVID NICOL, Auctioneer.

TO LET.

To be Let for such number of years as may be agreed on, THE HOUSES, and that Part of the LANDS of BEEDYKE, in the Parish of Muiravonside lying on the South side of the Bathgate Railway.

For particulars apply to the Proprietor, John Boyd, Babbithill, who will receive offers till the 16th April current.

Babbithill, 1st April, 1867.

Falkirk Herald - Thursday 11th April 1867

MUIRAVONSIDE.

CONCERT.-

On Friday week, Mr. Simpson, teacher of music, gave one of his unique entertainments on Scottish songs in Muiravonside School-room. The initiatory part consisted wholly of Jacobite songs, which were rendered in first-rate style and in character - Mr. Simpson being in Highland costume. Before the singing, he gave a lecture upon our Scottish songwriters, Burns, Tannahill, Hogg, and Lady Newton as standing in the very first class. Hogg, he affirmed, was at the head of the Jacobite department. Each song was introduced by a criticism on its merits, and an account of the circumstances under which it was written. This can only be done properly by a poet; but Mr. Simpson possesses in a high degree the poetic faculty, and we are not sure but some of his own pieces would have pleased the audience as well as any given in the course of the evening, such, for instance, as the "Fold Stream Land." Mr. Simpson was assisted by Miss Bruce, from Edinburgh, a lady who is well known as a first-class singer in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London. She excelled equally in the harmonious and the pathetic, and held the audience quite entranced while singing "Afton Water," "Clap your hands, bairnie," "The Flower o' Dumblane," "Whistle, and I'll come tae ye my lad," "Wee Jocky Daidies," and "Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch."

Stirling Observer Thursday 18th April 1867

COUNTY LICENSING- COURT.

The annual meeting of the Justices of the Peace, held for the purpose of granting licenses for the County, took place in the Judiciary Court-Room on Tuesday A. G. Speirs, Esq., of Culcreuch, Convener of the Court, presiding. The other Justices present were Sir J. E. Alexander of Westerton; Mr. Buchanan of Carbeth; Mr. Campbell of Boquhan; Provost Murrie; Mr. Wilson of Banknock; Dr. Muschet of Birkhill; Mr. Wright of Broom; Mr. Blackburn of Killearn; Mr. Munnoch of Cringet, &c. The existing licenses having been read over by the Clerk, The Chairman asked with regard to those parties at present holding a license and who had during the year been convicted of a breach of their certificate whether the Justices would deal-with these cases at the present meeting; or if they would continue them until next court day, so that the bench might be made aware of the several offence for which the parties has been convicted. Mr. Wilson thought it desirable to pass over those who had been convicted once with the usual admonition, and let cases of those who had been twice convicted be continued till next Court day. Mr. Buchanan said this matter was before them last year, and they resolved at that time - seeing that "first convictions" were becoming so numerous - to inquire into the nature of the offences. After some further conversation, the meeting disposed of the cases of those parties who were present in Court, and continued the others.

Applications by Wm. Stevenson, for public house, Dunipace; John Smith, for inn and hotel, Falkirk; and Thomas Pennycuik, for public house, Loan, Muiravonside, were all remitted to the Falkirk Justices.

Glasgow Herald Monday 13th 15th 20th May, 6th 13th 20th 27th June 4th 11th July 1867

EILGIBLE INVESTMENT & DESIRABLE PROPERTY, WITH RESIDENCE.

FOR SALE, at Present, by Private Bargain, and at a Moderate Price, THE ESTATE of CRAIGEND, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, extending over 500 Acres, and situated about two miles from Polmont Junction, Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, and one mile from a Station on Monkland and Bo'ness Railway, The Polices and Lands are tastefully ornamented with Shrubberies and Timber, and the Farms Let to substantial Tenants. Apply to Messrs Gibson Craig, Daziel & Brodies, Edinburgh; M'Grigor, Stevenson & Fleming, Glasgow; or Russel & Aitken, Falkirk

Falkirk Herald Thursday 30th May 1867

MUIRAVONSIDE.

The Bowling Green. - Muiravonside Bowling Green was opened on Saturday evening, when several matches were played. The Polmont Brass Band were in attendance. The members of the club take the opportunity of publicly thanking Mr. David Strang jeweller, Falkirk, for his very handsome present of silver medal, given to promote the welfare of the Working Men's Club in this district.

Dundee Advertiser Saturday 1st June 1867

FALKIRK MAY TRYST

FRIDAY, MAY 32.

The third of the new Trysts established at Falkirk this year was held to-day on the usual stance at Stenhousemuir. The weather, though the wind was easterly, was pleasant enough, and the attendance of dealers and the general public was fully greater than at the two preceding markets. Unfortunately, however, the number of buyers present was unusually limited, which silted in the worst trade known in this part of the country. The clashing of the meeting with that at Stirling had, no doubt, an injurious effect on it, while owing to the want of grass, and absolute determination exists among farmers against increasing their stock till summer appears to have permanently set in. The sheep on sale to-day consisted mainly of half-bred and Cheviot hogs, a considerable number of which were from Dumfriesshire. A few cross hogs, and two lots of blackfaced ewes with their lambs were also on sale. For all kinds trade was uncommonly slow, and prices were a shade easier than last month. In the cattle market the supply from Ireland was exceedingly large, and included some very good lots of fresh healthy cattle. There was no sale, however, and at the close of the market fully three-fourths of them remained unsold. For Ayrshire milch cows there was a dull demand, while for grazing beasts of this breed the inquiry was more than usually restricted. Highland cattle would have met a fair market, but only a few lots were shown. The following, among other sales, were recorded:-

CATTLE

Mr. James Graham, Myathill, sold a lot of two-year-old West Highland queys to Mr. Speak, Lancashire, at £8 8s, and a lot of stots to the same gentleman at £8, a lot of calving queys and milch cows at from £12 to £15 10s, and calving queys at from £8 to £10. Mr. Walker Smith, Edinburgh, sold Irish two-year-old bullocks at from £10 to £12 10s, and stirks at from £4 to £7.

Mr. Dougall, Househill, sold three two-year-old Ayrshire bulls at £12 a-piece. Mr. Henry Flockhart, Edinburgh, bought a lot of two-year-old West Highland beasts at £6, and a lot of two-year-old Irish cattle at £8. Mr. Stark, Midcalder, bought milch cows at from "10 to £15. Mr. Henry Arthur, Avonbridge, sold milch cows at from £7 10s to £13. Mr. William Brock, Denny, sold milch cows at from £8 to &14. Mr. J. Goodwin, Peathill, sold ditto at from £10 to £15. Messrs Tieman & Son, Glasgow, sold a lot of two-year-old bullock at £10 12s 6d. Mr. Rennie, Bonnyfield, sold 23 milch cows at prices ranging from £10 10s to £14.

SHEEP-

Mr. Kennedy, Edinburgh, bought a lot of Cheviot hogs at 22s 6d, and a lot at 18s 6d. Mr. Mudall, Dumfries, sold a lot of Cheviot hogs at 23s. Messrs Swan & Sons, salesmen, Edinburgh, sold a lot of Cheviot hogs to Mr. Logan, Legerwood, at 20s; a lot of blackfaced ewes and lambs at 27s; and half-bred hogs at from 22s to 28s. Provost Keir, Falkirk, bought a lot of half-bred hogs at 30s. Mr. Stark, Camelon, bought a lot of half-bred hogs at 22s; a lot of Cheviot hogs at 10s; and a lot of blackfaced ewes and lambs at 27s. Mr. Ross, Glasgow, sold a lot of half-bred hogs at 26s. Mr. Forgie, Edinburgh, sold a lot of Cheviot hogs at 18s; and a lot of crosses at 24s. Generally Cheviots hogs ranged from 18s 6d to 23s, and half-breds from 28s to 35s.

In the horse market no business of importance was transacted.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 6th June 1867

THE MUIRAVONSIDE GAMES are fixed to come off on FRIDAY the 12th July, on the same as last year.

By Order of the Committee,
DANIEL BINNIE, Secy.
Bowhouse.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th 11th July 1867

MUIRAVONSIDE GAMES will take place on FRIDAY the 12th July on the Grounds of VELLORE.

Games to commence at 12 o'clock, when PRIZES will be awarded for open competition in Vaulting, Mile Race, and Donkey Race. For particulars see Handbills.

DANIEL BINNIE, Secy. Bowhouse, Muiravonside.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 18th July 1867

MUIRAVONSIDE. ANNUAL GAMES.

These games, which were instituted last year, came off on Friday in a field adjoining Vellore Castle, kindly granted by the public-spirited proprietor, John G. Urquhart, Esq. The weather was delightful, the sun being obscured by fleecy clouds which drifted lazily along the sky, while a fine cool breeze blew from the east, thus rendering the day one of the most pleasant that could have been wished for. The view from the field is magnificent embracing, as it does, Linlithgow town and palace in the distance, with the Almond iron works smoking away in the foreground. From a rough calculation we should suppose there were between 2000 and 3000 spectators, including a goodly sprinkling of the gentry of the neighbourhood. Among the ladies and gentlemen present were - Col Stirling, of Tarduf, and Miss Stirling; T. S. M'Caul, Esq. of Haypark, and Lady; Miss Maxwell; Dr M'Farlane, Polmont; Archibald Gault, Esq., Grangemouth; John Thomson, Esq., Carronflats; John Hardy, Esq., Linlithgow; Thomas Gaff, Esq., Laurieston; Mrs. and the Misses Gair, Kilns; Thomas Kincaid, Esq. of Quarrybank, Greenock, and Miss Kincaid; Patrick Murdoch, Esq., Falkirk; Alex. Kincaid, Esq. Liverpool, and Lady; Mrs. and Misses M'Farlane, Muiravonside Manse; Allan Bell, Esq., Abbotshaugh, and Miss Sherriff; M. M. Henderson, Esq.; R. W. Dorward, Esq. &c. The Camelon Band was present, and discoursed a variety of pieces during the day, while the various competitions were being carried on. Much praise is due to them for the manner in which they performed their part. The committee also, and especially Mr. Daniel Binnie, secretary, deserve a word of praise for their indefatigable exertions to preserve order and harmony throughout the day. Mr. C. Denford of Shieldhill officiated as starter and umpire, to the satisfaction of every one present. In connection with the meeting, it has to be stated that the children attending the Parish School, under the care of Mr. Henderson, and the Female School, under the care of Miss Ross, numbering altogether 150, were kindly entertained by Mrs. Urquhart, in front of Vellore House. No accident that we are aware of occurred, except that an ale-cart driver's horse took fright, and upset nearly the whole of the contents of the cart; the beverage running down the "brae" in a clear stream, and affording a delightful draught to several "drouths" who happened to be on the ground at the time. Subjoined is a list of the various competitions which were gone through, and which were all confined to the parish except the mile race, vaulting, and a hurdle race: -

Quoiting (6 competitors) 1st (£1), Wm. Morrison; 2nd (10s), John Bryson; 3rd (5s), Alexander Fleming. Several good ends were witnessed in this competition, which was carried on from 9 o'clock till about 1. Putting the 18 lb. ball (6 competitors) - 1st (10s), Robert Heaps; 2nd (5s), John Muirhead; 3rd (2s 6d), John Gow. The winner threw 30 ft 8 in.

300 Yards' Race (5 competitors) -1st (10s), Samuel Smith; 2nd (6s), Neil Forsyth; 3rd (4s), Richard Williams.

Running High Leap (5 competitors) - 1st (10s), Wm. Heaps; 2nd (6s), James Gray; 3rd (2s 6d), William Hardie, height of the winner's leap 4 ft. 4 in.

Throwing the 16 lb. hammer -1st (10s), John Muirhead; 2nd (6s), William Heaps; 3rd (4s), David Flint. The winner of the first prize threw 56 feet.

Vaulting with the Pole, confined to the parish (5 competitors) - 1st (10s), Wm. Heaps, 8ft. 1 in.; 2nd (6s), James White, 7ft. 9 in.; 3d (4s), Thos. Rae, 7ft. 6 in.

Running Hop, Step, and Leap (6 competitors) - 1st (12s), Alex. Roberts, 36 ft. 8 in.; 2nd (8s 6d), James Wardrobe; 3rd (5s), Wm. Muir.

Tossing the Caber - 1st (10s), Neil Stevenson, 18 ft. 5in. 2nd (5s), Wm. Heaps; 3rd (2s 6d), Robert Heaps. Half Mile Race - 1st (£1 5s), Samuel Smith; 2nd (15s), Neil Forsyth; 3rd (7s 6d), Wm. Muir. Smith took the lead at the second round, was never overtaken, and won easily by several yards.

Vaulting with the Pole (open), (6 competitors) - 1st (15s), Anderson Turner, Salsbury, 9 ft.; 2d (10s), Wm. Heaps, 8 ft. 7 in.; 3d (5s), Wm. Bruce, Falkirk, 8 ft. 6 in.

Three-Legged Race (7 couples entered) 1st (10s), Gray and Heaps; 2nd (5s), White and Tod; 3rd (2s 6d), Muir and M'Luckie.

Boys' Race, under 5 feet (8 competitors) - 1st (6s), Wm. Meek; 2nd (4s), Henry Weir; 3rd (2s 6d), James Scobbie.

Boys' Race, under 4 1/2ft. (9 competitors) - 1st, (4s), Robert Monro; 2nd, (3s), John M'Lay; 3rd, (2s), John Bishop; 4th, (1s), James Conolly.

One Mile Race, open (3 competitors) 1st, (30s); 2nd, (15s) This was decidedly the "Derby" of the day. Turner, after playing with Lumsden of Bo'ness, and Samuel Smith, eventually shot ahead, and came in 20 yards before Lumsden, while Smith had to relinquish the contest before reaching the winning-post.

Sack Race (3 competitors) - 1st, (6s), James White; 2nd, (4s), Matthew Forsyth.

Hurdle Race, confined to the parish, (4 competitors) 1st, (10s), William Heaps; 2nd, (5s), Samuel Smith; 3rd. (2s 6d), Robert Forsyth.

Wheelbarrow Race (5 competitors) - 1st, (6s), Robert Nimmo; 2d, (4s), Peter Wilson; 3d, (2s), James Drysdale.

Hurdle Race (Open). - 1st (10s), Anderson Turner; 2nd (5s), Alex. Lumsden; 3rd (2s 6d), William Bruce. This was substituted for the donkey race, none of the above animals putting in an appearance.

A leg of mutton was also hoisted on a greasy pole for competition, but there were no entries.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 25th July 1867

THE LINLITHGOW TALES. No. 6. - THE RESURRECTIONISTS.

At a period of between fifteen and twenty years ago I used to pay frequent visits to the ancient burgh of Linlithgow under circumstances which caused me then to regard that somewhat dingy, irregularly built town as the most interesting and romantic spot on the face of the whole earth. Part of my midsummer holidays were regularly spent there, for I was at the time attending classes in the Edinburgh University, and a great deal of my spare cash was absorbed by fares for running in and out by the new railway, which seemed truly the magic power able "to annihilate both time and space." We all know how foolish and sentimental young men become at a certain age, which some people call the poetical, and how silly they sometimes appear to onlookers and to their seniors who have already passed by that time in their lives. The fact is, that my present wife's father, an ex-baillie of the burgh, and one of the 27 gods of Linlithgow, shortly before abolished, was then living there, and I made all manner of excuses and took every possible opportunity for running out to see the young lady after having first met her at her brother's lodgings in the city, often to the serious interruption and neglect of my studies. During my first year at college one of the professors - the Greek I think it was - took occasion to remark to the class that "a student should never, on any account, fall in love till the end of the session;" yet, the year following, I myself failed in passing a mathematical examination through the same infatuation. It was a saying of my father-in-law's, the baillie, that the difference between old men and young men was, that the young men thought the old ones were fools, but that the old men knew the young ones to be so. Like all old men who have had a great deal of experience in the practical affairs of life, the baillie was fond of enlarging upon the great inferiority in stamina of the rising generation around him, compared with the youth of a by-gone age when he was a young man, notwithstanding all their newfangled notions and appliances. He would tell me that I hardly knew I was born, and, on one occasion, when I quoted the passage in the 2d Book of the Odyssey, 1. 245, which may be thus rendered, "few children grow up equal to their sires, but most of them inferior, although a few are found to surpass them," he was pleased to allow that learning Greek might not be quite useless after all. My wife was an only daughter, and had lost her mother many years before we became acquainted. She was not esteemed remarkably good-looking, yet "there is no accounting for taste," as the man said when he kissed his cow. At any rate, I thought, and still think, her both good and clever, and in those days would have done anything in the world to get possession of her. Most of my courting had to be done by coups d'oeil, or by short snatches during walk, or wandering among the ruins of the old Palace, where, under pretence of a strong antiquarian interest, I often persuaded the old gentleman and her to accompany me. Through being acquainted with Miss M'C---, the lady to whose care it was formerly entrusted, he was always able to obtain a ready access to that venerable pile of deserted yet still impressive grandeur. The repairs which it has undergone, and the removal of the dirt and rubbish which had accumulated in every corner, have, since it was taken possession of by the Government and put under the care of a regular keeper, greatly enhanced the safety and pleasure with which an hour may be spent in rambling through its innumerable passages, staircases, and halls; nevertheless, it was as charming and full of interest to me when I first knew it as the fairy palace of Aladdin to the Arabian Nights. The venerable Baillie, who was too shortwinded for such efforts, remained below in the quadrangle, while we climbed the stairs and walked along the parapets and tops of the walls together, discussing our music, poetry, novels, acquaintances, and other subjects of mutual interest, until he became impatient and called us down again. At length, much to my chagrin, this manoeuvre was discovered, and put a stop to. When I ventured to hint matrimony he fairly laughed me out of countenance, and told me that she would be too young for five or six years to come, although when I once told her that she was "only a wee lassie," she got angry, boxed my ears smartly, and replied that I was "just a big laddie" myself. When I offered to run away with her, and go into a Government situation, to which I had a claim, she had sense enough to put me off until the end of my curriculum. This went on for three or four years, however, and I had to spend, or, as I thought, waste, many an evening over the toddy telling stories and listening to his recollections of old Linlithgow. What I remember of his sayings and observations cause me to entertain a great respect for his memory, and lead me to believe that he was a man of most remarkable shrewdness and common sense. In this way I became acquainted with the characters and histories of many of the natives of Linlithgow, and was told everything remarkable that had taken place in the town for the last half century. Most of these particulars have now faded from my memory, although it will not be difficult to recall them if some day I can find time to compare notes with two or three of the oldest inhabitants who must have taken an active part in them. The following incidents referring to the days of the resurrectionists, being more in my way as a doctor, made a somewhat deeper impression, although the reader must make some allowance for discrepancies, seeing that they are all taken down from hearsay. Linlithgow and the towns and villages in its neighbourhood, no doubt owing to their position upon the Edinburgh and Glasgow road, were often exposed to the visits of the body-snatchers or resurrectionists, who opened the new made graves, and carried off the occupants for the use of the doctors, lecturers on anatomy, and medical men of all descriptions in the city, among whom there was always a large and continued demand for that commodity. My mind has never been altogether made up as to the reprehensibility of such a traffic, and it has always to me appeared a most sensible proceeding on the part of the man who, having been afflicted in life with an unusual and complicated disorder, specified expressly in his will that his body should be given over after death to the doctors to dissect for the advancement of science, and the benefit of his fellow creatures. Without doubt, exceedingly disagreeable to the personal friends of the deceased, it has yet supplied to Barclay, Liston, and other of our great anatomists, the means of founding in Edinburgh one of the finest modern schools of medicine, and just as there is but a step between the sublime and the ridiculous, so there is often a still smaller remove between man's greatest glory and his shame. Taking into consideration that a student of medicine or surgery has to go through the whole body two or three times, piece by piece, and fibre by fibre, until he is able to recognise and name every joint, suture, muscle, sinew, vein, artery, nerve, &c, why should the useless dead body be grudged which is employed solely to aid in preserving the living. The inhabitants of Linlithgow were troubled with no such compunctions, however, as the sequel will shew. The older half of them quite well remember having to take their turn in watching to keep away the bodysnatchers up at the church-yard, for the practice was kept up for many years, and every householder had to go himself or find a substitute, which came round once or twice a year. The watch-house, provided for that purpose, stood about the centre of the south side of the church-yard between the grave stones of Robert Aitken and George Hendry. The first body known to have been lifted from there was that of Benjamin Jamieson or Davidson, which was tracked over the soft ground of the Peel to the Duke's entry, at that time still open, and where there was most likely a conveyance in waiting to carry it off to Edinburgh. At another time, two brothers by the name of Henderson, when hoeing potatoes in a field at the east end of the town, came upon something buried in a sack which turned out to be a corpse. The same day, a man belonging to Linlithgow, happened to pass through Kirkliston, and saw a person with a horse and gig watering his animal at the inn. He informed him of the discovery of the body, and warned him not by any chance to stop or alight from his gig near to the place, for there was a party lying in wait who would "yoke on him, and maybe kill him afore he kent." Ere the sentence was completed, however, the fellow had turned his horse, and was driving off as hard as possible back towards Edinburgh. One week day evening also when two persons, still living and well-known in Linlithgow, were standing at the door of the Morrisonian Chapel, about to enter in order to attend a meeting, one of them observed a gig, containing apparently three persons, driving rapidly round the back of the town. The centre figure of the three was muffled up in a great coat and cravat, but had such a pale face and such a stony stare in its eyes, that there was no mistaking it for a corpse, which the other two had bolstered up between them. Before the alarm was raised they were far away in the distance. For a long

time corpse-lifting was carried on so cleverly that there was believed to be a traitor within the camp, well acquainted with all the burials which occurred, until at last one M'Leod, the town piper, was caught with a spade under suspicious circumstances, and first mobbed in his own house, and then driven from the town, when the depredations ceased. Linlithgow was not the only place which was annoyed and terrified in this manner. At Muiravonside, where the canal when in making cut off a corner of the lonely churchyard, the boatmen were in the habit of raising the bodies before they were twenty-four hours in the ground; sometimes having the audacity to ring the church bell, the rope of which hung on the outside; and before the people of the parish could collect and learn what was wrong the rascals were well on the way to Edinburgh with their barges. A story is told of a man, belonging to Torphichen, who had emigrated in his youth, and returned in afterlife to his native village to pay his friends a visit. He found them all either scattered or dead and buried, and went up to the churchyard to see the grave of one said to be therein buried. Before long a woman espied him from her cottage door, and took him for a body-snatcher taking stock for a midnight robbery. "Awa ye get out o' that," cried she, "y'ell get naething here. Awa ye gae doun tae Lithgo', their no sae strick there noo;" and her cries having turned out the villagers in a body, he had to run pretty smartly to escape violence. 'Didn't I see him,' said the woman to her neighbours after he was gone, "didn't I see him sittin' on Johnny Nicol's grave, plannin' hoo a' he would dae tae get him up i' the night time." Many more such stories the Baillie was able to relate. For the present we will content ourselves with a single addition. About seven o'clock one evening during the month of July or August in the year 1822, while my friend was seated in his office, he was disturbed by a great noise in the street, which, on going out, he found to be caused by the capture of a body-snatcher, along with a gig full of corpses. The particulars of the seizure, as he related them, are pretty nearly as follows - That afternoon a herd boy, while quietly seated in a held by the main road near to Polmont, had observed two men drive up with a horse and gig and pull out three dead bodies from a large midden heap, where they had previously hidden them. He immediately ran up to the farm-house, three-quarters of a mile distant, and told his master, Mr. Scott of Gilston, what had taken place. Mr. Scott was a man of energy and spirit, and to mount his pony and start in the pursuit was the work of an instant. He rode with neither stirrups nor spurs on a saddle which was commonly used in those days called sunks, and he kept his pony going at full speed by probing him continually behind with a long nail or spike held in his right hand. My grandfather, who quite well remembered his appearance when he entered the town that evening, said that he wore knee breeches, long stockings and shoes. He spoke, too, with a very strong burr, so that when he first overtook them and began to cry out at Linlithgow Bridge, " Crppse in the; gig, crpse in the gig, crpse, crpse," as they drove furiously past, pursuing and pursued, no one could make out what he said, or what was the cause of the outcry. On reaching Linlithgow, one of the men jumped out of the gig and escaped down the Bo'ness road, while the other drove straight on. At last, a young man, by the name of Douglas, son of a character well known over all the country side as the Duke o' Douglas, who knew Mr. Scott, and heard him shouting "Crpse in the gig, crpse, crpse," ran forward and seized the horse's head to stop the machine, and find out what was the matter. The driver tried to force his way past, but one Hugh Christie went to assist, and they came to a stand still a little to the west of the shop now occupied by Mr. Oliphant, baker. The driver then jumped out, and ran for his life. As soon as Mr. Scott came up and explained what was wrong, part of the crowd which collected gave chase, and part remained to find out what was in the gig. Both the apron and the curtain which covered the opening of the box below were whipped off and sent flying, exposing to view three human bodies, which lay underneath, without the slightest further covering. Each one was doubled up and tied together by a string drawn round its neck and under its knees. One was that of a young woman, about sixteen, and another of a young man of twenty, which one of the onlookers recognised, notwithstanding its sunken eyes, as that of an old school-fellow, named John Brown, son of Wm. Brown, farmer at Ochiltree Castle, and buried in the Parish Churchyard of Larbert six weeks previously. The third was of a man unknown. After being untied and lifted out on to the road, they were carried slowly and carefully up to the Town House. The sight of the corpses had meanwhile roused the fury of the mob to the very highest pitch. They hunted the driver of the gig out of every corner in which he attempted to take shelter. Having fled to the shop of Mr. Alexander Baird, or Sanders Baird, as my informant called him, he was quickly thrust forth again, leaving his whip in the hand of the latter, who long afterwards showed it as a relic. The very excess of rage on the part of the people alone saved the fellow from having his brains dashed out, for in their eagerness to strike the one pulled back the other, and hindered them from getting a blow. It ended in his being locked up for the night in the common prison. The anger of the populace was then directed against the gig. Obtaining hammers from a neighbouring smithy, they took off the wheels, knocked them to pieces, then carried them down the vennel, and threw them into the loch. Afterwards the body of the gig was dragged along the town, occasional halts being made to afford them an opportunity of having another smash at it. A stout young sawyer, who got hold of one of the shafts, declared it to be as tough a piece of wood as was ever put in a carriage, "the real hickory," for it bent back to the very axle before it broke. Many carried away the pieces in order to serve as trophies. Last of all, a cry was raised to kill the horse, to prevent identification, and save the town from the consequences of their night's proceedings, although this foolish proposal was not carried into execution. All three bodies were eventually claimed by the friends and carried back to Larbert, where they had been originally buried. A subscription was soon after raised for the purpose of presenting Mr. Scott of Gilston with a testimonial in acknowledgment of the services rendered on this occasion, which was in the form of a silver snuff-box, valued at over five pounds, towards which my friend, the Baillie, contributed the, for him, munificent sum of five shillings. A further instalment of these reminiscences has been deferred to a future opportunity.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 1st August 1867

Situations

PECENTOR WANTED for the U.P. CHURCH, AVONBRIDGE. Salary, £5. Applications to be lodged with MR. ANDREW JARDINE, as early as possible.
Avonbridge, 26th July, 1867.

Stirling Observer Thursday 8th August 1867

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS COURT.

INTIMATION IS HEREBY MADE, That the SHERIFF of the COUNTY of STIRLING has given Notice, in terms of the Acts 2d and 3d William IV., chap. 65, 19th and 20th Victoria, chap. 58, and 24th and 25th Victoria, chap. 83, that on the days, and at the places after specified, he will HOLD OPEN COURTS, for the purpose of REVISING and CORRECTING THE REGISTER of VOTERS for the COUNTY of STIRLING, and deciding on the merits of all Claims for Registration, within the same, Objections to these Claims, and Objections to Persons continuing on the Roll of Voters, viz. :-

FALKIRK - and within the SHERIFF COURT HOUSE there, on FRIDAY the 20th September next, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the Parishes of Parishes of FALKIRK- So far as not comprehended in the Burgh of FALKIRK

AIRTH,

LARBERT

BOTHKENNAR,

POLMONT

MUIRAVONSIDE and

SLAMANNAN

THOMAS L. GALBRAITH,

Sheriff-Clerk

Sheriff-Clerk's Office,

Stirling, 7th August, 1867.

Falkirk Herald 8th August 1867

SHERIFF COURT. –

At this Court yesterday- Sheriff Bell on the bench - a man named William Cunningham, from Broadhead, near Redding, was brought up charged with committing a breach of the public peace at Maddiston on Monday last. He pled guilty, and was fined in the sum of 30s, with alternative of 30 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th 22nd August 1867

Mr. NEILSON'S SALES - Continued.

50 ACRES OF OATS AT MUIRAVONSIDE,

On SATURDAY, 31st AUGUST. MR. JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he will Sell by Public Roup, on Saturday the 31st August, 1867, on the Estate of Muiravonside, belonging to Charles Stirling, Esquire, 50 ACRES OF SPLENDID HEAVY OATS, On the Old Pasture Lands of DRUMBOWIE, and SEATREES.

Four months' credit.

Roup to begin at Drumbowie, at One o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 29th August 12th September 1867

SALE OF POTATOES AND HAY,
AT KNOWHEAD, NEAR AVONBRIDGE,
ON SATURDAY THE 15TH SEPTEMBER

TO be Sold by Public Roup, on the Farm of Knowhead, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Robertson, on SATURDAY the 15th September, 1867

6 Acres of POTATOES

1000 Stones of HAY.

The Potatoes is a heavy Crop, and the Hay is very fine quality.

Sale to begin with the Hay at half-past Five o'clock, and the Potatoes at Six o'clock.

DAVID NICOL, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer 17th October 1867

LIST OF APPLICATIONS for CERTIFICATES for the SALE OF EXCISABLE LIQUORS for the COUNTY of STIRLING, for NEW PREMISES, by NEW TENANTS or OCCUPANTS, and for RENEWAL of TRANSFERRED

CERTIFICATES

Name Designation and Certificate	Name and Address of Landlord Residence of Applicant for	Place and Parish of County of Premises. Place. Parish.	Class of applied
Margaret Rankine, House Relict of Charles Rankine Farmer, Netherton Maddiston, Maddiston	Publican, Maddiston, Robert Robertson,	Muiravonside,	Public

FOR RENEWAL OF TRANSFERRED

CERTIFICATES

Margaret Rankine, House Relict of Charles Rankine Farmer, Netherton Maddiston, Maddiston	Publican, Maddiston, Robert Robertson,	Muiravonside,	Public
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Proprietor

Falkirk Herald Thursday 22nd August 1867

ANNUAL SALE.

HAY, POTATOES, AND TURNIPS, AT GREENWELLS, ON THURSDAY, 29th AUGUST.

MR. JAMES NEILSON will Sell by Public Roup, on Thursday the 29th August, 1867, on the Farm of Greenwells, possessed by Mr. William Neilson, 2000 STONES of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in Ricks; and 4 ACRES OF POTATOES and TURNIPS. CREDIT AS FORMERLY.

Roup to begin with the Hay at Half past Five o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th August 1867

AVONBRIDGE

TOTAL ABSTINANCE SOCIETY

During the last week, two temperance meetings have been held here, under the auspices of the above society, in the Evangelical Union Chapel, kindly donated by the managers of the church, and both have proved very successful. On Monday night, 16th inst., the Rev. A. Gray, E.U. minister, Kilsyth, was the speaker. Mr. D. Ballie, occupied the chair, and briefly traced the origin of the Society, and stated the object of the meeting. The lecturer then proceeded with his address, and clearly showed the need for total abstinence, and that it was the duty for all to become abstainers. On the motion of Mr. James Gray, a vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer for his impressive address, with a desire that he would visit us soon again; after which the meeting was closed by prayer. The second meeting was held on Thursday night, 19th inst., when Mr. Turnbull, one of the agents of the Scottish Temperance League, delivered on of those brilliant racy addresses for which he is so much and deservedly celebrated. Mr. D. Baillie again took the chair, introducing the speaker as an "old and tried worker in the cause." It would be useless and impossible to enumerate all the good advices and facts which Mr. Turnbull gave forth, and it is almost needless to say that his lecture has been greatly appreciated; it is only to be regretted that the audience was not more numerous. We are certain when Mr. Turnbull again visits Avonbridge he will meet with a very warm reception. A heart vote of thanks was given to him at the close of his address. The chairman afterwards recited the temperance piece of poetry "The wee doug's appeal to his drunken maister," after which he received a vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. Russel, Stathavon. We believe it is the intention of the committee to hold a Soiree on an early date.

Stirling Observer Thursday 29th August 1867

DEATHS

STIRLING. - At Muiravonside House, Stirlingshire, on the 25th inst., Charles Stirling, Esq. of Muiravonside, son of the late Andrew Stirling, Esq. of Drumpellier, aged 77.

Falkirk Herald, Stirling Observer Thursday 29th August 1867

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

Valuation of lands & heritages, Statute 17 k 18 Vic, Cap. 91.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the COMMISSIONERS of SUPPLY of the COUNTY of STIRLING, will hold a COURT, upon the days, and at the places under-mentioned, for the purpose of hearing APPEALS against the Valuation made by the Assessor for the current year under the above - mentioned Statute, viz -At FALKIRK, upon Tuesday the 10th day of September next, within the COURT-HOUSE there, at Half-past 12 o'clock Noon, for Appeals from the Parishes of

AIRTH,

BOTHKENNAR,

FALKIRK,

MUIRAVONSIDE,

POLMONT,

SLAMANNAN.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th September 1867

DAY OF SALE ALTERED TO MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER.

50 ACRES OF OATS AT MUIRAVONSIDA,

On SATURDAY, 31st AUGUST. MR. JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he will Sell by Public Roup, on Saturday the 31st August, 1867, on the Estate of Muiravonside, belonging to Charles Stirling, Esquire, 50 ACRES OF SPLENDID HEAVY OATS, On the Old Pasture Lands of Drumbowie, and Seatrees, four months' credit. Roup to begin at Drumbowie, at One o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th September 1867

Mr. Nicol's Sale

HAY AND POTATOES,
AT KNOWHEAD, AVONBRIDGE
ON FRIDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER

To be Sold by Public Roup, on FRIDAY the 13th September, 1867, on the Farm of KNOWHEAD near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Robertson,
6 Acres of POTATOES, and
1000 Stones of HAY, in Ricks.

The Potatoes are this year, as usual, a heavy Crop, and the quality is fine; and the Hay is as good as any in the district, and is well got.

Sale to commence with the Hay at Half past Five, and the Potatoes at Six o'clock.
DAVID NICOL, Auctioneer.

Stirling Observer 26th, Dunfermline Saturday Press Saturday 28th September 1867

STIRLING CIRCUIT COURT.

Tuesday, September 21. The Court sat at ten o'clock forenoon - the Lord Justice-Clerk and Lord Cowan on the bench.

The following were the principal cases brought forward: -

CULPABLE HOMICIDE AT BLACKBRAES COLLIERY.

Thomas Heeps, engineman, residing near Blackbraes, parish of Muiravonside, was charged with culpable homicide, in so far as on the 23d March last, he being then employed as engineman at Blackbraes Colliery, Muiravonside in the occupancy of James Russell & Son, ironmasters Falkirk, and while on duty as engineer at at No. 9 pit of said colliery, and in charge of the engine, he failed to supply the engine with water, and introduced water when the boiler was empty, in consequence of which the boiler burst, and the engine-house, boiler-seat, and other buildings were thrown down, and James Anderson, John Heeps, and William Heeps, who were at the head of the pit, were so severely burned and bruised that James Anderson and John and William Heeps, died on or about 25th March, and were thus culpably killed by the prisoner. The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the case went to trial. Henry Aitken, manager of iron-work at Blackbraes Colliery, examined by the Advocate-Depute - The boiler used at the work was fixed - a good boiler, fitted up with all necessary machinery, the water being supplied from a pond. It was fitted with a steam-gauge and safety-valve. The float was about the middle of the boiler. Heeps was in charge of the engine on 23d March last on one shift. It is the duty of the engineman to see that a proper supply of water is upheld in the boiler. Rules are hung up near the engine-house, enjoining the engineer to have the engine in good working order. &c. On the evening of 23d March last, heard of the accident, and proceeded there. The boiler had burst in three pieces, which were blown to some distance. Considerable damage was done to the buildings. Was of opinion the boiler had burst from want of water, but had not seen a boiler burst before. Saw Heeps on Monday, and spoke to him about the accident. He said he could not account for it, and that he had water in the boiler before he went to his dinner at twelve o'clock. Said he had felt the float at half-past eleven in the morning for the first time, and I understood he had been looking for it previously. If the water went away from the gaugecock, he had no means of knowing where the water was. I think if he could not find the float he should have blown off the boiler. Heeps never complained to me of the apparatus about the boiler. By Mr GIFFORD, advocate- It is not my duty to inspect the machinery, but I do so occasionally - to see that all is going right. Have often viewed the engine since it was erected to see that it was in working order. There are engineers for the purpose of inspecting. Witness then described the working of the float. The engine itself feeds the boiler by working a pump, and if the water failed in the pond it was brought up from the pit. Examined the feed-pipe valves and gauge-cock after the explosion. Could not say whether they had been in good working order on seeing them after the explosion. Could not say whether the boiler was thinner where the explosion took place than at others. Had not a pair of callipers to measure the thickness, and could only judge by the eye. Possibly enough the water had disappeared before the explosion took place. By a Juror - Are you aware whether the boiler was insured? It was not insured. George Mitchell, engineman, was on duty on 23d March on the night-shift. Asked Heeps at the foot of the road if the water was well up. He said it had been up a good bit, and that it would be up to the float when I went forward. I kept the feed-pump going on the boiler, and damped the fire to save what water I had. The boiler was not over-heated when I left it. Had kept the fire in a damp state during the night. Cannot say whether the water was completely up to the float when I left. It is the engineman's duty to see that there is plenty of water in the boiler and that the cocks are in good order. There were a float and two cocks on the boiler, but the cocks were choked up. Re-examined - Had been two years at the boiler. The distance between the cocks was about 5 inches. The lower cock would have shown the water below the floats. Did not examine the cocks on the Friday evening. Thought they would be completely choked up. Sometimes they are choked up by the sediment from the water. I kept the engine going. The feed-pipe was on, therefore, as we were getting water in. I considered it safe to continue working the engine. When I failed to get water from the pond, I went to James Chalmers, and he got it from the pit. Chalmers came at five o'clock in the morning, and I had to put on the engine to get up the "kist" of water. Chalmers had to go down to fill the "kist" below. He sent up water immediately. When Chalmers sent up water I put on the feed-pipe. This was between five and six o'clock. The feed-pipe was working when I left at eight o'clock, and there was water in the boiler. Chalmers had continued to send up water to seven o'clock. When I left, the pressure was 35 lb. on the steam-gauge, but can't say what pressure was on the safety-valve. We could safely work it at 40 lb., and we were working it at 35. Hot water had escaped from the safety-valve for two days previously. Did not complain to any one that the feedpipe was not in order. Heeps' house was from 300 to 400 yards from the boiler. By the Advocate-Depute - The feed-pipe was working quite well when I left. If anything goes wrong it is my duty to report it to the engineer, to have it put to rights. A number of practical engineers gave evidence as to the state of the boiler and plates, which showed that the explosion had taken place from overheating, occasioned by a want of water in the boiler - the plates presenting the appearance of having been red hot. The declaration of the prisoner was then read, which was to the effect that he had ascertained that he had a sufficient quantity of water that forenoon by means of the float, and also by the two gaugecocks. Evidence for the defence was then led. George Cant, engineer, Bo'ness, had been a boilermaker for thirty-five years. He was asked to visit the scene after the explosion. Was informed that the wheel of the float was broken; but he did not see it himself. But assuming the wheel to have been broken, it might not have been a good indicator. Did not approve of these cockgages, as they sometimes show the water to be up when it really was not. Witness examined the three valves of the feeding-pump, and found the first to be good, the second bad, and the third wretchedly bad. W. Hamilton, engineer, Glasgow, spoke as to the insufficient state of the boiler. Had examined the gaugecocks, and found them without handles. There should have been fixed handles. The valves seem to have been much worn before the explosion. The Advocate-Depute addressed the jury, and having gone over the evidence, claimed a verdict of guilty. Mr. Gifford spoke for the defence. The jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty, and the prisoner was discharged from the bar. The result of the trial was received with some applause.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th October 1867

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Presentation. - The female pupils attending the Parish School of Muiravonside, on Tuesday, 1st Oct., presented Miss Henderson, sister of Mr. Henderson, the parish teacher, with a handsome work table in token of their appreciation of her kindness in teaching them sewing, knitting, and other branches of ladies' work. There is no female teacher attached to the school, and Miss Henderson's services have been given quite gratuitously.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th October 1867

STACKS, HAY, HORSE, MILCH COWS, QUEYS, 30 SHETLAND CATTLE, PIGS, FARM IMPLEMENTS, CARRIAGES, TURNIPS, &c, AT MUIRAVONSIDE OFFICES.

MR. JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he will Sell by Public Roup, as above, on Tuesday the 12th November.

Particulars Next Week.

WANTED, TEACHER for AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL. - Apply to - MR. WALTER GOWANS, Strath House, Avonbridge, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th 31st October, 7th November 1867

STACKS, HAY, HORSES, MILCH COWS, QUEYS, SHETLAND CATTLE, PIGS, FARM IMPLEMENTS, CARRIAGES, TURNIPS, &c, AT MUIRAVONSIDE OFFICES, On TUESDAY, 12th NOVEMBER. MR JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he will Sell by Public Roup, on Tuesday the 12th November, 1867, the whole STOCK of CATTLE, MILCH COWS, HORSES, PIGS, and FARMING IMPLEMENTS, &c, at the Home Farm of MUIRAVONSIDE, which belonged to the late Charles Stirling, Esquire, comprising :-

14 Stacks of Famous Oats,

2 Stacks of Barley,

2 Stacks of Beans,

1800 Stones of Ryegrass and Clover Hay in 3 Ricks,

2 Draught Clydesdale Horses,

8 Pure bred Ayrshire Milch Cows and Queys, 7 in Calf,

1 Fat Cow,

30 Shetland Cattle ready for being fed off or Wintering,

7 Fine Berkshire Pigs, 3 Fat,

1 Very handsome Clarence Carriage, quite new,

1 Small Chariot,

3 Close-bodied Carts, with wheels and axles,

1 Cart, with broad wheels,

1 Stone Cart,

1 Liquid Manure Cart, with broad wheels,

2 Iron Lea and Stubble Ploughs,

2 Ransom's Subsoil Ploughs,

1 Four-horse Plough,

1 Double-moulded Drilling Plough,

2 Drill Scraping Ploughs,

1 Iron Clod Crusher, by Crosskill,

2 Land Rollers,

1 Double Sowing Turnip Machine,

1 Bean Sowing Barrow,

2 Turnip Slicing Machines,

1 Linseed Bruiser,

1 Patent Live-Cattle Weighing Machine,

1 Cast-iron Land Grubber,

2 Pairs of Iron Angled Grain Harrows,

1 Pair of Grass-seed Harrows, and 1 Pair of Drill Harrows,

Horse Harness,

1 Pair of Barn Fanners,

With the Whole of the other Farming Implements and Utensils, Dairy Dishes, Cattle Tubs, &c,

&c, &c. Also,

15 Eighteen Gallon Casks, and 2 Thirtysix Gallon Do.;

a few heavy Trees of Fir and Hardwood, and a quantity of Burn Wood;

7 Windows, with Frames and Shutters.

Likewise,

SIX ACRES OF SPLENDID SWEDISH AND YELLOW TURNIPS,

AND ABOUT 5 TONS OF FINE TABLE POTATOES.

three months' credit on APPROVED bills.

Roup to begin at Eleven o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 31st October 1867

SHERIFF COURT. -

At this Court yesterday- Sheriff Bell on the bench -

Peter Taylor and Wm. Gartshore were brought up charged with assault and breach of the public peace at Maddiston, on Saturday last. They pled guilty, and were each fined in the sum of 20s, or be imprisoned for twenty days

Stirling Observer Thursday 21st November 1867

ASSESSED TAXES - 1867-8.

APPEAL COURTS - COUNTY OF STIRLING.

THE COMMISSIONERS of SUPPLY for the several DISTRICTS of the COUNTY of STIRLING MEET, on the Days and at the Places undermentioned, to hear and determine APPEALS against charges made by the Surveyor for the current year :-

For the BURGH and PARISH of FALKIRK, and for the PARISHES of AIRTH, BOTHKENNAR, LARBERT, MUIRAVONSIDE, POLMONT, and SLAMANNAN - in the Red Lion Hotel, Falkirk, on THURSDAY the 28th day of November current, at Twelve o'Clock Noon.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 21st November 1867

Parliamentary Notice

BRITISH RAILWAY (FORTH RIVER RAILWAY.)

(NEW RAILWAY OVER THE FORTH AT ALLOA AND ABANDONMENT OF PART OF AUTHORISED RAILWAY OVER THE FORTH, AND OF OTHER WORKS; ALTERATION OF SLAMANNAN JUNCTION RAILWAY; EXTENSION OF TIME FOR COMPLETION OF WORKS NOT ABANDONED AND FOR COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF LANDS ; SEPARATE UNDERTAKINGS; AMENDMENT OF ACTS.)

Second, A Railway with Embankment and other works to be substituted for the viaduct which carries the Slamannan Junction Branch Railway of the Company over the Manuel Burn, in the parish of Muiravonside and county of Stirling, to be wholly situated in the said parish and county, commencing at a point on said branch one hundred and twenty yards, or thereby, from the centre of the said burn where it is crossed by the said viaduct, measured in a northerly direction along the line of said branch, and terminating on the said branch at a point fifty - three yards, or thereby, measured along the same in a southerly direction from the said centre of such burn. And it is proposed by the intended Act to take powers of lateral and vertical deviation from the line and levels of the proposed works as shown on the plan and section hereinafter referred to, within the limits usually authorised by Parliament, or to be prescribed by the intended Act; also for the compulsory purchase of lands and houses in the several parishes and places aforesaid, for the purposes of the said intended new works, and to purchase lands and buildings by agreement, and to stop up, alter, or divert temporarily or permanently all turnpike or other roads and highways, railways, tramways, rivers, streams, waters, watercourses natural or artificial, pipes, sewers, and works of every description which

it may be necessary or convenient to stop up, alter, or divert for any of the purposes of the intended Act, and to alter existing tolls, rates, duties, and charges, and to authorise the levying of new or other tolls," rates, duties, and charges, and to confer, vary, or extinguish exemptions from payment of tolls, rates, duties, or charges :

Glasgow Herald Friday 22nd November 1867

WANTED, Teacher for a Country School. Salary from this to August, £8, with free house and fire. — Apply immediately, R. Jarvie, Dykehead, Avonbridge, Falkirk.

1868

Glasgow Herald 21st February 1868

At South Brae Cottage, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, on the 11th instant, Mrs. John Alexander Baillie; a daughter.

Glasgow Herald Saturday 18th April 1868

IRONSTONE AND COAL, IN SLAMANNAN AND MUIRAVONSIDE PARISHES TO BE LET, Together or Separately, TO BE LET, Various SEAMS of COAL, in the Lands of High and Low Baxton, and In Balmitchel -- In all about 270 Acres; and the IRONSTONE In North Bankhead, about 64 Acres. The Slamannan Railway passes through Balmitchel, and direct access thereto can be given from the other Lands.

John Colquoun, Overseer at Balquatson, by Slamannan, has the Plan, and will point out the Fields; and Offers for the whole or any part may be made to Mr. James Webster, S.C.C7 Albany Street, Edinburgh.

Glasgow Herald Tuesday 3rd November 1868

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

AN UNPUBLISHED INCIDENT IN HIS LIFE.

The Melbourne Argus of September 12 says:- Mr. Alexander Dick, of Drummond Street, Carlton, has sent us an account of an incident in Goldsmith's life which is now published for the first time, and which, we are sure, will be read with much interest and pleasure.. This is not the first occasion on which additions have been made to the life histories of the illustrious dead from the traditions or records of Australian families, for some years ago an original anecdote of Dr. Johnston was discovered in a MS. Domestic memoir in Sydney; and published; and there have been some other similar cases.

The story runs "On his farm near Falkirk, and about the year 1750, my grandfather, William Dick, was caught by the press gang, and compelled to serve, in the regiment of Picardy. My grandmother, Mary Dalgleish or Douglass, joined him. The regiment passed to Ireland, and it was ordered on Foreign Service. Mary was debarred from accompanying her husband. They had three children - Adam, Willie (my father), and Jeannie. It was now 1752, and the children were seven, five, and three years of age. Mary resolved to return to Edinburgh. She had not travelled a fortnight when she was robbed, as she slept, of her money, her clothes and her children's clothes. It was a lone house, and the people had no clothing to bestow. Mary and her children went forth in their night dresses. Desponding, despairing, she travelled on, but a ministering angel was at hand, and saved her. Oliver Goldsmith, on horseback, met her. No salutation passed. Willie and Jeannie were behind. Jeannie -now three years old-was ashamed of her dress, and to hide from the gentleman she got close to Willie. He pushed her into a ditch and ran. Goldsmith cried 'What sort of woman are you that you do not look better after your children?' Mary turned round and saw her daughter get to her feet quietly. Goldsmith drew near, and Mary replied, 'I am the wife of an impressed soldier on my way to Edinburgh; but last night I was robbed of our money and our clothes, and I am almost distracted. Goldsmith saw that she was an educated lady, and he begged pardon for the harsh manner in which he had spoken to her, and said, 'I am sorry that I cannot give you more than £1; but I won't leave you till I see you all better clothed. He turned back some miles. They came to a mansion, Goldsmith addressed the inmates, told them his name, begged clothes for his companions and said that he would return and pay for all that they could give. The inmates gave Mary decent material to make clothes for her herself and her children. Mary got to Muiravonside, but she did not go to Edinburgh. The friend that she had lodged with there had died. She was a widow that kept a small shop at, the foot of the Canongate. My grandfather's brothers had occasion to call on her successor. Goldsmith arrived in Edinburgh, and he called frequently at the shop to inquire after Mary's welfare. He was informed that William had been bought off for £40, that he was working at Cathcart for 8d a day, that Mary was sewing and, the children knitting, and paying the money by installments. He sent them a few pounds. Honoured be the memory of Goldsmith. He said that it was the information that Mary gave him of Edinburgh College that made him make up his mind to come to it. Goldsmith set out on a, tour to the North and West Highlands, and to visit Mary at Cathcart; but his money failed him and he had to cut it short He expressed himself greatly disappointed that he had not seen Loch Lomond district, and that he had not seen Mary. He spoke constantly of taking another tour but he did not set out a second time.

1869

Glasgow Herald 29th Friday January 1869

FALKIRK CATTLE FAIR

The winter fair at Falkirk for the sale of cattle and horses took place yesterday, on the usual stance on the Callander Riggs. The forenoon was very wet, but at mid-day the weather cleared up, and warm sunshine followed. The attendance of dealers both in cattle and horses was larger than has been seen for many years at this market, while the show of stock was also in advance of last year. The cattle consisted of chiefly of calving cows of the Ayrshire breed, a few animals in milk, and a lot or two of queys; there were also some grass beasts. At this season of the year milch stock generally indicate a weakening tendency, and the result of yesterday's proceedings formed no exception to the rule. Though there was evidently a number of people in search of stock the market opened stiff, and the dullness was not relieved as the day progressed. Besides the depressed state of trade, prices were down considerably from recent markets, and it was impossible to effect a clearance; indeed, one of the principal exposers failed to break bulk. For the best animals there was, of course, the best sale, and the reduction in the value of them was not so great as in the inferior descriptions. Mr. James Graham, Myothill, sold calving cows at from £10 to £14, and two-year-old queys £8 10s. Mr. Andrew Liddell, Denny, Purchased a lot of cows at prices ranging from £12 to £14. Mr. Gentleman, Falkirk, purchased calving cows at from £10 10s to £14. Mr. William Brock, Denny, sold calving cows at from £11 to £15. Mr. Crawford, Falkirk, sold calving cows at £9 10s, and grass beasts at £6. Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge, sold calving cows at from £10 to £14.

HORSE MARKET

The show of horses was both larger and more excellent in quality than at any of the winter fairs in Falkirk for some years. The attendance of dealers was also large, and included Mr. Duncan, Aberdeenshire; Mr. McKinlay, Glasgow; Mr. Clark, Mearns; Mr. Christie, Stirling; Mr. Robert Rennie, Craigieburn; Mr. Yuill, Glasgow, &c. Mr. Rennie showed a capital stud of 20, which attracted a large amount of attention. He sold them at prices ranging from £20 to £46. Mr. Neilson, Gallowmuir, purchased a fine mare from him at £42. The trade was fair, and a considerable amount of business was done.

Aberdeen Journal Wednesday 30th June 1869**MUIRAVONSIDE ATHLETIC GAMES.-**

Donald Dinnie attended these sports on Saturday, and though too late for the 22lb., ball competition, he gave one throw and sent it 39 feet or 4 feet over William Tait, who gained the first prize at 35 feet. Charles Mchardy was second at 31 feet 6 in. For throwing the 11lb. hammer, Donald Dinnie was first at 114 feet; William Tait, second at 87 feet 9 in., and Charles McHardy, third at 83 feet. For tossing the caber, Donald Dinnie was first, Charles McHardy second, and W. Tait Third. For wrestling, Donald Dinnie was first, C. McHardy second, and Samuel Muir third. Other feats, such as running, leaping, and tilting at the ring on horseback, were engaged in during the day.

Glasgow Herald Thursday 15th, Morning Post Saturday 17 July 1869**MARRIAGES.**

At Jordanhill Renfrewshire, on the 14th instant, by the Rev. R. S. Oldham, William Stirling, Major, Royal Artillery, third son of the late Charles Stirling, Esq., of Muiravonside, to Anna Christian, daughter of the late William Stirling, Esq.

London Standard Friday 20th August 1869**MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.**

Dr. William Macfarlane, M.B. and CM. Glasgow, has been appointed medical officer for the parish of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire.

1870's

1870

Falkirk Herald 8th January 1870

MUIRAVONSIDE PLOUGHING MATCH. THE above MATCH will take place on the Lands of Toravon, near Maddiston, on Wednesday 12th January curt, (weather permitting). Tickets to be drawn at Eight o'clock.
D. BINNIE, Secy.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th 15th January 1870**NOTICE.**

ALL Persons having CLAIMS against the late Mr. DAVID BINNIE, Loan, Muiravonside, are requested to lodge the same with Mr. James Neilson, Auctioneer, Falkirk, within Fourteen Days of this date.
Falkirk, 13th January, 1870.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 15th January 1870**MUIRAVONSIDE PLOUGHING MATCH.**

THE above MATCH having been put back in consequence of unsuitable weather, will now take place on Wednesday the 19th current, weather permitting; failing which, the first favourable Wednesday thereafter.
D. BINNIE, Secy.

Falkirk Herald 20th 22nd January 1870**MUIRAVONSIDE.**

The sixth annual competition in connection with the Muiravonside Ploughing Society took place yesterday on the lands of Toravon, possessed by Mr. John Binnie. The weather was everything that could be desired for such an occasion, and there was a good average attendance of competitors, twenty ploughs being on the ground. The judges were - Messrs Geo. Steel, Rashiehill; Archibald Ronald, Dorrator; and Wm. Learmonth, Upper Kinneil, whose task was rather a difficult one, in consequence of the general excellence of the work performed; and, after careful deliberation, they awarded the prizes as follows, their decision being received with general satisfaction, viz.: -
Seniors 1st prize, including Highland Society's Medal, Jas. Newton, with Messrs. J. & J. Dougal, Knowhead; 2nd, Wm. Hodge, farmer, Boxtou; 3rd, Wm. Hume, with Mr. Robertson, Maddiston; 4th, Peter Stewart, with J. G. Urquhart, Esq. of Vellore; 5th, Thomas Shanks, son of Mr. Shanks, Gillandersland; 6th, Jas. Turner, Boxtou; 7th, Robert Meikle, son of Mr. Meikle, Candy.

Juniors - 1st, James Reid, with Mr. Binnie, Bowhouse; 2nd, Campbell Cuthill, son of Mr. Cuthill, Coxhill; 3rd, Wm. Liddle, with Mr. Stevenson, Whiterigg.

After the match, the judges, committee, and a number of friends, to the number of about thirty, dined in the Athol Arms Inn, Maddiston, where an excellent dinner was supplied by Mr. Danford, the duties of chairman being ably discharged by Mr. Dougal, Knowhead- Mr. D. Binnie, secretary to the society, officiating as croupier.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 3rd February 1870**CURLING.****GRANGEMOUTH JUN. V. MUIRAVONSIDE. -**

A match took place on Friday between these clubs on Callendar Loch, for a Royal Caledonian District Medal. In consequence of the thaw the ice was in extremely bad condition.

The following was the result of the game:

Grangemouth Jun.		Muiravonside.	
Mr. Laidlaw	17	Mr. Forgie	8
Mr. Leishman	16	Mr. Young	11
Mr. Calder	16	Mr. Robertson	11
Mr. Baird	16	Mr. Lawrie	15
	65		44

It will thus be seen the Grangemouth players won the medal by a majority of 21 shots.

Falkirk Herald 5th February 1870**CURLING.****SAUCHIE AND CANGLOUR V. MUIRAVONSIDE. -**

A match took place on Saturday, 29th January, between these two clubs, for a Caledonian district medal, on the pond at Thackrigg, near Craigend, with two rinks aside. The ice was in excellent condition.

The following are the scores: -

Muiravonside.		Sauchie & Canglour.	
Wm. Orr	27	Wm. Drysdale	3
Jas. Laurie	15	Thos. Bulloch	9
	42		12

Falkirk Herald 5th February 1870**JUSTICE OF PEACE COURT.**

A Justice of Peace Court was held on Thursday last in the County Court Room, and presided over by Col. Stirling of Tarduff, Captain Urquhart of Vellore Castle, and John Wilson, Esq. of

South Bantaskine.

REFUSING TO ADMIT THE POLICE.

Charles Danford, innkeeper, Maddiston, was indicted on a charge of having refused to admit the police to his hotel late on the evening of 25th December last, or early the following morning. The charge was denied and the case went to proof-Mr. Wilson, writer, conducting the defence. John Adam, police constable, Blackbraes, deponed - For some time past I have been on duty, by the instructions of the chief-constable, and on the 25th of December last I was in Maddiston, along with Constable Battison, about eleven o'clock. We patrolled to the south of Maddiston, and came back through that place about 12 o'clock. We had to pass Mr. Danford's hotel on the way coming back. When we were at his house it was 5 minutes past midnight. There was a light in the kitchen, and we heard people talking. Battison, the other constable, and I knocked at the door to be admitted, but we got no answer. We went to the window, knocked, and said we were police constables, but it had no effect. As soon as we said we were police constables, the light was put out, and the talking ceased. I distinctly heard Mr. and Mrs. Danford's voices, and several others, which I could not distinguish. I called Mr. Danford aloud, and I am certain the knocking could be heard in any part of the house. We stayed about 20 minutes altogether at Danford's. By Mr. Wilson - I knocked loudly both with my hands and with a stick at the door, and I knocked at the window with my hands. There was a shutter on the window, but I saw the light from the top and bottom, and at the sides. I don't know whether there is a bedroom in Mr. Danford's kitchen or not. There was no light in any other part of the house. There was a slight wind that night. Peter Battison, police constable, Polmont, corroborated the previous witness's statement, with the exception that Battison said he knocked with a stick both at the door and window. This concluded the case for the prosecution, and Mrs. Taylor was the first witness called for the defence. She deponed I live at Maddiston, next house to Mr. Danford. There is a close between his house and mine. I can distinctly hear any noise that is made at Danford's door or window during the night if I am not asleep. I have often heard people knocking with their hands at Danford's door. I remember last Christmas night I lay awake till nearly two o'clock in the morning, because I was expecting one of my sons to come home from Queensferry. I did not hear a noise that night at Danford's door or windows. I can distinctly hear people speaking outside when I am awake in bed. Wm. Taylor, son of the previous witness, deponed to having been at home on the night referred to, and of having heard no noise at Danford's house. Mr. Lewis Stirling, procurator fiscal, and Mr. Wilson then briefly addressed the bench, and after a long consultation, The presiding Magistrate (Col. Stirling) said that the court had had a good deal of trouble in coming to a decision upon the case. The evidence was very conflicting, but they had come to a conclusion that the panel must have heard the police at the window; but, under the circumstances, the court have agreed to make the sentence as lenient as possible, and they accordingly inflict the modified penalty of 5s without expenses, or to be imprisoned for 5 days.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th 19th February 1870

**FALKIRK TOWN COUNCIL AND POLICE COMMISSION
THE GENTLEMAN FOUNTAIN**

The PROVOST said that, in reference to this subject, he might explain that he had been in Glasgow about a month ago, and had the pleasure of seeing the casting of the fountain in the iron founder's premises. It was a very elegant article, and it was beautifully got up. There had been a kind of granite stone discovered near Avonbridge, and Mr. Black was very anxious that this stone should be used for the erection instead of freestone. He expected the one stone would be as cheap as the other. The fountain was quite ready for them, but he had considered it better that, in consequence of the frosty weather, not to proceed with the erection just now, and he wrote the ironfounders to that effect, and they approved of this.

MR. ANDERSON said that he had seen the fount, and he must say it was a creditable piece of work. He would suggest that they delay putting up the fountain for a month or so yet, as the work would be better finished after the wintry weather was over.

MR. HILL expressed his approval of the stone being used for the work which had been discovered near Avonbridge.

After some further remarks it was agreed to delay erecting of the fountain for a month or two; and as to the stone to be used, Mr. Black was to be consulted on that point.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR LINLITHGOW. -

On Tuesday afternoon, a surfaceman who had been engaged shunting trucks at Manuel Station, near Linlithgow, slipped his foot, and fell on the rails, the wheels of the trucks passing over him. The unfortunate man was conveyed to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in the evening, where it was found necessary to amputate one of his legs and the heel of the other.

SHERIFF SUMMARY COURT. -

At this Court on Monday - Sheriff Bell on the bench - Robert Lauchlin, vagrant, for assault and breach of the peace at Avonbridge on Saturday night, 20s or 20 days.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 19th 24th February 1870

To Let

ROUP OF FIELDS, both for Pasture and Cropping on Lands of North Bankhead, Muiravonside Parish, will take place on Wednesday next, the 2nd March, at 12 o'clock, on the ground.

The Fields will be Let in separate lots.

GRASS PARKS, HAY & OAT STRAW

AT AVONBRIDGE,

ON SATURDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1870.

MR. JAMES EASTON has been instructed by Mr. John Marshall to Let, by Public Roup, at AVONBRIDGE, on SATURDAY, 26TH February, 1870, the following Excellent PASTURE,

consisting of

THREE ENCLOSURES,

To be Let for this season's Grazing;

ALSO,

1 FIELD, for Cutting First Crop only; and

400 STONES HAY

300 Do. OAT STRAW.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 26th February, 3rd 5th March 1870

Mr. NEILSON'S SALES.

MUIRAVONSIDE GRASS PARKS,

On WEDNESDAY, 9th MARCH. MR. JAMES NEILSON will Let by Public Roup, on the Estate of Muiravonside, on Wednesday the 9th March, 1870,

THE GRASS PARKS On the Lands of Drumbowie, Seatrees, and Muiravonside Haugh; also the POLICY PARKS Near the Mansion House, and the GRASS in the Woods.

In all, 17 ENCLOSURES.

Roup to begin with the Parks at Drumbowie at 1 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 5th 17th 19th March 1870

MANUEL GRASS PARKS.

TO be Let, for Pasture, for the ensuing Season, on Tuesday the 22d of March,

SIX GRASS PARKS, On the Property of Manuel, in the Parish of Muiravonside. The Parks are of various sizes, and are all good Grass.

Roup to begin at Entryhead at 12 o'clock Noon.

Mr. JAMES NEILSON, Auctioneer.
March 1870.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 19th March 1870

THE COCK O' THE STEEPLE TO THE BAIRNS O' FALKIRK. ODDS AND EN'S.
Curling - An Adventurous Votage - Ploughing . Matches, &c.

An auld freen o' mine in Grangemouth ance had a famous starling that could yatter and crack as guid as ony parrot in the kintry. He had taen great pains wi' its edication, and the result was that it could tell the guidwife to "mak a cup o' tea," speer "what o'clock is it?" "does ye're mither know you're out?" &c, in the usual guttural utterances peculiar to sic beasties. The cage in which it capered hung on the wa' opposite the street door, and when ony freen or acquaintance cam in the bird wad watch every movement o' the intruder first wi' the ae e'e, and syne wi' the ither, and listen as attentively to the crack as gin it kent every word that was said. Among the daily visitors to Willie's domicile was a neebor gossip o' the female sex, whose usual salutation on entering was, "Hech, bodies, hoo are ye a' the day?" This she had repeated times without number in the course o' her visitations, till, without ony ane kenning o't, the starling pick'd it up and pooched it as a sort o' reserve, dootless, to its slender stock o' information. Ae day the gossip referred to cam in at twal hoors to speer for the guidwife, but, won'erfu' to say, the usual salutation wasna forthcoming. The starling couldna understan' it ava. It sat as quiet as a moose wi' its clear glittering e'en fixed on the incomer for a minute or twa, syne it gaed an indignant chuck, chuck, and lap to the ither spar, and listened again. Then it happed back and sat wi' great patience till the wifie was taking her leave, when it screamed out its secret, "Hech, bodies, hoo are ye a' the day?"

Wi' a slight alteration I echo the words o' the starling, and exclaim "Hech, bairns, hoo are ye a' the day? Sin' I last had the pleasure o' addressing you, I've haen mony a cauld whirl, and mony a bitter blast to face: for, as ye ken, nae matter hoo bitter the skyte, I maun hae my face till't. Were my neb made o' ordinary stuff, and had a drap till't, as many o' the bairns had to theirs in the cauld wather, it micht hae gat frozen up athegether, and brocht my crawling to an untimely en'; but, guid be thankit, I'm nane o' ye're common gentry. Though the rain, and the win', and the snaw, and the hail batter aff me every ither day, a blink o' sunshine maks me as cheery and as fit to crawl as ever. Besides, amid a' the wild nor easters that blew, there was aye something o' a heartheezing character gaun on among the bairns, and in the contemplation o't, I forgat a' aboot the wather, tho' it was cauld as Greenland. There, for instance, was the curling bonspiels, which I view'd wi' great delicht, mair especially as the bairns aye cam aff victorious; and it's nae sma' credit to them that such should be the case, considering the metal that was opposed to them. Shairly the Provost and those who are along wi' him, will noo push earnestly forward the scheme o' the new curling pond to a successful termination, ere anither winter caps the Ochils wi' a snawy bannet. Get a pond whar ye could hae a day's curling wi' a nicht's frost. King Frost's a fickle character noo a days, and he doesna aften bestow his favours on his votaries; but sma' as they are, they are worth the watching, for let me see the man, ance he has "redd the ice," that wadna travel fifty miles to enjoy the glorious game, and I'll show you a phenomenon that never was dreamt o' in a' the world's history. Curling is truly a noble recreation, and ane that ought to be encouraged whenever opportunity occurs. Unfortunately, the opportunity doesna occur sic aften as ane wild like; but, as maitters stan', it has aften to be let slip for want o' the means to meet it, as it were, hauf way. The project referred to wad accomplish this in a great measure, and I houpe, wi' a' my heart, that the Provost, wha, without flattery, is a keen and guid curler, will no let it dee oot, but will rather jog it along till the wishes o' his subjects, in this respect, are fairly consummated. While crawling blithely ower the victories o' the bairns during the past winter, I canna help gieing an extra "cockle leerie" for the curlers o' the Port. The Juniors won their first medal this winter on Callendar Loch, and every ane o' them were as proud as peacocks on a sunny day. Certie, they had some reason to be proud too, for its no every club in the proving that could send the curlers o' Muiravonside hame wi their fingers in their mooths. I think I see them yet as

*" To sharp inwick wi' bitter skyte,
And many a pat-lid braw,
They chappit oot afore the gairds,
And yerkit to the snaw:
Till water kelpie neath the ice
In wonder heard the rattle,
And shook wi' dread, beneath the tread,
O' curling kings in battle.*

There was Sandie Laidlaw, looking as grave and earnest as gin the fate o' nations depended on his single arm, while, a wee bit farther ower the ice, Stevedore Tam, wi' a face bleezing like a nor'-wast mune, was roaring like wud, as the stane he had just thrown cam' birring up the "howe." " Diuna meddle her - dinna meddle her! soop noo! soop! Guidsake, what are ye glowing at? Can ye no soop? She his't, ha! ha! On she goes - crack, bang, crack - yin, twa, three, for Grangemouth;" and Tam and his associates perform'd an impromptu bull reel roun' the rings, wi their brooms whirling aloft in uproarious rejoicing. When the game terminated in their favour, the rejoicings were renewed after the approved manner of the Port, and a' the road hame the spiel was played ower and ower again fifty times at the very least. Before they partied the maist o' their ideas had gat sae muddled wi' pat-lids, weekes, hougs, coves, and curling' stanes, that it wad hae puzzled a Greek philosopher, supposing he had studied the phraseology o' the roaring game, as to what they were cracking about. Joking aside, however, the Juniors won their first Caledonian richt gallantly; and as they hae noo broken the spell, the club that lowers their colours for the the neist ane will hae to pit its best fit foremost.

Whenever I begin to crack o' the Port and ony thing connected wi't, I could haver awa frae June to Januar; I ken a' the bodies sae weel, and I admire their ways sae muckle that it's a doonricht pleasure to look back through memory's spy-glass and pick oot the green spots that dotted auld Sealock in life's faucht. Mony's the queer sicht I hae seen ower the taps o' the quid auld Earl's trees frae my eerie uphere, and mony a queer story I've heard - for mindye I've lugs as weel as een - frae the gallant auld tars wha, after shivering their timbers ower hauf the world, had cam' to anchor at last in the vicinity o' Mitchell Laird's shop by the side o' Carron Water. Mony o' the tars referred to hae, alas! foundered and sunk for ever oot o' sicht, but it will be a lang time ere their kindly wather-beaten faces and curious yarns fade oot o' remembrance. I dinna mean to relate a their yarns at present; indeed, though I was ever so much inclined, it wad be impossible; as those of "Lord Pickaxe," wi' his adventures amaug the Mouries(Maories) wad fill a volume themselves. Maybe I'll gie ye some o' them at a future time. Meanwhile as I'm in the way o' odds an' en's, I'll tell ye ane that will show how fearlessly the tars of a bygone age could face " The stormy winds that blow." People noo-a-days aften express their admiration when they hear of some mushroom yacht that has crossed the Atlantic, forgetting for the maist part that the navigators on board hae tempted Providence purely for the sake o' popularity and a name. Should they succeed in reaching their destination they obtain what they bargained for in plenty, but should the muckle waves gobble them up, there's a guid deal o' sarve-them-richt tochts underlying, whatever sympathy may be expressed. Wi' the regular sea-going mariner the case is different. He is aften, by the force o' circumstances, obleeged to ship in crafts anything but seaworthy. He has nae popularity to win but he has breed to earn for the young mooths at hame, and he has produce to bring for the kintry at lairge. Gang he must, and nae ferlie in what kin' o' craft he ships, except it be by freens nearly interested, its only looked upon as a maitter o' coorse. In this way many an adventurous voyage has been made and gane by unrecorded, and yet had the details been placed alongside those of modern experience, belauded as they are, little wad be lost wi' the comparison. Mony years ago, ane o' the maist eminent firms o' timber merchants in Glasca, in commencing business, purchased a lichter named the Princess Royal. She was about 60 tons register, and for 40 years, perhaps, had done duty on the Forth and Clyde Canal. Ane can easily imagine the state she was in after the buffetings she had received among the locks a'

these years, but the firm were anxious to import their ain timber, sae they turned her into dock, caulked her auld sides, and rigged her oot like a sloop, and syne laid her on for guids and passengers at Port Dundas for Pictou, in Nova Scotia. Captain -----, o' Airth was appointed to the command, and Sandie Deas, o' Grangemouth, being enlisted as chief-officer, and four seamen afore the mast, completed the complement o' hands. Having shipped her cargo and one passenger, (a schulemaister), aff she started doon the Bowling Canal, ahint three o' the Bummer's best horses, amid the cheers o' the onlookers. Passing oot into the Clyde, a scowman coming up frae Greenock wi' his vessel, speir'd whar they were bound to, and on being answered Pictou, the man evidently thocht they were making a fule o' him, for on being asked whar he was bound to, he yell'd oot "Gibralter, and be hanged to ye, and aiblins I'll be there as sune as ye'll be at Pictou." Arrived at the Tail o' the Bank they caust anchor, and the Maister went ashore for the purpose o' shipping anither han'; he picked ane up at the Custom House, a tall dandy looking character, wha wanted to "call a keb" to tak doon his kist. The Maister, hoover, said there was nae use gaun to ony expense as he would carry the kist himself - an offer that knocked the conceit clean oot o' the dandy sailor, and made him glad to lug his kit to the quay on Shank's naigie. Neist morning they set sail, and in a few days they were dancing among the waves o' the Western Ocean. It wud be needless to enter into the details o' their weary voyage; suffice to say they arrived safely at their destination, took in their cargo, and prepared to return. They found hoover, that the vessel, never very strong, was likely to gi'e way atehether - was, in fact, likely to burst open - and discharge the cargo, without aether winch or crowbar. Here was a dilemma, but the crew were equal to the occasion: they girt her roon' wi' ain chains like a raft o' timber, and aff they set for hame. In five weeks after they moored her in the canal basin, opposite the Zetland Hotel, amid the congratulations o' Sandie's auld cronies, wha, ere he left, assembled in Bummer Morrison's and solemnly drank his dregy, as they never expected to see him back. Thus terminated the first and last voyage o' the "Princess Royal" across the Atlantic, and by its success laid the foundation o' the extensive timber trade o Messrs Baird & Brown of Glasca. Little was known ootside o' the Port o' the adventure - for it was naething less- and it sune drapt oot o' memory atehether. It is worthy o' a place, even at this late hoor hoover, in the columns o' the Herald, and I'm shair the aeditor will no grudge the space to dae justice to the gallant - hearted sailors o the Port wha took pairt in it. As far as I ken, they're a lying quate and cauld noo, wi' the gowans waving ower their heids, aud the laverocks singing in the lift aboon their narrow beds. The end o the maister and mate was remarkably alike. The captain was fand dead in his bunk on board the "Princess" wi' his open Bible lying beside him; and auld Sandie, after attending a prayer meeting ae nicht in the Port, gaed hame in his usual health, and deed neist morning at four o'clock. "His weary heed was laid at rest, His pilgrimage was duue." Honest auld Sandie Deas, never a man or woman in a' the Port will grudge ye're memory a kindly word Gentle in spirit and simple-minded as a bairn, ye sailed the still waters o' ye're later years till the great commander brocht ye into the peaceful haven o the gouden city, whar nae win's rave nor storms assail.

The thow had scarcely frichted John Frost awa, and a' his curling lieges wi' him, when a new pleasure unfaulded itsel, and killed the megrims that threatened to tak haud o' me. Aroon On every side, east wast, north, and sooth, the farmer bodies wauken'd into life, and in every ither field were trying their skill against ilk ither in turning over lea and stubble. It was a gran sight to see a score o' ploos starting in the match o the Eastern District, the lads ahint them deck'd oot wi' their Feein' Fairsday waistcoats, and looking as gin they were determined to uphaud the honour o their respective toons; and the horses afore them prancin grandly, wi' their polished graith and ribbon-decorated manes. There was nane o' ye're cairter "yine yite's" to be heard here. The lads simply said Bess this or "Rab" that, and at the signal the intelligent animals started as gently gin they kent the prize depended on their steadiness. Up the riggs they travel, mony an anxious e'e watching keenly the progress they are making. "Steady, Tam, steady; I wonder what maks that all mere o' his sae fractious," mutters an onlooker to himself as he watches his freen' up the field. "Od, Jock's making bonny wark," mutters anither onlooker; "end as ye've begun, and the medal's yours." Hauf way up the ploos begin to tail aff, and ere an hoor gaes by they're scattered aboot in a' directions; some are coming doon while ithers are gaun up, and the e'e begins to find it difficult to distinguish the ane it looks for in the ever-varying scene. By-and bye ane o' the ploos finishes up, syne anither, and anither, till the match cam to a conclusion, and then the judges stap in to decide the fate o' the competitors. Carefully they scan a' the different points, mark the uncovered tufts, the broken heidlan', and the cleanest furr, and then, after an earnest consultation, they proclaim Jamie Ronald, o' Cauldhame, the champion o' the Eastern District o' Stirlingshire. Weel dune, Jamie; richt nobly ye hae earned the title, for there hasna been a match in which ye took pairt for years bask but ye've been there or thereaboot, and ye maun hae as mony medals and prizes kicking aboot Cauldhame noo as an Indian has scalps in his wig'am. Ye're a credit to ye're toon, and gin Maister Burns, the schulemaister, had been leeving, he wad hae been prood o' his auld scholar. May ye win mony a prize yet, ere the winter o' age unsteady ye're han', or disturbs the ettle o' ye're e'e. I was speaking o' Maister Burns, the schulemaister, and was hauf intending to reca' some pleasing reminiscences o' his schule doon in Stark's park, but I'm ower late o' beginning this week, and I'll therefore defer them till my next communication.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 7th April 1870

SLAMANNAN

DISPLENISHING SALE AT DYKE FARM

On Saturday last, the whole of the stock on the farm of Dyke, near Slamannan, belonging to Mr. Scott, of Messrs Scott & Gilmour, coalmasters, was sold by public auction. The importance and extent of the sale drew together an unusually large attendance of farmers, graziers, and dealers in cattle from all the surrounding districts. Mr. D. Nicol, Falkirk, was the auctioneer, and from the beginning to the close of the sale he had an excellent company of bidders. The implements - all of modern make - were sold and fair value obtained. The stud of horses was next submitted to competition, and though they presented nothing extra as to quality or character there were plenty of customers, and the whole were without difficulty disposed of at high prices. Mr. Watt, Drumray, bought the best draught horse at £44 10s. Mr. R. Rennie, Craighburn, purchased a colt at £31 10s. Mr. Ralph Stark, Camelon, Purchased a very promising yearling at £16. The stock of cattle was all of the Ayrshire breed, and consisted of dairy cows, queys and bullocks, and a few lots of stirks and calves. Generally they were lean in condition, but nevertheless they fetched a higher value than they would have done in a public market. The dealers could not get a hand in, there being plenty of willing purchasers otherwise. The milch cows sold at from £8 15s to £15; three-year-old queys at from £7 to £11; three-year-old stots at £11; stirks at from £4 6s to £4 17s 6d; and calves at from 18s to 37s. Mr. Anderson, Croy, Mr. Wilson Avonbridge, and Mr. Robert Rennie, Craighburn, were among the largest purchasers. The fields and cropping on the farm for this year were afterwards let, and for which there was a spirited competition.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th , 16th April 1870

POLMONT.

PUBLIC DINNER. -

The dinner on the occasion of the marriage of Dr. Macfarlane with Miss Thomson, of Carronflats, was held on the evening of Tuesday in the hall. Captain Urquhart, of Vellore Castle, occupied the chair, supported on the right by ex-Provost Hardy, Linlithgow; J. H. Melville, Esq. Kersehill; Joseph Mackay, Esq., Grangemouth; Archd. Melville, Esq., and on the left by Dr. Gilmour, Linlithgow; Henry Baird, Esq., Abbotsgrange; John Watson, Esq., Mumrills; Robert Aitken, Esq., Linlithgow; Dr. Macnair, Falkirk; Thomas Gaff, Esq., Laurieston; Andrew Reid, Esq., Haining; Peter Forgie, Esq.; Miller Wilson, Esq. George Forrest, Esq., and John McKinlay, Esq., acted as croupiers. After the company enjoying a sumptuous dinner, served by Mrs. Ballantyne of the Black Ball, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts having given and duly responded to the Chairman rose and proposed the toast

of the evening. He said: - "The toast which I have the honour to propose is one which I feel sure I have only to name to you to induce you to receive it with acclamation - it is the health of the newly married couple. Sometime ago, when it came known that the Doctor was about to enter on a married life, it was mooted in the parish that some demonstration should be made to celebrate the event. A committee was formed, invitations issued, and I had the honour to be asked to fill this chair; while around me I see the response to the call in so many coming here to show their goodwill and esteem for their district surgeon. It is only three short years since the Doctor came to Polmont, a very young man to embark in the great struggle of life. This meeting testifies, in language more powerful than any words of mine that he has not done so in vain. Few young men at his age have occupied such an enviable position. The son of a clergyman of some eminence in the denomination to which he belonged, he enjoyed the advantages of an excellent moral training, while his education was successfully carried out in the best of schools in England and Scotland. Well I remember his youthful face in Linlithgow Church several years ago when spending his vacation with relatives there. He was articled at an early age to a gentleman who is present this evening, from whence he proceeded to the University receiving honours in almost every class he attended. A few weeks after his graduating he settled in Polmont. Never shall I forget the day I was introduced to him by Mr. Forgie, when he asked me if I would only take him by the hand he was sure he would succeed. I thought at the time what could I do for him but I am very glad to say that with the assistance of some of you present this evening we have succeeded far above what we expected. My heart warming to the boy I had known years before, the friendship that day formed has not only remained unbroken, but been daily strengthened by many happy hours spent together. He has enjoyed many of my confidences, which I have always found him treat in the most gentlemanly way; while I have been the recipient of his joys and troubles. Gentlemen, I am aware that all of you are not his patients, while you are all his well-wishers, but I do not say too much that many and the most of you are. When that great enemy of life, disease, has entered your doors, many of you, have sought his services; and I am sure that his advice and help has always been given cheerfully and willingly. I am not, however, going to enlarge on his abilities as a professional man, or his attainments as a gentleman; for I believe that with these you are with myself equally acquainted. His career, in short, has been one of combined success. He is now medical officer to the parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside, while he enjoys the confidence of an extensive circle of patients, the friendship of very many families in the district, and I think I say not too much when I add the respect of all who know him. He is fast approaching the enviable position once held by a gentleman you all liked and loved, I mean the leading physician in Harrogate, Dr. Myrtle, whose only fault to Polmont was, that it was far 'ower' healthy. Dr. McFarlane, with all his success, still wanted a something to make it complete, and that was a wife. This at length has seen fit to take to himself. He has this day married one of the young ladies of the district. To say he has made a good choice is saying too little. Although, perhaps, little known in Polmont, her good name has come before her. Early placed in a responsible position by the loss of her mother, she has been even more than a mother to her brothers and sisters, while her amiable disposition has endeared her to all who have had the honour of acquaintance. She possesses all the good qualities necessary for a good doctor's wife, and I think the Doctor should congratulate himself upon his luck in getting such a gem. He has in truth 'wailed weel.' I am sure it will be gratifying to her to know that she comes to Polmont the wife of a man so much esteemed as this meeting shows. Dr. Macfarlane has been a good son and brother, and good sons make good husbands, while vice versa she has been a good sister and will make a good wife. Gentlemen, in asking you to pledge this toast in a full bumper, let us wish the young and happy couple long life, health, and prosperity. May their future career be as auspicious as the past augurs for them, and long may they go in and out amongst us." The toast was responded to with enthusiasm. After this came the under-mentioned toasts, interspersed with songs sung by members of the company, By Mr. Geo. Forrester, "Mrs. Macfarlane and Family," replied to by Ex-Provost Hardy; by Mr. M' Kinlay, "The Medical Profession and Dr Gilmour;" by Mr. Gaff, "The Groomsman and Mr. J. H. Melville.;" by Mr. Hardy, "Agricultural Interests and Mr. H. Baird;" by Mr. J. H. Melville, "Prosperity of Polmont Parish, replied to Mr. John Wilson, Nicolton; by Mr. Henry Baird, Grange, "The Carronflats Family;" by Mr. Forrester, "The Chairman;" by Mr. Watson, Mumrills, "The Clergy and Mr. Thos. Leishman;" by Mr. McKinlay, "The Scottish Bar and Mr. Robt. Aitken;" by the Chairman, "The Croupiers;" by Mr. Thos. Hardie, "The Strangers and Mr. Joseph Mackay;" by Mr. Henry Baird, "The Ladies and Mr. Arch. Melville, by Dr. Gilmour, "The Curling Club and Mr. Hugh Rose.;" by the Chairman, "The Committee and Mr. Forgie." The company dispersed at a seasonable hour, all highly delighted with the happy evening they had spent. The village during the day had appearance, every house almost being decorated with flags, &c. showing the very high esteem the doctor is held in by all and sundry. The hall also was handsomely decorated by Mr. Nicol of Millfield and assistants with their usual good taste.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 26th March 1870

MR. NEILSON'S SALES
20 FAT CATTLE, & C.,
AT GOWNBANK,
ON MONDAY, 28TH MARCH.
MR. JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he will Sell by Public Roup, on MONDAY the 28th March, 1870, at GOWANBANK (one mile South from Avonbridge), belonging to James Gowans, Esq.,
20 FAT WEST HIGHLAND QUEYS,
Prime Quality;
1 AYRSHIRE MILCH COW, near the Calving;
AND
A Few TONS of PURE REGENT POTATOES for Seed, which have been grown upon new land.
Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 21st April 1870

By all interested in farming and stock-rearing - and the whole community comes more or less under this category - the enterprising and extensive programme of operations adopted on Thursday last by the Eastern District of Stirlingshire Agricultural Association must be regarded with much satisfaction; and we are certain that the hope is sincere and general that it may be carried out with the utmost degree of success. The undertaking that has now been entered upon with such cordiality promises to supply a long-felt want, and to bring us into a position from which it is no small matter of regret we have, from some cause or other, been for so many years excluded- The time used to be when Falkirk could boast of her cattle show; and it was a by no means discreditable exhibition, even for so rich and well situated a town as ours is. Like numerous other of our local institutions, however, its career came prematurely and abruptly to an end, and since then no substitute has been provided. But we have confidence in the belief that the desideratum is about to be amply fulfilled; indeed, if the association's intentions are given effect to, the neighbourhood will far more than regain all it has lost in the way of agricultural demonstrations, competitive and otherwise. In the first place, there is to be an exhibition of cattle, sheep, horses, dairy produce, and implements in the beginning of June next. In addition to Falkirk, it is to embrace the adjoining parishes of Airth, Bothkennar, Denny, Dunipace, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan; so that it will be seen there is plenty of scope for a capital show, both as to the largeness and the quality of the turn-out. The association determined wisely when they resolved to throw open their yards in this comprehensive manner; and although Denny and Dunipace belong, strictly speaking, to the middle, and not to the eastern district of the county, we are glad they have been invited to go into the lists, as the aid of their energetic agriculturists and owners of stock will assuredly be a valuable acquisition to the forthcoming display. We trust, now the necessary machinery for

getting up a really good exhibition has been fairly and auspiciously set agoing, that the project will, by dint of the persevering energy of the promoters and the hearty co-operation of the public, rapidly proceed towards a prosperous and entirely triumphant issue. To all and sundry who can help it on we say - put your shoulders to the wheel and drive away. We know there is no lack of excellent working material. With such men as Provost Russel, Mr. Stark of Summerford, and others equally good and true at its back, the association has every chance of attaining to the summit of its aspirations. The result depends very much upon the members; if they want to succeed they must strenuously exert themselves. Unity should be cultivated; division avoided; and all ought, so far as in their power, to help on the common cause. If the tenant farmers properly acquit themselves of their duty, we have no doubt their efforts will be warmly seconded by the landlords, for whose advantage almost as much as for that of the farmers the proposed exhibition is. Subscriptions from, and the encouragement of, proprietors and others may safely be counted upon; but it is right that the tenants should rely in a great measure upon themselves, and with their unison and support difficulties must soon disappear and success be attained. It is also suggested that a competition for grain and seed should take place in spring; that a competition for seed wheat should be held in autumn; and that a competition for fat cattle and roots should come off on the same day as the annual poultry show. The plan altogether is most judiciously arranged, and we only hope that its eventuation may be in keeping with its conception. The association might also hazard extending its influence and aims still further. In various parts of the country farmers' clubs and kindred societies have adopted the custom of meeting for the purpose of debating and hearing each other's minds upon agricultural subjects. In East Lothian, in particular, this practice has long been observed; farmers meet, read papers, and communicate to each other their ideas regarding topics which affect them; the newest scientific improvements are explained; and, in short, much is done to enlighten and instruct the cultivators of the soil. Why should our district association not do so likewise? What we have pointed out is worthy of being kept in view; but it is better that they should do what they have taken in hand well than neglecting it aim too ambitiously. Their primary object should be to maintain their summer show; and their purposed spring, autumn, and winter exhibitions ought also to receive all due attention. At any rate let not the association dwindle into nothingness - let it not fall into that state of decay which seems to eat away most of our local institutions. There is no reason why it should not live - everything and everybody are in its favour. In brief, its fate is a good deal in its own hands, and, if we are not mistaken, it could scarcely be in better.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th May 1870.

Lost, found &c.

FOUND, at Bulliondale Farm, near Avonbridge, by Falkirk, on Monday 9th May, 1 Brown COLT, two years old, and 1 Black FILLY, one year old. The owner or owners may have them by proving their property and paying expenses. - Apply as above.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 12th 19th 21st May 1870

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.
THE FIRST SHOW of CATTLE, HORSES, SHEEP, SWINE, DAIRY PRODUCE, POULTRY, & IMPLEMENTS, in connection with the above Association, will be held at Booth Place, Falkirk, on THURSDAY, 2nd June, 1870. The Parishes connected with the Show comprise Airth, Bothkennar, Denny, Dunipace, Falkirk, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan. Entries Close on Tuesday, 31st May current. Premium Sheets, and all information, can be had from the Secretary.
JAMES EASON, Secy.
Commercial Court,
Falkirk,
5th May, 1870.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th May 1870

EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.
THE FIRST SHOW of CATTLE, HORSES, SHEEP, SWINE, DAIRY PRODUCE, POULTRY, & IMPLEMENTS, in connection with the above Association, will be held at Booth Place, Falkirk, on THURSDAY, 2nd June, 1870. The Parishes connected with the Show comprise Airth, Bothkennar, Denny, Dunipace, Falkirk, Larbert, Muiravonside, Polmont, and Slamannan. Entries Close on Tuesday, 31st May current.
In addition to the Prizes offered by the Society for Dairy Produce, the following will be given, viz.: - To the Maker of the First Prize Fresh Butter - A Dress, by Mrs. Gordon, Red Lion Hotel. To the Second - 1 lb. Finest Tea, by John Gentles, Grocer. For the First Prize Powdered Butter - A Parasol, by Messrs Coutts & Duncan, Drapers, Falkirk.
Premium Sheets, and all information, can be had from the Secretary.
JAMES EASON, Secy.
Commercial Court,
Falkirk,
5th May, 1870.

Falkirk Herald 16th June 1870

At Hollybush Cottage, Maddiston, by Linlithgow on the 14th instant, by the Rev. W. M. Nicholson, F.C. Linlithgow Mr. James Lonie, Caledonian Railway, Greenock to Mary youngest daughter of the late Mr. William Baird.

Falkirk Herald 25th June 1870

TORPHICHEN.
Fatal Accident. On Thursday afternoon an accident occurred near this village whereby a master builder named David M'Nair lost his life. Deceased was erecting a steading on the farm of Hillhouse, and on Thursday accompanied the carter, who was driving the stones for the building, to Maddiston Quarry, to give some instructions. The cart was there laden with two large stones, upwards of a ton in weight, and on its return home Mr. M'Nair, who was rather tired, got upon the cart in order to get a ride a portion of the way. The cart was drawn by two horses - one being in the trams and the other tracing - and it is thought that the trace horse had taken a sharp turn of the road took quick, and which had brought the tramhorse too close to the side of the road, and in consequence one of the wheels of the cart either came in contact with the dyke or a large stone whereby it was completely upset, Mr. M'Nair falling undermost, and one of the large heavy stones falling upon his head and breast. Assistance being got, the stone was as quickly as possible removed, but the unfortunate man was quite dead the weight of the stone having crushed his head almost flat, and scattered the brains upon the road. The remains were removed to Torphichen, to which place Mr. M'Nair belongs, and where he has conducted a successful building business for many years. He was upwards of 60 years of age, and leaves a large family of grown-up sons, most of whom are in business in various parts of the county of Linlithgow.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th July 1870

SHERIFF COURT. -

On Thursday in the Sheriff Court - Sheriff Bell presiding - Mary Dunsmore or Mcfarlane, Avonbridge, for breach of the peace there on Monday 4th ult., 10s or 10 days.

Falkirk Herald 21st 23rd July 1870

PUBLIC NOTICES

THRASHING MACHINE, with Horse-Driving Power, FOR SALE, at Parkhall, near Polmont Station. Cheap. - Apply to Mr. P. Baird, Maddiston, by Linlithgow.

MUIRAVONSIDE GAMES

WILL take place on Saturday, 13th August next, when PRIZES for QUOITING, RACING, and

TILTING will be given.
Offers for TENT STANCE to be sent to DANIEL BINNIE, Secretary, Bowhouse, Linlithgow, on or before the 25th inst.

Falkirk Herald 28th July 1870

SHERIFF COURT. –
Sheriff Bell decided the aftermentioned cases in this court on Monday, viz.:– Alex. Dick, quarrier, Maddiston, charged with breach of the (peace) at Redding on Wednesday, 13th July, pled guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 20s, or suffer 20 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 30th July, 4th 6th 11th August 1870

Mr. NICOL'S SALES - Continued.
OATS, CATTLE, AND LET OF GRASS PARK, AT AVONTOUN,
On WEDNESDAY, 10th AUGUST.
MR. THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he has been favoured with instructions from H. T. Blair, Esquire, to Sell by Public Auction, at Avontoun, on Wednesday, 10th August, 1870, 5 Acres of Sandy Oats, a very Heavy Crop, 3 Fat Cross Shorthorn Cattle, and 2 Cross Shorthorn Cattle in forward condition.
At the same time will be Let, for the remainder of the Grazing Season, about 5 Acres of Pasture, for Cattle and Sheep.

THE USUAL CREDIT.
Roup to begin at Four o'clock.

OATS AT CRAIGEND,
On MONDAY, 15th AUGUST.
MR. THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will Sell by Public Auction, on Monday, 15th August, 1870, on the Lands of Craigend, Avonbridge, 12 ACRES OF OATS. A Magnificent Crop. Belonging to Mr. Robert Ronald.

FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at 3 o'clock.

OATS AT PARKHEAD,
On MONDAY, 15th AUGUST.
MR. THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will sell by Public Auction, on Monday, 15th August, 1870, on the Lands of Parkhead, near Avonbridge, 8 ACRES OF CAPITAL OATS. Belonging to Mr. Allan Waugh.

FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at Half-past 3 o'clock.

HAY AT DRUMBROIDER,
On MONDAY, 15th AUGUST.
MR. THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will sell by Public Auction, on Monday, 15th August, 1870, on the Farm of Drumbroider, possessed by Mr. Andrew Stevenson, 1200 STONES of VERY FINE RYEGRASS AND CLOVER HAY, in Ricks.

THE USUAL CREDIT.
Roup to begin at 4 o'clock.

HAY AT CANDYHEAD,
On MONDAY, 15th AUGUST.
MR. THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will Sell by Public Auction, on Monday, 15th August, 1870, on the Lands of Candyhead, in the parish of Muiravonside, 500 STONES of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in Ricks, Belonging to Mr. William Calder.

THE USUAL CREDIT.
Roup to begin at five o'clock.

18 ACRES OF OATS AT REDFORD,
On FRIDAY, 19th AUGUST.
MR. THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will sell by Public Auction, on Friday, 19th August, 1870, on the Lands of Redford, 13 ACRES OF OATS, A Remarkably Heavy Crop, Belonging to Mr. John Wilson.

FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at 3 o'clock.

MR. NICOL'S SALES
POTATOES AND HAY,
AT HILLHEAD, NEAR AVONBRIDGE,
ON THURSDAY, 11TH AUGUST.
MR. DAVID NICOL will Sell by Public Roup, on the farm of HILLHEAD, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Robert Robertson, on THURSDAY, 11th August, 1870, 5 Acres of Excellent POTATOES, in Lots to suit Purchasers; and 1000 Stones of Ryegrass and Clover HAY, secured in the finest condition, Sale to commence with the Hay at 6 o'clock p.m., and with the Potatoes at 7.

Falkirk Herald 4th, 6th, 11th, & 13th, August 1870

Mr. NEILSON'S SALES - Continued.
32 ACRES OF OATS AT TORAVON,
On MONDAY, 15th AUGUST.
MR. JAMES NEILSON begs to announce that he will sell by Public Roup, on the Lands of Toravon, near Maddiston, on Monday the 15th August, 1870, 32 ACRES OF OATS, A Most Splendid Crop. To be sold in Lots.
FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT.
Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 11th August 1870

SALE OF POTATOES.
MR JAMES PATON, Auctioneer, Slamannan, will Sell by Public Roup, on Friday the 12th August, 1870, on the Farm of BOXTON, Parish of Muiravonside, possessed by Mr. Wm. Hodge. TWO ACRES OF POTATOES, Walker's Earlies, A Splendid Crop. To be put up in Lots to suit Purchasers. Sale to commence at 6 o'clock Evening.

Falkirk Herald 11th 13th August 1870

BOWLING
MUIRAVONSDIE V. LINLITHGOW. –
A friendly game at bowls was played betwixt two rinks of the Linlithgow club and two rinks of the Muiravonside club on the green of the latter, on Monday last, when, after 21 ends, the scores stood thus :-

MUIRAVONSDIE.		LINLITHGOW.	
Mr. Urquhart	28	Mr. Watson	12
Mr. Cunningham	30	Mr. W. Dawson	16
58		28	

Majority for Muiravonside, 30 shots.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 13th August 1870

MUIRAVONSDIE GAMES –
The above games take place to-day at Muiravonside, near Polmont, when prizes will be given for quoiting, racing, and other athletic sports. A large turn-out may be expected, these being about the only games in the immediate neighbourhood; and from the successful manner in which they were last year conducted, lovers of athletics may expect a treat.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MUIRAVONSIDE GAMES WILL take place TO-DAY (Saturday), when PRIZES for QUOITING, RACING, and TILTING will be given.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 15th August 1870

STIRLINGSHIRE

To be Sold by Public Roup, within DOWELL'S ROOMS, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on the 19th October next, at Two o'clock Afternoon, THE Small but Desirable ESTATE and FARM of BRIDGEHILL and BLACKHILLEND, in the Parish of MUIRAVONSIDE, and County of Stirling.

These Lands, extending to 25 Acres or thereby, are situated at the Village of Avonbridge, close to the Railway Station, and about 4 Miles from Bathgate, and 7 miles from Linlithgow. The Soil is excellent, capable of carrying all kinds of Crops, part being valuable Meadow. There are excellent Sites for a Mansion-House, and a great portion of the ground is eligible for Fueing, from its proximity to the Village and Railway Station. The Lands are supposed to contain Minerals, Ironstone being worked close to the property. There is a good Freestone Quarry.

For Further particulars apply to ANDREW WEBSTER, S.C.C., 10 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, who holds the Title-Deeds and Articles of Roup.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 18th 20th August 1870

GYMNASTIC GAMES.

MUIRAVONSIDE –

These annual competitions came off on Saturday last in a field near Vellore Castle, the residence of Captain Urquhart. The day was excellent, but the great heat must have told severely on the competitors, whose powers of endurance would be strained to the utmost. The usual inducements were offered to competitors in the shape of prizes, but those who entered were mostly local men. The attendance of spectators was considerable, though not so large as from the usual excellence of the display and the fineness of the weather might have been expected. A number of ladies from the neighbourhood graced the proceedings with their presence. Amongst the visitors were: - Mr. C. W. Maxwell Midler, representative of the Grand Lodge of Saxony; Professor Herr Johann Schopp, Edinburgh; Count Von Seisel, of Mayence; Captain Urquhart of Vellore Castle, and large party; Mr. Adam, Springbank, and party; Lieut. Alexander, Torphichen, Captain Hardy, Linlithgow; Ensign Law, Linlithgow; and Dr. Anderson, Polmont. Credit is due to Capt. Urquhart for the spirit and liberality he displayed in connection with these games, and to the committee for their exertions to promote the success of the meeting. The bands of the 3d company (Linlithgow Volunteers) were present, and played during the day. The following is a list of the prize-takers: -

Quoting 1st, Andrew Ray, Camelon; 2nd, James Thomson, Redding.

Putting the Ball (18 lb. - open to the parish and Linlithgow Volunteer Battalion) - 1st, Alex. Milne, Uphall; 2nd, John Muirhead, Blackbraes; 3rd, W. Heap, Maddiston - five entries.

300 Yards' Race 1st, A. Jamieson, Edinburgh; 2nd, J. Watson, Edinburgh; 3rd, J. Archibald, Slamannan - seven entries.

Putting the Ball (22 lb.) - 1st, Alex. Milne, 30 ft. 3 in.; 2nd, John Muirhead, 28 ft. 4 in.; 3rd, Anderson Turner, 28 ft. 1 in. - five entries.

Throwing the Light Hammer (16 lb. - confined to parish and Linlithgow Volunteer Battalion) 1st, Alex. Milne, 76 ft. 2 in.; 2nd, John Muirhead, 75ft. 5 in.; 3rd, Robert Aitken, Torphichen, 74 ft. - five entries. Boys' Sack Race- 1st, Anderson Turner, jun.; 2nd, John White, Maddiston; 3rd, Patrick M'Kenna - four entries.

Throwing the Heavy Hammer - 1st, James Muirhead, 68 ft.; 2nd, A. Milne, 66 ft. 9 in.; 3d, R. Aitken, 64 ft. 6 in. - five entries.

Vaulting with the Pole (confined to the parish and Linlithgow Volunteer Battalion) 1st, W. Heap, 8 ft 6 in.; 2nd and 3rd, R. Aitken and W. Hardie, equal - six entries.

Volunteer Race, one mile (Linlithgow Volunteer Battalion- 1st, G. Donaldson; 2nd, R. Downie. (This race was disputed.

Tossing the caber - 1st, Alexander Milne; 2nd, Anderson Turner, sen.; 3rd, Heaps, Muirhead, and Darg equal.

Handicap Race, 600yards - 1st, J. Smith, 12 yards; 2nd, J. Watson, scratch; 3d, A. Turner, scratch - 4entries.

Handicap Race, half-mile (confined to the parish and Linlithgow Volunteer Battalion) - 1st, T. Smith, scratch; 2nd, Alexander Lumsden, scratch; 3rd, George Donaldson, scratch - 8 entries.

Sack Race over Hurdles - 1st, Anderson Turner, jun.; 2nd, J. White; 3rd, R. Downie.

Three-Legged Race (confined to the parish and Linlithgow Volunteer Battalion) 1st, Donaldson and Chalmers; 2nd, Snedden and Milne; 3rd, Downie and Gillis.

Ploughmen's Race (confined to the parish) - 1st, T. Shanks; 2nd, R. Meikle; 3rd, James Horn.

Three Mile Race - 1st, J. Archibald; 2nd, A. Jamieson; 3rd, J. Smith - 7 entries. Hurdle Race - 1st, J. Watson; 2nd, A. Turner; 3rd, A. Lumsden.

Tilting at the Ring - No entries.

Falkirk Herald 18th August 1870

MADDISTON.

Fire. –

On the night of Saturday last, or early on the morning of Sunday, it was observed that fire had broken out in the garrets of the Athole Arms Hotel, Maddiston, occupied by Mr. Danford. On the alarm being given every endeavour was made to save the house and property contained in it; but owing to the scarcity of water in the village, and the distance it had to be conveyed, little progress in that direction was made. The house was completely burned down but happily the efforts of the people were effectual in preventing the spread of the fire to any of the adjoining houses. The damage, which is very considerable, is fully covered by insurance. The house belongs to Mr. Robertson of Netherton. No explanation as to how the fire originated can be given. The matter is being investigated by the authorities.

Falkirk Herald 25th August 1870

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS COURT.

INTIMATION IS HEREBY MADE, That the SHERIFF of the COUNTY of STIRLING has given Notice, in terms of the Acts 2nd and 3rd William IV., chap. 65, 19th and 20th Victoria, chap. 58; 24th and 25th Victoria, chap. 83, and 31 and 32 Victoria, chap. 48, that on the days, and at the places after specified, he will HOLD OPEN COURTS, for the purpose of REVISING and CORRECTING the REGISTER of VOTERS for the COUNTY of STIRLING, and deciding on the merits of all Claims for Registration within the same, Objections to these Claims and Objections to Persons continuing on the Roll of Voters, viz.:

At FALKIRK - And within the Sheriff Court- House there, on Wednesday the 28th September next, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the Parishes of FALKIRK - so far as not comprehended in the Burgh of Falkirk, AIRTH, LARBERT, BOTHKENNAR, POLMONT, MUIRAVONSIDE, and SLAMANNAN.

THOMAS L. GALBRAITH,

Sheriff-Clerk.

Sheriff-Clerk's Office,

Stirling, 19th August, 1870.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 3rd September 1870

COUNTY OF STIRLING.

VALUATION OF LANDS AND HERITAGES.

Statute 17 & 18 Vic, Cap. 91.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the COMMISSIONERS of SUPPLY of the COUNTY of

STIRLING will hold a COURT upon the days, and at the places under-mentioned, for the purpose of hearing APPEALS against the Valuation made by the Assessor for the current year under the abovementioned Statute, viz. : - At FALKIRK, upon Monday the 12th day of September current, within the Court-House there, at Half-past 12 o'clock Noon, for Appeals from the Parishes of AIRTH, BOTHKENNAR, FALKIRK, MUIRAVONSIDE, POLMONT, SLAMANNAN.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th September 1870

SHERIFF COURT.-

In this court on Monday Sheriff Russel disposed of the aftermentioned cases, viz. :- Andrew Dunsmore, labourer, Avonbridge, for breach of the peace there on the 31st ult., was fined 7s 6d, or undergo 8 days imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th Saturday 10th September 1870

Melancholy Accident. -

An accident of a very melancholy description occurred at Gilmeadowland, Muiravonside, on Tuesday evening, resulting in the death of Mr. James Bowie. Mr. Bowie, who was occupant of Gilmeadowland farm, was engaged on the night in question in "inning," and while he and a servant, who was assisting, were standing in front, and on each side of a cart which was employed for driving home the grain, the horse - a young restive beast - suddenly started off, causing some part of the cart to knock down deceased. The accident was immediately observed and assistance rendered, but, when lifted, Mr. Bowie was found to be quite dead. Dr. Baird, Linlithgow, and Dr. Hunter were soon in attendance, but their services were unavailing. The servant who was at the horse's head along with deceased was likewise hurt, but seems to have escaped very fortunately with slight injuries. Mr. Bowie, who was well advanced in life, leaves a widow and young family to mourn his loss He was much respected in the neighbourhood, and great sympathy is felt for the bereaved family.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 8th 10th September 1870

Deaths

At Gilmeadowland, Muiravonside, on the 6th inst from the effects of an accident, Mr. Andrew Bowie, sen. Friends will please accept of this intimation

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th 22nd 29th September 6th 13th October 1870

Properties for Sale.

STIRLINGSHIRE.

To be Sold by Public Roup, within Dowell's Rooms, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on 19th October next, at Two o'clock Afternoon, THE Small but Desirable ESTATE and FARM of BRIDGEHILL and BLACK HILLEND, in the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling. These Lands, extending to 25 Acres or thereby, are situated at the Village of Avonbridge, close to the Railway Station, and about 4 Miles from Bathgate, and 7 from Linlithgow. The Soil is excellent, capable of carrying all kinds of Crops, part being valuable Meadow. There are excellent Sites for a Mansion-House, and a great portion of the ground is eligible for Feuing, from its proximity to the Village and Railway Station. The Lands are supposed to contain Minerals, Ironstone being worked close to the property. There is a good Freestone Quarry. For further particulars apply to Andrew Webster, S.S.C., 10 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, who holds the Title-Deeds and Articles of Roup.

Glasgow Herald Monday 19th September 1870

At 97 Thistle Street, Garnethill, Glasgow on the 16th inst., by the Rev. John Dobie, Mr. Andrew Hunter, joiner, to Mary Arthur, second daughter of Frederick Leeder, gardener, Muiravonside, Stirlingshire.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 22nd September 1870

MUIRAVONSIDE.

THE LATE MR. ANDREW BOWIE, -On the evening of Tuesday the 6th inst., a sudden gloom was thrown over the neighbourhood by the accidental death of Mr. Andrew Bowie, farmer, Gilmeadowlands, already recorded in our columns. He was busy leading in his harvest when the horse which he was driving was startled and became unmanageable. He was thrown down and killed almost instantaneously his servants was severely injured. Mr. Bowie will be greatly missed in the neighbourhood where his family has been known and greatly respected for a long period of years. He leaves behind him the repute of an industrious, God-fearing man, and the memory of a faithful husband and of an affectionate father. Straightforward, honest, and kindly, he will be pleasantly remembered by all who knew him, and his life will be gratefully cherished by those who are more immediately related to him, and who now are mourning his melancholy death. We commend his widow and family to Him who "relieves the fatherless and the widow," without whose knowledge no sorrow befalls us, and who is the God of all comfort. We are glad to say that Mr. Bowie's servant is doing well.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 29th September 1st October 1870

MR. NEILSON'S SALES

31 FAT CATTLE

AND

3 CATTLE FOR TURNIPS

AT GOWANBANK.

ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH OCTOBER

In place of Saturday, 1st October, as advertised last week.

MR. NEILSON begs to give notice that he has been instructed by James Gowans, Esq., to Sell by Public Roup, at GOWANBANK, One Mile South from Avonbridge, on WEDNESDAY, the 5th October, 1870;

27 FAT THREE-YEAR-OLD WEST HIGHLAND QUEYS, Prime Quality,

4 FAT CROSS SHOTHORN CATTLE, Ditto, Ditto, and,

3 CROSS SHORTHORN CATTLE, for Turnips, Heavy Weight.

TWO WEEKS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR PURCHASERS OF THE CATTLE.

Roup to begin at 2 o'clock.

Falkirk, 28th Sept., 1870.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 1st October 1870

THE RIVERS POLLUTION COMMISSION.

At the sitting of the Commission in Edinburgh last week, Peter Bell, grocer in Linlithgow, deposed - When Messrs Scott & Dremain were in the paper mill at Lochmill, about 28 years ago, their operations had little or no effect upon the burn running past Littlemill, or the Avon; but since Mr. Chalmers commenced his present extensive operations as a paper maker, few, if any, fish are to be found alive in the burn or the Avon below Littlemill. The Avon being a tidal river, fish come up when it is flooded, but immediately upon their getting up they die. I have seen fish floating down on the surface of the water in a sick or dying condition. Grilse I have seen lying dead below Kinneil Mill, and I have been informed that at Jinkabout Mills they are frequently found dead. About twelve years ago there was an abundant supply of fish to be had from Littlemill in the river upwards. From that date the oil works at Bathgate discharged their refuse into and completely destroyed the river as a fishing stream. I have seen the effects of this pollution upon several fish, and may describe them as follows: - The mouth highly inflamed, the fins burnt off, and the body emaciated and diseased, and covered with blotches. The water at the time was, in my opinion, highly detrimental to health. I attribute the pollution of this river to the following causes: - The paraffin oil works discharging their refuse into the

Couston Burn, which is a tributary of the Avon. 2. To the discharge of chemicals from the works of Mr. D. Ferguson, Westfield Paper Mill, in Torphichen parish. 3. To the discharge of water used for the steeping of flax, which is carried on considerably in the district through which the Avon runs - at least the upper portion of its course. I may add, this grievance could be easily obviated by the flax producers letting off their wash when the Avon is high. 4. To the discharge of alkalis, chloride of lime, &c, from the Lochmill Paper Work, near Linlithgow. I am of opinion, and have to state from experience, that the discharge from the paraffin works is perceptible at a considerable distance from the river. I have felt or smelt the odour a long distance off. The exudations from the oil are, in my opinion, far more injurious to human health than the pollution by the paper works. The discharges from them mix with the water, and do not exude the deleterious odour of the paraffin; although they are equally deadly in effect to the fish in the river. I may state, in conclusion, that I have made it my almost daily study to examine the river, and find that it is continually in a foul state; such a state, that, in my belief, it is prejudicial to animal life on its shores. The water of the Avon runs into the Union Canal between Edinburgh and Glasgow to the west of Linlithgow. I have felt the smell of paraffin myself, and have heard numerous complaints from parties resident on its banks as to the disagreeable exhalations from it. Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside informed me that after an inspection by Drs. Macadam and Machattie some years ago, he had seen a small trout in the river. I am sorry to say I have not; and I can only add that, in my opinion, the baneful effects to this beautiful river can only be averted by the stoppage of paraffin and paper work discharges. This, I am informed, can be easily done, and at little expense, by sinking pits and filtration, and other methods as carried out successfully in other manufacturing districts. The water of the Avon was at one time of a highly useful nature for domestic purposes. Now it is not so. At Linlithgow Bridge village the people cannot use it at all even for washing clothes, far less for cooking, and are constrained to go to a distance for clean water for the ordinary culinary purposes.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 27th 29th October 1870

Linlithgow Presbytery

A letter which the clerk intimated he had received from the Rev. Mr M'Farlan, Muiravonside, requesting the Presbytery to take some steps regarding the appointment of an ordained assistant to him on account of his failing health, was ordered to lie on the table until the following meeting. There was no other business of public interest.

County Licensing Court. - The General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the County of Stirling took place on Tuesday in the Sessions-house, Stirling - A. G. Speirs, Esq., convener of the county, in the chair.

There were 11 applications for licences for new premises before the Court, 1 for Moss candle, Muiravonside, was granted.

Transferred certificates were renewed as follows: 1; Loan, Muiravonside.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th November 1870

MR. NEILSON'S SALES

30 STACKS,
10 ACRES OF TURNIPS, 7 YOUNG HORSES,
AT DRUMTASSIE
ON MONDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER.

MR. NEILSON begs to announce that he has been favoured with instructions from James Gowans Esq., to Sell by Public Roup, on the Farm of DRUMTASSIE, near Avonbridge, on MONDAY the 21st November, 1870, viz. :-

25 Stacks of OATS,
5 Stacks of BARLEY,
10 Acres of TURNIPS.

ALSO

Some Famous Young Clydesdale HORSES, and Half-Bred Ditto.

THE USUAL CREDIT

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock.

Glasgow Herald Monday 21st Falkirk Herald 24th 26th November 1870

STIRLING -

Curling Province.-

On Friday, a meeting took place in the Star Hotel, Stirling, to arrange the rules and constitution of a curling province in Stirlingshire. The following clubs were elected to make up the province:- Stirling, Polmont and West Quarter, Borestone, Larbert, Kippen, Denny Greens, Grangemouth, jun.; Airth, Bruce Castle, and Dunmore; Camelon; Dunmore and Bruce Castle; Falkirk; Denny, Denny Leslie Park; Coneypark, Denny; Cardross and Kepp; Muiravonside; and Alloa Prince of Wales.

The following office-bearers were elected:- Patron-Col. Murray, Polmaise; president-John Murrie, Esq.; secretary and treasurer-James Hogg; general committee- Capt. Young, Messrs John Murrie, A. M'Lachlan, and James McLay; working committee- the committee of the Larbert Club, and the members thereof ex officii; umpire - Mr. James Greenhorn. It was arranged that the match take place on Larbert Pond or Carron Dam the first suitable ice, and that each club send three rinks, the drawing to be club against club.

Falkirk Herald 24th November 1870

At Maddiston, on the 16th inst., Jane Finlayson, aged 99, relict of Mr. William Robertson, late farmer at Brae.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 1st 8th 15th 22nd 24th December 1870

Properties for Sale.

STIRLINGSHIRE.

UPSET PRICE REDUCED

To be Sold by Public Roup, within Dowell's Rooms, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on 28th December next, at Two o'clock Afternoon,

THE Small but Desirable ESTATE and FARM of BRIDGEHILL and BLACK HILLEND, in the Parish of Muiravonside, and County of Stirling. These Lands, extending to 25 Acres or thereby, are situated at the Village of Avonbridge, close to the Railway Station, and about 4 Miles from Bathgate, and 7 from Linlithgow. The Soil is excellent, capable of carrying all kinds of Crops, part being valuable Meadow. There is also a share of what was a common muir, supposed to extend to about two acres.

There are excellent Sites for a Mansion-House, and a great portion of the ground is eligible for Feuing, from its proximity to the Village and Railway Station. The Lands are supposed to contain Minerals, Ironstone being worked close to the property. There is a good Freestone Quarry.

For further particulars apply to Andrew Webster, S.S.C., 10 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, who holds the Title-Deeds and Articles of Roup.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 1st 3rd December 1870

PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW.

ASSISTANT AND SUCCESSOR FOR MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH.

The Rev. John Ker of Polmont gave in a report upon this subject, from which it appeared that there was every prospect of an arrangement being made accordant with the wishes of the heritors and parishioners, and satisfactory to all parties concerned. The necessary application had been forwarded to the Home Secretary in favour of the Rev. George Keith; and there was every reason to expect that it would shortly be given effect to. It had been agreed that Mr. M'Farlan should vacate the manse, and Major Stirling and Miss Stirling had guaranteed a stipend of £150 to Mr. Keith. A vote of thanks was accorded to Major Stirling and Miss Stirling

for their liberality.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th December 1870

MUIRAVONSIDE PLOUGHING SOCIETY.

A GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS of the above SOCIETY will be held in Mr. Drysdale's Tavern, Loan, on Friday, 23d December current, at 7 o'clock p.m. Those who have Fields to offer for the Match to give notice to the Secretary by the above date.

D. BINNIE, Secy.

Bowhouse, 16th Dec, 1870.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 22nd 24th December 1870

PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW.

MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH.

The Clerk read a presentation, signed by the Home Secretary on behalf of the Crown, in favour of the Rev. George Keith, as colleague and successor to the Rev. James M'Farlan, in Muiravonside parish; also Mr Keith's letter of acceptance, and certificate of license; and it was explained that the document in evidence of his having been a probationer had been furnished to the Presbytery in January last. Mr. Begg moved that the documents be sustained. It was, he observed, highly gratifying that the negotiations had been carried out so successfully - the manner in which they had been conducted auguring the best results from the settlement of Mr. Keith in the parish of Muiravonside. Mr. Branks concurred heartily in the views expressed by Mr. Begg, whose motion he seconded, and said the Presbytery, as a Court, were under a deep obligation to the Stirling family for the generous and Christian part they had acted. Mr. Keith was not untried in the work at Muiravonside - having had upwards of a year's experience of it; and he (the speaker) had reason to know something of the great success that had attended his efforts. It must be the earnest prayer of all that his endeavours might still, and even in increasing measure, be productive of every good result. Mr. Keith was appointed to conduct divine service in Muiravonside church on the 1st and 8th January, and on the day following, before congregation and Presbytery - the Presbytery to meet on Thursday, the 19th of the same month, to moderate in a call - Mr. Grant, the moderator, to preach and preside on the occasion. Mr. Branks was chosen to serve the edict and preach on Sabbath first, the 25th inst.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 29th December 1870

DEATHS

At Avonbridge, on the 21st inst., Jean Arthur, relict of the late Robert Marshall, Esq. of Bridgend, aged 83 years. Friends will please accept of this intimation.

1871

Falkirk Herald 26th January 2nd February 1871

TO LET, THE LANDS OF TORAVON, FOR CROPPING. To Let, for being Cropped with Oats for this Season, THE LANDS OF TORAVON, near Maddiston, extending to about 30 Acres, belonging to W. H. Muir Esq., Apply to Mr. Neilson, Auctioneer, &c, Falkirk. Falkirk, 24th January, 1871.

Falkirk Herald 2nd February 1871

CURLING.

Bathgate. v. Falkirk. -

One rink from Bathgate played against another from Falkirk on Vellore Pond on Saturday.

Bathgate won by 9 points.

Camelon. v. Vellore. -

A match was played on Vellore Pond, betwixt these clubs. After a game of three hours, victory was declared in favour of Vellore by 4 shots.

Camelon.	Vellore.
Forbes 18	Gray 19
Scott 26	Roberts 20
Cox 20	Heaps 29
64	68

Grangemouth Jun. v. Vellore. -

A friendly match of three rinks aside came off between these clubs on Tuesday on Callendar Loch. The ice was extremely "bauch," and the rinks had to be shortened after a few ends were played. At the expiry of three hours the scores were as under :-

GRANGEMOUTH JUN.	VELLORE.
Alex. Laidlaw 24	J. Liddle 7
Thos. Calder 15	J. Gray 9
James Leishman 12	W. Heaps 16
57	32

Muiravonside V. Slammanan. -

A match, with four rinks a-side, was played on the Black Loch, between the Slamannan and Muiravonside Curling Clubs, on Wednesday, 25th ult. The result was 28 of a majority for Muiravonside. Subjoined are the scores: -

MUIRAVONSIDE. V. SLAMANAN.	
J. Baird 29	J. Nimmo 13
R. Young 23	G. Waddell 20

W. Orr 21	M. Hay 2
P. Forgie 34	J. M'Killop 25
107	79

Bathgate v. Muiravonside. -

On Saturday two rinks each of these clubs met on the private pond of Captain Urquhart, of Vellore Castle. The game was not very well contested, the Bathgate players winning by 33 shots.

St Michael's (Linlithgow) v. Vellore. -

On Friday last, two rinks aside of these clubs had a match, the result being in favour of Vellore by 6 shots.

St. Michael's. vellore.

Syme 12	Roberts 20
Inglis 12	Gray 10
24	30

Muiravonside r. Torphichen. -

A match between these clubs came off on Saturday on the pond at Craigend, near Polmont. There were four rinks a-side and at the close Torphichen won by 11 shots. The following are the scores: - muiravonside. torphichen.

R. Young 13	D. Aitken 23
W. Orr 15	A. Brown 13
J. Baird 19	W. Bowie 16
P. Forgie 14	A. Russell 19
60	71

Bathgate v Maddiston. -

Two rinks of each of these clubs played on the Vellore Pond on Saturday, with the following result: - BATHGATE. MADDISTON.

Gordon 21	Roberts 19
Gardner 21	Gray 20

Majority for Bathgate, 3 shots.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 2nd March 1871

Mr. Nicol's Sales
LET OF LATHALLAN GRASS PARKS,
ON TUESDAY, 21ST MARCH.
MR. DAVID NICOL will let by Public Roup, on TUESDAY, 21st March, 1871,
The GRASS PARKS on the Estate of LATHALLAN.

Roup to commence at 4 o'clock.

SALE BY AUCTION OF
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
WRIGHTS' TOOLS, TIMBER, &c.,
AT AVONBRIDGE.

THERE will be Sold (by Warrant of the Sheriff) on the PREMISES at Avonbridge, occupied by John Gilchrist, Wright there, on MONDAY, 6th March, 1871, at Eleven o'clock Forenoon, and assortment of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and other Effects, consisting of Beds and Bedding, Tables, Chairs, Grates, Fenders and Fire-irons, Eight-day Clock, Chest of Drawers, Trunks, Kitchen Utensils, Crockery, &c.; together with about 250 Feet of FLOORING and other DEALS, Cut Timber, Wright's Bench and Tools, Grindstone and Frame, Three Ladders, and numerous other miscellaneous Articles.

TERMS – CASH.

W.S. BALLINGALL, Auctioneer.

Falkirk, 22nd Feb., 1871

Falkirk Herald 4th May 1871

At ATHOLE ARMS INN, MADDISTON, Near Polmont,
On MONDAY, 8th MAY, AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK FORENOON.
SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF EXCELLENT HOUSE FURNITURE, HOTEL PLENISHING,
SPIRIT DEALERS' EFFECTS, Ac.; DINING TABLES, CHAIRS, SOFA, IN HAIRCLOTH ;
IRON AND BOX BEDSTEADS, MANTELPIECE MIRROR, 6 GRATES, FENDERS,
FIRE-IRONS, TWO EIGHT-DAY CLOCKS, VARIETY OF STOCK CASKS, LARGE VARIETY
OF PEWTER MEASURES, Quantity of Old Port and Sherry Wines, Rum, Whisky, Brandy,
Ginger Wine, 9 Gross Lemonade & Soda-Water Bottles, Large Quantity Jars, LOT CRYSTAL,
STONEWARE, SILVER LEVER WATCH, CLOSE-BODIED CART, WHEELS & AXLE ; SET
OF GIG HARNESS, STABLE BOILER, AND STABLE UTENSILS, FINE RETRIEVER DOG,
DOG HOUSE, 2 LARGE NEW WATER BARRELS, LOT OF WOOD BEAMS, DEALS, Ac
(Sold on account of the Proprietor Removing.)

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock a.m.

JOHN M'LEOD, Auctioneer, 63 Renfield Street, Glasgow.

Maddiston, near Polmont, 28th April, 1871.

Falkirk Herald 8th June 1871

Deaths

At Seymour, Victoria, Australia, on the 10th March, of Diphtheria, Isabella Scott Bryson, aged 10 years, eldest child and only daughter of George H. B. Brock, formerly of Manuel Mills, near Linlithgow.

At Avonbridge, on the 29th ult., Mathew Anderson, aged 89 years, Friends please accept this intimation.

Falkirk Herald 15th June 1871

FOUND an UMBRELLA, between Whitecross and Limestone, on Sunday, 11th inst.-Apply to Thomas Leslie, Limestone.

Deaths

At Foggermount, Avonbridge, on the 10th inst., Mary Black, aged 52, wife of Mr. Henry Aitken, farmer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th July 1871

MR. NEILSON'S SALES
EXTENSIVE SALE
OF
FULL GROWN LARCH WOOD, &C.,
AT MUIRAVONSIDE,
ON SATURDAY, 19TH AUGUST.

MR. NEILSON begs to give notice that he will Sell by Public Roup, on SATURDAY the 19th August 1871, on the Estate of MUIRAVONSIDE, belonging to Andrew Stirling, Esquire – Upwards of

2300 FULL GROWN HEAVY LONG

LARCH TREES

AND ABOUT

200 HEAVY SCOTCH & SILVER FIR TREES.

Most of the Larch Wood is suitable for Permanent Railway Sleepers, and heavy purposes for Public Works.

The Wood is situated within one mile of Manuel Station on the North British Railway, and a less distance from Bowhouse Station on the Airdrie, Bathgate, and Bo'ness line.

The whole to be sold in Lots suitable for Wholesale Merchants.

FOUR MONTHS' CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS, OR DISCOUNT FOR CASH

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock, and the Company to assemble at Muiravonside Lodge.

Mr. Nicol's Sales

SALE OF HAY

AT CRAIGENHALL, NEAR AVONBRIDGE,

ON MONDAY, 24TH JULY.

MR. DAVID NICOL will Sell by Public Roup, at CRAIGENHALL, about a mile South of

Avonbridge, on MONDAY, 24th July, 1871, about

800 STONES First-Class RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY – CROP 1870.

USUAL TERMS Sale to commence at Two o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th August 1871

Mr. Paton's Sales

ROUP THIS DAY

SALE OF POTATOES

THERE will be Sold by Public Roup, on THURSDAY the 10th August, 1871, on the Farm of BOXTON, Parish of Muiravonside, possessed by Mr. William Hodge.

3 ACRES of POTATOES, a very heavy Crop.

To be put up in Lots to suit Purchasers.

Sale to commence at seven o'clock p.m.

JAMES PATON, Auctioneer.

Burnside Cottage

Slamannan, 4th August, 1871.

SALE OF HAY AND POTATOES

THERE will be Sold by Public Roup, on TUESDAY the 15th August, 1871, on the Farm of LOAN-END, near Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. Thos. Main,

1000 Stones of RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in Ricks, which has been secured in fine condition;

ALSO

2 Acres of POTATOES, a splendid Crop.

Will be put up in Lots to suit Purchasers.

Sale to commence at 7 o'clock p.m.
JAMES PATON, Auctioneer.
Burnside Cottage,
Slamannan, 4th August, 1871

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th September 1871

DWELLING-HOUSE, AND LANDS FOR WINTER AND SUMMER GRAZING.
TO LET, BANKHEAD HOUSE, with the OFFICES and GARDEN, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Avon, about four miles South of Falkirk, one mile West of Avonbridge Station, and one mile East of Slamannan Station of Monklands Railway, for One Year, from Martinmas 1871 to Martinmas 1872.

Also to Let, for Winter and Summer Grazing of Cattle or Sheep, the adjoining LANDS of BANKHEAD, extending to 85A. 3 R. 19P. Imperial, or thereby, from Martinmas 1871 to Martinmas 1872. A large portion of the above Lands are at present carrying a fine Crop of Clover after Hay.

And also to Let for the same period, part of the contiguous LANDS of SUMMERHOUSE and CROSSHILL, extending to 120 A. Imperial, or thereby, of good sound Pasture.

The above Subjects will be Let together or separately, as Offerers may incline.

Apply to WILLIAM STORIE, Writer, Falkirk.

Falkirk, 9th Sept., 1871.

MR. NICOL'S SALES

FAT CATTLE, FAT SHEEP,

AYRSHIRE COWS, QUEYS, PONY, SPRING CART AND HARNESS,

AT BOGA, AVONBRIDGE,

ON MONDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER.

MR. DAVID NICOL, will Sell by Public Roup, at BOGA, Avonbridge, on MONDAY, 18th September, 1871, the following FAT and other STOCK, belonging to Mr. John Wilson, viz.:-
37 Fat Highland Queys,

9 Country Queys,

4 Ayrshire Cows, near the Calving,

10 Fat Sheep,

1 Very Handsome Harness Pony,

1 Spring Cart,

1 Set of Harness.

The Fat Queys were fed on the fine Pasture Lands of Dalquairn and Craighend.

USUAL TERMS

Sale to commence at Two o'clock Afternoon.

Falkirk Herald 21st September 1871

Lost Found &c.

BROWN RETRIEVER DOG FOUND. - Apply to Mr. Cunningham, Grocer, Maddiston. If not claimed this week, will be sold to defray expenses.

Falkirk Herald 19th October 1871

Situations.

A JOURNEYMAN WRIGHT WANTED Immediately. One accustomed to Country Work preferred. - Apply to Mr. Stewart, Joiner, Maddiston.

MR. BINNIE'S SALES.

CORN STACKS, HAY, & TURNIPS,

AT CAUSEWAYEND,

ON MONDAY, 23RD OCTOBER.

MR. THOMAS BINNIE has been instructed to Sell by Public Auction, on MONDAY, 23rd October, 1871, on the Lands of CAUSEWAYEND, two miles West from Linlithgow,

4 Stacks of OATS,

4 Ricks of Ryegrass and Clover HAY,

AND ABOUT

6 Acres of first-class Yellow TURNIPS.

To be Sold in Lots. The usual Credit.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

SALE OF STOCK, CROP IMPLEMENTS, &C.,

AT BULLIONDALE.

TO be Exposed for Sale, by Public Roup, on SATURDAY the 28th October current, upon the Farm of BULLIONDALE, near Avonbridge, the following STOCK, & C., CONSISTING OF :-
8 Milch Cows, Ayrshire Breed.

1 Four-year-old Bull, a winner of Six Prizes, and bred by Wm. Moffat, Esq., Shirva,

Kirkintilloch.

1 One-year-old Bull.

6 Six-quarter-old Queys.

8 Calves.

The Young Stock has all been got by this Prize Bull; none of the above stock have had any disease.

1 Rare Work Mare, 7 years old.

16 Stacks Oats; about

600 Stones Ryegrass Hay.

5 Tones of Potatoes of excellent quality.

Three Acres of Green Top Yellow Turnip.

1 Close-bodied Cart, Full-mounted; 1 Iron Plough, 1 Pair Wooden Harrows, Cart and Plough

Harness, Dairy Utensils, &c., &c.

USUAL TERMS.

Roup at 11 o'clock Forenoon.

MUNGO CHAPMAN, Auctioneer.

Bathgate, October 14th, 1871

1872

Falkirk Herald 6th January 1872

JAMES PATON, Auctioneer, Slamannan, begs to announce that he has received instructions from Mr. William Dalgleish, to Sell for him by Public Roup, at AVONBRIDGE, on WEDNESDAY, 10th January, 1872, viz.:-

1 Brown HORSE, 1 Brown MARE, 2 CARTS with Wheels and Axles, 2 Set CART HARNESS, 1 Set WAGON THEATS, 150 Stones RYEGRASS HAY, and a variety of other Useful Articles too numerous to mention.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock p.m.

Burnside Cottage, 4th Jan., 1872.

Falkirk Herald 7th, 9th, 14th & 21st March 1872

Mr. NEILSON'S SALES

LAND TO LET FOR CROPPING.

TO BE LET, about 30 ACRES of LAND on the Estate of Toravon, near Maddiston, for a Crop of Oats this Season. Nearly 20 Acres of the Land is newly drained. - Offers for the same will be received by James Neilson, Land Agent and Auctioneer, Falkirk, up till 14th March.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 13th April 1872

DEATHS

At Blackbraes, on the 11th inst., Mary Bennet, wife of John Brock, aged 27 years, much and deeply regretted.

Falkirk Herald 25th April 1872

The Late Assault at Maddiston. –

John Trotter, Polmont, who was so severely assaulted about ten days ago near Maddiston by James Cunningham and William Baird, who are now in custody, is still confined to bed in a precarious state, and, we understand, is making but very slow progress.

Falkirk Herald 6th June 1872

FOUND On Thursday morning last, at the Salmon Inn, near Polmont, a Dark-Coloured TERRIER Dog on paying expenses, the Owner will have it, by applying to John M'Pherson, Maddiston, if within Eight Days.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th June 1872

SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT - Last week - before Sheriff Monro and a jury – Andrew McFarlane, junior, a flesher, now or lately residing with Andrew McFarlane, a quarryman at Avonbridge, parish of Muiravonside, and shire of Stirling, was charged with having on the 10th or 11th April last, on or near the turnpike road from Linlithgow to Winchburgh, at a point thereon distant about 300 yards from the entry leading to the farm of Wilcoxholm, and to the west thereof, or in or near the Wilcoxholm or Coxholm plantation, which skirts the eastern side of the said turnpike road on the northern side, and distant about ten yards eastwards from the farm road through the same leading from said turnpike road to the fields called Eastbridge Park and Scaddiecrow or Scarecrow Park, on the north side of said plantation, stolen from the pocket or person of John Mitchell, a gardener at Champfluerie, a silver or other metal watch, his property. The accused pled not guilty, and was defended by Mr. Andrew Little, solicitor, Linlithgow. The prisoner's agent having admitted the accused's declaration, the first witness examined by the Procurator Fiscal was

John Mitchell, who deposed - I am a gardener, and have worked at Champfluerie for the past half year. On Wednesday, 10th April, I was in Edinburgh at the flower show. I got some drink in Edinburgh. I left by the train leaving Edinburgh at eight, and reached Linlithgow at 9.20 P.M. I was the worse of liquor. I got some beer in Linlithgow, and left the Red Lion Inn about 10. 30 P.M. I had about two miles to walk home; was alone going home. Was wearing a silver watch, a Geneva lever, with hour, minute, and second hands, black Roman (chapter) figures, with case, the back of which was carved except bit in the centre, and opening at the back. It had two holes for winding and setting. On the inside case was marked "patent lever," and "jeweled." I don't know whether there was a number. The regulator was broken, it was a pointer. I went alone to the Magdalans Toll at Dawson's distillery. I sat down on a stone there and fell asleep; was awakened by two men. Knew one of them named Brand. It was quite dark, but knew Brand from seeing him, and from speech. The other resembled prisoner, but can't say it was him; did not know him before. The men helped me along the road. Recollect nothing till we came to the other side of the bridge at the Poorhouse. I there asked Brand for a light to my pipe. Just before we passed the bridge (Canal Bridge) there are some cottages called Magdalans. He asked if I had a pipe and tobacco; I said I had, but no matches. He went back to Magdalans to get a light. I and the other man were left on the road. He said to walk on and Brand would make up on us. I and he went on. I know Coxholm entry, about one mile from Linlithgow. It leads to Mr. Jamieson's farm-steading on the north side. On the same side, east of the entry, there is the Wilcoxholm plantation. About 70 yards eastwards of the entry a gate enters the plantation, with farm road to two fields. I don't know the name of the fields. I remember pulling my watch out after Brand left us, east of the poorhouse. This was 200 or 300 yards west of the entry to steading. I returned it into my pocket – a special watch-pocket in my waist-coat. The watch was attached by chain to button-hole. The man told me he was going to Coxholm. At the top of the entry he and I bade each other good night. He seemed to go down the entry, but I did not look after him. A stone and lime dyke, four or five feet high, is on each side of the entry. I then went into the wood by said gate, about half-a-dozen yards, sat down at the side of a tree, and fell asleep. This would be about 12 o'clock – at least past eleven. I don't remember when I awoke; it was still quite dark. I started for home. I came out at the gate and went along eastwards. About 100 yards along road I felt for my watch and found it was away. The chain was not away, but hanging loose. I had about a mile to go home. I got up to work about 6 o'clock. At 9 o'clock, breakfast time, I went to the woods and searched for my watch. I did not find it. I saw the marks of my body where I had lain. There were no marks of any struggle. I returned to Champfluerie, told the head-gardener, and then went to Linlithgow and told constable Symon. I told him who was with me, described the watch, and shewed him the place in the wood. All this was on Thursday. Identifies part of watch, and thinks them the same. In every way they correspond with mine. I see dung in it. I first saw it about the Tuesday of the following week, in the hands of the police. The dung was then fresher.

Cross-examined by MR. LITTLE – I left Linlithgow about 9 in the morning of Wednesday. I did not keep count of the drink I took. Have had watch for 12 months past March. I now see numbers on the case produced. Never noticed them before. I bought my watch from a traveler selling watches. It was new when bought. He had others of the same kind, similar so far. I saw two others jeweled and lever; one had a larger second hand. I gave a watch which cost 30s and 15s for the watch. I was sitting on a stone at the side of the dyke asleep when the men awoke me. One on each side helped me along. I could have walked alone. I at first objected. When I pulled out my watch I did not see the time; it was too dark. After parting with the stranger I did not see him again. I could have walked, but preferred to rest. I had sore feet, not a sore head. I lay a little east from the gate. The gate was a little open. I was not in company with any one after the stranger left me. I don't know how or by whom my watch was taken. There is some underwood near the tree where I rested. U did not see how my watch could have come off the chain.

Interrogated by the COURT – Describes mode of fastening watch. It must have been taken off deliberately, as the spring was entire.

By the JURY – It was a male person who was with me, and the prisoner resembles him very much.

William Brand, sworn – I am a labourer at East Pardovan, beyond Champfluerie. I know the prisoner. I have seen him on several occasions. I was with him on Wednesday, 10th April, assisting him to kill a pig east from Linlithgow. I came back with him in the afternoon, and went into Bennie's with him and had some drink. We left at 9 P.M. We went into another house and had a gill. We left close on shutting time, and then we went east on the Edinburgh Road. We saw a man asleep at the side of the toll bar. No one was with me but the prisoner. I said it was dangerous to touch a drunk man, as you might get your face broke. He said no danger of that but he may lose his watch. I said never mind his watch; come on. Prisoner waked him and got him on his feet. I asked the man where he came from, and he said he was a gardener at Champfluerie. I now see him. He went along quite peaceable. I am not sure if we took his arm. He seemed quite fit to walk. We all went to a little past the Poorhouse, then stopped and talked about getting drink, and then about a smoke. I went to Magdalans for a light, leaving the two together. I had to go back 300 yards or so. I tried one door but could not get in, then another and got matches. I lighted the gardener's pipe, talked some three minutes, and then went on smoking. When I reached the place no one was there, and I went on the road myself. I did not see the gardener again. There is a wood on either side of Coxholm entry with high wall. There is a gate into the wood 50 or 60 yards east of the entry, with a road to Mr. Jamieson's field. About 50 yards east of that gate a voice called over the wall, "Hallo! Is that you." I knew the voice. It was the prisoner's. I saw him over the wall. He was buttoning up his trousers. I said, "What the devil have you been doing?" He then said, "Doing a job for myself." My pipe was then out. I again lighted it, and gave it to him. He took a smoke and gave it back. He promised me something for helping him to kill the pig. I asked him if he had change. He said if I would meet him next morning at Anderson's before 9, and help him to kill two pigs, he would make it all right. We sat for a few minutes at the roadside while he smoked.

I had about 2 miles further to go home. He said he was going to Coxholm. We parted. He turned west towards the gate. I went east. This was some 30 yards east from the gate. It would be getting on to 12.1 o'clock at this time. I went to Anderson's (Linlithgow) before 9 next morning. Prisoner did not turn up. I went to Coxholm. He had not been there. Also went to Kingsfield, about a mile from where we parted, as he had been living there for some days before that. He said that he was going to Coxholm, not to Kingsfield. I noticed the gardener with a watch-chain going into a pocket on his waistcoat.

Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE – When we first saw the gardener he was sitting on a stone leaning against the dyke. I think he walked along himself. The gardener wanted a dram, and was the first to speak of it, but he had no money. Prisoner said he had a shilling. I would be about 8 minutes away from the place I left them resting on the road. Not finding them, I walked on at an ordinary pace. Prisoner was some five or six yards in from the dyke when he called on me and came forward. This was about 30 yards east of the gate. He was adjusting his trousers, as if he had been easing himself.

By the COURT – I was surprised to see him so far east from the Coxholm entry. There were plenty of places where he might have eased himself on the road to Coxholm. He did not tell me how he got into the plantation. There is a gate there, and the wall is about four and a half feet high. It was clear enough to observe the gate. It was white painted.

By JURY – The prisoner had tasted. I saw him next in the jail. Did not speak to the prisoner about the watch.

Walter Easton, farm-servant, Braehead, sworn – Braehead is about a mile southwest of Linlithgow. I know the prisoner, and saw him at Braehead on 11th April with a pair of bearing reins a little before 6 P.M. I had to go to Linlithgow. Prisoner came with me. At the west end of the town we went into Bennie's for a pint of beer each. We sat about twenty minutes. While we were there he said he had been to Armadale for the bearing reins. He said they belonged to Mr. Arkley, Kingsfield. He asked me for a watch-key. I had not one. He then took out a white watch from his pocket. It had no chain or key attached. It seemed not to be going. He said it was not wound up, as he had not a key. I asked what kind of watch it was. He said it was a patent lever, and gave it me into my hand. I opened it at end of shank with a spring. It had a single case dial white, lettering black, hour and minute hands, and I think second hand, back carved, with plain bit in middle. On the inside was patent lever, and another word I am not certain what. I opened the inner case and looked at works. I now see, "patent lever" and "jewels" on the case produced. There was a word and some figuring on it, I now see carving and a plain bit in the centre. If not damaged, would have been like the watch. He did not ask me to buy it.

Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE - There was no other person present in Bennie's. I had not the watch long in my hand. I don't recollect of seeing a number on it.

By JURY – I can't say that is, or that it is not the watch now shown me which I saw in Bennie's.

George Symon, police constable, Linlithgow, swore – I saw Mitchell on Thursday 11th April. He complained to me his watch had been taken from him the previous night or that morning, and told me who accompanied him, and described his watch. He said it was a single-cased Geneva lever silver watch with a seconds hand, carved on the back or outside case with shield in centre. He did not know the number. He pointed out the place where he had been lying in plantation. We searched but found no watch. It was about 10 yards to the east of the white gate. I found prisoner in custody about 10 o'clock at night; Constable Campbell had taken him; he had only been about a fortnight in the police force. I was instructed to search in George Anderson's premises for watch. I got Anderson, and examined with Campbell, on Saturday the 13th of April, a dunghill which is enclosed by a wall. At south-east corner of it there is a privy with two or three steps leading up to privy door. One standing on top step is right over the dunghill. Anderson keeps pigs – three large ones at that time – on dunghill. While outside the dunghill I observed a pig close by chewing something. It dropped it. It seemed the case of a watch. It took it up again. We got it and labeled it. Identifies it. It seemed to correspond with the description of outer case of watch I got information of from Mitchell. On the following Monday I made a more careful search along with Constable Campbell and Robert Denholm. Denholm flung the dung over the wall, and Campbell and I examined it. Denholm picked up something – the inside case and works of a watch, I now see. It seemed bitten by the sine, and the works were full of manure, but since taken off so far. I was on duty at the office on the night prisoner was apprehended. He did not on that night ask to be allowed to use the water closet.

Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE - The dunghill is approached by an open close. Several houses enter by the close, they are not so far up as the dunghill.

Angus Campbell, police constable, sworn – I entered the force in March last. I remember of Mitchell's information. Symon and I saw the place. We went away to make inquiries. We got description of the accused. The same night I saw a person answering description. He went eastwards through the town to Georg Anderson's. I apprehended him there around 9 P.M. He had a pair of bearing reins round his body. He asked to be allowed to give the reins to Anderson, and did so. He then asked to be allowed to use the privy, which I agreed to. He then went up the close unloosing his clothes. He went up the steps of the privy, but could not get in. He remained about five minutes at the top of the steps, and I stood in the close. I had not apprehended any one before, and it did not occur to me he might be putting away anything. Close by the privy is the dunghill. It was right below the privy steps. It was quite dark at this time. I told prisoner I could not wait any longer. He came away quite frankly, and was locked up. He did not ask to use, and did not use, the water closet. He was searched directly he came in from Anderson's. There was no watch on him. On Saturday Symon and I and Anderson made an examination at the dunghill. Identifies piece of watch recovered from pig and labeled. A more minute examination was made on Monday by Denholm and me along with Symon. Identifies what was then found. Dial broke; seemed chewed by pigs. It was quite easy for prisoner to drop anything into the dunghill from the position in which he was without my observing it.

Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE – I apprehended him as he was going into public house. I was quite close behind him, four or five yards, when he was on the privy steps. There are four or five steps up to the privy, and when he was on the top step I was on the bottom one. I was about three yards from him. It was quite dark in Anderson's close about 9 o'clock. I was looking at him when he was on the steps. He was in my sight so far. At first he seemed to open his dress as if to make water. I then suspected he might wish to throw something away. He was loosing his dress, as if to use the privy, all the way up. I looked as sharp as I could, but it was that dark I could not do so effectually. I did not observe him throw anything away.

By the COURT – The prisoner might have dropped the watch with his person between me and it. I went back with Hodge, the constable, that night, but we had no light. I thought he might have dropped something. I also went on Friday and searched the Close, but did not look into the midden. We got more information on Friday-night, which led to the search on Saturday.

George Anderson, publican, sworn – Symon and Campbell came to my premises on a Saturday afternoon to search for a watch. Three large swine were on the dunghill. Identifies outer case found that day. Any one standing on top step of privy might drop anything into dunghill.

Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE - The privy is used by the houses in the close. Each person has a key.

By the JURY – No one but myself and Hugh Alexander has a key to the privy. John Gardener sometimes uses it. I employ him sometimes.

Robert Denholm, groom to George Anderson, sworn – Was sent with two constables on the 15th April to examine dungstead. After searching for about an hour, we found some pieces of a watch. Identifies things found on the Monday. They were among the dung.

Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE – Alexander Hutton and John Gardener use the privy. Four occupants of separate houses use it. The stablemen and customers use it. Mr. Alexander has three stablemen.

By the JURY - One can open the door with a knife. I never saw a key used to it.
John Jamieson, farmer, Wilcoxholm, sworn - The prisoner cut my hay for two years.
Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE - I know of nothing against the prisoner's character.
By the COURT - He had no reason to come to our house that night.
James Arkley, farmer, Kingsfield, sworn - The prisoner worked occasionally for me this spring. About two days before he was taken up he worked in my garden. He stayed in my house on the Tuesday night, and left on the Wednesday morning to kill two pigs in the direction of Bathgate. I asked him to get a pair of reins that belonged to me. I did not see him again till I saw him in custody. He was not at my house on Wednesday night or Thursday morning.
Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE - The prisoner did various jobs for me, and stayed some nights in my house. He has been working with me since February. I always considered him a decent chap. I never missed anything.
By the JURY - I have seen him with two different watches. In February, when I met him, he had a watch. It was not a Geneva watch; it was an old-fashioned watch. The second had not a silver case. I heard no one at the doors or windows on the Wednesday night or Thursday morning. The first watch had a chain.
Eliza Robertson, servant to Mr. Arkley, sworn - The prisoner worked at all jobs on the farm. The last day was the day before the races at Bangour. He was digging the garden. He came home with Mr. Arkley from the races and left next morning. I did not see him again till I saw him in prison. He was not regularly in Mr. Arkley's employment. Have seen prisoner wear a watch when he came first, but at the end he had not a watch. I sleep in the room to the west side of the door. I heard of the Champleurie gardener losing a watch the morning after. No one rapped on the door that night or in the morning after. He never rapped at my window to get in the house.
Cross-examined by Mr. LITTLE - The prisoner seemed a respectable, decent lad.
The declarations of the prisoner were then read over. He admitted having, along with Brand, fallen in with a man at Magdalan's Distillery on the night in question; denied taking a watch from his person, or being in the Coxholm plantation; stated he had rapped at the windows of the farmhouses of Wilcoxholm and Kingsfield, but could not get answer, and latterly lay down beside a haystack and slept, and went next morning early to Woodside to kill pigs, and thence to Armadale, and got for Mr. Arkley his bearing reins; was at Braehead afterwards, and in Bennie's public-house in Linlithgow with Easton, but did not remember showing him a watch, and denied throwing any watch into George Anderson's dungstead, or of being in any way connected with the theft libeled.
For the defence Mr. LITTLE called the following:- Annie Jamieson, daughter of Mr. Jamieson, Wilcoxholm, sworn - I saw the prisoner twice at hay cutting on my father's farm, two or three days each time. He slept at the farm. I saw nothing wrong with him. He seemed a respectable working lad.
William Gentikman, cattle-dealer, Avonbridge, sworn - I have known the prisoner for the last four or five years. I never saw anything wrong with him, and have a good opinion of him.
By the PROCURATOR-FISCAL - The prisoner has no fixed occupation; but I have never seen anything wrong with him.
This closed the case for the defence.
The PROCURATOR-FISCAL then addressed the Jury, and contended that from the evidence adduced, the prisoner knew that Mitchell had a watch; and had the opportunity of taking it, and did take it, from him in the Coxholm plantation, where he denied ever having been; that he was at neither Coxholm nor Wilcoxholm farm steadings; that he had a covert purpose in going to Woodside and Armadale next day, otherwise he would have met Brand at Anderson's as he had promised to do; that he had a silver watch on the evening of the day after the theft, which he showed to Easton in Bennie's public house; that betwixt then and the time of his being taken by the police office the same night it had disappeared; that the parts of the watch produced were proven to be the parts of Mitchell's watch found in Anderson's dungstead; and the accused had the opportunity, which he availed himself of there, of getting quit of it, and he therefore asked a verdict against the prisoner.
Mr. LITTLE, in defence, stated he rose with feelings of considerable responsibility to address the jury. It was an extremely painful case. The prisoner was a lad of good character. Had he been previously convicted it would have been libeled against him. The case, he considered, was too trifling for a jury. It was a simple charge of theft, without any previous conviction. The value of the watch was trifling, about 45s, and dear at the money; and it was a case that could have been tried before the Sheriff sitting in the Summary Court, and in fact, such cases were tried in the Police and Sheriff Summary Courts almost daily all over Scotland. It was not a case for expense of printing and bringing 45 jurymen to Linlithgow, some of them from great distances. The accused was a person who had hitherto borne a good character, working honestly for his living, and held situations of trust and had been in positions where, if he was dishonest, he could have stolen articles of greater value than he was accused of stealing. The present case was one of circumstantial evidence. There was no direct evidence of his having the watch in his possession. The accused was entitled to a strong presumption of his innocence, unless that presumption was overcome by strong and satisfactory proof leaving no doubt of his guilty in the minds of the Jury. What was the evidence by which the prosecutor undertook to substantiate the panel's guilt? His being in company with Mitchell at or about the time when the watch was supposed to have been taken. The evidence of the actual theft of the watch was unsatisfactory. Mitchell was much the worse of liquor, had come from Edinburgh in that condition, and had twice fallen asleep - first at the Magdalan's Toll on the turnpike road, and afterwards in the Coxholm plantation; and he did not recollect, and could not swear that his watch was taken from him by any other person, or how it was taken. He awoke early next morning with no one near him, his watch was gone, and the chain was hanging down. Why was the chain not taken also? It was an article of value, of greater or as much value as the watch. Why was the chain not shown to the Jury? The prosecutor thought it of no importance. It was, however, of very great importance. It may have had a swivel of a loose catch, or been otherwise defective for safely holding the watch attached to it. Mitchell was lying in a place where tramps and loose characters are frequently - namely, on a public road. More than that, he had been in Edinburgh, where parties, adepts, both male and female, lurk about to prey upon individuals in the state of intoxication in which Mitchell was. And who knows what company he was in, or if he had his watch at all when he came to Linlithgow? As to the pieces of the watch produced they had not been clearly identified as the remains of Mitchell's watch. He did not identify it by the number of the watch, but merely with the words, "Patent Lever," engraved on it. That in itself was insufficient to identify a particular watch. These words would be engraved on all the watches of that particular make and description made by the same maker. Hundreds and thousands of such watches would be made alike, and the traveler from whom he bought the watch had other two of the same kind, one, however, with larger second hands. What other evidence was there to corroborate Mitchell on that point? None whatever. And upon the theory of the mutilated pieces being the surviving remains of Mitchell's watch, the case for the prosecutor hung. Was there not here a break, a defect in the evidence at the very outset? The theft must be clearly proved before they could before they could proceed with the next point - who committed the theft? The prosecutor had means at his command to have satisfied the jury as to the identification of the watch. His fellow servants at Champleurie could have been produced. It was admitted on the part of the prisoner that he was in the company of Brand and Mitchell that night; but it was not possible, nay, even probable, that Mitchell fell in with some other persons that night or next morning; that his inducement to sleep in the wood and not at home was the company of some other person than Brand or the panel, and may that person not have been one of the opposite sex? On the whole, he submitted that the evidence of the theft of a watch from Mitchell fell short of satisfactory and reliable proof. The theft of the watch had not been clearly traced to the panel, and there was evidence to shew that he had at different times watches. His conduct on the Thursday, the day after the alleged theft, the prisoner reasonably accounts for in going to Woodside and Armadale, and even at Anderson's and there was an utter failure to bring home

the case conclusively against him. He was sure the jury would give the matter their most anxious consideration. He would ask them, in conclusion, to consider the whole circumstances of the case, the evidence by which the charge in its several branches was sought to be supported, and to say whether, looking to the high character of the panel had previously borne, the condition of Mitchell, Brand, and the panel on the night in question – all more or less being affected with liquor – the unsatisfactory identification of the watch, and the indirect and inconclusive character of the evidence, they could safely and securely return a verdict branding him for the first time, and for all time, as a thief and a felon. He asked with confidence at their hands a verdict of acquittal.

The Sheriff, in a very elaborate speech occupying fifty-five minutes, summed up the evidence unfavourably for the prisoner; but the jury, after an absence of ten minutes, returned, by a majority of 10 to 5, a verdict of not proven.

The result was received in court, by an apparently very interested audience, with great applause.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 20th April 1872

SHIELDHILL. – A general meeting of the miners of the falkirk, Redding, and Shieldhill districts was held here on Thursday night week to hear the reports of the delegates who had previously been appointed to wait upon their employers, and request an advance of sixpence a day on their present rate of wages. On the motion of a miner, Mr. John Easton was called to take to the chair. After a few introductory remarks from the chairman, the Blackbraes men were called upon to give in their report, which was to the effect that they had got the sixpence. The reports from the Callendar Colliery and Redding Colliery also stated that the concession had been granted. As to Glen Colliery, Mr. Wilson said he had not heard of these works getting the advance. Votes of thanks were awarded to the chairman, and three cheers given for Mr. Aitken, Mr. Dougal, Mr. Potter, and Mr. Campbell for their favourable answers to the delegates. The meeting then broke up, all resolved to start to work on the eight hours from Monday following.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 20th June 1872

SHERIFF COURT

MASTER AND SERVANT CASE – RETAINING A SERVANTS TRUNK. - In the Edinburgh County Justice of the Peace Small Debt Court on Monday, Anne McFarlane, Avonbridge, near Falkirk, raised an action against John Brown, farmer, Inverleith Mains, Comely Bank, Edinburgh, for illegal detention of her trunk and clothing. It was stated for the pursuer that Mr. Brown had engaged her as a house servant and to work outside when there was hoeing to do or any other push. When she went to the place, she was at once set to work as an ordinary agricultural labourer, and ordered to do things about the stable and wheelbarrows. She was not able for such work, and as that was not what she had been engaged to do, she left. Mr. Brown would not allow her to get her trunk and clothing. Mr. Brown's agent said his client had just put the girl to do the ordinary work about the farmhouse, and that she had never made any complaint about the nature of her work, but had left four days after she commenced service. He kept the trunk for the purpose of trying to induce her to return. But, the agent went on to contend, if the girl did not come back he considered Mr. Brown would be quite justified in keeping the trunk as security for any claim for damages he might have against the girl for desertion of service. The Master and Servant Act did not apply to female servants, and he had no other remedy. The Bench said it could not enter into the question of Mr. Brown's having no other remedy. One thing was certain, he had no right to retain the trunk, and he must return it and pay Court expenses.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th July 1872

Marriages

At Avonbridge Manse, by Falkirk on the 3rd inst., by the father of the bride, Alan Waugh, Craighbank, to Christian Turnbull, only daughter of the Rev. Andrew Dodds.

Falkirk Herald 13th July 1872

Sheriff Court. - At this Court - before Sheriff Bell - on Tuesday last, Bernard Lynch, miner, Maddiston, and James Borthwick, brick-moulder, Craighend, were charged with causing a breach of the peace on the road near Polmont Station, on Saturday last. They pled guilty, and were fined 10s each, or suffer 10 days' imprisonment. James Lynch and John Alison, both labourers, residing at Rumford, were charged with causing a breach of the peace there on Sunday last. They pled guilty, and were fined 10s, or be imprisoned ten days.

Dundee Courier Saturday 3rd August 1872

TRADE MOVEMENTS

FALKIRK – MEETING OF MINERS.

A mass meeting of the coal and ironstone miners employed in the counties of Stirling and Linlithgow, was held on Thursday afternoon in the Corn Exchange, Falkirk, for the purpose of hearing reports as to the propriety of agitating for a shilling advance per day. Mr. Lumsdale, Bo'ness, occupied the chair. There were fully 1000 present, and from several pits bands of music accompanied the men. The report as to the rates of wages was read. At Carron the average rate of wages was 6s 6d per day; at Bo'ness, 5s 9d to 6s; at Standrigg, 6s to 6s 6d; at Skinflats, 6s 3d to 6s 6d; Redding, 5s 6d to 10s; average 6s; Banknock and Coneypark, 5s 6d; E. & W. Plean, 6s to 6s 4d; Stripeside, 5s 9d to 6s; Blackbraes, 6s 6d to 8s; Anchor, 6s; Quarter, No. 1, 6s. In regard to Blackbraes, the delegate stated that the miners there who made 8s per day generally worked from nine to twelve hours. A similar statement was made by the delegate from Redding. The meeting unanimously condemned the long hour system, and urged upon all to stand out for eight hours as agreed upon by the Union. It was resolved by the meeting that in all districts where the wages were below the ordinary standard at the present time, the men should come out, and that countenance be given them in whatever part of the district they might be employed. It was then moved, and enthusiastically agreed to, that an agitation for an advance of 1s per day be immediately. It was argued in support of the movement that the increase of iron and coal was such as to warrant the miners in asking for an advance. One of the speakers said that the miners were blamed for the high rates which were being charged for coal. He denied this, and cited one company – referring to east and West Plean – where coal was sold previous to the present trade disputes for 7s 9d per ton, and the price had now been heightened to 14s 2d. In sympathy with this great rise, all that the miner got was from 10d to 1s per day. The chairman described some of the masters as "bulldogs," while others were called "robbers." It was suggested that those who did not adhere to the eight hours' system and keep the "darg" within the limits prescribed by the Union should be drowned, which caused considerable merriment. The meeting – which lasted three hours – was on the whole orderly, and was brought to a conclusion by a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 22nd August 1872

Mr. Binnie's Sales

HAY AT CRAIGEND

ON FRIDAY, 23RD AUGUST.

THOMAS BINNIE will Sell by Public Auction on FRIDAY, 23rd August, 1872, on the Lands of CRAIGEND, near Avonbridge,

2000 STONES OF RYEGRASS HAY, of Excellent Quality, Belonging to Mr. Robert Ronald.

FOUR MONTHS CREDIT.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

10 ACRES OF OATS, AT HILLEND, ON FRIDAY, 23RD AUGUST.

THOMAS BINNIE will Sell by Public Auction, on Friday, 23rd August, 1872, on the Lands of

HILLEND, near Avonbridge,
10 ACRES OF PROVIDENCE OATS, One of the Heaviest Crops in the County;
AND
6 ACRES OF WHITESEED OATS, Belonging to Mr. Alexander Hardie.
FOUR MONTHS CREDIT. Roup to begin at Half-past Four o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 5th September 1872

Mr. NEILSON'S SALES
POTATOES AT GILLANDERSLAND,
ON SATURDAY, 7TH September 1872
MR. NEILSON, will Sell by Public Roup, on SATURDAY, 7th September, 1872, on the Farm of
GILANDERSLAND, possessed by Mr. James Shanks,
THREE ACRES OF POTATOES,
Which are a most promising Crop, and of delightful quality.
Roup to begin at Six o'clock.

MR. NICOL'S SALES
EXTENSIVE SALE OF CATTLE, OATS, AND POTATOES, AT BOGA, AVONBRIDGE,
ON FRIDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER.
MR. DAVID NICOL, will Sell by Public Roup, on FRIDAY, 13th September, 1872, on the Farm
of BOGA, Avonbridge, possessed by Mr. John Wilson,
17 Calving COWS, near Calving,
12 Cross and Ayrshire Prime Fat QUEYS,
4 Cross Two-Year-Old STOTS, Good Fat,
7 Six-quarter STOTS and QUEYS,
10 Pure-Bred LAMBS
33 Acres of Providence and Whiteseed OATS, an excellent Crop, growing on an old Lea Land
at Craigend;

Also
3 ACRES OF POTATOES ON BOGA FARM,
A very Superior Crop.
USUAL TERMS

Sale to commence at One o'clock with the Cattle at Dalquairn.
5 ACRES OF POTATOES AT WINDYYETTS, AVONBRIDGE,
ON FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
MR. DAVID NICOL will Sell by Public Roup, on the Lands of WINDYYETTS, near Avonbridge,
belonging to George Gray, Esq., on FRIDAY 13th September, 1872
5 ACRES OF WALKER'S EARLY POTATOES,
A very heavy Crop.
To be put up in Lots.
Sale to commence at Six o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 19th September 1872

AVONBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW
The annual exhibition and competition of flowers and fruits, by this society, took place on
Saturday in the Parish Schoolroom, Avonbridge. Fortunately the weather was favourable, and
there was a large attendance of visitors, though scarcely so numerous as on former occasions
- the inclemency of the season had no doubt damped

the expectations of some who usually attend the floral fete of the district. The exhibition, in
respect of quantity, was nothing behind its predecessors; but the influence of the
unseasonable weather was strongly marked by the condition of many of the cut blooms. The
greenhouse and window grown plants, however, were very fine, especially fuchsias. Dahlias,
though not large, were good, and there were some very fine spikes of hollyhocks. There was a
keen competition with a number of floral devices - the first honour for which was awarded to
Mr. John Taylor, the second and third being very little behind. Among the fruit deserving
special remark were the gooseberries, which were in good condition even at this very
advanced period of the season. Vegetables, as a whole, were very fair, especially potatoes.
Two assortments of garden stuffs, shewn by Mr. Jas. Kidd and Mr. J. Gentleman, carried the
first and second prizes. The judges were - Mr. John M. Dow, nurseryman, Falkirk; Mr. Hume,
manager at Rocholes; and Mr. Tolmie, gardener, Bridgecastle. The judges for the butter were
- Mr. James McKenzie, seedsman, Airdrie; and Mr. John Bennie, grocer, Avonbridge.

The following is the prize list; -
Pot Flowers. - Best Rose - 1, James Carlyle; 2, Walter Carlyle. Hydrangea - 1, James
Hamilton; 2, James Waugh. Fuchsia, light - 1 John Liddell; 2 James Carlyle. Fuchsia, dark -
1, John Liddell; 2, John Sheilds. Geranium - 1, John Liddell; 2, John C. Carlyle. Pelogranium
- Walter Carlyle. Calceolaria - 1, John Sheilds; 2, Walter Carlyle. Greenhouse plant different
from above - 1, John Liddell; 2, John Sheilds.
Window grown. - Fuchsia - 1, William Bryce; 2, Thomas Chapman. Geranium or Pelogranium
- 1, James Waugh; 2, Thomas Main. Hydrangea - 1, John Gilchrist; 2, Robert Young.
Begonia - Thomas Robertson. Plant different from the above - Thomas Main.
Cut Flowers. - Roses, 4 blooms - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, Walter Carlyle. Dahlias, 6 blooms
- 1, John Taylor; 2, J. C. Carlyle. Hollyhocks, 6 blooms. 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, W. Carlyle.
Pansies, 6 blooms - 1, John Taylor; 2, John Sheilds. French Marigolds, 4 blooms - 1, William
Bryce; 2, John Sheilds. African Marigolds, 4 blooms - 1, John Liddell; 2, James Carlyle.
Chinese Asters, 6 blooms - Thomas Chapman. Carnations or Picotees, four blooms - 1,
Thos. Chapman; 2, Wm. Bryce. Antirrhinums, four spikes - 1, James Hamilton; 2, Geo.
Cleland. Two Ten Week Stocks - 1, Walter Carlyle; 2, Thomas Chapman. Phloxes, four
spikes - 1, James Hamilton; 2, David Gardner. Penstemons, four spikes - 1, W. Carlyle; 2,
John Taylor. Gladioli, two spikes - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, W. Carlyle. Hardy Herhacious, four
spikes - 1, James Hamilton; 2, D. Gardener. Hardy Annuals, four sorts - 1, Thomas
Chapman; 2, John Reid. Two Hand Boquets - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, John Reid; 3, W.
Carlyle. Hollyhock, spike - 1, Jas. Carlyle; 2, W. Carlyle; 3, John Taylor.
Fruit. - Best 12 Gooseberries - 1, John Sheilds; 2, Maggie Hay Sawers. Dish Currants - 1,
John Sheilds; 2, James Waugh. Four Apples - 1, Archd. Gardner; 2, W. Varlyle.
Vegetables. - Best Early Cabbage - 1, Thos. Mair; 2, Jas. Hamilton. Savoy - 1, John Liddell;
2, Thos. Main. German Green - 1, James Walker; 2, John Liddell. Cauliflower - 1, John Reid;
2, George Clelland. Parsley - 1 J. C. Carlyle; 2, John Reid. Four Leeks - 1, John Liddell; 2,
W. Carlyle. Two Rhubarb - 1, James Carlyle; 2, W. Carlyle. 2 Carrots - 1, James Carlyle; 2, J.
C. Carlyle. 2 Parsnips - 1, John Gentleman; 2, James Kidd. 2 Beetroot - 1, Walter Carlyle; 2,
Thomas Robertson. 2 Red Cabbage - 1, Thomas main; 2, John Gilchrist. 2 Turnips - 1, John
Reid; 2 John Sheilds. 6 Potatoes - 1, Mr. Jaffrey; 2, John Gentleman. 4 Potato Onions - 1,
John Gentleman; 2, W. Carlyle. 8 Onions - 1, John Liddell; 2, James Kidd. 8 Shallots - 1, Jas.
Carlyle; 2, John Gentleman. 6 Pods Peas - 1, J. C. Carlyle; 2, George Clelland. 6 Pods Beans
- 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, William Bryce.

Special Prizes (Flowers). - Best Hydrangea - Walter Carlyle. Greenhouse Plant - John
Sheilds. Calceolaris - W. Carlyle. 4 Gladioli, John Reid. Stand of Flowers, 6 sorts - 1, John
Liddell; 2, Thomas Chapman; 3, W. Carlyle. Geranium - John Liddell. 2 Rose blooms -
Thomas Chapman and David Gardner, equal. 2 Gladioli - J. C. Carlyle. Pot Plant - John
Liddell. Hand Bouquet of Hardy Annuals - John Reid. 6 Pansies - William Bryce. Hollyhock
Spike - W. Carlyle. Rose in Pot - James Carlyle. 6 Hollyhock blooms - W. Carlyle. 6 Largest
Dahlias - John Taylor. Scarlet Geranium - W. Carlyle. Euchsia - John Liddell. 3 Asters and 3
Marigolds - John Taylor. Floral Device - 1, John Taylor; 2, Thos. Robertson; 3, James
Hamilton. Heaviest 24 Gooseberries - Maggie Hay Sawers.

Vegetables. - Best Leek, Carrot, and Parsnip - Walter Carlyle. Green, Red Cabbage, Turnip,
and Carrot - James Kidd. 4 Potatoes and 4 Onions - John Liddell. 2 Turnips - John Reid.
Heaviest 2 Potatoes - John Taylor. Heaviest 6 Pods Pease - James Hamilton. Heaviest 3
Turnips - John Gentleman. Best 6 Potatoes, 3 varieties - James Walker. Best 2 Potatoes, 2

Carrots, and 2 Parsnips – John Gentleman. Cabbage, Savoy, and Cauliflower – John Reid. Longest 6 Bean Pods – John Gilchrist. Best 2 Red Cabbages – James Walker. Cauliflower, Beetroot, and Red Cabbage – James Kidd. 4 Leeks – 1, John Liddell; 2, W. Carlyle. Heaviest Potato, Carrot, Parsnip, Leek, and Onion – 1, James Kidd; 2, John Gentleman. Best Basket of Vegetables - 1. John Reid; 2, James Kidd; 3, John Gentleman. Best 2lbs Butter put up in ½ lb. prints - Thos. Chapman; 2, Thomas Main; 3 Mrs. Stevenson. Heaviest 6 Hens Eggs – 1, Thomas Main; 2, Mrs. Stevenson; 3, James Walker. Heaviest Field Turnip – 1, John Gentleman; 2, Thomas Main.

NOTICE.

AT A MEETING of the MASTER BLACKSMITHS of FALKIRK and surrounding District, held in FALKIRK, it was Resolved, in respect to the great increase in price of Labour, Iron, Coals, &c., that this Meeting bind and oblige themselves to abide by the following

LIST of PRICES:- Shoeing Young Horses, first time..5s 0d

Do. Cart Horses 5s 0d to 5s 4d

Do. Farm Horses 4s 4d to 4s 8d

Do. Posting & Harness Horses. 4s 0d

Do. Gentlemen's Carriage and Saddle Horses 5s 0d

Do. Ponies 4s 0d

General Jobbing Smithwork advanced in proportion.

To take effect from 2nd from 2d September current.

(Signed)

Messrs

LAING, }

CALLANDER, } Falkirk.

RUSSELL, }

KIDD, Camelon.

KIDD, Larbert.

WILSON, North Broomage.

CAIRNS, Plean.

POTTER, Skinflatts.

KENNEDY, Airth.

WINTON, Thorn.

SCOTT, Maddiston.

BOYD, Polmont.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th September 1872

BLACKBRAES

Mr. Gardner, treasurer of Blackbraes Sabbath School Library, desire gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of two guineas from T. Livingstone Learmonth, Esq., of Parkhall, for the purpose of procuring additional books for the library.

Falkirk Herald 2nd November 1872

MADDISTON.

Vellore Curling Club. A meeting of the members of this club was held on the 28th ult. in Maddiston Inn - Capt. Urquhart, president, in the chair. The affairs of the club were duly reported upon, and found in a very prosperous state, and the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year being concluded, the evening was spent in song and sentiments, till Forbes McKenzie warned the company to depart, which they did, resolved the first keen ice to meet again, when they hope to be able to give a good account of themselves.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 16th November 1872

Deaths

At Greencraig, Avonbridge, on the 8th inst., Mr. William Gentleman, cattle dealer; deeply regretted.

Falkirk Herald 19th November 1872

COLLISION AT MANUEL JUNCTION. - On Saturday morning, a rather serious collision took place at Manuel Junction, on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway. It seems that about 3 A.M. a goods train arrived at the Junction from the east. It was divided in the middle, and some shunting was being proceeded with, when another goods train came around the curve at Manuel, and ran into the part that was standing on the line. The van was thrown over upon the up line, two wagons were smashed to pieces, and one or two others disabled. The engine of the second goods train was not much damaged, and no one was injured. For three hours both lines were blocked. The accident, we are informed, owes its origin to the fact that there is no night signalman at this junction, and no means were taken to protect the train which was standing on the line.

ALLEGED BREACH OF CERTIFICATE. - At the J. P. Court on Thursday - before Dr. MacCall of Haypark, Provost Russel, and John Wilson Esq., of South Bantaskine – Alex. Erskine, spirit dealer, Easter Sheildhill, was charged with committing a breach of his certificate on Sunday, 18th August. He pled not guilty, and the Fiscal called William Harper, baker, Avonbridge, who deponed that on the afternoon of the libeled he was met by the constable of the district near Greyrigg. At that time he and a companion named Stewart were carrying a bottle containing a small quantity of whisky. He did not remember telling the constable where he got it; did not get it at Erskine's on Sunday, but at Marshall's public house on Saturday. He could not remember what he said to the constable as he was tipsy. On further examination the witness faltered in making his answers as to what he said to the policeman, but he maintained that he did not get the drink at Erskine's, to his knowledge. Provost Russel said that his answers were very vague, and admonished the witness to consider what he was about. John Stewart, baker, Avonbridge, who was in company with Harper when the constable came up with them at Greyrigg, deponed that they did not get the drink at Erskine's house. Having only a small drop in the bottle, they wanted to repeat the dose, but were refused by Mrs. Erskine. We understand that the complaint was preferred against the publican in consequence of one or both of the witnesses informing the police when stopped at Greyrigg that they were supplied with the drink at Erskine's. After hearing the above evidence, however, the Procurator-Fiscal withdrew the charge.

Falkirk Herald 21st December 1872

AVONBRIDGE

PRESENTATION- The annual general meeting of the Avonbridge Horticultural Society was held on the evening of Friday the 13th inst., in the Schoolroom, here. After the general business of the society had been transacted, the company adjourned to Mr. Young's for the purpose of presenting their vice-president, Mr. W. Carlyle, with a pair of spectacles and a walking staff, in consideration of his many and varied services and the lively interest he had always taken in furthering the welfare of the society. The presentation over, toast, sentiment, and song followed, and a very harmonious and enjoyable evening was spent. The testimonials were furnished by Mr. J. Wyse, merchant, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald 28th December 1872

WRIGHTS SHOP TO LET

TO LET, for such time as may be agreed upon, the WRIGHTS SHOP at Crossroads, Avonbridge, where a successful Business was carried on by the late James Hodge, Millwright and Agricultural Implement . – Maker . - For further particulars apply to JOHN MAIN, Crossroads, Avonbridge; or to ALEX. LAW, Rae Street Foundry, Glasgow, on or before the 4th January, 1873.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 2nd January 1873

TO LET

WRIGHT'S SHOP TO LET

TO LET, for such time as may be agreed upon, the WRIGHT'S SHOP at Crossroads, Avonbridge, where a Successful Business was carried on by the late James Hodge, Millwright and Agricultural Implement maker. – For further particulars apply to JOHN MAIN, Crossroads, Avonbridge; or to ALEX LAW, Rae Street Foundry, Glasgow, on or before the 4th January, 1873.

Falkirk Herald January 11th & 16th 1873

MUIRAVONSIDE PLOUGHING SOCIETY.

A GENERAL MEETING of the above SOCIETY will be held in Maddiston Inn, on FRIDAY 17th January, at 7 o'clock p.m.

N.B. - All who have any interest in the above are requested to attend.

Falkirk Herald January Thursday 30th 1873

MR. NICOL'S SALES

28 CORN STACKS, AT CRAIGEND, NEAR AVONBRIDGE,

ON MONDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY.

MR. DAVID NICOL will Sell by Public Roup, at CRAIGEND, near Avonbridge, on MONDAY the 3rd day of February, 1873, belonging to Mr. John Wilson,

20 CORN STACK, off Old Lea.

Also, belonging to Mr. R. Thom,

1 Three-Horse THASHING MILL, nearly new,

2 Cast Iron BOILERS, and a Lot of Farm Impements.

THREE MONTHS CREDIT

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 8th February 1873

Deaths

At Kebberton, Maddiston, on the 7th Christina Ritchie, wife of James Denholm, sen., aged 70 years.

Falkirk Herald 1st March 1873

Deaths

At Maddiston, on the 27th ult., William Hutton, aged 85 years. Deceased has been blacksmith there for a great number of years.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th March 1873

GRANGEMOUTH

Burgh commission. – The Burgh Commissioners met in the New Town hall on Monday at noon

– Senior Magistrate John S. Mackay presiding. The offer of John Finlay, mineral borer, Avonbridge, was accepted to put down the bores in connection with the water scheme at Millhall.

Falkirk Herald 20th March 1873

Births.

At South Brae Cottage, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, on the 18th inst., the wife of John A. Baillie, Almond Iron Works, of a son.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th April 1873

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

TO BUILDERS AND OTHERS

TO BE FUED

PORTIONS OF BRIDGEHILL, situated midway between Edinburgh and Glasgow, and close to Avonbridge Railway Station. Ground North of Station finely situated for Villa. &c Several Acres South of Station, on the River Avon, Admirably adapted for Public Works. Freestone Quarry on the Ground.

For conditions of Fue and other particulars, apply to D. McPhedran, Esq., Bridgehill, the proprietor, or to P.H. Cameron, S.C.C., 35 Hanover Street, Edinburgh.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th May 1873

DEATHS.

At Hillend, Avonbridge, on the 13th inst., James Black Esq. Friends at a distance please accept of this intimation.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 17th May 1873

Sporting News.

BOWLING.

Muiravonside Club. –

The members of this club met in the Maddiston Hotel on the evening of the 13th inst. There was a large attendance, nearly the full number being present, and we hope this augurs well for the success of the club in the coming season. The following gentlemen were appointed office-bearers: Captain Urquhart of Vellore Castle, president; Mr. William Scott, treasurer; Mr. James Stewart, secretary; Mr. James Gray, green-keeper. The green is in very fine order - the recent rains having given a good start to the grass, and everything having been done by the keeper to have it in good condition. It will be opened this evening.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th June 1873

TO LET.

TO LET, from this date to Martinmas next, STRATHOUSE, situated near Avonbridge,

belonging to Walter Gowans, Esq., Rent, £10.

Apply to CHARLES ALLAN, Solicitor, Bathgate.

Bathgate, 26th May, 1873.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 19th June 1873

LINLITHGOW CATTLE FAIR

The summer fair at Linlithgow cattle and horses took place on Friday at the usual stance at the west end of the town. The weather was warm and genial. The number of cattle on offer was something similar to that of last year, and was made up of the kinds usually found at this market. Irish grass beasts formed the chief item. Ayrshire milch cows were a smaller display than last year, while the lots were below average in respect of quality. There were a few home bred flecked animals for grazing, and there was only one lot of Highlanders. Renfrew fair falling to be held on the same day, the attendance of dealers was limited, and trade generally was stiff. Recent prices were, however, fairly maintained. Mr. James

Graham, Myothill, sold Ayrshire milch cows at from £14 to £17; grass beasts, at £13; and

bulls, at £11. Mr. D. Nimmo, Polmont, sold a lot of two-year-old Ayrshire queys at £10 10s, and a lot of two-year-old-stots at £12. Mr. Lawrie, West Calder, bought milch cows at £15 a-piece. Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge, sold calving cows at from £16 to £20, and grass beasts at £11. Mr. James Dunn, Southfield, bought calving queys at £13, and grass queys at £9. Irish stots and queys sold at from £8 to £10. In the horse market the show was small, and the business done was of little importance.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 21st June 1873

Births

At Craigbank, Avonbridge, on the 12th instant, Mrs. Allan Waugh, of a daughter.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th July 1873

FATAL OCCURANCE-William Bryce, manager of Craighend Quarry, near Avonbridge, whilst engaged there on Wednesday night, 9th inst., along with the workmen, received fatal injuries by a large piece of the rock, weighing about 1 cwt., falling from the face upon his head. Mr. Bryce leaves a widow and family to mourn his sudden fate.

Falkirk Herald 31st July 1873

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT.

JOHN BROWN begs to intimate to the inhabitants and the Public generally around Maddiston that he will OPEN THAT SHOP, lately occupied by Mr. Walter Scott, on SATURDAY FIRST, with a SELECT STOCK of GROCERYGOODS bought at the First Markets for Cash; it is his purpose to sell for small profit and quick returns.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 2nd August 1873

PUBLIC NOTICES

FOR SALE (privately), 8 AYRSHIRE STOTS, Two Years Old off, at Farm of GRAIGENHALL, near Avonbridge, belonging to ANDREW JEFFRAY.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 9th August 1873

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

POTATOES AT CROWNERLAND,

ON TUESDAY, 12TH AUGUST.

THOMAS BINNIE will Sell by Public Auction, on the Lands of CROWNERLAND, on

TUESDAY 12th August, 1873,

THREE ACRES OF POTOATOES

A Very Heavy Crop. Belonging to Mr. John Binnie.

Roup to begin at Six o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 16th August 1873

AVONBRIDGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a MEETING of the SUBSCRIBERS to and all Parties concerned in, AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL PROPERTY, in the Parish of Muiravonside and County of Stirling, will be held in AVONBRIDGE SCHOOLROOM, on FRIDAY the 22d August, at 7 o'clock P.M., for the purpose of considering whether said Property should be transferred to the Muiravonside School Board.

By order of the Committee.

Avonbridge, 12th August, 1873

Falkirk Herald Thursday 21st August 1873

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

OATS AT HILLEND

ON FRIDAY, 22ND AUGUST

THOMAS BINNIE is instructed by Mr. Alex Hardie to Sell by Public Auction, at HILLEND,

Avonbridge, on FRIDAY, 22nd August, 1873,

21 ACRES OF OATS,

Providence and Whiteseed,

One of the Heaviest Crops which any soil can produce, and growing upon Land which has been about 30 years in Grass.

THE USUAL CREDIT

Roup to begin at Four o'clock.

POTATOES AT CRAIGBANK, ON FRIDAY, 22ND AUGUST,

THOMAS BINNIE will Sell by Public Auction, on FRIDAY, 22nd August, 1873, on the Lands of

CRAIGBANK, Avonbridge, belonging to Mr. Allan Waugh,

2 ACRES OF POTATOES.

A Spendid Crop, Growing upon New Soil, and highly suitable for Seed.

Roup to begin at Half-past Five o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th August 1873

POTATOES AT GILANDERSLAND.

ON SATURDAY, 30TH AUGUST.

MR. NEILSON will Sell for Mr. James Shanks, as above.

THREE ACRES OF POTATOES

Which are a First-Rate Crop.

Roup to begin at 5 o'clock.

WOOL WANTED to Manufacture into Tweeds, Blankets, Sheetings, Plaidings, Druggets, Winceys, Socking Yarn, &c. -A. & D. GARDNER, Wool Mills, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 20th September 1873

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW

The Annual exhibition and competition of flowers, fruits, vegetable, and dairy produce, promoted by the society, took place on Saturday last in the Parish Schoolroom. The weather was remarkably favourable, and there was a large attendance of visitors. The show was a decidedly superior one, both in respect of the number of entries, and their quality. Among flowers the principal feature was the geraniums and fuchsias, and among cut flowers that which elicited most admiration were the dahlias and gladiola. There were also several very beautiful floral devices. The fruit was well grown and in fine condition, and the vegetables of all kinds were numerous and exceedingly good in quality. The district has long been famous for dairy produce, and the specimens exhibited on Saturday, especially the butter and eggs, were most creditable to the exhibitors. The judges in the last three departments were Mr. Tholmie, gardener, Bridgecastle; Mr. J Dow, jun., nurseryman, Falkirk; and Mr. Richie, gardener Avondale. For dairy produce - Mr. J McKenzie, Airdrie; and Mr. J. Binnie, Avonbridge; all of whose awards seemed to give much satisfaction. The following is the prize list:-

Pot Flowers. - Best Rose - 1, Walter Carlyle; 2, Jas. Carlyle. Hydrangea - 1, Jas. Waugh; 2, Walter Carlyle. Fuchsia (light) - 1, James Waugh; 2, John Liddell. Fuchsia (dark) - John Liddell. Geranium - 1, John Liddell; 2, Walter Carlyle. Pelargonium - 1, John Taylor; 2, Jas. Carlyle. Calceolaria - 1, James Carlyle; 2, John Shields. Greenhouse Plant - 1, John Taylor; 2, John Shields.

Window Grown Flowers. - Best Geranium or Pelargonium - Thomas Chapman. Hydrangea - 1, Robert Dinsmore; 2, John Gilchrist. Begonia - Jas. Hart.

Cut Flowers. - Best Roses, 4 blooms - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, W. Carlyle. Dahlias, 6 blooms - 1, J. Taylor; 2, J. Shields. Hollyhocks, 6 blooms - 1, J. Carlyle; 2, Thos. Chapman. Pansies, 6 blooms - 1, T. Somerville; 2, John Taylor. French Marigolds, 4 blooms - 1, James Hamilton; 2, George Clelland. African Marigolds, 4 blooms - 1, J. Liddell; 2, John Stevenson. China Asters, 6 blooms - 1, J. Liddell; 2, J. Taylor. Carnations or Picotees, 4 blooms - 1, T.

Chapman; 2, James Hamilton. Antirrhinums, 4 spikes - 1, Thos. Chapman; 2, Jas. Hamilton. Two Ten-Week Stocks, 1, John Liddell; 2, Jas. Waugh. Phloxes, 4 spikes - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, J. C. Carlyle. Penstemons, 4 spikes - 1, Jas. Carlyle; 2, Thos. Somerville. Hardy Herbaceous, different from the above, 4 spikes - 1, J. C. Carlyle; 2, Walter Carlyle. Hardy Annuals, 4 sorts - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, John Reid. Two Hand Bouquets - 1, Thos. Chapman; 2, W. Carlyle; 3, John Reid. Hollyhock spike - 1, Jas. Carlyle, W. Carlyle; 3, P. Gilchrist.

Fruit. - Best 12 Gooseberries - 1, Peter Gilchrist; 2, James Carlyle. Dish Currants - 1, John Skields; 2, James Carlyle. 4 Apples - 1, Walter Carlyle; 2, Archibald Gardener.

Vegetables. - Best Early Cabbage - 1, John Reid. 2, James Hamilton. Savoy - 1, John Liddell; 2, John Reid. German Green - 1, John Brown; 2, James Waugh. Cauliflower - 1, John Reid; 2, Thomas Chapman. Parsley - 1, Walter Carlyle; 2, John Reid. 4 Leeks - 1, John Liddell; 2, James Hamilton. 2 Stalks Rhubarb - 1, James Carlyle; 2, James Hamilton. 2 Parsnips - 1, John Gentleman; 2, John Reid. 2 Carrots - 1, John Gentleman; 2, Thomas Main. 2 Beetroot - 1, Walter Carlyle; John Gentleman. Red Cabbage - 1, James Hart; 2, Thomas Somerville. 2 Turnips - 1, George Clelland; 2, John Shields. 6 Potatoes - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, John Gentleman. 4 Potato Onions - John Gentleman. 8 Onions, spring sown - 1, Alexander Jeffray; 2, John Liddell. 8 Shallots - 1, John Gentleman; 2, Walter Carlyle. 6 Pods Peas - 1, George Clelland; 2, W. Carlyle. 6 Pods Beans - 1, George Clelland; 2, John Gilchrist. Heaviest 18 Gooseberries, fit for use - 1, James Hamilton; 2, W. Carlyle.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Flowers. - Best Hydrangea - Walter Carlyle. Greenhouse plant - John Liddell. 4 Gladioli - Peter Gilchrist. 4 Blooms - Thomas Chapman. 6 Hollyhock blooms - Walter Carlyle. Stand of flowers, 6 sorts, one of each - 1, James Hamilton; 2, Walter Carlyle; 3, John Liddell and James Carlyle equal. 2 Asters, 2 trusses Verbenas, and two Carnations or Picotees - W. Carlyle. Epergne - John Taylor. Geranium - John Liddell. Table Bouquet - Thomas Chapman. 4 Dahlias - John Taylor. 4 Pansies and 4 Carnations or Picotees - John Taylor. 6 Asters - John Liddell. Scarlet Geranium - John Shields. 2 Ten-Week Stock - Thos. Chapman. Hand Bouquet - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2 John Taylor. 4 Small Bouquets of Hardy Annuals - 1, James Waugh; 2, Thos Chapman. 2 Hand Bouquets - Thos. Chapman. Cock's Comb - John Shields. 4 Rose blooms - Walter Carlyle. 4 Spikes Ten-Week Stock and 2 Spikes Phloxes - 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, James Carlyle. Fuchsia - and Bouquet - 1 Hand Bo

John Lideell. Hollyhock Spikes - James Carlyle. Pot Plant - 1, John Liddell; 2, James Carlyle. Best Floral Design - 1, James Carlyle; 2 James Hamilton.

Vegetables. - Best 4 Leeks - Jas. Hamilton. Leek, Carrot, Parsnip, Onion, amd Potato - James Kidd. German Green - John Brown. 2 Turnips and 4 Pods Beans - George Clelland. 2 Cauliflower - James Hamilton. 6 Potatoes - Thomas Chapman. Savoy and Turnip - W. Carlyle. 6 Potatoes, two sorts - Thos. Chapman. Cauliflower, Beetroot, and Red Cabbage - John Reid. 2 Parsnips and 4 Shallots - Thomas Somerville. 3 Carrots and 3 Parsnips - Walter Carlyle. Cauliflower and Cabbage - T. Jeffray. Heaviest 3 Carrots, 3 Parsnips, and 12 Shallots - Jas. Carlyle. Heaviest 3 Aberdeen Yellow Turnip - Jas. Kidd. German Green and Red Cabbage - 1, Alex Jeffray; 2, W. Carlyle. 2 Turnips and 2 Cauliflower - John Reid. Heaviest Cabbage - Thomas Somerville. Basket of Vegetables, 6 sorts, 2 of each - 1, John Reid; 2, T. Somerville; 3, W. Carlyle. Heaviest Turnip, any sort - 1, James Kidd; 2, John Gentleman. Butter. - 2lbs. Butter, put up in ½ lbs. -1, Miss Marion Walker, Muckraw; 2, Miss Chapman, Hillhouse; 3, Mrs. Binnie, Burnside.

Heaviest 6 Hens Eggs - 1, Thomas Main; 2, John Gentleman; 3, 3, John Brown.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 4th October 1873

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

TURNIPS, &C., AT HILLEND

ON FRIDAY, 17TH OCTOBER

THOMAS BINNIE will Sell by Public Auction, at HILLEND, Avonbridge, on FRIDAY, 17th October, 1873

5 ACRES OF TURNIPS,

A most Excellent Crop belonging to Mr. Alex Hardie;

Also, 1 FARROW COW, 1 STIRK, and 1 CALF.

Roup to begin at 4 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 25th October 1873

AVONBRIDGE

SOIREE - On Friday evening the 17th inst. A tea soirée was held in the E.U. Church, under the auspices of the Avon Lodge of the I.O.G.T. - Br. R. Lumsden in the chair. After tea appropriate addresses were delivered by the following gentlemen, viz. :- the Rev. D. Riddell, Glasgow; Bro. G. Blair, Kilwinning; Bro. C. Cowan, Armadale. Also on the platform were Bro. J. Dymock, D.D., Bo'ness; Bro. J. Gilchrist, L.D., Avonbridge, who conducted the singing. Altogether a very pleasant and instructive evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 8th November 1873

MR. NICOL'S SALES

SALE THIS DAY

GRAIN IN STACK, HAY, & POTATOES,

AT WINDY YETTS, AVONBRIDGE,

ON SATURDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER

MR. DAVID NICOL will Sell by Public Roup, at WINDY YETTS, Avonbridge, on SATURDAY,

8th November, 1873, belonging to Geo. Gray, Esq.,

22 STQACKS of BARLEY,

15 STACKS of PROVIDENCE OATS, well adapted for seed,

1000 STONES of MEADOW HAY in Ricks,

AND ABOUT

10 TONS of POTATOES,

THREE MONTHS CREDIT ON BILLS, OR DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 29th November 1873

SITUATIONS

WANTED Immediately, FEW Good Steady FREESTONE QUARRIERS; also TWO or THREE COLLIERIES - Father and Sons preferred. - Apply D.MCPHEDRAN, Bridge Hill, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 13th December 1873

LOST, FOUND, &C.

COLLIE DOG (Brown and Young) STRAYED from Haining on Thursday last, named "Bang." Reward 10s. If found in the possession of anyone after this date will be prosecuted.

FOUND, near Avonbridge, the CAPE of a Lady's WATERPROOF CLOAK. The owner can have it by proving property and paying expenses - Apply to stationmaster at Blackstone

Junction.

SITUATIONS

BLACKSMITH WANTED, a good horseshoer, and accustomed to Country Work. – Apply JAMES WILSON, Implement Maker, Linlithgow.

WANTED Immediately, Few Good Steady FREESTONE QUARRIERS. – Apply D.MCPHEDRAN, Avonbridge.

Glasgow Herald Monday 22nd December 1873

ARTICLES FOR SALE OR BARTER

CRAIGBANK AND CRAIGEND QUARRIES

AVONBRIDGE BY FALKIRK.

The Subscriber has on Sale over 5000 Tons First-Class WHINSTONE RUBBLE (Suitable for Road Metal or Building purposes &c.), which he offers at 1s 6 per Ton, put in Trucks at Avonbridge Station, North British Railway, Also, a Few Hundred CAUSEWAY SETTS, 4in.x7in.

ALLAN WAUGH.

1874

Falkirk Herald Saturday 3rd January 1874

DEATHS

Suddenly at Stoneburn, Avonbridge, on the 29th ult., Alexander, only surviving son of John Malcolm. Friends at a distance will please accept this intimation.

Falkirk Herald 10th January 1874

PUBLIC NOTICES

FOR SALE, a Black and Tan English TERRIER, about 6 months old. – Apply to HUGH DEVLIN, Parkhead, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 17th January 1874

AVONBRIDGE.

A FRIENDLY DAY'S PLOUGHING. – Several of the farmers in the district of Avonbridge having observed that Mr. John Wilson, the tenant of Craigmad, was behind with his farm work, resolved, unsolicited by him, to give him a day's ploughing. They turned out on Wednesday, the 7th inst., to the number of 24 ploughs, determined to do their best both as to quantity and quality. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson treated the ploughmen liberally during the course of the day, and in the evening a number of ploughmen and others met in the farm house, and after a substantial supper, the jovial bowl was sent round, and a very pleasant and agreeable evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald 17th January 1874

MEETING OF COUNTY COUNCIL

A MUIRAVONSIDE ROAD.

It was agreed to form a footpath along the old road leading from Maddiston village to Muiravonside Public School, and thereafter to take over the road, and place it on the list as a road for foot passengers.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Monday. (Before Sheriff-Substitute Scott-Moncrieff.) Fraud. – Elizabeth Allan or Mullen, wife of a moulder residing at Crownerland Row, Muiravonside, was charged with having on the 23rd December (1) in the shop in Maddiston occupied by Janet Cunningham, grocer, tendered a copper coin of no value to the assistant in the shop in payment of a half mutchkin of whisky which she ordered, and pretended that it was half a sovereign, and attempted to induce him to accept it in payment of the price, which was 1s, and to give 9s as change; (2) with having in the shop in Maddiston occupied by William Waugh, did again tender the copper coin to Mrs. Waugh, pretending it to be half a sovereign, and induced her to accept of same in payment of 1 lb. of steak, which was 1s, and to give her 9s in change, which she appropriated to her own use. She pleaded guilty. The Fiscal stated that the last time she had been before the Court she had pleaded not guilty, and the case being adjourned she had absconded, and was arrested in another county. He further said that she had succeeded in passing the coin in the second though not in the first instance. She was sent to prison for twenty-one days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 7th February 1874

NOTICE TO BUILDERS & OTHERS

FREESTONE SUPPLIED at Moderate Rates – Apply D. MCPHEDRAN, Avonbridge Quarry.

SITUATIONS

WANTED DRAINERS, to Drain Blackrig, near Blackbraes. – Apply MR. SMELLIE, Blackbraes.

Falkirk Herald 14th February 1874

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk on Thursday. Mr. George Ure of Wheatlands (chairman) presided over a large attendance of members.

1 THE LAURIESTON WATER SUPPLY - AN EXTENDED SCHEME.

The Clerk read two minutes of Sub-committee with regard to the requisition made at a former meeting that the village of Laurieston be formed into a special water supply district. The first minute was in the following terms: - The subcommittee had before it the requisition considered by the District Committee, and heard a representative of the requisitionists as to the urgency of introducing a supply of water to Laurieston, and the sanitary inspector on the scarcity of water at Redding. It was stated on behalf of the requisitionists that a committee of their number had made inquiry with regard to a probable source of supply within the grounds of Westquarter, upon which they had asked Messrs Warren & Stewart, C. E., to report. Their report was submitted, and stated that the engineers had examined into the matter, and considered that the scheme would not yield enough to supply the two villages. In consequence they had examined other sources of supply, keeping in view the scarcity of water in such places as Polmont, Reddingmuirhead, Redding, Rumford, &c, and reported that from Maddiston and Manuel Burn drainage areas there was a supply available sufficient for a population of 22 500 at a probable cost of works of £5700 It was also stated on behalf of the requisitionists that they had had pointed out to them additional springs in Westquarter grounds since Mr. Warren's visit, which would probably double the supply from that district, and further that Mr. Warren was willing to assist at any preliminary inquiry. After consideration it was agreed to go over the ground referred to in Messrs Warren & Stewart's report in Maddiston and Rumford districts, and to ask Mr. Warren to be present and give further information regarding both schemes, after which the sub-committee would again meet and go into the question of cost, valuation, and probable rate, a statement regarding which the clerks were instructed to prepare for the meeting. The second minute bore that the sub-committee, as arranged at the former meeting, went over the ground referred to in Messrs Warren & Stewart's report, and having had favourable explanations from Mr. Warren thereto, agreed to recommend that the engineers be formally engaged to give a supplementary report on the Maddiston and Manuel Burn scheme, detailing probable capacity, and the communities which

might be served, with cost, and information regarding proprietors of land to be effected by works and pipes, the supplementary report to be considered, along with figures as to probable rates, &c. to be prepared by the clerks as instructed at the previous meeting of subcommittee. Mr. Mitchell of Millfield moved the adoption of the report. The subcommittee had had a pretty long meeting with Mr. Warren, and they wished the Council to continue the matter in their hands till they could further report upon it, Colonel Stirling seconded, and said that as the scheme was to interest Maddiston as well as Laurieston and other villages, he would suggest that Mr. Reid and himself be added to the sub-committee. This was agreed to.

Falkirk Herald 21st February 1874

SHERIFF COURT

David Lamb, miner, residing near Polmont, for committing an assault at Maddiston, was sentenced to pay a fine of 20s, with the alternative of 20 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th February 1874

SHERIFF COURT. – On Monday, before Sheriff Bell, John White, jun., a miner, in Blackbraes, was charged with assault there on the 17th inst. He pled guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 15s, or undergo fifteen days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th March 1874

LINLITHGOW CATTLE FAIR

This market, which at one time was one of the largest held in Linlithgow, took place on Friday at its usual stance at the west end of the burgh. The weather was fine, and there was a considerable attendance of dealers and farmers from Edinburgh and the North. Numerically the show of stock was less than that at the corresponding market of last year, and there was also a perceptible deficiency in quality. There was an unusually bad demand for milch cows, and prices fell £2 from the currencies of recent markets. Store cattle were in best demand and a clearance of them was effected. Mr. James Graham, Myoithill, sold milch cows at from £13 to £18, a lot of rising three-year-old Ayrshire stots at £10 10s, a lot of two-year-old do. At £10 10s, and a lot of queys at £7. Mr. John Martin, Edinburgh, bought milch cows at from £15 to £20. Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge bought milch cows at from £13 to £16. Mr. A. Martin, Corstorphine, purchased Ayrshire milch cows at from £19 to £22. Mr. B. Cox, Falkirk, sold small grazing cattle at £6 and milch cows at £14. The show of horses was small and inferior, and little business was done.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 1st April 1874

STIRLINGSHIRE

TO BE SOLD, by Public Roup, within Dowell's Saleroom, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 15th day of April curt., at two o'clock Afternoon (if not previously sold by private bargain).

THE Desirable Small PROPERTY of BRIDGEHILL, situated close to the Railway Station of the village of Avonbridge, about four miles from Bathgate and seven from Linlithgow, it extends to about 27 Acres, mostly excellent Arable Land, and 2 Acres, or thereby, . Muir Ground.

The larger portion of the Lands is well adapted for Fueing purposes. The River Avon skirts the Lands on the South where there are some excellent Sites for Public Works.

The Lands are supposed to contain Minerals, Ironstone being worked close to the Property. There is a good Freestone Quarry near the Railway Station, which is being at present worked, and the Purchaser may have the Steam-Engine, Tools, &c., at Valuation.

The Fue-duty is only 3s 10d. To insure competition, the Upset Price is fixed at £1100.

Mr. McPhedran the Proprietor, will point out the Boundaries; and further particulars may be obtained from P.H. Cameron S.C.C., 35 Hanover Street, Edinburgh.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 11th April 1874

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will Let by Public Auction, on SATURDAY, 11th April, 1874,

THE GRASS PARKS

On the LANDS of STRATHMILL, near Avonbridge,

Belonging to Henry Gardner, Esq.

CREDIT TILL MARTINMAS.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 16th April 1874

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHEEP-WORRYING

REWARD – For some weeks past Several SHEEP or HOGS have been KILLED by DOGS Trespassing on the Farms of GREYRIG and CROSSCROES, Near Avonbridge. – Any Person furnishing Mr. MUIRHEAD with sufficient evidence to lead to a conviction will be Suitably Rewarded.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 18th April 1874

DEATHS

At Boxton, Muiravonside, on the 11th inst., Jane Orr, relict of John Hardy, Esq., Boxton, aged 87 years.

At Newmill, Avonbridge, on the 15th inst., Elizabeth Gray, wife of James Gray, aged 23 years, in the hope of the Gospel.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 25th April 1874

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

STEAM ENGINE,

QUARRY AND PIT PLANT,

CATTLE, IMPLEMENTS, &C.,

AT BRIDGEHILL

(ADJOINING AVONBRIDGE STATION)

ON MONDAY, 4TH MAY.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. D. McPhedran, who has disposed of the Property of Bridgehill, to Sell by Public Auction there on MONDAY, 4th May, 1874.

1. Horizontal Steam Engine, with Reversing Gear, 6 ½ inch Cylinder, 12 inch Stroke; also Pumping and Winding Gear, viz., 6 ½ inch Suction and Force Pump, with 2 Valves, 40 Feet of 4 inch Pipes, Bell Crank and Connecting Rods, &c.; Winding Drum, 40 Fathoms of Wire Rope, and 2 ½ -feet Pulley, with Plummer Blocks; 1 Boiler, 16x4 ½ feet, with Mounting. The

foregoing were new only a few months since, and are in first-class working order.
One 30 Cwt. Derrick Crane with Chain, &c., nearly new;
100 feet of 6-inch Wooden Rones;
Smith's Bellows, Anvil, and Smithy Tools, a large assortment of Freestone Quarry Tools, viz., Picks, Hammers, Wedges, Pinches, Shovels, Stone Shears, Sling Chains, Ruble Boxes, One Four-Wheeled Bogie, and other Quarry Plant; about 100 Tons of Freestone Ruble, and a large quantity of Dressed Freestone, viz., Lintels, Rybats, Scontions, Jams, &c.
LIKEWISE
1 Excellent and valuable Horse, suited for Harness and general work, 2 Three-year-old Ayrshire Queys in Calv, 2 Two-year-old Ayrshire Queys, 2 One-year-old do., 1 One-year-old Stot.
1 Close Cart, Iron Plough, Pair of Harrows, and a number of Small Farm Implements, 1 Wheelbarrow, 2 Peat Barrows, 2 Churns, 1 Milk Barrel with Crane, Dairy Dishes, a quantity of Stable and Byre Manure, a few Tons of Mixed Lime, Lot of Old Iron, Also
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE & Household effects.
The Quarry and Pit Plant can be inspected any day previous to the Sale.
Roup to begin with the Quarry Tools at 12 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 2nd May 1874

NOTICE

PAROCHIAL BOARD OF THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE
INTIMATION IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the ELECTION of THREE MEMBERS to SERVE in the PAROCHIAL BOARD of the PARISH of MUIRAVONSIDE, for the Ensuing Year, to represent the Ratepayers not Members, will take place on SATURDAY, the 9th of May next, in the PARISH SCHOOLROOM here at 12 o'clock Noon; and that a Certified List of the Persons entitled to Vote at said Election, in which the names are arranged alphabetically, and showing the Number of Votes each person is entitled to give will lie with the Inspector of the Poor, for at least Three Days previous: All in terms of the Acts 8 and 9 Victoria, chap. 83.
M. M. HENDERSON.

Inspector of the Poor of the Parish of Muiravonside.
Muiravonside, 27th April, 1874.

FREESTONE QUARRY TO LET, at Avonbridge Station, North British Railway, suitable for the Edinburgh and Glasgow and Intermediate Markets, of excellent White Rock. Can be largely developed. The property having changed hands, the Quarry, Plant, &c., will be Sold on the 4th May. – Mr. McPHEDRAN, at the Quarry, will give every information, and receive Offers.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 7th May 1874

THE MINER'S DISPUTE

SLAMANNAN

A meeting of miners of the Stirlingshire district was held on Tuesday afternoon, near Avonbridge. Mr. James Simpson was called on to preside. Reports were given in from the following districts:- Slamannan, Bathgate, Armadale, Blackbraes Redding, &c. The Chairman, in a brief address, said that they had been called together to consider their position in regard to the reduction of wages. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Messrs Smith, Motherwell; and Harley, Holytown. After considerable discussion, a resolution to resist all reductions below 20 per cent., to ask workmen of all classes to assist them, and that the peace-at-any-price policy advocated by some agents is antagonistic to the miner's interests

Glasgow Herald Monday 11h May 1874

THE DISPUTE IN THE MINING TRADE

STIRLING AND LINLITHGOWSHIRE. – A general meeting of the Stirling and Linlithgowshire Miners' Association was held at Wallacestone, near Polmont, on Friday, and when nearly 2500 members were present, accompanied by brass and flute bands. Mr. Gardiner, Slamannan, having been appointed to the chair, the reports from the different branches, showed that some had their reductions modified to 20 percent and that others were likely to obtain the same terms. The following resolutions were put to the meeting and carried unanimously: - 1st, "That we confirm the resolution passed at Avonbridge, on Tuesday last, in resisting all reductions over 20 per cent." 2nd, "That all branches that have had their reductions modified to 20 per cent, commence work and support the others until they obtain the same terms," 3rd, "That a general meeting be held at the same place on Tuesday first, noon, and that the delegates present be instructed to lay before the board, on Monday, the advisedness of all the branches turning out to the general meeting.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 16th May 1874

SHERIFF COURT. – At this Court on Monday, before Sheriff Bell, James Baxter and Peter Munnoch, miners, residing at Slamannan and Blackbraes; John Heeps, Alex. Thomson, John Swinton, and William Anderson, miners, residing at California; and James Harley, miner, residing at Blinkbonny, were all charged with and found guilty of breach of the peace at Avonbridge on the 5th inst. The first four were fined 20s, or 20 days' imprisonment, and the others each 10s or 10 days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 27th June 1874

The Board of Education has sanctioned the combination between the School Boards of Slamannan and Muiravonside for the erection of a joint school at Avonbridge.

Glasgow Herald Tuesday 4th August 1874

EASTEN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE – The promise of harvest throughout this district is of the most encouraging character, and in the meantime warrants the general anticipation of early and abundant crops. The heavy, clayey carse land is specially adapted for wheat and beans, and both crops make a splendid appearance. The former promises a yield much above the average, long in the straw, and with ears plumply filled by the recent stimulating sap and heat. In places where a partial laying of the grain had resulted from sporadic thunderplumps, later observation notes that the growth still in the plant, aided by the sunshine and drying winds, has been successful in restoring the level look of the fields. Beans have fully made up the shortness of haulm formerly noticed, and this forcing weather is filling the pods rapidly. Oats have benefitted wonderfully from the genial moisture and heat, but the straw will still be short, although the yield of grain in the ear is very promising. One or two odd lots in the neighbourhood of Falkirk, where the carse and dry field run into each other, are almost ready for the reaping machine. These patches have been sorely tithed by the deprivations of small birds, and will turn out in the stack-yard than in the boll measure. Black smut is, fortunately, almost wholly absent. The root crops are in a most vigorous and healthy condition. Potatoes have yet, of course, a critical stage to pass through, but at present both they and the turnips are in a state which would scarcely admit of improvement. Hay is now secured in prime fettle, and in quantity far beyond the anticipations of a month or so since. Last year was noted for an almost total absence of clover in the aftermath, but this season fully makes up for it. The oldest farmers in the district do not remember such a luxuriant yield of that feeding stuff in the second crop as has come away this year. It is already being largely cut for green feeding, and the vigorous growth yet in the ground promises a plentiful third yield. New dry hay has been sold at from £5 5s to £5 10s per 100 stones. Carse hay may be calculated at 10s additional, but is not yet properly in the market.

LINLITHGOWSHIRE- In Linlithgowshire the crops, considering the late heavy rains, are generally in a forward and good condition; and with a continuance of the present genial weather, harvest may be expected in about a fortnight. Hay has been cut, and farmers are now busy storing it in the yard. On heavy land wheat and oats are an excellent crop, but barley is somewhat light. Disease has not yet appeared amongst the potatoes, which promise to be a very abundant crop, and of excellent quality. Owing to the dry weather in spring,

turnips, however, are not nearly up to the average.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 6th August 1874

LINLITHGOW

SEROIUS ASSAULT ON A GIRL. – On Monday a baker residing at Avonbridge, named John Walker, was committed to Linlithgow prison charged with having committed a criminal assault upon a servant girl aged fifteen, named Elizabeth Aitken, in a corn field on the farm of Westfield, near Linlithgow. It is stated that when the attack was made upon the girl she was driving a horse and cart alone along the public road near Wallhouse Muir Toll.

Falkirk Herald 20th & 22nd August 1874

MADDISTON.

SALE OF CROP - On Friday last a sale of crop took place on the lands of Toravon, the property of W. H. Muir, Esq. One entire field of barley averaged over £9 the imperial acre, some of the lots giving £10 10s the imperial acre. One field of oats fetched £9 5s and £9 10s the imperial acre. Mr. James Neilson was the auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th August 1874

MR. NICOL'S SALES

SALE OF POTATOES AT HILLHEAD

ON MONDAY, 24TH AUGUST.

MR. DAVID NICOL will Sell by Public Roup at HILLHEAD, near Avonbridge, on MONDAY, 24th August, 1874, belonging to Mr. Robert Robertson,

4 ACRES OF POTATOES,

A particularly Heavy Crop, and very Fine in Quality.

Sale to commence at Half-past-six.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 29th August 1874

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

SALE THIS DAY

POTATOES AT AVONBRIDGE,

ON SATURDAY, 29TH AUGUST.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will Sell by Public Auction, on SATURDAY, 29th August, 1874, on the Lands of HILLEND, Avonbridge,

FOUR ACRES OF POTATOES,

A Most Magnificent Crop.

Belonging to Mr. Alexander Hardie.

Roup to begin at Six o'clock.

OATS & HAY AT WHITESTONEDGE,

ON SATURDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER.

THOMAS BINNIE will Sell by Public Auction on SATURDAY, 5th September, 1874, on the LANDS of WHITESTONEDGE, Muiravonside, possessed by Mr. Mathew Anderson,

3 ACRES of Excellent SANDY OATS, and 2 STACKS of SEED HAY.

Roup to begin at 5 o'clock.

MR. NEILSON'S SALES

SALE THIS DAY

POTATOES AT GILANDERSLAND

ON SATURDAY, 29TH AUGUST.

MR. NEILSON is instructed by Mr. James Shanks to Sell by Public Roup, at

GILANDERSLAND, Muiravonside, as above,

3 ACRES OF POTATOES,

Which are remarkably fine this year,

Roup to begin at Six o'clock.

GROWING OATS

CLYDESDALE HORSE, FARM STOCKING,

AT CROY FARM

ON SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER.

MR. NEILSON is instructed by Mr. William Galloway, who is leaving CROY FARM, near

Polmont Station, as above,

10 Acres of Splendid SANDY OATS,

1 Capital DRAUGHT HORSE,

Cart with wheels and axle, Iron Plough, Grain and Grup Harrows, Turnip Slicer, Pair Hand

Fanners, Horse Harness, and the whole of the Small Farm Implements and Utensils. Also, 30

Tons of Manure and 60 Head of Poultry.

USUAL CREDIT ON BILLS.

Roup to begin at One o'clock.

SELECT HERD

OF

PURE WEST HIGHLAND CATTLE,

AT GOWANBANK,

ON MONDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER.

MR. NEILSON is favoured with instructions to Sell by Public Roup, as above, a Famous Lot of

Pure WEST HIGHLAND CATTLE, the Property of James Gowans, Esq.

Particulars afterwards.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 3rd Sep 1874

MADDISTON.

Muiravonside Flower Show. -The third annual exhibition of flowers, fruits, and vegetables, under the auspices of the Muiravonside Flower and Vegetable Society, took place in the Schoolroom here, on Saturday the 29th ult., and, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, turned out a great success. The show, on the whole, was superior to that of last year, and augurs well for the success of the society, which we hope will, under the active exertions of its secretary and committee, continue to flourish, and by its influence encourage and develop the latent love of flowers which we know exists in this neighbourhood. Much depends on the active encouragement and assistance given by the resident gentry to societies such as this; and it is most gratifying to find that the ladies and gentlemen in the district are turning their attention in this direction. The prize-list will appear in our columns on Saturday.

AVONBRIDGE

BOY DROWNED IN THE AVON. – On Monday afternoon, John Ronald, 5 years (and 10 months) of age, son of Mr. Ronald, residing at (Linmill) Avonbridge, was drowned in the river Avon. It appears that the boy, along with others, was walking along the river sailing a small boat, and while doing so missed his footing, fell into the water, and was carried away a distance of nearly two miles before he was recovered. On being taken out of the water life was found to be extinct.

Falkirk Herald 5th September 1874

MADDISTON. MUIRAVONSIDE FLOWER SHOW.

As we shortly announced in our last, this exhibition came off on Saturday the 29th ult., and under the energetic management of Mr. Thomas Rae, secretary, and Mr. James Gray, treasurer, supported by a committee, each member of which had his mind deeply interested in the work, most successfully. The use of the school-room for the occasion was, by the kind permission of the authorities, granted, and Mrs. Tolmy did her best to have it decorated in appropriate style, aided as she was by the committee. The Laurieston Band was present, and by their excellent rendering of our most popular music added much to the enjoyment of the day. It augurs well for the future of this society that the patrons and other gentry graced the

proceedings with their presence, amongst whom we observed Colonel Stirling of Tarduff and family, Captain Urquhart of Vellore Castle, Miss Keith, Muiravonside Manse, &c. &c. In the vegetable department it was gratifying to notice the excellence of the specimens brought forward for competition; and seeing that these were the bona fide produce of the members of the society we trust that the friendly emulation induced by societies such as this will lead to great improvement in the cultivation of this department. As a token of earnestness in the work on the part of the members of the committee, it gave us much satisfaction to learn that the money awarded to them in prizes was given back to be added to the funds of the society. Once more we take leave to urge upon the resident gentry in this locality to foster and encourage this society, and support by their subscriptions and their presence at the annual exhibitions the efforts of the committee to establish the society, seeing that there is in competitions like these an influence of an elevating and refining character, giving a higher standard to the moral tone and condition of a neighborhood. The judges, whose decisions on this occasion gave great satisfaction, were Mr. Murray, Parkhall, and Mr. Binks, Lathallan.

The following is the list of prizes Hollyhock spike-1, G. Brotherson ; 2, J. Gray ; 3 Jas. Stewart.
6 Hollyhock blooms-1, J. Gray; 3 Jas. Stewart.
6 Dahlia blooms -1, J. Gray; 2, John Reid ; 3, Peter Stewart.
6 Blooms Chrysanthemum Asters-1, G. Brotherson ; 2 W Heaps ; 3 P. Stewart.
6 Spikes Penstemons -1, J Gray; 2, G. Brotherson ; 3, P. Stewart.
6 Phloxes 1, J. Gray 2 P. Stewart. 3, J. Stewart.
6 African Marigolds 1, J. Gray; 2 W. Heaps.
6 French Marigolds, -1 J. Gray 2 P. Stewart ; 3, G. Brotherson.
2 Plants Ten-week-stocks - 1, J. Gray; 2, W. Heaps ; Thos. Ray.
1 Variegated Geranium, 1,- G. Brotherson ; 2, T. Ray ; 3, J Stewart.
1 Geranium, any sort -1, Thom Ray ; 2, J. Gray; 3, J. Stewart.
1 Hydrangea - J. Gray.
1 Heliotrope 1 Gray. 1 Fuchsia, any sort-1, G. Brotherson, 2, - J. Stewart; 3, J Gray.
2 Pot Plants 1, J. Gray; 2, J. Stewart.
Six Blooms Pansies-1, W. Heaps; 2,- Arthur; 3, G. Brotherson , J. Gray .
Fruits-Four Apples - 1, J. Brown; 2, J. Gray.
Half - pint Currants - 1, G. Brotherson; 2, W. Heaps. Vegetables. -
Two Early Cabbage - 1, Mrs Thomly; 2, G. Brotherson; 3, Mrs Baird.
One heaviest Drumhead Cabbage-1, W. Scott; 2, P. Stewart; 3, J. Stewart.
One Red Cabbage - 1, G. Brotherson. 2, J. Horn; 3, J. Ray.
One Savoy 1, J. Ray; 2, J. Stewart 3, W. Scott.
One German Green-1, J. Shades 2, J. Ray; 3, J. Stewart.
Two Cauliflowers -,1, J Reid 2, Mrs Baird ; 3, P. Stewart
Four Leeks- 1, G. Brotherson; 2, Mrs Marshall ; 3, W. Heaps.
Six Onions, spring sown-1, J. Pettigrew ; 2 W. Heaps; 3, D. Arthur.
Two Stalks Rhubarb-1, J. Ray; 2, Pettigrew; 3, J. Horn.
4 Carrots-1, G. Brotherson ; 2, J. Kay ; 3, J Reid.
2 Parsnips-1, J. Gray ; 2, W. Heaps ; 3, J. Ray.
2 Heads Celery-1, P. Stewart ; 2, J. Reid ; 3, J. Stewart.
2 Best Root-1, D. Arthur; 2, J. Ray; 3, W. Heaps.
6 Potatoes-1, G. Brotherson ; 2, J. Horn ; 3, J Pettigrew.
6 Potato Onions-1, G. Brotherson ; 2, J. Pettigrew; 3, P. Stewart.
2 Turnips 1, J. Ray; 2, J. Horn ; 3, J. Reid.
6 Pods Peas 1, J. Gray ; 2, J. Reid-3 P. Stewart.
6 Pods Beans 1, G. Brotherson; 2, J. Reid ; 3, J. Gray.
1 Plant Parsley- 1, J. Gray; 2 P. Stewart ; 3, W. Heaps.
6 shallots 1, G. Brotherson ; 2, J. Pettigrew ; 3, J. Wood.
Extra Prizes-1 Basket Vegetables not more than 7 sorts-1, J. Stewart; 2, J Reid ; 3 J. Gray
Dozen Eggs-1, Mrs Marshall ; 2, Mrs Nicol.
1 Earl of Oat Cake, composed of nothing but meal and water 1, Mrs Gray ; 2, Mrs Arthur; 3, Mrs Pettigrew.

At the close of the show the parties present were in the kindest manner invited by Mr Scott, Maddiston, to his field adjoining, where they enjoyed a perfect gala day of dancing to the excellent music of the Laurieston Band, whose exertions during the show gave such universal satisfaction. The boys also had a series of races, which added much to the amusements of the day.

Falkirk Herald 5th & 10th September 1874

From our Note-Book. -

For the last week or ten days we have occasionally been rambling in a northerly direction, and have seen with satisfaction a great many fields covered with stooks in long close rows, with a sharp dry wind whistling through them, which must have had "music in't" to the ears of our Carse farmers, whose stack-yards are being well filled with giant stacks. This day, however, business matters impelled us to journey a few miles further up in the world, and we were agreeably surprised to notice that the crops are all in a forward condition, and in a good many places the fields closely dotted with stooks of no mean proportions. On the lands of Captain Urquhart of Vellore Castle we saw several fields of wheat and oats cut and being cut, and apparently of excellent quality and fair in quantity. In passing up towards Rumford we observed a mansion-house of respectable proportions, with oriel windows, in course of erection. Seeing a man in the middle of the road collecting manure, we addressed him. He raised his head, and looking us in the face, we at once observed that in its round and rather a soncy" proportions there was a peculiarly innocent and vacant expression. The following colloquy will show whether he or we were the greater fool: - Question - "Who's building this house?" Answer, with a comical grin" The masons." "Oh! The masons; and are they doing it out o' their ain heads?" " No," with a nudge on our elbow, " oot o' the quarry." "Ay, and who are they building it for?" "A man." We trudged on our way - beaten.

JUSTICE OF PEACE COURT. -

A Justice of Peace Court was held on Thursday - Dr. Maccall of Haypark, Polmont, and Andrew Stirling, Esq., of Muiravonside, presiding.

The agents present were Mr. Jas. Wilson and Mr. T. Gibson. Wm. Morris, Blackmill, near Carron ; Alex. Cunningham, Maddiston ; and James Walker, Airth, were each tried on a charge of committing a breach of his publichouse certificate. They were found guilty, and were sentenced to pay each a fine of £1 5s, with £1 2s of expenses.

Bennie M'Pherson, William Baxter, Andrew Fleming, Archibald Baxter, and Alex. Forbes, miners, pled guilty to charges of " lang ball" playing on the public road, and were each fined in sums varying from, expenses included, 30s to 37s 6d, with the alternative of imprisonment. Dr. Maccall said, in passing sentence, that the Justices were determined to put down such a dangerous game as " lang-ball" or bullet playing, and punish future offenders with the full penalties of the law; and he hoped the accused, for their own sakes as well as others, would give it up, and avoid the necessity of being again brought into court for such or any other offences.

Walter Hogan pled guilty to a charge of having, on the 22d ult., trespassed on the farm and lands of Lochhouse in search of game. It being his first offence, the Justices, after a statement from Mr. Gibson, solicitor on behalf of the accused modified the fine to one-half of the penalty, and fined him, costs included, in £2 15s, with the alternative of 30 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 10th September 1874

MR. NEILSONS SALES
28 FAT WEST HIGHLAND CATTLE
AT GOWNBANK

MR. NEILSON is favoured with instructions from Mr. James Gowans, Esq., to Sell by Public Roup, at GOWANBANK, near Avonbridge, as above,

28 Heavy Prime Fat WEST HIGHLAND CATTLE, and
1FAT AYRSHIRE BULL.
Roup to begin at 12 o'clock Noon.
LOST, FOUND, &c.
LOST, on Tuesday, between Falkirk and Newhouse, a HIGHLAND QUEY or STOT. – Finder
will be rewarded by applying to Miss SAWERS, Newhouse, by Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 17th September 1874

AVONBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW

The annual show under the auspices of this society was held on Saturday last, and passed in a highly successful manner. There was a large turnout of visitors in the afternoon. The judges were – For Flowers, &c. - Messrs Dow, jun., Falkirk; Andrew Ritchie, Polmont; Andrew Tolmie, gardener, Bridgecastle. For Butter – Messrs J. Mackenzie, grocer and seedsman, Airdrie; and John Binnie, baker and grocer, Avonbridge. The following is a list of prizes :-

POT FLOWERS.

Best Rose – 1, Walter Carlyle; 2, John Shields. Hydrangea – W. Carlyle. Light Fuchsia – 1, James Carlyle; 2, John Shields. Dark Fuchsia – 1, John Liddell; 2, J. Carlyle. Geranium – 1, Jas. Waugh; 2, J. Shields. Pelargonium – 1, W. Carlyle; 2, J. Carlyle. Calceolaria – 1, W. Carlyle; 2, William Somerville. Greenhouse plant different from the above – 1, J. Shields; 2, W. Carlyle.

WINDOW GROWN FLOWERS.

Best Fuchsia – Thomas Main. Geranium or Pelargonium – Thomas Main. Hydrangea – John Gilchrist. Other Window Plant – John Reid.

CUT FLOWERS.

Best 4 blooms Roses – Thomas Chapman. 6 blooms Dahlias – 1, John Shields; 2, John Taylor. 6 blooms Hollyhocks – 1, J. Liddell; 2, J. Waugh. 6 blooms Pansies – 1, J. Carlyle; 2, J. Shields. 4 blooms French Marigolds – 1, W. Carlyle; 2, J. Shields. 4 blooms African Marigolds – 1, J. Liddell; 2, J. Shields. 6 blooms China Asters – 1, John Liddell; 2, J. Shields. 4 blooms Carnations – 1, T. Chapman; 2, J. Carlyle. 4 spikes Antirrhinums – 1, James Kidd; 2, J. Taylor. 2 Ten-week Stocks – 1, J. Taylor; 2, T. Chapman. 4 spikes Phloxes – 1, T. Chapman; 2, John Reid. 4 spikes Penstemons – 1, T. Chapman; 2, James Kidd. 2 spikes Gladioli – 1, Peter Gilchrist; 2, Henry Gardner. 4 spikes Hardy Herbaceous – 1, J. Carlyle; 2, Walter Carlyle. Hardy Annuals 4 sorts – 1, T. Chapman; 2, J. Waugh. 2 Hand Bouquets – 1, T. Chapman; 2, J. Waugh; 2, W. Carlyle. Hollyhock spike – 1, J. Waugh; 2, W. Carlyle; 3, J. Liddell.

FRUIT.

Best 12 Gooseberries – 1, J. Carlyle; 2 J. Shields. 4 Apples – 1, W. Carlyle; 2 Archd. G Gardner.

VEGATABLES

Best Early Cabbage – 1, John Simpson; 2, W. Somerville. Savoy – 1, Robert Dunsmore; 2, Thos. Main. German Green – 1, J. Gilchrist; 2, W. Carlyle. Cauliflower – 1, Thos. Somerville; 2, J. eid. Parsley – 1, J. Shields; 2, J. Reid. 4 Leeks – W. Carlyle. 2 Stalks Rhubarb – 1, W. Somerville; 2 John Brown. 2 Parsnips – 1, J. Liddell; 2, John Gentleman. 2 Carrots – 1, J. Liddell; 2, George Clelland. 2 Beetroot – 1, J. Reid; 2, j. Gentleman. Red Cabbage – 1, J. Somerville; 2, J. Liddell. 2 Turnips – 1, J. Reid; 2, J. Shields. 6 Potatoes – 1, J. Gentleman; 2, T. Chapman. 4 Potato Onions – 1, Wm. Salmon; 2, J. Carlyle. 8 Onions, spring sown – J. Shields. 8 Shallots – 1, J. Gentleman; 2, J. Gilchrist. 6 Pods Peas – 1, J. Shields; 2, J. Reid. 6 Pods Beans – 1, G. Clelland; 2, James Walker.

SPECIAL PRIZES FLOWERS.

Best Hydrangea – W. Carlyle. Greenhouse Plant – J. Shields. 4 Spikes Ten-Week-Stocks – J. Kidd. 2 Rose blooms, 2 Carnations or Picotees, and 2 Verbenas – T. Chapman. Hand Bouquet – Jas. Waugh. 4 Booms – J. Shields. 6 Hollyhock blooms – J. Liddell. Stand of flowers, 6 sorts, one of each – 1, W. Carlyle; 2, J. Shields; 3, J. Liddell. 6 Pansies – 1, J. Carlyle; 2, J. Shields. 6 Fancy Pansies – 1, J. Carlyle; 2, J. Shields. 2 Carnations or Picotees – 1, T. Chapman; 2, W. Carlyle. 2 Quilled Asters and 2 Chrysanthemum Asters – 1, T. Chapman; 2, J. Carlyle. 4 Dahlias – 1, J. Taylor; 2, J. Shields. 3 Rose blooms – 1, T. Chapman. 2, J. Carlyle. 4 Spikes Hardy Herbaceous – W. Carlyle. 6 Spikes Penstemons – T. Chapman. Geranium – J. Waugh. 2 Rose blooms – T. Chapman. 4 Spikes Antirrhinums – J. Reid. Fuchsia – J. Liddell. 2 Ten-week stocks- T. Chapman. 4 Gladioli – T. Chapman. 6 Striped French Marigolds – J. Shields. 4 Dahlias – J. Taylor. Hand Bouquet – J. Waugh. Table Bouquet – 1, J. Waugh; 2, J. Carlyle. 6 Quilled Asters – J. Liddell. Scarlet Geranium – J. Shields. Light Fuchsia – J. Liddell. Pot Plant – J. Liddell. Hollyhock Spike – J. Carlyle. Floral Device – 1, J. Carlyle; 2, J. Taylor.

SPECIAL PRIZES VEGATABLES.

Best Pod of Peas – P. Gilchrist. 6 Potato Onions – J. Gentleman. Cauliflower and Cabbage – T. Somerville. German Green – J. Shields. Heaviest 2 Red Cabbages – 1, W. Somerville; 2, T. Somerville. 5 Leeks – 1, J. Reid; 2, W. Carlyle. Basket of Vegetables – 1, J. Reid; 2, J. Gentleman; 3, W. Carlyle. 6 Potatoes, 2 sorts – 1, T. Chapman; 2, J. Gentleman. 4 Potatoes, 2 Carrots, and 2, Turnips – T. Chapman. 2 Carrots-1, J Gentleman; 2, T. Chapman. German Green – J. Carlyle. Heaviest Late Cabbage – J. Taylor and J. Simpson – equal. 2 Turnips – J. Kidd. 3 Aberdeen Yellow Turnips – T. Chapman. 4 Potatoes – 1, J. Reid; 2, T. Chapman.

EXTRA PRIZE LIST.

Best 2ils. Butter – 1, T. Chapman; 2, John Brown; 3, James Paton, Esq. Heaviest 6 Hens Eggs – 1, Thomas Main; 2, Mrs. W. Orr. Heaviest Turnip – 1, J. Kidd; 2, T. Chapman.

PRIZE FOR CHILDREN.

Best Bouquet of Wild Flowers – 1, Agnes Reid; 2, William Bryce.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 8th October 1874

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

CORN STACKS AND TURNIPS,

AT HILLEND

ON SATURDAY, 17TH OCTOBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. Alexander Hardie to Sell by Public Auction at HILLEND, near Avonbridge, on SATURDAY, 17th October, 1784,

15 STACKS OF PROVIDENCE OATS,

AND,

4 ACRES OF YELLOW TURNIPS,

an exceedingly Fine Crop.

THE USUAL CREDIT

Roup to begin at Four o'clock

CATTLE, TURNIPS, &c.,

AT WHITESTONEDGE,

ON SATURDAY, 10TH OCTOBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he has been instructed by Mr. Mathew Anderson to Sell by Public Auction, at WHITESTONEDGE, Muiravonside,

on SATURDAY 10th October, 1874

2 First-Class Spring Calving COWS,

1 Young Fat COW,

2 Fat QUEYS,

HALF AN ACRE of ABERDEEN YELLOW TURNIPS – A Fine Crop,

A Quantity of Milk Boynes, Large Tub, and dairy Utensils, Cattle Troughs, Sacks &c., &c..

Roup to begin at Four o'clock Afternoon.

DISPLENISHING SALE

AT EASTER MANUEL
ON FRIDAY, 9TH OCTOBER
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. Patrick Inglis to Sell by Public Auction, at EASTER MANUEL, on FRIDAY, 9th October, 1874, the whole FARM, STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, TURNIPS, &C., on the above Farm, comprising –
4 Excellent Clydesdale HORSES and MARES,
9Ayrshire MILCH COWS, supposed to be in Calf,
1 Two-year-old QUEY in Calf,
1 Year-old QUEY and 1 year-old STOT,
3 CALVES,
4 Close-bodied Coup Carts with Wheels and Axles, 1 Water Cart and Barrel, 2 Hay Carts, 3 Iron Lea and Stubble Ploughs, 3 Drill Ploughs, 3 Iron Drill Scrapers, 3 Pairs Grain Harrows, 1 Pair Grass Seed do., 1 Pair of Iron Drill Harrows, 1 Two-horse Iron Crubber, 1 Pair of Iron Grubbing Harrows, 1 Wood and 2 Stone Rollers, with Frames, 1 Two-drill Turnip Sowing Machine, 1 Bean Harrow, 1 First-class Reaping Machine, by Brigham and Bickerton, 5 Sets Cart and Plough Horse harness, 1 Pair of Barn Fanners, 1 Weighing Machine and Weights, and the whole Barn Utensils, 4 Sets Stone Stack Pillars, 7 Stack Ladders, 2 Boilers, Pump and Water Pipes, Fireclay Cattle Troughs, Wright's Bench and a capital collection of Small Farm Implements, & c., also 2 Churns, 4 Milk Barrels, Tubs, and other Dairy Furnishings,
AN EXTRA GOOD FOUR-HORSE THRASHING MILL WITH FANNERS,
CHURNING MILL WITH NEW BOX CHURN,
AND
7 ACRES OF YELLOW TURNIPS.
THREE MONTHS' CREDIT ON BILLS, OR DISCOUNT FOR CASH.
Roup to begin at One o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th October 1874

SHERIFF COURT

Sat this Court on Monday – before Sheriff Bell – Wm. Munnoch, and George Donaldson, miners, Blackbraes, for breach of the peace and malicious mischief at Avonbridge on Monday, 5th inst., were each ordered to pay 10s or go to prison for 10 days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 24th October 1874

LOST, FOUND, &c.

FOUND, between Gowanbank and Drumtassie, a HIGHLAND STOT. If not claimed in Eight Days will be sold. – Apply to ANDREW MACFARLANE, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 29th October 1874

DEATHS

At Craigbank, Avonbridge, on the 24th inst., Elizabeth Marion Allan, infant daughter of Mr. Allan Waugh, aged 16 months. Friends will please accept this intimation.

Falkirk Herald 14th November 1874

Birth

At Maddiston Inn, on the 10th inst., the wife of Mr. James Stewart, of a daughter.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th November 1874

DEATHS

At Haining Mill, Avonbridge, on the 14th inst., Elizabeth Pender, wife of Mr. Robert Ronald.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 3rd December 1874

SAVAGE ASSAULT BY A HUSBAND. – On Monday, a miner, named Daniel Cassels, residing at Blackbraes, was examined before Sheriff Bell and committed to prison pending further inquiries on a charge of having assaulted his wife, and inflicted a wound on her throat with a table knife.

Falkirk Herald 12th December 1874

Lost, found, &c

LOST, between Maddiston and Causewayend on the 7th inst., a SUM OF MONEY. - Reward on delivery of the same at the Falkirk Herald office.

Falkirk Herald 12th December 1874

SAVAGE ASSAULT BY A HUSBAND. – On Monday a miner, named Daniel Cassels, residing at Blackbraes, was examined before Sheriff Bell and committed to prison pending further inquiries on a charge of having assaulted his wife, and inflicted a wound on her throat with a table knife.

SHERIFF COURT. – At this Court on Monday – before Sheriff Bell – Thomas Aitken, jun., James Russell, and William Johnston, pleaded guilty to having committed a breach of the peace at Avonbridge, and each was fined in 10s with the alternative of 10 days imprisonment. Robert Reid, labourer, Avonbridge, was convicted of a charge of breach of the peace, and fined 10s, with the alternative of 10 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th December 1874

LOST, FOUND &C.

FOUND, on Tuesday, between Falkirk and Blackbraes, a DOG (Half Poodle). – Owner may have it on applying to JAMES WHITE, Blackbraes.

TO LET

COUNTY OF STIRLING

FARM TO LET

TO LET, the FARM of CROSSCROES, lying in the Parish of Muiravonside, County of Stirling, and in the neighbourhood of Avonbridge Railway Station.

The Farm is believed to extend to about 90 ½ Scotch Acres, but the extent is not guaranteed. Entry will be given immediately; and the Farm will be Let for such a period, not exceeding nineteen years, as may be agreed upon.

The boundaries of the Farm will be pointed out to intending offerers by Mrs. Muirhead, Crosscroes; and offers will be received by Messrs GIBSON-CRAIG, DALZIEL, & BRODIES, W.S. 5 Thistle Street, Edinburgh, up to the 4th January, 1875
Edinburgh, 18th December, 1874.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 31st December 1874

At Craigbank, Avonbridge, on the 24th inst., Mrs. Allan Waugh of a daughter.

1875

Glasgow Herald Friday 23rd April 1875

STIRLINGSHIRE

VILLA AT CRAIGS, NEAR POLMONT STATION, FOR SALE

There will be exposed for Sale, by Public Roup, within the Royal Hotel, Falkirk, on Thursday, the 6th day of May, 1875, at Two o'clock Afternoon (unless previously disposed of privately). THAT Newly-Built Substantial and Commodious VILLA situated in the Lands of Craigs, with LAND and GARDEN GROUND attaché. The House contains Three Public Rooms, Five Bed-Rooms (one with Dressing-Closet), besides Kitchen, Bath-Room, W.C, washing-House, and other conveniences. There is a good supply of Water from a Well on the Property.

The Villa, which is situated on the high ground about five minutes' walk to the South of Polmont Station, commands a magnificent and extensive view of the Firth of Forth, and the Kerse of Strirling and Falkirk.

The Purchaser can have immediate entry.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Peter Baird, Builder, Maddiston, Polmont, the Proprietor: or to Russel & Aitken, Writers, Falkirk, who will exhibit the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup.

Dundee Courier Friday July 1875

FALKIRK JULY CATTLE MARKET

This market, recently established, was held yesterday on the Callander Riggs, near Falkirk, under favourable circumstances as regards weather, and was probably the largest of the July gatherings that has taken place. There was a good attendance of dealers and farmers from the neighbouring districts, and trade, while it may be described as somewhat stiff, was in consistence with the markets held of late. For good milch cows there was a fair inquiry, and a tolerable satisfactory clearance was made. In the other classes found at this market trade was inactive. Altogether, the results of the proceedings cannot be accepted as a criterion for future operations. Below is a list of the transcriptions recorded: - Cattle – Mr. Aitken, Avonbridge, sold calving cows at from £15 to £17, and bought two year old Ayrshire stots at £9; Mr. William Brock, Denny, sold milch cows at from £10 to £12 and £13 10s; Mr. J. Graham, Myothill, sold a lot of polled stots at £14; Highland stots at £7, and year olds at from £5 to £6; Mr. Langan, Latter Kenny, sold a lot of stots at £5 15s, and bought cows at from £12 to £13; Mr. B. Cox sold milch cows at from £13 to £17.

1876

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 8th March 1876

LINLITHGOW. - Curious Case of Alleged Fraud. – On Monday, a cattle dealer named James Syme, belonging to Glasgow, was apprehended by the police on several cases of falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition. It is alleged that Syme, on 8th ult., obtained possession of a cow from Mr. Alexander, farmer, Millbank, near Whitburn, on the faith that he had been sent by Mr. Lawson, junior, of Forrest Farm, to purchase the cow, which was suffering from disease, and that the latter gentleman would pay £3 for the cow should it pass the inspector at the dead meat market, Glasgow, and £2 if it was condemned; but on inquiry it was ascertained that Mr. Lawson knew nothing whatever of the transaction. After an examination before Sheriff Home, he was committed to prison. Yesterday, Syme again, along with Andrew Nimmo, veterinary surgeon, Linlithgow, and Andrew McFarlane, labourer, Avonbridge, who were subsequently apprehended, were examined on two charges of having obtained three cows which were said to be all more or less affected by disease, under false pretences, from Mr. John Meikle, dairyman, Corbiehall, near Bo'ness. It is stated that on these occasions the veterinary surgeon certified that the cows were labouring under a disease from which they were not likely to recover, but were still in a fit state to be used as human food, and it would not be profitable for Mr. Meikle to keep them any longer. In consequence of this, Mr. Meikle was prevailed upon about a week ago to give the cows to Syme for the usual sum of £1 each, upon condition that if they passed the inspector at Glasgow he was to receive another "1 each for them. Syme, however, called again on Mr. Meikle, along with Nimmo the veterinary surgeon and McFarlane, on Saturday last to make some more purchases, and alleged that the two former cows had not passed the inspector, whereupon he received back the £2 which he had paid for them, with the exception of 10s, which he returned as the price of the hide of one of them. Syme again on Saturday obtained another cow from Mr. Nimmo for £5, said to be worth from £12 to £14, after frightening him for having diseased animals in his possession without giving due notice to the proper authorities, and making him believe that he would receive the Government grant for all his cows having been slaughtered in consequence of infectious disease, and concealing the fact that he had received anything for them. After Syme left with the cow, Meikle and his wife believed that they had been duped, and gave information to the police. The constable communicated with the authorities at Linlithgow, and Syme was traced to Polmont, where he was apprehended on the eve of leaving by train for Glasgow. The cow found in his possession had been examined by two professional veterinary surgeons, and declared to be free from infectious disease. Syme was committed to prison, and Nimmo and McFarlane were liberated.

Dundee Courier Friday 16th May 1876

FALKIRK MAY FAIR

The annual fair for cattle and horses was held yesterday in the Callander Riggs. The weather was favourable for the holding of the gathering, but farmers and others interested in agricultural pursuits would have preferred a genial rain, which in the dry state of pasturages and red land is much needed at the present important period of the season. The show of cattle was larger than that of the corresponding market last year, and consisted of Ayrshire milch cows, Bullocks, and heifers – a few west and north Highlanders, and some lots of Irish. Respecting quality, the display was an ordinary one. There was no particular demand for any particular class – a general flatness existing – caused entirely by the want of grass. The result is that a considerable proportion of the stock did not secure purchasers, and most of the sales made concessions on the original demands had to be granted. A want of dealers from a distance was complained of, and transactions were for the chief part confined to local necessities. Mr. William Brook, Denny, sold milch cows at prices ranging from £16 to £18 10s. Reports a dull trade. Mr. John Goodwin, Peathill, sold calving cows at from £14 10s to £19; calving queys at from £12 to £14, and two-year-old stots at £10. Mr. James Sheridan, Ireland, sold a lot of two-year-old stots at £9. Mr. William Liddell, Denny, purchased calving cows at from £15 to £23. Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge, sold calving cows at from £14 to £18 10s; farrow cows at £10 5s; and a lot of queys at £8 10s 6d. Mr. D. Bogle sold two-year-old heifers at £10 10s, and year-olds at £6. Mr. Duncan Graham, Drummclzier, sold cross queys at £13; farrow cows at £12 to £13, and queys at £9. 10s. Mr. Peter Gillespie, Bonnybridge, sold two-year-old cross stots at £13 15s; Highland queys at £8 10s, and stots at £10. The shew of stallions was small, only four being contributed, including the Falkirk prize horse.

Dundee Courier Friday 9th June 1876

DEATHS

At Avonbridge Manse, by Falkirk, on the 6th inst., the Rev. Andrew Dodds, minister of the United Presbyterian Church.

1877

Falkirk Herald Saturday 13th January 1877

LINLITHGOW WINTER FAIR. – This the first market of the year at Linlithgow for the sale of cattle and horses took place yesterday. The weather was cold and frosty. Snow began to fall in the morning and continued during the time the market lasted, and perhaps the attendance of farmers was limited thereby, which was the smallest that we have seen at the winter meeting. For a number of years this market has been on the wane, and the show of cattle today forms no exception to the rule. Only a few good Ayrshire cows and two lots of Irish stirks were on sale. Mr. Henry Aitken, Avonbridge, held the principal lot of Ayrshire cows, and found customers for the bulk of them at prices ranging from £15 to £19 10s; - these prices show a fall on late markets from £1 to £1 10s per head. Mr. John Lowrie, Mid-Calder, bought a few good cows at from £15 10s to £19 15s; queys sold at £12. The Irish did not break bulk. The

horse market was nil.

DEATHS

At Avonbridge, on the 6th inst., Jane Hamilton, wife of Robert Young. Friends omitted will please accept this intimation.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 10th February 1877

J.P. Court. – At the J.P. Court held on Thursday – Capt. Urquhart, of Vellore Castle, and John Wilson, Esq., of South Bantaskine, on the bench – Alexander Heeps, John Heeps, and David Ure, all of Blackbraes, 30s each or twenty days' imprisonment, for poaching.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 15th February 1877

PUBLIC NOTICES

TO CONTRACTORS

ESTIMATES WANTED for the MASON, JOINER, SLATER, PLUMBER, and PLASTER WORK of SCHOOL and TEACHERS HOUSE, to be Erected by the Muiravonside School Board at Drumbowie. Schedules of Quantities to be obtained from and Plans to be seen with A. & W. BLACK, Architects, Falkirk, after Thursday the 15th inst. Offers to be lodged with COLONEL STIRLING, Tarduff, by Linlithgow, on or before Thursday the 1st March, marked on the outside, "Tender for Drumbowie School."

JOHN ROBERTS, Clerk
Muiravonside School Board.

Manuel Mills,

Linlithgow, 9th Feb., 1877.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTERS

THE SCHOOL BOARD of SLAMANNAN will receive TENDERS for the DIGGER, MASON, BRICK, WRIGHT, SLATER, PLUMBER, and PLASTER WORKS of a SCHOOL and TEACHER'S HOUSE to be erected near AVONBRIDGE. Copies of the Plans to be seen and Schedules to be had from ALEXANDER WATT, Architect, 67 Renfield Street, Glasgow. A deposit of 2s 6d to be paid for each Schedule. Offers to be sent to ANDREW ALLAN, Solicitor, Falkirk, Clerk to the Board, marked "Tender for School at Avonbridge," on or before the 20th curt.

Falkirk Herald 22nd February 1877

SHERIFF COURT. –

At the Sheriff Court on Monday James O'Neill, labourer, Brightons, was charged with breach of peace in a public-house in Maddiston on Saturday Night, aggravated by a former conviction. He pled guilty, and was sentenced to a fine of 20s, or a term of twenty days' imprisonment. Robert Sneddon and John Sneddon, miners, Standrigg, were charged with assault and breach of peace, aggravated in the case of Robert Sneddon by a previous conviction. They pled guilty. Mr. Gibson appeared for them, and stated in extenuation that the accused, with several others, had been in the Royal Hotel, Slamannan, and that a quarrel having arisen between two of their companions, they interfered to separate them, and the police being called, they were apprehended as having caused the disturbance. If they struck the constables or others it was unwittingly. They were sentenced, Robert to pay a fine of 30s, or thirty days, and John 20s, or twenty days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 24th February 1877

AVONBRIDGE

FATAL ACCIDENT- On Monday evening, William Wilson, a miner, accidentally lost his life under the following circumstances. He had been with his wife at Slamannan, where they had purchased some kitchen chairs and hired a cart to take them home in Drumbowie. They were sitting in the body of the cart, when on a part of the road near Avonbridge the deceased suddenly lost his balance and fell headmost from the cart. When he was raised from the ground it was found that his neck was broken and life was extinct. He was a man of about 50 years of age.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 3rd March 1877

FALKIRK MARCH FAIR

The March fair at Falkirk for cattle and horses took place on Thursday at the usual place of meeting under favourable circumstances as regards weather, the day being clear and frosty. The attendance of dealers was under that of last year, while the turn-out of cattle was the smallest we have seen at a March Fair. It consisted of a few Ayrshire calving cows of secondary quality, and a number of grazing beasts. There was little inquiry for milk stock, the number on sale being equal to the demand, and prices are considerably back. Grazing beasts did not find many customers, and the bulk of them were left over. The horse market was of no importance. The following are the principal sales: - Mr. B. Cox, Falkirk, sold calving cows at from £10 to £14. Mr. H. Aitken, Avonbridge, held the principal lot of calving cows, and sold them at prices ranging from £11 to £14 10s. Mr. Gentleman, Polmont, sold cows at from £13 to £14 10s. Mr. Bryce, dairyman, Gogar, bought cows at from £14 to £14 10s. Mr. William Brock, Denny, bought and sold cows at from £14 to £16 10s. Mr. James Graham, Myothis, bought a number of Grazing beasts at from £7 to £9 10s.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 14th April 1877

SHERIFF COURT. -

On Tuesday, William Walker, jun., and John Walker, miners, Reddingmuir, and John McAuley mason, Rumford, were charged before Sheriff Bell with assault, to the effusion of blood, on the police and others on the Callendar Road on the previous day. The prisoners had been at the Sheriff Court, where the first-named was fined for 20s for breach of the peace, and were in a public-house in Callendar Road, where they became disorderly and assaulted several carters sitting there. The latter sent for the police, who overtook the prisoners some distance from the town, where an altercation took place, and Constable Bruce and Higgle were struck on the head with large stones, and otherwise assaulted to the effusion of blood. The prisoners pled guilty, and were sentenced, the former two to 60 days' imprisonment, with hard labour, and McAuley fined 42s, or thirty days' imprisonment. Eight previous convictions were recorded against each of the walkers. On Wednesday, William Munnoch, a miner residing at Blackbraes, was charged with assaulting Andrew Morrison, police constable, to the effusion of blood while the latter was in the execution of his duty on the public road near Easter Shieldhill. The prisoner had pled not guilty at a previous diet, but on this occasion he pled guilty, but stated provocation by the constable. The Sheriff imposed a fine of 30s, or, failing payment, thirty days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 28th April 1877

SPECIFIC ARTICLES FOR SALE

ABOUT Two Tons of POTATOES FOR Sale, adapted for Seed or Table. – Apply A. JAFFRAY, Craighall Farm, near Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 3rd May 1877

**SLAMANNAN
SCHOOL BOARD**

A meeting of the School Board was held in the Session House on Saturday afternoon – James Nimmo, Esq., in the chair. There were also present – Messrs James McKillop, John Boyd, William Wood, and ---Thomson; and Andrew Allan, clerk.

The minutes were read and approved.

COMBINATION SCHOOL

The Board proceeded to consider contracts for the erection of the Combination School, which they at last meeting decided to build, in conjunction with the Muiravonside Board, at Avonbridge. The Clerk reported that Messrs Miller & Neil's offer for Joiner and plumber work respectively were £430 and £30. According to the Board's decision, the three lowest offerers for the mason work – Messrs Forrester, Robertson, and Gilchrist – had been requested to revise their offers. This had been done with the following results: - Mr. Robertson had made an addition of £35 to his offer, making his present estimate £874 13s 4d, he had signed the conditions which were sent to him, and agreed to commence the work on the 1st May and finish it by the 31st August; Jas. Gilchrist offered to build in rubble freestone with dressed facings for £948 18s, or in whin as originally proposed for £910 18s; Robt. Forrester, Avonbridge, returned his schedule, adding 2 ½ % to his former offer, making the total estimate £906 8s 4d, but refused to subscribe to the conditions. After some conversation, in which it was stated that Mr. Forrester had been under a mistake as to the intention of the Board. THE CHAIRMAN proposed that as Mr. Robertson's offer was still the lowest by £36 it should be accepted.

Mr. BOYD proposed that a clause should be inserted binding the accepted contractor to go with the work, so that no hindrance should be experienced by the joiner and others by his delay, and this was minuted.

Mr. ROBERTSON appeared, and, in reply to questions, stated that the time specified by him included the building of the whole contract, including boundary walls. He stated that he would have the school itself ready for the joiners in two months, and this was inserted in the conditions which Mr. Robertson signed.

A letter was read from the Education Department, London, suggesting an alteration in the terms on which the ground for the new school should be taken – Slamannan Board alone be responsible for the fuel-duty. It was stated that the agreement with the Muiravonside School Board would secure the Slamannan Board from losing by the arrangement.

The Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Muiravonside School Board. The minutes stating the conditions of the erection were read. The school is to accommodate 150 schoolchildren, two-thirds of the accommodation to belong to Slamannan, to whom the entire management of the school is to belong, they to be responsible for any alteration beyond ordinary repairs. The remaining contracts were allowed to stand over.

JUSTICE OF PEACE COURT. – At a J.P. Court held on Thursday – J.G. Urquart, Esq., of Vellore Castle, and John S. Mackay, Esq., Grangemouth, on the bench – Alexander Heaps, miner, Blackbraes, and James Dalrymple, miner, Limerigg, were charged with playing at the game known as bullets or long ball on the turnpike road between Polmont and Linlithgow Bridge on the 2nd inst. It appears that the accused had been playing a match for £12 a-side, and that a large number of people, chiefly miners, had been assembled. Dalrymple failed to appear, and Heaps, who appeared, pled not guilty. Evidence was led and they were convicted, and were each fined 50s, including expenses, with the alternative of thirty days' imprisonment. William Munnoch, Blackbraes, was charged with having refused to quit a public-house in Easter Sheildhill on being requested to do so by the occupant, Archibald Ure. He pled guilty, and was fined 30s, with the alternative of twelve days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 16th May 1877

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

MR W. SCOTT, Blacksmith, Maddiston, begs to intimate to his Customers and Friends that he has REMOVED to his New Residence, VIEWFIELD COTTAGE, North of Maddiston

Falkirk Herald Saturday 18th May 1877

The recent reduction of the wages of the employees at Callendar Colliery has been recalled, and the men are now working at the former rates. We understand that the workmen at Blackbraes and Slamannan collieries are moving for a similar action on the part of the coalmasters.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 24th May 1877

SHERIFF COURT

Archibald Ure, miner, Redding, and John White, miner, Rumford, were charged on Wednesday with breach of peace in Maddiston on Saturday, and, being found guilty, were fined each 30s, with the alternative of thirty days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th May 1877

LOST, FOUND, & c.

LOST, Terrier dog, Black and White. Answers to "Bob." – Reward on returning him to Mr. MCLELLAN, Wool Mills, Avonbridge. If found in any person's possession after this date, they will be prosecuted.

Falkirk Herald 7th June 1877

MADDISTON.

Social Meeting and Presentation:-The members of the Muiravonside Tonic Sol-fa Association closed their first session on Thursday night with a social meeting held in the schoolroom. Mr. John Brown occupied the chair, and a considerable number of ladies and gentlemen were present. After tea had been discussed and a number of songs sung by the chairman, Mr. Sands, and others, Mr. Brown, in name of the association, presented Mrs. Tomminy, the teacher at Maddiston with a handsome work-box, in token of their gratitude for her exertions for their convenience during the session. Mrs. Tomminy replied in appropriate terms, and the remainder of the evening was spent in a very enjoyable manner, and the evening's entertainment was closed by the usual votes of thanks. The session thus closed has been very successful the association numbering about forty, under the leadership of Mr. Sands.

Falkirk Herald 16th June 1877

MARRIAGES

At North Blackbraes, Stirling, 8th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. Thomas Sharp, of the Free Church, Muiravon, Mr. George Simpson, California, to Miss Agnes Bennie, domestic servant.

At Easter Sheildhill, the same evening, by the above, Mr. Alex. Brown, precentor of the Free Church, to Miss Helen Donaldson, youngest daughter of the late Mr. George Donaldson, South Blackbraes.

DEATHS

From an accident in Bowden Quarries, on the 30th May last, Neil Shaw, aged 14, son of Roderick Shaw, Almond Iron Works.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 21st June 1877

FALKIRK

Printed and Published every THURSDAY and SATURDAY Morning at 61 High Street, Linlithgow (Mr. G. WALDIE'S); by ARCHIBALD JOHNSTON, the Proprietor, residing at Woodville, in the Parish of Falkirk and County of Stirling.

THURSDAY, June 2, 1877.

AGENTS

Advertisements and Orders for the Paper are received by 8 Mr. ROBERT LINKSTONE, Linlithgow Bridge.

Mr. R. FORRESTER, News Agent, Avonbridge.

Mr. GEORGE BROTHERSTONE, Loan, Muiravonside.
Mr. JAMES SMITH, Post Office, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 30th June 1877

BLACKBRAES

ANNUAL TRIP OF THE E.C. CHOIR. – On Wednesday last this choir resolved itself into a pleasure party for the purpose of visiting the places of interest in and around Stirling. The members turned out in force, and although the weather was not of the most agreeable description, a very pleasant day was spent about the Castle, Bridge of Allan, Abbey Craig, etc. Of course music was a prominent feature in the programme of amusements, and it did help wonderfully to keep up the spirit of the party. All arrived safely at home in the evening.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th July 1877

SHERIFF COURT – On Friday, Christina MacLay or Ballantyne and Margaret Ramsay or Lamb, residing at Blackbraes, were charged with breach of the peace at Curriehill near that place on Friday week. They pled guilty, and were each fined 7s 6d, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 7th July 1877

INTERESTING COW CASE

Before Sheriff Bell, on Wednesday, James Marshall, Bathgate, sued Henry Aiken, cattle dealer, Avonbridge, for £12 10s, being the price of a cow purchased by the latter from him. The defence was that the condition of the cow was not in accordance with a warranty given by the pursuer, as to its two front teats were "blind" and scarcely passed any milk, and that the purchaser had offered to take back the cow on its being complained of.

The pursuer contended that the cow was in a sound condition, and that he only agreed to take it back in in the same state as when sold and on payment of £1 as "rue bargain." Evidence which was rather conflicting, was led at some length, and the Sheriff, without hearing parties, decided in favour of the defender.

Agent for the Pursuer – Mr. Brock, solicitor.

Agent for the Defender – Mr. Gibson, solicitor.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 14th July 1877

AVONBRIDGE

SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIP. – The scholars and teachers of the Sabbath School connected with the United Presbyterian Church, Avonbridge, with a few friends had a trip on Friday, the 6th inst., to Kinneil, Bo'ness. The Sabbath School has much increased of late, and on Friday forenoon as scholars, teachers, and friends left the church for the station in procession, they formed a line of considerable length, through the kindness of the Railway Company, they were saved a long stay at Manuel, and before noon they were marching through Bo'ness. The elements, however, were not very propitious; but there was sufficient blitheness of countenance displayed, nevertheless, to warrant the Faith and Hope device emblazoned on the foremost flag of the procession. An interesting incident happened to them on their way through the town, when one of the spectators stepped forward and presented the children with a half-sovereign. Before leaving Kinneil on the return journey, hearty cheers were given for the Duke of Hamilton, the farmers who had generously supplied them with milk, and other friends. The home run was safely accomplished, and despite the weather, the trip left on most of the youthful minds a feeling of high satisfaction over the day's outing.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 23rd July 1877

MARIAGES

At Crossgates, Bride of Earn, on the 15th inst., Ann, daughter of Alexander Grieve, smith, to Andrew Haxton, Avonbridge, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 26th July 1877

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXCURSION. – The annual excursion of the children in connection with the West United Presbyterian Church took place on Saturday last. The place chosen was the policies of Muiravonside House, kindly thrown open for the occasion by Mr. Stirling. The children assembled at 10 o'clock, but the weather then looked so unpromising that the superintendent and teachers suggested the propriety of adjourning to the Town Hall – a proposal which met with the most uncompromising opposition from the children, whose spirits would not be dampened by the threatening aspect of the weather, and accordingly, in deference to their wishes, the original programme was adhered to. A number of carts, supplied gratis by farmers, were in waiting, and they were soon on the road, their occupants evidently determined to enjoy themselves, let the weather be foul or fair. With the exception of a slight shower or two, the weather was happily very good. On arriving at Muiravonside, refreshments were partaken of, after which a series of athletic exercises were engaged in, for which prizes were awarded. The carters' race was very toughly contested, and created no small amusement. Refreshments were again supplied to the children, after which they marched in procession through the grounds, and along the banks of the Avon, which at this place, one of the most picturesque and beautiful spots in the neighbourhood – Nature being allowed to continue her dominion, and art being employed as her servant rather than allowed become her supplanter. The clear stream gurgling along through the ravine, o'erhung with trees in all their fullness of foliage, reminded one of the scene so graphically described by Thomson :-

"Hence, let me haste into the mid wood shade,
Where scarce a sunbeam wanders through the gloom;
And on the dark green grass, beside the brink
Of haunted stream, that, by the roots of oak,
Rolls o'er the rocky channel, lie at large
And sing the glories of the circling year."

Before leaving Muiravonside, the children were assembled in front of the mansion house and sung a few of their favourite hymns, after which the votes of thanks were awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Stirling for their kindness to them. The Rev. J.L. Munro was also cordially thanked for the great pains he had taken in carrying out the arrangements. Much credit was due to the superintendent, Mr. Dymock, and also Mr. Hardie and the other teachers who gave their assistance. The party returned in the evening after having spent a day of recreation and much enjoyment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 28th July 1877

PUBLIC NOTICES

AVONBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL will be REOPENED on MONDAY, 30th July, at 9.30A.M.

By order of Muiravonside School Board.

J. ROBERTS, Clerk.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 11th August 1877

MUIRAVONSIDE

SCHOOL BOARD

The monthly meeting of this Board was held in Muiravonside Schoolroom on Tuesday. The members present were Colonel Stirling of Tarduff (presiding), and Messrs Urquart, Bryce, Hardie, and J. Roberts, clerk. Letters of apology for absence were received from Messrs Gray and Reid. The minutes of the last meeting were approved of and subscribed by the Chairman. The following parties, viz., Messrs Bryce, Broom, Miller or King, Jonathon Young, Trainer, residing at Causewayend, and Thomas Robertson, and Mrs. Turnbull, Square, Rumford, and Mr. Aitken, Cattle dealer, Avonbridge, appeared before the Board in answer to summonses served upon them. The Board resolved that, owing to the very unsatisfactory excuses made

by these defaulters, and failing regular and punctual attendance at school of their children, the clerk was empowered to take summary action against them. Mr. Black, architect, Falkirk, gave a report on the progress of the New School buildings. Models of school furniture, with estimates, were ordered to be submitted to the Board at next meeting. Her Majesty's Inspector's reports upon the various schools of the parish were read and declared satisfactory. They are as follows, -

Blackbraes Public School. - The present master has been but a short time in charge. He gives promise of maintaining creditably the efficiency of the school. The pupil teachers have passed fairly under article 19E. The amount of grant earned by this school was £135 13s 6d. Muiravonside Public School. - The Reading admits of improvement, but the results are altogether very creditable, considering the very defective state of the accommodation. The new premises are expected to be ready for use after the summer holidays. Amount of grant earned by this school was £79 10s. Avonbridge Public School. - The Examination Schedule shows a creditable pass, and the written work was neatly executed. A satisfactory appearance was made in Grammar, History, and Geography, but too little attention has been given to the development of intelligence, especially the Junior Standards. The Pupil Teacher has passed well. The grant earned amounted to £77 18s, being at the rate of £1 0s 4d per scholar in average attendance. The Clerk was instructed to effect insurances on the new school buildings and furniture. The Public Works Loan Commissioners have granted a loan of £3400 for the erection of the new schools - the repayments being spread over 40 years.

Falkirk Herald 23rd & 25th August

POTATOES AT KENDIESHILL,
On FRIDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. David Longwill to Sell by Public Auction, at Kendieshill, on Friday, 7th September, 1877, 4 ACRES OF FIRST-CLASS POTATOES, Growing in a Field adjoining Maddiston. Roup to begin at Half-past 6 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 30th August

MADDISTON.

OPENING OF A WORKMEN'S HALL. -

On Monday evening this building, which is the fruit of the generous labours of Mr. Livingstone Learmonth, of Parkhall, was opened. The building, which is on the model of those which have recently sprung up in most of our large towns, and known as "British Workman Public-houses," is designed as a restaurant, in connection with which is a library and reading-room, with arrangements for several in-door games - all designed to form an attractive meeting place for the nourishment of body and mind. A large company attended, among whom were many of the gentry of the district. Mr. Learmonth occupied the chair, and addresses describing the objects of the institution and the success of similar places in other towns and villages, and describing the advantages they offered to all, were then delivered by several gentlemen, among whom were the Rev. W. Miller Nicholson, Linlithgow; the Rev. Mr. Wells, Glasgow; Captain Crichton, R.N; Mr. Scott, Mr. Wilson, architect, Edinburgh; and Mr. Muir, Toravon. After votes of thanks and prayer, the ceremonial proceedings terminated, and the institute was inspected, and its culinary capacity tested by a good number of the audience. The opening was altogether a great success, and great prosperity is to be expected for the new hall.

BUSINESS CARDS

ESTABLISHED 1800

WOOL forwarded to A.&D. GARDNER, Woolen Mills, Avonbridge, Manufactured into BLANKETS, CLOTHS, &c., of Twist-Yarn TWEEDS got up in the Newest Style, unsurpassed for Durability and Finish. Carriage of Wool by goods conveyance payable by A. & D. Gardner.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 8th September 1877

Mr. BINNIE'S SALES

OATS AT MADDISTON, On WEDNESDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER. THOMAS BINNIE will sell by Public Auction, at Maddiston, on Wednesday, 12th September, 1877, immediately after the Sale of Mr. Robertson's Crop,

3 ACRES OF HEAVY OATS, Belonging to Mr. William Scott.

80 TONS OF RYEGRASS AND CLOVER HAY, AT GLENEND, near POLMONT STATION, On FRIDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. Andrew Robb to Sell by Public Auction, at Glenend, near Polmont Station, on Friday, 14th September, 1877,

EIGHTY TONS OF FIRST-CLASS WELL-MIXED RYEGRASS AND CLOVER HAY, in Ricks. A Siding of the North British Railway is conveniently situated on the Farm.

Three months' credit on bills.

Roup to begin at One o'clock.

IMPORTANT SALE OF PURE LEICESTER SHEARLING RAMS, LEICESTER EWES, LAMBS, &c. At WAUKMILTON, near LINLITHGOW, On SATURDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is favoured with instructions from Mrs. Reid, Waukmilton, T. Livingstone Learmonth, Esq. of Park Hall; and William Ritchie, Esq., Plean Mill, to Sell by Public Auction, on Saturday, 8th September, 1877, the following High-class Pure LEICESTER STOCK, all of which (for convenience) will be Sold At Waukmilton, viz : -

WAUKMILTON.

50 Pure Leicester Shearling RAMS.

40 EWES and GIMMERS.

15 Six-quarter-old Cross STOTS and QUEYS.

PARK HALL.

45 Pure Leicester Shearling RAMS.

20 GIMMERS. 50 TUP LAMBS. 60 EWE LAMBS.

PLEAN MILL.

20 Pure Leicester Shearling RAMS.

The above Leicesters are of the best blood in the country, being principally descended from the Flocks of Lord Polwarth; Miss Stark, Millendean; Messrs Lees, Marvingston; Smith, Castlemains; and Hope of Bordlands; and have taken numerous Prizes at the Local and other Shows. The Rams can be kept for Two Weeks after the Sale. Waukmilton is 2 miles west from Linlithgow, and within 10 minutes' walk of Manuel Station, where Trains arrive from Edinburgh at 11.45 and 1.12; from Glasgow at 12.44; and from the North, at 11.15 and 12.56.

Roup to begin at Half-past one o'clock, Falkirk, 22d August, 1877.

DISPLENISHING SALE OF CROP, STOCK, AND IMPLEMENTS, AT MADDISTON BRAE, ON WEDNESDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. James Robertson, who is retiring from Farming, to sell by Public Auction, at Maddiston Brae, on Wednesday, 12th September, 1877,

10 Acres of OATS.

8 Acres of BARLEY.

Useful CLYDESDALE MARE.

2 AYRSHIRE STIRKS,

2 AYRSHIRE CALVES.

2 Close-bodied Coup Carts with Frames (almost new),

1 Hay Cart with Wheels and Axle, 1 Dreg Cart with Wheels and Axle,
2 Iron Ploughs,
1 Drill Plough,
1 Two-horse Grubber,
1 Drill Scraper,
3 pairs Grain Harrows,
1 pair of Brake Harrows,
1 Two-drill Turnip Sowing Machine,
2 Wooden Rollers with Frames,
2 Stone Rollers,
1 Reaping Machine,
2 Sets Cart and Plough Horse Harness,
3 Sets Plough Trees,
1 Three horse Thrashing Mill,
Barn Fanners,
40 Grain Bags,
Barn Riddles,
2 large Churns,
Sack Weighing Machine, and a great variety of small Implements, &c.
Four months' credit on bills.
Roup to begin at One o'clock.
SHERIFF COURT
Henry Eadie and James Eadie and James McGourtie, miners, residing at Blackbraes, were charged with the theft of turnips, from a field at Bellsrigg there on Sunday last. They pled guilty, and were fined 5s, with the alternative of five days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th September 1877

MR. NEILSON'S SALES
EXTENSIVE SALE OF
GROWING OATS, FAT CATTLE, &C.,
AT GOWANBANK
ON FRIDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER.
MR. NEILSON is favoured with instructions from James Gowans, Esq., of Gowanbank, to Sell by Public Roup, at GOWANBANK, near Avonbridge, as above,
FIFTY ACRES of Splendid GROWING OATS, all upstanding, and promising to be early.
20 Fat Three and Four-year-old HIGHLAND QUEYS.
10 Home-bred Fat QUEYS and STOTS.
1 REAPING MACHINE, by Kemp and Nicholson, almost New.
THE USUAL CREDIT.
Roup to begin with the Crop at One o'clock.
POTATOES AT MUCKRAW,
AVONBRIDGE,
ON MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER
MR. NEILSON Will Sell by Public Roup, for Mr. John Shanks. On MONDAY, 17th September, 1877; at MUCKRAW, near Avonbridge,
EIGHT ACRES OF POTATOES.
For Wholesale Buyers and others,
Roup to begin at 4 o'clock.
MR. BINNIE'S SALES
80 TONS OF RYEGRASS AND CLOVER HAY,
AT GLENEND, NEAR POLMONT STATION,
ON FRIDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. Andrew Robb to Sell by Public Auction, at GLENEND, near Polmont Station, on FRIDAY, 14th, September, 1877,
EIGHTY TONS OF FIRST-CLASS WELL MIXED RYEGRASS AND CLOVER HAY, in Ricks.
A Siding of the North British Railway is conveniently situated on the Farm.
THREE MONTHS' CREDIT ON BILLS
Roup to begin at One o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 15th September 1877

MR. BINNIE'S SALES, HAY AT CROSSGATEHEAD, ON FRIDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER,
THOMAS BINNIE begs to Intimate that he is instructed by William Napier, Esq., to Sell by Public Auction, at CROSSGATEHEAD, near Polmont Station, on FRIDAY, 21st, September, 1877,
2500 STONES of First-class RYEGRASS and CLOVER-HAY, in Ricks,
Secured in Fine Condition.
THREE MONTHS' CREDIT
Roup to begin at One o'clock.
POTATOES
AT BRIDGEND, AVONBRIDGE
ON SATURDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER,
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will Sell by Public Auction, on SATURDAY, 22nd September, 1877, on the Lands of BRIDGEND, Avonbridge, belonging to James Paton, Esq.,
3 ½ ACRES OF FIRST-CLASS POTATOES
In Lots to suit Purchasers.
Roup to begin at Half-past 5 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 20th September 1877

SLAMANNAN
SCHOOL BOARD
The usual monthly meeting of the School Board of the parish was held on Saturday last. The following members attended – James Nimmo, Esq., chairman, the Rev. R. S. Horne, and Messrs Boyd, Thomson, Wood, McKillop, and A. Allan, solicitor, clerk. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL
Several details relating to the buildings in course of erection at Avonbridge School were considered and arranged. A report from the architect regarding these was submitted, from which it appeared that the school would be ready for occupation by the 15th October and the dwelling-house by the end of that month. It was accordingly resolved to advertise the old Dykehead School for sale by public roup.
SHERIFF COURT. – Before Sheriff Bell, on Monday, Archibald Hunter, John Hunter, and John Ure, miners, were brought up on a charge of stealing a bottle of whiskey from the person of Charles Rodger, a stone-dresser, at Newhouse, on the public road near Avonbridge, near midnight, on Saturday, 8th inst. They all denied the charge, but on evidence being adduced, they were all convicted, and having been frequently before the Court, they were sentenced respectively to forty, thirty, and thirty day's imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 22nd September 1877

MR. BINNIE'S SALES
SALE THIS DAY.
POTATOES

AT BRIDGEND, AVONBRIDGE
ON SATURDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will Sell by Public Auction, on SATURDAY, 22nd
September, 1877, on the Lands of BRIDGEND, Avonbridge, belonging to James Paton, Esq.
3 ½ ACRES OF FIRST-CLASS POTATOES
In Lots to suit Purchasers.
Roup to begin at Half-past 5 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 4th October 1877

MADDISTON.

Good Templarism. –

The Rev. Joseph Cooper, S.D. of the Grand Lodge, delivered a lecture on Good Templarism in the Workman's Hall, Maddiston. A number at the close of the meeting, believing the drink to be a curse to man, signed a requisition petitioning the Grand Lodge to grant them a charter to open a subordinate Lodge. Mr. A. Dodds, D.D., Falkirk, along with the assistance of the Sir William Wallace Lodge, were successful in opening the Star of Peace Lodge, 262, 29th September, with a membership of twenty-three. The following officers were duly elected and installed by Mr. Dodds, D.D., viz. : - W.C.T., Donald M'Donald; W.V.T., David Aitkenhead, sen.; W.S., Alexander Wardlaw; W.C, Robert Hogg; W.F.S., Robert Cummons ; W.T., William Tomney; W.M., James Tod; W.1.G., John Tod; W.O.G., David Aitkenhead, jun.; W.A.S., James Russell; W.R.H.S., Jessie Frazer; W.L.H.S., Euphemia Horseburgh; W.D.M., Jane Kilgour; L.D., David Aitkenhead, sen.; P.W.C.T., John Cummons.

MARRIAGES

At Murchieson Buildings, West Calder, on the 25th ult., by the Rev. J. D. Grant, Mr. Alexander Aitken, cattle-dealer, Avonbridge, to Arabella P. Henderson, daughter of James Baxter.

Falkirk Herald 13th & 16th October 1877

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Social Meeting and Presentation. On Wednesday evening a social meeting took place in the Loan Mission Hall, Muiravonside, on the occasion of the Rev. Mr. Marshall, the missionary, who is about to leave the district, being presented with a handsome purse of sovereigns. Col. Stirling of Tarduff occupied the chair, and in a few eulogistic sentences made the presentation. Mr. Marshall very feelingly thanked the subscribers for the gift he had received, and the chairman for the kindly manner in which he had spoken of him. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Rev. Mr. Anderson, Brighton; Mr. Hogg, Maddiston; Mr. Paton, Whitecross; and Mr. Hastie, Maddiston. Hymns were sung at intervals, and a very happy evening spent.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 18th October 1877

BIRTHS

At Craigbank, Avonbridge, on the 14th inst., the wife of Allan Waugh, of a daughter.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 20th October 1877

SHERIFF COURT. – On Monday, John McLay, miner, Blackbraes, Muiravonside, was convicted, on evidence, of having assaulted a young man named Heaps on the evening of the 9th inst., and having been previously convicted, was fined 42s, with the alternative of forty days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 25th October 1877

MARRIAGES

At Foggermount, Avonbridge, on the 19th inst., by the rev. Irvine Beattie, John Borthwick, butcher, Falkirk, to Maggie, only daughter of the late Henry Aitken, Cattle dealer.

TO LET

BRICKWORK TO LET

BLACKBRAES BRICKWORK TO BE LET. – Offers to be lodged with JAMES RUSSEL & SON, Falkirk, before 11th November next.

Falkirk Herald 17th November 1877

MADDISTON.

An interesting meeting was held in the Mission Hall, here, on Saturday night, to bid good-bye to Mr. Hogg, who has been missionary in the district for several years. The Hall was well filled with Mr. Hogg's friends and well-wishers. After an excellent tea, served out by the office-bearers of the Good Templar Lodge, the Chairman - Mr. Muir, of Toravon having expressed the sentiments of the meeting appropriately and feelingly, Mr. Hogg, in returning thanks, spoke in a feeling manner of all the kindness he had experienced while labouring in the district, and expressed the hope that he would be remembered in prayer while in his new sphere of labour. Addresses were also delivered by the Rev. J. Anderson, and by Mr. Melvin, missionary; while Mr. Wardlaw and his excellent choir, at frequent intervals, enlivened the meeting with sacred songs. After appropriate votes of thanks, and an expression of gratitude to Mr. Learmonth who so kindly granted the use of the hall for the occasion, the business of this most interesting meeting was closed with prayer.

Falkirk Herald 24th November 1877

SHERIFF COURT. – Agnes Heaps, daughter of and residing with John Heaps, miner, Blackbraes, pleaded not guilty to assaulting a boy names Anderson, son of Peter Anderson, seaman, residing at Blackbraes. Evidence was led at great length, from which it appears that a disturbance had taken place among the "bairns" at Blackbraes; that the accused's brother, and infant, had been struck by a boy double his age, who was in turn struck by the accused. The Sheriff found the charge proven, but in respect of the trifling nature of the assault, thought the ends of justice would be met by dismissing accused from the bar with an admonition.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 1st December 1877

J.P. COURT. – At a J. P. Court held on Thursday – Messrs Mackay, Grangemouth, and Urquart, Vellore, on the bench – John Grant, a bottler, residing near Bo'ness pleaded guilty to a charge of driving a cart without having the Christian and surname and place of abode of the owner painted thereon, along the highway leading from Causewayend to Avonbridge, on 3rd November, and was fined the sum of 7s 6d, with 25s of expenses.

Falkirk Herald 8th December 1877

MADDISTON. Star of Peace Lodge, No. 262, 1.0.G.T. - On Monday night, the 31 inst., the members of the Star of Peace Lodge met in their lodge-room, the Workman's Hall, and entertained to tea on the occasion of some of the sisters having to leave the district for some time. Br. Campbell, W.C., occupied the chair. Afterwards Mr. McDonald gave a reading, which, at intervals, caused great laughter, and various addresses, &c, followed.

Falkirk Herald 22nd December 1877

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC ROUP

Within the CROWN INN, FALKIRK, on THURSDAY, 10th January, 1878, at Two o'clock Afternoon.

THE following SUBJECTS, belonging to the School Board of the Parish of Muiravonside: -
1. The SCHOOL GLEBE of the Old Parish School of Muiravonside, extending to about 41/2 Acres Imperial of good Arable Land.

2. TWO STOREYED BUILDING at Avonbridge Railway Station, lately used for School purposes.

Apply JOHN & W. K. GAIR, Writers, Falkirk.

BLACKBRAES

SOIREE. – A Soiree in aid of the choir fund was held in the church in this church on Monday week. The attendance was good, the church being filled in every part. The Rev. Beattie occupied the chair, and introduced as speakers the Rev. Messrs Scott, of Camelon; Russell of Falkirk; and Wagner of Glasgow, each of whom gave his mite to the evening's entertainment. Mr. Scott gave a short and interesting account of his personal experiences in India, referring particularly to the systems of religious belief and modes of worship prevalent in that country. Mr. Russell followed with a racy address, and Mr. Wagner with a humorous recitation. The latter gentleman gave a short address. The choir evidently put forth every effort to please. At intervals during the evening they sang some fine pieces, among which were "The Dying Christian," "God is my Rock," and "The Pilgrims of the Night." The singing added greatly to the evening, and was warmly applauded. Votes of thanks all round were given heartily at the close of the meeting.

1878

Falkirk Herald 5th & 10th January 1878

MADDISTON.

GRAND SOIREE. –

On Monday night week (Hogmanay) the members of the "Star of Peace" Lodge, No. 262 of the I.O. G.T., held their first public soiree in the British Workman Hall, Maddiston. This comfortable little hall, which, along with a British Workman Public-house, was recently built by T. L. Learmonth, Esq., Parkhall, was completely filled by a respectable and enthusiastic audience. The chair was occupied by Br. D. McDonald, the W.C.T. of the Lodge, who, after a plentiful supply of tea, &c, had been partaken of by the company, delivered a short address, in the course of which he stated that the Lodge was started in September with 24 members, and although it had only been in existence for three months it now numbered 52, and several had given in their names for initiation at first meeting, which he thought augured well for its future success. The choir of Brightons Free Church, under the able leadership of Br. Wardlaw, having sung an anthem, Br. Thomas Arnot, Falkirk, was called upon to address the meeting, which he did at considerable length, giving several very potent reasons in support of total abstinence, finishing up with an earnest appeal to those who were already abstainers to continue steadfast, and to those who were not abstainers to become so at once and share the benefits of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors. The Rev. Mr. Anderson, Brightons, in an earnest and impressive manner tried to enforce by very apt illustrations the fact that the only safe course for those addicted to drink was to abstain at once and for ever. Br. Henry Walker, Falkirk, next addressed the meeting, pointing out the danger of tampering with strong drink and the good that was derived from total abstinence, but cautioned abstainers not to put their abstinence in the place of religion, as without Christ no reformation could be complete. Brother T. Arnot then recited "The Dowey Dens of Yarrow," which elicited very hearty applause. Mr. James Melvin, local missionary, and Brother Howieson, Shieldhill, also gave short addresses. Between the addresses the choir sang with good taste several anthems. The chairman having made a few concluding remarks, the usual votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close, all feeling satisfied that they had spent a very pleasant and profitable evening

Falkirk Herald Saturday 9th February 1878

DEATHS

At Locksbuchs (Jocksbuchts ?), Avonbridge, on the 2nd inst., after a lingering illness, William Bryce, aged 73 years, deeply regretted.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 23rd February 1878

DEATHS

At Blackston Junction, the residence of her son-in-law, on the 16th., Jane Grinton, relict of William Forrester, tailor, Avonbridge, in her 90th year; deeply regretted. Friends omitted will please accept of this intimation.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 7th March 1878

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

MANUEL GRASS PARKS

TO BE LET, for pasture for the ensuing Season, on SATURDAY, THE 9th March, the GRASS PARKS on the property of MANUEL, in the Parish of Muiravonside. The Parks are various sizes and are all in good Grass

Roup to begin at Two o'clock,

MR. THOMAS BINNIE, Auctioneer, February, 1878

CORN OAT STACKS AND HAY, AT AVONBRIDGE,

ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH MARCH.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will Sell by Public Auction, on the LANDS of BRIDGEND, Avonbridge, on WEDNESDAY, 13th March, 1878, 16 STACKS OF PROVIDENCE OATS, which will make First-class Seed, having been secured very early and in fine condition, belonging to Mr. Robert Gardner.

Immediately after the above, 2000 STONES of Excellent RYGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in Ricks, belonging to Mr. Allan Waugh.

THREE MONTHS' CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 9th March 1878

MADDISTON.

SOIREE. –

On Tuesday last, the Maddiston No. 1 Band of Hope held their first soiree in the Workman's Hall. The hall was crowded -the local talent, by which the meeting was entirely conducted, offering a strong attraction. The table on the platform was beautifully decorated with greenhouse flowers and plants. Mr. W. Murray, of Parkhall, occupied the chair. The Chairman addressed the meeting in a few well-chosen remarks. The other speakers were - Mr. Owen, Maddiston; -Mr. J. Eccles, Caberton; Mr W. W. M'Gregor, Almond; Mr. P. Baird, Maddiston; Mr. D. Sands, Craigend; and Mr. J. Paton, Whitecross while the very expressive rendering of Jubilee hymn by Mr. Sands and family formed one the pleasing features in the program After the usual votes of thanks the meeting was brought to a close at an advanced hour.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 14th March 1878

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

CORN STACKS, HAY, POTATOES, AND TURNIPS, AT STRATHMILL AND HILLHEAD,

ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at STRATHMILL, Avonbridge, belonging to Henry Gardner, Esq., on WEDNESDAY, 20th March, 1878,

8 STACKS of OATS(providence and Finefellow), well got, and finely adapted for Seed;

2 TONS of POTATOES, and a quantity of TURNIPS.

Immediately after the above, there will be Sold at HILLHEAD, Avonbridge,

6 STACKS of First-Class PROVIDENCE OATS, and about 300 STONES of HAY,

Belonging to Mr. John Boyd.

THREE MONTHS' CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS.

Roup to begin at Strathmill at Two o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 16th March 1878**BIRTHS**

At the U.P. Manse, Avonbridge, on the 10th inst., Mrs. McMillan of a daughter.

Falkirk Herald 23rd March 1878**TO LET,**

Two Small Houses at Quarrolhead, Maddiston, Apply to James Paterson, Boot and Shoemaker, Linlithgow.

FARM TO LET.

To be Let for such term of Years as may be agreed on, THE FARM of GREENWELLS and CROY, in the Parish of Muiravonside, extending to about 69 Acres Imperial or thereby, exclusive of Roads. The Farm is situated about a Mile from the Polmont Station of the North British Railway, and the Buildings are Commodious and suitable for the Farm. Entry to the Lands of Greenwells, and part of the Houses to be had as from Martinmas 1877, and to the Lands and Houses of Croy, and the remainder of the Houses of Greenwells, as from Whitsunday 1878. Alexander Hook, who resides at Greenwells, will point out the Boundaries, and Offers to be immediately made to Thomas Binnie, Auctioneer, Falkirk, or to James Stirrat, Banker, Dalry, Ayrshire.

11th March, 1878

MR. NEILSON'S SALES

GRASS PARKS, OAT STACKS, SEED POTATOES, AND DRAUGHT MARE. AT

GOWANBANK, DRUMDUFF, AND DRUMBOWIE, ON MONDAY, 1ST APRIL.

MR NEILSON will Let by Public Roup, as above, the Extensive GRAZINGS on the Estate of GOWANBANK and Lands of DRUMDUFF and DRUMBOWIE, comprising 10 Enclosures, ranging from 7 to 60 Acres.

And at the same time he will Sell at GOWANBANK,

20 STACKS OF OATS, a RICK of RYGRASS and CLOVER HAY, a Quantity of SEED

POTATOES, and a DRAUGHT MARE,

Belonging to James Gowans, Esquire of Gowanbank.

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.

MR. BINNIE'S SALES**ROUP THIS DAY**

TORAVON GRASS PARKS ON SATURDAY, 23RD MARCH.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he will Let by Public Auction, for the Season's Grazing

, on SATURDAY, 23rd March, 1878, the GRASS PARKS on the LANDS of TORAVON, 1 ½

miles South from Polmont, belonging to W. H. Muir, Esq.

Roup to begin at 4 o'clock Noon.

DEATHS

At Boxtongrigthead, Avonbridge, on the 21st inst., Archibald Waddell, farmer, in his 77th year; deeply regretted.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 28th March 1878

TO LET, WITH IMMEDIATE ENTRY, THE LINT MILL, with the LANDS and HOUSES, at Avonbridge, belonging to William Forbes, Esquire, of Callendar, as possessed by the late R. Ronald.

Offers may be sent, on or before the 10th April, to the PROPRIETOR; or left with W. F.

HAMILTON, Callendar Park, Falkirk, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

The highest or any offer may not be accepted.

Callendar Park, Falkirk,

25th March, 1878.

Falkirk Herald 6th April 1878

Lost, found, &c.

LOST from Maddiston Quarry, on the 23d March, a Young Light-Brown Greyhound. A reward will be given to any one returning it to Maddiston Quarry, and if found in any one's possession after they will be prosecuted according to law.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 20th April 1878**APPLICATION FOR CESSIO.**

In the Sheriff Court House, Falkirk, on Monday – Sheriff Substitute Bell on the bench – John Aitken – cowdealer, Avonbridge, was examined on an application for cession bonorum. Mr. Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk, was present for the incarcerating creditors; and Mr. Rankin, Caldercruix, and Mr. Gibson, solicitor, Falkirk for the applicant.

The applicant, in answer to Mr. Gibson, deponed that the state of affairs as given in was correct in so far as he was able to make it up, and that he had no other liabilities so far as he knew. He had stated all his assets so far as he was able to do so, and he had no other liabilities so far as he knew. He lost £250 through death among stock in the months of February, March, April June and October and December as stated in the memorandum produced. Interrogated – Why have you not recovered the debt of £86 due by Mr. Wm. Shaw, cattle-dealer, Edinburgh - Depones – Mr. Shaw absconded some two or three years ago, and has not returned to Scotland, and I don't know where he is resident, I also lost £65 upon cattle which I had wintering and grazing – they having realised less when sold than what I paid for them, besides the expense of the grass. I kept no books, and I do not think it usual for parties in so comparatively small a business as mine to keep books. I am 21 years of age, and I began business about three years ago, when I had about £100 or £120, the whole of which has been lost. The last year was an uncommonly bad year for grazing or dealing. The previous year was not so bad, and the first year I was in business I think I cleared my way. Any little profits I made that year went to keep myself and meet expenses. I believe I lost a little through my inexperience in the business. I am quite willing to give over to my creditors everything I have.

On being questioned by Mr. WILSON as to his assets and liabilities as given in the state of affairs produced, the applicant stated that he could not tell what profit he had made during the time he had been in business. He had spent a good deal on travelling expenses and in the transaction of his business. He lived in a family with his two brothers, and he had been engaged in the business since he was fourteen years of age, although not in the way of purchasing. He had made up his state of affairs from memory, and so far as he knew, it was correct. Some weeks he bought as many as 20 to 30 cattle, and others he had only some four or five; and he could not say how many he purchased in a year. He kept a bank book with the National Bank at Airdrie. His check-books were at home so far as he knew, and he was willing to produce the counter parts of the checks. Interrogated – Did you get an advance from the incarcerating creditors on the faith of sending some cattle to them for sale? Answers – I did, and I sent a lot of cows on the following Friday, but their number was not sufficient to meet the advance. He told them he had bought a few more cows, which he probably would be sending up and got another advance – of £50 – but as they were not near enough the calving, he wrote and said that if he did not send them on Friday he would send them word. He had them bought but he had no money to lift them. He could not remember of buying more than three from Mr. Steele of Glentore, and two from Mr. Rankine of Caldercruix. He also bought a cow from Mr. David Graham, but he did not tell him he had paid all the money to Mr. Shanks. Afterwards Mr. Graham came to his house and he paid to him all he was due with the exception of £12. He bought a cow from Mr. Shanks for £20, and he was still owing him that

sum. He also bought five cows from Mr. John Bryce, Boghall, for £86, and had paid him £50 to account. He bought a cow from Mr. Dawson, Drumcross, for £18 10s and is still due him the same. He also bought two animals from Mr. Robertson, Ochiltree, for £29 and they are still unpaid. He was also due Mr. Dunlop, Stewarton, the sum of £64 10s, the price of several animals he had bought from him. Interrogated – What have you done with the cattle or money you received since the month of December? Answers – Some of the cattle were sent to Macdonald & Fraser, Perth, to make up for advances, and some of them were sold to meet my bank account. Interrogated – Did you think it proper to pay the money realized from the sale of these animals into the bank? Answers – The bank was pressing me and I paid it to them and the other creditors who were pressing me, and I told them I had no money. He had to pay his brother Henry for his board, lodgings, and the keep of his cows so long as they were about his premises. He was not in company with any of his brothers. The examination was adjourned, and the applicant was ordered to produce his bank-book and cheque-book, &c., at the next diet; also to make up an extended statement of his affairs, which he promised to do.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 23rd May 1878

SHERIFF COURT

Henry Aitken, cattle dealer Avonbridge, was charged with having on the second day of May, in or near the house occupied by him, assaulted a herd boy by striking him with a walking stick. He pleaded not guilty, the case was adjourned, caution being fixed at £5.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 1st June 1873

SHERIFF COURT

John McAuley, residing at Rufford Slamannan (!), was charged with creating a breach of the peace and assaulting a man named John Nicol, residing at the Loan, Muiravonside. He pleaded guilty, and was fined in the sum of 15s, with the alternative of fifteen days' imprisonment.

Henry Aitken, cattle dealer, Avonbridge, who at a former diet, was charged with assaulting James Carlyle his herd-boy, was admonished and dismissed.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 6th June 1878

TO LET

TO LET, Room and Kitchen at Muiravonside Schoolhouse. – Apply to Mr. WATT, Teacher.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 8th June 1878

MADDISTON.

Social Meeting and Presentation. "On the evening of Thursday week the members of the Maddiston Tonic Sol-Fa Association held a social meeting in the Workmen's Hall – Mr. D. Aitkenhead of Brightons, in the chair. After a service of tea, Mr. John Brown, grocer, Maddiston, in the name of the association, presented Mr. D. Thompson with a handsome silver Albert, locket, seal, and scarf ring, as a token of their esteem, and as a recognition of his kindness in acting as their conductor. Mr Thompson, in reply, thanked the association for their kind gift, and expressed himself amply repaid for his services in the pleasure which he had derived from their meetings. Songs sung at intervals by Miss Baird, Mr. J. Brown, and others, was one of the pleasing features of the evening. After the usual vote of thanks, the meeting was brought to a close by singing "God Save the Queen." "

Falkirk Herald Saturday 15th June 1878

TO LET.

TO BE LET at COMPSTON, near Causewayend Station, and 1 mile from Manuel Station, N.B. Railway, 37ACRES of YOUNG GRASS, LAID DOWN WITH Rape in the Spring. Offers received up to 20th inst., by JAMES RUSSEL & SON, Falkirk, at so much per Sheep per week.

Falkirk Herald 29th June 1878

Maddiston British Workman's Public House Bowling Club played their first match on Tuesday last, on their new green, their opponents being a scratch eight from Falkirk, principally from the Pleasance Bowling Club. After a very exciting game, the Falkirk eight came off victorious by 14 shots. Scores: MADDISTON. FALKIRK.

W. Gaitshore 18	R. Borland 21
W. Heaps 20	J. Hamilton 31
	38 52

Majority for Falkirk, 14.

MR. NEILSON'S SALES

DISPENSING SALE OF GROWING CROP

HORSES, MILCH COWS, IMPLEMENTS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &C.,

AT FOGGERMOUNT, NEAR AVONBRIDGE

ON MONDAY, 1ST JULY.

THERE will be Sold by Public Roup, at FOGGERMOUNT, on MONDAY, 1st July, 1878, the

Whole GRAZING CROP, FARM STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.,

belonging to the Trust Estate of Henry Aitken, comprising –

About 10 ACRES OATS.

Small FIELDS Of TARES.

Small FIELD of RYGRASS & CLOVER.

2 CLYDESDALE DRAUGHT HORSES.

AYRHIRE MILCH COW.

STOT STIRK.

2 PIGS.

Gig and Set of Gig Harness, 2 Cart Bodies, Pair Wheels and Axle, Iron Plough, Pair Harrows,

Iron Scraper, 2 Boilers and Furnaces, Cart and Plough Horse Harness, Wooden Shed,

Quantity of Peats, Water Barrels; also, a Capital Thrashing Mill and Barn Fanners, and the

Whole Household Furniture and Furnishings, Dairy Utensils, and other Effects.

Also, at the same time will be Let.

2 FIELDS of PASTURE GRASS for Grazing till Martinmas next, and for a Small FIELD

prepared for Turnips.

Roup to begin at Two o'clock.

JAMES NEILSON, Trustee.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 18th July 1878

AVONBRIDGE

U.P. CHURCH SABBATH SCHOOL ANNUAL TRIP. – On Monday the children, accompanied

by their teachers and friends, belonging to the U.P. Church, had their second annual trip.

Having assembled in the church, where they sang a few hymns, they were seated in carts –

kindly placed at their disposal by the neighbouring farmers –and, with banners streaming,

conveyed to Bridgehouse Castle, belonging to the Ho. Charles Hope, who placed a field at

their command. Swings were erected for the girls; the boys, under the direction of the male

teachers, engaged in a variety of games; while the Rev. Mr. McMillan, their respected pastor,

was most solicitous for the comfort and enjoyment of all. Refreshments, consisting of buns

and a liberal supply of milk, which was given gratis by members of the congregation; and the

teachers, under the hospitality of the lady of the manor, partook of tea on the green sward. At

the close the children were marched in file to the Castle, where three hearty cheers were

given to the lord of the manor and his lady, who consummated the day's enjoyment by

allowing the company to inspect the garden. They returned in the evening about 7 o'clock, all

seemingly highly pleased with the day's excursion.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 25th July 1878

MADDISTON.

Good Templars. –

On Saturday last the officers and members of the Star of Peace Lodge of Good Templars, accompanied by the juveniles of that lodge, left the village en route for Brighton, where they were met by the brethren of the Sir William Wallace Lodge. They marched to the grounds of Polmont Park, which, through the kindness and liberality of Mr. Crum-Ewing, had been thrown open to them for the day. The party gathered round the front of the house, and, after some singing, being placed under the charge of Mr. Peden, gardener, they were shown through the handsome flower garden of the property. The party afterwards adjourned to a field to the south of the house, where they were served with a sumptuous supply of buns and milk; after which football, running, jumping, &c, were engaged in till about seven o'clock. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Crum-Ewing for their kindness was carried and replied to. The processionists then returned home, all seemingly highly pleased with their afternoon's enjoyment.

DAIRY OR CROP FARM TO LET

FOGGERMOUNT FARM, AT Avonbridge Station, on the Slamannan Branch of the North British Railway, About 45 Acres. MR. ALEX HARDIE, Farmer, Avonbridge, will point out the Farm. Offers addressed to R. G. BALDERSTON, Bishopbriggs.

TO LET

THE FARM OF COXHILL, in the Parish of Muiravonside, on a lease of Nineteen Years, with entry at Martinmas next. It is situated near Bowhouse Station, on the Slamannan Branch of the North British Railway, and contains 91 Imperial Acres, or thereby.

For particulars apply to MR. MEILSOM, Auctioneer, Falkirk; or to MR. PATRICK WADDELL HENDERSON, Redford by Linlithgow.

Offers will be received by Messrs BOYD, MACDONALD, & Co., 55 Constitution Street, Leith, up to 30th July.

Falkirk Herald 10th August 1878

MADDISTON.

CHILDREN'S TREAT, -

On Tuesday, the 6th, the children attending Maddiston School to the number of 70, marched to Vellore Castle, to which they had kindly been invited by Captain and Mrs. Urquhart. On arriving at the lawn in front of the house they were received by Captain and Mrs. Urquhart and party. They were then supplied with buns and milk, after which they adjourned to a park, where they heartily enjoyed themselves with running, swinging and other games. The weather being rather unfavourable, the children left the park shortly after 4 o'clock to receive from Mrs. Urquhart the present of a suitable book for each, and another supply of buns, berries and milk. They then returned to the schoolroom, much pleased with their afternoon's treat.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 17th August 1878

DEATHS

At Rigghead, Avonbridge, on the 10th inst., suddenly Alexander Waddell. Friends omitted will please accept this of an intimation.

BUSINESS CARDS

ESTABLISHED 1800

WOOL Forwarded to A. & D. GARDNER, WOOLEN MILLS, AVONBRIDGE, Manufactured into BLANKETS, CLOTHS, or TWIST YARN TWEEDS, got up in the Newest Style, unsurpassed for durability and finish. CARIAGE of WOOL by Goods Conveyance payable by A. & D.G.

MR. BINNIE'S SALES – Continued

DISPLENISHING SALE OF GROWING CROP AT COXHILL

ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST AUGUST

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. George Cuthill, who is leaving the Farm, to Sell by Public Auction at COXHILL, Muiravonside, on WEDNESDAY, 21st August, 1878.

40 ACRES OF OATS

8 ACRES OF BARLEY.

FOUR MONTH'S CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS.

Roup to begin at Half-past Two o'clock.

DISPLENISHING SALE OF CROP, AND LET OF FOGGAGE, AT CROSSGATEHEAD, ON

FRIDAY, 23RD AUGUST.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by William Napier, Esq., of Crossgatehead (in consequence of his having Let the Farm), to Sell by Public Auction, on FRIDAY, 23rd August, 1878, the Whole CROP on the above Lands, viz. :-

30 ACRES OF OATS,

10 ACRES OF BARLEY, and

3500 STONES OF RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY, in Ricks.

At same time, there will be Let,

14 ACRES of Excellent FOGGAGE.

FOUR MONTH'S CREDIT.

Roup to begin at One o'clock.

DISPLENISHING SALE OF GROWING OATS, HAY, &c., AT OVERHILLHOUSE, ON

MONDAY, 26TH AUGUST.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. Thomas Denholm, who is leaving the Farm, to Sell by Public Auction, at OVERHILLHOUSE, 1 ½ miles from Avonbridge and Armadale Stations, on MONDAY, 26th August, 1878,

40 ACRES OF OATS, Hamilton and Providence, the greater part of which is a Heavy Crop,

1000 STONES OF LEA HAY,

1 REAPING and MOWING MACHINE, by Gillies, nearly New.

1 Capital THRASHING MILL, by Munro, which has been only a short time in use.

FOUR MONTH'S CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS.

Roup to begin at 12 o'clock Noon.

Falkirk Herald 29th August 1878

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Sabbath School Treat. –

On the morning of Thursday last the children attending the Brighton, Rumphord, and Loan Sabbath Schools, and numbering over two hundred met at Maddiston. Having been marshalled in marching order they set out for Tarduff House, the residence, of Colonel. Stirling, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Anderson and their teachers. Arrived at their destination they received a hearty welcome by Mrs. Stirling. A hymn having been sung, and a plentiful supply of milk and buns distributed, they then adjourned to a field kindly granted by their host, and there spent a few hours of unalloyed enjoyment. The weather was most propitious. The dinner bell being sounded, they returned to the front of the house and were there served with a round of soup. After other two hours spent at cricket, football, drilling, and other holiday sports, the company sat down to a substantial tea. Mr. Anderson then gave a neat and appropriate address, and the children having sung some of their Sabbath school melodies, they gave a prolonged and hearty cheer to Mrs. Stirling and family, and being once more ranked up they marched off, no doubt with happy remembrances of their day's outing.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 5th September 1878

POTATOES AT KNOWHEAD,

On MONDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. John Dougal to Sell by Public Auction, at Knowhead, Maddiston, on Monday, 9th September, 1878, FOUR ACRES OF POTATOES, In Lots to suit Purchasers. Roup to begin at Half-past Six o'clock

Falkirk Herald Saturday 7th September 1878

PUBLIC NOTICE
ANNUAL SHOW

THE ANNUAL SHOW of the AVONBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY will be held in an Enclosure near the Bridge, on SATURDAY, the 14th inst. An INSTRUMENTAL BAND is expected to be in Attendance.

Falkirk Herald 19th September 1878

MR. NEILSON'S SALES

TURNIPS, AT TARDUFF, MUIRAVONSIDE, ON TUESDAY, 1ST OCTOBER,
MR. NEILSON is instructed by William Stirling, Esq., of Tarduff, to Sell by Public Roup, on TUESDAY 1st October, 1878, about
THREE ACRES of PURPLE TOP TURNIPS, A Superb Crop.
THREE MONTHS' CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS,
Roup to begin at Four o'clock.
HORSES AND CATTLE AT GOWANBANK, NEAR AVONBRIDGE, ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND OCTOBER.

MR. NEILSON begs to give Notice that he if favoured with instructions from James Gowans, Esq., of Gowanbank, to Sell by Public Roup, on WEDNESDAY, 2nd October, 1878,
2 Splendid Clydesdale Draught COLTS, rising three year old, of great promise,
1 Well-known Farm Brood MARE, supposed to be in Foal,
6 Three-year-old Home-bred STOTS,
6 Two and Three-year-old Home-bred QUEYS,
AND
3 Three-year-old Highland STOTS.

The cattle are in very forward condition, and nearly ready for the Butcher .

Roup to begin at 2 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 17th October 1878

PUBLIC NOTICES

OFFERS WANTED for the SINKING of a PIT, 10'X5', from the surface to the Coxroad Coal. –
Apply at BOXTON COLLIERY, near Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 19th October 1878

FARM AT HILLEND, AVONBRIDGE TO LET

To be Let, for such a period as may be agreed on,

THE PARTS of the LANDS of HILLEND, in the Parish of Muiravonside, to the north of the Slamannan Railway, with the exception of One Field. The Lands extend per Ordinance Survey to about 49 Acres, and there will also be included a House of Two Rooms and Kitchen, with Stable, & c., at Parkhead. The Lands are advantageously situated being in the immediate vicinity of Avonbridge Station, and form a desirable Tenancy.

Entry to the Lands, except Two Fields, at Martinmas First, and to the Buildings and these Two Fields at Whitsunday next.

MR. BLACK, of Hillend, will show the boundaries, and offers may be addressed to RUSSEL & AITKEN, Falkirk, up to the 31st October current.

Falkirk Herald 24th October 1878

MR. BINNIE'S SALES

DISPLENISHING SALE AT KNOWHEAD,

On FRIDAY, 1st NOVEMBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. John Dougal, who is removing from the Farm, to Sell by Public Auction at KNOWHEAD, Maddiston, on FRIDAY, 1st November, 1878, the Whole FARM STOCK and IMPLEMENTS, &c., comprising –

4 FARM HORSES and MARES,
1 Two-Year-Old COLT,
1 HORSE FOAL,
4 MILCH COWS,
4 Two-Year-Old QUEYS,
5 Do. STOTS,
1 SHORTHORN BULL,
3 CALVES,
1 PIG,
6 STACKS BEANS,
30 TONS BARLEY and OAT STRAW,
4 ACRES ABERDEEN YELLOW TURNIPS,
5 Close-bodied Carts with Wheels and Axles, 1 Hay Waggon with Wheels and Axle, 1 Water Cart with Wheels and Axle, 3 Cart Frames, 2 Sets Shelmets, 3 Single Furrow Ploughs, 1 Double-Moulded Plough, 1 3-Horse Grubber, 1 Drill S raper, 1 Pair Drill Harrows, 1 Pair Iron Brake Harrows, 2 Pairs Iron Grain Harrows by Scoular, 3 Pairs Wooden Chain Harrows, 1 Norwegian Harrow, 1 Stone Roller, 1 Wooden Roller, 1 Two-Drill Turnip Sowing Machine, 1 Bean Sowing Barrow, 1 Turnip Slicer, 3 Sets Plough Trees, 1 Set Equalizing Trees, 2 Three-Horse Trees, 1 Four-Horse Tree, 1 Reaping Machine by Winton, 1 Horse Rake by Scoular, 1 Four-Horse Thrashing Mill, 1 Pair Hand Fanners, 1 Sack Weighing Machine, 1 Sack Barrow, 30 Grain Bags, 1 Bushel and Roller, 4 Stack Ladders, 4 Sets Fire-clay Stack Pillars, 1 Wooden Meat Cooler on Wheels, 2 Corn Chests, 25 Fire clay Cattle Troughs, 2 Boilers and Furnaces, 1 Slipe, 30 Flakes, 4 Sets Cart and Plough Horse Harness, 1 Large Meal Girmel, Cheese Press, Churn, and Dairy Utensils, Grapes, Forks, Rakes, Hoes, and other Small Farming Implements and Utensils. Also,
40 HEAD of POULTRY.

THREE MONTHS' CREDIT.

Sale to begin at 12 o'clock Noon.

DISPLENISHING SALE AT MUCKKRAW, NEAR AVONBRIDGE

ON FRIDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER

MR. NEILSON is favoured with instructions from Mr. John Shanks to Sell by Public Roup, at MUCKKRAW FARM, on FRIDAY, 1st November, 1878, the WHOLE of the STACKS of GRAIN, FARM HORSES, SPLENDID DAIRY COWS, IMPEMENTS, and other EFFECTS, comprising –

17 STACKS of OATS.
1 STACK of BARLEY.
2 RICKS of HAY.
About 1 ½ ACRES of TURNIPS.
1 Well-known FARM MARE.
1 Do. Do. HORSE.
5 AYRSHIRE CALVING COWS.
2 Do. FARROW COWS.
1 BULL CALF.

Capital Thrashing Mill (almost new), 2 Close-bodied Carts with Wheels and Axles (1 recently made), Iron Plough, Pair Harrows, Iron Grubber, 20 Stone Troughs, Boiler and Furnace, 2 Stack Ladders, Wheelbarrow, Cart and Plough Horse Harness, and other small Farm Implements, Dairy Utensils, and Household Furniture.

THREE MONTHS CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS.

Roup to begin at Eleven o'clock Forenoon.
DISPLENISHING SALE AT BOXTON-RIGGHEAD
ON FRIDAY, 25TH October.
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mrs. Waddell, who is Removing, to Sell by Public Auction at BOXTON-RIGGHEAD, near Avonbridge, on FRIDAY, 25th October, 1878,
14 STACKS of OATS.
4 RICKS OF HAY.
1 STACK OF PEATS.
1 FARM HORSE.
2 COWS near the Calving.
5 Spring Calving COWS and QUEYS.
2 FARROW COWS.
1 ONE-YEAR-OLD QUEY.
3 CALVES.
1 ACRE of TURNIPS.
1 Close-bodied Cart with Wheels and Axle, 1 Hay Waggon, 1 Cart (without Wheels), 2 Sets of Cart and Plough Horse Harness, 2 Ploughs, 1 Pair Harrows, 1 Iron Roller with Frame, Barn Fanners, 2 Bushel Measures and Rollers, 1 Hay Slipe, Turnip Barrow, 2 Peat barrows, about 1 cwt. Of Cast Iron Weights, 2 Churns, 1 Cheese Press, 4 Milk Barrels, and an assortment of Small Farm Implements, &c. Also, 20 Head of POULTRY, and a quantity of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.
Immediately after the above,
About 1000 STONES of RYEGRASS HAY.
Belonging to Mr. William Orr, Boxton.
THE USUAL CREDIT
Sale to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.
SALE OF
CORN STACKS, CATTLE FARM IMPLEMENTS, TURNIPS, &C., AT AVONBRIDGE,
ON FRIDAY, 25TH OCTOBER.
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he instructed by Mr. Thomas Hardie to Sell by Public Auction, at AVONBRIDGE, on FRIDAY, 25th October, 1878,
12 STACKS of OATS grown in old Lea, and secured in fine condition,
6 Young AYRSHIRE FARROW COWS,
4 AYRSHIRE STIRKS, 6 AYRSHIRE CALVES,
2 Close-bodied Carts with Wheels and Axles, 2 Lea and stubble ploughs, 1 Drill Plough, Pair of Iron Saddle Harrows, Drill Scraper, Wooden Roller, Stone Roller, Double Drill Turnip Sowing Machine, 2 Sets of Horse Harness, &c.
Also, immediately after the above,
2 ACRES of Excellent YELLOW TURNIPS,
Belonging to Mr. Thomas Main.
THE USUAL CREDIT
Sale to begin at Two o'clock Afternoon.
Falkirk Herald Saturday 16th November 1878
SHERIFF COURT. – On Monday – before Sheriff Bell – Thomas Johnston, a labourer, residing at Hill, Slamannan, was charged with having committed an assault at Avonbridge on the 23rd ult. He was ordered to pay a fine of 30s, or suffer imprisonment for 30 days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 28th December 1878
BUSINESS CARDS
ESTABLISHED 1800
WOOL Forwarded to A. & D. GARDNER, WOOLEN MILLS, AVONBRIDGE, Manufactured into BLANKETS, CLOTHS, or TWIST YARN Tweeds, got up in the Newest Style, unsurpassed for durability and finish. CARRIAGE OF WOOL by Goods Conveyance payable by A. & D. G.

1879
Aberdeen Evening Express
Wednesday 19th February 1879
SCOTCH BANKRUPTS
(From Last Night's Edinburgh Gazette)
APPLICATIONS FOR CESSIO BONORUM
John Gilchrist, joiner, Avonbridge, county of Stirling. To be examined in the Sheriff Courthouse, Stirling, 21st March, at 12 o'clock.

Glasgow Herald
Wednesday 18th June 1879
SCOTCH BANKRUPTS
(From the Edinburgh Gazette of Yesterday)
SEQUESTRATIONS
June 13. ROBERT BONAR WATSON, coalmaster, Boxton Colliery, Avonbridge, near Falkirk, and residing in Airdrie. Creditors to meet in the Royal Hotel Airdrie, 27th June, at twelve o'clock. – Malcolm Downie, L.A., 64 Graham Street, Airdrie, agent.

Dundee Courier
20th June 1879
SCOTCH BANKRUPTS
(From Last Night's Edinburgh Gazette)
SEQUESTRATIONS
George Bonar Watson, coalmaster, Boxton Colliery, Avonbridge, near Falkirk.

Edinburgh Evening News
Friday 14th November 1879
ASSAULTING A STATIONMASTER – Yesterday a miner named Thomas Sharp, was found guilty at Falkirk, of assaulting the stationmaster at Avonbridge, while in the execution of his duty, and was fined 40s or 40 days' imprisonment.

1880's

1880

Edinburgh Evening News Friday 17th November 1880.
CASE OF DROWNING AT AVONBRIDGE – Yesterday, John Gay, son of Mr. Gay, teacher, Avonbridge, was drowned in the Avon. He had gone in to bathe, and his younger brother, who was standing on the bank, saw him disappear under the water, and sought assistance. The guard of a passing mineral train, J. Wallace, stripped and searched for the body, which was found in about 15 minutes, but life was extinct. Gay was about 15 years of age, and could swim, and it is suspected he had been seized with cramp.

1882

Dundee Courier Thursday 3rd August 1882

BIRTHS

At the Schoolhouse, Drumbowie, Muiravonside, on the 31st ult., the wife of William Weir, teacher, of a daughter.

Glasgow Herald 16th August 1882

Advertisements and Notices

STIRLINGSHIRE. DWELLING HOUSE AND LAND AT MADISISTON
FOR SALE BY PRIVATE BARGAIN

I. BRAE in the Village of Maddiston, near Polmont formerly occupied by the late Mr. James Robertson, consisting of Dwelling House, Stable, two Byres, Boiler House with two Cottars' Houses adjoining, and about 4 Acres of Land.

II. DWELLING-HOUSE of Room and Kitchen in Village of Maddiston, occupied by John Tod. Apply to Russel and Ailken. Writers, Falkirk.

1883

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 7th February 1883

ECCLESIASTICAL

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY. – At the monthly meeting of this rev. body held here yesterday, the Rev. Dr. Young appeared as a commissioner from the Foreign Mission Board to prosecute a call from that Board to the Rev. Hugh L. McMillan, of Avonbridge, to proceed to Jamaica, to take charge of one of the churches in that island, Mr. McMillan accepted the call, and it was agreed that he should demit his charge, several members of the Presbytery expressing their regret at his leaving the district, but giving their opinion that he was pre-eminently fitted for the new sphere of labour to which he had been called.

Glasgow Herald Saturday 17th February 1883

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS,

All parties having CLAIMS against the Late ROBERT YOUNG, Innkeeper, Avonbridge, will please lodge the same with us within Fourteen Days from this date. Parties INDEBTED to him will please make payment without delay either to us or Miss Young, Avonbridge, who is temporarily carrying on the Deceased's Business for behoof of his Trustees.

JOHN & W. K. GAIR, Agents for the Trustees,
County Buildings, Falkirk, 15th Febrary, 1883.

Aberdeen Evening News Monday 9th April 1883

ASSOCIATION FOR AIDING SCHOOL BOARDS IN THE INSTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

The Schools at Muiravonside and Drumbowie, under the Muiravonside School Board, have been examined by the Rev. J. W. Gardner. The religious instruction is in a satisfactory state of efficiency.

Edinburgh Evening News Friday 14th September 1883

MUNIFICENT BEQUESTS. – Miss Janet Russell of Broompark, Denny, by trust disposition and settlement, left to the School Boards of Denny and Slamannan the sum of £500 each, to be applied in clothing and granting bursaries to poor children to enable them to attend higher class schools. The Parochial Boards of these parishes have also been left the sum of £500 each to be applied in granting annuities to poor widows and spinsters in these parishes. To the U.P. Church of Avonbridge Miss Russell has given £100, and the residue of her estate, amounting to a considerable sum, she has left to the Home and Foreign Missions of the Established and Free Churches, the Jewish Mission and Bible Society, and the School Boards of Denny and Slamannan.

Edinburgh Evening News Thursday 27th September 1883

ORDINATION AT AVONBRIDGE. – The (Falkirk) U.P. Presbytery met at Avonbridge yesterday, when Mr. John Lindsay Robertson, student, was ordained to be pastor of Avonbridge U.P. Church. There was a good attendance of the congregation. The Rev. Mr. Primrose, Cumbernauld, preached, and the Rev. Mr. Aitchison, Falkirk, ordained.

Edinburgh Evening News Wednesday 21st November 1883

CRUELTY TO HORSES

Mathew Grindlay – Ramford, (sic) Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, was fined £1 with costs with the alternative of 10 days' imprisonment at Edinburgh Burgh Court to-day by Bailie Roberts, for causing a horse to draw a boat along the Union Canal on 3rd October when the animal was suffering from sores on the neck.

1884

Dundee Courier Friday 6th June 1884

MARRIAGES

At Leslie Park, Denny, on the 3rd inst., by the Rev. J. McFarlan, minister of Ruthwell, William Douie, Esq., M.B., Carlisle, to Helen, daughter of the late Rev. J. McFarlan, minister of Muiravonside.

Aberdeen Evening Express Tuesday 10th June 1884

NARROW ESCAPE FOR TWO CHILDREN.

Last night, while the 6-15 p.m. train from Bo'ness was proceeding along the line between Kinneil and Manuel, two children – a boy and a girl aged about eight and ten years – fell out of the train on to the line, and narrowly escaped being killed. It appears that the children had been standing against the door, when it swung open, and they were thrown on to the line. There is a steep incline at the place, and up which the train was passing at a slow rate of speed. The occurrence was observed by the guard of the train; the lady in charge of the children was also able to attract attention, and the train was brought to a stand. The children were found to have received some injuries about the head and body, but were able to proceed on their journey to Stirling.

Aberdeen Evening Express Friday 17th October 1884

SHOCKING AFFAIR NEAR POLMONT.

Charles Douglas, about 50 years of age, hawker, residing at Craigs, near Polmont, was yesterday afternoon brought to Falkirk charged with causing the death of his son. David Douglas, a lad between 14 and 15 years of age. It appears that at a late hour on Wednesday night the prisoner and his wife had a serious quarrel in their house. The wife ultimately attempted to run towards the outer door of the house, and when in the act of doing so the prisoner threw after her an iron rod. The lad happened to be in the doorway at the time, and was struck on the forehead with the rod, one of the ends of which penetrated the skull and entered the brain. He immediately fell to the ground in a state of insensibility, and died at an early hour yesterday morning.

Morning Post Friday 26th December 1884

BIRTHS

LIVINGSTONE-LEARMONTH – On the 22nd inst., the wife of Livingstone-Learmonth, Esq Park Hall, Stirlingshire, of a daughter.

1885

Glasgow Herald Friday 16th January 1885

ECCLESIASTICAL

LINLITHGOW PRESBYTERY. – A meeting of this Presbytery was held in St. Michael's Church, Linlithgow, on Wednesday – Rev. William Begg, Falkirk, moderator, presiding. It was agreed to record an expression of regret in the minutes of the Presbytery in regard to the death of the late Rev. George Keith, of Muiravonside.

Glasgow Herald Thursday 19th February 1885

DEATHS

CALDER. – At Hill Cottage, Muiravonside, on the 17th inst., in his 77th year, Alexander Calder.

Edinburgh Evening News Thursday 26th February 1885

A FALKIRK MINERAL DISPUTE

Lord Fraser, in the Court of Session to-day, closed the record in an action in which the Trustees of the late Alexander White, brick and tile manufacturer, Leven, sued the Carron Company, Falkirk, the Duke of Hamilton, and the Redding Colliery Company, Grangemouth, for declarator that defenders are not entitled to work coal, iron, or other minerals from below pursuer's lands in the parish of Muiravonside, except on condition of their leaving sufficient support for the roof, in the shape of stoops or dykes. The Duke of Hamilton and the Redding Colliery Company are sued, in addition, for £5000 in respect of damage to the surface of the ground by subsidence. The last-mentioned defenders, it is said, have worked the field since 1863, and in consequence of their operations, the surface has in many places subsided so as to destroy drains and water courses. The land, it is also said, now yields crops of less value, and of late the subsidence is stated to be extending. The Duke of Hamilton and the Colliery Company state in defence, that most of the subsidence is due to workings prior to 1863, and they set forth their willingness to pay for any damage they may have caused to the land on the surface. The Long-wall method of working coal, they maintain, is the only one which can be pursued with profit, and they add that, with the exception of a few acres, the field has already been worked out. It is pleaded for the Carron Company that pursuers have no title which enables them to sue, and for the other, in addition to pleas for their relevancy, that the sum concluded for is excessive. – Pursuers' Counsel, Mr. Guthrie; agents, Drummond & Reid, W.S. Counsel for the Carron Company, Mr. Pearson; agents, John Clerk Brodie & Sons, W.S. Counsel for the other defenders, Mr. Salvesen; agents, Tods, Murray & Jamieson, W.S.

Edinburgh Evening News Wednesday 15th April 1885

ELECTION OF A LEITH MINISTER

The Congregation of Muiravonside Parish Church, Stirlingshire, has elected the Rev. Oswald Bell, presently assistant in North Leith Parish Church, to the pastorate of Muiravonside Church, rendered vacant by the death of the late Mr. Keith.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 29th April 1885

SALES BY AUCTION

IMPORTANT SALE OF STEAM CRANES AND OTHER PLANT, AT MADDISTON QUARRY AND BRICKWORK,
ON MONDAY, 4TH MAY.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by Mr. Alexander Dick, owing to the expiry of his Lease, to Sell, by Public Auction, at Maddiston Quarry and Brickworks, One Mile South from Polmont Station, on Monday, 4th May 1885, the following Valuable Plant, viz.:-

1 Eight-Ton Steam Crane with 481/2 ft. Double Jib about 40ft.;
1 Four-Ton Steam Crane with Single Jib, nearly as good as new;
1 1/2-Ton Hand Derrick Crane, about 43 ft. Jib;
1 1/2 -Ton Jib Crane;
6 Dide and End Tipping Waggon;
Quarry Pinches, various sizes;
100 Quarry Picks and Hammers;
Quarry Meils;
Large and Small Rock Wedges;
Cast Steel Boring Irons;
Boring Hammers; 8 Wheelbarrows;
7 Brick Barows;
Lot of single Flange Cart Rails, nearly equal to new;
2 Strong Stone Boxes with Chains;
2 Iron-Mounted Barrels for Lifting Water;
Heavy Drag Chains, Small Chains and Dog Chains;
Smithy Tools, Bellows and Anvil;
About 300 ft. of 1in. Steam Pipes;
2 Hand Pumps;
Block and Tackle;
Gearing for 2 Cranes;
5 Pair Square Brick Brass Moulds;
2 Pairs Side Arch Do.;
Lot of Wooden Moulds; 2 Brick Tables with Planks and Trestles;
12 Iron Planks, 9'x8"x 3/4"; 15 Wooden Pan Spades; 2 Ladders;
Grinstone and Frame;
6 Fire Cleaners;
Mattocks;
Shovels;
Lot of Old Iron, &c.

ALSO

1 Powerful CART MARE, FIT FOR Heavy Work;
1 PONY (Aged);
1 Strong Cart, 2 Extra Strong CART AXLES. &C., &C.
Terms Cash. Sale to begin at One o'clock.
Falkirk Auction Mart, 1885.

Glasgow Herald Saturday 22nd August 1885

FALKIRK. – TRIAL FOR HOUSEBREAKING. – Yesterday, at a pleading diet of the Sheriff Criminal Court, Falkirk, Robert Begbie, a coachman lately at Avondale House, Polmont, was charged with housebreaking and theft, by breaking in to the dwelling-house of a labourer at Sighthill, in the parish of Muiravonside, and stealing therefrom a suit of clothes. He pleaded

guilty and was sentenced to imprisonment for three months.

Glasgow Herald Thursday 5th November 1885

COURT OF SESSION

(BEFORE LORD FRASER)

WHITE'S TRUSTEES v. CARRON COMPANY AND OTHERS.

This is an action of declaratory brought by Thomas White, S.S.C., Edinburgh, and John White, brick and tile manufacturer, Leven, the sole surviving declarators(?) in the settlement of the deceased Alex. White, brick and tile manufacturer, Leven against the Carron Company, ironmasters at Carron, Falkirk; the Duke of Hamilton, The Redding Coal Company, and the trustees of the late Johan Theodor Salvesen, merchant, Grangemouth, to have it declared that the defenders are not entitled to work the minerals in the pursuer's lands (except on condition of their leaving sufficient) support for these and adjacent lands, and further, as not to alter the surface of the lands; and also for interdict from working the minerals so as to have effect complained of, altogether with £5000 damages against the defenders, with the exception of Carron Company. The lands in question are situated within the parish of Muiravonside, in the County of Stirling, and are owned by the pursuers, although the defenders are entitled to work the minerals therein. It is alleged that considerable injury has resulted to drains, lands and buildings belonging to the pursuer by the operations of the defenders, and the pursuers plead that they are entitled to prevent the minerals being worked in any way to cause a subsidence of the lands; that the defenders (other than Carron Company) having illegally and unwarrantably worked the minerals so as to cause subsidence and other injuries to the pursuers' lands, are liable to damages. The Carron Company pled in defence that the pursuers have no title to sue; that in the circumstances stated, the action, in so far as directed against the Carron Company, is premature and unnecessary; and that the defenders' right to the minerals to no limitation entitling the pursuers to decree as concluded for. The plea for the Duke of Hamilton, the Redding Coal Company and Salvesen's trustees are to the effect that, on a sound construction of the titles, the defenders' right to the minerals in question is not subject to any limitation entitling the pursuers to the decree concluded for; that the defenders, not being bound to work the coal so as to prevent a subsidence of the surface, should be assolizied; that, having been all along willing to pay for any surface damage caused by their operations, the action was unnecessary; that the sum concluded for is excessive; and that the damage having in a great extent due to the works prior to 1886, the defenders are not liable for any such damage as is referable to those prior workings.

Lord FRASER to-day said the Carron Company had stated that they did not intend to work their minerals in the manner suggested by the pursuers so as to cause damage to the surface of the lands. The only complaint against them was that the pursuers had not received from them information as to whether the other defenders were entitled to work the minerals as stated. The mineral owner was entitled to take every ounce of coal in the working provided he left supports, but if he did not leave supports the owner of the surface was entitled to obtain reparation for the damage done to the surface. His Lordship did not see his way but to dismiss the action against Carron Company in the circumstances, but as regarded the other defenders, since they admitted liability for damages, he was perfectly prepared to fix a day for proof in their case. His Lordship therefore sustained the second plea in law for the Carron Company, dismissed the action against them, and bound them entitled to expenses. He allowed the other defenders a proof of their averments, and reserved the question of expenses.

Counsel for the Pursuers, Mr. Guthrie; agents, Drummond & Reid, W.S.

Counsel for the Carron Company, Mr. Pearson; agents, John Clerk Brodie & Sons, W.S.

Counsel for the Duke of Hamilton, Redding Coal Company, and Mr. Salvesen's Trustees, Mr. Salvesen; agents, Tods, Murray & Jamieson, W.S.

1886

Glasgow Herald Friday 11th June 1886

SLAMANNAN SCHOOL BOARD. – Teacher (Certified Male) Wanted for Avonbridge (Combination) Public School. Fixed Salary at the rate of £80 per annum, with free home and garden, and any surplus income after paying school staff. Average attendance, 85, which might considerably increase. - Applications for above to be lodged with Andrew Allan, solicitor, Clerk to the Board, on or before Friday, 18th June current.

Glasgow Herald Thursday 25th November 1886

EDINBURGH. – RAILWAY ACCIDENT. – Yesterday afternoon Mr Kirkwood, Farmer, Avonbridge, met with a shocking accident on the railway near Lower Bathgate. He had been walking along the line, when a passing train came up, knocked him down, and almost severed both legs from the body. He was removed to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, but it is not expected he will recover.

Edinburgh Evening News 16th December 1886

THREATENING ATTITUDE OF STIRLINGSHIRE MINERS.

The Balquatson miners, who have been employed at Greyrigg Colliery to fill the places vacated by the men on strike there, left Slamannan Station yesterday morning, but on arriving at Avonbridge they were stopped by the miners on strike. Though guarded by police, the strangers were so afraid that violence would be offered them by the angry and excited crowd, who were armed with stones and other weapons, that they refused to leave the station house, and after waiting till the strikers had withdrawn from the vicinity of the station, they returned to Slamannan. A short distance from the colliery a meeting of the men on strike was held, and was briefly addressed by Mr. Chisholm Robertson, and they shortly afterwards dispersed.

Edinburgh Evening News 18th December 1886

SUDDEN DEATH AT POLMONT.

Mr. John Dick, junior, builder, Maddiston, Polmont, died very suddenly at his own residence, Maddiston, this morning. Mr. Dick was in Edinburgh yesterday transacting business, and on returning home last night complained of being unwell. He retired to bed early, but gradually became seriously ill, and expired within a few hours. Deceased was aged about 30 years, and was only married a few months ago. The cause of death is not yet known.

1887

Glasgow Herald Thursday 24th February 1887

DEATHS. – SIM. – At 173 West Graham Street (house of her Son-in-law, James Robertson), on the 23rd inst, aged 94, Mrs Robert Sim, late of Avonbridge.

Edinburgh Evening News Thursday 10th March 1887

THE SUBSIDENCE OF LAND FROM MINERAL WORKINGS.

In the Second Division of the Court of Session to-day, judgement was given in an action raised by Thomas White, S.S.C., Edinburgh, and John White, brick and tile manufacturer, Leven, against the Duke of Hamilton, Salvesen's Trustees, and others. Pursuers sought declaratory that defenders were not entitled to work the minerals on the lands of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, without leaving sufficient stoops or pillars to support pursuers land above, and that defenders should be interdicted from working such materials, so as not to endanger the surface of the land, and cause a subsidence in its level. Pursuers further sought that defenders should be ordained to pay £5000 as damages for injury done to the surface and buildings. The Duke of Hamilton and other defenders pleaded that on a sound

construction of the titles their right to the minerals was not subject to any limitations entitling pursuers to the decrees concluded for. In November last, Lord Fraser gave decree in terms of the declaratory conclusion of the summons. However he found the Duke of Hamilton and Salvesen's Trustees liable in £1070 in respect of the damages done to the buildings on the surface. Their Lordships to-day reduced the damages from £1070 to £800, and otherwise affirmed the judgement of Lord Fraser, with expenses.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 13th July 1887

FEMALE, Ex-pupil Teacher Wanted for Drumbowie Public School, must be accustomed to standard and industrial work; salary, £35 per annum. – Testimonials to be lodged with Thos. Wilson, South Brae Cottage, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, not later than Tuesday the 19th instant.

1888

Glasgow Herald Monday 2nd January 1888

DEATHS – RANKINE – At Crownerland, Muiravonside, on the 20th ult., aged 84 years, Agnes Taylor, relict of Daniel Rankine.

Edinburgh Evening News Saturday 15th September 1888

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN WEST LOTHIAN.

The new road at Ballancreeff Mill, which will be of considerable importance to the county, and which will be the main highway between the Bathgate district and Linlithgow, will be completed in a few days. The work is one of considerable magnitude, and supplies a long felt want in the district. Besides being an improved highway to Linlithgow, it will be a great boon to the public of Avonbridge, Gowanbank, and Bridgecastle districts, doing away with the very steep gradient over Headless Hill. The work has been executed by Mr. Laidlaw, the county road surveyor, who employed about 50 additional men in the work. The whole of the land has been given to the Trustees free of charge by the Earl of Hopetoun. Captain Hope of Bridgecastle, the late Colonel Gillon of Wallhouse, and Mr. Stewart, Westfield Paper Mills, gave handsome donations in money, and about a dozen farmers in the district gave each 12 days' carting with two horses. The total cost, including subscriptions, will be about £1500.

Evening Telegraph Tuesday 27th November 1888

MARRIAGES

At Blackcraig Cottage, Avonbridge, on the 21st Nov., by the Rev. Mathew Richmond, JAMES HARKBURN, to ISABELLA GOWANS, daughter of the late WILLIAM BRYCE.

Dundee Courier Friday 7th December 1888

MARRIAGES

At St. Michael's, Chester Square, on the 3rd inst., the Rev. Marcus Bainsford, incumbent of Belgrave Chapel, to Agnes, youngest daughter of the late Charles Stirling, Esq., of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire. N.B.

Glasgow Herald Monday 17th December 1888

WORKMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS. – The employees of Messrs James Nimmo & Co., Longrigg Collieries, Slamannan and Muiravonside Collieries have made the following contributions to Charities: –

Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.....	£34 10 0
Western Infirmary, Glasgow.....	£25 10 0
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.....	£10 10 0
St. Andrews Ambulance Association, Glasgow.....	£10 10 0
Glasgow Ophthalmic Institution	£05 05 0
Glasgow Eye Infirmary	£05 05 0
Kilmun Home.....	£04 04 0
Dunoon Home.....	£04 04 0
Lenzie Home.....	£04 04 0
Blind Asylum	£02 02 0
Ear Hospital.....	£02 02 0
Dental Hospital	£01 01 0
Sick Children's Hospital.....	£01 01 0
	£108 6 0

1889

Dundee Courier Wednesday 17th April 1889

DISTRICT LICENCING COURTS

STIRLINGSHIRE – The half yearly Licencing Court for the county of Stirling was held in Stirling yesterday – Sir James Maitland, Bart. Of Sauchie, presiding. The Clerk read a petition from the U.P. Presbytery of Falkirk urging the Justices to reduce the number of licences as much as possible. Chief-Constable Sempill reported that the Earlier Closing Act had not brought about the desired decrease in drunkenness and crime, while it had provoked an increase in shebeening and in the sale of drink at ten o'clock for consumption in private houses and on the streets and roadsides. If the shebeening was to continue, it could only be met by a substantial increase in the police force. It was resolved that the hour of closing should be ten o'clock for the current year. All the old licences were renewed, with the exception of that held by Robert Heeps, grocer, Mosscauld, parish of Muiravonside.

Sheffield Evening Telegraph Monday 15th July 1889

Poor William Gay, an old fellow of 80, residing at the Loan of the Muiravonside, was walking slowly to his home along the line, when an engine – whose approach he had not heard – knocked him down, death being instantaneous.

Edinburgh Evening News Thursday 12th September 1889

YESTERDAY afternoon Mr. Bolton, M.P., laid a memorial stone for a new U.P. Church, which is being built at Avonbridge.

Glasgow Herald Thursday 12th September 1889

Mr. J. C. BOLTON, M.P., OPENED YESTERDAY AN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT Redding, the exhibits in which include articles valued at something over £1000. In opening the hon. Gentleman spoke of the worth of thrift, and of the value of men combining to one end, and of their using every means in their power to raise no only their own selves, but their neighbours, to a higher plane. Later at Avonbridge, Mr. Bolton laid the memorial stone of a new United Presbyterian Church. He was presented with a silver trowel. In performing the ceremony, Mr. Bolton referred to the history of the congregation, which in an increasing population promises good services. In the audience on both occasions were Sheriff Scott Moncrieff, Mr. J. D. Mitchell, Millfield; Mr. J. Cook Gray, Blairlodge, and others.

Edinburgh Evening News Wednesday 9th October 1889

ACTION AGAINST A FALKIRK NEWSPAPER

In the Falkirk Small Claims Debt Court to-day, Jane Watt, daughter of a grieve on the farm of Waukmilton, Muiravonside parish, sued Jas. McGregor, proprietor of the Falkirk Mail, for damages, restricted to £12, for alleged slander contained in a paragraph which appeared in that paper on the 7th September last. The paragraph was as follows: "A rare place for the grieve's daughter and her sweetie. Take care how you behave yourself; the opposite bank is

not closed." It was contended that this paragraph did not refer to anyone in particular. The proprietor did not see Miss Watt until after the action was raised. The Sheriff said the paragraph was an offensive one, but he did not know if it were actionable or not. Mr. Peterkin, Linlithgow, said that the paragraph referred to Miss Watt, and it was actionable to hold anyone up to public ridicule. The Sheriff continued the case for a fortnight.

Glasgow Herald Tuesday 26th November 1889

CONTRIBUTION TO CHARITIES – The following is a list of contributions by Messrs Nimmo's workmen at Longrigg, Longriggend, Drumclair, Muiravonside and Gartsherrie Collieries, to the various institutions named :-

Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.....	£34 10 0
Western Infirmary, Glasgow.....	£34 10 0
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.....	£10 10 0
Ophthalmic Institution Glasgow	£05 05 0
Eye Infirmary Glasgow	£05 05 0
Ambulance Association, Glasgow.....	£04 04 0
Kilmun Home.....	£04 04 0
Dunoon Home.....	£04 04 0
Lenzie Home.....	£02 02 0
Blind Asylum Glasgow.....	£02 02 0
Ear Hospital Glasgow.....	£02 02 0
Dental Hospital Glasgow.....	£01 01 0
Sick Children's Hospital.....	£01 01 0
Glasgow Day Nurseries.....	£01 11 0
	£122 11 6

1890's

1890

Dundee Advertiser Saturday 10th May 1890

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS
PETITIONS FOR CESSIO

Against JOHN MEIKLE, farmer, Mellins Place, parish of Muiravonside, County of Stirling – Sheriff Court House, Falkirk, 25th May, at 11.

Edinburgh Evening News Monday 15th September 1890

FALKIRK SHERIFF COURT

At Falkirk Sheriff Court, Walter Brown, blacksmith, Muiravonside, was fined 20s or alternatively, 14 days' imprisonment, for having on the 11th September, on the public road at Muiravonside, assaulted two persons, - William Binnie, miner, Craigs, was fined 15s, with the option of 14 days' imprisonment, for assaulting two lads. Binnie was returning with his wife from the Wallacestone demonstration, and the two lads were assaulted on interfering in a dispute between the two.

Dundee Advertiser Tuesday 25th November 1890

PASTOR AND PRECENTOR AT LOGGERHEADS OVER "AMEN." – A disgraceful scene took place on Sunday at Muiravonside Church, near Polmont, between the Rev. Oswald Bell, M.A., the pastor, and Mr. J.A. Richmond Pait, the organist. It appeared that a coldness has existed between the minister and the precentor for some months past on account of the former introducing the singing of the word "Amen" after the hymns and the prayers by the choir. The precentor being blind, had not noticed when the prayers finished, and frequently the "Amen" was sung in the middle of the prayers during a pause, by mistake. The precentor wished that the "Amen" should be discontinued, and ultimately an estrangement arose, resulting in Mr. Pait getting his "notice to quit." On Sunday Mr. Pait went to the vestry before the service and asked the pastor to give him a testimonial that he had done his duty while officiating at Muiravonside. The precentor also complained of his salary not being forthcoming at the proper time. According to agreement it ought to have been paid at the term and he demanded that payment should be made. The minister thereupon said he would give him a cheque. Some altercation, it is said, took place between the pastor and the precentor, which it is alleged resulted in the organist being thrust out of the vestry. The precentor complained to the ruling elder of what had taken place, and declined to enter the church or take part in the service. The singing had accordingly to be led by the minister himself

1891

Edinburgh Evening News Wednesday 24th June 1891

At Falkirk Sheriff Court to-day, Archibald Hunter and David Hunter, miners, admitted committing a serious assault on a miner named David Brown at Blackbraes, Muiravonside, on the 21st inst. Both the accused had been in trouble before. Archibald was fined £2 or 221 days' in jail, and David was sentenced to 21 days' hard labour.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 15th July 1891

SITUATIONS VACANT

TEACHERS, GOVERNESSES, &C,

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD. – Wanted, a Female Certificated Teacher for Drumbowie Public School, to take charge of Infants, Standards I, and II; must be well qualified to teach Industrial Work; singing essential; Normal trained preferred. Salary, £40 per annum and sewing grant. Applications with testimonials, to be lodged with Thomas Wilson, South Brae Cottage, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, on or before the 22nd inst.

Edinburgh Evening News Tuesday 4th March 1891

KNOCKING OUT A MAN'S TEETH

At Falkirk Sheriff Court to-day, Jas. Lamond, labourer, Avonbridge, was fined 25s or 14 days' for having on the 28th ult., in a grocer's shop at Avonbridge assaulted James Clark, labourer, residing at Strathloanhead, by striking him a violent blow on the mouth with a bottle, thereby bleeding his mouth and knocking out several of his teeth. The panel explained that his companion had been throwing lemonade over him, and that in the course of retaliating in a similar way the lemonade bottle had accidentally come in contact with Clark, and cut his mouth.

Edinburgh Evening News Tuesday 27th October 1891

LICENCING COURT TO-DAY.

STIRLING

An application by Thomas Heaps, Muiravonside, as new tenant for the grocer's shop at Moss candle was refused.

1892

Edinburgh Evening News Monday 4th January 1892

SLAMANNAN COALFIELDS EXHAUSTED. – A leading coalmaster has expressed the opinion that within the next 12 years the Slamannan coalfields will be in a measure worthless, owing to the fact that the coal is gradually being exhausted. It is supposed that in the near future the parish of Muiravonside will become the centre of mining activities for the district.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 9th March 1892

PUBLIC SALE
IMPORTANT TO HORTICULTURISTS, LANDED PROPRIETORS, LANDSCAPE GARDENERS, NURSERYMEN, &c.
PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT.
THE LARGER PORTION OF THE MAGNIFICENT AND WELL-KNOWN COLLECTION OF
GOLDEN YEWS, ENGLISH YEWS, VARIETIES OF HOLLIES, ARAUCARIAS, AND CONIFERS.

At present Growing in the Ornamental Policy of GOWANBANK, One mile South from Avonbridge, near Falkirk, N.B., and planted by the late Sir James Gowans, at very great expense, will be Exposed for Sale, by Public Roup, in MARCH, 1892.

Messrs R. B. Laird & Sons, Florists to the Queen, Edinburgh, say: - "Such a Number of Fine Specimens are seldom met with in a Private Establishment We are confident from the nature of the soil Purchasers may rely on all lifting with good Balls, and have been frequently Transplanted."

Particulars in future Advertisement.

CHARLES S. NEILSON, AUTIONEER, FALKIRK.

Edinburgh Evening News Thursday 10th March 1892

With regard to Maddiston water supply, the Eastern District Committee of Stirlingshire County Council today resolved to intimate the closing of the public well there six months hence, that time being allowed to enable the inhabitants to make proper arrangements.

Edinburgh Evening News Wednesday 16th March 1892

BRICKMAKER wanted; also smart girl, about 16; contract may be made with steady man. – Maddiston Brickworks, Polmont Station.

Edinburgh Evening News Monday 14th March 1892

FOURTH EDITION
EVENING NEWS OFFICE Monday, 4.30P.M.
LATEST TELEGRAMS
THE COAL CRISIS

A DANISH STATE CONTRACT

A contract has come into the market for 46,000 tons of coal for the Danish State Railway. It is to be arranged within the next few days. The great strike in England will likely reduce the competition for this contract to Scotland, Northumberland, and Wales.

1500 STAFFORDSHIRE MINERS "AT PLAY."

Fifteen thousand miners are absent from the North Staffordshire pits to-day, as there are no stocks in hand the china and earthenware industry in the pottery district is likely to be paralysed.

80,000 WELSHMEN RESUME WORK

Up wards of *0,000 miners throughout South Wales and Monmouthshire coalfield resumed work this morning. About 1200 miners in North Wales have also resumed work. An effort is being made to induce all Welsh miners to return to work on Wednesday.

ALLOA MINERS ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Clackmannanshire Miners Association was held in Alloa this afternoon. It was reported that the income for the year, including balance brought forward, was £1004, and the expenditure £268, leaving a balance in the bank and treasurer's hands of £736 odds.

DENNY MEN IDLE

All the miners in the Denny district are idle to-day. Three pickets were stationed at each of the pits this morning to stop the men from starting work. This action on the part of executives was not generally known. A meeting is to be held this afternoon to consider the situation. The demand for coal in the district being quite equal to the output the stock on hand is trifling.

EFFECT ON THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

A Durham correspondent says the North-Eastern Railway will suspend numerous passenger trains to economise fuel. The mineral traffic in the county is practically at a standstill.

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE WORKING

It was understood by the Stirlingshire Miners' Executive that to-day was to be observed by the miners of the county as a holiday in order to decide as to a course of action. It appears, however, that nearly all the miners are to-day working as usual. Reports from Muiravonside, Craigend, Crosscrows, Redding and Manuelrigg state that for the most part the men are at work. At Sheildhill and Greyrigg one shift of the men is idle at each colliery.

MANCHESTER COAL MARKET

There is not a great deal of excitement in the Manchester coal market to-day, there being an absolute dearth of orders. The Lancashire miners are treating the occasion simply as a holiday.

Dundee Courier Monday 16th April 1892

SCOTTISH BANKRUPTS (*From Last Night's Edinburgh Gazette*)
SEQUESTRATIONS

Thomas Russell, Greenhill Farm, Avonbridge, by Falkirk.

Edinburgh Evening News Tuesday 17th May 1892

A SOLVENT BANKRUPT. - In Falkirk Sheriff Court to-day, Thomas Russell, farmer, Greenhill, Avonbridge, was examined on a petition for sequestration at the instance of John Crawford, horse dealer, Kilbarchan. The state of affairs showed assets of £3185, and liabilities of £271, leaving a surplus of £1914. The statutory oath was administered.

Dundee Courier Monday 1st August 1892

THE POLMONT TRAGEDY
FUNERALS OF THE VICTIMS

On Saturday afternoon the remains of the murdered girl Grindlay were interred in Muiravonside Parish Churchyard beside her father. The funeral was numerously attended, and there were besides a great crowd of spectators. There seems to be a morbid curiosity in the district, as visitors from all parts appeared. The girl's mother has kept well up considering the circumstances. Shadwell was buried yesterday afternoon at Polmont Churchyard.

Mrs. Fraser has suffered so severely from the shock that her mind gave way, and on Saturday she was removed to the Stirling Asylum.

Aberdeen Evening Express Monday 1st August 1892

THE POLMONT TRAGEDY
FRASER'S WIFE BECOMES INSANE.

Keen interest still continues to be manifested in this sad event both in Falkirk and in the village. On Saturday and yesterday the scene of the tragedy was visited by crowds of people gratifying a morbid curiosity in looking at the spots where Mr. Shadwell and Mary Grindlay met their deaths. The details still continue the only subject of gossip among the villagers, some of whom profess to be so shocked as to find it difficult to reside in the vicinity. The funeral of the girl Grindlay took place on Friday to Muiravonside Churchyard. It was well attended by the villagers, many of whom had only a slight acquaintanceship with the deceased girl, but turned

out to indicate their sympathy with her relatives. The man Shadwell's remains were interred in Falkirk Cemetery on Saturday, and the funeral was also well attended. The expenses of the interment in this case are being borne by Mr. J. S. Mackay, in whose cottage Shadwell and his wife were first attacked, and to whom they acted in the capacity of housekeepers. The shock has proved too much for the accused's wife, Mrs. Fraser. Her mind has given way, and yesterday morning she was removed from the house of the acquaintance at Polmont where she has resided since the tragedy to Larbert Asylum. She was completely prostrated at first, and gradually as her strength returned it was found that her mind was affected. It was hoped that thought time she would recover but this has not proved the case. She gradually got worse, and her removal was rendered necessary.

Fraser is at present in the hospital ward of Duke Street Prison, and is watched day and night by a warder and two of the prisoners told off for this duty. He takes his food well, although he is somewhat weak. He is very quiet, and only speaks when spoken to. His wound is rapidly healing. He has been told the nature and extent of the charges, but seems to remember little or nothing of the events of that terrible night. He converses freely enough on the subject, however, and when asked the other day as to the reason for his conduct, complained bitterly of being the subject of a conspiracy not only in Polmont but in the Commercial Bank, Glasgow. He says that in the latter place there was a combination among the officials to damage his interests, and that the telegraphs and telephone were both utilised in spreading false stories regarding him. As for the Polmont people, he asserts that they have been all along opposed to him and circumventing his ruin. The contents of his letters, he says, were even known to the public, and he is convinced of the existence of a conspiracy to alienate the respect of his friends from him.

Fraser's desk was opened on Wednesday by Mr. Wilson, the prisoner's agent, who took possession of some papers. We learn from another source that the prisoner's papers were found in admirable order. His will was among these, drawn up on stamped paper, clearly and correctly worded, and evidently written, as it is signed, by himself. It bequeaths, we understand, the whole of his personal effects to his wife. There are a large number of other papers in the desk, which throw much light on Fraser's mental state for some time back, and which are expected to convey some time back, and which are expected to convey some idea at the trial of the impelling motive to the terrible crimes of which he has been the author. Fraser, we learn, has requested permission to write to his wife.

Our Beaulieu correspondent writes: - The unfortunate man Fraser charged with the Polmont murders is a native of Kirkhill in the Aird, and for his friends much sympathy is felt. Mr. Fraser was in the Commercial Bank in Beaulieu a few years on the death of Mr. Annet, agent here. He was then transferred to Glasgow.

Edinburgh Evening News Monday 22nd August 1892

ASAULTING A RAILWAY GUARD

At Falkirk Sheriff Court to-day, James Leslie, sen., dairyman, and John Leslie, railway fireman, both residing in Muiravonside, were charged with having, at Muiravonside, assaulted James Leslie, railway guard, by knocking him down and kicking him. James Leslie who had been previously convicted was fined 25s with the option of ten days' in jail, while John Leslie was fined £1, with a similar alternative.

Dundee Courier 8th October 1892

THE DOUBLE MURDER AT POLMONT.

FRASER REMITTED TO THE HIGH COURT.

At Falkirk Sheriff Court yesterday — before Sheriff Scott Moncrieff —

James Fraser, now or lately an inmate of Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, was charged with having, on 26th July, near Polmont Station, assaulted William Hendry Shadwell, waiter, and cut him with a sword, and murdered him; also, with having assaulted Jessie Shadwell, wife of Hendry Shadwell, and stabbed her with a sword, and attempted to murder her; and also with having, on the road from Polmont to Maddiston, murdered Mary Grindlay, outdoor worker, Brightons. Accused, who had a confused and careworn appearance, made no answer to the charge. Mr. Wilson, town clerk, Falkirk, agent for accused, said that Fraser was insane, and unable to plead to the indictment or give an explanation for his defence. He gave in a minute to that effect. The Sheriff ordered that such matters should be reserved for consideration of the Court at the second diet, and he accordingly continued the case till the second diet, which is to be held in the High Court, Edinburgh, on 17th inst. The accused, in charge of two officials, was conveyed in a cab to the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, where he will be confined until his trial in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh Evening News Monday 17th October 1892

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY

THE POLMONT TRAGEDY

Lord Adam sat in the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh to-day, to try three cases, the principal of which was the charge arising out of what is known as the Polmont Tragedy. Mr. Strachan, Mr. J. A. Reid, and Mr. Lorimer, advocates-depute, prosecuted.

James Fraser, the accused in the Polmont case, was brought this morning from Larbert Lunatic Asylum, where he has been confined since shortly after the crime was committed. The charge against him was that, on 26th July, in the house occupied by John Selby Mackay, and in the garden on the front green of the house he (1) attacked Wm. Henry Shadwell, waiter, who resided in the house and cut and stabbed him with a sword, and murdered him; (2), that he attacked Jessie Shadwell, wife of Henry Shadwell, with a sword, and cut and stabbed her and attempted to murder her; and (3), that on the public road from Polmont to Maddiston, opposite the house of Alexander Dick, he attacked Mary Grindlay, outworker, Brightons, and cut and stabbed her, and murdered her. Fraser was brought before Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff at Falkirk a fortnight ago, and a plea was then submitted for him by counsel to the effect that he was insane and incapable of pleading to the charge. The Sheriff consequently remitted the case to the High Court to be dwelt with. When brought into the court to-day Fraser was a payable spectacle. He appeared to be almost blind, and required to be led by policemen who were in charge of him. He took no notice of anything or of anybody, and while the proceedings began he sat staring vacantly upon the table in front of him. Mr. Craigie, for the prisoner, tendered the plea of insanity as bar to the trial, and he said he proposed to examine two medical gentlemen to prove that the prisoner was insane — Lord Adam assented to counsel's proposal, and Mr. Craigie called Cr. John McPherson, medical superintendent in the Stirling District Asylum at Larbert. Dr. McPherson said the prisoner was taken to the asylum on 10th August from the prison at Glasgow. Witness was on holiday at the time, and first saw the prisoner on 1st September. Up to that time the prisoner had been under his personal care. His opinion was that at the present time the prisoner was

LABOURING UNDER DELUSIONS

Of suspicion with hallucinations, and he exhibited a considerable degree of mental enfeeblement. His state had been getting gradually worse since he first saw him. In his opinion he would probably become quite demented. His memory was defective; he could not recall recent events distinctly. At the present time he certainly thought the prisoner was insane, and that he could not plead so (TO?) a criminal charge, or given instructions for his defence. He might almost say there was no hope of recovery. He was quite convinced there was no shamming. — Cross examined by Mr. Strachan — The particular form of insanity the prisoner was laboring under was monomania. He had mentioned the names of persons, but the names of the persons he was charged with murdering only when they were brought before him. He had mentioned the crime to the prisoner, and he appeared to have a very indistinct recollection of what occurred; he did not appreciate his position, he knew there was to be a trial, but he had no idea of what it was to be about; he certainly did not realize the serious nature of it. — Replying to Lord Adam, the witness said he thought that probably the prisoner

committed the acts under the influence of an impulse, and that he had now a very indistinct recollection of the affair. He did not think that the prisoner to-day knew the nature of the acts he had committed. The sort of delusions he laboured under was that he imagined that people were calling him names, and were

PLOTTING AGAINST HIM

To do him harm. When he saw two people together he thought they were speaking about him. He heard voices outside the window at night, and he imagined they were the voices of his enemies calling him names. He (witness) asked him particularly as to the names of the people, and he mentioned the names of his fellow clerks in the office as those who were plotting against him, and who came out to his house to call him names. There was no doubt that these were delusions. Dr. Littlejohn, Edinburgh, said he examined the prisoner this morning. That was the first time he had examined him. The prisoner's mind was a wreck. In his opinion he was unsound, and quite unfit to plead to a criminal charge, or to give instructions for his defence. He did his best to give him an account of what had happened, but he was quite in a maze, and witness could not get a coherent statement from him. He muttered to himself, and repeatedly called himself "Boulanger." Ultimately he said HE THOUGHT HE WAS IN A CHURCH, and had been there all morning. He tried to find out whether the prisoner knew any distinction between right and wrong, but so far as he could make out he did not seem to understand the distinction, even in the abstract. His speech was remarkably affected. He had not the slightest doubt the prisoner was insane. The acute stage of the disease was now past, and he was bordering on dementia, and he would say that at the prisoner's time of life there was no hope of his recovering. Lord Adam pronounced an order directing that the prisoner should be confined during her Majesty's pleasure. Fraser took no notice of the proceedings at any part of them. He was taken out of court in the same listless manner as he entered. Later in the day he was removed in the charge of an officer to the prison at Perth.

1893

Glasgow Herald Tuesday 21st February 1893

BIRTHS

Watt. - At Blackbraes Cottage, near Falkirk, on the 19th inst., the wife of Thos. Watt; a daughter. - Both doing well.

Edinburgh Evening News Tuesday 4th April 1893

SUICIDE OF A FARMER

Andrew Stevenson, farmer, White Rig, Muiravonside Parish, was yesterday found lying dead with a cord round his neck in an out-shed on the farm. The case seems to be one of suicide. Deceased had tied a cord to a sheep's "hake" and had to throw himself on his side in order to strangle himself. He was 64 years of age, and had been in depressed spirits of late. He leaves a wife and a small family.

Edinburgh Evening News Friday 21st April 1893

SITUATIONS VACANT

QUARRYMEN wanted immediately. - Maddiston Quarry, near Polmont Station.

TRACED BY HIS FOOTPRINTS

At Falkirk Sheriff Court to-day William Campbell, aged 13 years, son of a miner living at Haining Valley, Muiravonside, admitted having stolen £1 2s 3d from a public-house at Linlithgow Bridge. It was stated that the boy waited until there was no person in the room where the money was kept. After he left the money was missed. Prints of naked feet were seen on the sanded floor of the room. The boy was at once suspected, and, having been followed, was arrested. The Sheriff ordered him to receive 10 strokes with the birch rod, or if unable to bear that punishment, to go to 10 days' jail.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 3rd May 1893

SITUATIONS WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER (Working) Disengaged; eight years' experience; good references; age, 28; salary, £18; cook, wash, and dress. - Y., c/o Forsyth, Maddiston, Linlithgow.

SITUATIONS VACANT

TEACHERS GOVERNESSES, &C.

WANTED, a Certificated Female Assistant Teacher for Blackbraes Public School, qualified to teach music and sewing; salary £50 per annum, with sewing grant. - Applications, with testimonials, to be lodged with Thomas Wilson, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, not later than 15th inst.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 31st May 1893

SITUATIONS VACANT

TEACHERS GOVERNESSES, &C.

WANTED. - for Blackbraes Public School, by Falkirk, Female Certificated Teacher for Infant and Industrial Work of the school; salary £60 per annum. Applications, with testimonials, to be lodged with Thomas Wilson, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, on or before the 7th proximo.

Glasgow Herald Friday 9th June 1893

SITUATIONS VACANT

TEACHERS GOVERNESSES, &C.

WANTED for Drumbowie Public School, by Avonbridge, Female Certificated Teacher for Infants and Industrial Work; salary, £60 per annum. - Applications, with testimonials, to be lodged with Thomas Wilson, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, on or before the 17th inst.

Edinburgh Evening News Thursday 3rd August 1893

In Falkirk Sheriff Court to-day, Robert Mar---, miner, Gardrum, Muiravonside, for stabbing another miner in the hand, was sentenced to 14 days' hard labour.

Edinburgh Evening News Thursday 9th August 1893

THE STATE OF MUIRAVONSIDE CHURCHYARD

At Falkirk Sheriff Court to-day a petition was presented by two members of the Parochial Board of Muiravonside Parish, setting forth that the existing churchyard, attached to the parish church, was dangerous to health; and praying the Sheriff to pronounce an interlocutor to that effect and transmit a copy to one of the Secretaries of State, in order that it might be closed; reserving the right to persons whose spouses are there buried of burial in the churchyard, and the right of heritors to burial in the enclosed spaces. Mr. Clarkson, a member of the board, stated that the number of persons in Muiravonside in 1881 was 2713; at the present the number was about 4000, the increase being chiefly due to the influx of the mining population. Except for a small churchyard attached to Blackbraes Parish Church, there was no other burial place in the district. The board had acquired another piece of ground. The Muiravonside churchyard measured .403 of an acre, and had existed for 200 years. Burial was indiscriminate, and at nearly every burial bones were thrown up from the grave when it was dug. Colonel Stirling corroborated. The Sheriff took the petition to avizandum.

Edinburgh Evening News Friday 25th August 1893

SITUATIONS VACANT

COMPOSITION brickmaker wanted, steady man. - Apply Maddiston Brick Works, near Polmont Station.

Edinburgh Evening News Monday 2nd October 1893

At Falkirk Sheriff Court, John Williamson, joiner, Redford, Muiravonside, was fined 25s or 14 days' imprisonment for stealing six pint bottles of beer from a lorry at Maddiston.

Glasgow Herald Wednesday 11th October 1893

WANTED, Certificated Female Teacher (Normal Trained) for Avonbridge Public School; salary, £50 per annum; to commence duties on 1st November – Applications, with testimonials, to be sent to Andrew Allan, solicitor, Falkirk, clerk to Slamannan School Board, by Thursday, 12th October.

Edinburgh Evening News Saturday 11th November 1893

SITUATIONS VACANT

BLACKSMITH wanted, one accustomed to country work preferred. – Apply, Maddiston Smithy.

Aberdeen Journal 22nd November 1893

GHASTLY FIND.---

While some men were engaged in cleaning a reach in the Forth and Clyde e Canal between Locks 11 and 12, near Falkirk, a hand was observed projecting beneath one of the punts being loaded. As the punt was resting on the body, it could not be got out till the water ran into the reach five hours later. When conveyed to the mortuary at Falkirk, the remains were identified from papers found in the pockets as John Ramsay, miner, Maddiston, 24 years, unmarried, who had been missing for a fortnight.

Glasgow Herald Saturday 11th November 1893

FALKIRK DISTRICT.- The miners in Falkirk District have been idle since Wednesday night. Thursday being always observed as a holiday, the men were consequently idle on that day as usual. Yesterday morning, however, they did not begin work. On Thursday afternoon a mass meeting was held in the Redding Co-operative Hall, at which the resolution proposed by the delegates that they should cease work on the following day if the masters did not concede the demand for an extra shilling was agreed to unanimously. In Redding, Muiravonside, and Shieldhill and Slamannan districts labour was entirely suspended yesterday, and pickets were stationed at all the different pits. Only one of the Callendar Coal Company's pits was in operation yesterday, the remaining men at the other pits being of the company remaining idle pending a meeting between the masters and men which was held in an office of the company yesterday afternoon. The result of the meeting was that the Callendar Coal Company granted an increase of 6d per day, and the men in their employment will start work to-day on these terms. In the event of the miners in other collieries receiving the increase of 1s per day demanded, the Callendar Company will grant another increase of 6d. Over the whole district about 3000 men and boys were idle yesterday.

Edinburgh Evening News Monday 27th November 1893

FALKIRK MINERS' PICKET AND THE REVOLVER

At Falkirk Sheriff Court to-day, Thomas Lees, miner, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having on the public road at Curriehill, Muiravonside, discharged a revolver, the bullet from which went through a window in the house of a miner named Cowie. An agent on behalf of the accused said it was more a freak than anything else. Accused and another were out on a picketing expedition and wanted to take Cowie along with them. Accused said he would fire his revolver to waken Cowie by discharging his revolver in the air. Instead of doing so, however, he turned the weapon in the direction of Cowie's house and the bullet went through the window. Nobody was hurt. A letter was read by the colliery manager with whom the accused worked, certifying to his good character, and stating that there were too many firearms in the village. The fiscal said there were eight persons in the room through the window of which the bullet went. A fine of £5 was imposed on accused, or in default, 21 days' hard labour.

Aberdeen Journal Tuesday 28th November 1893

DISCHARGING FIREARMS ON THE PUBLIC ROAD

A the Sheriff Court, Falkirk, yesterday, a miner named Thomas lees was accused of discharging the chamber of a loaded revolver on the public road, at a house at Curriehill, Muiravonside, whereby the bullet entered the window of a house. The agent for accused tendered a plea of guilty to recklessly firing a pistol, but denied intention of firing into the house, which was purely accidental. The plea was not accepted, and the accused pleaded guilty.

Glasgow Herald Saturday 30th December 1893

SITUATIONS VACANT

TEACHERS, GOVERNESSES, &C.

TEACHER (Female Ex P.T.) Wanted for Muiravonside Public School: Salary to begin at £30 per annum. – Testimonials to be lodged with Mr. Thomas Wilson, Clerk to Muiravonside School Board, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, on or before 2nd January, 1894.

1894

Falkirk Herald 1st January 1894

SHERIFF COURT. - On Monday, before Sheriff Bell – James Drysdale and Archibald Hunter were convicted of indecent assault, committed near Blackbraes on 22nd December. The first was ordered to pay a fine of 30s, or be imprisoned 30 days; and the latter 20s, or 20 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 6th January 1894

SINKERS WANTED to SINK No. 4 PIT, EAST ROUGHRIGG COLLIERY, AVONBRIDGE, from where it now stands to Coxroad Coal. – Apply at once to Manager.

AVONBRIDGE

MINING AWARD. – At the annual examination held in Glasgow in November for granting certificates as colliery managers, Mr Hugh Nisbet, Avonbridge has been successful in obtaining a certificate of competency as a colliery manager of the second class.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 13th January 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE

SEASONABLE BENEVOLANCE. – We understand that Mr. Forbes of Callendar has, with his usual generosity, handed over £5 (per Mr. Stevenson, factor, Callendar) to the Kirk-Session of Muiravonside Parish Church for the purpose of providing coals to the deserving poor of the parish.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 17th January 1894

MADDISTON.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A WEIGH-CLERK. –

Richard Johnston, 26 years of age, a weigh-clerk at Almond Junction, and residing at Haining Valley, left his lodgings about six o'clock on Saturday morning as he was due at the junction between six and seven o'clock for the purpose of weighing a mineral train on the weigh-bridge. At seven o'clock a coal train arrived at the points from Blackbraes, and as the goods office was noticed to be dark it was thought that something had gone wrong. Some time afterwards a foreman surfaceman, on passing the goods office, observed Mr. Johnston lying outside a semi-unconscious state. With the assistance of Mr. Logan, coalmaster, he carried him into the goods office, and Dr. Hunter, Linlithgow, was sent for. Logan did his utmost by artificial respiration to restore animation, but without success, and Johnston died before Dr.

Hunter's assistant, who was speedily in attendance, arrived. Deceased was a native of Ecclefechan, he was employed for the last 13 months at Almond Junction, and was known to be in delicate health.

Death was due to natural causes.

REDDING.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

The 128th quarterly report and balance-sheet of this society has now been issued, and shows a fairly progressive state of affairs. From the statement to the members it appears that the fleshing department has turned out very well this quarter. During the quarter 83 bullocks and 70 sheep have been slaughtered. There are 1286 members on the roll. The sales for the quarter are £15,398. The profits from all sources this quarter are £3409 0s 1d, which will pay a dividend of 4s 2d per £ on members' purchases. The rates per £ for the different departments are: - For Redding, grocery, 3s 10d; for Redding, drapery, 3s 10d; bakery, 5s 2d; fleshing, 4s 2d; Blackbraes, grocery, 3s 10d; Blackbraes, drapery, 4s 2d; Maddiston, grocery, 3s 11d; Maddiston, drapery, 4s 4d. These figures compare very favourably with those of the preceding three months. The membership shows an increase of 20. Sales are larger by £1982; the profits from all sources are greater in amount by £662, and the dividend, instead of 3s 10d per £ is this quarter 4s 2d. The increase is especially noticeable in the fleshing department. The number of animals disposed of were 153 instead of 146, while the dividend in that department shows the large difference between 2s 2d and 4s 2d per £.

MEETING OF COUNTY COUNCIL.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the County Council was held in the County Buildings on Thursday – Mr. Ure of Wheatlands presiding.

A MUIRAVONSIDE ROAD

It was agreed to form a footpath along the old road leading from Maddiston to Muiravonside Public School, and thereafter to take over the road, and place it on the list as a road for foot passengers.

Falkirk Herald 24th January 1894

AGENTS

For whom advertisements and orders for paper are received: -

Bowhouse – James Croall. Station Agent

Linlithgow Bridge – R. Linkstone.

Maddiston – Arch. Forsyth. Merchant.

Manuel – John Robertson. Manuel Station.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT MONCRIEFF)

SHARP SENTENCE. – William Russell, labourer, in custody, was charged with having on the 14th inst., stolen 2lbs. of horse hair from a stable at Manuel Haugh Farm, Muiravonside, occupied by John Bowmont. The accused, who had been previously convicted, pleaded guilty, and he was sent to prison for six months.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 27th January 1894

DEATHS.

At Almond Cottages, Muiravonside, on the 25th inst., Robert Meek, aged 76 years.

(Funeral Private.)

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 31st January 1894

Lost, found, &c.

LOST at Standburn, 26th inst., Black and White Water Spaniel Dog; answers to "Topsy." – Address ANDREW CHEYNE, Standburn, by Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 3rd February 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE.

CONCERT. - A concert in connection with the evening continuation classes was given in Drumbowie School on the evening of the 26th January – Colonel Stirling, Tarduf, in the chair. On the platform were the Rev. Oswald Bell, Mr. Binnie, Bowhouse; Mr. Wilson, Candie House; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; &c. The new wing of the school, then for the first time opened, was well filled by a large and representative gathering. The programme, including violin and piano selections, choruses, duets, solos, recitations, &c., was admirably carried through, reflecting credit on the musical talent of the school and district. At the close of the proceedings, the Chairman, remarking on the educational facilities now at command of the young, complimented Mr. Mackay and his school staff not only in the entertainment provided that evening, but also on the general efficiency of their work and the growing prosperity of the school.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 7th February 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

BREACH OF THE PEACE – Thomas Shanks, miner, Curriehill, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having on the third inst., on the public road at Bridgehill Inn, Avonbridge, committed a breach of the peace. He had been previously convicted, and was fined 10s 6d, or fourteen days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 10th February 1894

LOST, FOUND, &C.

LOST, at Standburn, Black Spaniel Dog, White Breast; Leather Collar, - Finder apply

ANDREW CHEYNE, Standburn.

FOUND, Gordon Setter Dog; if not claimed in three days will be sold. – Apply Muiravonside Stables.

SLAMANNAN SCHOOL BOARD

WANTED, Certificated Female Teacher (Normal Trained preferred) to Teach Infant Classes in Avonbridge Public School; salary £60 per annum; to begin duties in the beginning of March. – Applications with Testimonials, to be sent to ANDREW ALLAN, Solicitor, Falkirk, Clerk to the Board, on or before 19th February, current.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 17th February 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE.

SOCIAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION. –

A social meeting of the evening continuation classes attending Drumbowie School was held in the school on Wednesday evening. Among others present were Mr. D. Binnie, Bowhouse; Mr. Wilson, Candie House; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; Rev. J. Lindsay-Robertson, Avonbridge, &c. The proceedings, which with an excellent tea presided over by Mrs. Mackay, were of a varied and interesting nature. Parts songs by a choir, under the leadership of Mr. A. Hynd, solos and duets by Mr. P. Wilson, Misses Janet and Joan Hynd, violin selections by Messrs Nesbit and M'Kee, were all ably rendered. After distribution of prizes to the successful scholars by Mr. D. Binnie, Mr. Mackay was presented with a handsome walking-stick, and Mrs. Mackay with a Morocco hand-bag. In making the presentation Mr. Robertson congratulated the class in their successful winter's work, and specially on the very cordial feeling that existed between their teacher and themselves. Mr. Mackay, he said, was deservedly popular, as he not only showed a genuine interest in the welfare of the young, but possessed qualities of kindness and tact that secured the interest of the young in him. The

walking-stick and handbag were a token of this, although the best token perhaps was in the numbers and zeal of the scholars who had attended the evening classes. Another winter would find them back in their old places, no doubt with a great increase both of the numbers and the zeal, and meanwhile they could assure him of their high esteem and gratitude for all the help he had been to them. Mr. Mackay replied in suitable terms. Complimentary remarks were made by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Binnie in testimony to the high value of the work that was being done in the school. After a service of fruit, the proceedings terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT
MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

FRAUD. – Elizabeth Allen or Mullen, wife of a moulder residing at Crownerland Row, Muiravonside, was charged with having on the 23rd December (1) in the shop at Maddiston occupied by Janet Cunningham, grocer, tendered a copper coin of no value to the assistant in the shop in payment of a half mutchkin of whisky which she ordered, and pretended it was half a sovereign, and attempted to induce him to accept it as payment of the price, which was 1s, and to give her 9s as change; (2) with having in the shop at Maddiston occupied by William Waugh, did again tender the copper coin to Mrs. Waugh, pretending it to be half a sovereign, and induced her to accept of same in payment of 1lb. of steak, which was 1s, and to give her 9s in change, which she appropriated for her own use. She pleaded guilty. The Fiscal stated that the last time she had been before the Court she had pleaded not guilty, and the case being adjourned she had absconded, and was arrested in another county. He further said that she had succeeded in passing the coin in the second though not in the first instance. She was sent to prison for twenty one days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 24th February 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT
WEDNESDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

BREACH OF THE PEACE. – William Meek, miner, Blackbraes Square, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having, on the 20th inst., committed a breach of the peace. Mr. T. Gibson, solicitor, who appeared on behalf of the accused, stated that a difference between accused and his daughter as to the latter's taking a situation had led up to the commission of the offence. Mr. Gibson gave explanations as to what had transpired. The Sheriff, in imposing a penalty of 7s 6d, or one week, said that whatever was the nature of the quarrel the father had no right to go and make a disturbance in presence of other people.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 28th February 1894

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT.
TUESDAY

(Before Bailie WEIR.)

Alleged assault. – Samuel Duffin, miner, Crosscroes, Muiravonside, was charged with having on Saturday night, in Vicar Street, assaulted Andrew Duncan, mason, Parkfoot. Accused pleaded not guilty, and the case was continued till 14th March for proof. Duffin was released on £2 bail.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 3rd March 1894

HOUSES, SHOPS, &c., to LET.

A SPLENDID New House to Let at Maddiston; Rental £9. – Apply A. FORSYTH, News Agent, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 7th March 1894

CONTRAVENTION OF THE COAL MINES REGULATION ACT.

In the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Wednesday – before Sheriff-Substitute Scott Moncrieff – Alexander Rigg, mine manager, residing at 23 Garfield Square, Edinburgh, was charged with having between 13th November, 1893, and 28th January, 1894, failed to have properly fenced all entrances between the top and bottom of the shaft of No.1 Pit Manuelrigg Colliery, Muiravonside, being a mine to which the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, applied, and of which pit he was manager. He pleaded not guilty, and he was defended by Mr. T. Gibson. Robert McLaren, inspector of mines, deponed that he had visited the pit in question on 4th January. The shaft passed through the "mill" coal and the "ball" coal to the main coal, the latter only being worked. The entrance to the "mill" coal seam was not closed. This was contrary to the Mines Regulation Act, which in Rule 19 prescribed that all entrances between the top and bottom of every working, ventilating, and pumping shaft should be properly fenced. The purpose for which such a fence as this was required was to prevent any one getting in at any of the entrances or in falling down the shaft of the pit, and also to prevent any debris which might fall from the roof at these entrances falling down the shaft.

Cross-examined by MR. GIBSON, witness said that there was no need in ordinary circumstances for stopping the cage at any of these disused entrances. It was usual, however that the man who was working the shaft should stop and examine then occasionally. Unless the cage stopped at any of these disused seams, no man could inadvertently get there. Lodgments in pits were always fenced.

Superintendent Gordon deponed that he visited the pit and found that at the entrance to the "mill" coal seam there were two uprights, a cross beam, and a centre upright. There was no fencing. The distance from the top to the bottom was about 5 ½ feet, and the width between about 4 ½ or 5 feet.

James Thomson, miner California, deponed that on 13th Nov. last he went down the pit with the manager and some others to look at the "mill" coal seam, as the manager was thinking of starting to work it. There was no fencing at the entrance. They all went in at the entrance, but when he was returning back to the cage he could not see for steam, and missing his way he fell down the shaft upon a descending cage and sustained injuries.

Cross-examined – He said he was the oversman of the pit for eight months, and ceased to be so in August. As oversman he inspected the slides in the shaft, and anything was wrong he reported it. He was aware that there was no fencing at the entrance to the "mill" coal seam. For the defense, Mr. Tweedie, mining engineer, Edinburgh, deponed that he knew the pit in question, and that he had large experience of mines in the United Kingdom. As a practical engineer he did not see the slightest reason for having fencing at these entrances. He could not understand how a man could inadvertently get into either the "mill" coal or the "ball" coal seams since they were not being wrought, and the cage did not stop at them. Before stopping at these entrances special instructions must be given to the engineman. Lodgments in pits were not always fenced.

Cross-examined – He did not approve of a number of the requirements of the Mines Regulations Act.

David Brown, engineman at No. 1 Pit, Manuelrigg stated that the cage was not stopped at the "ball" coal seam without previous arrangement.

THE FISCAL, in addressing the Sheriff said that the case was a very simple one, and the only question was whether the entrance to the "mill" coal seam was an entrance in the meaning of the Act. He held that it was such an entrance, and while he quite admitted that it was only under exceptional circumstances that any one got in there, it not being fenced was a violation of the Act. It had been proved and admitted that that place was not fenced, and he therefore asked for a conviction.

MR. GIBSON denied that there was any necessity for having the place fenced, as it was an utter impossibility for any one to reach it unless by means of the cage, which was only stopped there by special arrangement and under special circumstance, and that such an entrance was as inaccessible as was a cave on the face of a precipice. Consequently no one could inadvertently get there, and therefore could not inadvertently fall down the shaft. He held

there was no necessity for the fencing.

THE SHERIFF said that it had been clearly proved that the entrance referred to in the complaint was an entrance which was between the top and the bottom of the working shaft of the working shaft of the pit, and it had also been proved that it had not been fenced. The evidence of Mr. Tweedie had been to the effect that he was strongly of opinion that there was no need for the fencing of such an opening. He (the Sheriff) confessed his sympathies were rather with the contentions which had been made on behalf of the accused. That opening, it appeared, was very rarely made use of, and it was certainly in a position which, for ordinary men – he did not know about the ways of miners – rendered it inaccessible except by means of the cage. He could not see that a fence in these circumstances could be of much use. No doubt if a person had got into that entrance and was coming back in the dark with the shaft full of steam, the fence might be some protection, but as he would probably have removed some of the bars to get in it was probable that he might have come to grief in getting out. He had not to deal, however, with the wisdom of this rule, but he had to decide whether this present case was one which fell under it and whether there had been a contravention of it. That rule distinctly stated that all entrances between the top and bottom of every working shaft should be properly fenced. There was no doubt that was a working fence (sic) – SHAFT. There was no doubt, he thought, that this was an entrance – it was an entrance to working which had for some time past ceased to be made use of, but which, he understood, had been in the consideration of the proprietors to resume working. There was also no doubt that the entrance was not fenced. Now, if the rule had said that these entrances were to be the entrances to workings, then the case would not have come under it, because at present this was not an entrance to any part of the pit which was being worked. Further, had the rule been qualified with the words, "where necessary," then there would have been very little necessity for a fence. But as the rule stood, the case appeared to him to be one which fell under it. Under the circumstances, while, as he had said, he sympathised with the contentions of the accused, he was shut up to the conclusion that there must be a conviction. He would point out, however, that although it did seem a somewhat unreasonable thing that this entrance situated where it was and so seldom visited, should be fenced, it might (and in point of fact in this case it had occurred) happen that a person coming out of this unfenced place would meet with an accident. That might serve to show that possibly after all these precautions laid down by the Act. Although they might seem unreasonable and unnecessary, had some wisdom in them. At all events, he was not here to criticize the statute, but to administer it, and he was of the opinion that in this case a violation of rule 19 had been committed.

THE FISCAL stated that since the case was the first in that had occurred the county he did not urge a severe penalty.
A penalty of £1, or three days, was imposed.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 10th March 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE

CONCERT. – On Friday evening Mr. Walker, organist, Muiravonside Church, gave a concert in the schoolroom to a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Robertson, Manuel, occupied the chair. Although the performers were all amateurs the concert was one of the best ever heard here, and one which did great credit to the local talent. Mr. Walker's choir sang with great precision, sweetness, and tunefulness, and the conductor and his choir were greatly applauded. Perhaps the "Hundred Pipers" was their best effort, and there was emphatic demand for its repetition. Messrs Murdoch, Ferguson, and Samuel, sang several trios with acceptance. Mr. Ferguson delighted the crowd with his pawky humour. Messrs Nisbet and Westwater's performance on the violin displayed considerable ability both in point of tone and execution. Others who took part in the proceedings, and whose efforts were much appreciated, were Miss Mitchell, and Miss Millar, and Miss Watt. Mr. James Watt did his best to keep the audience in good humour with his comic Scotch and Negro selections, and his efforts were highly successful and gave great satisfaction. Mrs. Mitchell presided with her usual ability at the piano. The evening was a most enjoyable one.

HOUSES, SHOPS, &c. to LET.

HILLENDD HOUSE, NEAR AVONBRIDGE.

TO LET, the above HOUSE of 2 Public Rooms, and 3 Bedrooms, and Kitchen, &c., with Walled Garden and Ornamental Ground; also Stable, Byre, and Barn, and such extent of Grazing Ground as may be desired. Within Half-Mile of Avonbridge Station, and Quarter-Mile of Blackstone Station.

Entry to House at Whitsunday, and to Grazing immediately.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 14th March 1894

Lost, found, &c.

FOUND, near Avonbridge, Black and Tan Collie Dog; if not claimed in 3 days will be sold. – Apply Wm. Lees, Blackbraes.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 17th March 1894

PUBLIC ROUP OF GRAZINGS

AT GOWANBANK, NEAR AVONBRIDGE,

ON SATURDAY, 17TH MARCH

JAMES NEILSON & SONS, AUCTIONEERS, have been favoured with instructions with instructions to Let by Public Roup, on SATURDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1894, for this Season, the whole of the Extensive Grazings of the GRASS PARKS OF THE FOLLOWING SIZES, ON THE Estates of GOWANBANK, DRUMBOWIE, AND DRUMDUFF, comprising :-
GOWANBANK.

Meadow Park, ...	9 ½ Acres.	Quarry and Cottage Park ...	14
½ Acres			
Mid Park ...	16 ½ Acres	Carstairs Park ...	7
Acres			
Elrigside Park ...	13 ½ Acres	West Park ...	
15 ½ Acres			
East Park ...	16 Acres	House Park ...	7
¾ Acres			
DRUMBOWIE			
North Park ...	7 Acres	North East Park ...	9
Acres			
Well Park ...	14 Acres	Easter Half Rhodens Park ...	30
Acres			
Wester Half Rhodens Park ...	35 Acres	Mid Park ...	30
½ Acres			
Croft Park ...	40 Acres	West Park ...	30 Acres

DRUMDUFF PARKS, 58 ½ ACRES,

For Feeding Cattle and Sheep.

Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 24th March 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE

SOCIAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION. – The Music Association closed their session on Friday night with a social meeting in the Public School. After tea had been served, Mr. Robertson presented the conductor, Mr. Walker, with a handsome gold Albert and appendage, bearing a suitable inscription, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the members of the association. Mr. Walker suitably acknowledged the gift. A varied programme of songs and games, which everyone enjoyed thoroughly, was afterwards gone through. A very pleasant evening was brought to a close by the company singing "Auld Lang Syne." The Albert and appendages were selected from the stock of Mrs. Strang, jeweler, Falkirk.

I AM instructed to call a MEETING of the RATEPAYERS of the PARISH of MUIRAVONSIDE, to be held in the Drumbowie Public School, on WEDNESDAY, 28th March curt., at 7 o'clock P.M., to meet with the Candidates for the School Board in anticipation of the approaching Election.

THOMAS WILSON, Clerk.

A SALE OF WORK

IN AID OF MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH CHURCH,

WILL BE HELD IN MADDISTON HALL, on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, 30th and 31st March.

THE SALE will be OPENED on Friday at 3 P.M. by JOHN STIRLING, Esq., of Muiravonside, and on Saturday at 1pm, by WM. STIRLING, Esq., of Tarduf, Admission, 3d. A BRAKE will be Run from Linlithgow to Maddiston on Friday at 2 P. M., and on Saturday at 1 P.M., Returning from Maddiston to Linlithgow at 8 p.m.

NOTICE. THE PARTNERSHIP carried out by the MADDISTON HIRING COMPANY, Maddiston, has been Dissolved of this date by the retreat of the Subscriber, James Neil. The Business will be carried on by MR. WHITE, under the Name of the Maddiston Hiring Company as formerly. Orders left at the Coffee-House, Maddiston, will be punctually attended to.

JESSIE WHITE, JAMES NEIL March 24th. 1894.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

TUESDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

MALICIOUS MISHIEF. – Wm. Fisher, miner, Old Chapel Place, Avonbridge; Edward Grant, miner, Blackhalls; and John Gilchrist, post-runner, Avonbridge, were charged with having, on the 17th March, willfully and maliciously wrenched off the padlock of the door of a railway hut near Strathavon Junction, entered the hut and scattered the contents about the floor; and further the said William Fisher and Edward Grant were charged with willingly and maliciously broken open the door of a railway hut situated about half a mile to the eastward of Strathavon Junction, entered the hut and scattered the contents about the floor. The accused pleaded guilty. The Sheriff imposed a penalty of £1, or ten days', in the cases of Fisher and Grant, and in the case of Gilchrist of 10s, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 28th March 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

MONDAY

(BEFORE SHERIFF SUBSTITUTE SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

ASSAULT AND BREACH OF THE PEACE. – Patrick reynold, miner, Barnsmuir, and Thomas Ferguson, miner, Lochhead, were accused of having, on the 22nd March, along with two others (who failed to appear, and against whom the case was continued), on the public road at Avonbridge, assaulted (1) James Arnot, engineman, Heatherstalks, Avonbridge, by striking him on the face and kicking him on the body to the effusion of blood; (2) James Young, miner, Bridgehill, Avonbridge, by striking him with their clenched fists; and (3) committed a breach of the peace. They each pleaded guilty. Reynold, who had previously been convicted was fined 25s, and Ferguson £1, both with the alternitave of ten days' imprisonment.

TUESDAY.

(BEFORE HON. SHERIFF-SUBSTITUTE WATSON.)

A SHARP SENTENCE. –

James Convoy, ploughman, Kinneil Mill Farm, near Bo'ness, was charged, along with two other men (who failed to appear, and against whom the case was continued), of having, on the night of the 21th, or early on the morning of the 25th inst, willfully and maliciously (1) removed from its position and carried away the entrance gate to the stackyard at High Manuel Farm, Muiravonside, occupied by Thos. Johnstone, farmer, and damaged said gate; (2) on the public road between Linlithgow Bridge and Manuel Railway Station broke down and destroyed a portion of a stone dyke bounding a field on said farm; (3) on said public road broke down another portion of a stone dyke bounding a field on said farm; (4) placed a quantity of stones, weighing two tons, on said public road in the vicinity of said farm, and thus obstructed the road to the danger of passengers. The accused pleaded guilty, and was sent to prison for sixty days.

Falkirk Herald 31st March 1894

MADDISTON.

Sale of Work. –

Yesterday a sale of work in aid of Muiravonside Parish Church was opened in Maddiston Hall. There was a fair attendance and a large variety of substantial articles contributed by a number of the friends and members of the church were exposed for sale. The Rev. Mr. Bell presiding Mr. John Stirling, of Muiravonside, in opening the bazaar, referred to recent cleaning and heating which had been effected on the church, and the necessity for having provision made for the lighting of it. At present it was not possible to have evening services, but if steps were taken as were suggested to have the church lighted these might be held. The object of the sale was to assist towards this, as also to defray a slight debt which existed, any surplus after which would be handed over to the kirk-session for charitable or other proper purposes. Mr. Stirling then declared the sale open, which was proceeded with.

CROSSROADS SMITHY to Let, 1 ½ Miles from Avonbridge; good business carried on for many years; capital Opening for Competent, Steady Smith (Horseshoer). One or Two Rooms in Dwelling-House if wanted. May be seen at any time. – Offers to JAMES TOWNS, Crosscroes.

BLACKSMITH'S Shop and Dwelling-House to Let. – Apply JOHN BINNIE, Avonbridge. MUIRAVONSIDE.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING. - The last meeting of the Board previous to the election was held in the clerk's room on Friday last. In accordance with agreement at a former meeting the number of attendances of the individual members at the meetings of the Board were submitted, they being as follows: - Col. Stirling of Tarduf, 28; A. Reid, Haining Valley, 33; D. Binnie, Bowhouse, 35; W. Taylor of Bogston, 27; Rev. Oswald Bell, 15; John Wilson, Bogo, 14; A. Bryce of Blackston (one year), 3; A. Stevenson, Wniterigg (2 years), 23. Parish School Board Election

THE NOMINATIONS - - The following gentlemen have been nominated for the Parish School Board: - Rev. Oswald Bell, parish minister; Colonel Stirling of Tarduf; Mr. Andrew Reid, Haining Valley; Mr. Daniel Binnie, farmer, Bowhouse; Mr. David Abercrombie, joiner and builder, Redding; Mr. John Bryce, engine-keeper, Quarrolhead; Mr. William Murray, gardener, Parkhall; Mr. Robert Wilson, colliery manager, Candie House; Mr. James Murray, colliery manager, Avonbridge. There are nine candidates for seven vacancies. The election takes place on the 7th April.

PARISH SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION. - A meeting of the ratepayers of the parish of Muiravonside was held in Drumbowie Public School on Wednesday evening for the purpose of meeting with the candidates who have been nominated for the Parish School Board. There was a large attendance, and Colonel Stirling of Tarduff, the Chairman of the Board, who presided, was accompanied on the platform by Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse. The Chairman, in his opening remarks, said he was sorry that Mr. Binnie and himself were the only members of the School Board present, but he had no doubt that the other five would have a sufficient reason for absence. During the last few years there had been a great change in the parish of Muiravonside. The population had increased considerably, and the School Board had consequently been compelled to provide increased school accommodation. As showing the increase in the number of school children attending their schools, he mentioned that in 1892 the Muiravonside School roll was 171, and it was now 206. The number on the roll in Drumbowie School in 1892 was 266, and now it was 431, while the number on the roll at Blackbraes School had increased from 285 to 321 within a similar period. - The Board had to borrow large sums of money to make additions to Drumbowie and Blackbraes Schools, and to

build a schoolhouse at Blackbraes. The Board were compelled to buy the Blackbraes School from Mr Aitken, Falkirk, and to feu the ground. The additions, &c, at that school had cost £920, and to enable them to proceed with the building of the schoolmaster's house they were compelled to borrow £1250. They were told that this school was too large and that it had cost too much money, and he quite agreed with that opinion. The Board were, however, not their own masters with reference to the expenditure on school buildings. They were obliged to send their plans to the Department's architect, and in every case their plans were altered and enlarged. To provide accommodation for 500 children at Drumbowie School they had borrowed £2300. That money, he thought, had been well spent on the school. (Applause.) The Board had taken out three loans to the amount of £4350. The previous loans were contracted fifteen years ago, and the Board had now an indebtedness of £6698. They were paying interest on that to the amount of 3 1/2 per cent, which was very moderate indeed. The Board were disappointed that the valuation of the parish had not increased to a greater extent last year, the result being that the school rate was much higher than they thought it would. It was hoped when the new coal pits in the parish were fully developed the valuation would largely increase and the rate decrease. (Applause.) He had been 20 years a member of the School Board, and during the whole of that period he had been chairman. He did not think during the whole of these years he had been absent from 12 meetings. He did not intend to make any personal canvass for votes, but if returned he intended to do his very best to promote the interests of the ratepayers in the future as in the past, (Applause.) Questions having been invited, Mr. John Bryce asked if Colonel Stirling was in favour of the proceedings of the Board being made more public than they had formerly been. Colonel Stirling replied in the affirmative. The meetings of the Board were, however, of a somewhat uninteresting character, and he might say that during the last three years the members had been unanimous in every question that came before them. Mr. Bryce asked why no balance sheet had been issued last year? Colonel Stirling - it is not desirable that the balance sheet should be issued until it is returned from the Government accountant, and the reason why it had not been issued to the ratepayers was that there had been some delay at headquarters. Mr. Bryce - Has the Board received notice from the Department to separate the offices of clerk and treasurer? Colonel Stirling - Not that I am aware of. Mr. Bryce - Are you not aware that all the School Boards in Scotland received such notice? Colonel Stirling - I am not. The Education Department are, however, quite satisfied that the offices of clerk and treasurer should be in the hands of one individual. Mr. Daniel Binnie afterwards delivered a short address, in the course of which he dealt with the school extension question, and justified the Board in what they had done in that direction. When the Education Act came into operation in the parish, the parish, he said, was very poorly supplied with schools. There was only one school to start with, and it was not suited to the requirements of the Education Department. The consequence was that a new school - Muiravonside School had to be built alongside of it. The Board had afterwards built Drumbowie School, and had arranged with the Slamannan Board to pay one-third of the cost of building Avonbridge School. Then the school at Blackbraes belonged to Messrs Russel & Aitken, and when the building came into the hands of the Board, it had to be altered and enlarged, and a schoolhouse required to be built. The ratepayers must remember that it would have been impossible to carry through all the building operations to which reference had been made without drawing heavily on the rates. He denied that the Board had been at all extravagant in what they had done. He would leave himself in the hands of the ratepayers, and if they were pleased to return him to the Board, he would endeavour to serve them as faithfully in the future as he had done in the past. (Applause.) In answer to Mr. Bryce, Mr. Binnie said he was in favour of the reporters being admitted to the Board meetings. Rev. Mr. Robertson proposed a vote of thanks to the members of the old Board, and congratulated them for having got through such a large amount of building and other work during the last three years without requiring on one single occasion to take a vote. (Applause.) The meeting having decided to hear the new candidates, Colonel Stirling vacated the chair in favour of the Rev. Mr. Robertson, Mr. Wm. Murray, gardener, Parkhall, said he was glad to have an opportunity of standing before them as a candidate for the new Board. He had been told that he was the "working man's candidate" for the Board, and they could not designate him better than by saying so. The wealthy gentlemen of the district entered the School Board, and did not send their children to their schools, and to that he objected. The Bible, he said, was the best book that could be taught in their schools. He would not advocate its being taught as a text book, but as a religious book. If returned to the Board he would see that the strictest economy was exercised, and that due publicity was given to the proceedings of the Board. (Applause.) Mr. James McKay, colliery manager, Easter Roughrigg, was next called upon to speak. He said he approved of the meetings of the Board being thrown open to the reporters. If he were returned to the Board he would not strive so much to carry out his own ideas as to carry out the ideas of the ratepayers. He would like to see a higher standard of education established in the parish, a science or mining school would be an acquisition to the young men of the parish who had just left school. (Applause.) If elected, he would do his utmost to see that the ratepayers' money was properly spent, and that the interests of the ratepayers and their children were carefully attended to. Mr. Robert Wilson, colliery manager, Candie House, said he had nine years of School Board experience in the parish of Slamannan, and during that time he had enjoyed, the work very much. He had always striven to fulfill any obligations he gave to his constituents, and that would be his policy in the future. (Applause.) There was little use of complaining of the building of schools and school-houses, as these had to be erected in strict accordance to the requirements of the Department, if he were returned as one of the successful seven he would do his utmost for the furtherance of the education of the children of the parish, never allowing economy to stand between him and efficiency. (Applause.) They could not compel anyone, whether rich or poor, to send his children to any school in the parish. They could have them educated where they wished, but at the same time he thought the parish schoolmasters could fit any child for entering the University. (Applause.) Mr. John Bryce, engine-keeper, Quarrothead, said he was asked to come forward as a working man's candidate, and he was glad to appear before them in that capacity. If he were returned to the Board he would see that the business of the Board was transacted with economy and efficiency. (Applause.) Mr. David Abercrombie, joiner, Redding, then briefly addressed the meeting, and said that if the ratepayers did him the honour of sending him to the new Board he would endeavour so to represent them and to further their interests in a manner which he considered would merit their entire approval. (Applause.) Questions were then put to the candidates. Messrs Wilson, Bryce, McKay, Murray, and Abercrombie promised, if returned, to raise the question of free books being provided to the children. In answer to a question as to whether the candidates would build a school in the village of Maddiston, in view of the increased population, and also that the children in the village had to walk two miles to any of the parish schools, Colonel Stirling, Mr. Binnie, and Mr. Wilson said they would not approve of a new school being erected in Maddiston in the meantime. Mr. McKay thought the idea of building such a school was premature, but when the population of the village so increased, and as the other schools filled up, he would be very glad to support any proposal to build a school in the village. Mr. Bryce and Mr. Murray were in favour of a school being erected in Maddiston, while Mr. Abercrombie said he would only approve of an infant school being erected there. Such a school, he thought, would meet the difficulty. The candidates said they were in favour of the utmost attention being devoted to religious education in the schools. After some unimportant questions had been put and answered, a vote of thanks was awarded the Rev. Mr. Robertson for his conduct in the chair, and the proceedings terminated.

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY

RESIGNATION OF REV. MR. ROBERTSON, AVONBRIDGE

The CLERK read a letter from the Rev. James Robertson, Avonbridge, which he had received this morning, stating that it was his intention to resign the pastorate and he wished to leave at the end of the month.

MR. ROBERTSON said the idea of relinquishing his charge had occupied his mind for several years. He had not been long in Avonbridge until he found that the climate during the winter

seriously affected his health. However, things were at the time in such a condition that he thought it would be prejudicial to the interests of the congregation for him to think of leaving. There was especially the matter of the new church to be dealt with. That had now been done, and the congregation was now in the most harmonious and progressive condition. They had also got the mission at Drumbowie established, he thought, on a permanent basis, and everything seemed to him to be in a favourable state for him to resign at the present time. There was nothing whatever in the relationship between his congregation and himself that necessitated his leaving, and it was entirely due to the circumstance which he had stated – namely, that his health suffered very seriously in the winter.

REV. MR SLEATH asked whether Mr Robertson had come to a final and unalterable decision on the matter? He was sure this intimation was a great and somewhat painful surprise. They heard it with great regret, and they felt that he had done a great work in Avonbridge, and that it would be a matter of great grief for his congregation to part with him.

REV. MR AITCHISON thought that the question Mr Sleath was not one which could not be put. The appointment of a committee by no means indicated that the Presbytery had accepted or was disposed to accept of Mr Robertson's demission, and he thought that a committee might in the meantime be appointed to deal with the matter. He could just echo what had been said, and that it was a matter of very grave regret and was a matter of very great surprise to many of them to hear of Mr Robertson's intimation; and he was sure all heartily sympathised with him in respect of the grounds upon which he had based his demission, and would be very sorry if it was found that these grounds were absolutely insuperable. Those of them who had been in the Presbytery during the twelve years or so thereby during which Mr Robertson had been a minister in Avonbridge, knew how quietly and well he had done his duties connected with his office. He had even done more than that: because when he came to Avonbridge he found the church there in a somewhat dilapidated condition, and it was chiefly due to his energy, resolution and tact that the congregation was now meeting in a beautiful building – a building that was almost free from debt. Not only so, but he had been able to establish on a permanent basis a mission at Drumbowie Mr Aitchison thought that in these circumstances they should appoint a committee – not that they doubted any statement Mr Robertson had made relative to himself or his congregation, but that they felt something to be due to the work he had accomplished, and due to the position he occupied in their midst.

REV. MR TAYLOR moved that a committee be appointed and in doing so confirmed that had been said relative to Mr Robertson, and his work in Avonbridge.

MR KEIR seconded.

On the motion of Mr AITKEN the following committee was appointed: - Rev. Messrs Taylor, Yellowlees, and Keir, an Messrs Hay and Baird, elders. It was agreed that the Presbytery should meet that day fortnight to hear the report of the committee.

Falkirk Herald 4th April 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Friday.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute Scott-Moncrieff.)

Theft of Postal Orders Mabel Selina Gibbs, book-cavasser, residing at Maddiston, pleaded guilty to having, on the 28th March, stolen from the post office at Reddingmuirhead eleven postal orders or postal forms to the value of £3 0s 6d and 2s 6d in money. Mr. Thomas Gibson, solicitor, made a statement on behalf of the accused, after which his Lordship admonished the panel in terms of the First Offenders Act.

Andrew Williamson, farm servant, Waulkmilton Farm, Muiravonside, was charged with having on 26th March, in a bothy, assaulted James Watt, farm manager there, by striking him a violent blow on the face, pushing him outside the bothy, and knocking him to the ground, and further with having committed a breach of the peace. Accused, who pleaded not guilty, was defended by Mr. Kidd, solicitor, Linlithgow. Evidence having been led, the charge was found proven, and a penalty of 25s, or ten days' imprisonment, was imposed.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 7th April 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

BREACH OF THE PEACE – Thomas Shanks, miner Curriehill, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having on the 3rd inst., on the public road at Bridgehill Inn, Avonbridge, committed a breach of the peace. He had been previously convicted, and was fined 10s 6d, or fourteen days.

SEQUEL TO MINING ACCIDENT. – In the Falkirk Sheriff Court recently and action was raised at the instance of James Thomson, miner or shiftsman, California, Muiravonside, against Alexander Rigg & Coy., coalmasters, carrying on business at Manuelrigg Colliery, Maddiston, for recovery of a sum of £200 in name of damages and solatium for injuries alleged to have been received by him in the defenders' employment. On 13th November last, it was stated, the pursuer, along with one of the partners and the manager, descended the shaft of the pit for the purpose of examining a disused working. After having left the cage and entered and examined the working, the pursuer, in returning to the cage, missed his way and fell down the shaft, a distance of eighteen or twenty feet, on to a descending cage, receiving injuries which, it is alleged, may be of permanent effect. It is also alleged that the cause of the pursuer missing his way back to the cage from the working was the dense obscurity created by the rising of steam from the steam pump at the bottom of the pit up the shaft, and it was contended that the defenders' failure to provide a proper funnel for the passage of the steam rendered them liable for the accident. The defenders' held that the accident was due entirely to the pursuers own carelessness and negligence in not keeping a proper look-out when returning from the working to the cage, and stated that had he gone to the side at which he left no accident would have occurred, as the cage was still standing in the shaft on the level of the working. It was admitted by the defenders that the pursuer sustained injuries, but stated that he had (NOT? DEL) done so to the extent he alleged. It was also contended for the defence that the pursuer acted on the occasion of the accident as a volunteer and not as in the employment of or as a servant to the defenders, and that therefore he was not entitled to recover compensation. A joint minute by the pursuer and the defenders was on Wednesday lodged in the action stating that it had been settled by the defenders paying a sum of £25 to the pursuers in full of all sums claimed in the action and expenses and craving the court to assolzie the defenders without expenses to either party. Agent for the pursuer, Mr. J.M. Wilson, of Messrs J. Wilson & Sons, solicitors, Falkirk; agent for the defenders, Mr. Thomas Gibson, solicitor, Falkirk.

FALKIRK FEEING FAIR. – The half-yearly feeing fair was held on Thursday. The weather was most favourable, and there was a considerable influx of agriculturists into the town from all parts of Stirlingshire and neighbouring counties. In the morning the railway stations presented an animated appearance. And one train, when reaching Grahamston from Stirling and the north shortly after nine o'clock, conveyed about 1000 passengers, mostly farm servants on their way to the fair. The High Street and Callendar Riggs were thronged with people. Along the High Street "cheap Jacks" were actively engaged disposing of their wares, while as usual there were stanced a large number of confectionary and toy stalls, at all of which a good trade appeared to be done. The Callendar Riggs were fully occupied with attractions. In the form of entertainments, &c., which are generally associated with the feeing fair, and they appeared to be well patronised. The business of the market was chiefly transacted in the early part of the day. There was a quiet demand for men-servants, and many preferred to remain with their present employers rather than change at the wages offered them. Female servants were scarce, and commanded high wages. The following were the rates of wages prevailing: - Best married ploughman from 19s to £1 per week, with free house; first-class single ploughman, from £14 to £16 10s per half year; second-class ploughmen, £9 to £12 10s; halflins, £6 to £8 10s; boys, 30s to £4; best dairymaids, £8 10s to £10 10s; second class dairymaids, £6 to £8; young girls, 30s to £4.

DEATHS

At Standrigg, on the 5th inst., Mary Taylor, aged 37 years beloved wife of Peter Lamont; deeply regretted.

At Learigg Cottage, Avonbridge, on the 31st March, Janet Crawford, aged 57 years, beloved wife of David Baxter; deeply regretted.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 11th April 1894

REDDING.

Cooperative Society.

The 129th quarterly report and balance sheet of Redding (Falkirk) Cooperative Society has just been issued. There are 1319 members on the roll, and the sales for the quarter were £15,737, the profits from all sources being £3618 1s 6 1/2d, which will pay a dividend of 4s 4 1/2 per £ on members' purchases. This dividend is allocated among the different departments thus: - Redding grocery, 3s 9d; Redding drapery, 4s 2d; bakery, 5s 10d; fleshing, 4s 6d; Blackbraes grocery, 3s 11d; Blackbraes drapery, 4s 1d; Maddiston grocery, 3s 9d; Maddiston drapery, 4s 1d. The total income is stated at £24,972, and the expenditure at £10,644, leaving a balance in bank and in treasurer's hands of £14,328. The expenditure in wages and other expenses amounted to £653 10s. Under the capital account the liabilities show a balance of £3618 1s 6d. The members' claims are stated to amount to £29,852 12s. Under assets it is shown that a sum of £3101 11s 3 1/2d represents goods in stock; £2266 18s 9d, fixed stock; shares in Wholesale Society, £1200 loan to Wholesale Society, £20,174 18s 8d; interest and bonus from do., £415 8s 10d; loans to members, £679 15s 3 1/2; shares in Paisley Manufacturing Society, £102 10s 0d; shares in Bo'ness Co-operative Potter, £50; shares in Co-operative Insurance Company, £17; cash in bank and in hand, £6127 11s 0 1/2d. The capital account shows total assets of £34,659 4s, 2 1/2d. As showing the progress of the society, it may be mentioned that the balance sheet for last quarter showed a dividend of 4s 2d on sales amounting to £15,398, and the previous one a dividend of 3s 10d on sales of £13,416. During the six months in question, the membership has increased from 1266 to 1319, a gain of 53. During the same time the fleshing business, for which failure threatened, has been placed on a flourishing basis, and the dividend has been raised in that department from 2s 2d to 4s 6d.

MUIRAVONSIDE

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION. - The triennial election of seven members to represent the ratepayers of the parish of Muiravonside on the Parish School Board took place on Saturday. For the seven vacancies there were nine candidates. Four members of the old Board - the Rev. Oswald Bell, Colonel Stirling of Tarduf; Mr. Andrew Reid, Haining Valley; and Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse - sought re-election, while Mr. Bryce, Blackston; Mr. Wilson Bogie; and Mr. Taylor, Boxtonrigghead, did not again solicit the suffrages of the ratepayers. The new candidates were Mr. Robert Wilson, colliery manager, Candie House; Mr. McKay colliery manager, Avonbridge; Mr. John Bryce, engine-keeper, Maddiston; and Mr. David Abercrombie, joiner and builder, Redding. The polling took place in the Drumbowie Public School between the hours of 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. Mr. Thomas Wilson, clerk of the Board, was presiding officer, and he was assisted by his son, Mr. Jas. Wilson. The interest taken in the election was unprecedented, which is all the more remarkable when there was no burning question before the electors. The whole of the candidate were in attendance at the polling station during the day, and every effort was made to stir up the electors and bring them to the polling-booth. Out of a total electorate of 430, it is computed that some 329 electors voted. There were only two spoiled papers. In the evening a large crowd of people congregated in front of the school to hear the result, which was declared by the presiding officer about half-past seven o'clock to be as follows: -

Mr. Wilson	...	...	...	682
Mr. McKay	...	...	...	345
Mr. Stirling	...	...	...	246
Mr. Reid	...	...	...	228
Mr. Murray	...	...	...	213
Mr. Bryce	...	...	...	181
Mr. Binnie	...	...	...	165
	Mr. Abercrombie			134
	Mr. Bell			077

The first seven are therefore elected. The result of the poll was favourably received by those assembled when the announcement was made. The following analysis shows how the votes were distributed among the different candidates: -

	Single Voters.	Plumpers.		
Abercrombie	38	9
Bell	24	1
Binnie	67	6
Bryce	56	11
McKay	81	26
Murray	60	10
Reid	68	6
Stirling	84	7
Wilson	163	61

Falkirk Herald Saturday 14th April 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

WEDNESDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute WILSON)

BREACH OF THE PEACE. - James Byers, miner, Stonburn, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having on 7th inst., committed a breach of the peace, and he was fined 10s, or seven days.

FOR SALE. Four-wheeled Phaeton; low set, perfect order. - Muiravonside Manse.

FARMS, GRASS PARKS, &c., to LET.

GRAZING to LET at CROSSCROES for sheep, from April 1st to May 28th. - Apply to JAMES TOWNS, Crosscroes, near Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 18th April 1894

NOTICE

PAROCHIAL BOARD OF THE PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE

INTIMATION IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the ELECTION of THREE MEMBERS to serve the PAROCHIAL BOARD of the PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE, for the ensuing Year, to Represent the Ratepayers not Members, will take place on SATURDAY. The 28th day of April next, at ENTERKINE COTTAGE, Maddiston, at Twelve o'clock Noon; and that a Certified List of the Persons entitled to Vote at said Election, in which the Names are arranged Alphabetically, and showing the Number of Votes each Person is entitled to give, will lie with the Inspector of Poor for at least Three Days previous; all in terms of the Act 8 and 9 Victoria, chap. 83.

JOHN ECCLES

Inspector for the Poor of the Parish of Muiravonside.

Muiravonside, 17th April, 1894.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 21th April 1894

AVONBRIDGE

COLNESS COAL AND IRON COMPANY are busy with boring operations on Drumtassie farm in the immediate vicinity. The prospects are acknowledged to be good.

OWING to the demand for houses and a marked scarcity of them, rents are sensibly increasing.

FAREWELL SERMON. - On Sabbath evening the Rev. John L. Robertson U.P., will preach

his farewell sermon. Mr. Robertson has done good work in the district during his eleven years pastorate. It may be mentioned that he was instrumental in having a new church built, which is without doubt one of the cheeriest and most compact, edifices of its kind in Scotland. He has conducted a successful mission in Drumbowie School, situated in the very centre of the populous mining village so recently sprung up, belonging to the firm of Messrs James Nimmo & Company.

CONCERT. – On Friday evening, 13th inst., a good audience assembled in the school to encourage and aid the Orchestral Band at Redford. Dr. Calderwood occupied the chair, and in few well-chosen remarks introduced the instrumentalists. For the short time they have been in training, a creditable appearance was made, and nothing but praise is due to their conductor. At the close Mr R. Duncan asked the audience to accord Dr. Calderwood a hearty vote of thanks, which was given.

LOST, FOUND, &C.

BLACKFACED Grit Ewe Strayed on Saturday, from Greenhill, Avonbridge. - Finder please communicate with ROBERT, FLEMING.

CHURCH NOTICES

AVONBRIDGE U.P. CHURCH.

FAREWELL SERVICE TO-MORROW 6.30 P.M.

FOR SALE

PONY (Ride or Drive), Trap, Harness, Riding Saddle, Apply Manse, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 25th April 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Parish School Board.

The first meeting of Muiravonside Parish School Board, as newly constituted, was held at Maddiston on Saturday afternoon. All the members were present. On the motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Binnie, Colonel Stirling of Tarduff was unanimously appointed chairman for the ensuing three years. Colonel Stirling returned thanks for the honour they had done him in electing him to that position, a position which he had now held for twenty years. He hoped that harmony would characterise the administration of the present Board. The School Committees were appointed as follows: - Muiravonside School - Mr. Reid and Mr. Bryce. Drumbowie School Mr. Wilson and Mr. Binnie. Blackbraes School Mr. Mackay and Mr. Murray, the chairman to be ex officio a member of each committee. The chairman and Messrs. Binnie, Bryce, and Wilson were appointed a Repairs and Audit Committee. It was agreed that the Board should meet at Drumbowie School on the 1st of May, by which time it was hoped that the contract for the additions and alterations upon that school would be completed.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF)

BREACH OF THE PEACE – Alexander McIntosh, miner, Five-houses, Bowhouse, Muiravonside, for having, on 21st inst., committed a breach of the peace. He had previously been convicted, and was fined 10s 6d, or ten days' imprisonment.

John Drysdale, miner, Avonbridge, and David Hunter, miner, North Craigend, Muiravonside, were charged with having committed a breach of the peace at Bridgehill on the 19th inst. They pleaded guilty, and having each been previously convicted, were fined 20s, or fourteen days' imprisonment.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT NOTES AND GOSSIP

The Rev. Mr. Robertson, Avonbridge, who is leaving for America, preached his last sermon on Sunday.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 9th May 1894

THE SHOOTING OCCURANCE AT AVONBRIDGE. – Charles Cassells, a miner, in custody, was at a pleading diet of the Falkirk Sheriff and Jury Court held on Wednesday – Sheriff-Substitute Scott Moncrieff presiding – charged with having, on the 23rd April, on the public road between Avonbridge and Blackbraes, about 24 yards northwards of Avonview Cottage, occupied by James McKay, colliery manager, willfully and culpably, and recklessly, discharged a gun loaded with shot at and through a window of said cottage and into an apartment thereof, in which Mr McKay and his wife and three children then were, whereby their lives were put in danger, and the inmates put into a state of alarm. The Fiscal stated that Mr McKay was manager of Roughrigg Colliery, and he lived in Avonview Cottage, which was situated by the roadside near Avonbridge. On the night in question, about ten o'clock, he was sitting in an apartment of the cottage by the fireside, with his wife by the table, and his three children in bed, when a shot was fired against the window pane. The blinds were pulled down, but these being cotton, a bright light of course would be shown outside. The shot had, it was found, he said, been fired from the road at a considerable angle, so that though three large panes were shattered, the bulk of the shot struck the wall at the side of the window. As it happened, no one was hurt. The shot was fired away from where Mrs McKay was sitting, and Mr McKay was not in its line, but it came nearest the children, though it was lower. Nothing, he said, could be more unpleasant and alarming when on was sitting in one's own house, situated in the country and at a rather solitary place, than the idea that some person was firing shots at one's window. After full consideration, however, he was glad to be able to say that there appeared to have been no intent to injure, nor was it believed that there was any malice in the occurrence. Mr McKay was himself quite satisfied about that. The accused did not work for Mr McKay's colliery, but another one. In that one a strike had taken place, but not in Mr McKay's, and so far as he knew there was no reason why the prisoner or any other person should have any ill will at him, or wish to do him an injury. The case he (the Fiscal) would present to his Lordship was not a case of moonlighting, but the case of a man going home pretty drunk, and in a most culpable and reckless manner taking a shot at a light he saw on his way. It was the foolish conduct of a drunken man, not the act of a malicious man with an evil purpose to serve. He (the Fiscal) might mention that that was the fourth case of a somewhat similar character within the last two or three months. Mr W.D. Marshall, on behalf of the accused, emphasized the Fiscal's acquittal of his client from any malicious intention. The accused had never been in court before. On the occasion libeled he, being the worse for drink, had coming along the road with another man, who had a gun, from a pigeon shooting or something of the kind, and he had stupidly fired the shot on their way. There was no motive in the act, and motive, he thought, was admitted to be practically the crime – he did not know that he was firing at a window or that there was anyone sitting there, and no one was hurt. These facts were all in his favour, as was the fact that he frankly admitted having committed the offence at his declaration. He (Mr Marshall) produced and read a certificate by the Rev. Mr Smith, minister of Blackbraes, testifying to the past good character of the accused. The Sheriff said that he had pleaded guilty to what was unquestionably a very serious charge. It had been admitted – and it was satisfactory to hear it admitted frankly by the prosecutor – that there was no reason to believe that accused had fired the shot with the purpose of injuring any of the inmates of the house, but he need hardly point out that if that had been the charge made against him, the case could not have been tried at that Court. It would have been treated as one which might be punishable by the extreme penalty of the law. He (the Sheriff) had to deal with the case as one for the reckless and culpable discharge of firearms. It was not possible to overlook the facts, because they showed how reckless and culpable the act was. The accused had fired at a lighted window, and the presumption was that that was the window of a room occupied by people, which in point of fact it was. It was the good fortune of the accused, and not to any care taken on his part, that the act of his was not followed by any injuries, possibly fatal, to some of the inmates. As had been pointed out, that was the fourth case that had occurred in the district within little more than about as many months of persons in the unfortunate condition in which the accused had been – intoxicated – making an improper use of firearms. It was the second case in which firearms had been discharged into dwelling-houses, and it

was impossible for him (the Sheriff) to overlook the fact that these cases were far too common. He (the Sheriff) had not only to consider the punishment of the accused, but the effect which it was desired to leave in the district. The only excuse the prisoner gave was one which might be given for something like ninety per cent of the crime coming before that court, namely drink. It was not an excuse that was recognised in law, and were it to be given effect to in that district, a Court of Justice might cease to sit there at all, because to drink, and drink alone, was to be attributed to ninety per cent of the crime coming before it. It led to crime of great variety, and not only to the exercise of wicked and malicious passions excited by drink, but to persons such as the accused who had hitherto been of a peaceful and of good character, committing acts which in their sober senses they would never dream of committing. It was said that the prisoner was not as yet given over to intemperate habits. He (the Sheriff) hoped one result of his sentence which was to be pronounced on him would be that he would seriously consider whether, seeing that his drink had led to such an act on his part, he was a person who should ever take drink. If a person was capable of becoming so reckless, and committed such an act as he had committed under the influence of drink, it was certainly a warning that he and drink should part company for the future. He must sentence prisoner to be imprisoned, and that for a considerable period, not only because of the serious nature of the act, but because it was necessary most emphatically to warn that community who indulged in such a great extent in drink, and who, too, for various reasons, were found to be in possession of firearms, that such an offence would be severely punished. He passed sentence of four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 12th May 1894

Auction Sales

MR BINNIE'S SALES

SALE OF EXCELLENT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

AT THE U.P. MANSE, AVONBRIDGE,

ON MONDAY, 21ST MAY.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is favoured with instructions from the Rev. J.L. Robertson, who has left Avonbridge, to Sell by Public Auction at the U.P. MANSE Avonbridge, on MONDAY 21st May, 1894, the following SUPERIOR HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, viz :- ONE 6 FEET CARVED OAK SIDEBOARD with MIRROR BACK and SHELVES, Oak Telescope Table (8 Feet), Oak Dining-Room Suite in Morocco, consisting of Lady and Gent's Easy Chairs and 6 Small Chairs, Oak Window Table, Oak Butler's Tray, Mahogany Chiffonier, Mahogany Pembroke Table, Mahogany Sofa in Haircloth, 2 Mahogany Easy Chairs in do., 6 Mahogany Chairs in do., 1 American Organ by Betty, with 22 Stops, 1 Organ Chair, Mantelpiece Mirror in Gold and Black, Mahogany Secrétaire, Pine Bookcase, WALNUT BEDROOM SUITE,

Ash Bedroom Suite, 3 Iron Bedsteads, Woven Wire Spring Mattress, Hair and other Mattresses, Birch Toilet Table, Wash Stand, Bedroom Ware, Carpets and Hearthrugs, Couch, Ottoman Seat, Howe Sewing Machine, Grand Piano (old), Book Shelves, Draught Screen, Coal Boxes, Kitchen Dresser and Chairs, Kitchen Utensils, Dinner Stoneware, Tea China, Window Poles, Child's Carriage, Hall Chair, Oil Heating Stove, Lamps, 2 Fishing Rods, Riding Saddle and Bridle, 2 Carriage Lamps, &c.

TERMS CASH

Sale to begin at Half-Past One o'clock.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 16th May 1894

TO CONTRACTORS –

Messrs JAMES NIMMO & CO. (LTD.), intend Erecting Additional WORKMEN'S HOUSES at STANDBURN, Muiravonside. Persons desirous of Offering should at once apply to John Scotland, Architect, Airdrie.

SHERIFF COURT. – At this Court on Thursday – before Sheriff Bell – James Baxter and Peter Mannooh, miners residing at Slamannan and Blackbraes; John Heeps, Alex. Thomson, John Swinten, and William Anderson, miners residing at California; and James Harley, miner, residing at Blinkbonny, were all charged and found guilty of breach of the peace at Avonbridge on the 5th inst. The first four were fined 20s each, or 20 days' imprisonment, and the others each 10s, or 10 days.

NOBEL'S DYNAMITE, GELIGNITE, GELATINE DYNAMITE, BLASTING GELATINE DETONATORS, and FUSE, Sold by

JAMES LAUDER, Cappers, near Armadale Station.

THOMAS BROWNE, Welcome Hame Cottage, Limerigg, by Slamannan.

WM. PRYDE, Boagston, Avonbridge, near Blackbraes.

WATSON & FINDLAY, Agents, Nobel's Explosives Co., Limited, 41 Ann Street, Glasgow.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 19th May 1894

J.P. CASE. – At Falkirk J. P. Court on Thursday – Sheriff Scott Moncrieff on the bench – James Forrester or Foster, bottle carter, residing in Main Street, Bo'ness, was charged with having on the 22nd ult. On the public road opposite Crosscroes Rows, Muiravonside, hawked four pints of beer or exciseable liquor to a railway goods guard residing in Main Street Bo'ness, contrary to Act of Parliament, whereby he was liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding £10, or sixty days' imprisonment. The accused pleaded guilty, and Mr. W.D. Marshall, solicitor, his agent, made a statement on his behalf. A penalty of 25s, or fourteen days' imprisonment, was inflicted.

AUTION SALES

MR BINNIE'S SALES

SALE of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE at U.P. MANSE, Avonbridge, belonging to the Rev. John L. Robertson, MONDAY, 21st May at Half-past one o'clock.

LOST, FOUND, &C.

STRAYED from Greenhill, Avonbridge, last Saturday, Blackfaced Grit Ewe, - Finder please communicate with ROBT, FLEMING. Greenhill.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 26th May 1894

EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY. – From the annual report, which has just been issued, of the above institution it appears that the contributions to its funds there was contributed from Muiravonside, through Mr. Thomas Wilson, Muiravonside Colliery, £44 0s 6d. which included the following sums from workmen in the employment of firms named: - Greyrigg Coal Co., Blackbraes, £8 14s; Maddiston Brickworks and Quarry £1 0s 6d; Manuelrigg Colliery, per A. Rigg, £3 4s; Nimmo, Jas., &Co. – Longrigg, Longriggend, Drumclair, Muiravonside, Caldercruix, and Gartsherrie Collieries, £12 12s; Parkhall Farm, 18s; Parkhall Gardens, 11s; Robertson, John, Avonbridge Bakery, 6s.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 2nd June 1894

SLAMANNAN

SLAMANNAN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

A report was given by the special committee appointed to meet with the Muiravonside School Board regarding the proposed addition to Avonbridge Combination School, from which it appeared that both Boards considered that the parish of Torphichen should contribute to the addition because of the number of children from that parish attending the Combination School. It was agreed that the Torphichen Board be asked to meet with the other two Boards on an early date for the purpose of taking the whole matter into consideration.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 6th June 1894

SHERIFF COURT. – At this Court on Monday – before Sheriff Bell – Alex Ure, Sen., and Wm. Ure, both miners, residing at Blackbraes, were charged with breach of the peace on the public

road at California. They pled guilty, and the first was sentenced to pay a fine of 15s, or suffer 15 days' imprisonment, and the second 20s, or 20 days.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT NEWS AND GOSSIP

It is proposed to make three School Boards responsible for the upkeep of Avonbridge Public School. Hitherto the school has been managed jointly by the Boards of Muiravonside and Slamannan, but owing to the development of the minerals in the district the population has increased and the building has become too small for the requirements of the place. It is proposed to make an addition to it, and the Slamannan School Board, who have the matter in hand, have found that a good many children from Torphichen Parish attend the school, and they hold that that Board is entitled to contribute towards the cost of the addition. Torphichen Board has been asked to meet with the Slamannan and Muiravonside Boards to have the question arranged.

Falkirk Herald 9th June 1894

MUIRAVONDSIDE.

School Board.-

A meeting of the Parish Board was held at Maddiston on Tuesday last. Col. Stirling presided, and there, were also present Messrs James McKay, Robert Wilson, William Murray, John Bryce, and Daniel Binnie. The teachers of the several schools, after an interview, were asked to further consider and report to a future meeting how they could best arrange to secure uniformity of text-books in their respective schools. The proposal to grant free books to the children in the respective schools was discussed, it was agreed to postpone its further consideration until such time as the present school rate would admit of some reduction. The clerk was instructed to ratify that the sum of £850 would be required by the Board to meet the expenditure of the current year. The clerk was instructed to advertise for a certificated male assistant for Drumbowie Public School. It was agreed that the school holidays should commence on Friday, 6th July, and extend to 6th August.

FOR SALE

SAFETIES – Coventry Eagles, Wearwells, Pneumatics, £8 15s; Cushions, £5 15s. Last years' Cushion, very cheap; Solid, Balls all over; bargain. – FORRESTER, Avonbridge.

FALKIRK J.P. COURT. – At a Justice of the Peace Court held at Falkirk yesterday – Messrs J. Cook Rennie and Mr W.T. Mitchell, Falkirk, and Mr Robert Orr, Westquarter on the bench – Hector Maxwell and Thomas Grant were charged with having on Saturday, 19th May, on the public road between Slamannan and Avonbridge, played the game known as "Bullets," to the annoyance and danger of passengers. They pleaded not guilty, but after evidence was led, Maxwell was convicted and fined 2s 6d, with 17s 6d expenses or seven days. The charge against Grant was departed from.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 13th June 1894

Marriage.

At Linn Mill, Avonbridge, on the 6th inst., by Rev. Allan Reid, M.A., Slamannan, George Fleming, farmer, Hillhead, to Jane eldest daughter of Robert Inglis.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 16th June 1894

MUIRAVONDSIDE

STANDBURN. – It is with pleasure we note from the London Gazette the success of Mr. James Croall (son of the respected station master at Bowhouse), at the recent competitive examination for the situation of assistant of excise in the department of Inland Revenue. The position of 33rd out of 800 candidates from all parts of great Britain and Ireland, and 5th for Scotland, is a truly honourable one, and we wish Mr. Croall all success in his efforts to gain a high Government situation. This is the second occasion in which he has distinguished himself in civil service examinations, gaining a very high position each time. Mr. Croall is a former pupil of Drumbowie Public School, and was prepared for his first appointment by Mr. McKay.

DEATHS

At the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, on the 14th inst., John Nicol, late of Muiravonside, in his 78th year; deeply regretted by all who knew him.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

WEDNESDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

QUARRELLING NEIGHBOURS. – Jane Kirkwood or Hoggan, widow, Stanrigg, was charged with having, on the 7 inst., at the door of the house at Wester Divoties, Reddinmuir, occupied by her daughter (1), assaulted Christina Thomson or Maxwell, widow, there, by throwing a pailful of water about her, and (2) committed a breach of the peace. The accused pleaded guilty, but stated that she had received great provocation. A penalty of 10s or eleven days, was imposed.

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY. - A meeting of the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery was held on Tuesday in the Erskine Church Hall – the Rev. Mr Buchanan, Liniithgow, moderator, in the chair. The clerk read extract minutes of the Home Board, Glasgow, stating that the Board had agreed to sanction the stipend proposed by the congregation of Avonbridge in connection with the vacancy for the current triennial period. Thereafter it was moved by the Rev. Mr Aitchieson, and seconded by the Rev. Mr Keir, and agreed to grant the prayer of the petition of the Avonbridge congregation for liberty of moderation, and to authorise the session to convene meetings of the congregation from time to time as may be required in order that the congregation, if so disposed, should proceed to the election of a minister. The moderator was appointed to preach to the congregation and intimate the finding of the Presbytery, and thereafter to proceed in accordance with the rules of the church. Rev. Mr Aitchison, in remarking upon the vacancy, said that the congregation were doing as well as they could at the present, and that the stipend of the minister would amount to £184.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 23rd June 1894

MARRIAGES

At the Manse, Muiravonside, on the 19th inst., by the Rev. Oswald Bell, William Smart, Coatbridge, to Robina Frost.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 27th June 1894

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT

FRIDAY

(Before Bailie HAMILTON)

BREACH OF THE PEACE. – William Roddan, miner, Stoneburn, Muiravonside, admitted having, on the previous day, created a disturbance in High Street, and he was fined 10s, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

Dundee Courier Friday 29th June 1894

SINGULAR SHOOTING ACCIDENT NEAR FALKIRK

Early yesterday morning a serious shooting accident took place at Lawrence Park, Muiravonside, in connection with which the police have in custody a man named David Hunter, miner, Craigend. Hunter's story is that about two o'clock yesterday morning, accompanied by another miner, Thomas Neil, he left home with a gun and entered a field on the ground of Lawrence Park. Hunter shot at a rabbit and missed, and while Neil was putting a dog through the fence at which the rabbit had disappeared the loaded barrel of the gun accidentally went off. Neil received the full contents of the cartridge in his side, and is not expected to recover.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 30th June 1894

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The third annual report by Dr. McVail, medical officer of health, to the members of the Stirling County Council, has just been issued. In the portion of his report applicable to the whole county and under the heading of infectious disease, the report states that "the total death-rate from all causes during the year has been 19.455 per 1000 of population, a rate considerably higher than that of the previous year, though less than the rate for 1891. Last year I wrote that "it would be quite unjustifiable to credit all the great saving of life in 1892 to the sanitary administration of the county, and next year may witness a return to the old conditions. Indeed, in some parishes, such as Slamannan, almost nothing of a permanent nature has yet been accomplished." With regard to infectious disease in 1893, the fact which stands out beyond all others, and which, indeed, has pressed itself on me more than any other fact of any kind relating to the county, has been the great prevalence of enteric fever in two parishes. In Slamannan parish, in a population of 6960, 89 cases of enteric fever were intimated, being at the rate of 12.8 cases per 1000 persons. In Falkirk parish, in a population of 9540, there were 68 cases, or 7.1 per 1000 persons. In the rest of the county, including a special outbreak at Kippen, reported on separately, there were 105 cases, or 2.2 per 1000 persons. Perhaps the most striking contrast is between Western Stirlingshire and Slamannan parish. In the former, with a population of 12,436, there were only 89 cases of all notifiable infectious diseases; in the latter, in a population of 6960, there were 89 cases of the one disease - enteric fever. Turning from attack-rates to death-rates from infectious diseases we are able to include measles and whooping-cough, which are not notified, and so appear only in the registrar's mortality returns." The following are the total death-rates per 1000 per annum of the population for the various registration districts in this neighbourhood from the group known as the "principal zymotic diseases," and consisting of smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhus fever, enteric and other or doubtful fevers, measles, whooping-cough, and diarrhea: - Falkirk (Landward), 4.620; Larbert, 4.182; Polmont, 4.060; Muiravonside, 4.096; Slamannan, 7.632; Bothkennar, 1.440; Airth, 0.000; Denny, 2.745; Dunipace, 3.105; Kilsyth, 3.745; Hags, 3.780. The deaths on which the rates under the above head, relating to the entire county, are based, the report states, amount to 230 in all, of which 178 occurred in the Eastern District, 38 in the Central, and 22 in the Western District. "Reducing these figures to district rates per 1000 of population, we get 4.590 for the Eastern District, 2.470 for the Central District, and 1.760 for the Western District. The disease which contributed by far the largest number of deaths was measles. Of the 230 deaths from the principal zymotics no less than 102 were due to measles, and of the 102, 44 were in Slamannan parish. Enteric fever though much more prevalent in Slamannan than elsewhere, was not of a type so fatal as in some other parishes where the attacks were fewer. It will probably be conceded that the sanitary condition of Slamannan and the adjoining parishes constitutes the most urgent health problem of the county. Much of the house accommodation is of an inferior quality, and the drainage in many places is defective, but, as I have stated in previous reports, the question which bulks most largely is that of water supply. The moss land forms a very unsuitable gathering ground. Soil water has been largely drained away by coal workings. Water pumped from these workings is, unless great care be taken, liable to serious pollution. The district stands high, as compared with the surrounding country, that gravitation water can hardly be locally obtained, and the valuation is ill able to defray the outlay necessary for bringing it from a great distance. It is from no lack of will on the part of the Eastern District Committee that the problem is yet unsolved. Indeed, regarding this district as a whole, though nowhere else does nearly so much require still to be done, yet nowhere else has so much already been done. The energy and practical wisdom which are even now working so great a change in the sanitary condition of the northern part of the district will, no doubt, effect a similar transformation in the southern parishes so soon as all the facts and possibilities of the case have been fairly mastered." The report deals in detail with outbreaks of enteric fever, which is stated to be "a malady of very special consequence to village communities, and three of its principal means of propagation are water supply, milk supply, and pollution either of the surface or sub-soil." It is shown that "in the Laurieston outbreak the disease was mainly conveyed by drinking water; the Kippen epidemic is a striking example of its spread by means of milk supply; and at Southfield both water and soil pollution seem to have been involved in the matter." With regard to the latter place the number of enteric cases notified was 15, although there was reason to believe that some cases were treated domestically without being recognised or any medical man ever called in. As to the steps taken to check this outbreak the medical officer, together with the sanitary inspector, on September last called on the owners of property and pointed that immediate action must be taken by them in three directions - (1) the clearing away of all refuse and filth of every kind in the neighbourhood of the dwellings; (2) the institution, at least temporarily, of a daily refuse removal; and (3) the provision of water supply from an unquestionable source. The owners expressed their willingness to carry out all three requirements. It was suggested to the owners that, there being an absolute dearth of water from any safe local source, they would require to convey it by rail from a distance, say by obtaining from the North British Railway Company a locomotive tender to be filled daily with water from some reliable supply in the course of the railway line, and then taken to a siding closely adjoining the village. This was at once arranged for and water from near Airdrie was in use at Southfield within some four and twenty hours. These measures, along with the removal to hospital, were followed by the disappearance of the disease, excepting for one or two cases which had received the infection without having had time to develop the symptoms. With regard to the outbreak at Laurieston and its cause, the Medical Officer states that in the village "the common prejudice in favour of old wells exists in a very remarkable degree, and the suggestion that a special water district should be formed was received with the strongest opposition, so that the proposal had to be temporarily put aside. But during 1893 the schoolmaster, in the guise of enteric fever, has been abroad, and his teaching certainly ought to be effective. A single case occurred in March. The water supply was from the Cross Well." The number of cases registered from March up till the end of the year was 40, and it is stated that "with the exception of one or two secondary cases practically all the 40 were grouped round two wells," the Cross Well and a pump well a short distance further down the hill. Dr. McVail further remarks that "usually in the presence of fever one has little difficulty in getting people to agree to give up infected water or milk. Here, however, it was a different. The private well was easily dealt with, but when Mr. Denholm proposed to close the Cross Well he assured me that a public riot was threatened. A house to house visitation was then made in the neighbourhood, people were individually coaxed or reasoned with into discontinuing the use of the water or else boiling it before use; placards of instructions were posted through the village, and these means, along with the rapid increase of cases of the disease, ultimately brought the well into disuse and the epidemic came to an end. It is satisfactory that at last a petition in terms of the Public Health Act has been received for the inclusion of Laurieston within a new water supply district. Laurieston has none of the physical difficulties to contend with that exist in Slamannan. But for time at least prejudice and obstinacy were no less effective in preventing the carrying out of the needed improvement. There is a Latin proverb of which a translation is that 'he is happily wise who is wise by the experience of another.' One wonders whether other places similarly circumstanced will profit by the experience of Laurieston, or whether each village will require its own terrible lesson. The deaths among the Laurieston case were 3 - a lad aged 21, a young woman aged 26; and a man aged 44 - three useful lives needlessly lost." The report afterwards deals at some length with the cases which occurred at Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, but the disease there did not go beyond four cases. Reference is also made to the negotiations which took place during the year with the mill-owners with regard to the pollution of the Rivers Carron and Bonny, and the reports thereon which were presented to the Eastern District Committee by Dr. McVail from time to time are published. Dealing with the house accommodation in East Stirlingshire the report states that - "in some parts of the district there are still to be seen houses with brick walls only 9 inches thick, and at the same time unprovided with rain conductors. But, as a matter of fact, the sanitary work throughout the seven parishes is so great that it has not yet, been possible to overtake anything like all that requires to be attended to. Very much more has been done in

the northern or lower portion of the district than in the southern or higher part, and so soon as the large schemes of drainage and water supply will permit of it, Mr. Denholm's time will have to be devoted to a systematic removal of existing and obvious nuisances in connection with much of the house accommodation in the southern parishes. The clerical assistance with which the District Committee have now provided him will greatly facilitate this work. At the village of West Carron a number of old outhouses have been cleared away, and the ground has been used as a site for the erection of two-storeyed houses of very good character. None of the houses have less than two apartments." With respect to the water supply of East Stirlingshire, the chief improvement actually carried out and completed during the year, it is stated, has been at Skinflats, to which the colliery proprietors had extended the Falkirk and Larbert water pipes. A few houses along the road at Skinflats had also taken advantage of the extension. At the new village of Standburn, in Muiravonside parish, a new supply had been introduced since the end of the year, with which the report dealt. The water was obtained from one of the coal pits in the neighbourhood by pumping, and was passed through a small filter bed. He was about to have samples of the water analysed. The water appeared to be abundant, and was distributed through the village by means of pillar wells. Reference is likewise made to the arrangements in progress to supply Bonnybridge, Redding, Laurieston, Polmont, Maddiston, and other places with water, and continuing, the report states that "it will be seen that the above schemes, partly completed and partly in embryo, will provide a very considerable section of the population of the Eastern District with a satisfactory water supply. Unfortunately, however, they do not touch the worst part of the Eastern District. Slamannan and the higher parts of the important parish of Falkirk have still to be dealt with, and the difficulties in dealing with them do not seem to lessen. Indeed, in one respect these proposed schemes, or at least some of them, rather increase than diminish the difficulties of the higher lands within the district, in particular with reference to the possibility of obtaining, either from the Middle Ward of Lanarkshire, or from the Bathgate District of Linlithgowshire, a supply which would embrace not only Slamannan and the upper part of Falkirk, but also Muiravonside and all the places not at present within the operations of the Falkirk and Larbert Trust. The cost of obtaining water either from the Middle Ward of Lanarkshire or from the Bathgate District is likely to be so great as to render it very doubtful whether the scheme can be considered, unless it is to embrace a much larger population and valuation than is contained in Slamannan and Upper Falkirk. Another alternative has been thought of. The sources of the Falkirk and Larbert water are at such a height as to make them quite suitable except for the very highest parts of Slamannan. But the filter beds for this supply are situated at Little Denny at a much lower level, and have had the effect of excluding from its possible sphere all the ground above the level of the Union Canal. To get over this difficulty the possibility of leading a pipe into the Slamannan district from near the Falkirk reservoirs, and of providing separate filtration if necessary, has been considered. Meanwhile nothing has been decided on, and, indeed, as regards supplies either from Mid-Lanark or Linlithgowshire the way is blocked by the fact that these districts are not yet in a position to state on what terms they can provide water for any part of Eastern Stirlingshire. The Lanark scheme is of very great magnitude and is not near completion, and no definite statement can be obtained until the work is much further advanced, and the same remark applies to the Linlithgowshire scheme. Since the above was written, the question of getting a supply from the Lilly Loch, in Shotts parish, has been under consideration, and is to be reported on by the engineer. Meanwhile, mainly as a result of want of water, enteric fever is endemic in Slamannan and upper Falkirk, and the costs to the District Committee in the way of hospital removal and sanitary supervision are corresponding by great." As to drainage matters in East Stirlingshire it remarked that in 1893 the provision of main drainage for the district had gone on no less actively than in 1892. In the Slamannan district the conditions as to the drainage of many of the more populous places were not much better than as to water supply. Open channels built of brick badly in need of repair, and receiving filth and rubbish of all descriptions, both from the houses and from the public roads, were the characteristic features of the system, if system it could be called. The negotiations of the Eastern District Committee with regard to the scavenging of Slamannan are also detailed. Owing to complaints of effluvia nuisance by residents in the neighbourhood of Polmont Station and an outbreak of scarlet fever at Blairfodge, Dr. McVail's attention was called to the method of manuring fields in the immediate vicinity. On enquiry he found no reason to suppose that the outbreak had been due to the manure, but he states that at the same time it was obvious that the atmosphere was much befouled by the odour from the police manure used in farming operations, and that there resulted unquestionable discomfort, if not also some injury to health through breathing impure air. Acting on the instructions of the District Committee he had sent a circular to the farmers in the district on the subject making suggestions to them as to how the nuisance might be avoided. One new slaughterhouse had been licensed in Bonnybridge. The bakehouses in the Eastern District were, as a rule, kept in very fair order. As to hospital accommodation, the report refers to the additions and alterations made upon the Falkirk hospital during the year. The medical officer also states that "last year I reported adversely on certain of the arrangements at Falkirk hospital, and particularly on the want of proper ventilation in the lobby, and the risk of infection being carried from one wing of the building to the other - one wing being principally occupied by scarlet fever, and the other by enteric fever. I also reported that the ground in front of the hospital sloped towards the building and allowed surface water to enter by the ventilators underneath the floors. The ground has now been cut away so as to remedy this objection. Ventilators have been placed between the corridors and the water closets, which latter communicate with the open air by means of hinged skylights. On a recent inspection of the hospital I was informed by the matron that scarlet fever cases were being treated in the pavilion erected last year for smallpox. So long as this is done and no scarlet fever admitted to the main building, the danger of infection is of course much better met by the alterations proposed in my report on the subject, and no conveyance of infection has yet been reported to have occurred."

MUIRAVONSIDE

SCHOOL BOARD. - A MEETING OF THE School Board was held in Muiravonside School on Tuesday. There were present Colonel Stirling (chairman), and Messrs John Bryce, Andrew Reid, Daniel Binnie, Robert Wilson, William Murray, and James McKay. The Board had under consideration the reports of the committee appointed to confer with Slamannan and Torphichen Boards regarding the proposal to extend Avonbridge Combination School, and the clerk was instructed to inform the clerk of Slamannan Board that this Board had not as yet received any communication containing a proposal from Torphichen Board. The compulsory officer gave in the report of the attendance at the respective schools for the last month, which was as follows: -

	On Roll	Av. At.
Blackbraes School	310	284
Drumbowie School	446	371
Muiravonside School	205	163

Mr. Murray gave notice that at next meeting he would move "That a school be erected at Maddiston." Notice was given by Mr. McKay that at next meeting he would move "That the headmasters be paid fixed salaries." It was also intimated by Mr. Murray that at next meeting he would move "That a committee be appointed for the supervision of the religious instruction of the children in the representative schools under the Board."

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 4th July 1894

SERIOUS SHOOTING ACCIDENT. - Early on Thursday morning there occurred in the vicinity of North Craigend, Muiravonside, a shooting accident, the result of which was of a rather serious nature. It appears that two miners residing at North Craigend named David Hunter and Thomas Neil left home about two o'clock in the morning. They had with them a gun - a double-barreled breechloader - which Hunter carried, and a dog. On their entering a field on

the lands of Parkhall, a rabbit was raised. The rabbit was followed up to a fence, and while Neil was endeavouring to get the dog through the fence, Hunter proceeded to load the empty barrel of the gun. While do engaged, he accidentally discharged the loaded barrel, the contents of which were lodged in the left side of his companion. Information of the occurrence was sent to the police. The injured man was meantime conveyed to the South Lodge, Lawrence Park, and medical aid was summoned. Later in the day he was removed to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Before his removal, however, it was thought necessary to take his deposition, and this was done by Mr.Gair, Procurator Fiscal. Hunter was taken into custody by the police, but was in the course of the day liberated.

Falkirk Herald 7th July through to October 1894

JAMES HUNTER, MADDISTON.

BEGS to intimate that he has Commenced a POSTING and HIRING BUSINESS, and hopes by strict attention to orders to merit a share of public patronage. Charges Moderate GOWANBANK. – To be exposed to Sale by Public Roup, in DOWELL'S ROOMS, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on MONDAY, 6th August, 1894, at Two o'clock Afternoon, The Desirable RESIDENTIAL ESTATE of GOWANBANK, with Handsome and Commodious Mansion-House and Offices, surrounded by Beautiful Polices and Shrubberies, containing many valuable Plants.

The Estate extends to 851 $\frac{3}{4}$ Acres, and is situated near Avonbridge Station, 5 miles from Bathgate. The late proprietor expended large sums on plantations, buildings and other improvements. The Shootings consist of Grouse and the usual low country Game and the woods are extensive.

The total rental, which includes only \$45 as assessed rent of Mansion-House and Offices, is £351.

Upset price, £14, 500.

For particulars, plan, and orders to inspect, apply to R.C. MILLAR, C.A., 30 York Place, Edinburgh; or to W.CEASAR, Solicitor, Bathgate. Messrs MORTON, SMART, AND MACDONALD, W.S., Edinburgh, will exhibit the Titles and Articles of Roup.

FOR SALE

FOR Sale at Bridgehill, Avonbridge, Good Pony, Household Furniture, and Small Stock of Earthenware.

Falkirk Herald 14th July 1894

REDDING.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. –

The quarterly general meeting of the Redding Co-operative Society was held in the Co-operative Hall on Tuesday evening - the president, Mr. John Myles, in the chair. The secretary's report for the quarter was read and adopted. From this it appears that there are 1341 members on the roll. The sales for the quarter are £15,542. The profits from all sources this quarter are £3517 8s 1d, which will pay a dividend of 4s 3d per £ on members' purchases. The rates per £ for the different departments are: - For Redding, grocery, 3s 11d; for Redding, drapery, 3s 10d; bakery, 5s 9d; fleshing, 4s 2d; Blackbraes, grocery, 3s 11d; Blackbraes, drapery, 4s; Maddiston grocery, 3s 11d; Maddiston drapery 4s. During the quarter 22 members had been enrolled, and since the corresponding quarter of 1893 there had been 66, while the increase on quarterly sales as at the same period is £1,165. During the past three months the sum dealt with under capital account was over £30,000, or £4000 over the corresponding quarter of last year, and the members' claims under this head (actual investments) amount to £35,772. The society has shares, in the Wholesale Society, £1300, and has a loan to the same of £20,590, while other investments are Paisley Manufacturing Society, £102 10s; Co-operative Insurance, £17; and in Bo'ness Co-operative Pottery, £50. The report and balance sheet were adopted. Two new directors were appointed, and Mr. Colin Myles was reelected as one of the three treasurers. The only other important item of business was that of the disposal of a reserve fund of £260. It was agreed, after a long discussion, that credits to this amount should be granted to members who might be in straitened circumstances owing to the cessation of work throughout the district, as almost without exception the members are miners. The distribution of this fund, in the shape of credit for goods supplied, was left to the discretion of the head salesmen at the different branches, as best knowing the circumstances in individual cases. After some formal business, the meeting closed.

STIRLING COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The third annual report by Mr. Charles Denholm, sanitary inspector to the Eastern District Committee of the County Council of Stirlingshire, has just been issued. In the report under the heading of "Water Supply " he reviews the work done in connection with the various districts. Dealing with the question of drainage, he says of Redding that that village " may be taken as representative of many places in the district, being situated at a great distance from any tidal water, and, considering the constant cry that has been made for drainage improvements in places so situated as Beancross, Polmont, Brightons, Rumford, Maddiston, Shieldhill, and Blackbraes, it comes to be a serious question indeed, particularly when with ordinary care all that is required might be had without the enormous expense that is incurred in carrying out work of this description. For instance, I have constantly to call the attention of people living in these villages to the fact that in emptying out ordinary household refuse water they might with a little care distribute it over their garden ground in such a manner as in no way to create a nuisance, but rather to be beneficial to the ground where it was deposited, while at the same time it would certainly do away with a very common nuisance, namely, that of recklessly throwing their refuse water on to the roadside gutter or channel, where it is sure to find a lodgment in some place where it will become a very serious nuisance indeed." In regard to Slamannan, he says that something must be done immediately to improve the channels, which at present serve for the conveyance of all refuse water," and he suggests, as the only way in which to deal satisfactorily with the question, the formation of a drainage district there. Of Airth it is stated : " This village is altogether in a very backward condition; and, owing to the fact that much of the house property is of a very low class and the rental is so small, it is not easy to even suggest where to make the beginning way of improvement." In regard to the scavenging of Slamannan and the villages surrounding it, the report says that " one thing is evident, that these villages have not been scavenged as they should be, and that instead of one man in that part of the district, the present condition of these mining villages will have to undergo a marked improvement without delay, or the results will be seen in a continuation of the very large amount of infectious disease which has had to be dealt with during the past year from this part of the district." In speaking of house accommodation, Mr. Denholm says that building operations have been briskly carried on throughout the whole of the district during the year, the demand for houses being, as a rule, in excess of the supply. The village of West Carron had undergone a perfect transformation, sixty-four houses of two apartments having been built in two-storey blocks, the houses, also, being of a very substantial and roomy description, well ventilated and drained. He adds, in connection with the erection of these houses -"I consider that what has been done by Carron Company in this village is fit to be an example and a pattern for proprietors who wish to provide such accommodation for their workers." As to Stenhousemuir, it is stated great addition had been made to house property in the shape of cottages, principally for the use of working men. In connection with these building operations, however, he regretted, in common with the inhabitants of that rising village, the want of Guild powers by the Local Authority whereby building regulations might be enforced with a view to proper street formation and attention to the character of architecture, as also the weightier matters of sanitation. He expresses the same regret in regard to the village of Standburn, Redding, Maddiston, and Shieldhill districts, where building has been carried on to a considerable extent. While the houses that have been erected are an improvement on those in existence, Mr. Denholm states that a very common feature is the want of all ordinary conveniences in connection with them, such as coal-houses and washing-

houses, privy and ashpit, and he speaks of the advisability of having these for the prevention of disease and the improvement of public health. In Slamannan no great addition to the house property had been made. The Sanitary Inspector says that "although there is very desirable ground in close contact with the village, the site on which new houses are being erected is upon ground of a most unsuitable character, being for the most part bog, on which it is a difficult matter to get a foundation. The drainage of houses built on this ground will never be satisfactory, as the surface level is very nearly at the water line of the River Avon." In Avonbridge a number of new houses had been erected of a very good description. Dealing with common lodging houses, Mr. Denholm expresses the opinion "that if a proper lodging house was provided under the control of the Local Authority, it would have a beneficial effect on the people who are obliged to make use of these houses." In regard to infectious diseases, it is stated that during the year 624 notifications had been received. Sixty cases had been removed to the hospital during the year. "This," the report says, "is no doubt a very small proportion of the whole number. There is still throughout the whole district a strong prejudice against removal to the hospital, arising from a feeling of reluctance on the part of the parents to allow their children to be removed to the hospital, which feeling is mere a natural reluctance to leave home than any particular objection to being taken to the hospital, and I am satisfied that in every case, and I have made it my duty to see to it, that no one has left the hospital that has had anything else than praise to give to the attendants for the kindness received. I have also to say from close observation and from the interest I have taken in the patients whom I have taken there, that the hospital is thoroughly well conducted and carefully supervised by the medical attendant." In a statement appended to the report, it is stated that during the year there had been 1430 inspections under Public Health Acts, 408 nuisances had been dealt with, 10 inspections of slaughter-houses and offensive trades had taken place, 38 inspections of common lodging-houses. 140 inspections of dairies (no contraventions), and 7 inspections in regard to unwholesome food (no seizures). In a further tabular statement for the year ending 31st December, 1893, it was shown that there had been 624 notifications of diseases, and that these were as follows: - 1 smallpox, 14 diphtheria and membranous croup, 65 erysipelas, 324 scarlatina or scarlet fever, 194 typhoid or enteric fever, 1 relapsing fever. 20 continued fever, and 5 puerperal fever. Of these there had been 39 deaths, giving a percentage to notifications of 62. Of the total number of notifications 556 were treated privately, there being 33 deaths; and 68 were removed to the hospital, 6 deaths occurring. The total cost in fees of the notifications made was £77 15s 6d.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 16th July 1894

SHERIFF COURT. – At this Court on Monday – before Sheriff Bell – James White, miner, Blackbraes, on being found guilty of having committed an assault and breach of the peace near Redding on Saturday, was sentenced to pay a fine of 30s, or undergo 30 days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 21st July 1894

SAFETIES. – 50 Wearwell. Model "F." fitted with latest 1894 Seddon Grey Pneumatic Tyres; Listed at £16 16s; being well on in season now offered at £8 10s net cash, all warranted. Seddon Grey Tyres equal any Tyre in Market. – Apply FORRESTER, Agent, Post Office, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 28th July 1894

PROPERTIES AT MADDISTON.

FOR SALE,

By Public Roup, within the Royal Hotel, Falkirk, on THURSDAY, 2nd August, 1894. at 2 o'clock Afternoon, the following Properties, which belonged to the late William Baird, Builder :
 1. THESE TWO ONE-STOREY HOUSES at SOUTH BRAE, Maddiston One of 4 Rooms and Kitchen, and the other of 2 Rooms and Kitchen, with Wash-houses, Gardens. &c, attached - all as presently occupied by Messrs Thomas Wilson and Archibald Forsyth. Rental, £19 16s. Feu-duty, 14s 2d.
 Upset Price, £300.

2. OLD THATCHED HOUSE in MADDISTON, occupied by Mr. James Cunningham, Quarryman, at Yearly Rent of £3 10s.
 Upset Price, £35.

For further particulars apply to Russell & Aitken, Writers, Falkirk.

STIRLING AND LINLITHGOW SHIRES.

MUIRAVONSIDE

A SUCCESSFUL MUSICIAN. – The Melbourne Observer of 14th June last contains a flattering notice of a concert given by Mr. Tom Baillie (son of Mr. J. A. Baillie, late manager of the Almond Iron Works), at the Albert Hall, Clifton Hill, under the patronage of the Mayor and councilors of Fitzroy, Australia. The Mayor was present, and the hall was crowded comfortably. The concert was really good, almost every item by an excellent company being encored. Mr. Tom Baillie was a host in himself, and he had to give as an encore the Scotch humorous song which has rendered him immortal – to wit, "Jagged wi' a preen."

THE MINERS' STRIKE IN SCOTLAND

The attitude of the miners in this district continue unchanged, but their condition is becoming serious in the extreme. Throughout Slamannan district, for instance, for months before the strike the time worked did not average more than four days a fortnight, and this, of course, gave no surplus as a provision for a struggle such as the present. In fact the majority are reduced to absolute destitution, and are dependent on charity for the mere necessities of life. In Blackbraes and Crosscroses matters are no better; indeed a number of miners having left the western district but a few days before the strike have been ever since in a most pitiable state. To put it plainly begging is common. The authorised collectors of the association have much been in evidence in Falkirk, especially during the past week, but the results so far as reported last night are far from encouraging. No official notice is given of any certainty of English help, and opinion is tending towards the notion that this source of help is at present exhausted.

A prominent coalmaster to the south of the town expressed the opinion this week that even if the strike were ended now the Muiravonside section of his works could not possibly be recommenced within six weeks, and, so far as several new works were concerned, the workings were so severely wrecked that it was doubtful whether three months would suffice to mend matters.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Miners' Federation, held in Glasgow on Wednesday, arrangements were made to carry on the strike. It was resolved that the next payment of strike allowance be made on Saturday. In some districts, however the money was distributed on Friday. The amount has not transpired. A meeting of the General Committee of the Scotch Coalmasters, also held in Glasgow on Wednesday, discussed a letter from the secretary of the British Miners' Federation, requesting a meeting be arranged between representatives of that Federation and the coalmasters, with a view of coming to some arrangement with regard to the strike. The meeting decided that no good purpose would result from such a conference. In the present state of trade the coalowners could not see their way to give an advance of wages, but they were willing to meet their own workmen in their respective districts. The loss sustained by the railway companies during the few weeks over which the strike has extended is estimated at £58,598. Advices from Manchester report a considerable improvement in the Lancashire coal trade on account of the Scotch strike. An association called the Durham and Northumberland Coal Sales Association (Limited) has been formed for the ostensible purpose, apparently, of avoiding underselling in al and coke contracts, and thereby steadying trade as well as prices in the district. Nearly 40 firms have given their adhesion to the terms of the association.

The leaders of the Scotch miners stated on Thursday that the resolution of the coalmasters

not to meet with the Miners' Federation nor to advance wages was just what was expected. They profess to think that it will bring the strike to an end sooner, because the increasing starvation and unrest amongst the miners and their families will be such as to compel the authorities to interfere. Meanwhile there is great suffering in all the mining districts, and help in money and kind is actively sought. The public in the great towns are still singularly apathetic, but they may soon be aroused to do something if it is reported that whole families are without food. The firms which consume less than thirty tons of coal per day are getting their supplies from England at enhanced prices. But some of the great consumers prefer to stop altogether than pay the prices which rule. The result therefore is that many workmen of industries other than that of mining are with their families becoming as hard up as the colliers.

FALKIRK DISTRICT

The situation in the Falkirk district remains unchanged. Fortunately there appears to be no scarcity of coal for household and manufacturing purposes, the large bins of coal at the Grangemouth, and Fife, and Clackmannan collieries being drawn upon principally to supply the demand. The prices paid by consumers in the district for coal and dross have not exceeded those we quoted some weeks ago, but the prospect is that should the strike continue, and the coal in stock becomes exhausted, the prices will rise. No coal is being shipped at Grangemouth docks, but the Grangemouth Coal Company continue to load vessels from their jetty. Prior to the strike commencing, it is estimated that the company's coal bins at Grangemouth contained about 14,000 tons of coal, and the bulk of that has now been used. A quantity of English coal has also been imported into the district.

MEETING OF MINERS IN THE SLAMANNAN DISTRICT

A large meeting of the miners in the Slamannan district was held on Thursday at Lodge Gates. Mr. Rodan, Slamannan, presided, and there was also present Messrs R. Chisholm Robertson, Shaw Maxwell, and Crawford, miners' agent, Airdrie. The Chairman having briefly spoken and congratulated the men on having come forward in such large numbers, called on MR. CRAWFORD, who said it was strange to think that in the nineteenth century men were found starving and fighting for the right to live. No wonder that in these circumstances there was such a thing as Anarchism. Referring to the denial by the coalmasters of the proposal of the English Miners' Federation, as also of other overtures, he said it was for them, the miners of Scotland, now to bring the coalmasters to their knees. They could do it, and that by standing firmly together. Let the flag never be pulled down till they had inscribed the word "Victory" on it in letters of gold. (Cheers.)

MR. SHAW MAXWELL said that he felt sure that if the general attitude and conduct of the men remained as dignified, as loyal, as faithful and true as it had been, they were bound inevitably to win in the dispute. The employers had taken up the attitude of relying upon the power of their capital, and they concluded that, inasmuch as the miner had only very small resources at the best, by and bye want, hunger, and starvation would compel him to submit to the terms which they desired to impose. But he (Mr. Maxwell) said that it was a great national dispute. The miners were parties to it on one side, and the employers on the other. The miners had again and again on a hundred platforms, by the lips of their leaders, stated their position so that the public might clearly understand their claims. On the other hand it seemed to him to be clearly required in the public interests that the miners having made their position known the employers should be called upon to reply fully, fairly, and truthfully to the statements made on behalf of the men. They did not, however, seem very disposed to do so. As he had said, they were more disposed to rely upon the fact that their money bags would carry them further in the struggle than would the hoardings of the miner. What he (Mr. Maxwell) wanted to point out was that that great dispute was not merely a matter between coalowners and coalminers. That great dispute had a third party deeply interested in it, namely the public. It was not in the interest of the public that a deadlock like the present should be continued when one of the necessary results was great and increasing public inconvenience. Now, therefore, what he urged was that, in view of the attitude of the coalowners, it was absolutely incumbent upon representative men holding high authority on behalf of the public in municipal, in parliamentary, and in other positions to go down and say in a clear and decisive voice, "We call upon you coalmasters to meet your men peaceably round a board of arbitration and conciliation." (Cheers) "We call upon you to meet and discuss manfully the situation with your late employees, and thus put an end to a state of affairs that is growing daily more intolerable." He believed that before long they would find on many sides evidences of that position being taken up by important men, and he (Mr. Maxwell) for one made these remarks in the hope that they might assist towards the culmination which they so anxiously desired. People were asking him frequently how long the strike was to go on. Their reply to such questions was this, that irrespective and independent of the position which they (the leaders) themselves might take up, so solid and determined were the men in every colliery district of Scotland that the strike would go on till Christmas if the employers did not give in. (Laughter and cheers.) Let him tell them that he was actually speaking within the mark, because he had had the personal opportunity of meeting many, many thousands of miners in every district in the country, and everywhere the miners were the same – buoyant, strong-hearted, cheerful, and determined; and he (Mr. Maxwell) said, and said deliberately that in the face of the fact that they could not look forward to a settlement at anything like an early date unless there was some approach to reason on the part of the employers. He did not know whether they had had picketing there or not. (Cries of "No.") In every part of Scotland it was the same. There had been no picketing, and that was a most significant feature when they remembered previous strikes. It proved also, to the least observant of their critics that when everybody was out and no pickets were required, the battle was a men's battle and not a leaders. (Cheers.) They were sometimes told that the employers in Scotland, even if their own resources broke down, would be supported in the strike by the employers in the south. The argument looked a very specious and reasonable one at first sight; but let him tell them that the English employer was not likely to do anything so foolish and suicidal. (Hear, hear.) It was to the interest of the English miner to maintain the wage of the Scotch miner, because that was supporting his own wage, but with the employers it was different. Did they think that the English employers who went into the same markets as the Scotch to make the men in their employment work for less wage as they themselves had to do?

Not likely; because in such an event the Scotch employers would beat them in the market. Consequently the English employers would not be such fools, but would leave the Scotch employers to fight out the battle. Concluding, he said that the battle in which they were engaged must be won by the miners. It was by the strength and resolution and determination of the rank and file that the battle would be won. Every man was an important unit in the struggle. One man that gave way was doing more damage to the movement than the criticism of the most powerful paper in Scotland. Therefore he appealed to them to stand together strong and determined to adhere to their position, to be confident in their own strength, to stick to their leaders, and by and bye the conquest would be theirs. (Loud cheers.)

MR. CHISHOLM ROBERTSON next spoke. He said that they had had a communication in the newspapers that day to the effect that the Scotch coalmasters met on the day previous to discuss a letter from the English Miners' Federation, asking that a joint meeting should be arranged for the purpose of endeavouring to settle the dispute. The Scotch coalmasters had decided not to meet with the representatives of the Federation on the conditions stated on the letter, and they declared that now, as they had hitherto always been, they were wishful of meeting with their workmen in the different districts. Now, the Glasgow Evening Times in an article that night commended the action of the coalmasters, and pointed out that the interference on the part of the Englishmen was an interference which ought not to be tolerated. About that they (the miners) had nothing to say. It went on to point out that there were differences in the conditions of the coal industry in Scotland and in England, favourable to England, which made it possible and easy for the English coalmasters to arrange terms with their workmen and which did not allow of the Scotch coalmasters arranging with their workmen. Now what were the differences? The differences, as he knew them, existed on every side favourable to the demand of the Scotch miners. In the first place the Scotch miners

wrought longer hours than the English miners. Was that not favourable to the Scotch employers? Did that not enable them to stand well as against the English employer? (Cheers.) Then, again the Scotch miners produced more coal per man than the English miners, and since the English and Scotch employers competed in the same market, the latter were placed in a position of advantage as against the position of the English employers. Further, according to the terms of settlement arranged the other day in London, the English miners had guaranteed to them a higher rate of wage by 1s a day than the Scottish miners received, notwithstanding that the latter did more work than the former by from 1 ½ to 3 hours per day. Was that not a difference which told in favour of the Scotch employer? If there was a difference between the relative positions of the English and the Scotch coalowners, that difference, in any way considered, was favourable to the Scotch coalowner, and placed him in a position which enabled him to give better terms to his workmen than the English employers had guaranteed to their workmen. But, further than that, for the first time since the strike began there was an expression in the article to which he had referred which was full of meaning to the miners as well as to the country, and afforded food for reflection. It said "The men have always believed, and have been encouraged to believe, that the proposal to meet them in their own districts is an attempt to put in practice the axiom 'divide and rule' – to deprive them of such as is afforded by these they designate their leaders and to smash up their organisation. It is," continued the article, "possibly nothing of the kind, but it is a belief widespread and tenacious. The existence of that belief is certainly not a sufficient reason for the adoption of a new policy as between employer and employed, yet even upon the grounds of expediency, the employers might find their profit in a change of policy." For the first time since the struggle began, Mr. Robertson said, they had the expression contained by implication in the words he had quoted, declared to the country that the coalmasters, in taking up the position they had, were occupying an untenable position – a position from which they would soon be driven by the force of enlightened public opinion. That was a word of warning and instruction to the employers. A few coalmasters desired to divide the miners into districts, and by that division to beat them one by one and break up their organisation. Upon the grounds of expediency, the article asked whether the employers might not find it to their profit to change their policy. What had forced the enlightened and educated organ to speak thus? It was not the force that they (the miners) had brought to bear directly upon it. It was the force which they had called into existence with the strike, the force which had been created by the dearth of coal, the force of the public difficulty to get coal – it was that force which had made that journal express itself against the position taken up by the coalmasters in that controversy. (Cheers.) "But in the meantime," the article continued, "neither party seems disposed towards amicable negotiation." Let him say there that attempt made by the English miners was made on their sole initiative. Scotch miners and their leaders were no parties to it, and knew nothing of it save what came to them through the medium of the public press. But it had been found that neither Mr. Small and himself nor with the accredited leaders of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain would the employers meet. Since the strike began time and again the miners made overtures to the employers to meet them in open conference for the purpose of discussing the whole matter and attempting a settlement, but their every overture had been treated with the utmost contempt and scorned by the coalmasters. They, the miners, declared that they desired nothing more in connection with the strike than that the Scotch coalmasters should meet with them and discuss the whole question, and they, the miners, would accept the arbitrament of public opinion. They had made it a condition of the strike that there should be no partial settlement. The settlement must apply to all the miners concerned in the strike throughout the length and breadth of the country – (Loud cheers) – and while they admitted miners had a right to object to some extent to certain of the miners' leaders discussing with the coalmasters, they said that miners should not be allowed to make it a condition that the men in different localities should meet with the miners of different localities on the question which caused all that trouble. (Cheers.) Robertson, Small, Smillie, Wilson, Weir – all of the leaders if objected to by the employers – would be willing to stand aside. (Cries of "Never.") Oh, yes, they would; but if the employers were to have a conference with the miners it would not be in districts or in sections, but it would be an open and general conference, at which, on the one side, would be represented the entire coal owners concerned in the dispute, and, on the other side, duly elected delegates of the entire miners concerned in the strike. (Cheers.) He thought from the fact that the miners were so unanimous, that no picketing was being done in any part of the country, that they had made all these overtures to the employers and had had them disregarded – he thought it must be patent to any ordinary intelligent citizen that the miners' position was an honest, a fair, and a proper position, and that position taken up by the employers was an unreasoning and an improper position. He thought it would be granted, as he knew it was granted, that the whole responsibility of the tremendous suffering which was being caused rested on the Scotch coalowners. The miners' wages must be maintained at a living level. (Cheers.) If the shilling were not granted the wages would not be at a living level. And speaking for himself, unless the Scotch coalowners agreed to meet and settle in a rational way that which had caused the tremendous strike, he for one should be prepared to sacrifice what little he had – and God knew it was not much – and he should be prepared to die in the ditch that they the miners of Scotland who had worked with him might be successful in the struggle, that a living wage might be guaranteed to them, and that their little boys who would follow them in the mining trade might have better conditions secured to them in their dangerous and irksome calling. (Loud cheers.) In concluding, he that on Saturday they would get some money from England, which would be divided at the collieries. It would not come up to his desire, nor would it satisfy them. But let them remember that the strike was now holding the public attention, and much sympathy was extended towards them. He was daily receiving letters of sympathy and support, and he confidently anticipated that if the coalmasters would not agree to meet on fair and reasonable terms the miners would not need to starve even though the strike should continue till midsummer next year. (Cheers.) They were fighting for the shilling, but they were fighting for more. They were fighting to have guaranteed to them the minimum rate of wage, below which it should not go. Let them then stand together. The English miners were behind them, public interest was arrested on their behalf, and he was sure that the strike would terminate successfully for them. (Loud cheers.)

MR. GARDENER asked to be allowed to put a question. If the miners' leaders were so set on one side would the most intelligent they could produce from the miners' ranks be put forward to meet with the employers (Loud cries of "No.") Then he would move that it be left in the hands of the leaders till the strike should end to meet with the employers in any conference that should take place. (Loud cheers.)

This was seconded, and unanimously agreed to.

THE CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was acknowledged by Mr. Robertson, who in turn, proposed three cheers for Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Crawford.

The meeting then dispersed.

DISTURBANCES AT BO'NESS

A great deal of feeling has been created in Bo'ness by the large number of oncost men who are now working. These men (about 20 in number) are said to be engaged in keeping the roads in the pits in order, but the miners believe they are producing coal. In going and returning from their work these oncost men are followed by a crowd of men, women, and children hooting and boing and carrying tin cans, trumpets, &c. There have been several disturbances at which the police have had to interfere, but no arrests have as yet been made. As a result of the strike, trade at the docks is at a standstill, not a single vessel having arrived for three days.

SLAMANNAN

During the past week the local leaders have been busily engaged collecting subscriptions for the purpose of relieving the most necessitous cases of poverty, and have received liberal aid. The Rev. Allan Reid, M.A., minister of the parish, has also opened a soup kitchen, from which large numbers are supplied daily. The village of Slamannan presents a Sunday-like appearance, and quietness prevails.

MINERS AS MILITIA RECRUITS

The coal strike has caused a big influx of Militia recruits into Stirling Castle. There are between 40 and 50 miners undergoing military instruction there just now, but when they go back to work again and times get brisk, they will purchase their discharges. At present, however, they get a month or six weeks' free lodgings and board, with a little pocket money, which is better than doing nothing.

STIRLINGSHIRE POLICE "LEAVE" SUSPENDED

The miners' strike is affecting the holidays of policemen. In Stirlingshire all "leave" has been stopped during the continuation of the strike, and the same thing no doubt obtains in other "coal" counties.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 1st August 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF)

Breach of the peace. – Henry Clarke, miner, Bridgehill, Avonbridge, was charged with having on the 28th July, on the public road in the vicinity of the station, committed a breach of the peace. The accused, who had been previously convicted, pleaded guilty, and was fined 10s 6s, or one week's imprisonment.

NEIGHBOURS QUARREL. – Mary Jane Allison, outdoor worker, Rumford Square, Muiravonside, and Margaret Allison or McNee, wife of a miner residing there, were charged with having, on the 16th July in the house there occupied by James Conlan, labourer, assaulted Helen Higgins Jamieson or Conlan, by striking her with the fists and an iron hoop, whereby she was cut and bruised, and further with having committed a breach of the peace. Allison pleaded guilty to the charge of breach of the peace, and McNee to that of assault, and the pleas were accepted. Mr. Thomas Gibson, solicitor, on their behalf, stated that Allison had gone with the woman Higgins into Conlan's house for the purpose of "redding" certain remarks that had previously passed, and that out of that a row had evolved. Mrs. McNee, Allison's daughter, had gone in after her mother with the view of getting her out, and that then the act of assault had been committed. The Sheriff, in imposing penalties of 5s and 7s 6d, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment on Allison and McNee respectively, said that their conduct seemed to have been very unseemly, and he trusted that they were thoroughly ashamed of it. There were far too many disturbances among neighbours. It appeared, as had been stated by the agent on their behalf, that there was a scarcity of money in the district, and he would therefore restrict the fine.

Falkirk Herald 8th August 1894

PROPERTY SALE. –

In the Royal Hotel on Thursday, Mr. Thomas Binnie, auctioneer, exposed for sale by public roup two lots of heritable property at Maddiston. The first lot, consisting of two one storey houses in South Brae was put up at £300, and after keen competition, it was knocked down to Mr. Thomas Cunningham, miner, Maddiston, at £370. Lot 2, consisting of an old thatched house, was also purchased by Mr. Thomas Cunningham at £43, the upset price being £35, Messrs Russel & Aitken were the agents in the sales.

Falkirk Herald - Saturday 11 August 1894

AVONBRIDGE

RAILWAY ACCIDENT. – On Friday night, as the passenger train from Manuel, due at 7.12P.M., was steaming into the station, the guard opened his door a little too soon, and thereby came into contact with the stool on which the linesman stands to obtain the tablet from the driver. Both panes of glass in the van door were shattered, and the guard had a very narrow escape.

THE SCOTCH COAL STRIKE.

CONCILIATION PROPOSALS.

During the past week several efforts have been made with a view to a settlement of the strike. On Monday morning hopes were everywhere expressed that the masters and men would agree to come together to discuss a basis of arrangement. A meeting of the Executive of the Scottish Miners' Federation was held in the Waterloo Room 3 at ten o'clock in order to consider proposals which, it was understood, had been made on behalf of more than one of the non-associated coalmasters. The four delegates appointed a week ago to wait upon Mr. Colin Dunlop with reference to the suggestion that the strike should be ended on terms similar to those adopted in England, reported that they only had reference to Mr. Dunlop's collieries. The conference, in these circumstances, did not discuss the matter further. The meeting then directed their attention to a communication from the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Mr. Bell, in which his Lordship stated that he would be willing to receive a deputation of miners' delegates and to hear their views, if it was thought that such a course was advisable. The Executive Committee of the Federation ultimately authorised Messrs Smillie, Weir, Wilson, Brown, Small, and Cunningham to wait upon the Lord Provost. His Lordship received the deputation in his room in the Municipal Buildings. The proceedings, which were conducted in private, lasted fully half an hour. The Lord Provost consented to lay the views which had been expressed to him before the coalmasters, with the object, so far as possible, of bringing parties into harmony. The delegates seemed pleased with the result of their interview, and were hopeful that a joint meeting would be the result. In the course of the day Lord Provost Bell sent a communication to the coalmasters, who convened a meeting of the Executive Committee representative of the Scotch associations. A proposal by his Lordship that the coalmasters should confer with the men's representatives, with himself as chairman of the joint meeting, was discussed at some length; Ultimately the coalmasters present decided that they could not see their way to adopt it. They, however, again expressed themselves willing, as they have always been, to meet and treat with their own men. The meeting then considered proposals made by the West of Scotland Peace and Arbitration Society in favour of the dispute being settled by arbitration. They also had before them a letter from the town clerk of Hamilton suggesting the advisability of holding a joint meeting of masters and men, before Hamilton Town Council, with the object of devising means of settling the dispute. Both proposals were respectfully declined. Some of the coalowners who are not bound by the policy of the association are ready to meet the Lord Provost and the representatives of the men.

JOINT MEETING OF MASTERS AND MEN IN GLASGOW.

By arrangement, the non-associated masters and the leaders' agents met Lord Provost Bell in his lordship's private room in the Municipal Buildings, Glasgow, at noon on Tuesday. The non-associated masters present were Mr. John Wilson, of Wilson and Clyde Coal Company; Mr. James Nimmo, Mr. James Barr, of Wm. Barr & Sons; Mr. Wm. L. Dunn, of Dunn Brothers and Mr. Thomson, Wishaw Coal Company; Mr. Hamilton, of Hamilton, M'Culloch & Company; and Mr. Colin Dunlop, jun. The miners' agents present were – "Mr. Smillie, Larkhall; Mr. Wilson, Broxburn; Mr. Small, Blantyre; Mr. Brown, the Lothians; Mr. Muir, Ayrshire; Mr. Gilmour, Lanarkshire; and Mr. Cumming, Lanarkshire. The masters were the first to confer with his lordship; and after about 20 minutes the men's agents, who met in the committee-room No. 5, joined the Lord Provost and the non-associated masters. At the close of the conference, which lasted fully two hours, the Lord Provost stated to the representatives of the press that various proposals had been made by both parties, but that they did not wish them to be made public. They wished to say that concessions had been indicated by both parties that might be acceptable to those whom they represented; but as this had been a purely informal meeting, they did not wish any definite details to go abroad. The proposals would be discussed later on. The utmost courtesy, his Lordship said, had been shown by all parties, and after the harmonious meeting that day he would be delighted to see them again at any time. On the motion of Mr. Wilson, on behalf of the masters, seconded by Mr. Smillie, for the miners, a vote of thanks to the Lord Provost brought the meeting to a close.

THE MINERS' FEDERATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain met at York on Wednesday, and among the matters discussed was the present condition of affairs in Scotland. It was reported that negotiations were proceeding with the Lord Provost of Glasgow for bringing the dispute to a termination, but it was pointed out that these only affected a portion of the coalowners, and therefore only a section of the men. The Federation has all along held that where it was possible for the men to come to terms with the employers on the basis laid down by the Conciliation Board, it was desirable to do so. After some discussion; the following resolution was passed unanimously:—" That in any case where the men on strike in Scotland can settle at any collieries so as to resume work on the lines of settlement made by the Conciliation Board and the British Federation, they be recommended to do so, and we earnestly request the leaders of the men in Scotland to advocate this policy, and make arrangements when opportunity affords."

THE BOARD OF TRADE AND THE STRIKE.

The Exchange Telegraph Company states that important negotiations are in progress with a view to the settlement of the Scotch coal strike. Following upon the conference on Monday between the Lord Provost of Glasgow and the miners' representatives, Mr. Bryce conferred with a number of the Scotch coalowners at the Board of Trade on Wednesday, when a full statement of their case was laid before him. Throughout the struggle Mr Bryce has kept himself fully informed as to its details, and it is hoped that should such a step be feasible he will exert his influence as mediator between the masters and the men.

MEETINGS YESTERDAY.

Interest in connection with the strike centred yesterday in the conference of the Scottish Miners' Federation, which was held in the Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow, in the afternoon. The deliberations were of a most important character. They related to the terms on which the miners will resume work. The terms suggested before the Lord Provost as a basis of settlement were considered. The proposition was made that there should be a wage at the rate of 5s per day, to be guaranteed for twelve months. The point which the representatives of the miners considered was whether it would be better for them to accept these terms or to insist on an immediate increase in wages to the extent of sixpence per day, without any guarantee as to the period during which the increased rate should be paid. We understand that the decision arrived at was that the miners agree to accept an advance of 6d, provided it is guaranteed for eighteen months. A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Associated Coalmasters of Scotland and those owners who are working with them in the present dispute was held in Glasgow yesterday afternoon. Reports were submitted from the coalmasters who had been in London on Tuesday to lay the facts concerning the strike before the President of the Board as requested by him. With regard to the position taken up as to the strike, no change was intimated, the masters expressing themselves as still firm in maintaining the position assumed at the commencement of the dispute, to resist the men's demands for an advance in wages. It was reported yesterday that the English levies on behalf of the Scotch miners have not been so productive during the past fortnight as was expected. The total amount was stated to be about £12,000, and of that Fife will receive close upon £2500, leaving £9500 for the rest of Scotland. This gives about 3s 3d per man, as against 3s 1d and 4s 2d at the previous distributions.

FALKIRK DISTRICT.

The attitude of the miners in the Falkirk district continues firm. The vast majority of the men are hopeful that a satisfactory settlement of the dispute will shortly be arrived at. The effects of the strike, they state, are already, to a serious extent, manifesting themselves in the case of other industries in this neighbourhood and throughout the country, and they cannot imagine that the present condition of affairs can continue much longer. The strike continues to be popular amongst the men, and notwithstanding the state of privation to which many of them have been reduced, they say they would rather suffer than yield to the coalmasters on the present occasion. Meanwhile movements are on foot in various parts of the district for the relief of the distressed, a soup kitchen for Blackbraes and district has been opened in the hall at California, the use of which has been granted free of charge by the proprietor, Mr. Watson. It is estimated that 200 people are daily supplied here. The butcher meat, vegetables, &c., are supplied by friends in the neighbourhood. Much distress having been known to exist at Glen Village, Bentend, and Barleyside, at the instance of Mr. Muir, missionary, Glen Village, lines to procure free grocery goods are warranted to those who are actually known to be in want. This is found to be the best means of relieving the distress here, as the district is too much scattered to permit of a soup kitchen being established. The first distribution of the lines took place on Saturday. The officials of the Falkirk and District United Trades Council met in the Oddfellows' Hall on Saturday to receive subscriptions in aid of the miners. We learn that the sum collected was £4 10s, made up of contributions by working men varying from 3d to 5s. In the Carronshore district the effects of the strike have been pretty severely felt, and a good deal of destitution exists among miners and their families. A soup kitchen was commenced in the village on Tuesday, Miss Forrester having granted the use of a commodious shed for the purpose. Messrs Dobbie, Forbes, & Co. lent boilers, and local butchers and grocers, &c., assisted by providing provisions and subscriptions. On the opening day 430 individuals received an allowance of soup and bread, and the number has been increased from 25 to 30 each succeeding day. This is the only soup kitchen in the district, and it has to serve for Kinnaird, Longdyke, Carronshore, Carronhall, and Stenhouse. The public have been liberal in their response to appeals for aid, all the better class of residents having evinced their sympathy in a practical manner, and many promises of support have, to some extent, allayed anxiety as to the immediate future. In Falkirk a liberal response has been given to appeals for aid. In some of the foundries the men have agreed to contribute 6d each per week, and a number of householders in the town have also been contributing weekly subscriptions. Mr. Harry Smith, M.P. for the Falkirk Burghs, has not been unmindful of those who are in distress. In a letter, dated 7th August, to Mr. Andrew Allan, solicitor, Falkirk, Mr. Smith states that he does not know whether there has been much distress in Falkirk by reason of the present strike, but that he had had applications from some of the other burghs, though none from Falkirk. He did not like to leave for France, which he proposed doing on the following day, without sending something to help in Falkirk if there was distress there. Accordingly he enclosed a cheque for £5, which he asked Mr. Allan to administer for him in a way that would seem best for him if he found there was need for it. Mr. James Wilson, treasurer to the Forth and Clyde Valleys Miners' Association acknowledges receipt of a sum of £5 received from Mr. Waddell secretary of the Central Ironmoulders Association, Falkirk, in aid of the soup kitchens in the Redding district. In the Muiravonside and Avonbridge district what the miners look upon as an indication that work will shortly be resumed was the commencement on Tuesday evening of pumping operations at the pits. The machinery for pumping at Muiravonside, Blackston, Redford, Craigend, and Whiterigg Collieries, has been practically at a standstill since the commencement of the strike, and in most of the workings water has accumulated to a considerable depth. At Blackston, for instance, it is even possible to dip the water with pails from one of the shafts. The fact that the pumping operations have commenced is looked upon by the men as quite a good omen, as many of them think they see in it a desire on the coalmasters' part to have the dispute brought to a termination; and, as may be expected, the men conclude that the settlement to be arrived at will be favourable to them. From information one of our representatives, who visited the districts yesterday, was able to gather, it appears that the masters have no intention of giving way. The starting of the pumping operations is explained by the fact that they imagine a general settlement of the dispute will take place in the near future, and they only want to have everything in readiness to commence work. Such a precautionary measure is said to be necessary alike in the interests of masters and men, as several of the pits are so flooded with water that it will take weeks, and in some cases months, before any man will be able to proceed to his working place supposing the strike were to terminate this week. Besides, the resuming of the pumping operations will provide a water supply to a good many families in Standburn, who have been suffering so much for want of

water for some weeks past, that a discussion took place at a meeting of County Council on Thursday as to what should be done to afford them a supply. Yesterday in Muiravonside district everyone was awaiting the result of the conference which was being held in Glasgow, and the hope was, freely expressed throughout the district that a satisfactory settlement would be agreed upon at that meeting. In the afternoon small crowds of miners gathered in the vicinity of Polmont Station and eagerly scanned the pages of the evening papers for the latest information.

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL. MEETING OF EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday forenoon. Mr. George Ure of Wheatlands presided over a large attendance of members, NEW MEMBERS. The Clerk read a letter from the inspector of poor for the parish of Slamannan stating that Mr. Wm. Wood, Prospectview House, Slamannan, had been appointed to represent the Board in the County Council in room of the late Mr. Smith. A letter was also read from the clerk to the Bothkennar Parochial Board intimating that Mr. Charles Brown, factor, Kerse, had been appointed to represent the Board on the County Council in room of Mr. John Fairley of Avonhall. Mr. Wood was present with them that day. The Chairman said he was pleased to introduce their friend, Mr. Wood, to the meeting. They all regretted the cause which had brought him here, but at the same time they were pleased that they had got a gentleman like Mr. Wood to represent the Slamannan district. He had known Mr. Wood for about 30 years, and he knew he would be a very great acquisition to the Council. It was a pleasing thing to him, as it was no doubt to all of them, to know that the Parochial Boards of the district were sending such excellent representatives to the Board. (Applause.)

AN HONOUR TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL Mr. M'Killop of Polmont Park said that before commencing the business of the day he would like to refer to an exceptional and happy circumstance which had occurred in connection with some of their members since they last met together. His Grace the Duke of Montrose, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, had considered it to be his duty to recommend to Her Majesty that two of their number - one their respected chairman, who had worthily presided over their deliberations for several years, and the other Mr. Peddie Waddell, the vice-convenor of the county - should have the honourable distinction conferred upon them of being created Deputy-Lieutenants of this important county. (Applause.) He was sure they all felt that no two gentlemen within the borders of this county could have been more fitly chosen, or who were more worthy of recognition and distinction at Her Majesty's hands - (applause) - for the good influences which had characterised each of those gentlemen's private lives could only exercise inspiration and emulation to everyone who had had the pleasure of their acquaintance. (Applause.) The experience they all had of them in their public capacity, and particularly in relation to the county work, and of the sound, practical mind, and calm, unbiassed, and discriminating judgment, which at all times animated their every action in connection with their public duties, made them feel it an honour to be associated with them in public council, and undoubtedly put the county of Stirling under an obligation to them, and gentlemen like them, as public servants. (Applause.) It could be truly said of Mr. Ure and of Mr. Peddie Waddell that the noblest purpose of their minds, and that which animated their public conduct, was to promote the public good, and he was expressing the sentiments of the meeting when he said that in honouring those two gentlemen they felt that a personal honour had been conferred on themselves and on the County Council of Stirlingshire. He begged to move that they record in their minutes an expression of the committee's appreciation of the honour conferred upon Mr. Ure and Mr. Peddie Waddell. (Applause.) This proposal met with unanimous assent. Mr. Ure, in replying, said that when the unsolicited and unexpected honour was intimated to him, and when he was asked to accept of it by the Duke of Montrose his first impulse was to refuse it - it came so unexpectedly upon him. But on thinking the matter over he saw clearly that the honour had been done him because of his connection with the County Council, and he thought it would be churlish on his part to deprive them of the honour which was conferred on their chairman. He therefore considered it his duty to accept of the appointment, and he intimated the same to the Duke of Montrose, and he took this opportunity of thanking his Grace. It was a matter of great gratification to him that his Grace considered he was worthy of the honour. The greatest satisfaction he had in the acceptance of it was that he was considered worthy of bearing such an honour for the Eastern District Committee of the County Council. He thanked the gentlemen present - and Mr. M'Killop in particular - for their kind recognition of the distinction paid him. He was afraid that Mr. M'Killop's good feeling towards him had led him to put things rather strongly with regard to him. ("No, no") Mr. Peddie Waddell of Balquhatston also returned thanks for the kind way in which the committee had received his appointment. He hoped that anything he would ever attempt to do would be for the public good. The honour had been to him an unexpected one, and, like the chairman, he looked upon it not so much in the light of an honour conferred upon himself as upon the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council.

MINERS' HOUSES WITHOUT A WATER SUPPLY.

The Inspector, in his monthly report, stated that the supply of water to the village of Standburn, in the parish of Muiravonside, which was taken from the Candy Pit, had been cut off for the last five weeks, and the people were suffering very much for want of water. It was fortunate that the rainfall had helped so far to relieve the distress, but unless something were done at once to have the water supply restored to this village they might look for serious results. One case of typhoid fever had been reported from the Candy Row. He stated that since the coal strike commenced the engines which pumped the supply from the coal pits had been stopped, and the occupants of the houses were using rain water. Colonel Stirling - The company offered to work the pumps - if the occupants of the homes at Standburn would pay 1s per week The Inspector - They did make an offer that if the occupants of two apartment houses would pay 1 1/2d per day and the occupants of one apartment houses 1d per day, they would put on the pumps, but the people had no money. Dr. McVail - A case of the same kind was before the Sheriff in Lanarkshire, and it has been taken to avizandum. By waiting a few days for the Sheriff's decision you will get a legal opinion without having to pay for one. In the Lanarkshire case a district committee had asked a firm of coalmasters to provide water to houses similarly situated to those in Maddiston, and having refused to do so, the case had been carried to the Sheriff Mr. Hunter - The point is - The proprietors are bound to supply water to their houses. Are they doing so? The Chairman - It is very hard that people should build houses without providing them with water, and that the tenants should have to ask the County Council to give them a supply. Colonel Stirling - In the houses we are dealing with the tenants are required to leave them on getting one week's notice. The Chairman - It does not matter. They should not be without a water supply even for one week Dr. McVail - Mr. Burns, Mr. Denholm, and I had a conference with a representative of the firm in my office on the matter, and I spoke to Mr. M'Killop, who was anxious about the matter. I told them that we might have to report this question to the District Committee, and they made a house-to-house visitation to ascertain whether the people would contribute to have the pumping of the water continued, but they declined to do so. This visitation strengthens the firm's hands somewhat. The Chairman - Mr. M'Killop is not a member of that firm. Dr. McVail - He is a sleeping partner, and he is with us in this matter. Colonel Stirling - The parties who supply the water are the miners themselves. It is on account of their having refused to go on with their work that the supply of water is cut off. (Laughter.) Mr. Orr - Quite right. Go on, make a point of that. (Laughter.) The subject was allowed to lie over until a decision in the Lanarkshire case was given.

Falkirk Herald Thursday 13th August 1894

SHERIFF COURT - At his Court on Saturday - before Sheriff Bell - Alexander Heaps and David Ure, both miners, residing at Blackbraes, were charged with having stolen two turnips from a field on a farm near Slamannan on Thursday. They were found guilty, and sentenced to pay each 7s 6d, or go for 7 days to jail.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 15th August 1894**LINLITHGOW.****EXCURSION.**

On Wednesday the ladies and gentlemen who composed the Free Church Choir during the time when Mr. Newton, the late precentor, acted in that capacity, had an excursion to Campsie Glen. The company, to the number of over twenty, left Linlithgow shortly after seven o'clock in the morning in a brake and waggonette supplied by Mr. White, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald, 17th August, 1894.**FALKIRK AND DISTRICT TRADES COUNCIL.**

A meeting of the Falkirk and District Trades Council was held on Wednesday evening in the Oddfellows' Hall - Mr. Wm. Strang, president, in the chair.

RELIEF TO THE STRIKERS.

Representatives were present from the various districts to report as to the condition of the strikers and their families and as to the provision that was being made by the soup kitchens. The Chairman said that the bread which had been so kindly produced by the Bainsford and Grahamston Baking Society for the benefit of necessitous cases had been distributed as follows : - Summerhouse, which had 135 children to be supplied, had been allocated 40 loaves; Shieldhill, 160 children, 45 loaves ; California, 250 children, 70 loaves; Standrigg, 232 children, 65 loaves. There had thus been supplied 777 children, and 220 loaves had been distributed. Almost all the bread had been dispensed, and while they had hoped that the Slamannan district would have come in for a share, they found that what had been left was not worth sending up. One of the miners' representatives stated that two new soup kitchens had been started in Redding and Reddingmuirhead, the former supplying 125, and the latter, 143. He asked that they should be remembered. The Chairman stated that if the Council were the means of getting a farther supply of bread from any other source the two soup kitchens mentioned would be kept in mind along with Slamannan district. The Chairman then asked for reports from the various district representatives as to the provision made through the soup kitchens. These reports were given to the following effect: - Shieldhill. - The number of children supplied at the Shieldhill soup kitchen was 160, and they received soup and bread at dinner time and porridge and milk at night. The soup kitchen had been started a fortnight ago, and they had a few shillings still on hand. Their average daily expenditure had been 11s 11d. California. - The soup kitchen in California had been in operation for 16 days. They had received by subscriptions up to Wednesday morning, £11 19s 11d ; and they had expended £9 19s 6d, leaving them a balance still on hand of £2 0s 5d. They had supplied 250 children on an average daily, and Blackbraes children had participated. On the day previous, however, Blackbraes people had opened a kitchen of their own. Blawearie. - The soup kitchen in Blawearie, which up till Saturday had been managed by a private party, had been in their hands since then. During the period from Saturday till Wednesday their receipts from subscriptions had been £4 16s, and they had £1 5s still on hand. Their average daily outlay was 11s 10d, and they supplied 480 children. Maddiston and Rumford. - There were 200 children in these two places, and nothing had been given to the children this week by a soup kitchen in Maddiston. In Rumford there were about 150 children whom they supplied, and their average daily expenditure cost between 6s and 7s. They had about 8s left on hand. Standrigg. - The total receipts since the institution of the soup kitchen at Standrigg had been £7 15s and the outlay £5 5s. Glen Village. - A soup kitchen had been started in Glen Village on Saturday, and during the four days of its existence they had received a sum of £10 4s 4d. Their expenditure had been £2 16s 10d, and the balance still in hand was £7 7s 6d. They supplied 180 children daily. Reddingmuirhead - A soup kitchen was started here on Monday, and the average number of children whom they had supplied was 143. During that time they had received by subscription and otherwise a sum of £1 11s 4d, and out of that for the maintenance of the soup kitchen they had expended £1 7s 10d. Redding Village. - A soup kitchen had also been started at Redding Village on Monday, and they supplied daily 125 children. They had a balance on hand of £1 1s 6d. Mr. Jack reported on behalf of Carronshore district. He said that the miners there were getting on very well. It was eight days since they had started the soup kitchen, and the children were receiving a meal once a day. He did not know exactly how much they had on hand, but it was a good amount. A Delegate I was informed to-day by the secretary at Carronshore that the amount that they had on hand was £25 16s. Slamannan - Eight soup kitchens were embraced in the Slamannan district, and they were all in a very bad plight. In Slamannan village 400 children were fed daily, and the soup kitchen there could go on for a few days longer. There were 310 children in the Burnrow district to be supplied from the soup kitchen, and last Thursday it became bankrupt, so that 15s had to be disbursed from the Slamannan Central Relief Fund to keep it going on Friday and Saturday. On Saturday, however, through the agency of the Slamannan Co-operative Society, who contributed £1 10s, and the Central Committee, who gave 12s, they were put in possession of further funds to the extent of £2 2s. Binniehill had 214 children to be supplied, and they were in a poor way for money. Limerigg had 350, and the soup kitchen there could go on for about a week yet. Barnsmuir with 150 children had no funds, and Southmuir with 170 children had only what contributions they had received from Slamannan on Saturday. Pirnie Lodge and Drumciarr were in the same position. Of the whole places he had named, Slamannan and Limerigg were alone able to continue for any time. One meal a day was given at each of the soup kitchens he had named. Mr. Jack stated that in the Kilsyth district 2400 children had to be fed, and that it took £40 a week to do so. Subscriptions had been received towards the upkeep of the soup kitchen, but they were in straits, and asked him to enquire whether the Trades Council could not help them. Arrangements were made with the Council for the supplying of vegetables for the various soup kitchens in the southern district, including Slamannan. The California Delegate proposed a vote of thanks to the Council for the sympathy which they had shown to the distressed miners in the south, and also for the practical help the Council had given them since they became aware that so much destitution prevailed. (Applause.) The Slamannan Delegate, on behalf of the other representatives, expressed their sincere thanks to the Bainsford and Grahamston Baking Society for supplying bread. (Applause.) On the motion of Mr. Caw, it was resolved by the Council to ask the Baking Society to supply further bread. If granted it was agreed that, special attention should be paid to the Slamannan district. The representatives then withdrew. The Secretary read a letter from the secretary of the Falkirk Liberal Association which stated that Mr. Harry Smith, M.P., having placed in his hands a sum of money for distribution among persons suffering from the coal strike, he thought the Trades Council were likely to know the best means of reaching and benefitting really necessitous cases. He accordingly enclosed a cheque for £2 for distribution among each case on the understanding that the money would be applied for food alone. (Applause) The delegates recently appointed to canvass the town for subscriptions towards the relief of the miners expressed their objection to further prosecute a canvass since the miners themselves had overrun the town raising subscriptions. The motion was unanimously carried.

Falkirk Herald 18th August 1894**MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.**

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held on Tuesday afternoon at Maddiston. Colonel Stirling presided, and the other members present were Messrs Robert Wilson, John Bryce, Daniel Binnie, W. Murray, Andrew Reid, and James M'Kay.

THE OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Officer reported the school attendances since last meeting as follows: -

On	Aver.
Roll.	Attn.
Blackbraes 331	265
Drumbowie 458	261

The number of children from Muiravonside parish in attendance at the Avonbridge Combined School was - on the roll, 60; average attendance, 40. The officer stated that the average attendances were not up to the usual, but that was to be accounted for by the fact that there were a number of cases of whooping cough in Muiravonside and of fever in Blackbraes, and also by the holidays taking place. As instructed he had learned that the number of children from Polmont parish attending the Blackbraes School was 93, the number from Muiravonside parish attending schools in Polmont parish was 34, and the number from Muiravonside parish attending the Roman Catholic School was 25. The number of children attending Muiravonside School from Maddiston village was 57, and the number attending Drumbowie School 27, making a total from Maddiston of 84.

AVONBRIDGE COMBINED SCHOOL.

The Clerk stated that last week he had had a letter from the clerk of the Slamannan School Board asking to be informed whether the Muiravonside Board had arrived at any decision in regard to the addition to Avonbridge Public School. He had replied to that letter by saying that no further step had been taken by the Muiravonside Board other than that with which the Slamannan Board had been made acquainted, because there had been nothing heard from the Torphichen Board further on the matter. The Clerk also stated that he had received information since from the Slamannan Board stating that a meeting had been held by them, at which the matter of the addition to the Avonbridge School had been before them. In view of the refusal of the Torphichen Board to contribute to the cost of same, it had then been resolved that the children from Torphichen parish should not be taught in the Avonbridge School, and that intimation of this be made to the Torphichen Board, the resolution to come into effect one month from date. The Slamannan Board asked whether the Muiravonside Board concurred in the decision. The Chairman - I think there is nothing for it but to concur in the resolution arrived at. This was agreed to. Mr. Reid - There will be no necessity for an addition in the meantime then? The Clerk - I suppose not. AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE REPORTS.

The Clerk read a letter from the Clerk of the Slamannan School Board stating that the headmaster of the Avonbridge School had brought under their notice the request of the Muiravonside Board to prepare the monthly average attendances of the children from Muiravonside parish separately, and that the Slamannan Board had allowed consideration of the letter to lie over till next meeting. Meanwhile, the letter continued, it was only reasonable to expect that the Muiravonside Board would supply the necessary additional registers and perhaps a small allowance for the extra trouble in making up the average separately. After consideration, it was agreed to communicate with the Slamannan School Board and state that if the headmaster objected to supply the required information through the officer as formerly, they would receive it through their clerk. Mr. Reid - They are entitled to give us all information regarding the pupils attending Avonbridge School from this parish.

INCREASE OF TEACHERS' SALARIES. The Chairman stated that the next business was to resume the delayed consideration of the application for increase of salary by Miss Armstrong, ex P.T., Muiravonside School. Miss Armstrong's present yearly salary, he said, was £30. Mr. M'Kay said he objected to an increase of the salary. As they were aware from the report of H.M. Inspector, the Muiravonside School earned the poorest grant and made the poorest pass in the parish. The Board earned less grant from it, and yet they paid most for its upkeep. Mr. Reid - Oh, no, Mr. M'Kay, that's wrong. You will have to calculate again, I'm afraid. Mr. Binnie said that if the teacher was deserving of the increase - and he believed she was - then he thought she was entitled to receive it. Mr. Murray said that he was very much in favour of people being paid adequately for their work, because if they were underpaid they could not expect to have the work efficiently done. Mr. Bryce - I move that Miss Armstrong get an advance on her salary on the ground that she has been sufficient time in the service of the Board, and that there was an understanding that she should get an increase. Mr. Binnie seconded, suggesting that the increase be to £35, to which Mr. Bryce agreed. Mr. M'Kay - I think it very wrong, indeed, to spend more money where so little work is got. I think - Mr. Bryce - Mr. Chairman, I rise to order. Mr. M'Kay has repeatedly said that the Board gets little or no return from Muiravonside School, and that is not so I think it is preposterous nonsense for Mr. M'Kay to talk as he has been doing. The Chairman - Oh, gentlemen! Mr. M'Kay, I have a perfect right to say what I have been saying, and I am not out of order. You, Mr. Bryce, were the only man at the election who talked about - The Chairman - I think this should cease. Mr. M'Kay says that a great deal of money has been spent on Muiravonside School, with but a poor return. I hold in my hand a statement which shows the amount of grant earned in the various schools as follows: - 18s 3d per head in Muiravonside; 18s 11/2d per head in Drumbowie; and 20s 5d per head in Blackbraes. The cost of the staff at Muiravonside is £1 12s 01/2d; at Drumbowie, £1 5s 21/2d; and at Blackbraes, £1 10s 4d. Now, there is no doubt whatever that the smaller a school is the greater will be the cost per head for the staff, and the larger the school the less the cost. I consider, from the figures I have read, that Muiravonside has not cost us more than what we might expect. You will observe that the earnings by grant are quite equal to those of Drumbowie. I do not know that we have any reason to complain regarding the Muiravonside School at all. It was then agreed to grant an increase of £5 on Miss Armstrong's salary, the increase to take effect from date.

INCREASE OF CLERK'S SALARY.

An application by Mr. Thomas Wilson, clerk and treasurer of the Board, for an increase of his salary was considered. It was stated that his present salary amounted to £25 per annum, and that his duties during recent years had been made greater owing to the increase of the population in the parish and the consequent increase in school attendance. The general feeling of the Board having been expressed in favour of holding Board meetings in future in one or other of the schools rather than in the clerk's house, it was agreed, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Binnie, to raise the salary to £30 a year.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION QUESTION.

Mr. Murray said that before moving the motion of which he had given notice for the erection of a school at Maddiston, he would like to learn something about the proposal made some time ago for an extension of the Blackbraes School. He did not think that at the present time they should go on with the extension at all. They had 93 children from Polmont parish attending that school, and was it right for them as a Board to burden the ratepayers of Muiravonside with accommodating Polmont parish? The Chairman - Certainly, we only require to provide for the requirements of our own parish. Mr. Binnie - Then you will require to notify the Polmont School Board. Mr. Murray - I would not like to do that that now. I do not think, however, that we should have any extension at Blackbraes meantime. Mr. Binnie - So long as there is plenty of room in Blackbraes School, I understand that there will be no objection taken to the Polmont children. The Chairman - That is so. Mr. M'Kay - The position of matters, according to the officer's report, is this, that we are providing school accommodation to a larger number of children from Polmont parish than Polmont parish does for us. There should therefore be no necessity for an increase in the accommodation. After further consideration it was agreed to accept the offer, amounting to £45, of Mr. William Walker, joiner and builder, Redding, for the execution of certain alterations on the schoolhouse at Blackbraes, and it was remitted to the committee to see these carried through, as also the provision of arrangements for cookery classes.

MADDISTON SCHOOL PROPOSAL.

Mr. Murray then moved his motion that a new school be erected at Maddiston. He made the motion, he said, at the request of the ratepayers in Maddiston, who believed that a school was much needed there. They thought it very hard that their children should be compelled to travel to school to Muiravonside or Drumbowie on a winter day, and he himself thought it was a hardship on children of perhaps five years that they had to do so. Maddiston was increasing in population and its requirements were becoming greater, and he did not think that if such a school as he proposed were built it would injure any of the others. He submitted his motion at the request of the ratepayers, and he commended it to their favourable consideration. The

Chairman - said they all sympathised with the desire of Maddiston people to have a school in the village, but the Board had to consider what effect it would have on the parish generally. He did not agree with Mr. Murray that it would do no harm to Muiravonside or Drumbowie Schools. He thought it would have a great effect on them. Let them also look to the cost. Altogether he thought they should not carry such a proposal then. Maddiston was increasing in population, and if it increased in the future in the same ratio as of late, a school might come to be a necessity. Mr. McKay said he thought it would scarcely be advisable to go on with a school in Maddiston, but it might be sufficient for the wants of Maddiston in the meantime if Mr. Murray modified his request to an infant school. Such a school would accommodate the younger section, leaving the elder children to go to Drumbowie. By the withdrawal of the younger children from Drumbowie also it would relieve that school to some extent and perhaps do away with the need for building there. Mr. Murray might confer with the ratepayers and learn what would be their mind on such a suggestion. The Chairman said that he was afraid they would be unable to come to any decision then, and he would propose that Mr. Murray delay putting his motion till they could consider it. There should be no rashness in dealing with such a matter. Mr. Bryce said that if the time was coming when they would require more accommodation, he would be in favour of building in or about Maddiston. Mr. Murray expressed his agreement with the chairman's proposal, which was adopted.

HEADMASTER'S SALARIES

Mr. McKay, in supporting his motion, of which he had given notice, in favour of fixing headmasters' salaries, said that he believed it was wrong in principle to pay masters by grants or proportions of grants. He believed it was against the spirit of the educational code, and he also believed that very shortly Boards everywhere would be called upon to adopt another method of payment. He thought they might fix the headmaster's salary by taking the average of what had been earned in grants in the various schools during the last three, four, or five years. The Chairman said that he had always held that it was very desirable that the head teachers should be interested in the inspection of the schools and in the grants which were given according to the merits of the inspection. But he agreed that it might occur, and he believed it had occurred in that parish in consequence of the increase of population, that headmasters did receive as salaries more than what was necessary or desirable. He was inclined to approve of a maximum being declared, say, of £200. Mr. Reid proposed that they should delay the matter so as to give opportunity for its consideration, and in order that the clerk might prepare the average earnings by grant and the motion was carried.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

The Chairman having read a report by an examiner from the association for aiding School Boards in the examination of religious instruction on the schools in the parish, the report being very favourable, Mr. Murray moved that a committee should be appointed to supervise such instruction in the schools under the Board. He said that notwithstanding the report which had been read, he knew that the religious instruction given was not satisfactory to a great number of the ratepayers. They had committees for attending to the repairing of the schools and other matters, and he thought they might well appoint a committee to look after religious instruction of the children. Mr. Reid - What would be the duties of the committee? Mr. Murray said that that would be for the Board to say. He was in favour of the committee performing the duties performed by a similar committee in connection with the Falkirk Burgh School Board. After considerable discussion, Mr. Murray agreed not to put his motion until next meeting, when he would be prepared to state definitely what duties would be required of the committee which he proposed should be appointed.

This was all the business of importance.

STIRLINGSHIRE ROADS AND BRIDGES.

STOPPAGE OF TRAFFIC.

NOTICE.

Whereas RUMFORD BRIDGE, on the Road between Brightons and Maddiston, is about to undergo Repairs, INTIMATION IS HEREBY GIVEN in terms of the Roads and Bridges (Scotland) Act, 1878, that the ROADWAY over the said BRIDGE will be CLOSED against all Traffic from the Morning of MONDAY, 3rd September next, until such time as the Repairs have been completed. ;

By Order, WM. BALLANTINE, Road Surveyor,

SCHOOL ACCOMODATION

A question that often perplexes School Boards is that with reference to the accommodation in the schools under their jurisdiction of children from neighbouring parishes. So long as there is sufficient space for them no objection is raised, but when the attendance exceeds the accommodation, and when the necessity for school extension presents itself, the question that generally arises is whether the children from other parishes should not be excluded from the schools. In some instances arrangements exist between neighbouring Boards to give accommodation for a specified number of children from either parish. But this does not alter matters greatly, as when the number is exceeded and the schools are overcrowded trouble is certain to ensue unless the Board the children from whose parish are getting accommodation are prepared to bear a share of the expense of providing extra accommodation. If there be a failure to do so the result is invariably the same. The Board providing extra accommodation decline to burden the ratepayers of their own parish with the cost of making provision for the children for the children from other parishes. There have been several instances of that in this district. Recently the Larbert School Board resolved to admit only a certain number of children from Bothkennar parish to the Carronshore School because the Board of the latter parish declined to contribute what was asked to the cost of enlarging that school. On similar grounds the Muiravonside and Slamannan School Boards have agreed to exclude children from Torphichen parish. Doubtless the several Boards concerned consider they have good reasons for the course they adopt - either on the one hand refusing to admit children to their schools or on the other in refusing to contribute to the cost of building - but the friction that arises and the results thereof must occasion inconvenience to parents, and no little hardship to children, who may be compelled to go a considerable distance to schools, when, were it not for this trouble arising between Boards, they could attend one within reasonable distance. It is to be regretted that some general arrangement does not exist whereby such cases as those indicated could be regulated. Some years ago a proposal was discussed for the substitution of district for parish Boards. It was contended in support of it that education would be more efficiently and economically managed than under the existing system. Whether that would be the case or not need not be here inquired, It may be said, however, that it would, by widening the areas of jurisdiction, tend to lessen the number of conflicts that arise between Boards on the question referred to. But as there seems little prospect of such a scheme being introduced, one would hope that Boards, while having due regard to the interests of their respective ratepayers, will also have consideration for the children, and so arrange matters between them that schools will be as easy of access as possible.

THE MINERS STRIKE IN SCOTLAND

The chief topic of discussion during the past week in connection with the miners' strike has been the decision arrived at by the Scottish Miners Federation on Friday in favour of a modification of the demands of the men and a partial settlement. While a considerable number of the men in several districts signified approval of this proposal very strong objection was taken to it by others. Referring to the position of affairs in the beginning of the week the North British Daily Mail said - "From certain incidents which occurred last Friday some might venture to suggest that the great army of seventy thousand colliers rather open the eighth week's campaign fighting the one against the other. No more reasonable and natural construction might have been put on the situation were it clearly recognised on all sides that the delegates - at least 35 of them - voiced the opinion of their constituencies at Friday's conference, when by this number as against it 31 it was decided to modify the demand from 1s to 6d per day. None, however - no matter how closely he is in touch with the men and their representatives - feel justified in guaranteeing that either the body of 35 or the 31 delegates by their votes expressed the views of the mass of men behind them. Therefore it would seem

– notwithstanding the differences existing among the leaders – that the country stand as firmly together as they did seven weeks ago in their demand for better wages." Throughout the week the differences between parties became more pronounced, and in many quarters disapproval of the policy of the majority of the Federation was very strongly expressed. In consequence great interest was taken in the meeting of that body, which was held in Glasgow on Thursday. From the feeling which prevailed among the miners throughout the country it was generally believed that there would be a complete reversal of the policy advocated by the majority of the leaders, and this is exactly what has taken place. After deliberation the conference resolved by a large majority to reverse the decision to accept a reduction. As has been said, it is somewhat difficult to understand how, in the face of the determination of the masters to resist the demands made; there appears so much confidence of success on the part of the men. It is stated, however – though what grounds there are for the statement cannot be said – that there are indications that the coalowners are becoming wearied of the long stoppage, and are beginning to sum up the loss they are incurring by allowing valuable plant to stand worthless, practically, not to speak of the other more important disadvantages in the way of letting the English masters into the Scottish field. This may be the case, though to outward appearance the masters, as well as the men, are still firm. Indeed judging from the attitude of parties at the present time, there seems to be little prospect of an early settlement.

AVONBRIDGE.

Messrs A. & D. Gardner, woolen manufactures, have closed their works for the want of fuel. This being the busy season, it is causing great inconvenience. About a dozen hands are thrown idle by the stoppage. A number of miners are getting odd days assisting the farmers with their hay. A band of miners from Black-loch and Barnmuir passed through the village on Monday on their way to Linlithgow. Headed by a piper, they presented rather an amusing appearance. Some of them were all in white, with black gloves, others were vice-versa. A number of them wore tall hats. The rear was brought up by two burly fellows, dressed in black, walking along arm in arm, with an umbrella, full of rents, held high above their heads.

STANDBURN

The miners' usual fortnightly levy was distributed in Mr. Hoggan's hall on Saturday afternoon. The amount was 3s 3d. The soup kitchen was closed for a day or two during the week for want of supplies.

CROSSCROES.

A soup kitchen has been opened. The children are supplied with a good dinner each day.

DEMONSTRATION OF STIRLINGSHIRE AND LINLITHGOWSHIRE MINERS.

A demonstration of Stirlingshire and Linlithgowshire miners was held at Jinkabout, near Polmont, on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of considering the decision come to at the meeting of the Scottish Miners' Federation held in Glasgow last Friday. There would be an attendance of 3000, the colliery districts represented being Redding, Blackbraes, Callendar, Slamannan, Carron, Grangemouth, Bo'ness, and Grangepens. The miners arrived on the field which had been granted for the meeting by Mr. Wilson, J.P, in seven detachments, each headed by a band. The Redding and Blackbraes men displayed effigies of Mr. Wilson, miners' agent, Broxburn, and Mr. Weir, Fife miners' agent, and the burning of these on the ground prior to the meeting caused some diversion. The Slamannan men carried two large banners bearing appropriate mottoes, on one of the banners being a very fair likeness of Mr. Chisholm Robertson.

MR. JOHN JACK, Carron, president of the Forth and Clyde Miners' Association, presided, and addressed the gathering from a lorry which was utilised as a platform. He briefly explained the purpose for which the meeting had been called, and said it was regrettable that any division they had met to consider, and he hoped to condemn, should have taken place in the ranks of the miners' leaders at the present time. On the 25th June the miners of Scotland came out on strike in order to have a shilling per day, which had been taken from their wages, restored to them. Ever since then they had been fighting manfully for the concession of their demands, and he was not aware that there was a single miner in Stirlingshire who had publicly expressed an opinion in favour of these demands being modified. (Applause.) He observed that Mr. Weir had been attending a meeting of the English Federation Executive, and he told them that the advice of that body was that the Scotch miners should return to work on the same terms as the English miners did when last on strike. He (Mr. Jack) understood that when the Scotch miners came out the strike was supposed to be a national one, and there were to be no partial settlements – that when they came out for a shilling they would only go in with the shilling. (Cheers.) He therefore saw no need for altering that position. (Cheers.) In introducing Mr. Chisholm Robertson to the meeting, Mr. Jack said the miners were proud to have such a leader in their midst. (Cheers.) He had not budged one inch since the day the struggle commenced, and he stood as firm by their side to-day as ever he did, determined to fight their battle to the bitter end. He need not say that every miner present was prepared to support him in fighting that battle. (Cheers.) Their very presence in such large numbers that day showed that they were on his side, and that they were even more determined than what they were when the strike began to fight for their just demands. (Cheers.) It had been mentioned to him that if the miners would agree to pay 6d per week after they began work on the advance of 1s per day until the sum was repaid, there was a gentleman willing to advance them £70, 00 in order to meet the coalmasters. That sum, added to the support they were getting from the British Federation, might enable them to hold on, and the offer was worthy of consideration. (Cheers.)

MR. CHISHOLM ROBERTSON, who was accorded an enthusiastic reception, said they had met that afternoon at a moment of great crisis. Their forefathers, and they in their own day, had longed for the time when they would be able to get the Scotch miners to combine for a common object and to lay down their tools unitedly on one day, and for the first time in the history of the mining industry the very thing they had longed for had been realized in the present struggle. Notwithstanding that, eight members of the Scotch Executive had been false to their position and responsibility, and had done what they could to make the present movement a failure. As they had that day exploded some of their effigies so he had been able, without spending powder and shot, to explode their fallacies, and make bare the absurdity of their position to the public, and to all right-thinking people. The miners of Scotland had come out on strike for the first time in the history of the mining industry by a new method – the method of the ballot. By two to one they declared that they would come out in a body for the 1s per day that the masters improperly endeavoured to reduce their wages. On hundreds of platforms since the strike began he had vindicated their claim. He had produced facts and figures in support of their claim, and along with others who were now in the camp of the enemy, he had been able to prove the justness and honesty of their demand. Continuing, he referred to the position he had taken up in favour of a general strike and no partial settlements at the conference the strike was resolved upon. He was warmly backed up by Mr. Wilson, Broxburn, who seconded his motion to that effect. He (Mr. Robertson) told the Federation that if they did not adopt his proposal they would have great difficulty in getting the whole of the miners in every part of the country to stop work. What was Mr. Wilson's attitude at that meeting? He (Mr. Robertson) was speaking now in the hearing of ten delegates who were present at that conference. Mr. Wilson said "I tell you honestly, gentlemen, if you do not pass this resolution, proposed by Mr. Robertson, which I am now seconding, I will go back to West Lothian to-night, and I shall have every miner there back at work to-morrow." Other delegates reasoned with him that his position was a most improper one, and urged him to abide by the decision of the meeting. The resolution was carried, and the strike began, and continued in a course favourable to the miners. Presbyteries and municipalities had in the interest of other industries of the country which the strike was effecting, endeavoured to get the miners and coalmasters to meet together with the object of arriving at a settlement. What was the reply of the coalmasters to these bodies? They said – "We will not meet with the miner's leaders. We will not disclose our position. We will by force of our money, by the knowledge we have of the comfortable position of our families, and our knowledge that the miners are getting into straightened circumstances, test our strength against the miners' stomachs." The miners had

a fair case; public sympathy was aroused in their favour, and every agency was used to secure for their effort success. The leaders of the miners had a conference a fortnight ago, and there was not a word uttered then in favour of a modified or partial settlement. Two days later Mr. Wilson went to a meeting and made a personal attack on him, and made a proposal that whenever the masters made a partial settlement the miners should go back to work. Mr. Wilson based his attack on the fact that two days previously, he (Mr. Robertson) had said some unkind things about the coalmasters. (Laughter) Well, everyone knew he loved the coalmasters, (Laughter and applause.) Everyone knew that the love he showed to the coalmasters was more than reciprocated by them. (Laughter) He said the masters wanted to starve the men into unfair terms. They were fighting against the coalmasters, said Mr. Robertson, and did they not want some one to hit the coalmasters as hard as they could be hit? (Cheers.) He told them that deliberately that afternoon that the coalmasters were trying to starve them. His position was this, that after the decision of the conference on Tuesday of last week that no partial reduction should be made, every delegate and every gentleman attending that conference was bound to advocate that policy, and advocate nothing else, until success had attended their efforts. No gentleman had any right to go from the conference and propose outside amongst the miners anything but what the conference had agreed upon. The duty of every delegate was that, if he saw anything to indicate that a change of policy was necessary he should come to the conference and say so there. If the conference decided in that delegate's favour, and agreed that a change of policy was necessary, then the proposal should be put to the miners to ascertain whether they would accept it or not. Yet within two days after the conference Mr. Wilson went to the country and published his proposal in favour of a modified settlement. Mr. Wilson's whole aim seemed to be to stand well before his country as against other agents who were advocating for a different policy than his. He wanted to obtain a notoriety that he could not otherwise have obtained, to win the respect of the coalmasters, and to have the newspapers applauding him as a sagacious leader. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Weir, Mr. Muir, Mr. Smellie, Mr. Brown, and others had changed their front since the day they declared in favour of no partial settlement, and they gave as a reason for their doing so that the miners of England wished their settlement to be a partial one. Was this not known to the leaders he referred to before the strike began? They said it was because this course had been adopted by the English miners that success had been brought to them during the last struggle. But the fact was that the English were tired of their strike; they could not hold out any longer, they were breaking away everywhere, while the Scotch miners were standing loyally together. Therefore the English terms of the settlement did not hold with them in the present strike. But they were told that they must accept this settlement or the support of the English miners would be withdrawn. Those who talked in that fashion tried to mislead them in order to get a vote in their favour. The rule was that was begun a special conference should be called to consider the matter, and if authority were given for the strike by a majority of the conference it would be a legal one, and the Federation would be bound to support the men on strike. The Scotch miners were brought out on strike by a specially called conference in Carlisle, and they could not be brought back to work except they got the terms for which they came out on strike. The British Federation could not ride roughshod over the rules, and were bound to give them financial aid until the coalmasters conceded to them the demand for which they struck work. (Cheers.) The question of a partial settlement he need not discuss with them, as it was well known, from past movements, that were 20 or 30 miners allowed to go back to work in any part of the country, public interest in their favour, and the amount of money given to help them would be lessened. Picketing would be required; the employers would take advantage of the changed circumstances, and the result would be that the men would be compelled to return to work without getting the terms for which they came out on strike. A conference was held a week ago, at which the whole question of partial settlement was considered. That conference was quite an informal one, as he was secretary of the Scottish Miners Federation, and as secretary all communications should pass through his hands. A communication was said to have come from one of the agents, but he (Mr. Robertson) did not see it, and had not seen it up till now. Some agent, it was said, had an interview with some of the coalmasters, and this agent requested him to call a conference, and the conference was called. He (Mr. Robertson) learned only in the morning of the conference that the conference was held to consider a request of some of the coalmasters that the men should go back to work on reduced terms. He proposed a resolution that they should stand out as a body until the coalmasters agreed to meet with them for a general settlement. From Lanarkshire and Ayrshire and from the Lothians they were told that the great body of the coalmasters wanted to break from the general body of the Scotch coalmasters and to give the terms that the English Miners Federation accepted. He did not believe that the majority of the coalmasters were offering any terms, but he withdrew his motion to allow one by Mr. Weir to pass, and which ran as follows: - "While thanking the coalowners who have made the proposal to concede the English terms, this conference cannot consider the proposal until it is ascertained how many coalmasters were proposing to give the terms and the number of miners to whom the terms would be given." A sub-committee was formed with powers to get this information, and they endeavoured to see Mr. Colin Dunlop, who was negotiating on behalf of the coalmasters. Mr. Dunlop was from home on holidays, but his son, who had no authority and no responsibility to act, was at home. The sub-committee ascertained from him that only one coalmaster in the whole country was likely to concede the English terms. (Laughter.) Notwithstanding this revelation the sub-committee proposed to Mr. Dunlop, jun., that if he would again communicate with the coalmasters and get them to agree to the English terms they would use their influence to get them accepted by the miners. They said they would reduce their demand from 1s to 6d per day if it be guaranteed for 18 months. Mr. Dunlop said that, in addition to the coalmaster mentioned, his father would concede the English terms, but he took care to add - "But remember this, gentlemen, he says that his miners have the English terms already." (Laughter.) But if you can get his men to return to work he will guarantee them the same rate of wages for 12 months, (Renewed Laughter.) That was a nice prospect, was it not? Another conference was called, and at this conference the result of the sub-committee's investigations were disclosed. They made the same terms to the Lord Provost of Glasgow, and Mr. John Wilson, of the Clyde Coal Company, that they had made to Mr. Dunlop. When challenged for this at the conference they turned round and said - "We did not propose these terms as absolute; we only said they might be accepted." The papers next day applauded these men, and said there was not so much difference now between the coalmasters and the miners' leaders, and that a settlement might soon be expected. He always held this that when a newspaper spoke well of a miners' leader he must not be doing his duty to those he represented. He at once understood from the position which many of the leaders had taken up that the position had altered very materially, and to the hurt of the miners. Referring to the conference of Friday last, at which 35 votes were cast for the modified terms, and 31 in favour of which he (Mr. Chisholm Robertson) took up, he said much had happened since the conference. In various instances which he referred to, men had declared against the position taken up by their own leaders and in favour of his own position. Mr. Robertson concluded by declaring the conference of last Friday to be a bogus conference, the delegates had voted against their instructions, and that the action of the sub-committee had done much to injure the miners' position. The miners themselves alone could recover the lost ground. They must declare unanimously. They must use their influence to stand together, to renew their old claim, and to compel the public, by pressing them with every inconvenience which their stoppage could inflict, to take side with them, and to assist them in obtaining a settlement. (Applause.) Questions were invited, but none were asked. A show of hands was taken, when Mr. Robertson's policy was unanimously endorsed. Mr. Donald Stewart, Glasgow, delivered a brief address. Mr. James Roden, miners' agent, Slamannan, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Robertson and Mr. Stewart, said those men who had sought to lead Scotch miners astray must either eat the leek or they must resign their positions. (Cries of "Resign.") So long as they could get the

men to recognise that if they broke away in a partial way, then they could keep those dogs muzzled.

Mr. Chisholm Robertson, in replying, said next day's conference might reverse the decision of the last, and it might not. He had a thankless task, but he had the knowledge that miners thoroughly and properly appreciated the situation, and were supporting him even against their leaders. He wanted at all times when they expressed themselves by the solemn and secret method of the ballot, that their representatives should regard the miners as their masters, and that they should not ride roughshod over them at the dictation of any interested coalmaster, or to win praise from an interested press, or credit from a public that did not sympathise with them. (Applause.)

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND THE STRIKE

On Monday a deputation from the Scotch miners – consisting of Mr. Weir from Fife; Mr. Smellie, of Lanark; and Mr. Brown of Mid-Lothian – had a meeting with several of the Scotch members. Mr. Birrell was in the chair, and among the other members present were Mr. Crawford, Captain Sinclair, Mr. Caldwell, Sir J. Carmichael, Mr. Dalziel, and Mr. Munro Ferguson. The members of the deputation made a statement, and particularly dwelt on the distress which existed. The position of affairs was thoroughly discussed, and it was finally determined to render all possible pecuniary support to the families of the miners. Sir J. Reid, Mr. Birrell, Mr. Caldwell, and Captain Sinclair were appointed a committee to draw up an appeal in the interests of the women and children suffering from the present strike, and to obtain as many signatures as possible.

MUIRAVONSIDE

SOCIAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION. - A social meeting of the continuation classes attending Drumbowie School was held in the school on Wednesday evening. Among others present were Mr D. Binnie, Bowhouse, Mr Wilson, Candie House; Dr. Calderwood, Standbur; Rev. J. Lindsay Robertson, Avonbridge, &c. The proceedings began with an excellent tea presided over by Mrs Mackay, were of a varied and interesting nature. Part songs by a choir under the leadership of Mr A Hynd, solos and duets by Mr P. Wilson, Misses Janet and Joan Hynd, violin selections by Messrs Nesbit and McKee, were all ably rendered. After distribution of prizes to the successful scholars by Mr D. Binnie, Mr Mackay was presented with a handsome walking stick, and Mrs Mackay with a Morocco hand-bag. In making the presentation Mr Robertson congratulated the class in their successful winter's work, and especially on the very cordial feeling that exists between the teacher and themselves. Mr Mackay, he said, was deservedly popular, as he not only showed a genuine interest in the welfare of the young, but possessed qualities of kindness and tact that secured the interest of the young in him. The walking-stick and hand-bag were a token of this; although the best token perhaps was in the numbers and zeal of the scholars who had attended the evening classes. Another winter would find them back in their old place, no doubt with a great increase both of the numbers and the zeal, and meantime they could assure him of the high esteem and gratitude for all the help he had been to them. Mr Mackay replied in suitable terms. Complimentary remarks were made by Mr Wilson and Mr Binnie in testimony to the high value of the work that was being done in the school. After a service of fruit, the proceedings terminated with the singing of "Aud Lang Syne."

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 22nd August 1894

FALKIRK BURGHE POLICE COURT

MONDAY

(Before Bailie HAMILTON)

Pledges forfeited – George Penman, and John Darroch, miners, Easterfield, Lanarkshire, and Andrew McEwan, miner, Crosscroes, Muiravonside, were charged with stealing six walking sticks from the shop in Falkirk occupied by William Rankin, tobacconist. The accused failed to appear, and the Fiscal stated that the theft was not observed by the shopkeeper. A number of miners were together, and four of the sticks were recovered, and the miners who were apprehended with them in their possession denied having committed the theft. From the information the police received it was very likely that the accused reset the sticks, and under the circumstances they had been let out of jail on the small bail of 2s 6d. The bail was forfeited.

Falkirk Herald 25th August

THE COAL STRIKE IN SCOTLAND.

There is still no change to record in the attitude towards each other of the coalowners and the miners. It is said that, judging from appearances, each side is as determined as ever to hold out. In such places as Kilsyth and Denny the feeling that prevails among the miners is said to be one of determination to insist on the demands made. On the other hand, however, there appears to be in some districts a disposition to return to work, and at various pits in Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, and Fifeshire it has been reported that numbers of men have been working during the week. It is stated, however, that in some instances at least the men returning to work are not doing so because of any diversity of opinion between them and the general body of the miners, but simply because they could not see their families without food and the necessaries of life. With respect to the question of relief to the strikers, a contemporary states that "at the present moment it does not appear as if the English members can see their way to continue subscribing to the relief of the Scotchmen as handsomely as during the past two months, and even the most prominent leaders speaking at the meetings do not put much stress on this source of relief. The leaders who have spoken since Friday put more dependence upon the support which may come from home - the general public - believing that the Scotch people at large now recognise the unfairness of the coalmasters in refusing to meet the representatives of the men. But a considerable proportion of the general public have already subscribed largely, the applications for assistance to soup kitchens and relief funds having been very numerous; and the public supplies to the miners are falling off, and cannot but continue to do so, now that the ironworkers also are asking for help and going about with subscription sheets."

AVONBRIDGE.

Avonbridge, being less of a mining village, shows fewer signs of distress, though the tradesmen who chiefly compose it complain of the depressing effects which the prolongation of the strike is having on their various trades. The local branch of the Slamannan Co-operative Society, it was learned, had, from the extreme slackness of business, found it unnecessary to keep their premises open during the whole day as ordinarily, and were closing them at halfday. This, also, it was stated, was the case with the other branches of the same society. In conversation with private tradesmen, the view was expressed that they might follow the suit of the society, and lose little custom by doing so. The funds with which the soup kitchen here was maintained were said to be in a little more healthy condition than was found to be so in the Slamannan district, and the committee had the satisfaction of being able to look forward a few days to its being kept going even though no further subscriptions should come in. This is an experience which is not common, in this locality at least, with soup kitchen committees. A farmer in the neighbourhood complained bitterly of the destruction of fencing, which, he alleged, the miners appropriated for the purposes of firewood, and he pointed out several places where it was apparent the fencing had been rooted up and carried off. The same gentleman railed against the strike generally, and expressed himself as of the opinion - an opinion which may be noted here since it is entertained by not a few - that had many of the miners themselves been more careful and less extravagant when they were in receipt of the wages they had, they would not only not have been reduced to the necessity of canvassing the country, at least in the same degree, for support, but would have been in a position to have carried on the conflict for a much longer period, and with a more certain prospect of a successful issue. A miner here whom we met, and whose opinion of the situation we solicited, expressed himself as uncertain of the issue. He added - and his remark is significant, as it

seemed to be a fair indication of the general attitude of the miners in the locality - "Little or much, I would like to see a settlement soon; not" - he supplemented as a reservation - "that I would have us beaten after standing out so long. We must win."

STANBURN, BOWHOUSE, MADDISTON.

A soup kitchen in this locality supplies two meals a day to about 480 people drawn from Stanburn, Bowhouse, and Maddiston. The funds upon which this is continued, however, are so uncertain a quantity, that its continuance is rendered very precarious. The feeling there, also, is one of firm determination to hold out.

BLACKBRAES, CALIFORNIA, AND CROSSCROES.

There is little to be added to that already said of the above-named districts when speaking of Blackbraes, California, and Crosscroes. It has only been by a hard struggle that the soup kitchens in each of these villages have been kept going, and the prospect of their continuance is not very bright. At California, where, in common with other villages, the dearth of coal has been pretty severely felt, the immediate needs have by a lucky chance been met. Here, as elsewhere, the bings have been riddled for anything having the semblance of coal, but the other day at a pit which had been dug, it was stated, twenty years, in searching an old bing there they struck quite a seam of coal which had been covered up by old rubbish. The miners in these villages show no inclination to return to work, and all seem unanimous in carrying on the struggle. One miner stated that there were those among them who could remain out of work for two years and feel no want, and that the cases which were in most needful circumstances were those of newcomers to the district, and who, unlike the older residents had fewer means to maintain them.

MEETING OF MINERS' WIVES AT WALLACESTONE.

On Thursday evening Mr. R. Chisholm Robertson addressed a large meeting of the miners' wives in the Redding district at Wallacestone. Over a thousand were present, but of these a good proportion were men. Previous to the hour, the women formed in processional order, and headed by two bands and bearing banners upon which were inscribed, "We will never give in" and "Death or Victory," marched to meet Mr. Robertson. He was chaired by the women when met on the way amid much enthusiasm, and carried to the platform, the bands the while playing "Scots Wha Hae." Mrs. Baird, a miner's wife, was nominated to the chair. She said that although she knew Mr. Robertson better as "Wee Bobby" - (laughter) - she was very proud to stand there that night. They were all there that night on the lookout for the return of the shilling which had been taken off their husbands' wages, and they would stand a good lot of more hardships till they got that shilling. They had passed through nine weeks of the strike, and she thought they could stand another nine weeks. (Applause.) Mr. Robertson, in addressing the meeting, said that the chairwoman had been kind enough to say that she knew him as "Wee Bobby." She and he supped peace brose together going on to thirty years ago - (laughter.) - And he was bound to say that he did not get his share out of the same crock. (Laughter.) Proceeding, he said that their husbands, their sweethearts, and their sons had been on strike now for over nine weeks, and he briefly went on to narrate the circumstances which led up to the strike. They, the miners' wives, were familiar with the situation when wages were low. They knew how difficult it was to satisfy the pangs of hunger of their children when the amount which came in was small. The wives of the miners were more concerned in the outcome of the strike than the men. The men, it was true, went down the pits and risked their lives in the prosecution of their occupation, but it was on the mothers and housewives that the burden and the responsibility and care rested for having everything conformable to the comfort and everything that would conduce to the wellbeing of the family. His object in coming there that night was to get at the minds of the wives and sweethearts of the miners there and from that historic place reach, to some extent, the minds and hearts of the miners and miners' wives throughout the country. When they looked abroad among different classes of working men they found that they had a regular stated wage which was guaranteed to them throughout the course of the year. There was a security in their wages which enabled the housewives to regulate the home conditions from the beginning of the year to the end, but unfortunately with the mining population - that section of the population upon which rested the largest interest in the country - there was no security whatever. The wages fluctuated four or five times in the course of a year - at one time 2s 6d, another 3s, another 5s per day. There was no certainty or security. That was a very serious state of affairs, and one which tended to depreciate the morale of the mining population. This insecurity of wages induced such a strain upon the men and the women connected with the mining industry that their mental powers were depreciated, and their interest in those concerns which ought to interest them was not so as it should be; and the strike had been started in the first place to demonstrate to the public of the country that the miners, who were at the root of the whole industrial structure, should have guaranteed to them a certain living rate of wages which should secure to them that measure of home comfort to which they were entitled. Then, again, when wages were low they knew from experience in that locality that the miners in their strain and hurry to make what earnings would keep their homes going incurred risks which otherwise might be avoided, and accidents were numerous in every part of the country, and it was with the view to safeguard the miners against that, to make it easy for them to make wages, and to secure their personal safety in their employment that this great strike had been begun, carried on, and would be carried on until the employers in the country conceded the demand of the miners. (Applause.) The question of hours also came in. When the wages were low, then their husbands and sweethearts had to go to work early and work late, exhausting every power God Almighty had given them in the vain endeavour to get sufficient money wherewith to maintain the household. What did that mean? It meant that their husbands and sweethearts were not the strong, healthy, properly physically constituted beings they had been intended to be. The strike sought to make it possible that the husbands returning from their toil should be strong, well constituted men, able to take a humane and a Christian interest in their families and homes. Addressing the young women present particularly, he said that they had much to win. If the young men in the locality were made to work long hours, then they would come to be in that state that they would have no desire to go a-sweethearting. (Laughter) Tired and exhausted by their day's work they were more inclined to sit at home and rest them for the renewal of their labours next day. He wanted to encourage young men and young women to have an opportunity for legitimate and honourable courting, and to have the wages increased and fair conditions of labour established, which would not demand the exhaustion of their energies, would encourage the young men to go out sweethearting. Mr. Robertson went on to speak upon what the miners had based their present demand. Continuing, he said that much depended on the women. If the miners went back to work and the strike proved abortive, what would take place? There would be a recurrence of the desperate and terrible times through which they had already passed. Partial reductions would be imposed wages would be ground down, and former bad conditions enforced. But if they stood together in that movement, the wife helping the husband, then that great public opinion which had been excited in their regard, that public opinion that was only now becoming enlightened as to the dangers of their husbands employment would compel the coalmaster to recognise their responsibility to the miners that the miners had a duty to fulfill by their wives and children, and would be forced to meet with the miners delegates to arrange satisfactory terms, which should not be of a temporary character. (Applause) Proceeding, he said the miners wives would be looking forward to the distribution of the English levy. They were told by some that because the Scotch miners had not acted on instructions from England the amount of the levy would be diminished. He (Mr. Robertson) was there to say that he believed the amount of the levy would be diminished. He believed that the miners would not get more than 2s 6d per man at the distribution on Saturday. But they were told that beside that diminution of the levy during the present fortnight, the result of the miners refusing to take direction and dictation from a coterie of men in England would be that the levy would be stopped altogether. He wanted to tell them that before the miners had any modified terms submitted to them for consideration; by a certain section of the Scotch miners' leaders he received a letter from the secretary of the

Miners' Federation of Great Britain informing him that they had the greatest difficulty in collecting subscriptions. They would be telling them that the result of the miners' insubordination would be the withdrawal of the levy, but let them remember that before the dispute among the leaders he had received that letter saying that they could not collect subscriptions. Why could the English miners not collect the levy? One would naturally expect that after the Scotch strike had lengthened out to its ninth week the measure of sympathy and aid from the English miners would increase, and that instead of the pitiful dole of 1s 7d per man per week they would give a much larger amount. But week after week the levy had diminished, and why was this? -Because the result of the Scotch strike had been to give orders to England, to make better prices obtainable there, and that whereas before the Scotch strike took place the English miners were face to face with a large reduction of wages, they have now been enabled to conclude for good terms for a period of two years with their employers. Now that they had got their own terms they would not pay the levy, and they sought to cover their improper action by saying that the Scotch miners having risen in revolt, they would not contribute as they had hitherto done. In conclusion, he urged the miners to stand together, and the miners' wives to lend them that stimulus their sympathy could give in the great struggle (Loud applause.) Mrs. Baird, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Robertson, expressed regret that the levy was to be so small. . Mr. Robertson, in acknowledging the vote, said that the levy would be small this time, but let them take his word for it that it would be doubled next time, because after the manner in which the English miners had stood by them there would be such a change in the feeling among the trade unionists throughout the country the amount of money coming from them would be doubled. (Applause)

MUIRAVONSIDE.

STANDBURN. -

We are pleased to notice from the recent returns of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, London, the success of Mr. Robert Westwater, ex-pupil teacher, Drumbowie Public School. He has passed in practical plane and solid geometry, physiography, elementary practical chemistry, advanced practical chemistry, and second grade freehand. The above highly for his future career as a teacher and scholar, and we wish him all success in his scientific studies.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR, M.P. FOR DUMBARTONSHIRE.

has sent to Bailie Weir (in the absence of the Provost) £10 of the fund collected by members of Parliament for the relief of the wives and children of those who are out of work through the strike, whether union men or non-union men, or other workers, without distinction, and the Magistrates, at a meeting on Thursday afternoon, allocated the sum as follows :- Redding soup kitchen, £2 ; Easter Shieldhill do., £2; Carron do., £2; Skinflats do., £2; Summerhouse do., £1 ; Glen Village do., £1. The Moulders' Central Association has this week, per Mr. J. Hall, made the following donations in aid of the miners' soup kitchens - Standburn, 17s 6d ; California, 4s; Divoties, 10s; Redding, 4s; Rumford, 10s; Shieldhill, 7s 6d; Blackbraes, 7s; Slamannan, £2 10s; East Longrigg, 10s - total, £6.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 29th August 1894

AVONBRIDGE

THE PIPE BAND.- In response to an invitation from Mr James Paton of Avonhill, the pipe band last Thursday night turned out in full dress. Arriving at Avonhill House they discoursed selections of Scotch music. Before leaving the members of the band were requested – for the entertainment of English visitors – to dance a Scotch reel, which they heartily performed, to the satisfaction of all present. They were afterwards treated to substantial refreshment. Mr Paton with his usual liberality contributed two sovereigns to the band funds.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 1st September 1894

AVONBRIDGE

MYSTERIOUS DISSAPEARANCE.- A young man named George Lothian last week left his lodgings without giving any explanation as to his intention to leave. After his departure a note was found in his room asking that his friends be informed of his action. Nothing since has been heard of him. He went away in an old suit of clothes, leaving behind him his chest and other articles, including his watch and two alberts. His relations have been communicated with, but they know nothing of his whereabouts, and are greatly distressed at the news. The young man, who has been out of work for some time, has been rather despondent on that account.

SCHOOL NOTES. - Children residing in Torphichen parish are not to be admitted to Avonbridge School after the 19th September, owing to that parish refusing to contribute their share to a proposed addition to the Avonbridge School, which was declared by the inspector to be inadequate to accommodate the number of children attending. As the Torphichen Board have not a school within easy access of the children belonging to their parish in this district, it is stated that they propose erecting a school in the vicinity of Westfield.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AVONBRIDGE AND THE COAL STRIKE

Avonbridge, August 27, 1894

SIR, - In your issue of the 25th inst., under the heading of "Coal Strike," Avonbridge is said to be the proud(?) possessor of a soup kitchen. Now, Sir, in defence of the fair name of our village, I beg, in name of the inhabitants, to deny that any such institutions exists, or ever existed here, nor is there any need for the same. The miners who reside here are of the thrifty and industrious class, well able to hold their own in this struggle, and it would go hard with the coalmasters were all the miners in the same position as those of Avonbridge. The nearest soup depot to this will be 1 ½ miles distant, and is not patronised by any Avonbridge people. Trusting you will find space for this communication in the first issue of your valuable paper, - I am, &c., ALLAN BRYCE

[From our inquiry made since receipt of above we learn that our representative had been erroneously informed as to the existence of A SOUP KITCHEN IN Avonbridge. We are pleased to earn from our correspondent that the miners in Avonbridge are an industrious and thrifty class, and that they can afford to dispense with the aid of a soup kitchen]

AVONBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this Society will take place on SATURDAY, 8TH September.

Admission to the Public from One o'clock till Six.

FOR SALE

A HORSE Pony (Grey) for Sale; 15 ½ Hands; Quiet in all work; been driven by a Lady. – Apply JAMES TOWNS, Crossroads (Crosscroses?), Avonbridge.

Morning Post Tuesday 4th September 1894

DEATHS

STIRLING. – On the 28th ult., at the Naval hospital, Malta, Lieutenant Charles Stirling, R.N., second son of the late Thomas Mayne Stirling, of Muiravonside, aged thirty-two.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 5th September 1894

SLAMANNAN SCHOOL BOARD

AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL

THE CLERK stated that he had received a letter from the clerk of the Muiravonside School Board expressing concurrence in the resolution arrived at by the Slamannan School Board to the effect that the children from Torphichen parish should not be received in the Avonbridge School since the Torphichen Board had refused to contribute to the cost of and addition to the school.

The clerk was instructed to communicate with the Muiravonside School Board informing them that the responsibility of endangering the grant in connection with that school rested on them because of their failure to provide for the additional number of children coming from their parish.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

MONDAY

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute BRYSON)

AN OLD OFFENCE. - Walter Clark, miner, Bridgehill, Avonbridge, was accused of having, on 3rd February, on the public road, near the Inn at Bridgehill, committed a breach of the peace. He pleaded guilty. The Fiscal stated that the accused had absconded after having committed the offence, and had only now been arrested. He had been previously convicted, and a penalty of 20s, or fourteen days, was imposed.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 8th September

FARMS AND MINERALS IN THE PARISHES OF POLMONT AND MUIRAVONSIDE

For Sale by Public Roup, within the ROYAL HOTEL, Falkirk, on THURSDAY, the 29th day of September, 1894, at Two o'clock Afternoon (if not previously sold privately)

I. THE FARM and LANDS of SUMMERHOUSE, in the Parish of Polmont, extending to about 69 Acres, with the Minerals therein.

With the exception of some strips of Plantation which afford shelter, the whole Farm is, and has been for many years, in Pasture Let for the Season. The Lands lie about Three Miles South of Falkirk.

There is a number of Workmen's Houses on the Lands. Part of Weedings Moss adjoining and Minerals therein will be included in the sale of this lot.

A portion of the Coal in this lot was worked many years ago, but it is understood there are still valuable Minerals in the Lands.

Rental. £102 10s.

II. The FARM and LANDS of STANDRIG, in the Parish of Muiravonside, extending to about 46 Acres, lying in about Three Miles from Falkirk and about a mile from Polmont Station.

There is a suitable Steading on the Farm, also a large number of Workmen's Houses. The Minerals in Standrig go with the Property.

Coal in the adjoining Lands of Middlerig, extending to about 74 Acres, will be included in the sale of this lot.

The Coal has been partly worked in both of above, but it is believed there are still valuable Minerals to work.

The Agricultural Tenants' Right of Possession may be terminated at Martinmas, 1895.

Rental, £132 14s. Fue-Duty Nominal.

For further particulars apply to RUSSEL & AITKEN, Writers, Falkirk.

DEATHS

Suddenly, at Blackbraes, on the 3rd inst., Wee Eliza, aged 13 months, dearly beloved child of James and Mary Wilson; sadly missed, asleep in Jesus.

At Standburn, Avonbridge, Janet Wright, widow of the late Alexander Wardlaw, of Currie Hill, Blackbraes. (American papers please copy)

At Forthview Cottage, Standrigg, on 3rd inst., Mary McLay Watson, aged 9 years and 10 months, beloved daughter of Mathew and Margaret Watson; deeply mourned. Loved by all who knew her.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 12th September 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

FRIDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute BRYSON.)

ALLEGED ASSAULT AND BREACH OF THE PEACE. - Robert Hunter, miner, Linn Mill Cotages, Torphichen Parish, was charged with having on the 1st inst., on the public road at Avonbridge, opposite the shop occupied by Robert Hay, tailor and clothier, assaulted the said Robert Hay, by seizing hold of and compressing his throat, and with thereafter committing a breach of the peace, but denied the assault. The plea was accepted, and having been previously, (convicted?) he was fined 10s 6d, or ten days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 15th September 1894

THE MINERS' STRIKE IN SCOTLAND.

Public interest has chiefly centred this week in negotiations that have been going on between a number of the coalmasters and the miners' representatives with a view to a settlement of the strike. At a conference of non-associated coalmasters and miners' delegates - presided over by Lord Provost Bell - on Wednesday the masters emphatically declined to entertain the English Federation terms. They asked that the men return to their work this week at the rate of wages existing before the strike, with a promise to promote a Conciliation Board, and, in order to give time for friendly arrangements the rate of wages existing before the strike to remain in force until the end of January, 1895. Unless the men returned to their work to a fair extent, say two thirds, within a week these terms would be withdrawn. A conference of miners' delegates was held on Thursday in Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow, but the decision come to will, to all appearance, not allow of the miners returning to work for at least a fortnight. Mr. Chisholm Robertson moved to the effect that the rate of wages existing at the beginning of the strike be continued till the end of January next, and that the coalowners pledge themselves to do all in their power to secure the constitution of a Conciliation Board within six weeks. Mr. John Wilson, Broxburn, moved to the effect that no further action be taken until the conference of the British Federation in Edinburgh on the 27th inst. On a vote, 28 supported the motion and 33 the amendment. On a vote by numbers of miners represented, the amendment was supported by 57,650 and the motion by 12,500

STANDBURN.

The fifth fortnightly division of the English levy was made at Standburn last Saturday, the amount per man being 2s 5d, the same as last fortnight, Pumping operations are going on at all the pits in the district, and a start is confidently looked for early next week.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 19th September 1894

GENERAL NOTICES

THE PARKHALL CONVENTION will be held in the BARN as usual (D.V.) on WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, THE 19th, 20th, 21st instant.

Conveyances will be Provided to Meet the Trains at Polmont Station, N.B. Railway.

Rev. Mr. LUCE, Rev. G.C.GRUBB, Mrs. AMANDA SMITH, MUSA BHAI, and Others will Address the Meetings.

All are Invited.

THEFT OF A FERRET AND NET. - At a pleading diet of a Sheriff and Jury Court held at Falkirk on Friday - Honorary Sheriff-Substitute Bryson on the bench - Alex. McIntosh, in custody, was charged with having, on the 26th or 17th August last, broken into and out-shed forming part of the premises of High Manuel Farm, Muiravonside, occupied by Thos.

Johnston, and stolen a ferret and a net. Prisoner pleaded not guilty. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, who appeared on his behalf, read a number of testimonials in his favour certifying his previous good conduct. The Sheriff in passing sentence of £3 with the option of thirty days' imprisonment, said it was not usual in a case of housebreaking to give the option of a fine, but he thought there were circumstances in connection with this case which warranted that being done.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 22nd September 1894

DEATHS

At Hill Cottage, Muiravonside, on the 15th inst., Alexander Binnie (late of Crounerland), aged 67 years.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD

MUIRAVONSIDE EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOL will be RE-OPENED on MONDAY, the 24th September, at 7 o'clock. For Particulars apply to the teacher.

AVONBRIDGE

CALL BY AVONBRIDGE U.P. CHURCH. – At the meeting of the members of the Avonbridge U.P. Church, held on Sunday Evening last, it was resolved to call Mr James B.G. Rouse, probationer, as successor to the Rev. Mr Robertson who resigned the charge some time ago.
NEW STATION. – A new booking office, and ladies and gent's waiting room, etc., is in the course of erection here. Since the opening up of the pits in the neighbourhood, it has been felt that the old booking office and waiting room had become quite inadequate for the greatly increased traffic, and the improvement will be much appreciated by the public.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 26th September 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE

MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

A meeting of this body was held in Muiravonside Public School yesterday afternoon. Colonel Stirling of Tarduf presided, and there was also present Messrs Binnie, Murray, Bryce, Wilson, Reid, and Mackay.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The officer reported that the attendance at the various schools in the parish was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Aver. Attend.
Blackbraes School	336	294
Drumbowie School	450	357
Muiravonside School	212	179
Avonbridge School	054	043

OVERCROWDING AT AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL

The Clerk having intimated the decision of the Board to exclude all children from the Torphichen parish from Avonbridge school, on account of the Torphichen Board not having agreed to contribute toward the cost of the addition to the school.

MR. MACKAY said that the Torphichen children were back to the Avonbridge School again.

MR. REID – They are better back than running about.

MR. WILSON – It is the Slamannan Board who will be responsible when the school is overcrowded.

WHO IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE?

THE CLERK read the following letter which he had received from the Clerk of the Slamannan Parish School Board: - "In the view of the Government Inspector's report on Avonbridge School the School Board are obliged, for their own protection, to intimate to you that as action is required for the accommodation of children belonging to your parish that they must look to you to make up any loss that may be caused by the total or partial withdrawal of grant in the event of the requirements of the Department not being complied with before the next examination."

MR. BINNIE – I understand the numbers from Muiravonside parish have never been up to the average.

MR. BTYCE – What is the total accommodation at Avonbridge School?

THE CLERK – It is 150.

MR. MACKAY – And we have only 54 on the roll.

THE CLERK read copy of a letter which he had written to the Slamannan Board some time ago on this subject, and which stated that "This Board concur with the Slamannan Board on intimation that children from the Torphichen Parish cannot be received until there is more accommodation."

MR. REID – We should reply pointing them to that letter, and saying that we fail to see how we can be responsible.

THE CHAIRMAN – Certainly. The fault, if any, will lie with the Slamannan Board.

THE CLERK was instructed to reply, stating that the Board had agreed with the Slamannan Board that notice be sent to the Torphichen Board to withdraw their children from the Avonbridge School, and that if this had been done the requirements of the Department would have been met; and that in those circumstances the Board failed to see that they would be responsible for any withdrawal of grant.

TEACHERS' SALARIES

The Board then took into consideration the motion given notice of at last meeting that the head teachers be paid fixed salaries.

THE CLERK said that as instructed he had prepared a statement showing the salaries paid to the headmasters during the last three years. The averages were as follows: - Mr. Watt, Muiravonside School, £146 18s 7d; Mr. Campbell, Blackbraes School, £179 12s; Mr. Mackay, Drumbowie School, 172 13s 11d.

MR. BINNIE – It is a pity this motion has been delayed so long. This is the middle of the financial year, and it would be awkward to make any alteration now.

MR. MACKAY, in support of his motion, said he believed in the principle that they ought to pay teachers by fixed salaries, and not by grants. He had a conversation with a Government inspector some time ago, and he told him he believed there would be something done to put a stop to the system of paying by results. A great change had taken place in the parish within the last few years, and the large additions which were being made to the schools were defrayed from the public purse. If an extra teacher were appointed the Board had to pay the salary, and the headmaster received one-third of the grant earned by that teacher. That, he considered, was scarcely fair, and while he considered they ought to be fair to the teachers, they ought also to be fair to the ratepayers. The salaries would be fixed according to the average of the last three years. He therefore moved that the Board resolve to fix the salaries of its headmasters.

MR. MURRAY – I beg to second Mr. Mackay's motion.

THE CHAIRMAN – We must have something definite to go upon. What do you propose to fix the salaries at?

MR. MACKAY – I would propose that the salaries should be fixed as follows: - Mr. Campbell, £197; Mr.

Mackay, £172; Mr. Watt, £146.

THE CHAIRMAN – Do you not think it would be unfair to pay Mr. Campbell a larger salary than Mr. Mackay? I think £172 is too small a remuneration for Mr. Mackay's services.

MR. MACKAY – Should Mr. Mackay's duties increase the Board may consider that at any future period and re-arrange his salary. I do not at all intend that the salaries we may fix to-day shall be binding.

MR. REID – The chairman has put the position of matters with regard to Mr. Mackay very fairly. At the present moment Drumbowie School is larger than Blackbraes School.

THE CHAIRMAN – I propose that we pay the teachers a maximum salary of £200.

MR. REID – I have much pleasure in supporting that proposal. If the schools grow the teachers will get the benefit of the increase.

THE CHAIRMAN – We should agree to fix a maximum salary of £200, and leave the system of payment on the present basis for this year.

MR. REID – We should also consider that when a school increases we appoint additional teachers, and that takes some work from the shoulders of the headmasters, and throws the cost on to the Board.

MR. WILSON – There is no use of our keeping down the salaries of the teachers if the school can permit of them being increased, as the Department requires that the money must be spent on the schools.

MR. MURRAY – And I think it is a very good way of spending the money to spend it on the teachers. I know that some of our teachers are under-paid.

MR. REID (To the Chairman) – Would you not fix the minimum salary as well as the maximum?

MR. WILSON – If the Board thinks of fixing a minimum salary I would say it should be £100.

At present the headmasters receive £80 of a fixed salary, and one-third of the probate duty and one-third of the grants.

MR. MACKAY – said he was prepared to withdraw his motion in favour of that by the chairman.

MR. MURRAY thought that Mr. Mackay should have allowed his motion to be put to the meeting seeing it was seconded. The chairman's proposal was, in his opinion, worthless, as it left them just where they were before.

MR. REID – Not worthless.

MR. BRYCE – I am inclined to think it is.

MR. WILSON – We will save £100 by adopting the chairman's proposal. Mr. Mackay's salary will, I venture to say, rise to £300 under the existing scheme this year.

MR. BRYCE said he was scarcely satisfied with the chairman's motion. He thought it would be unfair to Mr. Watt, as there would be nearly £1 per week of a difference between his salary and that paid to Mr. Campbell.

MR. MACKAY – There would have been a bigger difference next year if, under the present system, Mr. Mackay got £300.

MR. WILSON said that it was not at all unusual that there should be a difference between the salaries paid to various headmasters under a Board. He observed that the Polmont Board had fixed its head teachers' salaries, and the largest was £190, and the smallest £140 – a difference of £50.

MR. MURRAY said that if they went by the grants earned, Blackbraes School had earned more grant than any of the other schools during the last three years.

THE CHAIRMAN – Does Mr. Murray move an amendment to the motion?

MR. BRYCE – I would like to see the salaries better balanced.

MR. MACKAY – Then the Chairman's proposal meets your views Mr. Bryce.

MR. WILSON – We are fixing the salaries of the other headmasters at £200, and Mr. Watt's can also rise to £200.

MR. MACKAY – Mr. Watt is the only headmaster who is getting the benefit of rising to £200. The others are being cut down.

MR. WILSON – Mr. Murray made a very wise remark when he said that some of their assistant teachers were underpaid.

MR. MURRAY – I ally think they are.

THE CHAIRMAN – But we cannot go into that phase of the question just now.

MR MACKAY – I notice that in Glasgow a return is made out of every teacher under the Board, their salaries, their abilities, the number of children in their respective classes, the average pass, and the amount of grant earned, and this return was placed before the members of the Board. In this way they knew the merits of every teacher, and they intended to fix their salaries according to their abilities.

It was ultimately agreed that the head teacher be paid on the present principal, the maximum salary not to exceed £200 per annum.

SCHOOL PRIZES

Mr. MURRAY moved that no teacher be allowed to give any prize unless those SANCTIONED BY THE Board, and that the Board devote a sum of money to each school to be spent on giving prizes to the children who made the greatest number of attendances.

MR. WILSON supported the motion on the understanding that no child could claim a prize unless it made more than 400 attendances during the year.

The motion was agreed to on this understanding, and that no teacher be allowed to provide prizes apart from the Board.

A DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL VACANCY

MR BINNIE said there had been only one applicant for the vacant ex-pupil teachership in Drumbowie School. She had excellent testimonials, and would have made a suitable teacher, but on her being asked to appear before the Board with a view to the appointment she wrote declining to accept the situation on the ground that the salary (£30 per annum) was not sufficient to pay her lodgings, &c. She hoped the Board would see its way to increase the salary.

MR MURRAY – We will never get an efficient teacher at that salary.

MR REID – Let the applicant come before us, and we will consider whether we should increase the salary.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the applicant to this effect.

This was all the business of importance.

PROPERTY MARKET.- On Thursday, in the Royal Hotel, there was exposed for sale the farm and lands of Summerhouse, in the parish of Polmont, with the minerals therein, and also the farm and lands (with minerals) of Standrig, in the parish of Muiravonside. There was a good attendance of probable purchasers, but no offers being forthcoming, the sale stood adjourned. Messrs Russel & Aitken, solicitors, were the agents.

Falkirk Herald 29th September 1894

THE MINERS' STRIKE IN SCOTLAND.

MANY MEN RETURNING TO WORK.

After the rigorous action resolved upon last week by the leaders of the men and the elaborate preparations which they seemed to be making for bringing all workers to the field again, it was believed that Monday morning would see a large falling-off in the numbers of the miners at work; but, instead, there were more men down the pits than had been the case since Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. According to arrangement on Saturday and Sunday, picketing companies were to have been in attendance at various fixed-upon points on Monday, but they did not turn up, and the miners, finding that no obstruction was offered, proceeded to their work in numbers. This they did particularly in the Cambuslang, Baillieston, Bellshill, and Coatbridge districts, and to a less extent in the Motherwell and Upper Ward districts. The men also turned out in considerable strength in Slamannan, in this way giving effect to a resolution passed at a large gathering of miners at Lodge Gates on Sunday afternoon. Airdrie was only partially employed, as was Blantyre; while at Hamilton, Larkhall, and in Ayrshire and Fifeshire work was comparatively at a standstill. As has been indicated, the defections on Monday were in the aggregate important, and calculations make out the numbers down the pits at fully 10,000. On Tuesday work at the pits continued it being estimated that throughout the various districts as many as 10,000 were engaged. On Wednesday work was even more extensively engaged in. While exact details were not easily obtainable, general reports went to pretty clearly show that there were more miners working in the Lanarkshire coalpits. Slamannan, Holytown, Motherwell, Bellshill, and Blantyre districts advised moderate accessions to the numbers at work, but in the Cambuslang, Baillieston, Airdrie, and Coatbridge (Rosehall excepted) districts the situation was rather less favourable. Altogether there must have been from 12,000, to 15,000 men employed. On Thursday again, contrary to general expectation, there was a large body of men working in the collieries throughout Lanarkshire. The main interest on that day centered in the meeting of the British Miners' Federation, which was held in Edinburgh. The official report of the meeting merely indicates a general talk regarding the position, and it was remitted to the Scotch delegates to formulate a resolution to be submitted to the general conference of the British Federation next day. This they did, and according to the official minute they decided by an overwhelming majority to reaffirm the decision that the Scottish miners at present on strike should be advised to continue the strike, and that every effort should be put forth to bring out on strike those who have returned to work. At yesterday's meeting of the British Federation a resolution was unanimously carried to the effect that the Federation, while recognising the necessity of putting the Scotch miners on strike till the Federation terms were granted, reaffirmed its former resolution to secure for them all possible support over the area of the British Federation. The following resolution was also agreed to by a majority as against an amendment that a conditional settlement be not accepted :- That this conference of the British Miners' Federation, in view of the solution of the Scotch coal strike, permit the Scotch Federation to enter into provisional arrangements with

any owners who may be willing to grant the terms of the Federation, restoration of half of the last reduction, with a two years' guarantee, in the event of a majority of owners granting the above terms." There was yesterday an increased number of men working at the pits in the various districts throughout the country.

MEETING OF SCOTCH COALMASTERS.

The weekly meeting of the General Committee of the coalmasters of Scotland was held in Glasgow on Wednesday, at which reports were submitted showing that over 12,000 men were working in the various districts on the masters' terms, notwithstanding the vigorous efforts that were being put forth by pickets. As a result of the meeting, we are officially informed, it is probable that strong measures will now be adopted, and that, should an immediate resumption of work not take place, the miners will forthwith be called upon to remove from the colliery houses.

FALKIRK DISTRICT.

In the early part of this week there was no change in the position of matters in Falkirk district. The Callendar, Redding, Shieldhill, and Carronhall miners were still idle. A number of men continued to work at Stenhouse and Camelon collieries. Yesterday another break away in the ranks of the strikers took place, some 96 employees of the Calendar Coal Company having returned to work on the old terms; it was believed there would be a full muster of men at the Callendar pits this morning.

STANDBURN.

The English levy was distributed in Mr. Hoggan's hall, Standburn, on Saturday night last, the amount per man being 2s. Those of the miners known to have been working were refused any share in this levy. CROSSCROES.

At Crosscroes on Wednesday and Thursday there were over forty men down, and this number was increased yesterday. At Blackston, Candie, and Standburn the majority of the men are still out, but it is expected that by Monday the majority will be the other way.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 3rd October 1894

SALVATION ARMY SPECIAL MEETINGS. –

On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday the Salvation Army held their harvest thanksgiving services in Wilson's Hall. The services were conducted by Major Barrett, late of Australia, and Captain Harris, of London, who have now taken command of the Edinburgh division of the army. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon the sale of work commenced, and passed off very successfully. On Sunday the open-air services were well attended, and Major Barrett sang several solos and gave selections on the autoharp. On Monday evening a soiree was held. There was a very large attendance. After tea had been served, the Salvation Brigade Brass Band from Maddiston headed a procession through the town, and were successful in attracting a large crowd to the hall, where a musical festival, at which vocal and instrumental selections were given, was held. At the close a sale of fruit and vegetables took place, and passed off very satisfactorily. The money raised at the meetings went towards organising a band for the Falkirk corps, of which Captain Keedle and Lieutenant Walker are to take command.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

WEDNESDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCREIFF.)

CRUEL MISCHIEF. – Robert Dunsmore (13), schoolboy, son of Robert Dunsmore, mason, Linn Mill, Torphichen, and James Nimmo (13), schoolboy, son of John Nimmo, carter, Avonbridge, were accused of having, on the 21st September, in a field near the farm of Craighend, and in an adjoining field, maliciously ran after a number of Turkeys, chased them, thrown stones at them, and killed one, the property of Christina Morrison, Bridgend, Avonbridge. Both the accused pleaded guilty, adding that they were very sorry for what they had done. The Fiscal stated that the accused had chased the turkeys about the field, and that after having killed one they hid it, but afterwards confessed what they had done to the policeman. The value of it was about six shillings. The Sheriff that what the accused had done was not only an act of mischief but of cruelty to the birds. He had no doubt they did not intend to kill any of them when they chased them, but it just showed what might happen when boys used such a dangerous thing as a stone. It was their first offence, but he must warn them that if they appeared before him again charged with a similar offence he would order them to be whipped. He would impose a penalty in each case of 5s, or twenty-four hours imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 6th October 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE

MISSIONARY MEETINGS. – On Monday a drawing room meeting was held at Tarduf, when Mr. and Mrs. Graham Brown, from Kansuh, North-West, China, and Mr. Montague Beauchamp, B.A., Sichuan, West China, all of the China Inland Mission, gave most interesting accounts of their work. Mr. Graham Brown, who is at present representative of the mission in Glasgow, opened the meeting by giving a short retrospect of the work of the China Inland Mission, which was founded in 1865 by the Rev. J. Hudson Taylor. There are now 600 missionaries, more than 200 mission stations and outstations, and about 6000 converts have been baptized since the commencement. The mission is undenominational. Mrs. Graham Brown gave an outline of the work in the town of Lan-ches in which she and Mr. G. Brown worked for 6 ½ years, and also instances of those who had received the gospel and the difference it had made in their lives. Mr. Montague Beauchamp followed with an account of his itinerations through several provinces, many thousand miles of which he did on foot. BY this mode of travelling he came into closer contact with the people. In the evening another large gathering was held. The missionaries were attired in Chinese dress, which all belonging to this mission wear, finding it a great help in going in and out among the people. A small sale of work and mission literature was held for the benefit of the work.

SLAMANNAN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

ACCOMMODATION AT AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL

In regard to the question of school accommodation at the combined school of Avonbridge, the CLERK read a letter from the Department, adverting to one from the Board on 14th September, and asking whether they were to understand that the overcrowding complained of at that school had ceased to exist? He also read a letter from the clerk at Muiravonside School Board, stating that a meeting of the Board that a letter from the Slamannan Board of date 1st September bearing on the subject had been considered, and that they referred them to a former letter of theirs which stated that they agreed with the Slamannan Board that notice be sent to the Torphichen Board asking them to withdraw the children from their parish in attendance at Avonbridge school, which being done would meet all the requirements of the Department. The letter added that the Muiravonside Board failed to see that they were responsible for any withdrawal of grant. The Clerk read a further letter from the clerk of the Torphichen Board, of date 3rd October, which stated that they would be agreeable either to contribute a fair and reasonable sum towards the school extension at Avonbridge in respect of the 23 children from their parish attending that school, or upon the ascertainment of what it costs per child per annum in Avonbridge School to pay accordingly. A letter from Mr. Duncan, headmaster Avonbridge, was also read. This stated that some of the children from the Torphichen Parish were not leaving the school, and that as they stood at present there were 64 children on the roll in the infant school, 7 of whom were from Torphichen. This left 57 on the roll, while the room only accommodated 40.

MR. KIDD said that he understood that according to agreement Slamannan parish had the right to two-thirds of the accommodation in the Avonbridge School. They only had one-third of it, and he thought that something should be settled.

THE CHAIRMAN said it appeared to him that Slamannan parish were a long way under their number. Torphichen should not be allowed in, and Muiravonside was considerably above their number. He thought there was no doubt Muiravonside that Muiravonside Board were in the wrong, and they were just staving off the matter such a way that they were going to lose the

grants. Had they been able to write to the department in answer to their letter, and say that the matter was settled to dispose of the overcrowding, then they would have had the reduction in grant returned, but they were not in that position.

MR KIDD – I move that the Muiravonside Board be asked to withdraw the children who have no right to be in Avonbridge.

MR. MURRAY pointed out that it was only in one room of the school – the infant room – where the trouble was, and if that room was increased it would remove the difficulty.

THE CHAIRMAN said that there were, it appeared, 57 in the infant room, while there was only accommodation for 40.

MR. KIDD said that it appeared also there were 23 from Muiravonside parish in the infant department.

THE CHAIRMAN – Yes; they have more than a third in attendance, while according to your way of thinking they should only have 127.

After further discussion it was agreed to appoint a committee – consisting of the chairman and Messrs Wilson and Murray – to meet a representative from Muiravonside and Torphichen Boards to consider the matter, the committee to have full powers. It was also resolved, on the suggestion of the chairman, to write the Department acquainting them with the position of matters and stating that an early settlement was in prospect.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 10th October 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT- MONCREIFF.)

AN AVONBRIDGE QUARRELL.- Ann Massey or Shand, wife of John Shand, painter, New Linn Mill, Avonbridge, was charged with having on 17th September on the private road leading between New Linn Mill and Bridgend Farm, assaulted James Waugh, residing at Bridgend Farm by striking him on the head with a whip. She pleaded not guilty, but evidence having been led, the Sheriff found the charge proven, and imposed a penalty of 7s 6d, or 7 days' imprisonment. James Waugh, Bridgend Farm, was charged with having, time and place already stated, assaulted (1) the said Ann Massey or Shand by striking her several blows on the face, throwing her down, seizing hold of her by the hair of the head, and kicking her on the body, and beating her with a stick; (2) Elizabeth McMillan, domestic servant, Bridgend Farm, by seizing her and throwing her twice into a ditch. The accused denied the charge. Evidence having been led, however, it was found proven, and a penalty of 10s 6d or ten days' imprisonment, was inflicted.

Falkirk Herald 13th October 1894

EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL. The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday forenoon. Mr. George Ure of Wheatlands presided over a large attendance of representatives.

DISCHARGING SEWERAGE ON TO THE ROADWAY.

Colonel Stirling complained of sewerage from houses at Maddiston being discharged on to the public road.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR said that this was a constant grievance. If people would take the refuse water and just distribute it over their gardens they would get quit of it. He had spoken to the people at Maddiston till he was tired, and they were throwing sewerage on the roadway still.

THE ROAD SURVEYOR - I think we should call upon these people, under the Roads and Bridges Act, to cease discharging sewerage on the public road, and failing their doing so we can prosecute them.

MR. MCKILLOP - Would your remark not apply also to the Falkirk Fever Hospital? I have had several complaints with regard to the great amount of impurity that is finding its way on to the public road from the hospital.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR - This is a difficulty which has existed all the time the Council has been in power. The Falkirk Fever Hospital has always drained on to the public road, and the flow of refuse water had of late increased. The matter, however, is fortunately now being dealt with in connection with the extension of the Camelon Drainage District. The subject then dropped, Mr. Ballantine's suggestion with regard to the Maddiston properties being agreed to.

PROPERTY MARKET. – On Thursday, in the Royal Hotel, Falkirk, there was exposed for sale, at the upset price of £2000, the farm and lands of Summerhouse, Polmont, with the minerals therein. The property was bought at the upset price by Messrs James Wilson & Sons, solicitors, on behalf of Messrs James Nimmo & Co. (Ltd.), coalmasters, Glasgow. There was also exposed for sale, at the upset price of £2000, the farm and lands of Standrigg and Waterstonhill, Muiravonside, with the minerals, excepting the coal in Waterstonhill, extending to about 16 acres. After competition, the property was bought by the same purchasers at the sum of £2405. Mr., T. Binnie officiated as auctioneer in the sale, and Messrs Russel & Aitken, writers, were the agents.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 20th October 1894

AVONBRIDGE U.P. CHURCH

ORDINATION OF THE REV. J.B.G. ROUSE

On Thursday the ordination of the Rev. J.B.G. Rouse to the pastorate of the Avonbridge U.P. Church, in succession to the Rev. J. Lindsay Robertson, who resigned in April last due to ill health, took place in the church in the presence of the members of the congregation, and the Rev. John Yellowlees, Carron, presided. The Rev. J. Sanderson, B.A., Grangemouth, who preached, took as his text Galatians ii. 20 – "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me," and from these words delivered an impressive discourse. The ordination ceremony being performed by the laying on of hands.

REV. JOHN YELLOWLEES addressed the newly ordained minister. He spoke from the words contained in Acts v. 20 – "Go stand, and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." Two things, he said. Were to be considered - the matter and the manner of the apostolic ministry – and let these be taken as indicating what a true ministry ought to be. The matter of the ministry ought to be like the ministry of the Apostle Paul, who said that he received it from the Lord Jesus Christ to testify the gospel of the grace of God. The manner in which the apostolic ministry was discharged was boldly, simply, publicly, and yet to the people, without neglect of any. Let the ministry of the apostles be taken as the model. Let him be prayerful, joyful, and hopeful-prayerful, for that was the secret of spiritual success; joyful, for while the work of the ministry was responsible, it was the brightest and best, and he that preached the gospel ought to illustrate it by having a glad heart, a joyful face and a happy mind; and hopeful, for the seed that was sown was living and incorruptible, and would spring forth and prosper. Let there also be faithfulness in discharging the ministry that when it was over the eternal reward would be bestowed.

REV. SAMUEL SLEATH, Bo'ness, in addressing the people, said that if they would prove their sincerity of their action in calling their minister they should give him their unreserved confidence. They must not repress his ardour by any aloofness or coldness, and they let their minister feel when he stood before them as an ambassador for Christ that he was surrounded by a sympathetic and responsive people anxious to know the mind of the Lord and willing to be led into the knowledge of the things of Christ.

They must not be too over sensitive of home thrusts for such a mood implied on their part a want of healthy self-repression and of that priceless grace of meekness. Their minister was set over them to reach their hearts, and the more heart-reaching his words the more useful would be his ministry. Let them wait upon his ministry. By an irregular attendance at church ordinances they not only prevented themselves from coming into line and keeping step with the systematic instructions of their minister, but they did not a little to discourage the minister and their fellow members. Let them not be mere spectators in the sanctuary, and let them get

rid of the heresy that the sermon was the main thing in the service of God, that all they had to do was attend and pay more or less attention to it, and when retiring deliver their judgment upon it in a more or less oracular manner. Let them pray with and for their minister, and by doing so they would help him greatly. They as a congregation had long held an honorable place, and they had had a succession of ministers who had worthily led and guided them. That day they set another servant of Christ over them, who, with their co-operation and prayers, would maintain the traditions of the gospel ministry of that place, and make the future history even more glorious than in the past.

LUNCHEON

Immediately thereafter the officiating clergymen members of the Presbytery and Session, and friends adjourned to the hall of the church, where luncheon was served. The Rev. Thomas Taylor, moderator during the vacancy presided. In proposing the toast of the "Young Minister," the chairman expressed his satisfaction with the one who came among them with such a good reputation as did Mr Rouse. In Mr Rouse's name there was a prophesy going before him, and whether or not he equaled his great German namesake as a theologian, or his English namesake as a poet, he (the Chairman) was sure that he would do good work as a preacher of the gospel. (Applause) In responding to the toast, Mr Rouse, in the course of a few appropriate remarks, said that he came to Avonbridge with a determination to do good practical work as the grace of God enabled him. The other toasts proposed were – "The Presbytery," by Mr Buchanan, responded to by the Rev. Mr Keir, Dennyloanhead; "Officiating Ministers," proposed by Mr A. Binnie, responded to by Rev. Mr Sleath, Bo'ness; "Other Denomination," proposed by Rev. Mr Aitchison, Falkirk, responded to by Rev. Mr Dickie; "Strangers," proposed by Mr Hay, responded to by Rev. Mr Patrick; "Congregation," proposed by ex-Provost Watson, responded to by Mr Waugh.

CONGREGATIONAL SOIREE – PRESENTATION

In the evening a congregational Soiree was held in the church. There was a large attendance, over whom the Rev. Thomas Taylor, Falkirk, presided. He was supported on the platform by, among others, Rev. J.B.G. Rouse, Rev. James Allison, Alexandria; Rev. Thomas F. Best, Broughtyferry; Rev. Miller Patrick, M.A., Biggar; Rev. H. Morton, Cumbernauld; Rev. A.M. Gentles, M.A., Stow.

THE CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, referred in sympathetic terms to the resignation of the former pastor of the Avonbridge Church, Rev. Mr Robertson, and spoke of his high qualities as a minister. He had frequently expressed that a true man would be appointed his successor in the charge, and he (the chairman) knew he would be highly gratified that a settlement had taken place so harmoniously and likely to be prosperous. (Applause) Mr Taylor proceeded to speak of the esteem in which Mr Rouse was held in various spheres in which he had laboured, and quoted from a number of telegrams of a congratulatory character, and all expressing best wishes for a successful ministry. He (the chairman) hoped the ministry would now begun be a long and prosperous one. He had made the acquaintance of Mr Rouse, and thought he had made the acquaintance of one whose friendship would be worth cultivating. He was glad to think that his settlement had been effected so harmoniously and with so much good feeling, and he thought that the cordial greeting which had been extended to him gave a bright promise of a prosperous future. The period of the vacancy thus so satisfactorily brought to an end, put a period to his (the chairman's) term of moderatorship, and he gladly resigned his post to Mr Rouse, who would ably fill it. (Applause.)

MR R. LUMSDEN then in the name of the ladies of the congregation presented the newly ordained minister with a pulpit robe, and in doing so expressed the hope that he would be long spared to wear it. He at the same time made the further presentation of a number of handsome volumes (Godet's Commentary on S. Luke's and St. John's Gospels and Dr. Parker's Apostolic Life) which, he said, had been purchased from the balance of subscriptions which had exceeded the amount contributed for the purchase of the pulpit robe.

REV. J.B.G. ROUSE, in acknowledging the presentation, said he hoped that he would be long spared to labour among them here in Avonbridge, and that they and he would have many profitable and happy days and years together. From the hearty nature of the reception which they had accorded him he felt that he had no fear or trembling in coming into their midst; but looking at the matter from a personal standpoint he did have considerable fear and trembling. In the past he had laboured in different spheres, but in each of these he knew that his stay would be but of short duration. He came into their midst, however, as their minister, and to him the word "minister" meant something greater and deeper than he had ever thought of it before. They had called him to take upon him the looking after of their spiritual welfare. Trusting to his individual powers, he knew he could do nothing, but with his trust in his Lord and Master Jesus Christ, looking upwards to Him for help, and preaching Christ and Him crucified, they would be profited and his labours among them would be blessed. He hoped that they would give him their help and co-operation in his ministry. He was cheered to think that in connection with the church they had no fewer than 22 Sabbath School teachers, and he thought that with that nucleus of workers, each filled with the spirit of Christ, they would be able to accomplish much. In regard to the future, he would say that whatever he laid his hands to perform he would do it in no half-hearted way. He would put his heart and his soul into his business, and, although sometimes he might say other things which they might deem ha, he hoped they would trust in so far, that whatever he said or did would be for the welfare of the community, and for the sake of Christ. He thanked them most heartily for the presentations, and for their cordial welcome, and he looked forward in the future to enjoying many happy and profitable days in their midst. (Applause.)

MR T. BINNIE next presented Mr Taylor with a handsome umbrella as a token of the esteem and gratitude of the congregation for the manner in which he had presided over their affairs during the vacancy.

REV. MR TAYLOR having acknowledged the gist in a few appropriate remarks, then vacated the chair, which was assumed by Rev. Mr Rouse.

REV. MR MORTON, Cumbernauld, was next called to speak. He devoted his remarks to urging the congregation to assist the minister in his labours, and especially appealed to the youth to give him their help. He gave them as their motto the words "For Christ's Sake," and pointed out various ways in which they could do Christ service.

REV. MR ALLISON, in the course of his address, spoke of the many high qualities with which he knew Mr Rouse to be endowed. He was a very fine fellow indeed, and he had always found him very kind and obliging. In the various places he had laboured he (Mr Allison) had always heard of the esteem in which he was held and of the acceptance with which he had discharged his duties. He was also possessed of considerable experience, and in all respects was well equipped to assume the responsible duties of the ministry. In conclusion he bespoke on his behalf the cordial co-operation of the congregation.

The Rev. Messrs Best, Patrick, and Gentles also delivered short addresses, and in the course of the evening the choir, under the leadership of Mr Alexander Calder, rendered with much efficiency several selections of sacred music. Miss Lumsden skillfully presided at the harmonium. At the close the usual cote of thanks were awarded. Mr Binnie, baker, Avonbridge, purveyed the luncheon and soiree.

Falkirk Herald 24th October 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF)

A MINER AND HIS COALS. –

John Robertson, miner, and Janet Train or Robertson, his wife, residing at No. 90 Standburn, Muiravonside, were charged with having on 19th Oct., from a waggon then standing in a siding at No. 4 Colliery, Standburn, belonging to Messrs James Nimmo & Company (Limited), stolen coals weighing 140 lbs. They denied the charge of stealing the coals, and the male accused stated that 1s 8d was kept off his wages every week for coals, and that he had run short, of his last supply, which he got four weeks ago. The Sheriff - You mean, then, that you

took the coals because you considered yourself justified in having paid for them? The accused – Yes - The Sheriff - You had no authority to take the coals. The accused - We did not know it was a fault or we should not have been there. The Fiscal said that they had gone about eleven at night to a waggon which was ready for dispatch with coals to a customer of the company's, and his (the Fiscal's) information was that they had got a load of coals so recently as 2nd October. The accused said that that was not so. The Sheriff pointed out that they had been taking coals which belonged to another person altogether, those in the waggon from which, it was stated, they had taken coals having been consigned to some other person. If that was all the defense which they could offer, he would advise them to plead guilty, but if they wished to adhere to their plea of not guilty the case could be adjourned. The female accused - If the thing can be settled it would be better to settle it today, He (her husband) had been long enough idle, and he could not afford to lose another day to come down there. All she could say was that if they had known it was a fault they would never have done what they did, The Sheriff - You are charged with theft, and you must either plead guilty or not guilty. The accused then pleaded guilty. The Fiscal said that when discovered the male accused was on the top of the waggon and throwing down coals to his wife, who put them in a sack. The female accused said that their last supply of coals had been exhausted. They had had trouble in the house and required to have a fire burning night and day and thus burned more coals than usual. The Sheriff imposed a penalty of 5s, three days imprisonment in each case

BLACKBRAES

CO-OPERATION. – About three months ago, the Redding Co-operative Society opened a branch store in Blackbraes, and the balance sheet issued last week shows success beyond their most sanguine expectations. In addition to the payment of 5 per cent. On the capital of the members, a dividend of 2s 6d per £ on their purchases has been returned to them. When the principle and benefits of co-operation are more widely understood and experienced, we have no doubt that the working classes will more largely avail themselves of the advantage of being members. To obtain provisions of excellent quality at a moderate rate, and a handsome dividend besides, must increase the comforts of working men and their families. At the quarterly meeting, held last week, a new director was appointed from California, and two directors and an auditor from Blackbraes – all of whom, along with the treasurer of the branch, are men who take a deep interest in the prosperity of the branch store. Of course a good deal depends also upon the salesman, and we think the members have every reason to congratulate themselves on having secured the services of so affable a salesman as Mr. John Smart. It was suggested at the meeting that a bakery should be started, so that the members might get good bread on the same favourable terms, and the suggestion was well received. In the meantime three well qualified gentlemen were appointed to make inquiries, and to report to next meeting.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 27th October 1894

CROSSROADS, AVONBRIDGE.

HIRING at Moderate Charges to Falkirk and Elsewhere. – Apply JAMES TOWNS.

MESSRS. NEILSON'S SALES

EXTENSIVE AND IMPORTANT DISPENSING SALE OF CROP, LIVESTOCK, &c., AT FENCEHILLHEAD FARM, NEAR AVONBRIDGE, ON SATURDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, JAMES NEILSON & SONS, Auctioneers, have been favoured with instructions from Mr Joseph Taylor (who is leaving the farm) to Sell by Public Roup at FENCEHILLHEAD, on SATURDAY, 19th November, 1894, the whole of the Excellent CROP in Stack, Superior CATTLE, HORSES, and other PLENISHING, comprising – Sixteen Stacks of OATS; Good Seed.

One Rick of HAY.

Eight Calving COWS.

One Newly-Calved COW.

Two Spring Calving Queys.

One One Year Old BULL.

Five Ayrshire QUEY CALVES.

One Brown CLYDESDALE PEDIGREE MARE, Six Years Old, Good Worker.

One HARNESS MARE, Good Worker.

One HALF-BREED MARE, Six Years Old, Good Worker.

One PONY, rising 4 years, 15.5 hands, quite in Harness.

Dairy Utensils, Churning Mill, Two-Horse Thrashing Mill, One Iron Plough, Set of Iron Zig-Zag

Harrows, Barn, Byre, and Stable Implements, and about 60 Head of Poultry, also, a Large

Quantity of Byre and Stable Dung.

THREE MONTHS' CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS OR DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

Roup to begin at One o'clock.

Dundee Courier Saturday 27th October 1894

SCOTTISH BANKRUPTS

(From Last Night's Edinburgh Gazette.)

SEQUESTRATIONS

William Richie, presently residing in Avonbridge, County of Stirling, sole partner of the Standard Meat Biscuit Company. Meeting at two o'clock, 6th November, in Dowell's Rooms, No. 18 George Street, Edinburgh.

Falkirk Herald 3rd November 1894

MUIRAVONSIDE.

FAILING TO EDUCATE. – William Heaps, miner, Manuel Rigg, was, at Falkirk Sheriff Court on Thursday, charged with having, for two months prior to the 12th October, failed to provide education for his child, Christiana Heaps, aged 13 years. Accused pled not guilty, but was convicted on evidence, and fined 10s, with the option of seven days' imprisonment.

SLAMANNAN

PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

TORPHICHEN CHILDREN AT AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL

The minutes of meeting between representatives of the School Boards of the parishes of Slamannan, Muiravonside, and Torphichen, held at Avonbridge School on the 12th inst., were read, and the clerk reported that the copy of the minutes had been sent to the clerks of Muiravonside and Torphichen School Boards on the 13th inst. A letter from the clerk at Torphichen School Board, dated 26th inst., was read, stating that he had not had time to call a meeting of his Board to consider the matter.

After full consideration of the question the clerk was instructed to write to Torphichen Board, informing them that Slamannan School Board must have this matter decided without further delay, and that they pay to Slamannan School Board a sum of £300, for which Slamannan School Board would provide accommodation for 40 children coming from Torphichen parish, Torphichen School Board paying in addition one fifth of the upkeep of the school premises. If this proposal were not agreed to within fourteen days, instructions would be given to the headmaster at Avonbridge School to turn out all the children coming from Torphichen parish. The clerk was also instructed to communicate this proposal to the Muiravonside School Board.

FOGGAGE Wanted for 130 H.-B. Lambs. – Apply – Shepherd, Greenhill, Avonbridge.

TO LET. 150 ACRES WINTER GRAZING for SHEEP (nearly all Pasture). – Apply Crosscroes Farm. Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 14th November 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF)

BREACH OF THE PEACE. — Jane Rankine or James, wife of a miner residing at Standburn, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having on 10th November, created a disturbance on the public road there, and was fined 7s 6d, or seven days'.

ASSAULT — David Rankine (16), miner, No. 6 Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having on 9th November, in Gateside Pit, occupied by Messrs James Nimmo & CO., assaulted William Hood, miner, Craighend Cottages, by throwing a piece of iron rail or other missile at him and striking him on the right arm to the effusion of blood. The accused, who had previously convicted of assault, admitted the charge. Mr. T. Gibson, solicitor, on his behalf, said that the assault had been provoked by Hood making use of a hutch to which the accused was entitled by priority. The Fiscal stated that the complainer's story was that he had the right to the hutch, and that accused had knocked it off the rails. A penalty of £1, or seven days' imprisonment, was inflicted.

SLAMANNAN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AVONBRIDGE SCHOOL ACCOMODATION QUESTION

The CLERK read the following letter, dated 27th October which he had sent to the Torphichen School Board on the question of accommodation at Avonbridge School: - "I was instructed at a meeting of the School Board held yesterday to let you know that this Board must have the matter of accommodation at Avonbridge Combination School decided without further delay. The best proposal my Board can make is that you pay to them a sum of £300, and they will provide accommodation for forty children from Torphichen parish, you paying in addition a fifth of the upkeep. Unless I hear from you within fourteen days from this date agreeing to this proposal instructions will be given to the headmaster to have the children from you parish turned out." He also read the following letter from the clerk of the Torphichen School Board which he had received in reply to the above :- "I am now desired by the Torphichen Board to state in answer to your letter to me of the 27th ult., that they were of the opinion that £200 was a sufficient sum for them to pay for the school accommodation at Avonbridge in question and they are accordingly agreeable to give that sum, especially seeing that your Board was getting all the grants, &c., for their children attending the school. I will be glad to hear from you, at your earliest convenience, if your Board is agreeable to accept of the above offer."

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Slamannan Board by their proposal would be giving the Torphichen Board accommodation for forty children a £7 10s a head, which was much less than in several cases he instanced, where additions to schools were being made. His feeling was that the offer they made was a fair one.

MR. KIDD said in reference to what had been suggested about Torphichen Board finding accommodation for themselves, that was a matter they had nothing to do with. The Slamannan Board had made an offer, the unanimous proposal of the meeting, and it was for the Torphichen Board to accept it or reject it. If they thought that they would benefit themselves rather by being at the expense of erecting a new school for the children than by paying the £300 mentioned then they could do so. He would therefore move that the Board abide by the proposal already made.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the offer the Slamannan Board had made would not pay them, and it would certainly not pay the Torphichen Board to put up another place for the accommodation of their children.

MR. BAXTER said he thought they had negotiated too long over the matter already, and it was time that they had done with it. He would second the motion.

MR. MURRAY said that it seemed to him that they were tied in a manner with the Muiravonside Board; that they could not well move without them. He was quite prepared, however to fall in with the motion.

MR. WILSON also concurred.

It was then resolve to instruct the clerk to communicate with the Torphichen Board stating that the Slamannan Board adhered to the first proposal and that if they did not accept it, to withdraw their children from the Avonbridge combined school.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 17th November 1894

MADDISTON.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Mission Hall, Maddiston, on Tuesday afternoon. Colonel Stirling of Tarduf presided, and there were also present Messrs Murray, Binnie, Bryce, Mackay, Wilson, and Reid.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. The Officer reported that the attendance at the various schools was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Attend.
Blackbraes School	340	302
Drumbowie School	431	340
Muiravonside School	212	182
Avonbridge School	56	44

Andrew Martin, miner, Candie; James Frater, miner, Craighend; and John Hamilton, miner, Candie, did not appear before the Board in answer to summons to explain the irregular attendance at school of children belonging to them. It was agreed that a prosecution should take place in each case.

GRANT IN RELIEF OF SCHOOL FEES.

The Chairman reported that a sum of £149 16s had been received from the Department in relief of school fees.

VOTE OF THANKS TO MR. LIVINGSTONE LEARMONTH.

On the motion of the Chairman, it was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter to Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall, thanking him for granting gratuitously the use of a room in the Mission Hall in which the Board meeting was held.

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATION.

The Clerk read the following report on the religious knowledge examination in the different schools prepared by the Rev. Mr. Alex. M'Kenzie, M.A., inspector of schools:-

"Blackbraes Public School. -"The bright and sympathetic teaching of Miss Samuel produced the best results in the infant section, creating a deep interest in the work, and bringing out ready answers. In Standard 11., the repetition was very good, and the answers general on the Bible lesson. Standard 111., made a most creditable appearance alike in memory work and in Bible history, as did also Standard IV., though here it might be well to make geography go with history. Much intelligence was shown by the senior section in their answering both on the Old and New Testament lessons, in which they had evidently got careful training during the past year. A very full memory programme was accurately said, and a good knowledge of the map of Palestine shown the general tone was excellent.

"Muiravonside Public school. --A very good appearance was made by the infants in the work that had been given to them; instead of the Mother's Catechism the teacher might give oral instruction. The answering in Standards 11. and 111. was somewhat unequal, some being very bright, and others slow. Standard IV. did very well in repetition, and showed careful training both in Old and New Testament lesson. In the senior section some of the pupils distinguished themselves by the amount and accuracy of their memory work, and the whole class showed a very creditable knowledge of the periods of history studied, and of the geography of Palestine.

"Drumbowie Public School. --"This large school continues to show highly creditable results in religious instruction. The infants are taken in two sections, and the answering is very general, some of the children being specially bright. Standard I. promises to do good work when the teacher has been longer with them. The earnest teaching of Miss Yeats was reflected in the clear explanation of their lesson given by Standard 11., and their excellent repetition of the Scripture texts. The work of Standards 111. and IV., was marked by accuracy in the memory work and a good knowledge of the subjects professed. The senior section, under Mr.

Ballantyne acquitted themselves admirably, both as to the quantity and the quality of their work. The general tone of the school is excellent." Mr. Binnie, Mr. Wilson, and Mrs. Stirling

were present during the examination. Mr. Mackay moved that the report be not approved of, as he said it was neither excellent nor fair. A motion was tabled by Mr. Murray that an alteration should be made on the system of conducting this examination, but the examination had taken place two days after the meeting. He got no notice that the examination was to take place. He moved that another religious knowledge examination, to be conducted by an independent party, be held, and that the existing system of conducting religious knowledge examinations be abolished. Mr. Murray-"As one of those who was not notified of this examination, I second the motion. The Chairman-"I am very sorry you were not there, Mr. Murray. Mr. Mackay-"It shows there are two boards in one; you were not there, Mr. Murray. Mr. Mackay-"It shows there are two boards in one, and as a member of the Board will raise my voice against that sort of thing if it is to continue. Mr. Wilson-"You might please explain that statement you made. How there two Boards in one Mr. Mackay-"How did you get notice of the examination? Mr. Wilson- I got notice of it through the teacher. Mr. BRYCE -I was not invited to be present at the examination, although I heard of it. The Chairman-"Perhaps the clerk will explain why notice was not sent of the examination to the members of the Board. The CLERK-I got notice to invite the members of the Board, but it quite escaped my memory. Mr. Mackay said he maintained that it was purposely intended that the members should not be invited. The Chairman -No, no. Mr. Mackay. Mr. Mackay-Yes, I say it was, and if I am not heard here I have confidence in the parish that I will be heard outside. . The Chairman-I move as an amendment to the motion that the Board approves of the report submitted; that it is thoroughly satisfied with the present mode of conducting religious knowledge examinations; and resolves that it be continued as hitherto. Mr. Mackay- Neither you nor any other man can say that I am satisfied with a thing you have not permitted me to know anything about, Mr. Bryce-Did the clerk give information of the examination to any member of the Board directly? The Clerk-No member of the Board got information from me, I communicated with the teachers, but not with the Board, end, as I have said, it was purely an overlook that I did not do so. Mr. Bryce-Then if it is an overlook on the part of the clerk that we were not informed of the examination, I do not see that we can do anything now that the examination has taken place. Mr. Binnie-I got information from the teacher, as I have always done. Mr. Bryce-After the explanation of our clerk, I second the amendment. Mr. Murray-I brought forward my motion which Mr. Mackay has referred to at the request of a good many ratepayers, but I deferred moving it till after the examination. I am exceedingly sorry I was not invited to the religious knowledge examination, as I am interested in the children, as I believe every member of the Board is. What is religious about this report? I would like to know what there is of teaching in it? Mr. Mackay- You will have to ask that question at those who are satisfied with it. Mr. Murray said he would like to have another examination by another examiner. There were ministers; in the parish able to conduct such an examination, and if one minister would not do it another would. There were Free, U.P., Established, and Methodist the parish, or close to it and each of those gentlemen could take their turn in examining the children in religious knowledge along with a committee of the Board. He would appeal to the ratepayers if this report was adopted by the Board. Mr. Mackay-And I will help you, Mr. Reid-What do you want, Mr. Murray? Mr. Mackay-He wants to have another examination, at which all the members of the Board will be present. The Chairman- I object to any minister in the parish examining the children in religious knowledge. We ought to have a neutral party. Mr. Murray-You are not master of the parish, nor yet are you the Board. You are only one member of it - that is all. Mr. Reid-Seeing that Mr. Mackay insists on having another examination, I propose that there should be another examination, and that the same gentleman be asked to come back again and inspect the children in religious knowledge in the presence of the members of the Board. (Laughter.) - Mr. Murray-I will oppose his being brought back. Mr. Bryce-What have you against this gentleman who has conducted the examination, Mr. Murray? Mr. Murray-I have nothing against him, but he is not interested in the parish. We have as good men in the parish, and men quite as qualified to conduct a religious knowledge examination as he is. The Chairman-The present examiner is a neutral gentleman. Mr. Mackay-He is too much so. The Chairman-I think we should now take a vote on the question. Mr. Murray-Before doing so I would like if we could arrange to be unanimous on the point. The Chairman- I am afraid there is little chance of that. Mr. Murray. On a division, there voted for the amendment-the chairman, and Messrs Bryce, Reid, Wilson, and Binnie -5; and for the motion only the mover and seconder, the amendment was accordingly declared to be the finding of the meeting. Mr. Murray-I dissent from that finding, and intimate that I will appeal to the people.

TEACHERS SALARIES.

Two applications for increase of salary was read, but it was agreed to consider the salaries of the whole of the teachers at next meeting.

EVENING SCHOOLS.

The Board agreed to refund the fees by pupils attending the evening schools who made 90 per cent, of attendances, and to refund one half of the fees to those who had made 73 per cent. THE OVERCROWDING AT AVON BRIDGE SCHOOL, Letters were read from the Torphichen and Slamannan School Boards with regard to the overcrowding at the Avonbridge Combination caused by the influx of children from Torphichen parish, and the meeting resolved to abide by the decision of the Joint Committee, that accommodation would be provided in the school for 50 parish children if the Torphichen Board paid £400 to the Slamannan Board, and undertook to pay their share of the upkeep of the school.

This was all the business of public importance.

MUIRAVONSIDE

SCHOLASTIC. - On Friday last the pupils attending Muiravonside Public School presented Miss Baillie, assistant teacher, with a workbox and purse on the occasion of her leaving to fill an appointment in Shettleston Public School. In making the presentation Mr. Watt said that Miss Baillie had won the respect and esteem of all by the genuine interest she took in the welfare and advancement of her scholars. Miss Baillie suitably replied. She has been connected with the school for a long time both as a scholar and a teacher, and leaves with the best wishes of all.

SALE OF THE REDDING COLLIERY

In recent times a great amount of enterprise has been shown by the firm of Messrs James Nimmo & Co., coalmasters, Slamannan. We had occasion ay a former period to refer to the work carried on by this firm in Blackston and Bowhouse districts of Muiravonside, where during the last two years some five or six coal pits have been opened up - several miles of railway newly constructed and villages built for the accommodation of hundreds of inhabitants. Now we learn that during the last few weeks this same firm has purchased the surface houses and mineral properties of Stanrigg and Summerhouse, and entered this week into actual possession of the Redding Colliery itself, having purchased the whole plant and property connected therewith as belonging to the Messrs Salvesen, of the Redding Colliery Company. Some time ago Mr. McKillop of Polmont Park, leased the under sections in the Redding district from the Duke of Hamilton, and we are led to understand that this leasehold is also likely to be assumed by the firm of Messrs James Nimmo & Coy., of which he is a partner. The acquirement of this holding, which, rumour states, has been successfully proved, should give the firm of James Nimmo & Coy., one of the largest and most compact mineral fields in Scotland, embracing, it is believed, at least 5000 acres in extent, with a nearness of location to shipping ports, such as Bo'ness and Grangemouth, that is surpassed by few coalfields anywhere.

The Redding Colliery was established by the Duke of Hamilton about the year 1820, and it was worked for his Grace's account until 1857, when Messrs James Russel, sen., and James Russel, jun., became leases of the colliery and carried on the business of coalmasters under the style of James Russel & Company. In July 1860 Mr. John Theodor Salvesen, merchant and shipbroker at Grangemouth entered into business with James Russel & Company. In 1861 Mr. Russel, sen., retired from the business, and the colliery was carried on by Mr Russel, jun., and Mr. Salvesen, under the name of the "Redding Colliery Company." Between 1864-5

this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Salvesen became sole proprietor. In December 1865 Mr. Salvesen died, and the colliery was carried on by his trustees until the year 1884, and since then it has been in the hands of the late Mr. Salvesen's family, Mr. H. A. Salvesen of Blairbank acting as managing partner. Since 1860, when Mr. Salvesen joined the Redding Colliery, his firm at Grangemouth have had the sole agency for the sale of Redding coal in foreign markets, and large quantities have been shipped abroad at Grangemouth and Bo'ness, the coal finding special favour in the Scandinavian markets. The household coal is of very fine quality, and the bulk of it is sent to the Edinburgh market by the union Canal. The colliery at present comprises four working pits, the last one sunk being numbered 22, and in these about 300 men are employed. Messrs Nimmo & Co., do not intend changing the name of the concern, and the Redding Colliery Company, we hope, will for many years continue as one of the institution with which we have long been familiar. The energy and enterprising spirit that have always characterised the actions of the firm of Messrs James Nimmo & Co., may be taken as a safe augury to the rising hopes and ambitions of all who are in any way associated with the Polmont district, for it goes without saying that the extensive development of its latent mineral wealth must not only add greatly to the enrichment of all who may be immediately employed or resident in that neighbourhood, but increase the assessable valuation, which should be favourably felt by every ratepayer in the parish.

MUIRAVONSIDE

SCHOLASTIC. – On Friday last the pupils attending Muiravonside Public School presented Miss Baillie, assistant teacher, with a workbox and purse on the occasion of her leaving to fill an appointment in Shettleston Public School. In making the presentation Mr Watt said that Miss Baillie had won the respect and esteem of all by the genuine interest she took in the welfare and advancement of her scholars. Miss Baillie suitably replied. She has been connected with the school a long time both as a scholar and a teacher, and leaves with the best wishes of all.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 28th November 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT MONCRIEFF)

BREACHES OF THE PEACE, - James Wilson, Newfield Dykes, and Archibald Byres, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, were charged with having committed a breach of the peace in High Street, Slamannan, on 24th November. They had each been previously convicted. Wilson, who pleaded guilty, was fined 10s 6d, or ten days; and the case against Byers, who pleaded not guilty, was adjourned under caution of 10s.

FALKIRK JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT. – a Justice of the Peace Curt was held at Falkirk yesterday – Mr. J. Cooke-Gray, Blairlodge (presiding), Mr. John Fairley of Avonhall, and Mr. J.B. Cochran, Stenhousmuir on the bench. The following were fined for carrying a gun without possessing a licence: - George Cassells, miner, Standrigg, Muiravonside, 25s or ten days; David Hunter, jun., miner, Crosscroes, Muiravonside, 25s or ten days; Thomas Heaps, miner, Wallacestone, 10 6d or seven days; Robert Adams, miner, Blackbraes, 20s or ten days; Henry Stuthers, assistant grocer, California, 20s or ten days.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 1st December 1894

SLAMANNAN

THE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND THE TORPHICHEN DIFFICULTY. – A meeting of the Slamannan School Board was held in the Board-room yesterday afternoon – Mr. Nimmo presiding. There were also present Messrs Shanks, Wilson, Murray, Kidd, Baxter, and Campbell. The Clerk submitted several communications with regard to the difficulty which had arisen with Torphichen School Board with respect to the Avonbridge School. He first read a letter, dated 14th November, from the clerk of the Muiravonside School Board to him, which stated that the Muiravonside School Board could not rescind from the findings of the last meeting of joint committees. He also read a letter, dated 14th November, to the Torphichen Board, stating that the Slamannan Board could not alter their former offer, which was the best they could make in the circumstances. If the Torphichen Board did not agree to those terms within ten days the Torphichen parish children would not be received at Avonbridge School after that date. Another letter from the Clerk to the Torphichen Board, dated 21st November, was read stating that the Board could not accept the terms offered, seeing they were to have no share in the management of the school. They also pointed out that the Slamannan Board received £500 for the old subscription school at Avonbridge, which was got up partly by subscribers whose children belonged to Torphichen parish, and asking that that sum should be taken into account in the adjustment of terms. They offered £200 for the accommodation of 30 children at Avonbridge. The Clerk then read a letter he had written declining that offer, and stating that he could find no trace of the Slamannan Board receiving any money on account of the subscription School. He also read a letter from the Torphichen Board to the Department, in which they gave a statement of their case, and asked the Department to advise what they should do in the circumstances. The Department asked the Slamannan Board to supply them with any remarks they had to make on the letter. The Board instructed the clerk to write to the Department, explaining the whole circumstances, and further consideration of the question was delayed till a reply was got from the Department.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 8th December 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

FRIDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF)

THEFT OF COALS. –John Breen, pitheadman, and James Kerr, pitbottomer, Drumbroider, were accused of having on 6th December, at the pithead of Gateside Colliery, Muiravonside, belonging to Messrs James Nimmo & Co., stolen a quantity of coals, weighing 42 lbs. Breen pleaded guilty, but Kerr said that he had only been in the company of Breen when the coals were taken. The Fiscal stated that his information was that it was for Kerr's benefit that the coals were taken. They both lived together. There had been a great number of complaints as to thefts in that district. Kerr ultimately pleaded guilty, and penalties were then imposed in each case of 10s, or one week's imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 15th December 1894

NOTICE.

JAMES HUNTER., Maddiston Intends RUNNING a CLOSED-IN BRAKE Every SATURDAY, about Half-past Two o'clock, from STONBURN to FALKIRK, calling at MADDISTON, RUMFORD, REDDING, and LAURIESTON.

FUNERALS ATTENDED TO. MACHINE and COFFIN-BOX and other 'Vehicles' in Readiness. Prices Moderate.

J. H. hopes to share the patronage of the Public.

Falkirk Herald 19th December 1894

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MINERS.

James Samson, miner, Rumford, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 12th inst. in Manuelrigg Pit occupied by the Manuelrigg Coal Company, assaulted Archibald Lithgow, miner, Maddiston, by throwing an iron snibble at him and striking him therewith on the head, whereby he was cut and wounded to the great effusion of blood. The accused, who had been previously convicted, pleaded guilty. Mr. T. Gibson, solicitor, on his behalf, explained that the offence had been committed through a quarrel which had arisen between the accused and the complainer in regard to the precedence of their hutches while engaged at work, in which difference of opinion the accused maintained he was in the right. The Fiscal stated that the complainer held, on the other hand, that he was in the right in the quarrel, but the question,

the Fiscal thought, was one as to the regulations in force in the pit. There was no justification in any case for the accused doing what he did, and the man whom he had assaulted had had to leave work on the day he was struck. A penalty of £1, or ten days' imprisonment, was imposed.

MARRIAGES

At Tarduff, Linlithgow, on 20th inst., by the Rev. James W. G. Rouse, Avonbridge, Alexander Scott, Maddiston, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr. John Robertson.

Falkirk Herald 22nd December 1894

AVONBRIDGE

CONCERT.- Under the auspices of Calderwood Lodge of the L.O.A.Shepherds, a successful concert was given on the evening of Wednesday. Dr. Calderwood presided, and in his introductory remarks drew attention to the benefits accruing from union with such friendly societies. The opening pianoforte selections were played by Mrs Mitchell, Falkirk, in good style, and an excellent programme was well sustained by Miss Grant, Falkirk; Mr Wilkie, Slamannan; Miss F. Johnstone, Mr Nesbit, Nr and Miss Webster. Hearty votes of thanks were awarded at the close, and the chairman was cordially thanked for presiding. An assembly followed.

MARRIAGES

At Tarduff, Linlithgow, on 20th inst., by the Rev. James W.G. Rouse, Avonbridge, Alexander Scott, Maddiston, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr John Robertson.

DRUMBOWIE ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT will take place in DRUMBOWIE PUBLIC SCHOOL on WEDNESDAY EVENING, 26th inst.

ROBERT WILSON, Esq. in the Chair.

Doors open at 6 30. Concert at 7.

First Seats, 1s; Other Seats, 6p.

FOR SALE

AVONBRIDGE – STIRLINGSHIRE. – For Sale, in Dowell's Rooms, 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, 28th December, 1894, at 2 o'clock Afternoon, the WHOLE BUILDINGS, OVENS, MACHINERY, FITTINGS, UTENSILS of the STANDARD MEAT BISCUIT COMPANY, at AVONBRIDGE, in the County of Stirling. The Property is built on a fue which adjoins the Avonbridge Railway Station, and extends to 1 Acre 12 Poles 21 Yards or thereby, and the Fue-Duty is £215 2s 2d per annum. The Buildings are well adapted for a Bread or Biscuit Baker. The Machinery includes a serviceable Steam Engine, Mixing Brake, and Cutting Machines. The Ovens are in good order, and immediate entry can be given. It is seldom such a desirable and suitable property is in the market, and to enable an Estate to be wound up, the Upset Price has been fixed at the low sum of £350, which is considerably less than the actual cost. Apply to W.T. WHITE, C.A., 5 York Place; or to JOHN BAIRD, Solicitor, 23 Albany Street, Edinburgh, who has the titles and Articles of Roup.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 29th December 1894

STANDBURN.

CONCERT. –

A concert in aid of the aged and infirm was given in Drumbowie Public School on Wednesday evening before a very large audience. Mr. Robt. Wilson, Candie House, officiated as chairman, and was accompanied on the platform by Mr. Binnie, Bowhouse ; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn ; Mr. Wilson, Maddiston; and Mr. M'Kay, Drumbowie Schoolhouse. A large and varied programme, which met with a merited approval, was submitted. The concert was then opened with an overture by Mrs. B. Mitchell, Falkirk, which was exceedingly well done, as was also the selections given by Mr. Smith's quadrille band. Miss Lumsden sang " O Nannie, wilt thou gang wi' me" and "The song that reached my heart;" Miss Kay rendered " The Kerry Dance " and "Tit for Tat," and Miss Baxter sang "Cam' ye by Athol " and " Kilarney," all being given with spirit and good taste. Miss E. J. Mitchell's dancing performance was a great treat to those present. Mr. M. Watson sang "I for thee in every flower." while Mr. J. Wilson, Candie House, rendered "Ye Mariners of England" and "The Old Brigade." Mr. C. Kelly sang "Anchored" and "The Guardship," while Mr. D. Sharp sang "The Death of Nelson" and "The Battle of Stirling." Mr. D. Simpson acted as Scotch comic, Mr. Allison as Dutch singer, Mr. Arthur as Negro comedian, and Messrs. Hood, comics. Mr.B. Mitchell was accompanist. The concert was brought to a close at a timely hour by the company singing "God Save the Queen."

Glasgow Herald Saturday 29th December 1894

TEACHERS, GOVERNESSES, &C.

TEACHER (Certificated Male Assistant) for Drumbowie Public School: music and drawing: salary, £55 per annum, with extra emolument for Evening School. – Apply with 7 copies of testimonials, before 9th January, to Mr. T. Wilson, clerk, Muiravonside School Board, Maddiston, by Linlithgow.

1895

Falkirk Herald - Wednesday 2nd January 1895

STANDBURN.

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Falkirk Herald Saturday 2nd February 1895

AVONBRIDGE

THE SCHOOL ACCOMODATION QUESTION. – A conference between the School Boards of Slamannan, Muiravonside, and Torphichen School Boards, with regard to the Avonbridge school accommodation, was held at Avonbridge School on Tuesday. There were present – From Slamannana Board, Messrs James Nimmo, John Shanks, J. Wilson, and Andrew Allan, Clerk; From Muiravonside Board,- Messrs Wm. Stirling, Andrew Reid, R. Wilson, John Bryce, Wm. Murray, and Joseph Mackay; From Torphichen Board – Messrs John Waugh, James Mackay, Gavin Nimmo, and James Wilson. There also attended Dr. Ogilvie, H.M. Inspector of Schools, and Mr Fraser, H.M. Inspector of Schools. Mr James Nimmo, chairman of the Slamannan Board, was called upon to preside. After hearing Dr. Ogilvie, it was ultimately, after some discussion, agreed that the Torphichen Board should pay £200, and that is in consideration thereof, the Board should receive permanent accommodation at Avonbridge

School for 30 children without any further payment. Thereafter the Slamannan and Muiravonside Boards met – Mr Nimmo presiding. After considering what the arrangement made with the Torphichen Board, the Boards represented agreed that a joint census of the district from which the children in attendance at Avonbridge are likely to be drawn should be taken by the officers of the respective Boards, and the Boards would therefore meet and consider as to the extent of the addition made to the school, and the proportion which the cost should be divided between the two Boards.

Falkirk Herald 6th & 9th February 1895

STANDBURN.

PRESENTATION –

On Friday afternoon the teachers and scholars of Drumbowie Public School assembled in the school for the purpose of presenting Mr. James Rait, ex-pupil-teacher, with a small token of esteem on the occasion of his leaving to fill another situation under the Southwick School Board, Sunderland. Mr. McKay, headmaster, after referring to the good work which Mr. Rait had done as a member of the staff of the school, and wishing him every success in his new situation, called upon Miss Hunter to make the presentation, which consisted of a very handsome carrying bag and writing desk. Miss Hunter then, in the name of the teachers and scholars, asked Mr. Rait to accept of these tangible tokens of their good feeling. In acknowledging the gift, Mr. Rait referred to the happy and cordial relations that had always existed between himself and the teachers and scholars of the school, and thanked them sincerely for their expressions of goodwill.

Falkirk Herald 20th February 1895

MUIRAVONSIDE. MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Coffee-house, Maddiston, yesterday afternoon. Colonel Stirling of Tarduff presided, and there were also present Messrs Bryce, Murray, Binnie, Mackay, and Wilson.

School attendance.

The Board having dealt with a number of defaulting parents, The Officer reported that the attendances at the various schools were as follow: -

	On Roll.	Aver. Attend.
Blackbraes School	349	293
Drumbowie School	477	358
Muiravonside School	201	160
Avonbridge School	59	44

CENSUS OF CHILDREN.

The Chairman read a report from the janitor as to a census which he had taken of children in the Avonbridge district along with the Slamannan School Board officer on the 4th, 5th, and 6th February. The total number of children in the district was 245, distributed as follows: -

Slamannan parish 89; Muiravonside parish, 101; Torphichen parish. 52. Many of the children would not be ready for school for some time. The Officer asked what remuneration the Board proposed to give him for the extra work entailed in taking the census. The Grangemouth janitor had been paid extra for doing similar work. The Chairman - We will consider the matter.

EXPELLING A BOY FROM SCHOOL.

A parent from Maddiston appeared before the Board and produced a letter dated 9th January, 1895, which stated that the headmaster of one of the schools under the Board had suspended his (the parent's) son until there was an apology made for the behaviour of the boy at school. The Chairman - Has the boy ever been back at the school since then? The Parent - No. The Chairman - I do not know how we can with this matter until you apologise to the teacher. But you have declined to do so. The Chairman read a letter from the headmaster on the subject, in which he alleged that the boy threatened to split his bead, and in the playground he swore and bounced of what he had said. He had suspended him until he apologised and promised to behave better in the future. A letter was also read from Mr. Reid, a member of the School Committee, in which he stated that the boy must apologise. The Parent said that his information was that part of the charge was unfounded. Mr. Bryce said he visited the school the day after the complaining party got the letter, and he asked the class what had occurred. Its version of the matter was that the headmaster had been giving the boy arithmetic on the black board, and as he was wrong the teacher brought him back and was proceeding to instruct him further. He asked the boy if he was looking at the black board, and he replied that he was not. The teacher thereupon gave the boy one "palmy," and the boy, addressing the master, said "Take care what you are doing or I will split your head with a slate." The letter stated that the boy swore on the playground, but the children denied that that was so. The teacher was willing to take the boy back to school if he gave him a guarantee that such a thing would not occur again. The parent, however, said that the boy would not apologise. The Chairman (to the parent) - You are not acting properly if you do not apologise. The Parent - I will do so if the teacher will do what is right himself. He has no right to thrash a child any way he likes. The Chairman - How do you say he thrashed your child? The Parent - He lifted him by the cuff of the neck, shook him, and then thrashed him. The Chairman - Do you object to your boy being punished? The Parent - Yes; if the punishment is out of place. I cannot do so myself. The police would not allow me. The Chairman He had not been attending to his lessons. I have been thrashed myself often for the same thing. The Parent - I object to my boy being punished on any other place but the hand. Mr. Wilson - How old is your boy? The Parent - He is twelve years of age and is not three stone weight. He is rather a delicate boy. He is in the 6th standard, and is a regular attender at school. Mr. Wilson - He must be a clever boy when he is in the 6th standard at that age. You should see the headmaster on the matter and endeavour to arrange with him. Mr. Mackay - When you think your boy has been abused you should have no hesitancy in speaking to the teacher Mr. Murray - it has not been proven that the teacher ill-used your boy. It is a great mistake for parents to take the side of their children when they are under a course of training and education at school. From what I know of the members of this Board I believe they will protect children from being abused by any of the teachers, and you are perfectly safe in going to the teacher in question with your boy to reason the matter out with him. My own children have been taught under the same headmaster, and I have never had a single complaint against him. Mr. Mackay - Go with the boy to the teacher and make the boy promise to behave better in future, and that will neither be humiliating to him nor you. Mr. Murray - And for doing so both you and your boy will reap the rich reward, (Laughter,) the subject then dropped, it being understood that the parent would see the headmaster on the subject.

A Drumbowie school "difference."

The Chairman said that Mr. Mackay, the headmaster of the Drumbowie School, was waiting outside, and wished to make a statement to the Board with regard to some difference between him and some of his monitors. The Board agreed to take the matter up in committee.

Blackbraes School.

It was remitted to the Blackbraes School Committee to consider as to the granting of an increase of salary to the cleaner of that school. Mr. Murray stated that her present salary was only £9 He thought £13 would be a proper remuneration. With regard to the drainage of this school, the clerk was instructed to write to Messrs Russell & Aitken, writers, requesting them to reply to the former applications of the Board on the matter.

A parent's complaint.

A parent complained about one of the junior male teachers under the Board striking his boy on the head, and "raising trouble in his head by knocking it against the desk." The Chairman - How long is it since this occurred? The Parent - it is some time ago since it was commenced, and the teacher is continuing to treat my boy in the manner described. The Chairman - When did your boy last complain? The Parent - He complained to me last night. The Chairman - The Board will inquire into the matter. The free books question.

The Clerk - The next business is the proposal by Mr. Murray that the Board provide the

children with free books. The Chairman - Before proceeding to deal with the question, I would like to say that in May last Mr. Murray made a motion that free books be provided by the Board to the children, and after an expression of opinion on the subject the question was delayed. In August the Board met and took into consideration what it was necessary to assess for the current year, and in our calculation we did not consider that any money would be required for the cost of free books. Consequently I consider we cannot deal with this question again until about the 15th of April, because we have no money on hand to meet the cost of free books, and it will be quite unbusiness-like to make any such proposal now. Between the 15th of April and August next the question may be considered, and I hope that Mr. Murray, in consequence of what I have stated, will see the desirability of not moving in the matter until the close of the present financial year. Mr. Wilson - think there is some wisdom in that, Mr. Murray. The Chairman - I don't say a word against the propriety of granting free books, but we must take a business like view of the matter. Mr. Murray - I am very pleased to hear the chairman express himself in that way. I may say that I have not the slightest desire, after what he has said, to put the Board in any awkward position by proposing my motion now. I have, however, a strong desire to bring forward this proposal to have the children provided with free books, because I believe that the great majority of the ratepayers are in favour of it, because there are a great many poor children in the parish who would be benefited by being provided with free books. Were free books given to the children, I also believe that the educational status of the parish would be raised, and higher grants would be earned. The Board has nothing to lose but a great deal to gain by granting free books to the children. I will not, however, propose my motion now, but will do so at some future time.

THE METHOD OF CONDUCTING RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. Mackay - I move that we ask the clergymen of the parish to conduct our religious knowledge examinations. The Chairman - Do you not think it is out of order to bring up that matter again seeing that we have already discussed it and come to a finding on the subject. Mr. Wilson - A division took place on the question already, and I think that division disposes of the matter. The Chairman - It seems to me absurd to bring the matter up again. Mr. Murray - Where are the funds wherewith to pay an inspector from the outside? We have no right, to give the ratepayers' money to an outside party for doing what we can get local clergymen to do quite as well for nothing. The Chairman said that the Board had received a circular from the society for aiding School Boards in conducting religious knowledge examinations. This circular he handed to Mr. Mackay, and he hoped that after reading it he would be satisfied. Mr. Mackay - If it is the desire, of the Board I will allow my motion to lie on the table until we have perused this circular. This was agreed to. This was all the public business.

Falkirk Herald - Saturday 23rd February 1895

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

Breaches of the Peace. -

George Cunningham, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having, on 16th February, in his house there, committed a breach of the peace. He was fined 7s 6d, or one week's imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 27th February 1895

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

THURSDAY.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

Breach of the Peace. -

Andrew Martin, miner, Candie, Muiravonside, was charged with having created a disturbance at Maddiston, He pleaded guilty, and was fined 7s 6d, with the option of seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 2nd March 1895

AVONBRIDGE

SOCIAL MEETING. - The members of the Bible class in connection with the U.P. Church had their annual social in the hall on Friday night. There was a good attendance, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 16th March 1895

AVONBRIDGE

E.U. CHURCH - A meeting of members and adherents of the above was held in the church on Monday night to consider the proposed union with the Congregationalists. Rev. M. Richmond occupied the chair. The attendance was small. After a prolonged discussion, it was decided to withhold from the union. Our correspondent adds, there was a strong desire to go over to the established Church.

Falkirk Herald 20th March 1895

EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

The usual monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in., the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday - Mr. Geo. Ure of Wheatlands presided.

RIVERS POLLUTION. Mr. J. A. Henderson asked what the sub-committee had to report with regard to the pollution of the rivers Carron and Avon? Mr. Wilson - When the matter was last mentioned the clerk was to arrange a meeting with the Linlithgow County Council on the subject. The Clerk - I have frequently endeavoured, but without success, to arrange a meeting with the Linlithgow and Bathgate District Committees of Linlithgow County Council. Mr. Wilson - Since the ice broke up, the river Avon is in a fearful state with chemicals from the paper works, &c. It is evident that something must be done. Mr. Jardine - It is twelve months ago since I raised this question, and things are in the same position now as they were then. The river Carron is in a very bad condition at present, and in the summer weather it is certain to be in a very much worse state. Mr. Baillie - The committee were to pay a surprise visit to the different works. Mr. Jardine - I know something about the Esk river and it practically pays the paper-makers there to carry out the works they have done. I do not see why the paper-makers on the Carron cannot adopt similar methods of removing the nuisance complained of. The subject dropped.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT - SCARLET FEVER IN SLAMANNAN PARISH.

The Clerk read the following report from Mr. Denholm, sanitary inspector, for the month of February: - "The number of notifications of infectious diseases received is 66. They are as follows: - Falkirk parish - 1 diphtheria, 3 erysipelas, 8 scarlet fever, 2 enteric fever, and 4 continued fever; Larbert parish - 1 erysipelas, 1 scarlet fever, and 1 enteric fever; Airth parish - 1 enteric fever; Bothkennar parish - 1 enteric fever; Polmont parish - 2 erysipelas and 1 enteric fever; Muiravonside parish - 1 diphtheria, 1 erysipelas, 2 scarlet fever, and 1 enteric fever; and Slamannan parish - 1 erysipelas, 33 scarlet fever, and 1 enteric fever. Six patients have been removed to the Falkirk Fever Hospital during the month, in which there are six patients from this district at present. All the cases were visited, and the usual precautionary measures were adopted. The severe frost throughout the month has prevented anything being done in the way of drainage or other improvements as work of this description was completely stopped. Advantage is now being taken of the change of weather. The Chairman said that while he was sorry to see such a large increase in the notifications from Slamannan parish, he was glad that since the introduction of suitable water and drainage into Larbert parish, the number of notifications from that parish was almost nil. That fact must be gratifying to Mr. J. B. Cochrane and others who took such an interest in this matter. The Sanitary Inspector stated that Slamannan had not been free from scarlet fever for several months, and unfortunately

things were no better now. Since his report was issued, he had received 40 additional notifications from Slamannan parish. Slamannan School was closed at present in consequence of the epidemic. Mr. J. A. Henderson - That means that there are 70 cases from Slamannan. The Sanitary Inspector - The only explanation I can give for this condition of things is the position of the Slamannan district and the fact that it is a long way behind other places in regard to the housing of the people and the habits of the people. Mr. Hunter - Mr. Denholm's report shows the value of a good drainage and water system. Dr. M'Vail - The committee must insist on having the necessary improvements carried out at the colliery villages in Slamannan district. They had not got in Slamannan the ABC of sanitation, or what would make existence really possible. The committee must go on step by step. He had advised the School Board to close the school, but it was re-opened sooner than was desirable. The epidemic became worse, and he was written to again by the School Board, with the result that the school was again closed. That removed only one effect, but it did not provide proper drainage, a proper water supply, nor better houses, nor yet did it give the people the ABC of sanitary requirements. They should approach the proprietors of the villages to see what they were going to do, and if need be get the Sheriff to enforce the removal of nuisances. Mr. J. A. Henderson suggested that the sanitary inspector should bring up a report at next meeting on the insanitary houses in Slamannan district referred to by the medical officer. For a long time they had strong statements made regarding those insanitary houses, and they must endeavour to remedy matters. Mr. M'Killop said he had no sympathy with the insanitary Slamannan villages. He had done all he could to impress on the proprietors of those villages to have them put in as habitable a condition as possible. Whatever water there was in the immediate neighbourhood should be properly filtered and supplied to the houses. There had been a great deal of negligence on the part of the proprietors of the houses, and he had no sympathy with them in the way in which they had performed their duties in this matter. He heartily supported the proposal made, and he thought also that there should be a report obtained from the various proprietors of the villages as to what they proposed doing to bring the matter to a definite issue. The means of securing it, and not the cost, was the difficulty of providing Slamannan with water, and if Slamannan had been in the same position as Larbert, the remarks of Mr. Hunter would have been uncalled for. Colonel Stirling stated that in the village of Standburn, belonging to Mr. M'Killop's firm, there were 150 houses, and not a single case of infectious disease. That showed the good results which accrued from proper drainage, a good water supply, and other conveniences. The Sanitary Inspector stated that some proprietors made an effort to improve the sanitary condition of their properties, and had erected privy accommodation, but, to the disgrace of the people, those erections, to build which cost considerable expense, were pulled down in some places. If the people were assessed for the providing of such conveniences, they would appreciate them. The Chairman - Referring to what Colonel Stirling said about Standburn, I know that Mr. M'Killop has no sympathy with the condition of things which exist in the Slamannan villages and that his firm have no connection with the matter complained of.

Falkirk Herald 20th & 23rd March 1895

BREACH OF THE PEACE

David Easton, miner. Standburn, and Agnes Easton or Geddes, wife of a miner, residing at Standburn, admitted having, on 13th March on the road there, committed a breach of the peace, They were each fined 7s 6d, or one week's imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 23rd March 1895

MUIRAVONSIDE.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS. -

The following candidates have been nominated : - West Division (six seats) - Mr. Wilson, Bogo; Mr. M'Kay, colliery manager; Mr. Wilson, Candy House; Mr. Boyd, Westerhillhead ; Mr. Binnie, Candyhead ; Mr. Binnie, Bowhouse ; Mr. Logan, coalmaster, Almond House ; Mr. Murray, The Gardens, Parkhall. East Division (five seats) - Mr. Henderson of Redford ;Mr. Stirling of Tarduff; Mr. Stirling, of Muiravonside; Rev. Mr. Bell, The Manse, Muiravonside; Mr. Bowie, Gilmeadowland ; Mr. Reid, Haining Valley ; Mr. Learmonth of Parkhall; Mr. Hunter, Maddiston ; and Mr. Todd, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 23rd March 1895

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT- MONCRIEFF.)

VIOLENT CONDUCT -

John Christie, miner, Stoneburn, and James Christie, miner, Gateside, Muiravonside, were charged with having on 16th March in Bridgehill Inn, occupied by John Ponton, assaulted (1) William Roden, miner, Stoneburn, by striking him several violent blows on the face, knocking him down, and biting one of the fingers of his right hand ; (2) John Ponton, by striking him on the face, knocking him down, and biting one of the fingers of his left hand ; (3) Jeannie Menzies, domestic servant to John Ponton, by striking her a violent blow on the face; (4) William Williamson, miner, Stoneburn, by striking him on the body, and further with having committed a breach of the peace. They pleaded guilty. The Fiscal stated that the two accused had been in the Bridgehill Inn and had begun quarrelling with a man who was there. Roden interfered on behalf of the man, whereupon he was assaulted. On the owner of the public-house endeavouring to restore peace by putting the accused out, they turned upon him and assaulted him, and also the servant girl. The man, Williamson, who was present, was likewise assaulted by the accused in the course of the disturbance. The Sheriff said it was a very melancholy thing to see two young men of their ages pleading guilty to such charges, which, his Lordship had no doubt, were due entirely to intemperate indulgence in drink. They seemed to have been very outrageous, and, amongst other things, they had struck the servant girl, which was not only a cowardly thing to do but one which might have been followed by serious consequences. In giving them the option of a fine, he did so in consideration of their youth and the fact that they had not been in Court before. The penalty in each case would be £2, with the alternative of ten days' hard labour.

Falkirk Herald 27th March 1895

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT.

SATURDAY.

(Before Bailie WEIR.)

"A ROUGH NIGHT AT GRAHAMSTON STATION."

A Larbert man pleaded guilty, and was fined 10s, for creating a disturbance at the station, with the option of seven days' imprisonment

A similar penalty was imposed on William Rodden, miner, Standburn, for creating a disturbance at the station.

The Fiscal remarked that Saturday night was a rough night at the station. The Bailie - I may say that if the accused parties come here again on a charge of committing a breach of the peace at the station it will be a different story. Such disturbances at the station when it is in a crowded state, and when trains are continually passing and re-passing are most dangerous, and cannot be tolerated.

Falkirk Herald 10th April 1895

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY,

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute WILSON.)

BREACHES OF THE PEACE. -

Charles Skinner, brusher, 21 Standburn. Muiravonside, was fined 7s 6d, or seven days, for having committed a breach of the peace there on 6th inst. Similar penalties were imposed upon each of Janet Gilmour or Grant, wife of a miner residing at North Arnloss, and Dorothy

M'Lean or M'Kellar, the wife of a miner, residing at Pirnielodge, for having created a disturbance on 1st inst. at Balquhatston Rows.

AVONBRIDGE

SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE. – Yesterday a conference between Slamannan and Muiravonside School Boards on the subject of accommodation at Avonbridge school, was held at Avonbridge. Dr. Ogilvie and Mr Fraser, H.M. Inspector of Schools, were also present, while there were also present – For Slamannan Board, Messrs James Nimmo, John Shanks, Alex. Kidd, James Campbell, John Murray, John Wilson, and John Baxter; and for Muiravonside Board, - Col. Stirling, Andrew Reid, Daniel Binnie, and James Mackay. Mr James Nimmo presided. It was agreed that the proposal made by Muiravonside School Board, contained in the letter from Col. Stirling, chairman of Muiravonside Board, dated 27th March last, be accepted, and that the addition to the school, should be made so as to bring up the total accommodation to 200. It was agreed that Mr James Strang, architect, Falkirk, be appointed architect, and a committee consisting of the chairman, Messrs Wilson and Murray, from Slamannan Board, and Messrs McKay and Wilson, from Muiravonside Board, was appointed to meet Mr Strang on Friday at the school. It was also agreed that should it happen after the addition to the school was finished it be found that the accommodation more than for 200 children, the extra accommodation and cost be divided equally between the Slamannan and Muiravonside Boards. He proposal of the Muiravonside Board is contained in the following excerpt from Col. Stirling's letter referred to: - "We consider it desirable that such an addition should be made to the school to give accommodation for 20 additional children from Muiravonside and 30 from Torphichen Parish making the school capable of accommodating 200 in all. We are willing to bear our portion of appertaining to provision for 20 children, which will be two fifths of the cost; and should the other three fifths of the cost in connection with providing for 30 children from Torphichen amount to more than the sum of £200 to be received from them, we are willing to pay one-third of the amount above said sum, you paying the other two-thirds, which we conceive is carrying out strictly the terms of the original agreement with you."

Glasgow Herald 10th April 1895

LABOUR AFFAIRS.

MINERS' WAGES-MEETINGS OF THE MEN

FALKIRK.-

Mr. Chisholm Robertson addressed a meeting of the miners of the western part of Falkirk district in the hall, Standburn, last night, in connection with the proposal to reduce miners' wages. He discussed the situation in a lengthy speech, and advised the miners to be prepared to take guidance from the conference of miners' delegates which is to be held in Glasgow to-day to consider the wages question. As the wages of the miners here were recently reduced, it is understood that they will not be touched by the present proposal.

Falkirk Herald 13th April 1895

BURGH LICENSING COURT. –

This Court was held on Tuesday. Provost Gilmour presided, and the other Magistrates on the bench were Bailies Morrison and Russell. All the existing licences were renewed. As new tenant, James Neil, coach-hirer, Maddiston, was granted a certificate for the Custom-House Hotel, West Port, which is presently in name of Thomas Kerr. On behalf of the bench Provost Gilmour said he hoped the new tenant would conduct the business in a satisfactory way, and that he would in particular have a strict regard to Sunday traffic. He thought it right to point out that in the event of a breach of certificate applicant was liable to forfeit the licence. That was in terms of the lease, so that he hoped Mr. Neil would keep that in view.

Falkirk Herald 17th April 1895

AGENTS.

By whom Advertisements and Orders for Paper are received: -

Bowhouse, James Croall, Station Agent
Linthgow Bridge, Mrs. Dickson, Post Office.
Maddiston, Arch. Forsyth, Merchant
Manuel, John Robertson, Manuel Station

Glasgow Herald 20th April 1895

WANTED FOR MUIRAVONSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL,
A FEMALE CERTIFICATED ASSISTANT TEACHER;
Normal trained preferred; Salary, £60 per annum – Application, with seven copies of testimonials, to be lodged with Thomas Wilson, South Brae Cottage, Maddiston, by Linlithgow, on or before the 27th inst.

Falkirk Herald 20th April 1895

MADDISTON.

CONCERT. –

On Wednesday evening last Mr. Rigg and family gave a recital of sacred music to a large and appreciative audience. Mr. William Logan occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings explained that the concert had been got up by a small local committee, consisting of Messrs Livingstone, Strang, Hunter, and Cummings, and was for the benefit of Mr. David M'Cullooh, of South Craigend, who had been laid aside by illness for nearly a year. Altogether the concert proved a great success, and the proceedings ended with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Rigg and family for giving their services.

STIRLING COUNTY LICENSING COURT.

The half-yearly Licensing Court for the county of Stirling was held in the County Buildings, Stirling, on Tuesday. There was a large attendance of Justices, and on the motion of Sir Charles King, Colonel Stirling of Gargunnoch was called upon to preside. The total number of licences in the county for the year 1894-95 was 239. The certificates applied for for the year 1895-96 were 242, made up as follows: - Renewals, 228; renewals of transferred certificates, 8; by new tenants or occupiers, 1; for new premises, 5.

THE HOUR OF CLOSING.

The Chairman proposed that the hour of closing be continued at 10 o'clock. This was unanimously agreed to.

William Galloway, publican, Maddiston, asked the Court to licence an extension to his premises at Maddiston. Mr. Clarkson, Toravon, proposed that the licence be granted. The alterations would be a great improvement, Mr. J. Cooke Gray seconded. This was agreed to. James Battison, Linlithgow Bridge, applied for a public-house licence for premises at Manuel Station. Mr. Wilson, who appeared for the applicant, said that the house was not erected yet, but it was being erected by the North British Railway Company as a refreshment room at Manuel Station. They had already let it to the applicant, and they said it would be ready for this Court, but it was not ready, some other pressing work having come in the way. The house would consist of but one square room, and if licensed it would only be open from the time the first train left the station in the morning which was not very early till the last one left as night. As showing the need there was for such a place at Manuel Station, he referred to it being an important junction where passengers had to wait for half-an-hour or more for their connections to Bo'ness, Bathgate, Slamannan, and elsewhere. He had himself to wait at the station for train connections. The station agent had strongly recommended the Railway Company to erect a refreshment bar at the station, and they had given their consent to a licence being applied for. He read a telegram from the secretary to the company stating that the plans would be in readiness, and would be sent off by a certain train to Stirling in time for the Court, but unfortunately they had not come to hand. Mr. George Ure of Wheatlands - If the Court cannot grant a licence to a private individual who simply informs the chief constable that he is going to get plans ready, I do not see that it can make an exception of the North British Railway

Company. (Applause) Is there such a great demand at Manuel Station that they cannot wait till next Court when the premises will be built? Although Mr. Wilson stated that he had waited at Manuel for a train connection he did not say how much he felt the want of such accommodation as that now sought to be provided. (Laughter.) Mr. Wilson - I have no recollection whether I did or not. (Laughter.) Mr. Ure, I propose that we refuse this application till next Court. Mr. Wilson - I will rather withdraw the application till then. The application was thereupon withdrawn

Falkirk Herald 11th May 1895

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL. MEETING OF EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday forenoon. Mr. George Ure of Wheatlands presided, and the other members present were - the Rev. Mr. Leckie, Airth ; Colonel Stirling of Tarduff, Major Dobbie, Larbert; Provost Mackay, Grangemouth ; Mr. M'Killop of Polmont Park ; Mr. Peddie Waddell of Balquhatston; Mr. Salvesen of Blairbank; Mr. Hunter, Glenfuir; Mr. Baillie, Carron; Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Stenhousemuir; Mr. Henderson of Bedford ; Mr. Ralph Stark of Summerford; Mr. Charles Brown, Kerse; Mr. Wood, Slamannan; Mr. Reid Haining Valley; Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout; and Mr. J. A. Henderson, Leith. Dr. M'Vail, medical officer; Mr. Denholm, sanitary inspector; and Mr. Ballantine, road surveyor, were also present.

A MADDISTON NUISANCE.

Colonel Stirling called attention to several new houses which were being built at Maddiston, the sewerage of which was being discharged on the roadside. In hot weather this was likely to cause disease. The Sanitary Inspector said that in his last annual report he had endeavoured to put this question as plainly as possible before the people, so that they would understand what was meant. He had visited these houses, and had endeavoured to get the people to discharge their sewerage into their gardens, but his visit had had little effect. This was a long standing grievance, and he did not think the committee ought to put up with it longer. After discussion it was agreed that the Sanitary Inspector be instructed to take proceedings against the offenders.

STANDBURN.

The Redding Co-operative Society at their last general meeting agreed to erect a new store at this place. The increase in the membership and the general prosperity of the undertaking fully justify this step, and it is certain that the new establishment will be a great convenience to the district.

BOWHOUSE.

At Bowhouse and Craighend Collieries the miners have been working less than half time for the past fortnight. At the other pits trade get brisker.

Falkirk Herald 18th May 1895

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Meeting of Parish School Board. -

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held at Maddiston on Thursday afternoon. All the members were present, and Colonel Stirling of Tarduff presided. With reference to the deductions made by the Department upon the Drumbowie Evening School grant, the Clerk reported that the Department had agreed to allow £1 for magic-lantern slides. They declined, however, to regard the hiring of the piano as legitimate expenditure to be paid by them. The Clerk reported that the Muiravonside School Committee had appointed Miss Shaw, Cumbernauld, to a vacancy in that school at a salary of £60 per annum. A discussion took place on the question as to whether the committee had been authorised to make the appointment. Mr. Mackay held that the committee did not receive power to appoint, and he proposed that the decision of the committee be not endorsed, and Mr. Murray seconded. Mr. Bryce said he clearly understood that at a special meeting of the Board the committee received full power to appoint. Mr. Reid moved that the report of the committee be adopted, and Mr. Bryce seconded. The Chairman - To settle this question, I move that the Board to-day agrees to appoint Miss Shaw. Mr. Wilson seconded this motion. Mr. Reid withdrew his motion in favour of that by the chairman, which became the finding of the meeting. Mr. Murray moved that the Board grant free books to the children attending all their schools. He knew from the teachers that a good many poor children were not sufficiently provided with books and slates. Mr. Wilson seconded. The chairman moved the previous question. He considered it was very demoralising that the last fragment of responsibility of the parent for the education of his children should be taken away from him. Besides, he would like to know who were the parties who were clamouring for free books. He did not believe a majority of the ratepayers wanted free books. The change would increase the rates, and the burden would be most felt by those who would benefit least. Then the children would not take care of books which were given to them free, and there would be a constant demand for books. Mr. Reid seconded the amendment. There was no demand in his district, he said, for free books. After further discussion, a vote was taken, when the motion was carried by four votes to two. The Chairman said that, together with Mr. Bryce and Mr. Reid, he had visited Muiravonside School, and found it was over-crowded. In one room there were 62 infants and 23 standard one children, while there were 206 children on the roll. Under the new measurement there were five children in attendance at the school more than there was accommodation for. Mr. Wilson thought that the matter of providing increased accommodation should be allowed to lie over until after the inspection of the school, which would take place within the next few days. Mr. Bryce said that Mr. Mackay had told him the other day that there were 494 children on the roll of Drumbowie School. To deal effectually with the school accommodation question, they must erect a new school at Maddiston, as no sooner would they have finished extending Muiravonside School than they would require to make another addition to Drumbowie School. Mr. Murray There should be a new school between Maddiston and Rumford. After further discussion, Mr. Wilson's suggestion was agreed to. This was all the business of importance.

Falkirk Herald 29th May 1895

WARNING TO CARTERS.

At a Justice of Peace Court; on Thursday ex-Provost Cockburn and Mr. David Cowan of Kersehill on the bench - William Hogg, carter, Cockburn Street, was charged, in absence, with having, on 15th May, on the turnpike road leading through Maddiston village, left a horse and lorry without anyone in charge. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, tendered a plea of guilty on behalf of the accused. The breach of the Act which his client had committed, he said, was a technical one. Hogg was in the employment of a firm of aerated water manufacturers, and while delivering his goods at Maddiston his horse moved away a short distance. It was contended that that was an offence, but it was an open question whether the Act of Parliament ever contemplated such a charge being made in a district like Maddiston. One could easily imagine the dangers which were likely to ensue through a cart starting from a congested thoroughfare such as the Kirk Wynd, Falkirk, but it was carrying it too far to apply the Act to a country district, and particularly when the circumstances were such as he had described them. The Justices imposed a fine of 5s, with 15s of expenses, or failing payment to suffer ten days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 22nd June 1895

ATHLETICS.

CROSSCROES SPORTS -

These annual sports took place on Saturday in the Football Park, when there was a large attendance. The various events were keenly contested, and were followed with much interest. In the football competitions there were no fewer than fifteen juvenile and five junior teams

entered. The sports had to be adjourned owing to the darkness setting in, several of the events being put off. The following are the results: - Football competitions - Junior - 1, Standburn; 2, Slamannan Swifts. Juveniles - 1, Slamannan Blue Bell; 2, Longriggend. 120 yards race - 1, Duncan, Edinburgh; 2, Strang, Bathgate. 300 yard's race - 1, Martin; Blackbraes; 2, Duncan, Edinburgh; 3, Strang, Bathgate. Half-mile race - 1, Smart, Bathgate; 2, Sloan, Bathgate; 3, Martin, Blackbraes.

Falkirk Herald 22nd June 1895

TO CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS are Wanted for the BRICK WORK, JOINER, PLUMBER, SLATER, and PLASTER WORK of BRANCH STORE to be Erected at STANDBURN for the Redding Co-operative Society, Limited. - Plans to be seen with, and Schedules of Quantities obtained from, the Subscriber, with whom sealed offers are to be lodged on or before Tuesday, 2nd July. The Committee do not bind themselves to accept the Lowest or any offer, JAMES STRANG, Architect. 102 High Street. Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald - Saturday 29th June 1895

ATHLETICS.

STANDBURN SPORTS -

These annual sports took place on Saturday in the Drumbowie Football Park, when there was a large attendance. Blackbraes Brass Band discoursed music at intervals. The various events were keenly contested, and were followed with much interest. The following list shows the results: -

Football competitions - Juniors - 1, Longriggend No. 2 team; 2, Longriggend No. 1 team.

Juveniles - 1, Longriggend; 2 Crosscros.

Boys' race - 1, Brown; 2, Henderson

100 yards race - 1, Neil, Bedford; 2, Rait, Redford; 3, Forrester, Armadale.

440 yards race - 1, Adams, Torphichen; 2, Forrester, Armadale; 3, Martin, Blackbraes.

Half-mile race - 1, Martin, Blackbraes; 2, Adams, Torphichen; 3, Watt, Redford.

Old man's race - 1, Carlin; 2, Penman; 3 Duncan, Standburn

Tug of-war - 1, Grant's team, Crosscros; 2, M'Cracken's team, California.

Quoiting 10 yards - 1, Anderson, Standburn; 2, Johnstone; 3, Hunter, Longriggend.

18 yards - 1, Ayre, Standburn; 2, Pow, Candy; 3, M'Luckie, Longriggend.

Place kick - 1, Roy, Crosscros; distance, 45 yards

Crosscros Sports. -

The following are the results of Crosscros unfinished games, which were held on

Wednesday night: - Sack race - 1, Roy; 2, Hunter, Crosscros.

Hop, skip, and leap - 1, Martin; 2, Forsyth, Blackbraes.

Place kick - 1, Roy, Crosscros, 51 yards.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 6th July 1895

SALE OF WORK AT PARKHALL.

On Thursday afternoon a sale of work was held on the estate of Parkhall, the object being to raise funds to assist in the building of a Salvation Brigade Mission Hall at Standburn at a cost of £200. There was a very large attendance, and the Rev. James Anderson, Polmont, presided. Amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. Livingstone-Learmonth, Mr. T. L. Learmonth, and Mr. Basil Learmonth of Parkhall; Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff, Mrs. Scott-Moncrieff, and party; Mr. M'Killop, jun., of Polmont Park, and party; Mrs. Stirling of Tarduf and party; the Misses Clarkson, Toravon; Miss Barthrop, Craigend House, and party. A number of stalls were arranged on the lawn in front of the entrance hall of Parkhall House, and these contained a variety of useful and fancy articles, which were prettily arranged, flowers, fruits, crockery, refreshments, &c. The stalls were presided over by the ladies resident at Parkhall, Miss Stirling of Tarduf, Miss Clarkson of Toravon, &c. The Chairman, in opening the sale, said that bazaars and sales of work were either good things or bad things according to the manner in which they were conducted. Conducted on honest and straightforward lines, they were of great use. Many could give time and work who could not give money, and many could purchase useful articles who could not give hard cash. By co-operation in this way considerable sums of money had been realised from time to time for religious and benevolent purposes. That day's sale, he said, would be conducted in a straightforward and honest manner. Its object was good, and they could all sympathise with it and manifest their sympathy in a practical way by making purchases. Business was then proceeded with, and at the close of the sale a sum of between £40 and £50 was realised.

AVONBRIDGE.

SABBATH SCHOOL PIC-NIC. - On Friday last the annual trip in connection with the Avonbridge and Drumbowie Sabbath Schools took place to Linlithgow. The children, accompanied by parents, teachers, and friends, were conveyed to their destination in carts. On arrival they were served with a liberal supply of buns and milk, after which they dispersed themselves in various ways. Numbers visited the Palace and rambled about the grounds, while others boated on the loch. All were well pleased with the day's outing.

Falkirk Herald 13th July 1895

MADDISTON.

MADDISTON SCHOOL BOARD. -

We are requested to state that the grant earned per child in average attendance in Blackbraes School was £1 0s 2 3/4d, and not £1 2s 0 3/4d as stated in our report last week. We are also informed that with respect to the decision come to at last meeting with respect to the school accommodation question, the Chairman moved that an infant school be erected in the neighborhood of Maddiston sufficient to accommodate 100 children, and that the building be erected in a manner whereby an addition could be made thereto. This became the finding of the Board, Mr. Reid dissenting.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 20th July 1895

AVONBRIDGE

PRESENTATION TO THE SCHOOLMASTER. - As it draws near the close of the school for the annual holidays, it became known that during the recess the marriage of the headmaster, Mr Robert Duncan, was to take place. The pupils and assistant teachers resolved at once to make the occasion of giving proof of their high esteem for him. On the closing day of the school he was presented with a most elegant marble timepiecebearing this inscription: "Presented to Mr Robert Duncan by the pupils and friends of Avonbridge Public School on the occasion of his marriage."

Falkirk Herald 24th July 1895

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY.

The monthly meeting of the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery was held in the Erskine Church Hall,

Falkirk, yesterday forenoon - the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, Grangemouth, moderator.

PROPOSED MISSION STATION AT DRUMBOWIE

The Rev. MR. MACKELLAR reported on behalf of the committee which had charge of this matter. They had, he said, entered into a communication with the Home Mission Board, and Mr. Young said it was likely that they would get a grant of £100 from that Board. They understood that they would also get a small grant from the Elders Association, and they would suggest that the congregations in the Presbytery be asked to give a collection. A member of the committee had been appointed to see Mr. Nimmo, coalmaster, but he would not be able to see him till next week. They had, however, a letter from his firm giving them the choice of two sites at Standburn. The committee would meet with Mr. Nimmo to see if he would do anything further. They had obtained an offer for the erection of a steel building, which would be much less costly than a brick erection and which would cooler in the summer and warmer in the

winter. A member of the committee was appointed to report on the stability of the steel building, but he had not reported yet.
Rev. Mr. YELLOWLEES - It would be very gratifying if the committee can arrange for the erection of a building which would be less costly than brick, and I hope that the result of their inquiry will prove satisfactory.
Rev. Mr. AITCHISON _ has the committee been empowered to select a site?
Rev. Mr. MACKELLAR - No; and we have done nothing on that line yet.
Rev. Mr. YELLOWLEES - What is the difference in cost between the steel and the brick building?
Rev. Mr. MACKELLAR - The brick building will cost £400, and a steel building of the same size would cost £214, including the seats and platform. On the motion of Rev. Mr. AITCHISON, seconded by the REV. Mr. YELLOWLEES, the Presbytery empowered the committee to select a site, and proceed with the erection of a steel building if it were found satisfactory. The committee was also empowered to ask the Home Board to give a grant in aid of the erection. This was all the business of importance.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 27th July 1895

Avonbridge

A MEETING of the Angling Clubs of Slamannan and Bathgate was held at Avonbridge on Saturday last to consider whether anything could be done to purify the river Avon. Only a few of the anglers came forward, and there was little business done. It was agreed that another meeting should be held on 3rd Aug. It is hoped that a large number of anglers and farmers will be present. The matter is of great importance to the whole community, and the sooner something is done the better.

Falkirk Herald 31st July & 3rd August 1895

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

MALICIOUS MISCHIEF -

Robert James, son of and residing with James James, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside was charged with having, on 7th July, smashed and destroyed sixteen panes of glass in the windows of unoccupied houses belonging to Messrs James Nimmo and Company, coalmasters, Glasgow, He The Fiscal said it seemed to be a habit on the part of boys that as soon as a house was unoccupied they went and threw stones and broke the windows. The mother of the accused said that there were other boys there beside her son. The Sheriff, in imposing a penalty of 10s, or twenty four hours, said that if he ever repeated the offence he would order him to be whipped.

Falkirk Herald 7th August 1895

At the J.P. Court held in Falkirk on Saturday, Henry Nimmo, carter, Garthall, Parkfoot, was accused of having, on 16th July, at Standburn Rows, hawked a quantity of beer to a railway fireman there. He admitted the charge, and was fined 21s, or seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 28th August 1895

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff SCOTT-MONCRIEFF)

BREACHES OF THE PEACE. -

David Hunter, miner, Standburn, who had a number of previous convictions recorded against him, was fined 25s, with the option of fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour, for committing a breach of the peace on Saturday on the public road opposite Drumbowie Public School.

Robert Love, miner, Standburn, admitted having created a disturbance on Saturday in a field adjoining Drumbowie Public School in which sports were going on. Having been previously convicted, he was fined 25s, the alternative being fourteen days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 31st August 1895

ATHLETICS.

SPORTS AT STANDBURN. -

Blackbraes Brass Band second annual sports were held in Drumbowie Park at Standburn on Saturday before a large turnout of spectators. The Redding Pipe Band was present and discoursed music at intervals. The following is a list of the various events: - Football (open) - 1, Standburn; 2, Armadale. Juveniles - 1, Rumford; 2, Polmont. 100 yards race - 1, M'Luckie, Shieldhill; 2, Thomson, Redford ; 3, Martin, Blackbraes. Half mile race - 1, Watson, Redford; 2, Easton. Redding; 3, Irvine, Blackbraes,

Glasgow Herald - Friday 13th September 1895

LABOUR AFFAIRS

STIRLINGSHIRE MINERS' AGITATION. -

Meetings of miners were held throughout Stirlingshire yesterday (Thursday), it being the idle-day, in connection with the wages agitation. Messrs Menzies and Webb, the local agents of the Forth and Clyde Association, attended a meeting at Standburn, at which it was decided to press for an advance in wages. Mr. Chisholm Robertson addressed a meeting at midday in the Co-operative Hall, Redding. In a lengthy speech he stated the grounds on which the miners claim that wages should be increased, and urged the miners to use every effort to have a fair share of the improvement which has taken place in the coal trade. It was decided to continue the agitation till an advance in wages be granted.

Falkirk Herald - Saturday 14th September 1895

LINLITHGOW

GOOD TEMPLAR DISTRICT MEETING. -

The quarterly meeting of the Stirling South-Eastern District Lodge was held in the Good Templar Hall, Linlithgow, on Saturday last. Brother Earsmar, D.C.T., presided, and there was a large attendance of members from all parts of the district. Twenty-one members of subordinate lodges received their district degree. The district secretary reported that the membership of the lodges in the district was returned at 661 members in fourteen lodges, exclusive of the membership of other five lodges which had not sent in returns for the quarter. The District Deputy in the course of a few remarks drew their attention to the Grand Lodge journal which stated that at beginning of the year Grangemouth had no lodge, Falkirk had decreased by 57, Redding had surrendered, and Larbert had gone back 23. The lodges in Bo'ness, Bonnybridge, and Linlithgow had, however, made great gains. He explained that since then Stenhousemuir had decided to give up their charter, but he was in hope that they might be induced to renew their efforts again. The Zetland Lodge in Grangemouth had been resuscitated and was likely to do good work again, while movements were on foot to open lodges at Standburn and Avonbridge and to reform the lodges at Glen Village and Polmont. Reports were also submitted by the other officers in the executive. It was agreed to hold next district meeting at Grangemouth.

Falkirk Herald 18th & 21st September 1895

SPORTING

FOOTBALL

STANDBURN ROVERS V. EXELSIOR. -

Played on Saturday at Standburn. Result: - Standburn Rovers, 4 goals; Excelsior, 1 goal.

Falkirk Herald 25th September 1895

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute GAULD.)

WANTON MISCHIEF. –

Peter Cunningham Baird (9), John Topping (9), David M'Lean (8), Neil M'Neil (7), and James Clark (7), all residing with their parents at Standburn, Muiravonside, were charged with having, on 12th September, at a railway siding, unfastened a rope securing a waggon load of wood, cut six yards off one end, thus rendering five yards useless. A penalty of 2s 6d, or twenty-four hours' imprisonment, was imposed in each case.

Falkirk Herald 28th September 1895

STANDBURN.

MISSION WORK. –

On Sabbath last the Rev. Mr. Morrison, who was sent by the Church of Scotland, brought to a close his three months' mission at Standburn, when he preached his farewell sermon in Drumbowie Public School. During the short time he has been in the parish he established a Sabbath school and a Good Templars' lodge. Considering the difficulties which he had to strive against, both are succeeding fairly well.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Wednesday.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

BREACHES OF THE PEACE.

Annie Campbell or Allan, wife of a carpenter, residing at Causewayend, Muiravonside was fined 10s 6d, or 10 days' imprisonment, for having, on 19th September, created a disturbance at Gilmeadowland Row.

A VIOLENT NEIGHBOUR. –

Mary Ann Burns or Christie, wife of George Christie, miner, 125 Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having on 21st September, in front of the house at 121 ;Standburn, occupied by Thomas Watson, wilfully and maliciously smashed and destroyed three panes of glass in the window of said house, and further committed a breach of the peace. She denied the charge of breaking the window panes, but admitted that of committing a breach of the peace, and the plea was accepted. A penalty of 7s 6d, or seven days' imprisonment, was imposed.

AVONBRIDGE. U.P. CHURCH BAZARR. A two days' bazaar in aid of the funds of the Avonbridge U.P. Church was opened in the Avonbridge Public School yesterday afternoon by Mr. Jas. M'Killop, M.P. There was a large attendance of members of the congregation and friends, amongst those present being Mrs. M'Killop and Miss M'Killop, Polmont Park; Mrs. Mitchell of Millfield; Mrs. Jamieson, Linlithgow; Rev. Messrs Thomas Taylor, Falkirk; Keir, Dennyloanhead; Sleath, Bo'ness; Rouse and Richmond, Avonbridge; Rev. Mr. Buchanan McKenzie and Mrs. M'Kenzie, Polmont; Rev. Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, Linlithgow; Rev. Mr. Lindsay, Bathgate; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; Mr. Wilson, Candie; Mr. Waugh, Blackfaulds; Mr. John Binnie, baker, &c. The Rev. Mr. ROUSE, pastor of this congregation, presided, and in his opening remarks said that a few years ago this congregation erected a new church. At that time a very strong and decided effort was made to raise as much money as would clear off the debt, but after all the accounts were got in it was found that a debt of about £160 still remained. That debt had remained on the church since it was opened four or five years ago, and they were seeking to-day, by means of the bazaar, to raise as much money as would wipe it off and enable them to paint the church. He thanked the ladies who had charge of the various stalls, and who had worked so enthusiastically to produce such an excellent display of goods as they saw before them to-day. He also thanked all those who had done anything to assist the ladies who had charge of the stalls by sending in goods, and those who had forwarded donations by way of encouraging the bazaar. They were pleased to have with them that day Mr. M'Killop, M.P., who had kindly consented to open the bazaar. Mr. M'Killop was better known to them than he was, so that without any further words he would ask him to perform the duty he had to discharge (Applause.) Mr. M'Killop, who was well received, said that in recent years bazaars had become the channel through which, in a monetary sense, religious and charitable objects had been furthered. One would almost be disposed to think that the one who invented the first bazaar deserved well of his country, for whilst things had been questioned in connection with some of them, such as bazaar lotteries and the freedom and facility they rendered to the institution of rash schemes of expenditure, there were undoubtedly many commendable features in connection with them which could not be gainsaid. (Applause.) Bazaars developed the extraordinary working powers of the ladies, whose sympathies were always with those in need of help and to whom it was an unspeakable delight to see their labour rewarded in the extinction of debt on churches, manses, and charitable homes and institutions, in which they always took a lively interest. Bazaars brought all congregations and all sections of a congregation into touch with each other, and gave a fitting opportunity for extending Christian charity. They received sympathetic help from neighbouring churches and from the general community, and he was pleased to know that that co-operation and that sympathy had not been withheld on the present occasion. (Applause.) When one considered the different churches there were in their country, and that they were all doing substantially the same work, all aiming to reach the same fountainhead through a common faith which recognised one Father, one Brother, one Spirit, one light, one love, and one hope, all endeavouring to use the advantages they possessed for bringing these not within the pale of any church to see it to be to their truest interests to join a church, it did seem strange, and was a marvel to many outside the church, that there should not be more toleration, more interchange of help, more friendly feeling and cooperation manifested by church members towards each other in imitation of the Divine Teacher and Founder of the Christian religion. In a mining village not two miles from Avonbridge that had practically come into existence during the last three or four years, and which only contained 180 houses in its entire neighbourhood, the United Presbyterian Church of Avonbridge was first upon the field rendering spiritual service, and had there in the meantime a very flourishing Sunday school. In that village there were now five religious bodies catering for the spiritual wants of 180 families. He said there was surely here a waste of overlapping agencies - a state of things which, he might say, was almost a reproach upon the nobility of their Christian character. (Applause.) He believed that the general growth of a healthy education would yet have its effect in the manifestation of a more tolerant and friendly feeling amongst Christian brethren in the different churches, and in the manifestation of a more robust Christianity and a better knowledge of Christian things - a knowledge realising that religious bodies could not be necessarily the outcome of true religion or the embodiment of the teaching of the Master Himself. (Applause.) They would all agree with him that to clear away a burden of debt was a very desirable thing. When a church had debt, upon it the usefulness of its minister was crippled. The object of the present bazaar was to wipe off a small balance of debt remaining on the congregation after the erection of a new church at a cost of £1300. The church was a very comfortable one, and an ornament, to the district, and took the place of an old church which had stood the storms of life for 87 years, and had become utterly inadequate to the spiritual wants of the place. In declaring the bazaar open, he hoped that the effort that the congregation was making would be crowned with abundant success. (Applause.) The Rev. Thomas Taylor, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. M'Killop for his kindness in declaring the bazaar open, said he had done so in terms which should not only promote the interests of the community, but should help church life. They would all rejoice when the barrier to church union was taken out of the way, and when they would be able to join hands and enter one common denomination advancing the interests of the Master's Church. The Rev. Thomas Taylor, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. M'Killop for his kindness in declaring the bazaar open, said he had done so in terms which should not only promote the interests of the community, but should help church life. They would all rejoice when the barrier to church union was taken out of the way, and when they would be able to join hands and enter one common denomination advancing the interests of the Master's Church. (Applause.) Mr.

M'Killop briefly replied, and proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. M. Rouse for presiding. The business of the bazaar was then proceeded with. During the afternoon and evening the bazaar was visited by a large number of people, and sales were readily effected. There were four work stalls, containing a magnificent display of fancy and useful goods, and a refreshment stall. It is worthy of mention that the system, of raffling goods, which is generally associated with bazaars, and to which system objection is frequently taken, has not been recognised by the promoters of the present bazaar. The stall holders were : - Manse Stall - Mrs. Rouse, U.P. Manse; Mrs. Paton, Avonhill; Mrs. Duncan, School House; Miss Main, Candyhead; Miss Lumsden, Station House; the Misses Buchanon, Park Drive, Glasgow; Miss Wilson, Candy House. Craigbank Stall - Mrs. Waugh, Craigbank; Miss Alice Waugh, Miss Minnie Waugh; Miss Paton, Avonhill; Miss Herdman, Edinburgh; Miss Hardie, Avonbridge. Ullesfern Stall - Mrs. Thomas Binnie, Ullesfern; Miss Russell, Slamannan; Miss Donaldson, Avonbridge; Miss Oswald, Neuks. Middlestrath Stall - Miss Calder, Middlestrath; Miss A. J. Robertson, Millknowe; Miss Main, Bannockburn; the Misses Binnie, Bowhouse; Mrs. Bryce, Avonbank Coaage; Mrs. Alexander Gardner, Glenavon. Refreshment Stall - Miss Waugh, Craigbank; Miss Anderson, Candy Cottage; Miss Mungal, Bulliondale; the Misses Binnie, Candyhead; Miss Main, Avonbridge; Miss Baxter, Learigg Cottage; Mrs. Johnston, Cross Roads; Miss Soutar, Brechin. Pianoforte selections were played during the day by Miss Minnie Waugh., Miss A. J. Anderson, and Miss E. M. Henderson. The Avonbridge Pipe Band, under the conductorship of Pipe-Major Sutherland, Hamilton, was present, and in addition to accompanying Mr. M'Killop and party through the village to the school prior to the opening, played a number of selections in the course of the day in good style. A large marquee to accommodate over 300 was erected within the school grounds, where in the evening an excellent concert was given. The following programme was ably sustained : -Pianoforte selections, "Overture to Guy Mannering," Miss E. M. Anderson; song, Miss Meek; song, "Angus Macdonald", Miss Baxter; banjo selections, Mr. Marshall; song, Mr. Sturton; song, "Eileen Aiannab," Miss A. J. Anderaon ; song, Mr. Wilson : song, Miss M'Gregor; pianoforte selections, " Melodie," Miss A. J. Anderson; song, Mr. W. M'Culloch; song, "In Old Madrid," Miss E. M. Anderson; song, Miss Gibson; pianoforte duet, "Qai Vive," the Misses Anderson; song, Mr. A. M'Culioch ; song, Miss Hutchison ; song, Miss Kelly ; song, Mr. Burton. Miss Anderson played the accompaniments on the pianoforte. Mr. John Binnie, Windyett, ably discharged the duties of chairman. Mr. Patou, Avonhill, and Mr. Waugh, Craigbank, supplied the shrubs and evergreens which were used in decorating the bazaar. Mr. Paton also erected a beautiful arch across the entrance to the school grounds. The bazaar gives promise of being a very successful one, and there should be little difficulty in realising the sum aimed at, which is £300, and which will be utilised for clearing off existing debt and providing for the repainting of the church. For the excellency and completeness of the bazaar arrangements credit is due to the Bazaar Committee, of which the Rev. Mr. Rouse is convener, the other officials being Mr. R. Duncan, secretary, and Mr. Peter Gilchrist, treasurer. The bazaar will be re opened at 1.30 to-day. In the evening a concert will be given by the Avonbridge Musical Association and the Slamannan Orchestra.

Falkirk Herald - Wednesday 02 October 1895

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
WEDNESDAY.

Before Sheriff -Substitute SCOTT-MONCREIF.BREACHES OF THE PEACE – Annie Campbell or Allan, wife of a carpenter, residing at Causewayend Muiravonside, was fined 10s 6d or 10 days imprisonment, for having, on 19th September, creating a disturbance at Gilmeadowland Row. A VIOLENT NEIGHBOUR. - Mary Ann Barns or Christie, wife of George Christie, miner, 125 Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having on 21st September, in front of the house at 124 Standburn, occupied Thomas Watson, willfully and maliciously smashed and destroyed three panes of glass in the window of said house, and further committed a breach of the peace. She denied the charge of breaking the window panes, but admitted that of committing a breach of the peace, and the plea was accepted. A penalty of 7s 6d, or seven days imprisonment, was imposed.

AVONBRIDGE

U.P. CHURCH BAZAAR.

A two day's bazaar in aid of funds of the Avonbridge U.P. Church was opened in the Avonbridge Public School on Friday afternoon by Mr Jas. McdKillop, M.P. There was a large attendance of members of the congregation and friends, among those present being Mrs McdKillop and Miss McdKillop, Polmont Park; Mrs Mitchell of Millfield; Mrs Jamieson, Linlithgow, Rev Messrs Thomas Taylor, Falkirk; Keir, Dennyloangead; Sleath, Bo'ness; Rouse and Richmond, Avonbridge; Rev Mr Buchanan, McKenzie and Mrs McKenzie, Polmont; Rev Mr Wilson and Mrs Wilson, Linlithgow; Rev Mr Lindsay, Bathgate; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; Mr Wilson, Candie; Mr Waugh, Blackfaulds; Mr John Binnie, baker, &c. The Rev. Mr ROUSE, pastor of the congregation, presided, and in his opening remarks said that a few years ago his congregation erected a new church. At that time a very concerted effort was made to raise as much money as would clear off the debt, but after all the accounts were got in it was found that a debt of about £160 still remained. That debt had remained on the church since it was opened four or five years ago, and they were seeking to-day, by means of the bazaar, to raise as much money as would wipe it off and enable them to paint the church. He thanked the ladies who were in charge of the various stalls, and who had worked so enthusiastically to produce such an excellent display of goods as they saw before them that day. They were pleased to have with them that day Mr McdKillop M.P., who had kindly consented to open the bazaar. Mr McdKillop was better known to them than he was, so without any further words he would ask him to perform the duty he had to discharge. (Applause)

Falkirk Herald 5th October 1895

MUIRAVONSIDE.

HARVEST WORK. –

Even in the late-lying districts of the parish harvest work is nearly completed. The exceedingly fine weather in September has greatly improved the late turnip and potato crops.

MINING. –

Mining operations in the parish are fairly brisk, and, though wages are low, the men are well employed. Messrs John Logan & Sons are making a branch railway for the extension of their works on the south of the Blackbraes line, not far from their North Craighend pits.

BUILDING OPERATIONS. -

In and around Maddiston, during the past six years, building operations have been on a more extended scale than in any period ten times as great in the history of the parish. In the meantime Dr. Calderwood, Standburn, is erecting a handsome cottage and stabling for his own use, and close beside it the Redding Co- operative Society are erecting a store and offices for the convenience of their customers in the Standburn district.

Falkirk Herald 30th October 1895

PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO PIT ACCIDENT AT MADDISTON –

A public inquiry under the Fatal Accidents Inquiry Act was held in the Sheriff Court Room on Friday into the circumstances attending the death of Matthew O'Neil, miner, Maddiston, and Richard Martin, pitsinker, Easter Shieldnill, the former being killed on the morning 7th inst. in a pit accident at South Craighend Colliery, Maddiston, occupied by Messrs John Logan & Son, and the latter dying on 11th inst. from causes due in some measure to the accident. Mr. Gair, procurator fiscal, conducted the inquiry on behalf of the crown, Mr. T. Gibson, solicitor, appeared for Messrs John Logan & Son, coalmasters, Mr. R. Chisholm Robertson, miners secretary, appeared for the relatives of the deceased, and Mr. J. B. Atkinson, mine inspector, was also present. The evidence led was to the effect that prior to 7th October sinking operations, of which Messrs Archibald Dale and Richard Martin were the contractors, were

going on in the pit referred to; that on the morning of the 7th inst., while this work was being proceeded with, and while the two deceased and two other men were engaged at the bottom of the shaft, a chain which was attached to a "kettle" or bucket broke while the bucket was being drawn up to the surface, and that the falling of the bucket down the shaft was the cause of the fatality. The following witnesses were examined:- John Macdonald, colliery manager; Archibald Dale, contractor; William Forrester, pit headman; William Wernok, sinker; J. Cummings, roadsman; Robert Armit, engineman; and Dr. Calderwood, Standburn. At the close of the evidence, the jury returned the following verdict: -(1) That Matthew O'Neil died in a coal pit at South Craigend Colliery, Muiravonside, on 7th October, and that the cause of his death was injuries produced by his being struck by a large bucket loaded with stones, which, owing to the breaking of a chain attached to it, fell down the shaft of the said coal pit; (2) that the said Richard Martin died at Easter Shieldhill on 11th October, and that the cause of his death was bronchitis and pneumonia, and they are of the opinion that the shock and injuries received through his being at the bottom of said pit when said bucket fell materially contributed to his death. The jury added to their verdict the opinion that sufficient supervision was not exercised in connection with such dangerous operations.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 2nd November 1895

AVONBRIDGE

PRESENTATIONS. - On Monday evening a number of friends and well-wishers were entertained to supper by Mr Hodge Boxton on the occasion of presenting Mr Mathew Gray, Bankhead, with a handsome timepiece and a well-filled purse with sovereigns, and Mrs Gray with a silver set, on the occasion of their leaving for England. Mr Waugh, Arnloss, occupied the chair, and, in his remarks, spoke of the high esteem they all had for Mr Gray, and how much he would be missed in the district. Mr Murray, Greenwells, in appropriate terms, made the presentations, and Mr Gray suitably replied, both for himself and Mrs Gray. Thereafter a pleasant evening was spent with song and sentiment. Mr Murray proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Hodge for their great kindness in entertaining them that evening. The company broke up at a reasonable hour after singing "Auld Lang Syne." The timepiece bore a suitable inscription, and it the silver set were supplied by Mrs Strang, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald 23rd November 1895

URE. -

At Standburn, on 19th inst., Betsy Love, aged 37, beloved wife of Alexander Ure; deeply regretted.

Falkirk Herald 14th December 1895

STANDBURN AND DRUMBOWIE.

New U.P. Church. -

During this week a commencement has been made with the church which the United Presbyterian Presbytery of Falkirk are erecting in Standburn. For about ten years a mission meeting and Sabbath school have been carried on, and the meetings were held in the Public School, the use of which was kindly granted by the School Board. Within the last few years the population of Standburn has increased considerably, and the needs of the district are such as to render it imperative that a church should be built. The erection of this church will, we are certain, be regarded as a great advantage by the inhabitants of Standburn and district, and we may safely predict that this generous effort made by the U.P. Presbytery of Falkirk will be heartily appreciated by the people. The church is expected to be opened by the beginning of the year. The building is of corrugated steel, and will be seated to accommodate a little over two hundred. Messrs Spiers & Coy., Glasgow, are the builders.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL FLESHING BUSINESS.

In the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Wednesday - before Sheriff SCOTT-MONCREIFF - William Nisbet, flesher, Slamannan, was examined in an application for *cessio* at the instance of Mr. Thos. Binnie, auctioneer, Falkirk. There were present - Mr. J. C. Allan, writer, Falkirk, agent for the petitioning creditor; and Mr. Robert Rodgers, writer, Glasgow, agent for the bankrupt. The state of affairs showed liabilities amounting to £129 3s 6d, and assets, £53 11s 5d, leaving a deficiency of £75 12s. Examined by Mr. Allan, bankrupt deposed - I have been eight years in business as a flesher in Slamannan. I had £200 of my own when I commenced, and was at that time quite free of debt. My wife and I managed the business between us. My wife attended in the shop, and I went round the district with my flesher's van. My wife kept the books in connection with the shop. The three books in process are all the books I have in connection with the business. I kept a book myself for going round the country. My business did not pay from the start. I lost a great deal of money at first through not being a practical man at the trade. I cannot say how much I lost at first. I had been keeping my feet since 1881, and was not incurring any debt. I found myself getting into difficulties in the beginning of 1894, or nine months before the miners' strike. I was not having the sales which I had in former years, and stock was being left in my hands and wasted. This happened often during the summer, and I could not avoid it in any way. By the Sheriff - Did your trade get better during the winter? Bankrupt - Even in the winter which succeeded the strike my trade did not revive although the weather was better for keeping meat. By Mr. ALLAN - The miners did not get much work after the strike, and I have been losing ever since. I cannot give you any idea of what my profit was in 1893. Q. - Do you mean to say that you have been carrying on business for 8 years and do not know what profit you had in any year? A. - I do. Q. - As a matter of fact you are unable to say whether you were living on your own earnings or upon your creditors? A. - I was working away at my business. I do not know what I spent on myself. My wife and I are both uneducated, and we are quite unable to say what we were making and what we were spending. I was not able to pay everything I owed in 1894, but notwithstanding that I continued to carry on business in Slamannan for a whole year. I have no books which show the details of the accounts due to me except those in process, and I can give no details. A good many people who owed me money have left the district. Many of them have gone to Standburn, and from some of them I expected I would be able to recover my accounts. I will give my creditors all the assistance I can to realise the assets. The furniture in my house belongs to my son. Q. - When did he come to own it? A. - A few months ago. On the 7th October, 1895, I signed an assignation of my furniture to my son, of which I can show a copy. I do not think Mr. Binnie, auctioneer, Falkirk, was at that time pressing me for an account I was due him. I will not dispute that it is correct that Mr. Binnie's bill was due on the 29th September, but I cannot say that I had two letters from Mr. Binnie before that. Q. - What was the furniture you conveyed to your son? A. - There were two chests of drawers, two clocks, a dozen chairs, and two tables. I cannot say what their value would be. I sold every article I had in my house, which was a room and kitchen, to my son, Robert Sneddon Nisbet, for £12. He did not get delivery of the articles, and they are still in my house. Q. - What did you do with this £12? A. - I bought beef out of the dead meat market in Glasgow, and kept up my house. That beef was sold in my shop. I spent all the profit I had from that transaction on myself and for the upkeep of the house. I was due a large sum to Mr. Binnie then, and on the 12th August I disposed of my mare and van. I sold them to my son, and he got delivery of them. I used them myself afterwards, and paid him for their hire. They were kept in the same place as formerly, and the name upon the cart was changed. I got £32 from my son as the price of the pony, van, and harness. My son is a mining contractor, and I did not know what need he had for the horse and van. He was talking before that of starting fleshing himself. I bought beef with that money, and my wife paid some small accounts she was owing in the village. The small accounts my wife paid were for household goods. The horse, van, and harness were all pointed at the instance of a creditor. I then informed my son that they had been pointed in order to prevent them being sold. That is altogether a sum of £44 which I got and disposed of within the last four months, and all I paid out was a sum of 6s a week for the use of the horse and van. This arrangement continued till I was laid aside with illness some weeks ago. After

that my son took the keep of the horse off my hands, and it is still in my stable. The state of affairs shows, as far as I know, all that I was owing. Q. - Within what time was that debt of £129 3s 6d incurred? A. - I cannot give any idea. Q. - Does it extend over a year? A. - Yes; I possess no other effects except what is stated in my state of affairs, which I value at £5 10s. My son paid me in cash for the goods I sold him. By Mr. RODGERS - I went to Mr. Lennox, Mr. Binnie's cashier, and offered him £5 to account of my debt, but he refused to accept it. This was about August, 1894. I was not brought up to the fleshing trade, and was originally a miner. I started fleshing when I was getting old, and was in no sense of the term a practical butcher. The decay in the mining trade of Slamannan had been going on for some time, and my object in getting the money from my son was to tide me over the bad times, in the hope that things would improve. I did not waste the money I got. In fact I never wasted a shilling in my life, and all the people in Slamannan know that about me. By Mr. ALLAN - Q. - Where did you get that £5 you say you offered Mr. Binnie? A. - I had it in my possession, and I do not know where it came from. I had £12 with me when I offered this £5, and I was owing Mr. Binnie a large sum.

The examination was closed, and Mr. W. T. Bryce, Falkirk, was appointed trustee.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 21st December 1895

STANDBURN AND DRUMBOWIE.

CONCERT. -

A concert was held under the auspices of the Standburn Bicycle Club in Drumbowie Public School on Friday evening. Dr. Calderwood, hon. vice-president, occupied the chair. The committee of management deserve credit for the pains they had evidently taken to prepare an enjoyable programme, and their labours were rewarded by the satisfaction that must have been experienced in seeing the large audience that assembled. The programme was opened with an overture (violin and pianoforte), which was skilfully rendered by Mr. E. M'Kee and Mr. Drummond. Mr. J. Wilson gave the song "Scotland To-day" with good taste. Miss E. Lumsden, Avonbridge, gave an expressive rendering of "Killarney," and a song and dance given by Miss Polly Heath, Glasgow, elicited hearty applause. The performances of Prince Bendon, ventriloquist and Scotch comedian, Glasgow, created much amusement, and were heartily enjoyed. A violin solo, "Culloden," was rendered with great taste by Mr. E. M'Kee. All who are mentioned above appeared again in the second part of the programme, and each and all were equally successful in their efforts. Miss Sanders, of Glasgow, presided at the piano, and played the accompaniments with much acceptance. At the close hearty votes of thanks were awarded to all who had contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

AVONBRIDGE

CONCERT. - On Thursday evening a concert was given by the Avonbridge Musical Association in the E. U. Church. There was a good audience. Mr Mackay, Avonview, presided. The programme was a lengthy and varied one. The soloists were the Misses Rigg, Manuelrigg; Miss Lumsden and Miss Baxter, Avonbridge; and Messrs Kelly, Westwater, Avonbridge, who were all equally successful. Mr McKee gave solos on his violin in an artistic style. Mr Sharp was the conductor, and Miss Rigg accompanist. The object of the concert was to raise funds on behalf of the heating of the church.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 28th December 1895

STANDBURN AND DRUMBOWIE.

CONCERT. -

There was a large attendance at the concert in Drumbowie School. Mr. Wilson was chairman, and the artistes were Miss Brown and Miss Lumsden, and Messrs M'Geddes, Lawson, Kelly, Morris, and Sharp. The concert was very successful

AVONBRIDGE

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SOIREE. - The annual soiree of the congregation of this church was held on Christmas Eve, when, after tea, gifts from a handsome Christmas Tree were distributed to the Sunday School Children, who, on the motion of the Rev. Mr Rouse, gave a hearty cheer to Mr and Mrs Paton for their kindness in providing the tree and a number of presents.

TEMPERANCE LECTURE. - Mr Howitt, from the Scottish Band of Hope Union, delivered a lecture on "Alcohol and its Effects" to the children of Avonbridge Public School. The second series will be delivered here also.

MUIRAVONSIDE

MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD. - A meeting of Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in Maddiston Hall on Tuesday afternoon - Colonel Stirling of Tarduf presiding. There were also present Messrs Bryce, Murray, Wilson, Binnie, Mackay and Wilson. The Clerk reported that the attendance at the various schools in the parish was as follows :-

	On Roll	Average
attendance		
Blackbraes School	347	300
Drumbowie School	464	392
Muiravonside School	213	172
Avonbridge Combination School	69	59

The Clerk read the draft fye charter prepared by Messrs J.&W.K. Gair & Gibson, writers, Falkirk, agents for Mr Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall, in connection with the new school to be erected on a site granted by Mr Livingstone-Learmonth. The Board agreed to ask Messrs Gair to amend the fye charter so that it would read that in the event of the the school not requiring to be used for educational purposes the Board would have the power to sell it. The Clerk read a letter from Mr Andrew Allan of the Slamannan School Board, which stated that the alterations and additions to the Avonbridge School were now well forward, and as the Slamannan Board had paid out a considerable sum to the contractors, they wanted a remittance for the Muiravonside Board's share of the expense. The letter was allowed to lie on the table till the Board was furnished with a statement of the total cost, when they would remit their proportion. A letter was read from Mr McKay, stating that the Drumbowie Evening School was now closed, and he regarded the past session as the best he had experienced at the evening school. H.M. Inspector had visited the school twice, and he seemed to be well pleased. This was all the business.

1896

Falkirk Herald Saturday 11th January 1896

OPENING OF A NEW U.P. CHURCH AT STANDBURN.

An interesting ceremony took place at Standburn, near Avonbridge, on Thursday afternoon - the opening of a new U.P. Church erected there by the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery. For some ten years mission work has been carried on in the village by the congregation of Avonbridge U.P. Church, but within the last year or so the development of the mineral resources of the neighbourhood has led to a large increase in the population, and to meet the spiritual wants of the growing community, the Presbytery thought it right that a permanent place of worship should be erected. A committee was appointed, with the Rev. Mr. Mackellar, Denny, as convener, to carry through the arrangements. An excellent site, on the north side of the public road a little to the west of Drumbowie Public School, was obtained on easy terms; and a neat little iron church has been erected thereon at a cost of £270, the contractors being Spiers & Co., Glasgow. The building, which has accommodation for over 230 sitters, is lined with wood, and is well lighted and ventilated. There is, of course, no gas supply in the village, but the church is excellently lit by two large oil roof-lamps of 300 candle power each. In the centre of the eastern side of the building is a large stove, which should throw out a great deal of heat, while behind the pulpit there is a small hall, seated to accommodate 40, which will be found exceedingly useful for small meetings. The church will have as its minister the Rev. James

Walker, 8.A., who has been labouring for some time as missionary at Standburn very acceptably, and although the property of the Presbytery of Falkirk, the Rev. Mr. Rouse, Avonbridge U.P. Church, will exercise a general supervision over the building. The opening service was held in the church at 5 o'clock, and was conducted by the Rev. John Young, M.A., Home Mission Secretary, Glasgow. There was a good attendance. The rev. gentleman preached from Zechariah iv. 6 - "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, this is the word of the Lord into Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord of hosts." In the course of an eloquent discourse the rev. gentleman dealt with the fundamental nature of the truth stated in the text, and then asked what were the practical conclusions from the fundamental nature of that truth as to their Christian duty. It was by the spirit of God that the work of the Lord could only be done. That truth had been pressed upon the believer throughout the whole of Scripture. It was absolutely impossible that the work of God could be done without the aid of the Holy Ghost. They had not merely to reform men, not merely to lift up men who had been cast down, and break their chains and fetters, but they had to re-create men, they had to make new men and women in Christ Jesus. Such power as their own was of no use to effect the supernatural change. Reason could do much to persuade men to make certain resolutions, but it, and other things combined, would fail to bring a poor humble sinner within the kingdom of God, and make him a child of God. Force could disarm opposition, force could bring to outward submission, but force could not make a loving child a willing and obedient child. Nothing but the Spirit of God could convert the soul. If Christian work was to be done successfully it was not by any power which they had or which they could acquire, but simply by the power of the Holy Spirit working in them and through them. In concluding, the rev. gentleman said he had to wish their new church every success. He had to congratulate them on acquiring such a magnificent building, and he trusted that it would form the centre from which much good work would be done in this neighbourhood. The Presbytery and the Presbytery's committee had done their work well, but what were they going to do? Could they not speak a word for Christ? He hoped the opening of this building would mark the opening of a new era in their career, and that they would redouble their efforts to advance Christ's cause and kingdom in this place and neighbourhood. At 7 o'clock a public soiree was held in the church. There was a large attendance, and the Rev. Mr. Rouse, Avonbridge, who presided, was accompanied on the platform by the Rev. Jas. Walker, Standburn; Rev. Mr. Mackellar, Denny; Rev. Mr. Hamilton, Grangemouth, moderator of the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery; Rev. Mr. Keir, M.A., Dennyloanhead; and Rev. James Young, M.A., Glasgow. After an excellent tea, the Chairman intimated letters of apology for absence from the Rev. Mr. Burnett, Muiravonside; Rev. James Aitchison and ex-Councillor Baird, Falkirk; Rev. Mr. Richmond, Avonbridge; and Mr. Wilson, Candie House. Continuing, the Chairman said he was pleased to see such a good attendance, as it augured well for the success of their undertaking. Their heartiest thanks were due to the U.P. Presbytery of Falkirk for this magnificent building. (Applause.) Twelve months ago the children of the U.P. Church had a New Year's offering for the purpose of erecting mission buildings in mining districts, and they had received from the Home Mission Board in aid of this church a sum of £100, which was a donation from the children's New Year offering. In that they had a lesson from the children in practical Christianity, and it showed them that though charity began at home, it did not end there. (Applause.) They had therefore represented in their church the good feelings and the good wishes and the assistance of the children of the U.P. Church throughout the length and breadth of Scotland. (Applause.) Speaking of the history of the mission, he said that ten years ago or so the Avonbridge U.P. congregation had been labouring in this locality, sometimes with apparently much acceptance, and at other times when there appeared to be very little result for all the labour they had expended. During all the years they had laboured in the village they had carried on a flourishing Sabbath School, and at present it had on its roll no fewer than 170 scholars. The success of the school was largely due to the keen and unflagging interest which Mr. Archibald Binnie had all along taken in it. (Applause.) Continuing, Mr. Rouse said he wished at this point to express his heartiest thanks to the Presbytery of Falkirk, to all who had been in any way associated with the mission work here for all that they had done to further the work of the mission. He had also to thank the Muiravonside School Board for the kindness they had shown them so freely, and for such a long period of time, the use of the Drumbowie Public School for their mission meetings, and also for the Sabbath School. Now they seemed to have entered upon a new stage in their history, and he ventured to predict that their efforts here would, in due season, be crowned with success. (Applause.) There was absolute need for a church, with stated ordinances, in this place. And the Presbytery of Falkirk, now that they had provided them with this magnificent building, did not mean to leave them to themselves to struggle on under difficulties, but they would support them and aid them in every possible way. (Applause.) There were at present many different workers here, and they did not in the least disparage the efforts which they were putting forth. There was sufficient work for each and all of them to do, and what they must do was to put their shoulders to the wheel, and to do their utmost for the well-being of the population as a whole. There were in the village and the immediate district no less than 1000 inhabitants, and many of them knew the need there was for such a place of worship as that which was now being provided. He was glad to think that the erection of this church was hailed by the people in the district as being the beginning of a new and better state of things. They therefore asked and expected the support of all Christian workers, and trusted that they would aid them in their efforts for the wellbeing of the district as a whole. He felt sure that after all that had been done by the Presbytery, by the Home Mission Board, and by the children of the U.P. Church throughout Scotland, they would not think lightly of their great kindness and liberality towards this district. (Applause.) Rev. Mr. Young then delivered a short and interesting address. Rev. Mr. Hamilton, who afterwards spoke, said he was there that evening as the moderator of the Presbytery, as their friend, and as the friend of the Rev. Mr. Rouse. He wished them God-speed in the work which they had undertaken in Standburn, and which he hoped their new building would the better enable them to carry through. He mentioned some of the conditions of success, and spoke of the need there was for attractiveness in the house of God. It ought, he said, to be a beautiful house, and as such could truly be said of this place of worship, he trusted they would help to make it attractive by their coming out and taking a real interest in it. They ought to consider the church as their own, and use it as such. They should not only come to the church themselves, but induce others to come, and so stir up some enthusiasm. The gospel, he said, was the greatest benefactor of man in this life, and as such it was worthy of their support. He also emphasised the necessity there was for their being united in the efforts they put forth for the advancement of Christ's cause and kingdom in this place.

The REV. D. C. MACKELLAR, Denny, as convener of the Presbytery's Committee, offered to the meeting the congratulations of his committee, and the assurance that the Presbytery would stand by them and give every possible assistance and encouragement. He then pointed out the necessity for enthusiasm, and concluded by expressing the hope that every success would attend their work in their new church. The REV. D. KEIR, M.A., Dennyloanhead, after speaking of the beauty and comfort of the new building, gave an address of much practical utility to Christian workers, in the course of which he likened them to soldiers. Pointing out that soldiers are expected to give allegiance and obedience and to be ready to endure hardness, he urged them to go forward to their work in the spirit of the true soldier. An address was also given by the Rev. James Walker, B.A., minister in charge. In the course of the evening a choir, under the leadership of Mr. Hynds, sang a number of concerted pieces in a spirited manner, and solos, quartettes, &c. were given by several of its members. The usual votes of thanks brought a most successful meeting to a close.

AVONBRIDGE

ASSEMBLY. - The seventh annual assembly took place at Gowanbank on Friday last. The large granary kindly donated by the proprietor, Mr James Paton, was beautifully decorated for the occasion with evergreens and flags, and a large motto - "A guid New Year to ane and a". There was a good assemblage, over twenty six couples taking part at the dance. Mr John Hay

was M.C. Messrs Hay, Westfield, and Hardie, Avonbridge, supplied the music.
E.U. CHURCH SOIREE AND XMAS TREE. – The annual soiree and Xmas tree in connection with this church came off on Wednesday evening. The church was crowded. Rev. Mr Richmond, pastor, presided. After tea, addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr Cameron, Linlithgow, deputy from the Sabbath School Committee, who gave a very encouraging address to the scholars on Sabbath School work; and the Rev. Mr Rouse, U.P. Church, who gave a very stirring address – "Minding." Both addresses were listened to with much attention. The programme of songs and recitations was sustained by the scholars, who acquitted themselves to the delight of those present. Miss Lumsden kindly presided at the harmonium. The book prize and the dismantling of the tree
ALLEGED RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS.

A WARNING TO THE COMMUNITY.

In Falkirk Sheriff Court on Monday – before Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff – Andrew Veitch, gamekeeper, Drumbowie, and Alex. Arnott, gamekeeper Greenhill Farm, Slamannan, were charged with having on the 21st December, on the public road leading from Avonbridge to Armadale and Bathgate, near the house at Linmill occupied by William Storey, willfully and recklessly discharged three or more shots from two guns loaded with powder and shot, to the alarm of their lieges. The accused pleaded not guilty. Veitch was defended by Mr Thomas Gibson, and Arnott by Mr J.C. Allan, solicitor.

The first witness was James Bryce, quarryman, Newhouse, who deponed that about seven o'clock in the evening of the date mentioned he was on the public road near to Avonbridge. He observed two men sitting near Linmill Bridge. On passing he heard a shot. He turned and looked towards the men, when he saw another two shots fired by one or the other of the men. The shots were fired in an eastwards direction. Storey's house lay to the south-east. After the third shot was fired he went along in the direction of Avonbridge, and met Mrs Thomson, who was also a witness. He was 20 yards away when the shots were fired. Mrs Thomson asked him what the shooting meant. She didn't appear much frightened. He went back to the men, whom he identified as accused. He found Veitch lying on the ground with his gun underneath him. He was of the opinion that both men were under the influence of drink. He took the guns from both men. Veitch's gun was empty. He opened the breech of Arnott's gun and took and empty cartridge from one of the chambers. He took the guns from both the men for safety. Witness went away and came back in an hour to see whether the men had left their bags lying about. He found two empty cartridges in the ditch. On Thursday, the 26th, he discovered some pellet marks on the wall opposite to where the men were sitting, and at a distance of about 40 feet. The men when he spoke to them were very quiet, and didn't say anything. He remarked to them that he had "turned for their own good."

Cross-examined by Mr GIBSON – Witness had no fear for himself when he accosted the men. The night was slightly foggy. He did not see who fired the shots. They were fired by one or the other. The shots appeared to be fired across, not along the road. There was no one in the way.

The SHERIFF here interposed, saying that he would hold that any man, under the influence of drink, who fired shots in this manner on the public road was guilty of the offence charged. It didn't matter whether there was any danger of anyone being hurt or not. His lordship considered that no more serious offence could be committed in the district.

Mr GIBSON submitted that he was entitled to let the public know that there was no appearance of "skaith" to anyone.

By Mr J.C. ALLAN – Both men very slightly resisted when witness asked their guns from them. Arnott told witness that the cartridge that was found in his gun had been discharged previous to the time when witness saw him, he was quite confident that neither of the guns went off in his own hands. He was equally clear that three shots were fired. He never expressed a doubt as to whether two or three shots were fired. Arnott acted quite reasonably when witness went to ask his gun from him. He resisted a little. He did not know if it would have been natural that Arnott should resist if he had done nothing wrong. Witness, under such circumstances, would have given up the gun in a moment. He did not think he was in danger at the time.

Re-examined – Judging from the interval between the three shots fired, he thought on man would have had time to load a gun and fire three shots.

By the Court – Witness was satisfied, from the general appearance of the men, that they were under the influence of drink.

Mrs Alan Thomson stated that, near the Linnmill bridge on the evening in question, she heard two shots on the public road, She was about 30 or 40 yards away from where the shots were fired. She was put about and alarmed by the firing. She met James Bryce further on, who tried the guns. She saw two men at the side of the road. One man was lying on the road and one was standing by. She did not recognise them. She thought both men were under the influence of drink.

By Mr GIBSON – She only heard two shots. If a third had been fired close by upon the two shots she would have heard it. She didn't know whether the two men she saw were sitting with their legs dangling in the ditch. It was a very small ditch, and probably there was no room for their legs.

By Mr ALLAN – Witness was acquainted with Veitch by sight. She had never seen Arnott.

By the Court – She couldn't say whether both men were intoxicated. Only the one who was lying down appeared to be tipsy.

William Storey, Linnlee, deponed that he heard three shots on the night of the 21st December. He saw no flash. He was near the door of his own house at the top of the brae. The shots appeared to come from the foot of the brae, about 70 or 80 yards off. He went along the road immediately thereafter on his way to his work. He met Arnott and Veitch, and overtook Bryce about 20 yards on the other side of the men. Both accused had guns. Witness said nothing to them about firing. Veitch and Arnott appeared to be staggering under the influence of drink. Witness saw the accused before the shooting. That was about 10 minutes to 6 o'clock. Veitch appeared to be intoxicated then.

Cross-examined by Mr GIBSON – Witness was not alarmed.

By Mr ALLAN – Witness thought it was dangerous for the men to carry guns when they were under the influence of drink. Mr Allan was proceeding to find out from the witness whether he thought that gamekeepers were to be trusted with guns, they being in the habit of carrying guns, when his Lordship interposed, saying that anyone of common sense would know there was a difference in the world between a sober man with a gun and a tipsy man with a gun. No man under the influence of drink should be allowed, under any circumstances whatever, to handle a gun and he hoped the police would pay attention to that.

Mr ALLAN explained that he wished to get from the witness a statement as to the degree under which the men appeared to be under the influence of drink, with a view to modifying the circumstances.

Thomas Miller, coachman, Gownabank, generally corroborated the previous witness, adding that he had heard three shots fired.

Constable Clacher deponed that, on getting information of the alleged offence, he made enquiries. He saw Mrs Thomson, who said that she had been alarmed by the shooting. There were about three houses within about 100 yards. Witness saw Arnott that night in Avonbridge. Arnott was lodging a complaint of assault. Witness afterwards charged both accused. Veitch denied the charge, saying that he had no cartridges. Arnott denied having been drinking that day, and said he had used no fire-arms.

This concluded the evidence. Mr GIBSON and Mr ALLAN having addressed the Court, Sheriff SCOTT-MONCRIEFF said that, in the first place, he thought the authorities had acted very properly in bringing the case before the Court, and he trusted that the disclosures made would not have been made in vain, but that the whole proceedings might act as a warning to the communities generally. He could not but look upon the offences a serious one, because it was quite clear that upon the night in question these two men, said to be gamekeepers, and likely enough to be in possession of guns, were under the influence of drink, and showing in

various ways, by speech and by action, that they were in an unfit condition to have loaded fire-arms in their possession. He trusted that some time or other, the law would make it a distinct offence for any person under the influence of drink to have in his possession loaded fire arms. There was in the mere act a recklessness that was sufficient to alarm the public, and justify the authorities in interfering; but as the law at present stood, a drunken man must make some use of a fire-arm before an offence could be made out. In the present case there could be no doubt that the shots proceeded from the guns of these men, who were in an improper condition, in which no gamekeeper should ever be; for no man who got into that condition should have a loaded gun in his possession. There was little doubt also that the shots alarmed their lieges. The difficulty, however, was that this was one of those offences in which both men, being together, were guilty. There was no suggestion of conspiracy, and he must be satisfied that each party committed the offence, or as to which of them committed it, before he could convict. Bryce, whose evidence was given in a clear and satisfactory way, stated that the three shots might have come from the same gun. That was extremely improbable, and it was more likely that one shot would have come from one gun and two shots from another gun. This was a case in which one of the men got the benefit of the possibility that the other might have been the offender. His Lordship (continuing) said that offences of this nature had always been punished by imprisonment. He felt perfectly certain that he had one man before him who was guilty of the offence, yet he was not in a position to convict either of them, and must find the charge not proven. They knew best themselves to what extent they were to blame. His lordship trusted that the disclosures made might have a good effect on a community where, unfortunately, drunkenness prevailed to such an alarming extent.

Accused then left the dock.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 15th January 1896

MUIRAVONSIDE.
PARISH COUNCIL. –

A meeting of Muiravonside Parish Council was held in the Maddiston Hall on Saturday afternoon. Those present were Mr. John Stirling, of Muiravonside, chairman, and Messrs Stirling (Tarduff), Learmonth, Logan, Binnie (Bowhouse), Binnie (Candyhead), Boyd, Henderson, Reid, Mackay, and Eccles (inspector). Mr. Gibson, solicitor, Falkirk, appeared on behalf of the proprietors of Greyrigg Colliery, who sought a reduction from £194 to £50 in the assessment on the mineral rent of Greyrigg, on the ground that no coal had been worked there since August, 1895, and would not be until August, 1896. After some discussion, the settlement of the matter was continued for a month until it should come before the assessor.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 22nd January 1896

A FARMER IN DIFFICULTIES. – In Falkirk Sheriff Court on Monday, Thomas Crawford, farmer, Craighends, Avonbridge, was examined in bankruptcy. There were present Mr W. Croft Gray, solicitor, Edinburgh, for the trustee on the estate, and Mr D.M. Wilson for creditors. Bankrupt deposed that he started farming about 20 years ago. Before he came to his present farm he was in Bathville, near Armadale. When he started his capital was principally sunk in stock. When he came to Craighends he had seven cows, three horses, six other cattle, two calves and various implements. That was in May 1888. The money he realised at Bathville was used putting down the first crop. The money coming off that crop he spent on improving the land. He had great difficulty owing to bad water supply. He lost about £100 by the first year's crop, and through losses in various ways. The farm had been paying itself up to the present litigation with his landlord. He had no means apart from his stock. Apart from the expenses on both sides of the litigation, he considered himself solvent. In order to carry on litigation he had to realise stock and crop. He had made away with nothing belonging to the estate since his sequestration. He lodged a state of affairs which showed debts amounting to about £220, excluding a claim against him in the Court of Session, and assets amounting to about £124. He had fully surrendered to the trustee all the estate of which he was possessed. He never had any cash in bank since he went to Craighends. He had expended all he had in feeding, manuring, and C. He had expended in this way £100 each year. In answer to Mr D.M. Wilson, bankrupt said that he had litigation with his former landlord, which was compromised. He left Bathville before his lease was out, as the landlord wished it in his own hand. There was a case in the Court of Session against him for £500. In terms of his lease, he had been in arrear with his rent before litigation arose. He could not tell what his household expenses were. He had a very large family. He did not pay his children any wages. He had none to himself. He kept no books. Very few farmers kept books. About this time last year he had about 19 cattle, 11 calves, 8 milk cows, and 3 horses. His son bought a foal at the October tryst in 1895. His son got a present of a mare from his uncle the previous year. Bankrupt brought up the mare and charged *20 for the upbringing; the mare was sold for £50. The litigation with his landlord had gone against him. He had paid nothing of the expenses which were included in his state of affairs. He paid £140 to his agent in the litigation, and £120 through his agent in name of rent. He had not removed any furniture to Whitburn. He had no house in Whitburn or anywhere else. He paid accounts to the amount of £300, chiefly for manures and feeding, with money realised from the sale of his cattle. The examination was then closed, and the statutory oath was administered.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 25th January 1896

AVONBRIDGE

EARLY LAMBING. – A Leicester ewe belonging to Mr John Shanks, Gateside, near Avonbridge, dropped a fine healthy lamb on Wednesday, the 15th inst.

Edinburgh Evening News Monday 27th January 1896

PIT FATALITY IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

Information was received by the Falkirk police to-day of a fatal accident at No. 3 Pit, Blacston Colliery, near Avonbridge. John Pender, 16, residing at Bathgate, was at work, when a piece of fireclay fell from the roof, fracturing his skull, and causing instantaneous death. The father and an elder brother were working a few yards off.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 1st February 1896

MADDISTON.
BURNS CLUB. –

The anniversary meeting of Maddiston Bums Club was held in Mr. William Galloway's Maddiston Inn on Friday evening. A large gathering of members and friends sat down to an excellent supper, purveyed in Miss Galloway's usual fine style. Mr. John Brown, grocer, Torphichen, occupied the chair, supported on the right by Mr. John Gibb and Mr. James Gibb, and on the left by Mr. John Hunter, Craighend, and Mr. Fyfe. The duties of croupier were discharged by Mr. John Williamson, supported on the right by Mr. Wm. Wilson and Mr. Mowat, and on the left by Mr. R. Green well and Mr. A. Lumsden. After justice had been done to the good things provided, the Chairman proposed "The Immortal Memory of Burns," and in doing so referred to the wide-spread love for Burns as a poet and as a man. The toast was duly honoured. Mr. Williamson proposed "Maddiston Burns Club." Other toasts followed. During the evening songs were rendered by Air William Heeps, Mr. William Wilson, Mr. John Brown, Mr. R. Green well, Mr. James Gibb, Mr. John Meikle, Mr. D- Penny, and Mr. John Broom, &c, and the proceedings, which were throughout highly enjoyable, were brought to a close by the company joining in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Falkirk Herald 12th & 15th February 1896

POLMONT AND DISTRICT
MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

AN INTERESTING MEETING.

Muiravonside School met on Tuesday afternoon in Maddiston Hall. Colonel Stirling presided, and there were present - Messrs Wilson, Wilson (Bogie), Binnie, Mackay, and Bryce.

A "SCENE."

At the outset the officer intimated that there were several defaulters waiting outside. On being asked by the Chairman to invite them in to the presence of the Board, the officer called upon Mrs. Denholm. The lady who answered to this name, after a pause of a minute or two, during which the officer held the door wide open, strolled in unconcernedly knitting a stocking. She smiled pleasantly at the members and explained, in answer to the chairman, that the reason why her daughter Jeanie had not been to school this year was because she had no boots. The Officer - I got that statement when I called at the house, but the child was not at home. Mrs. Denholm - She was in her brother's house. The Officer - I was told, gentlemen, that the girl was at Falkirk, and she couldn't have gone there very well bare footed. Mrs. Denholm (warmly) - That's a lie. The Chairman - Oh, stop. You mustn't say that, you know. Mrs. Denholm - She was at home at her brother's fireside, and well does the officer know that. The Chairman - Well, now that she has boots, see you keep your daughter at school. You may go away. Mrs. Denholm then marched off, turning round first to the officer with the remark "You won't prosper any better for that." (Laughter.) James Frater, Alex. Sharp, and Mrs. Banks were also dealt with.

THE BOARD AS PIANO-HIRERS.

The Clerk read an application from the Standburn Victoria Cycling Club for the use of Muiravonside School and the school piano for a concert on February 25th. Mr. John Walker, organist, Muiravonside Parish Choir, also wrote asking permission to hold a concert in the same school on the following evening, subject to any conditions which the Board might impose. Mr. Mackay - It was quite distinctly stated that the pianos were not to be used for concerts, but only for school purposes. Mr. Bryce - Quite distinctly; no mistake about it. The Chairman here explained that he had allowed the use of the piano at Blackbraes School to Mrs. Learmonth. Parkhall, on behalf of a concert in connection with the Free Church. He did not think he was doing any harm, but he was sorry if he did wrong. Mr. Mackay - We made a motion to that effect. The clerk should be asked to write to each of the teachers prohibiting the use of the piano for concerts. Mr. Binnie said he thought they might charge a small fee for the hire of the pianos - say 5s. It would pay for the tuning. A discussion took place as to the advisability of this suggestion, Mr. Mackay holding that the instruments would be damaged, and that on one occasion the Board had to replane and revarnish the school seats after a concert. The concert goers had danced on the seats and broken windows, and a blackboard, and so on. The Chairman said that surely no musician would damage the piano, and no one but musicians would be allowed to play. Mr. Binnie - Pianos are like fiddles - the more they are played on the better they become, Mr. Mackay it is curious that when these pianos were purchased they were to be kept for the exclusive use of the schools. They were now being used for concerts, and the Board had come to deliberate whether they should charge for the piano. If they could not carry out the first arrangement, they could not carry out the proposed arrangement. The Chairman - I think if the pianos are used they should be charged for. Mr. Binnie - It would be advantageous to the Board as well as to the parties holding concerts to charge for the pianos, and I move that a charge of 5s be made when a piano is used. Mr. Wilson (Bogie) seconded. Mr. Bryce - And I move that the pianos be kept for nothing else than what they were purchased for. Mr. Mackay (warmly) - There is no use passing a minute about that or about anything else at this Board. You pass motions here, and then you do as you please. Mr. Wilson asked the Clerk to turn up his minute-book with the object of discovering whether there was a motion as to reserving pianos exclusively for school use. The clerk was unable to find such a minute, and the Chairman then took up the search, but failed to shed any light on the matter. A division then took place, when Mr. Binnie's motion was declared carried. Mr. Mackay - That is in no way giving heed to what was arranged before. The next thing will be that a motion will be made to charge nothing at all for the pianos. Mr. Bryce - Would Mr. Binnie object to a motion that the committee repair any damage that may be done to a piano? Mr. Binnie - Certainly the committee will be responsible in the usual way for any damage that is done while they are in the school. Mr. Bryce - I mean the School Committee. Mr. Binnie - I don't understand. Mr. Bryce - Will the School Committee pay the, damage out of their own pockets? (" Oh!") Mr. Binnie - That would not be a proper arrangement. Mr. Mackay - It's just a piece of selfishness; that's what it is. Anybody may do as he pleases. He will commit an act first and then come here and make a motion about it. Mr. Binnie - The motion is carried now. Mr. Mackay - Has this not been settled before? Mr. Binnie - Yes, Mr. Mackay - Then how do you come to make a motion now. Mr. Binnie - Because I see no harm in it. Mr. Mackay - But what is the difference The Chairman - We'll proceed to the next business. The discussion then dropped.

THE NEW SCHOOL.

The clerk produced amended plans and specifications of the new school at Maddiston from Mr. James Strang, architect, Falkirk. The plans were passed round the table and discussed by the members, the clerk explaining meanwhile that schedules would be issued, forthwith. After some discussion, Mr. Mackay said he thought the architect might have made up his estimates and given them an idea of the cost. The Chairman - Perhaps Mr. Mackay and Mr. Wilson will call on the architect and go over the plans with him to see if a reduction can be made. Mr. Binnie said he thought that everything was to be done as cheaply as possible consistent with durability. The plan showed a plain substantial building. The subject then dropped, and the clerk was instructed to forward the plans to the Department for their approval.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS.

Applications for increase of salary were intimated from several teachers. The Chairman - We certainly won't consider these applications until well on in the year. Mr. Bryce said that, now they were dealing with teachers, the Board would remember that some time ago the matter of corporal punishment in schools was before them. He had great complaints as to that at present, and he found that he would not be doing his duty if he did not bring the matter before them that night. Did they remember what decision the Board had come to at one time regarding corporal punishment? The Chairman - The Board expressed its opinion that corporal punishment should not be inflicted except at the hands of the head teacher. Mr. Bryce - Was that submitted to the head teacher? Mr. Wilson - I think so. Mr. Bryce said unfortunately it was not. He had made enquiry, and one head teacher told him he had heard nothing about it. If what he had heard were true, it was a disgrace to the parish, and must be dealt with that night. The Chairman - Well, it will be better to instruct the clerk to write the headmasters on the subject. Mr. Bryce - But I have a motion to make in regard to it. Mr. Mackay - it may be useful to allow Mr. Bryce to make his complaints. I never had a complaint about Blackbraes-School. Mr. Bryce then made a series of specific charges of cruelty against certain teachers, concluding with the remark that corporal punishment should only be inflicted by the headteacher with a leather strap. There must, however, be some restraint put upon certain teachers. He asked that the clerk should be instructed to make a communication to that effect to the headmasters. The Chairman - Certainly; no one can find fault with that. Mr. Mackay said he had no means of disproving what Mr. Bryce had said, but at the same time he had grave doubts as to the truthfulness of it. Mr. Bryce said he would be very happy to hear if what was said in one case should be untrue, Did not Mr. Mackay hear anything about the subject? Mr. Mackay I can honestly say I never saw a cane in the school I visit, and I have taken particular notice of that. Some discussion followed on the alleged charges made by Mr. Bryce. Mr. Mackay and Mr. Wilson stated that they had never received a single complaint about teachers or monitors, and certainly had heard nothing of the serious case brought forward by Mr. Bryce,

who retorted that he had got the names of the parties who made the complaints. It was agreed that one of the members should make inquiry as to the charges brought by Mr. Bryce. The Chairman - The result is that the clerk be instructed to write the teachers on the subject. Mr. Bryce I move "that corporal punishment be prohibited by any of the teachers other than the headmaster, under the penalty of instant dismissal." Mr. Wilson (Bogie) - That's a heavy sentence. Mr. Bryce - I would like the school to be a place of enjoyment, and not of dread, or a substitute for Barlinnie or some such place.

ANOTHER "SCENE".

The Clerk, who had taken down Mr. Bryce's motion, read it over, repeating the concluding phrase "under penalty of instant dismissal." Mr. Wilson - No, no; that will not do at all. Mr. Bryce - Why not? Mr. Wilson - We must do School Board business on School Board principle. Mr. Bryce - Is that not School Board principle? Mr. Wilson - No; we can't dismiss our teachers, you know. Mr. Bryce - Oh, but I say we can. Mr. Wilson - Well, we have to go through a lot before we can do that. Mr. Bryce - Have you read the agreements? Mr. Wilson - Yes; but I don't think you have - I know what the agreements are, and I know what my agreements are with other people, too. Mr. Bryce - Perhaps you would like to know all about mine, too. Mr. Wilson - I don't want to know anything about you. Don't you come here and dictate to this Board. Mr. Bryce (excitedly) - Don't you talk to me like that. Remember what I told you before. Mr. Wilson (hotly) - I do remember that. Mr. Bryce - Very well, mind what you are about. Mr. Wilson. - I am not likely to forget. At this stage the Chairman interposed to restore order, and after a few words more in this strain, the members gradually cooled down, and thus business was proceeded with.

ATTENDANCE REPORT.

The Officer reported the attendance for the month to be as follows;

	On roll.	Aver, att.
Blackbraes School	360	313
Drumbowie School	488	389
Muiravonside School	207	166
Avonbridge School	66	60
	1101	928

This is a slight increase over the last report.

MISCELLANEOUS. The Clerk intimated that the sanction of the Department had been obtained for the disposal of the glebe of Muiravonside School. The Department had also sanctioned the transfer of the Board's loans from the Loan Commissioners to a loan agency giving more favourable terms.

Reports were read from the teachers giving the qualifications, length of service, &c. Of all the teachers in the schools, to be referred to by the Board in the considering of applications for increase of salaries. The other business was routine.

BIRTHS

BRYCE. - At Maddiston, on the 12th inst., the wife of William Bryce, of a son.

MADDISTON.

To Let, Room and kitchen, with Garden and other Convenience. Rent, £7; Entry at May. - Apply to Alexander Anderson, Rowantree Cottage.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 22nd February 1896

AVONBRIDGE

PRESENTATION TO MISS LUMSDEN. - Miss Lumsden, who has held the position of organist in the United Presbyterian Church for some time, has been made the recipient of a handsome present, subscribed for by a very large circle of friends. Miss Lumsden was waited upon the other evening at her home, and presented with a purse of sovereigns and a ladies companion of beautiful design, bearing the following inscription :- "Presented to Miss Lumsden by the choir and friends." The presentation was made by Mr R. Duncan. Mr Lumsden replied on behalf of Miss Lumsden, thanking very kindly the large number of subscribers.

SAD DEATH OF YOUNG MINER

INQUIRY IN THE SHERIFF COURT.

An inquiry - under the Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Act, 1895 - in regard to the death of John Pender, miner, 36, Livery Street, Bathgate, who was killed in No.3 Pit, Blackstone, belonging to Messrs James Nimmo and Co., was held yesterday in Falkirk Sheriff Court - before Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff and a jury of seven. There were present - Mr Gardner, Sheriff Clerk; Mr Gibson, Procurator Fiscal; Mr J.B. Atkinson, H.M. Inspector of Mines for the Eastern District of Scotland; and Mr D.M. Wilson, for Messrs James Nimmo and Company. The first witness was Mr William Pender, 59, miner, father of the deceased, 36, Livery Street, Bathgate, who said that he was in the employment of James Nimmo and Co. on the 25th January. His sons - Henry, and the deceased; John - worked with him. They all went down the pit on the morning of the 25th January. They began work between half-past seven o'clock and eight o'clock, and everything went well until about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. At the time the deceased was working at the face. Witness was about eighteen or twenty feet away from him. Witness heard a sound of some kind, and went in the direction of the noise. He had heard something fall. When he got up he found the deceased lying underneath a stone. That was a piece of fireclay that had fallen from the roof. It was a very brittle roof. It was not rock that was next the coal-head. It was a bad roof. Witness, when he got up to his son, lifted the rock off him. He thought the rock was about two feet square. His son was lying with his face downward. The stone was resting on the back of his head and shoulders. His son was bleeding fearfully. His son was dead when witness got up. His son, Henry Pender, came forward as witness was lifting the stone. Witness got John taken to the surface and conveyed home. Dr Calderwood was on the scene shortly. Witness thought the "place" well enough secured. He had examined the "place" where deceased had been working, and also the place where the stone fell immediately before the accident. His son was an intelligent lad, and understood the nature of the roof. He had been brought up as a collier.

By Mr J.B. ATKINSON - He had been a miner for 49 years. He could not swear that he saw the fireman's mark on the place. It was long wall working, and the rails were laid along the face on the right hand side. The rails interfered a little bit with the timbering. The only remedy was to have taken down the stone. They couldn't have got the hutch along the rails if they had put a tree under this stone. They were supplied with sufficient timber. They "lids" to put on the roof. He believed sleepers made the best lids. They could not have put up props to keep off the stone. The tree would have been too near the face. They could not have got working. This was only a small stone that fell. If his son had gone to the roadhead he would have been safe. Witness had not seen the fireman just before the accident.

By Mr GIBSON - The height of the roof at the place where the accident happened was about 4 feet 6 or four feet 8 inches. That was not an accurate figure.

Henry Pender, miner 23, brother of the deceased, stated that on the 25th January he was working with his father and brother in No.3 pit. There was nobody at the face at that part except the father and sons. Witness said that he heard his brother say that the roof was "picking." That was not a fall. It meant that there was small stones and pieces of clay falling. Deceased left the place where he was working and went out of witness's sight. Witness then heard the roof fall. His father went to the place, and witness followed immediately. His brother was lying on his face, with the stone on his head. The scene of the accident was about two yards from the "place" where he was working.

By Mr ATKINSON - He did not see the fireman's mark on the place. If the mark had been there witness would have seen it.

James Dunoon, fireman, Burnside, Blackstone, said he was acting as fireman on the morning of the 20th. He had made his usual inspection of the mine that morning. He inspected the "place" where the Penders were working from one end to the other. He was satisfied it was in good order, and well supported. He marked the place. He saw the place about two hours after the accident had happened. He saw the stone which fell. It was about two feet square, three inches thick. He thought there was sufficient timbering to keep the place safe.

By Mr ATKINSON – This was a long- wall working. It was not usual to lay the way along the face. It was done here. It would tend to be safer if he had crowns. There were no crowns in the working-place.

By Mr WILSON – Witness was positive he put his mark on the place. The mark was pointed out to the inspector of the mines when he called.

Constable Robert Clacher, Avonbridge, said that he had heard of the accident. He called upon Dr Calderwood, who told him that the cause of death was fracture of the skull.

James Wilson, 19, oversman, Candy House, Avonbridge, said he was engaged in No. 3 pit. Witness had seen the fireman's mark about two minutes after the accident happened. The mark was "25" in chalk, on the roadhead, facing the brushing. The "25" referred to the date of the month. Witness assisted to remove deceased from the face to pit bottom.

The verdict of the jury was that the deceased was killed by the fall of a mass of fireclay from the roof of the pit.

The circumstances attending this inquiry were of a painful nature. The father and brother of the poor lad who met his death, in relating the story in the witness box as to the finding of the body, at times were almost overcome with emotion. The recital of the story made an impression also upon the others in court who listened to it.

GENERAL NOTICES

AVONBRIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. The ANNUAL MEETIN of this SOCIETY will take place at AVONBRIDGE on WEDNESDAY, the 26th inst., at 7 o'clock evening.

Falkirk Herald 4th March 1896

ALLEGED CONTRAVENTION OF THE COAL MINES REGULATION ACT. CHARGE AGAINST AN ENGINEMAN.

In the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Monday before Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff –

Alex. Miller, engineman, residing at Smithyhill, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the morning of the 5th February "at No. 1 pit of the Manuelrigg Colliery, in said parish, being a mine to which the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, applies, and he being then employed as a winding engineman at said pit, and a person bound to observe the special rules of said colliery, made and established under section 51 of said last-mentioned Act, did, while employed as winding engineman aforesaid and during the hours of his shift, (1) absent himself from his engine and fail to remain in charge thereof, and to be so near the same as to have it at all times completely and entirely under his control, in violation of the 20th section of the said special rules applicable to the winding enginemen; (2) failed to attend for the purpose of lowering and raising persons in mine during the whole time that any person was below ground in said mine, and particularly while Thomas Boyd, Andrew Boyd, William Donachie, miners, Hirst Cottage, Muiravonside; Henry Innes, miner, Rumford Square, Muiravonside; and Andrew Pender, fireman, Maddiston, were below ground therein, in violation of the 21st section of the special rules applicable as aforesaid; (3) allow the pressure of steam in the boiler of said engine to fall so low that the cage could not be raised by said engine and machinery and gearing connected there-with, and said engine and boiler were thus not in good working condition, and the whole machinery and gearing connected with said engine and boiler were not in a safe and effective state, in violation of the 22d section of said rules; and (4) fail to attend to the signals for lowering the empty cage duly made by John Allingman and Thomas Allingman, miners, Brightons, and the said Andrew Pender and Wm. Watters, oncostman, Quarrolhead, Maddiston, who were then belowground in said mine, in violation of Section 27 of the special rules applicable as aforesaid. The complaint went on to state that the accused was liable to a fine of £2 for each offence, or failing payment to go to prison for three months. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, Falkirk, appeared for the accused, said he would like to state an objection to the relevancy. His Lordship he said would notice that this was rather a peculiar case - indeed almost an unknown offence in this district at the present time. His client was charged under the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1887 with committing offences which were not laid down in that Act, but which were laid down in the special rules which were provided for under the 51st section of that Act. Those rules required to be made and approved of. Now, the complaint started by saying that his client was a party to whom those rules applied. He was entitled therefore to have it stated whether or not those rules were brought under his cognisance, as the Act stipulated that a copy of those rules should be placed in a prominent part of the colliery, and that the parties to whom they applied should have a copy if they so desire" it. The Procurator-Fiscal, however, should state whether his client was obliged to observe the special rules referred to. The Procurator-Fiscal - That is stated in the complaint. Mr. Marshall - But you do not state that my client had any knowledge of those rules. In the second place I have to say that my principal objection is this. In this complaint we have at the same time libeled four separate charges. I entitled to know at what time of the night or the morning those offences were supposed to have taken place - whether they all took place at one time or took place at separate times. The fourth charge - that my client did not attend to the signals for the lowering of the cage - was similar to the first one. The Sheriff - Did not the other offences flow from the first offence? Your client went away neglected to attend to his engine, and in consequence thereof certain other things followed. If your client was not at his engine he was not attending to the raising of people, he was not keeping the steam at the proper pressure to lift the people, and he was not attending to the signals given by the men in the mine. Mr. Marshall - Did these things happen through my client not being there, or was it while he was absent that those things happened? I contend that in the complaint there is a repetition of the same offence. It should be stated in the complaint whether this was wilful absenting, my defence is that it was not wilful. There should also be some statement as to the time the offences were committed. The Sheriff - It was on the morning of the February, and during your clients shift. Mr. Marshall - But I am entitled to know the time during that shift when my client absented himself from his engine. The Sheriff it is impossible for the prosecutor to put the complaint in any other way. He states that your client absented himself from his duty during his shift. Mr. Marshall - Were the offences committed at the time my client was said to be absent? My defence may resolve itself into this that my client's absence was compulsory, and that he was taken suddenly ill. Those things may have occurred during the time he had left someone in his place I do not know exactly when the offences were committed, and I am entitled to know that. The Procurator-Fiscal - It is unnecessary to set forth in the complaint that the accused was aware of the rules as the Act provides for the publication of the rules, and for all parties interested in them having access to them, The Sheriff - I think that is a satisfactory answer to Mr. Marshall's first objection. The Procurator-Fiscal - As to the time, it is all the offences may have flowed from the fact of the man's absence, and it is possible also that they may not. All I am entitled to prove is that accused failed to do certain things. I am able to say that he allowed the pressure of the boiler to become so reduced that the engine and machinery were not in working order. The Sheriff - Of course, if the offences were committed out of the accused shift the case falls. The Procurator-Fiscal - That is so, my Lord. If he can prove that he is at liberty to do so. The Sheriff - I am quite prepared to repel the objections. The accused then pleaded not guilty, and the case was adjourned till Tuesday week for trial.

GENERAL NOTICES

TO CONTRACTORS.

OFFERS are Wanted for the MASON and BRICKWORK, JOINER, PLUMBER, SLATER, PLASTER, add SMITH WORKS of NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL to be erected at Maddiston for the Muiravonside School Board. Plans to be seen with, and Schedules of Quantities of the different Departments of the Work received from the Subscriber, with whom Offers are to be lodged by Friday, the 20th March. The Board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any offer.

JAMES STRANG, Architect, 102 High Street, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 7th March 1896.

AVONBRIDGE

APPOINTMENT OF PRECENTOR AND ORGANIST. – Mr Gray, Wallacestone, has been

appointed precentor, and his son organist of the U.P. Church there, Mr Gray was precentor for the Methodist Church, Slamannan, for a number of years.
HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION. – At a recent meeting of the members of the above society held in the Bridgehill Inn (Mr Ponton's), part of the business was to elect a secretary and treasurer in the place of Messrs Gilchrist and Shields, Strathloanhead, who have resigned. Mr P. Gilchrist has been secretary since the show was instituted in 1860, and Mr Shields has been secretary for a good number of years. Mr James Waugh, Avonbridge, and Mr J. Gilchrist junior, Avonbridge, treasurer.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 14th March 1896.

AUTION SALES
MR BINNIE'S SALES
LET OF REDFORD GRASS PARKS, ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH.
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by William Henderson, Esq. of Redford, to Let by Public Auction, for the Season's Grazing, on WEDNESDAY, 18th March, 1896, the
BRASS PARKS ON THE ESTATE OF REDFORD,
comprising
7 ENCLOSURES
Of Excellent Pasture, including the Glens.
The Fields are Well Fenced and Watered
Roup to begin at Two o'clock.
AVONHILL ESTATE
IMPORTANT AND EXTENSIVE LET OF GRASS PARKS
AT GOWANBANK, DRUMBOWIE, EASTER BURNHEAD, AND DRUMDUFF, AVONBRIDGE,
ON WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH.
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is favoured with instructions from James Paton, Esq. of Avonhill, to let by Public Auction, for the Season, on WEDNESDAY, 25th March, 1896, the above Extensive Grazings in Parks, well sheltered with Plantations, and comprising –
GOWANBANK, 9 ENCLOSURES.
DRUMBOWIE, 8 ENCLOSURES.
EASTER BURNHEAD, 1 ENCLOSURE.
DRUMDUFF, 1 ENCLOSURE.
The Enclosures range from 7 to 150 Acres, Parks will be pointed out to intended offerers by the Shepherd.
Roup to begin at One o'clock.
Compaby to Assemble at Gowanbank Offices.
Falkirk Auction Mart, March, 1896.

Falkirk Herald 21st March 1896.

CONTRAVENTION OF THE COAL MINES REGULATION ACT.
CHARGE AGAINST AN ENGINEMAN

In the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Monday before Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff – Alex. Miller, engineman, residing at Smithyhill, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the morning of the 5th February *at No. 1 pit of the Manuelrigg Colliery, in said parish, being a mine to which the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, applies, and he being then employed as a winding engineman at said pit, and a person bound to observe the special rules of said colliery, made and established under section 51 of said last-mentioned Act, did, while employed as winding engineman aforesaid and during the hours of his shift, (1) absent himself from his engine and fail to remain in charge thereof, and to be so near the same as to have it at all times completely and entirely under his control, in violation of the 20th section of the said special rules applicable to the winding enginemen; (2) failed to attend for the purpose of lowering and raising persons in mine during the whole time that any person was below ground in said mine, and particularly while Thomas Boyd, Andrew Boyd, William Donachie, miners, Hirst Cottage, Muiravonside; Henry Innes, miner, Rumford Square, Muiravonside; and Andrew Pender, fireman, Maddiston, were below ground therein, in violation of the 21st section of the special rules applicable as aforesaid; (3) allow the pressure of steam in the boiler of said engine to fall so low that the cage could not be raised by said engine and machinery and gearing connected there-with, and said engine and boiler were thus not in good working condition, and the whole machinery and gearing connected with said engine and boiler were not in a safe and effective state, in violation of the 22d section of said rules; and (4) fail to attend to the signals for lowering the empty cage duly made by John Allingman and Thomas Allingman, miners, Brightons, and the said Andrew Pender and Wm. Watters, oncostman Quarrolhead, Maddiston, who were then belowground in said mine, in violation of Section 27 of the special rules applicable as aforesaid. The complaint went on to state that the accused was liable to a fine of £2 for each offence, or failing payment to go to prison for three months. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, Falkirk.

Alexander Rigg was the first witness examined for the prosecution. He said he was the managing partner of the firm of Alex. Rigg & Co., and resided at Polmont Station. The accused was one of the firm's enginemen at No. 1 Pit at Manuelrigg Colliery. The rules produced were published at the pit. If the steam was allowed to get so low as was stated in the complaint that would in certain circumstances constitute a danger. It would also constitute a danger if an engineman left his post when there were men in the pit. Cross-examined - The particulars of this case were only hearsay to witness. He knew the accused to be a steady man, and he had been with him for about 21 years. The regulations were suspended at the pithead, and they supplied a copy to the men only when asked for. He believed the accused knew the rules were at the pithead. John Allanman, miner, Brightons, said he was working in the pit at which the accused was the winding-engineman on the night of the 4th and morning of the 5th February. He pulled the signal about a dozen times before he got an answer. It was fully an hour before he got up, and he was signaling at intervals during that time and before he got any answer. When he got to the pithead he saw Miller. This would be about half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 5th February. There was something said as to what was up when accused had not answered the signal, and he said something about his breakfast. Accused said nothing about being ill, and he did not appear to be ill. He seemed to be sleepy. Cross-examined - He did not know that the man Andrew Pender knew anything about the engine. He did not remember accused saying, when he got to the pithead, that he had had a sore time of it since three o'clock. He might have said it without him hearing it, as he was wet and cold and was wishing to get home. He did not think there was anything seriously wrong when he got no answer to his signals. He only thought the accused had fallen asleep. Thos. Allanman, miner, Brightons, a brother of the previous witness, said he was working with his brother in the pit on the morning of the 5th February. He corroborated his evidence as to their signaling from below and receiving no answer. When witness got up to the pithead, accused said something about his supper, but he did not remember him complain of being ill. Accused was cleaning out the fires, and he asked witness to put on a shovelful or two of coals. The fires were low. He did not hear accused ask for Andrew Pender. Cross-examined - Accused never asked witness before to help him to put on his fires, and it was rather an unusual request for him to make. Accused might have said he had had a bad time of it without witness having heard him. The Sheriff - What is the usual time before you are taken up after you signal? Witness - Sometimes it is a minute, and at other times ten minutes. Q. But an hour is unusually long? A. Yes. Andrew Pender said he was the fireman at No. 1 pit. He was down the pit on the night of the 4th February. Accused's shift began at five o'clock at night, and

ended at seven o'clock in the morning. While witness was in the pit he noticed about two o'clock in the morning that the pumps were going unusually slow. He stopped them, as he thought there was not enough of steam to pump water. Indeed, he thought something was wrong. After he stopped the pumps, he signalled to get up, but he got no answer, and got no explanation as to why the pumps were going slow. He waited until the Allanmans came, and they signalled and ultimately got up about four o'clock on the morning of the 5th. He saw the Allanmans go up, and the cage ascended in its usual way. As the Allanmans went up a full hutch came down. This was a very unusual thing, and witness thought that this was done because of the want of steam. He could not say that it was the weight of the full hutch which had raised the Allanmans. By means of a full hutch the cage could be raised with men on it. Witness remained below till seven o'clock. He could not say when the man Watters went up. Cross-examined - He had some knowledge of pit machinery, and had sometimes assisted the accused by way of putting on a fire. He thought he heard the accused crying down the pit before the Allanmans went up, but he could not hear what he said, and thought no more about it. It did not strike him that the accused was crying to him. It was not usual to cry down the pit except when something was wrong. He had been a year in the pit, knew the accused very well, and found him attentive to his duties as a rule. It might have been possible that accused was crying down the pit for him. William Watters, night oncostman at the pit, and residing at Quarrolhead, Maddiston, said he was in the pit on the night and morning in question. He tried the signal at half-past one o'clock, but failed, and did not try again. When he got up at about a quarter to five o'clock Miller said he was very bad, and wanted someone to go for his neighbour. He did not look very fresh. He said he had been taken with cramp in his inside. Witness said he would go for his neighbour, and before he could do so the accused said he was so bad that he would require to go home, and he left. There were then five men in the pit. - Thomas Boyd, his son, Andrew Pender, James Hall, and a young man whose name he did not know. He could not say that Henry Innes was in the pit. When witness was taken up the cage was raised by steam. When witness went away to Craigs for the neighbour of the accused the engine was left unattended to. Cross-examined - There was a man named White on the pithead when the accused left. White started to put coals on the boiler fire, and witness said it would be better for him not to interfere with anything. Although White had already commenced to "give a hand" witness did not understand that the accused left on the understanding that one of them was to go for his neighbour while the other attended to his duties at the pit. Miller was not so fresh in the morning as he was when witness went down the pit at night. The Sheriff - Is there any means whereby he could signal down to you if he thought something was wrong. Witness - There is the back signal, which he did not use. James Smith said he was the oversman at the pit, and was at home on the night of the 5th February. Miller came for witness about 5 o'clock the following morning. He asked witness to go to the pit immediately. When he got out the accused was away, and he left no explanation. Witness dressed and went to the pit, and found there was no engineman. He met Watters, who said he was away for the other engineman. When he arrived, witness and the engineman named Angus examined the boilers, and the water was away from the "float." That was bad workmanship, and it would have been dangerous to put up steam then. The work was stopped. Cross-examined - The other men in the pit were got up before the work was stopped. The boilers had to lie cooled down before things could be put right. Millar did what he should have done in coming and telling witness that he was leaving his post. He did not see him, and only recognised him by his voice. Alexander Angus, engineman, Craigs, said he was the accused's neighbour engineman, and started work when the accused's shift finished. When he went to the pit on the morning of the 5th February the water was away from the "float," and the steam was low. In the case of one of the boilers it would have been dangerous to have put water into it in the condition in which it was, and it had to be cooled down. If a loaded hutch were sent down the cage when men were being raised it would very likely be for want of steam. Cross-examined - When witness reached the pit White did not say he had been coaling, and Watters did not say he had been doing anything. If witness had been seized with an illness he would have gone and told the manager. Re-examined by the Procurator-Fiscal - The only thing in an engineman's duties which required physical exertion was putting coals on the fire. Thomas Boyd, miner, said he was in the pit on the morning of the 5th February, and he did not get up till 7 o'clock. He "chapped" between 4 and 5 o'clock and got no answer, and he was told it was no use to "chap" again. There were seven or eight people to the pit at that time. This concluded the evidence for the prosecution, and witnesses for the defence were then examined. John Todd, miner, Maddiston, deposed that he worked in the pit in question. He was in the pit on the night of the 4th February, and was taken up shortly before twelve by the accused. He was, all right then. Alex. Millier, the accused, was then examined. He stated that he had worked 2 1/2 years at this pit, and lived 500 yards from the pit, and close to the underground manager's house. He had been bred an engineman After lifting Todd up about a quarter to twelve o'clock witness continued at the fires. At the back of two o'clock the steam began to get low, and as the fires were very dirty he commenced to clean them. The fires were hot, and a great deal of exertion was required to do the work. He perspired freely, and in his heated state he took a drink of cold water. He immediately shivered, and was seized with pains in the stomach. He suffered great pain, and ill he could do was to lie face downwards on a heated pipe. The signals were right above him and he heard them. This was after three o'clock He cried down for Pender, the oncostman, to come up and go for his neighbour. Witness got no reply from Pender. He afterwards felt a little stronger, but not being able to get up the steam he put the loaded hutch on the cage to bring up the Alanmans. When the Allanmans came up he said he had had a sore time of it since before three o'clock, and he was suffering badly. They left him when he was putting on the fires. Feeling the tremble coming on again he again cried down the pit for Pender. He got no answer from him. He had sufficient steam raised to bring up White and Watters about five o'clock in the morning. White said he would put on a fire, and after going and telling the manager to go to the pit, witness went home and went to bed. At home he applied hot plates. The doctor called during the day, gave him a little medicine, and told him to keep his bed. He did not willfully neglect his duty that night, and was not absent from his post except when he went for the manager. Cross-examined - Could you not have signalled to the pit bottom when you lay down on the steam pipe? A - Not at the time. Q - How long do you suppose you were unable to put up your hand to ring the bell to give the back signal? A. - For the space of an hour, The Allanmans must have heard me say. I was ill. Q - Did it not occur to you that you might have sent one of them for the manager. A. - I was feeling a little better then, and I thought I might be able to pull through. After they left however, I felt ill again. Dr. Lawrie, Brightons, said he knew the accused, and attended him on the forenoon of the 5th February. While calling to his child, Millar's wife told witness he had left his work with pains in the bowels. He had treated him for that complaint before. He was applying hot plates. Accused was suffering from colic. Q - Supposing a man in, very heated state were to drink cold water, would that cause colic? A. - Very likely indeed, I should say. The Procurator-Fiscal, at the close of the proof, held that the charge had been proven. That Millar left his work without any one having been left in charge was, he said, proved in point of fact. There was no evidence, medical or otherwise, that the accused was physically unable to remain at his post until his neighbour arrived. The Sheriff - He says he understood that Whyte was to attend to the engine. The Procurator-Fiscal said that that had been denied. Whyte did begin to put on fires, but Watters said to him-" You better stop, you do not know the condition of the boilers; you may cause an accident by interfering." This showed the danger of the accused leaving, his post, as any one might, in his absence, have tampered with the engine. If Millar had remained at his work even until the manager came, he would have done a most discreet thing, Mr. Marshall contended that the charge had not been proven. The accused, lit' said. Was a most respectable man and there was no insinuation that he absented himself from his post for his own pleasure, or to take liquor. The prosecution did not give any reason why he had absented himself they had let him to do that, and he had, he contended, done so most satisfactorily. His Lordship must attach great importance to the evidence of the doctor, who said that when he called during the forenoon of

the 5th February to see, not the accused, but his child, and he had found Millar confined to bed and suffering great pain. The Sheriff said it was quite right that this case should have been brought, for it was clearly shown that not only considerable inconvenience might arise to the men in the pit through any failure to attend to their signals, but that very serious danger might arise through neglect of the signalman's duties. There was no doubt that there was failure to attend to the signals, and failure to attend to the steam in the engine. But it was a matter of common sense to assume that when a man was charged with a breach of the regulations it was possible for him at the time to observe those regulations. He would not be excused for falling asleep. His position was similar to that of a soldier who slept while on duty. A man might, however, receive some accident while employed at his engine, which would render him unable, however willing, to comply with the rules. The defence in this case was of such a nature - it was that accused was seized with an illness, and that owing to that illness he was unable to attend to the signals and to keep the steam up to the proper degree, and to remain at his post. The first of the charges made against the accused, and that which was pressed by the prosecutor, was that he was bound to remain at the pit during his shift. Now, there was no doubt that the accused left his post before his shift expired. His illness varied in its intensity, but yet while he was in such a condition he was able to leave his post for the purpose of going to the manager's house, and thereafter to proceed home. He did this after sending one of the workmen for his neighbour engineman. His Lordship said he must hold the Excused to be guilty of the offences first charged. When he was able to walk away from his post he was not so ill that he could not have waited on a little longer till the other engineman, or even the oversman had arrived. But the accused left without giving any instructions to any one. Even although he had, as he said, left instructions with Whyte he was not an experienced engineman and he would have been incurring greater danger than had he left no one in charge of his engine. At the same time, he must assume that the accused was troubled with illness, and that there might have been some excuse for what he did. He must, however, find the first charge against the accused proved, and, with regard to the others, he was inclined to hold that the defence must be sustained - that the accused was so ill that he was unable to perform his duties, and that he remained on the spot for a time and call for assistance. In the circumstances, it would be harsh, especially when the plea of illness was not a got-up excuse, to find the other charges proven. The accused must have been put to a great deal of expense already in getting up his defence, and while he dismissed him from the bar with an admonition, he wished it to be known that there must be a clear excuse given on the part of a colliery engineman, and qualified party left in charge of his engine, before he could be permitted to escape his duties.

TO LET

To Let, at Crossroads, House of Two Apartments, with Garden. Apply ROBERT GARDNER. Redhall, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 28th March 1896

STANDBURN.

POST OFFICE FOR THE VILLAGE. - Mr M'Killop, M.P., has received the following letter, dated 24th March, from the Postmaster-General: - "With reference to your personal application at this office on the 20th ultimo, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that arrangements have now been sanctioned for establishing a post office at Standburn, parish of Muiravonside, as desired. Postal orders will be sold at the new office, and a collection of letters will be made from it at 12.20 p.m. and 4.30 P.M."

LOST, FOUND, &C.

FOUND, near Maddiston, Fox Terrier Bitch; unclaimed in three days will be sold -CHRISTIE, Standburn, Avonbridge.

AVONBRIDGE.

Concert. - The Avonbridge Musical Association gave their annual concert on Friday last in the U.P. Church. The concert consisted of selections from the "Messiah." Though the weather was unfavourable, there was a large attendance. The Rev. B.G. Rouse occupied the chair. The class numbered 40 voices, and the manner in which the choruses were rendered showed that the class had given careful study to their work. It was evident that the class had imbibed the enthusiasm of their energetic conductor, Mr Sharp. The choruses rendered were - "And the glory," "Oh Thou that tellest," "For unto us a Child is born," "Glory to God," "Behold the Lamb," "Surely he hath borne our griefs," "Lift up your heads," "Hallelujah," and "Worthy is the Lamb." All the choruses were very well rendered, the parts being well balanced; but the class was seen to most advantage in the choruses, "And the Glory," "For unto us a Child is born," "Behold the Lamb," and "Hallelujah." The soloists and the pieces given by them were as follows:- Miss Rigg, "Oh Thou that tellest," Miss Kate Baxter, "Come unto Him," and "But Thou didst not leave;" Miss Jeannie Westwater, "He shall feed his flock;" Mrs James McBroom, "He was despised;" Miss Frew, "Rejoice greatly" and "I know that my Redeemer liveth;" Mr Sharp, "For Behold Darkness;" Mr Westwater, "The Trumpet shall Sound." All the soloists did their work exceedingly well, and so pleased was the audience with Miss Frew's rendering of "I know my Redeemer liveth" that she was recalled, and sang How beautiful are the feet of those that Publish Salvation." Mr Simpson, Airdrie, presided most efficiently at the organ and piano. At the close, Mr Rouse moved a hearty vote of thanks to the soloists, the class, and Mr Sharp, the conductor, who, he said, must have worked very hard with his class to give such an excellent concert. Mr Waugh proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman.

SOCIAL MEETING. - The Social meeting of the musical association was held on Wednesday night in one of the grain sheds, kindly lent by Mr Allan Waugh, Craigbank. There was a good turnout of members and friends. After tea, dancing was engaged in, and kept up with much spirit, and a happy evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald 1st April 1896

MUIRAVONSIDE.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING. -

The ordinary meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston Hall on Tuesday. Colonel Stirling, of Tarduff, occupied the chair, and there were also present: - Messrs Mackay, Binnie, Wilson, Bogo. The Chairman reported the attendance at the Board Schools to be as follows: -

Blackbraes Public School -	Number on the roll 360, average attendance 326.
Drumbowie School -	On roll, 458; average attendance, 400.
Muiravonside School -	On roll, 210; average attendance, 174.
Avonbridge Public School -	On roll, 70; average attendance, 64.

Total on roll, 1008; average attendance, 964.

It was stated that this was the highest average attendance the school had yet attained, while the number on the roll was less. It appeared from the minutes that Miss M'Kinlay, Prestonpans, had been appointed an ex-pupil teacher to Blackbraes Public School at a salary of £35 per annum, with a probable bonus of £5. The Board afterwards sat in private.

Falkirk Herald 4th April 1896

MADDISTON.

THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL. -

We are informed that on Tuesday afternoon the Parish School Board met in committee to open the offers for the erection of the new school which they some time ago agreed, to build in Maddiston. Mr. Strang, the architect, was present. Before the opening of the offers, the Board unanimously agreed, in respect of the present high rate, of assessment, and the increased rate which the building of the new school would entail on the parish, to refrain from building in the meantime. The offers were afterwards opened, and although, of course, none of them were accepted, the total was found, we understand, to be considerably below Mr. Strang's estimated cost.

STANDBURN. U.P. CHURCH. -

The members of the Bible Class and Sabbath School teachers connected with this church held their social meeting in one of the class-rooms of the Public School. There was a good attendance, and the Rev. James Walker, B. A., occupied the chair. There were also present the Rev. James B. G. Rouse, Dr. Calderwood, Mr. and Mrs. McKay, and Mr. Archibald Binnie, superintendent of the Sabbath School. After an excellent tea, the chairman, Mr. Walker, expressed the great satisfaction he had in meeting with his Bible Class, and was very much encouraged by the regular attendance and the interest shown by the members in the work during the session. Addresses were also given by Rev. James B. G. Rouse. Mr. McKay, schoolmaster, and Dr. Calderwood. During the evening a very interesting programme was gone through, consisting of songs and games, and all left feeling they had spent a most enjoyable evening.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 8th & 11th April 1896

SPORTING

CYCLING.

Inter-Club Meet. - The cycling season was formally opened by the cyclists in Falkirk district on Saturday afternoon, when a combined meet of all the clubs in the district took place. The meet, which had been promoted by the East Stirlingshire Club, the senior club in the district, was under the auspices of East Stirlingshire, Grangemouth, Skinflats, Congregational Church, and Bainsford Free Church Cycling Clubs. The members of the different clubs, as well as a large number of unattached riders, met at the Town Hall, Falkirk, shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon, the number present being: - East Stirlingshire Club, 13; Skinflats, Grangemouth, 5; Congregational Church, 10; Bainsford Free Church, 28; Standburn, 5; unattached, 15 - total, 93. Previous to starting on a run to Linlithgow, the company having been arranged in a group, was photographed by Mr. Thomas Greig, photographer. Thereafter, cycles were mounted, and led by Mr. Kellock, captain of the E.S. Club, the company started off in single file. The route taken was by way of Newmarket Street to West Bridge Street, thence along the High Street and on to the Callendar Road. As the long procession passed through the town it attracted not a little attention, and indeed all the way to its destination considerable interest was manifested by spectators in the unusually large turnout of cyclists. The outward run was a very enjoyable one. The roads were in excellent condition - hard and dry with but very little dust on them, and the weather, until Linlithgow had been reached, was all that could be desired. Rain, however, began to fall just as the company entered Linlithgow. The majority of the party, with the exception of the members of the Bainsford Free Church Club, proceeded to the St Michael's Inn, where tea was served. Mr. Geo. I. Murray, vice-president of the Congregational Church Club, presided, and the duties of vicechairman were discharged by Mr. Cooper, captain of the Skinflats Club. An excellent tea, purveyed by Mr. Bruce Hay, having been partaken of, a smoking concert followed. The Chairman, in the course of a few introductory remarks, said that the company might congratulate themselves on the success of their meet. They had had a very pleasant run, although the weather had been a little unfavourable. The club he represented and the other neighbouring clubs were very much indebted to the East Stirlingshire Club for inviting them and for giving them an opportunity of having such a pleasant outing as they had had that day. He hoped that that would not be the last of such meetings, but that now that so successful a beginning had been made they would have many more equally enjoyable as that one was. He could assure the East Stirlingshire Club that the club he represented, and he believed all the other clubs represented, would be only too willing to co-operate with them in arranging for a similar outing in the near future. Mr. Cooper, on behalf of the Skinflats Club, expressed the indebtedness of that club to the East Stirlingshire Club for their kind invitation. He and the other members of the club had enjoyed the outing very much, and as the weather on the present occasion had not been of a too propitious nature, he would like if the East Stirlingshire Club would again arrange a similar outing nearer the middle of the season. Should such an outing be promoted, his club would readily co-operate in it, and he would suggest that the East Stirlingshire Club take into their consideration the advisability of having a boatrace on the loch or a football match in the Palace grounds. Mr. James Chalmers replied on behalf of the East Stirlingshire Club. He heartily thanked the various clubs represented for the heartiness and the willingness with which they had entered into the proposal of the East Stirlingshire Club to have a combined run. He alluded to the benefits to be derived from these inter-club runs, and the facilities for social intercourse and mutual benefit they afforded. He assured Mr. Cooper that his suggestions would be kept in mind by the East Stirlingshire Club should it be decided to promote another similar outing. The Chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Harry Whiteman, the energetic secretary of the East Stirlingshire Club, to whose indefatigable efforts much of the success of the outing was due. The vote of thanks was enthusiastically accorded, and Mr. Whiteman briefly replied. Songs were rendered, much to the enjoyment of the company, by Mr. Charles Nisbet, Mr. J. Laing, Mr. John McKee, and Mr. J. O. Murdoch, Falkirk, the latter of whom, for his admirable rendering of "The Auld Stane Stile," the music of which is his own composition, received a well-merited encore, and in response gave "Bairnies, Cuddle Doon," the musical arrangement of which is also his. The proceedings, which were throughout of a most harmonious description, were brought to a close with votes of thanks to the chairman and vicechairman. About half-past six the return journey was started. Once outside Linlithgow the roads were in very good condition, and at a good pace set by Captain Kellock, started for home, which was reached in good time, everyone in excellent spirits, and thoroughly satisfied with the day's outing.

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY.

A meeting of this Presbytery was held in the Erskine Church Hall, Falkirk, yesterday afternoon - Rev. Mr. Hamilton, Grangemouth, Moderator.

THE SUPERVISION OF STANDBURN MISSION CHURCH.

The Presbytery first took into consideration the supervision of Standburn Mission Church, the question coming up under a suggestion by the committee that the mission work be carried on at Standburn under the supervision of the Presbytery's Committee on Mission and Evangelistic Work, together with the minister and the Presbytery elder of Avonbridge Church. Rev. Mr. YELLOWLEES (Carron) asked what the Rev. Mr. Rouse, Avonbridge, had to say on the subject. Rev. Mr. ROUSE (Avonbridge) said he would have no objection to the mission being raised to a congregation. There were some 600 or 700 people in the district where the mission was situated, and it might ultimately become a church, and it might not. The MODERATOR - The Presbytery should now consider what would be the most effective way of carrying on the work in the future. Rev. Mr. AITCHISON (Falkirk) indicated that he would have something to say after he knew how it was proposed to deal with the committee's suggestion. Rev. Mr. YELLOWLEES - It is rather a remarkable thing to hear a suggestion made by a committee, and to find that no member of that committee is prepared to move that the suggestion be carried out. If no one has anything to propose, we should hear what the Rev. Mr. Aitchison has to say on the matter. Rev. THOMAS TAYLOR (Graham's Road) moved that the suggestion of the committee be adopted. Rev. Mr. ROUSE seconded. Rev. Mr. AITCHISON said he was prepared to move an amendment. Before agreeing to the suggestion of the committee, which he repeated, he said that the Presbytery would require to go back on the history of the mission. It was not a mission which was started by the Presbytery. It was started by the congregation of Avonbridge. Rev. Mr. BUCHANAN (Linlithgow) - I fail to see the difference. Mr. Moderator, between Mr. Aitchison's amendment and the motion - Rev. Mr. AITCHISON - My dear sir, I have not made any amendment yet. Mr. Buchanan should not come before the wind. (Laughter.) I simply repeated the motion, and I will take my time in moving my amendment. Continuing, he said he did not know whether there was any record of it in the minutes of the congregation of Avonbridge, but he knew that it was a fact that the mission was started by the congregation. Money was given by the Home Board to a missionary at Avonbridge, and there was a quarterly record published in Avonbridge, which contained the names of the minister and missionary who carried on that work. That continued

for some time, and then the Rev. Mr. Robertson came to the Presbytery and told them that for the more effectual carrying on of the work which was already started; it would be a wise thing if a mission hall were erected at Standburn. The Presbytery appointed a committee, of which he (Mr. Aitchison) was convener, to consider the question, and they came to the conclusion that matters were not ripe for their aiding the congregation of Avonbridge in the erecting of a new building at that time, and that the school was sufficient for the purpose. A year afterwards another committee was appointed, and they came to a different conclusion. They found that for the more effectual carrying on of this work a building should be erected. The Presbytery agreed to the erection of a building, but nothing was done in the way of taking over the mission. That was the point. Nothing was done in that. They simply, as a Presbytery, stepped in to aid the congregation in the more effectual carrying on of the mission. In view of these circumstances, he objected to the Presbytery undertaking this mission as a Presbytery mission. It was his strong impression that the mission would be more efficiently carried on by a committee of the congregation of Avonbridge than by a committee of the whole Presbytery. Not only so, but he held that the recommendation of the committee was altogether a commission beyond the powers of the committee. The committee was appointed for no other purpose than that of getting a building opened at Avonbridge. (STANDBURN?) They had gone beyond their powers in coming before the Presbytery with a matter which was never remitted to them in any shape or form. He moved as an amendment that the minister and session at Avonbridge should continue the work in which they are engaged. Unless the minister and session of Avonbridge came before them with a request that they relieve them of that mission they would be stepping out of their place were they to take it over. His amendment practically was that they approve of the mission being carried on as it has been hitherto. Rev. Mr. SMILLIE (Wester Pardovan) seconded the amendment. He felt that the one which could be more properly carried on by the minister and session of Avonbridge as part of their mission work. Unless the committee had come forward holding out that there was a probability of the mission being formed into a congregation, and that it should be wrought with that end in view, he did not see that they would have any right to take the work out of the hands of the Avonbridge congregation. He agreed with Mr. Aitchison that the work would be far better done if it were done by the minister and session of Avonbridge. Rev. Mr. ROUSE pointed out that the mission was not begun by the session or by the congregation of Avonbridge. It was commenced, in the first instance, by Mr. Robertson, their former minister, himself, and the Session never committed itself at any time to the work of carrying on this mission. Since he (Mr. Rouse) had come into the district, he had always gone on the assumption that the important work carried on at Standburn was undertaken by the Presbytery, and that the minister of Avonbridge undertook only the supervision of it. Avonbridge was not a self-supporting church, and if the coal trade was dull there might be financial difficulties, and how were they to meet those difficulties? Avonbridge congregation was an aid-receiving congregation, and they could not expect it to meet any deficit at Standburn. It was for those reasons that he wished the Presbytery to undertake the financial responsibility of the mission. Rev. Mr. AITCHISON - This matter of financial responsibility does not come in here at all. The financial responsibility was with the Home Board, and the Avonbridge congregation will never be called upon to contribute a penny. Rev. Mr. ROUSE - As the minister of Avonbridge, I desire to do my very utmost on behalf of the Standburn Mission, but it is my earnest wish, in order that the work may be carried on there more efficiently, that I should have allied with me one of the committees of this Presbytery. With one of my elders, I would be responsible to that committee for the working of the mission. Rev. Mr. AITCHISON - I never heard of a Presbytery undertaking a mission with the view of rearing a congregation unless putting it under the charge of some neighbouring session. That is the ordinary way of doing things in the United Presbyterian Church. But I hold that this is not a Presbytery mission. It is a Presbytery building, but that is a different thing. Mr. Rouse tells us that he and his elder would be responsible to this committee. Why should they not be responsible to the Presbytery? The financial responsibility is with the Home Board. Rev. Mr. ROUSE - There is the missionary's salary, the preacher's salary, and some other necessary expenses which will have to be met. The MODERATOR - And the collections will have to be looked after. (Laughter.) Rev. Mr. AITCHISON - If Mr. Rouse requests that a committee be appointed to carry on this work along with him and a member of his session, or the whole session, there should no objection, and I think it would be the best course to follow. Rev. THOMAS TAYLOR - I am glad to think that all the difficulties are out of the way, and that Mr. Aitchison has practically agreed to the Presbytery's suggestion. Rev. Mr. AITCHISON - No; not at all. I object to this mission being placed under a Presbytery committee at the Presbytery's instigation. Rev. THOMAS TAYLOR - What the committee wish is that the minister and session of Avonbridge should be assisted in their work by a committee of the Presbytery. I think the congregation have a right to ask help, as it is not a very large congregation, nor has it a large session. As a matter of fact, the work has been done by the minister. On more than one occasion I have heard in this Presbytery words in praise of Mr. Robertson and Mr. Rouse for the independent help they gave to the mission. I am quite satisfied with Mr. Aitchison's suggestion, as it is the best one. The constituency the committee may be different, but I will be very glad if it is. Rev. Mr. AITCHISON - I want to be very careful that this is not the Presbytery's action, but the Presbytery's action at the request of minister of Avonbridge. I would like to point out that this Presbytery has never appointed a single agent to labour in that district. The last agent who was appointed was appointed on the application of Mr. Rouse to the Home Board. Mr. JOHN BAIRD, Falkirk (elder) - I have long thought it would be the best way to carry on small congregations if they were put under the charge of the larger congregations. It would do a great deal to strengthen these smaller congregations. Rev. Mr. AITCHISON then handed the following motion in writing to the Clerk, after having read it to the meeting: - The Presbytery having considered the committee's recommendations and it having transpired that the session and minister of Avonbridge desired aid in supervising the work, the Presbytery agrees to appoint a committee, consisting of one minister and two elders, for this purpose." The other proposals having been withdrawn, Mr. Aitchison's motion was unanimously agreed to, and the following committee was appointed- Rev. Mr. Buchanan, Linlithgow, and Mr. John Baird and Mr. Borthwick Watson (elders), Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald 11th April 1896

A DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY

Probably no part of the Eastern District of Stirling-shire has suffered more from the want of water than that part of it which includes Maddiston, Reddingmuirhead, Brightons, Rumford, etc. Having at no time of the year what could be regarded as a sufficient or satisfactory supply, the people have usually during dry seasons had the most meagre supply of water of a quality that few would care to use unless obliged to do so, but which, in the locality referred to, it has been considered a privilege to get. In these circumstances it will be gratifying to the inhabitants to learn that the County Council have now in hand a scheme which gives promise of being sufficient to provide an ample supply of good, wholesome water. From a description of the scheme which is given in another column it will be found that the intention is to utilise the waters of the Manuel Burn, which, it is estimated, will provide a supply not only for the places named but for Polmont and the Kerse district as well. In the meantime it has been agreed to have detailed plans and estimates of the scheme prepared, and should these be according to expectations, as there is every reason to believe they will, no time is likely to be lost in having the scheme carried through, and a supply of water introduced that will be of great benefit to a large and populous portion of the eastern district of Stirlingshire.

A WATER SCHEME FOR POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

As will be seen from the report of the meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council, which appears elsewhere in our columns, the initial steps have been taken by that body to have Polmont and district provided with a permanent system of water supply. The necessity for a supply of water for the and district villages has been apparent for a good many years, and as those villages have developed considerably within recent years, and as their

water supply is presently mainly obtained from dipping wells, which generally become dry during the summer months, the County Council have been compelled, in the interests of a large and rapidly growing population, to adopt measures to provide those villages with a sufficient supply of water. Recently a movement was instituted to provide a supply for Laurieston and Redding, and Mr. Livingstone of Westquarter kindly offered to allow water to be taken from his estate, on which there were a number of excellent springs, but as Laurieston has now been supplied by the Falkirk and Larbert Water Trust's system, the movement fell through, and Mr. Fenton-Livingstone, as one of the district representatives on the County Council, is now assisting the sub-water committee of the Council in the carrying through of a scheme to supply a wider area. The need of a water supply is felt perhaps most keenly in the growing district of Brightons, and at a meeting of the residents there in 1892, the following petition was drawn up, numerously signed, and submitted to the County Council: - "We, the undersigned proprietors and householders in Brightons, Polmont Station, and surrounding district, respectfully beg to draw your attention to the great scarcity of water here. Efforts were made last year, as some of your members are no doubt aware, to remedy his evil, but without success. The majority of the inhabitants are dependent for their water supply upon the water collected from the roofs of their houses, and from a public well situated upon the farm of Crossgatehead. This well is so contaminated at present by its being used as a watering place for cattle that it is a very grave source of danger to health, for should disease break out amongst the cattle, it could hardly fail to extend to the people, who are daily drinking the same water. But even could this well be properly secured and purified, it is doubtful if it would be sufficient to meet the wants of the neighbourhood. We are therefore of opinion that, as custodiers of the public good, you should take immediate steps to provide an abundant supply of good water, according to the powers vested in you by Act of Parliament. Your requisitionists earnestly pray that you may carry through such a scheme as will be satisfactory to most, and a blessing to all." Since that petition was presented to the County Council, the well referred to has been put in order by the County Council, but it has again got out of order, and is now little better than it was before. In 1894 the County Council had before them a report by their engineers - Messrs Warren and Stewart - on two schemes to supply the Polmont district villages, including Laurieston, but no further action was taken in the matter at the time. At a meeting of the Sub-Water Committee of the County Council held this week at Westquarter, the committee resolved to recommend the County Council to instruct the engineers to revise their report on the Manuel Burn scheme, and to prepare detailed plans and estimates with reference thereto. The Council on Thursday adopted that recommendation. An analysis of the water has been obtained from a Glasgow analyst, and as the results are most satisfactory, there is every prospect that the scheme will be carried through at an early date. By the Manuel Burn scheme, the Council aim at providing a pressure sufficient to supply Maddiston, Redding, Reddingmuirhead, Polmont, Polmont Station, Brightons, Rufford and Kerse. They estimate that the population which will be supplied will be between 5000 and 6000, including Blairlodge School. The gathering area of the supply is said to be of an excellent character. It extends to about 400 acres, and the flood flow of the system at the point where it would be intercepted would be 384,800 gallons per day, while the dry weather flow would be 34,800 gallons per day. It is calculated the scheme will allow of over 20 gallons per head per day. From the intake it is proposed to lay a 12-inch fireclay pipe round the contour of the hill to a point west of Smithy Hill. There a small tank is to be constructed, from which the supply to Maddiston will be taken off. The supply pipe crosses the valley of Rufford Burn in the cast-iron syphon pipe to the proposed reservoir at Roughhall, which is particularly well situated for a good storage reservoir both by the configuration of the ground and the elevation. On investigation, we learn that there is an abundance of good clay puddle on the ground. The top water level would be 428 feet above Ordnance datum, giving a depth of 28 feet. The estimate of cost of the scheme has not yet been received, but it is presumed it will be about £.8000. A satisfactory feature of the scheme is that at the source of supply there are no agricultural fields. The land is laid out in pasture and plantation, and there is no danger of surface contamination.

HOUSES, SHOPS, &c., TO LET
TO Let, Room and Kitchen and Back Kitchen. - Apply to Mrs BINNIE, Whinnie Brae Ter., Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 15th April 1896

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL. MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday. Mr George Ure of Wheatlands presided, and there were also present Colonel Stirling of Tarduf; Major Dobbie, Larbert; Provost Mackay, Grangemouth; Mr. Fenton-Livingstone of Westquarter; Mr. Stirling, Muiravonside; Mr. Clark, Stonehouse; Mr. Baillie, Carron; Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Stenhousemuir; Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Wood, Slamannan; Mr. Henderson, Bedford; Mr. Webster, Shieldhill; and Mr. Heugh, Airth; Dr. McVail, medical officer; Mr. J. H. Burns, district clerk; Mr. Ballantine, road surveyor; and Mr. Denholm, sanitary inspector.

PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY FOR REDDINGMUIRHEAD AND DISTRICT.

The Clerk read a minute of meeting of the Reddingmuirhead, &c, Water Supply Committee, from which it appeared that the committee had met at Westquarter and considered the following analysis of water taken from Manuel Burn on the 27th ult. submitted by Professor T. Rhymer Marshall, D.Sc, Glasgow: - "I have duly analysed, the sample of water received on March 28th, and from the results have no hesitation in reporting that the above is a sample of a thoroughly sound potable water, and suitable in every way for general domestic purposes. It may be necessary to point out that it is somewhat hard, but certainly not excessively so. Results expressed in parts per 100,000: - Taste, pleasant; colour, clear; odour, none; suspended matter, very little; total solids, 43.27; volatile and organic matter, 10.50; mineral matter, 32.77; chlorine, 1.80; hardness (as calcium carbonate), 33.00; oxygen consuming power (in 4 hours), .18; N. as ammonia (free) - .0016; N. as ammonia (albuminoid), .0024; N. as nitrates, .07; N. as nitrites, nil." As the analysis appeared to be satisfactory the committee had gone over the ground, and finally agreed to recommend that detailed plans and estimates be obtained from the engineers, Messrs Warren & Stewart, civil engineers, Glasgow. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the minutes, said that the committee went carefully over the ground which they found it necessary to report upon. The scheme referred to looked feasible enough, and he thought the time had now arrived when that district - the south-eastern district of the county - should be allowed to go on with that water scheme. He did not see that it would prejudice the Slamannan people at all, and it would certainly remove the inconvenience which a large portion of the inhabitants of Stirlingshire were put to for want of water. He had pleasure in proposing that the report of the Sub-Water Committee be adopted, and in doing so he had to express the hope that no time would be lost. The summer months would soon fly away, and to have everything prepared for the autumn, when they would have to make an application for a provisional order, would take all their time. The motion was agreed to.

PROPOSAL TO TAKE OVER STANDRIGG ROAD.

The Clerk read a letter from Messrs James Nimmo & Co. (Limited), coalmasters, enclosing a petition, signed by 121 residents in the district interested, praying the Council to take over and maintain Standrigg Road. The Surveyor stated that the road was half-a-mile in length, and extended to Wallacestone, then went southward to Standrigg, where it joined one of the

Council's roads leading from California to Smithy Hill. At one time the road was not much in use, but since Messrs Nimmo, who were the proprietors of the road and who were willing that it should be taken over, had acquired the minerals, it was being much more largely taken advantage of. There was great need for its being put in order, and some time ago when the question came up, he had made an estimate that the cost of that work, which would be borne by the proprietors would be £153. A committee consisting of Colonel Stirling of Tarduf, Mr. Fenton-Livingstone of Westquarter, Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside, and Mr. Salvesen was appointed to investigate the matter and to report.

THE ESTIMATES FOR ROAD MAINTAINANCE FOR THE YEAR

The Surveyor submitted his sixteenth annual report and estimate for the maintenance of roads and bridges on the list of highways in the district. The report stated that during the past year it had been rather difficult to keep the roads in good order. The traffic throughout the district had been constant and heavy, whilst the weather, since last autumn, was wet and open, so that the two causes combined, which were the chief elements that operate on the condition of macadamised roads, had tended to the increased wear of the road surface, and necessitated close attention to cleansing and repairs. Throughout the period referred to, the whole time of the ordinary staff, together with some additional help, was taken up in the work of scraping, sweeping, and patching, in order to meet the exigencies of the season and traffic. Through the long continued dampness of the surface, a more than average amount of mud had also to be dealt with, and difficulty was often experienced in removing it from centres of traffic before it had time to set. A large number of openings had again been made in the road for water, gas, and drainage pipes, which added to the detritus on the surface, and left bad effects for a considerable time. In the absence of severe frost, however, there had been no disturbance of the substratum of any of the roads, and with continued attention and good spring weather, the surface would improve and the roads generally would be found in fair order for the traffic of the district. The improvement arranged for on the Shieldhill and Blackbraes road was duly carried out last summer. The widening of road in Redding Village, the fencing of dangerous places at Crosshill, Seabegs, and other parts mentioned in the Sub-Committee's report, was being proceeded with, while the minor works, repairs to bridges kerb laying, &c, provided for in the current year's expenditure, had been completed, and it was expected that the cost of these works, together with the ordinary maintenance, would not exceed the sum of the estimate. The work required in the ensuing year would be much the same as usual. There being no diminution of the traffic in the district as a whole, the amount of labour and materials necessary for the due maintenance of the roads would require to be fully maintained, and the estimate which he had prepared for this purpose was accordingly slightly in advance of last year's figure. Few repairs to bridges would this year be needed, but as there was a growing demand for better footpaths in villages, and for new ones at places where new lines of buildings had been erected facing the public roads, he would propose to give some attention to work of this kind, and he had accordingly provided for the laying of fully 1700 yards kerb stone at various places throughout the district, and to have such paths properly bottomed and formed, all as noted in the margin of the estimate. The road at north end of Slamannan was sometimes subject to flooding from the River Avon, as was also part of road in Darnrigg Moss, where it was below the top level of the side ditches, and provision was being made for having these parts raised. The Kerse Road at north end or Skinflats, Bothkennar, had for some time been subsiding through coal workings, and would require to be raised before another winter. This work would be done in conjunction with the colliery owners. Annexed was the usual tabulated statement, showing the details of the estimate. From the abstract thereof it would be seen that for ordinary maintenance a sum of £1609 11s 1d was required for said purposes, £150 towards the proposed improvements at Polmont Station Bridge, or for cutting the steep hills south of Maddiston and at Greyrigg, according as might be arranged for, and also £100 to continue the work of fencing dangerous places, making together a total of £4859 11s 1d for the year 1896-97.

The following statement shows the amount to be spent this year as compared with last for the maintenance of the roads in the various parishes which form the Eastern District of Stirlingshire: -

	Mileage. M. F. Yds.	Estimate. 1896-97.	Estimate. 1895-96.
Larbert,	19 8 188	£751 12 1	£744 15 10
Airth,	17 1 145	309 16 8	298 12 6
Polmont,	21 2 146	549 7 1	551 7 7
Muiravonside,	30 1 146	625 18 4	637 13 4
Slamannan,	33 3 175	631 17 10	611 2 3
Bothkennar,	7 3 9	262 18 4	254 4 2
Falkirk,	44 7 63	1478 0 0	1479 10 6
Ordinary maintenance			
	174 4 202	£4609 11 1	£4577 6 2
Extra Expenditure Cost of improvement at			
Herdhill Bridge,		£150 0 0	
Fencing Roadside Ditches,		100 0 0	100 0 0
Polmont Bridge or other improvements,		150 0 0	
Gross total,		£4859 11 1	£4827 6 2

This was all the business of importance.

CHARGE AGAINST A STANDBURN MINER. -

David Hunter (32), miner, residing at Standburn, Muiravonside, emitted a declaration before Honorary Sheriff-Substitute Gauld at Falkirk on Monday, and was committed to prison pending further enquiry on a charge of having, between Saturday night and Sunday morning, broken into an outhouse occupied by John Donaldson, farm servant, South Craigend, and stolen four hens. The tracing of the stolen property was somewhat exciting, and also somewhat dangerous to Constable Circuit, the local policeman. In the course of his enquiries he went into the accused's house alone, and instantly found himself face to face with a set of circumstances which necessitated his acting immediately and without assistance. He found a pot on the fire containing two hens. Hunter, it is stated, at once turned upon him, and closed with him. A severe struggle ensued, during which the constable had to use his baton and strike Hunter. At this stage a second man in the house ran out, and the constable ran after him to secure him, thinking that he would find Hunter in the house when he returned. He, however, lost both men at the time, but succeeded in arresting Hunter later on. The other man has not yet been apprehended.

Falkirk Herald 18th April 1896

MUIRAVONSDIE.

Literary Society:-"The members of the Muiravonside Literary Society met in the Muiravonside Public School on Tuesday evening. Mr. Jas. Wilson, Maddiston, presided, and there was a good attendance. Mr. Archibald Campbell, B.A., Blackbraes, read an interesting paper on "Sir Bevis of Hamton, an Old English Story.

Glasgow Herald 20th April 1896

WANTED immediately, by the Muiravonside School Board, for the Infant Department of Drumbowie Public School, a Female ex P.T.(Art. 79): salary, £35 per annum with a probable bonus of £5 per annum-Applications with testimonials, to be lodged not later than Wednesday, 22d inst., with Mr. Thos. Wilson, clerk, Maddiston, by Liniithgow.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 29 April 1896

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT
MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute GAULD.)

DISORDERLY BEHAVIOUR. – Archibald McArthur, and James Thomson, settmakers, Crossroads, Avonbridge, were charged with having on a vacant piece of ground in the neighbourhood of the shop owned by Robert Forrester, grocer, and again on the public road near to the public school, behaved themselves in a disorderly manner. They pleaded guilty, and were each fined 7s 6d, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 2nd May 1896

MALLOCH – STORRIE. – At Bankhead, Avonbridge, on the 29th ult., by the Rev. Allan Reid, M.A., Slamannan, assisted by the Rev. David Keir, M.A., Dennyloanhead, James Malloch, Lochgreen, to Jane, eldest daughter of the late William Storie, Esq., Bankhead.

Falkirk Herald 9th May 1896

MADDISTON. THE PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY.
MEETING OF RATEPAYERS.

A meeting of the ratepayers of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs, was held at Maddiston on Wednesday evening to consider the proposal of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council to introduce a water scheme into the district. There was a large attendance, and on the motion of Mr. John Bryce, Mr. Robert Myles was called to the chair. The Chairman said they would all be aware of the object for which they had met. This was the third meeting they held on the same question namely, the introduction of a new water supply for the district. He would like to say a few words before throwing the meeting open for the opinion of those who were interested in the proposed scheme. In thinking the matter over he had come to the conclusion, as an individual ratepayer, that there was something materially wrong with them so far as their representation in the various divisions of Muiravonside and Polmont parishes was concerned. When an election came round for the County Council, and more particularly if it was likely to be a contested election, their representatives came and consulted them with regard to any important public question before the constituency, but in the present instance no such confidence was manifested. He did not say that every trifling matter which might arise at the meetings of the County Council should be brought before the ratepayers, as that would entail endless trouble and would serve no good purpose; but when a gigantic scheme such as the introduction of a water supply at a cost to the ratepayers of thousands of pounds was in contemplation, the least that their representatives could do was to lay before them the details of the scheme and the probable cost, &c. (Hear, hear.) That had not been done in the present case, while it was absolutely necessary that it should have been done. In fact, if they had not bought the newspapers and seen from them what was proposed, this water scheme might have been in Maddiston before they knew anything about it, and they would have been called upon to bear a burden without having been either consulted or acknowledged in the matter in any way whatever. What they objected to most of all was that they had been ignored in the matter - that they had not been asked whether they were in favour or against the scheme. Their interest as ratepayers could not be properly cared for if their wishes were not consulted in relation to such a question. They had a right to know who started the scheme, and who were the individuals who were likely to benefit most by it. So far as he could learn Brightons was a place which for many years back had been much in need of water and so far as he could understand it was the ratepayers there who had moved first in the matter. It should be clearly understood that the ratepayers of the villages of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs did not object to any other part of the district having a water scheme, but what they protested against was any person wanting a water scheme, and asking other people to pay for it. (Hear, hear.) Not only so, but when they made thorough investigation as to the probable supply of water which could be had in Maddiston they found that in the south side of the village there were as many as three public wells, with plenty of good water. Some of these wells were never dry, even during the strongest drought of the summer season. (Hear, hear, and a Voice "There are five public wells.") Besides in the field to the south side of the village to which Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth wished the public to have free access, any amount of water could be had. Indeed wherever a well was being put down about the village abundance of water was being found. It would be very unwise for them as ratepayers to countenance such a scheme of water supply as that proposed to be brought from the Lilly Loch. There was another proposition on foot to bring water from beyond Avonbridge. Taking everything into consideration, he thought it would be very foolish for the ratepayers of Maddiston to countenance any of those schemes, seeing that they had abundance of water in the village. If they wanted a water supply, they could have it in their own village. (Hear, hear.) Speaking regarding what was at one time the principal public well, and which was situated in the centre of the village, the Chairman stated that some time ago complaint was made to the County Council with reference to it, and that body sent the sanitary inspector to look after the well. The intention was to improve it, and to prevent the burn from going into it, but it ought to be clearly stated that instead of the well being improved it had, for all good purposes been destroyed. (Hear, hear.) The water supply had been cut off and the capacity of the well limited by one half. (Applause, and a voice "That is true.") They ought to call the attention of the County Council to that fact, and ask that the well be restored at least to its original condition. (Applause.) If that were done they would have an increased supply of water. Already they had prepared a petition for presentation to the County Council, and that petition had been signed by every ratepayer in the villages of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs. The petition was in the following terms: - "At a meeting of the Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs ratepayers held in Maddiston on Tuesday, 30th April for the purpose of protesting against the introduction of a new water scheme, a resolution was agreed to that a petition be drawn up and signed by the ratepayers of the aforesaid villages giving expression to their disapproval of the above scheme, and to be put into the hands of those gentlemen who are in authority for the purpose of putting a stop to it. We beg to point out a few reasons why such a scheme should not be insisted upon. For example, abundance of water is to be found within the district of these villages. Only recently boring operations were conducted beside these villages, and water in abundance could be seen issuing from the mouth of the bores. Besides a plentiful supply of water is afforded to many of the villagers by artificial means, such as tanks and wells, accompanied with filters. We, the ratepayers of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs, can prove that water in plentiful supplies is to be found in and around the above-named villages, and therefore we strongly protest against any such scheme being imposed on us." (Hear, hear.) Continuing, the Chairman said they had abundance of water near their own doors, and he asked the meeting to express its opinion on the subject for the consideration of which they had met. Mr. Bryce said he did not know much about the proposed water scheme, nor did he know the area of supply, or whether he would be included in it, but he was there to express his opinion on the merits of the question. First with regard to whether the scheme was required in the villages of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs, they found from the petition which had been got up that it was not required by the people of these villages. Admitting that in the summer time water was a little scarce, he denied that they needed to go outside the district to increase their supply, as they had plenty of water at their own doors. He produced a sample of water taken from a well on his own grounds to the rise of Maddiston, and said he would defy any one to find anything wrong with it. The well was overflowing with water, and as tenant of the ground in which it was situated, he would be quite willing to allow the overflow water to be conducted to the old Maddiston public well, which was a short distance away. They desired that the old well should be restored to its original capacity, so that a few bucketfuls of water would not drain it out. He referred to a number of other sources of water supply in the village, and (continuing) said that if in the summer time they had to carry water from some little distance, they need not expect that even although the County Council introduced a water scheme into the village, the water would be put into every window sill for a moderate charge. The method which was most likely to be adopted was that public wells would be erected at

various points in the village, so that in that case many of them would have to go some distance for the water. He also contended that if a water scheme were introduced into the village it would take more money to collect the rates than the rates would amount to. He would pay anything which was right and just, but he would not pay for a water scheme such as that proposed, as it was not required in the village. (Applause.) If they required the water they would thank the County Council for giving it to them, but they did not require it, and they therefore strongly objected to the proposed scheme. (Applause.) He endorsed the remarks which had been made with regard to what the County Council had done to the old well. They had reduced the capacity of the well to a considerable extent. The old supply was cut off and a meagre supply put on. Where the rest of the water was going to he did not know, but he suspected that it was running into the burn. They ought, while protesting against the proposed scheme, to call on the County Council to restore the well to its original state. (Applause.) Mr. John Todd said there were thirteen wells in Maddiston with plenty of good water in them all, except the one down at the burn, which the County Council had destroyed. He was one of those who visited the different wells and tasted the water in them. It was good water, and two of the wells were overflowing. Several of the wells belonged to private parties, but they were willing to give the public a supply from them. There were also nine water tanks, some of them with filters in them, connected with the village, and there was in addition a level, some 300 yards from the village, which flowed constantly. If there was one part of the district which did not require water it was this part. He agreed with all that had been said about the old Maddiston well. It was once a good well, but the County Council destroyed it. Mr. John Bryce - Can any one tell us how much money was spent by the County Council in destroying that well? The Chairman said that a County Councillor told him that the sum expended on the well was between £30 and £40. He simply passed the remark that the County Council had more money than sense. (Laughter and applause.) The well had been destroyed, as any one could discover who looked at it in its present state, Mr. Wm. Penman - I do not think it is a well at all. It is a spout. The Chairman - We will have to call it a well, at any rate. Mr. Joseph Todd said he had built a house and put up a tank for his own use, and it had proved very satisfactory. There was undoubtedly a little scarcity of water in the summer time, but there was plenty to be had at the level, and he did not think they needed to be ashamed to go there for it, as during the summer time there was a scarcity even in Edinburgh and Glasgow. He had lived in the town of Govan, and he had more difficulty in getting water there than he ever had here because of the scarcity. Instead of grumbling at having to go for it, they ought to be thankful that they had such a supply of water as that at the level to fall back upon, and that those in charge of the water were so willing to give it to them. Mr. Patrick Kilbride said that Rumford was in the same position as Maddiston. There was plenty of water, and people had built houses and spent a good deal of money in putting up tanks to collect water for themselves. Mr. George Hunter." In fact Rumford has supplied Wallacestone, Stonerigg, and other places with water during the drought. Mr. Kilbride - "That is so. We have an overflowing supply at Rumford, and sufficient at all times to supply any part of the district. The Chairman then proposed the following resolution : - "That we, the ratepayers of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs, seeing that there is abundance of water in and around these villages, strongly protest against any such scheme being imposed upon us as that proposed by the County Council, and that this resolution be forwarded to our representatives on the County Council in the hope that they would see that our interests are being carefully looked after." (Applause.) Mr. John Bryce seconded the resolution, and spoke of what he described as the absurdity of the County Council proposing to give them a water scheme when they had already water in abundance. He doubted very much if there was one of the councillors who would be affected in the smallest degree by the cost of the scheme, as they had supplies of their own. If a gigantic scheme were to be introduced and the water brought from the Lilly Loch, he did not know what might be added to their rental in the form of rates. The sum would be considerable, and it would be a never-ending paying. He thought it would be a good recreation for people to go to the level with their pitchers for water during a scarcity. They had water and to spare in the village and the County Council would be better employed if they endeavoured to increase the supply to some of the present public wells, which could be quite easily done. While at work recently he observed two gentlemen belonging to the County Council examining the Manuel Burn, from which it was proposed water should be brought. That burn carried off the sewerage of Blackbraes, and it showed the foolishness of those in authority when they spoke of giving them the sewerage of another village as water, and asking them to pay for it. (Laughter and applause.) Mr. Wm. Scott said since the old Maddiston well had been spoiled by the County Council, he had taken his supply of water from the level, as he would not use the water from the well after it had been spoiled. In answer to the Chairman, Mr. Scott said he had known the old Maddiston Well and had used its water for over half a century. They could not condemn its water, as, if it had been bad, he did not think he would have been here to-day. But he was in the best of health. It was originally a built well, and they went down three or four steps to it. The late Mr. Wm. Robertson, of the Brae, did not care for such a well, and he thought he would put in a trough. Mr. Learmonth afterwards took away the water from the level. The villagers objected, and he said he would give a certain amount of money to put in the tank, which was done. The supply of water which came into it was always going down and latterly the County Council cut it off. If they had only cemented the bottom of the tank where the water was coming in, they would have had abundance of water. When the County Council came to analyse the water, they took it out of the burn instead of out of the pipe. Mr. John Bryce - " It was stagnant water which they analysed. After some further discussion, the resolution was unanimously agreed to, and the proceedings terminated.

Falkirk Herald 13th May 1896

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Lively School Board Meeting.

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Maddiston Hall yesterday afternoon. Colonel Stirling of Tarduf presided, and there were also present Mr. Binnie, Mr. Mackay, and Mr. Wilson (Bogo). The proceedings were of a very lively nature. Mr. Mackay took exception to the minute of last meeting, and stated that it was not a true record of what occurred. He also said that it had been written at a meeting of the Board held at Tarduf, at which he was not present. Mr. Binnie and the chairman maintained that the minutes were correct. The Chairman also denied that any meeting had been held at Tarduf. A great deal of wrangling took place over the confirming of the appointment of a teacher to Drumbowie School. Mr. Mackay moved that the appointment be not confirmed. Mr. Wilson seconded. The Chairman moved that the appointment be confirmed, and Mr. Binnie seconded. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of his own motion, which was carried. A full report of the proceedings will appear on Saturday.

Edinburgh Evening News Wednesday 13th May 1896

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held at Maddiston, near Polmont last night. Colonel Stirling of Tarduf presiding, Mr Mackay, colliery manager, Avonbridge, took exception to the minute of last meeting, and stated that it was not a true record of what occurred. The chairman and Mr Binnie maintained that the minutes were correct, whereupon Mr Mackay called Mr Binnie "a liar." Mr Binnie retorted that Mr Mackay was no man at all. A heated altercation took place between him, Mr Mackay, and the chairman, the latter ultimately drowning Mr Mackay's words by shouting "Bow, wow." Mr Mackay informed the chairman that if he meant to fight him he would find his heart in the right place. The three of you, he said, may manage me together, but I am prepared to offer my services for any one of you individually. Mr Mackay further on, addressed a personal challenge to Mr Binnie, who expressed his willingness to take it up, stating that he was not frightened for him. A great deal of wrangling afterwards took place.

Falkirk Herald 16th May 1896

MUIRAVONSIDE. Literary Society. - This society met in Muiravonside Public School on Tuesday evening. Rev. W. Burnett, president, presided over a good attendance. Dr. Calderwood, Standburn, gave a very interesting lecture on "Hunger and Thirst." He treated his subject in an excellent manner.

Falkirk Herald 20th May 1896

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday forenoon. Mr. George Ure of Wheatlands presided, and there were also present - Mr. Peddie Waddell of Balquhatston; Colonel Stirling of Tarduf; Provost Mackay, Grangemouth; ex-Provost Griffiths, Falkirk; Mr. Fenton-Livingstone of Westquarter; Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside; Mr. Robert Baillie, Carron; Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Stenhousemuir; Mr. Hunter, Glenfuir; Mr. W. H. Rankine, Laurieston; Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Wood, Slamannan; Mr. Clark, Stonehouse; Mr. Reid, Larbert; Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout, Mr. Ballantine, road surveyor; Mr. Denholm, sanitary inspector; and Mr. J. H. Burns, District Clerk.

THE PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY FOR POLMONT DISTRICT VILLAGES.

The Clerk read the following minute of meeting of the Water Supply Sub-Committee: - "The Clerk reported that immediately after the last meeting Colonel Stirling had informed him that Dalquharn Burn, in the parish of Slamannan, had been reported as a probable source of water supply suitable for the district, as well as for Avonbridge, Blackbraes, etc., and that Mr. Denholm, sanitary inspector, having thereafter gone along the stream, it was thought desirable that the members of the sub-committee should be asked to visit it. Accordingly, Mr. Fenton-Livingstone, Colonel Stirling, and Messrs J. Stirling, Rankine, and Wilson, along with the medical officer, the sanitary inspector, the district clerk, and Mr. Warren, engineer, visited and inspected the stream from its junction with the River Avon to its source at the Little Black Loch. The stream was found, after a period of dry weather, running in considerable volume, and was very clear, and apparently free from contamination, except by a small tract of moss and by possible sewage from houses on the margin of the loch, which sewage, however, appeared to be divertable. The members of the sub-committee having been informed that a sample of the water was undergoing analysis, instructed the engineer to supplement the report ordered by last minute with a paragraph in regard to Dalquharn Burn, reporting thereon so far as that day's visit would enable him to do so. The Clerk now submitted analysis of the Dalquharn Burn water, from which it appeared that the same could not be ranked as first-class water, but that with an efficient settling pond its present condition would materially improve. There was also submitted a supplementary report by the engineers, dated 30th April, ordered by last minute, and a separate letter by them, dated 1st May, on the Dalquharn Burn. Colonel Stirling submitted a petition signed by a committee appointed at a ratepayers' meeting held at Maddiston on the 30th ult., and also by 124 inhabitants of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs, protesting against the introduction of a new water scheme to these villages. It was agreed that the following gentlemen wait upon Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth with the view of ascertaining his views on the subject of the Manuel Burn scheme, and the terms upon which he would deal with the committee in respect of the requisite ground and compensation water, viz., the Chairman (convener), Colonel Stirling, Mr. J. Stirling of Muiravonside, and Mr. Salvesen, Blairbank, along with the engineer. A suggestion in a letter from Dr. M'Val as to obtaining a second analysis of the water from Dalquharn Burn before finally approving or condemning it was agreed to. Meantime it was agreed to recommend that the requisition be continued for two months, the Clerk being instructed in the interval to get up the figures of both schemes for submission to the sub-committee and ratepayers, the latter being recommended to suspend their judgment on the matter until the whole facts are before them." Colonel Stirling asked that the petition from the Maddiston and district ratepayers be read to the meeting. The Clerk read the petition, the terms of which were published last week in our report of the ratepayers' meeting held at Maddiston. Colonel Stirling said that, with one or two exceptions, the petition was signed by the whole of the inhabitants in the villages of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs. It was, however, desirable that the ratepayers should be made aware that they had no intention of proceeding with a water scheme without their approval. Before long the Council expected to give them the rate per £ that would be charged should it be resolved to go on with the scheme, so that the ratepayers would have an opportunity of changing their minds should they think fit. The Chairman said that the sub-committee was unanimous in proposing to them that this matter be continued for two months. The recommendation of the committee was agreed to.

HEN-STEALING NEAR MADDISTON.

SHERIFF AND JURY TRIAL AT FALKIRK.

At the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Tuesday - before Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff and a jury - David Hunter, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 11th or 12th April, broken into the outhouse at South Craigend, Muiravonside, belonging to John Finlay Donaldson, foreman surfaceman, and stolen four hens. Panel adhered to a plea of not guilty, and the case went to proof, the accused being defended by MR. J. W. BLACKADDER, solicitor, Falkirk. For the prosecution the first witness called was Mrs. Donaldson, wife of the said John Finlay Donaldson, who deposed that she had an outhouse near to her dwelling-house, which she used as a hen-house. She looked after the hens herself. She had 30 fowls on the 11th April, as she herself gathered them into the hen-house and counted them, as she was accustomed to do. On the morning of Sunday, the 12th, she went to the hen-house about 8 o'clock. She saw one of the hens in the garden, and the others came running about her. The door of the hen-house was standing open. She counted the hens again, and there were only 26, including the one she found in the garden. She searched for the missing ones, but could not find them, and her husband reported the matter to the police. A man named Bennie called at the house in the evening, and her husband went out to speak to him. On the Monday Sergeant Jenkins and Constable Circuit showed her the head of a hen, which she identified as that of a hen belonging to her. Cross-examined - I did not shut the door of the hen-house after I counted the hens on the night of the 11th. Q. - Then they may have come out after you put them in? A. - It is very seldom that they come out. Q. - But they had a chance of coming out. Did you hear any noise about your house that night? A. - No. Q. - You cannot say whether the prisoner broke into the house or not? A. - No. I recognised the head of the hen which the policemen brought to me by its comb. Q. - There might be another hen with the same kind of comb as your hen? A. - There might. Witness, continuing, said that on Sunday Rafferty and Bennie called and said they had come to settle with me about the hens which she had lost. She asked them what they meant, and they said that the police had got the hens on someone's fire. They said that Hunter had sent them to settle about the hens. There was nothing said about finding the hens. Re-examined by the Fiscal - On the Sunday morning I saw feathers lying amongst the grass and about the hen-house; and I knew from that that the hens had been disturbed. John Finlay Donaldson, the husband of the previous witness, gave evidence as to the hen-house having been locked with a padlock at nights and rendered perfectly secure. He corroborated his wife's statement as to the condition of the henhouse and its surroundings on the Sunday morning, and said he was satisfied that some one had broken into it. On the Sunday evening the prisoner Hunter and William Bennie called and witness said to the prisoner - What kind of mess is this you have got into now." and he said "I wish it had never been done." Witness said no more, and witness went away for the police. Hunter asked witness to withdraw the charge, and Hunter and he, along with Bennie, went down to Maddiston on the Sunday night to see the policeman, but he was not in. The next day he met Hunter with the policeman, and he asked him to go down to Falkirk to the Police Office to get the case settled. He was to get his day's pay if he went then and 2s if he went at night. Cross-examined - He did not think the hens would have much time to leave the hen-house on the

Sunday evening between the time his wife put them into the house and the time he locked the door. He heard no one at the hen-house on the Saturday night or Sunday morning. On the afternoon of Sunday, shortly after the policeman left, Bennie and Francis Rafferty called at witness's house about the hens, but he was so much agitated that he could not remember what they said. Feathers were scattered along the road towards North Craigend. Thomas Millar, miner, Rumford, said he was with the prisoner and Rafferty and William Bennie in a public-house at Maddiston on the night of Saturday, the 11th. Witness, on leaving the public-house, left the other members of the company and went on to Rumford. By the Sheriff - When I left them they would be more than half-a-mile from Donaldson's house. They were going back by the Maddiston way. Archibald Hunter, miner, North Craigend, said he was a brother of the accused. He met him and several other men in the Maddiston public-house on the Saturday night. After leaving the public-house the prisoner, Wm. Bennie, and witness went along the Blackbraes Railway, which leads to North Craigend. His brother lived at Standburn, and he told witness he was going to North Craigend to get his dog which Rafferty had taken with him. Witness left the company on reaching North Craigend, and saw no more of them that night. BY THE SHERIFF - Were the men quite sober. A. - They had a bit taistin', but there was nothing wrong. Robert Cumming said he lived at Craigend, and about 700 yards from Donaldson's house. He was at Maddiston on the night of Saturday, the 11th, and at the Whitegates he met the prisoner and some other men. The prisoner had a little liquor, but he knew what he was speaking about. Thomas Turner, miner, North Craigend, who was with the previous witness on the night named, corroborated his statement. Francis Rafferty, miner, North Craigend, also corroborated most of the statements made by some of the other witnesses, and said that when he left the company at Maddiston on the Saturday night he took the prisoner's dog with him. On the Sunday following he called at the prisoner's house between 12 and 1. He heard prisoner send Bennie to Donaldson's house with regard to some hens he was getting the blame of stealing. He wanted Bennie to go to Donaldson's and make settlement about the hens. Q. - What sort of settlement did he want made? A. - He thought he had made a mistake in cooking the hens. (Laughter.) Q. - That is not the question. What kind of settlement did he want made? A. - He said he was to pay the expense of the hens. Q. - Did he say anything about withdrawing the charge of stealing the hens? - A. - It came to this that there was to be no more said about the hens if Bennie made a settlement. Bennie failed to make a settlement, and after having seen Donaldson they went back to Hunter's, but there was no more said about the hens. He did not remember Hunter say that he had found hens. Cross-examined - He took Hunter's- dog back to him on the Sunday, and while he was in the house the policeman came in. Witness then left and went into a neighbour's house. Hunter did not tell him where he got the hens. Mrs. Rafferty, wife of the aforesaid Francis Rafferty, said she was in bed and asleep on Saturday night when David Hunter called at a late hour and asked for his dog. She did not get up, but told him he would get his dog next day. James Mackie, pit oversman, Standburn, said he was passing an ashpit near the prisoners house on the Sunday morning, and saw the remains of some fowls amongst the ashes. The ashpit was the nearest one to prisoner's house, but he did not know, as a matter of fact, that the accused was in the habit of putting ashes in it. Cross-examined - The ashpit in which I saw remains of the hens is provided for ten houses. Matthew Hoggan, jun., miner, Standburn, said he lived near to the house of the prisoner. On Sunday Circuit shouted to him to assist him in Hunter's house. When he went in, Circuit and Hunter was struggling on the floor. The constable asked him to take the hens out of the fire. He took pieces of fowls out, and the constable getting rid of the prisoner took out the remainder. The hens were not in a pot on the fire, and were simply burning on the top of the coal. The feathers had been taken off the hens. Wm. Bennie, miner, Standburn, also corroborated several of the statements of the other witnesses. He saw Constable Circuit on the Sunday, and he asked him to make a statement with regard to Saturday night's doings, and he made a statement which was untrue. CROSS-EXAMINED - Q. - Why did you make untruthful statement? A. - Because I was afraid I would get into bother, and I wished to avoid that. On going home on the Saturday night Hunter kicked against something, which he found to be a pair of dead hens. I told him to let them lie, as they might have been taken away from some place. He said - "They can surely not find fault with me for finding the hens." Hunter took the hens with him. He found them on a road about 60 yards from Donaldson house. He saw Hunter go home, and he had no opportunity of breaking into a hen-house while in my company that night. Hunter never admitted in witness's presence that he had broken into Donaldson's hen-house, but on the Sunday expressed a desire to pay for the hens as the police would get him into trouble for keeping them. RE-EXAMINED BY THE FISCAL - The false statement witness made to the police was that he not gone home the way he now described but he went another way. He repeated that false statement afterwards in the presence of Circuit and Sergeant Jenkins, as he did not want to have anything to do with the case. He did not tell the police then any story as to Hunter having found the hens. Witness had himself been breaking into a hen-house and stealing bantams. Constable Circuit, Maddiston, deponed, to having received a complaint from Donaldson that his hen-house had been broken into and four hens stolen. On the Sunday witness, in making inquiry into the case, called at the prisoner's house. When he entered the house there was a pot on the fire, and on his endeavouring to see what the pot contained the prisoner seized a poker and said he would smash his head if he interfered with the pot. Witness closed with him, and Hunter then called to his wife to put the hens in the fire. She did so. Witness then called for assistance, and the witness Hoggan came in. At his request Hoggan took parts of the hens from the fire. Witness had to use his baton to Hunter, and having rendered him temporarily insensible, he got out of his grasp, and going to the fire removed the remainder of the hens. There were only two hens on the fare. Witness charged Hunter afterwards with breaking into the outhouse and stealing four hens, and he admitted having done so. He further stated that the complainer was quite willing to withdraw the charge if witness would agree to it. Hunter asked for an interview with Donaldson, and on their way to Polmont Station on the Monday they went by the railway where the complainer was working. Hunter asked Donaldson to withdraw the charge, but he said the matter was in the policeman's hands, and that he could do nothing in the matter. On the Monday witness, along with Sergeant Jenkins examined an ashpit at Standburn, twenty yards from the prisoner's house, and found a hen's head and some feathers. Cross-examined - He made a search in Hunter's house, but found no more hens. Hunter never said to him that he had found the hens. In fact he admitted breaking into the hen-house and stealing four hens, and expressed a wish that Bennie should be apprehended also. Hunter did not tell witness where he got the two hens found in the house. Q. - Did it not occur to you that some one else had been stealing hens? A. - No. Q. - You were only able to trace two hens, and there were four stolen. Some one else must have been stealing hens. Did Hunter not say that he had made a mistake in cooking these hens before ascertained to whom they belonged? - No. I did not ask the prisoner then where he got the hens. Re-examined by the Fiscal - I left Hunter's house to put the remains of the fowls in the witness Hoggan's father's house in order to make them secure. Hunter had by that time regained consciousness, and when I left the house the prisoner was sitting on a chair. On returning to Hunter's house I found that Hunter had disappeared. It was about 12 o'clock on Sunday forenoon when I called at Hunter's house, and I watched about it till four o'clock on Monday morning, but he did not return. On Monday morning, about 9 a.m., I met him coming down the Avenue. Re-examined by MR BLACKADDER - Q. - Is it not the case that he was knocking at your door on Monday morning, in order to get you to withdraw the charge. A. - I saw him coming down the avenue, and he made no effort to avoid me. Sergeant Jenkins gave evidence to his having been engaged with the previous witness in inquiring into the case, and to the finding of a hen's head and some feathers in the ashpit at Standburn. There were no witnesses for the defence, The Fiscal contended that the whole conduct and actions of the accused were those of a guilty man, and he asked the jury to find the case proven. MR BLACKADDER said he had every confidence in leaving the case in the hands of the jury and in asking them to give a verdict of not proven. They had, he said, no evidence to show that the prisoner stole the hens, but they had prisoner's statement, backed up by that of the witness

Bennie, that he had found two hens tied together on the road. The Sheriff having addressed the jury at some length, The jury retired, and after an absence of a few minutes returned with a unanimous verdict of guilty. The Fiscal said there were three previous convictions against the accused, the first conviction being that of a serious assault and theft by housebreaking. . MR. BLACKADDER said that the two other convictions were of a trifling character. He read a certificate in prisoner's favour by his employer Mr. Robert Wilson, manager to Messrs James Nimmo & Co., coal masters. He also reminded his Lordship that the accused had been already two weeks in prison. The Sheriff remarked upon the previous convictions of the prisoner, who was 29 years of age and said that he had already undergone term of eight months' imprisonment for assault and theft by housebreaking. The offences which he had committed seemed to have a family resemblance. There was the element of mischief in them all. Hunter was not the class of criminal who lived by preying upon other people, but at the same time there were ugly features connected with the charges of which he had been guilty, such as breaking into hen-houses. The prisoner seemed to have acquired the habit of indulging in drink, which was very general in this neighbourhood. He had had to deal with a number of cases of breaking into hen-houses, and he found that in nearly every case drink had had a great deal to do with them. Acts were done by men coming home from public-house under the influence of drink which they would never dream of doing in their sober moments, He would take into consideration that a number of years had elapsed since the prisoner had received the serious term of imprisonment mentioned, but at the same time he had not had a perfectly pure record since that time, and his last conviction was not a very old one. Taking into account that the prisoner had been already five weeks in prison he would make the sentence three months' imprisonment, with hard labour. He trusted that this would be the last time that the prisoner would be before this or any other bar on such a charge.

SITUATIONS

ENGINEMAN Wanted. – For particulars apply at Biscuit Factory, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 23rd May 1896

Alleged Hawking of Beer. –

At a Justice of the Peace Court held at Falkirk yesterday - Sheriff- Substitute Scott-Moncrieff and Captain Fenton - Livingstone, Westquarter, on the bench - Charles Allan, bottle-carter, residing at Callendar Riggs, Falkirk, was charged with having on 4th May, on the public road leading from Maddiston to Bowhouse, hawked a quantity of beer to Robert Anderson, Charles Skinner, and James Clark, miners, residing at Standburn, Muiravonside, and Andrew Anderson, miner, Blawearie, Muiravonside. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, appeared on behalf of accused, and took exception to the relevancy of the complaint in respect that it did not state that the beer libelled was an exciseable liquor, and that the words "exciseable" liquor had been used. The Fiscal (Mr. J. M. Wilson, solicitor) maintained that the complaint was a perfectly relevant one. The Clerk (Mr. Alexander Gardner) pointed out that the question of relevancy of the complaint had been decided by the bench at the previous diet of the Court, from which the case had been continued. Sheriff Scott- Moncrieff said that, considering the point had already been decided by the Justices, he did not see any necessity for again opening up the question. The case was then proceeded with. Accused pleaded not guilty, and evidence was led. In the course of the evidence Robert Anderson, one of the witnesses, and one of the parties to whom accused was alleged to have hawked the beer, stated that he had been in the habit of ordering beer from accused. He took a half-dozen bottles weekly when he had the money to pay for them. The beer in question was his weekly supply of beer. He met the cart on the road and got the beer from accused and paid for it. Accused did not wait to see what was done with the beer. Witness had got beer in a similar manner on the road before and taken it home. The beer in question, he stated, was got in consequence of an order given to accused. Further evidence was given, at the conclusion of which the Fiscal said that the case had been brought for the purpose of putting a stop to a practice which, he understood, was common amongst carters of hawking beer about - going to houses and selling liquor without its having been previously ordered. The defence set up was that the beer had been ordered, but he thought a conditional order of the kind it appeared to have been was not a proper order. It if was held that the order had been a proper one, it would be very difficult to secure convictions. Mr. Marshall contended that the beer had been duly and regularly ordered by the witness Anderson. Captain Fenton-Livingstone said it was his opinion that the prosecution had failed to prove that the beer was not previously ordered. He thought it was a bad principle for a carter to give off beer on a public road, but Anderson perhaps thought that he was quite at liberty to take delivery of the beer where he pleased. In the whole circumstances, however, he was inclined simply to caution accused. Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff said he was inclined to think that there was some justification for a conviction. There were certainly some circumstances in the case which were not at all favourable to the idea that the beer had been previously ordered. The fact that in taking out the beer the accused had not given the name of Anderson to Mr. Barr, who supplied the beer, as the party for whom the beer was intended, was in itself a suspicious circumstance, and they had one of the witnesses for the prosecution stating that he was in the habit of receiving beer from the accused in violation of the printed rules drawn up by Mr. Barr for the guidance of carters. His brother Justice was disposed to hold that there was no conviction. He (the Sheriff) did not wish to express a decided opinion against that because of a recent decision in the Justiciary Court where a case in which the circumstances were somewhat similar had been decided in favour of the accused. The conviction in that case was quashed on the ground that an order had been given. In these circumstances he felt some hesitancy in convicting accused, but he must say that he had seldom seen a case where there were stronger suspicions against accused. The charge was accordingly found not proven.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 30th May 1896

SITUATIONS VACANT.

WANTED, Girl about 14, to assist with light housework. – Apply MRS OSWALD, Nueks, Avonbridge.

Dundee Courier 1st June 1896

SCOTTISH MINING.

CONTINUED BRISKNESS.

ADVANCE OF WAGES WANTED.

The coal trade continues exceedingly brisk throughout the country, prices showing an upward tendency for all classes, and colliery owners are chary of contracting for future supplies at present rates. The miners are beginning to agitate for increased wages. In all probability within the next few weeks the agitation will develop into a definite demand for an advance of 1s per day. Many of the miners are of opinion that the time is now ripe for such a move, and that there would be little difficulty in securing better terms. Meanwhile every effort possible is being put forth to further the work of organisation, so that the men may be in a position to take united action.

MR. WEBB AT STANDBURN.

A meeting of those miners was held since last report, and largely attended, the object of the meeting being to try to get the weekly idle -day established. Since the improvement in the coal trade this district has been kept very busy, so much so that they have broken away from their idle day as they were able to get six days' work per week. Mr. William Webb, addressing a meeting there, advised the men to join issue with the rest of the miners, to organise themselves, and also keep their idle day each week, and to approach their employer for an advance. At the close of the meeting it was unanimously agreed to work only five- days per week. The work here still continues to be very brisk, and the orders plentiful.

Falkirk Herald 3rd June 1896

MEETING OF MINERS AT SHIELDHILL.

A meeting of the miners in the districts to the south of Falkirk was held at the Borewell, Shieldhill, on Thursday. There was a fair attendance, and Mr. William Reid presided. Mr. Webb, miners' agent, who was called upon to deliver an address, said, in the course of his remarks, that when he addressed a meeting of miners at Borewell two months ago, he expressed the opinion that trade had taken a turn, and he was buoyed up with the hope that the dark cloud was passing away, and that they were about to enter into a new era of prosperity and good trade. That hope had been fulfilled, and since last he addressed them he had visited every mining district in Lanarkshire, and he found that in places where trade had formerly been very bad, a vast improvement had taken place, and that the men were now working five days per week. That showed that there had been a revival in trade. The wages were, however, the same now as they were then, the only difference in the men's condition being that, with constant work, they were able to carry a little more home to their wives and families. He contended that the miners were justified in asking a substantial advance on the wages they were now receiving. Their employers would give them nothing if they did not ask for it. The time had come when they should ask an advance, and he had come to them that day to ask them whether they were prepared to ask it. He had no desire to widen the breach between themselves and their employers, and if he thought that would be the result of their meeting, he would not have been there. If they thought that their employers were giving them a sufficient wage for their labour, then he was sorry he had come into their midst; but when he heard people grumble, and say they should have an advance in their wages, and yet put forth no effort, then he said that the fault was theirs, and theirs only. They would shortly reach a stage in the mining industry which would have an important bearing: on the future relations between capital and labour. Some of them would have seen from the papers that the miners of Durham and Northumberland - two counties which employed an equal number of men in connection with the coal trade as Scotland did - had, by a decisive majority, last week thrown overboard the Board of Conciliation, which had been governing them for some time past. There was every probability that the 70,000 miners in those two counties would join with the British Federation in settling either mentally or physically this great wage question which affected them at the present moment. They would also, he thought, settle the eight hour question. The Durham and Northumberland miners were opposed to asking Parliament for an eight-hours day; but he was inclined to think that the miners of Northumberland and Durham would close in with the Federation in expressing their approval of such a reform, so that in England they would, practically speaking, have a unanimous vote in favour of a uniform wage. He expected that the struggle would come in the month of August, and what part were the miners of this district going to take in it? Were they going to rest contented with the wage which their employers liked to give them, or were they going to buckle on their armour, and join with their brethren across the border in deciding whether the prices were going to rule the wages, or the wages the prices? He maintained that the time had come when they should no longer submit to the prices ruling their wages. (Applause.) The wages must rule the prices. (Hear, hear.) If masters could not give them fair value for their labour, they ought not to employ them, but to let them remain idle. They ought not to ask them to work for nothing. He had heard miners say quite contentedly that, after they submitted to the last reduction of 6d per day, they had received constant work. But if they submitted to reductions for the sake of getting work, the result would be that their employed would give away their labour for nothing, in order to give them constant work. He was not an advocate for constant employment, but for a fair day's wage for a fair day's labour. Since he took upon himself the position as agent, he had met with a certain amount of success. Their association was in a better financial condition now than it had been for a considerable number of months, but, at the same time, it was not what he expected and believed it would be. He would plead with them most earnestly to give him their assistance if they wished to better their position. Notwithstanding the briskness in the coal trade, wages were as bad in Scotland to-day as they were in 1888. Yet the English miners were earning 30 per cent more than the Scotch miners. He attributed the improved condition of the English miners to the fact that they placed trust in their leaders, and that there were no traitors in the camp. He urged upon the miners present the necessity of their being organised. Reports were afterwards submitted by deputations of the men who had waited upon their employers for an advance. It was reported that the manager of Crosscroses pits had expressed his willingness to grant an advance if the other coalmasters did so, and that the manager of the Standburn pits had said he would forward the miners' request to the masters. The meeting thereafter appointed deputation to wait upon the managers of the collieries not already reported upon to solicit an advance. A vote of thanks to Mr. Reid for presiding, and to Mr. Webb for his address, closed the proceedings.

Falkirk Herald 6th June 1896

MADDISTON.

Golden Wedding.-"Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson, of Southbrae, Maddiston, celebrated the 50th anniversary of their marriage on Friday of last week. The brothers and sisters of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson took advantage of this opportunity to give tangible expression of their life-long friendship, by presenting a magnificent silver tea service, which bore the following inscription:-" Presented to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson by their brothers and sisters on the 50th anniversary of their marriage.-"20th May, 1896." The presentation was made, in his usual genial manner, by Mr. R. L. Loudon, Motherwell, and suitably acknowledged by Mr. Wilson. Among other mementoes of the happy event received from relatives and friends was a handsome pair of silver jelly spoons from Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, of the School-house, Blackbraes.

THE PASTORATE OF MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH CHURCH.

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION.

An application has been made by the Rev. Oswald Bell to the Presbytery of Linlithgow for the appointment of an assistant and successor. For some time back Mr. Bell has been suffering from paralysis, and his medical advisers have certified that he is not likely to be again able to perform any part of his ministerial duty. At their last meeting the Presbytery took the application into favourable consideration, and empowered a committee to consult with the members of session and parishioners as to a supplement for the assistant and successor. On Monday night a congregational meeting, called by notice from the pulpit on the previous day, was held in the church, and there was a good attendance. The Rev. J. H. Crawford, Abercorn, presided, and stated that he would endeavour shortly to tell them the purpose for which the meeting had been called. They had now learned, he said, that the Rev. Mr. Bell was utterly unable to re-undertake his duties as the minister of the parish, and this had been certified to by two eminent medical men in Edinburgh, the certificate being of such a character as, he was sorry to say, gave no hopes whatever of Mr. Bell's future recovery. They were therefore under the necessity of arranging for the appointment of an assistant and successor. He would now state briefly the conditions under which this could be done. In the first place, nothing could be done until the congregation agreed to augment the stipend to such an extent as would enable Mr. Bell to receive an adequate retiring allowance. He might state that with the conditions determining Mr. Bell's application for an assistant and successor, the congregation had no say. Mr. Bell simply made application to the Presbytery, supported by the necessary medical certificates, and if the Presbytery thought his case well grounded, they could agree to the appointment of an assistant and successor. They had now looked into the stipend of Muiravonside, and found that it amounted last year to £270. Of course, to this was added a sum for his glebe and manse. To divide this stipend of £270 by two would only give roughly £130 of an allowance to each. The sum which the Presbytery had fixed as the lowest retiring allowance for Mr. Bell was £150, and he might say that, in determining this, the congregation had again no voice. The assistant and successor would get the remainder of the stipend, the manse, and the glebe. To enable the arrangement which the Presbytery proposed to be carried out, it would be necessary for the congregation, by voluntary effort, to raise from £60 to £80. He further remarked that, as the congregation of this church had not been asked in the past to put their hands very deeply into their pockets for the maintenance of religious

ministration, he did not think that there would be much difficulty in raising that sum. If any of them were inclined to think that the sum asked for pension Mr. Bell was exorbitant, he must remind them that a man must live, and provide for his own sustenance and that of his family. No doubt some of them might remark that Mr. Bell's wife might be in such circumstances as to provide means for their maintenance, but on that point they, as a Presbytery, had no official intimation, and, besides, it was beyond their cognisance. The Rev. Mr. Carruthers, Falkirk, at the request of the Chairman, explained the means by which a sum could be raised as a supplement to the assistant. He also referred to two cases within his knowledge where, owing to the ministers being aged or infirm, the congregation had been required to augment the salary in much the same way as Muiravonside parish was now asked to do, and the arrangement had worked to the entire satisfaction of the parish. When a grant became due from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, the whole of it would be given to the assistant and successor. Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside asked what authority the Presbytery had for the amount of the stipend, as he was surprised at it being rated so low, as the stipend was not entirely dependent upon the prices of grain. Mr. Wilson, teacher, Maddiston, asked if the Chairman, as representing the Presbytery, of Linlithgow, considered that twenty-four hours' notice was ample intimation for a meeting of so much importance as this - a meeting which, he said, was probably pregnant with either benefit or injury to the parish for the next thirty, fifty, or sixty years? He believed there were many in the parish who took an active interest in the parish and the congregation who would never know of the meeting having been called until they heard of it through the newspapers. (Applause.) Rev. Mr. Crawford replied that in country districts they relied on people attending church. Mr. Wilson - I do not consider that an answer to my question, as I consider that a meeting of this importance should have been called in something like a legal and business-like manner. Why, if you had been intimating an ordinary missionary collection, you would have given notice of it a week, or probably a month. (Applause.) I further consider that to call a meeting with such a notice is a downright insult to the kirk-session, disrespectful to the congregation, and not at all creditable to the Presbytery of Linlithgow. (Applause.) To mark our sense of this discourtesy, I move: - That this meeting, having been called on the most inadequate notice of twenty-four hours, be now adjourned till Monday, 8th June, so that the congregation may have time to consider the statement made by Mr. Crawford, of Abercorn, on behalf of the Presbytery of Linlithgow, in this church yesterday." (Hear, hear, and applause.) Mr. Stirling, jun., of Tarduf, asked the congregation to remember that they were in a church. Mr. Croall, stationmaster, Bowhouse, seconded the motion. Rev. Mr. Crawford, however, admitted that the meeting had probably been called in too hasty a manner, and this statement having been endorsed by the Rev. George Carruthers, Mr. Wilson agreed to withdraw his motion, so as to allow of some discussion regarding the purpose for which the meeting had been called, stating that he was quite willing to meet courtesy with courtesy. The meeting was thereafter called upon to proceed to discuss the subject, so that, if possible, they might come to some arrangement with regard to the proposal to augment the stipend in the manner suggested by the Presbytery. Mr. Wilson asked the congregation to note that Mr. Crawford had stated that if the Presbytery considered Mr. Bell's application for an assistant and successor well founded, then they simply agreed to grant it, and as Mr. Crawford had so clearly expressed it - In this the congregation has no say." This, he (Mr. Wilson) considered, lent additional importance to the I present occasion, as they must be careful to remember that, if once an arrangement was effected, they would find that if circumstances arose which rendered it desirable that it should be broken, the voice of the Presbytery would again be re-echoed in the emphatic words of Mr. Crawford - "In this the congregation have no say." Mr. Wilson next proceeded to ask Mr. Crawford to explain how the £150 was, as he expressed it, the lowest sum which could be given as a retiring allowance to Mr. Bell? Was that sum founded on statute either clerical or in accordance with common law? And why should the congregation again be told in the words of Mr. Crawford - In this the congregation have no say?" Rev. Mr. Crawford replied that that sum had been fixed by the Presbytery after mature consideration. Mr. Wilson then asked the congregation to notice that this £150 was not fixed, as Mr. Crawford seemed to suggest, by a statute II immutable as the law of the Medes and Persians, but only by the common sense of the Presbytery of Linlithgow. (Laughter.) He then called Mr. Crawford's attention to the fact that, according to the laws of the Church, with which he had shown himself so particularly familiar. £200 was the minimum salary which the Church desired for those ministers who were still discharging their duties in an efficient manner, and asked if to fix £150 as the essential pension of a retiring minister reflected any credit on the common sense of the Presbytery of Linlithgow. (Applause.) What did that mean? The Presbytery of Linlithgow regarded £200 as the standard for a working minister, and £150 for a retired minister. The difference in emolument between the worker and the one who had nothing to do but enjoy his enforced leisure was, by the Presbytery of Linlithgow, fixed at £50 per annum. Mr. Crawford said that that arrangement must be carried out. That arrangement he (Mr. Wilson said, need not be carried out, the heritors of the parish, they had thought, paid a stipend of something like £316., but, as they now learned on the unquestionable authority of Mr. Crawford, the stipend was £270, with manse and glebe, and that the people considered an ample sum to pay for religious ministration in the parish. The Presbytery and Mr. Bell together must supply the church pulpit every Sunday, and pay for the parties officiating; and if the Presbytery considered that a continuance of that state of matters would be no discredit to them and to the Church of Scotland, having suffered so long the congregation could resign itself to suffer a little longer rather than consent to the extraordinary arrangement, fixed, as they now understood, not by clerical law or statute law, but by that mutable quantity, the common sense of the Presbytery of Linlithgow. (Laughter and applause.) Before making any formal motion, he would refer to Mr. Crawford's remark that this parish had not, in the past, been asked to dip their Lands deeply into their pockets to defray the expense of religious ministration, and he would remind him that the heritors of this parish had been paying for the last six years ample stipend for most inadequate ministration - a state of matters continued so long by the apparent indifference of that common-sense Presbytery to take any action with the view to the improvement which bare decency demanded. (Applause.) He would remind the congregation that, owing to the agricultural classes forming so large a proportion of the congregation, it would be the same class which, in the event of this augmentation of stipend being arranged, that would be again asked to dip their hands into their pockets to supply the funds. Further, he would ask the congregation to note that again and again the elders of this church had been blamed for their tardiness in not taking steps to reform the state of matters which had so long existed in the church, and draw the conclusion that, from the plainness with which Mr. Crawford had again and again, when speaking of this and that arrangement, told them that in this the congregation had no say, the same remark was applied to the inability of the Kirk-Session to do anything to reform their church in the matter of efficient pulpit ministration, so that they would see that a continuance of the condition of affaire, which had so long been a discredit to the parish and the Church of Scotland, was no fault whatever of the Kirk-Session of Muiravonside. (Applause.) He then moved: - That this congregation, believing that the present stipend of Muiravonside Parish, if equitably disbursed, would provide a liberal emolument for the present minister and the proposed assistant and successor, refuses to augment the existing stipend by any method of voluntary contribution whatsoever." (Applause.) Mr. Addison seconded. Mr. John Eccles moved as an amendment that a committee of the Kirk-Session be appointed, with powers to add to their numbers, to visit the congregation and discover what was the opinion of the members visited with regard to the proposal. Mr. Ballantine seconded. On a vote being taken, Mr. Wilson's motion was carried by an overwhelming majority. Rev. Mr. Crawford asked if this was to be understood to be the final decision of the congregation Mr. Wilson, on being appealed to, said that, so far as he understood the opinion of the congregation, this was their final decision, until such time as the Presbytery of Linlithgow, at a meeting called with longer notice than the Muiravonside congregation had got had exercised again their common sense, and suggested an arrangement which would find more favour with the congregation. Mr. Campbell, teacher, Blackbraes, then moved - That the congregation disapproves of the

Presbyterial Committee's arrangement with Mr. Bell, and that they be asked to revise the arrangement made with him, and to report to another meeting of the congregation." There being no amendment, the motion was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Wilson said that a better arrangement would be that the man who did nothing should get £100, and that the minister who did the work should get £170, with manse and glebe. If Mr. Bell was unwilling to take a retiring allowance, then he must supply the pulpit with a suitable man every Sunday at a salary that the Presbytery thought was fair, so that, whichever way it went, Mr. Bell must supply the pulpit, and take the remainder for himself. Mr. Eccles- If Mr. Bell fills the pulpit with a man duly qualified, have you any power at all? Rev. Mr. Carruthers - We can insist that the man be properly paid. Mr. Davie- Has the Presbytery power to fix the sum to be given to the assistant and successor? Rev. Mr. Carruthers- I think probably we have. I think £120 is a fairly good salary for an assistant. Rev. Mr. Crawford -"I have known cases where the Sheriff, under certain circumstance?, had the power to fix the salaries of assistants. I do not think that a larger sum than £120 should be fixed. Under one Act, when a minister became insane, the Sheriff is applied to, and he fixes the salary for the assistant and the usual thing is £120 if the stipend can bear it. I think £120 is a good sum. Mr. Wilson-"But is that law? Rev. Mr. Carruthers- The Presbytery has discretionary power, and the majority carries there as it does here. The Presbytery lays down £120 as the sum that should be paid to the assistant. Mr. Wilson In a case of this kind, where the Sheriff fixes £120 as the minimum salary for the man who is able to do the work, I would ask Mr. Crawford if it would be likely that he would fix £150 for the man who does nothing, as has been done by the common sense of the Presbytery of Linlithgow? (Applause.) Mr. Addison I propose that the retiring minister get £80 a year. (Applause, and a voice, "Thirty shillings a week.") Mr. Croall-"The minister can claim two-thirds of the salary. We have made a good bargain with Mr. Bell, and I think we should set about appointing an assistant and successor. ("Order," and expressions of dissent.) We will get a very good man for £120 Mr. Wilson moved a vote of thanks to the members of the Presbytery present, and expressed regret that the manner with which the deputation from the Presbytery had commenced the business had given rise to more heat than would otherwise have been desirable. Rev. Mr. Crawford, at the close, said that they now knew the voice of the congregation on the matter, and the manner in which the business had been conducted showed that whatever there had been in the in Muiravonside, they had prospect of future active congregational life. The deputation of the Presbytery thereafter conferred for a short time with the session in private.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.
Wanted for Blackbraes Public School.
A Certificated Infant Mistress: salary, £50 per annum.-Applications, with testimonials, to be lodged with Thomas Wilson, South Brae, Maddistoun, by Linlithgow, on or before the 11th inst.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 13th June 1896

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

INDECENT ASSAULT. – Robert Baxter Watson, miner, in custody, was charged with having on the 25th May, in a plantation adjoining the public road between Slamannan and Avonbridge, committed an indecent assault upon a little girl of five years of age. He denied the charge and evidence was led. The Sheriff found the charge proven, and passed sentence of ten days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 17th June 1896

AVONBRIDGE.

WOMAN FOUND DEAD. –

On Monday night the dead body of a woman was found in a field at Parkhead Farm, situated to the north of the public road leading from Avonbridge to Standburn. The police was communicated with, and the body was removed to Avonbridge, where it was identified as that of Ann M'Crae or King, 71 years of age, a widow, residing at Curriehill, Slamannan, who earned her livelihood by going about selling remnants of cloth. The deceased had been missing from her home since the beginning of the present month, and she was last seen in Avonbridge about eight days ago. It is supposed she had taken suddenly ill, and being unable to proceed further had lain down in the field, where she had succumbed to her illness.

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

WEDNESDAY.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

A STANDRIGG DISTURBANCE. –

John Sneddon, James Strang, Joseph Farnin, and Alex. Miller, all miners residing at Standrigg, Muiravonside, and Ellen Gallachar or Miller, wife of the last were charged with having on the 6th and 7th June on the Public road at Standrigg Rows, behaved themselves in a disorderly manner. The four male accused admitted the charge, and were each fined 10s 6d with the alternative of ten days' imprisonment - The woman pleaded not guilty, and the Fiscal deserted from the charge *pro loco et tempore*.

DISORDERLY WOMEN. –

Jane M'Millan or Meechan wife of Joseph Meechan, miner, and Mary Gunn or Allan wife of Robert Allan, miner, both residing at Standburn, Muiravonside, were charged with having on 13th June, on the road in the house there occupied by John Gunn, miner, behaved themselves in a disorderly manner. They pleaded guilty, and were each fined 7s 6d, with the option of one week's imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 24th June 1896

MUIRAVONSIDE.

The Pastorate of the Parish Church. –

A meeting of the congregation of Muiravonside Parish Church, called at the instance of the clerk to the Kirk-Session by an intimation made from the pulpit on the previous Sunday, was held in the Muiravonside Public School on Monday evening. There was a crowded attendance, and on the motion of Mr. Campbell, teacher, Blackbraes, Mr. John Eccles, Maddistoun, was called to the chair. The Chairman stated that, as they would understand, the purpose of the present meeting was to enable them to consider a statement which was to be made to them by Mr. Campbell regarding the present state of affairs in connection with the congregation. Mr. Campbell stated that the Rev. Mr. Bell, the pastor of the congregation, had, after the last congregational meeting, written to the Presbytery withdrawing his application for an assistant and successor. Mr. Bell had, however, subsequently renewed his application, and had said he was now willing to accept £130 as a retiring allowance. A great deal of discussion took place, on the subject, after which a motion, proposed by Mr. Wilson, teacher, Maddistoun, and seconded by Mr. Alexander Weir, Almond, was carried by a large majority, that the meeting resolves to alter in no way the finding which it arrived at at the duly-constituted meeting of the congregation at which the deputation from the Presbytery was present. An amendment proposed by Mr. Croall, stationmaster, Bowhouse, that the meeting approves of the Presbytery's arrangement to grant Mr. Bell a retiring allowance of £130, and thereafter to proceed to preach the church vacant, only found five supporters.

Falkirk Herald 27th June 1896

THE PASTORATE OF MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH CHURCH.

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION".

A meeting of the congregation of Muiravonside Parish Church, called at the instance of the clerk to the Kirk-Session by intimation from the pulpit on Sunday, was held in the Muiravonside Public School on Monday evening. There was a crowded attendance, and on the motion of Mr Campbell, teacher, Blackbraes, Mr John Eccles, Maddistoun, was called to the chair. The Chairman said that, as they would all understand, the meeting had been held for

the purpose of considering a statement which was to be made to them by Mr. Campbell regarding the present state of affairs in connection with the congregation. Mr. Campbell said that in this matter he would like to make his position very clear. They were to understand that he did not come before them as a representative of the Presbytery. After the last meeting of the congregation, at which a deputation of the Presbytery was present, he had received from the Rev. Mr. Carruthers, Falkirk, intimation that at the meeting of the Presbytery subsequent to the congregational meeting there had been placed on the table, along with the committee's report, a letter from the Rev. Mr. Bell, the minister of the parish withdrawing his application for an assistant and successor, and that the Presbytery's Committee had now no power to confer further with the congregation. On Friday last, however Mr. Carruthers had called on him, and asked him to state to the session that, since their communication, Mr. Bell had renewed his application for an assistant and successor, and was now willing to accept £130 as a retiring allowance. It was now known, moreover that after this allowance for Mr. Bell was deducted from the stipend, the Presbytery could, with the assistance which they expected to obtain from two endowment schemes to guarantee the assistant and successor an allowance of £200 per annum. In view of this, the Presbytery had arranged at their next meeting to grant Mr. Bell's application, and to preach the church vacant on the succeeding Sunday. Mr. Carruthers wished him to lay this statement before the members of the session, and obtain their opinion thereon. He (Mr. Campbell) said he objected to this, especially after the deputation of the Presbytery had so distinctly told them at the previous meeting that they had no more power than any individual member of the congregation, and that he would in this matter take no steps unless a meeting of the congregation was called, and a statement put before that meeting. Mr. Carruthers, however, said that he did not consider a meeting of the congregation in any way desirable, as they had really no power in the matter. He (Mr. Campbell), however, said that he had placed the subject before the session last Sunday morning, and, as a result, it had been arranged to call this meeting, so that the congregation might be made aware of the communication, and might express their opinion thereon. It was for that purpose that the present meeting had been convened. The Chairman said they had heard Mr. Campbell's statement, which he considered to be very plain and explicit. It now remained for the members of the congregation to express their opinion on this matter. Mr. Campbell, at this stage, said that as he had been asked why the meeting had been held in the school instead of the church, he might state that he understood that the meeting could not be held in the church unless the moderator was present. But he understood that the present moderator of the Kirk-Sesdon Mr. Johnston, Torphichen) had resigned, and therefore the meeting had to be held in the school. Mr. Wilson, teacher, Maddiston, asked if Mr. Campbell would kindly repeat the arrangement, especially the financial part of it, by which an allowance of £130 was to be given to Mr. Bell, and at the same time an allowance of £200 secured to the proposed assistant and successor. Mr. Campbell stated that, rating the stipend at £278, there would remain, after deducting the £139 of a retiring allowance, practically £150. The Presbytery, as he understood, anticipated that this could be supplemented by £23 from the Augmentation Fund, and £30 from the Smaller Livings Fund. Mr. Davie, Maddiston, asked if any one could state what was the real amount of the stipend of Muiravonside parish, as every statement of it so far had been contradictory of the others? Mr. Campbell said that he understood that Mr. Gardner, who collected the teinds for the parish, had declared the stipend last year to be £278. Mr. Davie asked if they were to consider the statements of others, who, from their knowledge of the stipend, had rated it much higher, as altogether unreliable, and the statistics given in Church almanacs, etc., as being equally so? The Chairman said he could perhaps speak with more assurance regarding the amount of the stipend. He understood that the augmentation which had been secured by Mr. M'Farlane, who succeeded Mr. M'Call as minister of the parish, had raised the stipend to the sum of £300. He believed that that was the highest rate the stipend of Muiravonside had ever reached. Mr. Campbell said he could perhaps explain how the stipend might really be more than Mr. Gardner had stated. He understood that certain parties were in the habit of paying the teinds directly to the minister, and as the sums thus paid would not pass through Mr. Gardner's books, his statement of the stipend might thus be under its real amount. Mr. Wilson said that this matter of the stipend was really becoming very amusing. On the occasion of its first intimation from the pulpit by the Rev. Mr. Crawford, Abercorn, the stipend was given as £240. At the congregational meeting held the subsequent night he stated that it had now been ascertained that the stipend last year was £278. A few more authorities had stepped in, but certainly Mr. Campbell's statement seemed to be as yet the most reasonable. But as Mr. Eccles seemed to consider that his statement carried with it almost unquestionable authority, he (Mr. Wilson) would call their attention to the statement of the stipend as given in the Church almanac for the last year in which Mr. Keith was minister of Muiravonside, and he thought those of them who knew Mr. Keith would be very much inclined to support the statement of stipend which had apparently been given by him against any of the amusing authorities who had yet favoured them with their opinion. The Church almanac for that year stated that the stipend of Muiravonside was not under Mr. Eccles' maximum of £300, but was the much larger sum of £378. So they must wait for some still higher authority than had yet been spoken before they could rest assured that they at last knew the correct stipend of the parish of Muiravonside. The Chairman again appealed to the meeting to give their opinion regarding the arrangement Mr. Campbell had put before them. Mr. Wilson - I regret that no member of the Presbytery is present at this meeting, as on account of the suddenness with which the last meeting had been sprung upon the congregation, they were compelled to listen without question to several statements, on which, after further consideration, they would now very much like information. Those of you who were present at that meeting will remember the manner in which Mr. Crawford laid it down that, previous to the Presbytery taking any steps towards the appointment of an assistant and successor, we must agree to raise at least £80 by voluntary contribution, and that the least retiring allowance which the Rev. Mr. Bell could be granted was £150 per annum. Mr. Crawford also forcibly reminded us that with the Presbytery's power to grant the Rev. Mr. Bell an assistant and successor, and with the payment of £150 of a retiring allowance, the congregation had no say. I have therefore to congratulate you on the change which has taken place after your having once spoken at that meeting. Then we were led to understand that if the present state of affairs was to be remedied by the Presbytery we must dip our hands more deeply into these pockets, with the depth of which Mr. Crawford seemed to be particularly familiar. What a change had taken place, under a little gentle pressure apparently from the congregation. Those gentlemen who could not see any other way of financing the proposed assistant and successor than a voluntary contribution from us of £80 have now discovered that, without any contribution from us whatsoever, they can arrange to give £130 of a retiring allowance to Mr. Bell, and guarantee a salary of £200 to the proposed assistant and successor. How did they not know of these augmentation schemes previous to their coming before us with their statement on behalf of the Presbytery? It is apparent that if the congregation had not spoken, those augmentation funds would never have been discovered by the Presbytery. (Applause.) On one expression of the congregation's opinion regarding the proposals at first submitted seems to have lent to their vision the optic penetration of the Rontgen rays. (Applause.) I think the Presbytery should be very grateful to you for having been instrumental in forcing them to a discovery of this more feasible means of augmenting the stipend with the view of the rearrangement in the parish of Muiravonside. Before considering the other points in the statement submitted by Mr. Campbell. I would like to call attention to a statement which has been widely circulated throughout the parish by certain gentlemen. Those gentlemen asserted that Mr. Bell could claim two-thirds of the stipend as a retiring allowance. If that is so, I have no doubt they would be able to state in what statute or Act of Parliament it could be found. Mr. Croall - Did you not hear Mr. Crawford say so? Mr. Wilson - I certainly did him hear say when you expressed that opinion that you were correct, but when I followed up with the question. "Is that law?" I failed to get a response. But after the weakness which has been proved to be in many other parts of Mr. Crawford's statements at that meeting, I am not prepared to accept him as an authority on the matter. Mr. Croall - Can you disprove it? Mr. Wilson - The matter of

proof does not lie with me. The one who makes the statement has a right to prove that it is correct. Mr Croall - Do you not believe the minister's word . Mr Wilson - From my experience of ministers, whiie I would not dream of questioning the word of some of them, I would be a little inclined to trust that of others. (Laughter and applause.) But it is not a matter either of men or ministers. If it is law, quote your statute. Mr Croall - I am willing to bet £20 to £1 that Mr. Bell can claim two-thirds of the stipend. The Chairman called for order, and deprecated the idea of betting taking place at such a meeting. Mr. Wilson stated that, as far as he could understand now the usual procedure of a Presbytery, in arranging for the appointment of an assistant and successor, was to secure for the retiring minister who applied for such an assistant and successor a salary which the Presbytery might deem sufficient. From what they knew of this case, the Presbytery of Linlithgow had gone just the other way about it, and had shown themselves - for what reason he knew not - anxious above all things that an ample retiring allowance should first of all be secured for the retiring minister, even if, as the result of that arrangement, the congregation should have to voluntarily pay the salary of the assistant and successor. It almost amounted to a drafting of the voluntary church principle in the Established Church constitution. He was particularly astonished to hear from Mr. Campbell that the Presbytery had arranged to grant Mr. Bell's application at their next meeting. They knew something before of the Presbytery's procedure, but it went beyond even his belief that they published a decision a week in advance of the meeting at which the subject to which the decision was applicable came up for consideration. He did not see, for his part, any use of the meeting coming to any decision regarding the Presbytery's present proposal. There was one thing which they thought they could speak with some authority regarding. They thought they knew the stipend of Muiravonside, but after an appeal to authorities inside and outside the parish, he thought they were all agreed that the stipend of Muiravonside was still to them an unknown quantity. A knowledge of the amount of the stipend was the first essential to a sensible approval or disapproval of the Presbytery's proposed arrangement. (Applause.) They knew little of the stipend, and with regard to these other endowment schemes, which seemed to be only freshly discovered, they knew, he thought, absolutely nothing. Before they could be assured that, in the event of an assistant and successor being appointed, these funds which applied to for the augmenting of his salary would really be forthcoming, they ought to have a statement from the correspondent or Management Committee of these particular endowments that they were willing, under the conditions ruling in Muiravonside at the present time to augment the stipend in the manner which was suggested. They had no documentary statement whatever from the Presbytery, much less from those responsible for the disbursement of these endowments, and while things duly attested on paper were frequently overturned, he for one would be very chary of an arrangement the conditions of which, and the means on which it depended, had been as yet only spoken in air. The Presbytery might have entire confidence that the stipend could be augmented as they suggested. They alone had that knowledge. This meeting knew nothing of it. and therefore if they did approve of it, their approval would be an approval without a knowledge of the facts, and therefore not an approval either desirable or honest. If they took no step to approve of this arrangement of the Presbytery, and it be afterwards found that those means of augmentation, when appealed to, could not be realised in hard cash, they would have no responsibility in the matter, and the Presbytery of Linlithgow, having alone proposed and carried out the arrangement, would be responsible for its due fulfillment, especially as regards the salary of the proposed assistant and successor. But he would warn them that if they, from this meeting, conveyed their sanction or approval of the scheme proposed by the Presbytery, then in the event of the augmentation funds, which they had only heard of, not proving available for the payment of the proposed assistant and successor, he considered that they would, from having approved of the Presbytery's arrangement, and from the assistant and having been appointed with the knowledge of their approval of that scheme, be morally responsible to assist the Presbytery in augmenting by voluntary contribution any deficiency which might arise in connection with the payment of the proposed assistant and successor. From this consideration he therefore moved:- "That this meeting resolves to alter in no manner whatsoever the finding which was arrived at in the duly constituted meeting at which a deputation from the Presbytery was present." (Applause.) Mr. Alex. Weir, Almond, seconded The Chairman having asked the meeting to give a further expression of its opinion, Mr. Croall said he thought that the meeting should accept thite Presbytery's arrangement, as he was sure they were all anxious to have the church declared vacant, and an assistant and successor appointed. Mr. Wilson - Allow me to state, Mr. Croall, that it is not a question as to whether or not we want the church declared vacant, and an assistant and successor appointed. I think I may safely say that every one here is more anxious than another to have the church declared vacant, and steps taken for the appointment of an assistant and successor. But what we are endeavouring to secure is that the proposed assistant and successor shall be appointed under conditions which we consider fair to us as a congregation, and just to him as a minister. (Applause.) The Chairman appealed to Mr. Croall to move an amendment if he desired a division on the matter. Mr. Croall then moved as an amendment: - "That this meeting of the congregation approves of the Presbytery's arrangement to grant Mr. Bell a retiring allowance of £130, and thereafter proceed to preach the church vacant." Mr. Wilson - I much doubt if the Presbytery can proceed to this step, which we are told they have already arranged to do at their meeting to-morrow. I think it is clearly stated in the Church Patronage (Scotland) Act that " the Presbytery shall not take any step toward the appointment of an assistant and successor in any parish until they have cited from the pulpit the parishioners and all concerned to a meeting of the Presbytery, to be held not less than seven full days after the citation, and have thereafter come to a finding that, in consequence of the mental or bodily incapacity of the minister or other lawful or sufficient cause, to be specified in the deliverance, it was necessary that steps be taken for the appointment of an assistant and successor." This has not yet been done, so that we must abide in patience. (Applause.) Mr. James Ballantyne, Avonbank, seconded the amendment. On a division, only 5 voted for the amendment, and the Chairman declared the motion carried by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Wilson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Campbell for having come to the meeting and given them such an explicit statement of the condition of affairs as far as the development was known to him, since last meeting of the congregation. (Applause) A similar compliment having, on the motion of Mr. Campbell, been paid to Mr. Eccles for his conduct in the chair, the meeting terminated.

Falkirk Herald 27th June 1896

STANDBURN. EXCURSION.

The choir and Sabbath school teachers of the Standburn U.P. Mission had their first annual outing on Saturday last, the place selected being Roslin Castle. The party, numbering over forty, were conveyed to their destination in brakes supplied by Mr. Marshall. With the exception of a slight shower at the start of the journey, the weather was all that could be desired. On reaching Edinburgh, a halt was made at the Waverley Restaurant where dinner was partaken of. The journey was thereafter resumed, and Roslin Castle was reached about mid-day. A guide was employed to conduct the party round the castle and glen, and point out the several places of interest. Mr. Archibald Walker, brother of the Rev. Mr. Walker, missionary. Standburn was in attendance with his camera, and took a photograph of the company in Roslin Glen. The necessary requisites for outdoor amusements were then brought into use and games were indulged in, followed by a dance on the green. On the homeward journey, a halt was again made at the Waverley Restaurant, Edinburgh, where the company partook of a substantial tea. Standburn was reached in due time, and all were highly delighted with the day's outing.

Falkirk Herald 4th July 1896

STANDBURN.

MUSICAL SUCCESS. –

Mr. Edward McKee, of Avonbridge, pupil of Mr. John Daly, Glasgow, has been successful in obtaining the senior grade certificate for violin music of the Trinity College, London, at the examination held in Glasgow on the 6th June.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

A meeting of this Board was held in the Workmen's Hall, Maddiston, on Tuesday afternoon. Colonel Stirling, Tarduf, presided, and Messrs Binnie, Mackay, and Wilson (Bogo) were the other members present.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCES. The reports on the attendances at the various schools in the parish during the month were submitted, and were as follows : –

On Roll. Average Attendance

Blackbraes Public School 358 314

Drumbowie Public School 480 408

Muiravonside Public School 229 191

Avonbridge Public School 81 75.4

Total number on roll, 1148; average attendance, 988

TEACHERS AND THEIR SALARIES.

Regarding the salary of Miss Hunter, headmistress in Drumbowie School, Mr. Binnie said he thought the Board would be standing much in its own light if they did not grant Miss Hunter an increase of salary. Miss Hunter had proved herself a very efficient teacher, and it would be a serious loss to the Board should they lose her services. Seeing a higher grant had been obtained for the Drumbowie School than ever they had received before, he thought they would only be recognizing Miss Hunter's abilities, and, at the same time, benefiting the Board, by increasing her salary from £65 to £70. Mr. Mackay said there were a few teachers waiting on account of the last refusal of increases about a year ago. They might just as well consider all the salaries now as wait until the next meeting, because the teachers' applications would be before them then. The reason for Miss Samuel leaving them was because she was refused an advance of salary. Mr. Binnie - I heard she was getting married. Mr. Mackay - I don't believe she would have left for another year had she got any encouragement. (Laughter.) She was a good teacher. The Chairman thought there should be a maximum regarding teachers' salaries. It was unanimously agreed to increase Miss Hunter's salary to £70. Mr. Mackay said there were two teachers at least in Muiravonside School who had been hanging back to see the result of the deferred consideration of their salaries, before applying for increases, but they were thoroughly dependant on getting their salaries augmented. After further discussion, it was agreed to consider the salaries at next meeting.

H.M. INSPECTOR'S REPORTS.

H.M. Inspector's report on the examination of Blackbraes School was submitted, and was as follows: -BLACKBRAES PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Mixed School. - The general results of the examination are quite satisfactory: but the standard of merit might be rather more uniform. Writing is almost always very well formed; but spelling varies greatly, especially in the third and fourth standards, and arithmetic, while excellent in the third, very good in the fourth and fifth, and good in the second, shows some weakness in the sixth. Reading in the fourth, and repetition in the fourth and fifth, appear to advantage, but elsewhere these subjects might possess more freedom and expressiveness. In the three senior classes grammar and geography are very well known. The specific subjects are fairly successful, and elementary science is taught in an instructive manner. Music and sewing satisfy the requirements. In the main the order is excellent; at the same time, rather more promptness and method might appear in the class movements and physical drill.

Infant School - "Although the first standard has to be taught in a separate building, the infant department is conducted with spirit and creditable success. The first standard does extremely well in geography, but is less proficient in poetry. The order, while very good, might be smarter as regards class movements and drill, and the arrangement for teaching the first standard is rather against organisation. My Lords desire to point out that the school has been overcrowding during part of the school year (art. 32 b)." Total grant. £322 12s.

MUIRAVONSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL. "While the character of the instruction, both oral and written, varies a good deal, the level is perhaps as satisfactory as the crowded state of the building will admit. Writing in the first standard, all branches in the second and third, dictation in the fourth and fifth, and grammar and geography in the last, deserve commendation. It would be unfair to criticise the order where the difficulty of manipulating the class is so considerable. H.M. Inspector is glad to be informed that additions of some kind to the school supply of the neighbourhood are engaging the serious attention of the Board. Further delays might affect the grant. The average attendance in any one room ought not to be allowed during any portion of the year to exceed the number for whom accommodation has been provided (article 17 (c) of the code and (footnote) otherwise next year's grant may be seriously endangered." Total grant £177 6s 2d.

DRUMBOWIE PUBLIC SCHOOL. Mixed School. -" Spelling in the second, third, and fourth standards, reading in the fourth, and fifth, and arithmetic in the fifth, while not seriously defective, fall sufficiently behind the remainder of the instruction to prevent the awarding of the highest merit grant, which otherwise would have been earned in each department. All other ordinary branches are remarkably good, and the class subjects often - as in the sixth standard - reach a high level of proficiency, although at times the answering is sparse. Map-drawing is carefully taught. Music is good. Needlework deserves hearty commendation. The order is excellent, and drill is making good progress.

" Infant School. -"The infant department although a good deal broken up by the nature of the building, is most faithfully and zealously conducted, and the instruction very nearly reaches the highest grade of merit. The first standard shows great proficiency in the class subjects. The order is excellent, and the physical drill of the older, pupils unusually spirited."

Total grant £402 9s 6d.

PROPOSED INFANT SCHOOL FOR MADDISTON.

Mr. Binnie said that with regard to the alleged overcrowding of Muiravonside School, plans had been submitted of a proposed new school at Maddiston, and at last meeting matters in connection therewith had been stopped. Things were beginning to get serious. Mr. Mackay said he had been informed that Muiravonside School required remodeling. He been told that the question had been before Board before, but he had never heard of it. Mr. Wilson asked if it would not be better to erect an infant school. The chairman said that, as matters stood at present, they would require delaying until next year, or going on with the present plans. Mr. Mackay said he thought the question a much more serious one than most people imagined. Practically speaking, they had plenty of accommodation in all their schools. If a school was built for Maddiston, it would all be spare accommodation, to stand until it was required. When first this question had been raised, what was seriously intended was the erection of an infant school such as Mr. Wilson had mentioned. He might say that he was always in favour of that, on the ground that it was an excessively long road for the children to go to Drumbowie or the other schools. At the first meeting regarding this question, six members out of seven agreed to an infant school being erected. At the next meeting it was increased to a mixed school. To erect a school to accommodate 150 pupils, they had an estimated cost of £1500 or £1600. It also meant the employment of an entirely new staff and headmaster which also meant £800 for a dwelling house. Beyond an infant school he was not inclined to go. He would much prefer an infant school now, when they had delayed so long, and he thought it would be very advisable to take a plebiscite of the people throughout the parish even for that. He did not think it would be reducing them either in dignity or authority one whit to take a plebiscite of the ratepayers regarding this matter. He might mention that personally he would much prefer that

they would do so, because he would just like to be a ratepayers servant. He did not wish any glory or extreme honour by it. To launch out £2000 or £3000 within a year or eighteen months on a school with the state things were in at present might be something more serious than they could be able to put right in times to come. He would make a motion to the effect that they delay in the meantime the erection of a school, and issue circulars to the various ratepayers which could be marked in such a manner that the ratepayers could say yes or no to the question of the erection of a school. If the school was wanted then the burden of the debt would not lie on their shoulders. He felt inclined to do all he could for the Maddiston people, and he also felt certain that the Maddiston people would be content with what was reasonable as any other people in the parish. They had to take facts into consideration, for so soon as this school was talked about the Standrigg people had applied to the Board for a school for themselves. They had some reason for it, but he thought they should draw the line. He thought the authority of the ratepayers should be before going on with such a huge proposal with so little demand for it. He moved that they issue papers throughout the parish, and ask the ratepayers to give them the benefit of their advice. Mr. Binnie said that, for his part, he did not see what purpose would be served by the proposal of Mr. Mackay - Naturally the Blackbraes people would have no interest in it, and they would go against it. The people in Linlithgowbridge and Burnbridge would go against it as it would increase the rates. The only ones who were likely to vote in favour of it would be those who were likely to benefit by it. Mr. Mackay said he knew influential people on the east side who supported the idea of the infant school. He had also been asked by people in Maddiston and Avonbridge regarding it, who said there should be such a school. Mr. Binnie - Oh, people say anything, whether they want it or not. Mr. Mackay - I would not hold that opinion of the people. I think, as far as I have found them, they are fairly conscientious. It would only be deferring the matter to have another meeting, and you can judge by the returns whether the people are being prejudiced, or whether they are acting conscientiously. The Chairman - There was a very small majority in favour of any school. Mr. Wilson - Of course, the Board is not bound by the plebiscite. Mr. Mackay - I am only giving my opinion. I am speaking what I believe, will be the position of the parish in a very few years. The parish is growing. Mr. Wilson - Would it not be better to erect an infant room at once? I understand an infant would satisfy the demands of the Maddiston people at the present time, after further discussion, the meeting agreed to take a plebiscite of the ratepayers as to whether they were in favour of a mixed school at Maddiston to accommodate 150 pupils, or in favour of a school to accommodate 100 infants, or whether they were in favour of no school being erected there in the meantime.

BLACKBRAES SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS-SHIP.

Mr. Binnie reported that, along with Mr. Wilson, he had heard two applicants for the post of headmistress in Blackbraes School, in room of Miss Samuel, resigned, and they had agreed to appoint Miss Stewart, Edinburgh, at a salary of £60 per annum. Miss Stewart to enter on her duties immediately after the holidays. The meeting ratified the appointment. This was all the business of importance.

Falkirk Herald 8th July 1896 FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. MONDAY

(Before Sheriff SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

BREACHES OF THE PEACE.- Robina Allan or Hamilton, wife of John Hamilton, miner, Candie, Muiravonside, denied having, in company with three others already dealt with, created a disturbance on the public road at Candie on 27th June. Evidence having been led, the Sheriff found the charge proven, but dismissed accused with an admonition.

ALLEGED MALICIOUS MISCHIEF BY BOYS. -

Two boys named respectively John Rankine (13), son of John Rankine, sen., miner, 58 Standburn, and Thomas Cunningham (13), residing with his stepfather at 52 Standburn, Muiravonside, were charged with having on 29th June, on the railway at No. 4 Pit, Muiravonside Colliery, occupied by Messrs James Nimmo & Coy., Ltd., removed a sprag which was keeping five waggons standing stationary on the line and caused them to start from their position and run a distance of 100 yards, whereby one of the waggons was forced off the line, causing Messrs James Nimmo & Coy., considerable trouble and expense. Both boys denied the charge, Rankine stating that in passing he had accidentally knocked out the sprag. The case was continued for proof.

AN UNRULY MINER. - William Pow, sen., miner, Rosehill Cottage, Drumdroider, Avonbridge, was charged with having, on 26th June, in the house there, occupied by Abraham Erskine, miner, assaulted Jane Watson or Erskine, wife of Abraham Erskine, by seizing hold of her by the throat and compressing same, also with assaulting Abraham Erskine by striking him a violent blow to the chest and further committing a breach of the peace. Mr Thomas Gibson, solicitor, on behalf of the accused tendered a plea of guilty to the breach of the peace and not guilty to the assaults libeled. The Fiscal said he might accept that plea. It was more a case of a breach of the peace. A fine of 7s 6d, was imposed, the alternative being one week's imprisonment.

WEDNESDAY.

(Before Sheriff SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

BREACHES OF THE PEACE.- Robina Allan or Hamilton, wife of John Hamilton, miner, Jessie Allan or Hamilton, wife of James Hamilton, miner, Thomas Martin, miner, and David Allan, miner, all residing at Candie, Muiravonside, were charged with having on 27th June, on the public road, committed a breach of the peace. Robina Hamilton pleaded not guilty. The others admitted the charge, and were each fined 7s 6d, with the option of seven days' imprisonment.

Edinburgh Evening News Friday 10th July 1896

DEATHS

At Marshallfield Cottage, Avonbridge, very suddenly, on the 8th inst., John Gilchrist, aged 69, beloved husband of Janet Bryce.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 11th July 1896

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER FOR STIRLINGSHIRE.

The fifth annual report by Dr J. C. M'Vail, medical officer for the county of Stirling, has just been issued. The report at the outset gives a number of interesting facts with respect to the meteorological conditions that prevailed in the county during last year. This is followed by statistics with relation to the population, which, it is stated, has again been calculated according to the number of inhabited houses as ascertained from the valuation roll. It is noted that the number of inhabited houses in the county, exclusive of the burghs, has increased from 13,261 in 1891 to 14,051 in 1894, and 14,377 in 1895, there being an increase of 326 as between the last two years. The corresponding populations area for the year 1891, 64,119; for 1894, 67,391; and for 1895, 69,477. The increase is at the high rate of 19.7 per 1000 per annum. The greatest proportional increase is stated to have been in the central district - from 16,214 in 1894 to 17,103 in 1895, or at the exceptional rate of 58.5 per 1000. The addition to the number of inhabited houses in this district has been 141, which is 2 more than in the Eastern District with its much larger total of houses and inhabitants. In the Eastern District the increase of population was from 39,198 to 39,881. The Western District shows a slight decrease, but this is wholly attributed to the fluctuation of the navy population, as the inhabited houses are stated to have increased by 46, which would give an addition to the population of about 200. From particulars given with respect to individual parishes, it is observed that the additions to inhabited houses have been greatest in the following parishes: - Larbert, 69; St Ninians (where there is a new colliery village not yet completed), 52; Muiravonside, 47; Polmont, 43; Campsie, 39; and Logie, 33. In seven parishes the occupied houses have decreased, but the only diminution of any moment is in Falkirk, where the figures have fallen from 2031 to 2011. The loss here, it is stated, is a sanitary gain, it being due to the closure, as

unfit for habitation, of the houses known as Nailier Row.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Coming to particulars given with respect to the birth and death rates, it is found that in 1895 the total births in the landward part of the county were 2380, giving a birth-rate of 34.7 per 1000 of population. The rate in 1894 was 33.5, and in 1892 and 1893 the rate was 30. In the Central District the rate increased from 29.2 in 1891 to 30.5 in 1895. In the Eastern District there was an increase of from 38.7 to 39.4. In the Western District there was also a slight rise from 25.2 to 25.8. The deaths in the year were 1138, giving a rate of 16.599 per 1000 of the population. With respect to this rate, Dr. M'Vail says it "is a very little higher than last year when the rate was 16.216. This increase is not nearly so great as has taken place in Scotland as a whole. The year 1894 had the lowest death-rate- 17.241 - which had been experienced in Scotland since the Registration Act came into force in 1855. In 1895 the rate for Scotland was 19.7, or more than 3 per 1000 above the Stirlingshire rate. The county, however, is more strictly comparable with the small town districts and mainland-rural districts than with the whole of Scotland, and for these two sections of the population the death-rates were 18.6 and 172, so that the comparison is still considerably in favour of Stirlingshire." In the three districts of the county the rates are stated to have been - For the Central District, 17.246 ; for the Eastern, 16.452; and for the Western, 16.167. With relation to the zymotic death-rate it is stated that the total number of deaths in the county from the principal zymotic diseases amounted to only 123, as compared with 230 in 1893 and 130 in 1894. The zymotic death-rate for 1895 is 1.750 per 1000 of the population, as against 3.559 in 1893 and 1.939 in 1894. The following table, contained in the report, shows the rates for the various parishes :-

Fintry	5.698
Campsie	0.358
Kilsyth	5.500
Stirling	0.000
Slamannan	4.768
Gargunnoch	0.000
Muiravonside	2.758
Airth	0.000
Falkirk	2.290
Buchanan	0.000
Kippen	2.156
Balfron	0.000
Denny	2.152
Drymen	0.000
Dunipace	1.590
Baldernock	0.000
St Ninians	1.285
Killearn	0.000
Larbert	1.265
Strathblane	0.000
Bothkennar	1.000
Polmont	0.370
Logie	0.834
Mean of the county	1.750

At first glance, says Dr M'Vail, it seems satisfactory that Slamannan has at last come down from its bad pre-eminence at the top of the list. But, he states, the satisfaction is lessened when it is found that the Slamannan zymotic death-rate is actually higher than in 1894, and that its displacement is due to the exceptional death-rate of two small parishes, in one of which (Fintry with a population of 351) only 2 deaths have been necessary to place it at the head of the list. The Slamannan, however, though greater than in 1894, is much less; than the enormous rate (7.632) of 1893. The improvement in the zymotic death-rate in Larbert parish (which, it is noted, has for some years had a good water supply, and has now been provided with good drainage) is mentioned as satisfactory. In 1893 the rate was 4.182; in 1894 2.975; and in 1895 1.265. From a table in which are recorded the notifications of infectious diseases it is found that the notifications in the several parishes were as follow :-

Fintry,	22,
Slamannan,	129;
Strathblane,	21;
St Ninians,	90 ;
Falkirk,	139;
Denny,	44 ;
Kilsyth,	21 ;
Kippen,	21 ; Logie, 12 ;
Larbert,	97;
Airth,	12;
Polmont,	45;
Dunipace,	5;
Stirling,	2 ;
Muiravonside,	29 ;
Drymen,	8 ;
Bothkennar,	10;
Balfron,	6 ;
Buchanan,	2;
Campsie,	10;
Baldernock,	1;
Gargunnoch,	1 ;
Killearn,	0.

Here too, Dr M'Vail points out, Fintry is at the top of the list, and next in order come Slamannan, Strathblane, St Ninians, Falkirk, Denny, Kilsyth, Kippen, and Logie. All these, he states, are above the mean county rate, which is 10.464. The other parishes are below this rate. The total notifications in the county were much less in 1895 than in the two previous years, being 727, as against 990 in 1893, and 1033 in 1894. This is believed to have been in keeping with the state of matters throughout Scotland generally. Of scarlet fever there were only 410 cases in the county, as against 575 in 1893, and 696 in 1894, and of enteric fever cases there were only 149, as against 284 in 1893, and 172 in 1894. Enteric fever, Dr M'Vail states, is much more directly under the combined influence of good water supply and drainage and proper refuse removal than is scarlet fever, but both diseases are subject to conveyance by milk. The outbreak of fever in Fintry parish is dealt with at considerable length in the report, and interesting facts are given with regard to inquiries that were made with the object of ascertaining the cause of the outbreak. The inference from facts that were brought to light in the course of the investigation is stated to have been that, by some means or other, the infection had found its way into the milk supplied from the dairy, and that then by use of the infected milk both the dairy woman and her customers were attacked at the same time. Among other remarks with relation to the subject Dr. M'Vail says: - It seems to me that the facts furnish an argument for placing even the smallest dairies under the supervision of the Local Authority. It is just where only one or two cows are kept that there is least likelihood of any complete or satisfactory arrangements for protecting the milk against contamination. In such circumstances a milk house properly separated from the living and sleeping rooms is not often met with, and as the place is never visited by the dairy inspector, there is no supervision of byre, milk-house, water supply, drainage, cleanliness, nor any other part of the premises or equipment of a well-conducted dairy.

EASTERN DISTRICT.

The report relating to the Eastern District of the county deals first with the question of house accommodation. Mention is made of the closing of houses at Wester Jawcraig and at Nailier

Row. Speaking of the erection of new houses, Dr M'Vail says: "The places in which building operations have been most active are Camelon, Stenhousemuir, Larbert, Carron, Carronshore, Brightons, Maddiston, and Standburn. Mr. Denholm has been informally consulted regarding the sanitary arrangements of many of these houses. A number of new dwellings of only two apartments have each been provided with a separate water-closet, and in connection with some other new tenements provision has been made of one water-closet for every two dwellings. This is an immense advance on the old condition of things with a single privy for a whole tenement, and mostly unusable owing to its filthy surroundings." He further states: - "Some time ago I made with Mr. Denholm a detailed inspection of the village of Carronshore, and the difference there with regard to sanitary conveniences is certainly very striking." WATER SUPPLIES

Alluding to the question of water supplies. Dr. M'Vail again refers to the Bonnybridge scheme. He mentions also the proposed scheme for the Polmont district, and gives facts with relation to the analyses of the water of wells in various parts of the Eastern District. These included (1) dip well, Mr. Richmond's, Avonbridge; (2) pump well at Muirhall Farm, Larbert; (5) dip well, Mr. Wotherspoon, Slamannan; (4) pump well. Lock 16; (5 and 6) pit well at Todsbughts, Slamannan; (7) dip well, Craigend Farm. Slamannan; (8) dip well in roadside. Craigend Farm; (9) tank. Craigend Farm; (10 and 11) old boiler. Southfield, Slamannan; (12 and 13) dip holes near east and west ends of Southfield. In regard to the various samples and the analyses thereof, Dr M'Vail states that No. 1 sample was taken from the well at the E.U. Manse, Avonbridge, and was found unsatisfactory. In the absence of a better alternative, it was suggested that rain water should be collected from the roof of the church and properly filtered, and that if the water from the dip well had still to be used it should be boiled and filtered. No. 2 was from the dairy farm of Muirhall, near Larbert Station. The water was found to be bad, and the Falkirk and Larbert Trust water has now been introduced. No. 3 was from a dip well in the village of Slamannan and was taken on account of the bad taste of the water. It was found to be utterly unfit for domestic use. The dip well received its water partly from the roof and partly from a manured garden. The well was cleaned out, and its sides were clay puddled for several feet from the ground surface. No. 4 was from a much-used pump at Union Road, Camelon. It was found to be unfit for use, and the well has been closed. Nos 5 and 6 are stated to have contained suspended coaly matter. Nos. 7, 8, and 9 were from Craigend farm at Avonbridge. "When the samples were taken this place was used as a dairy, but the dairy business has now been discontinued. Nos. 10, 11, 12, and 13 were taken from the supply for Southfield village. The analyst's remarks on the samples are as follow :-No. 1. "Contains a considerable amount of organic matter, and from the high result for chlorine the organic matter must be of animal origin." No. 2. "Contains a smaller amount of organic matter, but this organic matter is even more decidedly of animal origin." "Both waters, in my opinion, are unfit for domestic use." No. 3. "This sample was forwarded to me on account of its 'bad taste,' and with this description I am quite in agreement. On warming the water to 100 degrees F. the smell is suggestive of impurity. The usual chemical examination gives figures for chlorine, ammonia, albuminoids, nitrates, and nitrites characteristic of dirty and polluted water. In my opinion, this water is most decidedly 'unfit for domestic use.'" No. 4. - "This water contains a large excess of ammonia, albuminoids, and nitrates. In the presence of the abnormal figures obtained for chlorine, 4.06., this nitrogen must be held to be due to infiltration of organic impurities of animal origin. The water is, in my opinion, unfit for domestic use." The analyst's notes on samples 5 and 6 are given at page 27. No. 7. "This water is in an abominably filthy state, and, apart altogether from a chemical examination, appearances and smell are in its disfavour. Sulphuretted hydrogen gas is liberated on boiling. I am of opinion that this water should be abandoned at once for all domestic purposes." Nos. 8 and 9. "In both of these samples the nitrogen, as ammonia and albuminoids, far exceeds the amount allowable in an inferior drinking water. No. 9 gives off the disgusting smell of sulphuretted hydrogen. Both waters are in my opinion, quite unfit for domestic use." Nos. 10 and 11. "These waters are soft, being roof collected. They might probably be much improved by so far as possible protecting against contamination and passing through proper filters. In their present condition they are unfit for drinking purposes." "No. 12 sample, though hard, and containing a very large amount of dissolved solids, is free from all indications of impurity. In my opinion, it is suitable for domestic use where a softer water of equal purity cannot be had." No. 13 - "From the high figure for chlorine and the presence of nitrogen in excess as ammonia, and especially from the traces of nitrites, I have formed the opinion that it is unfit for domestic use." After referring to matters relating to drainage that have been under consideration during the year, the report mentions that, in connection with draining farms, a few improvements have been carried out, but it is stated that the state of some of the farm steadings in the district is still far from ideal.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In regard to infectious disease, it is stated that the total cases in the district were 461, of which 58 were removed to hospital, and the remainder were treated at home. The deaths were 29, giving a rate of 6.3 per cent. The hospital fatality was 8.6 per cent. The numbers are considerably less than in 1893 and 1894, when the cases amounted to 624 and 772 respectively. Of scarlet fever there were 252 cases, as compared with 537 in the previous year. The parish of Slamannan had 106 cases, Falkirk 66, Larbert 28, Polmont 22; Muiravonside 18. Airth 8, and Bothkennar 2. There were 81 cases of enteric fever - "in Larbert, 25; in Falkirk, 24; in Slamannan, 16; in Muiravonside, 7; in Polmont, 4; in Airth, 3; and Bothkennar, 2. Dr M'Vail goes on to state that "the part of Larbert parish which was principally affected was Blackmill, where there were 10 cases. Four were in one family, 2 in another and the rest occurred singly. The origin of the disease here could not be traced. It was stated that, before the introduction of the Notification Act, enteric fever had repeatedly visited Blackmill. Some of the house drains were choked, and on the ground being opened up, it was found that certain of them had not been properly laid. Two common privies in connection with one of the tenements where the disease existed have now been removed, and replaced by water-closets." In Stenhousemuir there were, it is stated, 5 cases - 3 being in one family in an overcrowded part of the village. In Carronshore there were 4 cases. One case was at an isolated farm, which, fortunately, it is said, was not a dairy farm. There were 23 notifications of diphtheria, of which 12 were from the parish of Falkirk, 4 from Slamannan, 4 from Larbert, 2 each from Bothkennar and Muiravonside, and 1 from Polmont. The cases were, as a rule, unconnected with each other, though at Limerigg there were three in one family. There were 4 cases in Camelon and Bonnybridge in the course of the year, and 1 in Stenhousemuir.

VITAL STATISTICS

From tables that are given with respect to the above, it appears that the population of the Eastern District (exclusive of Stirling District Asylum and Imbecile Institution) is estimated at 38,563. The births were 1535, and the deaths 641, giving a birth-rate of 39.393 and a death-rate of 16.452. The zymotic death-rate was 21.27, the tubercular death-rate 1.991., and the respiratory death-rate 2.515. The deaths under one year were at the rate of 104.9 per 1000 births.

MARRIAGE BEFORE THE SHERIFF - On Tuesday Peter Stewart Carrick, more generally known as Peter Stewart, retired new agent, Falkirk, and Margaret Dunsmore Hill, spinster, Blackhillend, Avonbridge, appeared before the Sheriff and made declaration of marriage, and craving authority for the registration of the marriage. The Sheriff granted the necessary warrant to the registrar at Falkirk to register the marriage. Considerable interest, it may be said, has been manifested in the event in consequence of the advanced ages of both parties. Mr Stewart, it is said, has attained the ripe old age of seventy-four, whilst his bride is believed to be about fifty-three. Mr Stewart is well known in the town, he having for the period of over thirty years carried on the trade of news agent at the railway station.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 18th July 1896

MADDISTON. MEETING OF RATEPAYERS.

A meeting of the ratepayers of Maddiston was held on Wednesday evening to take into consideration the question of school accommodation, and the proposal of the County Council

to supply the village with water. There was a large attendance, and Mr. Robert Myles was called to the chair.

THE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION QUESTION.

The Chairman thought that they should deal with the above question first. He stated that, as they would be aware, the School Board of the parish resolved to proceed with the erection of a mixed school in Maddiston, on a site obtained from Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall. Plans were prepared, and approved of by the Scotch Education Department, and a number of the leading tradesmen in the district were supplied with specifications, and asked to offer for the work. They did so, and he believed that the Board fixed upon certain of the offers as those which should be accepted. What afterwards took place? He did not think he was putting it too strongly when he said that there took place subsequently one of the most disgraceful pieces of business that was ever enacted in connection with any School Board. He considered that it would only have been manly had the minority of the Board in this question submitted to their defeat, but they did not do that. Whenever they found that they had a majority on the Board through the retirement of members and other causes, they overturned the decision previously arrived at. That, he considered, was a most unmanly piece of business, and was one of the meanest things that members of a public board could do to their fellow-members. Had they waited patiently till there was a full meeting of the Board, and, after calmly discussing the whole matter, come to the conclusion that they had made a mistake in arriving at the decision which they did, no one would have been inclined to blame them had they overturned their former decision. He saw from the report of the last meeting of the School Board that the question of the new school had been brought up again. He questioned if the matter would have been revived at all at that meeting but for one thing. It had been discovered by the School Board that the Scotch Education Department had, through the inspector, intimated that a certain portion of the grant had been withheld because of the want of accommodation in Muiravonside School. Not only so, but the inspector had clearly told the Board that, unless matters were improved, the whole of the grant would probably be withheld next year. In connection with the matter of providing additional school accommodation for the children, a great diversity of opinion existed amongst the members of the School Board. Some wished to build an addition to Muiravonside School, others desired to build an infant school at Maddiston, while others again wished to build a mixed school there; and he found that the finding which the Board had arrived at was the adoption of a motion proposed by Mr. Mackay that a plebiscite of the ratepayers should be taken upon the question, so that the onus in connection with any action which might ultimately be taken would fall upon the ratepayers instead of upon the School Board. Let them consider the question calmly for a moment, and see how matters stood. A site had been taken for a new school to be erected in the village, offers had been opened, plans had been drawn out, and an expenditure, he believed, of over £100 had been entailed without a stone having been laid, and indirectly, if not directly, the Board had insulted every tradesman who had sent in an offer for the work. To put men to the trouble of making out offers for a job, and then to simply tell them that their offers were not required, was most unfair. It was quite clear that the Board must either make an addition to Muiravonside School or build a new school at Maddiston. The Department would compel them to act whether they would or not. When the Board desired to build an addition to Drumbowie School or to Blackbraes School they did not, by plebiscite, consult the ratepayers before those things were done. What right had the School Board to take a plebiscite of the whole parish with reference to a matter which only affected a certain part of it? (Applause.) The School Board was put into office by the ratepayers to conduct the educational affairs of the parish, and the Board ought to have been masters of the situation and masters of their own mind (Applause.) It was unfair to attempt to throw the onus of any decision which might be arrived at on this matter on the ratepayers, and if the ratepayers were of his mind, they would refuse to sign any plebiscite. There were over forty children in the Northern part of Muiravonside parish who attended schools in Polmont parish, and if the Board were to build an addition to Muiravonside School that would not improve matters one bit in this connection. The people in the northern part of the parish would still be crying they were in need of a school. By the erection of a mixed school in Maddiston, however they would be able to provide for all those children who were presently receiving their education in Polmont parish, they would catch all the children who lived at Craigend and the district round about, and accommodation would also be provided for the children living in the village of Maddiston besides. Some members of the Board objected to the increased expenditure which a new school at Maddiston would entail upon the ratepayers, but that difficulty disappeared under a little consideration. If fewer children attended the Drumbowie and Maddiston (Muiravonside?) Schools, it was reasonable to conclude that those schools could be worked with a smaller staff. The teachers who had been removed from the other schools could easily be employed in the new school, and a head-teacher could be got from one of their present schools. If the ratepayers would take his advice, they would sign no plebiscite, but would leave the Board to decide the matter, so that the onus would rest with them. Mr. Joseph Todd endorsed the remarks made by the Chairman, and said that at last School Board election they had sent two representatives from Maddiston to the Board pledged to support the proposal for the building of a new school in the village. He denied that an infant school would suit the requirements of the village, and said the Board would be insulting the ratepayers were they to offer them an infant school (Applause.) He also complained of the long distance the school children in Maddiston had to travel to the Drumbowie and Maddiston (Muiravonside?) schools, and said that in winter weather that was extremely objectionable. Many of the children had to take a piece and a flask of tea with them, as they were, on account of the distance they had to walk to the school, unable to get home for dinner. Those children saw little of home life and home comforts, and it would be a benefit to them if a school were erected at Maddiston. (Applause.) He thought that they should as ratepayers, give expression to their disapproval of the proposed plebiscite. Ratepayer - If the Maddiston ratepayers withhold their votes and the other ratepayers in the parish vote, how will we be benefitted by abstaining from voting? The Chairman - If we pass a resolution disapproving of the proposed plebiscite, and determining not to vote, it is possible that the other ratepayers will not vote either. A Ratepayer - I do not think the Board have acted properly in asking the ratepayers to vote three questions - the extension of Maddiston (Muiravonside?) School, a new mixed school at Maddiston or no school at all. The first two proposals would have been sufficient. Mr. Todd - I move that we protest against the decision of the present members of the School Board and call upon them to carry out the resolution arrived at by the full Board to build a mixed school at Maddiston. (Applause.) Mr. Thomas Rae seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

THE WATER QUESTION.

The Chairman said that the meeting would now take into consideration the question of a permanent water supply for the village. They would observe from the report of the last meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council that they were still going on with the preliminaries in connection the proposed new water scheme. Already passed a resolution disapproving of the proposed scheme so far as Maddiston was concerned and they had approached Colonel Stirling of Tarduff one of their members, on the subject, and he promised to see that their wishes were carried out. Notwithstanding that, he observed that Colonel Stirling was a member of the County Council committee which had been appointed to investigate the matter, so that, as far as he could discover, he was busily engaged doing his best to oppose the wishes of the ratepayers - They were trying to prove to the County Council that they had an abundant supply of water round about the village of Maddiston. What they ought to do as ratepayers was to see that the water which they had at present was properly utilised, and put within the reach of every householder in the village, (Applause) They ought to have nothing to do with any water scheme whatever, immaterial of who were the promoters of it. (Applause.) He thought it would be better were the present meeting adjourned, in order that they might consider the ways and means and the best way of introducing water into the village. They believed they had presently a better supply of water than the County Council could give them. Mr. Thomas Hill - Yes; it is one hundred times better. The Chairman

(continuing) said that they must meanwhile wait for the report of the engineer, as until it was received they could not say what the County- Council's intention was. Mr. Todd said that the committee of which Mr. Stirling was a member was one to consider as to the supplying of Reddingmuirhead with water. The question of providing a supply for Maddiston was not under the consideration of that committee. He approved of an effort being made by the villagers themselves to improve and enlarge the present supply of water in the village. Mr. John Bryce said he questioned whether the County Council could force water upon them. At the last meeting of the County Council Colonel Stirling said that the ratepayers in this vicinity were against the water scheme, and it was that which was keeping it back. The Chairman - I did not see that. Mr. Bryce said he could not see why there should be so much ado made about supplying the village with water. If the present well in the centre of the village were enlarged to three times its capacity, and a proper pump put on it, there would be no scarcity of water. Supposing they were to bring another small supply into the well beside the present supply, he thought it would supply the villagers of Maddiston for all purposes. It was ultimately agreed, on the motion of Mr. Todd, that a committee, consisting of Messrs Robert Myles, Matthew Neil, and William Rodger, should be appointed to wait on Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall to ascertain on what terms he would allow the villagers to take water from land belonging to him near to the village. A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

AVONBRIDGE

BIBLE CLASS EXCURSION. - The annual trip of the U.P. Church Bible Class took place on Friday last. The class was conveyed in brakes to the fine estates of the Earl of Hopetoun, near Queenferry. Though unfavourable in the morning, the weather cleared up after mid-day, and a most enjoyable day was spent. By special permission, the class was shown through the gardens and greenhouses. About eight o'clock the party set out on the return journey, and reached Avonbridge a little after ten o'clock, all having enjoyed the day's outing most thoroughly.

FOR SALE

FRUIT. - Red and Black Currants and Gooseberries for sale; cheap. - FORRESTER, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 25th July 1896

Letter to the editor

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD AND PROPOSED SCHOOL AT MADDISTON.

Sir, - After perusal of your report of the meeting of Muiravonside School Board, one is tempted to suspect that their resort to a plebiscite on the question of school accommodation does not show confidence in the ratepayers as Mr. M'Kay would have us believe, but an utter want of confidence in themselves as administrators of the educational affairs of the parish. Surely when the ratepayers elected these gentlemen to the Board, it was with the belief that from their supposed ability, together with the special experience of School Board administration to be acquired as members of the Board, they would be able with greater propriety and justice to decide such questions as that which now disturbs their peaceful equanimity. Is it not one of the most important duties of a public Board to hold the balance level between the conflicting interests of the different districts under its authority, and to mete out to all the most impartial justice? How is this duty discharged in the plebiscite proposed? A plebiscite is often and prudently resorted to in cases where the question at issue appeals somewhat equally to the whole electorate to which the plebiscite is applied. This condition was satisfied and a plebiscite might with advantage have been applied to the free book question, to the propriety of extending Avonbridge Combination School when accommodation already exists at Blackbraes and Drumbowie Schools. Those members who favour the delegation of their duties to the ratepayers might profitably employ their leisure in explaining why on these occasions a plebiscite was not applied. In the case of the proposed school at Maddiston, we find that all the conditions favourable to a plebiscite are absent. Maddiston requires school accommodation. All the other districts have already accommodation as ample as they can reasonably expect. What more natural than that the ratepayers in the other districts, supposing that a new school at Maddiston might require increased rates, should vote against it on the ground of economy, however false? It is for the Board to show what is the truer economy - to build where the accommodation is required, or where the demand for accommodation is likely steadily to decline. Their Lordships report makes it clear that accommodation must be provided either at Muiravonside School or elsewhere, unless the Board are prepared to endanger the grant which has already been reduced. But Muiravonside School has already sufficient accommodation for the children in its own district, and the present overcrowding is due to the children from the Maddiston district which is steadily increasing, were the proposal to extend the Muiravonside School (and it is advocated by a certain section of the Board) carried out, then when the Maddiston School can be no longer delayed - and the chairman says "it must go on sooner or later" - whatever the ratepayers had already spent in extending Muiravonside School would have been expended in providing additional accommodation, which would then be entirely useless. The question for the ratepayers, then, is not whether they will build at Maddiston, the most permanent village in the parish where the demand for accommodation exists, and is likely to increase, or build at Muiravonside School, which is already sufficient for its own district and likely to remain so. Would it not have been only justice to the ratepayers for the Board to state how far they had already gone with regard to the new school? I see Mr. Binnie states without contradiction that the fee for the new school is already bought. If this is the case, might not the Board alter the first question on the plebiscite to read thus: - "Are you in favour of a mixed school at Maddiston, or do you prefer that the fee bought for that purpose should for an indefinite period be paid for as a free grazing for cattle?" The reason given for delaying the erection after the estimates therefore had already been received was the unsatisfactory state of the Board's finances, but from the chairman's statement it is evident that this financial depression has somehow or other mysteriously disappeared. This is evidently beyond all doubt, and the Board apparently see their way to provide the extra school accommodation without increasing the rates, when they have actually asked from the ratepayers £100 less than in the previous year. At a previous meeting Mr. M'Kay made us believe that the Board were on the brink of bankruptcy, and as he is apparently anxious to pose as ratepayers' servant, would he in that capacity kindly explain how the happy transformation has taken place? A mixed school at Maddiston would mean, says Mr. M'Kay, if the headmaster desires it, a new school house at a cost of other £800. Mr. M'Kay says we must draw the line somewhere, and I think we should draw the line at taking him seriously in this matter. Most ratepayers consider that the Board's previous madcap performance, which cost the ratepayers that sum, would have been a sufficient lesson to prevent even the wildest member of the Board from even dreaming of repeating the escapade. If Mr. M'Kay's doubt as to whether that amount of accommodation would be needed during the time the school would remain up to modern requirements refers to the school-house I would be inclined to say - Well, no, unless the teacher was a Mormon. It has never been stated before that the erection of a school in Maddiston would necessitate the erection of a teacher's house, or that the Board proposed to erect such; and I am afraid that the next Board that builds a teacher's house at a cost of £800 will be asked by the ratepayers at the subsequent election to look upon it as a sad memorial of their departed membership. Referring to the second question on the plebiscite papers, would the Board kindly state what would be the probable difference in cost between an infant and a mixed school, as in all other respects it is evident that in the opinion of the Board a mixed school would much better satisfy the requirements of the district.

I am yours, etc., Robt. Myles.

GENERAL NOTICES.

WHITE'S BRAKE will Leave MADDISTON on SATURDAY for BRIDGE OF ALLAN GAMES at 8 A.M.

Falkirk Herald 1st August 1896

LINLITHGOW.

ACTION FOR CHECKWEIGHMAN'S DUES – In the Sheriff Small Debt Court on Friday John Campbell, checkweigher, residing at Carriber, Linlithgow, sued Joseph Harper, miner, Standburn, Avonbridge, for 6s 6d as contributions said to be due to him towards the wages of pursuer as checkweighman at the colliery at Blawearie. Pursuer said he had been appointed checkweigher at a meeting of the men employed at the pit, each of whom were to contribute 6d a-week, which was going to pay his wages. In consequence of such men as the defender here not contributing, his wages were sometimes very much reduced. There were some sixty men who were always coming and going. The defender was quite well aware of the arrangement, and was quite entitled to pay his share. Defender said he had demurred to pay his contribution because he was not put on the same footing as other men. If they checked the checkweigher's books they would see that that was the case. He did not blame the pursuer for this action so much as a certain miner's agent. This agent had been addressing a meeting of the men on one occasion, and was urging a five day policy when he (the defender) dissented, and asked why the men were not allowed to participate in the general prosperity of the country like other people. That seemed to cause offence, and he attributed the present action to his having made that statement at the meeting. Pursuer said he did not believe that, and, in any case he had nothing to do with that. Defender maintained he was being singled out for unfair treatment, why should he pay more than other men? He thought it very hard that he should have to pay this when there were so many other deductions from his earnings. He was not making a big wage. It might be true that the masters allowed a uniform rate, but it was to be borne in mind that all men could not make the same wage for the reason that all places were not the same. Some men might be able to make 3s or 2s 6d a shift. He was not making more than 3s himself. The Sheriff said that might be all quite true, but he was afraid he could do nothing with that. They might all sympathise with men in such circumstances, but the checkweighman had been appointed by the majority of the men under the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and he was afraid the defender was liable to pay his contributions like the others. Defender here stated that pursuer had not been appointed by a majority of the men. The Sheriff gave decree for the amount sued for.

FOR SALE

BLACK Wavy-Coated Retriever Bitch for Sale, 22 months. – Apply PRYDE, 11 Drumbowie Rows, by AVONBRIDGE.

DEATHS

REDDIE. – Suddenly, at Loan, Muiravonside, on the 22nd, Janet Williamson, aged 80, wife of Peter Reddie; deeply regretted.

MARSHALL. At Viewbank Cottage, Bathgate, on the 28th ult., Janet Marshall, formerly of Kelmonhead, Avonbridge, aged 83.

FORSYTH. Killed at Maddiston Quarry, on 28th ult., John Irvine Thomson Forsyth, aged 15 years, second son of Archibald and Agnes Forsyth; much beloved and deeply regretted. Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth return sincere thanks to the many friends for their kind sympathy in their sad bereavement.

JOHNSTON. – Accidentally killed at Maddiston Brickwork, on July 28th, Alexander Malcolm, aged 18 second son of Alexander and Maggie Johnston, Cairniemount; sadly missed.

DISASTROUS BOILER EXPLOSION AT MADDISTON.

TWO MEN KILLED AND ONE SEVERELY INJURED.

GREAT DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

On Tuesday forenoon about half-past nine a most disastrous and lamentable accident occurred at the brick work at Maddiston wrought by Mr Hugh Peden and owned by Mr Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall. The accident resulted in the death of two men and the injury of a third. Mr Peden has a quarry with a brick work contiguous, situated a little off the main road between Polmont Station and Maddiston. From the top part of the quarry the clay used in the making of the bricks is taken, whilst the under part is used for the quarrying of stones. The quarry and the brickwork are connected by a bogey railway. From what information can be gleaned it appears that the engineman at the brickworks had, as usual, been at his place at half-past five in the morning to get up steam to be in readiness for the men starting work at seven o'clock. The whole of the hands employed at the brickwork, numbering about sixteen, and including several women, started work at the usual time, and all went well until nine o'clock. At that time they stopped work for breakfast, the time allowed being half-an-hour. As the men were in the act of returning to their work the boiler of the engine used for driving the clay mills exploded with a loud report. The boilerhouse was completely demolished, and the shell of the boiler, weighing some eight tons, was carried through the roof of the building. The boiler, it is said, rose to a height of about forty feet in the air, and was carried a distance of fifty-six yards, and over a burn in the neighbourhood. Part of the water tube was thrown about forty yards; while the furnace part of the tube was thrown onto the mineral railway about thirty yards away. Some of the workers, who witnessed the explosion, describing it say that the air seemed full of bricks and broken parts of the boiler." The engine was practically destroyed, and the pan-mill was rendered useless. Mr. Peden, who was on his way to the work, and was just opposite his office door when the explosion occurred, took refuge in the office for a moment until the debris had settled. Immediately thereafter he, in company with a large band of willing workers whom the report caused by the explosion had drawn to the scene of the occurrence, proceeded to ascertain what damage had been caused. The spectacle presented to them was one of much devastation and desolation. The boiler-house lay a smoking' heap of ruins, whilst the parts of the machinery, the material displaced by the force of the explosion and other debris, lay scattered about in all directions. A search was at once made for the purpose of ascertaining if any of the workmen about the place had been injured, and after a short search the mangled body of a young man named John Irving Thomson Forsyth, sixteen years of age, son of Archibald Forsyth, news agent, Maddiston, and who had been engaged as a pony driver at the works, was found lying in the direction of the main portion of the shell of the boiler. Forsyth, it is said, was, at the time of the explosion, in the act of driving a bogey to take clay from the quarry to the pan mill, and it is conjectured that the shell of the boiler which lay some forty yards beyond the mineral railway, had ' been hurled directly upon him, as his body and the dead and terribly mangled body of the horse he had been driving lay right in the track taken by the boiler. Both bodies were fearfully mangled. Further round, on the other side of the shell of the boiler, another body was found, that of a young man named Alex. Johnston, jun., eighteen years of age, a labourer, employed at the brickwork, and son of Alexander Johnston, Sen., labourer, Cairniemount, Maddiston. Johnston when found was alive, but unconscious and moaning heavily. He was lying under a large piece of flagstone about 3.1/2 feet by 2 feet. This piece of stone, whilst almost covering him, was not pressing upon him, it being supported by some bricks and other debris lying round about. It is, therefore, supposed that Johnston must have been struck on the back of the head by some of the debris lying about. Drs Laurie and Wyse, to whom information of the occurrence had been sent, were soon in attendance, and rendered what aid was possible Dr Laurie having on arrival made an examination of Johnston's injuries saw that his condition was a hopeless one, and the unfortunate man died within half-an-hour. The nature of the injuries received by the two deceased men were stated by the medical gentleman present to be, in the case of Johnston, fracture of the base of the skull, and in that of Forsyth, bones broken all over the body. In addition to the two men fatally injured, another man named John Gillespie, 25 years of age, a mill-man, residing at Manuelrigg Cottages, was rather severely injured by having been struck by some of the falling debris, but the doctors, after an examination, were of opinion that other than a severe shock the injuries sustained were not of a serious nature. The boiler, it may be stated, was not insured. Immediately on the occurrence taking place, Mr. Peden caused a telephone message to be despatched to the police authorities at Falkirk. Superintendent Gordon at once drove out to the spot, and was cordially assisted in his inquiries into the matter by Mr. Peden, to whom the sad occurrence had caused much concern, and who seemed desirous of having the fullest inquiry made into the circumstances attending the explosion. No explanation has as yet been found for the

explosion of the boiler, as from the surroundings it would appear that there had been plenty of water in the boiler at the time it exploded. It is further stated that Mr. Peden about 8 o'clock personally examined the water glass of the boiler and found that at that time there was sufficient water in the boiler, and that the engineman says that he made a similar inspection ten minutes before leaving for breakfast at nine o'clock with a similar result, it has also been stated that at the time of the explosion the pressure on the boiler was 40 lbs. to the square inch. In the meantime we are informed that Superintendent Gordon has given orders that the boilers and other parts of the machinery are to remain untouched until experts have had an opportunity of examining the condition of the different portions. The report caused by the explosion was heard for a considerable distance around, and caused much consternation amongst the inhabitants until the cause of it had become more generally known. It is stated by some that the air was black with flying debris, and that portions of machinery, piece of brick, and other material surrounding the works fell like a shower on the roofs of some of the houses. It is even stated that the doors in several of the houses in the village of Rufford about a mile from the scene of the occurrence were shaken by the force of the explosion. As was to be expected, the sound of the explosion as also the rumours which got abroad to the scene of the occurrence and amongst them, and indeed throughout the district the unfortunate occurrence formed the all-absorbing topic of conversation. In the message sent to the police authorities at Falkirk it was stated that a large crowd had assembled at the spot, and in consequence of this Superintendent Gordon took out with him a couple of constables to assist the local police officer if necessary. On observing, however, that an orderly demeanour was observed by those who visited the place, and that the keen interest in the occurrence was somewhat subsided, the superintendent did not think it necessary to leave more than the one man. Although the results of the explosion were very serious it is in a sense fortunate that the explosion occurred when it did at the breakfast hour. Had it happened whilst the workers were engaged at their work, the result might have been even more serious, and the loss of life greater. We understand that Mr. Atkinson and Mr. McLaren, Government inspectors, have visited the works and inspected the boiler, and that the wreck caused by the explosion has been photographed in order to assist the Board of Trade in its enquiry into the circumstances attending the lamentable accident. Mention should be made of the prompt services rendered by Constable Licket. He was in the police station house at Maddiston when the accident occurred, and immediately on hearing the sound of the explosion he rushed to the scene and dispatched information of the occurrence to his superior, Superintendent Gordon, Falkirk Mr. Gair, Procurator-Fiscal for the Eastern District of Stirlingshire, visited Maddiston yesterday for the purpose of making investigations into the occurrence. We are informed that the usual public inquiry will be held at Falkirk on the 14th August and that besides this, in view of the serious nature of the occurrence, a special Government inquiry will likely be held.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Our Maddiston correspondent gives the following account of the accident: -On Tuesday morning shortly before ten o'clock a terrific report was heard in the direction of Maddiston Brickwork that shook the houses for miles around. Every person rushed out to learn the cause. Which was too easily explained by those who were outside and saw one half of the large boiler at the brickwork thrown into the air for at least a hundred feet. It being known that a large number of employed at the brickwork and quarry reside in Maddiston and the immediate neighbourhood, the most intense excitement prevailed as to their safety. People from every direction flocked to the scene of the accident, which presented an appalling spectacle a few minutes before a scene of busy industry, now an indescribable heap of ruins. It soon became apparent that the loss of life, though sad, was not what it probably would have been had the work been started after the breakfast hour. As it was, a young lad named John Forsyth, son of Mr. Archibald Forsyth, newsagent, Maddiston, who was engaged carting clay from the quarry to the brickwork, started a little before the breakfast hour was up in order to have a supply of clay in the moulding shed for those engaged there to begin work with. He must have been passing the west side of the brickwork at the moment of the explosion for he and the horse evidently met their death by being struck by large stones or pieces of the boiler. While some of the workmen were gathering up the mangled remains of the lad Forsyth, which were thrown a long way from where he was killed, others were engaged in the humane operation of putting an end to the frantic endeavours of the disemboweled horse to rise to his feet. At this time some workmen who were passing the clay-pan heard a faint moan among the debris, and, looking in, they saw the body of some one. Many willing hands set to work, and brought out a young lad named Alexander Johnstone, son of Alexander Johnstone, Cairnmount, whose father was in charge of the brick kilns. It was seen that his injuries were mostly about the head, and of a serious nature. By this time Drs. Lawrie (Brightons) and Wyse (Redding), who had been sent for, arrived on the scene. They at once saw that the poor lad Johnstone was beyond human aid. He only lived a few minutes afterwards. The body of the lad Johnstone was removed home in a cab about mid-day, but it was thought prudent not to remove the body of the lad Forsyth until it was coffined. This was done in the afternoon, and the body was removed to the house of his parents. There were a few others in connection with the work who were injured, but not seriously. The brickwork is the property of Mr. Learmonth of Parkhall, and the lessees are Messrs Peden, Maddiston. The burst boiler fell on the Blackbraes Railway, belonging to the North British Railway Company, and broke some waggons. A squad of their workmen being at hand, soon removed it out of the way. Much sympathy is felt in the district for the lad parents, and for a good number who will be thrown out of work.

STATEMENTS BY EYE-WITNESSES.

One of our reporters on Wednesday interviewed a number of persons who were in close proximity to the boiler when the explosion occurred, including Mr. Peden, to whom the works are leased. Their statements are as follows - (Mr. Peden said - I had breakfast, and was just returning to business after half-an-hour's absence. The bell was just ringing for the men to commence work when I came forward, and I had just reached the door of the office, which is about 40 yards from the door of the boiler-house, when the explosion took place. I heard a loud report and a rumbling noise, and when I looked round, the air was black with falling bricks and other debris. Immediately they ceased falling I ran up. The men and women-workers were running in all directions. Those who had seen or had been speaking to Johnston and Forsyth before the explosion soon missed them. The cry was first raised "where is Forsyth," and shortly thereafter there was a cry that Johnston was missing. Forsyth's bogey and pony were found, but the lad himself could not be seen. A general search was made for the two workers who were missing. Forsyth's dead body was first found by the side of the burn, about 30 yards from the place he was standing before the explosion, and where it had been blown by the force of the explosion. Forsyth must have been driving his pony and bogey round by the back road at the side of the boiler when the unfortunate catastrophe occurred. Johnston's body was found some five or ten minutes later beside the pan-mills. It was almost covered with dust and dry lime, so that we could not recognise it except by coming very close. When the explosion occurred, Gillespie was coming forward to his work, and would be within ten yards of the engine-house, although protected by it and the pan mills. On hearing the explosion, he ran back to shelter himself, and was struck by a falling brick. Gillespie had charge of one of the pan-mills, and a man named Cunningham had charge of another. In running, Gillespie fell, and his neighbour (Cunningham) fell over him. On being asked as to the condition of the boiler before the explosion, Mr. Peden continued - The engineer, who has charge of the machinery about the place, washed it out and examined it about six weeks ago, and he reported it as being all right. Andrew Lang, fireman and engineman, Manuel Rigg said, the boiler, as far as I could see, was working as usual before breakfast. It had given no trouble before, and had always wrought well enough. I was just coming along to the engine to commence work after breakfast, and after an absence of about 20 minutes, when the explosion occurred. I was some 35 yards off when the catastrophe occurred, and seeing the bricks and debris rise in the air I turned and ran to take shelter in the smith's shop. Some of the debris struck the shop, but did no harm to me. Just before the explosion I was coming forward to the engine with Gillespie and John Cunningham, mill men. We were all coming

along together chaffing as usual when the catastrophe occurred. Had the explosion taken place half a minute later I would have been at the engine, and would undoubtedly have been killed, as before I leave the engine I have everything ready to start when I return, and was going right forward to the engine to begin duty on this occasion. After the catastrophe I went forward to see what damage had been done. I gazed upon the wreck for a few seconds, but was so confused that I cannot recall what was in my mind. Although not nervous, I got a great shock. I was simply astounded as I looked upon the wreck caused by the explosion, as I knew the way I had left the engine and boiler house before going to breakfast. I knew that such a catastrophe could not have happened unless there had been some deficiency about the boiler at a point where it could not be seen. There was plenty of water in the boiler, as the tub showed. I regard my escape as being a very marvelous one. John Cochrane, smith, California, said- It is part of my duty to inspect this boiler, and indeed the whole of the machinery, every morning, and I did so on the morning of the explosion. When I finished the inspection at seven o'clock, everything was in the usual condition. A new plate was put on one part of the bottom of the boiler some six months ago, and I regarded the boiler as being safe enough. When the explosion occurred I was at the crane a short distance from the boilerhouse, and some of the debris fell beside me. I have a son named James Cochrane who is also employed in the works. He was sent by Mr. Peden, senior, to tell the pony-driver, the lad Forsyth, who was killed, to come away down with his bogey. He had done so and was coming back when the explosion took place. He was about 50 yards from the boiler-house when the catastrophe happened, and he was struck with some of the debris. Generally, instead of coming back straight to his working place, he went round with Forsyth, who gave him a hurl on the bogey but it is fortunate that he came straight back on this occasion or he would most certainly have been killed, as well as Forsyth. I had rung the bell for the men to begin work, and two minutes would elapse after having done so when the explosion took place. Annie Montague, kiln setter, Craigend, said I had just returned from breakfast, and the bell having rung for us to start, I was just about to begin work when I was startled by the sound of the explosion. Another girl named Janet Fife and I came out of the stove-house where the bricks are made, but we got no further than the end of the kiln on our way to work when the explosion occurred. We would be about 30 yards from the engine house, and in less than half a minute we would have been passing the front of it. I shudder when I think of what our fate would have been. On hearing the explosion we ran into the stove house. Fortunately we did not take refuge in the northern, end of the stove house, which is just opposite the boiler-house, as the roof was knocked in at that part with huge pieces of debris. We were at the southern end of the building. We saw the lad Forsyth leave the side of the engine with his pony. Janet Fife and I had a very narrow escape. Alex. Swinton, labourer, Craigend, said-I was just about twelve yards from the engine house, and about to start my work, when the explosion occurred. Prior to that I observed Forsyth standing at the side of his horse and bogey about to begin. He was at the side of the engine-house, but after the explosion I saw no more of him, as I took refuge in the southern end of the stove house. On my way thither I got a blow on the left side and another on the arm with pieces of debris. Although not much injured the pain troubles me yet. I consider that I had a very narrow escape. Just before I went over to get my barrow, which I use in wheeling bricks, I had a conversation with Johnston, who was killed. He left my side to get a shovel to begin his work, going right in the direction of the engine, and when I saw him again he was as it were, breathing his last. I may add that a girl named Maggie McFarlane was coming out of the stove-house to get a drink at the water dish, which stands in front of the engine-house, when I stopped her in jest. She tried several times to get past me, but I always stepped in before her in the way of a "lark," and before she could get past me the explosion took place. Had she gone to the water dish she would have been killed on the spot, and, to use her own words to me, she thanks God that I stopped her that morning, although she was a little nettled at me doing so at the time. John Brown, brickworker, Slamannan, was sitting some twelve yards from the engine when the explosion took place, and he had also a narrow escape. Alexander Johnston, senior, whose son was killed, was standing on the top of a barrow filled with bricks at the kiln door and about to go to the top of the kiln, when the catastrophe happened. He would be no more than ten yards from the front of the engine-house, but owing to the position he was in he could not run. He, however, leaned back into the mouth of the kiln, which protected him from the falling debris. After the explosion I saw Forsyth's pony and bogey, but as he was not there, I raised the cry- Where is Forsyth and they all began to look for him.

AVONBRIDGE

PRESENTATION. – On Friday evening a few friends met at Mr Ponton's Inn, Avonbridge, and presented Mr William Bryce, late inspector of permanent way, North British Railway, with a walking stick and purse of sovereigns on the occasion of his retiral after sixty years' service. Mr Stark, inspector of permanent way, presided. The Chairman, in the course of a few remarks, spoke at some length of the respect and esteem in which Mr Bryce is held by all with whom he came into contact, and by none more so than the men under him, with whom he was very popular. He spoke of his long service, and made feeling reference to his advanced age being the cause of his retirement on a pension from his employers. Mr Croall, station master, Bowhouse, made the presentation, and spoke in the highest terms of Mr Bryce's many excellent qualities, and hoped he would be long spared to enjoy his well earned retirement. Mr Bryce suitably replied. A very pleasant evening was spent, and a vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

Falkirk Herald 15th August 1896

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING OF EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday forenoon. Mr. George Ure of Wheatlands presided, and the other members present were - Colonel Stirling, Tarduff; Mr. Peddie Waddell of Balquhatston; Mr. Reid, Larbert; Mr. Clark, Stonehouse; Mr. W. H. Rankine, Laurieston; Major Dobbie, Larbert; Provost Mackay, Grangemouth; Mr. Baillie, Larbert; Mr. Salvesen, Lathallan; Mr. T. M. Stirling, Muiravonside; Mr. R. Hunter, Glenfuir; Mr. James Hough, Airth; and Mr. John Wilson, Jinkabout.

ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES

The Finance Committee recommended a list of accounts for payment. Major Dobbie, in moving the adoption of the committee's report, said there was little calling for special mention. The only large item was one in connection with the new fever hospital, with which building they were now pretty well advanced. Continuing, Major Dobbie said that the committee had met and considered the draft estimate of receipts and expenditure for the ensuing year. In regard to the roads, there was nothing in the estimates calling for special notice. The amount required was £4741, the same amount as was required last year. They purposed devoting £250 to fencing off dangerous places and to improvements on roads, but there would be no necessity for an increase on the present rate of per 61/2d per £. This was the third year in which they had laid aside a sum of £250 for improvements and fencing. Under the head of public health and general administration, the figures and estimates were practically the same as last year, the expenditure being the same, with a single exception, which came under the head of infectious disease. In connection with that they had to provide £370, which had been brought about by their having to provide for the maintenance of the new hospital. Probably they had allowed more than enough for that, but having no experience in the matter, it was as well that they should err on the safe side. It had been anticipated that an assessment would be required for general public health purposes, but the Government grant fortunately exceeded their estimate by £268, and they had last year expended less by £36 than was estimated for, so that they had somewhere about £300 in hand, which would not make it necessary, on account of the hospital, to impose any assessment.

POLMONT DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY

The Clerk read a minute of the sub-committee on the Polmont District Water, which stated that

the Clerk reported a deputation had met with Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth at Parkhall, and the report given by Messrs Warren and Stewart, C.E., embodied the result of that interview, and that at a subsequent meeting of Mr. Learmonth and the inspector alternative proposals were suggested by him, and the Clerk also submitted a plan on which the engineers had shown the boundaries of the proposed water district, which area was generally approved of as the area of the proposed water supply district. The estimated valuation of the area was £7750. An assessment on which of 1s 5d per £ would yield £550, the sum estimated as annually required for repayment of loan, interest, maintenance, and superintendence of works. Mr. Warren, C.E., being present, gave verbal explanation of the scheme and of the proposed modifications and extensions suggested by Mr. Learmonth. Thereafter, after consideration of the whole question, it had been resolved to submit the matter to the District Committee, in order that steps might be taken to lay the scheme before the ratepayers. Mr. Salvesen said that he thought the minute drawn up embodied pretty well the stage at which they had now arrived; in fact, he thought they had brought the matter to a head so far as consideration of the whole scheme was concerned. The question now was, how to put it before the ratepayers, as the committee had undertaken to do. At the last meeting they had agreed to take no steps in connection with the scheme before they had given the ratepayers a chance of expressing their opinion on the subject. He thought they were now in a position to lay the whole scheme before the ratepayers. They had mapped out an area, which, of course, was subject to amendment, in order to arrive at a valuation, but which they could calculate the rate per £. In the mapped-out area they had taken in all the places that were proposed to be supplied with water, but, as the members of committee were aware, there were certain places, such as Maddiston, Polmont, and Redding, in which objection had been taken to the water scheme. If any of these districts were taken out, it would reduce the area so much that the assessment would be very much increased. In the scheme drawn out the assessment was not heavy 1s 5d per £, meaning about 7 1/2d per £ on owners and 9 1/2d per £ on occupiers, being small indeed, considering the benefits that would be derived from the water. Mr. Warren, the engineer, had gone carefully into the scheme, and had taken everything into consideration. Mr. Learmonth had been very generous in the matter of wayleave, but in the estimate there was full allowance for wayleave, so that the scheme was not under-estimated; but it had been thought better to err on the safe side. There was another matter to which he would like to refer, and that was that if the scheme was carried out now, and Mr. Learmonth was to dispense with compensation water, they would have more than sufficient in the storage reservoir for the requirements of the district, but rather than suggest that the reservoir should be reduced to the bare requirements, the sub-committee thought it better that the reservoir should remain as it was now, instead of having to increase it at any future time. It was much better to make a sufficient wall at first than to have to add to it afterwards. The only question now was how to bring the result of the sub-committee's inquiries before the ratepayers, and he would suggest that the Clerk should draw up a report for the newspapers, embodying the whole scheme as proposed by the committee, so that the ratepayers might have an opportunity of bringing forward any serious objections they might have to the scheme, in order that the committee might know how they stood. If the scheme was not to be gone on with, there was no use in working any longer. They had now brought the matter to a head, and they had now a feasible scheme, which they could advise being proceeded with, but before they did anything further, they should have the opinion of the ratepayers, and he suggested that the Clerk draw up a report, and have it published in the local papers. Colonel Stirling thought that it was advisable that the report should contain an analysis of the water. Mr. Salvesen said he had been reminded that he had not told the meeting where the supply of water was to come from. He had thought that the members of the committee were all well acquainted with the scheme, but he might say that the supply of water was to come from the Manuel Burn. The scheme proposed was the Manuel Burn scheme, but they were keeping in view the probability of having to extend the scheme and take in the Craigend Burn at some future date. In the meantime, however, the proposal was to take the water from the Manuel Burn. Mr. Baillie said he was just afraid that by having the report on the scheme only published in the newspapers might not bring it before the whole of the ratepayers. He thought it would be better that circulars should be printed, and distributed amongst the ratepayers. Colonel Stirling said there was a petition read by the Clerk at that Board about a month ago adverse to the scheme by Maddiston ratepayers, and he thought it was very desirable that those parties who signed the petition should receive notice of the scheme. Mr. Peddie Waddell - We cannot make a distinction. We must give notice to all alike. Mr. Wilson also thought that giving notice of the scheme by means of circulars would be the best way. In connection with this scheme, he said, the probable cost of a drainage scheme was not included, but ultimately the two must go together. In the higher regions, he thought, the probable cost of a drainage scheme should be taken into consideration, because the one would force the other, and the probable cost of the two should be kept in view. There was no doubt that a water supply was greatly needed for flushing purposes, which would necessitate the sewage being taken down to the Forth or the tidal basin. The report on the scheme by Messrs Warren and Stewart, C.E., Glasgow, which was here read, showed that the cost of works would be £6528; accommodation works, £114; land for reservoir, etc., and wayleave, £760; engineering and legal expenses, and cost of inspection, £600; cost of provisional order, £250 -total, £8352. If that sum were borrowed to be repaid in thirty years, it would take 5 1/2% per cent, as nearly as possible to cover interest and sinking fund, or £459 7s 2d per annum. Adding to that £75 12s 10d for upkeep and attendance, the total annual cost would thus be £535. The net assessable rental of the proposed district, as supplied to them by Mr. Burns, amounted to £7750, which, with an annual outlay of £535, would necessitate an assessment of 16 5-6d per £, or, say, 1s 5d per £ of rental, half of which rate would be payable by the occupier and half by the owner. Mr. Salvesen said he thought it would be quite sufficient if the report of that meeting was published in the local papers. He thought that thereby the ratepayers would receive sufficient intimation of what the committee intended doing. He did not consider that they were under any obligation to give any formal notice to the ratepayers, but merely to let them know at what stage the committee were now at. Mr. Wilson - If that is all that is to be done, there will require to be public meetings got up in Redding district. The matter then dropped, the report of the sub-committee being approved.

SANITARY AFFAIRS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The fifth annual report of Mr. Charles Denholm, sanitary inspector for the Eastern District of Stirlingshire, has just been issued. At the outset Mr. Denholm remarks that during the past year nothing startling has occurred in connection with his work in the district, but that in those parts of the district where drainage schemes are provided, and a water supply is to be had, steady progress has been made.

The village of Avonbridge, which continues to show signs of prosperity, there having been fourteen new houses of a superior description erected during the year, is stated to feel the want of a proper water supply, "the scanty supply at present being entirely dependent upon a number of shallow wells, some of them in a very doubtful condition, as was proved by analysis of one of them recently." The village of Standburn is in a better position, at least so far as drainage is concerned, than are many of the others. Regarding it, Mr. Denholm says "The health of the place throughout the year has been good. The sanitary conditions have been easily maintained, as a very perfect system of drainage has been provided, and an arrangement of sinks conveniently placed, giving each of the householders the facility of easily getting rid of their refuse water, and so having the responsibility placed upon them of keeping the surroundings of their houses free from the usual filthy gutter." The refuse water from the various properties is, however, discharged into an adjoining burn, and Mr. Denholm anticipates that in a short time this burn will have to receive some attention so as to prevent it becoming a nuisance." The water supply of the village does not appear to have been quite satisfactory, but Mr. Denholm states that he had made a representation on the subject to the proprietors, with the result that, both as regards quantity and quality, the water had been improved. In regard to Maddiston, it is stated that the question of providing drainage for the

village had been considered, but that the common difficulty of cost made it impossible to carry out any proper drainage scheme. The burn which runs through the village is stated to be "as usual made the receptacle for all sorts of refuse." Mr. Denholm says he has repeatedly remonstrated with the people, but without effect, their carelessness simply resulting in complaining of the nuisance which they themselves created. It is very difficult, he is states, to bring home the complaint so as to get a prosecution, but he hopes, with the assistance of the police, to do so shortly. As to the water supply, it stated that this village is one of the places intended to be supplied with water from the proposed Manuel Burn or Craighend scheme, and the past year is said to have proved the absolute necessity for a water supply being provided. Brightons and Polmont Station are other places that are to be supplied by the water scheme referred to, and it is said that scarcity of water has been very much felt there during the year. It is further stated with reference to these latter places that "as the constant increase in house building goes on, the evidence of the want of improved drainage becomes greater every day, proprietors complaining that they have to suffer from the sewage of houses at a higher level than theirs passing their doors, and so creating a nuisance, but until a public water supply be provided, it would not be advisable to carry out any extensive drainage scheme, but only, as is being done, to assist in making the conditions as safe and agreeable as possible under the present state of things." At Reddingmuirhead, California, Blackbraes, and Shieldhill, in connection with which nineteen new houses have been erected during the year, the want of water is still as much felt as ever. A short time of dry weather is said to leave the villages named absolutely without water, unless what can be gathered up from any puddle hole that can be found. Mr. Denholm further says that "considering the efforts that are being made by the working classes in these places to have improved house accommodation, numbers building new houses for themselves, it is deplorable that nothing can be done to provide a domestic water supply."

Falkirk Herald 19th August, 22nd August & Dundee Courier 20th August, (in abridged form) 1896

MUIRAVONSIDE. MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

THE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION QUESTION.

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Working Men's Hall, Maddiston, yesterday afternoon. Colonel Stirling of Tarduff presided, and there were also present Messrs Binnie, Mackay, and Wilson (Bogo). The Chairman intimated the result of the plebiscite which had been taken amongst the ratepayers of the parish on the school accommodation question. In answer to the question - "Are you in favour of the erection of a mixed school at Maddiston to accommodate 150 children?" there voted 21; 8 voted in favour of the erection of an infant school at Maddiston to accommodate 100 children; and 40 were in favour of no school being erected in the meantime. Nine papers had been returned marked "not found." Mr Wilson - A large number have not returned their voting papers at all. Mr Binnie - There were 407 papers sent out, and only 79 ratepayers have voted. The Chairman - That shows that the ratepayers do not seem to be taking any great interest in the matter. The Clerk - You are not taking any notice of the papers which could not be made out. The Chairman - There were eight papers which we could not make head or tail of. Mr Mackay said that there was a feeling amongst some of the larger ratepayers that, seeing that the Board's term of office would shortly expire, they should allow the subject to stand over and make it an election question. That feeling would account for a number of papers not being returned. Mr Binnie - You would see from the papers that the ratepayers of Maddiston held a public meeting and agreed not to send in any papers. The Chairman - I do not think that was agreed upon. I am quite convinced that those who have voted in favour of a mixed school at Maddiston are Maddiston people. Mr Mackay said that there had been several statements made at the public meeting held at Maddiston which were not quite in accordance with fact. The Board first of all agreed to erect an infant school at Maddiston. The late Mr Reid dissented against that resolution, and resigned his seat at the Board. At the next meeting of the Board, at which the chairman and Mr Reid were not present, the question was again raised without previous notice having been given, and he (Mr Mackay) dissented, because at a former meeting he had been prohibited from bringing up something which had been settled a year ago on the ground that he had not given notice. There was also before his mind the case where the standing orders were suspended at the Drumbowie School in taking up the question of pianos for the schools. At the second meeting of the Board to which he was referring it was stated that there was a certain coalmaster in the neighbourhood of Maddiston who was about to erect 50 workmen's houses in the village. That gave the question a different complexion altogether, and there was a great deal of pressure brought to bear upon the Board to alter its decision. The Board thereupon agreed to the erection of a mixed school at Maddiston. There had been a remark made at the public meeting that the Board should go on and build the school, as they did not ask the ratepayers' sanction when they built additions to the schools at Drumbowie and Blackbraes. He was astonished that this school for Maddiston was never spoken of till this Board was on the eve of coming to the end of its existence. A large addition was made to Drumbowie School, and he held that instead of adding so much to that school, it would have been wiser to have provided the children of Maddiston village with school accommodation in the village itself. As it was, however, the additions were quietly allowed to be made, but no sooner were they made than the question was raised "let us have a new school at Maddiston, as the other schools are too far distant." He did not think the Board should be blamed for trying to thwart any section of the ratepayers. He was satisfied that a school could not be built at Maddiston without the rates being brought up to 1s 5d per £. It would perhaps be a serious matter for the two or three members who were left on the Board to incur the additional expenditure which would be entailed upon the ratepayers consequent upon their agreeing to erect a new school at Maddiston. The Chairman said he agreed with Mr Mackay's remarks. There was no doubt that the Board agreed to the erection of a mixed school in Maddiston on account of their having before them the prospect of a large addition to the population of the neighbourhood in consequence of the development of its minerals. It now turned out that there would be no minerals wrought in the neighbourhood, and that the population would not be materially increased. Whether the present Board carried the thing out or not the question would have to be considered whether it would be better to erect a school at Maddiston or to build an addition to the Muiravonside School. Personally he was in favour of an infant school being erected at Maddiston. Mr Mackay - Hear, hear. Mr Binnie - Do you say that the Board agreed to build a mixed school at Maddiston at a meeting from which the chairman and Mr Reid were absent? The Chairman - Yes; do you not remember of me writing you a letter on the subject? Mr Binnie - How does it happen that it was agreed to build the mixed school by 5 votes to 2? Mr Mackay - It was the infant school which the Board agreed to build by 5 votes to 2. The Chairman (to Mr Binnie) - I wrote you a letter saying that I did not think the Board had any right to alter its decision except at a full meeting. Mr Binnie said he was strongly of opinion that the Board unanimously agreed to build a mixed school at Maddiston. The minutes would bear that out. Mr Mackay - They will not, sir. I am perfectly clear on the matter. The Chairman - I remember of not being present at the meeting, and of reading of the Board's decision in the newspapers. Mr Binnie - Can you tell me how the rates will be raised to 1s 5d per £ on account of the building of the new school? Mr Mackay - I can. It is estimated that the rates will amount to 1s per £ this year. Next year 2d per £ would be added as glebe money, and I estimate that the erection of the new school and a teacher's house will represent an additional 3d or 4d per £. Mr Binnie - But there is no schoolhouse in the estimates. Mr Mackay - There will be an extra burden on the rates if we build a new school; and I am satisfied as I am that I am in Maddiston that the rates will be raised to 1s 5d per £. Mr Binnie - I don't believe it. The Clerk at this stage read an excerpt from the minute of a meeting of the Board held on the 2nd July, 1895. The minute bore that the chairman and Mr Reid were absent, and that it was agreed, on the motion of Mr Murray, seconded by Mr Bryce, that the Board proceed with the erection of a mixed school at Maddiston to accommodate 150 children. Mr Mackay dissented. The Chairman - Is the Board prepared to

do something at this meeting in regard to this matter? Mr. Binnie - I consider that the season is too far advanced now to do anything. Mr. Mackay - It is for the meeting to consider whether anything should be done. The Chairman - I do not know that the season is too far advanced. Mr. Binnie - We will be into winter a bit before the school is finished at any rate. Mr. Mackay - I am of opinion that an infant school should be built. The Chairman - I move that Mr. Strang, architect, be instructed to alter his former plan so that it will be suited for an infant school at Maddiston. Mr. Mackay - I do not think the plan requires any alteration. We should simply adopt the infant room of the former plan, and make it of such a size that it will accommodate 100 children. Let the original plan remain in the possession of the Board, and they can work upon it in five or ten years hence if need be. The Board will thus be at no more expense in the way of preparing plans. The chairman's motion was unanimously agreed to and Messrs Mackay, Binnie, and Wilson were appointed a committee with powers to see the terms of it carried out. The Board agreed to take up the question of teachers' salaries at a meeting to be held next month. This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 22nd August 1896
THE MADDISTON BOILER EXPLOSION.
BOARD OF TRADE INQUIRY.
EXTRAORDINARY DISCLOSURES.

On Wednesday a Board of Trade inquiry was held in the Falkirk; Sheriff Court under the Boiler Explosion Acts into the circumstances attending the boiler explosion at Maddiston Brick Works on the morning of the 28th July, when two men were killed, and on injured. The Commissioners were Mr. O. K. McKenzie. Advocate, Edinburgh (presiding); and Mr David Crighton, consulting engineer, Edinburgh. The agents were-Mr Duncan M'Niven. Writer, Glasgow, for Mr Alexander McGregor, solicitor, Glasgow, for the Board of Trade; Mr James Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk, for Mr Hugh Peden, the lessee of the works ; and Mr Thos. Gibson, solicitor, Falkirk, for Mr. Livingstone- Learmonth the proprietor of the works. Mr R. McDougal, S.S.C., Edinburgh, watched the inquiry on behalf of the relatives of the deceased and for John Gillespie, the workman who was injured by the explosion. The following were by the Board of Trade made parties to the inquiry:-"Mr Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall and Craigend, the proprietor of the works and the boiler; Mr Hugh Peden, the sole partner of the Maddiston Brick and Fire Clay Company; Mr. Murdoch McNicol, boilermaker, Airdrie; and Mr John Cochrane, engineer in the employment of Mr Peden. The questions framed by the Board of Trade to be answered by the inquiry were: - (1) to whom did the boiler belong, and by whom was it made? When was it erected at the Maddiston Brick Works? (2) Was the boiler properly constructed, and of good material, and was it strong enough to stand the pressure at which it was worked? (3) In particular, was the shell of the boiler of a construction and strength to stand the pressure to which it was subjected? (4) Was the boiler on the date of the explosion in a good, safe, and efficient working state? (5) Had the boiler all the proper and necessary appliances for being worked with safety? (6) What means were taken from time to time to make sure that the boiler was in good and proper working order, and could be used with safety and without danger to life; and did the owners do all in their power to make it fit to be used with safety? (7) Was the boiler worked properly? Was it worked at a proper and safe pressure, and was every precaution against explosion taken? (8) Were there proper means and appliances for filling the boiler with water and keeping it supplied, and was a sufficient quantity of water supplied and kept in the boiler on the 28th July, 1896, to ensure its being worked with safety? (9) Was the superintendence, working, and management of the boiler entrusted to a competent person or persons, and was proper care and skill shown in such working and management? (10) By whom was the boiler last inspected? Was the person or persons to whom the inspection was entrusted competent to discover any defects therein? What was the nature of the inspection? Was it efficient, and were the recommendations made carried out? (11) What repairs had been made on the boiler? What was the nature of these repairs, and were they properly executed? (12) Was the boiler insured, and, if so, with whom, and for how much? (13) What was the cause of the explosion? (14) Does blame attach to any person, and, if so, to whom? George Campbell, examined by Mr. McNiven', said he was a surveyor in the employment of the Board of Trade, Glasgow. He was instructed to make an investigation into the circumstances attending the explosion at Maddiston on the 28th July last, and he had prepared a report, a copy of which he read to the Court. In the course of his report, witness stated that the name of the maker of the boiler was unknown, and that it was at least twenty-three years old. The explosion was caused by the boiler having corroded away on the outside to such a serious extent along the bottom as to render it unsafe to be worked at any useful pressure, through it 3 having been reduced in thickness, varying from 1-16th to 1-64th of an inch. Mr. McKenzie-"What thickness would you require in order that the boiler might be safe for any useful pressure? The original thickness of the shell plates appear to have been 3/8 of an inch. Witness -You must either maintain the plate; at their ordinary thickness, or reduce the pressure of steam in the boiler. Mr. McKenzie -Suppose that the thickness were reduced to a quarter of an inch, would the boiler be safe for a useful pressure? Witness -It might be safe for a useful pressure, but you would have to reduce the pressure considerably. In his further examination, witness produced drawings made by him of the boiler in its original state, and the state in which it was after the explosion. The first drawing referred to was made up from the measurements taken after the explosion, and he was able, from what remained of the boiler, to reconstruct it as it was originally. Mr. McNiven- Supposing that this boiler was to be worked at a pressure from 45 to 50, what would be the proper thickness? Witness- Nothing less than 3/8 of an inch. Mr. McNiven-Do you think that a proper inspection of this boiler would have revealed its defective condition? Witness-"It would have done so. Q.-" Would hydraulic pressure or steam also have shown the condition of the boiler? A.-"Had the boiler been properly tested, these defects would have been found out without any hydraulic test. In testing a boiler, I test it at twice its working pressure. Q. -"Had this boiler any margin of safety? A.-" It was not fit to be worked at any pressure whatever. I say that the boiler has been worked in a dangerous condition for a considerable time. I could imagine from the appearance of it that the boiler has been going on in this condition for a year or two. Q. -"What would it be necessary to do to inspect this defective part of the boiler? A. -It would be necessary for the inspector to go inside the boiler, and examine the plates, and sound the plates with a hammer. An examination of the inside of the boiler, which could have been readily made, coupled with an examination of the outside of the boiler should have revealed the state of the boiler. The boiler could have been examined in the outside by going through the flues near the shell of the boiler. The weakest part of the boiler was resting on brickwork. Continuing, witness said, in answer to Mr. M'Nicol, that if anyone had taken a hammer and examined the boiler inside, he was quite sure they would have found out its defects. The defects in the boiler could have been seen without taking down the brickwork. It would have been, of course, necessary, in order to examine the outside of the plate, to take down some part of the brickwork. It would have been quite an easy thing to test a boiler by hydraulic pressure when repairs were being made, or at any time. By Mr. Wilson-"Q.-"Did Mr. Cochrane not tell you that he examined the boiler between the dates you mention in your report? A. -"I do not remember if he did. He told me it was repaired in July, 1895, and thoroughly examined in June, 1896, when no repairs were considered necessary. Q.-If there had been any defect found in the boiler after it was examined, whose fault was it? A. - The man who examined the boiler. Assuming that Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth and Mr. Peden thought Mr. Cochrane was a qualified man, they were quite entitled to trust to his report. Q. -"What pressure do you think it would be safe to work a boiler at, if the shell was only 1-6th of an inch in thickness? A. -I cannot say right off. I would require to go into a calculation. Had the boiler been properly inspected on the two dates already mentioned, I think the defects would have been discovered. I think had any competent man, in 1896, gone into this boiler and sounded the bottom with a hammer, the defective part would have been discovered, even although it was resting on brickwork. In the present case

the plate was so thin that the hammer would knock a hole through it. The plate would give a dull sound. Q.-"Would you not have a dull sound if the plate was thicker? A.-"There would have been a dull sound, but not the same kind of sound. Q. -"What do you consider a competent man? Would a man who had been all his lifetime amongst boilers, who had often inspected boilers, and inspected this one before, be a competent man? Are you prepared to say whether Cochrane was a competent man or not? A. -"I do not know whether he was or not. Had the boiler been tested by hydraulic pressure, it would have leaked to such an extent that the defects would have been discovered. By Mr (Gibson-"I have no objection to make to the original construction of the boiler. Boilers did rest on brickwork occasionally. Besides testing a boiler by the hammer, there is a way of testing it by boring a hole in the plate. Had this boiler given forth a dull sound, I would have been put on the alert, and would have bored a hole in the plate to ascertain its thickness. A thick plate would have had a clear ring. Mr. Cochrane and Mr. M'Nicol, who were not represented by agents, were allowed an opportunity of examining the witness, but they did not avail themselves of it- Re-examined by Mr. McNiven -"I cut a piece out of the shell of the boiler, which I produce in Court. It varies in thickness from 1-16th to 1-64th of an inch. Mr. Crighton (examining the portion of the boiler) -"It is almost as thin as a knife edge. By Mr. McKenzie -" Looking to the fact that this boiler was at least twenty-three years old the hydraulic test ought to have been applied. Most decidedly, in view of the condition in which this boiler was before the explosion, a test should have been made by boring, because in sounding the shell of the boiler the sound must have indicated danger. Had it only been to satisfy myself as to the condition of the boiler, and to ascertain the thickness of the plate. I would have bored a hole in it. Some of the brickwork had only to be removed to reveal the condition of the plate. I am of opinion that the corrosion was external, and was caused by the boiler being set on brickwork, and being subjected to dampness. Q.-"Was the setting of the boiler a setting which would be approved of at the present time? A. -"Not unless it could be arranged that it could be taken down readily for examination. If the person working the boiler was aware of the nature of the setting that imposed on him an obligation to take greater precautions than he would if the setting had been of a more modern and improved character. I think that, irrespective of the setting of the boiler, it was the duty of the party who inspected it to look to the outside of the boiler as well as the inside. Mr. McKenzie-"How far was the brick-setting in front of the boiler? Witness -"It would be about four feet. Frank Carruthers, surveyor in the employment of the Board of Trade, Glasgow, said he was present when Mr Campbell made the inquiry into the circumstances attending the boiler explosion at Maddiston, and he concurred generally in the evidence given by him. Witness did not think the boiler was ever tested by a hammer. That was his opinion from what he saw. Mr. McKenzie-"What was it that led you to that conclusion? Witness -"Had it been tested by a hammer, the hammer would have gone through it. Mr. Gibson -"I suppose that any damp ashes getting at the bottom of the boiler would have corroded it? Witness-"Yes. Mr. Hugh Peden, examined by Mr. McNiven, deposed that he was the sole partner of the Maddiston Brick and Fire Clay Company. He entered into possession of the work in 1885 under a ten years' lease. Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth was the proprietor of the works. When witness took possession of the works he had other two partners, but they retired in 1888 and since that time he had carried on the business himself. The lease expired at Whitsunday, 1895, and he had since continued as a yearly tenant on the same conditions as in the original lease. He employed from sixteen to twenty hands in the brickwork and from eight to ten hands in the quarry. The lease included the fixed plant of the brickwork, and there was a boiler included in the fixed plant. It was valued at £110 in 1885. There was only one boiler in the work-, and that was the boiler which had exploded. The boiler was not new when he took possession of the works, and he could not tell its age. He could not say who erected the boiler, or whether it was new when put in or not. He had no practical knowledge of boilers. He thought that all the fittings of the boiler were in good working order. Andrew Lang, the engineman had the immediate charge of the boiler, but John Cochrane was the inspector. Cochrane had been in the works since witness took possession, and he had had charge of the machinery since then. He fancied he had had previous experience of boilers before he was employed there. He was not taken into employment by witness, but by one of his partners, and he understood that Cochrane was thoroughly well recommended. Cochrane made it a rule to wash out the boiler every three or four months and there was comparatively little deposit in it when washed out. It was Cochrane's duty to point out any defects in the boiler, and anything he reported as being wrong was at once put right. If it was a simple repair, he did it himself, but if not, a boilermaker was called in. Witness never had the boiler inspected by any boiler inspector, and it was not insured. He did not know whether it was ever tested, either by hydraulic pressure or by steam. The boiler had been twice repaired. In December, 1891, Mr. Thomas Osborne, boilermaker, Grangemouth, repaired it, and his account amounted to £53. On the 31st July, 1895, Messrs Shields and M'Nicol, boilermakers, Airdrie, put a small patch on the bottom of the shell, and their account amounted to £13 10s. His instruction to Mr. M'Nicol in July, 1895, was to examine the part of the boiler which was reported to be defective, and to put it right. He did not think he told him to examine any other part of the boiler and see if anything was necessary, as he relied on Cochrane telling him what was necessary. Mr. M'Nicol never suggested to witness that the boiler should be inspected. There was no hydraulic pressure put on the boiler after the repairs. It was filled with cold water afterwards, but he could not say whether there was any leakage. He had no suspicion that there was anything wrong with the boiler before the explosion occurred. He had the impression that it was a particularly good boiler and that it was particularly well taken care of. Mr. McNiven here read from the lease, which showed that the witness bound himself to uphold and maintain the machinery at the works (including the boiler) in a thorough state of repair, and in his further examination witness said that he did not understand that the conditions of the lease imposed on him any obligation to have the boiler properly inspected by a boiler inspector. When he had made such repairs as occurred to Mr. Cochrane and himself as being necessary, he considered that that was all he was bound to do under the lease. He did not consider that he was under any obligation to call in a boiler inspector. The idea never suggested itself to him or he would have done so. He was aware that no inspections were being made by Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth. Witness saw the boiler on the morning of the explosion before it took place, and the water-glass was half-full when he looked at it. He did not consider any inspection of the boiler was necessary after his own man examined it. By Mr. Wilson-"When Cochrane examined the boiler in June last, I asked him if he was satisfied, and he said it was all right. I also asked him how long he had been working at it, and he said seven hours. My partner, when he engaged Cochrane told me that he was a thoroughly practical man. By Mr. Gibson-"I thought that the boiler was a particularly good boiler. I do not know that I looked at the boiler when I entered into the lease, but my partner did and he was a thoroughly practical man. The boiler was in good condition when I entered into possession of the works. I understood that I undertook to uphold the boiler and machinery and to renew and replace anything that was necessary. I understood that some degree of inspection was necessary to let me know what was to be done, and I employed a practical man to look to that. I never spoke to Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth about this boiler, and never required to speak to him. When I called in the Airdrie firm to repair the boiler, there was a leakage of steam, which indicated weakness, and I told the firm to put right what was defective. I am not aware that Mr. M'Nicol called my attention to any particular thinness of the plate. Mr. M'Nicol -"Who did you ask to examine the boiler? Witness -"I asked you to come down and repair it. Mr. M'Nicol -"That is not true. You asked a man to come and "caulk" the boiler. By Mr. McKenzie-"Mr. Cochrane was paid 7d an hour, or about 30s per week. From the way he did his work I always considered he was a thoroughly practical man, and he has always done everything from the first in a thoroughly practical way. Q. -If Cochrane had done anything in an improper way, do you think you had sufficient knowledge to control him? A. - I do not. Cochrane understood he was to have charge of the boiler, and to inspect it whenever necessary. It did not occur to me to have the boiler thoroughly overhauled by M'Nicol, as Cochrane did not suggest it to me. Q. -Did, you not apply your own mind to it? A.-I devoted my attention to the commercial part of the business. Q. -Looking back now, do

you not think it would have been prudent on your part to have asked M'Nicol to examine the boiler, and see if it was all right in other parts? A.-Certainly; but it never occurred to me then that that was necessary to be done. John Cochrane, the blacksmith and engineer at the works, examined by Mr M'Niven, gave evidence as to the examinations he made of the boiler, and particularly that in June last. On that occasion, he said, he tapped the boiler with a hammer, tapping as hard as he could, considering the confined position he was in. Although the boiler had in some parts become reduced in thickness to 1-46th of an inch, he could not tell that that was so by striking it with a hammer, as it was resting on the solid. He went along the bottom of the shell of the boiler on the 7th June, but saw nothing wrong then. He could not inspect the outside of the shell, and he had never seen that part of the shell since he went to the works. It never occurred to him that it was necessary to inspect the outside of the shell. He never bored any part of the boiler. He had never tested a boiler himself, but he had seen one tested. Q. -Supposing that a boiler was worked at 100 lbs. pressure, what pressure should it be tested at? A. - it should be tested at 150. Witness said that on two occasions he had called in outside assistance to have the boiler repaired, and he gave evidence as to the repairs done then. There was a hole scraped with a knife in the shell of the boiler, and it was shown to Mr. M'Nicol when he came to repair the boiler. Mr M'Nicol never made any remarks about it, and did not suggest that it should be examined in any other part. After the examination on the 7th June last, he thought that the boiler was all safe. He could not say what was the cause of the explosion, as he always thought that the boiler was safe. By Mr. Wilson- I am 42 years of age, and have been engaged amongst boilers for the last sixteen years. I have been present at the testing of boilers since I came to Maddiston. I inspected this boiler every four month and if I found anything wrong I told Mr. Peden., who never delayed having anything I suggested done. After the last examination I told Mr. Peden the boiler was quite safe, when I saw the boiler on the morning of the explosion the pressure was 30 lbs., and I thought it was perfectly safe at that. Mr. M'Nicol put on one big patch on the bottom of the boiler, and I thought that was efficient, as also did Mr. M'Nicol and his man. If they had thought it necessary anything else that was required would have been done at once. By Mr. Gibson-When I saw this part of the plate so thin it did not occur to me to make any further examination, as this part had been corroded with ashes. His experience did not permit of him saying that the fact of a boiler resting on brick and lime gave rise to a tendency to corrode. If he had taken out a brick or two he could have tested the bottom of the boiler if he had thought it necessary. As the boiler was lying on a solid, it gave a true sound whether the bottom plate was thick or thin, and although that was so he did not think he should have made another test. By Mr. McKenzie- When I went to the Maddiston works ten years ago, I was only blacksmith. The engineman had charge of the boiler. I had only the special charge of the boiler after the passing of the Act in January, 1895. Prior to that I had frequently washed out the boiler and examined it to the best of my knowledge. It is fourteen years ago since I saw a boiler tested. That is the only boiler I have seen tested. In June, 1896, I saw no indication of leakage, but in July, 1895. I reported to Mr. Peden there was a leak a rivet head. The weak part discovered in the boiler then was due to corrosion. Andrew Lang, examined by Mr. M'Nicol deponed that he was the engineman at the Maddiston Brick Works, and was in charge of the engine which exploded. The fittings on the boiler were in good working order. The boiler had only been once cleaned out since witness came to Maddiston, which was not long ago. It would be cleaned out five or six weeks before the explosion. Cochrane, the lad Forsyth, who was killed, and another man were engaged cleaning the boiler, but witness gave them no assistance they had hammers with them, and witness heard "chapping" inside the boiler. The boiler was damped down at nights. He was at the works at half-past five on the morning of the explosion, and he drew the dampers and "kindled up." When he left for breakfast the water was half glass. That would cover the flues. There was 35 lbs. of pressure on the boiler when he last saw it. He could not say what was the cause of the explosion. He never knew of there being any defects in the boiler, and, so far as he knew, it was all right. John Gillespie, who appeared to be suffering from lameness, and walked into the witness-box with the assistance of a stick, examined by Mr. McNiven, said he attended to one of the pan mills at the brickworks. He assisted Cochrane and Forsyth to clean the boiler about eight weeks ago. He saw Cochrane go into the boiler, and he might have gone into the manholes under the flues, although witness did not see him. Witness did not know of any defects in the boiler. On the morning of the explosion he was some ten or fifteen yards from the boiler when the accident occurred. He was knocked down by the stones and bricks, and rendered unconscious. Witness took barrowfuls of dirt from the flues, but he could not say what quantity of sediment came from the boiler. By Mr. Wilson-Although I did not see Cochrane go into the manhole, I have no doubt he was there. It was soot which I took out of the flues. John Buttery, boilermakers Airdrie, deponed that he was in the employment of Messrs Shields and M'Nicol, boilermakers. Airdrie, and had been twenty-three years at the trade. In July, 1895 he was instructed by Mr. M'Nicol to go and "caulk" the boiler at Maddiston Brick Work. He found that the boiler could not be "caulked," as there was a hole in it. The hole was caused by corrosion, through the boiler coming in contact with brick and ashes. In Mr Peden's presence he put his knife through the bottom of the boiler. Next day Mr M'Nicol visited the works with witness, and marked off a portion of the plate, which was to be renewed. The boiler did not appear frail and worn out where witness was working, and it did not occur to him when he put his knife through the plate that a similar state of "affairs might exist elsewhere. The bottom flues were very dirty when witness saw them. By Mr. Wilson-I saw leakage in the boiler, and I put my knife through the plate to show- Mr. Peden that something was needed, and he at once said it would have to be repaired. It is no uncommon thing to work a boiler until it is 40 years old. By Mr. Gibson- I thought that the corrosion had been caused by water being put on the ashes before they were removed. Re-examined by Mr. McNiven- A boiler twenty-three years old is considered a comparatively old boiler, and when it reaches that age the examination should be more careful. I cut out all the plate that I thought thin at that point, and left the boiler in what I thought to be a thoroughly safe condition. Murdoch M'Nicol, examined by Mr. McNiven said he was a partner of the firm of Shields and M'Nicol, boilermakers, Airdrie. He remembered of Mr. Peden calling upon him in July, 1895, and asking him to send a man to " caulk" the boiler. At three o'clock the same day he sent the witness Buttery to take his tools, and go off with Mr. Peden to Maddiston. About nine o'clock in the evening of the same day Buttery called upon him and told him that the boiler could not be caulked, and that he would require a squad of men to put it right. Next day he accompanied him to the works, and "chalked" off a piece of the plate, which required to be renewed. He did not examine the boiler, as he had not been asked to do so. If he had spoken of any other part of the boiler, it might have been thought that he was trying to make work. That was the general complaint, and he thought it better, when asked to do a job of the kind, just to do what he was told, and to push away as quick as he could. (Laughter.) With the exception of the bit he saw he thought the rest of the boiler was sufficiently strong. Witness had never tested a boiler by tapping, if a boiler was 3/8 of an inch thick, and if it ultimately became reduced to 1/8 of an inch, he would not test it by tapping. He would have gone below the boiler, and seen the corrosion. By Mr. Wilson- If he had seen any other defective bit at that part of the boiler he would have followed it up and renewed it also. This was all the evidence for the Board of Trade. Mr. Cochrane and Mr. McNicol intimated that they had no witnesses to examine. The agents then addressed the Board of Trade Commissioners. Mr. McNiven, who spoke first, contended that in this case the explosion was due to negligence in the supervision of the boiler. The boiler, he said, was an old one. Its exact age could not be ascertained, but it was well over twenty years of age. It had reached an age when those connected with it should have known that it had nearly run its course; and it had reached an age at which, if it was to be worked with safety, it should have been worked with care. He could not say that any such care had been exercised in the case of this boiler. As regarded Mr. McNicol, he repaired the boiler in July, 1895, and the evidence showed that at that time the boiler was in a most dangerous condition. He held that Mr. McNicol had been too modest about expressing an opinion with respect to this boiler, and he could not do otherwise than call him as a party to the inquiry, and make him subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. Coming now to Cochrane, that

man was the works engineer; he had charge of the boiler, and made such inspections of it as were made. To a person of Mr. Cochrane's experience, it was a most extraordinary thing that the shell of this boiler should have been worn from $\frac{3}{8}$ ths to $\frac{1}{64}$ th of an inch without his being aware of the fact. Cochrane explained that the boiler resting on bricks, and that his method of tapping was useless at that part, but surely he should have had those bricks removed to see what was the condition of the boiler at that part. But Cochrane was not a skilled boiler inspector. He had no knowledge enabling him to say when the limit of safety of this boiler had been reached. His experience was only such as enabled him to say when the boiler was properly cleaned out, but he had, not sufficient skill to make a thorough test of the boiler. The question as regarded him, therefore, was whether he neglected or was unable to do the duty which was expected of him to do. It was very difficult to see how Mr. Peden could escape an imputation of fault. He knew that the boiler was old, and he took no steps to insure it or to call in skilled inspector to see the condition it was in. The evidence showed that had any proper inspection taken place within some considerable time from the day of the explosion; it would have revealed the fact that the boiler could not be worked with safety. He was not suggesting that it was the duty of Mr. Peden to call in a skilled inspector, but if he failed to do so he left on himself the imputation of failing to find out when the limit of safety had been reached. It was clear that in this case the limit of safety had been reached and that he was unaware of that fact. In these circumstances, he must hold that Mr. Peden was to blame. It was also difficult to see how Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth could get away from an imputation of fault. He was the owner of the boiler, and Mr. Peden took the responsibility of keeping it in repair. But the question was - "Did Mr. Learmonth put on Mr. Peden an obligation which relieved himself of responsibility. It did not seem to him (Mr. McNiven) that he had done so. In the case of the letting out of a boiler, it was the duty of the owner of it himself to see that it was properly inspected, or to bind the tenant to relieve him of such periodical inspection. Mr. McKenzie - If you cannot suggest that there is any fault with the original construction of the boiler, I cannot see how you can prove that there is any fault on the part of Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth. Mr. McNiven - Supposing that Mr. Peden has been doing all that he is entitled to do and that whenever a leak is seen he gets a patch put on it, he might go on patching until the boiler gets wrought up. Sooner or later the boiler would go off with, perhaps, the most lamentable consequences. Some responsibility may attach to Mr. Learmonth for letting out the boiler on a long lease without ascertaining when the limit of safety in working the boiler had been reached. I merely mention those facts to show the ground which the Board of Trade had for calling the gentlemen I have named as parties to the inquiry. The Court would agree with him that, with the evidence before them which had been led, the Board of Trade could not do otherwise than call those gentlemen as parties in order to make them subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. Mr. Wilson addressed the Court for Mr. Peden. He stated that in 1885 Mr. Peden, along with two partners, took the brickwork. They found the boiler there, and they came under an obligation to keep it up. They kept it up, and got it repaired whenever repairs were found necessary. The price of the boiler was stated in the inventory to be £110, and in 1891 the firm paid £53 for repairing it, which showed that considerable repair had been done then. In 1895 some repairs were also made. The boiler was not Mr. Peden's, and he was not bound to replace it if it became useless. Was Mr. Peden to be bound to take down the brickwork of the boiler in order to make an examination of it, and, if so, how often was he to take it down? Mr. Peden had trusted to Cochrane. It was known he was trusting to him, and no one ever suggested that there was anything wrong. The explosion had occurred, but to Mr. Peden it was most unexpected, as it was to every one else. He submitted that there was no responsibility on Mr. Peden to have the boiler thoroughly inspected by an outside party. Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth could have put him under an obligation to get the boiler insured, as he was the proprietor of it. If the boiler had been insured it would have been periodically tested by an experienced man. But Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth did not insure the boiler, and Mr. Peden did not think it worth his while to insure another man's property. Mr. Gibson, for Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth, contended that there was nothing wrong in the construction of the boiler. It was built in a way in which boilers were built at the present time. Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth thus began his connection with the boiler with thoroughly clean hands, and it would require something more than what Mr. McNiven had stated to show that there had occurred anything, since the lease began in 1885, to charge him with responsibility. The lease was very distinct in its terms. It said that the lessee should be bound during the whole continuance, of the lease to uphold and maintain the plant, and the plant included the boiler, in thorough repair, and in a good and efficient condition. But there was more than that, for the lease further stated that the lessee should be bound to renew and replace such part of the works, engine, machinery, and tramway as should from time to time be worn out, or otherwise rendered unserviceable. There was there an obligation on Mr. Peden to "replace and renew." Mr. Peden accepted the responsibility, and throughout took the responsibility on himself, and he made such inspection of the boiler as he thought was necessary. The duty of inspection was laid on Mr. Cochrane, and he fulfilled it according to his lights. Mr. Peden would have been better advised if, when Mr. McNicol and Mr. Buttery pointed out the defect in the boiler, he had had it thoroughly examined. He did not do so, however, and there was no obligation on Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth to have it examined. His position was that he had given Mr. Peden a good subject, and Mr. Peden was bound to restore it to him in good condition. Mr. McNicol and Mr. Cochrane having stated that they had no remarks to make.

THE FINDING OF THE COURT.

The Court retired to consider what finding should be come to. After an absence of about fifteen minutes, the Commissioners returned, and Mr. McKenzie said that it had been the practice in these investigations for the Court, if possible, at the conclusion of the investigation to deliver their finding on the question of fault, leaving for after consideration the more detailed report, which was, in terms of the Act of Parliament, drawn up by them and presented to the Board of Trade. So, therefore, the question that the Court had to announce its decision in regard to was whether any of the parties to the inquiry were to blame for the lamentable occurrence which took place at Maddiston on the 28th July last. Now, in regard to the cause of the explosion, there was, they thought, no doubt whatever. Indeed, the evidence upon that point was all to the same effect. There was no conflicting evidence, as there sometimes was in inquiries of that sort. The cause of the explosion, in the opinion of the Court, was that the shell of the boiler had become weakened by external corrosion. The Court were of opinion that corrosion existed along nearly the whole length of that part of the boiler which rested on the central wall. That wall was built of brick and lime, and probably the presence of the lime, and also the fact that there in all probability was also leakage, set up the corrosion which had prevailed for some considerable time, the exact length of time not being ascertained. The effect of that corrosion, as indeed its result, was to weaken the shell of the boiler to such an extent that, whereas it was originally $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in thickness, it had thinned down to $\frac{1}{64}$ th of an inch, with the result that it was totally unable to resist any useful pressure. It was stated to the Court that the ordinary working pressure of the boiler in question was about 50 lbs. Now, the cause of the explosion not being in dispute, the next question which arose was as to the position of the various parties who had been made by the Board of Trade - and quite properly, in the opinion of the Court - parties to the inquiry. These were Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth, Mr. Peden, Mr. McNicol, and Mr. Cochrane. It was very desirable that, in inquiries of this sort, parties in the position of these persons should be brought within the jurisdiction of the Court. Now, Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth's position was, the Court thought, a clear one. It had not been proved in evidence that there was any original defect in the construction of the boiler. - It was handed over to Mr. Peden as lessee, and without entering into any question of the construction of the lease, with regard to which there was some controversy, it was perfectly plain that Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth could not be in fault unless it could be proved that there was an original defect in the construction of the boiler, or that he had, failed to take due steps on notice being sent to him by Mr. Peden that the boiler had become unfit for use. But no such notice was sent by Mr. Peden to Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth. Mr. McNicol was summoned to the works in June, 1895, to repair a particular part of the boiler, which was

pointed out to him, and the Court was of opinion that he was quite justified in taking up the position that he was under no obligation to offer his services to overhaul the whole of the boiler. His view was that he was employed to do a particular piece of work. He did it and there his connection with the boiler ended. Had it been at the point where Mr. McNicol did his work that the weakness in the boiler was and had the explosion been due to the inefficient way in which he had done that work, it would have been a different matter. But that was not the case, as the boiler exploded at a point further along. With regard to Mr. Cochrane, the view which the Court took in regard to him was that he, so far as could be judged from the evidence, did his best, and acted up to his lights. It was not proved that he neglected to do what he thought was his duty. But it was proved with considerable clearness - indeed, by the admission of Cochrane himself that he had no practical experience whatever in testing boiler., that he had indeed seen a boiler tested on one occasion, and that occasion was fourteen years ago, and that that was the only occasion on which he had seen a boiler tested. He seemed to have been employed at the works for ten years - for the first four of these as blacksmith, and for the last six he seemed to have been employed, along with other persons, in cleaning out the boiler, and, after the passing of the recent Act, when a notice was posted up in the works he was the person on whom the responsibility was cast to take charge of the boiler. What was it that Cochrane did in the way of inspection? He seemed to have applied to a certain extent the test of the hammer. The Court was agreed, with regard to that, that the application of the hammer to this boiler should have revealed to a competent person a state of matters requiring further investigation, was evidence to the effect that a proper inspection would have revealed the defects which existed in the boiler, and upon the point of what inspection should have been made they had had evidence from two experts that it was necessary to examine this boiler on the outside, because the corrosion was external corrosion. Now, Cochrane never saw that part of the shell of the boiler which rested on the bricks. It never occurred to him to make such an examination, although he admitted in the evidence he gave that it would have been quite to take out the brick to ascertain with certainty what the state of the boiler was so far as it rested on this 18 inches of brick building. Other tests were suggested as appropriate in the circumstances, and it was stated that, although the hydraulic test was not a test which was necessary in ordinary cases, that was a test which would have been appropriate. Another test suggested was that boring should have been resorted to and it was said that had that test been applied the defects in the boiler would have been ascertained. Now, these different tests did not seem to have suggested themselves to Cochrane at all. Another conclusion at which the Court had arrived with regard to Cochrane was that he was not a competent person to be entrusted with the inspection of this boiler. Therefore his position was that no actual fault attaches to him, because he did what he thought was his duty. If he failed, the reason of his failure was that he was ignorant. When they approached the position of Mr. Peden, different considerations came into play. Mr. Peden, according to the view of the Court, was the party responsible for the boiler. He was the sole partner of the Maddiston Brick Works, and he was responsible for the proper working of the business, of which he had the sole control. He was responsible for the boiler, and the responsibility attaches to him unless he was able to show that he entrusted the inspection of the boiler to a competent person. He was ignorant himself in regard to boilers, he had no practical experience, and he went so far as to admit in the witness box that he thought it would have been prudent to have had the boiler overhauled, and another inspection made by a person not in his Own employment. The Court was of opinion that Mr. Peden should have realised that fact as far back as the month of June. 1895. As it was they discovered that there was weakness in the boiler due to corrosion, and that should have suggested to a man in his position that he should not have been content with putting a patch on where there was this weakness, but that he should have given instructions to have a thorough inspection made, so that he could have a safe boiler to work with. He was not warranted in entrusting Cochrane with the inspection, as he was not a competent man to examine the boiler. In that case the Court found that there was fault with Mr. Peden. Wilful fault there was none, but in the circumstances of the case they considered tint blame did attach to Mr. Peden, because he employed Cochrane, who was not competent to inspect the boiler, and to discover the defects therein. Mr. McNiven asked that Mr. Peden be found liable in the expenses of the inquiry. Mr. Wilson-Mr. Peden has done the best he could in the circumstances, and as it is not a case of wilful fault, I do not think he should be called on to pay the expenses of the inquiry. Mr. McKenzie - "The Court are of opinion, that Mr. Peden should pay a sum of £25 toward the cost of the inquiry".

DEATHS

JOHNSTON. - At Dykehead Farm, Avonbridge, on the 18th inst., Ann Johnston, aged 73 years. All friends please accept this intimation.

Falkirk Herald 29th August 1896

MADDISTON. THE PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY.

MEETING OF THE RATEPAYERS OF MADDISTON, RUMFORD, AND CRAIGS.

A meeting of the ratepayers of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs was held at Maddiston on Wednesday evening to re-consider what steps ought to be taken with regard to the proposed water scheme. There was a good attendance. Mr. Robert Myles was called upon to preside. The Chairman, in his opening remarks, stated that they would all have seen the report which appeared in the Falkirk Herald with regard to the proposed water scheme for Maddiston and neighbouring villages. They, the ratepayers of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs had all along been opposed to a water scheme being imposed upon them, and one of the strongest reasons why that was so was that they considered they had an abundant supply of water at present. He believed, as an individual ratepayer, that if they saw there was any necessity for a water scheme for these villages, and if that water scheme would improve their condition, they would have welcomed any reasonable proposal to provide them with water. But when they saw, as they did clearly, that they had no need for a water supply, and particularly when they observed that the proposed new supply was to be drawn from Manuel Burn and a little burn connected with it, they had very good reason to combine in resisting an effort to force such a water scheme upon them. They were all aware of the track through which the Manuel Burn ran, and they were satisfied that from its fountain head to the river Avon it was nothing else than a receptacle for the sewerage from the houses and villages along its course. The little burn he had referred to ran through the Fishermuir, Craigend, and the back of Maddiston, and in dry weather he was sure that none of them would like to drink the water which came from that track. The Manuel Burn ran through Blackbraes itself, and carried off the sewerage of that village and the houses along its track to the reservoir; and when they took into consideration that fact, and the attempt that was made to obtain a water supply for the Maddiston Brickwork in the dry season, they would have a fair example of what their water scheme would be. Only recently, during a very dry period, the burn was simply a stagnant pool. In some parts it could scarcely be approached because of the smell which came from it. They had thus a fair idea of what the water would be like which came from that source, and in his opinion it was quite impossible to improve it. He ventured to say that it was their unanimous opinion that the scheme proposed by the County Council would not improve their present condition with regard to water supply one bit. (Hear, hear, and a Voice - "I would not drink the water.") They were there that night to take steps in order to prevent that scheme being foisted upon them. Already a petition had been drawn up and signed by almost all the ratepayers in the villages of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs against the scheme being imposed upon them, and they had met together that night for the purpose of reaffirming that resolution. They were all aware that at last public meeting a committee was appointed to wait on Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall with the view of obtaining an additional supply of water, or a local scheme of their own. The committee had arranged with Mr. Matthew Neil, a man who had an intimate knowledge of the ground in the vicinity of the villages, to make inquiry as to where water could be obtained, and he informed them that a fair quantity of water could be got in one of Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth's fields near to the villages. He approached Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth on the matter, and he said he was quite willing to allow them to have free access to any of the

fields belonging to him. Mr. Matthew Neil informed them that the additional supply which could be got from that field could be obtained at very little cost. When they took into consideration the number of ratepayers who had wells of their own, and that they had this privilege offered to them by Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth, they had strong reason to oppose the new water scheme proposed by the County Council being forced upon them. They could see from the report of the County Council meeting that it was not a water supply alone which was aimed at, and Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout, said that in all probability the water scheme would be followed by a sewerage scheme. Its outlet would require to be the River Forth, and it would be necessary that they should have a water scheme along with the drainage scheme. Although the rate for the water scheme was stated to be 71/2d per £ on owners and 91/2d per £ on occupiers, if it were coupled with a drainage scheme the rate would be almost double that. When they took into consideration all these things, he maintained again that they had very strong reason for putting down their feet against any such schemes being imposed upon them. The water scheme was only the thin end of the wedge, and if they were not on their guard, burdens would be imposed upon them which would not be taken from their shoulders during the life-time of anyone present. A promise had been made to them by an official of the County Council, which had not been fulfilled, that a pump would be put on the village well at Maddiston. Mr. Myles concluded by inviting the meeting to express its opinion for or against the scheme. Mr. John Bryce said that this was the third time they had met to express their opposition to the proposed scheme, and he did not know that he had anything to add to what had been said over and over again. It was said that a straw showed how the wind blew, and they certainly had a very good indication as to how it was blowing from the Falkirk Herald of Saturday week last. It was stated in effect by the County Council that a large area was being taken in to make the scheme pay, but he contended that that was a mean way to do. If a village wanted the water let it take it, but it should not be forced on others which did not want it and did not require it. The sanitary inspector stated that the village of Standburn had plenty of water. That statement he denied. He was there three or four days ago, and a woman who gave him a tumbler of water told him that her boy had to stand three hours that morning to get the can filled at No. 1 Pit. Then a residenter at Brightons told him there would be plenty of water there if the County Council would only repair Cameron's Well and keep the cattle out of it. Mr. Andrew McKenzie said that if the water and drainage of the villages of Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs had been bad there would have been an epidemic in them before now. The condition of the villages, from a health point of view, testified to the fact that their water and drainage was satisfactory. The proposed water scheme should be opposed tooth and nail. The Chairman proposed that the ratepayers of the three villages affirm their former resolution to oppose any water or drainage scheme being imposed on them by the County Council. Mr. Wm. Campbell seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to. The Chairman "What do you now propose to do in the way of making further provision for yourselves? Mr. Bryce -" I propose that we request our committee to call on the County Council to put the Maddiston village well into the condition it was before they interfered with it at all, or to make it to hold the same quantity of water which it before. Since the County Council tampered with the well its capacity had been reduced by one-half, and naturally, in dry weather, the water was a little scarce. The first thing which ought to be done in the way of enlarging their present supply was to get the village well restored to its former water-holding capacity. The Chairman said that if this were done a supply could be run into the well from Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth's field at very little trouble or expense. Mr. John Todd seconded Mr. Bryce's motion, which was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

MUIRAVONSIDE. PARISH CHURCH VACANCY. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

A meeting of congregation was held in the church on Tuesday night for the purpose of appointing a committee to nominate one or more persons to the congregation with the view to the election and appointment of a minister." Rev. Geo. Caruthers, Falkirk, moderator of Kirk-session, presided over a good attendance. Mr. Campbell, Blackbraes moved, and Mr. Henderson, Bedford, seconded, that Mr. George Johnston, of High Manuel, be appointed clerk of the meeting, and this was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Campbell, teacher, Blackbraes, and Mr. James Wilson, teacher, Maddiston, were appointed tellers. The moderator then read over suggestions drawn up by the general assembly for the conducting of the meeting, and relating more particularly to the composition of a committee. Mr. Henderson proposed that the committee consist of 17 members. He said it was a large parish, and to take in all the different sections of the parish he thought it advisable that the number be 17. Thirteen, he said, was too few. When they last elected a minister the committee consisted of 19. It was not too many, and quite sufficient, probably, but their session was very much larger now. Their session consisted of seven members, and they were all men who had taken a great interest in the church, and their character was beyond suspicion and their judgment good, and naturally it would be right that a good many of them at any rate should be on the committee. If they took that into consideration they would agree that 17 was a comparatively good number. Mr. Wilson, teacher, seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to. nominations were then taken, when the names of 24 gentlemen were put to the vote, and of these the following 17 were elected:- Messrs William Henderson, Bedford; Archibald Campbell, Blackbraes; John Stirling, of Muiravonside; Wm. Blyth, stationmaster, Manuel; James Wilson, teacher, Maddiston; James Ballantine, Avonbank; Colonel Stirling of Tarduff; Robert Bowie, Gilmeadowland; Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse; Thomas Johnston, High Manuel; Thomas Wilson, Maddiston; Robert Wilson, Candie House; Matthew Henderson, session-clerk, Dykeneuck cottage, the loan; George Shanks, Gillandersland; D. B. Watt, Schoolhouse, Muiravonside; Peter Malcolm, cemetery cottage, Muiravonside; James Horn, the Loan. At the conclusion of the meeting, votes of thanks were accorded the moderator, clerk, and tellers for their services that evening. The committee subsequently met and appointed Mr. Henderson convener. It was, we are informed, arranged that the clerk should insert a notice in the newspapers advertising the vacancy, and stating that applications, with copies of testimonials, should be forwarded to him as clerk to committee, on or before Friday, 4th September. The committee arranged to meet in the church on the afternoon of Saturday, 5th September, at 5 o'clock, to receive and go over the applications.

AVONBRIDGE

U.P. CHURCH. - On Sabbath last the U.P. Church was re-opened after painting. There was a good attendance at the morning service, and the Rev. James B.G. Rouse preached from the text, Psalm xc. 17 - "And let the beauty of the Lord or God be upon us." In the evening there was a service of praise. Mr Doig, Painter, Slamannan, was entrusted with the painting of the church, and he has displayed great taste in the effective blending of the colours and in the ornamental work.

Falkirk Herald 2nd September 1896

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Friday.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-substitute, Chas. S. Gauld.)

THEFT OF COAL. - Elizabeth Grant or Conlin, wife of Robert Conlin, miner, and Margaret Sharp, daughter of Alexander Sharp, miner, sheds, Muiravonside, were charged with having on 26th August at the west Craighend colliery, occupied by John Logan & sons, stolen 140 lbs. of coal, accused both pleaded guilty. Mrs. Conlin stated that she did not take any coal out of the waggons. She had just removed to a new house, and having no fuel in the house to prepare a meal she had taken some of the small pieces lying on the line. The fiscal said that the people in the district when in want of coal seemed to think that they could go anywhere and take what was lying about. The present and other cases had been brought to warn the

people. A fine of 2s 6d, with the alternative of twenty-four hours' imprisonment was imposed upon each of the accused.

AN OLD OFFENCE. – Robert love, miner, Standburn, was placed at the bar on a charge of having, on 5th October, 1895, on the public road opposite and near to the Bridgehill Inn, committed a breach of the peace. Accused pleaded guilty. The fiscal said that accused had disappeared from the neighbourhood after the committal of the offence. A fine of 15s was imposed, the alternative being fourteen days' imprisonment. He had been previously convicted.

Falkirk Herald 5th September 1896

Charge against a Standburn Man. – A man named Robert Anderson, 43 years of age, a brusher, residing at Standburn emitted a declaration before Honorary Sheriff-substitute Watson in the sheriff court on Monday, and was committed to prison pending further enquiry on a charge of assault with intent. It is alleged that on Saturday night the wife of a pit bottomer, living in Standburn, went to the house of the accused to visit his wife. The accused and his wife were quarrelling, and the latter left the house, leaving the visitor with her husband, who, it is alleged, thereafter committed the offence with which he is now charged. Information was given to Constable Sirket, Maddiston, who apprehended Anderson. FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

Thursday.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-substitute Alex. Nimmo.)

Indecent Assault. – Geo. Williamson, miner, Blackbraes square, Muiravonside, for having, on 2d September, on the public road at Blackbraes, indecently assaulted a girl of 16, belonging to Standrigg, was sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment.

FRIDAY.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-substitute Wilson.)

AN AVONBRIDGE DISTURBANCE. – Jas. Lamont, pit-sinker, Avonbridge, and George Mulligan, miner, dandy rows, Longriggend, was charged with having on the 29th Auhust, at Avonbridge Railway Station, Avonbridge, committed a breach of the peace. Accused both admitted the charge, and were each fined 7s 6d, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

ALLEGED ASSAULT WITH A POKER - Joseph Harper, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having on 29th august, at the house there occupied by him, assaulted William black, miner, Standburn, by striking him on the forehead with a poker. Accused denied the charge and stated that he had received provocation by the complainer coming into his house with a pair of tongs and assaulting him, almost breaking his arm. The Fiscal he had no evidence of accused having received any provocation. The case was continued till Monday for proof, bail being fixed at £2.

Falkirk Herald 19th September 1896

Parkhall Convention. –

The Parkhall Contion.

The object of which is the deepening of spiritual life, was opened at Parkhall on Wednesday, and terminated last night. The meetings were, as usual, held in the large barn on the estate, a commodious building, capable of accommodating several thousand people. Along the passage leading to the barn there was tastefully arranged a choice assortment of pot plants. When the convention opened on Wednesday forenoon, there was a large gathering, and Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth, the promoter, extended a hearty welcome to all. He mentioned that this was the fourteenth annual convention, and expressed the hope that the meetings would prove a means of blessing to many. Mr. Robert Wilson, Keswick, presided throughout, and the singing was capably led by Miss Lees, Edinburgh. Three meetings were held daily, and, considering the showery nature of the weather, the attendances were large. The addresses delivered were able and helpful, and were listened to with the keenest interest. The speakers included Mrs. Todd Osborne, who is well known for the mission work she has accomplished amongst the British soldiers; Rev. Dr. Elder Cumming and the Rev. John Sloan, Glasgow; Dr. Whyte, Winchester; and Captain Tottenham, Wimbledon. Refreshments were provided to visitors on the grounds at moderate charges. While the conference lasted, a sale of work was held in the laundry of the mansion house on behalf of the funds of the Parkhall Salvation Brigade Mission Hall at Standburn. There was no formal opening, and the sale only proceeded in the interval between the meetings. The goods, which consisted of a variety of useful and ornamental articles, were arranged to advantage in the two rooms comprising the laundry, and the ladies in attendance at the sale were the Misses Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall: the Misses Stirling of Tarduf; the Misses Clarkson of Toravon; and Miss Bannister, Parkhall. Nearly all the goods were disposed of and a satisfactory sum was realised. Continuation meetings in connection with the convention will be held this evening and throughout Sunday, and will be addressed by the Rev. Jas. Lyall, of Chicago.

AVONBRIDGE

FLOWER SHOW.

The annual sho in connection with Avonbridge Horticultural Association was held in the Public School here on Saturday last. There was a large attendance although the weather was a little dull and heavy showers falling during the day. The cut flowers were excellent. Pot plants were deficient in number compared with former years, but were of a good quality. There was a good show of fruit, apples being better than in past years. Vegetables were also good, the potatoes being a special feature. Blackbraes Brass Band was in attendance, and supplied music during the afternoon. The judges were as follows: - Messrs Harley, Carriden; Mothersoul, Falkirk; Hamilton, Bridgehouse; Keith, Boghead; J.Gray, Redbrae; and T. Binnie, Avonbridge. The prize list is as follows: -

SOCIETY'S PRIZES.

Flowers. – Potplants – Best rose – 1, G. Clelland; 2, J. Williamson. Hydrangea – A. Gilchrist. Fuchsia, light – J. Forrest. Fuchsia (dark) – 1, J. Forrest; 2 J. Strang. Geranium – 1, J. Forrest; 2, A. Grant. Pelargonium, 1, A. Anderson; 2, J. Robertson. Calceolaria – 1. J. Robertson; 2, J. Gardner. Greenhouse plant – 1, A. Grant; 2, J. Forrest. Window grown – Fuchsia – 1, J. Anderson; 2, J. Macaulay. Geranium – 1, J. Anderson; 2, J. Macaulay. Hydrangea – Allan Gilchrist. Begonia – 1, John Gilchrist; 2, J. Wilson. Window plant – 1, J. Waugh; 2, J. Masterton. Cut Flowers.- Rose (4 blooms) – 1, G. Clelland; 2, A. Stewart. Dahlias (6 blooms) – 1, J. Forrest; 2, P. Landles. Hollyhocks (6 blooms) – J. Williamson. Pansies (6 blooms) – 1, R. Dunsmore; 2, J. Forrest. French marigolds (4 blooms) – 1, P. Landles; 2, p. Lamont. African marigolds (4 blooms) – 1, J. Roberts; 2, R. Dunsmore. Carnations (4 blooms) – 1, R. Dunsmore; 2, J. Roberts. Antirrhinums, (4 spikes) – 1 J. Roberts; 2, P. Lamont. Two ten-week stocks – 1, Jas. Waugh; 2, A. Grant. Phloxes, 4 spikes – 1, T. Chapman; 2, John Sheilds. Penstemons, 4 spikes, 1, J. Forrest; 2, Robert Dunsmore. Two gladioli spikes – 1, J. Forrest; 2, P. Landles. Hardy herbaceous – 1, P. Landles; 2, J. Williamson. Two hand bouquets – 1, A. Grant; 2, J. Williamson. Hollyhock spike – 1, J. Williamson; 2, A. Grant. Bouquet of wilds flowers gathered by children – 1, Maggie Williamson; 2, A. Strang and H. Dunsmore, equal. Friut. – Twelve gooseberries – 1, Thomas Chapman; 2, J. Forrest. Dish black currants – Alex. Hardie. Dish red currants – 1, John Forrest; 2, A. Anderson, Bathgate. Four apples – 1, T. Chapman; 2, R. Westwater.

Vegetables. – Early cabbage – 1, A. Grant; 2, J. Macaulay. One savoy – 1, A. Anderson; 2, R. Duncan. One German green – 1, G. Clelland; 2, T. Chapman. One Cauliflower head – 1, A. Anderson; 2, A. Napier. One parsley head – 1, P. Landles; 2, J. Macaulay. Four leeks – 1, J. Forrest; 2, J. Robertson. Two stalks Rhubarb – 1, J. Robertson; 2, A. Grant. Two parsnips – 1, P. Landles; 2, J. Aitken. Two carrots – 1, T. Chapman; 2, J. Reid. Two beetroots – 1, J. Macaulay; 2, Wm. Shields. One red cabbage – 1, A. Anderson; 2, A. Grant. Two turnips – 1, A. Gilchrist; 2, J. Gilchrist. Six potatoes, 2 sorts – 1, T. Chapman; 2, Jessie Gentleman. Six potatoes (excluding farmers) – 1, J. Strang; 2, J. Williamson. Eight Onions, spring grown – J.

Williamson. Eight eschalots – 1, J. McCauley; 2, A. Napier. Six pods peas – 1, J. Aitken; 2, G. Clelland. Six pods beans – 1, J. Williamson; 2, G. Clelland. Two celery – 1, T. Chapman; 2, P. Landles.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Flowers. – Sixteen everlasting bouquets, for which A. Grant, Bo'nness, gained all the prizes. Dark double geranium – James Wilson. Double fuchsia – J. Strang. Double fuchsia – George Clelland. White double geranium – J. Roberts. Maidenhair fern – A. Grant. Light double fuchsia – A. Anderson. Light double fuchsia – J. Strang. Geranium – A. Anderson. Scented geranium – J. Roberts. Fuchsia – G. Clelland. Geranium – A. Grant. Geranium – J. Roberts. Six rose blooms – A. Stewart, Bathgate. Double pink geranium – J. Roberts. Double white geranium – J. Robertson. Campanula – isophylla alba – A. Grant. Hydrangea – P. Roberts. Scarlet geranium – J. Anderson. Double fuchsia – G. Clelland. Hydrangea – J. Roberts. Foliage geranium – A. Grant. Geranium – James Anderson. Double fuchsia – A. Anderson, Bathgate. Fuchsia – J. Forrest, Bathgate. Maidenhair fern – A. Grant. Double light fuchsia – James Strang. Hydrangea – John Roberts. Table plants – A. Grant. Monthly rose and hydrangea – John Roberts. Monthly rose – J. Strang. Twelve dahlias – 1, P. Landles; 2, P. Lamond. Fuchsia (Lady Finis) – J. Strang. Six bunches hardy annuals – William Shields. Three African marigolds and 3 French marigolds, 3 flat asters and 3 quilled asters – J. Roberts. Rose (Gloria de Digon) – J. Robertson. Indian juniper – John Shields. Twelve blooms pansies – H. Dunsmore. Geranium – J. Strang. Hydrangea – J. Roberts. Scented geranium – J. Roberts. Foliage plant – A. Grant. Confined to the parishes of Slamannan, Torphichen, and Muiravonside. – Monthly rose – J. Robertson. Fuchsia – J. Robertson. Hand bouquet of border flowers – T. Chapman. Hand bouquet – T. Chapman. Two penstemons and 2 antirrhinums – J. Roberts. Monthly rose – J. Robertson. Six pansies and 6 picotees – R. Dunsmore.

Vegetables – confined – Two golden ball turnips and 2 beetroots – G. Clelland. Two golden ball turnips and 6 pods peas – J. Robertson. Two leeks, 2 golden ball turnips, and 6 pods peas – J. Reid. Two celery – T. Chapman. Parsley plant – P. Landles. Two leeks – J. Robertson. Basket of vegetables – G. Clelland. Open – Six sorts potatoes, 4 of each – Jessie Gentleman. Six onions (spring grown) – G. Clelland. Six varieties of potatoes, six of each – Jessie Gentleman. eschalots – J. Williamson. Six potatoes (Sutton's abundance) – Jessie Gentleman. Twenty-four potatoes, six sorts, 4 of each – Jessie Gentleman. Four leeks – John Robertson. Thirty-six early potatoes, 3 sorts, 12 of Each – Jessie Gentleman. Six potatoes, new variety – T. Chapman. Three Aberdeen yellow turnips – Robert Dunsmore, sen. Best top box honey – A. Gilchrist. 1 lb. butter, put up in society's print – 1, J. Williamson; 2 T. Chapman; 3, John Robertson. 12 hen eggs – 1, Mrs J. Hay; 2 Alex. Hardie. Scones – 1, G. Boyd; 2, T. Chapman. Cakes – 1, Mrs J. Hay; 2, Jessie Gentleman.

Falkirk Herald 26th September 1896

INDUCTION SERVICES IN THE E.U. CHURCH

Induction services in connection with the settlement of the Rev. John Heggie in the pastorate of Avonbridge E.U. Church were held on Sunday, and etc.

PUBLIC SOIREE

A public soiree in connection with the induction was held in the church on Monday evening. There was a crowded attendance, deputations being present from the E.U. Churches in Falkirk, and etc.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 3rd October 1896

MARRIAGES

HOGGAN - PHILIP. - At Muiravonside Manse, on the 30th ult., by the Rev. Mr. Burnet, Matthew, eldest son of Matthew Hoggan, Standburn, to Agnes Dickworth, eldest daughter of John Philip, mason, Linlithgow.

DEATHS

WILSON. – At Candie House, Avonbridge, on the 1st inst., Robert Wilson; deeply regretted. Funeral on Monday, 5th inst., leaving Candie House at 2 P.M., arriving at Slamannan Churchyard at 3.15. Friends please accept this (the only) intimation.

AVONBRIDGE

TEMPERANCE LECTURE. – On Friday evening last Mr John Henderson, Scottish Temperance League, gave an interesting lecture on "Temperance" in the U.P. Church Hall. There was a fair attendance, and the Rev. J.B.G. Rouse occupied the chair. After the lecture a committee was appointed to promote the cause of temperance.

A HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE was held in the U.P. Church on Sunday evening last, when the Rev. J.B.G. Rouse delivered an interesting sermon from Ruth i. 22.

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

POLMONT SCHOOL BOARD.

BLACKBRAES MINING CLASSES

A letter was read from Mr James Mackay, Avonbridge, stating that there was a great anxiety on the part of last year's students in connection with the Blackbraes mining classes to have them continued this winter. As it was now time that something should be done to secure the full grant would be he would be glad to hear what position the Board were likely to take up, and what support they were likely to give the classes.

The CLERK stated that last year the Board gave a grant of £12 10s to the classes.

Mr Walker said he thought the majority of the pupils attending the classes were pupils under the Board, and he did not think they could do less than continue to give them the same assistance as last year. He thought there was a great likelihood of them getting a grant this year.

The CLERK – They will get a County Council grant this year.

It was agreed to contribute the sum of £12 10s towards the expense of the classes.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 21st October 1896

AVONBRIDGE

PRESENTATION. – On Friday evening last a few of the members and friends of the Horticultural Society met in Bridge Hill Inn for the purpose of presenting their late secretary, Mr Peter Gilchrist, Strathloanhead, with a token of their esteem and good-will. Mr Alex hardie, vice-president, occupied the chair and made a few remarks. Mr James McKay, manager Avon View, in a few words, called upon Mr T. Chapman, Hill House, to make the presentation. Mr Chapman, in making the presentation, expressed the pleasure he had in performing the duty. He referred to the very able manner in which Mr Gilchrist had so long conducted the affairs of the society, of which he had been secretary ever since the commencement of the society over 36 years ago. His untiring energy and kind obliging manners had smoothed over any difficulty and gained him the respect of all with whom he came into contact. It was a cause of deep regret to all connected with the society that Mr Gilchrist felt compelled to resign his position as secretary. He concluded by presenting him the gifts in name of the society, and with their best wishes. Mr Gilchrist suitably acknowledged the gifts, and gave a short history of the progress of the society. A very pleasant evening was afterwards spent with song and sentiment.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 24rd October 1896

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

WEDNESDAY.

(Before Sheriff SCOTT-MONCRIEFF.)

BREACH OF THE PEACE.-

James Byres miner, Standburn, was fined 7s 6d, or seven days, for committing a breach of

the peace at Slamannan.
MR BINNIE'S SALES
SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, 7c., AT DYKEHEAD, NEAR AVONBRIDGE, ON MONDAY, 26TH OCTOBER
THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at DYKEHEAD, near Crossroads, and 2 miles west from Avonbridge, on MONDAY, 26th October 1896, the following HOUSE-HOLD FURNITURE, &c., WHICH BELONGED TO THE LATE Miss Ann Johnston, viz.: -
2 Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Folding Pembroke Table, Dressing Glass, 2 Easy Chairs, 2 Work Boxes, Eight-day Clock, Large Press, 4 Clothes Chests, 13 Chairs, 2 Tables, Pictures, China, Silver Tea Spoons, Bedding, Cooking Utensils, Crockery Ware, and other Household Utensils; also,
A Quantity of MEADOW HAY, and
25 HEAD of POULTRY.
TERMS CASH.
Sale to begin at Two o'clock

Falkirk Herald 28th October 1896

STIRLING COUNTY LICENSING COURT.

The half yearly Licensing Court for the County of Stirling was held in the County Buildings, Stirling, yesterday - Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff presiding. There was a large attendance, the Justices from this district present being Mr. Shaw-Stewart, MP, Colonel Stirling of Tarduf, Mr. Salvesen of Lathallan; Provost Hunter, Bailie Ferguson, and Mr. McQueen, Denny; Provost Weir, ex-Provost Cockburn, ex-Bailie Christie, Mr. Jas. S. Hay, and Mr. J. C. Rennie, Falkirk; Mr. Luke, Headswood; Mr. Geo. R. Ure, Hope Park; Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside; Mr. Brown, Kerse; Mr. Clark, Stonehouse; Mr. Wilson Jinkabout; Mr. Jas. Nimmo, senr, and Mr. Jas. Nimmo, jun., and Mr. Mitchell, Slamannan; Mr. John Fairley, Grangemouth; Mr. Heugh, Airth; Mr. Clarkson, Toravon; Mr. Brown, Kilsyth; Mr. Brown, Arbuthnot; and Mr. J. B. Smith, of Messrs Smith & Wellstood, Bonnybridge.

STANDBURN APPLICATION -

AN INTERESTING POINT.

Peter Taylor, publican, Longriggend, applied for a public-house certificate for premises to be built at Standburn. The CLERK intimated objections by Messrs Jas. Nimmo & Co., the owners of the village of Standburn. Mr. WILSON, for the objectors - The house is not in existence yet, and your Honours cannot license it. There is not a stone of the building laid down. Your Honours have never yet, to my knowledge, licensed a place before it was built. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, Falkirk, who appeared for the applicant, insisted that the Court must deal with this application. He quoted several cases, including a recent case in Edinburgh, where licences had been granted on the plans being presented to the Court. Mr. Wilson read a portion of the Act on the subject, which supported the position he had taken up. The Chairman - Have these premises no existence in any shape or form? Mr. WILSON - None whatever, my Lord. There is a piece of ground on which it is proposed to build. A JUSTICE - Who signed the certificate? The CLERK - Mr. Wilson of Jinkabout, who has left the Court, did so. He says that he has seen the plans. The CHAIRMAN ruled that the objection stated by Mr. Wilson was a proper one. Mr. CLARKSON moved that the application be refused, and this motion was unanimously agreed to.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 31st October 1896

AVONBRIDGE

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES. - Anniversary services in connection with the U.P. Church were held on Sabbath last, and were very largely attended. The services were conducted by the Rev. H. L. Macmillan, of Grand Cayman, Jamaica, who delivered able and impressive discourses both forenoon and evening. The annual soiree was held on Monday evening, where there was a good attendance. Tea was served by the ladies of the congregation in the church hall, an adjournment being afterwards made to the church. The Rev. J. B. G. Rouse, pastor, occupied the chair, and, in the course of his opening remarks, alluded to the success that had been attained by the church during the past year. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs Macmillan, Grand Cayman; Mackellar, Denny; Kerr, Sheildhill; J. Heggie, Avonbridge; and Mr Walker, Standburn. The choir, under the leadership of Mr Robert Gray, rendered a number of anthems, and solos were sung by Miss Alice Waugh and Miss Kate Baxter, while Misses Hardie and Baxter sang a duet. Mr John Gray presided at the organ. The usual votes of thanks brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 4th November 1896

ALLEGED OUTRAGE NEAR BLACKBRAES. - Five young men residing in the Blackbraes district were apprehended early on Monday morning and lodged in Falkirk prison on a charge of having criminally assaulted an old woman about one o'clock on Sunday morning about one o'clock on Sunday morning on a public road near Blackbraes. The affair, as reported to the police, appears to be a most dastardly one. It is stated that the woman, accompanied by her husband, both of them elderly, were proceeding along the road when they were seized by five men, some of whom held the husband while the others carried the woman to the side of the roadside, where, it is alleged, they outraged her. Yesterday the prisoners, who gave their names as, Wm Pow (20), J Pow (22), miners residing at Rosehill Cottage, Avonbridge; James Cochrane (24), Thomas Cochrane (27), and Robert Cochrane (25), miners, residing at Blackbraes Rows, were brought before Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff, and having emitted a declaration, they were committed to prison pending further enquiry. The accused, when their declaration was taken, were represented by their agent, Mr Thomas Wylie, Solicitor, Falkirk. The case was reported to Superintendent Gordon at Falkirk at one o'clock on Monday morning by Sergeant Fife, Slamannan, who afterwards, as instructed by the Superintendent, drove to the place and made investigation, and apprehended the men now in custody. IMPORTANT FARM SALE. - The first day's sale of the crop, stock, &c., which belonged to the late Mr Andrew Reid, farmer, Haining Valley and Myrehead, took place at Haining Valley on Friday when the whole of the horses, 22 in number, and implements from both farms, also the crop on Haining Valley, were disposed of. As was to be expected, from Mr Reid's popularity and prominence as an agriculturalist, the sale attracted probably one of the largest gatherings which has hitherto been seen at any sale in the county. The sale commenced with the implements which were readily disposed of. The horses formed a prominent feature of the day's proceedings, and there was brisk competition, especially for those which were four and five years old. Prices ranged from £47 10s, £45, £44 10s, £43 10s, £43, £42, £32, and under. The stacks of grain and ricks of hay, numbering 112, realized from £6 12s 6d to £9 7s 6d, which may be looked on as fair prices at the present time. Turnips brought £4 to £8 per acre, being a moderate price. The second day's sale took place at Myrehead on Monday, and included the whole sheep and cattle from both farms, also the crop on Myrehead, and the feeding requisites.

There was again a large attendance, both from the locality and from a considerable distance, including purchasers from Leicestershire and Lancashire. There was a keen demand for young Aberdeen Angus cattle and Leicester sheep, as well as for the ordinary class of Highland and cross cattle and cross sheep. The Aberdeen Angus cows realised £18 5s, £51 15s, and under; one-year old heifers and bullocks, £18 5s, £17 17s 6d, £17 12s 6d, to £15; bull and heifer calves, £13 5s, £12 5s, £9 10s, down to £6. The highest price for Leicester ewes was £ 2s 6d per head for a pen of five, and for a similar number of gimmers £5 7s 6d was obtained. For Leicester rams the highest price realised was £9 5s; ram lambs brought £5 2s 6d, £4 15s, and under; ewe lambs to £4; Highland bullocks to £16 2s 6d; cross bullocks, £7 17s 6d to £10 10s. One hundred and nineteen stacks of grain and ricks of hay averaged about £8, the prices ranging from £5 10s to £12 each. Forty acres of turnips realised about £8 an acre for Swedes, and about £5 for yellows. The sales were conducted by Mr Thomas Binnie,

auctioneer, Falkirk.
SITUATIONS VACANT
SLAMANNAN SCHOOL BOARD – Wanted immediately, Ex Pupil Teacher (Female) for Avonbridge Public School; salary at the rate of £40 per annum. – Applications, with copy testimonials, to be lodged with Andrew Allan, solicitor, Falkirk, clerk to the Board, not later than Friday, 6th November.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 7th November 1896

DEATHS
ARNOT. – At Heatherstalks. Avonbridge, on the 3rd inst., Jessie Gilchrist, aged 9 months, daughter of James and Janet Arnot; deeply regretted.
SPEEDIE BROTHERS SALES
214 CATTLE. 240 SHEEP.
DISPERSION SALE OF WEST HIGHLAND, AYRSHIRE, AND CROSS CATTLE, AT AVONBRIDGE, IN A FIELD ADJACENT TO THE STATION, ON MONDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, AT 11.30 A.M.
SPEEDIE BROTHERS have been favoured with instructions from Mr Paton, of Avonhill, and Messrs Bennie & Thomson, to offer by Public Roup, on above date, the following LIVE STOCK :-
10 Three-Year-Old HIGHLAND HEIFERS – Fat.
42 Two-Year-Old HIGHLAND HEIFERS.
25 Two-Year-Old HIGHLAND BULLOCKS.
20 HIGHLAND BULLOCK and HEIFER STIRKS.
10 Pedigreed HIGHLAND COWS, served with Highland Bull.
20 Two-Year-Old AYRSHIRE BULLOCKS.
20 AYRSHIRE HEIFER STIRKS.
10 AYRSHIRE BULLOCK STIRKS.
15 AYRSHIRE and CROSS HEIFERS in Calf.
15 CROSS HEIFERS – Fat.
20 CROSS BULLOCK STIRKS.
6 AYRSHIRE BULLS.
2 HIGHLAND BULLS
120 CROSS LAMBS.
120 BLACFACED EWES, uncrossed.
2 HIGHLAND PONIES.
The above Cattle have been mostly grazed on Avonhill Estate, part of them are fat, and the remainder are in good order for wintering.
N.B. – A Brake will leave the Crown Hotel, Falkirk (Mrs. Malcolm's) for the sale at 10 A.M.

Falkirk Herald 18th November 1896

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT
(Before Sheriff-Substitute SCOTT-MONCRIEFF)
BREACH OF THE PEACE. –
A Fine of 7s 6d, or one week's imprisonment, was imposed upon John M'Lean, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, who admitted having on Saturday behaved himself in a disorderly manner on the public road in front of the house at Candie occupied by his cousin, John M'Lean, miner.

Falkirk Herald 25th November 1896

THE MINERS' AGITATION FOR AN INCREASE OF WAGES –
As reported last week, the miners of Redding district resolved, at a meeting held at Reddingmuirhead on Wednesday evening, to remain idle on Monday if their employers did not concede them a second advance of 6d per day. On Monday none of the employers written to had in dictated their willingness to grant the advance, yet notwithstanding this the men went to work as usual with very few exceptions. In addition to the two replies from the employers published last week, Mr. Webb, miners' agent, has received a communication from Mr. Forrester, Crosscroes Colliery, stating that he did not think any additional increase of wages would be granted in the meantime. A meeting of the miners of Standburn district was held at Standburn on Monday evening. Mr. Menzies, collector, presided. Reports were submitted from the various collieries showing that they had started on the first advance of 6d per day. Mr. Webb addressed the men, and strongly advised them to continue the agitation until they had received a fair return, in the way of increased wages, for the present improvement in the coal trade. A resolution was passed to strengthen the organisation, and two men were appointed to assist the collector in the work.
The Muiravonside Parish Church Vacancy. - The last clergyman on the short leet for this vacancy - the Rev. James Kilpatrick, B.D., Morningside, Edinburgh - is to preach on Sunday first, and thereafter the committee will meet and decide as to the next step to be taken in connection with the election of a minister.

Falkirk Herald 28th November 1896

SITUATIONS VACANT
GENERAL Servant for Farm; - able to Milk. – Apply not later than Tuesday at Post Office, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 2nd December 1896

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY.
A meeting of the United Presbyterian Presbytery of Falkirk was held in the Erskine Church Hall Falkirk, yesterday forenoon-Rev. Mr. Sanderson, Grangemouth, moderator, presiding. Rev Mr. Taylor (then) moved the following deliverance in regard to the Standburn Mission, and which also met with the approval of the Presbytery : - The mission at Standburn carried on under the direction of Mr. James Walker, B.A., is beginning to extend its operation. On Sabbath four meetings are held - morning and evening services, at which the average attendances are 50 and 40. There is a Bible Class with an average attendance of 15, and a Sabbath School at which the missionary assists, with an average attendance of 130. During the week two services are held, a Band of Hope with an average attendance of 60, and a gospel temperance meeting, recently commenced, with an average attendance of 18. The missionary is also doing much to influence the people by house to house visitation. The Presbytery is of opinion that this mission, planted in the centre of a rapidly increasing population, ought to be generously supported and vigorously wrought. There is no other church in the place, and the minion, as at present carried on, is doing the work of the Church. The habit of self-support is fostered, and the people are contributing very liberally their share of the maintenance, £14 3s 1d being contributed from 9th Jan. to 31st Oct.
STANDBURN MISSION CHURCH.
Rev. Mr. Rouse, Avonbridge, reported on behalf of the committee on Standburn Mission Church that the total cost of erecting the hall at Standburn was £270. From eight churches in the Presbytery he had received collections amounting to £27 7s 3d; three other churches had promised to give collections at a future time, and five other churches did not promise to give collections at all. From the Home Mission he had received £100, and he had also received in promise from the Elders' Association £10. There had been collected by subscription £49 2s, and the total amount he had received to date was £186 9s 4d. The total cost of the building being £270, the debt left remaining on the church was close upon £85 It was recommended by the committee that these churches who had not yet promised to give collections should endeavour to do so. He thought it was a pity that any church in the Presbytery should not be ready to give a collection in aid of the church at Standburn considering that there was such a large debt resting upon it. The report was received and approved by the Presbytery.

Edinburgh Evening News Friday 11th December 1896

WEST LOTHIAN BUTCHER BREAKS HIS NECK

While James Robertson, butcher, Rigghead, Avonbridge, was climbing into his van at Broom Park farm, near Bathgate, last night, where he had been calling, he missed his footing and fell, breaking his neck and fracturing his skull. Death resulted instantaneously.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 12th December 1896

DEATHS

TAYLOR. – At Boxton, Rigghead, Avonbridge, on the 5th inst., Mary, aged 4 ½ years, daughter of William and Elizabeth Taylor; deeply regretted.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 19th December 1896

AVONBRIDGE

INAUGURATION OF CHURCH HARMONIUM. – A handsome Trayser harmonium has been introduced into the E.U. Church, and on Sabbath last the instrument was inaugurated. Mr James Steele, organist, Hood Memorial E.U. Church, Glasgow, officiating on the occasion. The instrument is a powerful one, in unvarnished oak, with 16 effective stops and swell. In Mr Steele's hands it proved rich toned and resourceful, giving great variety, and afforded much satisfaction to the congregation.

FALKIRK JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT.

A Justice of the Peace Court was held at Falkirk on Tuesday – Mr Henry Burrell, Grangemouth, and ex-Baillie Christie, Falkirk, on the bench.

A WARNING TO DRIVERS OF SPRING CARTS.

William Forbes, baker, residing at Glenbank Cottage, Reddinmuirhead, was charged with having, on the 27th of November last, on the highway leading from Maddiston to Rumford, driven a spring cart without lights attached to each side. Accused admitted the charge to the extent of having been without one lamp. He thought one lamp was sufficient. The Fiscal (Mr J. M. Wilson, solicitor) said he was prepared to accept that plea. He might explain that this was the first case they had prosecuted where the accused had one lamp. It was none the less an offence, because the bye-laws required that two lamps should be carried. Hitherto the police, in the case of low lorries, where one lamp was used, had not reported the matter. Recently, however, an accident occurred in the county owing to there only being one lamp on a vehicle, and instructions had been given to insist upon all such conveyances carrying two lamps, in consequence of which the present case had arisen. It was really meant rather as an example, and to give a warning to other parties. He asked for the imposition of a small penalty to cover the cost of prosecution. The Justices, in view of the fact that it was the first one of the kind, and was meant more of a warning, imposed a modified penalty of 10s, with the option of five days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 23rd December 1896

MADDISTON.

MEETING OF MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in Maddiston Hall yesterday evening. In the absence of Colonel Stirling of Tarduf, Mr. Binnie was called to the chair. There were also present Messrs Mackay, Bryce (Avonbridge), and Wilson (Bogo).

THE BRIDGE IN THE "LONG DEN."

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Watt, headmaster of Muiravonside School, suggesting that the Board might, for the sake of the children attending Muiravonside School, ask the Parish Council to repair the bridge in the "Long Den." The Board instructed the clerk to call the attention of the Parish Council to the matter at their meeting in January, and to request that it be looked into, and the bridge put in a state of repair.

ALLEGED INEQUALITY IN THE STAFFING OF THE SCHOOLS.

A letter was read from Mr. Campbell, teacher, Blackbraes, to the chairman of the Board, in reply to a letter by him of 18th inst., regarding complaints made by Mr. MacKay, a member of the Board, as to the schools staffing. Mr. Campbell's letter is in the following terms: -- "In reply to your letter of 18th inst. I have to state that I have ever found your Board most generous in the matter of providing staff for this school, and have had no occasion to complain to Board or School Committee of any inadequacy. With reference to Mr. M'Kay's letter, unacquainted as I am with the data of his arguments, and with the staffs and salaries in the other schools under the Board, I cannot go into the comparisons which are suggested." Mr. Mackay said that whatever Mr. Campbell might have to say on the matter, he had his own opinion on the question. With regard to the appointment of a female ex-pupil teacher for Drumbowie School confirmed by the Board at its last meeting, Mr. Mackay complained about the Drumbowie School Committee having engaged a teacher at £40 per annum to start with on the ground of the Board having some time ago objected to the raising of a teacher of the same grade in Blackbraes School. The Chairman replied that the Board had advertised twice for an ex-pupil teacher for Drumbowie School at a salary of £35, with a probable bonus of £5 in the event of her giving satisfaction, and had received no reply to their advertisements. They were therefore compelled, as a last resource, to advertise at once for a teacher at £40 per annum. A long discussion took place on this matter, and latterly Mr. Mackay protested against the appointment, and insisted on the clerk entering his protest in the minutes. The Chairman objected to any dissent being entered in the minutes now on the ground that the appointment had been confirmed by the Board at its last meeting. The subject was allowed to drop.

THE NEW SCHOOL AT MADDISTON.

The Clerk read the following letter, addressed to Mr. Binnie, from Mr. Denholm, sanitary inspector for the Eastern District Committee of the County Council: --- I have had an interview with Mr. Strang, architect, with reference to the construction of the closets for the new school at Maddiston. I don't know whether you are aware that the arrangement for these closets, as shown upon the plan, is much the same as at present exists at Blackbraes, Redding, Skintflats, and Airth Schools, at all of which places it has proved very unsatisfactory. I think it my duty to have the matter brought before your notice, so that some improvement may be made on them before it be too late. Mr. Strang was not aware of the defects which I have spoken to him about, but you will recollect yourself the difficulty in the case of the Blackbraes School, which has not yet been solved, and I am at present dealing with the Redding School closets, but as the alterations will incur a considerable expense, I am afraid that the work may not be carried out so readily as I could wish. Mr. Strang will explain to you what I have suggested to him in the way of improvements, and I think the matter is worthy of your serious consideration. ' The Board instructed the clerk to write Mr. Strang giving him power to alter the plan, if he thought fit, in order to give effect to Mr. Denholm's suggestion.

THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

It was agreed that the New Year holidays should date from 24th December, 1896, to 5th January, 1897. A SUCCESSFUL EVENING CLASS.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. M'Kay, the headmaster of the Drumbowie Public School, in which it was stated that the evening class conducted at Drumbowie by Mr. M'Kay was now practically closed, and he looked upon the past session as the best in attendance and progress since he (Mr. M'Kay) took charge of the school. There had been an average attendance for the session of 01, and 60 had presented themselves for examination by H.M. Inspector, as against 32 in 1895. His efforts to attract to the school the youth of the district had been ably seconded by Miss Hunter and Mr. James Wilson, both of whom had done their best for the welfare of the pupils. The report was considered very satisfactory.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The Officer reported that the attendance at the various schools was as follows:--

	On roll average attendance.	
Blackbraes School	303	320
Drumbowie School	467	385
Muiravonside School	217	176

Falkirk Herald Saturday 26th December 1896

AVONBRIDGE

SUNDAY SCHOOL SOIREE. – The Avonbridge U.P. Church Sabbath School held there soiree, Christmas Tree, and magic lantern in the church on Tuesday evening. There was a very large attendance. The Rev. James B. G. Rouse occupied the chair, and there were also present the Rev. J. Lindsay Robertson, B.D. (former minister of the congregation); Rev. J. Heggie, Avonbridge; Rev. J. Walker, B.A., Standburn. After tea the children sung a hymn, then several of the scholars gave recitations, which were illustrated by the lantern. Then several mechanical slides were shown which afforded much amusement to the children. The next part of the programme consisted of solos and recitations by the scholars. The hearty applause from the audience showed how thoroughly the efforts of the scholars were appreciated. During the evening the Rev. J. Lindsay Robertson, the former minister, gave an address, and received a most hearty and cordial welcome from the congregation and friends, who were pleased to see him after being in Canada for about Three years. At the close, the Christmas tree, a most beautiful one nicely decorated and heavily laden with presents, was stripped, and every scholar received a present. About 40 children received book prizes for regular attendance. Altogether the soiree was a most successful and enjoyable one.

Falkirk Herald Wednesday 30th December 1896

CRIMINAL ASSAULT. – At a sitting of the High Court of Justiciary in Glasgow on Wednesday, William Pow, John Pow, James Cochrane, Thomas Cochrane, and Robert Cochrane, young men described as miners, were charged with having, on 31st October last, on the public road between Avonbridge and Blackbraes, in Muiravonside Parish, near Falkirk, Stirlingshire, assaulted William Crookston, miner, residing in Blackbraes, by striking him with a bottle, and knocking him down and dragging him along the road. They were further charged with criminally assaulting the wife of the miner. The case was heard with closed doors. From the evidence, it appeared that the complainer and his wife, aged respectively 45 and 65, were going home between ten and eleven o'clock at night. They went into a public-house and met the prisoner, and the Cochranes, whom the husband knew, invited them to a drink. There was only one gill among the five of them. The complainants started for home, leaving the accused in the shop. Subsequently the whole of the prisoners made after them, and at a lonely part of the road the assault took place. The hearing of the case occupied the Court for the whole day. At the conclusion of the counsels' speeches, his Lordship summed up, and the jury retired to consider their verdict. After an absence of a quarter of an hour, they returned, and the foreman announced that all the prisoners had been found guilty as libeled. They recommended to mercy John Pow, Thomas Cochrane, and Robert Cochrane. Lord Kinnear said the accused had been convicted of a very horrible and atrocious crime. It was all but the gravest which could be committed, and it was impossible to pass lightly over it. He would take into consideration the recommendation of the jury in favour of John Pow, Thomas Cochrane and Robert Cochrane. On William Pow and James Cochrane he pronounced sentence of seven years' penal servitude; in the case of the other three, the sentence was five years' penal servitude. As the accused left the dock they said "Good-bye" to their friends and relatives in Court. The father of the Cochranes, an old man, murmured pathetically, "I will never see you again." In response, they said, "Oh, aye: cheer up." When the sentence was heard by the female relatives, who were waiting outside the Court, there was an outburst of weeping.

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Falkirk Herald 9th January 1897

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. –

The 140th report and balance sheet of the Redding Co-operative Society has just been issued. It states that the sales for the quarter ended 9th December have been £17,695. The profits from all sources during the quarter were £3848 4s 4d which allows a dividend of 4s 2d per £ on members purchases. The rates per £ for the different departments are: - For Redding grocery, 4s; Redding drapery, 3s 10d; bakery, 5s 7d; fleshing, 4s 3d. Blackbraes grocery, 4s; Blackbraes drapery, 4s. Maddiston grocery, 3s 11d; Maddiston drapery, 4s 4d. Standburn branch, 3s 9d. There are 1557 members on the roll.

Falkirk Herald Saturday 16th January 1897

AVONBRIDGE

TEMPERANCE LECTURE. – On Thursday evening of last week Mr Leckie, temperance lecturer, delivered a lecture in the E.U. Church in connection with the Gospel Temperance Association there. There was a fair attendance, and the Rev. J. Heggie presided. Solos were sung by Mr Gilchrist and Miss Lumsden, the latter of whom presided at the Harmonium. **EXCHANGE OF PULPITS.** – In connection with the union between the E.U. and C. U. Churches, it was agreed between the two denominations that an exchange of pulpits should be made on Sunday last. The Rev. J. Heggie preached in the Congregational Church, Portobello, in the morning, and in Edinburgh in the afternoon; while the Rev. Mr Kelly, Congregational minister, preached in the E.U. Church here morning and evening. The rev. gentlemen preached powerful and eloquent discourses, and there was a good attendance at both diets of worship.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY. – The annual assembly was held in the Avonbridge Public School on Friday last, when 60 persons were present. Messrs H. Hay and J. Hardie supplied the music, while J. Hay acted as M.C. Songs and recitations were given during the evening by some ladies and gentlemen present, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald 20th January 1897

A COMPLICATED CASE. –

In the Sheriff Court on Wednesday, Mr. Mackenzie, solicitor, Grangemouth, on behalf of Mary Pollock, domestic servant, asked a warrant to apprehend John Ure or Chalmers, miner, Standburn. under a decree held by his client for aliment and inlying expenses for an illegitimate child. Mr. Marshall, solicitor, Falkirk, appeared for the defender, and stated that the pursuer was a married woman named Brown, that her husband ought to have been called for his interest, that Pollock was not the pursuer's name at all, and that such a person did not, in point of fact, exist. Mr. Mackenzie admitted the facts as stated by Mr. Marshall, and explained that the case was very complicated, in so far the pursuer was informed by the defender that he was going with her when he was an unmarried man. It had since turned out that he was married, and that his wife had obtained divorce against him founded on the adultery committed with the present pursuer. Mr. Mackenzie further stated that, assuming the validity of Mr. Marshall's objection, Mr. Marshall's course was to reduce the decree. After some further discussion, it was arranged that the summons should be amended and reserved, and the case was continued that this might be done.

Falkirk Herald 23rd January 1897

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE MINERS. –

A meeting of the miners of Standburn district was held in the village of Standburn on Monday evening. A report was taken of the condition of work in the several collieries, and showed that at present the whole of the pits were open the six days each week, and there was no reason to complain of any slackness. The opinion of the meeting was that, as a large majority of the miners in the district were inclined to work only five days each week, one day each week should be recognised as the general holiday. Mr. William Webb, Falkirk, afterwards addressed

the men, and in the course of his remarks stated that the coal trade was still keeping in a fair condition, and the markets had an upward tendency. He advised them strongly to press for an advance, and to adopt the five-day policy, but it was his opinion the only way this could be successfully carried out was to be in a thorough state of organisation. At the close resolutions were unanimously passed in accordance with the address.

Falkirk Herald 30th January 1897

SHANKS. - At Standburn, Avonbridge, on the 19th inst., Mary Spiers, aged 8 years and 9 months, beloved daughter of Gavin and Annie Shanks; sadly missed.

Falkirk Herald 6th February 1897

THE POLMONT DISTRICT WATER SCHEME.

JOINT MEETING OF RATEPAYERS AT REDDING LAST NIGHT.

Last night a joint meeting of the ratepayers of Polmont, Redding, Maddiston, Rumford, and Craigs was held in the Redding Public School, to formulate opposition to the proposed water scheme for Polmont district. There was a crowded attendance, and Mr. Robert Myles, Maddiston, was called to the chair. The Chairman, in his opening remarks, severely criticised a letter written in the "Falkirk Herald" by Mr. Fenton-Livingstone of Westquarter, in asking them to accept a scheme which he (Mr. Myles) said was a standing disgrace to its promoters. (Applause.) The water scheme, he said, was to be forced upon a section of the people who could prove up to the hilt that they had an abundant supply of water, and the districts which were more in need of water than they were - and which came into those districts in the summer season for water - were being entirely lost sight of. In October Mr. Livingstone said that a sample of water analysed was taken from the upper reaches of the Manuel Burn, whereas it was proved that it was taken from Manuel Rigg. A second sample of water was taken, according to Mr. Livingstone, from the upper reaches, and he said that that sample of water was fairly good, and approved of by the County Council. Yet notwithstanding it alleged purity, the County Council were proposing to go to the expense of diverting drainage, erecting cesspools, and compensating farmers for not manuring their land. What was the use of their going to that expense and trouble when, according to them, the water was already pure? (Laughter and applause.) He wondered whether it was Mr. Livingstone who was scheming for the engineer of the County Council, or whether it was the engineer who was scheming for Mr. Livingstone. (Laughter and applause.) If they could not get a better representative on the County Council than Mr. Fenton-Livingstone, they would be better with none at all. (Applause) They were there that night to show that they were opposed to this ridiculous scheme. It was in every way a most objectionable one, and objectionable chiefly because of the fact that the water was to be taken from a burn which was a receptacle for sewerage. (Applause.) At this stage, he called upon Mr. John Abercrombie to read a petition to the County Council by the Redding ratepayers Mr. Abercrombie read the petition, which was a somewhat long one. Among other reasons given by the petitioners for asking the County Council to abandon the Manuel Burn scheme were that the burn was dry during three or four of the summer months. At the present date the whole of the water in the burn but a little below the intake could run through an inch pipe. The water was collected from the most dangerous of all sources. A culvert below the Blackbraes Railway, distant from the intake about fifty yards, was used as a privy. The whole of the collecting ground was undermined. There were nine pits within the collecting area, and the result was that rain would not find its way into the burn unless during exceptionally wet weather, but would pass into the workings beneath. All the pits referred to except one were not in use at present, but it was stated that they were to be reopened, and the effect of this would add to the volume of water coming down the burn, and would add greatly to the pollution both below and above ground. The cost, which was too great, would exceed the estimates, and there were great risks attending the catching and storing of the water. The petitioners could not see their way to accept the Manuel Burn scheme as a satisfactory solution of the water question in this or any other district. The petition was signed by 122 householders in the village. Mr. George Leishman read the Polmont petition, which was signed by 120 householders. The reasons given by the Polmont ratepayers for opposing the scheme were "that it is most unsatisfactory, both in regard to quality and quantity, and that the district has come to a resolution on three different occasions that no water scheme was necessary for the welfare of the inhabitants." Mr. GEORGE HUNTER read the Rumford, Compthall, and Craigs petition, which was signed by 65 inhabitants, and which was in similar terms to the Polmont petition. The Chairman read the Maddiston petition, to which 72 householders had adhibited their names. The reasons they gave for petitioning again were that "we believe our present supply is a better one than that which is being proposed, and we have the promise of an additional supply from Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth of Parkhall." Mr. M'KINLAY made a few remarks, which he prefaced by reading a letter by Mr. Mitchell of Millfield to Mr. GEORGE LEISHMAN, Polmont, in which he stated that, if he received a petition against the water scheme from the village, he would present it to the next meeting of the County Council. Continuing, he stated that Mr. Mackay and he had recently paid a visit to the source of the proposed new supply. Referring to the proposal of the County Council to compensate the farmers for not manuring their land, he said that the County Council had not stated what the amount of the compensation would be, but from inquiries he had made he had ascertained that 25s per acre would be the lowest sum the farmers would accept as compensation. In concluding, Mr. M'Kinlay asked Mr. Mackay if he remembered anything which he had omitted to mention? Mr. Mackay - Only that we did not see Mr. Fenton-Livingstone's lark. (Laughter.) Mr. M'Kinlay (continuing) referred to several questions which he said he would have asked had Mr. Fenton-Livingstone - whose absence he deeply regretted - been present. He would have asked him if he was correctly reported to have moved at last County Council meeting the adoption of the Manuel Burn scheme; whether he afterwards said he would call a meeting of the ratepayers, and be guided by their opinion; and whether, from his experience of the different meetings held in the district, he was not sufficiently aware of the opinions of the rate payers? Mr. Livingstone asked the County Council not to take any notice of a few grumblers. All in opposition to the scheme were represented as grumblers. (Laughter.) Yet in addressing the ratepayers at Redding Mr. Livingstone said that the County Council would accept the ratepayers' opinion. He would like to ask Mr. Livingstone if he was not aware that the ground beneath the proposed catch dam was undermined? According to Mr. Livingstone, the people in the higher districts were too poor to be joined with the other districts in relation to the water scheme, and with almost the next breath he said that they were rich enough to pay for the water being pumped to them after it had been introduced, which was surely contradictory. He (Mr. M'Kinlay) hoped that the report of this meeting would reach the eyes of the County Council, so that they would not attach too much importance to what Mr. Livingstone said. Mr. Joseph Todd having spoken at some length on the question, Mr. David Abercrombie moved that the meeting pledge itself to oppose the Manuel Burn scheme by all lawful means. Mr. John Hope seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Falkirk Herald 10th February 1897

MUIRAVONSIDE.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING. -

The monthly meeting of Muiravonside School Board was held in Maddiston Village Hall yesterday evening. There were present Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside (presiding), and Messrs Binnie, Mackay, Bryce, and Wilson. The School Board officer reported the School attendance for the past month to be as follows:

	On Roll.	Av. Atten.
Blackbraes Public	365	300
Drumbowie Public School	465	381

Muiravonside Public School	315	159
Avonbridge Public School	81	57
	1127	900

Accompanying the attendance report, a letter was read from Mr. Campbell stating that the small attendance at Blackbraes School was due to whooping-cough, which was reported to be bad amongst scholars at present. The clerk reported that there had been two offers of loan in connection with the building expense of Maddiston new school. One was at 3 1/4 per cent., and the other, that of Messrs Macara Brothers, 62 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, at the rate of £3 2s 6d per cent (?). The Board agreed to accept the latter on a loan of £1171 for 30 years. A letter was read from Mr. Stevenson, headmaster, reporting that a number of the members of the Board had heard three teachers on Monday, and they agreed to recommend Miss Crosswith, Carriden, to the vacant teachership in Muiravonside School. The Board agreed to this. A letter was read from Miss Waddell, Blackbraes School, intimating her resignation as a teacher in that school. The Board accepted her resignation, and agreed to advertise for a teacher in her place at a salary of £35 per annum, plus £5 of bonus. A communication was read from the headmaster of Drumbowie Public School intimating that Miss McLuckie had been unfit for duty for some time through illness, and would not be able to resume her duties till March. He recommended that an appointment should be made in her place. The Board agreed to this, and to advertise. The Board agreed to the contract in the feuing of additional ground in connection with the extension of Drumbowie School. The meeting fixed the triennial election of the School Board to take place on 3d April in Maddiston Hall. The clerk (Mr. Wilson) was appointed returning officer, and in the event of a contest taking place was sanctioned to engage the services of two clerks. This was all the business of importance before the Board.

Falkirk Herald 10th February 1897

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Monday.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute WILSON.)

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE. —

Christina Denholm or Rodger, wife of Charles Rodger, miner, Standburn, admitted having created a disturbance at Standburn on the 1st inst., and was fined 7s 6d, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 20th February 1897

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH CHURCH.

ORDINATION OF REV. Mr. BAYNE.

The ordination of David Bayne, B.D., to the church and parish of Muiravonside took place in the church there on Tuesday. There was a large congregation, which included a good many friends from a distance. The Rev. Mr. Smith, Shieldhill, Blackbraes preached and presided. Among the members of Presbytery present were Rev. Messrs Scott, Camelon; Shepherd, Ecclesmachan; Dunn, Dalmeny; Carruthers, Falkirk; J. M. Johnston, Torphichen; Dundas, Carriden; Reid, Slamannan; Gardner, Bo'ness; Orr, Broxburn; Thomson, Grangemouth. There were also present the Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, Barony, Glasgow; Rev. Messrs Anderson, St Vincent, and Forfar, Glasgow, these gentlemen joining the Presbytery in the ordination services, as well as Messrs James Wilson, Falkirk, and Learmonth, Polmont, elders. The Rev. Mr. Smith preached an appropriate sermon from Matthew xxvi. 36, and thereafter delivered suitable addresses to the young minister and congregation. The ceremony of "laying-on hands" having been performed, the Rev. Mr. Bayne received a cordial welcome at the door of the church from the members of the congregation as they retired. After the ordination Mr. Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk, placed in the hands of the Presbytery an assignment from himself as factor and commissioner for the Rev. Oswald Bell, by which the sum of £130 per annum from the stipend was guaranteed to Mr. Bell, the remainder of the stipend with the manse and glebe to go to the new minister. THE ORDINATION DINNER. The ordination dinner was held in the Star and Garter Hotel, Linlithgow, in the afternoon. Mr. Wm. Henderson of Redford presided, and the croupiers were Mr. John Stirling of Muiravonside and Mr. Robert Clarkson of Toravon. There was a large company, the clergy and gentlemen present being - Rev. David Bayne, Glasgow; Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, Glasgow; Rev. Geo. Anderson, St Vincent's, Glasgow; Rev. S. M'Nab, Glenboig, Glasgow; Rev. Alex. Maclellan, assistant, Glasgow Cathedral; Rev. Mr. Forfar, Martyrs', Glasgow; Rev. Mr. Carmichael, Abdie; Rev. A. Shepherd, Ecclesmachan; Rev. Mr. Johnston, Torphichen; Rev. George Carruthers, Falkirk; Rev. Wm. Smith, Blackbraes; Rev. William Dundas, Carriden; Rev. Allan Reid, Slamannan; Rev. R. Gardner, Bo'ness; Rev. G. M. Thomson, Grangemouth; Rev. Mr. Aitken, Broxburn; Rev. Mr. Scott, Camelon; Mr. Dewar, Compston; Mr. Binnie, Bowhouse; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; Mr. James Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk; Mr Geo. K. Johnston, C.A., Manuel; Mr. A. Addison, Manuel Mill; Mr. Blyth, Manuel Station; Mr. Thos. Johnston, Manuel; Mr. James Robertson, Polmont Station; Mr. Jas. Ballantyne, Avonbank; Mr. John Walker, Redding; Mr. Geo. Shanks, Gilandersland; Mr. Longwill, Kendieshill; Mr. Jas. Horn, The Loan; Mr. Bayne, father of Rev. Mr. Bayne; Mr Laidlaw, Glasgow; Mr. Jack, Edinburgh. The Chairman intimated an apology for absence from Mr. Stirling of Tarduf. After dinner had been partaken of, the Chairman submitted the customary loyal and patriotic toasts, making fitting reference to the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty. The toasts were duly honoured, and Mr. Stirling responded for "The Navy, Army, and Reserve Forces." The Chairman proposed the health of Mr. Bayne, the newly - appointed minister of Muiravonside. His acquaintance with Mr. Bayne was of a very limited character. He knew very little about him, but he could tell them that the committee made very strict inquiries, and the whole of their information concerning him was of a highly satisfactory nature, and if he walked up to anything like half these favourable reports Muiravonside would be very fortunate indeed in having such an excellent minister. It was not a very easy task, he (the Chairman) often thought, for a minister who had never had a former experience of a charge of his own to enter into a large parish and so conduct affairs as not to be found fault with. There were many to guide him in the proper way, and if he was careful when he saw many reforms not to make them too quickly and carry his people along with him before entering upon these reforms matters would proceed smoothly. In conclusion, the Chairman said it only remained for him to bid Mr. Bayne a right hearty welcome to the parish of Muiravonside. He wished him long life and happiness and a successful ministry. (Applause.) Rev. Mr. BAYNE in reply said he felt very much the warmth of the reception which he had received, both from the Presbytery of Linlithgow and the congregation of Muiravonside. In entering now upon his new sphere of duties he was deeply conscious of the greatness both of his privilege and of his responsibility. It was a privilege, than which there could scarcely be anything greater than to be called to a charge where one had to continually bring before the people the principles of religion and to apply them in their lives. But at this time the feeling of responsibility was much greater. He did not come altogether unprepared for the duties that would devolve upon him. His experiences already in two populous city parishes should not be without its good effect, and if his ministry in Muiravonside was not all that his best friends could wish it to be, it would not be for want of good precept and example. Both from his former minister, Dr. Lang, and from the two ministers under whom he had had the privilege to work (Mr. Forfar and Mr. Anderson), he had always received kindly advice and wise guidance, and what was better still the good example. In entering now upon his new duties, he felt very much encouraged by the assurances of the sympathy and help which he was likely to receive. He felt that they would all be needed; that he would require great forbearance and much help in order that his duties in his new sphere might be successful. It was not, however, without a very high idea of what the ministerial office should be that he entered upon these duties. He felt the greatness of that work to which he had been called, and he could only hope that his experience of it and of all he sought to do in it would be such as to fulfill the expectations which had been formed by his friends and would be worthy, not only of the old historic Church of Scotland, but also of the great cause and great truths for which the Church of Scotland existed. It was not without a certain feeling of

regret, he confessed, that he brought to a close his probationary days. Thanks very much to those whom he had been privileged to work under, they had been very happy days indeed, and his wish was that the days before him might be as happy as those had been that lay behind. (Applause.) Mr. CLARKSON proposed "The Church of Scotland," and in the course of his remarks said that the Church of Scotland - the church of their fathers - deserved their highest consideration and respect. He believed on the whole that the Church was doing a noble work in carrying the ordinances of religion into quarters where it would not be provided for by voluntary effort. The Church of Scotland had been able to survive all the attacks made upon her, and had come out as gold tried by fire, and he did not think she had felt more vitality than at the present time. (Applause.) There were doubtless weak points in the Church's armour at which the enemy might laugh, but there was no doubt that these would be attended to in due time. In fact he believed that the Church at this present moment was looking to its leaders to see that these weak points are put right, and that machinery would be set up in every parish for carrying on still more effectively the work of the Church. (Applause.) Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, in responding, said the toast which had been proposed in terms so felicitous by Mr. Clarkson fittingly succeeded that which might be called the toast of the afternoon, for the Church of Scotland was what its parishes were - an ill-equipped, ill-wrought parish in which the spiritual vitality was low was the most effective argument that could ever be wielded against the Church of Scotland. On the other hand, a parish such as he was sure that of Muiravonside would be under Mr. Bayne was one of the most effective arguments in behalf of the Church of Scotland. (Applause.) He spoke with some confidence concerning Mr. Bayne. He had known him from boyhood up to the present time. He had had three great advantages. He had had a good home, the example of godly parents, and added to that which was the best of all things to a young man an atmosphere of a manly, sweet, and wholesome piety. Then, too, he had been reared in the Barony Church - (laughter and applause) - in which his father was an esteemed elder. Mr. Bayne had also been under singularly good ministers in his (Dr. Lang's) friends Mr. Forfar, of the Martyrs' Parish, and latterly Mr. Anderson, of St. Vincent Parish. He thought Mr. Bayne came to them to-day with the very best of antecedents, antecedents that formed a very good ground for the expectation which Mr. Clarkson had referred to, and they could not see Mr. Bayne that day and hear him in that modest model speech which he delivered without feeling that they had got the right man in the right place, and that under Mr. Bayne's charge there was no fear of Muiravonside. (Applause.) Turning to the Church of Scotland in its wider aspect, Dr. Lang said he thought that they could say that the year that was passing was a year to be remembered. In the first place they were celebrating this year the Jubilee of the Endowment Scheme of the Church of Scotland. When they looked back over the fifty years that were represented by the leaders of that scheme they could all feel how amply justified Mr. Clarkson was in saying that the Church of Scotland was never in a more efficient state than it was now. Fifty years ago it was lying prostrate. It had not recovered from the terrible blow that had been dealt it. He was old enough to remember when Dr. Robertson began his Endowment Scheme campaign. He (the speaker) was present at some of his first meetings. In the Assembly he had heard Dr. Robertson say "I think we shall manage our hundred churches," That was the first hundred of the new parishes, and at the present time there were no fewer than four hundred new parishes which had been added to the machinery of the Church through the efforts of the Endowment Scheme. He thought that was a sign that there was some life in the old Church yet. Its life was never more vigorous than it was at present, and if this Endowment Scheme started afresh after its fifty years, he thought they could all feel that there were possibilities for it in the future, that there were flexibilities that might increase its efficiency and durability, and they would not need to endow parishes in the same ratio as in past years. But he thought they would all agree with him that there was room for increasing the endowments they already had, and room for extending the area of endowments in the Church, so that there might be provision made for the fuller shepherding of the parishes in town and country. (Applause.) And then they had also this year distinguished for its "forward movement." The Church of Scotland had sounded the word "Forward" as the true watchword of the Church. They had all been interested in trying to help on the Foreign Mission advance in the Church, and he thought it was a good sign of the times that it was moving forward and sounding the word "Forward" through the whole of its life. The third feature of this year was that to which Mr. Clarkson had referred. It was a year of reform. The word "Reform" was being written large into their Church. They knew that they had had a lull from that weary, weary work to which they were forced - it was not voluntary certainly, but forced by the movement of those who did not wish well to the Church of Scotland. What was the true use to be made of this time of rest? It was just the use to which Mr. Clarkson referred. Let it be a time of true reform. They needed to have an adaptation in the church to the various wants and complexities of life in their land, and it was in that direction as one of them that this reform they were contemplating must go; and they needed reform in realising the harmony between order and life, for it was a harmony. What they needed in the Church of Scotland was more vigour, more sympathetic supervision, more sweet and wholesome carrying out of the idea expressed in the lines of George Elliot - "Beauty's order to control with glowing sway the glowing life of man." (Applause.) If this year they realised something at least of this idea of reform, he thought it would be a year to be remembered. Continuing, Dr. Lang made reference to the Commission appointed to inquire into the religious condition of the people, over which he had for years presided. That Commission, he said, with all its work and in all its efforts, was ever remembering, and ever sought to realise, that the efficiency and the sufficiency of the Church to minister to the nation were the basis of its being a standing or a falling Church. It was the Church of their fathers. But yet it was not their fathers' Church. It was the Church that belonged to them, and they were proud of it. But it was the Church they were to make fully useful for the people of this country and for the glory of God. It was a hard work that lay before them. They would sympathise with him when he said that they felt at every step what a mighty, what an awful, problem the social problem about them was. God alone knew whither that problem would lead them, but he (Dr. Lang) was quite sure of this, that if they had faith in Christ there was nothing that need puzzle or bewilder or cause them to despair. He felt that if they looked into this dark, tremendous sea of cloud, it was but for a time. "I press God's lamp closer to my breast; its splendour soon or late will pierce the gloom." This was their confidence, and because it was their confidence, they were there with oneness of heart and fullness of enthusiasm to respond to the toast of the Church of Scotland. (Applause.) Mr. Dewar, in submitting the toast of "The Presbytery of Linlithgow," said that it must have been a pleasant day for the Presbytery of Linlithgow, when they had succeeded in settling Mr. Bayne in Muiravonside parish, for they had had many anxious consultations and much anxious work in dealing with the affairs of this as with other parishes within the Church. Personally, he knew every one of the members of the Presbytery. He had been present at more than one of their deliberations, and he could speak with some confidence of the way in which they conducted their affairs. (Applause.) Mr. Scott (clerk), in replying, thanked Mr. Dewar for the way he had spoken of the Presbytery and its work. They were pleased at the settlement which had taken place that day, and he thought that the hearty congratulations which had been given Mr. Bayne augured well for the prosperity of the parish and for the Church's welfare in that part of the Presbytery. The Presbytery were very pleased, indeed, some time ago to receive a visit from that Commission, over which Dr. Marshall Lang had presided so well and so ably. While they were very pleased to receive the committee, he might mention that the irons were already in the fire, and that the Presbytery had arranged to carry out the projects, which were then before them. For example, a new church had been built in Laurieston and had been filled with a large congregation, the communion roll having about 230 or 250 members, and an ordained minister had been placed over it. Then a new hall had been built at Uphall and a new hall in Carriden parish, and beside these they had an additional parish minister in Falkirk, one in Linlithgow, and one in Bathgate and Grangemouth. The Presbytery had also resuscitated what was called the Church Accommodation Committee, which had commenced its work, and was endeavouring to stir up that noble spirit of which Dr. Marshall Lang had so well spoken. (Applause.) Mr. James Wilson proposed "The Heritors," which was coupled with the name of

Mr. John Stirling, who replied. Mr. J. M. Johnston proposed "The Kirk session and Congregational Committee of Muiravonside," and the Chairman replied, "Mr. Bayne's Friends" was submitted by Mr. Ballantine, and acknowledged by Mr. Bayne, father of the newly-ordained minister: "Educational, Agricultural, and Industrial Interests of Muiravonside" was proposed by the Rev. Mr. Shepherd, and responded to Mr. Daniel Binnie, who gave a brief but none the less interesting account of the progress of the parish in educational, agricultural, and industrial matters. The other toasts were "The Chairman" and "Croupier."

CONGREGATIONAL SOIREE.
A congregational soiree was held in the church in the evening. Rev. Mr. Carruthers, moderator, presided. There was a large attendance of members of the congregation and friends. The Chairman, in his opening remarks, said he had made the acquaintance of most of the parishioners, and they had behaved in such a kindly way that he was somewhat loath to leave them. Muiravonside parish and church had revived the dream of his youth. When he was a student the height of his ambition was to be a minister of a nice easy country parish where he would simply have some farmers and cottagers to minister to. But on the other hand all the days of his ministerial life he had had to work very hard amid the denizens of a large city or a large town. That being so they could understand that he was loath to vacate his position as moderator of Muiravonside Church. Proceeding, he congratulated the congregation upon having placed over them the man of their choice. The more he (Mr. Carruthers) had seen of Mr. Bayne, the better he liked him. He must say he thought they had made a remarkably good choice, and it seemed to him that there was a very happy and bright future before them as, a church and congregation. Coming with the experience Mr. Bayne had had, he (Mr. Carruthers) doubted not but that he would make a most useful, instructive, and successful minister. They must co-operate with him in every good work in which he was engaged, and they must not expect too much of him at first. They must allow him to grow on their hands. He would ascend to higher things, and as he did so they should cheer and encourage him, and fear not but that success would attend both their efforts. (Applause.) Mr. Johnston, High Manuel, in name of the ladies of the congregation and parish, then presented the young minister with pulpit robes and cassock. In doing so, Mr. Johnston expressed the hope that Mr. Bayne would enjoy long life and happiness. The minister was then dressed in his robes by Mrs. Stirling of Tarduf amid cheers, and Mr. Bayne was thereafter inducted to the moderator's chair of the Kirk-session of the church. Rev. Mr. Bayne, in addressing his people, said his first words must be the words of grateful thanks for the very warm reception they had given him in coming to the parish a stranger amongst them, (Applause.) He had to thank the ladies of the parish and all the ladies who had united in making him this beautiful present, and he could only say that the best thanks which perhaps he could offer to them and to all for their kindness would be that he should strive to do nothing which would dishonour the gown which he wore and the things which it signified, that he should strive in all things to be worthy of the honour to which they had called him. (Applause.) He was coming to a beautiful parish - a very much more beautiful parish than that from which he came. (Laughter.) But the happiness of a minister's life did not depend upon such things as the beautiful scenery around, but rather depended upon the sincerity and the cordial relationship of his people. And therefore just at the very outset of his ministry he should like to ask from them a continuation of that sympathy and cordiality which they had expressed that night. (Applause.) He was there to promise that he would do his best to discharge his duty to them, and he would expect and he was confident that each and every one of them would strive to the very utmost to do their duty to him. He would endeavour to practise that patient endurance, that kindly disposition, that charity and that evangelical spirit which was clearly put before him by Mr. Smith that day. It took a great time to form new connections, to know one another, and he hoped they would all strive in every way to give him their help, to confide where possible in him, and help him in that way to discharge his duties truly to them as their parish minister. He counted it a very great privilege to have been called to such a charge as that of Muiravonside. He earnestly realised the responsibility which it involved, and he would strive in every way to be faithful to that truth which he was called to preach fearlessly and without favour. (Applause.) Mr. HENDERSON, Redford, next presented Mr. Bayne with Bible, psalm book, and hymn book from the ladies of the congregation, and Mr. Bayne replied in suitable terms. Mr. HENDERSON also presented Rev. Mr. Carruthers with a beautiful silver inkstand and candlesticks in recognition of his valuable services as Moderator during the vacancy. Rev. Mr. CARRUTHERS acknowledged the gifts, and said he would treasure them very highly, and he was sure his wife would do the same. It had given him very much pleasure indeed to act as their Moderator during the past six months, and he could testify that he could not possibly have had a more pleasant duty to perform than that at Muiravonside. They had all acted towards him in a most kindly and courteous manner. He gladly accepted these handsome presents, and the best possible acknowledgment for these services was the very successful issue in which they had terminated. (Applause.) Mr. George Johnston, clerk to the Congregational Committee, was also made the recipient of a handsome gold Albert for his valued services to the congregation. Mr. JOHNSTON, in returning thanks to the subscribers for their gift, paid a tribute to the convener of the Congregational Committee and Rev. Mr. Carruthers, moderator. Other addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Anderson, St Vincent. Parish Church, Glasgow; Rev. John Ferguson, St. Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow, and others. Solos were rendered during the evening by Misses Brown and Watt, and the remainder of the musical programme was filled up with anthems by the choir, under the leadership of Mr. John Walker, organist. The usual votes of thanks were given at the close of an enjoyable meeting.

Falkirk Herald 27th February 1897

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff RUSSELL BELL.)

A PUBLIC - HOUSE DISTURBANCE. -

Thomas Traquair, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the previous Saturday, at the door of the public-house at Maddiston occupied by Wm. Galloway, publican, created a disturbance, and smashed a pane of glass in the window of the house. Accused pleaded guilty, and a penalty of 15s was imposed, with the option of ten days in jail.

CHARGE AGAINST A MINER. - John Hunter, miner, The Loan, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on 12th February, on the public road between Maddiston and Bowhouse, stolen from the person of Hugh M'Allister, bricklayer, 71 Standburn, 24s of money. Accused, against whom there was a previous conviction of theft, denied the charge, and evidence was led at considerable length. Six witnesses were examined for the pursuers, and a similar number for the defence. At the conclusion of the proof the Sheriff assaizied the accused from the complaint.

Falkirk Herald 13th March 1897

MUIRAVONSIDE.

SOCIAL MEETING -

A social meeting of the officials of Muiravonside Colliery and friends was held at Standburn on Thursday last, the occasion being the presentation of a handsome writing-desk to Mr. Robert Wilson, clerk, on his leaving the colliery to conduct a coal agency in Bathgate. Mr. James R. Wilson presided, and in making the presentation said he need not refer to the ability and courtesy by which Mr. Wilson had gained their esteem, without a tangible expression of which they could not let him depart from amongst them. Whilst he was sure that Mr. Wilson would look beyond the intrinsic value of the gift to the warmth of friendship which had prompted it, he asked him to accept it as a memento of his friends at Muiravonside, in whose name he had to assure him of their good wishes for his future happiness and success. Mr. Wilson, in accepting the presentation, suitably replied. A most enjoyable evening was afterwards spent, enlivened by dance, song, and sentiment.

Edinburgh Evening News 29th March 1897**DYING WOMAN IN A PUBLIC ROAD. –**

A woman named Mary Shields or Clifford, aged 24 years wife of James Clifford, miner, Standburn, Stirlingshire, was found in an unconscious condition by the side of the railway near Ballencreiff Mill Bathgate, last night. She was taken to Bathgate, and examined by Dr Kirk, who pronounced life to be extinct. Death is supposed to have been caused by exposure.

Falkirk Herald 31st March 1897**FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.**

Monday.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute WILSON.)

ASSAULT ON A PITHEADMAN. –

Hugh Forbes, miner, No. 9 Standburn, was charged with having, on the 23rd March, at No. 1 Pit, Redford Colliery, assaulted Alex. Roberts, pitheadman, Candiehead, by striking him a violent blow on the head to the effusion of blood. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and stated that the complainer was "a new start" at the pithead. Prisoner asked him if he had not made a mistake in the weight of his coal, but, he gave him no answer. He first smiled, and laughed in his face. The Sheriff - That was no reason for your assaulting him. You are not entitled to lift your hands. If you had any complaint to make, you should have made it with your employer. A fine of 15s was imposed, the alternative being ten days' imprisonment.

PROLONGING THE WEDDING FESTIVITIES. -

Robert Love, miner, Rumford, was charged with having, on the 27th March in the public-house at Brightons occupied by John Ballantyne, committed a breach of the peace, and maliciously kicked at and destroyed the panel of the door of the said house. He pleaded guilty. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, made a statement on behalf of the accused. He got married, he said, on the Friday evening, and perhaps the marriage rejoicings had continued a little too long. At any rate, on account of the festivities no doubt, he was entertaining some friends in this public-house, when a disturbance arose, and being excited at the time accused committed the offence with which he was charged. He was exceedingly sorry for what he had done, and offered to repair the damage, which 1s 6d would cover. The Fiscal - The man was drunk, and on being refused more drink he made a noise, and kicked at the door. The Sheriff - I must take into account that he was newly married, whether that was an excuse or not. It however, to some extent, explained the occurrence. It was awkward that there were three previous convictions against the accused. He could not do less than impose a fine of 15s, with the option of 14 days' imprisonment. He hoped that he would take warning, now that he was a married man, and settle down quietly, and become a respectable member of society. The accused - Thank you, sir. The Sheriff - Of course you will have to repair the damage you have done. The fine does not free you from that. Accused - Yes, sir

Falkirk Herald 3rd April 1897**Marriages**

McFarlane - Richardson. -At Standburn Cottage, on the 2nd April, by the Rev. Mr. Rouse, U.P. minister, Thomas McFarlane, to Margaret Richardson, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald 3rd April 1897**AFTER THE FAIR. –**

There was an unusually heavy record of crime at the Burgh Court yesterday after the half-yearly feeing fair. Bailie Hamilton presided.

The following parties (25 in all from Kilsyth to Slamannan) were either fined 7s 6d. or seven days or forfeited pledges of 7s 6d., for having been found drunk and incapable in the burgh. For committing breaches of the peace the following were fined 10s. or seven days, or forfeited pledges of 10s: - Neil McNeil, miner, Standburn (plus another 17 from Bo'ness to Stirling.)

Falkirk Herald 1st May 1897**MADDISTON.**

School Board Meeting. At a meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board, Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside was unanimously appointed chairman for the ensuing three years. The following School Committees were appointed: - Drumbowie School - Mr. Mackay (convener) and Mr. Myles; Blackbraes School - Mr. Wilson (convener) and Mr. D. Binnie; Maddiston School - Mr. Murray (convener) and Mr. Davie. It was agreed to close Drumbowie School until an epidemic of measles, which had broken out among the children, abated.

Dundee Courier 10th May 1897**SCOTTISH MINING.****NEW PITS AT STANDBURN**

Operations have been commenced to sink the return pit at Logan's, Standburn. The coal pit belonging to this employer in this neighbourhood was stopped a few months ago on account of the time limit for the sinking of the second shaft having expired. The water engine has been kept at work, and in the course of a short time, the colliery will be fully employed. One of Nimmo & Co. s pits here has now stopped, it having been well worked out, but what coal yet remains can be easily reached by the other pits belonging to this Company. About thirty men were employed in it, but a very large pit has been commenced to be sunk by this Company, and much of the plant that was used at the one now stopped has been brought to the new one. This pit will go to a greater depth to catch some of the lower seams. The outlook for employment in this district in the summer is favourable. The miners are just now receiving very regular work. The miners are very anxious that an agitation should be started to try and secure an advance of wages, but a very large number of them are still remaining very indifferent to organisation.

Falkirk Herald 19th May 1897**FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT.**

Drunk and Incapable. - John Miller, miner, Rumford, Polmont, fined 7s 6d, or five days' imprisonment, for having been drunk and incapable on 15th May.

David Allan, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, forfeited a pledge of 7s 6d for non-appearance on charges of having committed breach of the peace.

Dundee Courier 27th May 1897**INTERESTING CASE AT STANDBURN.**

A singular occurrence took place at Redford Colliery, Standburn, last week, which terminated in the dismissal of the fireman. After his usual morning inspection of the pit, he found all things correct, and signed the book accordingly, and the miners resumed their employment. In the course of the forenoon, however, a party of workmen had been sent by the oversman to widen the drawing road, and the fireman on observing this protested against it, believing that to interfere with this portion of the road would endanger the men who were working inside in drawing through it. The protest was not listened to, and the parties started. The fireman thought it was his duty under such circumstances to tell the miners who, in his opinion, would be in danger to cease working. This was done, but his action did not please his superior, and the following morning he found that another man had been appointed in his place. It is thought that the officials in this colliery on this matter have gone beyond their power, as it has always been considered that the fireman, being a responsible person, was allowed to use his own judgment in such important matters which concern the safety of the workmen under his charge. The attention of Mr. Aitchison, Her Majesty's Inspector, has been called to the matter, and efforts will be put forth to vindicate the action of the fireman. So far as the coal trade is concerned, it is keeping very steady here just now.

Falkirk Herald 5th June 1897**APOLOGY.**

THE Charge against NEIL M'NEIL, Oversman, Muiravonside Colliery, has been WITHDRAWN from COURT, he having rendered the following Apology for having made a false impersonation and rendering a false signature while engaging a Professional Singer for the Standburn Rechabite Concert: -" Mr Hugh Nisbet, Candie, Avonbridge. " Muiravonside Cottage, May, 1897. " Sir, - I hereby express my regret and apologise for having signed your name in connection with the engagement of a singer for the Concert at Drumbowie which was got up in connection with the Rechabite Society. You are at liberty to publish this letter in the Falkirk Herald. I shall pay all expenses incurred by you. - Yours obediently, "NEIL M'NEIL." JAMES WILSON & SONS, Writers, Falkirk, Agents for the Complainant.

Falkirk Herald 12th June 1897

STANDBURN.
PRESENTATION. –

On Saturday last a deputation from Candie waited at Balquhatson Cottage, Slamannan, on Mr. James R. Wilson, for the purpose of presenting him with a token of their esteem on the occasion of his leaving Candie Colliery. The presentation took the form of a handsome dressing-case bearing a suitable inscription.

Falkirk Herald 19th June 1897

FATAL ACCIDENT INQUIRIES. –

Under the Fatal Accidents Act inquiries into two fatal accidents were held yesterday in the Falkirk Sheriff Court before Sheriff Russell Bell and a jury. The first inquiry was into the circumstances attending the death of Francis Lamont, labourer. Standburn, Muiravonside, who, on the 28th May last, while employed as a labourer in the service of Messrs James Nimmo & Co., Ltd., coalmasters. Glasgow, at No. 2 Pit, Standburn, was standing on the pithead frame then being erected at the pit, when the frame fell over, carrying the deceased with it, whereby he was severely injured and died in a few minutes after. Mr. W. K. Gair conducted the inquiries. Mr. James Wilson, solicitor, appeared on behalf of Messrs Nimmo & Co., and Mr. Robert McLaren, assistant inspector of mines, was also present. James Mackie, pit oversman. Blawearie, said that in May last the firm was sinking a new pit at Standburn, and he was present at the pit on the date in question. They had got the pit sunk 9 feet in depth when they fitted up frame. The frame used was 36 feet in height and was supported on two legs. Witness was present to see that everything was being properly carried out. When the frame was fastened up it was wet, and about dinner-time a wind arose. After dinner Gillespie, the joiner, and the deceased went to the top of the frame to unfasten the steel rope. Before he went up Gillespie examined all the ropes, but noticed nothing wrong with them. After they had a guy rope fastened they put on a pulley to do some work, and when they were pulling a small rope through the block the frame began to move and afterwards gave way, and the two men fell with it a distance of 32 feet. The rope was not broken, and the frame did not give way from its fastenings on the ground, although the feet of the frame had slipped along about six feet. He could only account for the fall of the frame through the wind blowing at the time, the weight of the men on the top of the frame, and the stress exerted in pulling up the rope. Further evidence was led, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance therewith. The second inquiry was into the circumstances attending the death of Robert Cuthill, engineman. Church Street. Carronshore, who on 3d June, while employed on board the steam lighter No. 6, belonging to Carron Company.

Falkirk Herald 26th June 1897

AVONBRIDGE.

U.P. SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC. –

The children attending the U.P. Sunday school, and Standburn Mission Sunday School, in connection with the U.P. Church, had their annual picnic on Tuesday last. The destination was Kamemuir, a field there being kindly granted by Mr. Buchanan. The weather was a little dull in the morning, but improved in the afternoon, and there was a good turnout of parents and children. A plentiful supply of buns and milk was provided, and games were heartily engaged in. The teachers and carters, through the kindness of Mr. Buchanan, were entertained to tea in the house. The company arrived home about half-past seven, all highly pleased with their day's outing.

Edinburgh Evening News 9th July 1897

A WEST LOTHIAN DOMESTIC AND HER BREAKFAST.

In Linlithgow Sheriff Court to-day, Rebecca James, a domestic servant, residing at Standburn, Avonbridge, sued John Meikle, farmer, Rousland, Linlithgow, for £14 12; being £7 as wages from June to November, and £7 12s as board wages. Pursuer said that the defender had one morning insisted on her gathering weeds in the garden before she got her breakfast. The other servants were at breakfast, and she thought she was also entitled to hers. Defender told her if she could not do what she was told there was no use for her, and she left. The defender denied that the pursuer had been dismissed, and stated that she had been disobedient and stayed out late at night. She had been much inconvenienced. The Sheriff took the view that the girl was not entitled to gather weeds in the garden before getting her breakfast, and gave decree for £3.

Falkirk Herald 10th July 1897

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

FIRE AT STANDBURN –

THREE HORSES BURNED. –

On Monday morning, about one o'clock, fire broke out in a stable at Standburn belonging to Mr. Wilson Marshall, carter. The fire was first observed by a number of workmen, who were engaged sinking a pit in the neighbourhood of Standburn. The workmen immediately made for the stable, the door of which they forced open, but by that time the place was enveloped in flames. Mr. Marshall was at once informed of what had occurred, and other people living nearby were wakened up, but it was found that nothing could be done to save the building, which was by this time in a mass of flames. An effort was made to save the horses, but the flames had caught such as hold of the building that it was impossible to release the animals. In consequence the three horses which were in the stable were burned, together with the stable and fittings. The damage, which is covered by insurance, is estimated at £204.

Falkirk Herald 17th July 1897

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. –

The 142d quarterly meeting of the Redding Co-operative Society was held in the Co-operative Hall on Tuesday evening - Mr. John Myles, president of the society, in the chair. The quarterly report and balance-sheet stated that there were 1609 members on the roll. The sales for the quarter amounted to £18,412. The profits from all sources during the quarter were £4063 12s 3d, which paid a dividend of 4s 2d per £ on members' purchases. The rates per £ for the different departments were: - Redding - Grocery, 4s . drapery, 4s 2d; bakery, 5s 4d; fleshing, 3s 10d. Blackbraes - Grocery, 4s; drapery, 4s 4d. Maddistoun - Grocery, 4s 2d; drapery, 4s 4d. Standburn branch, 3s 10d. The report was unanimously adopted. Thereafter the election of a treasurer for the Redding branch took place, and Mr. Richard Brown was elected by 47 votes against Mr. Colin Myles, 43. On a ballot for two vacancies in the directorate, Messrs D. Robertson and W. Reid were elected.

Falkirk Herald 21st July 1897

AN AVONBRIDGE BREACH OF PROMISE CASE. –

On Wednesday, in the Falkirk Sheriff Court, an action for breach of promise and seduction was called at the instance of Elizabeth Chittick, residing at Standburn, Avonbridge, against

William Mackie, miner. No. 1 Pit, Blawearie, near Avonbridge. Pursuer, claimed £50 for breach of promise, £2 for inlying expenses, besides a sum of £6 per annum for 14 years as aliment for an illegitimate child. Pursuer resides with her father-in-law, and defender lives in the near vicinity of pursuer. They have been on terms of intimate friendship for a considerable period. About the month of June, 1895, pursuer avers that defender commenced to pay her marked attention by frequently walking out with her, courting her with a view to marriage, and in every manner conducting himself as a sweetheart. These attentions were continued, and in the month of September following the defender visited the pursuer in Stirling, where she was then engaged as a domestic servant, and there he made her an offer of marriage, which she accepted. No date was fixed for the marriage, and the parties continued to be on intimate terms. In the month of June following, while pursuer was on a visit to her mother, defender repeated his promise of marriage, and acting on the faith of that and the previous promise, she permitted him to seduce her. A child was born, whose paternity defender admitted, and also paid sums of money to account for inlying charges and aliment. On several occasions afterwards defender repeated his promise of marriage, but said it could not take place before the 4th of June. In view of the marriage the parties met and drew up a list of friends who were to be invited to the marriage. Invitation cards were ordered, and a furniture warehouse in Falkirk was visited by them with the view of purchasing furniture for their house. On the 6th of May, when pursuer and defender met to post the invitation cards, defender tore them up and refused to implement his promise, and still refused or delayed to do so. No appearances were lodged, and decree was given in absence for the sums sued for. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, Falkirk, was agent for the pursuer.

Falkirk Herald 4th August 1897
FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT
Wednesday.

(Before Sheriff RUSSELL BELL.)
MUIRAVONSIDE FARMER CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING A DOMESTIC SERVANT. – James Waddell, farmer, Easter Rigg, Muiravonside, was charged with having on the 20th July, in the farm house known as Easter Rigg, occupied by Elizabeth Shanks or Waddell, a widow, his mother, assaulted Annie Forgie, domestic servant in his employment, and presently residing at Standburn, by striking her with his fists on the left ear, the nose, and the mouth to the effusion of blood. Panel pleaded not guilty, and the case went to proof, the defence being conducted by Mr. Learmonth, solicitor, Falkirk. For the prosecution, Annie Forgie, the complainer, deponed that the accused on the day in question sent her to a Linlithgow tailor for a pair of trousers belonging to him. On the way she met her father and she told him the message she had got, and he sent her back to get the address of the tailor to whom she was sent. When she returned the accused refused to tell her the tailor's name, and insisted on her leaving his service. As she would not go, and would not sign her name to say that she would leave, he assaulted her. Accused got another girl to milk the cows that night without telling witness. Mrs. Waddell, his mother, was in the house when the assault took place. Witness left the farmhouse and spoke to two neighbours about what had happened. She afterwards saw the policeman, who advised her to go back. She did so, and the accused said he would let her stay till the morning. Cross-examined - I was a mile on the way when I met my father. Q. - Was it not a strange thing for you to set off on a walk of six miles without getting the proper address of the party you were sent to? A. - He only sent me to Linlithgow to "speer" for a certain tailor, Brotherston by name. Q. - Did he not mention the name of a man named Davie? A. - No. Q. - Did he not tell you a fortnight before this that he would have to look out for another servant on account of your impertinence? A. - No; he did not offer me my wages for the time I had been with him, and I did not say I would leave if I was paid my full six month wages. I never said to Mrs. Waddell and her son that I would break both of their faces, and I never gave them any impertinence. If I had given them impertinence I would have got better on. (Laughter.) It is not the case that either Mr. Waddell or his mother threatened to turn me away on account of my impertinence. James Fraser, South Craigen Cottages, deponed to the complainer coming to his house late on the night in question. Although in bed the door was not locked, and she came right in. She was all blood, and complained about Waddell striking her because she would not sign her name. He advised her to go to the policeman. Cross-examined - It was about a quarter to eleven o'clock when the girl came to his house. She did not say what the paper he asked her to sign was about, but she said he wanted to give her her money in order that she might leave. John Hood who lived near to the previous witness, deponed to the girl coming to his house between ten and eleven o'clock on the night in question. She said Waddell had assaulted her. Constable Sirkett, Maddiston, deponed that about twenty minutes past eleven o'clock on the night in question the girl met him and lodged a complaint against Waddell for assault. As her own home was much further away, witness advised her to go back to the farm. Next day he accused Waddell of the assault, and he denied it. For the defence, Mrs. Elizabeth Shanks or Waddell, mother of the accused, was examined. Being over 80 years of age and infirm, she was led into Court, and was allowed to give her evidence seated inside of the space reserved for the members of the Bar. She deponed that she would not have kept the girl long in her employment if she could have got another. She raised riots, and would do what witness desired. She gave witness plenty of impertinence. She had called them "brazen limmers," and had asked her money many a time. On the day in question she ran away home because her son wanted to give her her money for the time she had wrought, she insisting on being paid up till the end of her half year. Q. - Did anyone strike the girl in your house that day? A. - There was no one struck her any more than I am striking you this moment. (Laughter.) It is a false piece of business. I was there all the time, and would have seen anything of that kind had it been done. Continuing, she said that when the girl came back about twelve o'clock at night her son let her in, and she went away to her bed. When the girl came back to the house after being sent the message to Linlithgow, she said she had nether father, and that he had sent her back to get money to pay her train. She also asked a line to give to the tailor, and said that her father said something about her not having a diet for the journey. Witness's son simply told her that seeing she had not gone he would get the clothes himself without any line. A manservant with a brother of the accused at Glenhead Farm said he was in James Waddell's house on the night in question, and gave corroborative evidence as to what took place. When Forgie saw him sitting, she said he had no right there, and said "she would come ben and knock our faces in." The accused never touched the girl. The agents then addressed the Court, Mr. Learmonth stating that there was not a title of evidence to convict the accused. The Sheriff held that the charge had been proved. He imposed a fine of £1, with the option of fourteen days' imprisonment.

Dundee Courier 5th August 1897
SCOTTISH MINING.
STATE OF THE COAL TRADE.
GOOD TRADE AT STANDBURN.

The coal trade at Standburn, like most other coal districts, is remarkably good, and, while the various pits in the district are well supplied with men. they are at the same time receiving very regular employment, having a full supply of empty waggons, which when filled are readily disposed of. The pits are working every day, but even with this state of things the wages are so low that a number of people are not yet far removed from poverty. There is a great desire expressed by the miners that an effort should at once be made to improve the wages, but so far as rendering any assistance by being united together little is being done by them. A serious accident occurred in one of the Blackstone pits, belonging to Nimmo & M'Killip, on Saturday morning. While a miner was proceeding along the haulage road in his work a portion of the roof came away, falling on him and crushing him severely. He was at once taken out and conveyed to his home, where he lies in a precarious condition.

Falkirk Herald 7th August 1897

HAWKING WHISKY AT BLACKBRAES WITHOUT A LICENCE.
FALKIRK VANMAN CONVICTED.

AT a J.P. Courts held in the Falkirk Sheriff Court before Mr. Robert Baillie, Carron, and Mr. A. F. Thomson - David Clark, vanman, West Bridge Street, Falkirk, was charged with having, on 3rd July, on the public road passing through Blackbraes Square, and at or near to the dwelling house there occupied by Alexander Thomson, miner, hawked a quantity of whisky or other liquor, by selling it to David Clark, miner Standburn - Accused pleaded not guilty. Mr. James M. Wilson, solicitor, fiscal, prosecuted, and Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the accused. The first witness called was Constable Johnston, Blackbraes, who said that, on the date libeled, he and Constable Clacher, Avonbridge, were patrolling along Blackbraes Square, and saw an exchange of money take place between the accused and Clark at Thomson's door. They went into the house, and the accused admitted supplying whisky, and said it had been ordered. The other man said the same. Witness found the bottle of whisky in the bed. Accused produced an order with the name of Mrs. Howett, and maintained that was the order. That order was for a pint of rum, and it was Whisky that had been supplied to Clark. Witness was not satisfied with the order, and he was not satisfied with David Clark's statement. He consequently went and saw Clark the following day, and he told him that his statement on the previous day was a wrong one. The whisky was got in the front of the bed, concealed under the bed clothes. When witness went into the house on the first day he was followed by accused, who maintained the whisky had been ordered. He came and tried to put the words into David Clark's mouth. He made the statement voluntarily. Constable Clacher was with him, and he was also with him on the following day. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall, witness said he got the order in the order book belonging to accused, which he tore out on his own authority at the time in question. The reason why he tore it out was because the accused maintained that it was rum. Accused insisted that order form was for a pint of and rum that, it was not whisky. He was quite certain about that. Witness went back the second time because he was not satisfied he was telling the truth. He did not go to pester him; there was no such thing as pestering. Nothing had taken place between the two visits to make him go again. Witness only thought that, after the man had thought it over, he might give him a true statement. Both Constable Clacher and Mrs. Thomson were in the house when he was there. In answer to the bench, witness said that, although he pointed out that it was a pint of given on the order, accused still maintained it was whisky. David Clark, miner, Standburn, said he remembered being at Blackbraes Square on the date in question in the house of Thomson, when a question about getting drink came up. He saw the van of accused standing on the road. Witness went up to accused, and asked for a pint of whisky but he did not get the whisky on the road at the time. He said he could not give it there, but he gave it to him at the house, after he had driven the horse and cart along near the house. After witness had got the whisky he paid the price of the whisky inside the house just at the mouth of the inside door. In answer to the bench witness said the inside door was three or four feet from the outside door. Witness (resuming) said he could not be seen by any person passing. He saw Constable Johnston when he came to the outside door, after the money had been paid. He said at first the whisky had been ordered. He had got some whisky. There was a talk about the whisky, and accused said it was ordered. The police came back and saw him but he was not the worse of drink then. Witness told the police it was not ordered. There was no reference to the written order either by accused or by the constable in his presence. Cross-examined, witness said he had known accused by sight a fortnight before the day in question. He knew he was with Mr. Morris, grocer, Falkirk. Witness was at Standburn when accused got an order to deliver a pint of whisky weekly. Witness never gave Mr. Morris an order. His father was, however, in the habit of ordering whisky, also his good-brother (Andrew Cheyne), and his brother (John Clark). Q. - Did you ever get a pint of whisky before? Witness - No. On the day in question, when he met the accused at Blackbraes, he did not say he wanted whisky delivered there, and not at Standburn. On the occasion of the second the police, they asked him if he had changed his mind, and inquired if the whisky had been ordered. Witness told him it had not been ordered. That was all that took place between them. Re-examined by the Fiscal, witness said he put the whisky in the bed, because he wanted to conceal it, and to free accused from a charge of hawking. Thomas G. Howett, miner, Redding, said he remembered the day in question. He gave an order to Mr. Morris, and he got a pint of rum and a pint of whisky. He gave the order on that day. Cross-examined, witness said he had a, standing order to get a pint weekly. He was not at home on the 3d of July, which was the reason he did not get the rum. He paid when he got it delivered. Constable Johnston was re-examined, and, in answer to the Fiscal, said he was waiting outside, and accused and Clark were standing at the outside door when he saw him. Had it been inside they could not have seen them. Constable Clacher, Avonbridge, corroborated Constable Johnston. For the defence, Margaret Strang or Thomson, wife of Alexander Thomson, miner, Blackbraes, said she was standing between the doors - that was near her own door - when she heard Clark ask for the pint of whisky ordered at Standburn. She did not know whether he got it or not. They went into her house afterwards. Cross-examined by the Fiscal, witness said they were sitting in her house when the two policemen came in. Clark had the bottle of whisky in his pocket, but when she was at the other end of the house Clark had perhaps put it between a chair and her bed. She heard Clark say to the accused that he wanted a pint of whisky delivered every week. She heard Clark say in the house that he gave a weekly order for the whisky. In answer to the Clerk of Court (Mr. Gardner), witness said did not know any of the Clarks. Witness said she did not see the witness Clark go forward to the cart before they came forward between the doors. Re-examined by Mr. Marshall, witness said accused always gave Clark a call every week. James Morris, grocer, Falkirk, employer of the accused said he had a van on the road, which started in November last. They delivered a pint of whisky each to Clark's father, David Clark, and Mr. Cheyne in terms of standing orders. Witness produced a notebook with the names of those who received liquor, and had standing orders. Cross-examined, witness said he generally delivered a bottle to Clark, but it was sometimes left with his father. The order was never cancelled, but was given out every week as ordered. Clerk of Court - There were three pints of whisky left in one house. Mr. Marshall - A pint of whisky does not go very far. (Laughter.) Witness continuing, said that when he went with the van the whisky was almost always taken. There had been one or two exceptions. In answer to the bench, witness said that accused had told him about the policemen being in the house, and that the whisky had been ordered. He had to deliver a pint of whisky to Clark at Standburn. The vanman brought back very little whisky. In answer to the bench, witness said accused never brought back any whisky from Clark. Howett had not a standing order. Mr. BALLIE, in giving the decision of the Court, said that the Justices found the case proven. The Court imposed a fine of 21s. including expenses, or thirty days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 14th August 1897

BLACKBRAES BRASS BAND.

A GRAND BAZAAR

In aid of the instrument Fund of this Band will be held in, REDDING CO-OPERATIVE HALL, on AUGUST 26th, 27th, and 28th, 1897.

It is hoped that the Bazaar will be the means of raising a sum of £150 to £200.

The Bazaar will be Opened on 26th August, at 12 o'clock, by JAMES M'KILLOP, Esq., M.P., of Pormont Park ; J. GRAY-BUCHANAN, Esq. of Parkhill, in the Chair.

On 27th August, by DAVID MITCHELL, Esq. of Millfield, at 2 o'clock ; J. J. TWEEDIE, Esq. of Dunhalin, in the Chair.

On 28th August, by BAILIE HAMILTON, Falkirk, at 2 o'clock ; COUNCILLOR J. G. RUSSELL, Falkirk, in the Chair.

ATTRACTIVE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS

Will be provided on each Day of the Bazaar. The following Ladies and Gentlemen have kindly consented to be Stall-Holders, and will receive Donations in Money, Work, Provisions, Game,

&c , at their respective addresses :-

Mrs. JOHN WEBSTER, Shieldhill; Mrs. DAVID HANNAH, High Street, Falkirk; Miss QUIRK, Brightons, Polmont Station; Miss KING, Lea bank Cottage, Reddingmuirhead, Polmont Station; Miss SMITH, E. Manse, Reddingmuirhead, Polmont Station ; Mr. ROBERTSNEDDO, Polmontside Square, Polmont Station ; Mrs. JAS. MORRIS, 2 West Bridge; Mrs. CAMPBELL, Schoolhouse, Blackbraes; Miss CALDERWOOD, Standburn Cottage, Standburn. JAMES SMITH, Secretary of Bazaar Committee. Reddingmuirhead, Polmont Station.

Falkirk Herald 21st August 1897

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO A MINER AT MUIRAVONSIDE

On Wednesday morning while George Christie, miner, residing at Standburn, was engaged working at the coal face of No. 1 Pit, Redford, occupied by Messrs James Nimmo & Co., coalmasters, a large stone of about a ton in weight fell from the roof of the pit, and one end of it caught him on the back, injuring him severely. Medical assistance was called, and on examination it was found that Christie had received a serious injury about the spine and back and also his legs. He was afterwards conveyed to Glasgow Infirmary.

AVONBRIDGE

WE are glad to learn that Allan G. Waugh, son of Mr. Allan Waugh, Craigbank, Avonbridge, has completed his first professional examination in medicine at the Edinburgh University.

Dundee Courier 26th August 1897

SCOTTISH MINING

BRISKNESS AT STANDBURN.

A meeting was held with Standburn men for the purpose of getting them to take part, in the mass meeting held at Redding, and was very successful. Messrs Menzies and Jack attended the meeting. To show the interest now taken in the wage question, it may be stated that although no pickets were out on the morning of the meeting, with few exceptions, the whole of the miners remained idle. The miners have already waited on their manager regarding the advance, and he promised to forward their demand to the employers, and let them know as early as possible. Work has not been brisker for a long time back than it is at present, and the miners on the whole are working very regularly. Another serious accident has occurred at one of those pits to a miner named George Christie. While working a tail came on him, and injured him very severely. He was at once taken to the Glasgow Infirmary, but hopes are entertained of his recovery.

Edinburgh Evening News 9th September 1897

Dundee Courier 10th September 1897

SCOTTISH MINERS' WAGES. STIRLINGSHIRE.

Along with other districts, the East Stirlingshire miners are at present agitating for an advance of 6d per day in wages. To-day an enthusiastic meeting of miners was held at Standburn, near Polmont. Mr. Webb, miners' agent, Falkirk, delivered an address on the trade and wages question it was almost impossible, he said, under the present conditions, for the employers to withhold the advance any longer. It was agreed to remain idle on the Thursdays and to press for the advance.

Falkirk Herald 11th September 1897

MADDISTON.

OPENING OF NEW SCHOOL.

The new infant school for Maddiston was opened on Monday last by Mr. Murray and Mr Binnie, members of the Board. There were a considerable number of parents present. Prayer having been offered up, Mr. Murray said he had taken a very great interest in getting this school built, not from any spirit of contention, but simply because he thought it would be a great boon to a number of children in the neighbourhood. On the opening day 78 children had been enrolled, and that fact alone, he thought, showed that in all probability an assistant would be required, as he understood that the number for which the Department allowed a headmistress for an infant school was 60. Personally, he would rather that the Board had agreed to open this as a mixed school, but in their wisdom they had thought otherwise, and he was very pleased to take what they could get. He had no doubt, however, that in a very short time the Board would have to extend it from an infant to a mixed school. His experience had been that wherever a school was put down on the public road, working people were disposed to gather round that school, and so long as he had the honour of representing the ratepayers on the School Board he would do everything in his power to make that school, as well as the other schools under the Board, a success. He then called upon Mr. Binnie, as the oldest representative on the Board, to say a few words. Mr. Binnie expressed himself as being very happy to be present that day. He had always taken a deep interest in a school being built at Maddiston. He thought there was no district in the parish that had grown at the same rate, except, perhaps, the mining localities, as Maddiston had done, and he was pleased to think that this school would now save a great many children from travelling, say, two or two and a half miles distance often in rough, stormy weather, which, he thought, was good for neither their health nor the parents themselves. He was of the same opinion as Mr. Murray that it would have been better had the school been opened as a mixed school, even although it might have taken £100 or £200 more at the present time. From his experience he was sure it would have saved the ratepayers £200 or £300 for the time to come. However, being only one member of the Board, he was very glad to take what he could get, and he could only endorse what Mr. Murray had said that so long as he had the honour to represent the ratepayers, he would do all he could for the success of this and the other schools in the parish. Seeing a good many parents present, he would take that opportunity of informing them that they had been very careful in the selection of a headmistress, and he was perfectly sure that Miss Beattie would do her duty by the children and to the Board, and he knew that parents had it in their power to greatly help and encourage the mistress and the school. Mr. Eccles, on being asked to say a few words, said he had no doubt a school in Maddiston would be a very useful institution, and seeing there were so many children in that part of the parish of tender years, and yet of school age, he thought it would be a great advantage to many children who had previously to trudge to Muiravonside School. Even though children were sent away to school in the morning quite well, the weather was often wet and unpropitious, and after travelling long distances and sitting down wet they must have felt very uncomfortable, and under such circumstances they could hardly be thought to be in a condition either to take, in knowledge or sit quiet. He wished the new school every success. Mr. McKay, who had been detained in connection with another school, and who in consequence was rather late in arriving, also made a few remarks regarding the opening of the new school.

The proceedings thereafter terminated.

Glasgow Herald 11th September 1897

MISSIONARY

Wanted for Standburn. -Application, with testimonials, to be sent, to Rev. James B. G. Rouse. U.P. Manse, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 18th September 1897

PARKHALL CONVENTION. -

The annual three days' convention, arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Livingstone-Learmonth, for the deepening of spiritual life, was opened at their residence at Parkhall, Polmont, on Wednesday, and concluded last night. The meetings, which were held in the large barn, were held at 11.30 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6.30 p.m. of each day. All of the meetings have been attended with great success, and the attendance each day averaged from three hundred to one thousand people.

Many of these travelled long distances to attend the convention. The entrance to the barn was very tastefully arranged with Scotch fir trees, pot plants, and flowers, while the walls of the barn itself were set off with appropriate texts. Mr. Robert Wilson, chairman of the Keswick Convention, presided each day. The speakers on Wednesday were Dr. Elder Cumming, Glasgow; Rev. Mr. M'Cartney, Melbourne; Rev. C.G. Moore, China; Rev. Mr. Luce, Glasgow; and the Rev. Mr. Gelson, Ceylon. The others speakers included Mr. George Govan, of the Faith Mission, Glasgow; and Mr. Wm. Govan, Glasgow. Sankey's hymns were sung at the various meetings, which were characterised by much heartiness. The Parkhall Salvation Army Brigade was present each day and discoursed selections of music on the grounds. A sale of work was conducted in the Laundry Room in aid of the funds of the Standburn Mission Hall. To-morrow (Sunday) a two weeks' mission will be commenced at Parkhall, which will be conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, evangelists.

Dundee Courier 30th September 1897

SCOTTISH MINING.
STATE OF COAL TRADE.
DISPUTES AND REDUCTIONS.
REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICTS.
MEETING AT STANDBURN

A very large meeting of the miners of Standburn district was held last week. Mr. William Webb, who was present, addressed the meeting. Reports at the meeting stated that deputations had again waited on the manager in reference to the advance of wages, and he gave them to understand that this report should be at once forwarded to the employer, and he would let them know the reply whenever he received it. Those miners are now adhering very firmly to the idle day policy, and little difficulty is experienced in obtaining the five days' work. The output is readily dispatched, and a large number of empties are found in the various lyes. With regard to any more drastic action being taken to further the advance, there are many who would favour such, but the prevailing opinion is that, on account of the engineering lockout now going on, it would be inopportune to attempt it. Meanwhile they are strengthening their organisation, which is in a much stronger position than it has been for some time.

Falkirk Herald 13th October 1897

COUNTY OF STIRLING
LIST OF APPLICATIONS for CERTIFICATES for the SALE OF EXCISABLE LIQUORS for the COUNTY of STIRLING, for NEW PREMISES, by NEW TENANTS or OCCUPANTS, and for RENEWAL of TRANSFERRED CERTIFICATES

Name Designation and Name and Address of Landlord Residence of Applicant for	Place and Parish or County of Premises. Place. or Factor of Premises.	Parish.	Class of Certificate applied
PeterAbercrombie, Assistant, House, Spirit Merchant Blackbraes,	Standburn, John Marshall, Snabhead	Muiravonside,	Public- Writer
Bo'ness, Factor.			

Falkirk Herald Saturday 30th October 1897

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
Monday. (Before Sheriff RUSSELL BELL.)
BREACH OF THE PEACE

John Dalziel, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside parish, was charged with having, on 18th October, committed a breach of the peace near to Standburn. Accused admitted the charge, and was fined 10s, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

STIRLING COUNTY LICENSING COURT.

The half-yearly Licensing Court for the County of Stirling was held in the County Buildings, Stirling, on Tuesday. There was a very large attendance of Justices on account of the unprecedented number of applications for new licences, 13 in all, which were to be applied for. The whole of these applications were for premises in Falkirk district. On the motion of Mr. J. A. Henderson, Colonel King of Antermory was called to the chair.

STANDBURN APPLICATION.

Peter Abercrombie, assistant spirit merchant Blackbraes, applied for a licence for premises at Snabhead, Standburn. The CLERK read a letter from Mr. Livingstone - Learmonth of Parkhall, in which he stated that a licence should not be granted to premises in such a situation. The Chief Constable reported that the applicant was a suitable man, but having been bred a farmer, he had no aptitude for the trade. The property was owned by a firm of distillers, which was an objection. He did not think there should be an increase in the number of licences in this district. Mr. ROBB, solicitor, appeared for the applicant. On the motion of Mr. Henderson, Redford, seconded by Mr. WATT, the application was unanimously refused.

WOMAN FOUND DEAD AT STANDBURN. -

About 10 o'clock on Sunday morning Christina Love or Thomson (64), widow, residing at Standburn, Muiravonside parish, was found lying dead in her house. It appears that deceased lived alone, and that her son James and her daughter-in-law had been visiting her on Saturday night, and to all appearance left her in her usual health. On the following morning her son went to visit his mother, and found the shutter on the window and the door locked. On bursting open the door, he found deceased lying on the floor in a half-dressed condition. A post-mortem examination was made on the body on Tuesday by Dr. Calderwood, Avonbridge, and we understand that death has been certified to have been due to dislocation of the neck, caused, it is conjectured, by deceased falling out of bed.

AVONBRIDGE

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES. - Anniversary services were conducted in the U.P. Church last Sabbath by the Rev. Alexander Weir, Coatbridge. There was a good attendance at both services, the rev. gentleman preaching able and impressive discourses. On Monday evening a soiree was held, the Rev. J.B.G. Rouse, pastor of the congregation, presiding. Stirring addresses were delivered by the following gentlemen: - Rev. Alex Weir, Coatbridge; Rev. Robert Hamilton, Grangemouth; Rev. David Bayne, B.D. Muiravonside; Rev. Geo. Strathairn, Slamannan; and Rev. John Heggie, Avonbridge. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr R. Gray, rendered several anthems during the evening. Solos by Miss Waugh and Miss Baxter, and an organ solo by Master John Gray, were very much appreciated. At the close a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to all who had taken part in the proceedings.

Falkirk Herald 6th November 1897

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

MINING CLASS - On Wednesday evening the above class resumed its work for the session in Drumbowie School, near Standburn. A large number of pupils appeared for enrolment, after which the subject of "Geology" was made the introductory lecture by Mr. James Orr, C.S.T., the lecturer for the ensuing session.

Falkirk Herald 18th November 1897

STANDING ORDERS AND BEER HAWKING.

At Falkirk J.P. Court to-day, Alexander McAinsh, vanman, Falkirk, admitted at Standburn near

Polmont, hawked a quantity of ale to a young man. It was explained that accused had an order to deliver a dozen of beer at a shop in Standburn. The shopkeeper was not in when the accused called and the young man who was in the shop paid for the beer, and it was delivered to him by the accused from the cart. Accused had a standing order. The fiscal said these standing orders were most pernicious, and were often given with the intention of evading the law. Accused was fined 30s with 21s of expenses, or fourteen days in jail.

Falkirk Herald 20th November 1897

HAWKING ALE WITHOUT A LICENCE.-

At a J.P. Court in the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Thursday before ex-Provost Griffiths (presiding), Captain Fenton-Livingstone, and Mr. Fairlie, Grangemouth - Alexander M'Ainsh, lorryman, Thornhill Road, Grahamston, was charged with having, on 1st November, on the public road leading through Standburn, and at a part thereof at or near to the dwelling-house occupied by William Cunningham, miner, hawked a quantity of ale, or other exciseable liquor, by selling it to John Dalziel and Robert Hamilton, miners, residing at No. 106 Standburn, or one or other of them, or trafficked in exciseable liquors by selling a quantity of ale to one or other of them, without having a certificate. Mr. J. C. Allan, solicitor, who appeared on behalf of accused, pointed out that the offence was not so specifically given as to enable him to plead. The complaint was that accused hawked a quantity of ale, or other exciseable liquor. He said there was nothing more clearly established that the offence must be specifically stated. He might have hawked a pint bottle, or, it might be gallons of ale. He thought the Court would view the hawking of a small quantity of ale not so seriously as a large quantity. The Fiscal (Mr. Jas. M. Wilson) said that it was a dozen of ale that he had sold. It was not necessary and it was not usual to state the specific quantity. The Court repelled the objection, and allowed the complaint, as stated, to be proceeded with. Accused then pleaded guilty to the alternative charge of selling the ale without a licence. The Fiscal said that accused went into a small shop in Standburn, occupied by Wm. Cunningham, where he had a standing order for a dozen of ale, but the party was not at home. Dalziel and Hamilton were sitting in the shop, and they ordered the dozen of beer instead, which accused brought in from the cart, and delivered in the house, and the price was paid in the house. Mr. Allan said he was prepared to admit that the conduct of accused in selling the ale was wrong. It was not according to the spirit or letter of the Act. In the circumstances stated, however, he thought the case was one for a considerably modified penalty. The Fiscal said that the custom of standing orders was a most pernicious one. It was an attempt often to evade the law. Ex-Provost Griffiths said there was a considerable difficulty in finding out those offences, although they knew they were being committed day by day. Accused was fined 30s, with 21s expenses, or fourteen days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 27th November 1897

DRUMBOWIE.

DRUMBOWIE PUBLIC SCHOOL –

On Monday the children of the above school were examined in Bible instruction by Mr. Alexander M'Kenzie, M.A. Several people in the district attended, and were highly pleased with the manner in which the children acquitted themselves.

RECHABITES CONCERT. - The second annual concert and social in connection with the Standburn Welcome Lodge Independent Order of Rechabites was given in Drumbowie Public School on Thursday evening. Mr. James M'Kay of Avonview presided over a crowded house. The concert, which was of the highest order for a country district, was ably sustained by a professional company from Glasgow, amongst whom were Miss Lizzie A. M'Donald (soprano), Mr. Carlton Browne (tenor), the two M'Leans (international dancers), and Will Candlish (Negro comedian). An assembly followed, which was taken part in by upwards of 50 couples. The duties of M. C. were in the able hands of Brother Thomas Turner, music being supplied by Mr. M'Kee's orchestra.

Falkirk Herald 4th December 1897

Auction Sales

MR. BINNIE'S SALES.

SALE OF QUARRY AND BRICK WORK PLANT AND TOOLS.

AT MADDISTON QUARRY AND BRICK WORK.

On MONDAY, 6th DECEMBER.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to Intimate that he is instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at Maddiston QUARRY and BRICK WORK, 1 1/2 Miles South from Polmont station, on Monday, 6th December, 1897.

1 FIVE-TON STEAM DERRICK CRANE, nearly new (only one year in use)

1 THREE TON STEAM DERRICK CRANE, with NEW BOILER (3 Months in use).

1 30-CWT. STEAM DERRICK CRANE.

2 30-CWT. HAND DERRICK CRANES.

1 15- CWT. HAND HELD DERRICK CRANE.

2 stone Bogies, 2 Clay Bogies, 5 Rubble Boxes and Sling Chains, 4 Heavy brag Chains, 4 Light do., 3 Chain Dogs, 2 Heavy Mash Hammers, 5 Dressing Hammers, 18 Rock Picks, 33 Rock Wedges, 3 Rock Mells, 2 Heavy Pinches, 3 Light Rock Pinches, 47 Dressing Picks, 20 Hill Wedges, 4 Hill Pinches, 5 Mattock Picks, 7 Navy Barrows, 6 Brick Barrows, Shovels, 1 Pair Smithy Bellows, 2 Anvils, 2 Fore Hammers, and other Smithy Tools, etc., also 1 BRICK PRESSING MACHINE, Brick Moulding Tables. Brass Brick Moulds, Chimney Can Moulds, Wheeling Plates, &c., &c.

TERMS CASH Sale to begin at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 4th December 1897

STANDBURN.

MAGIC LANTERN ENTERTAINMENT. –

On Tuesday evening Brother Thomas Lindsay, D.S. J.T., gave a magic-lantern entertainment, entitled "A Night with Burns" to the Juvenile Tent of Rechabites. He was assisted by Brothers Andrew Turnbull, P.C.R., and James Flockhart, T.T., of the Falkirk Tent. The musical part of the programme was in the able hands of Miss Crawford and Miss Brown. "Tam o' Shanter" was rendered by Mr. David Sharp in grand style.

Falkirk Herald 4th December 1897

PIT ACCIDENT. -

On Wednesday, about 1 o'clock, Alexander Easton met with an accident in No. 1 Pit of Crosscroes. It appears that he was proceeding on his way to one of the "lyes," when by some means or other he was crushed between two hutches, and had one of his ribs broken.

Falkirk Herald 4th December 1897

ACTION FOR DAMAGES BY A MUIRAVONSIDE MINER. –

Proof was led in the Falkirk Sheriff Court yesterday in an action raised at the instance of Rhoderick Stewart, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, for damages to the extent of £234 against Messrs James Nimmo & Son, coalmasters, for injuries alleged to have been sustained by him in their No. 1 Pit at Blackstone. Pursuer states that he has been four years in the employment of defenders, that he was suspended from work from an attack of rheumatism for some months before 30th July last. Having recovered he proceeded to the defenders' pit to work along with his son, who had a working place in that pit. After he reached the pit pursuer saw the oversman, who sent him to work on the side of the haulage near the empty hutches. After he did so, and while proceeding along that road, he was knocked to the ground by a large stone about 4 1/2 feet long by 18 inches in breadth, which fell from the roof to where the haulage were. He was bent double by the weight of the stone, and while in this position the empty hutches were started from the pit bottom, and the first hutch came on the top of the stone resting on his body, which added to the weight upon him. He was extricated and attended by Dr Calderwood, who found he had sustained a fracture of the right thigh bone and was severely crushed about the body. Pursuer alleges that the condition of the haulage was

defective and insecure, and that it was not sufficiently propped and protected by timber. Pursuer had been under medical treatment, and would not be fit for work for at least twelve months. Defenders deny that pursuer was in their employment, alleging that he left their employment at the end of 1896, and that when he went to the pit on 31st July, he went merely to solicit a re-engagement, and when he was engaged, pursuer had no authority to proceed along the road without the knowledge of the defenders. The statutory inspection of the road had been duly made, and they deny that the road was insecure and insufficiently propped. They further claim absolvitor on the ground that the pursuer was a trespasser, and in any case they contend, that there was no fault or negligence on their part. The Sheriff appointed Wednesday week for debate by the agents. Mr. J. Craig Allan, solicitor, is agent for pursuer, and Mr. J. L. Oatts, of Messrs Lindsay, Meldrum, & Oatts, solicitors, Glasgow, is agent for the defenders.

Falkirk Herald 11th December 1897

LOST, FOUND &c.

LOST, on Monday, 29th November, between Aachingray and Standburn, a Horse Quarter – Clover, marked J.T. - Return to JAMES TAYLOR, Fleetholme Bakery. Airdrie.

Falkirk Herald 25th December 1897

DRUMBOWIE.

CONCERT. –

On Thursday night a concert was given in aid of the poor of the parish in Drumbowie Public School. The promoters of the entertainment were Mr. James Mackay of Avonview, Dr. Calderwood, Standburn, and Mr. Geo. Mackay, Drumbowie Public School. There was a fair attendance. Piano duets were given by the Misses Hunter and Crawford. Misses Calderwood, Crawford, Beattie and Baxter rendered several songs to the approval of the audience. Dr. and Miss Calderwood played several Scotch selections with excellent taste on the violin and piano; Mr. Hill, Falkirk, sang several baritone solos with great taste, while Messrs Marshall and Rule kept the audience in amusement with their comic songs. A recitation was given by Mr. Archibald, and songs and recitations by Sergeant-Major Quirk, who was quite a host in himself.

Falkirk Herald 25th December 1897

RESPONSIBILITY FOR-PIT PROPPING.

INJURED MINER GETS £90 DAMAGES.

Sheriff Bell, Falkirk, to-day issued an interlocutor in an action at the instance of Roderick Stewart, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, against James Nimmo & Co., coalmasters, Slamannan, in which pursuer claimed £234 in name of damages for injury sustained in an accident which occurred in No. 1 Pit, Blackston Colliery, belonging to the defenders. The Sheriff, in his interlocutor, finds that on the 31st July, the pursuer, while engaged, as a miner by the defenders, was proceeding to his working place down the main haulage-way, when a stone from the roof fell upon and severely injured him; that at the time this occurred a seam of ball coal, situated above the workings, of which the main haulage-way formed part, was being worked by the defenders, the working having approached within about 14 feet of that part of the way where pursuer was injured; that the result of the working of the ball coal was to render the roof of the main haulage-way insecure and dangerous; and that the means adopted by the defenders to counteract the insecurity of the roof at the part where the accident occurred - single props at irregular intervals - were insufficient for the purpose. His Lordship finds the defenders liable in £90 damages, with expenses.

Falkirk Herald 25th December 1897

FAILING TO EDUCATE. –

At the Sheriff Court on Monday, Joseph Mechan, miner, 123 Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having failed to provide elementary education for his child, Joseph Mechan, aged 13, by not keeping him in regular attendance at school during the four weeks immediately preceding the 12th of Nov. He pled guilty. The Procurator-Fiscal said that the child had been in delicate health, and the School Board had instructed him not to press the case. If accused had appeared at the meeting of the Board there never would have been a prosecution. The Sheriff dismissed accused with an admonition.

Falkirk Herald 25th December 1897

JACK. - Standburn Place, Standburn, on 19th inst., the wife of Thomas Jack, butcher, of a son.

1898

Falkirk Herald 1st January 1898

MUIRAVONSIDE.

PRESENTATION. -

At Standburn, on Wednesday evening, Constable Sirkett was presented with a handsome watch, along with a gold brooch for Mrs. Sirkett, on the occasion of his leaving Muiravonside for Larbert. Mr. Mackie occupied the chair, and Mr. Croall made the presentation. Thereafter a pleasant evening was spent.

STANDBURN.

U.P. MISSION HALL. –

A soiree and Christmas Tree was given to the children attending the above Sabbath School and Band of Hope on Thursday night – Mr., Snaddon presiding. A few views were shown by a magic lantern, after which a lengthy programme was gone through, including addresses from the Rev. J.B.G. Rouse and others. Thereafter prizes were distributed amongst the children.

Falkirk Herald 8th January 1898

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT

FRIDAY.

(Before Bailie FLANNIGAN.)

BREACH OF THE PEACE. –

John McLean, miner, Standburn, was charged with having, on 6th January, committed a breach of the peace in High Street. Accused pleaded guilty. The Fiscal said prisoner was very much the worse of drink, at the time. The police had considerable difficulty in taking him to the office. The Magistrate imposed a fine of 10s, or seven days' imprisonment.

MOLESTING THE POLICE. - John McLean, miner Standburn, was charged with having, on 6th Jan., in High Street, obstructed and molested George Mill, police sergeant, and Constable McDougall while in the execution of their duty. Accused pleaded guilty. The Fiscal said that this case arose out of the previous one. The two accused were cousins. The friends of the other accused - McLean - and particularly the prisoner, felt aggrieved at him being taken away. Perhaps a part of the obstruction was accidental. Accused tried to trip up the police.

The officers, as a lesson to others, took him into custody. Generally the popular feeling was in favour of the prisoner, even when they knew nothing about the case. The Bailie said it was certainly a very serious thing to obstruct the police in their duty, but he supposed it was a sort of finish up to the New Year. He imposed a fine of 10s, or seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 8th January 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

(Before Sheriff Bell.)

WEDNESDAY

BREACH OF THE PEACE AT STANDBURN. –

Robert Love, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, was fined 20s, or fourteen day, for committing a breach of the peace there, he had been previously convicted.
THEFT OF HAY. - John Nicol, sen., contractor, Rumford, and John Nicol, jun., carter, his son, were charged with stealing 50lbs. of hay from Craigs Farm, Polmont, occupied by William Gardner. They pleaded not guilty, and were defended by Mr. Thos. Gibson, solicitor. The charge was found proven. The father was sent to jail for 14 days, while the son was admonished.

Falkirk Herald 12th January 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

PUGILISTIC MINERS -

James Sneddon, miner, California, and Wm. Pryde, miner, Boxton, Muiravonside, were fined 10s each, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for fighting with each other and creating a disturbance at Shieldhill.

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE. -

Arch. Brown, blacksmith, Drumbowie, was fined 10s, with the alternative of seven days in jail, for creating a disturbance on the public road at Standburn.

Falkirk Herald 19th January 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A MISSUNDERSTANDING. - John Neilson, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 1st January, on the public road opposite the house at Standburn occupied by James Thomson, miner, committed a breach of the peace. Panel pleaded guilty. It appeared that the accused pleaded not guilty to the offence on 16th January, and that the case was adjourned till the 12th, bail being fixed at 10s. Witnesses attended the Court on the 12th, but the accused did not appear, and the bail money was forfeited. The Fiscal suggested that as a warning to others his Lordship might now impose an additional penalty for the accused not attending the Court when he had to do so. The accused said it was through a misunderstanding that he had not appeared. He thought that when he forfeited the ten shillings that ended the matter. The Sheriff - I will take your word for it. I want it to be well known, however, that if any one undertakes to appear here and does not appear, it is a very serious offence. You may go.

Falkirk Herald 22nd January 1898

TRADE IN FALKIRK AND DISTRICT DURING 1897.

THE BUILDING- TRADE.

The past year has been a most prosperous one for the building trade in this district. While some cases villages such as Slamannan and Airth have remained stationary, there has been a great development in such centres as Falkirk, Grangemouth, and Stenhousemuir in particular. With regard to Falkirk and neighbourhood the briskness which has been experienced in the building trade during the past few years has not abated during 1897. In Shieldhill district the only work of special importance during the year was been the erection of commodious new central premises by the Redding Co-operative Society at their headquarters, Reddingmuirhead. The new buildings, which are nearing completion, are being fitted with all the latest improvements. The ground flat is to be occupied as grocery and drapery departments, with cellars at the back for the convenience of loading and disloading of goods. The upper flat is to consist of salesman's house and large committee room, with small waiting rooms attached. The old premises are intended to be thoroughly overhauled, and fitted up with extra ovens and other additions to bakery, and a shop for the sale of bread and loading and packing of vans, etc. Avonbridge district has developed very much of late owing, no doubt, to the opening up of the mining industry and minor employments. At Blackston Messrs James Nimmo and Co. last year erected a washing-machine, and to keep pace with the growing trade and population a great number of houses have been built. The company have added six new houses to their number at Standburn, and throughout the whole district houses are being erected. In Avonbridge Mr. James Waugh opened his new mill. Immediately adjoining the mill he has built a splendid cottage, consisting of two houses. On the opposite side of the Avon Bridge is a nice property recently built by Mr. John Wilson, with a shop and three dwelling-houses. A stone-cast from here is a building erected by Mr. Frederick Albert, which is as good a piece of masonry as in the district. An addition was built to the Craigend Farm, giving a new aspect to it. Another cottage has been built half a mile out of Avonbridge by Mr. Edward McKee. At Maddiston a few new buildings have been built, including a public school.

Falkirk Herald 26th January 1898

PECULIAR POINT IN A SCHOOL BOARD PROSECUTION.

At the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Monday -before Sheriff Bell -

Michael Carlin, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged, at the instance of the Muiravonside School Board, with having, for a period of fifteen weeks, failed to provide elementary education for his daughter, Elizabeth Carlin, aged between 13 and 14 years. Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, Falkirk, who appeared for the accused, said he wished to make a few remarks with regard to the case. The Procurator-Fiscal - We had better take the accused's plea first. You can only speak on the case now as objecting to the relevancy of the complaint. Mr. Marshall said he had to object to the relevancy. This girl was in service, maintaining herself, and beyond her parents' control. She was between 13 and 14 years of age. The Fiscal - That is an explanation, but not a plea against the relevancy of the complaint. The Sheriff - The girl is a minor. Mr. Marshall - But she is supporting herself, and in service. The Fiscal - That may be true in fact, but it is no objection to the relevancy of the complaint. The Sheriff - The same plea might be raised in a case where the pupil was 12 years of age. Mr. Marshall - This girl came home at last May term. Her father has no control over her. She is earning a wage, and keeping herself. The Sheriff - Your client had better plead not guilty. (To the accused - Are you guilty or not guilty?) Accused - I will just plead guilty. She is a big young woman, and she has been away from me for eight months. I am not fit to run after her since I met with the accident. The Mother - My Lord, will you allow me to speak? The Sheriff - You cannot, when you are represented by an agent. The Mother - You might as well take me as take her to school. The Sheriff - I will have you removed from the Court if you talk any more. Mr. Marshall - This is a very serious matter. My client has two broken legs, and he cannot run all over the country looking for his daughter, who will not come home. Accused - I would rather plead guilty, and be done with the case. I am a poor man, with only 12s 6d a week, and four to keep. I will rather "own guilty, and frankly take your Lordship's decision." The Sheriff - What am I to do with a case of this kind? I must convict, of course. It is a most remarkable offence, and may have far reaching consequences. It would be an evasion of the Education Act to admit your theory. Mr. Marshall - But you have to look at the freedom of the citizen as well, my Lord. The Sheriff - The Act says that a parent is bound to provide education for his children up to a certain age. The Fiscal - This case is a somewhat peculiar one my Lord. It is not a case of keeping a child irregularly at school, but of entirely disregarding the Act. He wilfully sent the girl away to service before she had attained the age at which she could leave school. The girl is very far back. Accused - She is a good scholar, my Lord. The Fiscal - Besides, the accused is setting the other people in the district a bad example, and the result is that the School Board are having a great deal of difficulty in getting parents to send their children to school. Accused was before the Court on the 15th September last for the same offence, and was fined 10s. He was allowed time to pay his fine and he did pay it. He did a great deal of harm, however, by telling the neighbours that he got off. He thus encouraged others to disregard the School Board. Mr. Marshall - I think this is a peculiarly hard case. The man has pleaded guilty against my advice, and he must suffer the consequences. I was quite prepared to risk my case on the

fact, that the girl had left her father's house, and that she was beyond his control. Since he met with the accident, he has so far lost control over his daughter. She was in a place, and came home every day till the November term, when she would not stay at home. She is bordering on 14 years of age. The Sheriff - Is her mother alive? The Fiscal - Yes; she is in Court. And a very capable-like woman she is, my Lord. (Laughter.) Mr. Marshall - But the mother cannot tie the girl up, and take her to school. This is an exceedingly hard case. The girl will be 14 in July, and I understand, she has a fair education. The Fiscal - She is very far back. She was hardly at school at all last year. The Clerk to the School Board - She has only made 24 attendances since April last. The Sheriff - Of course, I have to consider what effect the conduct of the accused will have upon others. Mr. Marshall - But there are special circumstances. This is not an able-bodied man. The man is a wreck, so far. The Sheriff - If I pass over such offence such as this, others will seek to evade the Act in the same way. Mr. Marshall - The man is a confirmed invalid, my Lord. The Sheriff - The proper thing would be for some one to take hold of the children. At present the burden is all laid on the parent. I cannot pass over this case. I must treat it severely because of the example to others. Even although there are special circumstances, this is such a dangerous matter that I must impose a fine - 20s, or fourteen days. The Accused - You can put me in jail. I cannot pay £1 out of 12s 6d.

Falkirk Herald 2nd February 1898

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT.

DRUNK AND INCAPABLE. - Thomas Cunningham, labourer, Back Row, and John Graham, miner, Standburn, were fined 7s 6d each, or five days' imprisonment, for having been drunk and incapable on 31st January.

Edinburgh Evening News 4th February 1898

Dundee Courier 4th February 1898

STIRLINGSHIRE MINERS ASK A RISE.

A meeting of East Stirlingshire miners was held to-day at Standburn, Polmont. Mr. Webb, miners' agent, Falkirk, addressing the meeting, said that the coal trade for the past twelve months had been exceedingly busy, notwithstanding the engineers' strike, and the outlook for the future was in every way satisfactory. He thought it justified the miners putting forward a claim for an advance of wages. It was agreed to press for an advance.

Falkirk Herald 5th February 1898

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE MINERS.-

A meeting of the East Stirlingshire miners was held on Thursday evening on the football field at Standburn. Mr. Andrew Menzies presided. Mr. Webb, miners' agent, Falkirk, addressed the meeting, and in course of his remarks stated that the coal trade for the past twelve months, notwithstanding the great strike in the engineering trade, was good. The outlook at the present time was in every way satisfactory, and such the case, the miners were fully justified in putting forward a claim for an advance of wages. Going on to speak of the Workmen's Compensation Act, he said that while he could not believe that the benefit from the Act would be as great or as easily obtainable as some people would have them to believe, at the same time whatever benefit it did confer was an addition to what they previously had. It was undoubtedly, in his opinion, a step in the right direction, and he for one would give it a fair trial. He therefore counselled them to continue together, not only to improve their wages, but that the full advantage of the Act of Parliament passed in their interests might be secured.

Falkirk Herald 5th February 1898

MADDISTON.

Shepherds' Concert and Social Meeting. - Under the auspices of the Diamond Jubilee Lodge, No. 2455, of the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds a concert was given in Muiravonside School on Friday evening last. Bro. Dr. Lawrie presided, and there was a large attendance. The Chairman delivered a very interesting address on Shepherdry and its origin. Thereafter a varied musical programme was entered upon and carried through with much success. Songs were sung by Miss Beattie, Miss Crawford, Miss Heeps, and Messrs Smith and Heeps; comic songs were given by Messrs Johnston, Molloy, and Marshall, and pianoforte duets were contributed by Misses Hunter and Crawford. Misses Hunter, Crawford, and Beattie played the accompaniments with much acceptance. All the artistes were loudly cheered, and encouraged at each appearance, and votes of thanks were heartily accorded at the close of an enjoyable concert. The concert was followed by a social meeting, at which Mr. Watt presided. Tea having been partaken of, dancing was engaged in with much spirit to music provided by Bro. Storrer. Bro. Bissett acted as M.C. The refreshments were, purveyed by Mr. Hunter, Polmont.

Falkirk Herald 9th February 1898

DROWNING FATALITY. -

Between twelve and one o'clock on Sunday morning a man was heard to fall into the canal at Camelon Bridge. He was got out shortly afterwards, but life was found to be extinct. The body was conveyed to the mortuary at Falkirk by Police Constable Allan, and in the course of the day it was identified as that of Hugh Donally, miner, Standburn. Deceased was 26 years of age, and was unmarried. It seems that on Saturday night he had left Standburn at 6.30 for the purpose of going to Falkirk. He met a companion in the town, and the two went off to catch the 9.25 p.m. train to Polmont. The train was just leaving the station when the two got down, and although his companion got in, the deceased was not so smart as he was, and he lost the train. Later in the evening he appears to have begun to walk home, but mistaking his road, travelled out in the direction of Camelon and walked into the canal.

Falkirk Herald 12th February 1898

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT.

(Before Bailie HAMILTON.)

WEDNESDAY.

DRUNK AND INCAPABLE. -

Ann Campbell or Allan, wife of and residing with John Allan, joiner, Standburn, and William Coghill, brassfounder, in custody, were fined 7s 6d, or five days' imprisonment, for having been drunk and incapable on 8th February.

Falkirk Herald 23rd February 1898

STANDBURN. MINERS' MEETING. -

A meeting of the miners in the Standburn district was held last Friday evening, when it was agreed by a majority to observe Saturday as an idle day, in place of Thursday, as at present.

Falkirk Herald 5th March 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

ALLEGED COAL STEALING. -

Marion Shaw or Penny, and Mary Penny, wife and daughter of Francis Penny, quarryman, Manuelrigg, Muiravonside, were charged with having on 7th Feb., stolen 25 lbs. of coal from the Manuelrigg Colliery, occupied by the Manuelrigg Coal Company. They pleaded not guilty. After evidence had been led the Sheriff found the charge proved against the girl and fined her 2s 6d, or one day, while the charge against the mother was found not proven.

BREACH OF THE PEACE. -

Peter McLachlan, gatekeeper, Almond Row, Muiravonside, was charged with having committed a breach of the peace on the road leading from Gilmeadowland Farm to Almond Row. Accused pleaded guilty, and was fined 10s, or seven days.

WENESDAY.

COAL STEALING. –

John Cheyne, miner, Standburn, was accused of having on 24th February stolen 30 lbs. of coals from Gateside Pit, occupied by Messrs James Nimmo and Company. He pled guilty. The sister of accused, who was in Court, said that her brother had been sent for water, and had lifted the coal. The coal, however, was never used in the house. A fine of 2s 6d, or one day's imprisonment, was imposed.

Falkirk Herald 12th March 1898

STANDBURN.

SILVER WEDDING. –

Mr. and Mrs. Robert MacLean, residing at Standburn, celebrated their silver wedding on Saturday last. A few friends collected together, and an afternoon's enjoyment was indulged in.

Falkirk Herald 18th March 1898

STANDBURN.

U.P. CHURCH SOIREE.

On Thursday night a soiree was held in the United Presbyterian Mission Church - Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon presiding over a large attendance. After tea, Mr. George Gordon McKay gave an address, in which he said that the church had prospered extremely well since Mr. Snaddon had come to work among them. Addresses were also delivered by Miss Stirling, of Tarduf (late of China); Rev. A. F. Kerr, Shieldhill; Dr. Calderwood; and Mr. Archibald Binnie, superintendent of the Sabbath school. A service of song was also gone through by various members of the choir, a solo was sung by Mr. Alexander Calder, and a reading was given by Mr. Buchanan.

Falkirk Herald 19th March 1898

PROPERTY SALE. –

In the Crown Hotel on Thursday, Mr. Charles S. Neilson, auctioneer, exposed for sale by public roup a dwelling-house and garden at Craigs, Polmont Station. The upset price was £100, and the property was purchased for £104 by Mr. Hunter, the present tenant of the property.

MOTOR CAR EXHIBITION - The Stirling Motor Car Coy, (Ltd.), Hamilton, gave an exhibition with one of their motor cars in the town on Thursday. The opening exhibition was given in the forenoon, when the car, containing Bailie Hamilton, Councillor Burns, ex-Bailie Christie, and Mr. D. P. Black, left the Burgh Buildings. The vehicle, which was one of the company's smaller cars, was of waggonette shape, and seated four persons inside and one beside the driver. It was driven alone the High Street to Laurieston, where Mr. Fenton-Livingstone of Westquarter was met by appointment. This gentleman having seated himself in the car, it proceeded along the Polmont Road, and entered the grounds of Westquarter at the lodge gate there. After resting for a little at Westquarter House, the company resumed their journey and returned via the Redding Road and Laurieston to Falkirk. The car was pretty heavily laden for the size of it, and with the exception of finding the hill at Laurieston and the soft ground leading up to Westquarter House a little stiff, it went with capital speed, and the drive was a very pleasant one. The car seemed to be very easily steered, and the brake had a powerful action in stopping it. All along the route the car was an object of much interest to the large numbers of people who turned out to view it. Other exhibitions were given during the day, and various local gentlemen were invited to make a journey in the car. The car was driven over the principal streets of the town, and found the gradients and roads not at all unsuited for such a vehicle. The car seemed a very serviceable and convenient mode of conveyance.

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE MINERS' –

Meetings of miners of Standburn and Redding districts were held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings respectively, and were addressed by Mr. Wm. Webb, miners' agent, Falkirk. The meetings considered the advisability of pressing forward for an advance of wages, and joint resolutions bearing on the wage question were passed. The meetings unanimously agreed to petition in favour of the Miners' Eight Hours Bill, and the secretary was instructed to forward the resolution to Mr. McKillop, M.P., for presentation to Parliament.

DEATH OF THE DAUGHTER OF SHERIFF BELL

We regret to record the death of Miss Bell, only daughter of Sheriff Bell. Falkirk, which place at Weedingshall, Polmont, on Saturday. The deceased, who was sixteen years of age, was laid aside with influenza, and her illness developed into pneumonia, which was the cause of death. Much sympathy is being expressed in the town and district with Sheriff and Mrs. Bell in their sad bereavement. The funeral took place into Dundee on Tuesday.

Falkirk Herald 2nd April 1898

STANDBURN.

RECHABITES' SERVICE. –

Last Sunday evening, in the U.P. Church here, a service in connection with the order of Rechabites was held. The local Rechabites attended, wearing the regalia of their order, and there was a crowded attendance of the general public, the church being filled to its utmost capacity, and many people being unable to obtain admittance. An earnest and impressive sermon, appropriate to the occasion, was preached by the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon. The children's choir, of thirty voices, under the able leadership of Mr. Alexander Hynd, was present, and sang several hymns in a very efficient manner.

Falkirk Herald 2nd April 1898

AVONBRIDGE.

SOCIAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION. –

The members of the Avonbridge U.P. Church Bible Class met in a social capacity in the hall of the church on Wednesday evening, the class having been closed for the session on Sabbath last. About 70 sat down to tea, which was purveyed in excellent style by the lady members of the class. Mr. Robert Buchanan presided, and, in a few appropriate remarks, referred to the high esteem in which the Rev. Mr. Rouse, their respected pastor, was held by the members of his Bible class. Thereafter, Mr. George Gray, Blackbraes, secretary of the class, in a few congratulatory remarks, referred to the services which had been rendered to the class during the four sessions in which Mr. Rouse had been their teacher. In name of the members of the class, he presented Mr. Rouse with "The People's Bible," by Joseph Parker. D.D., (complete in 25 volumes), and a pair of handsome gold spectacles, and also a handsome purse-bag for Mrs. Rouse. The volumes bore a suitable inscription. Mr. Rouse suitably replied, both on his own and also on behalf of Mrs. Rouse, expressing his heartfelt gratitude for the handsome presents which had been placed in his hands that evening by the members of his Bible Class. A short address was afterwards delivered by Mr. D. K. Ritchie Snaddon, U.P. missionary, Standburn. Thereafter a varied and exceedingly interesting programme of songs, games, etc., was gone through.

Falkirk Herald 2nd April 1898

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT

THURSDAY.

(Before Bailie HAMILTON.)

THEFT. –

Elizabeth Wheening and Janet Cassels, aged 11 and 12 years respectively, residing at Standrigg, pleaded guilty to having, on the 22nd March, stolen a wooden board forming part of a bridge erected at the pithead of a pit near Standburn. Accused were each fined 5s, with the option of three days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 2nd April 1898

FAILING TO EDUCATE. –

At the Burgh Court on Monday, Henry Forgie, miner -Standburn, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having for four weeks neglected the education of his daughter, Ellen, aged between 12 and 13 years. The Fiscal said this was one of two cases of a similar nature brought before his Lordship in January. The accused, although cited, did not appear in Court, but left the district. In the other case his Lordship imposed a fine of 20s, holding that the accused sent his daughter to service for the purpose of evading the Education Act. When the present panel returned to the district he was served with a summons again, and he left the place again, and went to Bannockburn. Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, who appeared for the accused, said that the girl, who was in service, was bordering on 14, and was in Standard five. The father was willing to send her back to school to complete her time. The Sheriff - Why did he go to Bannockburn? Was it to evade the School Board? - Mr. Hunter - It was to facilitate his work, my Lord. The Sheriff - It would be to facilitate the girl being in service and not to be prosecuted, I suppose. The accused said he had set out for the Court on a former occasion but he had lost the train. A fine of 10s was imposed the alternative being seven days in jail.

Falkirk Herald 6th April 1898

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY.

The ordinary meeting of the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery was held in the Erskine I.P. Church Hall yesterday - Rev. Mr. Sleath, Bo'ness, moderator.

STANDBURN MISSION.

Rev. Mr. Rouse, Avonbridge, reported that contributions amounting to £30 18s 6d had been received from nine congregations in the Presbytery towards the liquidation of the debt on the Standburn Mission. With other subscriptions received, the sum was brought up to £52 0s 6d. In addition they had obtained a grant of £182 0s 6d from the Home Board. The total cost of the church building at Standburn was £273 15s 7d, so that there was a debt still resting on the church of £91 15s 7d. A sum of £40 had been promised conditional to other £50 being forthcoming in order to clear off this debt. Seven of the congregations in the Presbytery had not yet contributed towards the cost of the building, and he hoped they would see that it was not yet too late to send in their contributions. The Moderator - Name the congregations which have not contributed. Mr. Baird - Some of the congregations could not be expected to contribute. We could not expect Airth, for instance, to subscribe. After further discussion it was remitted to a committee consisting of the Rev. Mr. Rouse, and Messrs Borthwick Watson and John Baird, to have the necessary amount raised before the end of the year.

Falkirk Herald 16th April 1898

STANDBURN.

ACCIDENT TO A MINER. -

On Monday John Brodley, miner, residing at Drumbroider, met with an accident in No. 3 Pit of East Roughrigg Colliery. He was making preparations to support a "bad stone," and as he was in the act of placing his prop the stone fell, striking him on the collarbone. On examination Dr. Calderwood discovered that the bone was broken.

Falkirk Herald 16th April 1898

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. -

The quarterly meeting of the Redding Co-operative Society was held in the Co-operative Hall, Redding, on Tuesday evening. Mr. John Myles, president of the society, presided over a large attendance of members. The balance-sheet was submitted, and unanimously approved of. Mr. John Myles was re-elected president. Mr. Thomas Barker being elected as a director, and Mr. Andrew Bennie was elected in room of Sergeant-Major Quirk. A donation of £10 was granted to the Domestic Mission, and £5 towards the Blind Asylum. The sales for the quarter were £18,315, as compared with £19,356 for the corresponding quarter last year - a decrease of £1040. There is actually, however, no decrease, but an increase, as the corresponding quarter last year extended to 14 weeks. Members - Present quarter, 1628; corresponding quarter last year, 1586 - increase 42. The profits from all sources amounted to £3828 0s 0 1/2d, which allowed a dividend of 4s per £ on members' purchases. The rates per £ for the various departments are: - Redding - Grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 3d; bakery, 4s 2 1/2d; fleshing, 4s. Blackbraes - Grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 3d. Maddiston - Grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 4d. Standburn branch, 3s 8d.

PRESENTATION. -

On Friday evening last the committee of Redding Co-operative Society, after their usual business meeting, met in a social capacity for the purpose of presenting Mr. John Walker, who has acted as secretary and manager of the society for 30 years, with a small token of esteem in appreciation of the many services he has rendered the society, and also as a memento of the opening of the commodious new central premises at Reddingmuirhead. Mr. A. Brown presided, and in a few well-chosen remarks called upon Mr. John Myles, president of the society who referred in laudatory terms to the respect and esteem in which Mr. Walker is held, and the great progress of the society during the time Mr. Walker had been their manager, and in the name of the society, presented him with a handsome marble timepiece, which bore a suitable inscription. Mr. Walker briefly replied, thanking them for the handsome gift with which they had presented him, and in reviewing the work during the past 30 years, said there had been many changes. There had also been a continuous and steady growth in the business of the society, the sales for his first quarter being £700, as compared with the present quarter, £18,315. A vote of thanks to the Chairman, on the motion of Sergeant-Major Quirk, closed a very pleasant evening.

Falkirk Herald 16th April 1898

HOUSES, SHOPS, &c To Let

SHOP to Let. - Apply Andrew Cheyne, Standburn, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 20th April 1898

STIRLING COUNTY LICENSING COURT.

The half-yearly Licensing Court for the county of Stirling was held in the County Buildings, Stirling yesterday. Colonel King of Antermony presided over a large attendance of Justices.

THE HOUR OF CLOSING.

On the motion of the - Chairman, it was agreed that the hour of closing be ten o' clock as formerly.

A STANDBURN APPLICATION.

Peter Abercrombie, assistant spirit merchant, Blackbraes, applied for a public-house licence for premises at Standburn. Objections were intimated from Mr. Livingstone Learmonth of Parkhall, and Messrs James Nimmo and Co. The Chief Constable said he had no report on this case, as he did not think that the application was a serious one. The premises were situated a considerable distance from Standburn, and were on a road where there was no population. Mr. Whyte, solicitor, Stirling, appeared for the applicant, and said that in the village of Standburn, with a population of about 1000, there was no public house nearer than Maddiston in the one direction, and Avonbridge on the other. Both places were three miles distant from Standburn. Mr. Henderson, Redford - That is perfect nonsense. Neither place is that distance away. Mr. Wilson, solicitor, appeared for Messrs James Nimmo and Co., and said that the application had been unanimously refused at a former Court, and there had been no change of circumstances. Mr. Gibson, solicitor, appeared for Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth and other inhabitants who objected, and said that there was not the slightest necessity for a licence being granted to such premises. Mr. Henderson, Redford, said that the situation of this house was about the worst that could possibly be got. The application was unanimously refused.

PUBLIC-HOUSE LICENCE GRANTED TO BLACKBRAES.

Thomas Heaps, View bank Cottage, Bathgate, applied for a public-house licence for premises

at Greyrigg, Blackbraes. There was one objection to the application. The Chief Constable said he had formerly successfully opposed this application, but on account of the amount of illicit traffic done by carts in this district he thought that a well conducted public-house in Blackbraes would be an improvement, and consequently he would recommend that the Justices do not object to the present application. The Clerk read a report by Superintendent Gordon, Falkirk, which bore out the Chief Constable's statement, and in which the opinion was also expressed that a public-house licence at Blackbraes would improve the existing condition of things. At present the people carried in drink to their homes, and on Saturday night one would think that every second house in Blackbraes was a public-house. Mr. Fenton-Livingstone of Westquarter moved that the application be granted. Those who knew the Blackbraes district knew the great amount of illicit drinking which went on there, and he supported the application on the ground that a public-house would tend to improve the existing condition of things, and because the applicant had built suitable premises. Mr. Gibson, for the objectors, said that this was a decaying district, and that the Justices had repeatedly refused the applicant a licence for this neighbourhood. Mr. Fenton-Livingstone - This place is not decaying to the extent that Mr. Gibson says, and the premises are not the same as the applicant applied for a licence for before. Mr. Gibson said he knew the place as well as any one in Stirlingshire, and there could be no question but that its trade was going down rapidly. If not for the same place, the Court had frequently refused Mr. Heaps a licence. Besides, in Shieldhill, which was less than a mile away, there was both a licensed grocer's shop and a public-house. Mr. Wilson, for the applicant, said that Mr. Gibson only appeared for one objector. In fact, only one person could be got to object to this application. The place was far away from that for which Mr. Heaps formerly asked a licence, and he had got a feu for his present premises from Messrs Russell and Aitken. Mr. Stirling, Muiravonside, seconded Mr. Fenton-Livingstone's motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Falkirk Herald 23rd April 1898

STANDBURN.

BAND OF HOPE.

On Friday night a magic lantern entertainment was given to the members of Band of Hope. Mr. Snaddon presided over a fair attendance of juveniles and adults. After a few remarks by the Chairman on the success of the Band of Hope, Mr. James Ballantyne delivered a most interesting lecture on the prime movers and the celebrations in connection with the jubilee of the Band of Hope. The lecture was illustrated with excellent views, and at the close a vote of thanks was cordially passed to Mr. Ballantyne.

THE MINERS. -

At the second meeting of the miners on Wednesday last, it was agreed to cancel their former decision, and remain idle until the demand for 1s per day increase was granted. Accordingly the pits were idle on Thursday and Friday, and on Friday night the manager, Mr. Gibb, informed the men that he had received word from Messrs James Nimmo and Co. to the effect that the other sixpence was granted. The men resumed their work on the Saturday, on the advance of one shilling per day.

Falkirk Herald 27th April 1898

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Bailie LEARMONTH.)

CONTAVENTION OF THE TRESPASS ACT. -

John Young, miner, Standburn, was fined 5s, or three days, for sleeping without permission in a shed at Firs Brick Work on 24th April.

Falkirk Herald 30th April 1898

HOUSES, SHOPS, &c To Let

SHOEMAKERS SHOP to Let at Standburn. - Apply Andrew Cheyne.

Falkirk Herald 7th May 1898

STANDBURN.

SCHOLASTIC. -

On Monday the children of Drumbowie Public School were examined in drawing by Mr. Wilson, H.M. Inspector. On Tuesday night the mining class under the tuition of Mr. Orr were also examined. Messrs Mackay and Myles, members of the School Board, were present during the examination.

U.P. CHURCH -

On Friday last a number of friends, along with the children's choir, met in Standburn U.P. Church Hall to present to Mr. Alex. Hynd a beautiful Oxford teacher's Bible as a small token of their esteem for him. The Rev. D. H. Ritchie Sneddon made the presentation, and Mr. Alex. Hynd very feelingly replied. Mr. Robert Moore was presented with a beautiful Bagster teacher's Bible for diligence in connection with the Bible class at Standburn U.P. Church weekly fellowship meeting.

Falkirk Herald 14th May 1898

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The seventh annual report of Dr. McVail, medical officer for Stirlingshire, has just been issued, and, as in former years, contains a large amount of interesting information relative to sanitary affairs in the county. In an introductory note, Dr. McVail says: -"It is perhaps not within the province of a public servant to comment on changes in the membership of the governing body, yet I can hardly begin this report without at least mentioning the sudden and greatly lamented death of Sir James R. G. Maitland, Bart., the convener of the county. It is a striking testimony to the remarkable position which he occupied that, while his colleagues in the Council rightly looked on him as a convener devoted to the interests of the county, careful of its finances and of all details of its government, every official feels as if the loss specially belonged to his own particular department, owing to the special interest taken by Sir James Maitland in that department, and to the special kindness shown to the official in charge of it. His criticism was frank; his approval was hearty and ungrudging; all he did as convener was done for the welfare of Stirlingshire, and his removal in the prime of life and the vigour of manhood will be a long and deep regret, alike to his fellow-councillors and to the Council's servants.

"In the report dealing with the county as a whole, interesting statistics are as hitherto, given, with respect to population, death-rate, etc. With regard to population, it is stated that a further diminution has taken place in the number, of navvies occupied in special works in the Western District, and no allowance has been made for any remaining population. This fully accounts for the diminution shown in that district. The population is estimated to have increased from 64,119 in the census year to 71,688 in 1897. In the Central District during the year there has been an increase of 401, and in the Eastern District of 1294. The Western District shows a decrease of 292. Taking individual parishes, the largest increases have been 640 in Falkirk, 450 in Larbert, 150 in Muiravonside, 128 in Polmont, 121 in Denny, 111 in Kilsyth, and 110 in Logie. Slight increases were also recorded in Stirling, St. Ninians, Gargunnoch, Kippen, Bothkennar, Buchanan and Fintry. The greatest diminution has been 136 in Slamannan, and the population there is now 1005 less, than in 1894. The other parishes in which decreases have taken place are Dunipace, Airth, Balfron, Drymen, Balderknock, Killearn, and Strathblane. The total number of births during the year was 2478, giving a rate of 35.00 per 100 of the population, in the Central District rate was 32.05; in the Eastern, 38.95; and in the Western, 26.51. The total deaths for the year were 1202, giving a rate of 17.007 per 1000 of the population. In the three districts of the county the rates were: - Central District, 16589; Eastern, 17069; Western, 17401. The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases amounted

to 103as compared with 97 in 1896, 123 in 1895, 130 in 1894, and 230 in 1893. The 103 deaths were made up as follows: - Diphtheria, 6; Scarlet fever, 6; enteric fever, 5; other or doubtful fevers, 1; measles, 35 whooping cough, 38; diarrhoea, 12. The zymotic death-rate in the county per 1000 per annum for 1897 was 1.457, as against 1.399 for 1896, 1750 for 1895, 1.939 for 1894, and 3.559 for 1893. With regard to the number of notifications of zymotic disease, the rate for the county is stated to be 8.4, as compared to 7.1 in 1896, 10.5 in 1895, 15.2 in 1894 and 15.3 in 1893. The report refers at considerable length to the question of river pollution, and information is given as to what has taken place during the year towards the remedying of the pollution of the Carron, the Bonny, the Avon, the Blane, and Craigmarloch Burn. There is also a report submitted in October last year to the Western District Committee with regard to the housing of potato-diggers. The lecture on "Dairy Sanitation," delivered by Dr. McVail under the auspices of the East Stirlingshire Agricultural Discussion Association in December last, and a summary of which appeared in our columns at the time, is given in full, as the subject to which it relates has not, Dr. McVail says, been dealt with very fully in any of his previous annual reports. In keeping with previous years there are separate reports relating to the three districts of the county. In that dealing with the Eastern District the first matter referred to is house accommodation. The number of houses occupied in the district has it is stated, increased by 252, this being a balance of increase and decrease in the various parishes.

In Muiravonside there are 28 additional houses, chiefly at Maddiston.

Statistics are given with regard to the prevalence of infectious diseases in the districts. From these it appears that the total number of cases was 351. Of these 108 were removed to hospital, and 243 treated at home. The deaths were 12, giving a rate of 3.42 per cent. The total number of cases was larger than last year (313), but less than in the three previous years, 624 in 1893, 722 in 1894, and 461 in 1895. Scarlet fever and diphtheria were more prevalent than in the previous year, and enteric fever was less prevalent. Details with respect to the different types of disease and the prevalence of these in the several parts of the district show that there were 244 cases of scarlet fever, 79 being in Polmont parish, 54 in Larbert, 38 in Falkirk, 32 in Airth 17 in Muiravonside, 15 in Bothkennar and 9 in Slamannan. For a long time Slamannan had an excessive prevalence of scarlet fever, and whatever be the cause of the diminution, it is satisfactory that here is a diminution. Of enteric fever the total number was 24.

In the whole of the Eastern District there was an entire absence of enteric fever from April to November.

Referring to the Camelon Hospital, which was opened at the beginning of the year, the medical officer says that the number of cases has been in excess of anything contemplated by the Local Authority. The total admissions were 140. Fourteen of these were still in the wards at the end of the year, so that 126 cases were treated to a termination. Of the 126 cases, 96 belonged to the Eastern District of Stirlingshire, 26 to the Eastern District of Dumbartonshire, 2 to the Central District of Stirlingshire, 1 to the burgh of Kilsyth, and 1 to the Broomhill home in Kirkintilloch. The daily average of cases treated in the hospital was 16.7. The number of scarlet fever cases treated to termination was 102, and of these 2 died, 1 of them being moribund on admission, and succumbed after three hours. The number of enteric fever cases treated to a termination was 15, and of these 2 died. The number of diphtheria cases treated to a termination was 8, and all of these recovered, as did also one typhus case. For the number of cases treated the hospital staff had not been large, but the work had been carried out with a self-sacrificing devotion that was beyond praise. Independently of infected bedding and clothing sent in with patients removed to the hospital, a large amount of bedding and clothing belonging to infectious cases treated at home had been removed to hospital for cleansing and disinfection, and this had entailed much laundry work.

The report for the district concludes with the following particulars as to vital statistics:— "The population, exclusive of the Stirling District Asylum and the Imbecile Institution, is (estimated at 41,728. The registered births were 1586 and the deaths 695, giving a birthrate of 38.953 and a death-rate of 17.069. The zymotic death-rate was 1.695, the tubercular death-rate 1.498, and the respiratory death-rate 3.878. The deaths under one year were at the rate of 137 per 1000 births."

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The seventh annual report by Mr. Denholm sanitary inspector for the Eastern District of Stirlingshire has also been issued. Mr. Denholm in his report, makes a general survey of each parish in the district under his charge, and mentions what has taken place with regard to them during the year.

Nothing of any consequence has taken place in Muiravonside parish throughout the course of the year to call for any special remark. The more populous centres of Blackbraes and Standburn villages have been almost free from infectious disease. An addition has been made to the dwelling-houses in the village of Standburn—indeed; this is becoming a populous place. Some additional house property has been built at the village of Maddiston during the year, including a new infant school. In reference to this village the report further states:—"After all has been said with regard to the recently proposed water scheme, there is no doubt at all that one of the constant grievances of this part of the parish is the want of a proper water supply, and although there has been nothing to cause anxiety in connection with infectious disease, it only requires a visit to parts of the district which have the advantages of a good water supply to make the contrast sufficiently strong."

Referring to dairies and cow-sheds, the inspector says he has still to complain with regard to this very important part of his work, that he has not had the time to devote to it that he would have wished throughout the course of the year. He had, however, had a number of improvements and alterations carried out in dairy farms, and as an intelligent interest is now being taken on the question of milk supplies, he has the hope that a healthy public opinion on the subject will assist him very much in getting the hitherto much neglected dairy farms put in such a condition as to meet the most stringent requirements of the dairies and cowsheds order. All of the slaughter-houses within the district have been visited frequently during the year. With the exception of four of these, which have been erected within the last five years and may be considered good, all of them will, in time, have to be dealt with under the provisions of the new Public Health Act. The lodging-houses have been visited throughout the year, and although the houses are of the poorest class, he had not had any occasion to interfere, as they had on the whole, been kept in a cleanly condition.

Falkirk Herald 28th May 1898

STANDBURN.

PIC-NIC-

The members of the Bible Class of the Standburn U.P. Mission Church had their annual picnic on Saturday. A company of over 50 members proceeded to South Queensferry by brakes, and thence to Aberdour by steamer, where an enjoyable day was spent. Games of every description were engaged in, and the time for departure was reached with much regret.

AIRDRIE, SLAMANNAN, AND BATHGATEDISTRICT ENGINE-KEEPERS. —

A special meeting of the above engine-keepers was held at Standburn on Tuesday evening. All the various collieries were represented. The report to hand showed that this district had only received twopence per day of an advance, whereas the average concession had been fourpence in the other districts of Scotland. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the managers of the various collieries be approached, and request to inform the masters that a further advance of twopence was desired, so as to place the men equal footing with the other places.

Falkirk Herald 4th June 1898

STANDBURN.

PRESENTATIONS.

On Monday, Miss Brown, late teacher in Drumbowie Public School, was presented with a

beautiful silver cake-basket. Mr. Mackay, convener of the School Committee, made the presentation, in the name of the teachers Mr. George Mackay replied in a suitable manner on behalf of Miss Brown. On Tuesday evening, Miss Brown was presented with a beautiful album from the Sunday school teachers of Redford, the presentation being made by Mr. MacDonald, Woodside Farm.

SUPPOSED SUICIDE.

On Tuesday night two children were proceeding along- that part of the canal bank at Henan Bridge, near Causewayend, when they noticed the body of a man floating in the water. They reported the matter at Causewayend, and, on search being made, the body was found. The body is that of a man about fifty years of age, of average height, and dressed in a suit of dark clothes. He was a stranger to the district, and was seen in the village of Maddiston only two hours before his was body found as described.

Falkirk Herald 4th June 1898

SLAMANNAN.

TRAIN ALTERATIONS. –

The morning train for Bathgate and Manuel, where connections are foRmed for Edinburgh, Falkirk, etc., now leaves at 7.4 a.m. The train recently due from Glasgow at 10.40 a.m., now leaves Glasgow at 9.12, reaching Slamannan at 10.15. It then runs forward to Bathgate (Upper), connecting there with train to EdinBurgh, reaching the city at 11.22 a.m. A new train connecting with 9.15 for Edinburgh leaves Bathgate (Upper) at 9.55, arriving at Slamannan at 10.20 a.m. A new train for Manuel, with connections for Edinburgh, Falkirk, etc., leaves Slamannan at 10.55 a.m. The forenoon trail to Glasgow now leaves at 11.20 a.m., and the recent 3.9 p.m. train to Manuel now leaves at 3.20 p.m., and has a connection at Blackston for Bathgate, etc.

BRASS BAND SPORTS –

Under the auspices of Slamannan Brass Band, sports, consisting of quoiting, piping, dancing, football, and racing competitions, were held in the Glebe Park on Saturday. The following were the results in the different competitions: -Quoiting - 1, James Drysdale, Slamannan; 2, John Rankine, Standburn. Piping - 1, John Whitelaw, Longriggend; 2, Jas. Gray, Broadrigg. Dancing - 1, J. Bennie, Bantaskin; 2, Thomas Wright, Falkirk. Junior football competition - 1, Cumbernauld; 2, SlamannanBlue Bell. Juvenile football competition - Blue Bell; 2, Longriggend. 100 yards race - 1, James Watt, Slamannan; 2, J. M'Gregor, Slamannan. Half-mile race - 1, William Ross; 2, Thomas McAllum, Slamannan.

Falkirk Herald 4th June 1898

SERIOUS ASSAULT ON A FARMER NEAR SLAMANNAN.

At the Falkirk Sheriff Court yesterday - before Sheriff Russell Bell and a jury - David Hunter, miner, Blackbraes; Francis Rafferty, miner, Curriehill; William Pride, miner, Boxton ; Thos. Whyte, miner, Blackbraes; Alexander Small, miner. Blackbraes; William Frickleton, miner, Curriehill, all in the parish of Muiravonside; and John Huggan, miner, Pirnie Lodge, Slamannan parish, were charged with having, on the 12th or 13th April, on the public road, opposite or near to the house at Snowhill, Slamannan, occupied by John Baird, surfaceman, assaulted Malcolm M'Murrich, farmer, Blackbriggs, Slamannan, and strike him on the head and face, knocked him down, and kick him on the body with their feet, and also thrown several large stones at him, and struck him therewith on the left thigh, and threaten to kill him. Mr. Learmonth, solicitor, appeared for Small, while Mr. W. D. Marshall, solicitor, appeared for the rest of the accused. Malcolm M'Murrich, farmer, Blackbriggs Farm, was the first witness. He deponed that his farm was about four miles from Falkirk. He was at Dunblane on the day in question with several of the witnesses. They came home late. They went to a Mr. Baird's house at Bumside, which was near Easter Shieldhill, and had tea there. They left that place about a quarter-pact eleven. Michael and Alexander Scott, two of the other witnesses, were along with him, and they walked away towards witness's home. When he came to Snowhill with his friends he saw several men sitting on the dyke there. He did not speak to them, but they asked him if he had any drink on him. He looked round and said he was vexed he had not. One of the men had a greyhound. Witness turned to go away, and he would just be about a few steps behind the Scotts. Before he could get up to the Scotts he was knocked down. He could not see who knocked him down, but he was tumbled by a blow and a trip, and he was "rummelled" about when he was lying on the ground. He got a kick on the left leg when he was on the ground. When he got up Mr. Scott had scattered his assailants. He asked, "What was that for?" and stood on the road, but nobody answered. When he got up he recognised Hunter and Whyte first of all. Although he knew the whole of accused were round about him, he could not say how many were on the top of him. After he stood up the stones commenced to fly at the Scotts and himself. Baird's house was near at hand, and one of the Scotts went there for refuge. The stones thrown were taken from the dry-stone dyke. He was not struck at that time, nor could he say who threw the stones, but he thought by the number of the stones that were thrown that most of the accused would be engaged in throwing them. He recognised the men by their appearance in the field, except the man who had the dog with him, but he could not name them all. He pointed out Huggans as the man who had the dog. He did not know the men by name, but he could recognise them, as they were in the habit of going about his farm and others in the neighbourhood. When the Scotts and he went away he heard a noise as if they were being pursued, and they kept on. He went into the hedge at the side of the road to the Jaw Farm, but the Scotts went on, and he saw no more of them that night. When he was hiding in the hedge two men passed him. He was sure they belonged to the party, but he could not recognise them. After waiting a little in the hedge he started to walk home. When he had gone perhaps 20 or 30 yards from where the railway crosses the road he saw a group of men on the inside of the plantation there. He got past the plantation, but as soon as he was past the stones came after him, and one man came after him with a big stone in his two hands, and threatened to kill him with it. The man threw the stone, but it missed him. He ran away to Baird's house at Snowhill, and asked Baird to let him in. Baird at once opened the door, and the men continued to throw stones till the door was shut, one of the stones hitting the door. He remained in Baird's house all night, and went home the next day. There were five men the second time he was attacked, and he was sure they belonged to the crowd who attacked him the first time. Several large stores were produced in Court, which witness spoke to as being some of the stones which had been thrown at him. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall - It might have been about one o'clock before he left his hiding place in the hedge. The night, although bright in the early part, was not very clear at the time the second assault took place. The marks of the stones were quite plain at the place he had been attacked, and this showed that they had been thrown. He took a look at the men, and he was sure of them all as being the men in the dock. About two or three years ago he was implicated in an assault case, and on having been brought before the Court he was fined 30s. When at Dunblane he had had about half a gill. When he arrived at Falkirk he proceeded with some companions to the Red Lion, where a gill was divided amongst four. On the day following he went about his duties in the ordinary way. He reported the case to the police when he saw that his stock had been interfered with. He did not say to anybody that it was Pride's dog. Cross-examined by Mr. Learmonth - He saw Small sitting on the dyke at the time along with the rest. If he told Mr. and Mrs. Baird that he did not know any of the accused he did not remember anything about it. He had seen Small with the group often, and had seen him that night. Re-examined by Mr. Gair - At the time of the assault he was more sober than he was at the present time. (Laughter.) He gave no provocation, but he had heard people say that they had accused him of poisoning some dogs. By the Sheriff - The man who threatened to kill him spoke in a loud voice, but no other person could have heard him but his own mates. Michael Scott, farmer, deponed that he was with McMurrich on the day in question. They were all quite sober. After leaving Bumside, they walked on till they reached Snowhill. At that point there was a number of young men, who were sitting on the side of the road making a noise, and they gave a loud cry to them to ask them where they were going. McMurrich went over and looked them closely

in the face, and just as he turned two of them sprang out and knocked McMurrich down. After they had knocked McMurrich down he knocked them off with his stick, and he was sure he struck one of them over the fingers with his stick. The rest stood rather far back, and it was Hunter and Rafferty who sprang out. After he drove the men off, Rafferty went to the one side of the road and the other man to the other side, where they started to throw stones. He went over to Baird's house, but could not get admittance for the stones commencing to fly about them, and they ran along the road towards the Jaw Farm. He was not struck by any of the stones. They went on as far as Jaw Farm, but McMurrich went into the roadside and hid himself amongst the bushes, and he saw no more of McMurrich that night. He sent word to the police that night. He was sure there was a dog in the party, which looked as if it was a greyhound, and which he saw afterwards. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall - He was sure it was not Pride who struck the complainer. Cross-examined by Mr. Learmonth - It might have been four or five who were throwing stones, but he was sure the most of them were engaged at it. Alexander Scott, farmer, Lochend, generally corroborated the previous Witness's evidence. He identified Hunter as one of the men who knocked McMurrich down. By Mr. Learmonth - He did not recognise Small as being one of the men. John Baird, surfaceman, Snowhill, said he was at the door of his house there on the night in question about eleven o'clock, when all was quiet. Shortly after that he heard a knock at the door, and a voice asking to be admitted. He did not answer the door, as he was in bed, but he did not hear any noise outside. Some time afterwards he heard McMurrich come to the door and cry, "John, open immediately." McMurrich did not give his name, but witness knew his voice. There would be about half-an hour between the time of the first knock at the door. Before he opened the door one of the stones struck it, and immediately after McMurrich was admitted another stone struck the door. He thought they were stones which had been taken from the dyke. When he came into the house, McMurrich said he had been assaulted by several men at the corner of the road, but he did not say who the men were. Mrs. Baird asked him if he knew the men, but McMurrich answered her, "Not I." Next morning he found several large stones lying on the road in front of the door. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall - He understood McMurrich to say that he did not know the men. There were no marks on McMurrich as if he had had wounds, although he complained of being hurt on the neck and thigh. Complainer did not show him anything at all, and he walked away all right in the morning. Mrs. Baird, wife of the previous witness, gave corroborative evidence, and stated that when McMurrich came into the house she asked him if he knew any of the men, but he answered her, "Not I." He was very excited at the time. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall - She thought that McMurrich understood what he said. John Anderson, spirit merchant, deponed that Hunter, Rafferty, Whyte, and Huggan came into his public-house between six and seven on the evening in question. Some time afterwards the other three men came into the house about half past nine and went into the same room as the other four. The whole company left together at ten o'clock. He could not remember whether they had any drink with them, but he thought they had a pint bottle of whisky. They had with them a greyhound, which belonged to Huggan. Some time after this he heard a noise to the westward, but could not say who caused it. Cross-examined by Mr. Learmonth - The whole of the men appeared to be sober. As far as Small was considered, he never had heard a word said against him. Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall - The room in which the company were was a public room, in which there were others besides accused. He had a call from McMurrich next morning shortly after eight o'clock. There appeared to be but little wrong with McMurrich at that time. Robert Scott, miner, Shieldhill, said he was in Anderson's public-house on the night in question, and he saw Hunter, Pride, and Whyte there. They appeared to be in the company of several other men, who had a dog with them. He left the public-house about ten, but it was not till after that that Hunter and his party left, and they came along the road behind him. After that they stood a little while, and then went along the road to the west. He thought there would be about six or seven in the company. He was not near enough to accused to recognise any of them. John Muirhead, sen., miner, Shieldhill, said he lived about half a mile to the west of Anderson's public-house. On the night in question he heard a party of men going past towards the west speaking amongst themselves. This would be about ten minutes to 11. He judged from the noise that there would be about half a dozen men at the place. David Penman, miner, Summerhouses, said he had been visiting his mother in-law, and was returning home between 10 and 11. Two or three men passed him, and some came on behind. He did not recognise any of them, although one of them named him. He did not say that any of the prisoners were amongst the party. He left the main road at Summerhouse Rows, and the men continued their way along the road, which would lead them past Muirhead's house. Two of the men in front had a greyhound, which they had fastened by a strap. John Fife, sergeant of police, Slamannan, said that on the morning in question he received a message from the Easter Jaw Farm to the effect that McMurrich had been assaulted by a number of men on the road. He did not make any inquiries that night, however. Next morning he made inquiries, and on meeting Michael Scott the next day he got an account of the assault from him. He also saw Alexander Scott. He did not see McMurrich that day, but he spent the time in making inquiries, and as the result of these inquiries he thought it his duty to apprehend the prisoners. The fingers of one of Rafferty's hands were all discoloured, as if he had received a blow from a stick. Constable M'Leod, Slamannan, said he was present with Sergeant Fife when he apprehended Huggan, and saw the dog there. This concluded the evidence for the prosecution. For the defence, John Johnston, police constable, Blackbraes, spoke to the good character of Small. James Small, miner, Blackbraes, father of one of the accused, said he was sitting at the fire at home about a quarter to 12 o'clock on the night in question. When his son came in he did not appear to be excited. Mrs. Small, wife of the previous witness, corroborated her husband's evidence. Her son came in before 12 o'clock, because she heard the clock strike after he came in. George Gray, assistant, Blackbraes Store, said he was in Baird's house at Burnside on the night the assault was alleged to have taken place. McMurrich and the two Scotts were in the house at the time. They left the house shortly after 11 o'clock, and he walked part of the road with them. He thought it would be about half-past 11 o'clock when they left him. They would have about two miles to go before they came to Shieldhill from where they left him. At the rate at which they were walking he considered that they would not reach Snowhill till about 12 o'clock. If Small was with the company when the assault took place, he considered that it would take him till near one o'clock to get home. John Sneddon, miner, Easter Shieldhill, said he was in Anderson's public-house at Shieldhill, where he saw accused. He did not hear them use any threatening language, and their talk was just one of general conversation. Wm. Pryde, explosives merchant, Boxton, father of one of the accused, said that on the night in question he was in bed when his son came home. He could not tell the exact time his son came home, but he was sure it was before 12 o'clock. He heard his wife say to his son that he was keeping rather late hours, and that she was not going to allow him to keep out till about 12 o'clock every night. Cross-examined by Mr. Gair - He did not look at the time, and it was only from what he heard his wife say that he supposed that it would be before 12 o'clock. Jane Whitton or Pryde deponed that her son came in between a quarter and twenty minutes to 11 o'clock. She took particular note of the time. Next day she had a talk with Mrs. Anthony, who stayed near her, and she told her that she had heard her son's foot passing about the time she mentioned. James Anthony, Boxton, said he lived near the Prydes, and on the night in question he heard a footstep go past and a door open and shut. He looked out of bed, and saw that by the clock it was barely a quarter to 12. He remarked on this circumstance to his wife at the time. George Baird, farmer, Burnside, said that he was with McMurrich and the two Scotts the whole day. They left his house about 11 o'clock, going to the south to walk back by the railway. He thought it would take about twenty minutes to go from Boxton to Snowhill. McMurrich did not tell him on that following day that he had recognised Pryde by his dog. John Christie, miner, Standburn, said that Huggan was a nephew of his, and was in the habit of going to his house and sleeping there occasionally. Huggan arrived at his house on the night in question about twenty minutes to one. His house would be about three miles from Snowhill. Mr. Gair addressed the jury in favour of the Crown, while Messrs Marshall and Learmonth

spoke for their several clients. After about half an hour's absence the jury returned, and the foreman, Mr. A.C. Rennie, reported that the jury had unanimously found Hunter and Rafferty guilty, and in the case of the other five they found by a majority a verdict of not proven. Mr. Gair submitted four previous convictions against Hunter. With regard to Rafferty, he would remind his Lordship that he had been imprisoned since 14th April, and that, if his Lordship proposed a sentence of imprisonment, he would suggest that it date from that period. The Sheriff, in addressing Hunter, said he had been convicted by the jury unanimously, and there could be no doubt whatever but that he had been implicated in the case. Indeed, he seemed to be the ringleader of the gang. His record had not been a good one, as he had four previous convictions recorded against him one for house breaking extending to eight months. Taking this into consideration, he could not sentence him to less than three months' imprisonment. Rafferty had also been unanimously convicted, but he was in a different position. He did not seem to have been a ringleader to the same extent as Hunter was, and his record previous to this had been a good one. Taking into consideration the time he had been in prison, he would sentence him to six weeks' imprisonment, dating from the time of his imprisonment. Great interest appeared to have been taken in the case, the Court being full all day, while a large crowd waited outside to hear the verdict.

Falkirk Herald 18th June 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

DISTURBANCE AT ATHLETIC SPORTS

Thomas McVicar, miner, Standburn, and Gavin Adam, miner, Blackbraes, pleaded guilty to having, on 4th June, created a disturbance in a field at Crosscroes, Muiravonside, on which athletic sports were being held. They pleaded that they were drunk and that they quarrelled over a football match. They were fined 10s each, with the option of seven days.

Falkirk Herald 29th June 1898

ANGLING.

SLAMANNAN ANGLING CLUB. –

This club had their mid annual competition on Saturday last, when the following were the successful prize-takers : - 1, James Henderson, Standburn; 2, James Blair, Binkbonny; 3, J. McLeod, Standburn ;4, James Lambie, Limerigg; 5, Archd. McKay, Avonbridge; 6, G. Inverarity, Slamannan; 7, Alex. McKay, Slamannan.

Falkirk Herald 9th July 1898

STANDBURN.

PRESENTATION. –

On Saturday evening Mr. Neil McNeil was presented with a handsome silver watch, on the occasion of his leaving the district, by the workmen and a few outside friends. Mr. McNeil has served as oversman to Messrs James Nimmo & Co. for a period of upwards of 20 years, and has gone to fill an important engagement at Barblues.

Falkirk Herald 13th July 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

WIFE ASSAULT. - Thomas McMillan, miner, Candie Rows, Standburn, pled guilty to having, on the 4th July, in and near to his house there, assaulted his wife by striking her several blows on the face and head with his clenched fists. Accused said that, on the day complained of, his wife aggravated him so much that he told her to go outside. She did not do so, and he went out himself, but when he went in again she continued abusing him. Latterly she went out, but continued the noise, and he followed her, and assaulted her. A fine of 20s, or ten days, was imposed.

INDECENT CONDUCT. –

John Smith, labourer, in custody, was sent to prison for forty days for having, on the 9th July, in a plantation to the west of No. 2 Pit, Standburn, Muiravonside parish, used indecent behaviour and practices towards a boy 13 years of age.

Falkirk Herald 16th July 1898

STANDBURN.

FLOWER SERVICES. –

On Sunday last flower services were held in the United Presbyterian Mission Church here. The church, which was artistically decorated with flowers for the occasion, presented a very attractive appearance, which testified to the skill and good taste of the workers and friends of the church who had carried through the work. The respected pastor of the church, Rev. D. H. Ritchie Sneddon, officiated at both diets of worship, and on each occasion preached impressive and appropriate sermons to large congregations. On Monday a large box of the flowers that were used for decorative purposes were dispatched to the infirmary. Among those who kindly sent in flowers for the occasion were Mr. Livingstone Learmonth of Parkhall; Mr. John Stirling, Muiravonside House; Mrs. Waugh, Craigbank, Avonbridge; Mrs. Walker, Candie Cottage; Mr. Robert Buchanan, Kae Muir Farm; Miss Lizzie Binnie, Candie Head; Mr. W. Weir, Mrs. F. Wardlaw, Mrs. Marshall; Miss Hodge, Candie Farm; Miss Janet Main, Miss Maggie Main, Mrs. Calder, Mrs. M'Farlane, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan, Mr. Robert Love, etc. Flowers were also contributed by a number of children belonging to the district.

Falkirk Herald 16th July 1898

L.O.A.S.

CALDERWOOD LODGE, No. 2339.

THE above Lodge will hold SPORTS at STANDBURN, on SATURDAY, 13th August. GRAND FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS and FOOT RACES. Games to commence at 2 o'clock. Entries taken on the Field.

Falkirk Herald 30th July 1898

STANDBURN.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. –

A somewhat serious accident happened to a man named John Cummings, residing at Maddiston, in one of J. Logan and Brothers' pits. He, along with some others, was assisting in stemming a hole for the purpose of blasting, and when everything was ready they re-paired to what was considered a place of safety. The shot, however, spread, and brought away some loose material on the top of Cummings. Dr. Calderwood was immediately in attendance, and on examination found that the poor man had received a severe scalp wound on the back of the head, a very severe shock to the body, and numerous bruises. Cummings was unconscious for one and a half hours.

Falkirk Herald 30th July 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

TUESDAY

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A RUMFORD DISTURBANCE. –

Helen Grindlay, housekeeper, Rumford Square, was fined 10s, or seven days, for having, on the 13th July, created a disturbance on a piece of vacant ground at Rumford Square.

A VIOLENT STANDBURN MINER. –

William Nisbet, miner, Standburn, pleaded guilty to having, on the 14th July, at the door of the house in Standburn occupied by him, assaulted Christina Denholm or Rodgers, wife of Charles Rodgers, miner, Standburn, by throwing her to the ground, kicking her, and striking her on the face with his fists. Panel pleaded guilty, and was fined 20s, or ten days.

Edinburgh Evening News 2nd August 1898

WANTED, engineman; also a few good pitsinkers; steady. - Apply Muiravonside Colliery, Standburn.

Falkirk Heralds 6th August 1898

AVONBRIDGE

U.P. CHURCH SABBATH SCHOOLS'

PIC-NIC The annual pic-nic of the Avonbridge and Standburn U.P. Church Sabbath Schools took place on Thursday last to Muiravonside House. The party, which numbered about 300, left about ten o'clock in carts kindly supplied by members and friends of the congregation. Though the weather was a little unsettled, still a most enjoyable day was spent. Before leaving the children marched in procession round to the house, and after singing a hymn, accorded votes of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Stirling for their kindness in granting the use of the field within their beautiful grounds. The Salvation Brigade Band accompanied the trip.

Falkirk Herald 13th August 1898

CHALLENGE FOR MELODEON PLAYING.

WILLIAM LOVE, Standburn, is OPEN TO PLAY JOSEPH ROBINSON, Laurieston, on a ten keyed Melodeon for Twenty Pounds.

Ten Tunes, the decision to be given by a Musical Judge.

Any one wishing to Tie the Match meet JOHN LOVE in GOURLAY'S PUBLIC-HOUSE, Redding on WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 17th inst., from 7 to 9 o'clock, and be willing to forfeit Five Pounds on it.

JOHN LOVE, Rumford .

Falkirk Herald 20th August 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

SATURDAY.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute FARQUHARSON.)

BREACH OF THE PEACE NEAR POLMONT STATION. -

Thos. Cherry, miner, Manuel Rigg, was convicted on evidence of creating a disturbance on the public road near Polmont station on the 30th July, and was fined 10s, or seven days.

WEDNESDAY

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

ASSAULT IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.- Samuel Forrester, pit-sinker, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 6th August, in a railway carriage, between Grahamston and Polmont, assaulted James Frater, miner, Craigs Cottages, Muiravonside, by striking him with his fists, throwing him down on the floor, and again striking him with his fists. Accused admitted the charge, and stated that he did not remember anything about the matter. The Fiscal said that the accused quarrelled with his wife in the railway carriage, and he was going to strike her when Frater, who was a passenger, interfered. Accused - My wife and I quarrelled about the tickets, and this man interfered between us. I am sorry for assaulting the gentleman. This is the first time I have been in trouble, and as I have a wife and small family dependent on me, I hope you will deal with me as leniently as possible. The Fiscal said that the case was not a serious one. A fine of 15s was imposed, the alternative being ten days' imprisonment.

DISTURBANCES AT STANDBURN SPORTS. -

John M'Jean and John Young, miners, Standburn, Muiravonside, were fined 10s each, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for fighting with each other, and creating a disturbance on a field at Standburn, on which sports were being held. John Bell, brusher, and Peter Christie, Wm. Christie, and James Christie, all miners, residing at Standburn, were fined 10s each, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for creating a disturbance on the same park on the day of the sports. Peter Christie, who was the father of the other two accused of that name, stated that one of his boys got himself into trouble, and he and he got interfered, and got himself into trouble likewise. Wm. Nisbet and Wm. Christie, miners, Standburn, were similarly dealt with for fighting with each other, and committing a breach of the peace at the sports.

Falkirk Herald 10th September 1898

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING. -

A few weeks ago it was reported at one of the committee meetings of the Redding Co-operative Society that things were not proceeding satisfactorily in connection with the Standburn Branch, and it was stated that the head salesman seemed to be at fault. A motion that he be reduced to the position of second man was proposed, and agreed to. At a committee meeting held subsequently, this decision was overturned, and the head salesman was re-instated in his former position. The members of committee who favoured his being reduced to the position of second salesman were dissatisfied with the finding come to at the following meeting, and called a special general meeting of the members of society, which was held in the Cooperative Hall on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of "considering (1) the action of the committee in re-instating the head salesman after previously agreeing to remove him from his position ; and (2) the treatment of chairman of one of the directors." Great interest was taken in the proceedings, and the hall was crowded, large contingents of members being conveyed from Standburn to the meeting by brake. Mr. John Myles, president of the society, presided- It was moved by Mr. Mackay, schoolmaster, Drumbowie, and seconded by Mr. Robert Myles, that the meeting express its confidence in the head salesman, and endorse the decision come to at the last committee meeting. The reasons given in support of the motion were in effect that the head salesman had been tried, found guilty, and reduced to the position of second salesman without his having the slightest idea- that any action was being taken with regard to him. He had, therefore, not been treated fairly, and it was contended that he ought to have been brought before the committee, and inquiry made to ascertain whether the statements made with regard to him were correct or otherwise. An amendment was moved by Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Brown, that the head salesman be reduced to the position of second salesman. It was remarked in support of the amendment that the business done at the Standburn Branch had been going back. Mr. Barker compared the trade done at the Standburn Branch with that done at the Redding, Maddiston, and Blackbraes branches during the past two years, and stated that the Blackbraes Branch showed an increase of £1800 for last year, as compared with the previous year, while the increase at Redding Store was £1600, and at Maddiston Store £900 for the same period, while the trade done at the Standburn Branch showed a decrease of £85 during the year. Those figures, he held, showed that the business at Standburn was not being properly looked after. It had been argued that those figures were not a fair criterion to judge the salesman by, and he was prepared to admit that the sales at a branch might go back on account of circumstances over which the head salesman had no control. But the circumstances in the case of Standburn were all in favour of the salesman, and the doing of a large and growing business. Work was plentiful, the village was increasing, and in every way Standburn was an ideal place for their business. It was stated, in answer to Mr. Barker, by supporters of the motion, that the salesmen in the other three villages he had mentioned had not the competition to contend against that the salesman at Standburn had. Standburn was overrun with provision merchants' carts, and it was that fact which operated so much against them in doing a larger business there. On a vote being taken, Mr. Mackay's motion was carried by 150 votes to 24. Mr. Barker then tendered his resignation as a member of committee. The meeting broke up without having considered the second item of business on the agenda. The proceedings were very noisy.

Falkirk Herald 10th September 1898

STANDBURN.

We learn that the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Sneddon, of the Standburn U.P. Mission Church, has received a call to a church in Ireland. Though the charge is a much more important one with a stipend more than double that of Standburn, Mr. Ritchie Sneddon has decided to decline the call on the ground, we understand that he believes his work lies in Standburn. We feel assured that the congregation at Standburn, by whom Mr. Ritchie Sneddon is highly respected, will be gratified to know that he has decided to remain among them.

Falkirk Herald 10th September 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

FRIDAY

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute WATSON).

ASSAULT. - Agnes Walkingshaw or Graham, wife of Wm. Graham, fireman, Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on 3rd Sept., in the house at Standburn occupied by Neil Macfarlane, miner, assaulted Elizabeth Robertson or Macfarlane, wife of Neil McFarlane. Panel admitted the charge, and was fined 20s, the alternative being ten days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 17th September 1898

STANDBURN.

EVENING CLASSES. -

The Evening Continuation Classes of Drumbowie School were resumed on Monday night, when Mr. George McKay, the headmaster enrolled one of the largest memberships made in that school, 73 pupils coming forward.

Falkirk Herald 1st October 1898

STANDBURN.

ACCIDENT. -

Late on Friday afternoon, a lad named Thomas Aitken met with an accident, he was engaged as a "picker" of dirt from the coal. The coals are conducted to the waggon by means of a travelling table. The plates of the table are lapped over one another, so as to sustain every particle of coal, it would seem that Aitken had been on the table altogether, and at the turning point his foot got caught in the overlapping plate, and was completely wedged in. He was dragged to the coal scoop, and so firmly wedged was the foot that it caused the engine to stop. The lad's cries brought help, and his foot was extricated. Dr Gilmour, after he had examined the almost severed foot, ordered Aitken's removal to the infirmary, where it was found necessary to amputate one or two of the toes.

Falkirk Herald 1st October 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A NOISY STANDBURN WOMAN. -

Agnes Walkinshaw or Graham, wife of Wm. Graham, miner, Standburn, was charged with having, on the 17th September, opposite her own house, assaulted John Hutchison, miner, Standburn, by striking him a blow on the face with her clenched fist, and thereafter committing a breach of the peace. Accused denied the assault, but admitted the charge of breach of the peace. This plea was accepted, and having been previously convicted, she was fined 20s, with the option of fourteen days imprisonment. UNPROVOKED ASSAULT ON A CRIMEAN VETERAN. -

Donald Mackay, pit sinker, Standburn, was charged with having, on the 17th September, on the road leading through the village of Avonbridge, assaulted Wm. Anderson, pensioner, Burnside, Slamannan, by striking him a blow on the right eyebrow with a pint bottle which he held in his hand, whereby he was cut and bruised to the great effusion of blood. Panel pleaded not guilty, and the case went to proof. The complainer is an old man bordering on 80 years of age, and he has served with the 31st, or Huntingdonshire Regiment, in the Crimean War, Indian Mutiny, and Chinese Wars, taking part during the former war in the battle of Alma, Inkeriman, and the siege of Sebastopol. His story of the assault was that on the evening in question he and some friends were in Avonbridge. His friends had two bottles amongst them, and accused coming along, seized one of the bottles, and saying that he would not have that bottle anyway, struck complainer on the eyebrow with it. He did nothing to the accused, who was a complete stranger to him. Cross-examined by the accused, we were not speaking to you when you came forward and said, "You will not get the bottle." Accused - It was not me you must be mistaken. Witness - I am not mistaken at all. Accused - I had a half-mutchkin bottle in my pocket. Witness - I do not care although you had a hundred. Accused - I never struck anyone with the bottle. Witness - Men like you should not be allowed to live - assaulting an old man without any provocation. After hearing other evidence, the Sheriff found the charge proven, and imposed a fine of 30s, with the option of twenty days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 8th October 1898

STANDBURN.

RECHABITE CONCERT. -

On Friday night the Standburn Star of Welcome Rechabites celebrated their third annual concert and conversation. The vocalists, who were from Glasgow, acquitted themselves in a fairly praiseworthy manner. Mr. Geo. Mackay presided, and there was a good attendance. Immediately following the concert a company of about eighty sat down to a tea and fruit service. A programme of song, etc., was gone through, after which the party retired to the dancing hall provided for the occasion. Mr. Colin Maxwell acted as M.C., and Bro. Hugh Nisbet acted as violinist for the occasion.

Falkirk Herald 8th October 1898

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

A MUSICAL ASSOCIATION FOR MADDISTON. -

A meeting of those interested in the promotion of the above was held on Monday evening. On the motion of Mr. D. Reid, Mr. R. Wilson was called to the chair. Office-bearers were thereafter appointed - Mr. D. Reid was elected secretary; Mr. M. Myles, treasurer; and Mr. Haig, Mr. Haldane, Mr. P. Rae, together with Mr. J. Forsyth, convener, were appointed members of committee.

Falkirk Herald 8th October 1898

PRECENTOR Wanted for U.P. Mission Church Standburn. - Apply Archd. Binnie, Candiehead, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 15th October 1898

STANDBURN.

I.O.G.T. -

Under the auspices of the Stirling S.E. District Lodge, a public meeting was held on Thursday evening in the public school room Standburn - Bro. J. B. Pender, D.D., presiding. There was present a deputation from the District Executive. Addresses were given by Bro. G. Stevenson. S.L.G.A., Glasgow, Bro. James Carmichael D.M., and the Chairman. At the close of public meeting, 14 of those present remained and formed a Good Templar Lodge. The new lodge was named the "Star of Peace."

Edinburgh Evening News 19th October 1898

BIGAMY CHARGE AT FALKIRK. -

At Falkirk yesterday - before Sheriff Bell - Agnes Breslin or Fish, Redford, Standburn, was examined on a charge of bigamy and committed to prison. It appears that accused was married to Fish in 1885, and lived with him for about four years. She left him on account of cruel treatment. For nearly nine years she heard nothing about him, but in the summer of last year she was informed by some men who knew Fish in Denny that he was dead. Acting upon this information she married a miner named McAllister in November last, and has resided with him since. She had subsequently ascertained that it was not Fish but his sister that had died.

Accused has four children by the first marriage and one by the second.

Edinburgh Evening News 25th October 1898

A GOTHENBURG EXPERIMENT IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

The half-yearly Licensing Court for the County of Stirling was held to-day. There were ten applications for new premises, in Denny, Stenhousemuir, Bonnybridge, and Slamannan, which were all refused. Five applications were made by new tenants. Four were granted, and one refused. George Gibb, colliery manager of Messrs Nimmo & Company, coalmasters, applied for a public-house license at Standburn. It was stated that the public-house was to be conducted by a local committee, and the profits expended in providing reading rooms and recreation rooms for the locality Ex - Provost Watson and Mr. Baillie, Carron, spoke against the granting of the license, as Messrs Nimmo had always been strongly opposed to the granting of a license at Standburn in any shape or form, and that premises did not exist. Mr. Nimmo stated that this had been forced on them owing to repeated applications for licenses. The application was refused by 24 votes to 12.

PAINFUL INCIDENT AT STIRLING.

At Stirling County Licensing Court to-day, consternation was caused when a Justice, Mr. Henderson of Rednock, Muiravonside, and 5 Carlton Place, Edinburgh, after making a speech and sitting down, suddenly fell forward in a fainting condition. On being carried out and medically attended, Mr. Henderson was found to be suffering from a paralytic shock.

Falkirk Herald 26th October 1898

A LOCAL BIGAMY CASE.

At the Falkirk Sheriff and Jury Court on Monday - before Sheriff Bell - Agnes or Bessie Breslin or Fish, residing at Redford, Muiravonside, was placed at the bar on a charge of having, on the 29th November, 1897, in the Roman Catholic Church, Barnsmuir, Slamannan, bigamously married Francis McAllister, bricklayer, Redford, and cohabited with him as his wife, her husband, Alexander Fish, miner, Stonefield, Blantyre, being still alive. Accused pleaded guilty. The Fiscal said that the woman was married to Alexander Fish in Airth in 1885, and, after some years of a somewhat unhappy married life, she appeared to have left him. In 1897 she married Hugh McAllister, residing at Redford, Standburn. When she appeared before his Lordship for declaration, she said she was under the impression that Fish was dead, and said that she had seen some people in Denny who told her that it was so. She might have had that impression, but Fish was a well-known family in Airth, where a number of her husband's relatives still resided, and had she made fuller inquiry, she would have found he was alive. Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk, appeared for the prisoner, and stated that she married Fish in 1885, when she was seventeen years of age. After some years of unhappy married life, in which she was subjected to much ill-treatment at the hands of Fish, she left him on the birth of the third child, eight or nine years ago. During all this time she had neither seen nor heard of Fish until about a year ago, when she received intelligence of his death. The source from which the information came seemed quite reliable, her informants being men in Denny who had lodged with her when she lived with Fish. In cases of this kind, when a woman was led to believe that her husband was dead, it was a defence if the source of the information was reliable. The man whom she married in 1897 knew nothing about this prior marriage, and he was in the belief that the woman whom he married was a spinster. When she left Fish eight or nine years ago, she dropped his name altogether, and assumed her maiden name, and from the time she left him she had maintained herself as a domestic servant. The second marriage was not a clandestine marriage; it was quite open and above board. She had no intention of concealing it, and it was with the intention of bettering her position that, she married again. It was also an honourable marriage, and the man she married was most respectable. It had subsisted for eleven months, and about eight weeks ago a child (which accused held in her arms in Court) was born. He (Mr. Hunter) had written to the police authorities of Blantyre for information with respect to Fish while he was living there, and he had received the following reply, dated 19th October: - "A man named Fish was lodging in the house of Mrs. Carr, No. 16 McAlpine's Buildings, Stonefield, Blantyre. He left this house about a fortnight ago, and has not returned. He left behind him two boys, aged twelve and six years, who have been handed over to the inspector of poor for Blantyre. Alex. Fish, when residing here, passed himself off as a widower, and was said to be courting a young woman in Blantyre, but I have not got her name. He also took the name of Hunter, but we have not had him through the police books in this district for any crime." Even while she lived with Fish, the accused was thrown on the tender mercies of the parochial authorities. On the 22d inst., he received the following letter from the inspector of poor at Airth: - "Mrs. Fish applied for parochial relief here on the 22d March, 1894, and was relieved at the rate of 3s per week, Alex. Fish, her husband, having fallen down the ship's hold at Hamburgh. I am very sorry to hear that she is about to be charged with bigamy. During their stay at Airth, she often came under my observation, and I can assure you that she was very ill-provided for by Fish, he being so lazy that he would rather prefer going about than working, and on many occasions she looked the very picture of starvation and misery." Since she left her first husband, she had been employed as a domestic servant, and he read letters from two of her former employers testifying to her good character. She was living in affectionate terms with McAllister, and, in all the circumstances, he hoped his Lordship would take a lenient view of the case. The Sheriff - Why did she not go to the registrar, and ask whether Fish was dead or not? The Fiscal - I am not in a position to deny anything that Mr. Hunter says. The investigation into this case has not been so ample as it would have been had it gone to proof. I see no reason, however, to doubt what Mr. Hunter says. I am afraid she ought to have made a little more inquiry as to whether Fish was alive or not before she contracted this second marriage. The Sheriff - That is her fault; but she seems to have acted quite bona-fide. The Fiscal - Mr. McAllister told the police that, before she married him, she told him that she had not been married before. There is not, however, very much in that. Mr. Hunter - The first marriage was not a very pleasant recollection. I may say also that Mr. McAllister gave information to the police when he heard of the first marriage. It was, therefore, at his instance, as well as that of Fish, that the prosecution was instituted. The Fiscal - Of course, the second husband wanted the affair cleared up. I understand that he is very much attached to the accused. Mr. Hunter - That is so, my Lord; and they have been living together after the thing has been found out. The Sheriff said that an action for divorce would put matters right. Addressing the accused, his Lordship said I need not tell you the seriousness of the fault that you have committed. It is a serious crime indeed to marry another man when your husband is alive. I may take it, however, that you really believed that Fish was dead when you married again, and the fact that you married McAllister publicly and by a regular marriage is in your favour. I dare say you have suffered pretty much already for what you did. The fault you committed was that you did not take proper means to ascertain whether Fish was dead or not. I see you have a baby in your arms. The usual punishment for bigamy is imprisonment; there would be no use of imposing a fine in this case. I will take into consideration that you have been pretty well punished already, your respectability, and your good character and actions hitherto, and, instead of sending you to prison, I will, for the sake of your infant, dismiss you with an admonition. The sentence was loudly applauded in Court.

Falkirk Herald 26th October 1898

SUDDEN DEATH OF Mr. Wm. HENDERSON OF REDFORD J.P. -

A painful occurrence took place in the County Buildings, Stirling, yesterday, which has, unfortunately, resulted in the death, with startling suddenness, of Mr. William Henderson of Redford, Muiravonside. Mr. Henderson, as one of the Justices of the Peace for the county, attended the Licensing Courts which was held there. The Justices were considering an application by Messrs James Nimmo & Co., Limited, for a public - house licence for premises at Standburn, Muiravonside, the profits accruing from which would be devoted to public purposes, and Mr. Henderson, after making a speech on the application, and sitting down,, suddenly fell forward in a fainting condition. He was assisted out of the Court by Mr. Clarkson,

Avondale, who was sitting beside him and by Superintendent Gordon, Falkirk. The business of the Court was of course suspended while he was being removed, and the occurrence created a painful sensation. Mr. Henderson was conveyed in a cab to the Royal Hotel, Stirling, and, being put to bed, he was attended to by Dr. McFadzen. He was found to be suffering from a paralytic shock. His condition from the first was regarded as serious. Dr. McFadzen remained at his bedside during the afternoon and evening. Medical skill, however, proved unavailing. Mr. Henderson died about ten minutes to eight last night. The deceased, who was about 60 years of age, was proprietor of the estate of Redford, Muiravonside, and was well known and much respected in the district. He was a member of the Muiravonside Parish Council, and represented that body on the Stirling County Council. The news of his sad and sudden death will be received with deep regret throughout the parish of Muiravonside and by a wide circle of friends.

Falkirk Herald 26th October 1898

STIRLING COUNTY LICENSING COURT.

The half-yearly Licensing Court for the county of Stirling was held in the County Buildings Stirling, yesterday. On account of the large number of applications for new licences from this district, there was a large attendance of local Justices. On the motion of ex-Provost Watson, Falkirk, Colonel Murray of Polmaise was called to the chair. The Chairman was supported by Captain Fenton-Livingstone of Westquarter and Colonel Nightingale, Stirling. George Gibb, colliery manager (for behoof of Messrs Jas. Nimmo and Co., Ltd., coalmasters, Glasgow), applied for a public house certificate for Standburn.

The Chief Constable reported that the premises for which the application was applied were in course of erection. Should the licence be granted, the profits accruing from the business were to be devoted to the benefit of the inhabitants, by providing and maintaining reading and recreation rooms, dining rooms, etc. Some of the Justices thought the application should be taken up at the April Court, when the premises would be completed.

Mr. Wilson, for the applicant, said that Messrs Nimmo and Co. had long been opposed to the granting of a licence for the colliery village of Standburn, which belonged to them, and they would prefer that there should be no licence there. But they were afraid that, in spite of their opposition, a licence would be granted. If that were to be the case, they desired that the licence should be secured in their own name. They had asked the local Justices to take an interest in the management of the licence, and had arranged that the profits should be used for the betterment of the people of the district. Mr. Nimmo, the senior partner of the firm, was one of the justices, and was present that day, and than him no one had done more to promote the interests of his employees. The house would be conducted on the best principles, and every care would be taken to see that no one would get drunk who had too much already. Messrs Nimmo would not pocket one farthing of the revenue derived; it would all be spent in public purposes. A similar experiment had been tried in other places, and had worked well. Ex-Provost Watson said he rose with considerable satisfaction to oppose this licence. He did not ask Mr. Nimmo to leave the Court, but he thought he might see it to be his duty to retire while the case was being discussed.

Mr. Wilson - Mr. Nimmo is very deaf, and he will not hear what is said.

Mr. Watson - But some one will no doubt tell him. Mr. Nimmo did not leave the Court.

Ex-Provost Watson said he was very surprised that such an application should have been made at this Court by Messrs Nimmo. Not longer ago than April last, there was an application made by another party for a licence for this district, and Messrs Nimmo strenuously opposed it. They gave their reasons for their opposition in those words - "We have long been opposed to the granting of a licence at or near this place, believing that such would lead to the physical and moral injury of our men. A licence, if granted, will lower the tone of the district, and increase the amount of crime and vice." Yet they had this same firm coming forward now to confirm what in April they so strenuously opposed. If it was the intention of Messrs Nimmo to inflict upon the Justices the duty of conducting public-houses, he thought that they would, with him. Agree that they would not consent to such an arrangement. He held that, if Messrs Nimmo were to be the generous patrons of the working men, let them put their hands in their own pockets, and erect such an establishment as they proposed floating with the profits of a public-house, instead of interfering with the legitimate profits of another business. (Applause.) He believed that the interest which the working men would hold in the legitimate profits of the trade would not conduce to temperance. They would say - "It does not matter how much we spend in those houses; it will all come back to us again." He had honestly to say he would have nothing to do with that method of conducting business.

Captain Fenton-Livingstone seconded the motion on the ground stated in the Chief Constable's report that the premises were not in existence at the present moment, and that the application could come up again at next Court.

Mr. Watt proposed that the application be granted. It was, he said, very good of Messrs Nimmo to come forward and propose to give the profits of this licence to the working men. It was well known that where there was a colliery the working men must have a "dram," or their glass of beer. (Laughter.) He was convinced that if the public-house were conducted on the system proposed, the people could be sure of having a better drink. As Mr. Nimmo said, if he did not get the licence, some other party would come forward and get it, and put the profits in their own pockets.

Mr. Henderson of Redford seconded. The system Messrs Nimmo proposed to introduce at Standburn had been tried in Fifeshire, and had been a great boon. Ex-Provost Watson had misled the Justices by stating that an application previously made for a licence for Standburn was refused because of the opposition of the Messrs Nimmo. The application was refused because it was up a bye-road close to a wood and not near the village at all. If a licence had been granted to those premises there would have been disgraceful scenes on account of the isolated situation of the house.

Ex-Provost Watson - I made no reference whatever to the previous application being refused. I gave Messrs Nimmo's objections to its being granted.

Mr. Henderson - You brought a charge against Messrs Nimmo for objecting to that licence.

Mr. Watson - I did nothing of the kind.

Ex-Provost Griffiths - I would like to ask the clerk if it is competent under the Truck Act for any proprietor of public works to open a public-house?

The Clerk - I do not see any reason why a proprietor should not hold a licence in the usual way.

Mr. Baillie, Carron, opposed the application and quoted from correspondence which had taken place between Messrs James Nimmo and Company and the Carron Company, so far back as 1897, when the former gave the latter an assurance that they would not apply for, or support, any licence, no matter who applied for it, unless their hand was forced by Carron Company, who owned ground in the vicinity, on a part of which a fave was sought for the erection of premises for which a licence was to be sought. Carron Company refused to grant the fave. Yet notwithstanding the assurance that James Nimmo and Company had given them, they made this present application, and not even the courtesy to acknowledge Carron Company in the matter. And now Messrs Nimmo and Company came to the Court and posed as great philanthropists.

Mr. Wilson said the gentleman who had just spoken was an employee of Carron Company. (Applause.) What Mr. Baillie had referred to took place two years ago. Messrs Nimmo had now found that a licence would be planted at Standburn, and they therefore thought it better that it should be under their control.

Mr. Baillie - Carron Company did not get the slightest hint that this application was to be made until they heard of it by a side wind. I ask Mr. Nimmo, the senior partner of the firm, who is here, to say that is courteous treatment to Carron Company?

Mr. James Nimmo - What my brother Justice had said in reference to the correspondence which has passed between my firm and Carron Company is quite correct. Individually, I have not changed my mind one iota, and neither have my co-directors. They were quite opposed to

the principle of putting down new licences near their works. We have withstood monetary temptation over and over again for the past 30 years, so far as opposing licenced premises about our collieries is concerned. We have been offered large sums of money during that long series of years to allow new licences to be put down near to our works, and we have all along consistently opposed them. Some time ago we heard that an application was to be made for a fue from a neighbouring proprietor, whose ground was half a mile away, on which to build premises for which a licence would be asked. We had no idea that any other person would apply for a licence for the village, and so we thought that if we were to get that proprietor to refuse to fue, there would be no further application. But after we found that a party proposed to put down a house on another proprietor's ground about half a mile away in a different direction. We found, then, that in concert with the local Justices, something should be done. We have never done anything ourselves in connection with this licence, but we have acted in consort with the local Justices. They said that something should be done. They knew very well that we were opposed to licences about our colliery villages, but of two evils my firm have agreed to choose the least. We told the local Justices that if a public-house wrought on the lines adopted by the Fife Coal Company in Fife was the best thing to be done; we were quite prepared, with their aid, to work this public-house in a way which would promote the best interests of the public. We asked the Chief Constable to go to the district and inspect the place, and state where the thought the premises should be erected. He has visited the district, and on the site selected by him, the erection of a new building is proceeding. We have asked the local Justices to give their names as a guarantee that the place will be properly carried on, and I may say that my firm will never finger a penny of the profits accruing from the licence. Whatever profits do arise, let them be distributed by the local Justices for the benefit of the people. While misunderstandings abound in this world, there need be no misunderstanding with reference to my company's position in regard to this licence. What we propose to do is to be done in the interests of the people them selves. We have no other motive whatever in asking that the Court should support us in this application. (Applause.)

Mr. Heugh. Airth – Never in all my experience have I heard of a licenced business being conducted in this way.

Ex-Provost Yellowlees, Stirling – That gentleman surely does not read the newspapers. It was stated before the Royal Commission that a similar experiment had been made at the Hill of Beath, and it was abundantly successful. I hope this application will be granted, and that the system will prove equally successful in Stirlingshire.

Captain Livingstone – I am at one with Mr. Nimmo that the system will be for the good of the community, although it will not be so philanthropic as is represented. But the premises do not exist, and I object to licencing a thing that does not exist.

Mr. Wilson - I do not know whether the premises exist at present or not, but they are certainly certified as being of suitable construction.

Mr. Clarkson – Avondale, said that as a local Justice he was strongly of the opinion that if any licence were to be granted for this place. It should be in the hands of Messrs Jas. Nimmo and Company, and conducted by them. He was certain that if the experiment was carried out, it would be for the good of the district.

The application was refused by 24 votes to 12.

Aberdeen Journal 27th October 1898

A GOTHENBURG HOUSE FOR STLRRLINGSIHIRE.

APPLICATION REFUSED.

At the half-yearly Licensing Court for the county of Stirling, George Gibb, colliery manager, for behoof of James Nimmo and Company, Limited, coalmasters, Glasgow, applied for a public-house at Standburn, Muiravonside. The chief constable (Mr. J. D. Sempill) reported that the firm's intention was to erect a public-house and apply the profits to the upkeep of recreation and reading rooms. Mr. James Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk, on behalf of the firm, explained that the local justices had been invited by circular to form a Committee of Management for the projected public-house; it was proposed to apply the net profits for the good of the inhabitants, and so try to elevate the moral condition of the district. If Nimmo and Company did not get the licence, owing to the growth of the population, some other party would have to get it; but Nimmo and Company's workmen were most nearly interested in the experiment, which had been tried in several places and succeeded very well. Mr. Clarkston of Avondale said that the local justices were strongly of opinion that every licence granted should be in the hands of Nimmo and Company and be conducted on the lines proposed. It would be for the moral and spiritual welfare of the district. On a division the application was refused for the present by 24 votes to 12.

Falkirk Herald 2nd November 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Monday.

(Before Sheriff Bell.)

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE. –

Ellen Anderson or Carlin, housewife, Standburn, was convicted on evidence of creating a disturbance at Standburn, and was fined 10s, or seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 5th November 1898

STANDBURN.

VAN ACCIDENT. –

On Wednesday, whilst a van belonging to Mr. Borthwrcck, baker, was crossing the railway at Redford Pit, belonging to Messrs Nimmo and Company, the horse took fright and bolted, and the driver was precipitated into the hedge. Fortunately, Dr. Calderwood was near at hand at the time, and he came to the assistance of the driver. On examination, he found that the man had sustained a severe scalp wound and a broken arm. Both trams of the van were smashed.

Falkirk Herald 5th November 1898

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

BRASS BAND CONCERT. –

A concert in aid of the funds of Blackbraes Brass Band was held in Blackbraes School on Wednesday evening. Mr. James McKay of Avonview presided and was Supported on the platform by Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; and A. Campbell, B.A., the Schoolhouse. The attendance, unfortunately, was somewhat small, the weather being very stormy. The chairman, in a few opening remarks, referred to the object of the concert, which had been promoted for the purpose of assisting in clearing off a deficit caused by the introduction of a number of new instruments a short time ago. An excellent musical programme was ably carried through by Miss Gibson, Miss Christina Thomson, and Messrs Ramsay, Pow, Eyre, of Armadale, and Mr. Anderson, Bathgate, all of whom acquitted themselves in a highly creditable manner. Mr. John Chapman, elocutionist, gave a number of readings in a pithy and pawky manner, which evoked much merriment. Miss McNicol presided at the pianoforte, supplying the accompaniments with great taste and finish.

BLACKBRAES READING ROOM. –

In connection with the above a social meeting was held on Wednesday evening – Mr. Geo. Stewart, secretary, presiding - when the prizes were presented to the winners in the domino competition as follows : - 1, Walter Wilson; 2, Jas. Wilson; 3, Duncan M'Corkandle.

BLACKBRAES COTTAGE MISSION. –

The Saturday evening meetings in connection with the above have been resumed, and are being largely taken advantage of. Last Saturday evening solos and recitations were given by Misses M. Swinton, Bella Small, A. Nelson, Mary Swinton, Jennie Hunter, and Bella Thompson. An address was delivered by Mr. George Stewart, superintendent of the Band of Hope.

Falkirk Herald 12th November 1898

STANDBURN.

LECTURE. -

A lecture in aid of clearing off the debt of Standburn U.P. Mission Church was given in Drumbowie Public School on Wednesday night by the Rev. J. B. G. Rouse entitled "Nansen's Polar Expedition." There were also given splendid exhibitions by the cinematograph and the gramophone. The pictures shown by the cinematograph consisted of the landing of the Gordon Highlanders at Cairo for the Sudan campaign, a cavalry charge, and many others. The gramophone rendered songs, with pianoforte accompaniments, choruses, instrumental solos, and selections by braes and string bands. The proceedings were presided over by Mr. Jas. Mackay, and there was a large attendance. The Misses Hunter and Crawford rendered two piano duets during the evening.

LECTURE. -

A lecture, under the auspices of the Bible class, was given in Standburn Mission Church by Mr. George Gordon McKay of Drumbowie Public School. The lecture entitled "Across Canada with a Camera," was a very elaborate and descriptive one, being illustrated by magic lantern slides, which were manipulated in an able manner by Rev. J. B. Rouse, Avonbridge. Throughout the programme was interspersed with song, and sustained by the Misses Crawford, Murray, and Reid. The songs, being Canadian, were very appropriate to the occasion. There was a splendid attendance, and Mr. Snaddon, in a few closing remarks, said they were indebted to the editor of the "People's Friend" for the slides and the data for the lecture, and to Mr. Mackay for the lecture and the singers. To these Mr. Snaddon proposed a vote of thanks, which was heartily responded to.

Falkirk Herald 16th November 1898

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL)

ASSAULT WITH A PICK-SHAFT. -

Wm. O'Hare, miner, Standburn, was charged with having, on the 15th September, in No. 1 Pit, Blackston Colliery, assaulted George Waterston, miner, Standburn, by striking him a blow on the left eyebrow with a pick-shaft, to the effusion of blood. He pleaded guilty. Mr. Thos. Gibson, solicitor, Falkirk, who appeared for the accused, said that the bad feature of this assault was that it happened in a pit, but the circumstances were somewhat peculiar. Those two men were working close together, and sometimes considerable friction arose amongst people who were working together, as one man might encroach on the other's working place and thereby cause him great inconvenience. There was no doubt that on this occasion the assaulted party had encroached upon the accused's working place. In excavating his own material, he put it on the prisoner's working place. The complainer was remonstrated with, but he was very slow about removing the material. When that was ultimately done, the accused's view was that there was still some material left. He asked the complainer to remove this material also, and some altercation took place between them, in the course of which the accused lost his temper, and the handle of his pick came in contact with his eye. The accused was not the aggressor in this case. The aggressor was the man who had put the material there. After the assault, he thought that he had not enough money to pay the fine which would be imposed upon him, and he left the district to get money. The Fiscal said that there was some friction about the accused's working place, and the accused lifted his pick-shaft, and struck complainer a blow on the eye with it. He had been previously convicted, and on two occasions was sent to prison without the option of a fine. A fine of 30s was imposed, the alternative being fifteen days' imprisonment.

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE. -

Margaret Baird or Duncan, wife of Alex. Duncan, miner, Standburn, was convicted on evidence of creating a disturbance at the door of her husband's house on the 22nd October, and she was fined 10s, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 26th November 1898

FALKIRK J.P. COURT. A sitting of the Falkirk J.P. Court was held in the Sheriff Court-Room on Tuesday forenoon. Mr. J. Cooke-Gray of Blairlodge presided, and the other Justices present were Captain Fenton-Livingstone of Westquarter, ex-Provost Griffiths, and Mr. Lochhead, banker, Falkirk.

AN AGED SHEBEENER

Richard Cuthill, sen., labourer, Sighthill, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on 5th November, kept for the purpose of traffic 53 pint bottles of ale and five pint bottles of porter. Accused pled guilty. The Fiscal said that accused kept a small shop along with his wife. The police got a number of complaints, and, although he was an old man, and not a very fit subject for prosecution, they could not ignore the information they got. A warrant was got, and a search made, and they found on the premises 56 bottles of ale and five of porter. The only thing to be said in accused's favour was that he was, very old. His wife, who kept the shop, was considerably younger. Accused was over eighty, while she was above sixty. Mr. J. W. Burns, who the appeared for the accused said that he was an old man stricken in years - his age being about 85. He kept a small shop, where he sold biscuits and aerated waters. It appears that some young men had induced him to get the beer, and from his extreme old age he was very very weak and facile, and easily imposed on. He was induced to do this. He had no intention of disregarding the law, and he really did not properly understand what he was doing. However his position that day had shown him the gravity of what he had done, and he was very sorry, and he had promised not to repeat the offence. During the course of his long life he had never been in trouble of any kind, and that was the first time he had been in a criminal Court. Mr. Cooke-Gray said that, owing to the culprit's regrets and this being the first offence, the Court was determined to fine him in only two guineas, to cover expenses, and to forfeit the liquor, and, in default of payment, accused would have to go to prison for ten days.

WHISKY-HAWKING TO BE PUT DOWN.

John Campbell, van-driver, 241 High Street, Linlithgow, pled not guilty to having, on 5th November, on the public road leading from Standburn Rows, Muiravonside, opposite the house there occupied by Michael Carline, pit bottoomer, hawked a pint bottle or thereby of whisky, by offering same for sale to the said Michael Carline. Evidence was led, Michael Carline deponed that, on Saturday 5th November, accused came into his house, and asked if he could do anything for them, and he said to ask the landlady, meaning his wife. She told accused he could bring in a pint of whisky, for which she paid, 1s 3d. Accused, however, wanted 1s 6d, and because she did not give it him he created a disturbance. This drink had not been ordered. By Mr. Marshall - Accused had been coming about the house for some time, but they had got nothing from him for a while. It was about a month since they had anything from him. By the Court - He had got whisky from accused before without ordering it. Ellen Anderson or Carline corroborated her husband's evidence. She told Campbell to bring in a pint of whisky He went out and brought in a pint bottle, and laid it on the table. She gave him 1s 3d in payment: Accused went away, but came back, kicked at the door, and demanded another 3d. This whisky was never ordered, and she was not in the habit of ordering whisky. By the Court - All you needed to do was to go out and ask a pint of whisky from them. You did not require to order it. By Mr. Marshall - She was not in the habit of ordering whisky on the Thursday, and getting it on the Saturday. John McLeay, police Constable, Standburn, said that Carline complained to him of being assaulted and told him a story. In connection with the assault, he told him that the cause of the disturbance was that he refused to give accused 1s 6d for the whisky. For the defence, Mr. Forrester, grocer, Linlithgow, deponed that accused was in his employment. Campbell went out and canvassed for orders and afterwards delivered them with the van. He went to Standburn three times a week - on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays - when he took a note of the orders, and delivered them on his next

visit. If the order was taken on the Thursday, the goods would be delivered on the Saturday. Campbell wrote the orders in a passbook, and he (witness) copied them on slips when he made them up in the shop. On the Saturday in question, he was assisted by Alex. Williamson in loading the van, which was done while accused was away for his tea. Carline's name was called off the book, so that there must have been an order given for the whisky. He had been dealing with the Carline's for some months back and there must always be an order in the book before it was executed and sent out by the cart. By the Court - The trade done by the van was for cash, and he therefore only copied the orders on to slips of paper, instead of entering them in the ledger. Alex. Williamson, miner. Philpston, said that, on the night in question, he went down to Mr. Forrester's shop. Campbell was away for his tea, and he assisted Forrester in loading the van. Forrester cried out the names from the orderbook, and told him where to get the stuff. He heard Carline's name called that night, and he went to Standburn along with Campbell to deliver the goods. There was some row afterwards between Campbell and Carline. By the Court - Both he and Campbell were quite sober. After the Fiscal and Mr. Marshall had addressed the Court, Mr. Cooke-Gray said that the Justices were unanimously agreed in finding accused guilty. They were also unanimous in thinking that this was a very serious case indeed. It was a case which, unfortunately perhaps for accused, he happened to be the victim of, but there were many cases of a similar kind they believed occurring in that part of the country almost every week. They were determined not only to take a very serious view of the case, but to inflict upon him the full penalty. The main book that was produced that day was, in their opinion, perfectly worthless, and if the whisky was sold with the cognisance of his master, he would advise him in future not to deal in that way again. The fine imposed was £10 or sixty days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 30th November 1898
FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)
ASSAULT IN A COAL PIT.

James Middleton, jun., miner, Standrigg, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 18th November, in No. 3 Pit of East Roughrigg Colliery, assaulted Andrew McCabe, miner, Standrigg, and struck him a blow on the mouth with his fists and knocked him down. Accused pleaded guilty to striking the complainer on the mouth, but not to knocking him down. The Fiscal said he would accept this plea. The assault arose out of a quarrel about a hutch. Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk, appeared for the accused, and explained that the assault had arisen through his having interfered to separate two parties who were quarrelling about a hutch. One of the parties was accused's brother, and not desiring to see his brother assaulted, he had got in between them. In trying to separate them his hand accidentally came against McCabe's mouth. The Sheriff- If it was accidental, he should have pleaded not guilty. The Fiscal - We must take it that he did it intentionally when he pleads guilty. A fine of 10s was imposed, the alternative being seven days imprisonment.

A STANDBURN ASSAULT CASE -

John Campbell, vanman, High Street, Linlithgow, was charged with having, at the house at Standburn Rows, Muiravonside, occupied by Michael Carlin, pit bottomer, assaulted the said Michael Carlin by seizing hold of him by the neck, dragging him about, and striking him with his clenched fist. Campbell was also charged with having, together with Alex. Williamson, miner, Wester Pardovan, subsequently assaulted the said Michael Carlin by striking him several violent blows on the head with his clenched fist and knocking him down. Mr. Thos. Gibson, Solicitor, Falkirk, tendered a plea of not guilty for Campbell, and one of not guilty for Williamson, and this plea was accepted. Mr. Gibson said that Campbell had lost his temper through the assaulted party threatening to assault him with a poker which he held in his hand. The Fiscal said that the complainer was first assaulted in his own house and afterwards on the public road. Neither assault was serious. A fine of 15s was imposed, the alternative being ten days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 10th December 1898
STANDBURN.

STANDBURN U.P. MISSION CHURCH. -

The second of the course of popular lectures, under the auspices of the Bible Class, was delivered in the church on Thursday evening, in the absence, through illness, of Mr. Sneddon - who has arranged for the lectures in connection with his large Bible Class - Mr. Archibald Binnie took the chair. The lecturer was Mr. Wm. Ballantine, Laurieston, who took for his subject "Sir Walter Scott and his country." Mr. Ballantine who handled his subject in splendid style, illustrated his remarks by lantern views. Appropriate readings from Scott's works were given by Mr. George Gordon Mackay, schoolmaster, while recitations and songs were given by Miss Murray and Miss Crawford respectively, while Dr. Calderwood, M.B., C.M., also kindly assisted. The gathering, as on the occasion of the previous lecture, was large, and all seemed highly pleased with the proceedings. Votes of thanks to the lecturer, to the chairman, and to all who had helped to make the evening a success brought the meeting to a close.

Falkirk Herald 14th December 1898
FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)
ASSAULT AT A COAL PIT. -

Alex. Lumsden, miner, Maddiston, was charged with having, at No. 2 Pit, Redding Colliery, assaulted David Hoggan, pitheadman, residing at The Loan, Muiravonside, by seizing hold of him by the neck, striking him a blow on the cheek with his clenched fist, and knocking him down. He pleaded guilty- Mr. Thos. Gibson, solicitor, Falkirk, made a statement on accused's behalf, in the course of which he said that the assault arose through the accused wishing to get down to his work, and the pitheadman opposing his getting down. Perhaps the pitheadman was right, but the accused only gave him a push, and he fell. The Fiscal said that the charge might be treated as one of breach of the peace. A fine of 10s, or seven days, was imposed.

A BRUTAL ASSAULT. -

Robert Anderson, miner, Standburn, was fined 20s, or ten days, for having, on the 24th November, in the house there occupied by John McPhee, miner, assaulted John Skinner, miner, Standburn, by kicking him on the stomach.

Falkirk Herald 17th December 1898
MADDISTON.

MUSICAL ASSOCIATION.

A grand vocal and orchestral concert, under the auspices of the above, was held in Maddiston School last Friday evening. Mr. Robert Myles, Maddiston, presided, and was supported on the platform by Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse; Mr. James Forsyth, Maddiston; and Mr. James Wilson, Maddiston. Miss Rintoul, Linlithgow, who acted as pianist, also played a selection of Scotch airs at the opening of the concert, in the playing of which she exhibited excellent taste. In her other work, she acquitted herself admirably. Mr. Brock. Linlithgow, appeared as a "character vocalist," and he was able to sustain his part of the programme in a manner which won for him the highest appreciation. Mr. Smith's orchestra, from Falkirk, was in attendance, and played a few excellent selections of Scotch airs throughout the evening. Mr. Smith played a violin solo, which was much appreciated. Mr. George Watson, Falkirk, played a euphonium solo in both parts of the programme, and exhibited much command of his instrument. Miss Taylor, Maddiston, and Miss Stevenson, Glasgow, were the lady artistes, and the efforts of both were highly appreciated. Mr. Stevenson, Glasgow, sang "True, true till death" and "Soldiers of the Queen" in his usual good style. At the close of the concert, the members of the association and friends had a social meeting, at which over thirty couples sat

down to tea. After a substantial repast, a long programme of songs and recitations was gone through.

MADDISTON.

MUSICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the close of an orchestral and vocal concert, held last Friday evening under the auspices of the above, the members of the association and friend had a social meeting, at which over thirty couples sat down to tea. After a substantial repast a long programme of songs and recitations was arranged, in which Miss Rintoul, Miss Reid, Miss Murray, and the Misses Heeps, Mr. Matthew Myles, and Mr. Brock took part. Dancing was afterwards engaged in, Mr. Matthew Myles acting as M.C. in an able manner. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought an enjoyable meeting to a close.

Falkirk Herald 24th December 1898

MUIRAVONSIDE.

FARMERS' SOCIAL MEETING AND DANCE –

Under the auspices of the farmers of the district, a social meeting and dance was held in the Muiravonside School on Friday evening. About 20 couples sat down to tea, - Mr. G. K. Johnston presiding. After a pleasant tea, the company engaged in a most enjoyable dance to violin music by Mr. W. Steele. In the course of the evening songs were rendered with acceptance by Misses Neilson, Dewar, and Taylor; and Messrs Malcolm and Johnston. The party separated at an early hour, the gathering from first to last being very successful and enjoyable.

BENEFIT CONCERT. –

The annual concert for the benefit of the aged and infirm of the parish took place in Drumbowie Public School on Friday last. Mr. James Mackay. C.C., of Avonview, Avonbridge, occupied the chair, and he was accompanied on the platform by Mr. Binnie, Bowhouse; Mr. Eccles, Maddiston; and Dr. Calderwood, Standburn. The school was well filled by an appreciative audience. The Chairman, in his address, stated that with the proceeds of last year's concert fifty poor persons were supplied with a parcel of goods at the New Year, and he desired very much that a larger number might benefit by the present concert. Misses Hunter and Crawford opened the programme with a pianoforte selection. Songs and dialogues were afterwards given by the following ladies and gentlemen; - Misses Calderwood, Reid, Murray, Heeps, Crawford, Messrs Hill and Rule, Falkirk; Thomson, Black braes; and Heeps, Polmont. Mr. Wm. Love gave selections on the melodeon, and Miss Reid a mandoline selection. The entertainment was a most enjoyable one.

1899

Falkirk Herald 7th January 1899

MUIRAVONSIDE.

DRUMBOWIE PUBLIC SCHOOL. -

The annual social meeting of the pupils of the evening classes of the above school was held on Thursday evening last. The main class-room was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Mr. George Mackay, headmaster, occupied the chair, and he was supported by Mr. James Mackay, C.C., Avonview; Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse; and Dr. Calderwood, Standburn. The pupils of Maddiston evening class and Drumbowie mining class were included among the guests of the evening. In all, about 150 sat down to tea, which was nicely served by Miss Hunter, headmistress, assisted by the lady teachers and friends. After tea, the following presentations were made: - A workbasket to Miss Beattie, from the pupils of Maddiston School; a lady's companion and inkstand to Miss Crawford, from the pupils of Drumbowie School; a lady's dressing-bag, beautifully furnished, to Miss Hunter, headmistress, from the pupils of Drumbowie evening classes; and a handsome easy chair to Mr. Mackay, from his pupils. The gifts were all suitably acknowledged. A concert followed, the programme being ably sustained by Misses Hunter, Calderwood, Beattie, Murray, Reid, Kay, Taylor, Crawford, and Melville, Alloa; and Messrs Nisbet, Murray, Hamilton, Malcolm, Watson, Rait, and Anderson. A dance brought the meeting to a close, Messrs Nisbet and Murray supplying the music, and Mr. Robert Moore acting as M.C.

NEW YEAR'S TREAT. –

A handsome and suitable present has been distributed to each of the poor aged, and infirm residing in this parish from the proceeds of the concert held on 16th ult, in Drumbowie Public School. These seasonable presents have gladdened the hearts of many, and the committee of management – consisting of Mr. James Mackay. C. C. Avonbridge; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; and Mr. George Mackay, Drumbowie - together with those who assisted at the concert, are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts in this good cause. Sixty parcels of goods in all were distributed

Falkirk Herald 7th January 1899

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE - John O'Hare, miner, Standburn (a young lad), was fined 10s, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for creating a disturbance at Standburn Rows on the 2d January.

Falkirk Herald 14th January 1899

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

ASSAULT IN A COAL PIT. –

John Murphy, miner, Standburn, was charged with having, in No. 2 Pit of Redford Colliery, assaulted Robert Clark, pit fireman, Standburn, by striking him on the face with a stone or piece of coal, which he held in his hand, knocking him down, and, while down, striking him with his fists to the effusion of blood. Panel pleaded not guilty, and evidence was led, the defence being conducted by Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk. After the proof, the Sheriff found the charge proven. His Lordship remarked that the assault was a very bad one, committed in the bowels of the earth after the accused had put out the complainer's light. He imposed a fine of 40s, with the option of twenty days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 14th January 1899

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. –

The quarterly general meeting of Redding Co-operative Society was held in the Co-operative Hall, Redding, on Tuesday evening. There was a large attendance, presided over by Mr. John Myles, president of the society. The quarterly report and balance-sheet was submitted and approved of. The sales for the quarter amounted to £20,630, an increase for the corresponding quarter of last year of £1808. The membership had been increased by 37 during the year, the present membership being 1669. The profits for the quarter amounted to £4380 10s 9 1/2d, which, after allowing for depreciation of property and addition to reserve fund, allowed a dividend of 4s per £1. The rates per £1 for the various departments were: - Redding - Grocery, 3s 10p; drapery, 4s 2d; bakery, 4s 6d; fleshing, 4s 2d; shoemaking, 4s. Blackbraes - Grocery, 3s 10d; drapery, 4s 3d. Maddiston - Grocery, 3s 10d; drapery, 4s 4d. Standburn - Grocery, 3s 8d. Mr. John Walker was re-elected secretary and manager; Mr. John Forsyth was re-elected treasurer at Blackbraes; Mr. George Todd, treasurer at Maddiston, in room of Mr. John Cummings, retired; and Mr. Alex. Simpson, treasurer at Standburn; Messrs Robt. Myles and Thos. Cummings were elected directors in room of the Rev. W. Smith and Mr. John Edwards, retired.

Falkirk Herald 21st January 1899

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY(

Before Sheriff BELL.)

MALICIOUS MISCHIEF AND BREACH OF THE PEACE. –

Thomas Stowe, William Stowe, John Stowe, miners. Crosscroes, Muiravonside, and William Cochrane, miner, Blackbraes, were charged with having, on the 24th December at the house at Crosscroes occupied by Neil McFarlane, miner, (1) assaulted Alex. Robertson, miner, Standburn, by striking him several blows on the face and body with their clenched fists; (2) assaulted the said Neil McFarlane by striking him on the left eye with a weapon to the complainer unknown, whereby he was cut and wounded to the great effusion of blood; (3) assaulted Elizabeth Robertson or McFarlane, wife of the said Neil McFarlane, and threw a shovel at him, and struck him therewith; (4) willfully and maliciously smashed the glass in the fanlight of the door of said house: and (5) committed a breach of the peace. Accused pleaded not guilty to the charges and the case went to proof, the defence being conducted by Mr. Learmonth, solicitor, Falkirk. After hearing the evidence, his Lordship found the accused guilty of the charges of malicious mischief and breach of the peace only, and fined them 25s each, with the alternative of ten days' in jail.

Falkirk Herald 1st February 1899

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD. -

The usual monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School yesterday afternoon. A letter of apology was read from the chairman, Mr. Stirling, who was unable to be present, and Mr. Binnie presided, the other members present being Messrs Mackay, Murray, and Wilson. The attendance reports were submitted by the officer as follows :

	On Roll.	Av. Attend.
Blackbraes School	366	303
Drumbowie School	424	340
Muiravonside School	171	141
Maddiston School	84	72
Avonbridge School	92	78
	1137	934

An application for the use of the Drumbowie School was made by temperance lodge at Standburn for the purpose of holding a social meeting on February 11th. Mr. Murray - Is that meeting to be held till after half-past 11? The Clerk said it was just a request for the use of the school for the purpose of holding a social meeting. Mr. Wilson - Will there be dancing? The Clerk - That is all I know. Mr. Murray - The reason I asked was because they called upon me, and I was agreeable that it should be given up to half-past 11, but I could not go further until the meeting of the Board. The Chairman - Did they not state the time for which they wanted the school? Mr. Murray - They did not say, but I advised them not to have it later. Mr. Wilson - I do not see that there is much danger of temperance people doing much damage. (Laughter.) Mr. Murray - We are only going by the standing orders when we take up that footing. The Chairman - The meeting is a social meeting, and so far as I can learn all social meetings are held a little later than half-past eleven. Mr. Mackay said the meeting would be a little longer, as the social was not intended to begin till nine o'clock. Mr. Mackay said he had spoken to the teacher, who had no objections to offer to the granting of the application, and was quite satisfied. Mr. Wilson moved that the Good Templars get the use of the school. He thought there would be harm done there at any rate. (Laughter.) The Chairman - There will be no intoxicating liquors at all events. Mr. Wilson's motion was agreed to. Mr. Murray said he had two applications from Mr. Wm. Webb, Liberal organiser, Falkirk, for the use of the Drumbowie and Maddiston Schools for the purpose of holding Liberal meetings, and he wished to know the price. Mr. Mackay moved that Mr. Webb have the use of the schools for 5s each. Mr. Murray seconded, and the motion was agreed to. A letter was read from Miss Crawford stating that she had accepted an appointment under the Falkirk Burgh School Board, and asking to be relieved of her duties the on 28th February. Mr. Murray stated that he had had a note from Mr. Mackay, headmaster of the school, asking him to bring the matter before the Board and ask that a successor be appointed as soon as possible. The resignation was accepted, and the clerk was instructed to advertise for a successor. Owing to the examinations occurring on the same day as that fixed for the regular meeting, it was agreed to hold the usual meeting a week earlier, so that the events would not clash. This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 4th February 1899

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

BLACKBRAES EVENING CLASSES. –

The pupils attending the evening classes in connection with Blackbraes Public School, along with the school staff, were entertained in the school-room on Monday evening by Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, The Schoolhouse. There was an attendance of over forty. After tea, which was served in excellent style, Mr. Campbell, in a few complimentary remarks, thanked the pupils for the way in which they had attended the classes and prosecuted their studies during the session just closed. Songs, games, etc, followed. Mr. Campbell also gave a variety of instructive and amusing views with the magic-lantern. Each pupil had his or her entrance fee returned, and were also the recipients of a handsome book prize. A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Campbell terminated a very enjoyable evening.

LECTURE. - On Friday evening last a lecture, illustrated by magic-lantern views, was given in the Free Church Hall, Blackbraes, by Dr. Calderwood, Standburn, the proceeds of which were devoted to the funds of Blackbraes Brass Band. Mr. James Mackay, Avonview, presided. The subject of the lecture was "A Trip to India," and Dr. Calderwood handled his subject in a very able and interesting manner. The lantern was manipulated by Mr. A. Campbell, B.A., The Schoolhouse.

Falkirk Herald 4th February 1899

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

NOISY MINERS. –

Robert Freckleton and David Freckleton, miners, South Rows, Blackbraes, were fined 10s each, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for creating a disturbance on the public road near Greyrigg Inn, Muiravonside.

WEDNESDAY.

A WIFE BEATER. –

David O'Hare, miner, Standburn, was charged with having, on the 31st January, assaulted his wife in the house at Standburn occupied by Alex. Kerr, pit fireman, by seizing hold of her by the arm and twisting it, and scratching her hand. He was further charged with committing a breach of the peace. Prisoner pleaded guilty. The Fiscal said that there were six previous convictions for assault against the accused, although the present offence was not a serious one. A fine of 30s was imposed, with the option of fourteen days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 25th February 1899

MADDISTON.

FREEDOM LODGE, I.O.G.T. –

The weekly meeting of the above was held on Friday last. Bro. Carmichael, from Polmont, and Bro. Weir, from Standburn, were present, and addressed the meeting.

Falkirk Herald 25th February 1899

WANTED, Respectable Woman (Middle-Aged), as Housekeeper to Working Man. - Apply Jas. Mitchell, 62 Standburn.

Falkirk Herald 8th March 1899

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY.

A special meeting of the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery was held in the hall of the Erskine U.P. Church yesterday forenoon - Rev. James Aitchison, moderator, presiding. Mr. Thomson, in reporting on the Standburn Mission, said that apart from the grant from the Home Mission Board this mission had no other source of income, save what was contributed at the various meetings. Last year the sum of £27 16s 10d had been raised by the freewill offerings, and after paying working expenses the session were enabled to hand over £6 as a contribution to the fund for clearing off a debt on the premises. The committee were of opinion that a reduction in the Home Mission grant would be fatal to the mission. The report was approved of.

Falkirk Herald 11th March 1899

MADDISTON.

ANNIVERSARY OF MADDISTON'S FREEDOM TEMPERANCE LODGE. -

The first anniversary of the above lodge was celebrated in Maddiston Public School on Thursday evening last. Mr. Wm. Murray, Parkhall, presided. Bro. David Ramsay, G.L.A., Edinburgh, and Bro. Carmichael, D.C.T., Polmont, addressed the meeting. A programme of songs, etc., was ably sustained by members of the lodge. Miss Murray, Standburn, in addition to presiding as pianist in a praiseworthy manner, also played a mandoline selection with great taste. A report anent the progress of the lodge during the first year of its existence was read. The secretary, in so doing, stated that in "every aspect the lodge was flourishing. The membership had risen from that of ten to that of forty within the past twelve months, and, after having met all the necessary expense, the lodge was on an excellent footing.

BENEFIT CONCERT.-

A benefit concert, promoted by the Horticultural Society, was held in the school on Tuesday evening last. A programme of songs, etc., was ably sustained by talented artistes. Miss Galloway, Glasgow, acted as pianist. Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse, presided over the audience, which was a fairly large one.

Falkirk Herald 24th March 1899

MADDISTON.

BENEFIT.-

A benefit concert was held in the school last Friday evening. Mr. Alex. Rigg, Brightons, presided. The artistes, who were from Falkirk and district, acquitted themselves very efficiently. As a result of the concert, a sum of over £2 was raised for charitable purposes. 1899

Falkirk Herald 18th March 1899

HOUSES, HOUSES. &C, TO LET

SHOP to Let at Standburn, near Avonbridge; immediate entry. - Apply Andrew Cheyne. MADDISTON. - House of 2 Rooms and Kitchen, with Garden, to Let. - Apply Thomas Rae, Gowanlea, Cottage.

Falkirk Herald 29th March 1899

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute WATSON).

STANDBURN ASSAULT CASE. -

John Hutchison, miner, Standburn, was charged with having, on the 11th March, at the house there occupied by James Smith, miner, assaulted the said James Smith by striking him a blow on the mouth with his fist to the effusion of blood, and committing a breach of the peace. Accused pleaded not guilty, and the case went to proof, the defence being conducted by Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk. The evidence for the prosecution was that late on the night of the 11th March the accused knocked at Smith's door, and without any provocation he struck him on the mouth and bled it. Hutchison accused Smith of listening at his window. Smith immediately informed the police of what occurred. For the defence it was stated that Smith was seen to leave his house and listen at Hutchison's window, Hutchison went to Smith's door and spoke to him, but was not observed to strike him. In cross-examination, witnesses for the defence said that they were not aware that Hutchison was in an excited state that night, and that he was molesting his wife. One witness said that Hutchison's sister-in-law was standing outside calling Hutchison anything but a gentleman. His Lordship held that the evidence for the prosecution, so far as the assault was concerned, was successful. He would drop the charge of breach of the peace. Mr. Hunter then asked for a lenient sentence on account of its being Hutchison's first offence and his good character, a letter with regard to which being read from Messrs Jas. Nimmo & Co., coalmasters, his employers. A fine of 20s, with the option of ten days' imprisonment, was imposed.

Falkirk Herald 29th March 1899

MINERS CONVICTED OF POACHING.

At the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Monday - before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Watson - David Hunter, Thos. Boyd, and Robert Martin, all miners, residing at Blackbraes, were charged with having, on the 20th February, in the day time, trespassed in a plantation on the lands of Wester Burnhead, near Slamannan, in pursuit of game. They pleaded not guilty, and evidence was led, the defence being conducted by Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk. For the prosecution, Wm. Shanks, shepherd and gamekeeper, Slamannan, deponed that, on the afternoon of the day in question, while on duty, he saw a man looking through a hedge bounding a plantation on the lands of Wester Burnhead, belonging to Mr. Reston. Witness was about 150 yards away at the time, and when he came forward, and looked into the plantation, he found the three accused there. They seemed to be ferreting. Hunter had a ferret in his hand, Boyd had seven or eight rabbits in his possession, and Martin was sitting at the root of a tree. Hunter seemed to be crawling on his hands and knees, but witness caught hold of him by the collar to see his face. He kicked witness three times, and also struck him. Witness then left the plantation, thinking that the three were too many for him. Hunter and Boyd seemed to be in drink, but Martin never spoke, so that he could not say whether he was the worse of drink or not. Witness asked the men what they were doing there, and Boyd replied that he was taking a few rabbits. Next day he went back to the wood, and, looking at the place where he had seen the men, he observed holes where rabbits had been ferreted by means of nets. It was about five o'clock in the afternoon. Cross-examined - Q. - How far is this wood from Blackbraes? A. - It is about three miles. Martin - It is six miles. Cross-examination continued I never saw any of the three men before, but I can swear now that the accused were the three I saw in the plantation. I saw no nets in their hands, but I observed a ferret in Hunter's hand. Hunter - It is not true. Thomas Dotts, gamekeeper to Mr. Paton of Avonhill, stated that, on the afternoon of the day in question, he observed the accused leave the lands of his employer, cross a burn, and go into a plantation on the adjoining lands of Wester Burnhead. They were ferreting. Cross-examined - I identified the men at the time. It is not the case that I called at their houses some days afterwards, and failed to identify them. Hunter - You did so: you called at my house. Constable Johnston, Blackbraes, deponed that he came upon the witness Boyd lying on the public road the worse of drink about- one o'clock in the morning of 21st February. He got Boyd on his feet, and he told witness that he had been at Limerigg poaching, and had upset a gamekeeper. He did not say whether he had got any game. His clothes were all wet. Cross-examined - Boyd had no game with him, nor had he any implements in his possession for taking game. Witness, however, did not search him. He called with Dotts on the prisoners on the following Sunday, and Dotts identified them as being the men he saw enter the plantation. For the defence, there was only one witness examined - the accused Hunter - and, on the suggestion of the Prosecutor, Superintendent Gordon, who was present in Court, took a shorthand note of his evidence. Hunter deponed that, on the day in question, he had been along with the other two accused, and Martin and he were together in Heeps' public-house till

twelve o'clock. After that he went home, and remained there for two or three hours, leaving about four o'clock. He subsequently went out for a walk to a place called The Quarry, and turned back to the house again. He was never on Mr. Paton's lands, and neither did he see Mr. Paton's gamekeeper, nor the witness Shanks that day. He had never in his life seen either of the two men. - Did you kick Shanks? - No, sir. Q. - Were you ferreting for rabbits that afternoon? A. - No, Sir. After the walk, Martin and he went into the public-house, and left at shutting time - ten o'clock. Boyd was in the public-house when they went in. Cross-examined by the Prosecutor - The Quarry, to which he and Martin walked, was about seven or eight miles from Burnhead. Witness did not meet any one when he was walking at the Quarry. After he had had a game at dominoes in his own house with Martin, he went back to Heeps' public-house, and remained there till shutting time. It was between five and six o'clock in the afternoon when he got to Heeps' public-house. Besides Boyd, there were a lot of others in the public-house when he went in, but he could not at the moment remember who they all were. He, however, remembered that John Clark and Jas. Henderson, miners, Standburn, were there. Witness was not in the neighbourhood of Wester Burnhead that day. Re-examined by Mr. Hunter - Q. Had - you been drinking that afternoon? A. - Yes: but I was not the worse of liquor. I was just like what you see me to-day. Q. Have you been drinking all forenoon to-day? (Laughter.) No reply. The Fiscal said that this was simply a case of credibility. The only difficulty was whether his Lordship was to believe the evidence for the prosecution, which was perfectly clear, or the evidence for the defence. He held that the evidence of the two gamekeepers and the statement of Boyd to the policeman was sufficient to warrant a conviction. Mr. Hunter said he scarcely expected that his Lordship would do anything else than convict in this case. Had he known of it sooner, he would have had witnesses present to prove that Martin and Hunter had been at home or in this public-house on the day in question. The Sheriff said he thought there could be no doubt about the result, of this case. The evidence was perfectly satisfactory to him, and he did not believe a word of what Hunter had said. He found the charge proven, and fined each of the accused 20s, with 16s 6d of expenses, or twenty days' imprisonment. Boyd (pointing to Shanks) - What that gentleman has said is not true; and that is my right up to God. May God forgive him. I never killed a rabbit in my life.

Falkirk Herald 15th April 1899

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.
REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. -

The quarterly general meeting of the Redding Cooperative Society was held in the Co-operative Hall, Redding, on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance of members, and Mr. John Myles, president of the society, presided. The quarterly report and balance-sheet, and various transactions of the Committee of Management, was gone over and approved of. Mr. Thomas Barker jun., was appointed president in room of Mr. John Myles, retiring. Mr. David Weir was re-elected a director, and Mr. Robert Grant was elected a director in room of Mr. A. Bennie, retired. The sales for the quarter were £20,375, being an increase of £2060 over the corresponding quarter of last year. The membership is 1701, being an increase for the year of 73. The profits for the quarter were £4476 1s 0 1/2d, which, besides providing for a sum being set aside for depreciation of property and various other charges, allowed for a dividend of 4s 1d per £ on members' purchases, and left a balance of £88 12s 11d to be carried forward to next quarter. The rates of dividend for the different departments are as follows: - Redding-Grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 2d; bakery, 4s 8d; fleshing 4s; Blackbraes - Grocery, 4s 1d; drapery, 4s 1d; Maddiston - Grocery, 3s 10d; drapery, 4s 10d; Standburn branch, 3s 7d.

MESSRS JAMES NIMMO AND CO.'S APPLICATION FOR STANDBURN - PUBLIC HOUSE LICENCE GRANTED. George Gibb, colliery manager, Candie House, Avonbridge, for James Nimmo and Co., coalmasters, renewed the application refused at a former Court for a public-house licence for premises at Standburn. Mr. James Nimmo, senior partner of the firm of Messrs James Nimmo and Co., said that his firm had all along opposed the granting of new licences. Some time ago, however, they failed in an effort to get the chief constable to suppress the traffic which took place with bottlers' carts, and therefore they proposed to run a licence on the lines of those laid down by the Fife Coal Co. The proposed licence would not be run for the profit of any one. The profits would be in the hands of the local Justices, and would be put to any purpose they thought fit. They proposed to put in the premises a man of strong principles, who would try and persuade the people not to drink. (Laughter.) His Arm had no object whatever other than the good of their workmen in asking the Court to grant this licence, and if it did not work a reform on the morals of their workmen, his firm would be the first to ask that the doors be closed. The firm desired that such a licence be granted instead of one being granted to a private party. Mr. Thomas Gibson, solicitor, Falkirk, appeared for eight objectors, and argued that the licence applied for was not required in the interests of the inhabitants. He also said that it was not too great a distance for those who wished liquor to go to Blackbraes or Avonbridge for it, both places being no more than two miles distant. Mr. D. M. Wilson, solicitor, appeared for the applicant, and said that it would tend to the good of the whole neighborhood if this licence were granted, and would tend to the sobriety of the men. Ex-Bailie Christie, Falkirk, moved that the application be refused. He gave the applicants every credit for the motives they had in the matter, and while he could conceive that it might do a little good, it would lead to an innovation which was repugnant to their licensing laws. If they were satisfied there were need for a licence, then the Justices should license an individual in the usual way. They would be going outwith their duty if they introduced novel expedients of this kind. Mr. Stuart Clink, Stirling, seconded, and said that, speaking as an employee, he was opposed to giving an employer a monopoly of selling the liquor. If he were addicted to drink, he would not like to go and buy it from his employer. There might be some truth in what Mr. Nimmo had said, but Mr. Nimmo was not to keep the shop. It was to be kept by a subordinate. Mr. George Ure said he would like to see this system tried, as he had read so much about its good effects in Fifeshire. He had often thought that, if he was a younger man, he would try the system advocated by Mr. Nimmo himself. He moved that the licence be granted. Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside seconded, and said he could assure them, as a local Justice, that, there was great need for a well-regulated public-house at Standburn. The people travelled a great distance at present to get liquor, and the result was that they often took more than was good for them, and were found lying on the road drunk. Besides, the district was overrun with bottlers' carts. The licence was granted by 21 votes to 16.

Falkirk Herald 15th April 1899

PROPERTIES, &C., FOR SALE & WANTED
DWELLING HOUSES AT STANDBURN FOR SALE.

To be Sold by Public Roup, within the Crown Hotel, Falkirk, upon TUESDAY, the 25th day of April, 1899, at 2.15 o'clock Afternoon.

THAT SUBSTANTIAL, BLOCK OF DWELLINGHOUSES at SNABHEAD, Standburn, partly occupied by Mr. Ure. The Ground extends to Half an Acre, and can be further built upon. Upset Price, to ensure a Sale, £375.

For further particulars, apply to JOHN MARSHALL, Solicitor, Bo'ness, who has the Titles and Articles of Roup.

Falkirk Herald 19th April 1899

FAILING TO EDUCATE. -

At the Sheriff Court on Monday - Sheriff Bell on the bench. - Alex. Sharp, miner, Blackbraes, was charged with having, for the period of four weeks, failed to provide education for his son, James Sharp, aged between 12 and 13 years. Accused pleaded guilty, and was fined 7s 6d, or three days' imprisonment. John Skinner, miner, Standburn, pleaded guilty to having, for the period of eight weeks, failed to provide education for his son, Wm. Skinner, aged between 13 and 14 years. Accused said the boy had no mother to look after him, and he left his

grandmother to go to school, but he did not know whether he went or not. He had done his level best to look after the boy. The Fiscal said that the accused appeared before the Muiravonside Parish School Board and promised to do better, but instead of improving the boy's attendance at school became worse. A fine of 10s was imposed, the alternative being seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 19th April 1899

STIRLING COUNTY LICENSING COURT.

The half yearly for the county of Stirling was held in the County Buildings, Stirling, yesterday. There was a large attendance of Justices, and on the motion of Mr Geo. Ure of Wheatlands, Colonel King of Antermony was called to the chair.

CANVASSING JUSTICES. Sir Alan Seton Steuart called attention to the objectionable practice of these who were applying for licences going about the county canvassing the Justices. Applicants not only canvassed those in their own neighbourhood, as he himself had been canvassed from a place quite outwith his own neighbourhood, of which he knew nothing. The practice was entirely opposed to the ideas of the Licensing Court, but it was justified by saying that it was done everywhere, and in Parliamentary and county elections The Justices ought to come to the Court quite unbiased in their opinions, and to give their opinion on the merits of the application - whether it was right or wrong. The Justices ought not to allow themselves to be canvassed in this way, and the Court should give some decided opinion on the matter. (Applause.) The Chairman endorsed the remarks of the previous speaker, and trusted the Justices would carry them into effect. (Applause.)

ADVERTISING THE APPLICATIONS. Ex-Provost Macpherson, Falkirk, called attention to the insufficient way in which the applications to come before the Court were advertised in the Eastern District of the county. The only advertisement which appeared was in the Wednesday "Falkirk Herald," and in order that the announcement might receive greater publicity he moved that the advertisement be published in the Saturday paper as well. The Clerk said that the Wednesday paper was the only one which was in time to insert the advertisement according to the statute. The matter dropped.

THE HOUR OF MEETING. Maior Dobbie, Larbert, stated that the Court met far too late and it would meet the convenience of a good many of the Justices if it would meet at 10 30, instead of 11 o'clock. He moved accordingly. Provost Ferguson, Denny, seconded Mr. Burrell Grangemouth, moved the previous question, but on a vote, Major Dobbie's motion was agreed to.

THE HOUR OF CLOSING. On the motion of the Chairman, it was agreed that the hour of closing continue at 10 o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 28th June 1899

MADDISTON.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD

ATTENDANCE.

Reports upon the attendance at the various schools for the past month were submitted as follows:-

	On Roll.	Av. Att.
Blackbraes	379	319
Drumbowie	414	311
Muiravonside	185	151
Maddiston	92	75
Avonbridge	102	91

1172 992

Reference was made in the minutes to overcrowding at Blackbraes, and in reply to the Chairman, the Clerk stated that nothing further had been heard from the Department on the subject.

OVERCROWDING AT AVONBRIDGE COMBINATION SCHOOL.

The next business was consideration of letter from Slamannan School Board as to overcrowding at Avonbridge Combination School. The letter from the clerk to the Slamannan Board was in these terms : - My Board at their meeting yesterday had under consideration the attendance and the accommodation of the school at Avonbridge, which is a Combination School, and by arrangement between your Board and the Torphichen Board with my Board some time ago the Muiravonside School Board had right to an attendance of 70 children. The actual number on roll, as reported to me at the end of May last, from Muiravonside parish was 100 children, being 30 in excess of the number to which your parish is entitled. The number on roll from Slamannan parish has always hitherto been within the limit of the accommodation to which they are entitled. I am instructed by my Board to request that your Board will either withdraw the excess number of children or will themselves make provision for suitable accommodation for them." The Chairman said he thought there would be plenty of accommodation for these additional children, either at Blackbraes or Drumbowie. They could always relieve Blackbraes by turning some of the Polmont children out. Referring to the agreement, he said he did not think, so far as he had read, that the Muiravonside Board were entitled to 70 children. He thought they were entitled to seven twentieths of the accommodation. However, undoubtedly they had too many children at the Avonbridge School-91 he put the average attendance at for the last six months and he thought they ought to make arrangements to withdraw some of them. The Clerk said he understood that there was in Drumbowie School accommodation for an additional 100 children. Mr. Wilson said he did not think they required to withdraw these children from Avonbridge meantime, but certainly they would have to make an addition to Avonbridge School by-and-bye. The Chairman said that if they were asked to do it they must do it. There was no help for it. Mr. Myles asked if there was not a possibility of the compulsory officer seeing the parents of children living nearest to Drumbowie School, and have them attend that school instead of Avonbridge. That would relieve the latter school considerably. The Chairman thought that possibly the best plan would be to appoint a committee of local members to inquire into the real position of affairs at Avonbridge, and arrange for the children who lived furthest away from that school to attend some other. Mr. Myles pointed out that Polmont Board had to specify districts, and have the children attend a school when there was accommodation. That answered the purpose very well. The Chairman said that was the kind of thing they would have to do here, and the local members acquainted with the district would be far more able to draw the line. Continuing, he suggested that the committee consist of Mr. M'Kay, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Archd. Binnie, and to bring the business to a point he would move that the clerk write to the Slamannan Board in reply that a committee had been appointed to look into the matter and arrange to relieve the Avon bridge School; that committee to report to the next meeting of the Muiravonside Board, which will be held in August. This was unanimously agreed to. **CHARGES FOR USE OF SCHOOL.**

A letter was read from Mr. Thorn, secretary of the Maddiston Freedom Lodge of Good Templars, objecting to the charge of 3s for the use of the schoolroom for certain meetings of the Lodge. This, the secretary thought, was an overcharge, and the real rate for such meetings, he stipulated, should-only be 1s per night. It appeared that the whole difference lay in the case of the Lodge holding social meetings and ordinary meetings, in the former case they were entitled to pay 3s, and the latter 1s. As it was shown that the meetings referred to were not of the nature of social gatherings, the Board resolved to levy the minimum charge of 1s.

A PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT.

It was remitted to the clerk to get an offer for improving the gable of the Maddiston Public School, the appearance of which was described as unsightly and an eyesore.

This was all the public business.

Falkirk Herald 26th July 1899

MADDISTON.

Appointment of a Teacher. Miss Jeanie B. Baxter Portobello, has been appointed head mistress of the Maddiston Infant School in succession to Miss Beattie, who has resigned on account of ill health. The School Board heard the short leet on Friday last, and the appointment was unanimous.

Name, Designation, and Residence of Applicant.	Place and Parish of Premises.		Class of Certificate Applied for.	Name and Address of Landlord or Factor of Premises.
	Place.	Parish.		
I.—FOR NEW PREMISES.				
1. Henry M'Ewen, Pattern-maker, Stenhousemuir,	Stenhousemuir,	Larbert,	Public-House,	WILLIAM M'Ewen, Firhall, Proprietor.
2. Robert Baird, Spirit Merchant, Leaside,	Stenhousemuir,	Larbert,	Public-House,	Applicant, Proprietor.
3. John Reid, Carriage Hiver, Stenhousemuir,	Stenhousemuir,	Larbert,	Public-House,	Malcolm Reid, Hazel Bank Larbert, Proprietor.
4. Robert Philip, Hotel-keeper, Bridge of Allan,	Bridge of Allan,	Logie,	An Inn and Hotel (Alterations and Extension of Premises),	Applicant, Proprietor.
5. Thomas Muir, 1 Randolph Road, Stirling,	East Pleas,	St Niniana,	Public-House,	Applicant, Proprietor.
6. Robert Morrison, Commercial Traveller, Lochview, Linlithgow,	Cornhill Place, Bonnybridge,	Denny,	Public-House,	John Mitchell, Cornhill Place, Bonnybridge, Proprietor.
7. Margaret Aitken or Dawson, Mayfield Cottage, Stenhousemuir,	Stenhousemuir,	Larbert,	Public-House (presently holds Grocer's Licence),	Applicant, Proprietrix.
8. George Gibb, Colliery Manager, Candie House, by Auchincry, for Jas. Nimmo & Co., Ltd., Coal-Masters, Glasgow,	STANDBURN,	Muiravonside,	Public-House,	James Nimmo & Coy., Ltd., Colmesters, 21 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, Proprietors.
9. Stewart Brown Johnston, Kirkland Park, Coal-bridge,	Cornhill Place, Bonnybridge,	Denny,	Public-House,	John Mitchell, Bonnybridge, Proprietor.

1900's

1900

Falkirk Herald 3rd January 1900

AGENTS.

By whom Advertisements and Orders for the Paper are received:-

Blackbraes -- M. Watson, Grocer.

Bowhouse, -- James Croall, Station Agent.

Linlithgow Bridge, -- Mrs. Dickson, Post Office.

Maddiston, -- Arch. Forsyth, Merchant.

Manuel, -- Mr. Blyth, Manuel Station.

Falkirk Herald 3rd January 1900

STANDBURN. SUDDEN DEATH. —

About eleven o'clock on Saturday evening Wm. Clark (64), miner, Standburn, after spending some time in Messrs Jas. Nimmo and Co.'s public-house there, left with a man named Charles Rodgers to proceed to Rodgers' house at Standburn. On reaching the house Clark sat down on a chair by the side of the fire, but he afterwards slipped off on to the floor. No attention was paid to him till about 2 a.m. on Sunday morning, when a man named Hugh Scott, miner, Standburn, was leaving the house, and wished to take Clark with him. On lifting him he found him to be dead.

Falkirk Herald 3rd January 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE. MR M'KILLOP, M.P., ON THE WAR.

At a social meeting in Drumbowie Public School, Muiravonside, on Friday evening, to aid the soldiers' wives and families in Stirlingshire who are suffering through the present war, Mr. McKillop, the member for the county, said, in considering the present war, it should, he thought, never be forgotten the debt of gratitude the Boers in the Transvaal owed to this country, for Great Britain saved them from extermination by the natives. We fought and conquered first the Kaffirs, and then the Zulus, their natural enemies. British energy and capital converted the Boer exchequer from a state of bankruptcy, with not half a sovereign in it, to that of affluence. British magnanimity granted them independence when this country could have crushed them. But our kindness and our concessions, notwithstanding, have never satisfied the Boers. They have never attempted to establish the elements of peace and harmony in their country; they have never practically recognised the suzerainty of the Queen, but have regarded themselves as heroes and conquerors of the British, and cherished the memories of their skirmishes, such as at Majuba Hill, or Cronje's, white flag trickery at Potchefstroom or the treacherous massacre of the 94th Regiment at Bronkerspruit, all as battles in a war of independence, and even considered one Boer to be equal in fighting power to five British soldiers. They expected our soldiers to run when they saw a Boer, for they bargained among themselves to walk over Natal and Cape Colony, and drive the British army into the sea; but Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking proves that they have met soldiers who can stand and fight, aye, and drive home the bayonet with effect. They have met with men, every one of them the personation of a hero, determined to wipe out Majuba Hill and white flag treachery, to wipe out 18 years' injustice. Our Scottish regiments have nobly sustained their country's credit and military traditions. When they failed it was attempting to achieve the impossible. Some failures are as brilliant and glorious as successes, and the conduct of our Highland Brigade at the battle of Magersfontein, with its serious losses of brave officers and men, proves this in the highest degree. There are Stirlingshire men - and many of them - at front of the battle. He knew some of them, both officers and men, who had bled and died in the battlefield. He also knew General Wauchope, who was so universally loved and respected, and who died fighting bravely at the head of the Highland Brigade. The meeting that night, to assist the soldiers' wives and families in Stirlingshire, did credit to the head and hearts of its promoters. He was glad to see it was going to be a marvelous success, and result in a substantial sum to benefit the object of concern as well as reward them all with the feeling of that Christian axiom which said that it was more blessed to give than to receive.

Dundee Courier 3rd January 1900

CRIMES AND FATALITIES. DEATH AT THE FEAST.

Information of the death of Walter Clark (64), miner, Standburn, under gruesome circumstances has been lodged with the police. It appears that New Year festivities were taking place in a house in the village, when Clark, who was the worse of drink, slipped off a chair on to the floor, and lay there. There was singing and dancing going on, and no attention was paid to him till about 2 a.m., when someone, on looking at him, discovered he was dead. This is the fourth fatality that has occurred in the district since Saturday.

Falkirk Herald 6th January 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE. SCHOOL BOARD PROSECUTIONS. - At the Falkirk Sheriff Court on

Tuesday - before Sheriff Bell - Joseph McMillan, miner, 90 Standburn, pled guilty o having, for the period of eight weeks prior to 23rd Nov, failed to discharge the duty of elementary education for his child Joseph McMillan. A fine of 5s, or three days' imprisonment, while Andrew Russell, miner, was mulcted in a penalty of 20s, or 14 days, he pleading guilty to a charge of having for a period of eight weeks prior to 24th November, failed to provide elementary education for his child Wm. Russell.

Falkirk Herald 13th January 1900

LIVELY MEETING OF REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. The quarterly general meeting of Redding

Co-operative Society was held in the Redding Co-operative hall on Tuesday night - Mr. Thomas Barker president in the chair. Mr. P. Munnock complained of the chairman getting 9s for going to Falkirk in connection with the Myles law case. The Chairman said he had got 6s 9d for his day's wage, and 2s 3d for expenses, 1s for dinner, 6d for his train, and, after paying everything, he had 6d to get drunk with if he liked. (Laughter.) Mr. P. Munnock - I went to Denny, and only got 2s 6d, and that man gets 9s for going to Falkirk. He also says he got 6d, which he could have got drunk with if he liked. (Laughter.) The Chairman - I did not get 9s. The meeting became very disorderly, debates going on between members in various parts of the hall. The Chairman - Order. We will not proceed with the minutes if there is a meeting going on in the centre of the room. Mr. P. Munnock was proceeding to criticise the chairman's ruling on a certain matter, when The Chairman asked - Is Mr. Peter Munnock or Tom Barker the chairman of this meeting? I may not be chairman very long, but so long as I am chairman I will be chairman. When I am not chairman I will go down amongst the crowd. One or two members subsequently objected to the way the chairman was conducting the business and insisted on a proposal to give a subscription towards an ambulance waggon being considered under general business. The Chairman - If we are to send everything to "general business," all the business will come up as general business. Mr. P. Munnock - The chairman is not conducting the business properly. The Chairman - I better retire, and let you come up here. Mr. P. Munnock - I do not want you to retire but I am as good a man as you. The Chairman - We take a vote There is a motion that something be given and an amendment that nothing be given, Mr. P. Munnock - We will not vote now. The Chairman - I want to know whether I am to rule this meeting or not? If I am not to rule the meeting then there is no use of me remaining in the chair. Mr. P. Munnock - You will not get leave to go on as you propose. The Chairman - I will. Mr. P. Munnock - I will bet my hat that you will not be allowed to go on with this now. I put it to Mr. Walker, the secretary, if this was ever done before? The secretary - I was done at last meeting. The Chairman --Will we consider this now or under general business?? Mr. Maxwell - Go on with your programme. You are not going to rule this meeting as you like. The Chairman - I am not going to rule the meeting a few of you are trying to rule me. We will discuss the matter under general business. While the secretary was reading the next committee minute there was a general hubbub all over the hall. The Chairman - Who can hear what is being read? Nobody; simply because there are meetings going on all over the show. Another question arose from one of the committee minutes, and The Chairman asked if he would deal with it now or under "general business?" Mr. P. Munnock - Deal with it under "general business," according to rule. The Chairman - All right; I will bow to the chairman - (Laughter.) Mr. P. Munnock - You do not need to bow to me. Act according to rule. The Chairman was subsequently speaking in a whisper to one of the directors on the platform as the secretary was reading a minute, when Mr. Maxwell called the chairman to order. He could not keep other people in order if he did not keep order himself. The Chairman - Is this fair? I was only asking my colleague to jog my memory with regard to something I have to bring up under general business A Member - It is not fair. They have something up their sleeve. They are only injuring themselves by carrying on in this way. Another Member said that Mr. Maxwell was interrupting the meeting more than anyone else. Mr. McDonald then criticised the quarterly balance-sheet and spoke of there being inaccuracies in it He said, as an example, that the gross profit at the Standburn branch was stated at 4s 1 1/2s d per £. The wages bill on the purchase price of goods was 9 1/2d per £, and on the sale price of goods 8d per £. The net profit for the Standburn branch was returned at 3s 7d per £. The Chairman said it was not a fair statement that Mr. M Donald was making. They did not deal with the gross profits, but with the business done. If Mr. M McDonald could show there was something wrong with the balance-sheet, they might listen to him. Mr. Wm. Munnock - This is a question for the auditors. The time has come when we should have an accountant to give us a balance-sheet. Mr. McDonald - Seeing there are such gross discrepancies in the balance-sheet, the committee should issue a new balance-sheet giving a correct state of our affairs. The Chairman-No; I cannot agree to that. It is getting serious. It is a correct balance sheet. What part of it is wrong? Mr. McDonald I have told you already what is wrong. The Secretary - No: you have not. The statement you have given about the Standburn branch has nothing to do with the balance-sheet. It is simply an approximation. Mr. McDonald - I move that this balance-sheet be taken back, and a new one prepared, showing a proper state of affairs. This was seconded. Mr. John Hynds - It is a "braw" balance-sheet. (Laughter.) The Secretary - I say this balance-sheet is correct. The Chairman - If I were the secretary or the auditor, I would have something to say about it. Mr. James Baxter - The question that Mr. McDonald has asked is one that neither the secretary nor the auditors can answer till they have the books before them. A motion approving of the balance-sheet as a correct one was also moved and seconded One of the auditors said he had examined the books, etc, and he was satisfied that the statement was a correct one. Mr. John Hynds - There is not a better balance-sheet in all Scotland than ours is. Mr. McDonald - You are easily pleased. (Laughter.) Mr. Hynds - I am highly pleased with it. The balance-sheet was approved of by a large majority. The balance-sheet showed that the profits from all sources this quarter are £4745, which will pay a dividend of 4s 1d per £ on members' purchases. The rates per £ for the different departments are: - For Redding - Grocery, 4s 1d; drapery, 4s 2d; bakery, 5s 9d; fleshing, 3s 9d; shoemaking, 2s 4d; Blackbraes - Shoemaking, 2s 5d; grocery, 4s; drapery, 4s 4d; Maddiston - Grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 3d; Standburn branch, 3s 7d. The secretary and manager, Mr. Walker, resigned after 31 years' service, and the Chairman paid him a high compliment for the manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the society. After a great deal of wrangling, it was agreed to appoint a successor that evening from the meeting, and three were nominated Messrs Alex. Hunter, James Orr, and Archd. Smart. Some considerable time was spent in discussing what the salary should be per week, and four votes were taken on the question. For £3 two members voted; for £2 10s there voted 51; for £2 7s there voted 29; and for £2 there voted 91. The Chairman decided that there was a clear majority of votes for a salary of £2 per week, and he declared that proposal carried. This was the cause of much dissatisfaction, various members holding that another vote should be taken to ascertain whether the salary should be £2 10s, £2 7s, or £2. The Chairman insisted that his ruling was correct, although he said he was very sorry at the way the vote had gone. He thought they might have made the salary over £2 per week. Still, however, many were not satisfied, but on his appealing to the meeting it was discovered that the great majority supported, his ruling. Mr. Hunter then said he could not accept the appointment at the salary named, and Mr. Orr having retired in favour of Mr. Smart, the latter was declared unanimously appointed. Mr. George Todd was re-elected treasurer of Maddiston branch for a period of three months; Mr. Matthew Forsyth was re-elected auditor; while Mr. Thomas Cummings was re-elected a director. Mr. David Baxter was also elected a director in room of Mr. Daniel Rankine. A number of donations were afterwards considered, when grants were given to the following: - District Ambulance Fund, £2; Polmont Domestic Mission, £2; Falkirk District War Fund, £2. The other business before the meeting was of little public interest, although the proceedings all through were exceedingly animated.

Falkirk Herald 17th January 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
Monday.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE - Hector McNeil, miner, Standburn, pleaded guilty to creating a disturbance in his own house there. A fine of 10s, or seven days, was imposed.

Falkirk Herald 29th January 1900

THE YEAR'S TRADE IN FALKIRK AND DISTRICT.
COALMINING.

The year opened, as regards the coal trade of Falkirk and district, with a good business and comparatively high prices. There was little change in the market until towards the end of February, when prices commenced to firm, partly on account of an increased demand, but principally owing to the representatives of the men putting forward a request for increased wages. In the beginning of March a committee of coalmasters was appointed to meet with a similar number of the men's representatives, with a view to arriving at some definite basis whereby the chances of strikes or stoppages might be reduced to a minimum so far as wages were concerned. The conference took place on the 9th of March, and the masters proposed an advance of 6 1/4 per cent, on the 1888 standard of wages (4s), or equal to 3d per day, which would bring the wage up to 6s 3d per day, or 56 1/4 per cent, over what ruled in 1888. In addition to this, the masters undertook that in the event of acceptance the advance would hold good until the 1st August, when in the interval a further meeting would take place to discuss the future. The men's representatives did not feel justified in closing with this offer without consulting their constituents, and the meeting was adjourned to permit of this being done. On reassembling, the delegates intimated their acceptance, with the result that there was constituted a Conciliation Board, which up to the present has worked with smoothness and mutual benefit. A further meeting between the representatives of the masters and those of the men was held in July, when it was decided that the then ruling wage of 6s 3d per day (nominal) would hold good for a period of six months from 1st August, and that before the expiry of that time they should again confer, and arrange as to the rate of wages to be paid during the six months from 1st February, 1900. This conference was rendered easier from the fact that at the July meeting it was agreed that the wages should under no circumstances be brought under 5s 3d or exceed 7s per day. Very little that was otherwise noteworthy occurred in connection with the trade from March till June, except perhaps that, though there was a good business doing, the firmness in prices, which was a feature of the first part of these months, was not maintained, and a fall occurred of something like 9d per ton on the average. During the following two months prices firmed up somewhat, and coalmasters showed little inclination to sell forward, holding for higher values. But these were not immediately forthcoming, and it was not until the beginning of November that a pronounced advance took place. Coal for manufacturing purposes and for export came into much demand, which has increased ever since, until now we find ourselves with a demand unequalled during the past twelve months, and with prices ruling far in excess of anything realised during the whole year. At a meeting of the Conciliation Board, held in Glasgow some weeks ago, it was intimated that the masters had offered, from 1st February, an advance of 12 1/2 per cent, on the 1888 basis, which is equal to 6d per day. The men, however, were pressing for an advance from 6s 3d (as now prevailing) to 7s per day. Lately an advance of 3s per ton on the price of household coal, compared with the December prices, was notified. Merchants are now being charged 15s a ton at the pit for first-class coal, and 14s for second qualities. During the year there were several local disputes, all of which were ultimately amicably settled. In no instance did the relations, between employers and employed reach the straining point - a condition of matters which it is to be hoped may long continue. Callendar Coal Company have been fully employed throughout the whole year. Indeed, their output for the first six months was larger than it has ever been. A month or six weeks before the year closed the firm was handicapped on account of there being a scarcity of waggons, but this was a general complaint. During the year the company re-started No. 13 pit, which had been stopped for some years, and in it an entirely new seam - the Armadale main coal - is being worked. The seam is not very thick, but it is thought that when it is properly developed it will turn out fairly well. Work at all the other pits has been proceeding as usual. With regard to Carron Company's Shieldhill Colliery, one of the pits is being sunk down to the Armadale main coal, which is here of the same quality and thickness as at Callendar Coal Company's pit. The two new pits which, as we mentioned last year, Carron Company had opened up at Jaw are now thoroughly developed, and the output is believed to be between 400 and 500 tons per day. The firm have also put down a diamond bore nearly 300 fathoms to the south of the Jaw pit, near to Avon Water. The result of these boring operations has not been made known, but it is believed to be highly satisfactory. Carmuir's Coal Company have been very busy all the year round at their pit at Camelon, and it is believed their output has been about 200 tons per day. Redding Coal Company have also had an exceedingly prosperous year's trade. They have opened up No. 4 Pit, and it has been found to contain a fine quality of jewel coal. The other pits have been working continually. The new pit which the company put down near to the canal is now thoroughly developed, and the workmen are down to the Armadale main seam. The output from this pit alone is believed to be quite 200 tons per day. The firm have also been putting down diamond bores in various parts of their coal field, and it is considered that there are a lot of valuable seams of coal at a greater depth which might be worked in the future. Grangemouth Coal Company have had an exceedingly heavy output during the year, and although no new pits have been opened up, the old ones continue to give evidence that their resources are by no means nearing exhaustion. At Messrs Logan's Collieries, and at Manuelfrigg Coal Company's pits, work has been going on as usual. There have been no new developments, although the resources of the companies have been fully taxed to meet the demand. At East Roughrigg Colliery a pit has been sunk down to the Armadale main coal, but work at it has not yet been begun. A considerable portion of the coal produced at this colliery is cut with coal-cutting machines. Two of these are presently in use, and it is proposed to add a third. Messrs James Nimmo and Co. Limited, have a vast and very productive coal field in the Standburn district, and as it is only in recent years that they have begun to work the larger portion of it, the coalfield will continue to be a valuable one for many years to come. The firm's workmen, who are mostly located in the village of Standburn, have been fully employed throughout the year, and have had quite their own share of the good times. A new pit has been opened up, and in it men are now engaged at the Armadale main coal. The seam, however, is thicker here than in other parts of the district. It is expected that when this new pit is thoroughly developed it will give employment to a considerable number of workmen.

Falkirk Herald 27th January 1900

PROPERTIES FOR SALE & WANTED

FOR SALE PRIVATELY, DWELLING-HOUSE and THREE SHOPS, with Half-Acre of Ground adjoining, situated in the rapidly-growing Mining Village of STANDBURN, near Avonbridge. Suitable for Dairykeeper or Butcher Moderately rented at £36 Feu-duty, £3 2s 1d. Entry at Whitsunday. The Property is quite new. - Offers to be lodged with MARSHALL & HUNTER, Solicitors, Falkirk on or before 7th February, 1900.

Falkirk Herald 27th January 1900

LOST, FOUND, &c.

Found in Maddiston, a Lady's Silver Watch. - Apply Police Station, Maddiston. Small black Dog Found near Maddiston; if not claimed in 3 days will be sold.-Apply John Pender Rumford.

Falkirk Herald 31st January 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE.

PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:-

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held at Maddiston School

yesterday afternoon. Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside presided, and there were also present Messrs D. Binnie, A. Binnie, and Wilson (Bogo). Miss Janet T. M'Bane, Aberdeen, was appointed ex pupil-teacher at Drumbowie School at a salary of £40 per annum. John Hamilton, miner, Candiehead, was brought before the Board as a defaulter. It was stated that as he was so frequently before the Board in this way, it was worthy of consideration whether another method could not be adopted of dealing with him. The Clerk suggested that an application might be made to the Sheriff for an attendance order. He thought that this would be a more effectual way of dealing with defaulters than the present method, which was a loss to the Board in more ways than one. It was a loss of grant and a loss of the expenses of the prosecution. If however, an attendance order were obtained, and if it were violated, the accused could be found liable in expenses, and the child might be ordered to an industrial school, and the father ordained to pay 2s per week towards his maintenance there. It was ultimately agreed to instruct the clerk to adopt this method in the case of Hamilton, and it was also agreed that all further prosecutions be conducted by the clerk personally. A letter from the Department was read, suggesting that the date of the School Board election should be changed from Thursday, 29th March, to a Saturday, and Saturday, 31st March, was fixed as the date. To meet the regulations of the new code, it was resolved that henceforth cooking lessons be conducted in each school by the headmistresses instead of by the special teacher as formerly, and that those teachers should attend preparatory classes and take the necessary certificate as cookery teachers. In consideration of their teaching cookery, it was agreed that the salaries of the headmistresses of the Drumbowie and Blackbraes Schools be increased by £10 per annum each, and that the salary of the headmistress of the Muiravonside School be increased by £7 per annum. Two applications were received for an increase of salary, and it was agreed to consider the whole salaries of the staffs of the various schools at the next meeting. Thereafter the Board met in committee, and transacted finance business.

Falkirk Herald 3rd February 1900

DISPLENISHING SALE AT WHITERIGG,

On FRIDAY, 16th FEBRUARY.

THOMAS BINNIE begs to intimate that he is instructed by the Executor of the late Mrs. Stevenson to Sell by Public Auction, at the FARM of WHITERIGG, Muiravonside, near Bowhouse Station, and 2 miles south from Polmont Station, on Friday, 16th February, 1900, the CROP, STOCK, and IMPLEMENTS on the above Farm, viz.:-

8 STACKS OATS.

3 RICKS RYEGRASS and CLOVER HAY.

2 1/2 TONS BARLEY and OAT STRAW.

17 TONS SWEDISH and YELLOW TURNIPS.

1 1/2 TONS POTATOES

7 QUARTERS OATS

QUANTITY of BEANS and BARLEY.

4 FARM GELDINGS

10 MILCH COWS, some recently Calved, others near Calving, or Spring Calvers.

4 SIX-QUARTER-OLD HEIFERS.

1 SIX-QUARTER-OLD BULLOCK,

1 SIX-QUARTER-OLD BULL,

6 HEIFER CALVES,

2 BULLOCK CALVES,

1 BULL CALF,

11 LEICESTER EWES IN LAMB,

4 LEICESTER HOGGETS,

2 PIGS,

70 HEAD of POULTRY.

4 Close Carts, Hay Waggon, Two-Wheeled Dogcart, 2 Ploughs, Drill Plough, Three-horse Grubber, Drill Scraper, Brake Harrow, Set Iron Harrows, 2 Pairs Wooden Harrows, Iron Roller, with Frame; stone roller, Cambridge Drill Roller, Reaper and Mower, Horse Rake, Cattle and Sheep Troughs, 2 Wheel- barrows, 3 Boilers and Furnaces, Turnip Pulper, Churning Mill, with Box Churn; Barn Fanners and Barn Utensils, 3 Sets Cart and Plough Horse Harness, Set Gig Harness, Weighing Beam and Weights, Hand Churn, Milk Barrels, Dairy Utensils, 2 Meal Chests, plough Trees, Graips, Forks, Shovels, and other Utensils, &c.

THREE MONTHS CREDIT ON APPROVED BILLS, OR DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

Sale to begin at Eleven o'clock.

Falkirk Herald 3rd February 1900

SALE of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, which belonged to the Late Mrs. Stevenson, Whiterigg, Muiravonside, Two Miles South from Polmont Station, WEDNESDAY, 21st February, at Eleven o'clock. THOMAS BINNIE, Auctioneer.

Falkirk Herald 10th February 1900

STANDBURN. WAR FUND MEETING. –

After paying all expenses Mr. Sneddon was able to send to Major Middleton, treasurer, Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, the sum of £14 Os 1d. Major Middleton has sent the following reply to Mr. Sneddon: - "I have great pleasure in enclosing receipt for £14 Os 1d. and in the name of the A. and S. Highlanders I thank you and the ladies and gentlemen that assisted you. Standburn, while it stands, will always be remembered in the future, in the heart of Alfred Middleton."

STANDBURN U.P. MISSION CHURCH. –

The second of the weekly meetings held in the above church, took place last Thursday evening. Mr. Sneddon's subject being "Manners and Customs of the East in the Time of Christ." The subject was illustrated by the use of lantern and many slides.

Falkirk Herald 10th February 1900

PROPERTIES FOR SALE & WANTED

FOR SALE. SUCCESSFUL SHOEMAKER'S BUSINESS AND TOOLS. - Splendid Opportunity for Working Shoemaker, Cheap Rent, No Opposition, Rising District Easy ingoing Selling owing to bad health. Entry now or at Whitsunday. - For particulars apply to Robert Watt, Standburn, by Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 14th February 1900

STANDBURN. SOCKS AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE FOR OUR SOLDIERS. –

Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, of Standburn Mission Church, Avonbridge, has issued an appeal for socks and Christian literature for the soldiers fighting in South Africa. A case of socks and literature will be dispatched from Standburn to South Africa on the 22d February, and Mr. Snaddon appeals to the inhabitants of this and the surrounding district for the socks and money to purchase the literature. Those who have not time to knit socks are asked to purchase them, or to send the price of socks, and they will be purchased. The scheme has the commendation, amongst others, of the Duchess of Montrose, Lord Wolseley, and Colonel Trotter, Stirling Castle. The following ladies have willingly and most heartily taken up the work of receiving the socks and donations of money: - Mrs. Allan Waugh, Craigbank. Avonbridge; Mrs. James B. C. Rouse, U.P. Manse, Avonbridge; Miss J. A. D. Hunter, headmistress, Standburn; and Miss M. Waugh. Royal Infirmary, Dumfries. Those desirous of assisting in this good work are requested to send their donations of socks and money to either of the above addresses at an early date.

Falkirk Herald 14th February 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. FRIDAY. WIFE ASSAULT AT STANDBURN. – John Neilson, miner, Standburn Rows, Muiravonside, was fined in 30s, or fourteen days, on a charge of having, on 8th February, in the house a Standburn Rows occupied by him (1)

assaulted Elizabeth Clark or Neilson, his wife by seizing her by the hair of the head, dragging her about, and striking her several blows with his clenched fist; and (2) committing a breach of the peace. A previous conviction for breach of the peace was recorded.

Falkirk Herald 24th February 1900
STANDBURN. STANDBURN U.P.

The third of the weekly addresses for the people, illustrated by the use of the magic lantern, took place in above church on Thursday evening. Mr. Sneddon took for his subject "Charlie Conlson, the Drummer Boy." The attendance at this meeting was the largest since those meetings started.

Falkirk Herald 28th February 1900
FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE. -

John O'Hare and Wm. Graham, miners, Standburn, admitted having on the 17th February created a disturbance on the public road at Standburn. O'Hare said he was going into a shop to get a drink of lemonade, when he was annoyed by a man saying he was no man at all. The Fiscal said O'Hare was drunk. The Sheriff - He had had something else than lemonade before (Laughter.) They were each fined 10s, with the option of seven days imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 7th March 1900
CASUAL COMMENTS. By " ARGUS."

Two Standburn men have just received from the War Office medals and clasps for services which they rendered at the Rhodesian War of 1896. The War Office is attending to its duties with most extraordinary and reckless haste.

Falkirk Herald 10th March 1900

STANDBURN. SOCKS FOR THE SOLDIERS. - In response to the appeal issued some time ago for socks, Christian literature, etc., for soldiers at the front, Mr. Snaddon. Standburn Mission Church, has just despatched to South Africa a case weighing four cwts., containing 300 pairs of socks, a quantity of tobacco, sundry other comforts for soldiers, also several thousand copies of Christian literature. These have been despatched to the officer commanding the lines of communication at the seat of hostilities, who has undertaken their distribution. In the collection of those articles. Mr. Snaddon received the valuable assistance of Mrs. Allan Waugh. Craigbank. Avonbridge: Mrs. Jas. B.G. Rouse, U.P. Manse. Avonbridge: Miss Hunter. Standburn: Miss Waugh, Dumfries. In addition to these, many hundreds of people have assisted Mr. Snaddon in this effort to benefit the soldiers, and to them all he returns thanks.

Falkirk Herald 10th March 1900

MADDISTON.

Maddiston's Freedom Temperance Lodge. -

The second anniversary of the above was celebrated on Wednesday evening last in Maddiston School. In addition to Bro. Stevenson, G.L. agent, Glasgow, Bro. Carmichael, D.D., G.C.T., was present, and both, after report of progress made by the temperance movement in the Maddiston district had been read by Bro. Mathew Myles, S., addressed the meeting. Bro. W. McLachlan made a few remarks on Good Templary in general. A lengthy enjoyable programme of songs, recitations, &c, was sustained by the following: - Bro. M. Myles, Bro. J. Thorn, jun. ; Bro. W. M'Lauchlan, Bro. J. Thorn, sen. ; Bro. W. Harper, Bro. G. Mearns, Sister Thorn, Sister Gemmel, Bro. P. Thorn. One and all acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the audience.

CELEBRATING THE RELIEF OF LADYSMITH. - On Thursday of last week the inhabitants of the village celebrated the relief of Ladysmith in patriotic style. Headed by a pipe band and torchlights, they marched to Parkhall and Toravon. At the latter place Mr. Scott appeared in person, and thanked the inhabitants for their visit, after which they were most hospitably entertained. Thereafter the company proceeded to Mr. Penman's, the residence of the manager to Manuelrigg Colliery, where a bonfire had been erected. The company sang "God Save the Queen," etc. and then marched off to the Cross to the strains of "Rule Britannia." and indulged in dancing.

Falkirk Herald 14th & 24th March 1900

SELF CONTAINED House to Let 4 Rooms and Kitchen, Scullery, and other Outside Houses; LargeGarden. - Apply Thomas Cunningham, Maddiston, Polmont Station

Falkirk Herald 17th March 1900

STANDBURN. U.P. MISSION CHURCH BIBLE CLASS SOCIALMEETING. -

On account of the increased membership and the limited space at disposal in the church, the annual social meeting in connection with the above class was held in the Public School on Friday evening last. The members and friends, numbering over 100, sat down to a substantial tea, presided over by Mr. Sneddon. The tables were very tastefully decorated with flowers, etc. After the chairman's remarks, addresses were given by the Revs. J. B. G. Rouse, Avonbridge, and R. P. Dickie, F.C., Longriggend, and other gentlemen present, interspersed with solos, duets, recitations, violin and dulcimer selections, &c. Mr. Alexander Kerr, in name of the members of the class, presented Mr. Snaddon with a handsome writing-desk as a token of their esteem. After a service of fruit, the rest of the evening was spent in games, &c, a most enjoyable evening being spent.

Falkirk Herald 21st March 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE.

School Board Elections - Nominations - The time for receiving nominations for Muiravonside Parish School Board expired on Saturday, and the following twelve gentlemen have been nominated for seven places Peter Abercrombie, farmer., Middlerigg, Blackbraes; David Abercrombie, joiner, Redding; *Daniel Binnie, farmer, Bowhouse; *Archibald Binnie, railway servant, Candiehead; John Bryce, farmer, Ballinbreich; John- Bell Bryce, engine driver, Quarrolhead, Maddiston; John Haldane, tailor, Fairview, Maddiston; Jas. Hunter, jeweler, Maddiston; Thomas Moore, miner, Standburn; *Robert Myles, miner, Maddiston; *John Stirling, Muiravonside and *Wm. Wilson, farmer, Bogo. Those marked with the asterisk (*) were members of the old Board. The last day for withdrawal of candidates is Thursday first, and the election will take place on 31st March, Drumbowie School to be the polling place, where votes are to be between the hours of 11 AM. And 6 PM. Mr. Andrew Hunter Solicitor, Falkirk, clerk to the Board, is the returning officer.

Falkirk Herald 21st March 1900
FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

DISTURBANCE AT STANDBURN.-

Allan Farmer, miner, Candie, Standburn, was convicted on evidence of having, on the 4th March, at Candie, committed a breach of the peace. He was fined10s, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 24th March 1900

MADDISTON.

FATAL RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT. –

Jas. Beattie (40), goods guard, Thorn Cottage, Muiravonside, died at Edinburgh Infirmary on Saturday from the effects of an accident he sustained at Almond Junction on the 13th March. The deceased was engaged in shunting operations at the junction, and his van was accidentally derailed. Beattie was standing on the footboard on the side of the van, and was caught between it and the waggon standing in the adjoining siding, sustaining severe bodily injury.

Falkirk Herald 24th March 1900

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

SUPPER AND ASSEMBLY. –

The annual supper and dance in connection with the, Maddiston Quadrille Assembly was held in the Masonic Hall, Brightons, last Friday evening. Some 20 couples sat down to a substantial supper, purveyed by Mr. Moffat, baker, Falkirk. Mr. John Bryce, Quarrolhead, president of the assembly, presided, and Mr. Colin Maxwell was the croupier. After supper, the Chairman delivered an interesting address, in which he referred to the success which had attended the assembly since its formation, and to the good feeling which prevailed amongst all the members. In the course of the evening Mr. J. Rae, on behalf of the assembly, presented Mr. Colin Maxwell with a handsome gentleman's easy chair, in haircloth, in recognition of his services as master of ceremonies. A beautiful silver-mounted umbrella was at the same time presented to Mrs. Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell suitably replied. Dancing was afterwards commenced in the presence of a good many spectators, and was kept up with great spirit till an early hour in the morning.

The gathering was a great success.

STANDBURN.

PUBLIC HOUSE –

The profits from this house are considerable, and at a meeting recently held in Mr. Stirling's, Tarduf, at which were present representatives from Messrs James Nimmo and Co., local Justices, and other gentlemen, it was decided to expend the profits in the following manner: -In the building of a large hall for Standburn, in the purchase of an ambulance waggon, and the securing of a nurse for Standburn. VOLUNTEER CORPS. –

It has been decided to establish a Volunteer corps, and a large committee are presently engaged arranging for its formation

LIVELY MEETING OF REDDING CO-OPERATORS –

A special general meeting of the members of the Redding Co-operative Society, Ltd., was held in the hall on Tuesday evening for the purpose of considering the amended rules framed by the committee. There was a good attendance of members, over which the president of the society, Mr. Barker, presided. The meeting, which lasted for nearly three hours, was of a noisy character throughout. The first point raised was as to the legality of the meeting, and after a somewhat heated discussion between several members and the chairman had taken place, the Chairman, with some warmth, declared that the meeting would proceed to consider the rules. The meeting then proceeded to consider the rules, and in doing so, several heated discussions took place. After considerable wrangling among the members, the meeting, which at times was uproarious, was adjourned till next Wednesday, only a little more than half of the rules having been considered.

Falkirk Herald 24th March 1900

PRECENTOR

Wanted for Standburn U.P. Mission Church, Avonbridge; salary, £5 per annum. - A Binnie, Candiehead, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 31st March 1900

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION. MEETING OF RATEPAYERS.

A meeting of ratepayers of the parish of Muiravonside with the members of the retiring Board and the new candidates was held in the Drumbowie School on Wednesday evening, when there was a large attendance. Amongst those present were Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside, chairman of the retiring Board; Mr. Daniel Binnie and Mr. Archibald Binnie, members; and Messrs Thomas Moore, Standburn; John Haldane, Maddiston; John B. Bryce, Quarrolhead; and John Bryce, Ballinbreich, the new candidates. Mr. Gibb, colliery manager, was called to the chair. Mr. Stirling, at the outset, said he wished to make an explanation. They would see when they went to the polling station, his name on the list of nominees, but as a matter of fact he was not a candidate for election at this time. Continuing, Mr. Stirling said that, as they knew, the County Council had had under consideration the introduction of a water supply, and naturally, as this was a very big scheme, it had given a great deal of work, and one result of that was that during the last six months, on every occasion the School Board had been called, he (Mr. Stirling) had had a meeting elsewhere. Sometimes he had been at the Board meetings and sometimes at the water meetings, but that was a most unsatisfactory state of things, and he did not think it should continue. Although the bill promoted recently was, practically speaking, passed, there would still necessarily be a great deal of work in connection with the scheme for the next two or three years, and that being so, he could not see how he could possibly attend the School Board if he was to go on attending these other meetings also. He might say that he was nominated through a misunderstanding. He was in London, and was therefore unable to attend the School Board meeting himself, but he wrote and asked the clerk to explain to the Board that he would not seek re-election. By some accident, however, he was nominated, and when he returned he found it was too late to withdraw. He did not therefore wish re-election, and he hoped they would not give him a vote, for if they did so it would be wasted. The Chairman expressed the regret of the meeting at Mr. Stirling's resignation, and called on Mr. Daniel Binnie, who said he intended to retire at the present time, as he thought that a twelve years' service on the Board was long enough, but after a little consideration, and hearing that Mr. Stirling did not intend to seek re-election, he thought it his duty to stand again. (Applause.) Continuing, Mr. Binnie referred to the rates, which he said had not risen in the parish. Some people, he believed, grumbled at the rates, but he thought himself that if they took everything into consideration they were not high. They had always studied economy in keeping rates as low as possible, and if they looked over the whole of the parishes of Scotland they would see that they were not highly taxed. (Applause.) Mr. Binnie concluded by referring at considerable length to improvements and expenditure at several of the schools, and dealing at some length with the teachers' salaries, stating that the wages paid were ruled by supply and demand, and that the Board could not help themselves in this respect, as the efficiency of the schools had to be kept up. Mr. Stirling then spoke. Before he joined the Board he was under the impression - as he thought a great, many of the ratepayers possibly still were - that the Board were rather extravagant, that the ratepayers' money was spent recklessly, and that the rates were too high, but after his experience on the Board he had quite changed his mind. (Applause.) He did not know whether any of the new candidates were going to say anything of that kind, but probably by the time they had been two years on the Board they would have a very different story (Laughter and applause.) Mr. Stirling proceeded to speak of the manner in which the finances derived from the rates were spent, and in referring to the payment of teachers said they had tried to get teachers at the same salaries as they had previously paid, and had the greatest difficulty in securing them, and he thought the Board they returned might have to face the question of raising the salaries higher. The only way they could effect economy in this respect therefore was by reducing the staff, and he thought, speaking as a ratepayer, it would be a great mistake to do that, (Hear, hear.) They had a very efficient set of schools, which were most satisfactorily conducted. The Government inspector's reports had been published in the papers, where they would probably have seen them, and they would agree with him that they were most satisfactory. (Applause.) That being so, he thought they should let well alone. (Applause.) The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Robert Myles, who

regretted his inability to be present, being confined to bed through the result of an accident, and intimating his intention of seeking re-election. In the letter Mr. Myles went on to state that he had to express sincere regret at the want of success which had attended his efforts on their behalf in trying to secure for them the educational privileges they ought to have, but did not possess, in the shape of securing for the ratepayers of the parish residing in Maddiston and immediate neighbourhood the necessary school accommodation, by having Maddiston School extended in keeping with their requirements. The only reason he could give for this was that of sheer lack of discretion, allied with malice, on the part of certain members of the Board, whose names he need not mention. He admitted that he had used strong language with regard to the conduct of his fellow-members in having denied the necessary school accommodation for Maddiston, the necessity for which had been practically prayed for by them. (Applause.) Mr. Moore, who next spoke, said he would pledge himself to attend all the meetings. He could see very few attendances for the last Board, and more than that he would see that justice was done while in the Board. (Applause.) He was in favour of a mixed school at Maddiston, for during the past seven years the population there had increased to such an extent as rendered that necessary. (Applause.) Mr. John Bell Bryce, in the course of a lengthy speech, after referring to the fact that it was principally through a fear that the number of candidates would not be sufficient for the vacancies, as was the case at the Parish Council election, that he allowed himself to be proposed, and (continuing) referred to the attendances of members at the School Board meetings, which he considered were most unsatisfactory. (Hear, hear.) They had, he said, heard a great deal from the old members with regard to the rates, but as they knew doctors differed, and he thought their rates were just high enough, or as high as they ought to be, for while they were as high as some, they were not so high, as others. In connection with the payment of their teachers, they had high salaries on the one hand and very low salaries on the other, and he would endeavour to fill the gap between the sums paid to the headmasters and the staff. This, he thought, would enable them to raise the assistants' salaries without encroaching on the rate's. They said they could not get teachers to fill the vacancies, and what would they do if they reduced the headmasters? He asked the Board if they required to get a head teacher for a number of years? He did not think so. Were they afraid of the handsome salaries and the large mansions being thrown in their faces? (Laughter and applause.) As they knew in the past, he had been a friend to the children, and if they returned him to the Board his intention was to continue so, keeping in view the laws of economy. (Applause.) Mr. John Bryce said if returned to the Board he would consider it his duty to endeavour to do the best he could to keep up the efficiency of the schools, no matter what had been said about the teachers, saving of course as much as possible the money which had to come out of the other ratepayers' pockets as well as his own. (Applause.) The Board were responsible for the efficiency of the schools, and if this was neglected in any way the Government came down on them through the inspectors and they lost the grant, and in consequence of that had to pay more from the rates in the end. (Applause.) They had heard a great deal about the rates, but look at Torphichen, where they paid about 1s 6d per £, and there the schools were not nearly so well staffed as theirs. (Applause.) Mr. Haldane said that a report was going abroad that the members of the old Board were all going to retire and leave the parish without educational administrators, and for that reason he allowed himself to be nominated. He was in favour of a mixed-school at Maddiston, especially in view of the long roads the children had to travel when they passed the infant stage, while he was also in favour of an evening school for that village during the winter months. (Applause.) If returned, he would vote in favour of both of these matters. Questions having been invited, Mr. Matthew Myles asked Mr. Binnie what amount school committees under the Board were limited to expend? Mr. Binnie said that £5 was what was allowed a committee to expend in any particular school. Anything above that sum was expected to come before the whole Board. It sometimes happened that that was a little exceeded, but as it was afterwards considered quite judicious and necessary by the whole Board, there was little said about it. Mr. Myles - Is it the case that you employed a man to paint and paperhang Drumbowie School and Schoolhouse - without estimates, or without consulting your colleague, much less the Board - to the amount of something over £40? Mr. Binnie said he admitted having done so, but his colleague was quite satisfied with his action in the matter. He could not consult Mr. Wilson very readily, and as the work was in a hurry he just asked a painter who had been in the habit of doing the Board's work to do what was needed. (Applause.) They could not stick to the letter A in everything. Was there anything wrong, or was it too extravagant, that it was brought up now? Explain! (Applause.) Mr. Wm. Calder - I don't think Mr. Binnie was to blame, for we have heard to-night that meetings had been called at which no one was present but himself. I would like them all to turn up to the meetings, and they could then consult on paper and paint. (Laughter and applause.) I can depend on Mr. Binnie to do the best he can in that respect, and I am sure the company will all agree with me in saying that. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Binnie (to Mr. Myles) - Tell us what is wrong or what was not satisfactory? (Applause.) Mr. Myles - It was not a matter for you to deal with, but for the Board; and what was the reason you went beyond the amount of £5 without consulting your colleague, much less the Board? (Hear, hear, and applause.) Mr. Binnie - Have I not given satisfactory enough reasons to this meeting? (Applause.) If not, I will know perhaps what to do. We cannot always be running to our colleagues on trifles. (Applause.) Mr. John B. Bryce - Mr. Calder said the company would all agree with him in what he was saying, and being one of the company I think I may have a word to say on that. (Laughter.) Mr. Myles - I think I should be allowed to answer. The Chairman - I think Mr. Binnie has answered the question. He may not have answered it to your satisfaction, but he has done so to his own. (Applause.) Mr. Myles - He has not done so to the satisfaction of the meeting. Mr. Stirling said the effect of the rules referred to was that if the committee went above £5 they did so on their own responsibility, and the Board could support them or not. If the Board thought that the work was not properly done, they could throw it over, and the expense would fall on the committee. It was not so much to prevent the Board giving an order of over £5, but rather that they should not commit the Board for £5 on their own responsibility. Mr. J. B. Bryce - When I was on the Board that £5 could not be exceeded by a single committee. That was definitely settled. Mr. Meek said he would like those gentlemen who had not expressed themselves on the matter, if they were in favour of making Maddiston School a mixed school? Mr. J. B. Bryce said that if the candidates were asked if they were in favour of making it a mixed school at once, he would say for himself that he was not, and besides there might be a school required away in the south of the parish at no distant date. Mr. Alex. Kerr asked Mr. J. B. Bryce if he did not think that a school should be placed in Maddiston as it was? He thought they were needing a mixed school there, and the Board should be governed by the wishes of the people. (Applause.) Mr. James Marshall - How does Mr. Bryce propose to fill the gap between the headmaster and the staff? Mr. Bryce - I would begin at the right hand and at the left, and they would meet the middle. I would take something off the handsome salaries of the headmasters, and would therefore have more to give the staff. Mr. Binnie - A general leveling down. (Laughter.) Mr. Archibald Binnie, who had just entered the meeting, then spoke. He believed, he said, that the first matters, that should be looked after were the interests of the ratepayers. Economy should ever be kept in view, and they should see to it that the ratepayer got full value for their money. (Applause.) But they should not to economise for the sake of economy. (Hear, hear.) There was a danger in that, and they should look to efficiency as well, and while it was their duty to look to economising matters, they should still go forward and seek to have the education of the parish carried on as efficiently as possible. (Applause.) With reference to the question of a mixed school for Maddiston, he thought it was a rather premature request, because in having it a mixed school there was a tendency to lower the efficiency of teachers and the teaching, and that would affect the grant. He had no doubt, if Maddiston went on increasing as it was doing, it would require to be made a mixed school, but until it really was required he did not think they should spend the ratepayers' money extravagantly on it (Hear, hear.) Several other questions were put and answered, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

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STANDBURN. THE PUBLIC HOUSE AT STANDBURN ON THE GOTHENBURG PRINCIPLE.

A meeting of the district committee in connection with the above public-house was held on 1st March in Mr. Stirling of Tarduf's house. Mr. Stirling was called to the chair. The balance-sheet for period ending 31st December, 1899, was submitted, and showed a credit balance of £650. The committee were anxious to know if any improvement had been effected in the district since the opening of the public-house, and from the evidence submitted by parties resident in the village and others the committee considered the evidence in favour of a considerable improvement having taken place, although it was thought for the short time the house was open it was not sufficient to determine the beneficial results arising therefrom. The house is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and every means is used to lessen the consumption of intoxicating liquors and to encourage sobriety. In regard to the disposal of the profits it was agreed to recommend to the directors of Messrs James Nimmo & Coy., that a public hall to hold about 400, with reading and recreation rooms, be erected; also, that a nurse be appointed and an ambulance waggon put down for the accommodation of the district. Mrs. Learmonth kindly undertook to form a committee to superintend the nurse's duties. This recommendation came before the directors of Messrs Jas. Nimmo & Co., Ltd., at their usual monthly meeting on Monday, the 20th March, 1900, who cordially approved of the recommendations made by the committee, and authorised the various proposals to be proceeded with.

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MUIRAVONSIDE.

School Board Election. -

The School Board election for the parish of Muiravonside took place in the Drumbowie School on Saturday. Polling took place between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and the result of the election was declared as follows by the returning officer, Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk, clerk to the Board: - *William Wilson, farmer, Bogo 418

John Bryce, farmer, Ballinbreich 231

*Robert Myles, miner, Maddiston 225

*Daniel Binnie, farmer, Bowhouse 208

*Arch. Binnie, railway servant, Candiehead

194 John Haldane, tailor, Maddiston 194

John Bell Bryce, engine-keeper, Maddiston 157

Peter Abercrombie, farmer, Middlerigg, Blackbraes. 80

Thos. Moore, miner, Standburn 75

Jas. Hunter, jeweller, Maddiston 65.

John Stirling, Muiravonside 34.

The first seven gentlemen were declared duly appointed.

Those marked (*) were members of the previous Board.

COMFORTS FOR THE SOLDIERS. -

Last week a most successful war concert was held in the Muiravonside School, when the sum of £6 8s 6d was raised. To this was added the sum of £6 0s 8d in donations collected throughout the parish from Maddiston eastward to Linlithgow bridge, almost every home being represented. With these sums, and through the willing labours of the ladies, old and young, every one working with an enthusiasm unprecedented - headed by Mrs. Malcolm, the Cemetery, and Miss Battison, Linlithgowbridge, ably seconded by Messrs Malcolm, senior and junior, and Mr. Bowie, Gilmeadowland - a box with the following contents has been forwarded for dispatch to the front: - 84 pairs socks, 26 shirts, 10 semmits. 80 hand kerchiefs, 13 pairs mitts. 7 nightshirts. 57 mufflers, 6 bath towels, 9 dozen bootlaces, 50 boxes cigarettes, 15 cakes tobacco, 3 lb. do., a large quantity of notepaper and envelopes, 2 dozen briar pipes, 21/2 dozen fly papers. The total value of the contents of the box was £22 16s 6d. It might be stated that nothing in the memory of the oldest inhabitant here has so stirred the people of this parish as has the present war, and the interest taken in every movement of the army has been deep and widespread. The above is only one instance of the devotion with which the people regard the glory of their empire and the brave and self-denying services which our soldiers are daily rendering to it.

SCHOOL BOARD

The first meeting of the new Board was held in the Maddiston Infant School on Tuesday afternoon. The members present were - Messrs Wm. Wilson, D. Binnie, A. Binnie, J. B. Bryce, J. Bryce, Myles, and Haldane. Mr. Wilson was called to the chair.

APPOINTMENTS.

The Clerk having intimated the result of the election, the Board proceeded to the election of a chairman; and Mr. Wilson, on the motion of Mr. Myles, seconded by Mr. J. B. Bryce, was unanimously adopted. The following School Committees for the ensuing year were then elected: -

Blackbraes School - Mr. J. Bryce (convener) and Mr. Archibald Binnie,

Drumbowie School - Mr. Daniel Binnie (convener) and Mr. John Bell Bryce.

Muiravonside and Maddiston Schools - Mr. Myles (convener) and Mr. Haldane.

The chairman was appointed a member of all the committees ex-officio.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The Clerk read a circular from the Department anent physical exercises, but, on the motion of Mr. Myles, consideration of the circular was delayed till next meeting, the clerk being instructed to apply to the Department for copies of the circular meantime.

USE OF SCHOOLS.

A letter was read from Mr. Ritchie Sneddon with reference to the amount of payment for the use of schools, and, on the motion of Mr. Myles it was agreed to make no charge for war fund meetings.

A BLACKBRAES SCHOOL VACANCY.

The Clerk reported that Miss Bribner, who had been appointed assistant teacher in Blackbraes School, had refused to abide by her agreement and had not entered upon her duties. It was agreed to advertise for a teacher for the vacancy as formerly.

APPLICATIONS FOR INCREASES OF SALARY. The Clerk reported that in consequence of several applications for increases of salary by the staffs of the schools it had been agreed by the old Board to re-consider the salaries of the whole staffs and officials. After discussion, it was agreed to consider the whole matter at next Board meeting, and the clerk was instructed to prepare a statement of the present salaries.

QUEEN'S SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS.

The Clerk read letters from Miss Park and Miss M'Bane, intimating that they had each obtained a place in the recent Queen's scholarship examinations.

DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL FLOOR.

A letter was read from Mr. Mackay, Drumbowie School, drawing attention to the dangerous condition of the floor of the school, in consequence of the prevalence of dry rot, but is allowed to lie on the table for consideration at next meeting.

H.M. INSPECTOR'S REPORTS.

H.M. Inspector's reports on the schools under the Board were read as follows: -

Blackbraes Public School. - Mixed School. - " While the written exercises in the 3rd standard are less successful than those in the first and second standards, the general character of the ordinary subjects in these classes nearly reaches the highest grade of merit. In the senior division, whether viewed as a whole or by classes, the level of merit is far from uniform, one pupil being decidedly proficient and the next backward. The first and second standards acquit themselves most, creditably in the class subjects, but the remaining classes answer in a rather scattered manner. Domestic economy, sewing, and science are pretty good. Music is well known apart from the ear test. The order is in the main excellent, but the higher award is given with hesitation in consequence of the imperfect lighting of the class rooms of the first

and second standards - a defect which the state of the weather made very conspicuous. Managers should check the registration more frequently."
Infant school - "The infant department has had a change of teacher recently. On the whole its condition is creditable. It may be noted, however, that writing is rather hastily and carelessly done, that the oral answering is somewhat scattered, and that the class changes might be more quietly and smartly effected." Grant, £317 19s 6d.
Drumbowie School -
Mixed School. - "The school has had some changes in the staff, and naturally there are inequalities in the instruction. As a rule the second and fourth standards acquit themselves with the greatest credit. But the third, fifth, and sixth, especially the two latter, are backward in arithmetic, six pupils out of ten in the sixth having no sums correct. The third and sixth have likewise too many errors of spelling. As regards the oral branches, poetry in fifth, grammar in the second and third, history in the second, and geography in the third, fourth, and sixth appear to great advantage, but the highest award is rendered doubtful by some weakness in other directions. Science and music are on the whole good and sewing deserves hearty commendation. The higher grant for discipline may be allowed; at the same time whispering occurs here and there, and class changes are effected in a rather bustling manner. At a visit during the year the rooms seemed to require cleaning."
Infant School. - "Most of the instruction in the senior class and the first standard is remarkably good; the other classes vary somewhat in proficiency. The order and drill may rank as excellent. A little more verve and firmness in the management should place this department in the first grade of merit. Amount of grant, £360."
Muiravonside Public School. -
"The younger section makes over all a pretty good appearance in the ordinary branches. In the senior division reading, composition, and writing, more particularly the last, are of a creditable nature; but in arithmetic less than half the sums are correct, the weakness of the fourth standard being specially noticeable. The class subjects and sewing have been taught with considerable care. Music and elementary science might be rather more proficient. The order has good features, but it is too easy as a rule." Grant, £141 10s 2d.
Maddiston Infant Public School.
"The new mistress has not been more than half a year in charge. Under the circumstances the instruction is of a most creditable character. The order and drill are excellent." Grant, £59 19s. DRAWING REPORTS

The following drawing reports were also read: -
Muiravonside Public School. - Freehand is fairly well done, and the rules and geometrical tests are very creditable. Model drawing, while pretty good on the whole, admits of improvement in some cases. The drawing books produce in the main a favourable impression." Grant, £4 8s 6d.
Blackbraes Public School. - The intermediate grant is creditably earned. The books, as a rule, show sound instruction, and the various tests in the first and second standards, the scale test in the third standard, and the geometry in the fifth and sixth standards are very meritorious. Some other points, however, are not equal to these, and model drawing, in particular, needs more attention." Grant, £16 5s 6d.
Drumbowie School. - "The books give evidence of good work, though the India-rubber has sometimes been rather vigorously used. Practice in measuring objects is required, but in the main all the tests are good, and geometry is excellent. A little more care should secure the highest award." Grant, £18 11s 6d. This was all the business.

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FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

THEFT. -

Patrick Donnelly, miner, Standburn, was fined 5s, or three days, for stealing 50 lbs. of coal from Gateside Colliery, Standburn.

WEDNESDAY.

ASSAULT AT STANDBURN. -

Thos, Jack, butcher, Standburn, was fined 20s, or ten days, for assaulting Matthew Hoggan, engineman, by striking him a blow with his fists and knocking him down.

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MADDISTON.

Concert. -

A concert in aid of the "Falkirk Herald " War Fund for the relief of the wives and children of reservists presently serving in South Africa was given in Maddiston School on Tuesday evening. The school was crowded to its utmost capacity. Mr. Wm. Scott of Toravon, who presided, expressed the pleasure he felt in being associated with a concert of the kind, which he regarded as a pleasant means of accomplishing a most laudable end. (Applause) They would have an opportunity of hearing an excellent concert, their pleasure in which would be augmented by its being the means of helping to brighten the lot of the wives and children of some of the brave fellows who were now so gallantly serving their country in her hour of need. (Applause) The gentlemen who had organised and were administering the " Falkirk Herald " Fund well merited the thanks of the community, and he hoped that the good work done by such agencies might lead later on to the establishment of a national fund for the permanent relief of disabled soldiers and the dependents of those who had fallen in this war. (Applause) The soldier was spoken of as "The Absent-Minded Beggar." but, he was sure that the thoughts of the most absent-minded ones amongst them most often turn, amid their own hardships and dangers, to those dear ones whom they had left behind, and nothing could be more likely to soothe the last moments of the dying soldier than the knowledge that his countrymen were conscious of their duty to succour the wife or child who was left to mourn his fate. (Applause) An excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was sustained by the following artistes, whose efforts were highly appreciated by an enthusiastic audience: Misses Henderson and Trainer, Falkirk; Misses Heeps, Brightons; Messrs Hunt and Scott, Falkirk; Mr. William Brock, Linlithgow; Mr. Alex. K. Malcolm, Muiravonside: Miss Alice Balch, violinist, Wallacestone. The accompaniments were ably rendered by Miss Balch, A.R.C.M., Wallacestone: and Miss Coubrough, Falkirk. On the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the various artistes, and, on the call of Mr. Matthew Myles, a similar compliment was accorded the chairman.

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POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

Presentation.

On Friday last -Mr. John M'Donald, late manager for Messrs John Logan & Sons, of the Craighend and Whiterigg Collieries, was met at his residence, Hill head House, Brightons, by a few of the employees and made the recipient of a handsome davenport and a pair of beautiful side ornaments, together with a handsome gold brooch, with diamond centre, for Mrs. M'Donald, in name of their fellow-workmen, and a marble timepiece in name of their employers. Mr. Geo. Cummings, who made the presentation, after referring to the great respect that had always been entertained towards Mr. M'Donald, who, in virtue of his having always acted with the utmost courtesy towards the workmen, well merited their respect, then asked Mr. and Mrs. M'Donalds acceptance of the various gifts. Mr. M'Donald, on his own and also on his wife's behalf, suitably acknowledged the gifts, and expressed the sincere regret he felt to go from among those whom he respected so much. Cake and wine was then served, and a pleasant evening passed in song and sentiment.

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. QUARTERLY MEETING OF MEMBERS

The quarterly general meeting of the members of the Redding Co-operative Society was held

in the Redding Co-operative Hall on Tuesday evening - Mr. Thomas Barker, president, presiding over a crowded attendance.

PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Chairman said he had now come to the close of his term of office in the chair, and he was glad to state that while he had been able to say that at the end of every quarter he had sat there since elected, the society had increased, it was his pleasing duty to tell them that night that during the past quarter its affairs had progressed more than they had ever yet done in the society's history. (Applause) They would find that the sales for the quarter amounted to the large sum of £22,688. (Applause.) That did not look much on paper, but it represented a very large sum of money, and it would probably be of interest to some of those present to learn that within the last ten years the Redding Society had exactly doubled its business - (applause) - and that a large proportion of that increase had taken place within the last five years. (Applause.)

THE PRICE OF A HORSE.

The minutes of committee meetings were then read, from one of which it appeared that an old horse belonging to the society had been sold to a farmer for £20. Mr. Robert Myles said he understood that this was a new horse, and a young horse, and had cost at least £60. The Chairman - You might state your objection to the minute, or ask a question. Mr. Myles - My question is this, when the committee came to dispose of that young horse, did they advertise it for sale in the shop window prior to its being sold? (Hear, hear, and applause.) The Chairman - They did not. Mr. Myles - What was the reason? The Chairman - The reason was this. There was a division in the committee on this subject. Of course, as far as I am concerned, I dislike the use of the expression, "old horse." I do not suppose it was an old horse - (Hear, hear.) The horse, however, took ill and was laid up for two or three weeks. You will see from the balance-sheet that a veterinary surgeon was called in and he found that the animal was suffering from ringbone, and he stated that it would never get better sufficiently for our purposes. As we had no accommodation, we got a farmer to take it down to one of the farms in the Carse on trial. We heard from a certain quarter that a certain farmer was likely to offer for it, but on investigation we found he withdrew, and another farmer made an offer, which the majority of the committee considered as good as they could get, and closed with it. They had no other alternative than accept the offer or send the animal to the market, and the house divided in favour of the sale, and made a very good bargain. Mr. Myles - Is it not a fact that only six months ago you paid £65 for that horse? The Chairman - That is not a fact. A Voice - £56. Mr. Myles - I think it was over £60. The Chairman - No: it was £57. Mr. Myles - The horse ought to have been put into the window - (laughter) - and every person allowed an opportunity to buy it, good, bad, or indifferent, as all the rest have been done (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - I think that when the man who wrought the horse offered £20 for it, it was worth double. Mr. Myles - Hear, hear. The Chairman - I am not a judge, or a judge of horse-flesh, but I have no doubt it would be value for that amount. It is possible enough that the horse was a good bargain to the purchaser for the purposes for which he was going to use it. It might have done well enough for work in the soft fields, but it was different to work it on the hard roads, as the society would have had to do. (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - Quite so. The Chairman - My friend makes an innuendo that an inference could be drawn. No inference can be drawn. (Hear, hear.) If we had kept that horse, it would have got worse on our hands, so we took £20 for it. A Voice - You could have got more. Mr. Myles - You should have put it in the window. (Laughter.) The Chairman - I have given a true statement with regard to our actions with the horse. Mr. Myles - Why did you not take £6 for the last one, and when you disposed of it you could only get £1? (Hear, hear, and applause.) The Chairman - I think our friend, in his remark, has given us a splendid lesson on the subject, and we should learn by it. (Laughter.) We got an offer of £6 for a horse, but we thought we could get more, and after keeping it for a month we only got £1. After that experience, we decided that we would not keep the present horse, and perhaps lose on it in the same way. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Myles, I think, has answered himself. Mr. Myles - I manufactured that, for you. You had not that view when you spoke first. (Applause, and hisses.) The Chairman - I will have no hisses here. (Hissing continued.) Mr. Myles (warmly) - it is only geese, cats, and such like that hiss, and you should be put on a level with them. (Laughter.) If you had put the horse in the window - (laughter) - and only got 10d for it, you would not have been called in question for it. I do not care whether you only sold it for 5d. It is the precedent of the thing. I have heard that the horse is worth twice £20 to-day so that there is something strange about it. Mr. Peter Munnoch - The man who bought it said it was worth twice £20, and something to the end of it. (Laughter.) After some further discussion, the matter dropped.

REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET. The quarterly report and balance-sheet was submitted, from the former of which it appeared that the profits from all sources were £5188 3s 91/2d, which would pay a dividend of 4s 4d per £ on members' purchases. The rate per £ for the different departments were: -

For Redding grocery. 4s 2d; Redding drapery, 4s 6d; bakery, 5s 10d; fleshing, 3s 3d; Redding shoemaking, 3s 9d;

Blackbraes shoemaking, 3s 6d; Blackbraes grocery, 4s 1d; drapery, 4s 8d;

Maddiston grocery, 3s 10d; Maddiston drapery, 4s 7d;

Standburn branch, 3s 10d.

The sales for the quarter were £22,688, compared with £20,375 for the corresponding quarter of last year, an increase of £2513 while the membership was 1763 compared with 1701 for the same period of year, an increase of 67. The report, and balance sheet were approved of.

ELECTIONS.

The Chairman intimated that he now retired from office in the usual course. Mr. Barker was again proposed, along with Mr. Wm. Munnoch and Mr. Colin Maxwell. Mr. Munnoch declined to stand for election, and a vote was taken on Messrs Barker and Maxwell the former being re-appointed by 86 votes to 75. Mr. Barker again took the chair, and after thanking the members for his re-election, said that in the next appointments they were in a peculiar position. They were in a transition state betwixt the new and the old rules. They were under the old rules till the new passed the registrar, and they would require to be careful in their elections that night, and not cause confusion in the future. Mr. Thomas Grant moved that they appoint two directors and two sub-treasurers till the new rules come into operation, when they could again make the appointments in proper order. M. John Easton also proposed in somewhat similar terms. Mr. John Hynds seconded Mr. Grant's motion. The Chairman called for an amendment to Mr. Grant's motion. Mr. John Easton - I won't let you go on with it. That was moved by Jake Easton. (Laughter.) The Chairman - It was moved by Tom Grant. Mr. Easton - It was moved by me. (Voices "Sit down" and "Put him out,") The Chairman - The motion before us is in effect, that the present directors remain in office till the next quarterly meeting. Mr. Easton - That is not right, that is not what I proposed. Take it back. (Laughter and noise.) Mr. Myles proposed as an amendment that four directors only should be appointed for next four months and that sub-treasurers be abolished. Mr. George Walker seconded. Mr. John Easton - Hold on. The Chairman - Sit down, man. Mr. Easton - I won't sit down. (Laughter.) The Chairman - Sit down; you are not in order. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Easton - How do you know? (Laughter.) I have never spoken yet. (Renewed laughter.) The Chairman - Will you sit down? I won't stand humbugging in this way. Mr. Easton - I can humbug a better man than you. (Laughter.) Order having restored, a vote was taken, when Mr. Myles' amendment was carried. Mr. Easton - I protest against this. (Laughter.) The Chairman - Protest against, it is as long as you like. (Laughter.) Messrs John Forsyth, James Wilson, David Weir, and Robert Grant were appointed to the directorate for three months.

The society then proceeded to the discussion of general business.

Falkirk Herald 14th April 1900

Situations Vacant

WANTED, Good. Strong General - Apply Forsyth, Livingstone Cottage, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 14th April 1900

STANDBURN. –

Shop to Let; good position for Shoemaker no opposition; cheap rent- apply Robert Watt, Standburn.

Falkirk Herald 21st April 1900

MADDISTON.

WAR FUND CONCERT.

Maddiston has sent to our war fund the handsome donation of £5, being the proceeds from the recent, concert arranged by a committee, of which Mr. M. Myles was secretary.

Falkirk Herald 25th April 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE. MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston Infant School yesterday afternoon. Mr. John Wilson presided, the other members present being Messrs Daniel Binnie, Archibald Binnie, John B. Bryce, John Bryce, Haldane, and Robert Myles.

SCHOOL REPORTS.

Mr. John Bryce intimated that the ex-pupilteacher and certificated teacher had been advertised for Blackbraes School, and that the vacancies had been filled at salaries of £40 and £65 respectively. This was approved of Mr. Bryce also referred to the state of the roof at the above school, and the committee was instructed to ascertain probable cost of repair, and submit same to the Board. Mr. Myles reported that a new floor in the large room at Muiravonside School was required, and that the playground wall there should be pointed. The convener was instructed to ascertain the probable cost, and submit same to the next Board meeting. Mr. Daniel Binnie reported on the matter of the defective state of the floor at the Drumbowie School, and this matter was also remitted to the committee to ascertain cost of repair, and submit that information to the next Board meeting.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The Officer submitted the following report on the school attendance for the past month:-

	On Roll.	Av. Att.
Drumbowie School	453	384
Blackbraes School	380	317
Muiravonside School	177	146
Maddiston School	83	74
Avonbridge School	85	76

PHYSICAL DRILL IN THE SCHOOLS.

The question of physical drill referred to in the circular from the Department of 3d February, and continued from last Board meeting, was again taken into consideration. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the instruction of the children in physical drill should be undertaken by the party acting as compulsory officer, but the question of salary and of the person to be appointed was delayed till next meeting.

CHANGES IN BLACKBRAES STAFF.

A letter was read from Miss Jeannie Thomson resigning her position as ex-pupil-teacher in the Blackbraes School. A letter was also read from Mr. John M'Culloch, Shieldhill, asking that his daughter be appointed a pupil-teacher, and it was agreed to remit the matter to Mr. Campbell, headmaster at Blackbraes.

HOLIDAY.

At the request of the teachers, the Board agreed to grant the Queen's Birthday as a holiday to the whole of their schools.

CIRCULAR ON SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The Clerk intimated receipt of a circular from the Scottish School Boards' Association with reference to the Higher Education (Scotland) Bill. Mr. Myles said he thought the matter should be allowed to drop, as the question was one outwith the jurisdiction of the Board. They would lose nothing or gain nothing by discussing the circular at all. The matter was accordingly allowed to drop.

APPLICATION FOR THE USE OF A SCHOOL.

A letter was read from Mr. Mackay asking for the use of the Drumbowie School on Friday, 4th May, for the holding of a concert for the purpose of defraying expenses incurred by the inauguration of a Volunteer corps in the district. The application was granted on the motion of Mr. Myles the conditions to be the same as those on which the school was given for the war fund concert.

STANDING ORDERS.

The Clerk intimated that, as instructed at last, meeting, he had drawn up standing orders, and had furnished a proof copy to each of the members.

The Board thereafter went over the orders and adjusted them.

Falkirk Herald 28th April 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

BREACH OF THE PEACE AT STANDBURN. –

Wm. Aitchison, miner. Standburn, was fined 10s, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for committing a breach of the peace at Standburn Rows on the 14th April.

TUESDAY.

THEFT OF COAL. –

Four children from Crosscroes, Muiravonside, aged from seven to ten years, named Wm. M'Ewan, James M'Ewan, Wm. Graham, and Mary Graham, pleaded guilty to stealing 1 cwt. of coal from No. 2 Pit, Roughrigg Colliery. Wm M'Ewan and Wm. Graham were fined 5s each, or three days, and the others, being younger, were admonished.

Falkirk Herald 2nd May 1900

MADDISTON.

12 DAYS' MISSION.

THE BROTHERS WEAVER

(SONS OF THE WELL-KNOWN EVANGELIST, RICHARD WEAVER),

COMMENCING MAY 6 TH TO MAY 18 TH

MR. BEWLEY WEAVER will SPEAK.

MR. FRANK WEAVER will SING.

SABBATH MEETINGS IN THE PARK HALL BARN,

11.30 A.M., 3 P.M., 6.30 P.M.

(Refreshments to be procured on the Grounds.)

MEETINGS IN MADDISTON HALL, 7 P.M.

All are cordially invited

Falkirk Herald 5th May 1900

MADDISTON.

Open - Air Temperance Meeting. - The members of Maddiston's Freedom Lodge I.O. G.T. held an open - air service on Monday night, and prior to the meeting marched in regalia through the village. Brother McLachlan presided. Mr. R. Gordon Campbell, Grand Lodge Agent, gave a

stirring and appreciable address, after which a special session of the lodge was held, and three new members were enrolled. After a few remarks by Brother J. Carmichael, District Chief Templar, a most successful meeting was brought to a close.

Falkirk Herald 5th May 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY -

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

DISTURBANCE AT THE STANDBURN PUBLIC- HOUSE. -

Robert Powell, miner, Bowhouse, and James McBryde, jun., miner, Standburn, were fined 10s each, or seven days, for creating a disturbance on the public road opposite the public-house at Standburn occupied by James Nimmo & Co., coalmasters, Glasgow.

BREACH OF THE PEACE. -

Geo. Campbell, miner, Standburn, was fined 10s, or seven days, for creating a disturbance at Standburn.

THEFT OF COALS. -

David Graham (9), son of John Graham, miner, Blackbraes, pleaded guilty to stealing 10 lbs. of coals from a mineral railway siding at Blackbraes occupied by Jas. Nimmo & Co., Ltd. The Fiscal said this was a clear case of the mother being to blame. A fine of 5s was imposed, the alternative being three days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 12th May 1900

STANDBURN. THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT. -

On Friday evening a concert was held in the Drumbowie Public School in aid of the funds of the proposed Volunteer Company for Standburn, Avonbridge, and district. Prior to the concert, the Avonbridge Pipe Band paraded the village, and marched up to the school. Mr. George Gordon Mackay presided over a very large audience, and was accompanied on the platform by Messrs James and Adam M'Killop, Wallace, Binnie, Gibb, and Dr. Calderwood, while apologies for were intimated from Mr. John Stirling, of Muiravonside, Mr. D. Paton of Avonhill, and Mr. Andrew Hunter. The Chairman, in the course of a short address, spoke of the important part their Volunteers were taking in the South African War. He referred to the great improvements which had been growing in the Volunteers during the past few years, and said that from the changes which must come the Volunteers had without doubt a very bright future in store. The great advantages, the Chairman said, which resulted from military training, raised the standard and value of the men who came under its rule. There was a splendid company, and the efforts of the artistes were greatly appreciated by the audience. Miss Crawford sang with much taste "Coming thro' the Rye," "Ye Banks and Braes," and "The Scottish Blue Bells," as an encore. Miss Ellen Westwater gave, with her usual good expression, "Auld Robin Gray," "Rory O'More," and, as an encore, "Kate O'Shane." Miss Kate Baxter, a well known favourite in the district, rendered "Cam' ye by Athole?" "On, comrades, on," and, as an encore, "Angus Macdonald." Mr. Alex. Malcolm, with good voice, sang "Private Tommy Atkins," "The Deathless Army," and, as an encore, "The Boys of the Old Brigade," while Mr. Jas. Meikle gave a fine rendition of "The Old Soldier," "Annie Lawrie," and, as an encore, "Scots Wha Hae." Mr. Wm. Addison performed two pieces - one a Scotch and the other an Irish selection - upon the violin. Miss Dewar, who was the accompanist, performed her duties with great ability. The comic part of the performance was carried through by Messrs Winter and Gardner, both gentlemen acting splendidly, and rendering their pieces to the great amusement of every one present. At the close the usual votes of thanks were accorded, thus bringing a most enjoyable entertainment to a close.

Falkirk Herald 16th May 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff Bell.)

A MADDISTON DISTURBANCE -

Robert Cherry, miner, Quarrolhead, Maddiston, was fined 10s, or, failing payment, to suffer seven days' imprisonment, for committing a breach of the peace at Quarrolhead.

Falkirk Herald 26th May 1900

FOR SALE, Handsome Phaeton, in good order; a bargain. - Campbell, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 30th May 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE. PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Wilson presided, and there were also present Messrs John Bryce, John B. Bryce, Robert Myles, Daniel Binnie, Archibald Binnie, and Haldane.

BLACKBRAES SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS.

It was reported that the Blackbraes School Committee had appointed Miss Brunton, Dalkeith, certificated assistant, and Miss C. Clark, ex-pupil teacher, Bonnyrigg, at salaries of £66 and £40 respectively, and that they had accepted the appointments.

MILITARY AND PHYSICAL DRILL AT THE SCHOOLS.

The Chairman said that he had, at the instance of several members of the Board, asked the clerk to delay carrying out the resolution come to at last meeting to advertise for a party to teach physical drill. He (the Chairman) happened to meet the inspector, and told him what the Board proposed to do as regarded military and physical drill, and he did not approve of a military man doing that class of work in connection with their schools. Mr. Mackay and Mr. Campbell, two of their headmasters, were also against the Board's proposal, and they wished to take the work up themselves. The inspector distinctly said that he did not approve of a military man drilling boys, and that he would rather that the teachers took up the work themselves. Mr. Myles - I am surprised at you, Mr. Chairman. I moved that we adopt the minute as read, and in seconding my motion you agreed to the part of the minute you now wish deleted. The Chairman - But I have changed my mind. Mr. Myles - I have the chair, Mr. Chairman. It is not that I am at all concerned whether we should have a military man for this purpose or otherwise, but the impression created on the mind of the Board at last meeting was that it was imperative that we should have a military man. Our special attention was drawn to the matter by Mr. Craik, of the Education Department, who stated that this branch was one of the tests on which the grant of our schools was to depend. It is all very good for the chairman to give us the opinion of other members, and also what is the opinion of other members on this subject, but the Board has never had that opinion through the clerk. If we are to do business, we ought to do it through the clerk, and the clerk had no right to obey the dictates of any member who approached him with regard to this matter. Moreover, those members who went to the clerk and overturned a decision of this Board, which is a matter of history, ought to apologise for what they did. The Clerk - I was only asked to delay the matter. The Chairman - I was of the same opinion as, you, Mr. Myles I thought a military man would be the best party we could get to do this work until I met the inspector. But he did not approve of the step we agreed to take, and this subject did not count anything on the grant. The inspector said the teachers were well able to teach drill, physical and military, and by agreeing to his suggestion we will save about £40 a year to the ratepayers. Mr. D. Binnie said that the Board had not committed itself in any way, and every member ought to be pleased with the turn affairs had taken, the more especially as the proposal to allow the teachers to teach the drill had come from H.M. Inspector. The inspector told them that very few schools had military trained men to teach military drill, and instead of their getting into a panic on this matter they ought to be pleased that there would be no need to advertise for an ex-military man to teach the drill. Mr. Myles - I am well enough pleased, but the change has come in a very awkward way. If we want to overturn any finding arrived at the Board, this is the place to do it. It is a

question of business with me, and we ought to do our business in a business-like fashion. Mr. D. Binnie - We all agree with that. The Chairman - We ought to work in unison with the teachers and the inspector. Mr. J. B. Bryce - Of course we were, as a Board, going to adopt military drill, and the clerk was instructed to advertise for an instructor. The Chairman - The intention at last meeting was that we were to get an ex-military man. Mr. Myles said that his desire was to work in unison with every member of the Board, and if they had got reliable information from H.M. Inspector that a military man was not required, he was pleased to hear it. All the same it was a very awkward position for the chairman to take up. The Chairman - Of course we are not bound to go by the inspector's dictates, but I am in favour of the drill being taught by the teachers, as money will thereby be saved. I move that the clerk be instructed to write each of the headmasters asking them to take up, for a year, physical and military drill, in accordance with the Department's circular. Mr. J. B. Bryce seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

INCREASES OF SALARY.

Miss Turner, infant mistress, Blackbraes School, had her salary increased from £60 to £65. It was agreed to advance the salary of the cleaner of Blackbraes School by £2 10s per annum. SUMMER HOLIDAYS. The summer holidays were fixed to run from 29th June to 7th August. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The Officer's report on school attendance was as follows:-

	On Roll.	Av. Atten.
Blackbraes	381	323
Drumbowie	452	378
Muiravonside	180	155
Maddiston	89	77
Avonbridge Combination	87	74

A number of defaulters were dealt with.

This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 30th May 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A NOISY RUMFORD LABOURER. -

Robert Jack, labourer, Rumford Square, was fined 10s, or seven days, for having, on the 20th May, created a disturbance in his own house there.

STANDBURN DISTURBANCES. -

James Keenan, miner, Standburn, pleaded guilty to having, on the 17th May, created a disturbance there. Having been previously convicted, he was fined 15s, or ten days.

Robert McLean, miner. Standburn, pleaded guilty to having, on the 12th May, created a disturbance at Messrs Nimmo's public-house at Standburn. A fine of 10s was imposed, the alternative being seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 2nd June 1900

MESSRS NEILSON'S SALES

SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AT STANDBURN, AVONBRIDGE, On FRIDAY, 15th

JUNE -

JAMES NEILSON & SONS, Auctioneers, have been favoured with instructions from Mr Robert Watt, Shoemaker, who is leaving the kingdom, to Sell by Public Roup, at STANDBURN, on Friday, 15th June, 1900, his entire HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and WORKING TOOLS, comprising :- Mahogany Pillar and Claw Table, Two Mahogany Easy Chairs and Small Chairs in Haircloth, Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Mahogany Dressing Glass, Curtain Poles and Curtains, Sewing Machine (nearly new), Books, Pictures, Mattresses, Wool Beds, Bedding, Eight-Day Clock, Alarm Clock, Kitchen Dresser, Two Tables, Chairs, Children's Chairs, Cradle, Set of Dish Covers, Cooking Utensils, Crockery, Wash Tubs, Enamelled Pails, Shoemaker's Seat, Bench, Working Tools, and Two Sets of Iron Lasts; also Dog Kennel, Watch Dog, -&c. Roup to begin at Two o'clock Afternoon.

Falkirk Herald 13th June 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A NOISY DRUMBOWIE MINER. -

Arthur Gardner, miner, Drumbowie, was fined 10s, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for creating a breach of the peace at Standburn on the 31st May.

Falkirk Herald 16th June 1900

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL. MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday. Mr. George Ure of Wheatlands presided, and there were also present Mr. A. Peddie Waddell of Balquhatston, Rey. Mr. Hutton, Bothkennar; Mr. Graham of Larbert, Mr. Salvesen of Lathallan, Mr. Mitchell of Millfield, Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside, Provost Mackay, Grangemouth; Mr. Hunter, Glenfuir; Mr. Brown, Kerse; Mr. Rankine, Laurieston; Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout; Mr. James Mackay, Avonbridge; Dr. M'Vail, medical officer; Mr. Ballantine, road surveyor; Mr. Denholm and Mr. Cargill, sanitary inspectors; and Mr. J. H. Burns, clerk.

THE CHAIRMAN'S RETURN.

The Chairman referred to his prolonged absence from the committee meetings, through illness, and said he thought he had drawn on their patience too much. ("No, no.") The only consolation he said was that when he was well - and he did not say it egotistically - he had perhaps the best record amongst the members for regular attendance. He thanked them very much for their forbearance.

THE TELEPHONE.

The matter of fitting up the telephone at the road surveyor's house was considered. It was stated that the rate would be £12 10s per annum, but in consideration of the company's wayleave over the roads, they were willing to reduce the charge to £8 10s per annum. It was left with the clerk to have the connection established if the company would accept £5 per annum.

OCCUPYING UNFINISHED HOUSES.

The Clerk read the following minute of meeting of the Public Health Executive Sub-Committee, held on the 31st May, which stated that plans of new buildings proposed to be erected were submitted and approved. The sanitary inspectors having reported the slaughter-houses of several parties to be properly conducted and well kept, it was agreed to recommend that the licences be renewed. The meeting also dealt with various nuisances reported upon by the inspector. The attention of the meeting was called to alleged infringements of the 49th building by-law in the neighbourhood of Falkirk, and the meeting instructed the clerk to take proceedings regarding any such infringements reported to him by the medical officer or the sanitary inspector, and that if at the same time it were found that section 16 of the Public Health Act had also been infringed, notice should also be taken under that section. It was agreed that the clerk raise a prosecution against Messrs James Nimmo and Co., coalmasters, for the infringement of section 16 of the Public Health Act., and of by-law 49 of the committee's building by-laws with respect to new buildings recently erected by the company at Standburn. Mr. Hunter moved the approval of the minute. Mr. Peddie Waddell - Are you moving the adoption of the minute and the subject matter of it? Mr. Hunter - Yes. Mr. Peddie Waddell said there was a matter referred to in it as to the infringement of the Public Health Act by James Nimmo and Co., coalmasters. They had sent him a copy of the letter they sent to the clerk on the subject. The Clerk read the letter referred to, in which it was

stated that they were informed that they were to blame for allowing some people to prematurely enter the new houses they were erecting at Standburn. They did their best at all times to comply with the sanitary requirements, of the Council, and Mr. Gibb, their representative at Standburn, did not authorise any one to take possession of any house. Had the sanitary inspector stated that he wished the tenants ejected they would have been ejected at once, as they were most anxious to respect any by-law of the Council. Some of the occupants were in such a state of desperation for houses that they took possession of them before the joiners were completed, and before the firm had the keys and had an opportunity of examining the houses. Mr. Mitchell - Are the houses correct now? Mr. Cargill - The rooms are certainly drier now. Dr. McVail said he happened to be up there the other day, and although the houses had been occupied four weeks, the rooms had not been sized off, the woodwork had not been painted, and the plaster on the walls was so wet that they could sink their thumb into it. Mr. Peddie Waddell said he never liked to interfere with what a committee recommended, but in the face of the statement made by Messrs Nimmo, he would hesitate about prosecuting them, unless it could be challenged. Messrs Nimmo and Co., were large employers of labour in the district. It was a company of high standing in the district, and they said very distinctly that the occupation of the houses was neither authorised by them or by their manager. On hearing that the houses were occupied, they immediately wrote to the inspector telling him so, and offered to eject the tenants if he desired it. Dr. McVail - No, no. They say in a letter that they hope the sanitary inspector will not eject them. They put all the responsibility on the inspector. Mr. Peddie Waddell said that Messrs Nimmo considered it very hard that a prosecution should take place under the circumstances. The parties got the keys from the joiners without their knowledge. If it was a fact that the firm did not authorise the entry of those people into the houses, the firm were not the parties to prosecute. If the committee thought that those parties should be cleared out of the houses now, they should take steps to do it. Mr. Hunter said that the sub-committee came to the resolution to sue Messrs Nimmo in consequence of the sub-committee having got what they believed to be clear evidence that Messrs Nimmo's mines manager authorised the occupation of these houses. They had evidence that he instructed individual miners to go to the joiners and get the keys of their houses. He (Mr. Hunter) considered that Messrs Nimmo were clearly responsible for the action of their mines manager. Mr. Salvesen said that Messrs Nimmo and Co. laid great stress on their not having authorised the entry into those houses. But they never did anything to prevent further entrance. If he were building a house himself, he would like to see it finished before he would let anyone in. The Chairman said that when he heard Messrs Nimmo's letters read, and when he remembered a visit of inspection he paid to Slamannan some years ago, he did not wonder at the poor miners trying to get into these houses. If the new houses were bad, the old ones were no better, and if he had been living in one of the latter, he would have been very apt to risk a violation of the law in order to get possession of a new house, knowing well that every day, at this season of the year, new houses would improve. He knew there was a lot of old property in Slamannan that ought not to be inhabited, and he did not wonder at the miners trying to get away from them. Mr. Peddie Waddell - This is not Slamannan we are at now. It is Muiravonside. The Chairman - I beg your pardon. We went over a good deal of the property all around Slamannan. Mr. Mitchell said he was afraid, from the correspondence which had been read, they had not a very strong case against Messrs Nimmo. He did not know all the particulars. Was there not a rule to the effect that houses were to be inspected before they were occupied? Dr. McVail said there was a by-law which made it imperative that every one building a house or building must give notice to the Local Authority of its completion before it was occupied, and they had not done so. The Chairman - Have these new houses more conveniences than the old ones? Mr. Cargill - Six of the houses are of two apartments, and four are of one apartment. The houses are a little better than the ones they occupied previously, and they are built in accordance with the by-laws. Provost Mackay said it was shown to the sub-committee that this was a very marked infringement of the by-laws, and it could not be allowed to pass without any notice being taken of it. In view, however, of what had been stated for Messrs Nimmo, and in the hope that this discussion would serve the committee's purpose, if the other members were agreeable, he would suggest that they withdraw the order for a prosecution, and instruct the clerk to write a strong warning to Messrs Nimmo in the hope that it would deter them and others from infringing the committee's by-laws. Mr. Salvesen - Is the occupation of houses before they are finished not a danger to public health? If not, we might look over this case. Dr. McVail said that at the beginning of their by-laws it was stated that houses or buildings occupied before they were properly dried were dangerous to health, and constituted a nuisance under the Public Health Act. No house should be occupied till the walls were thoroughly dried. The walls were not yet dry, although they were a great deal better than they were. In every one of the houses which had been occupied prematurely, he made inquiry, and found that no one complained of any illness. Mr. Hunter said that Messrs Nimmo and Co. were responsible for allowing those houses to be occupied without notifying the committee of their completion. Notwithstanding all that had been said in excuse, he did not think a big firm like this should be allowed to transgress the rules of the committee without protest. Mr. Stirling - I understand from Mr. Hunter's remarks that although Messrs Nimmo did not know that the houses were occupied, an agent, for whom they were responsible, knew. Mr. Hunter - Just so; and it was on that ground that the sub-committee agreed to prosecute. Mr. Peddie Waddell - Was it Mr. Gibb? Mr. Stirling - No. Mr. Peddie Waddell - Then he was the only man who had any authority in the matter. The Chairman advised the members to adopt Provost Mackay's proposal if they were not satisfied they had a good case for prosecution. It would be better not to begin a prosecution than to withdraw from it after they had begun. Provost Mackay's suggestion was then agreed to. Mr. Hunter moved that the prosecution against the other party be withdrawn also. It was agreed, on the motion of Mr. James Mackay, that a copy of the by-laws be sent to every one erecting a new building.

Falkirk Herald 30th June 1900

GENERAL NOTICES.

OFFERS WANTED at once to SUPPLY TENT for STANDBURN SPORTS on THURSDAY, 12th JULY. Apply James Scott, 59 Standburn, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 4th July 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

MINERS FALL OUT. -

Fines of 10s, or seven days each, were imposed on James Scott, miner, Curriehill, Blackbraes, and Samue McEwan, miner, Croscroes, for creating a breach of the peace at Standburn on 23rd June.

STANDRIGG ASSAULT CASE. -

Margaret Gardiner, or Macdonald, wife of Alexander Macdonald, miner, Standrigg, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on 17th June, at Standrigg, (1) committed a breach of the peace, and (2) assaulted Robert Brown, miner, Standrigg, by striking him on the forehead with a poker to the great effusion of blood. Accused pled not guilty, and the case went to proof. After evidence the charge was found proven, and a fine of 20s, with the alternative of ten days' imprisonment, was imposed.

Falkirk Herald 7th July 1900

LINLITHGOW

On Saturday the young folks connected with the Rumford R.C. School had a pic-nic to Linlithgow to the number of about 90. They spent the day in the Peel, where they were purveyed for by Messrs J. & G. Erskine, bakers and confectioners.

Falkirk Herald 7th July 1900

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

In accordance with rule 13 of the Redding Co-operative Society's Amended Rules, which states that the directors shall be made up as follows:- By four members dealing in Redding, four members dealing in Blackbraes, two members dealing in Maddiston, two members dealing in Standburn - the first meeting of those dealing in Blackbraes branch was held in Sheildhill Public School. There was a good attendance As Mr. Thos. Barker, president, was proceeding to take the chair, Mr. Wm. Munnoch objected to his doing so on the ground that as this was a meeting of a branch only he failed to see Mr. Barker's right to act as chairman. He accordingly proposed that Mr. William Reid take the chair. Mr. Barker quoted rule 28, which stated that the president shall act as chairman at all meetings of the society. Mr. James Wilson supported Mr. Barker's statement, and the business was proceeded with. After several nominations had been made the voting resulted in Messrs Archibald Webster and William Reid being elected for nine months, and Messrs James Wilson and David Watt for three months.

Falkirk Herald 7th July 1900

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. - Blackbraes and Sheildhill Public Schools were closed for the summer holidays, and will remain closed for five and six weeks respectively.

FREE GARDENERS' DEMONSTRATION.-

The members of the Sir William Wallace Grand Lodge of Free Gardeners, Blackbraes, held their demonstration on Saturday last. Meeting at their lodgeroom, Polmont-side Square, in the afternoon, the brethren were marshalled into processional order by Bros. Robert Ure and Andrew Strang. Headed by the Blackbraes Brass Band, the procession attracted a great deal of attention in the various villages of the district through which it passed. The route taken was by way of Sheildhill, California, to Blackbraes, and thence by way of Princes Street Street, Standrigg, Wallacestone, back to their meeting-place, where refreshments were served and heartily partaken of. Unfortunately several drenching showers of rain fell during the afternoon, greatly marring the comfort and pleasure of the processionists.

Falkirk Herald 14th July 1900

BIRTHS

BRYCE - At Croft Cottage, Maddiston, on 11th inst, the wife of Andrew Bryce, a daughter

Falkirk Herald 21st July 1900

DEATHS

HUNTER - At Hepburn Place, Polmont Station, on the 14th inst, Margaret Chalmers, beloved wife of Alexander Hunter, Maddiston Store; deeply mourned.

BAXTER - At Standrigg, Polmont, Andrew Baxter, factor, in his 74th year; sadly missed.

Falkirk Herald 28th July 1900

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT. The annual report of Dr. McVail medical officer of health for the county of Stirling, has just been published. In a prefatory note, Dr McVail states that the new Public Health Act is now fairly in operation in the county, and, as a knowledge of its provisions had led one to expect, it is proving a comprehensive and most effective basis of sanitary administration and progress. Of this ample evidence is afforded in the record given in the report of the work that has occupied the attention of the authorities during the past year. A brief reference is also made to the promotion of the bill in Parliament for the supply of water for the Eastern District of the county, which is rightly stated to be " the most important public health question in Stirlingshire since the present system of local government began."

THE POPULATION.

At the outset of the report Dr. McVail gives some important statistics relative to the population. He states that the correct estimation of the population is still a matter of very great difficulty. As in previous reports, he has used as a basis the number of houses given in the county valuation roll for the current year, and the number of persons per house, as shown in the census returns of 1891. In doing so, the view has been that the number of persons per house is a factor not likely to change very greatly from year to year in the different parishes, and in the absence of a counting of the inhabitants, it affords the most reliable basis of calculation. Towards the end of 1899, however," he proceeds to say, " the Chief Constable of the county was good enough to make a special census of the Eastern District - the local constables acting as enumerators. For comparison with this have made estimates of the population (1) on the assumption that the increase or decrease has continued at the same rate as in the previous decade: and (2) according to the number of inhabited houses, as in previous reports." The results given are as follows: -

Falkirk Herald 4th August 1900

MASONIC EXCURSION. -

Lodge Polmont No. 793 annual excursion on Wednesday to Ardlui. Considered numerically perhaps it was the largest trip that has left Polmont for many years, about 800 taking part, but unfortunately the day's pleasure was marred by the miserable state of the weather. The company left Polmont Station per special train about seven o'clock, calling at Falkirk High Station, and arrived at Balloch about ten. On arrival, the magnificent steamer "Prince George" (Captain P. Wilson), was waiting for the company, and conveyed them up the loch to Ardlui. Thereupon the company broke up - some enjoying themselves walking about the hills and others engaging in sports and dancing. The following is the list of prize-winners in the sports competition: - Boys race 1, Robert Stirling ; 2, Wm. Gillespie; 3, Richard Stirling. 80 yards blindfold race -1, John Robertson ; 2, George Jack ;3, A. Baxter. 100 yards race (open) 1, John Robertson ; 2, George Jack ; 3, Wm. Bishop. Girls' race (under 14) - 1, Janet Walker ; 2, Annie Mitchell; 3, Crissy Taylor. Masonic race- (100 yards) - , Jas. Mackie; 2, A. Baxter; 3, W. Baxter. Boys' race (under 10) - 1, A. Wardlaw; 2, Arch. Stirling; 3, Wm. Gillespie. Girls' race - 1, Janet Walker; 2, Annie Mitchell; 3, Mabel Scott. Tug-of-war - Maddiston United (Captain, Joseph Hunter).

The Laurieston Westquarter Brass Band and the Wallacestone pipe Band accompanied the excursion and discoursed a selection of music. The company arrived home at Polmont Station about eleven o'clock, and but for the state of the weather enjoyed themselves very much. The arrangements were admirably carried out by a committee of the lodge.

Falkirk Herald 8th August 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

EVENING SCHOOL REPORTS.

The following reports on the evening schools under the Muiravonside Board have just been received:-Drumbowie Evening School. -

"The school continues to show considerable proficiency in the branches professed. Arithmetic is of an advanced character, and is creditably accurate. Writing, composition, and, in particular, spelling, are steadily improving, the pupils have received useful instruction in geography and physiology. In the latter branch a good deal of work has been overtaken. The discipline is quite satisfactory."

Grant, £40 5s.

Blackbraes Evening School. -

"The enrolment is fairly satisfactory. No girls have attended this session. Arithmetic and algebra reach a good level. Writing is well formed as a rule, and drawing appears to have received special attention. A very fair commencement has been made in shorthand. Managers should occasionally visit the school and supervise the registration."

Grant, £17 10s.

Muiravonside Evening School. -

" Although the enrolment is very small, the pupils have been very faithfully taught, and they acquit themselves with credit in the branches professed. Drawing is a special merit. The

discipline is very good. The managers should visit the school more frequently in the course of the session."

Grant, £4 7s 6d.

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATIONS.

The following are the reports by Mr. Alex. Mackenzie, M.A., of the Association for Aiding School Boards in the Inspection of Religious Instruction, on his visit to the schools under the Muiravonside School Board: -

Drumbowie Public School - "The religious instruction in this well-conducted school continues to be highly satisfactory, both as to the amount of work that is overtaken and the manner in which it is done. The two infant classes sang together very nicely, with piano accompaniment. The repetition was quite correct, and the narrative lesson was readily answered, but only a few of the children knew the miracles well. Perhaps rather much was attempted. Standard one professed less, but accomplished more, and under Miss Yeats' faithful teaching, made a most creditable appearance. The work done by standard two was very promising, and if the children would answer their Bible lesson as distinctly as they say their verses, it would be quite satisfactory. The same bright girl distinguished herself in standard three as last year, and the answering generally was good. The highest praise is due to standard four, under Miss Hunter. The memory work is said not merely accurately - for that is the case through the whole school - but with marked intelligence, and a remarkably fine examination was passed on the history and geography of the period of Moses. Similar credit is due to the highest class for the thoughtful answers given on the life of Paul, bringing out, in addition to the facts, the motives of the apostle in the various circumstances of his history."

Muiravonside Public School. -

"The work of the infant department continues to improve. The Bible lesson was readily answered, the appropriate texts being repeated in the course of it. The memory work of the whole school was admirably said, and it suitably graded, being very full in the two highest classes. The Bible answering was most creditable. Miss Maclean's class showed a minute knowledge of the period gone over. Standard four did better in the Old than in the New Testament. The work of standard five was specially good, the children showing a minute acquaintance with the narrative and even the words of Scripture. Standard six continues to combine the geography with the history of the portions studied. The parables were given exceedingly well."

Maddiston Infant School. -

"The junior infants, though too shy to speak out, repeated correctly their verses and texts, and answered readily to the kindly lesson given them on the early life of Moses. The work for the senior infants was suitably graded, though still more repetition might be attempted. The children showed a very good knowledge of both the Old and the New Testament lesson. A number of hymns were well sung to piano accompaniment."

Blackbraes Public School. -

"The infant division made an excellent appearance both in their repetition, which was said accurately and with clear enunciation, and in their Bible lesson, which was admirably answered. The children sang tastefully, and showed the utmost interest in their work. The fifth class did best in their memory work, which was ample in amount, and said with accuracy and distinctness. The fourth class distinguished itself by the minuteness of its knowledge of the period of Israel in the wilderness, and especially of the event at Sinai, which were faultlessly given. The repetition also was full and perfectly accurate. The large programme of memory work of class three, which was very well said, might be revised with advantage. Considering the recent coming of the teacher, the answering on the Bible lesson was very good. The first and second classes were taken together, and repeated correctly a very full memory syllabus, including many prose passages of Scripture. Their Old Testament history embraced a wide field, and was well answered as regards the summary in use. A number of parables of our Lord were narrated by individual pupils in a most creditable manner. The singing of the school was very good."

Falkirk Herald 11th August 1900

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

Blackbraes Public School was re-opened after the holidays on Tuesday last.

Ambulance Waggon. -

The Polmont and Muiravonside ambulance waggon is now stationed on the grounds of the Blackbraes Co-operative Society, where a building has been erected for it. The waggon arrived on Wednesday last, and is an excellent vehicle, being highly-finished and fitted throughout.

Shepherds' Gala Day. -

On Saturday last the Sons of Freedom Lodge of Ancient Shepherds, Blackbraes, held their demonstration and sports. The brethren, along with representatives from Calderwood Lodge, Avonbridge, and Loyal Reddingmuir Lodge, with their banners, assembled at the lodge-room, Blackbraes Public School, at 2 p.m. After being put into processional order, they marched off, accompanied by Blackbraes Brass Band. After going round the various villages in the district, the procession wended its way to Croscroes football field, where the sports were held, the new banner, presented lately by Bro. Dr Calderwood to Calderwood Lodge, being greatly admired en route. At the field there was a good turnout of spectators, and the various items were carried out without a hitch, the arrangements being in the capable hands of Bro. James Wilson, secretary. Bro. Robert Brown as referee, and Bro. John Meek as handicapper in a satisfactory manner. The juveniles enjoyed themselves to the full in races, while the young men and women tripled the light fantastic toe, the music being admirably supplied by the band, under the able leadership of Mr. Wm. Muirhead, Armadale. The weather was all that could be desired, and the members are to be congratulated for the successful manner in which everything was carried out.

Results: - 220 yards race 1, James Pringle (10 yards); 2, Robert Martin (scratch).

440 yards race - 1, R. Martin (scratch); 2, J. Pringle (10 yards)

300 yards, confined to Shepherds - 1, Robert Forsyth; 2, Alex. Cunningham; 3, James Anderson.

Half-mile race - 1, Jas. M'Lay (60 yards); 2, J. Pringle (scratch); 3, R. Martin (scratch). This proved the best race of the day, Pringle just failing to catch the winner at the tape.

Place kick - John Pow.

5-a-side junior football competition. - First round - Standburn Blue Bell, 4 goals 2 points; Standburn Thistle, 1 goal. Maddiston, 1 goal; Drumbowie, 0. Blackbraes and Shepherds received a bye. Semi-final - Blue Bell, 2 goals; Shepherds, 0. Blackbraes, 1 point; Maddiston, 0. Final - Blue Bell, 2 goals 1 point; Blackbraes, 2 points.

Falkirk Herald 25th August 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE. MUIRAVONSIDE FLOWER SHOW.

The annual exhibition of the Horticultural Society took place in Maddiston School on Saturday last. The Blackbraes Brass Band was in attendance, and the exhibition being favoured by a good day, there was a record attendance of the public. The exhibits, and more especially those of the vegetable section, were of a superior quality. The following gentlemen officiated as judges in the different sections: -Pot plants, window plants, and cut flowers - Messrs James Binnie, Preston, Linlithgow; and Wm. Chapman, Inches, Grangemouth. Fruit and farm produce. - Messrs John M'Cormack, Lochmill, Linlithgow, and Peter Cockburn, Avondale, Polmont. Dairy produce. - Messrs Thomas Chapman, Overhill House, Armadale, and Wm. Duncan, Shieldhill. After the judging was completed, the committee and judges dined together in the Maddiston Inn, where an excellent dinner was purveyed by Miss Galloway. Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse, vice president of the society, presided, and, in proposing the toast of "The Society," referred to its increased membership, and to its prosperity as evidenced by the extent of the competition and the high quality of the exhibits. Mr. J. S. Wilson, secretary, replied, and made special reference to the increase of small

competitors, as he considered that the growth of these was the surest evidence of the true prosperity of the society, and showed that it was really fostering in the district the love of horticulture.

The following is the prize-list: - POT PLANTS. -

Rose in pot - 1, J. Williamson; 2, P. Wardlaw. Hydrangea - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, P. Wardlaw. Fuchsia, light - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, W. Heeps, Smithyhill. Fuchsia, dark - W. Leishman; 2, P. Wardlaw. Geranium, double - 1, W. Heeps, Smithyhill; 2, W. Heeps, Redford. Geranium, single - 1, Thomas Borthwick; 2, W. Leishman. Geranium, variegated - 1, Thomas Borthwick; 2, P. Wardlaw. Heliotrope - 1, Wm. Leishman; 2, P. Wardlaw. Pot liliums - 1, P. Wardlaw. Begonia - 1, W. Heeps, Smithyhill; 2, P. Wardlaw. Petunia - P. Wardlaw. Pot musk - 1, P. Lamont; 2, James McLachlan. Pot fern - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. Williamson. West Indian juniper - 1, J. Williamson; 2, P. Wardlaw. Pot lobelia - 1, Wm. Heeps, Smithyhill; 2, W. Heeps, Redford. Plant, distinct from any above named - 1, W. Heeps, Smithyhill; 2, P. Wardlaw. Two ten week stocks, shown in pots - 1, Thomas Borthwick; 2, James McLachlan. Calceolaria, in pot - 1, Joseph MAulay; 2, Wm. Williamson. Best British fern - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, James M' Lachlan. One geranium, one fuchsia, and one petunia - P. Wardlaw. Table of plants - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. Williamson. Two table plants, foliage - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. Williamson. Best plant in flower - P. Wardlaw. Four pot asters (chrysanthemums) - 1, John Campbell. Beancross; 2, P. Wardlaw.

WINDOW PLANTS. -

Fuchsia, any sort - 1, Thomas Rait; 2, W. Heeps, Redford. Geranium, any sort - 1, Thomas Dixon; 2, W. Heeps, Redford. Rose, in pot - W. Heeps, Redford. Hydrangea - W. Heeps, Redford. Pot musk- James Taylor, Maddiiston. Hanging plant, in pot or basket - 1, Mrs. W. Williamson, Redford; 2, Thomas Dixon. Plant, any sort, grown in a teapot - 1, James Taylor, Maddiiston; 2, W. Heeps, Redford. Best plant in show - P. Wardlaw. Cut Flowers. - Six dahlias, show, three sorts - P. Lamont. Six dahlias, cactus, three sorts - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, W. Leishman. Six asters, quilled - 1, W. Leishman; 2, D. Smart, Polmont. Six asters, other than quilled - 1, W. Leishman; 2, D. Smart. Six African marigolds, three orange and three lemon - , W. Heeps, Redford; 2, P. Wardlaw. Four spikes antirrhinum, sorts - P. Landells. Four spikes pentstemons - , W. Heeps, Smithyhill; 2, P. Landells. Four spikes phlox - 1, P. Landells; 2, P. Lamont. Six French marigolds - 1, W. Leishman; 2, P. Lamont. Twelve fancy pansies, varieties named - 1, A. Taylor; 2, W. Leishman. Six varieties of show pansies - 1, A. Taylor; 2, W. Leishman. Six roses 4 three varieties - , W. Heeps, Bedford; 2, R. Brown. Six carnations, distinct varieties - 1, A. Taylor; 2, R. Brown. Four bunches hardy annuals, variety - 1, P. Landells; 2, P. Lamont. Six carnations or picotees - 1, A. Taylor; 2, R. Brown. One hollyhock spike - 1, Joseph MAulay; 2, R. Boyd. Four spikes herbaceous - 1, J. Williamson; 2, D. Smart. Bouquet of wild flowers, gathered by children under 12 years of age - 1, Maggie Williamson; 2, Willie Williamson; 3, Mary MAulay. Six sprays violas, six blooms in each spray - 1, W. Leishman; 2, P. Wardlaw. Six trusses geraniums, variety - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, W. Heeps, Smithyhill. Twelve pansies, six fancy and six show - 1, W. Leishman; 2, A. Taylor. Bouquet of everlasting flowers - P. Lamont; 2, R. Boyd. Hand bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Lamont; 2, R. Boyd. Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, R. Brown; 2, R. Boyd. Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Lamont; 2, R. Boyd. Bouquet of roses - 1, J. Williamson; 2, J. MAulay; 3, P. Lamont. Bouquet of cut flowers - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, P. Landells. Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, R. Brown; 2, R. Boyd; 3, P. Lamont. Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, R. Brown; 2, R. Boyd. Table bouquet - 1, P. Landells; 2, P. Wardlaw. Three roses, three carnations, three French marigolds, and three fancy pansies - 1, R. Brown; 2, J. MAulay. Hand bouquet - P. Landells. Six sprays dahlias, pompoms, three in each spray - P. Wardlaw. Bouquet of everlasting flowers - P. Lamont. Bouquet of cut flowers, not built on wire - W. Heeps, Smithyhill.

FRUIT -

Twelve gooseberries, flavour - 1, J. Hume; 2, J. Taylor, Best 1/2lb. red currants - 1, J. Williamson; 2, Mrs. W. Williamson. best 1 lb. white currants - , J. Williamson; 2, W. Williamson. Best 1 lb. black currants - 1, J. Williamson; 2, W. Lieishman. Six heaviest gooseberries 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. Hume. Collection of fruit - J. Williamson. Six apples - 1, J. Hume; 2, Hugh Waugh. One 1lb. gooseberry jelly - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. Calder.

VEGETABLES. - Early cabbag - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. M'Laughlan. Red cabbage - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, Thomas Williamson. Savoy - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, Thomas Williamson. Curled green - 1, A. Taylor; 2, P. Wardlaw. Six onions, spring sown.- 1, H. Waugh; 2, R. Boyd. Six eschalots - 1, Thomas Williamson; 2, J. Campbell. Six potato onions - 1, J. MAulay; 2, Thomas Rae. Three parsnips - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. Campbell. Three carrots - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, Thomas Rait. Three beetroots - 1, P. Landells; 2, J. M'Lachlan. Three turnips - 1, J. MAulay; 2, R. Boyd. Three stalks rhubarb, finest - 1, J. Williamson; 2, J. Taylor. Six pods beans - 1, Thomas Rait; 2, W. Heeps. Six pods peas - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, J. Chalmers. One parsley plant, shown in pot 1, J. MAulay; 2, W. Leishman. Four best leeks - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, Thomas Rae. Two cauliflower heads - 1, Thomas Williamson; 2, Wm. Heeps. Six potatoes, any one sort, early - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. McLachlan. Six potatoes, any one sort, late - , J. McLachlan; 2, Thomas Rae. Collection of potatoes, six sorts, three of each - 1, J. Williamson; 2, J. MAulay. Collection of vegetables, six sorts - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, Thos. Rait; 3, W. Williamson. Two heads of celery - 1, W. Heeps; 2, J. Chalmers. One late cabbage - 1, James McLachlan; 2, A. Watt. Four stalks heaviest rhubarb - 1, Thomas Williamson : 2, J. McLachlan. One early cabbage, one cauliflower, and two leeks - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, W. Heeps- Heaviest three eschalots - 1, J. MAulay; 2, Thomas Williamson. Three leeks, three onions and three turnips - 1, Thomas Williamson; 2, P. Wardlaw; 3, J. MAulay. Six lbs. of eschalots - 1, J. Campbell; 2, Thos. Williamson; 3, A. Taylor. Two celery, two parsnips, two beet, and two carrots - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, W. Heeps.

DAIRY PRODUCTS -

One lb. fresh butter - 1, Mrs W. Williamson; 2, J. Meikle; 3, J. Calder. One lb. powdered butter - 1. Mrs W. Williamson; 2, J. Calder; 3, J. Meikle. One dozen hen eggs, best - 1, J. Calder; 2, Miss Mary M'Donald. Best three flour scones - 1, D. Binnie 2. J- Meikle; 3, J. Calder. Best three farrels of oatmeal cakes (meal and water) - 1, D. Binnie; 2, Miss Mary M'Donald: 3. J. Calder. Twelve heaviest hen eggs - Miss Mary M'Donald.

FARM PRODUCE (Confined to Farmers). -

Three Aberdeen green-top yellow turnips - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, G. Shanks; 3, D. Binnie. Two potatoes, two varieties - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, G. Shanks. Best six stalks field beans - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, G. Shanks; 3, John Calder. Best three Swedish turnips - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, D. Binnie; 3, G. Shanks. Six heads of white corn (pickles considered) - George Shanks. Best late cabbage - 1, James McLachlan; 2, G. Shanks. The society's medal for the most successful exhibitor waa gained by Mr. P. Wardlaw, Linlithgowbridge; and the most successful exhibitor in the farmers' section was Mr. James McLachlan, Kendieshill.

Falkirk Herald 1st September 1900

DEATH OF COLONEL STIRLING OF TARDUF.

We regret to record the death of Colonel Stirling of Tarduf, Muiravonside, which took place at Sutherland House, Stirling, on Tuesday. Colonel Stirling, who was 78 years of age, has been in a delicate state of health for some four or five years past, and as the illness from which he suffered practically confined him to the house he was obliged to relinquish most of his public positions. The deceased gentleman belonged to an old, influential, and well-known Stirlingshire family, all the branches of which have taken a keen interest in public and county affairs. He was in his early years a West Indian merchant but many years ago he retired from business, and took up his residence in Muiravonside parish. He purchased the mansion-house and lands of Greeknowes there from the trustees of the proprietrix, the late Miss Wilson of Greenknowes. He changed the name of the estate and mansion-house to Tarduf, and during his occupancy of the house he considerably enlarged it. While he was closely identified with county matters, he took a very deep interest in all that concerned his own neighbourhood, and for a good many years he was the chairman of the Muiravonside School Board and Parochial Board. He was likewise a Justice of the Peace for Stirlingshire

and was one of the County Justices who composed the Falkirk Burgh Confirming Committee. When the Roads and Bridges Act was adopted in 1880, he was appointed the chairman of the Eastern or Falkirk District Roads Committee, and he continued to hold that office till the Local Government Act came into force in 1890. He was elected to the first Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council by one of the divisions of the Muiravonside Parish, and he was subsequently returned to represent his parish at that Board. In all matters coming before it he took a deep and practical interest, and, on account of his local knowledge, his shrewdness and business ability, his opinions always carried with them considerable weight, and there were few members whose remarks were listened to with greater interest either at the monthly meetings in Falkirk, or the statutory meetings in Stirling. His illness necessitated his retirement from the County Council, much to the regret of his constituents and the gentlemen with whom he had been associated on that Board. The deceased was also a member of the Standing Joint Committee and the Commissioners of Supply for the County. For many years he was chairman of the Stirling District Lunacy Board. In the affairs of that institution he manifested a lively interest, and he had much to do with the many improvements and building enlargements which were a number of years ago carried through there, and which have resulted in the asylum ranking amongst the best equipped of the kind in the country. He remained a member of the Lunacy Board until his death. Colonel Stirling manifested a warm interest in the volunteer movement, and rose to the rank of Colonel in one of the Glasgow regiments. The deceased gentleman was, on account of his affable, genial and kindly disposition, held in high esteem by all sections of the community. By the people of Maddiston and surrounding district, with whom he came more closely into contact he was greatly beloved, and the intelligence of his death will be received with general regret. Colonel Stirling is survived by a widow and grown up family of three sons and four daughters, for whom much sympathy is expressed. One of the sons, Captain William Stirling, is presently in India, another, Lieutenant Stirling, has been called to China, and the third is a chartered accountant in London. The funeral will take place from Stirling to Muiravonside churchyard to-day.

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CHEAP COAL-
at Hunter's Depot, Maddiston Siding, Shieldhill,
GRAND SOFT HOUSEHOLD COAL,
17s 6d per Ton.
Carted and put in Coal Cellars, Cheap. -
Hunter, Maddiston

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MUIRAVONSIDE. PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston Infant School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wilson, chairman, presided, and the other members present were Messrs J. Bryce, J. Bell Bryce, D. Binnie, Myles, and Haldane.

TEACHING AMBULANCE WORK AT EVENING CLASSES.

A letter was read from Mr. Robert Smart, secretary of the ambulance classes in Shieldhill, stating that at a meeting of the Polmont and Muiravonside Ambulance Association the question of holding an ambulance class during the coming winter had been brought up, but that it had been decided to take no action in the matter till the secretary had communicated with the School Board to see if they would take up the classes or not, as the association, understood the ambulance teaching could be carried on alongside other subjects in the evening school, and the grant obtained for that as a special subject. The association would, it was stated, co-operate with the Board if they decided to take the matter up. The Clerk said he had looked into the matter, and in the subjects mentioned in the evening school curriculum ambulance classes were not especially included. The only approach was the physiology classes, and if it was to be on ambulance class proper they would require to get the sanction of the Department. The difficulty which he saw in the way, however, was that if these ambulance classes were under the management of an association the St John's or the St Andrew's - and if the classes were to be taught at the Board's evening schools, he did not, think the Department would sanction them unless they were absolutely under their control. They could see if the classes were commenced, they would be under the control of the ambulance association and the Department, as well as the Board, and it was very doubtful if that would work well. If the classes were taught they would of course get the grant of 1d per additional hour. Mr. J. Bell Bryce said he had mentioned the matter to Mr. Mackay, of Drumbowie School, and he was under the impression that unless the classes were under the control of the Board in the first place, the Department would have nothing to do with them. Mr. Myles - In the first place, we will require the approval of the Department to guide us. The Clerk - That is so. Mr. Myles - In the second place, the association would likely be inclined to appoint their own teacher, and not go the length of allowing the Board to make the appointment. Would it not hamper considerably the other ordinary work of the evening classes to have ambulance work taught the same evening? Mr. Bell Bryce - No; Mr. Mackay thought that could be got over. The greatest objection is the matter of the association, which the clerk spoke of. Mr. D. Binnie - They cannot be both under the Department and under the association. There will be a good deal of difficulty in the way. Mr. Mackay, the headmaster of the Drumbowie School, who was present, said he thought these classes would be a success in connection with the evening school, but there were two ways of looking at it. First of all, would the Department consent to any other control than their own? It was the intention of the Ambulance Association to place the classes under the St Andrew's Association for the purpose of gaining the certificates and medallions, which was a very important item. Then there might be another management come in with the committee of the district association, and he thought, under the circumstances, it would be as well to get the decision of the Department and their recognition of those powers before deciding to teach it to the evening classes. If taught to the evening classes, it would have a separate grant. There were two grants given for evening schools, the fixed and the variable grants. This ambulance class would come under the fixed grant of 1d per hour per head. Another matter was that the Department were very stringent with regard to all monies that were collected with classes in connection with the evening schools passing through the hands of the treasurer. The Ambulance Association demanded a fee for the loan of plant and the sending out of an examiner for examining for the certificates and medallions, and that would probably have to come through the clerk too. The Chairman - All that the association demands is half a crown each. Mr. MacKay - Yes; but that half-crown would need to figure in your books. The Chairman - We could pay that. Mr. Mackay (continuing) pointed out that the Department inspector and the one sent by the St Andrew's Ambulance Association were different gentlemen, and he thought the Department might be written to and the inspector asked to act harmoniously with the inspector of the association for the carrying on of the work. Mr. J. Bryce Bell - That is certainly the best way. The Clerk - I might communicate with the secretary of these classes, and get from the secretary what association he means to come under and what control they would have, and after I have got that information I will communicate with the Department. The Chairman - think the principal thing is to communicate with the Department, and see what they will do. It is not so much the payment. Mr. Mackay - But you must account for these half-crowns in the evening school accounts. The clerk's suggestion was agreed to.

ATTENDANCE REPORT.

The following was the attendance report: -

	On Roll.	Av. Att.
Drumbowie School	486	407
Blackbraes School	400	328
Muiravonside School	183	147
Maddiston School	91	77.3
Avonbridge School	93	74

OFFICERS RESIGNATION.

The Clerk intimated receipt of a letter, dated 17th August, from the officer, resigning his duties and thanking the Board for their kindness. It was agreed to advertise for a successor at a salary of £25. APPLICATION FOR USE OF SCHOOL.

It was agreed to give the use of a room in Muiravonside, and Maddiston Schools to the Rev. Mr. Bain on one night each week, for the purpose of holding a meeting for young people.

EVENING SCHOOL AT MADDISTON.

On the motion of Mr. Myles, seconded by Mr. Haldane, it was unanimously agreed that an evening school for young men and young women should be opened in the Maddiston School, and that Mr. Wilson and Miss Baxter be asked to take charge.

STAFFING OF THE EVENING SCHOOLS.

The staffing of the evening schools was under consideration, but it was ultimately agreed that in the meantime the school committees should confer with the respective headmasters, and thereafter report to the Board at their special meeting to be held on 7th prox. This was all the business of importance

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CHURCH SCANDAL AT STANDBURN.

MISSIONARY DISMISSED AVONBRIDGE MINISTER AND SESSION STONED.

On Sunday evening a most extraordinary scene took place in the United Presbyterian Mission, Church at Standburn. It was the culmination of a dispute that appears to have been going on for some time between the missionary in charge of the Mission Church at Standburn and the session of Avonbridge U.P. Church, which has superintendence of the Mission Church referred to - In regard to the grounds of the dispute there are at present various and conflicting statements, and it is difficult to obtain a clear understanding on the subject. One cause of friction however, appears to have relation certain monies that the missionary is stated to have collected. On the one hand, the method of collection is seemingly disapproved of, and on the other, the method of accounting for the money by the Session - to whom it is said to have been handed over - is called in question. But whatever be the differences, matters seem to have reached a climax on Sunday evening it appears that on Saturday morning last Mr. Snaddon, the missionary in charge of the United Presbyterian Station at Avonbridge, who is under a notice of dismissal, received a letter from Mr. Archibald Binnie, Session-Clerk of the Avonbridge U.P. Church, to which the Standburn Mission is attached, that the Rev. James B.G. Rouse, minister of Avonbridge U.P. Church would conduct the service in the Standburn Mission on Sabbath evening, and make a statement to the congregation. Mr. Snaddon replied that Mr. Rouse could not preach that evening, as he had advertised himself to conduct the evening service. Subsequently a letter was handed to Mr. Snaddon from Mr. Rouse stating that the former could conduct the service, since he had announced that he would do so, but that he would be present himself and make a statement to the congregation at the close. Mr. Snaddon had advertised that he would make known to the congregation at the Sabbath evening service the Avonbridge Session's accusations against him and his reply thereto. When the Rev. Mr. Rouse and the Session of the Avonbridge Church arrived at the Standburn Mission on Sabbath evening, they forbade him to do so, and Mr. Snaddon is alleged to have been told - though, as will be seen, this is denied - that if he persisted in making his statement a policeman would be called in to eject him from the church. Mr. Rouse and his session having entered the Mission Church from the vestry Mr. Snaddon proceeded to preach his sermon, the subject of which was "Tattlers and busybodies in other men's matters; or mind your own business." The congregation filled the building to its utmost capacity, and the sermon was made appropriate to the occasion. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Snaddon said he refrained from giving the Avonbridge Session's accusations against him and his defence, as he was advertised to do, giving for his reason for this that he was "gagged" by the Session, and that he had been told that if he persisted in making his statement a policeman would be brought into the Church and he would be ejected. At this stage there was considerable manifestation of feeling in the church - Evidences of strong indignation against the Session for their action were visible. An endeavour was made Mr. Rouse to deny that Mr. Snaddon had been told that if he persisted in making his statement he would be ejected by a policeman. Mr. Snaddon then called on Mr. Meek, leader of praise, who said that the statement was correct, as it was made in the Session-house in his presence, and a woman in the congregation stated that she had heard the statement made. To these statements Mr. Rouse at this point made no reply. Thereafter the greater part of congregation left the church, presumably as a protest against what was regarded as the one minded conduct of the Session. Rev. Mr. Rouse then entered the pulpit, which was still occupied by Mr. Snaddon, and said that the reason why Mr. Snaddon was not to have the liberty to make known his defence was that the matter in dispute had not been decided by the final Court of the Church - namely, by the Presbytery. Continuing, Mr. Rouse said that the reason why the Session wished to make a statement was because some one had told them in Avonbridge that Mr. Snaddon made a statement on the Sabbath previous that, money that he had received from friends was appropriated by the Session. Mr. Alex. Kerr, a member of the Standburn Mission Church rose and said that the statement Rouse had made was not a correct one, and Mr. Rouse then remarked that there was no charge made against any one. Mr. Kerr reported that he could not get out of the matter in that way because Mr. Snaddon made a statement; someone carried that statement; and the statement that was carried was untrue. Mr. Snaddon said that the money he had received from friends was handed over to the Session, and it had not passed through the books of the Standburn Mission. Mr. Rouse then proceeded to read a letter from the Rev. John Young, M.A., secretary of the Home Mission Board, which stated that the Board had received a letter from someone announcing that Mr. Snaddon had been soliciting money for the poor of Standburn in the name of the Standburn U.P. Church. The letter also stated that until the matter was put right the grant by the Home Board to the Standburn Mission would be withheld. The letter that Mr. Snaddon had written soliciting money for the poor of Standburn was then read to the congregation, together with a letter of apology from Mr. Snaddon to the parties from whom he had solicited the money. The first letter was written two years ago. Mr. Snaddon insisted on writing a letter of apology to the parties whom he had solicited money, but the Rev. Mr. Young said that was unnecessary, as he would see the parties, and would allow the matter to drop. After the letters were read, the Rev. Mr. Rouse said they made no accusation against Mr. Snaddon. They refrained from doing so, and had no intention of injuring him. A member of the congregation here rose and said that the letter Mr. Snaddon had written soliciting money was a true and Christian letter, and remarked that it was rather strange forgiveness to forgive a man two years ago, and bring this matter up now. Mr. Rouse remarked that if any member of the Mission felt aggrieved, they could bring the matter before the presbytery. Mr. Forbes here asked Mr. Rouse if there were any women in the Session. Mr. Rouse replied that Mr. Forbes knew quite well that there was no such thing as a woman in the Kirk-Session. The reason for this question being asked was stated to be that a woman came about the village who seemed to know a good deal of the Avonbridge Session's business, and who could make it known before anyone else knew anything about it. Mr. Kerr remarked that it was rather a strange way to go about business - first to forgive a man and then say they were bringing no accusation against him, and they were not wanting to injure him, while at the same time all that could be done had been done to injure him - they had "sacked" him. Anyone who knew the position that Mr. Snaddon filled knew that that practically damned a man in his profession. The fact of the Avonbridge Session professing not to injure him, and at the same time injuring him all they could, gave their case no logical basis. It had nothing upon which to stand. Continuing, Mr. Kerr remarked that if a man in a public position, with a Board to govern him, was dismissed by that Board, the public would demand to know the reason why. The Session of Avonbridge had failed to give any reason for dismissing Mr. Snaddon, and consequently their action was wrong. Because it was a Session, they thought they had the liberty of doing what they considered right without giving a reason to the public or to the

people of Standburn why they were dismissing Mr. Snaddon. If they gave them a reason, they would know exactly how to act, and would know exactly the relation in which they stood to Mr. Snaddon. This was what he (Mr. Kerr) considered square conduct. As the Session had not acted in that way, their conduct was not square. Rev. Mr. Rouse again rose and said there was plenty of time to bring the matter before the Presbytery. Mr. Kerr, however, said that there was not much time, as Mr. Snaddon, when he came to the place, was engaged from three months to three months, and when they dismissed they only gave him six weeks' notice. Those who knew anything of Session business knew there was practically no time to appeal to the Presbytery. Rev. Mr. Rouse protested against this, and said there was plenty of time. The meeting then broke up. The people who had left the church were round about the church, along with a great number of children. The latter made an unseemly demonstration. Unfortunately, an Avonbridge woman struck some of the children with an umbrella. This enraged them, and they then began to throw stones. Rev. Mr. Rouse and his Session and some members of the Avonbridge congregation were followed on the way home by children, and stone-throwing was indulged in. Mr. Harris stationmaster, Avonbridge, was struck on the head and badly cut with a stone, while the Rev. Mr. Rouse had his hat damaged with stones. The action of the Avonbridge Session in dismissing Mr. Snaddon has evidently given rise to great dissatisfaction among the people of Standburn. Two petitions have been drawn up, and signed by 417 persons, and forwarded to the Avonbridge Session, requesting them to rescind their resolution with reference to the dismissal of Mr. Snaddon, and to allow the Mission to appoint a committee to manage its own affairs, but this request has not been complied with. On the 7th September, Mr. Archibald Binnie, Session-Clerk, wrote as follows to Mr. Kerr, who forwarded the petitions: - "Dear Sir, - I am instructed by the Session to say that the petition along with your letter, were received, and the Session unanimously agreed to abide by the decision." The Standburn congregation, it may be said, repudiate all blame for what has occurred on Sunday, as they say they were not responsible for the conduct of the Session in coming forward to make their statement without giving the other side an opportunity of being heard.

THE AVONBRIDGE SESSION'S VIEW OF THE CASE.

Our representative has called on a member of the Session of Avonbridge U.P. Church, and he stated that the Session's view of the case is as follows: - It was brought to the notice of the Session by several members that Mr. Snaddon had, at an evening service held in the Standburn Mission on Sunday, 2nd September, made reference to certain money he had received from friends, and that that money did not appear in the Mission treasurer's balance-sheet. In consequence of this public reference to the money, the moderator and the Session were being charged publicly with appropriating it, and also of hindering the work of the Mission generally in Standburn. Considering the serious nature of these matters, and that immediate action was deemed necessary to publicly refute those false accusations made against the Session, a full statement was drawn out regarding this money and of the Session's actions with regard to the proposed savings bank, lighting of the Mission by electric light, and the mode of taking collections at the Mission. The statement was appointed to be made by the moderator, along with the Session's findings with regard to the petitions already referred to, at the evening service on Sabbath, 9th September, 1900. It was brought to the knowledge of the Session on Sabbath morning that a handbill had been circulated by Mr. Snaddon announcing his services, and that on the handbill there was printed the following: - The U.P. Church, Avonbridge, Session's accusations, as made by themselves, and Mr. Snaddon's defence as delivered at the Session meeting on Tuesday last, will be made public, at the request of the people, at the close of the evening service. Result of petition, etc., will be given by Mr. Alex. Kerr." It was agreed by the Session to meet quietly with Mr. Snaddon before the service and to protest against this being done by him, and to state that if he protested against the findings of the Session relative to the charge of contumacy, he ought to complain to the Presbytery through the Session, and that neither his written defence, as read before the Session, nor a copy of it had been given to the Session. Mr. Snaddon protested, and said he would go on, and carry through his programme as advertised. The Moderator of Session said that if he did so it was on his own responsibility. It had been publicly stated in Standburn that a threat was made that a policeman would be called in to eject Mr. Snaddon if he persisted in making his statement. As no such threat was made, the statement was utterly untrue. When Mr. Snaddon at the evening service stated that he was "gagged," the Rev. James B. G. Rouse stated the reasons he had given to Mr. Snaddon in private why his defence should not be read. No statement whatever would have been made with regard to the "begging" letters written by Mr. Snaddon had it not been for the fact that, at the close of the service held on the Sabbath previous, he referred to the fact that he had received this money from friends for the deserving poor. It seemed to the Session that it was a matter for regret that the public statement with regard to the money should have had to be made; but this was the only way left to refute the accusation that the Session had appropriated the money which he had received from friends. The Session denied absolutely that there was anything harsh in their treatment of Mr. Snaddon in connection with his dismissal. They seriously considered the petitions by the people of Standburn, and found that they could not act otherwise than they had done. The Session had no desire to thwart the wishes of the Standburn people, nor to do injury to any one, but simply to state what they had done. The Moderator of the Session stated at the Standburn service on Sunday evening that if the decision of the Session was unsatisfactory to the petitioners who were members of the church, then they could apply to the Presbytery through the Session, and get the Presbytery's decision. The statement made by Mr. Rouse had no reference whatever to the supposed accusations regarding which Mr. Snaddon's defence was made, and no injustice was done to him by the Session in then protesting against his reading his defence with regard to that particular matter. They regretted that it was not possible to grant their petition that Mr. Snaddon be retained. There were other matters which the Session were debarred from referring to till the matter was brought before the Presbytery.

THE PETITIONS TO THE SESSION.

Petitions, as has been stated, have been forwarded to the Avonbridge Session by the congregation of the Standburn Mission, and also by sympathisers, and which petitions, as has also been stated, were signed by 417 persons. The following is the petition by sympathisers: - "To the moderator and members of Session of Avonbridge U.P. Church. - We, the undersigned, deeply sympathise with the people of Standburn in their efforts to retain Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon as their missionary, as we do not see why the Session should dismiss him so long as the people are satisfied with him. His work amongst them has been very successful, and in consequence being very much loved and respected by them for that work. When we consider the amount of money and energy spent by the U.P. Church in Standburn, it is our duty to act so as to influence the Session against rashly sacrificing such an important and promising sphere of work in connection with the above church, which the Session will do if they carry out their decision." The petition of the congregation is as follows: - "To the moderator and members of Session of Avonbridge U.P. Church. - Gentlemen, - We, the undersigned, members and adherents of Standburn U.P. Mission Church and people of Standburn, respectfully and earnestly ask the Session to rescind their decision of the 14th inst. regarding the dismissal of Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon from being missionary of the U.P. Mission Church, Standburn. "As we have no desire to secede from the Avonbridge Church, unless the Session persist in effecting the removal of Mr. Snaddon from being missionary; if the Session do carry out their decision as intimated, it is just as certain as night follows day that there will be secession, for we are determined that Mr. Snaddon will not leave Standburn in the manner indicated. We love and respect Mr. Snaddon for the work he has done amongst us, for the good we have received from him, and the great blessing he has been to our children, and consequently we desire no change. If there had been any friction between Mr. Snaddon and his people, then there might have been room for a change; but no such thing exists - nothing but the best of good feeling is in existence between Mr. Snaddon and his people. If there had been a committee of management, no such friction could have arisen as

has been in existence for some time between Mr. Snaddon and the Session, and no such action as the present necessary. Therefore, a committee of management and the withdrawal of the Session's decision is what we respectfully and sincerely ask of the Session now: and unless the Session wish to see the work of years rendered nil so far as the U.P. Church is concerned, then the Session will act in the true spirit of Christ and withdraw their decision, and grant us a committee of management, and so bring peace and goodwill between the two places."

PUBLIC MEETING IN STANDBURN LAST NIGHT.

Last night a public meeting of the inhabitants of Standburn was held in a field to the south of the village in connection with the dispute. There was an attendance of about 800, including several hundred children. Mr. Snaddon opened the proceedings with prayer, and thereafter made a statement of what he termed the facts of the case, and which statement was much on the lines of that given in the first portion of our article on the dispute. He wanted, he said, the people of Standburn and the, whole of Scotland to know that Standburn was not to blame for the unseemly conduct and disgraceful scene which was enacted in the Standburn Church last Sabbath He had sent the Rev. Mr. Rouse one of the hand-bills calling the meeting and also a letter asking him to be present that night. If he was present he would give him an opportunity of defending himself. (Applause.) The object of the meeting was to show tha Standburn was in the right, and that their cause was a just cause. It was a fact that since he came to labour amongst them he had met with nothing but hostility and discouragement from the session of Avonbridge. He explained that the letter he had written to gentlemen asking for subscriptions had been written in order to get help for those in the village who needed help. He would not have risked all this adverse criticism if his motive had been otherwise. Some people said that this was the cause of his dismissal, but he was as ignorant of the cause of his dismissal as the ground under his feet. The Avonbridge Session would not come forward and say what the cause was. Those letters soliciting subscriptions which had been read were old letters, and had nothing to do with the present crisis. That being so they ought not to have been read at this juncture, and if they were read, they should have been explained. The people of Standburn had seen through those tricks, and instead of the hearts of the people having been turned from him the reverse had been the case. (Applause.) On Sabbath night there was something said about a saving bank. When he came there first, he thought it a good thing that there should be a savings bank in the village, and he had collected money and converted it into bank-books, etc. The bank would have gone on had he not been asked to stop by the session. They said he consented, but he did so as a matter of policy - he had to consent. Mr. Alex Kerr afterwards spoke at great length, his subject being, "The Sabbath School trip scandal and how Standburn teachers and children were treated." He prefaced his by saying that the treatment which Mr. Snaddon was receiving from the Avonbridge Session was more than he himself was able to endure and he had to tell him and several others of the whole affair. The session must say why Mr. Snaddon had been dismissed, because if they did not, all sorts of rumours would get afloat. Mr. Kerr proceeded to make some amusing references to the session's method of dealing with the Standburn Sabbath School in regard to the joint annual excursion with Avonbridge children. On one occasion, when the destination was Linlithgow, one of the session had told him (Mr. Kerr) that the Standburn School would have to bear the expense of driving their children to Bowhouse Station, and that the session would allow them to drive them. (Laughter.) The session allowed them to do what they had to pay for. Mr. Snaddon received three letters with regard to the price of the tickets, and as one letter stated one price, and one another, and as no definite instructions as to the price were given in the last letter, and as it was known that in one letter a higher price was fixed for the Standburn children than the Avonbridge children were asked to pay, Mr. Snaddon simply put the letter in a shop window in the village, with a note at the end of it. For that he was called before the session, and an effort was made to show that there was more in the note than was actually in it. The Avonbridge Session seemed to be exceedingly fond of gossip, as they were prepared to take statements without finding out whether they were true or false. A great deal had been said of the letter Mr. Snaddon had written asking for subscriptions and the damaging statements said to be in that letter were that he had said that Standburn was a drunken place, and that its children were dirty and ragged. That language was, however, only figurative, and it would be absurd to say that Mr. Snaddon meant it to apply to every one in the village. The place where he (Mr. Kerr) came from had a population of 9000, and it was said to be a "very wild place," but no one took from that that every one in the place was wild. The first Sabbath morning he spent in Standburn there was a row in the place, and people were drinking on the kerb stones and in the closes. Mr. Snaddon had been doing a good work in the village, and they would all admit that the Standburn of to-day was a very different place compared with the Standburn of two years ago. It had been said in Avonbridge that there was not an ounce of character in Standburn. This meeting would show that there was both character and brains in Standburn. The Avonbridge Session had been guilty of a dirty trick in dismissing Mr. Snaddon while he was away spending the three weeks' holidays they had given him. (Applause.) Mr. Snaddon would be done with his work in the Standburn Mission on the 30th September, but he believed there were hearts in the breasts of the people. They did not like to see any man victimised or tyrannised over, as Mr. Snaddon had been, and they were prepared to rally round him and support him both pecuniarily and in every other way. (Cheers.) They were determined to keep him in the place, the session of Avonbridge notwithstanding. (Cheers.) The population of the Standburn district, with one church, was 1400, while Avonbridge had two Churches to a population of 750. Mr. Kerr concluded by proposing the following resolution: - "We, the people of Standburn, severely censure the Rev. James B. G. Rouse and the Avonbridge Session for the part they played in the unseemly demonstration in the Standburn U.P. Mission Church on 9th September, they being responsible for all that took place, as nothing of an unseemly nature would have taken place had they not forced their side, of the case without giving Mr. Snaddon the liberty of defence." The resolution was carried with acclamation. Votes of thanks were accorded, on the motion of Mr. Meek. Mr. Snaddon was carried shoulder-high from the field.

Falkirk Herald 15th September 1900

STANDBURN CHURCH DISPUTE.

Church disputes have been pretty frequent in this district in recent years, and it would appear that there is not yet an end of them. A dispute of the kind, and accompanied with all the excitement and bitter feeling that in such cases is usually displayed, is at present going on at Standburn. It is difficult at the present stage to obtain anything like a clear knowledge of the causes of disagreement. So far as appears they are various, and to judge from statements that have been made by parties interested, some of them seem to be of rather remote date. One thing that appears pretty plain is that the gentleman in charge of the U.P. Mission Station at Standburn and the Session of Avonbridge Church have not been pulling well together, and there has been a rupture between them. As a consequence the Session, who exercise jurisdiction over the Mission Church, have dismissed Mr. Snaddon, the missionary, from his charge. Their right to do this is not questioned, but all the same their action has given great offence in Standburn and neighbourhood, where the belief evidently prevails that Mr. Snaddon has not been well used. Matters reached a climax last Sunday evening when the minister and Session of Avonbridge Church put in an appearance at the evening service in the Mission Church at Standburn. A good deal of wrangling took place in the church, and the proceedings there were followed by what is described as "unseemly demonstrations" in the open air. A considerable crowd of people had gathered outside the church, and when the minister and Session of the Avonbridge Church left the building they appear to have had a pretty warm reception, and on their way home were followed by the juvenile portion of the community and pelted with stones. A largely attended meeting of Mr. Snaddon's sympathisers and supporters was held at Standburn last night, when the action of the Session came in for pretty severe criticism. What is likely to be the outcome of matters cannot as yet be said, but at present there unhappily does not appear to be much chance of differences being amicably adjusted

Falkirk Herald 22nd September 1900**AVONBRIDGE AND STANDBURN.
ALLEGED STABBING AFFRAY.-**

John O'Hare, miner, Standburn, emitted a declaration before the Sheriff on Tuesday, and was committed to prison on a charge of stabbing his brother in a house at Standburn on Monday night. It is stated that the two brothers had a violent quarrel on Saturday evening, and on Monday night, on meeting in this house, they resumed the dispute. A struggle ensued, in which both fell, John being undermost, when, it is alleged, he took out a pocket knife and stabbed his brother in three places -the neck, the side, and the back.

Falkirk Herald 22nd September 1900**THE STANDBURN CHURCH SCANDAL.
NEW CHURCH TO BE FORMED.**

The services in Standburn were conducted as usual last Sabbath day, Mr. Snaddon preaching in the forenoon, and Mr. Kerr preaching in the evening. The attendances were fairly large, and nothing of an unseemly nature took place. Mr. Kerr, at the close of the evening service, drew the attention of the congregation to certain statements made in the press by a member of the Avonbridge Session. He said those statements would be cleared up in the "Falkirk Herald" on Saturday first. The crisis is agitating the minds of the people in Standburn, Avonbridge, and district. It is the one theme of conversation, and it is stated that the minds of the people in Standburn are made up to act in an independent way, and form a church of their own, calling Mr. Snaddon as their pastor. They consider they are quite able to support a church of their own, and they are stated to be now busy making things ready, so as they will be ready to start the new congregation as soon as Mr. Snaddon is free from the Avonbridge Session. What is done, however, will, it is believed, depend upon the action of the Presbytery.

A Standburn correspondent sends us what he terms "a correction of the Avonbridge Session's statement, "as it appeared in last Saturday's" Herald." The communication is as follows: - A statement appeared in last Saturday's "Falkirk Herald," giving the Avonbridge U.P. Church Session side of the dispute in question, in which several statements are made which are inaccurate. The first is in connection with the statement going to Avonbridge that the session was reported to have appropriated the money that Mr. Snaddon had received from friends.

This report should not have been accepted by the Avonbridge Session until they ascertained whether the statement was true or false. This statement was contradicted at a meeting held in Standburn on the 9th September by Mr. Alex. Kerr, he stating that the statement was untrue, as no statement of that nature was ever made in Standburn by Mr. Snaddon, he only saying that the money he received from friends and handed over to Mr. Rouse had not passed through the treasurer's books in Standburn. The reason why Mr. Snaddon ever made any reference to the money at all was that some interested person or persons were going to Mr. Snaddon's friends in Standburn and district, privately, and saying Mr. Snaddon was unable to give a clear account of the money he had received. Therefore he was bound to make the remarks he did make in connection with this matter. It may be further stated that the impression left upon the minds of those friends was that this money matter was the reason of Mr. Snaddon's dismissal, whereas this took place nearly two years ago, and was then satisfactorily settled. Consequently it has no bearing on the present crisis. The next point in that statement given to the press by the session was in connection with the charge of contumacy made against Mr. Snaddon. This charge was made against Mr. Snaddon as a church member, and not as a servant. Mr Snaddon was going to make his defence to the people. This he was prevented from doing by the authority of the session, in the presence of Mr. Meek. This defence would have cleared up matters considerably had it been allowed to be given, and would have proved the illogical position taken up by the session in relation to that charge. This charge of contumacy arose out, of the Sabbath School trip. In the arrangement of this trip several communications passed in relation to price of tickets for children and adults, two from Mr. Binnie, and one from Mr. Harris, stationmaster. Two of these, the first and the last, were direct orders to charge 4d for children and 6d for adults. In the other communication, no order was given, therefore could not be acted upon. Consequently no blame could be attached to the teachers of Standburn or superintendent for the one penny difference in charge. We consider the whole arrangements were bungled and one-sided, and therefore we court the fullest investigation in this matter. The next point is the denial of the statement made by Mr. Rouse, as the exponent of the session, that if Mr. Snaddon persisted in making his defence he would be ejected by the police. Mr. Meek, leader of praise, is willing to state on oath that, the moderator did make that statement: Mr. Snaddon is also willing to do the same. Over and above this, a woman in the congregation said she heard him. This, we think, ought to be conclusive in this matter, as it was conclusive to those who that night were looking on. The session deny that their treatment is harsh. If their treatment is not harsh, then what is it? The people of Standburn are thoroughly satisfied with Mr. Snaddon. He is getting on splendidly among them, never any friction having arisen between them and him. That being the case, what kind of treatment, would they call this? The people of Standburn look upon the treatment not only as harsh, but thoroughly unfair. No more harm can be done to Mr. Snaddon than has been done by the Avonbridge Session. Further, the session regretted not being able to grant the people's petition to retain Mr. Snaddon and give them a committee of management. The people do not see why there should be any regret in this matter, because if they had power to dismiss, they have also power to grant the people's petition, and the people ought to be the best judges of the case. Mr. Snaddon has been spending the last three years among them, and they, having got to know him, have absolute confidence in him as a man who is thoroughly adapted for the people of the place. This is proved by the interest, manifested by the people of Standburn in turning out in such large numbers to last Friday night's meeting."

Falkirk Herald 26th September 1900**THE U.P. PRESBYTERY AND THE STANDBURNCHURCH DISPUTE. -**

A *pro re nata* meeting of the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery was held in Falkirk yesterday to consider the dispute which has arisen between the Session of Avonbridge Church and the missionary and congregation of the Standburn Mission Church. The proceedings were in private. We understand it was resolved to appoint a committee to go into the whole matter, and report to a future meeting.

Falkirk Herald 26th September 1900**CASUAL COMMENTS.**

By "ARGUS."

It is not often that there is any hesitancy shown in the acceptance of a sum of £2000. The Muiravonside heritors, however, to whom, in conjunction with the Kirk-session, that sum was bequeathed by the late Mr. J. G. Urquhart of Vellore for a new church, together with two acres of ground for a burying - ground, do not seem to be superlatively grateful. Indeed, at a meeting held to consider the matter, the disposition of the majority appeared to be to allow the Kirk-session alone to take charge of the bequest, and carry it out in terms of the testator's desire. Ultimately, however, a committee was appointed to meet with the Kirk session on the question, and to take the opinion of counsel if necessary.

The Standburn Church dispute is still agitating the people of the district, and it is stated that the minds of the people in Standburn are made up to act in an independent way, and form a church of their own in place of the mission station as at present. "Behold how good a thing it is, and how becoming well" -----

Falkirk Herald 29th August 1900**SANITATION IN EAST STIRLINGSHIRE.**

ANNUAL REPORT BY MR DENHOLM, SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR NORTHERN DIVISION.

The ninth annual report by Mr. Charles Denholm, sanitary inspector of the Northern Division of the Eastern District of Stirlingshire has just been issued. At the outset Mr. Denholm refers to the division of the eastern district by the appointment of a duly qualified inspector over the parishes of Slamannan, Muiravonside, Polmont, and part of Falkirk parish. In consequence of that arrangement it would be understood that any reference he might in his report make to that part of the district was entirely applicable to the first four months of the year. Dealing with the water supply, the report goes on to state that, as in past years, the want of a domestic water supply for the southern division had been the outstanding difficulty. The only cheering feature in the question was the growing desire on the part of the inhabitants of that part of the district to have a proper water supply. For years back the constant opposition that was offered when anything was said with regard to a public water supply had now almost entirely vanished, and the anxiety now was at all costs to get water as quickly as possible. Indeed, when he looked over his past eight years' experience with regard to the question, it seemed hard to believe that such a change could take place with regard to a subject upon which so much domestic happiness depended, and now that they were within reasonable prospect of commanding a thoroughly practical solution of the difficulty, he might be excused for taking a look back over what had been attempted. Continuing, Mr. Denholm refers to the various reports and schemes which have been submitted to the Council for consideration, and also touched upon the repeated collection of water samples. It was, however, to be hoped that with all their past experience they would be benefitted, and that now no time would be wasted in pushing forward the proposed scheme, as there was a possibility of even the limited and unsatisfactory water supply in parts of the district failing even in their present condition. What, for instance, would be the condition of the villages of Maddiston and Rumford if these "levels" were to be destroyed by the mining operations presently being carried on. The water supply in the village of Laurieston had been thoroughly established, and was gladly being taken advantage of by the inhabitants. There was, however, one section of the North Back Row unprovided for, as the water pipes had not been laid. He had repeatedly asked that that pipe be laid, as both the proprietors and tenants were willing to take advantage of the water and pay for it, but it seemed as if the matter was to be put off as long as possible, and the Falkirk and Larbert Water Trust did not seem inclined to do anything to increase the number of ratepayers in the village, although the water was being made use of. With regard to the water supply in the parishes of Bothkennar and Airth, there were still a number of farm steadings in the district entirely without a supply, and also without the possibility of securing such from any other source than from the Falkirk and Larbert Water Trust. Indeed, as a whole, but particularly with regard to the extreme points in that part of the district already supplied, the supply has been very unsatisfactory, the water frequently being entirely cut off, so that serious complaints have met me from time to time regarding it. Dealing next with the drainage, the report goes on to state that, in the southern section of the district, systematic drainage had to be delayed on account of the want of a proper supply of water. It was very unfortunate that that was so, as there was no doubt that, had the separate small drainage schemes, which were carefully prepared in connection with the Slamannan district, and laid before the committee, been carried out, even with the want of a gravitation water supply, the district would have had a much improved appearance to what it had at the present day. Then, by large addition to the dwelling-house accommodation, the village of Standburn had outgrown its drainage arrangements, and must shortly be taken up as an urgent case for systematic drainage disposal. The district of Brightons and Polmont was, however, the part requiring immediate attention, and, to his mind, ought not to be any longer delayed. The great increase in new dwellings was daily intensifying the danger arising from the discharge of refuse water upon the surface of the ground without any means of its being carried away to a proper outfall. He was strongly of opinion that what had been done in connection with the drainage of that part of the district had only resulted in creating unnecessary difficulties, and that a practical solution of the question was perfectly simple. During the year another step towards the completion of the drainage of the village of Laurieston had been carried out, a nine-inch sewer having been laid along the South Back Row and a part of George Street. There were still two small sections of the village which required to be provided with a proper sewer, and this was likely to be carried out in a short time. He was very glad to say that in connection with the drainage of the village of Laurieston an increasing number of proprietors were taking advantage of the main sewers, and having their properties properly drained. He was doing all that he could to persuade the people to adopt that process as the only satisfactory way of making sanitary improvements upon their property. Since the formation of a water district at Bonnybridge, and the introduction of the Falkirk and Larbert water, the necessity for proper drainage was evident in a few places. There was, however, no clamant necessity so far for a drainage scheme, but as it would be impossible for the inhabitants to get the full benefit of the adequate supply of water now at hand until a proper drainage scheme be carried out, it would be advisable that as soon as possible that question should receive the attention of the local committee. During the past year considerable trouble was occasioned with the main outfall from the village of Camelon. The extraordinary increase in the quantity of sewage had caused congestion in a part of the main sewer. That difficulty, however, had been removed by duplicating a part of the main pipe, which was now working satisfactorily. On account of the building of a number of new foundries to the west of the village of Camelon, application was made for drainage facilities, when it was found that the levels of the present sewers would not allow them to be extended beyond their present point. The matter being considered by the Sub-Committee, it was agreed in the meantime to delay carrying out the improvements which he suggested to enable the sewer to be extended. During the year he reported to the Sub-Committee upon the necessity of drainage being provided for a number of new houses being erected at Limeharf Road. This proposal was also delayed, and in the meantime the refuse water from these houses was being discharged into an adjoining burn in a very unsatisfactory manner. Complaints had been made to him with regard to the matter, and there was no doubt there was urgent necessity for proper drainage being provided. For the last three years an amount of trouble and expense was caused by the choking up of the main outfall along the margin of the river Carron which conveyed the drainage from the Larbert, Stenhousemuir, and Camelon districts. The Sub-Committee, however, agreed to his suggestions that a proper catch-pit should be constructed as the inlet to the 12 inch syphon. This was carried out, and he was glad to report that it had been a most satisfactory improvement. The continuous trouble in connection with the sewer connecting the Larbert District Asylum to the Stenhousemuir Drainage Scheme had been such as to cause the committee to resolve to abandon it altogether, and, in consequence, a new sewer had been arranged, and was being carried out, which would now have its outfall into the Carron Drainage District, and would be connected at the new school at Carron. The great increase of new dwelling-houses on the road from Bainsford to Carron Bridge and the laying-out of new streets, embracing a large area of new ground, necessitated the laying down of a new sewer through the lands of Millfats, and the contract for the work had been finished in a most satisfactory manner. No further steps had been taken with regard to the drainage of the village of Airth, but a requisition was presently being subscribed for the purpose of enabling the work to be proceeded with, which he had no doubt would be the case in a very short time. The scavenging in the Southern Division of the district, the report proceeds, with the exception of the village of Redding, was almost wholly performed by the road surveyor's staff, and it was easily seen that around and in the village of Slamannan there was very great need of some improved method. The roadside channels, as a rule, presented a very much neglected appearance. Then, with regard to the question of the removal of ashpit refuse, it was a continual difficulty to get this carried out in anything like a proper way, even in the midst of agricultural land. The farmer seemed to put little value on this material, and it was almost impossible to get it removed before it became a perfect nuisance. This applied to every part of the district unless that which was embraced in the Larbert Scavenging District, which included by special arrangement the village of Camelon. The committee had had under

consideration a requisition by a large number of inhabitants of the village of Laurieston to have the village formed into a scavenging district. In the meantime the matter had been delayed, but as there was a strong desire on the part of the inhabitants to have the district formed the question would again be brought before the committee's notice as soon as the proper time came, and he had no doubt that then the proposals would be practically carried out. During the whole of the past year the scavenging and cleansing work performed by the staff under the control of the Larbert cleansing district had been very satisfactorily carried out; the principal difficulty being to find convenient places for the disposal of the refuse. No doubt that was greatly owing to the fact that the material was so largely composed of rubbish which was entirely valueless as a manure, and indeed an eyesore and trouble to the farmer after it had been put upon his land. He was, however, of opinion that the time had come when committees should insist that the householders be, made sensible of the responsibility that attached to them in regard to this question. Of course where the material was *wholus bolus* to be discharged into some special coup or otherwise got rid of by burning in a destructor, there was not any necessity for any initial care in separating the usual materials which formed the daily refuse from the householder, but in a district such as theirs, where, were it not for the useless accumula, farmers, would readily take what was useful and be glad to have it if it was in a condition suitable for their purpose. What, then, was the position in connection with this question? He believed it would not be unreasonable to make even a by-law compelling householders to keep separate from their household refuse such material as tin dishes, broken delf, and the large quantities of paper that found their way on to their streets and into their ashpit collections. The paper nuisance was getting so intolerable that it was simply disgusting to see the roadsides and the fences completely littered by it. They had got so long accustomed to it that they overlooked the fact that this material could be collected and disposed of in such a way as to pay for any trouble and expense that might be expended upon its collection. It would not be any hardship for the ordinary householder to dispose of ordinary refuse paper; and, with regard to shopkeepers, a simple method of collecting waste paper could be systematically carried out without any additional expense incurred except the providing of the facilities. The Cleansing Committee, providing themselves with a sufficient number of strong canvas sacks, could supply each shopkeeper with one, which would be at regular intervals collected, and at the same time an empty one left for the next collection. This was no Utopian idea, as the matter had been practically carried out elsewhere. The only other matter in connection with cleansing, and which he could not neglect to mention, was that of daily removals versus ashpit collection. There was so much to be said in favour of the one and so much against the other that where the ashpit system was continued it scarcely deserved the name of a cleansing district. Touching on house accommodation, it is stated that during the year a large increase had been made to the dwelling-house accommodation, and although the weather throughout the year was favourable for building operations, the supply of new houses had never equalled the demand. Since the Building By-laws came into force in the district, constant effort had been made to see that their application to new buildings was strictly conformed to. In some cases this was no easy matter, as the freedom hitherto enjoyed in connection with the building of house property in the district had to be taken into account, and consequently any active interference was met with a good deal of resentment. In two parts of the district, viz., Carron Road and Bonnybridge Road, a large number of workmen's houses have been erected, and he was pleased to report that these were of a superior description. In the village of Carronshore very extensive repairs and improvements were made upon the dwelling-house property by the Carron Company, which had put the houses into a fairly comfortable condition. The drainage, water supply, and water-closet accommodation had, however, been a principal feature in the improvements. Since the by-laws came into force he had made repeated inspections of the tents and vans coming into the district, particularly on the Tryst ground. The great difficulty connected with this matter was the itinerant nature of the occupants, which made it difficult to bring any measures to deal with them, and he had constantly found that as soon as an official visit was made to them, and anything done to raise their suspicion they moved away to someplace else. He had again to report that during the past year a number of the dairy farms within the district were improved. It was also very satisfactory to note that greater interest was being taken in the district with regard to the question of dairy farms. There was no doubt that this was very largely attributable to the action of the Agricultural Association. He, however, found that it was still difficult to get the committee's rules and regulations carried out in very many of the dairy farms on account of that feature of the Dairy and Cowsheds Acts, which made the dairy-keeper responsible for his structural conditions. There were eight slaughter-houses in the northern division of the district when the by-laws came into force. Three of these failed to meet the requirements of the committee, and were in consequence refused the licence. The other five had been periodically inspected and reported to the committee as satisfactory. It is very disappointing to have to report that there had been a large increase in the number of infectious cases notified during the past year, and the increasing number of removals to the hospital during the year was an evidence of the fact that the hospital was gradually growing in favour with those who require its benefits. Indeed the difficulty that they previously experienced in removing patients to the hospital had nearly vanished, and it might be said that the cases left at home were nearly all such as they considered could be safely isolated there. This was also a matter which received careful consideration. Subjoined to the report is a statement of the proceedings taken under the Public Health and other Acts during 1899, and also a table showing the notifications of infectious disease from each parish during the various months of the past year.

Falkirk Herald 29th September 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Meeting of Parish school Board. —

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Wilson, chairman, presided, and the other members present were Messrs D. Binnie, A. Binnie, Haldane, J. B. Bryce, and Myles. The Chairman made feeling reference to the death of Colonel Stirling of Tarduf who had been chairman of the Board from the passing of the Education Act in 1872 till retiring through failing health some years ago, and concluded by proposing that the Board record in their minutes their deep regret at his loss, and their heartfelt sympathy with Mrs. Stirling, and that an excerpt from the minute be sent Mrs. Stirling. Mr. J. B. Bryce seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to. The Clerk reported that he had written the Department with reference to the ambulance classes, but had got no definite permission to go on with the classes. On the motion of Mr. Myles, seconded by Mr. D. Binnie it was unanimously agreed to take no steps in the formation of these classes in the meantime. A letter was read from the Slamannan School Board, drawing attention to the fact that while the Muiravonside Board were only entitled to have 72 children in attendance at Avonbridge Combination School, there were at present 97 children from Muiravonside parish at that school. Some discussion took place, Mr. Myles ultimately moving that the excess number be withdrawn, and the officer was instructed to communicate with the headmaster of the school and see that that was done at once. The clerk was instructed to communicate this decision to the Slamannan Board, and also to request them to ask the headmaster to refuse to take children from Muiravonside parish to obviate a recurrence of the present state of matters. A letter was read from Miss Reid resigning her situation as infant mistress in Drumbowie School. At this stage Mr. John Bell Bryce moved the motion of which he had given notice at last meeting, viz., that the Board proceed to revise the staffs and salaries in the whole of the schools. In the course of a long speech, Mr. Bryce referred to the over staffing of Drumbowie School as compared with the other schools, and in conclusion moved that Miss Reid's place should not be filled till the Board had considered this whole question. After a good deal of talk, Mr. Myles moved that the clerk be instructed to advertise for a successor to Miss Reid. The Chairman seconded. Mr. J. B. Bryce's motion not having been seconded, the clerk was accordingly instructed to advertise for a successor at a salary of £60.

This was all the business of importance.

Falkirk Herald 29th September 1900

MESSRS JOHN BROWN and WILLIE YOUNG, of Glasgow,
will hold a TEN DAYS MISSION - SUNDAYS, September 30th, and October 7th –
in the Park Hall Barn, 11.30, 3 p.m., 6.30 p.m., Week Nights in the Maddiston Hall, 7 p.m.

Falkirk Herald 29th September 1900

THE REPRESENTATION OF STIRLINGSHIRE.
SIR GEORGE SCOTT ROBERTSON'S CANDIDATURE.
MEETING AT MADDISTON.

On Wednesday night Sir George Scott Robertson met the electors of the Maddiston district in the schoolroom there. His attendance, notwithstanding the very inclement weather, was large. Mr. Rigg, Polmont Station, presided, and was accompanied by Sir George Scott Robertson; Mr. Robt. Orr of Kinnaird; Mr J. Craig Allan, solicitor, Falkirk; and ex-Bailie Flannigan, Falkirk. In a few words the chairman introduced Sir George Scott Robertson, who at the outset referred to the fact that the contest had now actually been begun. The writs had been issued the previous day, and the poll would take place on 12th October. A great point, however, was really to define the issues at the present general election. The Government said there was to be one particular issue, and none other. The Liberals, on their part, declared that they had no power at all to make any statement of that kind, but that the electors would define the issue themselves by voting according to their own opinions, and not necessarily on the particular question which the Government said was the only issue. (Applause.) Continuing, Sir George criticised the dissolution at the present time as, politically speaking, the greatest crime of the century. It was unprecedented, and might well have been avoided. (Applause.) What had happened now was that the electorate had been gagged. A hundred thousand working men were absolutely debarred by an electioneering trick from giving their votes, while in Stirlingshire itself a great number of ratepayers would be precluded from voting simply through the Government taking advantage of the inefficiency of their registration laws. (Applause.) They could not but feel certain that the Government, in bringing on the election on a stale register, had some special reason for not wishing to face the working man vote. He thought it was a sort of white flag business altogether to ask for a full vote from the whole electors of the country, but at the same time to willfully disenfranchise such vast numbers of working men. (Applause.) He hoped the working men would show their disapproval of this treacherous action of the Tory Government, and would avenge their fellows who had thus been disenfranchised. (Applause.) Proceeding, Sir George discussed the broken promises of the Government. In connection with the matter of registration, to which he had just referred, they might remember that Mr. Balfour had this question on his card at last, election as one of the items on the reform of which he desired very particularly to get the opinion of the country. Well, they saw now what was the advantage derived from that promise, which must have been insincere indeed, or Mr. Balfour would never have allowed Parliament to be dissolved at the present time. (Applause.) Then they had the question of temperance, old-age pensions, and the housing of the working classes. The old-age pension question had of course been left entirely where it was. There had been Commission after Commission, but nothing had been done, and the only announcement was where Mr. Chamberlain had said - You must understand it was not a promise, but only a proposal." Well, it was dangled before the eye of every one, and the understanding was that Mr. Chamberlain was going to do everything in his power to get a scheme of old-age pensions passed into law. That, of course, was what Mr. Chamberlain professed to intend to do, but he had done nothing whatever in the matter. The promise with reference to temperance reform had been treated in the same way, while in regard to the housing of the working classes, two little bills, neither of which were of any value, and would not be made use of, had been passed. Sir George next referred to the policy of the Government in voting doles to the landed and clerical interests, and stated that in all nearly three millions had been handed over to those classes for their own special benefit. In this connection he discussed the Agricultural Rating Act, which, he said, was a question which had been referred to as a measure for the relief of depressed agriculturist. That, of course, sounded well enough on the face of it, but when one really saw what the bill actually was, it was quite a different matter. It was not depressed agriculture the Government was particularly concerned about: it was simply and solely, he believed, a means of handing over a dole to the landed classes. (Applause.) Of course, depressed districts might or might not have required special legislation, but that the Government were not sincere at all in that proposal was shown by their refusal to accept amendments, which were offered to make it certain that only depressed portions of the country should receive any help, because the others did not require any relief. All these amendments were swamped by numerous majorities. They were not even listened to, and even the valuable land about towns received the rebates. The policy of the Government, however, seemed only to be to keep the eyes of the electorate fixed on South Africa. It was something like the sharper on the racecourse, who stole their money while directing their attention to some distant place. (Laughter and applause.) Continuing, Sir George spoke of the Workman's Compensation Act, which, although the present Government took the full glory and honour of passing, was really first introduced by Mr. Asquith in 1893. (Applause.) The present Act, although welcome, was miserably imperfect, and had been condemned by all judges and magistrates who had to administer it for the shooting manner in which it was drafted. (Applause.) It had led to a tremendous number of law suits, and had caused enormous expense to the workers themselves; and he need hardly say that the Act required amendment in various directions. (Applause.) In concluding, Sir George dealt with the housing question, temperance and land reform, and said that amongst the measures he would advocate in favour of would be manhood suffrage, one man one vote, registration reform, and especially the payment of members. (Applause.) Questions having been invited, Mr. Robert Myles - I should like, sir, if you would explain to this meeting how the dissolution of Parliament at the present moment can be termed an electioneering trick? Are you in possession of information, and if so can you put us in possession of it also, whether the large majority disenfranchised are Conservatives or Liberals? Sir George - I have no positive information on that point. I conclude, and I think I am fair in concluding, however, that they are Liberals: Mr. Myles - You conclude that they are Liberals, but you cannot positively say they are? Sir George - It is impossible that I can prove it. Mr. Myles - Then how can it be a trick? Sir George - The trick is in this. The Government appeals to the whole electorate; it wishes a full opinion. But, then, they go and bring on the election at such a time when at least two million people cannot give their answer. (Applause.) Mr. Myles - Yes; I think, Mr. Chairman, we can well enough afford to do without that applause. It is working men against a nobleman as I understand it, and I think if we get silence we will be much better off. Now, the point at issue is, if you can discover or think you can inform the meeting that the great majority who are disenfranchised are Liberals, then I will conclude with you that it is a trick. Sir George - Is that a fresh question? The Chairman - I don't think so. The trick, so far as I understand it, is that it deprives men of their liberty - (applause) - no section or political party, but ratepayers generally. (Applause.) Mr. Myles - I understand that, Mr. Chairman. Sir George - What we object to is that the Government professes to want a full verdict, but brings on an election when two millions cannot give it. (Applause.) Mr. Myles - With regard to the Employers' Liability Bill there are three questions I should like to put. The first is - Are you in favour of an amendment in connection with that bill which will enable working men, without exception, to receive compensation from the first date of the accident, instead of at the end of two weeks as at present; (2) in the case of joiners, slaters, and others who have to work a considerable distance, unless they fell 30 feet there was no compensation - are you prepared to support that amendment that if these men from accident are rendered unfit for their employment they should receive compensation? Sir George - I am entirely in sympathy with you on these two things. I think especially that, that 30 feet limit is utterly absurd. But you know the reasons it was done. You know that houses in the towns are over 30 feet high, while rural houses were

under that. It was really done in the interests of the landed classes as usual. (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - You might inform us where the Government, by dissolving Parliament at this time and bringing about a dissolution, have done anything which can be regarded as illegal or contrary to the constitution of the country of the country. Sir George - All my remarks have gone to show that I consider it unconstitutional to appeal to the electorate when the electors were not able to record their votes. It is an unconstitutional proceeding in this respect. when you appeal to the country, you appeal to all voters to vote. This is a thing that cannot be done at the present election. (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - Have they made any breach of the law of the realm? Sir George - It is unprecedented and unconstitutional. (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - Is it illegal? Sir George - It is not illegal, or they could not have done it. It is entirely unconstitutional. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Wilson - I am quite satisfied. You made some remark about the great hardship and unwise thing it was to bring about an election when so many of the men who had borne the brunt of the war in South Africa had not the opportunity of voting. How do you think these men would have voted had they been home in time for the election? Sir George - My suspicion is this. You know that the Government brought in a bill late in the session so that these men should not be disenfranchised, but they bring on the election when these men cannot possibly come home to vote. I think it is a fair inference to say that they are afraid of the stories the men may bring home. (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - You ask us to believe that the British soldiers who have shed their blood in this war in the interests of their country, if brought home at the present, would vote for a Government inclined to simply overturn all they have struggled for and conquered? Sir George - A more absurd remark I never heard in my life. I cannot see where the connection is at all. Do you mean to say these soldiers went out to fight for a Tory Government, and not for their Queen and country - (applause) - and the men who had died so nobly at the Tugela, did they die for a Tory Government? (Renewed applause.) Mr. John Eccles - If returned to Parliament, would you satisfy yourself before you voted that there was a necessity for an eight hours bill? Sir George - I have made inquiry, and I find men universally in favour of the Eight Hours Bill, and theoretically I think three hours' labour quite enough for any man. (Applause.) I would support it without any further inquiry. (Applause.) Mr. Eccles said that the last time the mining was good he had made inquiry at many collieries in Scotland, and only found that one man wrought, six months consecutively at 43 hours per week. Sir George - Such a measure would do no harm, of course. Mr. Myles - Allow me to give a flat contradiction to this. The Chairman - You cannot do that. Put a question. Questions only are allowed. Mr. Myles - My third question on the Employers' Liability Bill is this - The door of litigation is wide open at present and gives endless trouble. Would you support an amendment to at least close that door a little? Another question is with regard to the eight hours - Are you in favour of eight hours for miners specially and particularly? Sir George - I am entirely in sympathy with the questions. (Applause.) At the present time I am certainly in favour of an eight hours bill to miners and similar trades, but I don't know that I am at all in favour of extending it compulsorily to every trade, because every trade does not want it. But that is perhaps going beyond the scope of the question. Mr. Wilson - What is a Liberal Imperialist? Sir George - May I answer by saying that I am one. (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - Is that your answer? Sir George - Do you want a full definition? Mr. Wilson - I want your definition. Sir George - It is that I fully accept the great responsibility of Empire which has come upon our shoulders, and I think it is most, important, of all to do everything in our power to consolidate that Empire, and to rule it for the sake of all the classes and all the peoples living therein. - (Applause) Is that sufficient? (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - Quite sufficient. The next point is, what name would you apply to the other section of the Liberal party, including Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Lloyd George, and Dr. Clark? Sir George - I ought not perhaps to call myself a Liberal Imperialist I should call myself a Liberal. Mr. Wilson - And not a Liberal Imperialist? Sir George - I have very strong Imperialistic feelings. But I have explained my position. (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - Then, if you are not a Liberal Imperialist, what name do you apply to that other section of the Liberal party? In Scotland we call them traitors. Sir George - They are also Liberals, but I am entirely out of sympathy with them. (Applause.) I am not going to label them or have them labelled in any way. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Mr. Eccles asked if Sir George would be in favour of letting representatives of the parish and the ratepayers generally have a say in the number of public-houses in a parish? Sir George - I am entirely at one with you on that point. (Applause.) Mr. Wilson - Are you in favour of the establishment of a Roman Catholic University in Ireland? Sir George - I am, sir, because I believe it is the only way temporarily under which you can give religious equality in Ireland. (Applause.) Mr. Eccles asked if Sir George would be in favour of men getting compensation during the whole time they were unable to work? Sir George - The present, condition of affairs in this respect is very hard, and I am in sympathy with your question. (Applause.) After several other questions had been asked and answered. Mr. Joseph proposed a vote of confidence in Sir George which was seconded by Mr. Thos. Rae, Gladstone Cottage, and unanimously agreed to. The proceedings, terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

MEETING AT DRUMBOWIE.

At a later hour on Wednesday evening Sir George Scott Robertson addressed a meeting in the Drumbowie School. Mr. Rigg again presided, accompanied by Sir George. Mr. Orr, Mr. Allan, and ex-Bailie Flannigan. The Chairman introduced Sir George, who, after speaking of the war, and the unpreparedness in which the outbreak of hostilities found the Government, went on to refer to the mismanagement of matters connected with the campaign in South Africa, and also dealt at some length with the Government's breach of faith in connection with promised legislation. Continuing, Sir George strongly condemned the action of the Government in dissolving Parliament at the present time as one of the most discreditable and iniquitous things ever done in the matter of electioneering dodges, certainly in the present century. (Applause.) He protested against it individually, and hoped when the time came everyone would do his best to revenge their fellows who had been deprived in this way of their freeman's right to vote. (Applause.) Referring to the bill passed last year to prevent the soldiers in South Africa being disfranchised, he said the bill had certainly been passed, but they had managed to bring on the election at such a time that none of them could be back to take part in it. That, of course, raised the suspicion that they were afraid, not only of the working man's vote on their broken promises, but were also afraid of the soldiers, and did not want them to come home and complain to the people. (Applause.) Speaking of temperance, Sir George said this question would never be solved merely by legislative enactments. The root of intemperance, he thought, lay in overcrowding in the congested districts of the great cities, and they would never effectively tackle the temperance question till they had faced the matter of the housing of the working classes. (Applause.) Along with the two foregoing, he would place the land question and the taxation of ground values. They were all intricately mixed with each other, and could not easily be separated, but when one was completely solved the solution of the others would be easy. (Applause.) Continuing, Sir George said he was in favour of manhood suffrage. (Applause.) It was, he thought, the right of every citizen of full age that he should have a word in the making or amending of those laws which he has to obey. (Applause.) Then he believed in a single vote - that was, one man one vote. (Applause.) There they came in with the question of political equality, and he believed the three ideals the Liberals always tried to attain were political equality, equality before the law, and religious equality. (Applause.) Another reform in which he was interested was the payment of members. (Applause.) It was only in that manner, he was convinced, that all classes of the community could be properly represented in the House of Commons. (Applause.) Most important social problems had arisen, and would arise in the near future, and they would never be adequately dealt with until every section of the community had its own representation in Parliament. (Applause.) That was his idea of an ideal Parliament - (applause) - but the expenses were so great at present that working men were precluded from being elected to Westminster. This was a reform he advocated very cordially, as he believed it to be the root of many others. (Applause.) The present great obstruction of all social and electoral reforms was The House of Lords, and besides the other problems he had dealt with they now came to the constitutional reform of the Upper Chamber - (applause) - a question

which had his sympathy. (Applause.) Questions having been invited, Mr. H. Gardner - What would you have done with the Boers had you been in power in place of the Tory Government? Sir George - Beaten them if I could. (Laughter and applause.) Mr. Gardner - Is that really what you would have done? (Laughter.) Sir George - Undoubtedly. Mr. Gardner - To beat your fellow Christians? Sir George - If your territory had been invaded don't you think it was your duty to fight for it and drive them back. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Mr. Mackay, teacher - Considering that the Boers were so excellently armed, can you explain how they did not take Ladysmith, Mafeking, or Kimberley; and also why you omitted to mention those places when you brought Colenso so prominently before us? Sir George - Because of the splendid gallantry of the garrisons of those places. (Applause.) Mr. Mackay - But we had the same class of men at Colenso. Sir George - They were outnumbered and badly armed there. Mr. Mackay - And what did the men defend Ladysmith with? Sir George - The guns of the Powerful brought up by Captain Lambton. (Applause.) As a matter of fact, however, the Boers never made a successful attack on any of these positions. (Applause.) Mr. Mackay - Just as you managed in Chitral. It was a case of superior weapons against inferior arms outside. Mr. Eccles - It is satisfactory to hear that you are in favour of manhood suffrage. If that measure was brought into the House, would you see that, a full tax should go along with it - every man who has a vote to pay something? Sir George; No; for every man already pays something. Mr. Eccles - You have twenty men working somewhere. Ten are single and ten are married. The married men pay the rates and the single men go free? Sir George - think the man in lodgings pays his full share of the taxes. (Hear, hear.) If his landlord did not pay the taxes, the lodger would pay less rent He is taxed, and very heavily taxed. Mr. Mackay - In the settlement about to be made in South Africa, would you urge stringent measures against all Boers and others in authority who abused the white flag, and that the extreme penalty be carried out in their case? Sir George - No; I do not think so. I think that if a man behaves treacherously, he ought to be punished; but each case would be considered on its merits. (Hear, hear.) But you would never think of keeping this thing hanging over men's heads in South Africa - that they might be accused in some future year of having been treacherous in this way ? (Applause.) An Elector - Would Sir George be in favour of Scottish members transacting Scottish business in Edinburgh or Westminster, and without the English having anything to do with it ? Sir George - Yes. (Applause.) Mr. George Gray proposed a vote of confidence in Sir George. An Elector seconded. Mr. Mackay proposed that the electors in this division of Stirlingshire had full confidence in Mr. M'Killop, and wished to return him as their Member of Parliament. (Applause.) Mr. Gibb seconded. The motion and amendment were put to the meeting, when the Chairman declared that the motion had been carried by a sweeping majority. Ex-Bailie Flannigan afterwards spoke in support of Sir George's candidature. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman

Falkirk Herald 29th September 1900

ALL Persons having CLAIMS against the late ALEXANDER URE, Miner, Standburn, by Avonbridge, are requested to lodge the same with the Subscribers within Fourteen Days from this date.

MARSHALL & HUNTER, Solicitors, Agents for Deceased's Representatives.
Falkirk, 27th Sept., 1900.

Falkirk Herald 29th September 1900

THE STANDBURN STABBING CASE -
BROTHERS DISPUTE. -

At a pleading diet of the Falkirk Sheriff and Jury Court yesterday - Hon. Sheriff - Substitute Watson on the bench - John Hare miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 17th September, in a house at Standburn occupied by a hawker named Donally assaulted his brother Wm. O'Hare, miner, Standburn, by stabbing him with a knife on the neck, left side, and back to the great effusion of blood and injury of the person. Prisoner pleaded guilty. Mr. W. J. Gibson, who prosecuted, stated that the assault was a very serious one, but fortunately the brother's injuries had proved much less extensive than were anticipated. Mr. A.W. Thomson, solicitor, Falkirk (instructed by Mr. Blane, solicitor), made a statement on behalf of the prisoner. The brothers had quarrelled and got into grips. The accused was underneath, and when under the influence of drink he drew his knife and committed the assault. It was one of those unfortunate occurrences which had been brought about prisoner having given way to the excessive use of drink, and his passions having been aroused he committed the assault. The Hon. Sheriff-Substitute said that, considering everything that had been said for his defence, he was treating the prisoner with ample fairness when he limited the sentence to three months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 29th September 1900

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.
A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS of the above Society, dealing in Blackbraes and Standburn Branches, will be held in Blackbraes PUBLIC SCHOOL, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, 3rd October, at Seven o'clock; and Drumbowie Public school on THURSDAY EVENING, 4th October, at Seven o'clock. Business - Election of Directors.

Falkirk Herald 3rd October 1900

FALKIRK U.P. PRESBYTERY.
THE STANDBURN CASE.
THE STANDBURN CASE - REPORT BY COMMITTEE

The Rev. Thomas Taylor, convener, reported on behalf of the Committee on Standburn Mission as follows: - The committee appointed by the Presbytery to consider and report upon the reference from the Session of Avonbridge anent the affairs of the mission at Standburn, met yesterday, 1st October, in the Erskine Church Vestry, Falkirk. The convener, Rev. Mr. Taylor, reported that he had written to Rev. Mr. Rouse and Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, Missionary, to meet the committee at 4.30 o'clock, when opportunity would be given to make any statement they might think necessary, and give such information as the committee might ask for. The Rev. Mr. Rouse and two of his elders, Messrs Binnie and Buchanan, attended. Mr. Snaddon did not attend, but afterwards a telegram was received; the letter had been received too late for him to give attendance. A letter from Mr. Snaddon received to-day, 2d October. The committee gave very careful attention to the minutes of Session and documents hearing upon the case. From these it appeared that the friction between Mr. Snaddon and the Session of Avonbridge, which has resulted in the termination of his engagement as missionary, and the disgraceful scene of disorder on the evening of Sabbath, 9th September, 1900, has been of long continuance. The investigation has proceeded along two lines - the action of the Session in its dealings with Mr. Snaddon, and the conduct of Mr. Snaddon in his relations to the Session. In regard to the action of the Session, your committee is of opinion that it has been strictly constitutional. It has been guided throughout by the rules and forms of Church procedure. The conduct of Mr. Snaddon in his relations to the Session has not been constitutional. From time to time he has slighted the authority and superintendence of the Session; has ignored the special instructions given him on 6th December, 1893, and thereby compelled the Session to deal with him. This ignoring of the Session's authority and superintendence is seen in such matters as the introducing of change into the mode of taking the collections on Sabbath days, the purchasing of hymn-books, and the posting of notice regarding the Sabbath school trip without the Session's sanction. Your committee does not express any opinion about the wisdom of introducing such changes into the management of the affairs of the mission at Standburn; it simply draws attention to the fact that these changes were introduced without the recognition of the Session's authority. Another stage in this unhappy controversy is reached at the meeting of Session on 28th July, 1900. At this meeting Mr. Snaddon was present, and when asked to give a statement regarding the introducing of changes into the management of the affairs of the mission, said - 'Mr. Moderator and

gentlemen, if you have any case against my character, make the same out in writing, and name your witnesses, and I will reply within ten days, as I am going away my holidays.' In view of the fact that Mr. Snaddon refused to work in harmony with the Session, it was resolved that his engagement as missionary, which terminated at 30th September, should not be renewed; and his refusal to give information about his conduct in the affairs of the mission, led the Session to cite him to answer to a charge of contumacy. Mr. Snaddon appeared before the Session on 4th September, 1900, when he read a statement, in which he denied being guilty of the charge of contumacy, and then turned to leave the meeting, saying - 'The Session could let him know its decision at its convenience.' Notwithstanding the fact that the moderator twice asked him to remain and give information relative to his work as missionary and his conducts as a member of the congregation, he left the meeting, taking his written statement with him. After these proceedings on his part, the Session arrived at the following findings: - (1) Mr. Snaddon had practically defied the authority of the Session over him as its agent; (2) he was guilty of contumacy towards the Session of the congregation of which he was a member; (3) considering the fact that his engagement terminated on 30th September, it was resolved to take no further action in the charge of contumacy. At this stage in the proceedings two petitions from the members and friends of the mission, accompanied by a letter from Mr. Kerr, were received, asking the Session to rescind its decision anent the non-renewal of Mr. Snaddon's engagement as missionary. After considering these petitions, the Session agreed to abide by its decision of 14th August. The next stage in the proceedings is the scene in the church at Standburn on the evening of Sabbath, 9th September. In his public statement Mr. Snaddon lays upon Mr. Rouse and his Session the responsibility of having caused this disgraceful scene. Your committee cannot assent to this view of the matter. The documents in the case prove that Mr. Snaddon declined to avail himself of the constitutional ways of having the action of the Session reviewed by appeal to the Presbytery. Instead of doing this, he appealed to the excited feelings of the people among whom he was working. It was reported to the Session that on the evening of Sabbath, 2d September, Mr. Snaddon made reference to a sum of money, £7 5s, which he said he had received from friends for the deserving poor at Standburn, and had handed over to the Session, but which had not been accounted for in the financial statement. This led many to say that the money in question had been misappropriated. Your committee therefore find that the onus of having raised again the matter of the begging circular letter, after it was supposed to be settled, rests with Mr. Snaddon, and not with Mr. Rouse and his Session. In view of the keen feeling and surmises to which Snaddon's words had given rise, the Session prepared a statement bearing on the following matters: - The disposal of the £7 5s; the proposed savings bank; the lighting of the Mission Hall by electricity; the change in the mode of taking collections; the Session's answer to the people's petitions. On the evening of Sabbath, 9th September, Mr. Snaddon had advertised his intention to bring the action of the Session before the people. Before the meeting Mr. Rouse protested against his doing so, saying that the only constitutional way of bringing the action of the Session under review was by appeal to the Presbytery. At the close of the meeting Mr. Snaddon declared he had been gagged and threatened with the interference of a policeman. Many of the people left the meeting at this stage, and it was to the excited few who remained that Mr. Rouse read the statement his Session had prepared. In reviewing the proceedings leading up to this, your committee does not commit itself to a judgment on the prudence of all the action of the Session, but it affirms that in all that was done the Session acted within the lines of constitutional procedure. It finds that the onus of having raised again the matter of the begging circular letter does not rest on Mr. Rouse or his Session, or that they are answerable for the excitement exhibited at the meeting of 9th September. The whole matter was raised by Mr. Snaddon on Sabbath, 2d September, when he charged the minister and Session with failing to account for the £7 5s raised by appeal sent out to charitable friends. After reviewing all the facts of the case as embodied in the Session minutes and documents, your committee is of opinion that the action of the Session has been constitutional throughout, and that the difficulty and trouble have been caused by Mr. Snaddon persistently ignoring the authority of the Session. With regard to the future working of the mission, your committee makes the following recommendations: - That the Home Mission Board be asked to appoint an experienced and prudent evangelist to the station until such time as a permanent agent can be secured. 2. That in accordance with the expressed desire of the Avonbridge Session, the mission be put under direct Presbyterial management." Rev. James Aitken, Falkirk, moved the adoption of the report. Mr. Taylor, he said, was not privileged to be at the meeting of last week when the matter came before the Presbytery, but evidently during the time he had at his disposal he had gathered all the facts in connection with the case and presented them very clearly and very fully before them that day. It was, he thought quite evident from the reading of the minutes of the Session last week that the Session of Avonbridge had acted quite constitutionally, and he observed that in the report the convener stated that the committee did not commit itself as to whether in all cases the Session acted as prudently as it might have done. Every Session was bound to err on occasions, but there was no doubt at all that Mr. Snaddon had persistently and constitutionally repudiated the authority of the Session into whose charge he was committed, and on him rested the onus of all the agitation, trouble, and dispeace that had occurred in connection with the Standburn Mission. He should like to have heard the letter which Mr. Snaddon sent to the convener of committee. He would expect it was a letter of apology for his absence. He should have liked to know how it was too late for Mr. Snaddon to receive the summons when Mr. Rouse got it in time. He should like to know also when the letters of invitation were sent out by Mr. Taylor. Rev. Mr. Taylor said that the notices to the members of committee, as well as those to Mr. Rouse and Mr. Snaddon, were posted on Saturday morning not later than half-past ten, and all at the same time. The meeting was to be on Monday ' afternoon at 3 for the committee, and 4.30 for Mr. Rouse and Mr. Snaddon. Rev. Mr. Rouse said he received the letter on Saturday evening, and at the very latest Mr. Snaddon would receive his letter, if he did not send down for it on the Saturday evening, he would receive it on Monday morning, between 10 and 11. He (Mr. Rouse) left with the train leaving Avonbridge at twenty minutes past three in the afternoon for the meeting. Rev. Mr. Sleath - Has Mr. Snaddon sent any communication to the Presbytery to-day? Rev. Mr. Taylor - He was not summoned here to-day. Continuing, Mr. Taylor said the following was the letter he received from Mr. Snaddon: - "I received your letter too late for me to be in Falkirk at the time stated; but if you want me to appear before your committee, you might kindly let me know the points on which you desire information. As you may be aware, the people of Standburn have formed a church of their own, and intend calling me as pastor to that church on Thursday night first at 7 p.m. They of course decided on this action when they had had no word before 30th September. If the Presbytery is prepared to give exactly what is contained in the petitions, I am willing to come before you and stating my case, but unless the whole petition is granted we have no other alternative but to pursue the course intended. I should be pleased to hear from you before 4th inst." A Member asked if the keys of the hall had been delivered up? Rev. Mr. Taylor - This matter is being taken up by the elders of the Avonbridge Session. We asked about that yesterday. Rev. Mr. Rouse We have arranged with the Session that two members should go and see after that matter. Rev. Mr. Aitken said that after hearing the - letter - a kindly enough letter - he was sure they all desired to give Mr. Snaddon perfect justice, and treat him with all the fairness and courtesy that any Christian servant deserved. Yet it was quite evident that not only had he ignored the authority of the Session, but was also ignoring the authority of the Presbytery, because evidently he had prejudged the case and had all arrangements made at Standburn for starting a new cause, and for himself to be called as minister outside the authority of the Presbytery. He had the greater pleasure therefore in moving the adoption of the report as presented. Rev. Mr. Morton, Cumbernauld, asked if Mr. Rouse could give them any information of what transpired at the services on Sabbath evening last. Rev. Mr. Rouse said that no member of session nor himself was present at that meeting on Sabbath evening at Standburn, and he had heard nothing. Rev. Mr. Sleath seconded the motion. Mr. Snaddon seemed, he said, to have thrown aside entirely all Presbyterial supervision. The committee's recommendations

were thereupon put to the meeting. The first was carried unanimously. The adoption of the second was moved and seconded when Rev. Mr. Smillie, Pardovan, moved an amendment. As far as he understood the recommendation the mission was to be carried on without being under the supervision of any Session. Rev. Mr. Hamilton - I think it is only for the time being. Rev. Mr. Smillie - I don't see how it can be according to Presbyterian constitution. Rev. Mr. Smillie's amendment to the acceptance of the second recommendation not being seconded the recommendation was declared the finding of the meeting - Mr. Smillie dissenting. This was all the business of importance.

Falkirk Herald 3rd October 1900

Maddiston Miner's Strange Conduct. - Michael Smith, miner, Quarrolhead, Maddiston, was charged with having, on the 20th September, in the house at Quarrolhead occupied by Francis Smith, his brother, upset a table, smashed a number of dishes, trampled underfoot a quantity of butter and cheese, and committed a breach of the peace. Accused pleaded guilty. The Fiscal said that the prisoner was a lodger in the house, and he came home the worse of drink and made a disturbance, doing damage to the extent of 7s. A fine of 15s was imposed, the alternative being ten days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 10th October 1900

CASUAL COMMENTS. By "ARGUS." Another stage in the Standburn Church dispute was reached last week, when the matter came before the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery in the form of a report of a committee appointed to enquire into it. The recommendation of the committee was that the Home Mission Board be asked to appoint an experienced and prudent evangelist to the station until such time as a permanent agent can be secured, and that, in accordance with the expressed desire of the Avonbridge Session, the mission be put under direct Presbyterian management. On the other hand, the people of Standburn have formed a church of their own, of which the former missionary is to be pastor. All's well that ends well, though the heathen smile.

Falkirk Herald 10th October 1900

U.P. PRESBYTERY MEETING. A special meeting of the Falkirk U.P. Presbytery was held in the hall of the Erskine Church yesterday. The Rev. Thos. Taylor, Graham's Road, Falkirk, moderator, presided. THE STANDBURN CASE. The Moderator reported on behalf of the committee on Standburn Mission that Mr. Maclean, the Synod's evangelist, had conducted the services last Sunday at Standburn Mission, and again conduct them next Sunday.

Falkirk Herald 13th October 1900

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT. CO-OPERATION. - The quarterly meeting of the Redding Co operative Society was held in the hall on Tuesday evening last. Mr. Thos. Barker, president, occupied the chair, and there was a favourable turnout of members. The report for the 15th quarter was gone over, and approved of. - The profits from all sources this quarter are £5341 12s 3d, which will pay a dividend at 4s 1d per £ on members' purchases. The sales for the present quarter amount to £24,753, an increase of £619 over last quarter, and £3732 of an increase over the corresponding quarter last year. The total membership is 1818, an increase of 66 for the last twelve months. The rate per £ for the different departments are:- Redding - Grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 6d; bakery, 5s 5d; fleshing, 2s 8d; shoemaking, 3s 11d. Blackbraes - Grocery, 4s; drapery, 4s 4d; shoemaking, 3s 6d. Maddiston - Grocery, 3s 10d; drapery, 4s 8d; shoemaking, 3s 6d. Standburn - Grocery, 3s 10d; shoemaking, 4d. The following donations were afterwards granted: - Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, £3; Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, £5. At a meeting of the Standburn members held on Thursday last, Messrs Thomas Moore and Alexander Simpson were re-elected directors for twelve months.

Falkirk Herald 27th October 1900

STANDBURN. NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. - The outcome of the recent church trouble in Standburn is that the above church has been formed, and Mr. Snaddon, who acted as missionary for the U.P. Mission, has been unanimously called to be the pastor of the new church. Mr. Snaddon has entered upon his new duties, and the new church is making good progress. A suitable site has been procured and building operations will be started as soon as possible. Presently the services on the Sabbath day are conducted in the Salvation Army Hall, kindly granted by Mrs. T. Livingstone-Learmonth, until new church is built. THE U.P. MISSION SCANDAL. - We have received too late for publication this week a long statement of defence of Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon's position in this matter, which we shall publish in next Saturday's 'Herald.' SUCCESSFUL MINING STUDENT. - Mr. Robert Aitchison, 58 Standburn Rows, Avonbridge, has been successful in obtaining a first class mining certificate. Mr. Aitchison is a member of the Drumbowie mining class - a class which in the past has been highly creditable. It may also be stated that Mr. Aitchison obtained a 2nd class colliery manager's certificate at the Edinburgh examination held in May last.

Falkirk Herald 3rd November 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE. MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD. A meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wilson, chairman, presided, and the other members present were Messrs John Bryce, John Bell Bryce, D. Binnie, and Haldane. The minutes of last meeting and of a special meeting were read, Mr. John Bell Bryce objecting to it being stated in the minute of the latter meeting that an ex-pupil teacher for Drumbowie School had been unanimously appointed. The minutes were passed with that exception. It was agreed to employ Mr. Black, architect, Falkirk, to examine and report on the condition of the roof and walls of the Drumbowie School, the convener (Mr. D. Binnie) having stated that they were in a dangerous state. The following letter was read from Mrs. Stirling of Tarduff:- "Thank you for forwarding to us the excerpt from the minute of the meeting of School Board. Will you kindly at the next meeting of the Board express to Mr. Wilson and the other members my appreciation and that of my family for their kindly condolence with us in our sad bereavement. I well know how heartily my husband entered into the cause of education in the parish and the welfare of the inhabitants of Muiravonside." The Clerk said it was recommended, as they knew, at last meeting, with regard the overcrowding at Avonbridge School, that the officer cooperate with the headmaster there in removing the children complained of. He had endeavored to do so, but the headmaster had refused to give him the names, and he (the clerk) would suggest that this be intimated to the Slamannan Board. The Chairman said he thought, they should intimate no more in the matter. They could do as they pleased now. If they liked to keep them now, they could do it. The chairman's suggestion was agreed to. Miss Baxter, headmistress of the Maddiston School, wrote resigning her position there, as she had received an appointment in Causewayside School, Edinburgh; while Miss McLean, having received an appointment under the Slamannan Board, wrote resigning her position in Muiravonside School. The resignations were accepted, and it was agreed to advertise for successors at £65 and £40 respectively. A letter was read from Mr. Mackay, headmaster, Drumbowie, in which he stated that he thought it would be a great inducement to their ex-pupil teachers to remain longer in the service of the Board if something - could be done to get a portion of the residue grant allocated to this parish

in paying their travelling expenses to and from, and class fees at, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The clerk was instructed to approach the proper authorities with a view of procuring a grant. An application for the use of a room in Drumbowie School every Thursday night by the Standburn Musical Association was remitted to the committee for consideration; while an application by Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon for use of a room in the same school every Sunday night for the Bible class in connection with the Congregational Church there till the church was ready was granted. The attendance report was submitted as follows: -

	On Roll	Avge. Atten.
Drumbowie School	496	403
Blackbraes School	393	327
Muiravonside School	196	144
Maddiston School	84	75
Avonbridge School	91	79

This was all the business of importance.

Falkirk Herald 3rd November 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD. -

INFANT MISTRESS Wanted for MADDISTON INFANT SCHOOL.

Salary to begin at £65.

EX-P-T. Wanted for MUIRAVONSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Salary to begin at £40 - apply, with 3 copy testimonials, not later than 7th November, to - Andrew Hunter. Solicitor, Falkirk. Clerk

Falkirk Herald 3rd November 1900

STANDBURN. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SOIREE. -

The first soiree of the church and congregation was held in Drumbowie Public School on Friday evening, under the chairmanship of the pastor, the Rev. D. U. Ritchie Snaddon. After tea and the chairmans' remarks an interesting programme was proceeded with. The speakers were Rev. Jacob Primmer, Dunfermline; Rev. John Heggie, Avonbridge; and Mr. Alexander Kerr, church treasurer, Standburn; accompanied on the platform by Mr. James Croall and Mr. Wm. Meek. The speakers gave suitable, inspiring, and encouraging addresses. The choir, under the leadership of Mr. Meek, rendered several pieces in a meritorious manner. A quartette by Misses Dobbie, Aitken, Ure, Aitken, "O Land of Rest," was a pleasing item. Mr. Wm. Meek's solo, "Sunlight", was sung in a praiseworthy manner. Miss M. Aitken's recitation of "John and Tibby's Dispute" and Miss L. Dobbie's reading of "Sugar for Naething" were greatly enjoyed by the meeting. Misses Davies, Aitken, and Messrs Meek and Mackie in the quartette "Launch Out," quite captivated the house. Towards the close of the meeting a cordial vote of thanks was given to the speakers, singers, the managers of the church, who had the arrangements of the meeting in hand, the ladies who assisted with the tea, and to all who in any way assisted the meeting. The attendance was all that could be desired, and the meeting, which was thoroughly enjoyable throughout, testified well to the harmony and goodwill that prevail amongst people and pastor, and to the promising character of the church's work. All seemed to feel the spirit of hopefulness, and the meeting was felt to be an augury of happiness and prosperous work in the future. A very pleasant evening was concluded by singing the doxology.

STANDBURN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN MISSION.

The duties of missionary, in connection with the above mission, are for the time being in the hands of Mr. T. Cullen, Falkirk, who has conducted the services during the past two Sabbaths.

Falkirk Herald 10th November 1900

STANDBURN. THE UNITED FREE CHURCH MISSION.

At a meeting of the Bathgate United Free Presbytery on Tuesday, Rev. J. B. G. Rouse, Avonbridge, asked if they had received any communication with regard to the mission at Standburn from the clerk to Falkirk Presbytery. He thought there would be some difficulty in making arrangements with regard to the working of the mission. A request had been made to the Falkirk Presbytery, asking that the mission should be taken directly under Presbyterial management. The request was granted by the Falkirk Presbytery, and the mission at Standburn was conducted by the Session at Avonbridge. The Falkirk Presbytery took up the matter, and a man was appointed for the time being. He thought it would be necessary for this Presbytery to do something with regard to appointing of a man to carry on the work. He was not sure what he ought to suggest. The man that was there at present was only appointed for the time being until the matter came under this Presbytery. The party who was in the place at present had got another appointment, and he believed he intended to be relieved of his duties as soon, as possible. He only came there on Saturday and conducted the services on Sunday, and it was imperative for the interests of the mission that they should have a man there who would spend all his time in the work of the mission. He would suggest that the clerk of this Presbytery communicate with the clerk of the Falkirk Presbytery to present this request to the Home Mission Board, that they send a man to take up the work at once. The Chairman said that some of them had not gone into details, and they did not understand the matter. Rev. Mr. Rouse said that the mission was entirely under the Avonbridge Session, and when the difficulties cropped up they, as a Session, asked the Falkirk Presbytery to take the matter in hand. The Presbytery granted the request, and appointed a temporary man, and now he wished to be relieved. The Chairman - Why ask us to appoint a new man? Rev. Mr. Rouse said that this Presbytery did not know all the details in connection with the matter, and he thought the clerk should communicate with the clerk of the Falkirk Presbytery, and get all the necessary information. Mr. A. Buchanan, elder, said that the mission was under the supervision of the Session. Some difficulty arose with the man who was appointed, and the Session referred the matter to the Presbytery. They had records of the transactions. The man they had had started a Congregational Church at Avonbridge, as a kind of counter-attraction to their mission. He thought they should retain the mission, and get a man of some experience to carry on the work. He had not the slightest doubt as to the success of the mission. There was a population of fully 1000 in the place, and unless they got a man of some talent stationed in the place they would have some difficulty in retaining the mission. He thought there would have been some communication from the Falkirk Presbytery about the matter. He thought the matter should be remitted back to the Falkirk Presbytery, and let them arrange matters for the time being. The matter had become complicated, and Falkirk Presbytery ought to do something to relieve the case. His suggestion was that this Presbytery and the Falkirk Presbytery should make a strong request to the Home Mission Board to send a capable man to consolidate and establish the mission. He thought that the Session of Avonbridge had been very much abused in the public papers, and it was time they did something. The Presbytery has defended them in all the points, and they had acted constitutionally on all the points. Rev. Mr. Gibson thought that the Home Mission Board should be asked to send one of their men. If an urgent request was sent from this Presbytery and the Falkirk Presbytery, it would receive immediate attention. Mr. Buchanan said they wanted some force behind them, and for that reason he would suggest that this Presbytery, along with Falkirk, should support the Session in getting a man for six months. It was ultimately agreed, on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Gibson, that a strong statement of the case be made to the Home Mission Board, requesting that a man be sent to Standburn for six months.

STANDBURN U.P. MISSION SCANDAL CASE.

MR. SNADDON'S DEFENCE.

[From a Standburn Correspondent.]

The report of the Standburn case by Presbytery's committee, which appeared in the "Falkirk Herald" of the 3rd and 7th September, has the appearance of having been drawn up and decided upon by men who were altogether biased towards the side on which they gave their decision. Had it been otherwise, instead of them taking three days to examine the

minute-book of the Avonbridge U.P. Session, they might have paid at least one visit to Standburn and made special inquiry, and met Mr. Snaddon face to face and got his reasons for acting as he did. Because, if this had been done, and the whole truth allowed to come out, the decision might have been different, as no body of men can decide a case of this nature without having both sides of the question laid clearly before them, which was not done. It is the deep-rooted conviction of both Mr. Snaddon and his people that the committee, while making a pretence to the public of being anxious to meet Mr. Snaddon, in reality had no desire to do anything of the kind. Had it been otherwise they would have given him more than three hours' notice to appear before them, when they could take several days to examine the other side. Further, for the Presbytery to homologate such unjust and unchristian proceedings is far, far from the spirit of the gospel they preach. It may be, as they say, constitutional, but it is certainly not Christian. Mr. Snaddon, in his defence, says: - Not with the hope of either convincing the Session or Presbytery that they have acted unjustly towards me, but in response to urgent appeals from friends all over the country, I briefly make the following defence, as space does not allow me to fully enter into all details presently: - Standburn is two miles from Avonbridge, a mining centre, the mission there being under the supervision of the Avonbridge U.P. Session. Three years ago, on taking up the work as their missionary, I was promised a free hand, full sympathy, and all needed assistance, with no rules given to guide me, and no restrictions laid upon me. Under those conditions I had a soiree, which was a great success, so far as Standburn was concerned. Because I presided at that meeting I gave mortal offence to Mr. Rouse and his session, and further I unwittingly offended them by inviting my own people to assist at that soiree instead of Avonbridge people, as had been the previous custom. After this I painfully discovered I had lost the sympathy of Mr. Rouse and his session, and which I have never regained. From that time, their attitude towards me has been antagonistic. Everything I sought to do for the benefit of my people, they objected to, or grudgingly assented to. At this stage I would have resigned, but the work and people had become endeared to me, and I determined to fight it out, as there was no friction in Standburn. At this time I occasionally preached illustrated sermons, which were a means of interest and blessing to my people. For reasons best known to themselves, the session objected to them, and asked me to desist. In response to the wishes of the people, all arrangements were completed for the starting of a penny savings bank. This they also objected to. After coming here, Mr. Rouse told me that immediately I had several members in Standburn, he would take the necessary steps to have communion celebrated in Standburn. I soon had fully 30 members, and petition signed on their behalf asking for such a privilege. I sent that petition to Mr. Rouse, and it remains unacknowledged to this day. The people felt aggrieved and disappointed at such treatment. I started boys' and girls' meetings on the Sabbath morning, which I consider to be one of the most successful branches of the work, and although not openly objected to, remained for a long time unacknowledged. The next point in their persecution of me and my work was in connection with money I received from friends to be spent by me and in the way I thought best in my work. This has been one of the enemy's strong points, and their way of handling this matter has given rise to all kinds of unfounded suspicious and questions regarding my dealings with money matters. As there is gross ignorance on the part of many, and a great desire by friends in Stirlingshire to know the history of this matter, which has been made so much of, it is important that I make a statement regarding it. It all happened in this way. In response to a private appeal sent out by me to my friends all over the country, I received sums of money to help me in my work. This I was in the habit of doing previous to coming to Avonbridge. In this way I was enabled to relieve distress and give support where needed. Note, this action of mine was as an individual, and not as a servant of the session. Consequently I maintain the church had nothing to do with this matter, as it was private. However, unfortunately for me, I headed my appeal "Standburn U.P. Mission Church," seeing it was the scene of my labours. Friends who helped me in this way sent on to me the names of their friends likely also to give, asking me to apply to them. On the occasion of doing this, those who were unknown to me took exception to the heading, and brought it under the notice of the Rev. John Young, Home Mission secretary, who communicated with the Rev. James B. G. Rouse and his session regarding it, to see me and get explanation. Their contention was that it was an official appeal. My contention was that it was a private appeal. However, after explanation Mr. Young was perfectly satisfied with it, Mr. Rouse and his session also apparently, I receiving official communication to that effect. The money I received was partly spent. A portion of it I accounted for. The remainder I would not account for, because it was given to parties who would not have liked it to be made known. This certainly would have been done and gossiped all over the place by the session. Out of respect to the feelings of those deserving parties I refrained from giving the session particulars, but if they insisted, I volunteered to pay down that sum, which was trifling. The session evidently having faith in what I said, deemed that unnecessary. The balance in hand I paid down to them, and for which I have receipt. This course of action I insisted upon, seeing it was considered by a few as mistaken policy on my part, even although the money was not given by those who complained, but by my own friends. All this transpired nearly two years ago, and was then looked upon as a closed account. But fully a year after a party unacquainted with the matter from me, outside of the session, sought to corrupt the minds of my people and turn them from me by stating that I received money for which I could not account. Now, I challenge the Rev. James B. G. Rouse and his session, and all the members of the Falkirk Presbytery, or anyone else to prove that I spent one penny other than intended by the givers. On the occasion of my dismissal, members of the session trotted out the above in such a way as to lead the people to understand that it was the cause of it, which was not so. On that account alone, the Sabbath previous to the disturbance in the church I made public reference to it, seeing my character was at stake. I also made the statement that the money I gave the session had not passed through the books of Standburn, which is a fact. Gossip had it that I stated Avonbridge Session appropriated the money. The session heard it and believed it, and came to Standburn on that eventful Sabbath. The getting of hymn books, urgently needed by the choir, and for which a number were willing to pay, was also objected to. In the matter of collections, circumstances arose that prompt measures had to be taken, with the result that the collection was more than doubled. The session and Mr. Rouse objected, and I appeared before them, and was subjected to very great abuse and insult, Mr. Rouse making a statement which he could not prove, and which caused a great scene in the vestry of Avonbridge U.P. Church. Next came the Sabbath school trip, which brought things to a crisis. The trip was united. Standburn teachers were not properly consulted at first. The trip was not popular in Standburn. Standburn children were charged 1d more for the trip. Some thought I was responsible for this. I was not, and had nothing to do with fixing price of tickets; I only carried out instructions received from Avonbridge. To prove this, I placed in one of the shop windows the orders I had received, which allayed the feelings of my own people, and saddled the right horse. This notice soon went over the countryside and reached Mr. Rouse, who thereupon wrote me regarding the veracity of the report, and asking a copy of the same. I replied saying it was quite true, and gave my reason why. He wrote me again asking for a copy, and I sent him a reply, which I then thought seemed to be satisfactory, as he did not again write me on the subject. Note - this act of mine in placing this notice in the window was in self-defence, and to give the truth to the public. At this stage I was invited to a meeting of session. When I appeared I was hailed with a charge. To prevent another disgraceful scene, I told them if they had any charge to make against me to summons me properly, and I should meet them. I left the meeting amid Mr. Rouse crying and shouting in a loud voice to me. For doing this I was next charged with contumacy, and properly summoned to appear before them in the middle of my holidays, which they had granted me. I said I would meet them on my return, but before my trial came off I was dismissed. Nevertheless, however absurd it may appear, the session insisted on my answering that charge, which I did, and made the following defence: - Moderator, Members of Session, - I am brought here to-night on a charge of contumacy, and as a church member. To that charge I plead not guilty. In support of that plea, I received a letter of the 29th July, 1900, from the session to appear before them to answer to that charge,

and in that letter church membership was not mentioned, it was utterly impossible for me, as a church member, to be guilty of that charge, and my reasons for saying that is, everything I have done was done, not as a church member, but as a servant of the session. As a church member, the session could not have called upon me to give information about my work in Standburn, because, as a member, and a member only, my services would have been gratuitous, and in consequence I would never have been called upon to act as I did act. Further, contumacy was never considered by the session at the time I received the first letter on that charge, as a church member. Again, you might say to me, 'Oh, you were a member while you were a servant.' Yes, that is so. But would it be thought for a moment that as purely a member of the church I would have been in this position to-night? Certainly not, and no other man, either for your sake or mine, and I challenge you to produce such a case on similar lines in Church history. Paragraph I. of your letter of the 20th states that I was not summoned on any charge on the 28th July. This statement I repudiate, because the very first thing that was done by the moderator was a charge in the form of a question. This is so, for the moderator wrote me twice, on the same subject, and if he was not satisfied with the answers he received from me, why did he not continue in the way he commenced? When he did not do so, I concluded that correspondence was closed, but to my surprise the very first thing the moderator did was again to return to the same thing, which was tantamount to a charge against my truthfulness as a man. It would have been honourable on the part of the moderator had he said, "Mr. Snaddon, I charge you with not giving me all the information and asked me to produce the original MSS. I would have produced that MSS had I been asked, because it is self-evident that the moderator had got a statement from some one. That statement must have been a garbled statement, and the moderator had no proof whether it was true or fake, and it is unfair on the part of any man or number of men, no matter what position they fill, to take such information without, in the first place, being absolutely certain of its truthfulness. This was not done. Hence it is wrong. Therefore I was justified in acting as I did on that night. From past experience I know that charges were made against me which could not be proved, and on that occasion a scene was brought about which was painful, and I was determined that no such scene would ever take place in my presence again. Paragraph II. of the same letter states: - "As your missionary at Standburn, I am bound to give information on my work at Standburn." This is so, but allow me to point out to you, as a member I am not bound. There is no compulsion in our Church. Had you asked questions in connection with my work at Standburn, you would have got answers at once, but it was your own work at Standburn you were asking questions on, and I only placed in the window what was received. Had this been gone about in a right way (reference to trip), I should have got proper information on the Sabbath day, instead of which I only got from the clerk of the session one leaf of "Murray's Diary," and on it - " Tickets for children, 4d; adults, 6d." This I had to intimate on Sabbath evening, as I had no other information, and while I received a letter on the Tuesday from the clerk of the session stating that it was the custom to charge 1d less from the children of Avonbridge, there was no order to do the same in Standburn. It was by your instructions that Standburn children were charged more than the Avonbridge children. The day following I got a note from Mr. Harris, stationmaster, stating tickets 4d each for children, and 6d for adults, and, in God's name, how could I act in any other way than I did? Paragraph III. - "You say that it is the refusal to give such information that constitutes the charge of contumacy, that has already been answered, as I have endeavored to refute the charge of contumacy in the first, part of my defence. I publicly protest against the action of the Presbytery and their committee in not giving me an opportunity of stating my case before, my time expired as their servant. Paragraph IV. - "You say that the charge is made against me as a member of the church, bound to submit to the session, as over you in the Lord. This charge made against me as a member has been refuted as an impossibility, and while it is true that I am bound to submit to the session as over me in the Lord, when I am called before the session as a member it generally for wrongdoing which brings discredit upon the name of Christ, and the church to which I belong. This has never once taken place, because not in one instance have you any proof of wrongdoing on my part which will bring discredit on the name of Christ and the church to which I belong. Paragraph V. - You say "that as an agent, of the session carrying out the work at Standburn you are also liable to be called in question at any time as to the manner in which you conduct that work." Yes, that is one of the points I do know, and when I refuse to give the information asked as to the manner in which I conduct my work at Standburn, then you might have something to say, but I have always given full information to the session as to manner of work carried on in Standburn, and never once have kept it to myself. Therefore this point falls to the ground, as it has no foundation on which to rest. Your whole charge is like a man endeavouring to build a house without having any foundation on which to build, which, to men of common sense, appears exceedingly foolish. This, gentlemen, is my defence. If you desire to convey your decision to me. I shall be pleased to receive it at your convenience. Gentlemen, good night, and thanks for your hearing. "

Falkirk Herald 10th November 1900

MADDISTON.
LITRARY SOCIETY. -

The first meeting of the above was held in the Maddiston School on Friday evening last. There was a large attendance of both ladies and gentlemen, and after the appointment of a committee and other office-bearers, a short programme of songs, etc., was sustained by Miss Baxter (who acted as pianist), Mr. James Chalmers, Mr. Matthew Myles, and others. Mr. Bain was appointed honorary president: Mr. Jas. Wilson, president; and Mr. James Chalmers, secretary; members of committee - Miss Bain, Miss B. Dewar, Miss Baird, Mr. George Mearns, Mr. Thomas Pearson, and others.

Falkirk Herald 17th November 1900

STRANG. -
At Fever Hospital, Camelon, on 12th inst., Hellen (wee Daisy), only daughter of William and Janet Strang, Maddiston, aged 3 1/2 years; deeply mourned.

Falkirk Herald 17th November 1900

STANDBURN. MINING PROSPECT. -
The men employed in No. 1 Pit, Standburn, belonging to Messrs James Nimmo and Co., have been removed into other pits owned by the same company until extensive alterations are made in connection with working the main coal of the above pit. When complete, there will be work for a larger number of men, and to provide accommodation for these, the company have 23 double houses almost ready for occupation.

ACCIDENT. -
On Monday morning a miner named Thomas Moore met with a serious accident while at his work in Redford Pit, belonging to Messrs J. Nimmo and Co. It appears that Moore was busy working at the coal face, when a mass of coal came away unexpectedly, crushing him against a prop. Moore was conveyed home, and Dr. Calderwood was promptly in attendance. On examination, it was found that his collar bone was broken and that he was otherwise cut about the face. He is now progressing favourably.

U.P. MISSION. -
For the past five weeks Mr. Thomas Cullen, Falkirk, has successfully conducted the services in the U.P. Mission Church, Standburn, and we are pleased to note that he has received a more lucrative appointment in connection with Nicholson Square Wesleyan Church, Edinburgh.

Falkirk Herald 21st November 1900

GENERAL NOTICES
17,000 NEW Maddiston Bricks for Sale, also Cart Weighing Machine. - Hunter, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 21st November 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
WEDNESDAY.

RUMFORD WIVES' QUARREL. –

Agnes Conroy or Allison, wife of John Allison, miner, and Agnes Allison or M'Aulay, wife of Thomas M'Aulay, miner, both residing at Rumford, pled guilty to creating a breach of the peace at Rumford on 7th November. Fines of 10s, or seven days, were imposed in each case. MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

DISTURBANCE AT STANDBURN. –

Helen Anderson or Carlin, wife of Michael Carlin, miner, Standburn, was fined 10s, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for committing a breach of the peace at Standburn on the 8th November.

Falkirk Herald 24th November 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH CHURCH.

SALE OF WORK,

(For Sunday School and Charitable Purposes),

In MADDISTON SCHOOL, on SATURDAY, 1st Dec, From 12 Noon till 10 p.m.

The SALE will be opened by JOHN STIRLING, Esq., Muiravonside.

Falkirk Herald 24th November 1900

STEADY. Honest Man Wanted;

Carriage Hirer and Coal Merchant. - Hunter. Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 24th November 1900

STANDBURN. SUDDEN DEATH. –

Early on Wednesday Margaret Marshall, wife of James Ivory, residing at Standburn, was found dead in bed by her daughter. The news of her sudden demise was received with surprise and regret, for up to the previous evening she had the appearance hale and hearty woman. The deepest sympathy is felt for her relatives, who are well known in the district, in the loss of one whose genial and pathetic nature made her the friend of all who knew her.

Falkirk Herald 28th November 1900

MADDISTON.

Presentation. –

On the occasion of her leaving the district, Miss Baxter, headmistress in Maddiston School, was waited upon at her residence last Friday evening by a deputation from the many friends she had in the district, and presented with a gold bangle as a token of the esteem in which she is held. Mr. Robert Wilson, in a neat little speech, made the presentation, and Miss Baxter suitably acknowledged the gift.

Falkirk Herald 28th November 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A RIOTOUS STANDBURN MINER. - Hector McNeil, miner, was charged with having on 15th November (1) in and near the shop in Main Street, Slamannan, occupied by Remuida Pieri, ice cream dealer, committed a breach of the peace, and (2) in a cell at the Slamannan Police Station wilfully and maliciously smashed and destroyed part of the wood lining of the cell and a zinc pail. Accused, who pled guilty, was mulcted in 10, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 1st December 1900

MUIRAVONSIDE.

School Board Prosecution. –

Henry Orr, miner, Blackbraes, was convicted on evidence, at Monday's J.P. Court Sheriff Bell on the bench - on a charge of having failed to provide the necessary elementary education for his son, aged 13. Accused said that the boy had applied for the labour certificate examination, but that none had been held since last December, when the boy had failed in one subject, the boy was at work. The Sheriff said that the boy was still under the obligation to go to school, and fined the accused in 1s, with 20s expenses. Mr. Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk, clerk to the Muiravonside School Board, prosecuted. SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Daniel Binnie, in the absence of Mr. Wilson, Chairman, presided, and the other members present were Mr. John Bell Bryce, Mr. John Bryce, Mr. Archd. Binnie, Mr. Haldane, and Mr. Myles.

THE CONDITION OF DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL.

The Clerk read the report of Mr. Black, architect, Falkirk, on the damage done to the Drumbowie School by mineral workings. From the report it appeared that, on the 7th inst., accompanied by Messrs Binnie and Bryce, Mr. Black had visited the Drumbowie School and made an examination of the damage done by the underground mineral workings. Again, on the 17th inst., he made a further examination of the buildings, on which occasion he was accompanied by Mr. Hunter, the clerk. After this latter inspection, he suggested to Mr. Hunter that he should write to Messrs James Nimmo and Co., Ltd., and ask for a copy of the plan of that part, of their workings around and underneath the school buildings, and he annexed a copy of Messrs Nimmo's reply to Mr. Hunter's letter. As the result of his inspection, he begged to report, that the buildings seemed to be giving way to the north and also to the west, as on the east side the brick arch over one of the windows had broken through. This being temporarily repaired by a wood frame, the wall underneath this window was also rent. Another window and wall were also damaged by the wall at the north-east corner of the school having moved out so that the corner was off the plumb by one inch and a half, and the mullion of the window was split for the length of about two feet. This window was also temporarily repaired with a wooden frame. The latest addition to the school had suffered most, particularly in the ceilings of rooms 6, 7, and 8, but still the wall along the north side was fairly plumb. However, on the west side, at one point the wall was off the plumb by one inch, and easing of the roof clearly showed that that side of the school was bulged out. In the inside of the school the partition at one point showed a clear space of about one inch from the wall. The ceilings in the three rooms already mentioned were badly rent, particularly that of 6 room, which was in a dangerous state, and on his latter visit the damage to those rooms had visibly increased since his visit of ten days previous. These were the principal features of damages, but in other parts of the school building's, as well as the teacher's house, there were indications of recent cracks in the walls and ceilings. The offices were in a bad state, more particularly the original or central part, the stone wall being about 6 inches off the plumb, whilst for the most part the west boundary wall was considerably off the Plumb. In the face of the letter from Messrs Nimmo, it was rather a difficult matter to decide on any permanent repairs, but something must be done and that at once, with the three class rooms. He therefore proposed that the ceilings of those rooms have the plaster stripped off, and then be covered with wood lining. At the same time, he would further recommend as a result of his inspection he necessity of strengthening and stiffening the roofs of these rooms by taking off the outer pieces and balks, then half checking them, and re-nailing in a substantial manner. By doing this the roof would be braced together, and no single part of it would give way through further subsidence. With regard to the central part of the offices, he would certainly have proposed that they be rebuilt, but in the meantime permission might be obtained to stay the wall on the north side. His attention was also directed to the state of parts of the logs of wood by which the original parts of the school buildings were braced together; these having rotted to a considerable extent, should be renewed. Were the foregoing suggestions carried out, it did not seem to him

there was any immediate danger. He would however, further suggest that periodical inspections be made of the buildings until such time as the various seams spoken of by Messrs Nimmo had been wrought out, after which the reconstruction of the buildings, so far as necessary, could be made. In the meantime the three north rooms be closed until the absolutely necessary repairs were made. Messrs. Nimmo's letter, referred to in the report, is as follows: - "We have your favour of the 17th inst, and in reply beg to say that the mineral workings are not sufficiently through the Drumbowie School building to justify you in repairing any damage done to the same. We suppose it will be time before the mineral workings will have sufficiently settled to determine the repairs that require to be done. It will be time enough for you to consider this some time during the summer of next year, and if you write to us about that time we will be glad to send you or Mr. Black a tracing showing the position of our workings in relation to the said buildings. We are likely to work out one or two additional seams underneath the school buildings, and we do not think the building should be extensively repaired until all the coal has been extracted." The Chairman said he was sorry to hear that those three rooms had to be vacated. He himself did not think that that would have been necessary and he did not know what they would do with the scholars. Mr. John Bell Bryce said that when visited the school lately a piece of the cornice round the ventilator had broken, and had fallen on a child cutting his head. The injury was not severe, the child being at school next day. This showed the necessity of something being done soon. Mr. Myles said it was evident that the workings were under the school at the present moment and they all knew the great danger of subsidence. There were two seams, besides the main coal seam, to work here, and in view of that, any repairs the School Board might make must only be of a very temporary nature, just sufficient meantime to prevent anything of the nature of an accident taking place. Mr. John Bell Bryce said he thought there was no danger to the main building in the meantime. This class-room's ceilings, however, would require to be repaired at once. The Chairman said he thought the repairs were necessary, and they would have to get on with them with all speed, as suggested by Mr. Black. After some further discussion, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Mr. Black's report, and to appoint Mr. Black to make out specifications and get in offers for the work.

ADDITION TO BLACKBRAES SCHOOL STAFF.

Mr. John Bryce moved the motion of which he had given notice, viz., that an extra pupil teacher be appointed for Blackbraes. He explained that at the present time Mr. Campbell, the headmaster, was fully occupied with sixth and ex-sixth standards, and while he was examining other classes, he had no one to take charge of his own. Mr. Myles seconded the proposal, which was agreed to, the appointment being left to Mr. Campbell and the school committee.

The salary was fixed at £12 10s.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL YEAR.

The Clerk read a letter from H.M inspector suggesting that the school year should end on the 30th April instead of 31st January as at present so that it might be conform with the neighbouring parishes. The suggestion was favourably received, and it was agreed to comply with the request.

THE MADDISTON SCHOOL VACANCY.

In consequence of Miss Baxter's resignation from the headmistress-ship of the Maddiston School, it was agreed that Miss Mackay should take over the management of the school till Miss Baxter's successor. Miss Jane F. Walker, Brora Sutherlandshire, should be in a position to take up the duties.

RETENTION OF PUPIL-TEACHERS.

It was intimated that the following pupil teachers would finish their apprenticeship at the end of the month: - Miss Swanston and Miss McNeil, Drumbowie; and Mr. Meek, Muiravonside. It was agreed to retain their services at a salary of £30 per annum.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

It was decided to close Drumbowie School for a fortnight from 21st December for holidays that the repairs would be carried out during that time. In regard to the other schools, it was agreed to close them for a week from 28th December.

The other business was formal.

Falkirk Herald 1st December 1900

STANDBURN. ACCIDENT. -

Last Saturday a young lad named Daniel Stewart was swinging behind a lorry, when unfortunately, one of his legs slipped into the wheel and he was dragged a short distance before the driver became aware of the occurrence. He was carried to his home where Dr. Calderwood attended to the injured limb.

U.F. MISSION CHURCH. -

The Rev. Thomas Robertson, probationer, Perth, has taken up the duties in connection with the United Free Church Mission at Standburn.

Edinburgh Evening News 2nd December 1900

CHURCH EXTENSION IN LINLITHGOW DISTRICT

Church budding and church extension have in recent years been carried on to a considerable extent in and around Linlithgow. On the Muiravonside, where trade is better, it has been resolved to erect a new chapel at Cairney (sic.) near Maddiston, and in connection with the Muiravonside Parish Church. Plans have been submitted to the Linlithgow Presbytery, and the estimated cost is stated to be between £1600 and £1700, and this will be derived from a legacy bequeathed by the Late Captain Urquhart of Vellore Castle.

Falkirk Herald 12th December 1900

THE MADDISTON BRICK & QUARRY CO., Ltd., IN LIQUIDATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

That in order to participate in the DIVISION of the FUNDS, CREDITORS must Lodge their CLAIMS with me on or before the 24th December, 1900.

ALFRED A. TODD, Liquidator. 166 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, 8th December, 1900.

Falkirk Herald 12th December 1900

FALKIRK BURGH COURT.

MONDAY. (Before Bailie BOGLE)

BREACH OF THE PEACE. -

Fines of 7s 6d, or five days, were imposed on Robert Douglas, tailor, in custody, Thomas McVicar, Standburn, and James Coll, brickmaker, Camelon, for creating breaches of the peace on Saturday night.

Falkirk Herald 15th December 1900

DECISION UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT. -

Under the Workmen's Compensation Act Sheriff Bell has issued an award on reference to him by the representatives of the late Alexander Ure, miner, Standburn, Avonbridge, who was accidentally killed while in Messrs James Nimmo Co.'s employment. Messrs Nimmo & Co. had agreed to pay compensation in terms of the Act, and this was a claim by six children. It was pointed out that the two eldest sons were working for themselves and earning full wages as miners. The reference was for the purpose of ascertaining who were the dependents, and the amount of compensation payable to each. The Sheriff has held that the two eldest sons were not dependents in terms of the Act, and therefore not entitled to any share, and that the compensation fell to be divided equally amongst the four younger children. Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk, was the agent for the representatives of the deceased.

GLASGOW HERALD 21st December 1900

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE GOTHENBURG SYSTEM IN SCOTLAND.

21 Bothwell Street,
Glasgow,
December 20, 1900.

Sir, - We are afraid that you have somewhat confused the Gothenburg public-house at Standburn, Avonbridge, with the houses in Fife; and you have evidently used the statement we sent you the other day in connection with the Standburn public-house as applicable to the public-house under the Gothenburg system at Cowdenbeath. The Gothenburg public-house with which we are associated is in Stirlingshire, situated at Standburn, about two miles from Avonbridge, in the parish of Muiravonside. We hope you will pardon our drawing your attention to this matter, but we have thought it desirable to clear it up, as it will no doubt interest you to know that a Gothenburg Public-house exists in this part of the country, and that its prospects of doing good work in mitigating the drink evil are so far satisfactory.-We are, &c., JAMES NIMMO & Co. (LIMITED). ADAM NIMMO, Secretary.

Falkirk Herald 22nd December 1900

General Notices.

GRAND LIVE and CLAY PIGEON COMPETITION
to be held in a Field in MADDISTON on the 31st DECEMBER, 1900.

Falkirk Herald 29th December 1900

General Notices.

GRAND LIVE and CLAY PIGEON HANDICAP

to be held in a FIELD near MADDISTON.
Polmont Station, on 31st December. 1900.
Shooting to start at 12 o'clock prompt.

A. CAMPBELL. Secy.

Falkirk Herald 29th December 1900

J.P. COURT AT FALKIRK.

A sitting of the J.P. Court was held at Falkirk yesterday forenoon.

Ex-Provost Cockburn of Vermont presided, the other Justices present being ex-Provost Mackay, Grangemouth, and Mr. Farquharson, banker, Falkirk.

BREACH OF CERTIFICATE AT LINLITHGOWBRIDGE.

Elizabeth Jarvie or Battison, spirit merchant, Linlithgowbridge, was charged with having on Saturday, 13th October, about eleven o'clock at night, committed a breach of her certificate by selling or giving out to Robert Muirhead, railway porter or labourer, one quart bottle of whisky. Accused pleaded guilty. The Fiscal (Mr. J. M. Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk) said that accused had a public-house at Linlithgowbridge, and in connection with a breach of the peace tried lately at Linlithgow it leaked out that whisky had been got at this house after hours. In consequence of that inquiry had been made, and this prosecution brought. Mr. James Learmonth, solicitor, Falkirk, who appeared for Mrs. Battison, said it seemed that Muirhead had assisted Mrs. Battison in the cutting of some second crop hay on a field in connection with the house, and on the night in question, her younger son, who was not in her employment, but who resided in the house, coming home from Linlithgow, met Muirhead near the door of the house. Mrs. Battison was in bed and knew nothing of this. Muirhead said to the son that he might give him a bottle of whisky and that would clear them of the cost of his labour in getting in the crop. The son, very imprudently and illegally, went into the house and handed out a bottle of whisky to Muirhead. It was in consequence of the handing out of the bottle by her son that Mrs. Battison was before the Court to-day. In the circumstances he thought it was just a question whether this was trafficking in respect of no money being passed, but he thought Mrs. Battison was guilty of a technical breach of certificate, she being liable for the act of her son, though he was not in her employment. The Fiscal said that with regard to how the offence was committed, while the explanation that had been made might be quite correct, the man who got the liquor said that he stated before he went there that he would be able to get it, and when he came back he said he paid 3s for it. Since the question came up, however, they had been able to get very little information out of the man beyond the fact that he got the whisky there.

Ex-Provost Cockburn said this was the first offence, and there might be some excuse for Mrs. Battison seeing she was not present at the time the offence was committed. As it was the first offence the Justices had agreed to modify the penalty to £1 1s with 25s expenses.

Falkirk Herald 29th December 1900

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

WEDNESDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

ASSAULT AT AVONBRIDGE. -

A fine of 20s, or fourteen days, was imposed on John Nelson, miner, Standburn, he pleading guilty to having, on 22nd December, at Avonbridge Railway Station, assaulted Archibald Mackay, miner, Rosemount Cottage, Avonbridge, and committed a breach of the peace.

1901

Falkirk Herald 5th January 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

SATURDAY.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute FAHQHARSON.)

A MADDISTON WIFE-BEATER -

John Hunter, miner, Maddiston, was charged with having, on the 28th December, assaulted his wife in his own house in Maddiston by striking her repeatedly on the mouth, face, and head, compressing her throat, and knocking her down on several occasions. He was also charged with committing a breach of the peace. He pleaded guilty, and an agent on his behalf said that the wife had annoyed him by objecting to his keeping 13s from his pay with which to spend the New Year, although he had given her 35s. She wanted the 13s from him, and a struggle ensued. The parties had been 19 years married, and this was Hunter's first offence. A fine of 30s was imposed, the alternative being fifteen days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 5th January 1901

STANDBURN. I.O.R.-

The annual meeting of the Standburn Welcome Tent (No. 2594) of the Impendent Order of Rechabites was held in Drumbowie Public School on Tuesday last, when the following office bearers were elected for the ensuing six months : - C.R. Weir; D.R., Jas. Henderson; P.C.R. Wm. Beveridge; Levite, Alex. McDowall; Guard, Robert Mackie; S.S., David Clark; C.S., Walter Cheyne; Secretary, Robert Moore; Treasurer, John Nicolson; A.S., John Mackie; Representatives to District Council, Wm. Weir and Robert Moore. The Secretary reported that the membership was increasing.

U.F. MISSION BIBLE CLASS SOCIAL MEETING. -

An enjoyable social meeting was held by the members of the United Free Church Mission Bible Class on Friday evening last. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens, and the tables presented a very tempting appearance being laid off in fine style by the lady members of the class, the Rev. Thos. Robertson M. A. presided, and after justice had been done to the good things provided, made a few genial and humorous remarks. Thereafter a lengthy and varied programme was entered upon, and ably sustained by Misses Richie, Davies Aitken and Stewart, and Messrs Gillespie, Buchan and Gray. Games were gone through at intervals, a very pleasant evening being spent.

Falkirk Herald 12th January 1901

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. - The 156th quarterly meeting of the above society

was held in the Co-operative Hall on Tuesday evening. There was a fairly good attendance of members, and the president of the society, Mr. Thos. Barker, presided. The Chairman reported that the managing secretary had applied to the Board of Directors for an increase in his salary, but he was doubtful whether it lay with the Board or with the general meeting to consider the matter. Mr. Andrew Bennie moved, and Mr. Thomas Grant seconded, that the matter should be dealt with by the general meeting. Thereafter it was moved and seconded that the managing secretary be granted an increase of 10s per week. As an amendment to this it was proposed and seconded that he get an increase at the rate of £1 per week. Subsequently the motion was unanimously agreed to, thus raising the salary from £2 to £2 10s per week. The report and balance-sheet submitted for the quarter, which ended on 12th December last, showed that the sales for the quarter amounted to £26 55s 4d, and that the profits from all sources were £5654 5s 4d, which will pay a dividend of 4s 11 per £ on members' purchases. The rate per £ for the different departments are :- For Redding - Grocery, 3s 0d; drapery, 4s 3d; bakery, 5s 6d; fleshing, 3s 6d; shoemaking, 4s 2d. Blackbraes - Grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 3d; shoemaking, 4s 3d. Maddiston - Grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 5d; shoemaking, 3s 11d. Standburn - Grocery, 3s 8d; drapery, 4s 2d. The shoemaking department in connection with the Standburn branch proved a decided loss. Mr. John Taylor was reappointed an auditor of the society.

Falkirk Herald 19th January 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.

I.O.G.T. SOCIAL MEETING AND DANCE –

On Friday evening last the members of the Maddiston Lodge of Good Templars held their social meeting and dance in the Maddiston Public School. Bro. Geo. Mearns, Chief Templar, presided over an attendance of 40 ladies and gentlemen. After an enjoyable tea, provided in excellent style by Mrs. Thom, short addresses were delivered by the chairman and Bro. Wm. McLachlan. Dancing was then entered upon, and carried on with great spirit to the stirring strains of the music supplied by Mr. Robert Brown. Songs were sung at intervals by Misses Mary and Tina Heeps, Sister M. Smith, and Bros. Sampson and Mearns. Mr. Colin Maxwell officiated as M.C. with his usual ability.

MILITARY –

Trooper Wm. Watt, son of Mr. Watt, schoolmaster, Muiravonside Public School, sails this week for South Africa in the transport Canada, which carries detachments of signallers and reserve nurses. Trooper Watt, a member of the Royal Horse Guards Blue, came home on furlough in December last after a year's active service at the front. While out there he was a member of the composite regiment, and was at the relief of Kimberley, and also served with General Broadwood operating against De Wet. During that time he had some very exciting experiences, having two horses shot under him, in all he came through 40 fights, skirmishes, &c, and a camp fire, but fortunately he has escaped unhurt. Trooper Watt, who goes out this time as a signaller, is an extremely likeable young man, a good horseman, and shot. He carries with him the best wishes of a very large circle of friends.

DRUMBOWIE MINING CLASS AWARDS, -

In connection with the above class the following awards have been made, session 1899.1900 ; - Gold medal, presented to the class by Mr. James McKay, manager Roughrigg collieries, awarded to Hugh Nisbet, Redding, whilst the teachers' prize, consisting of a copy of Mr. G. L. Kerr's recently published book on coal-mining, has been awarded to Mr. Robert Aitchison, Standburn.

MEETING OF HERITORS.

THE URQUHART BEQUEST

A meeting of the real rent heritors of the parish of Muiravonside was held in the Parish Church on Saturday. The chief business was to receive the report of the committee appointed at last meeting with reference to the bequest by the late Mr. John Grubb Urquhart of Vellore, and to consider said bequest. Mr. Dewar, Comiston, was appointed chairman, and the other gentlemen present were Mr. Scott, Mr. Aitkenhead, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Mackay. The Chairman said that the committee appointed at last meeting, which included Mr. Stirling, Mr. Aitkenhead, and himself, had had a conference with the Kirk-session to see what they intended doing. They had a long meeting, and he thought the result was that they all expressed a willingness to accept the bequest. They seemed a little nervous about conditions, but they all came, in an informal way, to a sort of understanding that they would be quite willing to accept the bequest if the heritors were. Before parting, the Kirk-session indicated that they would rather wait, before they decided finally, and see what the heritors were going to do. The committee thought it advisable to meet Mr. Gibson in Falkirk, and go into the matter, especially into its legal aspects. They came to the resolution that they saw no reason, should no difficulties arise, why they should not accept the £2000, along with the two acres of ground. He (the Chairman) said he might mention that at the meeting of Kirk-session Mr. Bayne stated that he had seen the ground, and along with the information he had got, he was quite sure there was nothing like the amount mentioned in the original will. At this point the Clerk read some correspondence he had had with the trustees, in which it showed that the ground was free of feu-duty. The Chairman said it was felt, and especially by Mr. Stirling, that it would be a serious matter to take in hand a new cemetery, or even make an addition to the present one. That was what gave them most trouble and most anxious consideration, but this intimation about the ground simplified the thing very much. They were left free to do as they liked, but it must be a church connected with the Church of Scotland, under these circumstances they came to the conclusion that they ought to accept the money, and Mr. Wakelin expressed the most tolerant views as to conditions and as to time. Mr. MacKay asked if in the event of building a new church, would the present church be discontinued? Mr. Gibson said he thought it was quite clear that while the heritors were bound to keep up the present church or any future church, there was no point of keeping up a church, which Mr. Urquhart had asserted for. If the heritors resolved to accept this money and build a church, probably it would not be a Parish Church in the sense of the present one - it might be called a Chapel of Ease. The Chairman said that as a far look-out one member of the committee felt it might be possible to build a new church if the present one at some distant day should fall to pieces, and the chapel of Maddiston might form a valuable help to the real heritors of the Parish Church, Mr. Mackay said with reference to the chairman's remark about the present church falling to pieces, he (Mr. Mackay) did not think that day was very far distant. (Laughter.) Mr. Aitkenhead said that in building this new church, the longer it was of being built, there would be more money to use. It was not necessary to make any arrangements for the future at the present time; all they could do was to accept the money in the terms in which it was given. Mr. Mackay asked if there was any responsibility in accepting the money, as it seemed to be a stumbling-block to some. The Chairman said that Mr. Mackay could assure any one that there was no responsibility. The Kirk-session, he had no doubt, would agree to accept it if the heritors would. He asked if the heritors agreed to accept the money, with the land. Mr. Mackay said he would move that they accept it. He was of opinion it would be more a benefit than an injury to the parish, and he thought it would be a pity not to accept it. Mr. Aitkenhead seconded the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Stirling, Mr. Dewar, and Mr. Aitkenhead were then appointed as trustees to receive the legacy, and also trustees on behalf of the heritors and their successors. The clerk was instructed to intimate to the Kirk-session the result of the meeting, and also to adjust the title.

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close

Falkirk Herald 19th January 1901

HUNTER. –

At Maddiston, on 11th inst., Marion aged 5 1/2 months, daughter of James and Helen Hunter; dearly loved and sadly missed.

Falkirk Herald 26th January 1901

WANTED

Immediately. Steady Honest, Sober Man. - Hunter, Coalmaster and Contractor. Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 30th January 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in Maddiston School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wilson presided, and there were also present Messrs Haldane, John Bell Bryce, Binnie, John Bryce, and Myles.

THE DEATH OF THE QUEEN.

The Chairman made reference to the Queen's death, and it was resolved to record in the minutes an expression of the Board's regret.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The Officer reported that the school attendance was as follows :-

On Roll. Avge. Att.

Muiravonside School	200 162
Drumbowie School	521 420
Blackbraes School	381 324
Avonbridge School	75 64
Maddiston School	85 64

The attendance at the Maddiston School was stated to be affected by the fact that there were a good many cases of whooping cough in the village. Mr. Myles remarked that there was also a good deal of other trouble in the village, and that a number of children were in the fever hospital.

THE QUESTION OF SCHOOL PRIZES.

A long discussion took place on this question, originated through a motion by Mr. John Bryce, "That prizes be given for merit, and that prizes for attendance be graded, and the percentage raised." Mr. Bryce remarked that since giving notice of this motion he had discovered that prizes for attendance were already graded in the standards. At present no prizes were given for merit, and his proposal was that by raising the percentage required for the winning of attendance prizes from 400 to 425 they would have enough money left out of the sum now devoted to prizes to provide merit prizes. Mr. Binnie seconded the motion, which he said was in the right direction. Mr. Myles said that the proposal meant that, if they won them, there was a chance of one pupil obtaining two prizes. This would sow dissension amongst the children, and he moved that no child got more than one prize - they could call it an attendance prize if they liked. Mr. Haldane seconded. On a division, there voted for Mr. Myles' amendment the proposer and seconder and Mr. John Bryce and for the motion the mover and seconder and the chairman. The Chairman - I suppose I will just have to give my casting vote in favour of the motion. Mr. John Bryce - I do not think that is fair. You should do as the Lord Provost of Glasgow did - toss up the penny. (Laughter.) The Chairman - I can hardly go against my conscience. It is going to make no difference to the ratepayers; no more money will be spent. The motion was then agreed to. QUESTION AS TO THE CLOSING OF DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL.

Mr. John Bell Bryce complained that although it was arranged that Drumbowie School was to be opened on January 8th, it was opened on January 7th. The children were dismissed on the 7th. and told to come back on the 8th, when they would be told how many more holidays they were to get, while the teachers were dismissed till the Monday following. He had to ask Convener Binnie if he knew anything about that? Mr. Binnie - That is so; but if you had been there you would have seen that the school was not ready for being re-opened. Mr. J. B. Bryce - "Who authorised the children to come on the Monday and the teachers on the Monday following?" Mr. Binnie - I do not know. Mr. J. B. Bryce - When I called on the Monday the joiners were all but finished, and the painters would have been finished on the following day. On the Thursday I had a conversation with Mr. Mackay, the headmaster, and he asked if he would wire for the teachers to come back. I inquired who had dismissed the teachers, and he said he had. I asked who is the Board or the committee of the Drumbowie School? I am a member of the committee, and I knew little or nothing of the business. Mr. Binnie says it is a fact that the children were assembled on the Monday instead of on the Tuesday, but he does not know by whose authority. He is convener of the School Committee, and yet he did not know. This was a most unsatisfactory way of doing the Drumbowie School business, and he had to enter his protest. The Chairman - I do not think that the fact that the school was opened on the Monday instead of on the Tuesday is a serious matter. If Mr. MacKay was told by the tradesmen that the school would not be ready till the Thursday, what could he do but send the pupils and the teachers' home? Mr. J. B. Bryce - Do you give the headmaster full power to do that? The Chairman - There was no other person there to control; you were not there. Mr. J. B. Bryce - Is it not a fact, Mr. Binnie, that Mr. Mackay called on you on Sunday evening, and that you gave him the instructions on which he acted? Mr. Binnie said it was the case that Mr. Mackay did call on him regarding the matter. Mr. J. B. Bryce - Do you think that a right way of doing business? Mr. Binnie - The work was not finished; and the joiner was doing his best to get the work done. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I am not finding fault with the joiner. There was no joiner inside the school on the Thursday. Mr. Myles said it was unfortunate that those disputes arose, particularly between committee men and the headmaster. He did not see why one member of a committee should be ignored in such matters, and Mr. Bryce might have been consulted as well as Mr. Binnie, as they were both equally handy. If the whole committee and the headmaster had arranged this matter, the dispute would not have arisen. Mr. Binnie - The school was not ready before Thursday, and do you think that the school should have been opened then? Mr. Myles - I know nothing about your committee work. Mr. Bryce is complaining about your not having been acknowledged in this matter. Mr. Binnie - He was there six times, he says, and he should have known more about how matters stood than I did. Mr. Myles - In the remarks I made I read between the lines of the two statements. The Chairman - We might let this matter drop; we can make nothing of it. Mr. J. B. Bryce - Is this condition of things to continue? Mr. Myles - This state of matters should not be allowed to go on. The Chairman - I do not think so either. Subsequently the matter was allowed to drop, the hope being expressed that the committee would consult with one another in future.

THE LETTING OF MADDISTON SCHOOL.

Redding Co-operative Society wrote complaining that Mr. Myles, the convener of the Maddiston School, had charged them 10s for the use of that school for a lecture by Mr. Maxwell, of the Wholesale Society. They considered the sum was an overcharge, and they desired the Board to receive a deputation on the subject. A second letter was read from the society stating that the 10s was charged because Mr. Barker was chairman of the meeting and the society did not see that they should suffer because that gentleman and Mr. Myles did not see eye to eye. The Clerk said he wrote saying he could not say whether the Board would receive a deputation or not. The Board ought either to remit the matter to a committee or make a motion that certain charges be fixed. Mr. Myles complained of the manner in which the application for the school was made, one member having come to him and another member going to Mr. Haldane, the other member of the School Committee, on the subject. It was quite the case that he said he was prepared to give Mr Maxwell the school on condition that Mr. Barker had nothing to do with the meeting. He had had a deal of trouble with Mr. Barker, and he did not want to have anything to do with him. They were to come back to him and let him know if the condition on which the school was granted was accepted, and he would let them know the charge. That was not done, however, and the first thing he knew of the matter afterwards was in the bills announcing the meeting on a night on which the school was let to the Good Templars. When a lecture was delivered in the Muiravonside School the charge was 10s, and he told the clerk to charge that sum again. The Chairman thought that Mr. Myles had stepped out of his place in refusing the school either to one person or another. Everyone had a right to the school. Mr. Myles - I would not grant everyone the use of the school. I have refused the school before. The Chairman - I do not think you have any right to do so. Mr. Binnie rose to speak. Mr. Myles - You have nothing to do with the committee work. Mr. Binnie -

We must decide this matter, as the committee is disagreeing. Mr. Haldane thought the charge too high. He thought 2s or 2s 6d was ample. The Clerk - We got 10s for the use of the school at the election. Mr. Myles said that as convener of the school he was being insulted. The Chairman - We have nothing to do with personal matters. Mr. Myles - But I have to do with it. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I am afraid there is a little politics in this meeting. Mr. Myles - Not with me. Mr. Haldane said he would send the clerk a notice of motion dealing with the question of charges, and the subject dropped.

THE MINERALS BELOW DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL.

The Clerk reported what he had done in regard to the minerals below the Drumbowie School. He wrote Mr. Stirling, pointing out to him that the minerals were being wrought under the school, and that the school buildings had been materially damaged. Mr. Stirling sent the Board's letter to Messrs Gair and Gibson, and as a result he had several meetings with Mr. Gair. Subsequently they wrote him that Mr. Stirling was sorry to hear that the Drumbowie School had been damaged, but that he was not responsible for any damage. His lease of 1892 with Messrs Nimmo and Co., who were working the minerals, relieved him of that responsibility. He had written to Messrs Nimmo, and he would now read their letter in reply. The Chairman objected to this letter being read publicly, and said that the clerk had made a mistake in writing to Messrs Nimmo. Mr. Myles thought that the letter should be read. The Chairman said he would insist on its being read in committee. Mr. Myles said he moved that everything in connection with this subject should go to the press. The Chairman - I quite agree that everything should go to the press, but not at the present stage. Mr. Myles - We are not here to hide anything. The Chairman - There is a difference between Mr. Hunter (the clerk) and myself I wish settled. Mr. Myles - We do not want to hear your differences. We want to hear School Board business. If there is a difference between you and Mr. Hunter, you better go to the door and settle it. The Clerk said that as there might be a claim for damages, he did not think it advisable that a question which would probably only be settled after litigation should be discussed publicly. He hoped they would agree to the chairman's suggestion. After further discussion, the Board met in committee.

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MUIRAVONSIDE.

COMFORTS FOR SOLDIERS. -

In connection with the box of comforts for soldiers serving in South Africa, dispatched from here on the 31st March, Miss Borthwick, Maddiston, received a letter last week from Private R. Simpson, 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, stationed at Bethulie, stating that he had received his parcel on the 27th December, and had shared the contents with some of his needy friends, and desiring her to convey, on behalf of himself and comrades, their sincere thanks to the Muiravonside folks for their kind remembrance. The box contained seven large parcels addressed to young men hailing from this district, except one, which was addressed to the Scottish Hospital. Acknowledgments have been received for five parcels. The one for the hospital, we understood, was sent there direct, the other, we trust, will have reached its owner for distribution ere now. Although the comforts have taken a considerable time to reach their various destinations, it is gratifying to learn that the efforts of the parties connected with this scheme, and the hearty public response, has been attended with success.

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STANDBURN.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. -

On Wednesday a young lad named John Dick, residing at Standburn, met with a serious accident at Blackstone Pit, belonging to John Nimmo and Co. Dick was employed in what is termed in mining circles as a "crow-picker," and was standing inside of a waggon speaking to someone, when one of the workers shifted the waggon, with the result that his head was severely crushed between the scree and the top of the waggon. Dr Calderwood was soon in and had the unfortunate lad attended to. He now lies in a precarious condition

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STANDBURN.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The services in connection with this church took the form of memorial services last Sabbath. The Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon was the preacher, and his theme in the forenoon was "The Lamented Death of the Queen; A Grief-Stricken People," and in the evening, "The Life and Reign of Queen Victoria," In view of the inclemency of the weather, the services were well attended.

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GENERAL NOTICES

BROWN Cob for sale, 15 H.H. suitable for Light Van Work; cheap. - Apply Marshall, Standburn

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STANDBURN.

BIBLE CLASS. -

Mr. John Robertson, miners' agent, Hamilton, gave an address to the Standburn Congregational Church Bible Class last Sabbath evening, when there was a fairly large attendance of members. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. -

The Congregational Church took farewell with the Salvation Army Hall last Sabbath evening, when there was a very large attendance. The hall has been occupied by this church while their new church was being erected. The new church is now finished, and will be opened on Sabbath first. An interesting feature in connection with the erection of the new church is that a bell has been obtained for it, and that principally through the efforts of the children. It is the only bell in Standburn and district, and it will be rung for the first time on Sabbath first.

Falkirk Herald 9th February 1901

STANDBURN.

FATAL RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT. -

The young lad named John Dick who was seriously injured as reported in our columns last week, died at the residence of his uncle, with whom he resided early on Thursday morning. Much sympathy is expressed for his relatives in their sad bereavement.

ACCIDENT. -

On Wednesday a young man named Archibald Kerr was cut about the head and his body severely bruised in Redford Colliery, belonging to Messrs J. Nimmo & Co. He was putting a hutch on the cage when suddenly it began to ascend before it was securely on, with the result that it came back on him.

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STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Minister. - Rev. D. H. RITCHIE SNADDON. NEW CHURCH will be opened for Public Worship on SABBATH FIRST, February 10th. Preacher - Rev. J. RICHARDSON, Greenock. 12 o'clock - Subject: "Christ's charge to His Church." 6 P.M. Do. "Paul's confidence in the Gospel." 6.30. - Bible Class; "Life of Moses." Illustrated by Lantern. Open to everybody. Speaker - "Mr. ALEX. KERR. Liberal Offerings asked for the Lord's work at all Services.

MONDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, GRAND OPENING SOIREE in NEW CHURCH. Speakers - Rev. J. RICHARDSON, Greenock; Rev. ALEX POLLOCK, M.A., Falkirk; JOHN MARSHALL, Esq., Airdrie; ALEX. KERR, Esq., Standburn; JOHN BELL BRYCE, Esq., Maddiston, &c. Church Choir, under the Leadership of Mr. Wm. MEEK, and the Bible Class "Choral Union," under the Leadership of Mr. Wm. J. McDOWALL, will render several Pieces during the evening; also, Scotch Readings, Quartette, Duets, Recitations, Violin Selection, Gramophone, &c. Chairman - Rev. D. H. RITCHIE SNADDON.

Tickets, 9d each. Doors open at 6.30; Chair taken at 7 p m.

Falkirk Herald 16th February 1901

MADDISTON.

IMPORTANT COLLIERY DEVELOPMENT. –

The estate of Parkhead, near Maddiston, and the district to the south and the east, have been leased by the Manuelrieg Coal Company, who are about to work coal on the ground. The N.B. Railway Company have already prepared plans for the erection of sidings to some of the pits which are to be sunk, and local builders have been instructed to proceed with the erection of blocks of workmen's houses. Coal is believed to be plentiful, and the development will draw many workmen to the district, and greatly promote the prosperity of the Maddiston district.

STANDBURN.

LECTURE.-

On Friday evening last the Rev. W. R Paterson, M.A., Armadale, delivered a lecture on the war in South Africa in Standburn U.F. Mission Church. Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse, presided, and there was a large attendance. The lecturer, in an interesting manner, related his experiences at the front, where he acted as chaplain to the Royal Scots Greys, whom he joined at Kroonstad and was attached to the Cavalry Brigade under General French throughout the whole of the campaign. A number of interesting curios from the seat of war were shown, and a number of snapshot views, taken by an officer of the Greys, was thrown upon the lantern screen. A solo, entitled "The March of the Cameron Men," was rendered in excellent style, by Miss Davies. At the close of a profitable and instructive evening, the usual votes of thanks were awarded.

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

OPENING OF NEW CHURCH.

The Congregational Church, which has been worshipping in temporary premises for the past four months, on Sabbath last occupied their new church. The site, obtained from Mr. John Stirling, Muiravonside, on which the church is erected is the best procurable, and gives to the building a very commanding position, placing it right in the heart of the people, and in a central position for the surrounding neighbourhood. The church is situated on the south side of the public road, and opposite Dr Calderwood's residence, it is built of corrugated iron, and rests on a foundation of brick work. The building is comfortably seated for about 300 persons. At the back of the church a small vestry is attached, and the lighting and heating is all that can be desired, the contractors for the work were as follows: - Brick foundation. Mr. Maxwell, Falkirk; erection of church, Messrs Speirs and Co. Glasgow; lighting, Mr. John Marshall, Standburn. The estimated cost is about £350. The church was opened for public worship on Sabbath last, when the Rev. John Richardson, Greenock, preached the opening sermons to crowded congregations at all diets of worship. The rev. gentleman took as his subject in the forenoon "Christ's Charge to His Church." and in the evening "Paul's Confidence in the Gospel." Both sermons were listened to with rapt attention, and were highly appreciated. An interesting feature in the forenoon service- was the baptising of Mr. Alex. Kerr's infant son by the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, minister of the church, the baby's name being David Ritchie Snaddon Kerr. This is the first public baptism of the kind celebrated in Standburn. The services were further enhanced by the special singing of the church choir, so ably trained and led by Mr. Wm. Meek, Miss M. Ritchie acting as organist. The Bible Class in the evening was addressed by Mr. Alex. Kerr, who took for his subject "The Life of Moses." His address was illustrated with the lantern, which was manipulated by the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon. The highest collection ever lifted in Standburn was taken, and amounted to about £17. On the Monday night an opening soiree was held in the new church, when the building was taxed to its utmost capacity, many failing to gain admission. The large gathering was presided over by Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, who was supported on the platform by Rev. John Richardson, Greenock; Rev. Alex. Pollock, M.A.; Mr. John Marshall, Airdrie; Mr. Alex. Kerr, Standburn and Mr. John Bell Bryce, Maddiston. The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, said he desired to bring before his audience the various organisations of the church, and commended them to the prayerful considerations of the people. He strongly appealed for regular waiting upon the means of grace, the regular attendance, at church on the Sabbath day addresses were afterwards delivered by Mr. Kerr, Rev. John Richardson, Rev. Alex. Pollock, M.A., Falkirk, and Mr. Bell Bryce. The musical programme was, of a very high order. The- rendering of four sacred pieces by the church choir, led by Mr. Meek, was a distinct feature of the meeting, and reflected great credit both upon choir and conductor. The sacred selection by the two members of the Bible Class Choral Union, Messrs McDowall and Docherty, was a taking item. Miss Murray's solo, "The Better Land." was well received. Double quartettes by Misses Calder, Kerr, Aitken, and Swanson, and Messrs Aitchison, Wilson, and Meek, were rendered in a very effective manner. A reading, entitled "A Drive in a Hansom," by Miss Lizzie Dobbie, was received with well-merited applause, and a double quartette by Misses Ure, Aitken, Ure, and Swanson, and Messrs Wilson, Meek, and Aitchison was given in a very charming manner. Miss M. Ritchie presided at the organ in a meritorious manner.

Votes of thanks to all who had in any way assisted brought a very happy and successful meeting to a close.

Falkirk Herald 20th February 1901

STIRLINGSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the committee of the Stirlingshire Football association was held in the Crown Hotel, Falkirk, last night - Mr. Peter Hutton, Stenhousemuir, presiding.

CONSOLATION CUP.

PROTEST BY FALKIRK AMATEURS.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Morrison, secretary of the Falkirk Amateurs' Club, protesting against the semi-final tie being awarded to Camelon, on the ground that Livingstone Rae, one of the Camelon team, was not eligible, he having played for a team called Bo'ness in a five-a-side competition at sports promoted by the Diamond Jubilee Lodge of Ancient Shepherds at Maddiston on 11th August, 1900, when he was not a registered professional for Bo'ness, and on the above ground claiming that he be awarded to the Amateurs. The representatives of the clubs interested having retired; evidence was led in support of and against the protest. For Camelon, the first witness examined was John Martin, the secretary of the club. He denied that Livingstone Rae ever played in a five-a-side competition for Bo'ness. Livingstone Rae who was next examined, also denied that he played for a team bearing the name of Bo'ness at sports at Maddiston on 11th August He took part in a competition at Maddiston, but he could hardly say that that was the date, and the team he played in was called Camelon No. 1, and that team secured the first prize. That was the only occasion he played at Maddiston. It was stated in a Falkirk paper that the first game was won by Bo'ness, but there was no team from Bo'ness that day except a juvenile team. This team was entered as Camelon No. 1, and played against a team of the name of Rumford. Wm. Strang, who acted as secretary of the Diamond Jubilee Lodge of Shepherds sports, stated that he was quite positive that there was no team of the name of Bo'ness entered in the senior competition at the sports, there was a Camelon team entered, and it won the first prize. Four teams in all entered - Camelon, Rumford, Standburn, and one from about Shotts. The team from Camelon was entered simply by the players and he did not know whether it was officially recognised by the Camelon Club or not, as secretary of the sports he was positive it was entered as the Camelon team. He took the entries in a little note-book, and when the teams were drawn he wrote the name of the teams on pieces of paper, and stuck them upon the goal- posts. Apart from the committee of the sports, he could find 50 spectators to give evidence to the fact that one of the teams was entered as Camelon. A friend of his furnished a report of the sports to the newspapers, and it was possible there might be something wrong with the reports. There was also a juvenile competition at the sports, and one team entered from Bo'ness. He thought there were only two players from Bo'ness, and they made up their team with fellows about the place. On behalf of the Falkirk Amateurs, John Kilbride said he

was captain of a team of the name of Wallacelea, which played in the senior competition at the Shepherds' sports at Maddiston on 11th August. His team was drawn against a team of the name of Bo'ness, and the names of the team were stuck up on the goal posts in writing, the members of the Bo'ness team were Thos. Simpson, Livingstone Rae, Thos. Myles, Thos. Bennie, and Dewar Simpson. The member of the team named Rae belonged to Camelon club. Four teams entered the competition and the names of them were Bo'ness, Wallacelea Drumbowie, and Crosscroes. The sports were held at Maddiston under the auspices of the Shepherds, but he could not say if it was the Diamond Jubilee Lodge, and he did not know the secretary. Bo'ness team lifted the first prize. He was perfectly certain that Bo'ness was the name of the team, and the name that was put on the goal-post when they were drawn. There was no Camelon team there that day. He identified Rae (who had been called in) as the player who played in the Bo'ness team that day. Wm. Jack deponed that he also played in the Wallacelea team at the sports at Maddiston on the day in question. He also stated that names of the teams competing in the senior competition were Bo'ness, Drumbowie, Crosscroes, and Wallacelea. There was a juvenile competition as well, but it was not in it that Bo'ness played, as he played in that competition too. He corroborated the previous witness as to the names of the Bo'ness team. He was quite positive there was no team of the name of Camelon No. 1 in the competition. He could swear it was Bo'ness, and that that was the name stuck on the goal-post. Of the other members of the team besides Rae, Myles, and Dewar, Simpson had played for Bo'ness. Another witness for Camelon, named James Smith, stated that he took part in the juvenile competition at the Maddiston sports, but he could not remember the name of the team he played in. In the senior competition four teams entered, under the names of Camelon No. 1, Rumford, West Calder, and Standburn. He was at the drawing of the teams, and saw the names stuck up on the goal-posts. There was no Bo'ness team in the senior competition, nor a Crosscroes or Wallacelea team. Wm. Strang (re-called) said he was positive that the name of one of the teams was Camelon No. 1, and the others were Standburn or Drumbowie, Rumford or Wallacelea, and West Calder. This concluded the evidence taken by the committee, and after it had been considered, Mr. Lindsay (Dunipace) moved that the protest be not sustained. Mr. M'Laren seconded. This was unanimously agreed to, it being also agreed to refund Falkirk Amateurs the deposit lodged with the protest. The representatives of the clubs having been called in, the Chairman intimated the decision of the committee. Mr. Morrison (Falkirk Amateurs) - Might I ask the grounds of the decision? The Chairman - It is not usual to give these. Mr. Morrison - Is it not usual to hear the evidence of the club? The Chairman - Yes, Mr. Morrison - Then I have other six or seven witnesses outside. Mr. Nicol (Falkirk) - We have selected two witnesses from each, and we are satisfied that any further evidence would simply be to continue the case further. Mr. Morrison - It might continue the case further, and it might lead to some other point being brought out. The Chairman - I must rule that you are entirely out of order, Mr. Morrison, in raising this question after the decision of the committee has been given. You must give notice of motion. Mr. Morrison - I must ask what procedure I have to go through to appeal again this decision. The Chairman - You would find from the rule book, but I may tell you in courtesy that you would have to call a special meeting. Mr. Morrison - I may dismiss the rest of my witnesses, I suppose? The Chairman - The case is settled.

Falkirk Herald 27th February 1901
MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School yesterday. Mr. Wilson presided, and the other members present were Messrs Haldane, Myles, John Bell Bryce, John Bryce, D. Binnie, and A. Binnie.

THE LETTING OF THE MADDISTON SCHOOL TO THE REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

Mr. Haldane moved that 5s be a sufficient sum to take from the Redding Co-operative Society for the use of the Maddiston School recently. Mr. D. Binnie seconded. Mr. Myles said he did not care though the Board gave the school for nothing: that had nothing to do with the position he took up. In the first place he wanted to inform the Board that a direct representative from the Redding Co-operative Society waited on Mr. Haldane. That did not happen in his (Mr. Myles) case. Now he would ask Mr. Haldane, in the presence of the Board, if he was not visited by deputations from the Redding Co-operative Society since that time? Mr. Haldane - No, I have not been met by a deputation. Mr. Myles - You have not had any word from that Board? Mr. D. Binnie - I don't think that matters much. Mr. Myles - It does matter if you'd just watch me. Mr. D. Binnie - Certainly; we are watching you with great patience. Mr. Myles (continuing) said that occasion he was misled because he was the very last man who would have dreamt of harassing the Redding Co-operative Society's committee, much less have refused to give them, the school, or place in their way certain conditions that would in all likelihood hamper them from, holding meetings in Maddiston School, more particularly when they were large ratepayers in, the parish. The gentleman who called on him (Mr. Myles) with regard to the matter was to report to the Cooperative Society's committee, and get the date upon which they expected to hold their meeting so as not to conflict with other meetings. As the Board was perfectly well aware, according to the standing orders, the school hire ought to have been prepaid, but no arrangement was come to with regard to that, and the next thing he saw was bills announcing the meeting. That meeting, however, conflicted with the Good Templars' meeting, which was to be held the same night. He at once went to his colleague, Mr. Haldane, and asked him if he had arranged with the Good Templars, and he said he had not. He (Mr. Myles) considered that was a great slight altogether. Now the reason he suggested that the hire ought to be 10s was to make them kick against it, and prove clearly that they did not go about their business in a businesslike fashion. He did not care if the Board said that the school was to cost nothing. That was nothing to him. His contention was that the matter was gone about in a very unbusinesslike way, and they had tried to ride rough-shod over him as a member. The Board could state the hire at 5s. He had no objection to that, further than the statement he had made, and it might be a lesson to them in the future to transact their business through their secretary, or apply by letter. The Chairman. - Is there no amendment? Mr. Myles - No: no amendment. The Chairman - Then the motion is carried. Mr. Haldane said that Mr. Myles had made a mistake when the Co-operative Society's representatives came to him and asked when they could have the school, he replied that the school was engaged every night, with the exception of Saturday. He, however, told them that they could arrange with the Good Templars, to get them to put off their juveniles' meeting, but that they must be cleared out by eight o'clock, when the adult meeting began. Mr. Myles said that if it was a mistake Mr. Haldane had misinformed him. He waited on Mr. Haldane in his own shop, and inquired if he had made arrangements, and he said no. The Chairman - I think that is immaterial. Mr. D. Binnie said they expected to hire the schools at a uniform rate, and what he learned of the members present at that meeting, and the time it occupied, the charge of 10s was extravagant, and above the average. Mr. Myles - My object was not to make it an excessive charge at all. The matter then dropped.

ATTENDANCE REPORT.

The attendance report for the month was submitted as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Att.
Muiravonside School	205	172
Drumbowie School	536	433
Blackbraes School	331	323
Maddiston School	75	53
Avonbridge School	75	65

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. J. Bell Bryce said he would like to draw attention to the effect that the most important business of the Board, the finance came on last and that they had not sufficient time to devote to it. He therefore tabled a motion that the finance business be placed second on the billet.

THE BOARD'S FIRE INSURANCE AGENT.

Mr. Myles then moved the motion, of which he had previously given notice, "That the appointment of Mr. Graham Brown, Glasgow, as the Board's fire insurance agent, be reconsidered." Some months ago, he said, a letter was read at the Board meeting from Mrs. Stirling, to the effect that the late Colonel Stirling had handed over to or appointed Mr. Graham Brown to the fire insurance agency of the Board, and a motion was made to agree to that. At that time he said he would offer no opposition to the motion, as the matter had been sprung upon them, but after thinking over the matter, he thought the finding on that occasion was wrong. With all respect to the deceased Colonel Stirling, he (Mr. Myles) thought it was entirely out of place for them to take up work that actually belonged to the Board, and he considered it lay with the Board on the Colonel's decease to appoint their own. Continuing, Mr. Myles pointed out that it was very awkward that their fire insurance agent was in Glasgow, and said he had learned that in almost every School Board in Stirlingshire the insurance-agents were legal men and clerks to the Boards. He therefore thought it would be convenient, as well as advisable, to appoint the clerk of the Board, who was an agent for the same insurance company as Mr. Graham Brown, their agent. He moved that the former decision, be rescinded, and that the clerk be appointed their fire insurance agent. Mr. Haldane seconded. Mr. D. Binnie said he thought they might delay the matter for another month for inquiry. He moved accordingly. Mr. T. Bell Bryce seconded. Mr. Myles said that if Mr. Binnie moved that the question be continued for a month to get reliable information, he would withdraw his motion. Mr. Binnie agreed to this. The Chairman said he was inclined to think that the matter should not come up till the end of the year. Some further discussion took place, in the course of which the chairman mentioned that he had received another letter in connection with the matter. Mr. Myles said he had not heard of that letter and from the manner in which matters had been conducted in regard to that, one would think that the business had been cooked and ready. Mr. J. Bryce - Question. Mr. Arch. Binnie moved that the Board hold to their former decision till the end of the year. He had no objection to the clerk getting the agency, but they had only made the appointment in December, and it seemed to him that it would be ridiculous to go back on it so soon and reconsider that decision. Mr. John Bryce seconded. Mr. D. Binnie said he would withdraw his motion in favour of Mr. A. Binnie's but Mr. J. Bell Bryce would not give his consent to this, and Mr. Myles said he would now insist on his original motion being put. The vote was then taken, when there voted for Mr. A. Binnie's motion the Chairman, and Messrs A. Binnie, D. Binnie, and Mr. John Bryce. Mr. A. Binnie's motion was thus carried. Mr. J. Bell Bryce referring to the manner in which Mr. D. Binnie voted, asked if the chairman meant to say that a man could make a motion and vote against it. He never saw that done in all his life. It was something new in the Muiravonside School Board. Had they ever seen such a thing done? Mr. Myles - Never in all my life. The Chairman - It was a thing that should never have been brought up at all. Mr. J. Bell Bryce - Then why bring it up, and make a bungle of it after all. I do not consider that business. Mr. Myles - I do not want to attack you, but was not my motion in keeping with the standing orders? The Chairman - It has been the rule in the Board - Mr. Myles - Answer the question. The Chairman - It has been the rule in the Board Mr. Myles - Answer the question, please. The Chairman - Allow me to do so. It has been the rule in the Board that any man who was appointed by us was appointed for a year as a rule. Mr. Myles - I stated that there was no opposition at that time, but that when once I was in possession of information I would oppose it. I hold this, that my motion was in order and that I am right and you are wrong. Mr. J. Bell Bryce - I would like to ask the clerk if it is legal for Mr. Binnie to vote against his own motion. The Clerk - If Mr. Binnie chose to do so, no one could hinder him. Mr. A. Binnie - My motion was only for a twelvemonth, and Mr. Binnie's motion was "till we got further information." Mr. Haldane - But we do not require to wait twelve months for information. Mr. Myles - It is a most awkward position for any gentleman to take up, and vote against his own motion. Mr. D. Binnie - Not against. Mr. Myles - Your motion, was not withdrawn, and you were voting on the other side. Mr. D. Binnie - There was no other side. They were both the same. Mr. A. Binnie said that Mr. Myles made a statement when he was speaking, for which he thought he should be called upon to apologise, if it was not true. He referred to certain members coming there with business cooked and ready. He (Mr. Binnie) would refer to the chairman if that was anything like respectful language for a member of the Board to use. He did not know of any members who came with business cooked and ready, and he considered it was far from right, for any member to come prepared with business. Mr. Myles said that the chairman had mentioned a letter, the existence of which he was not aware of, while he (Mr. Myles) stated that he himself was in an uninformed position. He supposed he was the only one, and when Mr. Bryce said "question," it left the impression on his (Mr. Myles's) mind that there were others as well informed as the chairman was. If that was the case, the business must have been brought there cooked and ready. He would have apologised if that remark of Mr. Bryce's had not been made, but in the circumstances he could not see his way to do so. Mr. A. Binnie - I knew nothing about the letter. Mr. Myles - I did not refer to you at all. I simply referred to the gentleman who said "question." Mr. A. Binnie - I am quite satisfied. The Chairman - I don't think it's worth while troubling with that. The matter then dropped.

THE MINERALS UNDER THE DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL

The Board then proceeded to deal with the question of the mineral workings under the Drumbowie School. Mr. John Bryce moved that the matter be discussed in committee. Mr. Myles - That motion is not competent. At last meeting we agreed unanimously to that request, but it was agreed that the whole matter be discussed in presence of the reporters at this meeting. The Chairman - No; I don't think so. Mr. Myles - The chairman made a request, which was agreed to, that the subject be discussed in committee, at last meeting. That subject has been discussed; I move that the whole question be gone into in the presence of the reporters. The Chairman - I don't think so. The Clerk said that the motion was, that the whole question of the minerals under Drumbowie School should be taken up at next meeting, and that the clerk be instructed to furnish the Board with particulars as to who was responsible for the damage done. There was nothing about reporters. Mr. Myles (to the Chairman) - You agreed at once if we gave in to your request at last meeting that the matter would be discussed in presence of the reporters today. Mr. D. Binnie - These words were not used in my hearing. The Chairman - There is a motion here that we do not discuss the matter in public at this meeting. Does anyone second it? Mr. D. Binnie seconded. He thought that this business should be done at the present time in committee. Mr. Myles - I do not think so, because we have two or three times discussed this same business in committee. Mr. J. Bell Bryce said he failed to see where there was any cause for secrecy in the matter, or that there was anything to hide from the public. Mr. Myles said he agreed with Mr. Bryce, but there were always a few of the members anxious to have the matter taken in private. At last meeting the clerk only explained a little matter which was between the chairman and himself. That was discussed in private, but not the question of the re-opening of the whole question of the minerals under the school. Mr. J. Bell Bryce - It was not the minerals that were discussed at all simply the matter between the clerk and the chairman. Mr. Myles (to the chairman) - I won't be trapped in anything of that sort. The Chairman - Everything was done in committee. After some further discussion, Mr. Myles moved that the whole matter be discussed openly in presence of the reporters. Mr. J. Bell Bryce seconded. Mr. Haldane asked if it would not be better to know if there were any secrets that were not to be brought to light before they took a show of hands, for it was just a case of this, that there would be two or three one way, and two or three another. Mr. D. Binnie said there might be some discussion, but there were certain things that ought to be kept private for a time. Mr. Haldane said that if anything of that nature was said the reporters might be asked to keep it out. Mr. J. Bell Bryce - But they won't do that. (Laughter.) Mr. Myles - You may as well have it out just now. The Chairman - We are all prepared for that. Mr. Myles - Then why not let it out now. The Chairman - The matter is no secret to me whatever, but we do not know exactly yet what our claim may be, or who we may hold liable. Mr. Myles - That is the matter I have to deal with. The Chairman - Excuse-me, Mr. Myles; we are going to discuss that matter and try and find it out but I think it would be a great mistake to discuss it in public and let certain parties know. Mr. A. Binnie - It would just be

showing our hand. Mr. D. Binnie - I understand it might injure the Board, and the interests of the ratepayers, in times to come. The Chairman - Yes; that is so. Mr. Myles - How can that be when our clerk has put us in an informed position. He has negotiated with the proprietor of the minerals, and the lessee, and we are in a position to say who is liable - whether it is the one or the other, or both - and I think it is perfectly right that this should come out. The Chairman - If the Board is agreeable I have not the least objection, but I think it would be better to take the matter in committee. Mr. A. Binnie - I think that the public should know; but is the present the proper time? Mr. D. Binnie - That is so. Mr. Myles - If you can point out to me wherein it is at all likely to damage our interests or affect our position, so far as having a claim is concerned, I would acquiesce at once with Mr. Bryce's motion, but I fail to see it. The Clerk, having been asked for his opinion in the matter, said that as clerk to the Board he did not think, if there was a probability of the matter going to litigation, that they should discuss it publicly at the present time. The Chairman - The clerk said that before. Mr. Binnie - That is quite right. It will all come before the public by-and-bye. Mr. Myles said he might say that if his motion came up that day they must go to litigation, for once the Board was in possession of the information, that either the one party or the other, or both were liable, and that both denied liability, there was no other course open to the Board. The Clerk - That is how I look at it, and looking at it in that way, I think it would prejudice us to discuss it in public. A vote was then taken, when there voted for Mr. Myles' amendment - Messrs Myles, Haldane, and J. Bell Bruce (3); and for the motion, the Chairman, and Messrs D. Binnie, A. Binnie, and John Bryce (4). The motion therefore became the finding of the meeting. Mr. Myles - There is one thing I will not pledge myself to keep my mouth closed after I am outside this meeting. The Chairman - We have nothing to do with that at all. You are quite at liberty to do as you like. Mr. J. Bell Bruce - I think you should give in with the majority. The matter then dropped. This was all the business of public importance.

Falkirk Herald 27th February 1901

AGENTS

By whom Advertisements and Orders for the Paper are received:

Avonbridge, - R. Forrester, News Agent.

Blackbraes, - M. Watson, Grocer.

Linlithgow Bridge, - Mrs. Dickson.

Maddiston, - Arch. Forsyth, Merchant.

Manuel, - James Stewart, Manuel Station.

Standburn, - Alex. Robertson.

Falkirk Herald March 2nd 1901

MADDISTON.

Evening Class Social Meeting and Dance - The first session of the Maddiston Evening Continuation Class was brought to a close by a social meeting and dance in Maddiston School on Wednesday evening last. The company, numbering seventy pupils and friends, was presided over by Mr. Robert Myles, convener of School Committee, who was accompanied on the platform by his colleague, Mr. John Haldane, and Mr. J. B. Chalmers, Mr. D. G. Reid, and Mr. J. S. Wilson. After the tea, the Chairman, in a short address, spoke of the great value of evening classes in furthering the success in life of those who wisely took advantage of them for the improvement of their education. He was sure that the great success of the Maddiston Evening Class had given pleasure to all associated with it, and as a proof of the gratitude of the pupils towards their teacher, Mr. Wilson, for the zeal and ability with which he had conducted the class, he had now the pleasure of calling upon Mr. J. B. Chalmers, one of his pupils, to perform the pleasant duty of asking Mr. Wilson's acceptance of a tangible expression of their esteem. Mr. Chalmers, speaking on behalf of the pupils, then asked Mr. Wilson to accept the gift of a davenport, selected from the stock of Mr. W. Walker, Victoria Joinery Works, Polmont, and assured Mr. Wilson of the respect entertained for him by his pupils, on account of the diligence he had shown in seeking to further their educational advancement, and expressed the hope that the success of the first session might be continuous, and Maddiston evening class be in the years to come a valued institution for the advancement of the education of the youth of this district. Mr. Wilson, in accepting the gift thanked his pupils for the handsome manner in which they have shown their appreciation of his work, and assured them that his association with the Maddiston class had given him great pleasure, and that it would be his endeavour in the future to strive to merit in some degree the gratitude shown on this occasion. A lengthy programme of songs, &c., was ably sustained by Misses Shanks, Murray, Fraser, Watt, and Messrs Malcolm and Chalmers. A number of selections was rendered by a gramophone under the skilful management of Mr. A. Malcolm. At the close of the musical programme Mr. Haldane called for a vote of thanks to the artistes, and on the call of Mr. D. G. Reid a similar compliment was accorded to the chairman. A dance followed, Mr. M. Myles officiating as M.C., and the music being supplied by Miss M'Ritchie, pianist, Messrs Chambers and Wilson, violinists.

Falkirk Herald March 2nd 1901

STANDBURN. EARLY LAMBING. -

On Wednesday last a ewe belonging to Mr. James Waddell, farmer, Blackrigg, dropped a fine healthy lamb, which is considered very early for the district.

UNITED FREE CHURCH SOIREE.

A most successful soiree was held in the U.F. Mission Church, Standburn on Monday evening. There was a large attendance of members of the congregation and friends. The tables ran the full length of the church, and were tastefully decorated with flowers and an abundant supply of good things, together with the tea, which was supplied by the young ladies of the congregation. The chair was occupied by the esteemed pastor, the Rev. Thomas Robertson, M.A., and with him on the platform were the Rev. Mr. Kater, Bathgate, and the Rev. David Bayne, Muiravonside. After tea, the chairman gave a short address, remarking that he thought it must be a great pleasure to everyone interested in the congregation to see such a large attendance at their social meeting. He trusted they would all enjoy themselves, and that their gathering that night would help them all to become better acquainted with each other, which would help them to better discharge their duties as a congregation and church of Christ. He said that ten weeks ago he appeared before them an entire stranger, not afraid of the worg (sic), but, judging from the turnout, he was more hopeful than ever. (Applause.) He was well pleased with the attendance during that time, but he would not be satisfied until the church was full. There were plenty of idle tradesmen in Glasgow and Edinburgh who would be glad to put an addition to the church if required. He referred in eulogistic terms to the attendance of the Bible Class and Sabbath School, being ably assisted in the latter by Mr. Thomas Moore, superintendent. In concluding, he spoke of the proposed introduction of an organ, and hoped that all friends would assist in raising funds for the same. Mr. Geo. Gordon Mackay then proposed that Mr. Robert Moore act as convener of committee for the organ fund. Miss Murray then gave an expressive rendition of "He wipes the tear from every eye," which was well received. The Rev. Mr. Kater, Bathgate, delivered a racy address, full of humour and characterised by many illustrations. He expressed his pleasure at being present at such a large and hearty gathering. Speaking as a representative of the Presbytery, he assured them of the deep interest they took in the Standburn Mission, and they could depend upon it that, should any outward help be at all necessary, they would not look for it in vain. (Applause.) He said that in the Rev. Mr. Robertson they had a wise, judicious, and tactful minister, and as he was told that there were over 2000 inhabitants in Standburn; he thought that the church would be filled to overflowing. Towards the close of his address he commended to their attention three methods by which they could help and strengthen their church - (1) By their regular attendance at the services and by the spirit of their worship; (2) by doing everything that lay in their power to help the work; by supporting, according to their ability, the requirements of their church. Miss Marion Taylor, a pupil of Mr. Ernest Sutherland, Falkirk, then gave a splendid interpretation of "The River of Years" (Theo. Marziale). The Rev.

David Bayne expressed the delight it gave him at being present with them that night in a social capacity. He regarded such social functions as necessary to their church life and work, they being the light confectionary to the heart and soul, as light and genial literature was to the mind. He asked them to rally round their minister and cling to their church, and by their attendance, their sympathy and support, seek to strengthen the cause in their midst. Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse, also spoke a few words of congratulation and encouragement. An excellent musical programme was submitted, the approval and appreciation being shown in no unstinted fashion by the audience. The items were all rendered in a high degree of excellence, which makes it invidious to particularise. Mr. James Seggie, tenor, riveted the attention of the audience in his rendering of "Tom Bowling," which brought forth the plaudits of the audience. He was recalled, and responded with "Bonnie Dundee," which was given with great gusto. The other lady soloists were Miss Taylor and Miss Ritchie, the former in "The Lost Chord," and the latter in "Where is My Wandering Boy To-night," rendered their solos with much charm and sweetness. Miss Fraser recited "The Charge of the Light Brigade" with fine dramatic effect; Mr. Gillespie contributed "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep" in an effective manner, and had to respond to a persistent encore. Two duets by Misses Murray and Fraser and Misses Murray and Swanston came in for a good round of applause. Miss Davis rendered her solo in a part song with marked effect. The church choir gave evidence of careful training throughout, their pieces being rendered in a meritorious manner, which must be exceedingly gratifying to their esteemed conductor, Mr. D. Sharp, who has only had them for a short time. The accompaniments were in the able hands of Mr. John Gray, organist, Avonbridge U.F. Church, who fulfilled his duties in a thorough fashion. During the evening he played "Tel-el-Kebir March," and his deft and delicate touch and perfect command of the instrument simply carried the audience by storm. On being recalled he gave "Under Two Flags." On the motion of Mr. Mackay, the usual votes of thanks were given at the close. On Tuesday evening the children attending the Sabbath School in connection with the above church had their soiree. Tea and pastry was served, after which recitations and songs were given by a number of the scholars. A pleasant evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald March 2nd 1901

FATAL ACCIDENTS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1895.

THE SHERIFF will hold PUBLIC INQUIRIES under this Act in regard to the Deaths of

- (1) JOHN DICK, Pithead Worker, No. 140 Standburn Rows, Muiravonside.
 - (2) ANGUS M'LEOD, Laborer, 10 Marshall Street, Grangemouth.
 - (3) JOHN PAUL M'AULLEY, Miner, Reddingmuirhead.
 - (4) ROBERT GUINEY, - SENIOR, Pit Bottomer, Limerigg, Slamannan;
 - and (5) JOHN BROWN, Railway Guard, Dawson Street, Bainsford, Falkirk.
- Within the SHERIFF COURT HOUSE, Falkirk, upon THURSDAY, the Seventh Day of March Next, at Eleven o'clock Forenoon.

ALEX. GARDNER, Depute Sheriff Clerk of Stirlingshire. Sheriff Clerk's Office, Falkirk, 28th February, 1901.

Falkirk Herald 9th March 1901

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION.

We have pleasure in acknowledging the following additional contributions: -

Amount previously acknowledged ...	£211 8 8
Collected at Blackbraes School, ...	1 12 4 ½
Collected at Muiravonside School, ...	2 1 1 ½
Collected at Maddiston School, ...	0 7 8
Collected by Miss Stirling, Tarduf, ...	0 13 0
Miss Ritchie, Dundee Court, Falkirk,	0 10 - 6
	£216 13 4

Further donations will be gladly received by Lady Alice Shaw-Stewart, Carnock, Larbert, President of the Association.

Falkirk Herald 9th March 1901

STANDBURN.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. -

The children attending the Sabbath School in connection with the above church had an enjoyable social and lantern entertainment on Tuesday, evening. The church was well filled with children, together with a number of adults, and was presided over by the esteemed pastor, the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon. Tea having been served, a lengthy programme was gone through, comprising part-songs by the choir under the baton of Mr. Wm. Meek, and solos, readings, and recitations by Misses Aitchison, Forbes, Heeps and Henderson, the latter reciting the "Wreck of the Hesperus" in fine style, and Masters Blair and Marshall. A number of lantern views, illustrative of the "Lost Sheep," were thrown upon the screen, and were greatly enjoyed by the young folks. The Rev. Mr. Snaddon skillfully manipulated the lantern, while the connective readings were given in a lucid manner by Mr. Baker. On retiring, the scholars were each the recipient of a tin of sweets and an orange, while the adults received an almanac. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

HOUSE-BREAKING. -

Early on Wednesday morning the shop of Mrs. Jane Walker, Candie Cottage, Avonbridge, was broken into, and the whole of the money in the till taken away. Entrance had been gained by removing the glass from the shop window, and seems to have been the work of an expert. Mr. Hay, the police, are investigating the case.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

It is rumoured that the new congregational church in Standburn is going over to the Baptists. Mr. Snaddon desires us to state that such a rumour has no foundation, in fact.

Falkirk Herald 9th March 1901

FATAL ACCIDENT INQUIRIES.

Inquiries under the Fatal Accidents (Scotland) Act were held in the Sheriff Court-House Falkirk, on Thursday, before Sheriff Bell and a jury.

THE REDDING FATALITY.

The first inquiry was into the cause of death of John Paul McAulay, miner, Reddingmuirhead, who was fatally injured in an accident which occurred while he was riding on the front of the engine on the Redding Coal Company's mineral railway. Mr. Gair, procurator-fiscal, conducted the inquiry; Mr. J. B. Atkinson, H.M. Inspector of Mines, was present, along with Mr. D.L. Smith, mining engineer, 52 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, for the employers, James Nimmo and Co., Ltd.; Mr. J. M. Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk, for Wm. Horn, engine-driver, Redding, a fellow-workman of the deceased. Mr. Roy, colliery manager, Redding, deponed that, they always objected to the men riding on the engine, and had notices posted up in the colliery to that effect, although they did not object to their officials riding. That notice was pretty generally observed. The railway, from the back of the school to the coke ovens, where the accident occurred, was on an ascending gradient, and it had been said that owing to its being a frosty morning the wheels of the engine would slide on the rails, which was quite possible. Hugh Nisbet, under manager, who was in the cab of the engine on the morning in question, said he did not see anyone on the front of the engine. The locomotive was going up the incline at a speed of about five or six miles an hour and he did not notice that the speed slackened when it came to the carriages at the coke ovens. From the position he was in he could not see whether the driver did anything to pull up the engine, and did not know they were into the carriages till they felt the impact. The concussion was not severe. He heard some one crying when they stopped, and he jumped down, and after looking about saw deceased in a sitting position in front of the engine. They lifted the man down, and found him dead. Cross-examined by Mr Atkinson, He did not remember that the engine skidded at the time of collision. By Mr. Wilson - it was the custom of the men to ride, notwithstanding the protests of the guard and driver. It did not occur to him that there was any danger, and he was surprised that the accident happened as it did. James Bosliu (?), miner, said McAulay and he was riding on the same place on the front of the engine when they struck the carriages. He was injured in

the thigh, and jumped off, and he thought M'Aulay was killed on the spot. Wm. Horn, the enginedriver, said when he came to the carriages he shut-off steam, reversed engine, and put on steam again, but the wheels slid along owing to the frost. A piece of coal had fallen into the way of the brake, and he could not get it to go on. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was given.

THE SWING BRIDGE ACCIDENT.

The second inquiry was into the cause of the death of John Brown, railway guard, Dawson Street, Bainsford, who, on 27th February, was killed on the railway at the Swing Bridge, Falkirk. Mr. Gair conducted the inquiry; Mr. Joseph Shaughnessy, writer, Glasgow, appeared for the Carron Company, the employers; and Mr. J. W. Blackadder, solicitor, Falkirk, for the relatives. From the evidence it appeared that Brown inquired at the signal cabin about an empty train he had to take back to Carron Works. Inquiries were made, and deceased waited at the foot of the signal-box. Shortly afterwards the train expected came forward, and moved slowly past the box. Brown made to cross the railway as the van passed, but apparently did not notice the approach of a passenger train, and, stepping in front of it was knocked down and instantly killed. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was given.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT NEW DOCKS, GRANGEMOUTH.

The third inquiry was into the cause of the death of Angus McLeod, 10 Marshall Street Grangemouth, who was run down and killed by a locomotive engine belonging to Messrs Charles Brand and Son, contractors, in whose employment deceased was. Mr. Shaughnessy, writer, Glasgow, appeared for the employers, and Mr. J. M. Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk, for the widow. From the evidence it appeared that deceased and a number of the other employees were going from their place of employment at the new docks to receive their pay. They were walking between the rails of one of the lines of temporary railway. A pug engine was seen at the top of the incline coming from the opposite direction. It whistled before approaching, and continued whistling all the way down the hill, but deceased did not appear to have seen the engine or to get out of the road, and was knocked down and killed. There was a crowd of men on the line in front of the engine, who all cleared out with the exception of deceased, whose presence on the line was not noticed by the engine-driver or the fireman. The boy who had charge of the points said he saw deceased advancing up the line alone with his head down. He called twice to him as he was passing that a train was approaching, but he paid no heed. After his second cry he saw deceased was going to be killed, and he turned away. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was returned.

A MUIRAVONSIDE COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

The fourth inquiry was into the cause of the death of John Dick, pitheadman, Standburn Rows, who, on 13th January, was killed at Blackston Colliery through his head having been crushed between a waggon and the screen scaffolding. Mr. Gair conducted the inquiry; Mr. J. B. Atkinson, H.M. Mines Inspector, was present, and the employers were represented by D. R. Smith, mining engineer, Glasgow. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was engaged in picking out stones from waggons which were being filled. He was standing on the top of a partly filled waggon, which was full at one end. It was necessary to push the waggon forward to fill the other portion of the waggon, and deceased was warned of this. Instead of going out on to the platform provided for the purpose, he apparently had gone into the empty part of the waggon, and having seemingly looked over the edge of the waggon, his head was caught between the top rear end of the waggon and the cross bar of the screen. He was badly injured, and died some time alter wards. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was given.

A LIMERIGG FATALITY.

The fifth inquiry was into the cause of the death of Robert Guiney, miner, Limerigg, Slamannan, who was killed on 25th February, by falling down the shaft at Linierigg Colliery. Mr. Gair conducted the inquiry; Mr. Atkinson, H.M. Inspector, was present; Mr. Smith, Glasgow, appeared for the employers; and Mr. J. M. Wilson appeared for Hugh Douglas, a fellow workman. From the evidence it appeared that Guiney, who was a man of large experience, wrought as a pit bottomer in the Lady Grange seam. Deceased had been pushing a hutch of coal out of the seam on to a cage which was standing in the shaft, but the cage by some means had moved up the shaft, and deceased fell down the pit and was instantly killed. A verdict was returned in accordance with the evidence.

Falkirk Herald 16th March 1901

STANDBURN.

We beg to draw attention to the advertisement among church notices to-day announcing that Soldier Moodie, one of the greatest, evangelists living to-day, begins a series of special meetings in Standburn Congregational Church to-morrow. Mr. Moodie has been in the Boer War as a chaplain, and has had thrilling experience.

BIBLE CLASS SOCIAL MEETING. —

The members of the Congregational Church Bible Class, together with a few friends, to the number of 80, held a social meeting in the church on Friday evening last. The Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon presided. Tea was served by the ladies. Afterwards addresses were delivered by the Chairman, Mr. Wm. Webb, and Mr. Alex. Kerr. A very pleasant evening was spent, games being entered upon and carried on with great zest.

CINEMATOGRAPGH ENTERTAINMENT. —

On Monday evening a cinematograph entertainment was given in the U.F. Church with a view of raising Funds for a church organ. The Rev. Thomas Robertson, M.A., presided, and there was a good attendance. The exhibition of animated pictures of the leading events of the day - including the funeral obsequies of Queen Victoria, the opening of Parliament by His Majesty, scenes in connection with the South African and Chinese Wars, and the home-coming of the C.I.V. - were shown to good advantage, the descriptive narrative being admirably given by Mr. James R. Hunter, operator to Lizars and Co. When the scene of the funeral procession was shown, Miss Robertson and Miss Davies sang "Gone to the grave has our loved one" and "Only remember" respectively in a very impressive manner. Several scenes of various landscapes and a series of mirth-provoking views proved very fascinating. During the evening patriotic songs were sung by Miss Robertson ("On, Comrades, On"), Miss Davies ("The Cameron Men"), and Mr. James W. Seggie ("The Black Watch.") Miss Fraser recited "Oor Folks" in good style Miss Calderwood gave an effective rendering of "Jessie's Dream", and Mr. Baxter also contributed a solo. On the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was paid the artistes, and a like compliment to the chairman, on the motion of Mr. George G. Mackay, brought a successful gathering to a close.

Falkirk Herald 16th March 1901

FALKIRK BURGH COURT.

THURSDAY.

(Before Ballie RUSSELL.)

ROW BY STANDBURN MINERS. —

Alex. Ure and Wm. Love, miners, Standburn, for creating a breach of the peace in Duncanson's Court on the previous night, were fined in 7s 6d each, or five days.

Falkirk Herald 23rd March 1901

MADDISTON.

Temperance Hall Concert. - A grand concert in aid of the fund being presently raised by the Maddiston Freedom Temperance Lodge, with a view to the erection of a temperance hall for Maddiston, was held in Maddiston School on Friday evening last. The audience filled the school to its utmost capacity. Mr. Scott of Toravon presided, and in a few remarks in opening the concert, explained the purpose to which the proceeds of the evening's entertainment would be put. A lengthy programme of songs, etc., was then entered upon, and ably sustained by Miss Heeps and Miss Penman, Messrs Johnstone, Love, Hafferty, and Mr. Alex. M. Malcolm. The latter, who did much towards the success of the programme, by entertaining the audience to a few finely selected pieces on the graphophone, merited and received the appreciation of the audience in a marked degree. At the close, the Chairman intimated that financially as well as otherwise the concert had been attended with every success. The usual

votes of thanks were accorded.

Falkirk Herald 23rd March 1901

STANDBURN, EVANGELISTIC SERVICES. –

Mr. Moodie, soldier evangelist, started his special evangelistic mission in the Congregational Church here (Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon) last Sunday. Mr. Moodie has had a splendid beginning. The church was filled to overflow at all diets of worship, and much good is believed to be done. He has also had a weekly meeting at 7 p.m., all of which have been highly successful. As will be seen on our advertisement page, Mr. Moodie preaches again on Sabbath first, and also every night next week at 7 p.m. On Friday night first Mr. Moodie will deliver the lecture, "70 Days with the Troops," and will give his personal experience. This meeting is being looked forward to with interest. As add, Mr. Moodie will give his soldiering experience all next week.

Falkirk Herald 23rd March 1901

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

"THE HAPPY FAMILY." –

A grand concert and kinderspiel was given by the pupils of Blackbraes Public School on Thursday evening in the United Free Church Hall. The hall was filled to overflowing, standing room scarcely being available, while a great many failed to gain admission. Mr. Campbell, the genial headmaster, occupied the chair, and introduced the proceedings with a few remarks. The first part of the programme took the form of a concert, recitations being given by Misses Mary Graham, Nettie Wardlaw, and Masters Robert Dickson and Tom Walker. An action song by four of the infants was performed in a creditable manner. A duet by Misses Mary Swinton and Agnes Cochrane was sweetly sung, while "The Flower Girl" was nicely rendered by Miss Bella Small. A feature of this part of the programme was the exhibition of musical drill by a number of the junior scholars, the audience being delighted with the beauty of the exercise and with the grace with which it was executed. "The Happy Family," by Mr. J. C. Grieve, F.E.S., was then entered upon. The chorus numbered about 80, all dressed in the brightest, costumes, and forming a very brilliant scene. The rendering of the various choruses was given with the greatest precision, and gave evidence of careful training being supplied to willing minds. The characters were: - "Old Woman," Miss Aitken, whose get-up was excellent, causing much laughter, with her staff, mutch, and spectacles; "Grace," Jane Rankine; "Patience," Mary M'Murich; "Aladdin," Jas. Rankine; "Miss Muffet," Agnes White; "Sinbad," Willie Munnoch; "Midshipmite," David Barr; "Marjory Daw," Mary Cochrane; "Dorothy Draggletail," Annie Wardlaw; "Blue Beard," Alex. Thomson; "Robinson Crusoe," Willie Thomson; a wee mite of a fellow who proved a great hit as "Friday," was Master Alex. Ure, the laughter that greeted his appearance being very hearty; "Cinderella," Mary Boyd; "Ali Baba," Alex. Wardlaw; "Goody- Two-Shoes," Mary Thomson; and sailors and robbers. The characters all justified their selection, performing their parts with an ability which was marked by great approval. The teachers, Misses Brunton, Park, Smart, Boyd, Turner, Rosa, Shaw, and Aitken, deserve congratulations for the successful manner in which the abilities of the young people were brought out, and their arduous duties in the training of them throughout the past few months were manifested by the high degree of excellence attained. The whole entertainment was of a humorous and pleasing nature. Miss Boyd had onerous duties to perform as accompanist, fulfilling the same in an accomplished manner.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

On Tuesday evening the last of the season's entertainments in connection with the above was held. The hall was literally packed, and Mr. Thomas Barker occupied the chair. The proceedings opened with a few selections on the gramophone by Mr. Clark, and proved a source of much delight, its musical and vocal powers being distinctly heard throughout the hall. A splendid programme of up-to-date views by the cinematograph had been arranged, but unfortunately after a few had been shown something went wrong with the films, bringing that part of the proceedings to an abrupt termination. Miss Thomson recited "The Last Hymn" and "Bairnies, Cuddle Doon". The former was rendered, proving in a marked degree Miss Thomson's excellent elocutionary and dramatic power. After another spell on the gramophone, the usual votes of thanks were awarded.

Falkirk Herald 23rd March 1901

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STANDBURN POSTAL SERVICE.

Sir, - With regard to the above, I hope you will allow me space to state that the postal service in connection with the above village (town, should rather say, as I noticed in a daily paper recently, that from the funds of the Gothenburg public house, they were building a town hall, is not in keeping with other places. Fancy a place like Standburn, with over 2000 inhabitants, having only one delivery a day (and that at twelve; o'clock)! There are a few business places, which I think, must suffer from the poor service that they are at present getting. Take, for instance, a letter being posted in Falkirk for a person in Standburn, at 9 a.m.; it does not reach its destination till 12 of the following day. The M.P. for the county, during the recent election campaign, stated (if I mistake not), that if any place had a complaint to make regarding the postal services they were to write him, and the matter would be put, right within a week. Well, I don't care about writing to Mr. McKillop, but hope, through your columns, the matter will have more weight, and then will await developments.

I am, etc., J. H. S.

Falkirk Herald 27th March 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE, MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in Maddiston School yesterday. Mr. Wilson presided, and there were also present Messrs D Binnie, J. Bryce, J. B. Bryce, Haldane, and Myles.

School attendance report. The officer's report on school attendance was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Att.
Muiravonside School	210	174
Drumbowie School	532	352
Blackbraes School	379	326
Maddiston School	77	64
Avonbridge School	77	62

It was stated that there had been a great deal of measles in the Standburn and Avonbridge districts, which accounted for the small average attendance at Drumbowie School.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Mr. J. B. Bryce moved the motion of which he had given notice - "that in future finance business be taken up at each meeting immediately after the reading of the minutes." He gave as the reason for moving the motion that in the past the Board's financial business did not receive the attention necessary on account of it being taken up at the close of the meeting, after several of the ratepayers had left. He also suggested that the minutes of the Board be either printed or typewritten and circulated amongst the members three or four days before the meeting, when, if correct, they would be held as read, he did not think that the clerk should do the extra work this would entail upon him for nothing, but if his proposal were adopted that question could be considered, Mr. Myles said that the latter part of Mr. Bryce's motion was premature, and had not been given notice of. He thought, however, with Mr. Bryce, that the finance matters of the Board was not receiving the attention which it ought to have, and he considered the difficulty could be removed by appointing a Finance Committee. If Mr. Bryce would alter his motion to that effect, he would second it. The Chairman said that when he entered the Board first there used to be a Finance Committee. The committee might consist of the whole Board. Mr. J. B. Bryce said he would have nothing to do with a Finance Committee apart from the Board. The motion was not seconded, and was allowed to drop. Mr. J. B. Bryce - If you do not alter your method of conducting your financial business, I will have nothing to do with it, as mistakes have occurred. Mr. Myles - If you will point out where we have erred, I might second your motion. The Chairman - We will have to get on with the

business. Mr. J. B. Bryce - All right; get on with the business.

THE TEACHING OF STANDARD II. IN MADDISTON SCHOOL.

Mr. Myles moved the motion of which he had given notice - "That Standard II. be taught in Maddiston Infant School." In doing so, he said that the Standard I. children in the Maddiston School, although compelled to leave the school on account of their having passed the examination, were still remaining in the school. One of his own boys who passed Standard I. at this school two months ago was in Standard I. still. When they took into consideration the position the Muiravonside School would shortly be in respect of overcrowding, they would be obliged to consider such a proposal as he now submitted, as they had sufficient accommodation and sufficient teaching staff in Maddiston School to teach both standards. Muiravonside School was overcrowded, Maddiston School was half empty. Mr. Haldane seconded. When he last reported on Muiravonside School the Standard I. room was filled to overflowing. Seats were put in to accommodate the great number of children which had come from Maddiston, and the room could not be healthy. The Chairman said that the headmaster of Muiravonside School said that after the examination there would be plenty of room. He had no objection to teaching Standard II. in the Maddiston School so long as there was room, but if there was no room the pupils would have to go to Muiravonside School. Mr. Myles agreed to the chairman's proposal. The result of it was, he said, that the Maddiston School would be filled before the year was out, although not at once. The Chairman said he was averse to building a new school, so long as there was room to spare in both schools. The motion was then agreed to. Mr. J. B. Bryce said he would not move a counter-motion. They would ultimately find they were wrong. Mr. Myles said he was surprised at Mr. Bryce's change of mind on this question. Mr. J. B. Bryce "I moved a direct negative at last, meeting. Mr. Myles - You did not. The subject dropped.

RESIGNATIONS OF TEACHERS.

Letters of resignation were read from Miss Murray, Drumbowie School, and Miss Park, Blackbraes School. It was agreed to advertise for two ex-pupilteachers to fill the vacancies, the salaries to lie in each case £40.

SECOND PIANO FOR BLACKBRAES SCHOOL.

It was reported that as the result of a kinderspiel performance held in Blackbraes School "a piano of a kind" had been procured for the upper standards at Blackbraes School. The Board was asked to take over the piano. This was agreed to.

THE SALE OF LIQUOR TO CHILDREN.

A letter was read from the Good Templars asking the Board to petition in favour of the bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor to children. Mr. Haldane - I move that we petition as requested. Mr. Myles - I am not a Good Templar, but I second the motion. Mr. J. B. Bryce - "Neither am I a teetotaler, but I would third it. (Laughter.) I think liquor should not be sold to children." The motion was agreed to.

This was all the business

Falkirk Herald 30th March 1901

STANDBURN.

MUSICAL ASSOCIATION CONCERT. -

The above association brought the season's work to a fitting close on Friday evening last in Drumbowie Public School, when they gave a grand concert. There was a favourable attendance, which listened with rapt attention to the various items submitted. Mr. George Gibb, manager, presided, and in a few remarks introduced the proceedings. The programme opened with a pianoforte selection, entitled "Blumenliebe," by Mr. John Gray, which was given in a masterly fashion, the choir then rendered "Let the Hills Resound" and "Night, Lovely Night," and the manner in which both were sung redounded to the credit of the singers, and gave promise that the entertainment in store was to be of a high order. Their succeeding numbers also received intelligent and expressive interpretations, the most outstanding being "Willie Wastle" and "Who will o'er the Downs." Miss Calderwood gave an effective rendering of "By the Fountain," and the appreciation of the audience was shown in no unstinted fashion. Along with Mr. David Sharp, sen., she also brought forth the hearty plaudits of the audience in the duet, "Demon and Chlora." Miss Kerr, Edinburgh, sang "Angus Macdonald" and "Ca' the Ewes tae the Knowes," with fine feeling and expression. Miss Murray sang "The Swallows" very effectively. Mr. A. Gillespie gave a good rendering of "Jack's the Boy." Miss Mackie contributed "By the Silver Sea," with fine effect. Mr. James Chalmers, the popular tenor, had an enthusiastic reception for his singing of "The Lass o' Ballochmyle," and in response to an encore, he gave "Mary," in good style. Miss Fraser contributed "Wait for the Waggon" with her usual ability. The success of the concert was mainly due to the painstaking efforts of the esteemed conductor, Mr. D. Sharp, sen., who is to be congratulated on bringing the winters work to so successful a termination. On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was accorded the artistes, and a similar compliment to the chairman, on the motion of Mr. Mackay, brought to a close an entertainment, which will be remembered with pleasure by all who were present. An assembly followed, the music being supplied by Mr. McReo's Orchestra, while the duties of M.C. were ably discharged by Mr. Colin Maxwell. The arrangements were in the hands of the energetic secretary, Mr. R. Stewart, jun., and were carried out without a hitch.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. -

During the past week Standburn Congregational Church (Rev D.H. Ritchie Snaddon's) has been the scene of great activity. The church has been opened every night, and the gospel has been faithfully preached by Soldier Moodie, of the London Evangelisation Society. The attendance at all the meetings has been large, some nights the church being quite filled to overflow, and much good work is being done. The church choir, under Mr. Meek, is doing much to make the meeting a success, and the skilful playing of the organ by Miss M'Ritchie is highly appreciated, a feature of the meetings being the large numbers of persons coming nightly and having to walk many miles to be present. As will be seen from to-day's advertisement, Soldier Moodie closes his mission to-morrow. During his stay Mr. Moodie has proved himself to be an able and powerful preacher, and from the interest manifested in this church's work, large congregations are expected to-morrow. On Wednesday night Mr. D. Moir Douglas, of the Hope Trust, delivered his lecture on "Heroes and Heroines for the Truth." In connection with his lecture there will be shown many magnificent limelight views. The powerful oxy-hydrogen apparatus will be manipulated by a Hope Trust expert. Thursday night will witness the opening of a gospel and fellowship meeting.

Falkirk Herald 6th April 1901

STANDBURN.

"TRIP TO HOLLAND" -

On Wednesday evening a lecture on the above was given in the United Free Mission Church by the Rev. David Bayne, B.D., Muiravonside. There was a large attendance, presided over by Mr. George Gordon Mackay, schoolmaster. The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, said that this was the last of the season's entertainment in connection with, their church, and he was sure that they were all indebted to the Rev. Mr. Bayne and Mr. Campbell, Blackbraes, for their kindness in coming to help them by giving them the particulars of the trip made by them last summer. Mr. Bayne described the various pictures thrown on the screen in a very lucid manner, and very minutely described the manners and customs of the people met with in their travels. He then referred at some length to the cleanliness that existed everywhere. Mr. Campbell, who accompanied Mr. Bayne on the trip, manipulated the lantern with his usual ability, showing some transparent views taken on the route. A large number of local views were also shown, the Rev. Thomas Robertson, M.A., describing them. On the motion of the chairman, the lecturer and lanternist were accorded a hearty vote of thanks and a like compliment to the chairman, on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Robertson, brought a profitable evening to a close.

IMPORTANT COLLIERY APPOINTMENT

We are pleased to learn that Mr. George Gibb, at present manager at Standburn Colliery,

belonging to Messrs James Nimmo and Co., has been promoted to the position of general manager under the same company. We feel sure the appointment will give general satisfaction in this district.

MISS HUNTER.

Local secretary for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association, has received an acknowledgement from Lady Alice Sh----- Stewart for the sum of £3 12s 4d towards the funds of the association. CO-OPERATION. -

On Wednesday evening a meeting of the members of the Redding Co-operative Society dealing in Standburn branch was held in Drumbowie Public School for the purpose of electing one director to serve for twelve months. Mr. James Mackay was called to the chair. After voting Mr. John Hutchison was elected in room of Mr. Alex. Simpson, resigned.

MR. WILSON, H.M. inspector, paid a visit to Drumbowie Public School on Tuesday. The pupils were out in large numbers, and everything passed off satisfactorily.

HOPE TRUST LECTURES. -

Messrs Douglas and Graham lectured in the Congregational Church on Wednesday last on "Heroes and Heroines for the Truth." The lecture was of a very high order and was illustrated throughout by limelight views. The church was quite filled with a most attentive audience. At the close of the lecture, the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, chairman, moved the usual vote of thanks.

LECTURE BY Mr. J. W. MOODIE. -

On Friday last Mr. J. W. Moodie delivered his lecture"----Days with the Troops from Southampton to Ladysmith." In spite of a very stormy night, the subject was of such an interesting nature that the church was filled to its utmost capacity half an hour before the advertised time. Mr. Moodie was attired in his khaki suit, as worn in South Africa, adorned with three medals presented to him by our late beloved Queen, met with a most enthusiastic reception. His lecture proved exceptionally interesting, and was again and again greeted with rounds of applause. About 100 slides made from photographs taken on the battlefields of South Africa considerably added to the meeting. The Rev. D.H. Ritchie Snaddon manipulated the lantern, and Mr. Alexander Kerr discharged in an efficient manner the duties of chairman. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. -

The Congregational Church (Rev. D.H. Ritchie Snaddon) continues to be a scene of great activity, and the determination of the pastor to lead the church into an aggressive and evangelistic line of life and work is being fully justified from day to day. The special evangelistic mission conducted by Mr. J. W. Moodie of the London evangelisation Society, was brought to a close last Sabbath, when at both diets of worship there were large congregations. In the forenoon Mr. Moodie took for his subject "War Changes," a subject which he handled in masterly fashion. Towards the close of his sermon he took the opportunity of referring to the recent church squabble. He complimented the people on their loyalty to Mr. Snaddon, and from the good work he knew the church had accomplished, and what it was presently attempting to perform he was confident it was divinely called into existence, and that the church and pastor had a great future before them. At the evening service Mr. Moodie's ministry was waited on by a crowded congregation who listened with rapt attention to his sermon of "Midnight Scenes." At the close of the sermon Mr. Snaddon spoke of the mission as one of the most evangelistic campaigns ever held in the district, and said that the mission had been a success in the highest sense of the term. One of the results of the mission is that a Gospel Fellowship Meeting is to be held every Thursday night. Mr. Richard Hill of London addressed the first meeting last Thursday with great acceptance to an appreciative audience. As will be seen from to-day's advertisements the Rev. Jacob Primmer, Dumfermline, gives the address next Thursday, at 7p.m., and that John W. Galletly, of Glasgow, preaches on Sabbath first.

Falkirk Herald April 10th 1901

AFTER THE FALKIRK FAIR.

At Falkirk Burgh Court on Friday - Bailie Bogle on the bench - a number of cases arising out of the feeing Fair on the previous day were dealt with. A large proportion were the usual "drunks," while the charges against the others were not of a very serious character. As on former occasions, the local police force was augmented by drafts from the country - a number of the officers being in plain clothes - while the detective staff was strengthened by an officer from Glasgow. Thanks to the admirable arrangements of Superintendent Gordon, the number of police cases which have been reducing from year to year for some time past, showed a still further diminution, there being some 21, as against 25 after the Fair of six months ago.

ASSAULTING A BOY.

James Steel, farm servant, Linlithgow, was charged with having, on 4th April, in a confectioner's shop in High Street (1), assaulted John Ure (13), farm servant, Standburn, by seizing hold of him, throwing him to the ground, and striking him a blow on the face; and (2) committed a breach of the peace. Accused, who pleaded guilty, said he did not strike the lad. The Bailie - It was a rather cowardly thing to assault a boy of 13 years. Accused - But I never touched him. The Bailie - He says you did, and you have pleaded guilty. If it had been a man like yourself, I would not have thought so much of it - 7s 6d, or five days.

Falkirk Herald 13th April 1901

STANDBURN. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. - The pulpit of the Congregational Church last Sabbath Day was occupied by Mr. John W. Galletly, 1.E.5., who preached with acceptance, a feature of the evening service being the fine rendering of a sacred solo by the preacher. As will be seen from our advertisement column the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, pastor of the church, occupies his own pulpit on Sabbath first.

Falkirk Herald 13th April 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE. Co-operative Appointment. -

We have pleasure in noting that Mr. James B. Chalmers, of Maddiston branch of the Trading (Redding?)Co-operative Society, Ltd., has been successful in securing the position of head salesman in the Yoker branch of the Clydebank Co-operative Society, Ltd.

Temperance Address. -

On Sunday evening last the Rev. David Bayne, parish minister, delivered an address on temperance in the Parish Church. The members of the "Maddiston Freedom Temperance Lodge" were present, each member wearing the regalia of the order. The rev. gentleman delivered a telling address, urging to the utmost the claims of temperance on all members of the community.

Falkirk Herald 13th April 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

FRIDAY

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute WATSON.)

THEFT. -

Alex. McLaughlin, pony driver, and Charles Campbell, miner, both residing at Maddiston, were charged with having, between the 5th and 10th April, in the shop at Maddiston occupied by Jas. Hunter, general dealer and carriagehirer, stolen 1s 5d, two pocket knives, six cigarettes, two bottles of aerated water, and two darning needles.

They pleaded guilty, and were dealt with under the First Offenders' Act.

Falkirk Herald 13th April 1901

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

QUARTERLY MEETING - LIVELY PROCEEDINGS.

The 157th quarterly meeting of the above society was held in the Co-operative Hall on Tuesday night, when there was a large turnout of members. The proceedings were of a rather lively nature throughout the whole meeting, and at times the chairman (Mr. Thomas Barker, president), was quite unable to maintain order.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

The balance-sheet submitted showed that the profits from all sources during the past quarter were £5820 3s 21/2d, which admitted of a dividend of 4s 2d per £ on members' purchases. The rate per £ for the different departments are: -
For Redding grocery, 3s 10d; drapery, 4s 4d; bakery, 5s 1d; fleshing, 3s 11d; shoemaking, 4s 1d. Blackbraes grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 2d; shoemaking, 4s 2d. Maddiston grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 1d; shoemaking, 1s 6d. Stanburn grocery-, 3s 10d : drapery, 4s 1d; and shoemaking, 1s 2d.
DONATIONS.

It was agreed to give the following donations: -
Royal National Lifeboat Institution, £2; Eye Infirmary, Glasgow, £2; and Polmont Domestic Mission, £5. REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS AND ADITORS.

The Chairman explained that under Rule 33 the remuneration of the directors and auditors fell to be fixed that night. Mr. Thomas Grant moved that the salaries remain as they are, viz., £1 per year, and this was seconded by another member. Mr. Haldane moved as an amendment that the remuneration be fixed at 1s per night. Mr. Wilson seconded. Mr. Thomas Grant - consider the man who is not pleased should leave off his work - no sodger no pay. On a vote being taken, it was apparent that the motion had been unanimously carried, and the chairman declared that there was no use wasting time counting the votes for the motion, whereupon Mr. Peter Munnoch (addressing the chairman) - What right have you to stop the counting of the votes? I say that we should count the one as well as the other. Mr. Thomas Grant - Ay, gie us the figures. At this stage several members were on their feet at the one time, insisting that the votes should be counted, and it was only on the Chairman assuring the meeting that they would be counted that order was restored. On the votes being counted, the result was: -For the motion, 99; for the amendment, 32.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Mr. Barker's term of office as president of the society having expired, he vacated office, and the following nominations were received, viz.: - Messrs Wm. Munnoch, James Baxter, David Weir, and Thomas Barker. On a vote being taken on the whole nominations, it was found that it lay between Messrs William Munnoch and Thomas Barker, and on a second vote being taken, Mr. Barker was re-elected, the result of the vote being - Mr. Barker, 88 votes; Mr. Munnoch, 83 votes.

BUILDING OF BLOCK OF WORKMEN'S HOUSES.

The Chairman explained that the committee had had this matter under their consideration, and he was one of these who believed that the Co-operative Society did not exist for the purpose of supplying bread and butter only. He considered that the society had a right to do everything for the comfort of its members, and he was sure that every one would admit that workmen's houses were needed. The committee, however, were not unanimous that the society should erect houses, and the matter, therefore, lay to be decided by the members. A Member - Has the committee or the society not made provision for helping members who want houses of their own, and do you intend to build houses for everybody? The Chairman - I answer the first part of your question by saying that we do assist members in getting houses of their own, but that is not more than a private individual would do. We simply arrange to allow members so much on loan, on bond, at a certain percentage, which any other private individual would do. Mr. Wm. Munnoch - I have not a great deal of experience in buildings, but from the experience I have, I can assure you it will be a "white elephant" to the Redding co-operators. If they could see their way to lower their percentage to their fellow-workmen, it would be far better. Under the co-operative movement, it will be nothing but a "nest of contention." It will be worse than the whole business of the society to manage A Member - I think that we should leave this block of buildings alone, and clear off our own business. The Chairman - While I do not wish to push this matter clown your throats, still I think that if it pays private firms and private individuals to own buildings, I don't see why it will not pay us as a society to do so also. Mr. James Watt - Where are there houses built now under the present sanitary arrangements that pay any private individual well? The Chairman - I don't know. Mr. Watt - Then don't say you know when you don't; you said there you know. The Chairman - To bring this matter to a head, will some one move one way or another? Thereafter, amid much disorder and confusion, it was moved and seconded that the society erect a tenement of dwelling-houses, and as an amendment to this it was moved and seconded that they do not erect dwelling-houses at all. On a vote taken, there voted for the motion 70, as against 67 for the amendment. On the result being known, considerable disorder prevailed. Mr. Stuart - have a motion to make, that a special committee be appointed to look out for a site and draw up plans, to be submitted to the next quarterly meeting, and that that committee be partly of the members and partly of the committee. Mr. Thomas Grant - I second that, and I move that Mr. Stuart be one of the committee himself. The Chairman - I quite agree. I admit that we have a right to be cautious. Mr. Grant - Ay, it will be a dead loss. The Chairman. Now, now, don't prophesy, Mr. W. Munnoch - Are you quite certain that you have power under the rules? The Chairman - Yes; at least. I think so; but we will make quite sure from our lawyers before we do so. Mr. Wm. Munnoch - Then I enter my protest. Mr. James Watt - Are you prepared to go on with an expenditure of £2000 on a majority of three members? The Chairman - That is not before the meeting now. Do you wish to appoint the committee? Mr. Grant - I propose that three members should act along with the members of the committee. Mr. Peter Munnoch - What is the use of appointing a committee when you don't know whether you can go on with the buildings or not? The Chairman - There are evidently some members who come here for the purposes of giving me trouble in the chair. A Member - Then why do you bide on? The Chairman - Simply because the members want me. (Cries of "They don't") At this stage the meeting became most uproarious, several members arguing among themselves at the same time, but some member moved as an amendment that the committee at it was should look after the new buildings, whereupon Mr. Baxter (a member of the committee?) said -All the committee will not act, for I, for one, object to act. Mr. Grant - it is all them who want houses for nothing that want the houses to go on. (Laughter.) Mr. Baxter - it is just as well to come before you and tell you honestly. The Chairman - We will now take the vote. Mr. Grant - There is nobody wanting it. On the vote being taken, 37 voted for the amendment, and 30 for the motion, Mr. James Watt - I think that a majority of three is too little to vote away £2000. Another scene ensued here, several members crying - "It is passed that the buildings go on." Mr. John Walker - Are you quite sure that every member who has voted has £3 in the capital? (Cries of "That's business") and, amid much noise, Mr. Wm. Munnoch - Is it a sound judgment, this meeting to risk men's capital at the expense of men who should perhaps be outside of this hall? (Cries of "It is quite true") The Chairman (heatedly) - Who is chairman of this meeting. (Cries of "Order.") Mr. Walker has asked me a question, but I don't know as to the members' capital. He must know that the secretary is the only man who can answer him. Mr. Grant - That is a point that should be looked into. Mr. Cockburn - I protest against the vote altogether. The Chairman - There is to be no more discussion on this matter. We will get on to the next business. Another scene ensued, and cries of "You're in a big push now." The next business on the agenda was gone on with, but after it had been finished, Mr. Watt, said - I move that before the meeting dissolves, the books of the society be sent for, and every man who voted in that building question have his capital checked. The Chairman - Where is your rule for that? You have no rule to support your motion. Another scene here ensued, and on another subject being discussed, several members began to rise and leave the hall, when The Chairman said-If there is no motion to be made, I declare the meeting closed. Several Members - It's high time. The meeting then broke up in disorder.

Falkirk Herald 13th April 1901

CHURCH NOTICES

STANBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(Opposite Drumbowie School).

REV. D. H. RITCHIE SNADDON, Pastor, Preaches on SABBATH FIRST : 12 o'clock, "Little

Foxes": 5 P.M. " Food for the Hungry" B.C, 6.16 P.M. –
Mr. H.J. BAKER-. SACRED QUARTETTE at EVENING SERVICE. Everybody invited.
NOTE. -SABBATH, 28th April - - EVENING SERVICE at 6 P.M., instead of 5 P.M.

Falkirk Herald 20th April 1901

STANDBURN, congregational church. - The Rev. Jacob Primmer, Dunfermline, addressed the meeting on Thursday night, at 7 p.m., in the Congregational Church, when there was a very large attendance. This meeting is growing in attendance from week to week, but last weeks large increase in attendance was due doubtless to the peculiar popularity of the speaker. This meeting is of great service to the Christians of the district. Next Thursday, it will be observed, Pilgrim Gillespie, Edinburgh, of the Faith Mission, gives the address. During the past fortnight the death-rate of children in Standburn has been very high, and Mr. Snaddon intends preaching on Sabbath night a funeral sermon, entitled "The Keys of Death."

Falkirk Herald 20th April 1901

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
THE STANDBURN PUBLIC HOUSE.

Avondale, Polmont, 18th April. 1901. Sir, - It was most unfortunate, to say the least, that the Justices who had so much to say as to the above, at the close of the County Licensing Court on Tuesday, should not have unburdened themselves when the licence was read out in Court by the clerk, and while both Mr. Nimmo and myself were present. As grossly misleading statements have been made, no doubt in ignorance, perhaps you will allow me to state the facts. When the movement was first initiated it had the unanimous support of all the Muiravonside Justices, Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside: Mr. Learmonth of Parkhall: Mr. Henderson of Redford ; Mr. Stirling of Turdof: and myself. These, with Mr. Nimmo, his manager, in whose name the licence was taken, and two men elected by the residents, formed the committee of management. Two of our friends are no longer with us, but all the survivors, without exception, attended a meeting on 13th December last, when the first year's, balance-sheet, duly audited by a Glasgow accountant, was placed before them and the profits were dealt with in the way which the committee considered best for the general welfare of the district, and an abstract of their proceedings was sent to the newspapers at the time. This was all that was considered necessary, but now that it has been challenged, I have no doubt, that Mr. Nimmo will furnish the clerk with every information, which will be at the disposal of all the Justices. There are about 200 houses at Standburn in an out-of-the-way place, and I may say out of the profits the committee have already provided a sick nurse for the people, as well as an ambulance wagon in case of accidents, and that they have various projects on, hand at present, which they hope and believe will have a tendency to raise the morale of the residents. At least, this is the object they have always in view. They are quite satisfied with the success of the experiment, so far, and I wish to say emphatically that nothing has been done from first to last without the sanction and approval of the committee. In spite of the cheap sneers of interested parties, they believe they are doing a good work, that they are on the right lines, while they secure the entire profits for the welfare of the residents. If this movement goes on and extends all over the country, as I believe it will, the time may soon arrive when there may be some difficulty in disposing of the profits, otherwise than in reduction of the rates: and why not, when we consider that, ninety per cent, of the pauperism and crime, for which we are made to pay so highly, is caused by strong drink. As so the absent Justice, who has so suddenly developed such an interest in the movement, it is a pity he did not disclose himself earlier in some way so that his name might have been added to the committee. I believe they would welcome active working additions to their number. The only advantage Messrs James Nimmo and Co. can possibly derive from the movement, so far as I can see, lies in the greater comfort, wellbeing, and even sobriety of their workers. I am sure even ex-Provost Watson would not grudge them that. His insinuations on Tuesday were entirely unworthy of him.

I am, etc.. ROBERT CLARKSON

Falkirk Herald 20th April 1901

STANDBURN U.F. MISSION CHURCH.
INAUGURATION of NEW ORGAN. –
SERVICES TOMORROW at 12 Noon, and 6 P.M. Preacher. Rev. THOMAS ROBERTSON,
M.A.

Falkirk Herald 20th April 1901

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(OPPOSITE DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL).
PUBLIC NOTICE.

WE, the TRUSTEES and MANAGERS of the above Church, contradict the Statement which appeared in the "Falkirk Advertiser" of the 5th April, in a Letter to the Editor signed George Gray. The same Letter appeared as a Paragraph in the "People's Journal" and the "Falkirk Mail" of the 6th April, viz., "That the Rev. D.H. Ritchie Snaddon had started a church on his own account." This base assertion has no foundation in fact, as the people spontaneously formed themselves into a Church, and duly and unanimously called the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon on the 4th October, 1900. The call was presented by Mr. Alex. Kerr in the name and presence of the congregation of that date. The call was accepted. The work goes on harmoniously, and, by the blessing of God, successfully.

In the name of the Managers, (Signed) ROBERT AITCHISON, Secretary.

SERVICES TO-MORROW at 12 o'clock, and FUNERAL SERMON, "The Keys of Death," at 5P.M.

Pilgrim GILLESPIE, Edinburgh, of the Faith Mission, on THURSDAY, at 7 P.M.

Falkirk Herald 20th April 1901

STIRLING COUNTY LICENSING COURT.

The half-yearly Licensing Court for the County of Stirling was held in the County Buildings, Stirling, on Tuesday. There was a large attendance of Justices, and Sir Alan Seton Stewart, Bart, of Touch, presided. EXISTING LICENCES –

A LINLITHGOW BRIDGE CONVICTION.

The list of existing licences was gone over, and several, in which there were complaints or convictions, were dealt with. It was reported that Mrs. Battison, publican, Linlithgow Bridge, had pleaded guilty to a breach of certificate. Mr. Learmonth, solicitor, Falkirk, appeared for Mrs. Battison, and explained the circumstances connected with the conviction, which, he said, was only for a technical breach of the certificate. Mrs. Battison had held this licence for 27 years without any conviction. The Chief Constable said he did not dispute what Mr. Learmonth had said, and he would not recommend that the licence be withdrawn. Mrs. Battison was admonished, and her licence was renewed.

HAWKING LIQUOR IN EAST STIRLINGSHIRE.

A complaint was made by the Chief Constable against Alex. M'Culloch, licensed grocer, Binnehill, Slamannan, for hawking liquor. The complaint, however, had not yet been served on M'Culloch, and he would suggest that the case be adjourned till the complaint was dealt with in the Sheriff Court. This was the worst case of whisky hawking he had ever known. Mr. A. Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk, appeared for Mr. M'Culloch, and said that although the complaint had not yet been served on his client, he would give an undertaking that this van, which had only been about six weeks on the road, be dispensed with. That undertaking ought to save an adjournment. The Clerk read the following report by Superintendent Gordon on the hawking of liquor by vans in East Stirlingshire: - "I have the honour to bring under your notice the fact that the hawking of beer and whisky in this district has become quite intolerable, it prevails to such an extent that the trade, which rural licence-holders might be pardoned for ultimately looking upon as their own. It is mostly taken away by licensed grocers, whose premises are possibly five, seven, ten, or even twelve miles distant. In 1890 we had in this, district eight convictions against bottle carters for hawking beer, and I brought that matter before the Burgh of Falkirk Licensing Court, with the result that a decided improvement has taken place, so far as the Falkirk bottle carters generally are concerned. The good results, however, have been neutralised to a great extent by the increased and increasing boldness and unscrupulousness

of licensed grocers' vanmen, who simply infest the landward part of the Eastern District. The vans come from all quarters, Falkirk, Laurieston, Camelon, Slamannan., Bathgate, Armadale, Bo'ness, Linlithgow, &c, and I have it on reliable authority that many of them carry very little groceries, and some of them none at all, and they make a point of calling at almost every house soliciting orders. To protect themselves, they carry a book containing names showing an order for beer or whisky, and as there is seldom a date, the order can afterwards be dated to suit emergencies, and render futile any action the police may take. In my view, vans are only entitled to be used in delivering goods ordered bona fide at the licensed premises." Mr. Hunter - This report by Superintendent Gordon is a general report and has no bearing on the application under consideration. There had been no conviction whatever against Mr. M'Culloch. Mr. Learmonth appeared for the landlord of the premises, and said it would be a great hardship to him were the licence refused. The Court adopted the suggestion of the Chief Constable, and adjourned Mr. M'Culloch's case till the complaint referred to had been dealt with by the Sheriff.

THE GOTHENBURG LICENCE AT STANDBURN.

Mr. Brown, Kerse, asked if the clerk had been served with a copy of the accounts in connection with the licence granted at Standburn to Messrs Jas. Nimmo & Coy., and which was to be conducted on the Hill of Beath, or Gothenburg system. It was understood that the local Justices were to be consulted regarding the disposal of the revenue from this public-house, but he understood from one local Justice, who could not be present that day, that that had not been so. The accounts should placed before the Justices and a statement given to the public as to what was being done with the revenue from these premises. Mr. Baillie - I am surprised to hear that the local Justices have not been consulted. It was stated that the licence was to be under the control of the local Justices. Major Dobbie remarked that Mr. Nimmo had said that not only would he consult with the local Justices, but he would be glad if any of the other Justices would co-operate with them. A profit of £720 was made last year, and it was allocated by Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside, Mr. Clarkson, and some others, but there were no outsiders at the allocation. Mr. Brown - It is because of a complaint by a Justice in the immediate locality that I am bringing up this question. Provost Ferguson - After granting this licence, I am afraid I have no jurisdiction over it at all. I was against it at the first, and I am against it now. Mr. Brown - We have this jurisdiction over it that we can refuse it. At next Court. Bailie Cook Rennie - There was an arrangement made that Messrs Nimmo would present an annual statement to us regarding to us regarding this licence. The Chairman - Why should we review this licence any more than any other? Ex-Provost Yellowlees - This licence was granted as an experiment, and they should publish their accounts, as is done at Hill of Beath. I am certain that Mr. Nimmo would not object to give the Justices the fullest information. Mr. D. M. Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk, said that as agent for Mr. Nimmo, he was certain that if he were asked for information he would very willingly give it. It was a pity this question had not been raised before he left the Court that day, as he would have satisfied the Justices on the subject. Ex-Provost Watson said he had taken a great interest in this licence when it was asked by Mr. Nimmo, and he sympathised with Provost Ferguson's remarks, There was a distinct pledge given by Mr. Nimmo that he would consult with the local Justices as to the disposal of the revenue, which was to be devoted for philanthropic purposes. He would like to know what Mr. Nimmo was doing with the money. He might be devoting it to improve, the village of Standburn, which almost wholly belonged to himself, while the money ought to be diverted to other channels. The Justices should ask Mr. Nimmo to provide them with the necessary information at next Court, and failing his doing so they should withdraw the licence. The Clerk undertook to write Mr. Nimmo on the subject.

Falkirk Herald 27th April 1901

STANDBURN. DRIVING ACCIDENT. -

Shortly after ten o'clock on Saturday evening Mr. Thomas Jack, butcher, was proceeding home to Standburn, and when passing Blawearie Rows he came into collision with a waggonette belonging to Mr. James Gentleman, Avonbridge, with the result that he was thrown heavily to the ground, escaping with a slight cut on the head. Considerable damage was done to both vehicles, but fortunately the occupants and driver of the waggonette escaped unhurt.

MUSICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING. -

On Monday evening the members of Standburn Musical Association held an enjoyable social meeting in Drumbowie Public School, the occasion being the presentation to the esteemed and veteran conductor, Mr. David Sharp, sen., of a purse of sovereigns. Mr. Geo. Gibb manager, presided, supported by Dr Calderwood, vice-president. After an excellent tea, Mr. Gibb complimented the association on the successful completion of their first session, and spoke of Mr. Sharp's high musical attainments, his adaptability as a teacher and his great enthusiasm for music, and his worth as a gentleman. (Applause.) In conclusion, he hoped that the members would always pay close attention to their conductor, and by doing this the association would be admired, not only in the village, but in the district around. He then handed over the gift, and Mr. Sharp feelingly replied. Dr. Calderwood then presented Mr. R. Stewart, secretary, with a small token of esteem in recognition of his services. During the evening songs were pleasingly rendered by Miss Murray, Miss Davies, Miss M'Ritchie, Mr. A. Gillespie, Mr. D. Sharp, and Dr. Calderwood, the latter giving "Down at the Farmyard Gate" with great gusto, and evoking great applause. A most enjoyable evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald 4th May 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held on Tuesday afternoon. All the members were present.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. The officer reported that the school attendance was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Att.
Muiravonside School	196	162
Drumbowie School	506	402
Blackbraes School	380	332
Maddiston School	85	72
Avonbridge School	81	66

REVISING OF TEACHERS' SALARIES.

The meeting took into consideration the revising of teachers' and officials' salaries, and the following increases were made: - Drumbowie School - Mr. Wilson, £100 to £110; Miss Hunter, £86 to £95; Miss Swanson, £30 to £35; Miss McNeil, £30 to £35. Blackbraes School - Miss Turner, £75 to £80; Miss Boyd, £70 to £75; Miss Ross, £40 to £45; Miss Smart, £35 to £40. Muiravonside School - Mr. Watt, £175 to £180; Miss Shaw, £77 to £80; Miss Watt, £40 to £45; Mr. Meek, £30 to £40. The School Board officer's salary was increased from £25 to £30. The salary of the clerk, Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk, was raised by £10 per annum. Miss Conlin, Maddiston, was appointed cleaner of Maddiston Public School. **THE DAMAGE TO DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL.**

The Board resumed consideration of the damage done to Drumbowie School through the working of the minerals under the school feu, and had again before them a letter by Messrs Nimmo & Co. (Ltd.) on the subject. The letter was as follows: - "Referring to your letter of the 15th curt., we have given the subject matter our careful consideration. Our view of the question of damage is that we are not responsible for it, and are not bound to make good any loss which may have been sustained by our mineral workings. We are, however, large ratepayers and are on terms of personal intimacy with a number of the members of the School Board. We are most anxious, therefore, to take a thoroughly considerate view of the whole position, and rather to concede something to the School Board than fall back on what we regard as our legal rights. With this end in view we have to make the following proposals in connection with the present damage, and also with the working out of the coal under the

school, for the consideration of the Board, that, if at all possible, a friendly settlement may be arrived at. Two courses suggest themselves to us. First - That the School Board should agree to meet the present outlay of £89 9s 10d for the damage already done by our workings, and that we on our part will agree to protect the school buildings, in respect of the other seams of coal which are still to be worked ; or second - That the present damage, as above stated, should be met equally by the School Board and ourselves, and that a joint application should be made to counsel to determine the legal rights of the parties in respect of the working out of the other seams. We make these proposals without prejudice or the admission of liability on our part and in the desire to cover the whole position as considerably as possible, having regard to all the interests involved. We shall be glad to hear from you when these proposals have been submitted to your Board." After careful consideration the Board regretted that they could not entertain any of Messrs Nimmo's proposals, as they were satisfied beyond doubt that Messrs Nimmo were liable under their lease and under the Board's feu charter to compensate the Board for all and every damage that might be caused to the buildings through the workings of the minerals, and the clerk was instructed to intimate this to Messrs Nimmo, and ask for an early settlement. There was no other business of importance.

Falkirk Herald 11th May 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.

THE CENSUS. -

Mr. John Eccles, Maddiston, has furnished us with the census returns for the parish of Muiravonside, from which it appears that the census is now 5332, compared with 3671 in 1891, or an increase of 1661. The increase is largely accounted for by the opening up of the village of Standburn, the population of which is returned at 945.

Falkirk Herald 11th May 1901

MINING NOTES

There are bright prospects for the people in Maddiston and Polmont district. It is reported that a new coalfield is about to be opened on Mr. Learmonth's estate at Parkhall.

Falkirk Herald 11th May 1901

STANDBURN. TEMPERANCE BAND. -

A temperance band has been started in connection with the Congregational Church. The membership consists of both old and young. The object of the band is to carry on aggressive temperance work in the village and district. The ensuing office-bearers have been appointed: - President, Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon; vice-president, Mr. Henry J. Baker; secretary, Mr. George Johnstone; assistant secretary, Miss Janet Calder; treasurer, Mr. Philip Kerr; assistant treasurer, Mr. Whinton. These, along with numerous assistants, are carrying on the work. At last Tuesday's meeting over 60 signed the pledge.

SOCIAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION. -

The Standburn Congregational Church Choir, numbering about forty, along with their leader, Mr. Wm. Meek and Mrs. Meek, met in a social capacity last Friday night, after an excellent tea, the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, who presided, in the course of his remarks noted with pleasure the good progress the choir was making under Mr. Meek. Later on in the evening, in the name of the choir, Mr. Snaddon presented Mr. Meek with a marble clock, and Mrs. Meek with a silver cake basket as a token of appreciation of the good work they have done, and as marks of the high esteem in which they are held.

Falkirk Herald 15th May 1901

CASE OF SHEBEENING -

At Falkirk J.P. Court yesterday - ex-Provost Cockburn and Mr. J. Cooke Gray on the bench - Margaret Witherspoon or Mackie, wife of Archibald Mackie, miner, Rosemount Cottages, Avonbridge, was charged with having, on the night of Saturday, 20th April, in her own house, trafficked in excisable liquor by selling a quantity of whisky to Agnes Walkingshaw or Graham, wife of Wm. Graham, miner, Crosscroes, Muiravonside, without having a certificate to enable her to do so. Accused pleaded not guilty, and the case went to proof, Mr. Jas. M. Wilson, Justice of Peace Clerk, prosecuting. Mrs. Graham, examined by Mr. Wilson, deposed that on her way home on the evening in question, she got some pick shafts from a man to carry who was the worse of liquor. She then met the accused, who asked her if she had been at Bathgate, and she said she had. Accused then asked if she would come in and she and her husband latterly did go in although they said they had not much time. They asked Mrs. Mackie if they could get anything, and after some persuasion she gave them a pint bottle of whisky, for which she paid 1s 9d. They drank the liquor in the house. Witness had heard of Mrs. Mackie's before. She heard it was a place where they could get liquor if they wished but she had never got anything in it herself before. William Graham, miner, Crosscroes, Muiravonside, husband of the previous witness, gave similar evidence, and said there was a strange woman came into the house at the time and got some of the liquor. Witness had not heard up till then that this was a house in which they could get the liquor if they wished. Mrs. Edwards, wife of a miner, residing at Rosemount Cottages, Avonbridge, said that on the evening in question she saw Mr. Graham and his wife, Mrs., Graham, was quarrelling with a man about pick shafts. The two went to Mrs. Mackie's house, and witness followed them some time afterwards. Mr. Graham had some whisky in his hand, and he handed her a glass. Witness had no suspicion that Mrs. Mackie kept liquor for sale in her house, and she had never got liquor there before. Mrs. Brown said she was in Mrs. Mackie's house on the same evening. There was whisky going, and witness -was offered a "tasting." By the Court - I went into the house because Mrs. Mackie kept a little shop, and I wished to buy some goods. I did - not think there, was a dram going. Mrs. McAlister, wife of a bricklayer, residing at Standburn, said that on the evening in question she walked from Blackbraes Station home. Her husband had some talk with a man named McKnight, who had a half-empty pint bottle of whisky with him. McKnight gave her husband a drink, and after the liquor was finished he threw away the bottle. Witness afterwards beard that this was the man who had lost some pick shafts. Wm. Hay, police constable, Standburn, deposed to getting information of a case of shebeening in accused's house. Accused denied selling the pint bottle of whisky. By the Court - I got information of the shebeening incidentally from Mrs. Graham when I was inquiring into a case of stealing pick shafts. Accused was put into the witness box, and gave evidence on her own behalf. She deposed that Mrs. and Mr. Graham were not ten minutes in her house, and that a little white-haired boy was sent by them to Avonbridge for a pint bottle of whisky. Witness did not give Mrs. Graham whisky, and she got no liquor in her house. Witness, kept no whisky in her house. When whisky was sent for it was just drunk. Ex-Provost Cockburn - What were you doing sending for liquor at all on Saturday night ? Accused - My man is as old as you, and I believe you will be able to take a wee drop of drink on the Sunday morning as well as him. (Laughter.) Robert Russell, miner, Drumbrodier, deposed that Mrs. Graham, after leaving Mrs. Mackie's house, came to his house. She had no whisky with her. He neither saw a pint bottle of whisky in her hand nor in her basket, and he was not aware that she would have the bottle buttoned up in her dress. Mr. Wilson said he would leave the case in their Honours' hand.

There was no doubt there was drink going in this house, and there was some slight evidence that the place had the character of a shebeen. Constable Hay was recalled, and said he had heard no rumour before this case came up that this house was a shebeen, but he had heard of it since. After the Justices had consulted, ex Provost Cockburn, addressing; accused, said - The Court find you guilty of this offence, and you are fined £2 2s with £2 2s as expenses, or fourteen days. Accused - Well, I will go to jail. I will suffer the fourteen days,

A DANGEROUS GAME -

Five young miners from the Standrigg district of Muiravonside, named Wm. McDonald, John Dickson, Wm. Dickson, Robert Strang, and Wm. Smith, were at the Falkirk J.P. Court yesterday charged with having played at the game known as "bullets" on the road between California and Maddiston, to the annoyance and danger of passengers on said road. They pleaded guilty. The Prosecutor explained | that this was a very dangerous practice. The game consisted of throwing heavy bullets along the road. In reply to the court, John Dickson said he

knew he was doing wrong in playing at the game, but there was not much traffic on the road. Strang and Smith were not aware they were doing any harm, and they were never warned by any one. The Prosecutor - is well known that this game is forbidden. Ex- Provost Cockburn, who occupied the bench along with Mr. J. Cooke- Gray, told the accused that this was a very dangerous game to play at on the public road, as people might be seriously hurt by it. – The sentence of the Court was 10s, including costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 15th May 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. MONDAY.
(Before Sheriff-BELL.)

FOURTEEN DAYS FOR ASSAULT. - A young man named James M'Millan, miner Standrigg, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 27th April, in the house in South Rows, Blackbraes, occupied by, Wm. Cochrane miner, (1) assaulted the said Wm. Cochrane, and struck him a blow on the mouth with his fist, and attempted to strike him with a stone (2) committed a breach of the peace. He pleaded not guilty, but was convicted on evidence, and having been previously convicted, he was sent to jail for fourteen days.

Falkirk Herald 18th May 1901

MADDISTON.

Presentation. - On Wednesday evening last, in Forsyth's Restaurant, Polmont Station, Mr. J. B. Chalmers (lately of Maddiston Co-operative Store) was, on the occasion of his appointment as head salesman in the Yoker branch of Clydebank Co-operative Society, presented with a gold Albert as a token of the respect entertained for him by his friends in this district. After an excellent tea the presentation was made by Mr. J. S. Wilson, who congratulated Mr. Chalmers on his appointment, and assured him that, while his departure from their midst was much regretted, it was the wish of all that every happiness and success should attend him in his new sphere. Mr. Chalmers suitably acknowledged the gift, and thereafter, with song and sentiment, a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald 18th May 1901

STANDBURN.

BOYS' BRIGADE. –

A company of the Boys' Brigade has been formed in connection with Standburn Congregational Church, and will be known as 1st. Standburn Boys' Brigade. It has for its object "the advancement of Christ's kingdom among boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect, and all that tends toward a true Christian manliness." The officers of the company are as follows: -Captain Thomson, Lieutenant Lindsay and Docherty, Staff-Sergeant Kerr. Chaplain Kerr, D. H. Ritchie Snaddon. The movement meets with much sympathy and support.

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. - The quarterly business tea meeting was held on Thursday night - Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon presiding. Reports of work done by the various departments in the church were submitted and approved by the congregation. All showed the church to be in a very healthy and energetic condition. Addresses were given by Mr. Henry J. Barker, Captain Thomson, and Mr. Wm. Meek. Mr. Alex. Kerr, church treasurer, made a very interesting Statement regarding the growth of the church's income. He went into details in a very able manner, and proved the income of the church to be a good bit over £100 per year, and all that without pressure being brought to bear upon the people. He described the position as a marvellous result of what: working men could do when properly organised. The Rev. John Richardson, Greenock, brought the speaking to a close with a manly, robust, stirring address. The choir, under Mr. Meek, rendered several pieces during the evening in an efficient manner. The attendance was slightly over 100. This attendance and interest manifested was considered very satisfactory. The meeting terminated in the usual way.

BANK. –

A bank has been started in connection with the Congregational Church, and is now in full operation. The following have been appointed: - Trustees, Messrs Kerr, Blair, Aitchison, Simpson, M'Clarkie, Low, Baker; secretary, Mr. Archibald Kerr; treasurer, Mr. Robert Aitchison; assistant treasurer, Mr. John Forbes; chairman of the bank. Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon.

Falkirk Herald 18th May 1901

SPORTING

The football epidemic is still raging in the Blackbraes district, fresh cases being reported every day. The most important match of the week was the one between the Violet (Greyrigg) and Standburn Daisy. By their win on Monday the Violet have made two records, that of an unbeaten record during the ---tie and being the first to beat, the Daisy on their own ground. Violets were greatly in evidence on the evening of the match; perhaps some of those who have gardens will know. For the Daisy, Moore, Hoggan, Cheyne, and Gunner Johnston were the pick, while Hannah, Sneddon, White, Weir, McDonald, and Irvine were the outstanding men of the Violet. Peter Aitken has no equal for head work; the winning goal by Murray was a beauty.

Falkirk Herald 22nd May 1901

FALKIRK BURGH COURT.

WEDNESDAY.

STANDBURN MINERS FALL OUT, -

Wm. O'Hare, Walter Brown, Robt. Ross, and Wm. Paton, miners, Standburn, were charged with creating a breach of the peace in the public-house in High Street occupied by John Linn. O'Hare and Ross pleaded guilty, and the other two denied the charge. O'Hare, who had been previously convicted, was fined in 15s, or ten days, and Ross was mulcted in 10s, or seven days; while the case against the others was adjourned for proof.

FRIDAY

A PUBLIC HOUSE ROW. –

Walter Brown and William Paton, miners, Standburn, who, on Wednesday, denied having created a breach of the peace, along with some others, in the Black Bull Inn, again appeared, and adhering to their plea of not guilty, the case went to proof. After evidence had been led, the Bailie found the charge against Paton not proven, while Brown was found guilty, and sentenced in 10s, or seven days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 22nd May 1901

CASUAL COMMENTS.

By "ARGUS."

A company of the Boys' Brigade has been formed at Standburn; so that the mines are safe from damage should the foreigner invade Muiravonside.

Falkirk Herald 25th May 1901

STANDBURN.

LOCAL MAN FOR BADEN-POWELLS' POLICE. –

Last week Mr. Matthew Neil (for several years coachman to Dr. Calderwood) sailed in the transport, Orient from Southampton en route for South Africa, to join Baden Powell's South African Police, for which he was readily accepted. Mr. Neil was well known in the district, and departed with the best wishes of his friends. He was made the recipient of several useful presents prior to his departure.

Mr. ROBERTSON, successor to Mr. George Gibb as manager at Messrs James Nimmo's pits at Standburn, commenced his duties last week.

Mr. JAMES CARMICHAEL, Lathallan Lodge Polmont, addressed the Temperance Band last Tuesday night in connection with the Congregational Church. The address was of a very interesting nature, and admirably adapted for the meeting. Several came forward and signed

the pledge.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BANK. –

The recently established bank opened its doors for business last Monday night, when all the officials were in attendance. Mr. Archibald Kerr, as secretary; Mr. Robert Aitchison as treasurer; and Mr. John Forbes, assistant treasurer. The Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, as chairman was also present. The object of the bank is not to make profit, but to incubate habits of thrift, and encourage the same. The bank was open from 7 p.m. till 8p.m., and in that time fifty transactions were reported, that being the number of persons who opened accounts and deposited money that night. The total amount of money deposited was £10 4s 11d sterling. The bank trustees and officials have good reason to believe that this bank is going to be widely taken advantage of by the people.

1st STANDBURN BOYS' BRIGADE. -

The first drill took place on Monday night, and the second on Wednesday night. On each occasion Captain Thomson and his officers were highly pleased with the appearance and smartness of the boys. On both nights large numbers of boys came forward and requested their names to be enrolled. Each night's drill is preceded by a short service, the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, chaplain, conducting the same.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. - Eight gentlemen were recently nominated for the deaconship of Standburn Congregational Church. Voting papers were issued to the congregation requesting members to vote for the six deacons required. The result of the voting is that the following have been called to the deaconship of the church by the congregation: - Messrs Kerr, Calder, Baker, Lindsay, McTaskie, Pryde. These gentlemen will be ordained at an early date by the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, minister of the church.

Falkirk Herald 25th May 1901

SPORTING

NORTH v. SOUTH. –

On Wednesday evening a grand match was played on the ground of Shieldhill Athletic for the benefit of the association in charge of the Brock Cup arrangements. The players representing the North were picked from Shieldhill Athletic, Redding, and Summerhouse United; while the South were chosen from the Greyrigg Violet, Standburn Daisy, and Arnloss. There was a good attendance of spectators, and Mr. Robert Murray, Crosscroe, acted as referee. Some of the players did not accept the honour conferred, but capable substitutes were at hand. At the start of the game the representatives of the South were first dangerous, Sneddon just missing the mark by inches. Macdonald then had a try, but Grant was on the alert, and cleared grandly. The ball then transferred to the other end. C. Sneddon sending in a good shot, but Nicolson gave away a corner in order to clear, which proved fruitless. R. Hannnh, Sam Sneddon, and Macdonald for the South then manipulated the ball past the opposing backs, and Hannah scored the first goal for the South. Encouraged by this success, the South played with renewed vigour, and Macdonald, who was in good fettle, scored the second goal for his side. Half-time result: - South, 2; North, 0. On resuming, play was of a more even nature, and for a time neither side could claim the advantage. Dawson, for the North, was very effective at back, both in kicking and tackling. The play of the South as a whole was much better than their opponents, and their forwards made several unsuccessful attempts at goal, Grant saving grandly. The remaining portion of the game was vigorously contested on both sides, and no further scoring took place. Result. - South, 2; North, 0. James Grant (Redding); goalkeeper for the North, proved himself a capable custodian, saving a good many shots in fine style.

STANDBURN DAISY v. CALIFORNIA THISTLE. –

The teams played off their return game at Standburn on Thursday evening before a small attendance. The home team had the best of matters all through, the Thistle not being fully represented. A good game resulted in favour of the Daisy by 5 goals to 0.

CALIFORNIA THISLE v. STANDBURN DAISY. –

On Saturday the above teams met at California in a friendly encounter before a fair turnout of spectators, the visitors running out winners by 5 goals to 3.

GREYRIGG VIOLET v. CALIFORNIA THISTLE.-

The Thistle paid a visit to Blackbraes on Monday evening, when they suffered defeat by 7 goals to 1.

Falkirk Herald 29th May 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Maddiston Public School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Myles was called to the chair, and there were also present Messrs' John Bryce, J. B. Bryce, Archibald Binnie, and Haldane. The clerk read minute of special meeting of the Board, which stated that the Board had again before them the question of the damage done to the Drumbowie Public School by underground minerals. A letter was read from Messrs James Nimmo and Co., Ltd., coalmasters, denying liability for the damage, but offering to settle the matter by a joint reference to counsel. The clerk was instructed to reply that the Board could not see their way to agree to the suggested joint reference to counsel, and that the Board had already taken the opinion of counsel on the matter, and had been acting on his opinion all along. The Board would delay taking steps in the matter for a fortnight, to give Messrs Nimmo an opportunity to settle. Since that meeting the clerk said he had received two letters from the Messrs Nimmo on the subject. In their first letter they regretted the Board's decision not to agree to the joint reference. Their agent stated that they were not liable, and they were averse to going to law with the Muiravonside School Board, as they were large ratepayers'. They hoped the Board would re-consider their position, and fall in with their suggestion. On Wednesday he had received the second letter from Messrs Nimmo, and in it they said that their law agent would feel obliged if the Board would send them their opinion of counsel, as he was at a loss to know on what ground their counsel could have his opinion that Messrs Nimmo was liable. The Clerk - It is against the rule for one side, after it had obtained an opinion of counsel, to show it to the other aide, and it will not be advisable that Messrs Nimmo should see the Board's opinion of counsel. Mr. J. B. Bryce - It is absurd for them to ask it. Mr. Haldane - We should stick to our finding arrived at last meeting. The Chairman - Messrs Nimmo have not agreed to the Board's request to make good the damage done, and there is no other alternative but litigation. 'The Board had decided on that unanimously, and the motion could not be rescinded without notice being given. The Board would be climbing down to agree to any compromise in this matter. It was only reasonable that if Messrs Nimmo wished a perusal of counsel's opinion obtained by the Board that they should pay half of the counsel's fee, and also half of the agent's fee. Mr. J. Bryce - I think Messrs Nimmo should get their own counsel's opinion. We have got ours. Mr. Archibald Bryce (Binnie?) We will have to give them time to do that, The Clerk - I gave them two weeks to do it. Their request for a perusal of our counsel's opinion is quite out of order, and I would not listen to it for a minute. The Chairman - It is an entirely wrong way of doing business. The Board agreed to abide by their decision in the matter. The officer's report on school attendance was as follows: -

	On Roll. Av. Atten.	
Muiravonside School	198	168
Drumbowie School	514	397
Blackbraes School	393	337
Maddiston School	93	76
Avonbridge School	78	70

Fifty children belonging to Drumbowie School were stated to be absent by the orders of the sanitary inspector, because of measles in their homes. The school holidays were fixed from 28th June to 6th August.

This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 1st June 1901

MADDISTON. Presentation. –

On Wednesday evening last Mr. James B. Chalmers, late of Maddiston branch of the Redding Co-operative Society, Limited, was met at the residence of Mr. A. Hunter, Maddiston, by a few of the members and employees of the above and made the recipient of a handsome marble timepiece. Mr. Baxter, in name of the donors, made the presentation, and Mr. Chalmers suitably acknowledged the gift. Tea was served in excellent style by Mr. Hunter, and a few happy hours spent in song and sentiment.

Falkirk Herald 1st June 1901

STANDBURN. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. –

The six deacons, whose names have been previously given, were ordained by the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon at the forenoon service in the Congregational Church. The service was of a most solemn and impressive nature throughout. The sweet and appropriate singing of the choir, under Mr. Meek, was a feature in the service. The attendance was large, and the offering liberal. The ground belonging to the Congregational Church has this week undergone a change. Workmen have been busy laying it out. A substantial fence is being erected in front of the church by Mr. Thomson, joiner, Polmont, and the ground around the church, is being voluntarily fenced in by Mr. John Calder, one of the newly-ordained deacons of the church.

BANK. –

The bank was open on Monday night for the second time since its formation a week ago when the statistics for the night were as follows: - Transactions, 53; new depositors, 18; withdrawals, 0; amount deposited, £4 8s 3d; total number of depositors, 69; total amount of money deposited, £14 13s 3d.

Falkirk Herald 8th June 1901

STANDBURN. FOOTBALL CLUB SPORTS. –

The sports held on Saturday last, under the auspices of the Daisy Football Club, came off in splendid weather. There was a large turnout of spectators, and all the various events had a good amount of entrants. The park was finely hemmed in on the road side with merry go-rounds and a gipsy camp, the latter coming in for a good share of patronage. The Redding Pipe Band was present during the afternoon and supplied the dance music. The success of the sports was due to the efforts of the committee, who had the arrangements carried through without a hitch. Mr. James Scott was secretary, and Mr. Ninian Young, referee.

Results; -

Boys' race - 1, McNeil; 2, McLean; 3, Aitken.

Girls race - 1, Katie Anderson; 2, Teenie Young; 3, Maggie O' Hare.

120 yards - 1, A. Ross, Falkirk; 2, Ormiston, Edinburgh; 3, Craven, Edinburgh.

300 yard - 1, A. Ross; 2, Wardlaw; 3, Craven.

Half mile - 1, F. Spiers; 2, W. Craven; good race won by a yard.

Old man's race - 1, David Ure, Standburn; 2, Tom Boyd; 3, James Graham.

Place kick - Wm. Hutchieson, Slamannan.

Juvenile football competition –

Bo'ness Unknown beat Blue Bell by 1 goal 1 point to 1 point;

Violet No. 1 beat Standburn No. 1 by 1 goal to nil;

Gutter Snipe beat Standburn No. 2 by 1 goal to nil;

Lucky Five beat Longriggend United by 1 goal 1 point to nil;

Cowie Wanderers beat Five Darkies by 1 goal to nil;

Funny Five beat Southfield by 1 goal 1 point to nil;

Deanfield beat Mary's Five by 1 goal to nil;

Hawthorn Buds beat Oar Boys by 2 goals 1 point to nil.

Slamannan Hibs, beat Squandered Five by 1 goal 1 point to nil.

Open football competitions –

Falkirk No. 1 beat Slamannan Swifts by 2 goals to 1;

Lucky Five beat Lost Half-Crown by 2 goals to 0;

Greyrigg Violet beat Unknown by 1 point to 0;

Falkirk No. 2 beat Rumford by 1 point to 0;

Bridgend beat Avonbridge by 1 point to 0;

Glengewing beat Standburn by 3 goals and 1 point to 0;

Slamannan Juniors beat Longriggend by 1 point to 0.

Quotting handicap –

1 and 2 divided between Laird and Neilson; 3, John Anderson.

Owing to so many teams being entered in the football competitions all the ties were not finished, but will come off at an early date.

CHOIR AND BIBLE -CLASS PICNIC. –

The first trip in connection with the Congregational Church choir and Bible class took place last Saturday, the place of destination being Stirling. The party left Standburn at 7 a.m. per four brakes supplied by Mr. Wilson Marshall, arriving in Stirling at 10.30 a.m. Dinner and tea were supplied to the company by Mr. Laurie of King Street Temperance Hotel. After a most enjoyable day, the party, numbering over 50, left Stirling at 7.10 p.m., arriving home in Standburn shortly after 11 p.m., all delighted with their day's outing.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BANK. –

Last Monday night's business: - New depositor, 1; withdrawals, 0; transactions, 48; cash deposited, £3 2s 6d.

Total cash deposited for the three nights the bank has been open, £17 15s 9d.

Falkirk Herald 8th June 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

AN AVONBRIDGE DISTURBANCE. - Robert Thomson and Thomas Kilgrannan, miners, Avonbridge, and Patrick Fisher, miner, Standburn, were fined 10s each, or seven days, for committing a breach of the peace at Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 12th June 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Monday.

(Before SHERIFF BELL.)

BREACHES OF THE PEACE. –

James Dalzeil, miner, Maddiston, was fined 15s, or ten days, for committing a breach of the peace there.

Falkirk Herald 12th June 1901

ASSAULTING A SPIRIT MERCHANT. –

Robert Martin, miner The Square, Blackbraes was charged with having on the 23rd May, May, on the road opposite Greyrigg Inn, occupied by Thomas Heaps spirit dealer, assaulted the said Thomas Heaps, by striking him a blow on the face. Panel pleaded not guilty, but was convicted on evidence. Having been previously convicted, he was fined 30s, or fourteen days

Falkirk Herald 15th June 1901

STANDBURN. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BANK. –

Monday night's business was as follows: - Withdrawals, 0 ; new depositors, 9; transactions, 62; cash deposits, £5 9s 2d.

BOYS' BRIGADE. –

At a special meeting of the Muiravonside School Board, held in Standburn Public school on Monday afternoon, the Congregational Church Boys' Brigade was granted the use of the playground to drill in. In the evening the brigade was marched from the church to the playground, and there went through the weekly drill. The movements of the boys were followed with much interest by those witnessing the proceedings. Captain Thomson and his

officers are to be complimented on the obedience and smartness of their company. On Tuesday night the Temperance Band in connection with the church met, and it being "Magazine Night" there was a considerable gathering.

POSTAL CHANGE. -

For a long time past Standburn has had only one postal delivery, namely, about 11.50, but during the week an extra one has been put on at 9.30. This no doubt will prove a boon to the business places in the village, but what is now required: is a despatch in keeping with the early delivery, but it is expected that this will also be got.

PICNIC. -

On Saturday last the members of the Standburn United Free Mission Church Bible Class, together with a few friends, had an enjoyable outing, the rendezvous being the beautiful grounds of Hopetoun estate. The party, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Robertson, left the church shortly after eight, and after a pleasant drive, reached their destination, where lunch was heartily partaken of. Games were thereafter engaged in, and some time was spent in viewing the lovely grounds. The company then made tracks for Queensferry, where dinner was served, and a few hours were spent in the ancient and historic place. The return journey was then entered upon, and home was reached about 11 p.m., all being delighted and invigorated with the day's outing.

STANDBURN V. AVONBRIDGE RECHABITES. -

A match between the Standburn and Avonbridge Rechabite cricket teams was played on Thursday night on the Standburn pitch.

Results

AVONBRIDGE RECHABITES	STANDBURN
D. Baxter (Captain), b Balloch.....1	R. Balloch,
lbw.....2	
J. Baxter b Nicol.....2	H. Baxter, c Russell, b Baxter.....2
J. Pow, run out.....4	J.Mackie, c Pow, b do.....1
A. Russell, c Baker, b Nicol.....4	T. Robertson, b Hill.....3
A. Hill, run out.....2	R. Moor, run
out.....2	
W. Carruthers, b Balloch.....0	C. Nicol (Captain) b Hill.....7
A. Henderson. Lbw.....0	J. Henderson, b Baxter.....0
D. Kelly, c and b Nicol.....1	J. Nicholson, b Baxter.....1
D. Allan, b Nicol.....1	M. Aitchison, b
Hill.....3	
P. Marshall, c and b Nicol.....0	J. McPherson, b
Baxter.....4	
H. Cross, not out.....0	R. Calder, not
out.....0	
Extras.....4	Extras.....4

Falkirk Herald 22nd June 1901

STANDBURN. CONGREGATIONAL. CHURCH BANK.-The bank was open last Monday night from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., and the following are the statistics for the night: - New depositors, 6; transactions. 51; withdrawals. 0; cash deposited. £4 11s 1d.

Falkirk Herald 22nd June 1901

J.P. COURT. -

At a J.P. Court on Tuesday - Mr. Mitchell of Millfield and Councillor R. H. Lochhead on the bench - the following were fined for keeping dogs without licences: - James Allan, miners' roadsman. Standburn, 15s, or five days;

Falkirk Herald 26th June 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A NOISY STANDBURN MINER. -

James Dalziel, miner, Standburn, admitted having, on the 10th June, committed breaches of the peace at Rumford and Standburn. Having been previously convicted, he was fined 20s, or 14 days.

A ROW IN A PLANTATION. -

John Neilson and John Aitken, miners, Standburn, were fined 10S each, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for creating a disturbance in a plantation off the public road and Standburn.

Falkirk Herald 29th June 1901

STANDBURN. SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIP. -

The children attending the Church of God Sabbath School. Standburn, had their annual outing on Thursday last to Blackness. The children, teachers, and parents, numbering over 30, were accommodated in four large brakes, provided by Mr. Thomas Spence, Shieldhill. This number was augmented by a few friends from Limerigg and California. The weather was very favourable, and after a pleasant drive the destination was reached, and the whole party were regaled. Thereafter the young enjoyed themselves in all sorts of pastimes till a reasonable hour in the evening, when they returned home, all being highly pleased with the day's enjoyment.

Falkirk Herald 6th July 1901

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

SPORTS. -

The first of what are intended to be annual sports in connection with Greyrigg Violet Football Club were held in their field on the Guardroom Farm on Saturday last. Favoured with splendid weather, and under the supervision of an energetic committee, with the guidance of the able secretary, Mr. Duncan Bain, the whole proceedings that day were carried out to the entire satisfaction of the competitors. In all the competitions the handicapping was very judicious and impartial, the finishes being very close. The football competition brought out a large amount of teams, some coming a considerable distance. During the afternoon Blackbraes Brass Band was in attendance, enlivening proceedings at intervals with some excellent selections, and latterly contributing a programme of dance music.

Results: -

100 yards race -1, Gavin Irvine, Blackbraes; 2, Wm.. Anderson, California.

200 yards race - 1, Alex. Ross, Falkirk; 2, Matthew Myles, Maddiston.

Place-kick - J. M'Gillvary.

440 yards race - This race caused a little dissatisfaction amongst the competitors owing to one running inside of one of the flags, but rather than run over again they agreed to divided the three prizes amongst them, viz., J. McLay, F. Spiers, A. Ross, and M. Myles.

Five-a-side football competition for boys under 16 - 1, Grangemouth East End (Sibbald, Struthors, Graham, Gordon, and Gray) beat California (Small, White, Sneddon, Pringle, and Craig) by 1 point to nil. The open competition, together with the members' confined race, were undecided, but will come off at an early date.

TRIP. -

On Thursday last the children attending the Sabbath school in connection with the Christian Brethren had their annual outing, the venue of the day's enjoyment this year being Blackness. The children, together with their teachers, parents, and friends, numbering about 150, met at the hall at 9 a.m., where they were accommodated in brakes provided by Mr. Thomas Spence. The weather was delightful, and the journey thither was greatly enjoyed, both by young and old. On arrival, they partook of the usual refreshments, and thereafter betook themselves to

various games, etc., which were entered upon with great gusto. Bathing by a great many of the young lads was greatly taken advantage of. In the course of the day the whole school were photographed by Mr. R. C. Smart. At a later period the trippers were again regaled. After a pleasant day had been spent, the homeward journey was entered upon about seven. Shieldhill being reached shortly after nine, without any mishap to mar the day's pleasure.

MINERAL OPERATIONS –

On Wednesday last Messrs R. Forrester and Sons Commenced to reopen one of the old pits, which was the property at one time of Messrs Russel and Aitken, situated, and known in the district as the " Big Pit," between Blackbraes and Standburn. At present it is expected that, they intend sinking down to the main coal. When it is set agoing, it will be a decided advantage, being in close proximity to either of the above villages.

Falkirk Herald 6th July 1901

STANDBURN. U.F. CHURCH PIC-NIC. -

The children attending the above mission church Sabbath School had their annual outing on Saturday to Linlithgow. Assembling at the church at half-past nine, the children, to the number of upwards of 100, were put into processional order, and marched through the village, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Robertson, Mr. Moore, superintendent, and their teachers, and headed by the Salvation Army Band, who kindly gave their services free for the day. Thereafter they were accommodated in carts provided by the farmers of the district, while the grown-up people were conveyed in brakes. On arrival, the trippers made for the Palace Grounds, and after the company had been regaled, games and other amusements were greatly indulged in by the young folks. Races were run by the scholars, for which some useful prizes were awarded those successful. Several of the grownup people visited the Palace and its environments, whilst others passed the time pleasantly boating on the loch. In the afternoon refreshments were again liberally served. A very pleasant day having been spent by all, a start was made for home, and Standburn was reached before nine o'clock, without any mishap occurring to mar the day's enjoyment. On the call of the Rev. Mr. Robertson, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the band and farmers for kindly assisting them. The weather was all that could be desired, and the trip throughout was one of the pleasantest the school has ever had.

Falkirk Herald 17th July 1901

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING OF EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday forenoon - Major Dobbie, Beechmount, Larbert, presiding.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE AT STANDBURN.

Application was made by Thomas Jack, Standburn, for a new slaughter-house licence for premises at Standburn. There being no objections, the application was granted.

Falkirk Herald 27th July 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Special Meeting of School Board. –

A special meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wilson, chairman, presided, and the other members present were Messrs John Bell Bryce, John Bryce, Daniel Binnie, and Haldane. The meeting was held to consider the position of matters with relation to the repairs on Drumbowie School, rendered necessary by the mineral workings under the buildings and the correspondence which had passed between the Board and Messrs Jas. Nimmo & Coy., Ltd., the mineral tenants. The Chairman said that Messrs Nimmo still denied liability, but were willing to settle, and had offered to pay part of the expenses. He did not think, however, that the Board would be justified in accepting that offer. The Clerk (Mr. Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk), read the correspondence which had taken place on the matter, and, after a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to instruct the clerk to frame a claim by the Board against Messrs Nimmo in respect of the damage sustained to the school buildings, and to take the necessary steps for the recovery thereof. This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 27th July 1901

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT ON THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF STIRLINGSHIRE.

The tenth annual report by Dr. John C. M'Vail, medical officer of health, for Stirlingshire, has just been published. In that portion of the report which specially relates to the eastern district of the county, reference is at the outset made to the question of house accommodation. It is stated that in the southern division of the district, where coal-mining is almost the only industry, the population tends to move westwards or north-westwards, owing to the closing of old collieries and opening of new. The villages of Southheld, Binniehill, Drumclair, and Barnsmuir are thus diminishing in population; while further east, at Standburn, Shieldhill, Brightons, and Maddiston there is rapid increase. At Brightons the population is by no means exclusively mining. No fresh proceedings under the Housing of the Working Classes Act have been instituted during the year, but there is still quite sufficient scope for such work. Fifty-four sets of building plans have been submitted during the year. These included 136 dwellings, 171 of them being new and 15 existing dwellings undergoing alterations. The total number of one-roomed houses amongst, these is 21; of two-roomed houses, 93; of three rooms, 40; of four rooms, 23; and of more than four rooms, 9. The largest number of houses of one apartment is at High Bonnybridge, where a back-to-back arrangement has necessitated the introduction of special ventilation by means of shafts carried through the roof. The houses were set back to back so that they might be turned into dwellings of two apartments each if a demand were found for such houses. The largest addition -29 to the number of houses of two apartments is at Standburn. The principal large tenements are in Larbert parish. Dealing with drainage. Dr. M'Vail speaks of the necessity of the village of Bonnybridge being made into a special drainage district, and states that a proper sewage system for Brightons is becoming a pressing necessity. In the latter place many house drains discharge into a neighbouring ditch, which is thereby much befouled. A committee has been appointed to deal with the matter, and since the end of the year the ground has been surveyed by the District Committee's engineer with a view to the preparation of a scheme. Referring to the special scavenging district for Laurieston he states that he is certain that the introduction of systematic scavenging by the Local Authority will be much appreciated by the community. A daily removal system has not yet been attempted here, but with the gradual introduction of waterclosets, the difficulties of daily refuse removal are lessening, and it is to be hoped that the work will soon be undertaken. In Larbert and Stenhousemuir special drainage districts about seven-eighths of the houses now have water-closet accommodation, and ashpits are being done away with, dustbins, emptied daily, taking their place. Reference is made to the condition of slaughter-houses, bakehouses, and dairies, and from what is said it appears that these are being kept in good order. With regard to dairies, it is stated that the question of the appointment of a veterinary surgeon to make systematic visitation of the cattle at dairy farms has been before the committee, but has not yet been disposed of. The complaints made with reference to nuisances created on Falkirk Tryst Ground by the vans and tents of travelling tinkers and others are alluded to. It is stated that there is no proper water supply for these vans and tents, nor any sanitary conveniences of any kind, and the ground around has been littered with filth, and usually left in that condition when the vans, etc., removed elsewhere. During the past year, Dr M'Vail proceeds to say, vigorous steps have been taken to enforce the recently enacted by-laws for tents, vans, and sheds, and in addition, where squatters had gone away and left the ground in a filthy condition, intimations and notices have been served on the owners' representatives. The results have been very satisfactory. Bather than endeavour to obey the by-laws, the occupiers have, as a rule, cleared out without delay, and the owners of the ground have removed or buried much of the rubbish which had accumulated, lie has no doubt,

however, that if vigilant sanitary watch is not kept here, the nuisances complained of will soon recur. In his references to infectious disease, Dr. M'Vail mentions a, rather peculiar case with respect, to an outbreak of scarlet fever. He states that "in the beginning of the year an outbreak occurred in the parish of Polmont, and was evidently connected with the milk supply from one dairy farm. The circumstances were of considerable interest. The first notification was received on 2nd January, and the report showed that the eruption had appeared on 30th December. Up till 3rd January ten notifications were made, all from families getting milk from the same source. I visited on the following day with Dr. Wyse and Mr. Lawson, V.S. Investigation on the usual lines was sufficient to exclude school attendance and other similar facts as causes of the disease. A careful examination of all the members of the household, and of all persons in any way connected with the milk sale, gave absolutely no indication of scarlet fever, nor could detailed inquiry as to visitors, etc., suggest any human source of infection. Not very far from the farm there had been a case of scarlet fever in a household quite unrelated to the dairyman's, but no connection could be traced between this case and the farm milk supply. The cows them selves, however, as Dr Wyse had ascertained from the farmer, had had an eruptive disease of the teats, apparently such as had been described in connection with certain previous outbreaks of scarlet fever in England and one outbreak in Glasgow. Unfortunately, the existence of this condition of the cows' teats at Polmont was not heard of early enough to enable any proper bacteriological inquiry to be instituted. The outbreak, however, being of special interest, I arranged with Dr. Chalmers, medical officer for Glasgow, and Dr. R. M. Buchanan, bacteriologist, Glasgow Health Office, to visit with me next day, 5th January, by which date other three cases were known of, though, of course, the milk sale had now been discontinued. An attempt was made to obtain from the teats and udders satisfactory material for bacteriological examination, but without success. The products of ordinary inflammation and suppuration were so abundant as to make quite impossible any cultivation of any specific organism which might have existed. I asked Dr. Chalmers, who has had exceptional experience in the investigation of milk epidemics of scarlet fever, to re-examine the household and revise the inquiries I had already made as to human sources of infection. He was good enough to do so, but without success in eliciting any such origin of the disease. The milk sale was resumed when the veterinary surgeon was able to certify that the disease in the teats and udders had ceased. I regret that investigation of the matter at an earlier stage was not possible, but the facts such as they are appear to me worth making a note of." Another noteworthy occurrence is that mentioned in connection with enteric fever, of which it is stated there was unusually little during the year. Dr. M'Vail, however, says that "in summer several cases occurred at Rumford, in Polmont and Muiravonside parishes, and at the same time much complaint arose as to the condition of the water derived from what is known as the Rumford Level. This water discharges from a pipe on the embankment at the side of the Rumford Burn, and is understood to be derived from old mine workings. At the time in question it was repeatedly observed that, after heavy rains, the water suddenly became seriously polluted, the evidence of pollution consisting in a very bad smell and taste, as of decomposing organic matter, and in a slight milky appearance of the water. While the source of the water is believed to be as above stated, no one has any real knowledge of its origin. On inquiry as to the cause of pollution, however, it was ascertained that a neighbouring carter had, about three months previously, buried the carcass of a horse in the embankment of the burn 30 or 40 yards further up the stream than the point of discharge of the Level. The carcass was disinterred, and was found to be in a condition of active putrefaction, so that the work of removing it and burying it elsewhere was anything but pleasant. The hole in the ground was well cleaned out, and unslaked lime deposited in it in large quantities. After this there was no further complaint of pollution of the water. The depth at which the carcass had lain was just about the level of the point of discharge of the water supply, though there was a ridge of earth between. Under ordinary conditions soil drainage from the neighbourhood of the buried carcass no doubt found its way into the adjoining burn without affecting the water supply, and it was only after the burn had been in flood that pollution appeared, the first occasion being after a heavy thunderstorm. Statistics are given of the number of cases treated in Camelon Fever Hospital, and it is stated that there has again been much pressure on the hospital accommodation. The extension of the hospital that had thus become necessary is referred to as being practically complete. Tables with reference to vital statistics are given, from which it appears that the population of the district, exclusive of the Stirling District Asylum and Imbecile Institution, is estimated at 43,550. The births registered were 1695, and the deaths 748 giving a birth-rate of 88.895, and a death-rate of 17.175. The zymotic death-rate was 1.745, the tubercular death-rate 1.707, and the respiratory death-rate 3.513. The deaths under one year were at the rate of 122 per thousand births.

Falkirk Herald 31st July 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

(Before Sheriff Bell.)

DISTURBANCE AT AVONBRIDGE –

John Drysdale, miner, Avonbridge, and Thomas Beveridge, miner, Standburn, were fined 10s each, or seven days' imprisonment, for creating a disturbance in a grass field opposite the Avonbridge U.F. Church.

PUGILISTIC MINERS. –

Thomas M'Aullay and John Drummond, miners, Rumford, and John Pender, miner, Maddiston, were fined 10s each, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for having, on the 20th July, fought with each other and created a disturbance at Manuelrigg Bridge, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 3rd August 1901

CHURCH NOTICES

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

(REV. D. H. RICHIE SNADDON.)

THE PASTOR will be on Holiday during Month of August, and the Pulpit will be filled as follows: - SABBATH, 4th August - Capt. WALTON, L.E.S., Glasgow, 11th August - Mr. ALEX. KERR in the Forenoon, and Mr. HY. T. BAKER in the evening. 18th August Mr. HY. T. BAKER in the Forenoon, and Mr. KERR in the Evening. 25th. August - Capt. WALTON, L.E.S., Glasgow. Forenoon Service. 12 o'clock; Evening, 6 p.m. Capt. WALTON was one of the Naval Commanders who successfully ran the Blockade during the American War You should hear him.

"THE STANDBURN PIONEER," a new Quarterly Record of Christian Thought and Work, edited by Rev. D. H. RICHIE SNADDON. The First Number, with Photo, of Editor and Sketch of his Career, by Mr. ALEXANDER KERR, &c., &c., can be had from Mr. M. MEVILLE. News Agent, the Garrison, Falkirk. Price 1d. So great has been the demand for this Magazine that nearly every copy is sold out.

Falkirk Herald 3rd August 1901

STANDBURN. TRIPS. –

On Saturday last the teachers' of Standburn U.F. Mission church Sabbath School had their pic-nic. Accompanied by a few friends, they left the church about noon, in a brake provided by Mr. Wilson Marshall, and drove to Blackness. On arrival at their destination lunch was served, and then games were entered heartily into, while tea was served during the afternoon. The return journey was commenced about eight o'clock, and home was reached in due time, all being de-lighted with the outing.

On Thursday the children attending the Christian Brethren Sunday School had their outing to Blackness. The day was fine, and a pleasant day was spent.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. –

On Wednesday the church and Sabbath School trip took place, the place of destination being Millfield, Polmont. The company being conveyed to their destination in brakes, and fully 500

persons were present. A feature of the trip this year was a church refreshment stand which was on the field, under the charge of Messrs Aitchison and Baker-----From this stand adults purchased their food. The drawings during the day were good, and greatly assisted the children's expenses. The trip, under the superintendence of Mr. Snaddon, the deacons, managers, and numerous workers, was a great success. It was the largest brake trip that ever left the village. The Avonbridge Pipe Band accompanied the trip.

BOYS' BRIGADE. -

On Monday night the Boys' Brigade in connection with the Congregational Church, through the kindness of Colonel Bald Harvey, was presented with two magnificent bugles for their use. The brigade is making great progress, and funds are already in hand to fit them out at an early date with uniforms

Falkirk Herald 10th August 1901
STANDBURN.

The Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, of Standburn Congregational Church, has received communication from Mr. Andrew Carnegie that, subject to his usual conditions, an organ is to be placed in the church at Standburn. This action is causing the greatest satisfaction in the district.

Falkirk Herald 14th August 1901
THOM -

At Braeview Cottage, Maddiston, on 6th inst., after much suffering, borne with Christian patience, Jeanie, aged 20 years, beloved and only daughter of James Thom ; deeply mourned by all who knew her. Home at last.

Falkirk Herald 14th August 1901
FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A RUMFORD DISTURBANCE. -

George Grindlay, miner, Rumford, was fined 10s, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for committing a breach of the peace there.

A STANDBURN ROW. -

Thomas Jenkins, miner, Standburn, was fined 10s, or seven days, for creating a disturbance at Standburn, together with another man previously dealt with.

Falkirk Herald 17th August 1901

Death of Mr. Hugh Peden, Coalmaster. -

It is our painful duty this week to chronicle in our columns the death of Mr. Hugh Peden of Campden, which took place at his residence there on Tuesday forenoon. Three weeks ago last Tuesday the deceased gentleman, who had always enjoyed the best of health, was laid aside with a sharp attack of pneumonia, and although Dr. Lawrie did everything that was in his power, and his friends were hopefully looking forward to his ultimate recovery, he passed away on Tuesday forenoon. Born fifty-one years ago at Stane Castle, near Irvine, Mr. Peden came at an early age to this district, and on leaving school entered the office of the Redding Colliery Company, where he was engaged for over twenty years. After leaving there, he joined the Maddiston Brick and Quarry Company, of which he eventually became the sole partner, and carried on the brickwork and quarry at Maddiston until a few years ago. In business, however, he always inclined towards the coal trade, and about seven years ago he became a partner of the Eastrigg Coal Company, Westfield, in which company he was at the time of his death. He was also connected with several other public companies, and was a director of the Airdrie Steel Foundry Company, Limited. Possessed of accurate business knowledge and gifted with a fine style, a pleasing and effective manner, and a courtesy and kindness that never failed, Mr. Peden rapidly found favour with everyone with whom he came in contact, and he was much respected in business circles. Mr. Peden, who was of a quiet disposition, did not latterly aspire to any public appointment, and took practically no active interest in parish affairs, but he was well known in the district. He was an enthusiastic Freemason, and was the first R.W.M. of Lodge No. 793 Polmont. Indeed, it may be said it was greatly owing to his exertions that the lodge was established he being one of those who took a leading part in the founding of it. He was also a member of Lodge St John No. 16, Falkirk, and of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire. Mr. Peden, who was unmarried, is survived by his parents' and sisters, for whom much sympathy is felt. The funeral, which was a public one, took place yesterday afternoon to Polmont Churchyard, and was largely attended. The coffin was of polished oak with brass fittings, and was practically covered with wreaths.

Falkirk Herald 17th August 1901
STANDBURN.

ACCIDENT. -

On Tuesday a miner named Alexander Smith met with a serious accident while at his work in Candie Pit, belonging to James Nimmo and Co. He was proceeding to the "face" with an empty hutch when a mass of stone came away, falling on his back. On his being taken home, Dr Calderwood attended his injuries, and on examination found that no bones were broken. Smith is now progressing favourably.

Falkirk Herald 17th August 1901
TO CONTRACTORS.

ESTIMATES WANTED by the PARISH COUNCIL of GRANGEMOUTH for the following works in the FORMATION of CEMETERY at GRANDSABLE. Polmont :- (1) EARTHWORK Etc.:(2) MASON WORK. (3) MALLEABLE IRON RAILINGS and GATES. Plans to be seen with, and Schedules of Quantities obtained from, the Subscribers on Payment of Half a Guinea; this Sum being Repaid to bona-fide Offerers. Offers to be sent to Mr. John Gentles, Parish Council Clerk, Grangemouth, by Monday, the 26th inst., marked on outside "Tender for Cemetery." A. AND W. BLACK, Architects. Falkirk, 16th August, 1901.

OFFERS

Wanted to Form CARRIAGE DRIVE at NEW HALL. Standburn, Avonbridge. - Apply JOHN SCOTLAND, 12 Broomknoll Street, Airdrie.

Falkirk Herald 17th August 1901

FALKIRK JUSTICE OF PEACE COURT.

(Before ex-Provost COCKBURN and Mr. J. B. COCHRANE.)

A Justice of Peace Court was held in the Sheriff Court yesterday.

BULLET-PLAYING ON THE PUBLIC ROAD.

Robert Pow, miner, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 14th May, on the public road between Polmont and Linlithgow, and at a part thereof between Sighthill Cottages and Sandyfordburn Bridge, played at the game known as "bullets," to the danger and annoyance of passengers on the said road. He pled guilty. The Fiscal said this was a case of bullet-playing on the public road. Two constables came upon the accused engaged at the game. They saw him throw the bullet along the road, and afterwards put on his coat and walk away. The accused stated that he did this as exercise, as his brain was affected, and he had bad circulation. Mr. J. B. Cochrane - It is a good thing exercise, but it should be legal exercise. Ex Provost Cockburn - It is a dangerous practice. Accused - There is a line I get from the Royal Infirmary. The Fiscal - It is only a Royal Infirmary prescription. Accused - I have been unable to work, and I was not able to hurt any person at the time. Ex-Provost Cockburn - This is a dangerous practice. You might have hurt some one. There might be an excuse for boys doing this sort of thing, but not for men. Mr. J. B. Cochrane - If it is exercise you require I advise you to

try golf. (Laughter.) Accused - It is all very good, sir. A fine of 12s 6d, including costs, or seven days, was imposed.

(Before Ex-Provosts COCKBURN and WATSON.)

CONTRAVENTION OF THE LOCOMOTIVES ACT.

Mr. J. H. Burns, solicitor, Falkirk, as clerk of and representing the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council, appeared in answer to a charge against that body of contravening the Locomotives Act of 1878, in so far as they had, on the 15th May, used a steam roller on the public road near Standburn with less than three men in charge; failed to stop the roller when signalled to do so by Wilson Marshall, contractor, Standburn, and failed to have any person employed to accompany the roller on foot for the purpose, in case of need, or assisting horses and carriages to pass the roller, all in contravention of the Locomotives Act, 1878. A plea of guilty was tendered. The Fiscal explained that Mr. Burns was not personally implicated in the matter at all, only as a matter of convenience it had been arranged to cite him to answer the charge instead of citing the whole of the members of the County Council. The Act required that at least three persons must be employed in working those road rollers, and in this case only two men were employed. It was also laid down in the Act that a locomotive shall be instantly stopped when a person puts up his hand requiring it to be stopped. This was not done when Mr. Marshall gave the signal in the present case. The steam roller came right on. Then there was no one walking on foot at the side of the roller to assist horses to pass. Mr. Wilson Marshall, the complainer, was driving up, and his two horses were much alarmed. The men in charge of the steam roller did not behave very well, although they had a good character, and this was their first offence. Mr. Burns said there was an extraordinary coincidence of unfortunate circumstances in this case. The County Council had for a long period maintained the roads, and this was the first time they had been charged with this offence. On the present occasion the roller was going to a different part of the district. It got to the top of a steep hill, and it was descending another on the other side. The road was reported to be clear, but afterwards they found the complainer, Marshall, at the foot. The men in charge held up their hands in order to get from Marshall an indication as to whether they should stop, but his information was that the complainer had invited them to come on. He doubted if it would have been possible to stop the roller on the hill. Mr. Marshall would have acted more wisely had he remained at the foot of the hill till this unwieldy engine got to the bottom, but he did not do so, unfortunately. No injury had, been done to the man or to the machine. As to there being less than three men in charge of the roller, he had to point out that the road roller was only worked by two men, and that this was the practice all over Scotland. If this law was to be put into force there would be other prosecutions unless Mr. Ballantine, the road surveyor, who was a very careful man, was prepared to employ this unusual body of men. As to the charge that there was no one walking on foot with the engine, the hill was so steep, and the engine so cumbersome, that the man who usually walked with it got up on the engine for the special purpose of attending to the brake while the driver looked after the other part of the engine. The two men had been in the service of the County Council for a long time and were considered very steady, and could be depended on to work the machine with safety to the public. Under the circumstances, their Honours might mitigate the sentence to an admonition. Mr. Wilson remarked that it was the want of a third man at the engine that had got the County Council into all this trouble. This showed the necessity of complying with that part of the Act which they had been ignoring, and which they were proposing to ignore in future. It was a peculiar position for the County Council to take up. Ex-Provost Cockburn - Quite so ; the Act must be complied with. Ex-Provost Watson - The Act requires three men, and there must be three. Ex-Provost Cockburn - This is the first case of the kind that has occurred in my experience. The men who went with the road rollers were very careful, and he had known them to stop the roller on the road many a time when they did not need to do it for his horse at any rate, as it was not frightened for it. In fact, when they were not asked to stop the roller they often did it. It was necessary that we should make this breach of the law to some extent, and we will impose a fine of 30s. Ex - Provost Watson - It is the desire of the bench that the Act should be kept clearly before the County Council, and that they should not infringe it in any point.

Falkirk Herald 28th August 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Parish School Board.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Maddiston School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wilson, chairman, presided, and the other members present were Messrs J. Bell Bryce, John Bryce, Haldane., and Myles. The attendance report was submitted as follows: - Roll. Av. Att. Muiravonside School 199 153 Drumbowie School 536 439 Blackbraes School 401 321 Maddiston School 97 75 Avonbridge School 76 53 A letter was read from Mr. Campbell, Blackbraes School, asking that Miss C. Shaw be allowed another year to try the scholarship examination, and that Miss Aitken be allowed to finish just now, Charles Wilson to be engaged as monitor with a view of becoming a P.-T. Mr. J. Bryce stated in connection with this that Mr. Campbell was present to explain matters with relation to Miss Aitken. Mr. Myles took exception to Mr. Campbell being brought before the Board and heard because the Board had not invited him. The Chairman and Mr. J. Bryce thought that Mr. Campbell should be heard. Mr. Myles moved that he be not brought into the meeting, as they should hear the girl's side of the question as well, and Mr. Haldane seconded. The Chairman persisted in the wish to have Mr. Campbell brought in, and left the chair for the purpose of calling him into the room. Mr. Myles took exception to this, and called the chairman's attention to his motion, said that if Mr. Campbell were brought in there would be obstructions made to the proceedings. The Chairman having gone to the next room, Mr. Myles said this was a most irregular way to do business, and if Mr. Campbell came in, he for one - though he would not try to show the white feather - would not sit and listen. The Chairman having entered the room in the interval, and resumed his seat, said it was arranged with Mr. Campbell that Miss Aitken's uncle and he should come before the Board, and that was the reason Mr. Campbell had come. Mr. Myles - It will be time for Miss Aitken's uncle and Mr. Campbell to appear before the Board when they are invited. The Chairman - They can come at any time. Mr. Myles - They can but I think it is only wise that they should have been invited through our clerk in a business-like fashion. Then our minds would be matured. The Chairman - It is quite the same to me. Mr. Myles-I have moved that this case be heard in presence of both parties at Blackbraes School. Mr. Haldane seconded and this was agreed to. This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 31st August 1901

STANDBURN. STANDBURN MINERS. -

Mr. Chisholm Robertson addressed a meeting of the miners of Standburn district on Tuesday night - Mr. Moore, checkweigher, presiding. The meeting was wholly against any reduction being permitted on the existing state of the coal trade. As the rent and coal charges were increased to the miners when the wages were at their highest last year, strong complaint was made that the employers had not reduced them, since wages had been already reduced by 37 1/2 per cent, this year, and on the advice of Mr. Robertson, a deputation was appointed to wait on the employers concerned on Monday first on the matter.

THE STOPPAGE OF PITS AT STANDBURN. -

Nos. 1 and 2 Redford pits, which were stopped about two weeks ago, do not yet appear as if they will be restarted for some time. The prevalent opinion here in reference to the stoppage of those pits is that some difference exists regarding the wayleave, and consequently were not stopped through any falling away in the coal trade. Whatever may have been the cause, some of the plant, it is stated, is being drawn up the pits. A number of those workmen have found employment in some of the neighbouring collieries, but many families have left the district, and a few gone into the Lothians. Regarding the work in the district at the present time, it is not as satisfactory as could be desired. Stacking is still resorted to, and the number of men in the district is fully equal to what is required.

Falkirk Herald 31st August 1901

AVONBRIDGE.

MINING OPERATIONS RESUMED AT CROSSCROES. –

Crosscroes Colliery has again resumed work. The men were idle about a week, but the interview which took place between the representative of the men and the manager resulted in a settlement. But while the men have resumed work there is still the question of ventilation, which will require to be immediately dealt with. Through this a number of workmen were obliged to come home on Monday. There have been complaints for some time past on this question, but for the past few days they have become more frequent, the reasons assigned for such lying in the fact that during the time of the stoppage falls took place in the pit, which had a strong material tendency to interfere somewhat with the air passage. Efforts will no doubt be at once made to improve this defect.

Falkirk Herald 14th September 1901

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. –

(Opposite Drumbowie School).

6 P.M. SABBATH FIRST, BOYS' BRIGADE CHURCH PARADE.

1ST Standburn and Avonbridge Boys' Brigade will be present in Uniform.

Everybody Invited.

Falkirk Herald 14th September 1901

MADDISTON.

PARISH SCHOOL BOARD –

A special meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held on Tuesday afternoon in Maddiston School. Mr. Wilson presided, and there were also present Messrs Myles, Haldane, D. Binnie, A. Binnie, J. Bryce, and J. B. Bryce. The Chairman explained that the meeting was called to consider the question of evening classes for the ensuing winter. He read a letter which he had received from Mr. Marshall. Airth, the organising secretary of the County Council Technical Instruction Committee, in which he intimated 'what he would recommend the Board should do in the matter. He suggested that classes he established in Drumbowie and Blackbraes Schools. The subjects taught would include technical arithmetic, mathematics, mechanical drawing, drawing, machine construction, and perhaps also mining in the case of Drumbowie district, the committee proposed to hold classes in butter-making under their own management and out of their own funds, and a cookery class, to be taught by Miss Hunter. After the Clerk had explained the matter with reference to the code, and after hearing Messrs Mackay, Campbell, Watt, and Wilson, the teachers, individually, as to the proposed classes, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the suggestion of the County Council Committee as regards Blackbraes and Drumbowie, and suggesting to the committee the advisability of holding similar classes in Muiravonside and Maddiston Schools, seeing Mr. Watt and Mr. Wilson were willing to conduct them. With regard to the butter-making class, a committee was appointed to look out for a suitable place for holding it, and failing that, to suggest that it be held in Drumbowie School. Mr. Mackay was appointed to undertake the classes in Drumbowie School at a salary of £45. £15 of which would be contributed by the County Council Committee; and Miss Hunter was appointed teacher of cookery at a salary of £15 Mr. Campbell was appointed to undertake the classes at Blackbraes School at a salary of £40. £15 of which would be paid by the County Council. Mr. Watt and Mr. Wilson were appointed teachers, Muiravonside and Maddiston Schools respectively, at salaries, of £20 and £40, the County Council to pay £5 to Mr. Watt and £15 to Mr. Wilson. It was agreed to appoint Miss Bell, Cumnock, whom failing. Miss Annand, Ratho, infant mistresses and teacher of cookery at Blackbraes School, at a salary of £75.

Falkirk Herald 21st September 1901

STANDBURN.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. –

The first flower and harvest thanksgiving service in connection with the Congregational Church took place last Sabbath. The church was most tastefully decorated with flowers, corn, fruit, vegetables, etc. - all the gift of friends of the church. At both diets of worship there were large congregations, especially at the evening service. The preacher for the day was Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon. On the Monday night the fruit, etc., was sold to friends, and money given to church funds. It will be noticed from advertisement columns that the Rev. A. V. Challace, Glasgow, preaches on Sabbath first.

U.F. MISSION CHURCH. -

Harvest thanksgiving services were held in the above church on Sabbath last. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit, and vegetables etc kindly given by members and friends. The Rev. Thomas Robertson officiated, and delivered appropriate discourses, while the music was also suitable to the occasion. On Monday a box of flowers was dispatched to the Falkirk Cottage Hospital.

THE NEW HALL. -

The Town Hall, which is nearing completion, is expected to be opened in the course of a few weeks.

Falkirk Herald 21st September 1901

CHURCH NOTICES

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(Opposite Public School).

SABBATH FIRST. - Rev. A. N. CHALLACE. of Wardlaw Church. Glasgow.

At 12 and 6 p.m.

Falkirk Herald 28th September 1901

MUIRAVONDSIDE.

MUIRAVONDSIDE SCHOOL BOARD. –

A meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon - Mr. Wilson (chairman) presiding over a full attendance of members.

The officer's report on school attendance was submitted as follows: -

On Roll. Av. Atten.

Muiravonside School	200	163
Drumbowie School	543	460
Blackbraes School	400	325
Maddiston School	92	79
Avonbridge School	76	66

Mr. Binnie called attention to the fact that the fence separating Maddiston School fue and that of Mr. David Baxter had been removed on to the School Board's feu to the extent of about 13 inches. After discussion, the matter was remitted to the School Committee to see the fence was put back put back by Mr. Baxter to its original position. A letter was read from Miss Harley, ex-pupil teacher, resigning her position at Drumbowie School. It was agreed to accept the resignation and Mr. D. Binnie reported that the School Committee had advertised for a successor, and had that day appointed Miss Agnes Adamson, Dundee at a salary of £45. Mr. J. Bryce reported that the Blackbraes School Committee had appointed Miss M. Annand, Ratho, to be infant mistress and cookery teacher at Blackbraes School at a salary of £55. He also reported that measles was prevalent in the Blackbraes district, and had been affecting the attendance. Miss Baxter, Maddiston, was appointed cleaner of Maddiston School at the rate of £7 10s per annum, the rate to be increased to £9 during the - evening school sessions. No fewer than 20 defaulting parents came before the Board and prosecutions were ordered in certain cases. In accordance with the finding of last meeting Mr. Campbell and Miss Aitken of Blackbraes School, appeared before the Board. It appeared that Miss Aitken's apprenticeship

had expired without her having obtained the necessary qualifications to be retained, and without her having applied to the Board to have her term of apprenticeship extended. After hearing the headmaster and Miss Aitken, the Board agreed to ask the sanction of the Department to extend Miss Aitken's time for one year. This was all the business of importance.

Falkirk Herald 28th September 1901
STANDBURN.

MINING AFFAIRS AT STANDBURN. -

Work in this district has been somewhat more regular during the past fortnight, and this without resorting to the bing. It would seem that the employers have some prospect in view of a greater demand, as arrangements are now being made to lift the stacks of coal which have accumulated as opportunity occurs. Household coal is in better demand, but the dress coal is somewhat stiff in getting away. Regarding organisation, it falls far short of other districts. A number of men are in one union and a number in another, and from all reports a still larger number are in neither.

U.F. CHURCH. -

On Wednesday evening a meeting of a social nature was held of the members belonging to the U.F. Mission Church, Standburn. The Rev. Thomas Robertson presided, and made a few remarks regarding the work of the church, addresses were also delivered by the Revs., Messrs Kerr-Bain, Livingstone, and Kater, representatives from the U.F. Presbytery of Bathgate. A short programme of music was gone through by the choir and others. During the evening Miss Harley, Drumbowie School, who is leaving the district for another destination, was made the recipient of a writing desk and umbrella, in recognition of her services in the church praise as organist. Mr. Mackay, Schoolhouse, made the presentation, and Miss Harley briefly returned thanks. The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. -

The Rev. A.N. Challace, Wardlaw Street Congregational Church, Glasgow, occupied the pulpit of Standburn Congregational Church on Sabbath last. At both diets of worship the church was very comfortably filled, and the services of Mr. Challace very highly appreciated. On the Monday night the Rev. John Graham, Parkhead Church, Glasgow, along with Mr. Challace, met the deacons and managers of the Standburn Church as a deputation from the Congregational Union of Scotland, and congratulated them on the success the young church is making.

Falkirk Herald 5th October 1901

STANDBURN.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. - Last Sabbath was recognised as Temperance Day in above church. Mr. John Henderson, Scottish Temperance League, Glasgow, occupied the pulpit at both diets of worship. At the evening service the members of the local Rechabites, at the request of Rev. Mr. Ritchie Snaddon, were present in their regalia. The church was very comfortably filled all day and the services of Mr. Henderson greatly appreciated. On Tuesday night the managers and deacons and their wives, along with the Sustentation Fund collectors, held their quarterly workers' tea meeting. Fully forty sat down to a very tempting tea, presided over by the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon. After tea, reports of the various organisations of the church were given. The data for the forthcoming sale of work was also fixed. An interesting feature of the meetings was the presentation to Mr. Robert Aitchison, secretary of the church, on the occasion of his marriage, of a beautiful Bible from the deacons and managers. Mr. Aitchison suitably and feelingly replied. The first anniversary of the above church falls due on Sabbath first, when the Rev. John Richardson, Greenock, is to preach the anniversary sermon. The usual soiree will be held on the Monday night.

NEW HALL FOR STANDBURN

The accompanying sketch (from a photo by our own correspondent) is that of the new hall which has been erected in the village of Standburn from the profits of the Gothenburg public-house. The building is a very substantial one, and it is at once apparent that the serviceableness of it has not been sacrificed at the expense of ornamentation. Nevertheless, it is quite a handsome structure, and should considerably enhance the appearance of the village where within recent years many new properties have been built. The building is two storeys in height. On the ground floor is the hall, which will easily accommodate 500 while upstairs, is reading and recreation room and a side room for the caretaker. All the latest sanitary appliances have been put into the lavatories, &c., and the whole building is being fitted up with electric light. The following were the contractors: -Builder, Mr. J. Maxwell Falkirk; joiner, Mr. R. Thomson, Brightons; slater, Messrs J.D. Maxwell & Son, Laurieston; plasterer, Mr. P. Maxwell, Laurieston; plumber, Mr. Rankine, Airdrie; painter, Mr. J. Doig, Slamannan; railing, Mr. J. Gardner, Plains; tile work, Mr. J. Duncan, Glasgow; architect, Mr. John Scotland, Airdrie. At a large meeting of the inhabitants on Friday evening last, the following were appointed as committee to look after the building - Hon. president, Mr. Nimmo; hon. vice-president Mr. Robertson; president, Mr. James Mackie; committee - Messrs Walter Brown, Wm. Aitchison, Matthew Hoggan, sen., James Fulton, Fraser Wardlaw, John O'Brien, and Alex. Kerr.

Falkirk Herald 5th October 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

CONTINUATION CLASSES

(Open to all who are not under obligation to attend Day School)

WILL be OPENED on MONDAY, 7th October, At 7 o'clock p.m. in

DRUMBOWIE, MUIRAVONSIDE, MADDISTON and BLACKBRAES SCHOOLS.

Particulars as to the Subjects to be taught to be had from the Headmasters.

A SPECIAL CLASS FOR MINING at BLACKBRAES BEGINS MONDAY, 7th October

A SPECIAL CLASS FOR COOKERY at DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL BEGINS WEDNESDAY 9th October, at 6 30 p.m.

The Classes will be continued till March

Entrance Fee, 1s, returnable on satisfactory completion of Session,

ANDREW HUNTER, Solicitor, Falkirk, Clerk.

Falkirk Herald 5th October 1901

Standburn | Rev. D. H. RICHIE SNADDON. | Opposite

Congregational | Precentor - Mr. Wm. Meek. | Public

Church. | Organist - Miss M'Ritchie. | School.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY SERVICES SABBATH FIRST, 6th October.

Preacher - Rev. JOHN RICHARDSON, Greenock, At 12 and 6 P.M.

Evening Subject - "The Devil on Tramp."

Everybody Invited and Everybody Welcomed.

Liberal Offerings requested.

ANNIVERSARY SOIREE,

MONDAY FIRST.

Doors Open 6.30 P.M.

SPEAKERS - Rev HUGH SANDERSON. U.F. Church, Killearn.

REV. ALEX. PATERSON, M.A., Falkirk.

REV. JOHN RICHARDSON, Greenock.

Mr. ALEX. KERR, Standburn.

Presentation to Mr. and Mrs. CALDER and Mr. WM. MEEK.

Reports by Messrs BAKER and THOMSON.

Solos, Readings, Recitations, and several Sacred Pieces by Mr. MEEK'S FAMOUS CHOIR, &c.

Tickets, 6d each.

CHAIRMAN-REV. D. H. RITCHIE SNADDON.

See Bills for particulars.

Tickets only accepted at the Door, and must be had from Deacons and Managers, or Mr. JOHN Calder, Standburn, before Hour of Meeting.

TUESDAY, at 6.30 p.m.

TEMPERANCE BAND SOCIAL AND MAGIC LANTERN NIGHT.

"JACK THE CONQUERER."

By Mr. H. J. BAKER.

Large and Profoundly Thrilling Programme.

LANTERNLIST - REV. D. H. RITCHIE SNADDON.

CHAIRMAN - MR. ALEX. KERR.

Tickets, 3d each, from Workers and Friends.

Tea will be served at this Meeting.

The Misses WRIGHT and ROBERTSON, Evangelists, begin an EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN on the 13th Inst.

See next Saturday's Advertisement

Falkirk Herald 5th October 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL).

MALICIOUS WALLACESTONE BOYS. -

Six Wallacestone boys named John Hamilton (13), Chas. Hamilton (10), John Brown (10), Charles Dalrymple (10), John Miles (11), and Wm. Binnie (9), were charged with having, on the 22nd September, maliciously broken a number of the branches of chestnut trees in a wood at Craigend, Muiravonside. With the exception of John Hamilton, who denied the charge, a plea of guilty was tendered.

The Sheriff said that this was one of those abominable cases one did not know what to do with - the boys were so young. The case was really one for the parents - they ought to punish the boys. On their promising to do so, the boys were admonished. The charge against John Hamilton was withdrawn.

THEFT OF COALS. -

Sarah Dickson or Docherty, wife of a miner, residing at Craigend, Muiravonside, was fined 5s, or three days, for stealing 40 lbs. of coal from a hutch road at Craigend Colliery, Muiravonside.

TUESDAY

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute COCKBURN.)

A DANGEROUS WOMAN. -

Margaret Anderson or Sneddon, wife of James Sneddon, miner, Crosscroes, Muiravonside, was charged with having, on the 24th September, in her own house, assaulted Jane Walker, wife of Alexander Walker, miner, Crosscroes, by throwing a butcher's knife at her with intent to do her bodily injury. She pleaded guilty, and was fined 20s or fourteen days.

WEDNESDAY.

MISCHEVIOUS PITDRAWERS. - John Fitzsimmons and William M'Neil, pitdrawers, Standburn Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having on 22nd September, in the Plantation at Craigend House, wilfully and maliciously cut or broke off a large number of branches of chestnut trees growing in that plantation. A fine of 5s, or three days imprisonment, was imposed in each case.

Falkirk Herald 5th October 1901

SPORTING

GREYRIGG VIOLET v. ARNLOSS. -

The Violet travelled to Slamannan on Saturday last to play off their tie in the Stirlingshire Juvenile Cup competition, 'the play throughout was evenly contested, the Violet winning the points by 3 goals to 2.

AVONBRIDGE THISTLE v. STANDBURN RANGERS -

At Standburn, in a friendly tussle. Result: - Avonbridge. 2; Standburn, 0.

Falkirk Herald 9th October 1901

KILGOUR. - at Knowehead, Maddiston, on the 4th inst., James Kilgour, aged 82 years.

Falkirk Herald 12th October 1901

MISS WRIGHT and ROBERTSON will Preach and Sing the Gospel on Sabbath First, at 12 Noon and 6 p.m., in STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Every Night during the Week at 7 p.m.

Falkirk Herald 12th October 1901

FOOTBALL

GREYRIGG VIOLET v. CALIFORNIA THISTLE. -

The above local teams met for the first time in the Anderson Cup competition at Blackbraes on Saturday last. There was great interest taken in the match, owing to both teams being undefeated, and in consequence there was a large turnout of spectators. The Jags, with a gusty wind at their back, kept the Violet defence on the look-out during the most part of the first half, leading by 3 goals to 0 at-half-time. On resuming the Violet had the advantage of the breeze, and although they did a good deal of pressing, their shooting was somewhat erratic. They managed however to score twice, the game ending in favour of the Thistle by 3 goals to 2.

SLAMANNAN BLUE BELL v. STANDBURN RANGERS.-

Before a poor attendance of spectators on Saturday last at Standburn. A one-sided game ended in favour of the former by 5 goals to 3.

Falkirk Herald 12th October 1901

STANDBURN.

EVENING SCHOOL. -

On Monday evening the evening continuation classes were resumed in Drumbowie Public School for the winter session. The subjects are much the same as usual, and a large number of pupils have enrolled. The classes, as formerly, are under the instruction of the headmaster, Mr. George Mackay. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SOIREE.

On Sabbath last anniversary services were held for the first, time in connection with the Standburn Congregational Church. The Rev. John Richardson, Greenock Congregational Church, occupied the pulpit, and there were large congregations at both the forenoon and evening services. On Monday evening a public soiree was held, when the little building was filled to its utmost limit. After tea had been served by the young ladies of the congregation, the esteemed pastor, the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, who presided, made a few remarks, in the course of which he said that the Rev. Mr. Richardson, on the previous day, had referred to them passing over what he would term the first milestone, which the chairman considered was not altogether a smooth one. In looking over the past year, he found that a few had been taken away by death. Many faces were also absent through change of abode, but he was glad to say that he had received letter from some of them saying that although they were sorry to leave the place, and more so the church, they would still contribute their donations to the church fund as formerly. (Applause.) Looking forward, he said that things appeared as bright as could be expected. They were getting more strongly linked to one another in the bonds of love. He (the chairman) wanted all to understand that their motto was to win men and women to the Church, and do all they could for their fallen brother. He returned his very heartiest thanks to all who had assisted him in the good work that was being accomplished. He had no doubt that if they were spared the second year would be more successful than the first. The

choir then sang "Send the Light" in a very pleasing style. Mr. Alexander Kerr, treasurer, then gave a report of the income for the past year, which was allocated as follows: -Sustentation fund, £119 0s 11 1/2; building fund, £121 10s 3 1/2d; other sums, £155 14s 5d; the total income being £396 5s 8d for the year. (Applause.) He considered that amount very creditable for the people of Standburn, who were considered a people unfit to pay. He thought the people only required a chance to show what they could do. They were getting upward and onward, and he felt confident that they would still continue to prosper. "Work while the Sun is Shining" was then contributed by the choir in an effective manner. Mr. Baker then gave a report of the Sabbath school, which showed that there were 130 on the roll, with an average attendance of 90. He considered that pretty fair, but, he was of the opinion that there were a great many children going about who did not attend any Sabbath school at all. The Rev. Alex. Paterson, Baptist Church, Falkirk, next spoke, and in the course of his remarks he referred to the favourable reports given by Messrs Kerr and Baker. They had gathered £395 5s 8d with a handful of workers, and he thought that it should be spread across the length and breadth of the land. He trusted that they, as a congregation, would continue in well-doing. He said that sometimes they would meet with difficulties; still he trusted that they would work together, for by so doing they would encourage the efforts of their minister. Miss Murray gave a solo, which was highly appreciated by the audience, and Miss Nisbet contributed a recitation in an able manner. The Rev. Mr. Sanderson, U.F. Church, Killearn, next spoke, and expressed the great pleasure it gave him to be present to hear of the successful year which had just closed. He gave three rules for church prosperity - first, plenty of preaching; second, plenty of praying; third, plenty of practicing, and also plenty of paying. He thought that the people of Standburn were remarkably good at paying, as their report showed. An organ and violin duet was then given by Miss M'Ritchie and Mr. James Walker in good style. Miss Murray gave an effective rendition of "He wipes the tear from every eye." Mr. Alex. Kerr, in name of the congregation, presented Mr. and Mrs. John Calder with a handsome Bible and gold brooch respectively, in recognition of many valuable services rendered. Mr. Baker presented Mr. Wm. Meek, choir master, with a handsome Bible as a small token of esteem and reward for his services. Suitable replies were made by the recipients. The choir sang splendidly, and showed more confidence and steadiness in the pieces than formerly, an indication and result of the inexhaustible energy and perseverance of their talented conductor, Mr. Wm. Meek. Miss M'Ritchie accompanied on the organ. After the usual vote, of thanks, a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close.

Falkirk Herald 19th October 1901

STANDBURN.

GOTHENBURG PUBLIC-HOUSE. -

The committee met in the Standburn Hall on Thursday last, the 10th October. There were six members present. The balance-sheet for year ending 30th June last, showing a profit of £1107 3s 11d, was submitted and approved of. It was reported that the public-house was being carefully managed, and was maintaining the previous report in regard to its being the means of lessening drunkenness in the district. The committee were also informed that the nurse, whose salary was paid out of the profits, was a great benefit to the district, and her work much appreciated. The hall and recreation rooms were inspected, and much admired. They are to be opened for public use on Monday, the 21st inst., at 4 p.m. A cordial invitation to be present is given to all friends interested in the working out of licence on the Gothenburg principle.

Falkirk Herald 19th October 1901

CONCERT. -

The first concert of the season was held in Drumbowie Public School on Friday evening last under the auspices of the Standburn Welcome Tent of the Independent Order of Recabites. Mr. George G. Mackay occupied the chair, and in his introductory remarks, drew attention to the great benefit to be derived from being members of such an Order. He spoke of the success which had always attended the efforts of the brethren of the Tent, and remarked that more members had been initiated during the past six months than had been for any like period since the initiation of the Tent in Standburn. The programme, which was mostly sustained by a company of artistes from Glasgow, was a lengthy and varied one. The school was crowded with a large and appreciative audience. On the motion of Brother Wm. Weir, a hearty vote of thanks was given the chairman. An assembly followed, which was taken part in by upwards of 40 couples. Mr. M'Kee's Orchestra supplied the music, the duties of M.C. being in the hands of Mr. Colin Maxwell. Much of the success of the evening was due to the efforts of the energetic secretary, Brother Robert Moore.

Falkirk Herald 23rd October 1901

A SUCCESSFUL "GOTHENBURG" EXPERIMENT.

Whatever may be thought of the Gothenburg system of conducting the liquor traffic, the experiment that has been taking place at Standburn in connection therewith cannot fail to prove interesting to the many people who are desirous of seeing some reform of the licensing laws which might tend to the better regulation of the traffic and the promotion of temperance. Standburn is a village which owes its origin and existence to extended enterprise in connection with the coalmining industry. It dates from about ten years ago, when a new coalfield was opened in the district by Messrs James Nimmo & Co., Limited. The houses in the village were built by this firm for the accommodation of their workmen, and there is now a population of about 1500. At first there was no provision made in the village for the sale of liquor, nor was it apparently the desire of the Messrs Nimmo that there should be. But circumstances occurred which led to a different view being taken. Efforts were made on behalf of private traders to obtain licences, and though these so far failed, there was a probability that an ordinary licence might have ultimately been granted. At any rate existing conditions were not of the most satisfactory nature. The workmen are said to have been in the habit of going to other villages where strong drink could be had and often indulging in it to excess. On the other hand Standburn was found to be a profitable field for the van trade, and the objectionable practice of liquor-hawking is said to have been extensively carried on in it. Having all these things in view, it appears to have been considered by those who had a knowledge of local conditions that the village was a suitable place for trying an experiment with the Gothenburg system, particularly as there were grounds for believing that a well-regulated business conducted on that principle would tend to the removal of evils that existed. Accordingly the Messrs Nimmo were approached and urged to give their assent to a project of this kind, and eventually, when the state of matters was fully represented to them, and when strong pressure had been brought to bear on them, they agreed to what was proposed. A licence was applied for, and though at first refused, it was, on a second application being made, granted. That was over two years ago, and since then the business has been in existence. A sum of £600 was spent on the erection and equipment of a public-house. The control of the concern was placed in the hands of trustees, consisting of two representatives of the firm, resident Justices, ministers, and representative workmen elected by their fellows, it being arranged that the profits accruing from the business should be applied to such public purposes as should be determined on. Financially the venture has been remarkably successful, and has enabled work of an important kind to be undertaken. The first year's profits amounted to no less than £1170. With this sum at their disposal the trustees were enabled to provide an ambulance waggon for use in connection with the colliery, and a shed for the accommodation of the waggon was also erected. At the same time a district nurse was appointed, who has rendered excellent service which has been highly appreciated by the people. Believing, doubtless, that the profits were likely to continue at pretty much the same figure, the trustees, after their first year's experience, apparently considered there was scope for further enterprise, and it was resolved to proceed with the erection of a public hall

and reading and recreation rooms. This building has now been completed, and was formally opened on Monday last. It cost about £2000, and it has been handed over for the public use entirely free of debt. Without doubt it will be of great advantage to the inhabitants, in that it will afford excellent facilities for holding meetings and for wholesome entertainment and recreation. But while the results have been satisfactory so far as concerns the profits and the use that has been made of them, the experience in even a more important sense appears to have been highly encouraging. The chief object aimed at by those who recommended the establishment in the district of a public-house on the Gothenburg principle was the lessening of evils that arise from the drink traffic as carried on in the ordinary way and which resulted from conditions that existed, or which were likely to be brought into existence, in the district. And already, with the short experience there has been, it is gratifying to learn that a marked improvement in the direction indicated has taken place. Mr. Clarkson of Avondale, who presided at the ceremony connected with the opening of the new hall which took place on Monday, stated that though it was difficult to institute comparisons, he had it from people resident in the locality that the district had been much quieter as compared with the time when the men had to go further afield for their drink, and that the general opinion appeared to be that on the whole there was less drink consumed." Further, he stated that that objectionable practice, the hawking of liquor by carts, which, as already noted, was understood to be at one time very prevalent in the district, has now almost entirely ceased. While such testimony as this cannot be other than gratifying to all who have the welfare of the people at heart, there are grounds for believing that still greater improvement will in due course become manifest. The hall, with reading and recreation rooms that have now been provided, is intended as a counterattraction to the public house, and it is expected, as the means thus afforded for the spending of leisure time come to be properly appreciated, there will be less disposition to resort to the public-house. At any rate this is the expectation of those who are interesting themselves in the matter, and it is to be trusted their hope will be realised. Meantime, though, as recognised by Mr. Clarkson there are doubtless those who have conscientious objections to the Gothenburg system, we feel assured every one will accord Mr. Clarkson, the Messrs Nimmo and others associated with them that credit for disinterested motives, and for a desire to do the best they can for the welfare of the community which Mr. Clarkson says is all they wish for. And while this is so it must be said these gentlemen have every reason to be congratulated on the success which has attended their efforts, and on the good work they have already done.

Falkirk Herald 23rd October 1901

STANDBURN.

THE GOTHENBURG PUBLIC-HOUSE AT STANDBURN. HOW THE PROFITS ARE USED.

An interesting ceremony took place at Standburn on Monday afternoon, the occasion being the formal handing over, for behoof of the public, of a handsome public hall and reading and recreation rooms, built from the proceeds of the public-house established in the village on the Gothenburg principle by Messrs James Nimmo and Co. (Ltd.), coalmasters, over two years ago. The village of Standburn, which belongs to Messrs Nimmo, is of recent origin, it having been built by them for the accommodation of their workmen some ten years ago, when they opened up a valuable coal field in the district. The population of the village is about 1500. There being no licensed house, the place was regarded as a capital opening for the private trader, and frequent applications were made at the Stirling County Licensing Court for licences, the firm themselves being the chief objectors. They ultimately saw, however, that it was useless to further fight against the village being provided with facilities for obtaining liquor. The inhabitants were getting their supplies from licensed premises miles away, and, besides, the village provided licensed grocers' carts with a "roaring trade," while the obnoxious custom of hawking liquor was very prevalent. At this juncture some of the local Justices interested in the welfare of the locality, and impressed with the undesirableness of importing a public-house from the outside, so to speak, approached the Messrs Nimmo, and pleaded with them to themselves apply for the licence, and thereby retain control of the concern. After a while the firm gave ear to these representations, and resolved to go in for the licence. From being vigorous and annual objectors, the firm became applicants; and, as was natural, a good deal of local comment was aroused. Their first application was made to the Stirling County Licensing Court about three years ago. Mr. Nimmo himself attended the Court, and explained the system to his brother Justices, mentioning that a report of the income and expenditure would be submitted to the Justices annually, and that the local Justices would decide to what local purposes the profits would be devoted. The application was strongly opposed, and was refused. At the succeeding Court Mr. Nimmo renewed his application, and made a powerful speech in support of it. The opposition was renewed, but on this occasion it was much less effectual, and the application was granted in the name of Mr. Gibb, their manager, the result being that Mr. Nimmo's firm erected in Standburn the second public-house established in Scotland on the Gothenburg principle. The scheme has been a decided success. Men who almost nightly left their homes to obtain liquor in the villages a mile or two distant, desisted from doing so, and the grocers' cart traffic was entirely stopped. The profits have averaged £1000 annually. In the erection and equipment of the public-house premises about £600 were expended, a local committee of management, consisting of representatives of the firm, resident Justices, ministers, and representative workmen elected by their fellows, was appointed, and the public-house opened its doors. The first year's profit of the concern amounted to no less than £1170 - that is to say, the capital expended was returned twofold. Out of these profits it was decided to provide an ambulance waggon and a shed in which to house it, in connection with the colliery; whilst at the same time the committee engaged a district nurse, who during these two years has been a ministering angel amongst the families of the miners, and has been an immense support to the colliery doctor. So much, for the first year's working. Anticipating that the profits were likely to continue at pretty much the same figure, a still more pretentious enterprise was inaugurated, and it resolved to erect a public hall and recreation rooms in the immediate vicinity as a counter attraction - paradoxical though that may seem - to the public-house that provided the wherewithal. It was this hall which was publicly inaugurated and handed over, debt free, to trustees on Monday afternoon. The building which, with its interior furnishing, has cost about £2000, occupies a commanding site in the village, and has been constructed of brick after a design by Mr. Scotland, architect, Airdrie. On the lower floor a handsome hall, capable of accommodating quite 500 people; while upstairs are a large reading-room and a recreation-room, in which are two billiard tables and a bagatelle table. The interior decoration is simple, but tasteful, and the electric light has been introduced throughout the building, the generating power being derived from the colliery. No intoxicating liquors are to be sold on the premises. Monday's ceremony was attended by a large concourse of people from the village and district, in addition to a large number of gentlemen from various centres in Scotland, who were interested in the experiment, and who were present on the firm's invitation. For the convenience of visitors - from a distance, the firm ran conveyances to and from Bowhouse and Polmont Stations. At the opening ceremony the architect of the building, Mr. John Scotland, Airdrie, presented Mr. James Nimmo with a silver key as a memento of the occasion, and expressed the hope that the hall would justify the wishes of its promoters. Mr. Nimmo then declared the building open for the benefit of the community, and said he hoped it would prove a great boon to the community: that it would accomplish the object the committee had in view, and that by providing a counter attraction to the public-house, less money would be spent on intoxicating liquors, and more comfort would be brought to themselves and families (Applause.) Afterwards the company and several hundreds of the miners in the village and neighbourhood adjourned to the hall. Mr. Robert Clarkston of Avondale, Polmont, presided, and among those present were Mr. James Nimmo, Mr. Adam Nimmo, Dr. Jervis Coats, Glasgow; Major Dobbie, Larbert; Sir Charles Stirling of Glorat; Mr. Alex. Ure, K.C., M.P.; Mr. Salveson of Lathallan, Mr. William Scott, of Toravon, Mr. David Mitchell of Millfield, Mr. James Templeton, Glasgow; Mr. John Mann, jun., Glasgow; Dr.

J. M. Taylor, Glasgow; Mr. J. B. Smith of Clifford Park, Stirling; Colonel Frew, Kilsyth; ex-Provost, Thomson, Bo'ness; Councillor Lochhead, Falkirk; Bailie D. M. Stevenson, Glasgow; Judge Christie, Falkirk; Rev. Mr. Anderson, Polmont; Mr. Archibald Wilson, Mr. William Binnie, Mr. J. Cook-Gray of Blairlodge, Mr. Jas. Mackay, teacher; Mr. J. B. Bryce, Quarrollhead; Mr. Gibb, manager; etc.

After a service of tea and cake.

The Chairman said he had no doubt that all shades of opinion were represented at the gathering, and that there might be some who had conscientious objections to the movement. The committee desired to submit themselves to their friendly criticism, and all they wished from any one was credit for disinterested motives and for a desire to do the best they could for the general welfare of the community. He would not begin to speak about the drink question, because if he were to do so he would raise up a nest of hornets. The question was very much to the front at present, and rightly so, because there was nothing of more vital importance to the general wellbeing of communities. They saw ecclesiastics and politicians busy with it every day, and he thought the very persistency and bitterness with which the subject was being discussed was a hopeful sign, in respect that it showed that the public conscience was being aroused in a way it never had been before with regard to the magnitude of the evil, and though there were enormous difficulties in the way and powerful interests to combat, some solution of the problem must be found before long. He supposed most of them had ceased to believe in making men sober by Act of Parliament. They lived in a free country, and if a man wanted drink he would get it somehow. (Hear, hear.) It seemed to him that the great thing to aim at was to try and get up a public opinion against drunkenness among the working classes, just as had already been done among the upper and middle classes, so that it might be considered a disgrace for a working man to be seen the worse of liquor. (Applause.) Every experiment, therefore, which might be tried in the meantime to lessen the evil and to lead men into better ways was worthy of their sympathy and support, and that was just the reason why they invited the company to come there that day and see for themselves what they had been doing. He was convinced that the true lines along which to work in dealing with the drink problem lay in the direction of the better housing of the working classes, in brightening their environment, and in surrounding them with wholesome influences. (Hear, hear.) That was what they were attempting to do there, and he was bold enough to think that after having seen this effort many of them would go away resolved that it should be extended in all directions not only in that county, but all over the country. Going on to explain the origin of the scheme, the Chairman said that some years ago a building was erected not very far from there, ostensibly by some obscure person, but, it was generally believed, in the interests of a well-known distiller, and a licence was applied for more than once, and refused. The Justices residing in the parish thought it would be a very undesirable thing indeed to have an ordinary public-house in an outlying place such as that, but, they had a feeling that licence might be granted in spite of their opposition, and therefore they approached Messrs Nimmo with a proposal that they should apply for the licence, so as to have some control over it, and promising to support them in so doing. At first Messrs Nimmo were entirely opposed to having anything to do with it, but on urgent representation being made to them they ultimately consented, and a licence was applied for and granted to their resident manager. The principle they adopted from the beginning was that if the men would have drink they would see that it was of the very best quality, and that the sale should be restricted as far as possible - the shopmen having no interest whatever in the sale of it and having strict injunctions to limit the quantities by every means in their power. They even restricted the hours but that did not meet with the approval of the Chief Constable, and it had to be changed. They had been charged with touching the unclean thing, and no doubt they been trying to grapple with it. It had also been said that they had brought a drink shop to the door of the people, and demoralised the young men; and, further, that the extent of the drinking had largely in consequence. On the latter point it was difficult, if not impossible, to institute any comparison, but he had it from people residing there that the district had been much quieter, as compared with the time when the men had to go further afield for their drink, and the general opinion seemed to be that on the whole there was less consumed. Another most objectionable feature which prevailed there largely - namely, the hawking of liquor by carts - had almost ceased to exist. As to the young men, he had made special inquiry quite lately at reliable men residing on the spot, and they stated that there was very little drinking indeed among the young men, and that their conduct generally was most exemplary. Their opponents told the men that they must drink as much as possible at the public-house, in order to obtain the benefits of this counter-attraction. He need hardly say that nothing could be further from their wish. The building in which they were assembled was intended to be self-supporting, and he hoped that intoxicating liquor would never find its way there. It was a little difficult at first to ascertain what charges might be necessary to cover the current expenses, but, subject to any alterations, they proposed to give the men the run of the house for a charge of 1d per week. (Applause.) There would be a small charge for billiards and bagatelle. Other games, such as chess, draughts, backgammon, etc., would be free. Tea, coffee, and other refreshments would be provided at moderate rates. In conclusion, he hoped the men would prize the building and take good care of it, and be found in it in increasing numbers, enjoying the cup that did not inebriate, and generally diffusing a healthier and more elevated tone among the whole community. (Applause.) Mr. A. Nimmo having read over the terms of the deed conveying the building to the trustees for behoof of the community, Mr. James Nimmo formally handed over the trust-deed to the chairman, as representing the trustees. In doing so, Mr. Nimmo explained the origin of the undertaking from the point of view of the firm. They had never, he said, encouraged the planting of licences among their workmen, but in the present case they had distinct indications that there must be a public-house, as the authorities were not able to control the unlawful traffic in drink that went on. Suggestions were made to them that if they went forward on something like the Gothenburg system they might curtail the drinking and promote sobriety, and so they began the movement. He told them frankly that he was very sorry the hall was in existence at all in the way it was. He would much rather they were all sober, working men requiring no liquor at all and getting the full benefit of all their labour: but, as the chairman had said, human nature was human nature. He confessed that if that hall did not lessen drunkenness in the place he should be greatly disappointed, for it was his earnest hope that by providing this counter attraction they would lessen drinking and encourage sobriety. It would be the happiest day of his life when they would have to put up the shutters of the public-house, owing to want of patronage. They wanted to try to make the people of the village sober. The man who sold the drink was warned that his duty was not to sell the liquor, but to try and get people not to use it. That might seem contradictory, but it was his duty, and he was paid for that. They did not want them to sell drink to any one who was detected to have too much. He (Mr. Nimmo) would strongly advise the men not to go to the public-house, but to come up to the hall, where they would spend their time and money much more profitably. (Applause.) The Chairman formally accepted the deed in the public interest Mr. Ure, K.C., M.P., in proposing a vote of thanks to the Messrs Nimmo commended them for the courage, the good sense, and the practical sagacity which they had displayed in connection with the undertaking. Facing the facts as they were, facing the liquor laws as they existed, they had taken a long, long step in the direction of improving the condition of the people, and a long, long step in the direction of temperance reform. Why should the community not get the benefit of the valuable monopoly which in the granting of a licence, the community created and maintained. But the promoters had shown more than courage. They had shown nobility of character and insight into human character which they resolved to dedicate the handsome profits of their own monopoly to roaring up a counter-attraction to the drink shop, in the shape of that hall and recreation rooms. They recognised that if they did not find for working people some innocent and elevating recreation on their Saturday afternoons and on their long evenings, they need not be surprised situated as workpeople were, that they betook themselves to the public-house. Dr. J. M. Taylor, Glasgow, acknowledged the vote of thanks on behalf of the firm. Votes of thanks were also given to the visitors for their attendance, and several of their number replied. During the

proceedings, Herr Iff's Band, from Glasgow, discoursed excellent music.

Falkirk Herald 26th October 1901

HOUSES, SHOPS, &c., to LET
TO Let. Braeview, Maddiston: entry at November. – Apply, Thom, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 30th October 1901

GLASGOW HIGH COURT –
A MADDISTON CASE -

At the High Court of Justiciary in Glasgow yesterday before Lord Low - John M'Donald (20), miner, Maddiston, was charged with a criminal assault committed on a woman, aged 26, at Parkhall railway crossing, near Maddiston, on the 28th September. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the case, which was heard with closed doors, went to proof. Mr. A. M. Hamilton, advocate, Edinburgh, instructed by Mr. A. W. Thomson, solicitor, Falkirk, conducted the defence. After hearing the evidence, Lord Low, in summing up, complimented the defence on the extremely able argument which had been set before him, and the jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty of attempt only instead of the crime charged. Mr. Hamilton stated, in extenuation, that the accused was only twenty years of age, an orphan, and without a friend in the world, and submitted that complainer had received no injury. His Lordship said that the jury had arrived at a verdict with which he entirely concurred, and he thought the interests of justice would be met by a sentence of eighteen months' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 30th October 1901

CASUAL COMMENTS. By "ARGUS."

From the profits of the public-house established at Standburn, on the "Gothenburg" principle, a public hall, reading and recreation rooms have been erected as a counter attraction to the public-house. Rather a roundabout way of making the people sober, isn't it?

Falkirk Herald 2nd November 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.-

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in Maddiston School on Tuesday, Mr. Wilson (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs Haldane, J. Bryce, Archibald Binnie, and Myles. It was intimated that a butter-making class was to be conducted under the auspices of the County Council in premises at Quarrolhead, Maddiston, granted by Mr. J. B. Bryce. A letter was read from the agents of Messrs James Nimmo and Co., Limited coal – masters, making an offer of settlement of the dispute between the Board and that firm as to damage done to Drumbowie School by the working of underground minerals. It was agreed to deal with the letter at a special meeting to be held on Thursday next. The officer reported that the attendance of children at the various schools was as follows: -

On Roll.	Av.	Att
Muiravonside 195	166	
Drumbowie 540	445	
Blackbraes 401	323	
Maddiston 99	78	
Avonbridge 76	65	

It was reported that measles was prevalent at Maddiston and Blackbraes, which accounted for the diminution of the attendance there. A number of defaulters appeared before the Board and were cautioned.

Falkirk Herald 2nd November 1901

STANDBURN.
CO-OPERATIVE SOIREE AND CONCERT. –

The honour of having the first public entertainment in the New Hall, Standburn, fell to the Educational Committee of the Redding Co-operative Society, when they opened their second session of entertainments there on Wednesday evening with a soiree and concert. The hall was filled to its utmost capacity, and Mr. Thomas Barker, president of the society, who occupied the chair, was supported on the platform by Mr. Wm. Maxwell, chairman of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society; Mr. David Gardner, manager, Drapery Department, S.C.W.S.; and others. After tea, the Chairman, in his remarks, congratulated the people of on the splendid hall that had been placed in their midst, although he would rather have, seen it come from some other source than that from which it came. Their object that night was not to discuss the scheme, but to interest, them more in the co-operative movement. He referred to the society's branch in the village increasing yearly, and he said that he could not promise to build halls from the profits, but he was proud to say that they would assist them in building comfortable homes for themselves. (Applause.) It was now six years since the Standburn branch was opened, and within the last two years the sales had been doubled. (Applause) This was very gratifying indeed; still, he thought they were not getting all the trade, and their object that night was to show them what the movement was capable of doing. The musical part of the programme was sustained by a talented musical party from Glasgow, and was opened with a quartette, entitled "Sweet and Low." Miss A. R. Morrison followed giving "The Swallows," in good style. Mr. Allan sang "The Distant Shore," with fine effect. A Scotch fantasia on the violin by Mr. Melville brought forth the hearty plaudits of the audience. Miss M. C. Steele, in her interpretation of "A Merry Zingara," at once established herself a favourite, and was vociferously encored In responding, she gave an effective rendition of "Doon the Burn". "Oh, Hear the Wild Winds Blow" was given by Mr. Melville in an able manner. The duet "Maying," was sweetly sung by Miss Morrison and Mr. Allan. Mr. Maxwell afterwards addressed the gathering in the course of an instructive address; he dealt at some length on the business done by the Redding Cooperative Society. The musical part was again entered upon and an enjoyable and instructive evening was brought to a close with the usual votes of thanks.

Falkirk Herald 9th November 1901

STANDBURN. ACCIDENT. -
On Tuesday last Mr. Gibb Stanners foreman blacksmith, in the employment of Messrs James Nimmo & Co., got part of his finger taken off by a pinion wheel which was in motion. Fortunately the belt was not full on, or the result would have been more serious. Dr. Calderwood who lives in close proximity to the works, attended to his injuries.

FREAK OF NATURE. -

On Tuesday night a cat belonging to Mr. James Scot gave birth to three kittens, all of which were connected together by the under part of the body. The news of this wonderful freak soon spread, and since then has been viewed by a large number of people.

Falkirk Herald 9th November 1901

EXTENSION OF THE "GOTHENBURG SYSTEM."

That there is room for objection to what is roughly but popularly described as the "Gothenburg system" of conducting the liquor traffic may be admitted. By many of the temperance party it is viewed with disfavour, and from their point of view they assign good reasons for their hostile attitude towards it. But while such is the case it is obvious that wherever the system has been brought into operation it has been attended with remarkable success and has been credited with being productive of good results, socially and morally. A fortnight ago reference was made in these columns to what has been the experience in connection with the village of Standburn. It was shown that the business there conducted under the system referred to had financially been attended with great success, and that by means of it the community had been provided with various important advantages. There was also testimony to the effect that in this village the tendency of the existence of the Gothenburg licence had been to reduce the

consumption of drink, and that, too, though there had been no licensed premises in the place formerly. It was stated that "the district had been much quieter as compared with the time when the men had to go further afield for their drink, and that the general opinion appeared to be that on the whole there was less drink consumed." This would appear to go against the argument often used that the system encourages the people to indulge in drink rather than to abstain from it, in respect that the idea prevails that the more drink that is consumed, the more money is available for public requirements. But, whatever may be the merits or demerits of the system, there is no doubt that it is gaining in popularity, and that the success with which it has been attended is tending to its wider adoption. At the Linlithgow County Licensing Court last week two new licences of this kind were granted one for premises in East Whitburn and the other for premises in Armadale. The first of these, it would appear, is intended for a mining locality similar to that at Standburn, and the business is to be managed in something the same way as the one there. Reference was made in the Court to the Standburn licence, and it was stated that the Messrs Forrester, the proprietors of the colliery at East Whitburn, thought that such a licence would be suitable for that place, and application was made for it by their colliery manager. It was explained that the business will not be conducted by Messrs Forrester, but will be under the supervision of a committee consisting of representatives of the County and Parish Councils and of the inhabitants of the village. That committee will have the administration of the scheme, and will supervise the accounts and have full control and access to all matters connected with the business which will be managed by a competent barman under the control of Mr. Mackay, the colliery manager. The Armadale venture is different in some respects. The licence, in this case, has been granted to the chairman of what is known as the Armadale Public House Society, Limited. It was explained in the Court that this society had been formed for the purpose of carrying on a public-house business in Armadale on what roughly might be described as the lines of the "Gothenburg" system. The proposal is to carry on the scheme at present under the sanction and guidance of a committee of 12, and that the books and accounts of the society are at all times to be open to the members of the bench. These ventures as well as others of a similar kind in other parts of the country are doubtless indicative of the desire that at present prevails for the people obtaining greater control of the liquor traffic than they at present have, and which is manifest in the demand which is being made for needed reform of the Licensing Laws. In any case, under existing conditions, the system to which we have been referring is one which, it is believed, is certain to still further extend. And there appears to be a possibility of such being the experience in this district. At the Stirling County Licensing Court Major Dobbie made a suggestive remark. For a considerable time past efforts have been made without success to obtain additional licences for Stenhousemuir and Larbert. But the want of success does not appear to discourage applicants, and to each succeeding Court various applications are submitted. In the course of a discussion in regard to those before the last Court Major Dobbie said he had been thinking over the matter, and that "he might be in a position when six months came round to create a public-house trust in Stenhousemuir." This, it is to be assumed, means that it is his intention to do something on the lines of the Gothenburg system. If that be so, we have no doubt that whatever efforts he may make in that direction will be watched with keen interest; and the hope is likely to be entertained that, if any addition is to be made to the licences in Stenhousemuir, such an addition will be of the nature indicated, so that the public may not only have some control over it, but may obtain whatever advantage is derivable from it.

Falkirk Herald 13th November 1901

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION IN EAST STIRLINGSHERE.

There has just been issued the prospectus of the scheme of technical instruction for session 1901-1902, drawn up by the Technical Instruction Sub-Committee of the Eastern District Committee of the County Council of Stirling. The prospectus, which has been prepared by Mr. John Marshall, F.E.I.S., The Schoolhouse, Airth, organising secretary, is excellently arranged and compiled, and presents in a brief but comprehensive manner the chief features of the committee's scheme. From these it appears that the committee propose during the ensuing session to subsidise or wholly maintain organised courses of technical instruction (science and art) at properly equipped centres under Division III, of the Continuation Code, and managed by School Boards, or other local authorities recognised for that purpose by the Scotch Education Department. These organised centres will be Falkirk Science and Art School, Carron Science and Art Classes, Bonnybridge Art Classes, and Slamannan Science and Art Classes. It is also intended to subsidise or wholly maintain specialised classes in technical subjects, in selected continuation schools, under Division II, of the Code. This division includes classes for instruction in subjects likely to prove useful to pupils in their particular occupations, in circumstances where, for various reasons, such as the prevailing want of pupils, and the difficulty of securing suitable teachers, provision cannot be made for prolonged, systematic, or organised courses. Even in such cases an effort has been made by seeking the co-operation of the best local teachers, and by engaging others specially qualified, as far as funds permit, to adapt the offered instruction to local industrial needs, and to provide homogeneous groups of subjects of practical value in that connection. Arrangements have been made to subsidise classes in this division in connection with the continuation schools at Bothkennar, Wallacestone, Brightons, Blackbraes, Drumbowie (Standburn), Maddiston and Muiravonside, Avonbridge and Slamannan, and Limerigg. The committee have also undertaken full financial responsibility for Saturday Classes for Teachers, managed by the Falkirk Burgh School Board, in conjunction with a committee of local teachers. These classes, which meet at the High School and the Science and Art School, Falkirk, have been rendered necessary by the prominence now given by the Scotch Education Department to the teaching of freehand drawing, nature knowledge, physical training, manual instruction, etc. and capable teachers of the various subjects have been appointed. For the benefit of those engaged in the agricultural industry a limited number of scholarships, value £4 each, are offered by the committee, tenable at a special four weeks' course of day classes, which have been arranged for farmers, farmers' sons, and others engaged in agriculture, at the West of Scotland Agricultural College, Glasgow. In respect of the contribution of the County Council to the support of the Agricultural College, the services of the staff are to be accorded free of charge to all farmers residing within the county for purposes of advice. Analyses of soils, manures, feeding stuffs, and dairy produce will also be undertaken at specially reduced rates. For the present session classes in butter-making have also been arranged for by the committee at Airth, Slamannan, and Muiravonside. These classes are under the charge of Miss Agnes S. Morton, N.D.D., and Miss Mary T. Sellar, from the West of Scotland Agricultural College and Kilmarnock Dairy School. The committee have arranged to subsidise a limited number of classes in practical plain cookery, laundry work, dressmaking, or other subjects of domestic utility, in selected districts, provided these classes are included in continuation courses, and recognised by the Education Department for Code grants. It is a condition of the committee's subsidy that these courses be both plain and practical - demonstration lessons, except as aids, not being admissible for recognition in this connection. In order to assist advanced students, recommended by School Boards or other recognised managers of schools, and desirous of pursuing their studies at a technical school, college, or other special institution, the committee are offering a number of special "honours" scholarships and railway fares. These scholarships are available only to students resident within the landward portions of the district, and will, as a rule, be confined to those taking either the "honours" or the advanced stage of subjects in which they are specially recommended. With a view to the suitable equipment of properly organised classes, as well as specialised classes, the committee have decided for the present year to devote a large sum to the provision of apparatus, either in the way of grants to managers towards the purchase of the necessary or indispensable apparatus for the courses agreed upon, or by meeting the total cost of the apparatus required for special subjects. Finally, a first-class science lantern, devised to exhibit experiments, as well as slides, has been provided for the

use primarily of the mining classes under the scheme, but will be available for occasional use in connection with other subsidised classes.

Falkirk Herald 13th November 1901

CASUAL COMMENTS. By " ARGUS."

Standburn, apparently not satisfied with the notoriety which its "Gothenburg" public-house has brought it throughout the country, drew attention to itself last week by the intimation that one of the harmless necessary domestic cats resident within its borders had given birth to three kittens, all of which were connected together by the under part of the body.

Falkirk Herald 16th November 1901

INTERESTING CASE TO DOG FANCIERS. -

Proof was led on Wednesday in Falkirk Sheriff Court in an action at the instance of James Graham, moulder, Abbotshaugh, against Robert M'Lean, minor, Standburn. The pursuer claimed £12 damages for injury sustained to a greyhound belonging to him, which had been attacked by two retriever dogs belonging to the defender, and which retriever dog, he alleged, were of a vicious nature. The pursuer led evidence to show that this greyhound was a pedigreed dog valued between £70 and £80, and that on the 4th of May last, when the greyhound was in charge of a man named Henderson, it was attacked by the defenders' two retriever dogs, and worried, and seriously injured, so much so that it had been unable to appear at any of the course meetings, and was unfit for show purposes. Pursuer also led evidence to show that the two retriever dogs had previously killed another dog. The defence was that, only one of the retriever dogs attacked the greyhound, that the greyhound had irritated it, and that the retriever which attacked the greyhound did not belong to the defender, but to the defender's son. Several witnesses for the defence also spoke to the quiet disposition of the two retriever dogs, and none of those witnesses ever heard of them attacking any person, or any other animal. Pursuer's agent argued that he had proved negligence on the part of the defender, and also that both dogs had attacked the greyhound, and that he was entitled to the sum sued for. Defender's agent argued that in no event could he be liable for the damages. It was the nature of dogs to bark and bite, and it was through no fault of the defender that this greyhound was injured. Knowledge of the vicious nature of the retrievers had not been proved by the pursuer, which was essential to liability, and he was entitled to absolve. The Sheriff said he was of opinion that the knowledge of the vicious nature of the animals had not been brought home to the defender, and he must therefore dismiss the action on that ground, and it was unnecessary for him to consider the question which arose whether a person was liable for one dog worrying another, even if that dog had had the first bite. He dismissed the action, and allowed the defender expenses. Agents: - For the pursuer, Mr. T. C. Wade, solicitor; for the defender, Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor.

Falkirk Herald 16th November 1901

MADDISTON.

BUTTERMAKING CLASS. -

The County Council Dairy Class for the parish of Muiravonside was opened at Maddiston on Monday with a demonstration by the instructresses. Much interest was shown locally in the event, the School Board having done all in their power, acting in conjunction, with the promoters to make the class a success. The instructresses were introduced by Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse, in a few commendatory remarks, while the arrangements for the course were explained by Mr. Marshall, organising secretary, Miss Morton, the principal instructress gave a short address, while the churning proceeded, the butter produced being all disposed of at the close. The company included Mr. Wilson, Bogo, chairman of the School Board; and Messrs Bryce, Ballenbreich: Bryce, Quarrolhead; and Boyd, Westerhillhead. Among the ladies present were Mrs. and Miss Neilson, Haining Valley; Mrs. Thomson, Myrehead: Miss Johnston, Manuel; Mrs. McLauchan, Kendieshill; the Misses Binnie. Bowhouse: Mrs. Shanks and Miss Shanks. Gilandersland: Mrs Calder, Hill Farm; Miss Hodge. Candie: the Misses Taylor, Snabhead; Mrs Meikle. Melonsplace; the Misses Aitken, Crownerland: Miss Johnston. Cairniumount: the Misses Fleming. Broadhead: Miss Abercrombie; etc. At the close the full, number of pupils for whom accomodation is provided readily enrolled. The class meets at Quarrolhead Farm, kindly granted for the purpose by Mr. J. B. Bryce.

Falkirk Herald 23rd November 1901

MADDISTON.

BUTTER-MAKING-CLASS.

The butter-making class arranged for by the County Council's Technical Education for the Eastern District was brought to a close at Maddiston yesterday, certificates of attendance and progress were presented by Mrs. Neilson, Haining Valley, who was introduced by Mr. Binnie, Bowhouse. Thereafter some remarks on the advantages likely to follow from the instruction that had been given at the classes were made by Mr. J. B. Bryce.

MINING AFFAIRS -

There is a feeling of dissatisfaction existing among the men employed at the South Pit, belonging to Logans Colliery. Organisation has been going on vigorously here for some time in the interests of the Stirlingshire Union, until now, with the exception of one or two men, are all in the union. The action of those who remain outside is now the cause of trouble. The pit was idle on Monday, and a strong feeling was expressed to remain idle, but it was agreed to resume work on Tuesday, and ask the agent to meet them. Another grievance complained of here is that the hutches have to travel a considerable distance from the pit on the surface before being weighed. The agent, Mr. Webb, has had an interview with the manager on this question, and it is expected the grievance will be removed without much difficulty.

Falkirk Herald 23rd November 1901

STANDBURN.

CALL TO THE REV. THOS. ROBERTSON. -

We are pleased to note that the Rev. Thomas Robertson, the esteemed minister of the United Free Mission Church, Standburn, has been unanimously chosen from a short leet of three as colleague and successor to the Rev. Mr. Webster, Patterson United Free Church, Kirkwall. Mr. Robertson, who was only licensed by the U.P. Presbytery of Perth previous to coming to Standburn, a little over a year ago, has laboured here with much success. As a preacher of the gospel, the Rev. Mr. Robertson has done good work throughout the district, being an earnest and eloquent speaker, and his departure is much regretted by the congregation.

Falkirk Herald 23rd November 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS -

The following gentlemen have been nominated for election to the Muiravonside Parish Council: - East Ward -Mr. John Stirling, Muiravonside House; Mr. James Dewar, Compston; Mr. Robert Bowie, Gilmeadowland; Mr James Croall, Loan; Mr. Daniel Binnie, Bowhouse; and Mr. David Abercrombie, Redding. West Ward - Mr. James Mackay, Avonview; Mr. Wm. Wilson, Bogo; Mr. John Boyd, Westhillhead; Mr. John Bryce, Ballinbreich; Mr. John Bell Bryce, Maddiston; and Mr. Andrew Gardner, Causewayend. The complete Council is five for the east and six for the west. The new member for the West Ward is Mr. John Bell Bryce, farmer, Quarryhead (sic), Maddiston; and the new candidate for the East Ward is Mr. David Abercrombie, joiner, Redding. It will, therefore, be seen that, unless there is a withdrawal of one candidate or another from the East Ward, an election will take place in that division.

Falkirk Herald 27th November 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

DISTURBANCE IN THE STANDBURN "GOTHENBURG". –

David Rankine, miner, Standburn, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to creating a disturbance in the "Gothenburg" public-house at Standburn. Having been previously convicted, he was fined in 15s, or ten days.

Falkirk Herald 30th November 1901

STANDBURN.

MINSTREL ENTERTAINMENT.

On Saturday evening the New Hall at Standburn was occupied by Craigs Black and White Minstrels. The building was well filled with an appreciative audience. The programme, which was mostly sustained by members of the company, consisted of choruses, comic and coon songs, etc., given in a manner which kept the audience in the best of humour. Miss M. T. Heeps, soprano, established herself a favourite with the audience, and her singing of "Come Back to Me," and "Scotland," brought forth a well-merited encore, to which she responded with the "Highland Soldier's Dream." Miss B. Davidson danced the "Irish Jig" and "Skirt Dance" in a very creditable manner. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close with a sketch, entitled "A Remarkable Resemblance."

DEPARTURE OF THE REV. THOMAS ROBERTSON. –

On Monday evening the Rev. Thomas Robertson the esteemed minister of the U.F. Mission Church, Standburn, was made the recipient of a handsome testimonial on the occasion of his leaving the church there to fill a more important charge at Kirkwall. The presentation was made at a congregational social which was held in the church. The chair was occupied by Mr. Robert Buchanan, who was accompanied on the platform by the Rev. Mr. Lindsay, Bathgate; Rev. Mr. Rennie, Cambusbarron; Rev. Mr. Robertson; and Mr. Archibald Binnie. There was a large attendance of the congregation and friends. After tea, which was served by the ladies of the congregation, the chairman referred to the object of the gathering. In doing so he stated that it had been his privilege to be closely associated with Mr. Robertson during his stay in Standburn, and there had been nothing but the greatest harmony and mutual regard between them. He believed that was the experience of every one present. In their selection of Mr. Robertson the people of Kirkwall had made a very wise selection. He commended Mr. Robertson, for his great faithfulness in the discharge of his ministerial duties. He then called upon Mr. Archibald Binnie to hand over the gifts, which consisted of four volumes of the Bible dictionary and a handsome writing desk. Mr. Binnie, in asking Mr. Robertson's acceptance of the gifts, said he did so with feelings of both regret and pleasure - regret at Mr. Robertson's departure and pleasure at his success. He referred to the successful manner in which Mr. Robertson had conducted the mission, and to the cordial relations that had always existed between him and the congregation. In conclusion, he wished him success in his new sphere of labour. Mr. Robertson, in his reply, expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the very handsome gifts which had just been presented, and said they would always remind him of the goodwill and esteem of the people of Standburn. The Rev. Messrs Lindsay and Rennie also added their good wishes. During the evening solos were rendered by Misses Calderwood, Westwater, Fraser and Taylor, and Mr. Andrew Philip. Miss M. S. Taylor played "The Hallelujah Chorus" (Handel) on the organ, while the duties of accompanist were in the hands of Miss M'Ritchie. The choir, under the leadership of Mr. Wm. Weir, rendered several pieces during the evening. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close with the usual votes of thanks.

ASSEMBLY. -

The first, annual conversazione in conjunction with Avon Cycle Club took place in Standburn Public Hall on Thursday evening last, A company of about 200 sat down to tea, which was catered in first-class style. In the unavoidable absence of Dr. Calderwood, Mr. David Sharp, sen., was called to the chair. After tea, and at stated intervals during the evening, an entertaining programme of select pieces were given by one of Edison's concert phonographs, which has just been purchased by Mr. Robert M'Kee, manager of the Avon C.C. An interesting feature in the programme was the handing over of the prizes which were competed for at the first annual race meeting of the Avon Cycle Club at Mid-Calder on August 15th, the prize-winners being –

Five mile club championship - Challenge Cup and gold badge. Mr. Adam Murphy : 2 (gold badge), Mr Robert Livingstone; lap prize, Wm. Armstrong (gold badge); lap prize, Adam Murphy(gold badge).

One mile cycle race - 1 (gold badge). Mr. Henry Fowler: 2 (gold badge). Mr. Robert Lawson : 3 (silver badge, gold centre), Mr. Robert Livingston.

Dancing was engaged in with great spirit till an early hour in the morning, to the stirring strain of the M'Kee Orchestra, under the talented conductorship of Mr. Edward McKee, Edinburgh. Mr. Neil discharged the duties of M.C. in an efficient manner. The arrangements, which were of the highest order, were carried through by a committee, with Mr. Robert M'Kee, the respected and energetic manager of the Avon Cycle Company, as convener.

Falkirk Herald 30th November 1901

GENERAL Meeting of the Muiravonside Horticultural Society will be held in Maddiston School on Saturday, 7th Dec., at 7.30., J. S. W... Secretary

Falkirk Herald 7th December 1901

MUIRAVONDSIDE.

CONCERT AND PRESENTATION TO A RETURNED SOLDIER

At a concert in Maddiston School on the evening of Wednesday last, Bombardier John Dingwall, of the Royal Horse Artillery, was made the recipient of a purse containing ten sovereigns, subscribed by the people of this district, to mark their appreciation of his services to his King and country, on the occasion of his return from South Africa. Mr. J. S. Wilson presided, and was accompanied on the platform by Messrs R. Myles and J. Haldane. A large audience filled the school-room, and freely showed their appreciation of the able manner in which the respective artistes sustained the various items of the following programme:- Pianoforte selection, "The March of the Empire." Miss B. Russell, Grangemouth; "Lochnagar." Miss A. Archibald, Bo'ness; dance, the Highland Fling, Misses Young and Sneddon; "My Dog," Mr J. Fitz Maurice, comedian; "The Deathless Army," Mr A. Malcolm; "Marguerite." Miss M. T. Heeps; "Mary," Mr Hugh Forsyth; "Cam' ye by Athole." Miss A. Archibald; "I couldn't help but laugh," Mr. J. Fitz Maurice, comedian; -"The Boys of the Old Brigade,,"Mr A. Malcolm; "Scotland." Miss M. T. Heeps; "The Anchor's Weighed," Mr. Hugh Forsyth ; dance, Irish Jig, Misses Young and Sneddon. The accompanist was Miss B. Russell, Grangemouth. The Chairman, in making the presentation, depreciated the charges of barbarism made against this country by Continental and other critics in respect to the war in South Africa. War in itself could not be other than barbarous but he had no hesitation affirming his belief that the barbarity inseparable from a state of war had, in this campaign, been mitigated as far as possible by the charity (?) and humanity of the British soldier. Might it be that the work of the soldier had prepared the way for the -----and that soon Boer and Briton might, in enjoyment of ----- right ----- together in harmony and prosperity under the British flag. With this belief, he had the greatest pleasure in asking Bombardier Dingwall to accept the gift as a token of friendly and patriotic appreciation on his safe return home after having, with his fellow soldiers, at his country's call, nobly done a soldier's part, the sufferings and privations of whom we at home could have but the faintest glimmering. Bombardier Dingwall, in accepting the gift, expressed his thanks for the kindness which had prompted such a handsome acknowledgment of the services which he, as a humble soldier, had been able to render his country. On the call of the Chairman, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded the artistes, and with a similar tribute to the chairman, on the motion of Mr. Myles, a most interesting evening was brought to a close.

Falkirk Herald 14th December 1901

STANDBURN.

CONCERT.-

A concert of exceptional merit, arranged by Mr. J. F. Morris, was given in, the Standburn Public Hall on Monday evening The programme was opened by Miss B. Russell with a pianoforte selection, which pleased the audience. Miss Browning Dickson sang "Killarney" with fine expression, and at once established herself a favourite. In her song, "Angus Macdonald," her fine rich voice was heard to the greatest advantage. She was encored and in response gave a fine rendering of "Doon the Burn." As a lady violinist, Miss Chrissie Smith was a great success, her various pieces meeting with the hearty approval of the audience. Mr. J. M. Scott sang "Stirling Brig" and "Bonnie Scotland" in a manner which brought forth hearty plaudits of the audience. Mr. John Clyde met with a good reception, his various anecdotes and recitals keeping the audience in the best of humour. The rendering of "God Save the King" terminated a highly enjoyable entertainment. "

GRAMOPHONE ENTERTAINMENT.

On Saturday last the Public Hall, Standburn, was crowded with a large and appreciative audience, when one of Edison's latest talking machines, which has been purchased by Mr. Robert M'Kee, Avonbridge, went through a lengthy programme of vocal and instrumental music. It was distinctly heard throughout, the hall, and all the items met with the approval of the audience.

Falkirk Herald 21st December 1901

LOST, FOUND, &c.

LOSERS AND FINDERS are advised to Advertise in the "Falkirk Herald."

FOUND, on Sunday last, near Standburn, a Watch and Chain –

Apply James McKee, Blawearie.

Falkirk Herald 28th December 1901

MUIRAVONSIDE. MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Wilson presided, and with the exception of Mr. A. Binnie all the members were present.

OVERCROWDING AT DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL

A letter was read from Mr. Waddel, H.M. Inspector, in which he said - I fear I must call the attention of your Board to the question of overcrowding at Drumbowie Public School. At the visit which I paid to it on Tues. 20th, I found the following facts: -

Accommodation – No. on Roll.

Main Room 60 47

1 Class Room 30 30

1 Class Room 40 41

Infant Room 45 65

175 184

The case of the infant room is urgent."

The headmaster, Mr. Watt, was present, and suggested that he would take part of Standard I out of the infant room and put the children into Standard II, and that he would take part of Standard III., from the second class room and put them into the north end of the main room, and he undertook to see that the number present in each room at no time exceeded the accommodation.

After discussion it was agreed to request that the infant children attending Muiravonside School and living in Maddiston should be asked to attend Maddiston School, and to intimate this to the inspector. The suggestion of the headmaster was agreed to be acted upon.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The officer reported that the attendance at the various schools was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Att.
Muiravonside School	186	143
Drumbowie School	518	395
Maddiston School	104	81
Blackbraes School	408	291
Avonbridge School	72	62

THE AGREEMENT WITH MESSRS NIMMO.

The Clerk reported that Messrs Nimmo's agent had agreed to pay £255, which the Board decided to take at last meeting in full of their claim for damage done to Drumbowie School buildings through mineral workings, and he submitted a discharge which he had prepared and adjusted with Messrs Nimmo's agents.

The discharge was read over and approved of, and subscribed by the chairman and Messrs Myles and Binnie on behalf of the Board.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Myles gave notice, that at next meeting he would move that, an addition be built to Maddiston School.

Mr. John Bryce gave notice that he would move at next meeting that the Board frame and adopt a graded scale of teacher's salaries.

THE BOARD'S ACCOUNTS

The treasurer intimated that the accounts for the last year had been returned correct, and properly vouched for by the accountant of the Department.

A SCHOOL CLEANER'S SALARY

On the motion of Mr. Binnie, it was agreed that the cleaner of Drumbowie School be paid at the rate of £30 per annum during the winter months and £20 10s per annum during the winter months.

This was all the business of importance.

Falkirk Herald 28th December 1901

REDDING CO OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

NOTICE

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS

Dealing in REDDING CENTRAL and MADDISTON BRANCH will be held on

MONDAY EVENING FIRST, at Seven o'clock, in

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, and MADDISTON SCHOOL.

Business - Election of Directors.

Falkirk Herald 28th December 1901

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff Bell.)

NOISY MINERS - John M'Nee, miner, Rumford, and Henry O'Neil and Felix O'Neil, miners, Quarrolhead, Maddiston, were fined 10s each, or seven days, for creating a disturbance at Maddiston.



1902

Falkirk Herald 8th January 1902
REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.
QUARTERLY MEETING.

The quarterly meeting of the Redding Co-operative Society was held in the Redding Co-operative Hall last night. There was a fair attendance of members, over which Mr. Thomas Barker, president, presided. The quarterly report, which was submitted and adopted, showed that the profits for the quarter were £5855 10s 1d, which would allow of a dividend of 4s 2d per £ on members' purchases. The sales for the quarter amounted to £26,726, compared with £26,554 for the corresponding quarter of last year, an increase of £172. The number of members was 1964, compared with 1907 for the corresponding quarter last year, an increase of 157.

THE SUCCESS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Chairman, at the outset, expressed his pleasure at meeting the members once more at this the beginning of a new year, and he wished them all the compliments of the season and a prosperous new year. So far as the society was concerned, it was scarcely necessary to wish for the success of the society, as it was practically assured. During the year 1900 the business done by the society represented a handsome total of £98,000, and he had then expressed the hope that during the year 1901 the society would reach the sum of £100,000 worth of business. He himself had had some doubts about their reaching that figure, because the miners had suffered a reduction of 2s per day, and the prospects did not look bright. But in spite, of those circumstances, they had not only succeeded in attaining to the figure of £100,000, but had increased it by £5500, raising the total to £105,571, or an increase over the previous year, which was an exceptionally good one of £7442. Those figures spoke of continued prosperity. It had been his privilege, as chairman, to record several times an increase of business, and he had thought that at some time the hands of the clock would turn back, but up till now that had not been the case. For the last quarter their sales had amounted to £26,726, or an increase of £172, which spoke volumes for the prosperity of the society. That increase had not been in one department alone, but in all the departments. The success in one particular department had been phenomenal - he referred to the Standburn branch. In three years the sales in connection with that branch had gone up by not less than £600. During the last two years the branch had doubled its business, and it was on a fair way to trebling it. He was of opinion that if that branch was well nursed, it would become one of the best branches of the Redding Co-operative Society, in referring to the oil business recently started by the society, he mentioned that they had done a business of something like £500 in three months, and that had produced a profit of 4s 2d per £ after paying the expenses for the horse and allowing for the man's wages. All round their business was increasing.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The minutes of committee meetings were gone over, and at one of these meetings, held on the 13th December, it was agreed to risk the permission of the quarterly meeting to allow a delegate to attend a conference on old age pensions to be held in London on 14th and 15th January, 1902. Mr. Thomas Grant moved that no delegate be sent to that conference. They would, he said, no doubt have to pay for other delegates going. There, would be some going from the Parish Council, and they would have to pay for them, (Laughter.) Some would also be going from the County Council. If it had been a conference to be held in Scotland he would have had no objection, but they saw it was to be held in London. Mr. Robert Myles seconded, and said it would be very unwise for them to send a delegate to the conference, till the proposed scheme of old age pensions had been put before them in circular form. The proposed scheme should have been put before them; so that they could have had their minds thoroughly matured on the matter, and have come to the meeting prepared to take some step. Mr. James Wilson - If everybody refuses to send a delegate to the conference, no scheme will be formed. It was unanimously agreed not to send a delegate.

PROPOSED IMPROVED METHOD OF LIGHTING.

At the same meeting of the committee the manager of the Acetylene Gas Company appeared, as requested, and explained that the probable cost of an erection of this light at the Redding branch would be £170. The Chairman explained the reason why that matter had been put on the agenda. He said that the society must progress with the times, and the committee were of opinion that the oil lamps used at Redding branch were insufficient to light the premises, and they were neither the best nor the cheapest for the purpose. They had 60 oil lamps at Redding, and they had to be trimmed and lit and the time of men was taken up in attending to them. Besides, it was inconvenient that workmen should have to enter their sheds in darkness. The North British Railway Company had lit the Polmont Station with acetylene gas, and they had written the firm who made the installation there to send their manager to give them information on the subject. Some of the committee were favour of lighting the premises with electricity, and the committee had asked the advice of the electrical engineer of the Wholesale Society on that matter. He had reported that the engine they had in the bakery would be quite capable of producing electricity sufficient to light the premises, but he had not yet been able to tell them what would be the cost of introducing electric light. The committee, after considering the matter, had come to the conclusion that it was not possible to accomplish much this winter in the way of lighting the premises, and seeing they had not all the information on the subject before them, they asked that the meeting allow the matter to lie over till they were able to come before them with a complete report as to the cost of the

present and the new methods of lighting which might be adopted. The subject was allowed to lie over mean time.

PROPOSAL TO ERECT DWELLING HOUSES.

Mr. David Gardiner moved the following motion of which he had given notice: - "That a joint committee be appointed, from the meeting and the board of directors to take into consideration the best means whereby house- building can be undertaken by the society, with a view to enabling members to become owners of their own houses." In support of his motion, Mr. Gardiner said that house-building was one of the businesses that co-operative societies should undertake. There was no question at the present time arousing more interest than that of the housing of the people. In Parliament and in various public Boards the question was receiving attention, and he did not think their society should lag behind in the matter. They ought not to build houses to let, but to sell, so that the members of the society could become the owners of them. His motion did not commit the society to anything. The committee would give the subject the consideration which he held it deserved. Seeing that their society had been so successful in every branch of business they had taken up they ought to turn their attention to this wider question - a question which permanently affected the well-being of the people as much as any social question he knew of. Mr. Baxter pointed out that the society had formerly adopted a scheme to advance money to members wishing to build houses for themselves. Mr. Munnock - That is so. A sum of £2000 was voted for this purpose, and two - thirds of the money has not been taken up yet. A Member seconded Mr. Gardiner s m Mr. Grant - What is the use of this motion, when we have a scheme already? We are only going to appoint a committee to have a night's diversion. (Laughter.) Mr. Baxter moved that no committee be appointed. Mr. Grant seconded. Mr. Gardiner, having been asked to explain the difference between the existing scheme and that which he had before his mind, said he desired the members to adopt a more methodical and more economical scheme than the present, which was not being taken advantage of. On a division, the motion was defeated by 42 votes to 18

.FLESHING DEPARTMENT FOR BLACKBRAES.

On the motion of Mr. Munnock, it was agreed to instruct the committee to consider the question of starting a fleshing department at Blackbraes branch, for the convenience of the members in that district whom the carts could not reach.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Matthew Forsyth was re-elected an auditor.

It was agreed to give a donation of £5 to the Dunlop Cancer Fund. Edinburgh.

This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 11th January 1902

DEATHS

HOGGAN -

At Craigend Cottages, Standburn, on the 19th December, after a lingering illness, borne with Christian patience, Jane Kirkwood Hoggan, late of Hagsgs; deeply regretted.

Falkirk Herald 29th January 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Maddiston School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wilson (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs D. Binnie, John Bryce, J. B. Bryce, Robert Myles, Archibald Binnie, and Haldane.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The officer reported that the attendance at the various schools was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Atten.
Muiravonside	180	129
Drumbowie	517	411
Blackbraes	411	323
Maddiston	111	86
Avonbridge	73	63

DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL APPOINTMENT.

Miss Annie B, Gordon, Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire, was appointed a teacher in Drumbowie School at a salary of £45 per annum.

A MUIRAVONSIDE VACANCY.

Mr. Myles said that Mr. Meek, teacher at Muiravonside School, had received a Civil Service appointment, and had resigned. It was agreed to appoint an ex-pupil teacher in his place out of two applications received.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO MADDISTON SCHOOL - ANIMATED DISCUSSION.

Mr. Myles moved, in terms of notice of motion, "That the Board resolve to build an addition to Maddiston School, so as to make it a mixed school". In support of his motion he said that this was the fifth or sixth time he had brought forward this proposal, but it had always defeated. But considering the fact, that the Muiravonside and Maddiston Schools were overcrowded, it was absolutely necessary in the present circumstances to deal with this question now.

Muiravonside School was only seated for 175, and there were 180 on the roll. The Maddiston School was seated for 110 and there were 111 on the roll. If this motion were defeated now it was not his intention to raise the question again during the present Board's tenure of office at any rate. He maintained that the Board had been losing money all along the line by keeping the Maddiston School an infant school, and said that it was the Board's original intention in building the Maddiston School to make it a mixed school, and plans were prepared for a mixed school. The old argument used by the chairman and others that this question was premature did not now apply, as it was in the interests of the ratepayers that his proposal should be agreed to. If the Maddiston School remained an infant school they would get no grants for class subjects from it. Then there were children belonging to the Muiravonside parish who were being taught in the Polmont parish, and the Muiravonside School Board would get a grant amounting to £1 per head for such children if they were taught in their own school. The change be proposed would not necessitate any material increase in the staff, and all round it would be a decided saving to the ratepayers. Mr. Haldane seconded the motion on the ground that the schools at Maddiston and Muiravonside were overcrowded. Mr. D. Binnie moved the previous question, and argued that there was no overcrowding. The Maddiston School, he said, was built for 120, and there were only 111 on the roll. There was also accommodation in Muiravonside School for all the children attending it. It was an easy thing to get up a large roll, but what if the children did not come forward. Even at Muiravonside School there was no overcrowding. Their rates were pretty well up this year, and he failed to see where there would any saving by the adoption of Mr. Myles' proposal. Instead of it being a saving, it would be a burden on the ratepayer, as the addition to the addition to the Maddiston School to make it a mixed school, and the building of a teacher's house, would cost £2000, which would represent an increase in the rate of 1 ½ d or 2d per £1. When the change Mr. Myles desired took place they would also have to appoint a headmaster, and his salary would have to be faced in addition. He thought Mr. Myles' motion was still premature, and he had great pleasure, in the interests of the ratepayers, in moving its rejection. Mr. J. B. Bryce said that the infant-room in the Muiravonside School was a little overcrowded. He disputed the contention of Mr. Myles that there was not accommodation for 120 children in the Muiravonside School, and said it would not be economy to build at Maddiston and not at Muiravonside, where the overcrowding was actually taking place, and which could be obviated by adding, at no great cost, another class-room. The school was situated in the east end of the parish, where there was likely to be an increase in the population. Almond Iron Works were to be put into the market in the month of March, and a foundry or factory was likely to be started there. That would mean that a good many houses would be erected. Then the proprietors of the foundry at Causewayend had enlarged their feu, and were going to enlarge their foundry, and build additional houses. Those were two factors which, in the future, would

increase the Muiravonside School attendance. In the Maddiston district no increase had been pointed out to him. He begged to move as a rider to the amendment that the Muiravonside School be extended. Mr. Myles - I rise to order. He can do no such thing. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I can move a rider, Mr. Myles. Do not lift me till I fall. Mr. Myles - I have a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bryce has moved a rider to my motion, and that rider, I hold, is not in order. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I want the Board to agree to build another class-room to Muiravonside School. The Chairman - It is scarcely competent for you to do so now. We should stick to the Maddiston School. Mr. Myles - His proposal is not a rider to the motion I proposed. The Chairman - You might stick to the motion and amendment made with regard to this school, Mr. Bryce. Mr. J. B. Bryce - Will you not receive a rider to the amendment? Will you not receive anything but the motion and the amendment? The Chairman - I do not think it is competent to propose a motion to-night to build at Muiravonside. You can give notice of motion and make your proposal again. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I appeal to the clerk. The Clerk - I think that Mr. Bryce's proposal, as he is going to make it, is out of order. It would have been in order if it had met Mr. Myles' motion, but it has nothing at all to do with Mr. Myles' motion. Mr. Bryce must give notice of motion. The Chairman - That is right. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I will submit to the chair most undoubtedly, but this is the first time I have heard of a rider to a motion or an amendment not being allowed. But I bow to the chair. The Clerk - The question you are raising is a different one altogether. Mr. J. B. Bryce - But my point is that my rider is in connection with the overcrowding, the question we have under consideration. The Chairman - But the question we are dealing with is whether we will build an addition to Maddiston School or not. Mr. J. B. Bryce - Very well; go on with the business. Mr. J. Bryce - You can give notice of your motion for next meeting. Mr. A. Binnie supported the amendment, and said that while he sympathised with a great deal of what Mr. Myles had said, he thought it would be a mistake to go on with the addition to the Maddiston School in the meantime. As to what Mr. J. B. Bryce had said about Muiravonside School, he was going too much on supposition. He (Mr. A. Binnie) understood that the present foundry would be extended, but he questioned if the other public work would ever go on. He thought that the overtaxed ratepayers had enough to do at present to grapple with their taxes, and he was afraid this proposal of Mr. Myles' would lead to an increase in the rates. Mr. Myles, in replying to the discussion, disputed the statement that a teacher's house would require to be built, and in answer to Mr. Bryce he said that the population of Maddiston had doubled within the last 12 years. The last loan they got from the Public Works Loan Board in 1872 was pretty well paid off, and another loan could be got from that body on similar terms. This proposal would not increase the rates by a single penny, so that Mr. A. Binnie's argument was entirely wrong. As to Mr. J. B. Bryce's supposition, they knew nothing about what he was talking of. It was sound, logical, reasoning argument they wanted. It was too bad that children would have to walk from Maddiston to Muiravonside School, a distance of two miles, in all kinds of weather, because the Maddiston School was an infant school, and from humanitarian point of view, and in the interests of the health of the children, they ought to pass his motion. He got his statement that the Maddiston School had accommodation for 110 from HM. Inspector's report, and the statement must be in the Clerk's minute book. Then as to the average attendance being considered in relation to the accommodation, he asked the Clerk if it was not the case that the Department considered the number on the roll of a school in calling to attention of Boards to overcrowding? The Clerk - Yes. Mr. Myles - Consequently Mr. D. Binnie's statement on that point is no argument. Mr. D. Binnie - Who told you that the last loan was paid off? Mr. Myles - Address the chair, and I will answer you. Mr. D. Binnie - It would be better to get on with the business. Let us have some commonsense. Mr. Myles - Let this discussion appear before the ratepayers, and they will judge whether it is commonsense or not. On a vote being taken, only the mover and seconder voted for the motion, and the other five members favouring the amendment, it was declared carried. Mr. Myles - The thing is before the ratepayers now. Mr. D. Binnie - It has been before the ratepayers all the time. Mr. Myles - You promised to vote for my proposal at the election, and that was one of the planks on which you were elected by a very narrow majority. Mr. D. Binnie - It would not have mattered much whether I got in or no: I would not have been sorry. Mr. Myles - It would have mattered, for you would not have been in the way. Mr. D. Binnie - I never was frightened for snow. (Laughter.)

A GRADED SCALE OF SALARIES.

On the motion of Mr. J. Bryce, seconded by Mr. Myles, it was agreed to adopt a graded scale of teachers' salaries, and the clerk and Mr. J. Bryce were appointed to draw up a scale, and to submit it to next meeting.

This was all the public business.

Falkirk Herald 8th February 1902

STANDBURN.

ACCIDENTS. -

On Monday last a miner named Thomas Carson, employed at No. 3 Pit, Blackstone belonging to James Nimmo & Company, got himself severely injured by a fall of stones which came away unexpectedly from the roof. On being taken home, medical aid was soon in attendance, and on examination it was found that two of his ribs were broken and his body otherwise bruised. On Tuesday, in the same pit, another miner named George Walker got his hand bruised also with a fall of stones.

Dr. Calderwood attended both cases.

Falkirk Herald 15th February 1902

STANDBURN.

SABBATH SCHOOL SOCIAL MEETING. -

On Thursday evening last the children attending the Church of Christ Sabbath School had their annual social meeting in their hall at Drumbowie. Mr. Andrew Gardner presided over a good attendance of children and grown-up people. After an excellent tea had been partaken of, which was served by Mrs. Fowler, a lengthy programme of songs and recitations was gone through by the children. A very pleasant evening was spent.

A HEAVY EGG. -

On Tuesday last a Minorca hen belonging to Mr. John Jamieson, Redford, dropped an egg 3 1/2 inches in length and 6 3/8 inches in circumference, and weighed four and a half ounces. The egg was on view in Standburn Co-operative Store.

Falkirk Herald 19th February 1902

CAUSAL COMMENTS

BY ARGUS

Last week I recorded the fact that a Maddiston hen had laid an egg measuring 2 7/8 inches in length, 6 1/4 inches in circumference, and weighing 3 1/2 ounces. Apparently the matter has become generally known amongst the hens in the surrounding district, and has roused in them a desire to outdo what they consider a comparatively trifling performance. The first to step into the arena and break the previous record is a Standburn hen, which last week dropped an egg 3 1/2 inches in length and 6 3/4 inches in circumference, and weighing 4 1/2 ounces. Next week we may expect to hear that a Shieldhill or Slamannan hen has laid an egg which had be measured by a land surveyor and required two men to lift it.

Falkirk Herald 1st March 1902

STANDBURN.

PUBLIC HALL. -

On Monday last the Congregational Church Choir and Orchestra rendered the sacred cantata, "David," to the largest gathering that has yet thronged the new Public Hall. The choir and orchestra had been working on this cantata for some considerable time, and on all sides there was a looking forward to the event with anticipation. When the Rev. John Jenkins, Glasgow, secretary of the Congregational Union of Scotland, who presided over the first half of the

programme, took the chair, there would be nearly 500 in the building. After a telling little speech on music, Mr. Jenkins, amid much applause, called upon Mr. Meek, the conductor, to begin the proceedings. The cantata was rendered from beginning to end without a single hitch and in a most creditable manner, and Mr. Meek, his choir and orchestra well merited the torrents of applause given to them at the close. The solos in connection with the cantata were sustained by Miss Jenny Sneddon, gold medalist, Glasgow; Miss I. Sneddon Russell, Greenhill; Miss Daisy Sneddon Hogg, Glasgow; Mr. J. O. Murdoch, Falkirk (who composed music for this cantata); and Messrs John and Henry Forsyth, Redding. The orchestra party consisted of: Organist, Miss Mc Ritchie; violinists, Messrs Walker, McDowall, Mitchell Johnston and Nesbit. The singing of the soloists and the playing of the orchestra was of a very high order. Rev. D.H. Ritchie Snaddon, minister of the church, who presided over the second half of the proceedings, called upon Miss Jenny Sneddon, who gave "Ora pro Nobis" in a manner which brought forth a most importunate and persistent encore. Her second solo was "Sweet Spirit, Hear my Prayer." Miss Daisy Sneddon Hogg, a pupil of Miss Jenny Sneddon, also sang two solos in a sweet and taking manner. Miss Sneddon Russell, Greenhill, in the "Holy City" and "The Beautiful Hills," increased her reputation as an able and telling sacred solo singer. Mr. J. O. Murdoch, Falkirk, gave "The Lord's my Shepherd" in Scotch, and "Bairnies Cuddle Doon," and was encored again and again. On the motion of the Chairman and Mr. Alex. Kerr the usual votes of thanks were heartily responded to.

LECTURE. -

The monthly lecture in connection with the Congregational Bible Class took place last Sabbath night in the Standburn Public Hall. Mr. Alex. Kerr was the lecturer, Mr. T. Calder, the lanternist, and the Rev. John Jenkins, chairman. The lecture was "From Egypt to the Promised Land," and the attendance was over 300. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. - The Rev. D. H. Richie Snaddon, Congregational Church, preached in Great Hamilton Street Congregational Church, Glasgow, and the Rev. John Jenkins, secretary of the Congregational Union of Scotland, Glasgow preached in Standburn Church.

Falkirk Herald 8th March 1902

STANDBURN I.O. RECHABITES.

OPEN SINGING COMPETITION

will be held in STANDBURN PUBLIC HALL,

on SATURDAY 5th April 1902,

for Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, and Comedian.

1st Prize in each Class, Massive Gold Medal.

Competent Judges.

Entry Money, 1s.

Close 29th March

For particulars apply

ROBERT MOORE, Standburn Villa, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 15th March 1902

MADDISTON.

DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT. -

By the death of Mrs. Marshall, at the advanced age of 93 years, Maddiston has lost one of its oldest inhabitants. Deceased was a native of Muiravonside, and resided in this district during her long term of life. Mrs. Marshall died on Saturday at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. James Taylor, blacksmith.

Falkirk Herald 15th March 1902

JANITOR -

Wanted for Standburn Public Hall, reading and Recreation Rooms; must be Total Abstainer; wages, 35s weekly.

Apply, by 22nd inst., to Robert Robertson, Candie House, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 15th March 1902

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

SABBATH FIRST.

12 o'clock. - In the Hands of Ecclesiastical Ruffians.

5.30 P.M. - True Love v. False Love, or What a Woman did for a Man.

SALE OF WORK ON

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY,

20th, 21st, 22nd March, 1902.

In Aid of above Church Building Fund.

DAVID MITCHELL, Esq., Millfield, will open the Sale.

Dr CALDERWOOD, Standburn, will preside.

Miss CATH. FORRESTER PATON, Alloa, will open Sale the Second Day.

Dr. CALDERWOOD will again Preside.

Ballie DONALD MUNRO, Clydebank, will open Sale Third Day.

JOHN BELL BRYCE, Esq., Maddiston, will Preside.

NUMEROUS ATTRACTIONS AND COMPETITIONS EACH DAY.

SATURDAY, 22nd, 7 P.M. -

CONCERT, sustained by GRAHAMSON MALE VOICE CHOIR.

Messrs LIETCH, RULE, KIDSTON, the Misses SILCOCK and RAE, Falkirk, &c.

WINNING NUMBER AUTOGRAPH BEDCOVER decided at Concert.

AVONBRIDGE PIPE BAND will be in Attendance. See Bills.

CONVENIENT TRAINS.

Admission Is for the Three Days, Ordinary Tickets, 6d; Children, 2d.

Donations of Money should be sent to -

ALEX. KERR, Treasurer, Standburn, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 15th March 1902

STANDBURN.

SOCIAL MEETING AND DANCE. -

The members and friends of the Standburn dancing club held their first conversazione in the Standburn Public Hall on Friday evening last. Upwards of sixty ladies and gentlemen sat down to a well served supper which was purveyed in first class style by Redding Co-operative Society. Mr. James Walker acted in the capacity of chairman. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, the tables were cleared, and dancing was entered upon and carried on with great zeal till an early hour in the morning. At intervals songs were pleasingly rendered by Misses Davies, Mackie, Christie, and Sharp, and Messrs William Christie, John Geddes, and Donald Rankine. Mr. James Walker supplied the music, and gave a selection, whilst Mr. Cunningham gave an exhibition of step dancing. Mr. John Moore efficiently discharged the duties of M.C.

BENEFIT CONCERT. -

A concert promoted by the committee of Standburn Public Hall was given in aid of the poor in the village and district on Wednesday evening last. The hall was completely filled with a most enthusiastic audience - Dr. Calderwood occupied the chair. The soloists were: Mr. J. O.

Murdoch who gave a fine rendition of the song "I'm a Scot" and "Cuddle Doon", Miss Murray gave a fine rendering of "Lochnagar," and in response to an encore gave "Kate

O'Shane." Melodeon selections were contributed in fine style by Mr. William Love, while an exhibition of stepdancing was given by Messrs Carlin and Cunningham. The comic element was ably sustained by Messrs Brock, Linlithgow, and Marshall. A special feature of the entertainment was the rendering of a few choruses and dumb-bell exercises by a number of the children of Drumbowie Public School under the direction of Miss Murray and Miss McRitchie. The usual votes of thanks were afterwards given. Miss McRitchie ably discharged the duties of accompanist

Falkirk Herald 15th March 1902

STANDBURN.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. –

Mr. James Walker, Scotstoun, Glasgow, preached in the Congregation Church last Sabbath. At the mid-week meeting of the congregation, the minister, the Rev. D.H. Ritchie Snaddon, amongst other donations, intimated £5 each from Lady Dawson Brodie and Miss Dawson of Powfoulis. The weekly deposit in the church bank last Monday was over £20 sterling.

Falkirk Herald 19th March 1902

LOST, found, &c.

LOST from Dunmore Parsonage, Brown Collie Dog.

If found in anyone's possession after this notice will be prosecuted.

FOUND, last Wednesday, at Standburn, Brown Collie Dog; white paws, collar.

If not claimed in three days will be sold.-

Apply James Hamilton, Candy Colliery, by Avonbridge.

Edinburgh Evening News 21st March 1902

POLMONT CHILD BURNED TO DEATH. –

A sad burning fatality was reported to the Falkirk police to-day. Mrs. Drysdale, widow, Standrigg, near Polmont, had occasion to go to Maddiston, and her son, George Drysdale, aged one and half years, was left in charge of a neighbour. The latter called for a minute at the house next door, and on her returning, she found the child had gone to the fire and was in flames, sustaining fatal injuries.

Falkirk Herald 22nd March 1902

STANDBURN.

CONCERT. -

Bessie Arthur's Concert Company paid their first visit to Standburn on Friday evening last, when they occupied the Public Hall. The building was completely filled with an appreciative audience. The programme was of a varied nature. A feature of the entertainment was a competition for comic singers. Three entered, and the audience, who were the judges, gave their verdict in favour of Mr. Robert Wilson, Blackbraes, the prize being a silver medal.

SOIREE. -

On Wednesday evening last the children attending the U.F. Mission Church had an enjoyable soiree. There was a good attendance of young people and adults. The Rev. Mr. Millar presided, and after an excellent tea had been partaken of, addresses appropriate to the occasion were given by the chairman, Mr. Buchanan, and Dr. Calderwood. During the evening a lengthy programme was sustained by Misses Mackie, Moore, and McNeil, and Messrs Andrew Philips and Jas. Henderson, who contributed solos. Recitations were given by Misses Cheyne and Fitzsimmons, and Mr. Geo. Maggs. A very pleasant evening was spent.

SAD BURNING FATALITY. –

A sad burning fatality is reported from the village of Standrigg, near Standburn. It appears that on Monday a widow named Isabella Scott or Drysdale had occasion to go to Maddiston, and she left her child, a boy of one year and five months, named George Drysdale, in charge of a neighbour. The neighbour called for a minute or two at the house of a friend who lived next door, and in her absence the child had gone to the fire. On the woman's return the child's clothing was ablaze, and it was seen that it had been badly burnt about the body. A doctor was called in, and everything possible was done to relieve the suffering of the little one, but it succumbed on Wednesday to the injuries it had sustained.

STANDBURN

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

SALE OF WORK,

A three-days' sale of work in connection with the Standburn Congregational Church was opened in the Public Hall. Standburn, on Thursday last, the object being to raise funds for the purpose of wiping off the debt of the church buildings. Since the resolution to hold a sale of work was adopted the committee of management, and particularly the lady members of the congregation and friends have left nothing undone to make it an unqualified success. Ample evidence of their labours was to be seen in the beautiful stalls laden with beautiful and in some cases uncommon, articles, such as are seldom seen out of large centres. By the time the sale opened, the interior of the building had undergone a complete transformation. Much artistic taste had been displayed in the arrangement of the stalls and in the decorations generally, and the effect in the evening when the whole was brilliantly lighted up was most pleasing. At opening time there was a favourable attendance and Dr. Calderwood, on the call of the Rev. Mr. Snaddon, took the chair, being accompanied on the platform by Mr., Mrs., and Miss Mitchell, of Millfield. The Chairman in the course of a few humorous remarks said that his duty in introducing Mr. Mitchell was a very pleasant one indeed. They had enjoyed Mr. Mitchell's hospitality on more than one occasion, Millfeild being a rendezvous for pic-nicks. He then called upon Mr. Mitchell to open the proceedings. (Applause.) In doing so, Mr. Mitchell thanked the chairman for his flattering remarks, and assured those present that it gave him great pleasure to be with them. He was aware that this was the first sale of work held in Standburn, and he hoped it would be an augury in this respect that they were starting in brilliant sunshine, and be trusted that they would finish on the sunny side on Saturday night. (Applause.) Speaking of being at a bazaar at Polmont recently, Mr. Mitchell said that he had heard a remark that Mr. Carnegie did not know how to get rid of his money. He wished that Mr. Carnegie had been present with them that day. From the reports of the "Falkirk Herald" he (Mr. Mitchell) had noticed that the hall had been well patronised, and he thought that if Mr. Carnegie would place one of the same kind of halls in every village, they would do as much good as the libraries. (Applause.) He complimented the ladies on the effective display all round, and concluded by declaring the bazaar open, and assured them that at any time when he was required to do anything for Standburn he would be glad to do so. (Applause.) On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Snaddon a cordial vote of thanks were accorded Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Calderwood. The work of the sale was then proceeded with, and during the evening the various stalls showed signs of being well patronised. The stalls and stallholders were as follows:-

Crockery Photo &c., Stall. - Mrs. Allan and Miss Elliot. Prominent amongst the numerous beautiful articles which this stall displayed was a fretwork century clock made by Mr. James Walker, Standburn. Drapery Stall - Miss M'Lay and Miss Adamson.

Woolen Stall.-Miss Russell, Greenhill, and Miss Main.

Fancy Stall. - Mrs. Lindsay and Mrs. Aitchison. There was much excellent work of every description here, notably lace work and fancy sewing.

Refreshment Stall - Mrs. Calder, Mrs. Baker, Misses Calder, Ure, Anderson, and Simpson.

Shooting Stall - Messrs J. Lindsay, J. Forbes, and A. M'Dowell.

During the afternoon and evening Avonbridge Pipe Band discoursed selections. Mr. Jas. Walker (violin) and Miss M'Ritchie (piano) delighted the audience with some excellent selections. The hat trimming competition for men caused much amusement, the result being, 1, D. Scott; 2 H. Baker; 3, James Middleton.

It only remains to be added that the autograph bed cover, the drawing for which takes place on Saturday night, was greatly admired. The drawings on Thursday amounted to over £70. Yesterday the sale was opened by Miss Catherine Forrester Paton, Alloa, Dr. Calderwood again presiding. As on the previous day, the sale was largely attended, and excellent business was done.

Falkirk Herald 22nd March 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

SOCIAL MEETING AND DANCE.

The annual social meeting and dance of the Maddiston Continuation School took place on the evening of Friday last. Mr. John Haldane, member of the Board, presided over an assembly of about 80 pupils and friends, and in the course of his remarks congratulated the teacher and

class on the success which had attended the Maddiston School. After an excellent tea, a varied programme of recitations and vocal and Instrumental music was ably sustained by Misses, Murray and M'Ritchie, Drumbowie; B. Russell, Grangemouth; and Messrs J. Watt, A. Malcolm, and N. McIver. Prizes, of boxes of drawing instruments, awarded by the teacher to those members of the class under the age of sixteen who had been most regular in their attendance, were presented by the Chairman to the following pupils: - A. Pearson, P. Forsyth, D. Baxter, Cornelius Bryce, P. Malcolm, Wm. Thom, and Matthew Forsyth. Thereafter Mr. James Morris, in name of the class, asked their teacher, Mr. J. S. Wilson, to accept a handsome standard lamp as a token of the personal esteem of his pupils, and their appreciation of his services during the past session. Mr. Wilson suitably acknowledged the gift, and thanked the class for the manner in which they had seconded the efforts of the school committee and himself to make the class a success. An assembly followed, Mr. M. Myles officiating as M.C.

Falkirk Herald 26th March 1902

CASUAL COMMENTS. BY ARGUS.

The village of Standburn, already known to fame as the possessor of a Gothenburg public-house is rapidly gathering to itself all the adjuncts not to say the luxuries of civilisation. Last week it came through the thrilling experience of having the first sale of work yet held within its bounds and felt, no doubt, the delicious feeling of wickedness which comes from participation in a "raffle."

Falkirk Herald 29th March 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was had in the Maddiston Infant School on Tuesday afternoon. There were present Messrs D. Binnie, R. Myles, A. Binne, John Bryce, J. B. Bryce, and J. Haldane. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. D. Binnie was called to the chair.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The attendance at the various schools was reported on as follows:-

On. Roll. Av. Att.

Muiravonside School 185 146

Drumbowie School 501 413

Blackbraes School 416 322

Maddiston School 108 96

Avonbridge School 72 63

THE DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL BOUNDARY WALL.

Mr. D. Binnie called the attention of the Board to the damage done to the boundary wall of Drumbowie School. After discussion, it was agreed to delay consideration of the matter till next meeting. **THE OVERCROWDING AT MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL**

"A SCENE."

Mr. Myles, as convener of the Muiravonside and Maddiston School Committees, reported that His Majesty's Inspector had requested the headmaster of Muiravonside School to bring under the committee's notice that he (the inspector) was surprised that the Board had not taken steps to relieve the overcrowding at Muiravonside School and that he wished the Board to deal with the matter at once. Mr. Myles was proceeding to speak with regard to this question at great length. He argued the question of the necessity there was for a mixed school at Maddiston, stating that although there was an additional room added to Muiravonside School that would not relieve the state of that school the only remedy for that congestion was the creation of a mixed school at Maddiston. As Mr. Myles had already spoken at same length, the Chairman, interrupting him, expressed the hope that he would be as brief as possible. Mr. Myles proceeded with his remarks, and as he appeared to pay no heed to the chairman's request that he should be brief. The Chairman again interrupted him, and said he would give him only other five minutes in which to conclude his remarks. Mr. Myles thereupon indignantly resumed his seat without finishing his address, saying that he would not come back to any more of their meetings. He also made some personal allusions to the chairman. These allusions, the members resented, and the meeting assumed an unusually lively aspect, several members rising to their feet simultaneously to support the chairman. The matter was allowed to lie over.

APPLICATIONS FOR INCREASES OF SALARY.

The Clerk read applications from Miss Hamilton, Muiravonside School and Miss Main, Blackbraes School for an increase of salary. After some discussion, it was agreed that the applications be left over until next meeting.

A RESIGNATION.

A letter was read from Miss, Shaw, Blackbraes School, resigning her position as a teacher in that school. The resignation was accepted.

THE STATUS OF A MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL TEACHER.

The Clerk intimated that Miss Wilson, who had been recently appointed to Muiravonside School, had failed to obtain the necessary qualification for her appointment, and consequently could not be recognised by the Department. A letter from Miss Wilson resigning her situation was also read. After consideration, it was agreed to continue Miss Wilson's services in the meantime until another teacher was got, and it was left to the School Committee to appoint a successor.

PROPOSED CORONATION MEDALS -

OBJECTION TO THE KING'S TITLE.

The question of providing pupils with medals on the occasion of the coronation of the King was again under consideration, and sample medals were submitted. Mr. Myles said he would not approve of the sample medal produced, as it contained the inscription, "King Edward VII." Mr. J. B. Bryce said he would approve of the medal if it were presented on the battlefield of Bannockburn. It was agreed to delay the matter till next meeting.

A NUISANCE AT DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL.

A letter from the sanitary inspector, calling attention to the nuisance existing at Drumbowie School was read. The Convener of the School Committee explained that the nuisance had been removed the day after the letter was written.

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT MADDISTON SCHOOL INTO A MIXED SCHOOL.

Mr. Myles gave notice that at next meeting he would move that Maddiston Infant School be converted into a mixed school.

THE DIFFICULTY OF TEACHERS IN OBTAINING LODGINGS.

Mr. D. Binnie gave notice that he would move at next meeting that the Board take into consideration the advisability of erecting a house at Drumbowie for the accommodation of female teachers, as it was impossible for them to get lodgings.

THE MADDISTON SCHOOL BOUNDARY FENCE.

Mr. D. Binnie moved that the fence at the south boundary of Maddiston School be put back to its original position. Mr. J. B. Bryce seconded. After discussion, it was agreed to leave the matter over till next meeting.

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE AT DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL.

The Clerk intimated that he had communication from the Department calling attention to the irregularity of attendance at Drumbowie School and the low percentage of average attendance. On the motion of Mr. Myles, it was agreed that in future, where the father was summoned before the Board for the irregular attendance of his children at school, and instead of appearing himself sent his wife, that the Board decline to hear the wife, and to prosecute as a matter of course.

The Board thereafter dealt with several defaulting parents. Prosecutions were ordered against a number, while others were reprimanded.

Falkirk Herald 29th March 1902

STANDBURN. CONGREGATIONAL.
CHURCH SALE OF WORK. -

This sale of work was continued in the Public Hall, Standburn, on Friday and Saturday of last week. As on the previous day there was a favourable attendance, the opening ceremony being performed by Dr. Calderwood in the unavoidable absence of Miss Cath. Forrester Paton, Alloa, and the Rev. D.H. Ritchie Snaddon occupying the chair. The sale was then proceeded with, and the drawings for the day amounted to £35. On Saturday the opening ceremony was to be performed by Baillie Munro, Dumbarton, but owing to illness he was unable to be present. The Rev. Mr. Snaddon presided, and Mr. John Bell Bryce gave the opening address. The sale was afterwards commenced, a fair business being done, and from 5 p.m. till closing time the hall was literally packed. During the evening the Grahamston Male Voice Choir was present, under the leadership of Mr. W. Forsyth, and rendered several pieces, which met with the approval of the audience. Solos were also sung in good style by Miss Silcock and Mr. Leitch; Mr. James Kidson contributed a Scotch reading; gramophone selections were given by Mr. Charles Sneddon, Stirling; whilst the selections on the piano and violin by Miss M'Ritchie were well received. The autograph bed cover, with fully 700 names thereon, was drawn for, and went to Mr. John Hunter, Crosscraes. The ladies' boxmaking competition created much amusement. The result was so close that all the competitors were awarded prizes, they being Misses Adamson, Gordon, Russell, and Main, and Mrs. Aitchison and Mrs. Baker. The shooting for the rifle resulted in a win, after an exciting contest, for Mr. Horn, Muiravonside. The Avonbridge Pipe Band was in attendance, and paraded the village at intervals.

At the close the Rev. Mr. Snaddon intimated that they had received a donation of £20 from Mr. Jas. Nimmo, who also had promised more help in the future. (Applause.)

Donations had also been received from Major Dobbie, Larbert; Miss Cath. Forrester Paton, Alloa; Miss Stein, Bonnybridge; Mr. Alex. Drysdale, Alloa; Mr. Thos. Gibson, Falkirk; Miss Kidston, Helensburgh; Mr. Joseph Russell, Port-Glasgow; Sheriff Gillespie, Dunfermline; Sir Robert Pullar, Perth; Col. J. M. Denny, M.P., Dumbarton; Sir John Leng, M.P. Dundee; Lady Dawson Brodie and Miss Dawson, Powfoulis; and Mr. J. McDairmid, Dollar.

Mr. Snaddon then cordially thanked all (including managers, deacons, stall-holders, and donors in the district) for their support in making the sale of work a success. The drawings for the day amounted to £27, which brought the total up to £137 for the three days. A small sale of work at Broomfield, Greenhill, by Miss Russell, had realised a few pounds on their behalf.

Falkirk Herald 5th April 1902

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.
CO-OPERATIVE MEETING. -

At a meeting of the members of Redding Co-operative Society, dealing in Blackbraes branch, Messrs William Reid and John Forsyth were appointed directors for next twelve months.

STANDBURN.

U.F. MISSION CHURCH SOCIAL MEETING. -

On Friday evening last the members and friends connected with the U.F. Mission Church held an enjoyable social meeting. Mr. R. Buchanan presided over a large attendance, and after tea, which was served on tastefully-decorated tables, made a few remarks. Mr. Thos. Moore also addressed the gathering. During the evening the choir, under the leadership of Mr. Jas. Henderson, rendered several pieces in a praiseworthy manner. Solos were given by Misses Mackie and Ritchie, and Messrs Aitchison and Clark, each of whom acquitted themselves in an able manner. Recitations were given in good style by Miss Binnie and Mr. Geo. Maggs. A very pleasant evening was spent.

CO-OPERATION. -

At a meeting of the members of Redding Co-operative Society, dealing in Standburn, held in the Public Hall on Wednesday evening last, Mr. James Henderson was appointed director in room of Mr. John Hutchison, resigned. To cope with the increasing business at this branch, extensive alterations have been commenced this week, the contractors for the work being - Brick work, Morris & Walker, Polmont Station; joiner, Robert Thomson, Brightons; slater and plaster work, J. D. Maxwell, Laurieston; plumber, George Warden, Grangemouth

Falkirk Herald 5th April 1902

FAILING TO EDUCATE. -

At the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Thursday, the following parties, prosecuted at the instance of the Muiravonside School Board, were fined for neglecting the education of their children: - James Hamilton, miner, Candie, fined 12s 6d, including costs, or - three days; Wm. Canning, miner, Standburn, fined 17s 6d, including costs, or five days; Malcolm McDonald, quarryman, Avonbridge, fined 30s including costs, or ten days; and Mrs. Aitken, 116 Standburn, fined 12s 6d, including expenses, or three days.

Falkirk Herald 9th April 1902

THE IBROX DISASTER.

The appalling catastrophe which occurred at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, on Saturday, has been a universal and painful topic of discussion during the present week. Judging from the fresh details published from, day to day, it is questionable if anything more appalling or gruesome has ever before occurred in Scotland. There have been, it is true, accidents of a similar description - that is to say the collapsing of stands and platforms in public places and public events - but anything more deplorable, or attended with more lamentable consequences, has seldom if ever been heard of in connection with national sport. That the occurrence, therefore, should have created such profound sensation in all parts of the country and beyond it is not to be wondered at. There seems good reason for supposing that the huge terraces which had been constructed for the accommodation of spectators were on this unfortunate occasion dangerously overcrowded. A consensus of public opinion, at all events, tends to that conclusion. Assuming that this view is the correct one, then there can be little doubt that a serious reflection rests upon the shoulders of those immediately responsible for the arrangements in connection with the annual contest. As to the stability of the structure, public testimony, as might be expected, is diversified. In this matter, for example, the question has been asked as to why experiments as to stability and holding capacity were not made prior to the match. Then, again, one who has been described as an expert offers the explanation that the structure itself was sound, but that it was weakened by the almost continuous swaying of an excited crowd who occupied its benches. There may be a deal of truth in this explanation, and assuming that it is correct, it will appear to most people to follow that a circumstance of this kind was just one which ought to have bulked largely in the calculations of those who had to do with the arrangements for the accommodation of such a large concourse of people as might have been expected to assemble on Saturday. It is all very well, of course, to be wise and to moralise after the event. In this, as in other disasters, the unparalleled occurrence of Saturday will have salutary lessons for those who take a prominent part in the direction of such events as the international football match. In this country there is no more popular pastime than football, and none that attracts and draws together greater masses of the people. When one thinks of the millions that have crowded from time to time to witness the contests between leading clubs, it must be admitted that the game in its history has had a wonderful immunity from serious calamity. And it is just on that account that the accident at Ibrox Park is the more deplorable. That there will be a prompt and searching investigation of all the circumstances goes without saying. This is demanded not merely because of the appalling catastrophe itself, but as guaranteeing in some measure the future safety of the public on such occasions, and as a means also of reestablishing that public confidence which has, at this time, sustained a serious, and, in the painful circumstances, a not at all surprising shock. As in the case of other districts, our own neighbourhood has not escaped the dreadful

results of the lamentable and tragic episode. Linlithgow has suffered the loss of one well-known young townsman in the person of Mr. Andrew Scott, who lost his life under circumstances which are especially distressing. It appears he was not, in the sense in which one speaks of the regular patron, a follower of the game, and certainly not an enthusiast. Being in Glasgow, however, and before returning to join his young wife, who was on a visit to Linlithgow, he thought he would like to see the international match. He took a ticket for the ill-fated stand, and lost his life in the terrible collapse. Locally, the sad death of Mr. Scott has been universally lamented. Falkirk fared better, though the experience was certainly sensational. The case of mistaken identity has been an interesting topic not only in the town, but the surrounding districts, and the relief to the feelings of the distressed parents when the son who was said to have been killed, put in an appearance under the parental roof, may be well imagined. As the list of injured shows, however, Falkirk, as well as some other places in this district - such as Polmont, Maddiston, and Kilsyth - did not escape the consequences of the disaster. Indeed it may be said the catastrophe is one of the effects of which have caused sorrow and grief over a wide-spread area. The list of killed and injured, included in which are those from many parts of the country, is a long and sad one. Some of the patients continue to linger in a precarious condition, and judging from the daily bulletins - though one would fain hope otherwise - there is an unfortunate probability of the number of deaths being still further increased as a result of the accident.

Falkirk Herald 12th April 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Concert.

A concert in aid of the funds of the Muiravonside Horticultural Society was given in Maddiston School on Friday evening. Mr. William Scott of Toravon presided, and was accompanied on the platform by Messrs D. Binnie, Bowhouse, and J. B. Bryce, Maddiston. The Chairman, in commending the object of the concert, spoke of the utility of the Horticulture, regarded even as a recreation benefitted those devoted to it morally, intellectually and physically. It benefitted them morally by its refining influence, and by forming an attraction which drew them away from the pursuit of their pastimes which had associated with them agencies which tended to debase. Intellectually they were benefitted by it, as a training of hand and eye and brain was involved in its successful pursuit. It benefitted them physically, as its exercise was carried on under the conditions inseparable from health - pure air and bright scenes. To foster the love of horticulture in the district he had pleasure in offering three prizes of £3, £2, and £1 respectively, for the best cottage frontage in the village of Maddiston, both flowers general effect to be considered, and that the award might give satisfaction he had secured as a committee of judges three gentlemen in whose impartiality was sure they would have the utmost confidence - Messrs J. S. Wilson, teacher Maddiston; T. Sutherland, gardener, Parkhall; and J Blair gardener, Toravon. The concert was opened by an overture by the accompanist Miss McRitchie, and thereafter the various items of the various items of the following programme were ably sustained by the artistes - Song, "Scotland," Miss P. Cockburn, Linlithgow; recitation, "The Faither o' the Twins," Mr. Sked, Linlithgow; song "When Sandy Marries Me," Mr. Jim Gardner Linlithgow; song, "The Lass o' Ballochmyle," Miss Murray, Drumbowie; song, "The Kings Own," Mr. R. T. Meikle, Motherwell; song "Augus McDonald," Miss P. Cockburn; dialogue, Misses Murray and Adamson, Drumbowie; song, "The Skipper," R. T. Meikle; song, "Off the Earth " Mr. Dinnian, Motherwell; song, "Flight of Ages," Miss Cockburn; song, "Robin Adair," Miss, Picken, Motherwell; song, "Jock McGraw," Mr. Jim Gardner; duet, "The Gipsy Countess," Miss Pickles and Mr. Drinnan. On the call of Mr. Binnie, a cordial vote of thanks was given the artistes, and the proceedings closed with a similar compliment to the chairman on the call of Mr. Bryce.

Falkirk Herald 12th April 1902

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in Falkirk on Thursday forenoon - Major Dobbie (chairman) presiding. There were also present Mr. David Mitchell of Millfeild. Mr. Salvesen of Lathallan, Mr. Hunter, Glenfuir; ex- Provost Mackay; Grangemouth; Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Stenhousemuir; Mr. Baillie, Carron; Mr. A. N. McKillop, Polmont Park; Mr. Joseph Gardner, Slamannan; Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout; Mr. Charles Brown, Kerse; Mr. Wm. Munnch, Polmont; Dr. M'Vail, medical officer; and Mr. J. H. Burns, clerk.

THE NEW DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS.

Mr. Mitchell, referring to the appointment of Major Dobbie and Mr. Salvesen as Deputy Lieutenants of the county, said that it was a customary thing for them to take notice of an honour done to any of their members. He had, therefore, on behalf of the committee, great pleasure in congratulating the two gentlemen whose names he had mentioned on the deserved recognition they had received. He was sure they were all delighted at the honour which had been done them. (Applause.) The Chairman said he had not expected that this matter would have come before them. - He, however, appreciated very highly the notice they had taken of the honour which had been conferred on him. He felt that the honour was not so much due to himself, but that it rather reflected on the Eastern District Committee in having appointed him chairman. Mr. Salvesen also returned thanks, and said he also felt that the honour which had been conferred on him was greatly due to this committee with which he had been all along connected. He owed this honour to the connection he had had with the Eastern District water question, and it reflected very much on the committee with which he had been working, as without the able assistance of those gentlemen he could never have carried through the work which he had done. "

DECREASE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Mr. Hunter, referring to the report of the sanitary inspectors, spoke of the small number of cases of infectious disease, and said that if the decrease went on, their sanitary inspectors would have more time to devote to their ordinary work, and the fever hospital would become a white elephant.

THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ROADS.

The Road Surveyor submitted his annual report and estimates for the maintenance of the roads. The estimates showed a probable total expenditure for the current year of £7449, as against £6591 for the previous year. The report, of the surveyor states: - "With a few exceptions the roads have been fairly well maintained throughout the year. The extra fine summer and autumn were very favourable to good and economic maintenance. The winter also, being very much dryer than the two previous years, was easier got over than usual. While the frost held sway from 10th December till well on in February, the daily traffic was carried on "without much tear and wear of the surface, and then there was also on this account less trouble with the removal of mud in the villages. The present month has been the worst and most trying time for the roads throughout the year. The winter frost, at times being very severe, had penetrated the surface to a great depth, taking a strong hold of thin or weak parts of the roads, or when the subsoil was damp, with the result that when the frost began to relax its hold, these parts were thrown up and rather badly damaged. The succeeding thaw was somewhat quiet and slow, and for a period of three weeks the crust of these roads was so open and soft, that the traffic cut into them with very damaging results. Although the ruts were filled up with metal, others were quickly formed, and it was only with the storm of wind and rain on the 20th instant that the ground finally subsided, and the surface assumed its normal condition. These effects of the frost were more felt in the cars than in the south or western parts of the district. The work of repairing the damage above referred to is now being pushed on, metaling, and rolling, as also rolling where no metal is applied, to iron or smooth the surface and firm the sides, and in the course of a few weeks I hope to have all in fair good order. A very frequent cause of trouble and expense in maintenance, especially at a time like this, is the tendency of traffic to follow in the same track, and where such is heavy it is very

detrimental to the best of roads. Parts that were well coated and rolled have by this practice been cut through the surface in less than a year. In consequence of drainage operations in the village of Airth, the roads there have been in a very bad condition all winter, and they will require some improvement when the main drainage works and the private connections are finished. The new works provided for in the current year's estimate, together with several extra outlays, have been all duly carried out and I expect that when the accounts close at 15th May the total expenditure will be close upon the estimated cost. In preparing the estimate for the ensuing year, I have, in view of the steady growth of the traffic, increased the proposed ordinary expenditure fully £500. Should there be no debit balance against the road account at the end of the financial year, and if the valuation of the district maintain its present level, the same rate per £ as last year will allow of this increase. This extra expenditure will provide an additional one thousand tons of metal, and two additional men for use when there is a pressure of work at special times. Under other works there is included the laying of about 800 lineal yards of new kerb for footpaths at various places, piping some roadside ditches to allow of new paths being formed; sundry repairs to walls and bridges; raising of a portion of the Stirling Road between Camelton and Larbert, together with the cost of widening the bridge on the burn south of Polmont Station, ground for this purpose, as well as for the widening of the load, being given off by Mr. George Walker and the Redding Co-operative Society, in connection with the erection of their new buildings adjoining the road at this place. For new works requiring your consideration I would mention the cutting of the hill south of Maddiston on the Bathgate Road, which proposal was favourably considered on a former occasion, but was abandoned on account of a barrier in the way of obtaining the necessary ground for the cutting. This obstacle has now been removed by a change in proprietorship, and the ground can now be got on certain reasonable conditions. (2&3 *outwith our area*.) Mr. Salvesen said that in the new work to be done there was no mention made of the road from Reddingmuirhead up to Sheildhill. There was a steep hill on that road, on which there was a great deal of traffic, and the Co-operative Society and others had been complaining bitterly of it. A little could be taken off the top of the hill and put on the hollow. The Road Surveyor said that a petition from the people of the district on that matter would come up shortly. Mr. Salvesen - I brought this matter up before, and the petition will have been got up because nothing has been done. Speaking on behalf of my constituents, I would like very much if you can do anything to improve that road. The Road Surveyor - This hill at Maddiston has been before us for some time, and I thought it would have a prior claim on the other. The committee might go and see those places, and find out what is most necessary to be done. The report and estimates were adopted.

PROPOSED TAX ON CYCLES.

Mr. Mitchell - I would like if the County Council could impose a tax on bicycles, to aid in the maintenance of the roads. The Chairman - I am afraid that is outwith our power. Mr. Mitchell said his idea was that this was not an imperial, but a county matter. One cyclist had been running down their roads to him, and had said they were the worst in Scotland. He asked him if he would be adverse to paying a little to keep their roads in order, and he said he would be quite pleased to do so. The cyclists were fairly entitled to pay, as they used their roads so frequently. A person who could pay a sum of £14- for a bicycle would be able to pay 2s 6d, or 5s annually as a tax for the upkeep of their roads. Besides they had had one or two claims from cyclists who had met with accidents while using their roads. (Laughter.) He was not speaking in a selfish manner, as he had four bicycles at home, and he would have to pay perhaps a tax of £1. The cyclists whom he had spoken to would be quite willing to pay a small annual tax. The Chairman - Have you considered how you would impose this tax? Mr. Mitchell said he had not considered that, but he supposed it would be imposed like the dog tax. Those who did not pay would be brought up and fined. The Chairman said that the J.P. Court would get something to do. (Laughter.) Some discussion then took place as to the powers of the County Council to levy such a tax. The Road Surveyor said that the District Committee could make a representation to the County Council, who might make a representation to headquarters on the subject. Mr. Mitchell - I was of the opinion at one time that this was an imperial matter, but an M.P. told me that it was a local matter, and that, money might be raised in this way for local purposes. Ex-Provost Mackay - The meeting, might authorise the clerk and Mr. Mitchell to look into our powers in the matter, and report. The M.P. he refers to may not be an authority on the subject. Mr. Mitchell - I may remark that the M.P. used to sit in this room. Mr. Baillie. - He was generally pretty correct. Ex-Provost Mackay's suggestion was agreed to.

This was all the public business.

Falkirk Herald 12th April 1902

STANDBURN.

COMPETITION CONCERT. -

Under the auspices of the Standburn Welcome Tent (No. 2593) of the Independent Order of Rechabites a grand competition concert was held in the Public Hall on Monday evening last. Mr. Robert Moore, the energetic secretary of the tent, presided and introduced the artistes. The attendance was somewhat disappointing, but those present gave all the competitors their best attention, and were not slow in showing their approval of the various items which made up an exhaustive but entertaining programme. The adjudicators were Messrs W. H. Wilson, F.M.I.C; J. O. Murdoch, G.T.S.C.; and David Sharp. sen. The accompaniments were in the capable hands of Mr. John Gray. The following were the competitors and their respective songs: - Mr. White, tenor, Falkirk, "Let Me Like a Soldier Fall" and "The Anchor's Weighed;" Miss Mary Heeps, Polmont, "Scotland," and "The Holy City;" Mr. Alex. Anderson, Bathgate (tenor), "The Lea Rig," and "A Highlandman's Toast;" Miss Fleming, contralto, Skinflats, "Come ye by Athol," and "The Better Land;" Mr. McCulloch, tenor, Skinflats "Queen of the Earth," and "The Romany Lass;" Mr. McBeth, tenor, Airdrie, "Afton Water," and "The Anchor's Weighed;" Miss Meek, Slamannan, "Angus McDonald," and "When the heart is young;" Mr. McFarlane, tenor, "My sweetheart when a boy," when a boy," and "Love's Request;" Miss Arthur, Skinflats, "Scotland," and "The Last Milestone;" Mr. Thos. Smith, tenor, Slamannan, "Mona," and "Love's Request;" Mr. McGowan, tenor, "The Holy City," and "Let me like a soldier fall." Comedians Messrs Billy Weir, Airdrie; Thos. Kerr, Clement Reid, Fraser and Lamb. At the close Mr. J. O. Murdoch intimated that the judges would make a leet of three from each class, who would appear at the final concert to be held at an early date. We learn that the following comprise the leet: -

Soprano medal - Misses Heeps, Meek, and Fleming (contralto).

Tenor medal - Thos. Smith, Slamannan; Alex. Anderson, Bathgate; Mr. McCulloch, Skinflats.

Comedian - Messrs Weir, Airdrie; Lamb, Falkirk; and Clement. Denny.

Falkirk Herald 16th April 1902

AGENTS. By whom Advertisements and Orders for the paper are received:

Blackbraes - M. Watson.

Bowhouse, - J. Smith.

Linlithgow Bridge, - Mrs. Dickson, Post Office.

Maddiston - Arch. Forsyth, Merchant.

Manuel, - James Stewart, Manuel Station.

Falkirk Herald 19th April 1902

MADDISTON. PING PONG TOURNAMENT. -

The first tournament under the auspices of the Ping-Pong Club was held on Wednesday evening last. All the members took part, and the tournament was attended with every success. The scores were: -

First Round.

D. Myles.....10 D. G. Reid..... 7

R. Myles.....10 L. Wilson.....7

Wm. Pearson, jun..10	Andrew Pearson.....3
R. M'Pherson..... 10	Wm. Pearson, Sen.....5
T. Myles..... 10	J. T. Morris.....7
R. Wilson..... 10	J. S. Wilson..... 9
Second Round.	
R. Myles..... 10	R. Wilson.....3
R. M'Pherson..... 10	W. Pearson, jun.....9
T. Myles.....Byes	R. Myles.....Byes
Third Round.	
T. Myles.....10	R. Myles.....4
R. M'Pherson.....10	D. Myles..... 9
Final.	
R. M'Pherson.....10	T. Myles..... 9 .

Falkirk Herald 30th April 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

(Before Sheriff BELL)

GOOD ADVICE TO A STANDBURN PEACE-BREAKER. -

David Rankine, miner, Standburn, pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace there. He had been previously convicted, and the Sheriff repeated the last sentence - 20s, or ten days - remarking that this sort of thing was costing him a lot of money, which would be better in his pocket.

BRIGHTONS DISTURBANCE, -

Edward McTague, miner Craigs, was fined 10s, or seven days, for committing a breach of the peace at Brightons.

A FEMALE PEACE-BREAKER. -

Elizabeth Paterson or Aitchison, wife of a miner, residing at Standburn, was fined 10s, or seven days, for committing a breach of the peace there.

Falkirk Herald 3rd May 1902

STANDBURN.

FINAL COMPETITION CONCERT. -

The final competition concert, promoted by the Standburn Welcome Tent of the Independent Order of Rechabites, took place in the Standburn Public Hall on Monday evening last. Mr. Robt. Moore, the genial secretary of the tent, acted in the capacity of chairman, and presided over a large and appreciative audience. The adjudicators were Messrs W. H. Wilson and J. O. Murdoch, Falkirk, and D. Sharp, sen., Drumbowie, All those chosen from the short leet (three from each class), appeared, with the exception of Mr. Tom Clement, comedian, Denny, thus giving the other two to have a walk over, as the prizes offered were gold and silver medals in each class. The following were the competitors, with their respective songs: - Sopranos - Miss Meek, Slamannan, "Angus Macdonald" and "Cam' ye by Athol"; Miss Heeps, Polmont, "Angus Macdonald," " The Holy City"; Miss Arthur, "Angus Macdonald," "The Last Milestone" Miss Fleming being the only contralto, competed along with the sopranos, and sang " Lochnagar" and "Ora Pro Nobis." Tenors - Mr. Robert M'Culloch, Skinflats, "The Romany Lass" and "The Death of Nelson"; Mr. Thomas Smith, Slamannan, "Love's Request" and "Queen of the Earth"; Mr. Alex. Anderson, Bathgate, "Shoulder to Shoulder" and "Harry, the Drummer Boy." Comedians - Messrs Billy Weir, Airdrie, and D. Lamb, Falkirk. Both were a host in themselves, keeping the audience in a continual ripple of laughter. The judges then adjourned for a few minutes, Billy Weir keeping the audience in amusement the while. The Chairman thereafter announced their decision as follows : - Soprano - gold medal, Miss Meek ; silver medal, Miss Heeps; special silver medal, Miss Fleming, contralto. Tenor - gold medal, Mr. Thomas Smith; silver medal, Mr. R. McCulloch; Comedian - Gold medal, Billy Weir; silver medal, D. Lamb. The result met with the approval of the audience. Miss Meek was loudly cheered when she again appeared, and sang with great gusto, "My Heart is Sair." The accompaniments were skillfully played by Mr. John Gray. The competition was a great success, the public being treated to one of the finest entertainments since the opening of the hall. The committee are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts.

Falkirk Herald 3rd May 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Alleged Disturbance at Maddiston.

In the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Monday - before Sheriff Bell a respectable looking woman named Janet Hunter or Strang, wife of Wm. Strang, miner, Maddiston, was charged with having, on the 16th April, at the garden behind the Coffee-rooms at Maddiston, occupied by Thomas Brand, shoemaker, conducted herself in a riotous and disorderly manner, annoyed and disturbed the lieges, and committed a breach of the peace. Accused pleaded not guilty and the case went to trial, the defence being conducted by Mr. Wm. Stevenson, solicitor, Falkirk. The complainer, Mr. Brand, a well-known Salvationist, went into the witness-box, and said that the accused came out deliberately and shook her mats against the mutual fence between their gardens and the washing house while he and his wife were in their garden at the same time. She called him a hypocrite and other names. In cross-examination he admitted that the accused did not shout so that anyone would hear her but himself and his wife. She took good care not to do that. The Sheriff - Is it a breach of the peace to call anyone a hypocrite? The Procurator-Fiscal said he did not think it was, but he would see what was brought out by the other witnesses. He was going to ask the witness some further questions regarding the alleged disturbance, - but he remarked amidst laughter - " Wait till the missus comes in: she will tell you all about it." Mr. Stevenson desired to ask Mr. Brand a further question, but he left the box declaring that he had no more to say to him. (Laughter.) Mr. Stevenson It does not matter, my Lord. Mrs. Brand gave corroborative evidence, and said that the accused continued to make insulting statements towards herself and her husband, for three-quarters of an hour, and during all that time they never said a word in reply. During part of the time her husband was away looking for the policeman, and she was left to the mercy of the accused. A complaint had been made to the factor about the usage she had been getting from the accused, and she had been warned out of her house. Constable Smith, Maddiston, also gave evidence, and said that another woman had complained to him about the accused. The accused then save evidence on her own behalf. She denied making any disturbance. She had simply warned her child not to throw stones into the complainer's garden, as she had had trouble with the Brands before about that. She admitted shaking her mats against the paling, but that was the nearest and the only place she could do this. The complainer and his wife had had an ill-will at her since ever she came there to live At that time they asked her to give them a part of her garden to feed pigs, and she refused on the ground that they had about an acre of garden ground of their own. The Sheriff Were you to get anything for giving them the use of the garden? Witness - No. The Sheriff found the charge not proven, and the accused was dismissed from the bar.

Falkirk Herald 3rd May 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon - Mr. Wilson (chairman),presiding. There were also present Messrs D. Binnie, A. Binnie, Myles, J- B- Bryce. J. Bryce, and J. Haldane.

H.M. INSPECTORS ANNUAL REPORTS

The Clerk reported that he had received a Communication from the Department with reference to the inspector's annual report. With the exception of the Maddiston School, the

inspectors' reports were deferred for the present. The grants earned for the various schools were as follows - Maddiston, £76 15s 9d; Muiravonside School, £184- 12s 7d; Blackbraes School, £357 6s 6d; Drumbowie School, £413 7s 5d. The Clerk also explained that there were several mistakes in the calculation of the grant of the Drumbowie School, and that he had communicated with, the Department pointing out this, and stating that the staff of the school was sufficient to meet the requirements of the code, and that no deduction should have been made. The headmaster, Mr. Mackay, was also present, and made an explanation with reference to the matter. The Board had approved of the action that had been taken.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The Officer reported that the school attendance was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Atten.
Muiravonside	187	162
Drumbowie	500	425
Blackbraes	422	357
Maddiston	111	98
Avonbridge	75	62

THE REPAIR OF BLACKBRAES SCHOOL WALL.

Mr. John Bryce reported that the Blackbraes School Committee had accepted the offer of Mr. Forrester, Avonbridge to execute repairs on the school wall, at 5s 1 per yard.

DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL BOUNDARY WALL.

Mr. D. Binnie introduced the question of the repair of the boundary wall at Drumbowie Public School. After discussion as to the best method of repairing the wall, it was agreed to delay the matter till next meeting, which it was arranged should be held at Drumbowie School, so that all the members might have an opportunity of inspecting the wall.

RESIGNATION OF A SCHOOL CLEANER

Mr. Robert Myles reported that Mrs. Wilson, the cleaner of Muiravonside School, had resigned, and that the committee had appointed Mrs. Lammy in place of Mrs. Wilson on the same terms. This was approved of.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOUNDARY WALL AND HEDGE.

On the suggestion of Mr. Myles, the clerk was instructed to write Mr. Quinn as to the damage to the boundary wall and hedge at Muiravonside School and that he make good the damage.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL APPOINTMENT.

Mr. Myles reported that the committee of Muiravonside School had appointed Miss Annie Paterson to be pupil-teacher in place of Miss Wilson, ex pupil teacher, at a salary of £15. This was approved of.

PROPOSED MIXED SCHOOL AT MADDISTON.
Mr. Myles then moved the motion of which he had given notice at last meeting, that the Maddiston School be converted into a mixed school. After considerable discussion, in which all the members took part, and expressed themselves favourable to Mr. Myles' suggestion, it was ultimately agreed to allow the matter to lie over until the June meeting for final settlement.

MOTIONS WITHDRAWN.

Mr. D. Binnie withdrew the motion of which he had given notice at last meeting, as to the erection of a house at Drumbowie School for the accommodation of female teachers, in view of the proposed building addition at Maddiston School. Mr. D. Binnie withdrew his motion regarding the fence at the boundary of the school feu.

NO CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.

It was unanimously agreed that no steps be taken by the Board regarding the celebration of the Coronation of King Edward.

A BLACKBRAES SCHOOL VACANCY.

Mr. John Bryce reported that Miss Shaw had ceased to be a teacher at Blackbraes School, as at 25th inst. The Clerk was instructed to advertise for an ex-pupil teacher in her stead.

TEACHERS' SALARIES

Several applications by teachers to have their salaries brought into conformity with the scale were submitted to the meeting and it was left to the committees of the various schools to see that this was done. The committee was also empowered, whenever they thought fit, to make the advances retrospective.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF A TEACHER

A letter was read from Miss Annie Aitken, Blackbraes School, asking to be transferred to Drumbowie School. The matter was left in the hands of the two School Committees. This was all the business of importance

Falkirk Herald 14th May 1902

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL. MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday. Major Dobbie (chairman) presided, and there were also present Mr. A. Peddie Waddell, convener of the county; Mr. Salvesen of Lathallan; Mr. Mitchell of Millfield; Mr. A. N. McKillop, Polmont Park; Mr. Charles Brown, Kerse; Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout; Mr. Rankine, Laurieston; Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Stenhousemuir; Mr. J. B. Smith of Clifford Park; Mr. Malcolm, Dunmore; Mr. McKay and Mr. Boyd, Avonbridge.

THE TAXING OF CYCLES.

The Clerk stated that, as instructed, Mr. Mitchell of Millfield and he had inquired into what power they had in this matter, and he had found nothing in the Act by which the County Council had power to tax bicycles. They required legislation before such a tax could be imposed. Mr. Mitchell said since their last meeting he had met Mr. McKillop, M.P. and had talked the matter over with him. When he (Mr. Mitchell) first introduced this matter he was under the impression that they had the power to impose a tax on cycles right off, but Mr. McKillop had informed him that the tax would require to be recommended by this Committee to the County Council in Stirling, who might recommend the Association of County Councils to ask Government to pass a small bill on the subject. Anyone to whom he had spoken about this tax had favoured it, but his own opinion was that it should be a Government tax. They had done a silly thing in taxing some other things, and a tax on bicycles would be a proper tax. A tax on cycles, and also on lemonade - (laughter) - might not be very popular, but from the two articles the Government might raise ten millions of money, and it would be far better to raise money in that way than by raising it by putting a tax on cheques and on food. (Laughter.) It was for the meeting to consider whether they should recommend such a tax; he did not wish to press it severely. As he had said before, if a cycle tax were imposed it might cost him £1 per annum, but he would not mind that so long as it was for the good of the people. He would be pleased if they would make a recommendation on the matter to Stirling. Mr. Peddie Waddell had informed him that the question had already been before a meeting of the County Councils Association, but that it had been postponed, and nothing had been done. But if this Committee made a recommendation, it would come before the association again as a strong case, and the convincing and weighty manner in which Mr. Peddie Waddell would introduce it would no doubt have the effect of something being done. (Laughter.) He (Mr. Mitchell) would be glad to hear their opinions. He was convinced that the money which could be raised from a cycle tax would be of great assistance to them in improving their roads. The work that they required to do to the Shieldhill and Maddiston roads made it almost a necessity for them to get this tax at once. (Laughter.) The Chairman - This question was before the County Council at Stirling already. Mr. Peddie Waddell - it was discussed there, and it certainly was before the association; but the representatives of the various counties were very much opposed to such a tax. If the matter of introducing it was assigned to me, I would advocate it in a different way to what Mr. Mitchell has done, as I am opposed to a cycle tax. (Laughter.) I am not a cyclist myself, but I know the measure cycling has given to all classes of the people. The damage done to the road by cycling is nothing, and I am convinced that it would be a wrong thing to put a tax on bicycles. The tax must be imposed by Government, and it would be a very unpopular tax for any county to impose except in conjunction with other counties. The

propriety of imposing a national cycle tax must have been investigated by Government, and had it been a popular or a wise thing to do he did not think the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have passed over cycles and put a tax on to cheques and corn. Mr. Mitchell - There is nothing in what Mr. Peddie Waddell has said which should prevent the imposing of a cycle tax. Cyclists use our roads, and sometimes make claims upon us if they meet with accidents upon them. Mr. Peddie Waddell - But people who cycle do not walk on our roads. You walk, and they go on bicycles. Mr. Mitchell - We pay a tax on our carriages, and everyone to whom I have spoken are in favour of a cycle tax. Mr. Peddie Waddell - You must have spoken to very privileged cyclists, I am afraid. (Laughter.) Mr. Mitchell - I think I will make a motion on the subject. The Chairman - I think we better leave the matter alone. Mr. Mitchell - I move that we recommend the County Council in Stirling to take the question up at its next meeting. Mr. J. B. Smith seconded. After a pause, Mr. Salvesen - It should not go forward from here that this Committee is unanimously in favour of the taxation of bicycles, which might appear if there were no amendment moved to Mr. Mitchell's motion. Bicycles, instead of injuring our roads, do them a great deal of good. Like motor cars, they have a rolling influence upon them, whereas great damage is done by horses' feet and by carriages following in the same track and causing grooves. You will always find that the part of the road which the cyclists use is the best part. If we had a cinder track along our roads, as in America, it might be a proper thing to tax cyclists for the use of it but under the present circumstances it would not be a proper tax. It would be a hardship on many a poor man who had a bicycle that he should have to pay 2s 6d or 5s every year for its use and a cycle tax would meet with far more opposition than the penny tax on cheques. I move as an amendment that we make no recommendation to the County Council on the matter. Mr. McKay seconded. Mr. Brown - I would support Mr. Mitchell's motion if he added a rider to it, that in addition to bicycles motor cars should also be taxed. The Clerk - They are taxed already. Mr. Brown - But not as a nuisance. (Laughter.) Mr. Mitchell - Many lives have been lost through bicycles and motor cars. I would like if this tax were an imperial one; I do not want it to be a county tax. Mr. J. B. Cochrane - The subject should be left to the Government to deal with, and if the tax is not to put money into our own coffers to improve our roads, we should disapprove of it. On a division, Mr. Mitchell's motion was defeated by nine votes to three. **INSANITARY HOUSES AT BLACKBRAES.** On the suggestion of the medical officer, it was agreed to call on the proprietor of the houses known as the Colliery Rows, Blackbraes, to put them in a proper sanitary and habitable state, and failing his doing so within four months, that they be closed.

THE REFUSE NUISANCE.

Mr. Mackay called attention to what was a growing evil - the habit of people depositing refuse in front or at the sides of their houses. He was of opinion that that custom, which was very prevalent in some districts, created infectious diseases. The attention of the sanitary inspectors was directed to the complaint.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' ANNUAL REPORTS.

The Chairman said that these annual reports had been circulated amongst them, and they gave evidence of close attention to their interests throughout the district, and were so far satisfactory in that respect, though they might disclose some things which were not satisfactory.

THE WATER WORKS.

Mr. Salvesen made a brief statement of the progress of the water works. The weather had recently been very favourable to the work being pushed forward, and out of 26 working days only two had been partly interrupted. Contract No. 1 (the reservoir) was progressing very satisfactory. The workmen were getting on well with the puddle trench. The foundations for the water tower had been put in, and in other respects satisfactory progress was being made.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. The committee appointed to visit the districts and inspect the roads, etc., proposed to be improved by the road surveyor during the year, reported in favour of the raising of the bottom of Middlerigg Brae, Reddingmuirhead, to make the hill one-half less gradual; to cut the hill at Maddiston, with the approval of Mr. Kincaid Smith; to raise the Halls of Airth road two feet to prevent flooding; and not to cover over the burn at the side of the road near Westquarter gate. This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 7th May 1902

SANITARY AFFAIRS IN EAST STIRLINGSHIRE. INSPECTORS' REPORT FOR THE PAST YEAR

We have just received copies of the annual reports by Messrs Alex. Bremner and Wm. Stewart, sanitary inspectors for the northern and southern divisions respectively of the Eastern District of Stirlingshire. In the introduction to both reports reference is made to the recent appointment of the inspectors. In the northern division, Mr. Bremner at the outset directs attention to the progress made in the introduction of measures to secure and promote the public health, and states that it is worthy of note that, notwithstanding the immense improvements that have been made in recent years, the general feeling expressed is for better conditions. Proceeding, Mr. Bremner touches on the water supply, and points out that a supply of good water being an absolute essential to the health of every community, it was of immense importance that that should be secured at any cost.

Reporting on the Southern Division, Mr. Stewart deals first with the water supply, and states that throughout the division the water supply of the villages was got from field drains, from doubtful receptacles containing stored roof water, and from shallow wells, which in some cases were situated in too close proximity to the dwelling-houses. In not a few instances also the water had to be carried a long distance with pails. Numerous verbal complaints were made by the inhabitants all over the district of the scarcity and quality of the water they required to use. Attention is called to the examination of the public well at Redding and the Old Walls Farm supply, both of which were found contaminated. The well at Redding had been improved and sources of pollution removed, to the satisfaction of all parties; and in the other case the provision of a new supply was under consideration. Particular reference is made to the village of Standburn, which was supplied with water pumped from the adjoining pit. It was stored in a large iron boiler, from which it was conducted by gravitation to pillar fountains erected at the rows. On its way it was passed through two small sand filters, which were intended to be cleansed daily, but they did not seem to act satisfactorily, as the water at the rows had always been at the time of his visits in a more or less dirty state, and occasioned a good deal of grumbling on the part of the tenants. It was gratifying to know that the great want of proper water supply was within sight of being removed by the introduction of the East Stirlingshire water supply, the work in connection with which is referred to at length in the report. It is stated that, it will probably be about three years before the whole of the work was completed, but it was hoped that within about two years from now the work would be far enough advanced to permit of the larger part of the area being supplied with water direct from the intakes. The only special drainage district in the southern division was that of Redding. Since October two of the sewers had had to be opened and re-laid on account of chokages. Well constructed and properly placed gulleys, with the sewers properly ventilated, would be an improvement. Through constant use a portion of the irrigation field had become practically useless as a purifying agent. Periodical attention to the diverting of the flow of the sewage to other parts of the field is necessary until measures are adopted for its proper purification. The steps taken by the committee for providing drainage facilities for several of the populous villages in Crangemouth parish, and especially for the rapidly increasing villages of Brightons and Polmont Station, are referred to. Mention is made of the report by Messrs Warren and Stuart on a drainage scheme for the combined villages of Little Kerse, Polmont, Polmont Station, Brightons, Roughhaugh, and a part of Reddingmuirhead, the outfall works to be situated east of Little Kerse near the banks of the River Avon, at a point near the upper extremity of the tidal reach. The Committee considered the report, and towards the end of the

year a remit was made to the engineers to further report - First, as to the advisability of draining the Brightons area by itself, providing separate sewage disposal works therefore; and, second, as to whether the whole of the area, including Little Kerse, Polmont, Polmont Station, Brightons, Wallacestone, Shieldhill, Redding, and Laurieston could be dealt with for the purposes of sewerage and sewage disposal in one special district under one large scheme, or by subdividing that area into a number of separate schemes. Almost all of the mining villages in the southern division, including Slamannan, were defective in drainage facilities. As a rule, the sewage from the houses was thrown into the highway gutters or into channels communicating with these gutters, or into the nearest ditch or watercourse, thus occasioning many offensive nuisances. The sewage from the drains of the village of Standburn was discharged without treatment into the adjoining burn. The pollution thus caused to the burn was objectionable, and rendered purification of the sewage immediately necessary. It is pointed out that there was no special scavenging districts in the division. In some of the villages scavengers were employed, but their time was principally devoted to the cleansing of surface channels and gutters. The remaining channels in the district fouled with sewage were dependant on the rainfall or the roadmen for cleaning. During the year intimations were issued anent 91 nuisances found, while 94 nuisances were abated. The nuisances commonly met with were those of premises without proper conveniences, accumulations of ashpit refuse, ashpits and privies in foul condition, bad repair, or off defective structure, defective drainage, and foul ditches. In most of the villages visited the majority of the tenants were exceedingly careless in the matter of keeping the privies provided for them and approaches thereto in a cleanly condition. They seemed to prefer emptying refuse anywhere but in the receptacles provided. On the other hand, in many villages the ashpits and privy accommodation was totally inadequate in several instances, no accommodation being provided for hamlets of 20 houses and over. A number of dairies, factories, and workshops have been inspected, and generally found in fairly good order. The slaughter-houses in the district have been inspected, and generally found in a satisfactory state. There were 100 cases of infectious disease notified. 253 visits of inquiry made, 87 houses disinfected, and 37 sets of clothing were disinfected or removed to hospital for treatment. In December Polmont Female Public School was closed on account of an outbreak of measles. In connection with the outbreak visits of inquiry were made at 82 houses, and 54 cases of measles were found. The lodging-house in Slamannan had been visited, and found in a cleanly condition. During the year 40 sets of plans for the erection of 48 new buildings were submitted for approval. Inspections have been made of buildings in course of erection, and where necessary the drains have been smoketested. There has been some trouble caused by contractors in a few instances not carrying out the work in accordance with the plans approved and various contraventions had been dealt with. The three burial grounds in the district were properly conducted and kept in good order. Under the Food and Drugs Act 15 samples were taken, and on analysis all were found genuine. Appended to each report are tabulated statements of work done under the various statutes.

Falkirk Herald 10th May 1902

STANDBURN.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. -

The half-yearly meeting of the Congregational Church and forward Home Mission movement took place in the church on Monday night.

The Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon presided, and was accompanied on the platform by the Rev. James Wilson, Edinburgh; John Finnie; Messrs-James Nimmo and Company's new manager; and Messrs Kerr and Baker, Standburn. The Chairman, in his remarks said that, taking into consideration the present depression in business, all the branches of the movement were in a healthy and satisfactory condition. The treasurer was then called upon to give his statement for the six months, which showed the income to be £385 3s 9d, slightly above the income for the whole of the preceding year. This, of course, includes income from recent sale of work, etc. The statement was considered by the meeting satisfactory. Mr. Kerr gave an able address on the duty and necessity of giving to the church, and pointed out that the general fund had suffered on account of the bad work, and hoped that the givings of the people during the next six improvement. Mr. Baker Sabbath School superintendent, next month's would show an gave his report, in which he stated that much hard work had been done in his department, and ended his remarks by appealing for more teachers. Previous to calling on the Rev. George Yuille to address the meeting, the Chairman referred to the great interest of Mr. James Nimmo, coalmaster in the work. He was a Christian master, who took a great interest in the spiritual welfare of his miners. Mr Yuille, who is a son-in-law to Mr. Nimmo, expressed his great pleasure at being present, and his constant interest in Mr. Snaddon's work, and thereafter gave an address on "Birth, Growth, and Service." The Rev. Robert Rigg, E.U. minister, Paisley, who is a son of Mr. Rigg, coalmaster, Polmont gave a pointed and toning address. Mr. John White, of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Associations, also gave addresses. During the evening, the choir, under the leadership of Mr. Wm. Meek, rendered several anthems in a very praiseworthy manner, Miss McRitchie ably presiding at the organ. The usual votes of thanks brought a very happy gathering to a close.

ACCIDENT. -

On Thursday forenoon a young lad, named David McVicar, residing at The Forge, Muiravonside, and employed at Candiehead Pit belonging to Messrs Jas. Nimmo and Co. met with a serious accident. It appears that he was putting a hutch on the cage at the low doors, and as the cage began to descend, he inadvertently was precipitated down the shaft. When he was about thirty feet from the pit mouth the unfortunate lad was caught by the head, on the framework which supports the pumping rods, and there hung until he was extricated. Dr. Calderwood, Standburn, was speedily in attendance, and did everything possible to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate lad. The injuries are of a serious nature, the head being fearfully mangled, but latest reports he is in as favourable a condition as can be expected

Falkirk Herald 17th May 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

CHARGE AGAINST A STANDRIGG MAN. -

At the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Thursday-before Sheriff Bell - James Dick, miners brusher, Standrigg was charged with having, on the 15th May (1).on the public road at Maddiston. Assaulted Peter Aitken, farm servant, Glenend Farm, Muiravonside and presented a double-barreled gun at his person. He being about two yards distant which gun was loaded with powder and shot, or was believed by the said Peter Aitken to be so loaded, and did threaten to shoot him therewith, (2). at the same place recklessly discharged said gun, loaded with powder and shot in the direction of the said Peter Aitken who was then about 100 yards distant to his danger and alarm and did thereafter discharge the said gun so loaded in various directions, to the danger and alarm of others of the lieges; and (3). on the Maddiston and Blackbraes Road, near to the entrance to Glenend Farm, committed a breach of the peace, and used threatening language towards James Aitken, farmer. Accused pleaded not guilty, and the case was continued for trial, bail being fixed at £3.

Falkirk Herald 28th May 1902

REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

LAYING MEMORIAL STONE OF NEW BRANCH AT POLMONT STATION.

Redding Co-operative Society, as is well known, is one of the most successful societies of its kind in Scotland. For years past it has gone on increasing in capital and membership, until at the present time it has no less than four branches in active and successful operation, situated at Blackbraes, Standburn, and Maddiston, together with the central premises. Within recent years large numbers of buildings have been erected near Polmont Station, and consequently the population in that part of the district has very largely increased. Members of the Co-operative Society resident in that locality have long felt the inconvenience of having to

travel to the central premises, about a mile distant, to make their necessary purchases, and on more than one occasion they have petitioned the directors to open a branch near the station, which the number of members living there, they held, quite justified. The matter was laid before the general meetings of the society, where the question was deliberated upon, and ultimately the petition of that particular section of the members was acceded to, and building operations were begun on a site facing the main road, a little distance south of the railway station. On Thursday evening, notwithstanding the inclement state of the weather, a crowd of several hundreds of people assembled in front of the building, which is presently in course of construction, to witness the proceeding of laying the memorial stone. The ceremony was performed by Mr. Thomas Barker, president of the society, Mr. Alexander Kerr, Standburn, presiding at the function, while, in addition to the architects, representatives, and contractors, a large number of delegates were present from other co-operative societies in the district. Shieldhill and Blackbraes Brass Band, as well as Wallacestone Pipe Band, were also present, and discoursed music during the proceedings. The memorial stone was laid in the front wall of the upper flat, in front of which a temporary platform had been improvised, from which the speakers addressed the assemblage below. Mr. Kerr made a few opening remarks, in the course of which he expressed his pleasure at seeing such a large crowd present, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, which indicated that the people of the Redding district were thoroughly interested in the event which was to take place that day, an event which marked an era in the history and development of the Redding Co-operative Society. He then delivered a short address on the subject of architecture. In concluding, he said that the building had been erected for the benefit of the people of the surrounding district, and he trusted that every man and woman, by taking advantage of this store, would show the committee that the branch had been a much-felt want, and make it one of the most successful branches in the Redding Cooperative Society. (Applause.) Mr. Reid, as representing Mr. Davidson architect of the Building Department of the Wholesale Society, then presented Mr. Barker, in name of the architect and contractors, with a silver trowel, with which to aid him in performing the stone-laying ceremony. In doing so he said he trusted it would be only one of many such trowels to be presented in connection with the Redding Co-operative Society, for the architect and contractors would only be too willing to present another such trowel on some future occasion. (Applause.) Mr. Barker, in acknowledging the gift, said he was not accustomed to have such honours conferred upon him. This was the first which he had been made the recipient of such an article, and in all probability it would be the last, but so far as a memento was concerned the trowel would be his first love. And when by a higher command he had to take his departure from the world, he hoped it would be handed down to his children. Then when the time arrived when the co-operative societies built a museum for the collection of articles of interest to co-operators he trusted his successors would be willing to hand over the trowel to that institution, so that it might be exhibited to the people of that day and generation. Mr. Barker then, with the usual formality, placed the bottle, in the cavity of the stone, and declared it truly laid. He hoped that the transactions which might take place within the building would be equally square, level, and just. (Applause.) One of the bands then played the Hundredth Psalm.

The bottle contained copies of various newspapers, the card which invited the delegates to the ceremony, a copy of the first printed balance sheet of the society, last quarter's balance-sheet, the rules of the society, a synopsis of last year's minutes, and also one each of the different tokens used by the society. Mr. Barker then gave a short interesting account of the history of the society. The society, he said, dated back to 1861, though it was not until 1862 that it was registered as a co-operative society. To illustrate the financial progress of the society, he said that the balance-sheet for the quarter ending December 1869 showed that the sales had amounted to £867, the capital was £814, the reserve fund £67 10s, while the bonus had been 1s 6d; for the quarter ending December 1872 the sales realised £2160, the capital was £1500, the reserve fund £116, and the bonus 2s 2d; for the three months ended December 1882, the sales were £5979, the capital £6636, the reserve fund £122, while the bonus was 3s 4d; for the quarter ended 1 December 1892, the sales amounted to £15,693, the capital to £28,000, and the reserve fund to £1213 (the latter sum being entirely absorbed in buildings), while the bonus was 4s 4d. Compared with these figures, in December 1901, the sales had amounted to £27,170, the capital had risen to £57,000, the reserve fund augmented, to £1800, while the bonus had reached the figure of 4s 2d. The sales during the whole of last year realised the handsome figure of £105,000. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Barker, proposed by Mr. Kerr; vote of thanks to the bands for their attendance, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Kerr, proposed by Mr. Gardiner.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

The building has a frontage of 54 feet to the main road, and, being two storeys in height, comprises grocery, drapery, and boot departments on the ground floor, with dwelling-houses, with necessary lavatory and wash-house accommodation above, as also a grocery store and workshop, etc. The back premises are in the form of saloons, lighted from the roof. The main building is of stone, the front being polished ashlar, while the other buildings are of brick. The front elevation will be built in free Renaissance style of architecture, and the roof will be covered with Welsh green slates. The cost is estimated at about £2000. The building was planned by the architects' Department of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the following are the contractors: - Mason and bricklayer, Messrs Ramsay Bros., Falkirk; joiner, Mr. Wm. Walker, Polmont; slater and plasterer, Messrs D. and P. Maxwell; iron, Messrs Wm. Turner and Sons, Polmont; plumber, Messrs A. and G. Robertson, Polmont; tilework, Mr. Macnair, Falkirk. On the termination of the ceremony, the company adjourned to the Board-room, at the central branch, where supper was served. Mr. Thos. Barker presided, and was supported by Mr. David Gardiner, Polmont Station, representing the Scottish Wholesale Society; Mr. John Walker, late manager of the Redding Society; Mr. Smart, manager of the Society; and Mr. Reid, architect. The delegates from neighbouring societies, and a number of the contractors were also present. After a substantial repast, the Chairman proposed "Success to the Co-operative Movement," coupled with the name of Mr. Gardiner, who replied; "Kindred Societies" was toasted by Mr. Kerr, to which Mr. Tasker (Grahamston) replied; "Success to the Redding Society and Polmont Station Branch " was proposed by Mr. Wood. Slamannan, and Mr. Kerr replied; Mr. Binnie proposed the "Contractors," to which Mr. Turner responded. Songs were sung at intervals, and an evening of pleasant harmony was spent.

Falkirk Herald 31st May 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING -

The monthly meeting of Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Drumbowie Public School on Tuesday. Mr. W. Wilson presided, and there were also present Messrs J. Bryce, D. Binnie, R. Myles, J. Haldane, A. Binnie and J. B. Bryce. - The Clerk reported that he had been in communication with the Department regarding the reduction of Drumbowie grant, but that nothing definite had as yet resulted. He also reported that he had written Mr. Quinn as to the damage at Muiravonside School fence, and that Mr. Quinn denied liability. The meeting instructed the clerk to write Mr. Quinn again on the subject. The Clerk read a letter from the Department agreeing to the transference of Miss Thomson from Drumbowie School to Blackbraes School and Miss Aitken from Blackbraes to Drumbowie. The meeting agreed that the transfer take place on 1st June, and the clerk was instructed to intimate this to the two teachers, and the two headmasters. The officer submitted the following report on the school attendance:-

	On Roll. Av. Atten.	
Muiravonside School	196	165
Drumbowie School	502	411
Blackbraes School	420	335
Maddiston School	118	102
Avonbridge School	75	67

Mr. John Bryce drew the attention of the meeting to the overcrowding at Blackbraes School, stated that the headmaster wanted permission to turn away certain senior pupils from the adjoining parish with a view to relieve the congestion. After consideration it was agreed to delay the matter until the June meeting. Mr. Bryce also reported that the committee had heard the candidates for candidates for the Blackbraes vacancy, and had appointed Miss Jane Williamson at a salary of £45. This was approved of, and it was arranged that Miss Williamson should begin duties after the holidays. The Chairman explained that the headmaster of Blackbraes School had charge of a very large class, and to enable him to give more supervision to the rest of the school he suggested that an additional ex-pupil teacher be appointed to the school to allow of this. After consideration, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Myles, that this be done, and that Miss Janet Tripney, one of the candidates who had appeared to before the committee, be appointed at a salary of £45, Miss Tripney to begin duty after the holidays. It was agreed to close the schools a week earlier this year, and to give six weeks' holidays instead of five on account of the Coronation of their Majesties King Edward and Queen Alexandra, the schools to close on the 25th June, and open again on 5th August. Nine applications for exemption from school attendance were granted. Permission was granted the Scottish Band of Hope Union to deliver a lecture to the children in the schools on condition that the lecture did not take up more than an hour in each school. This was all the business.

H.M. INSPECTORS' REPORTS ON PUBLICSCHOOLS.-

The following reports have been received from H.M. Inspectors of schools by the clerk of the Parish School Board:-

Drumbowie Public School - "The slate exercises of standards I., and II., are remarkably good, and the pupils answer with creditable readiness and accuracy in the oral branches. In almost all subjects, and particularly the written ones, standard III., makes a good appearance. Dictation and arithmetic in standard IV., are, partly as the result of irregular attendance, less proficient than hitherto. The oral subjects show considerable intelligence. Standard V., might improve in reading and grammar; the written tests, however, are very good. Drawing admits, as a rule, of much improvement, the chief defects being want of proportion and perspective, and too frequently of care in outlining. Sewing, music, and physical drill are all praiseworthy. In general the order is very good; but there is some indistinct answering, and the papers of standard V., show one or two signs of copying. The ages in some cases seem high for the classification, and it is very unusual for a school of this to have no class corresponding to standard VI., and no candidates for merit certificate."

Maddiston Infant School-

"The infants make a creditable appearance in most respects. The oral however is rather scattered at some of the collective lessons, a fault perhaps due to a slight lack of spirit in the lessons themselves. Standards I., and II., do well over all and acquit themselves with great success in writing and counting. Drawing does not more than earn the grant and additional blackboards are needed. A commencement has been made with manual instruction. Sewing deserves commendation. Music is proficient. Drill shows considerable spirit, and the general order of the classes is very good."

The grant earned is £76.15s 9d.

Muiravonside School -

"At this second visit the work of the infants and Standard I., shows much greater proficiency than it did at the first Standards II., and III., do as creditably as can be expected in the room allotted to them. Their weakest subject is spelling. Standard IV., acquits itself well in all subjects tested. Standard V., is proficient in most branches and especially so in writing and composition. In standard VI., which is put forward almost entire for the merit certificate, the strongest subject by far is composition. Next come writing, & spelling geography, but general intelligence, spelling and arithmetic all need much attention. Fair results are secured in drawing. Sewing is good. In music the ear test is backward." The order is quite satisfactory. It is clear that progress is much obstructed by inferior accommodation. The present roll is 183 but at 10 square feet per pupil the rooms cannot contain that number; and, whenever the attendance is good there is a risk of overcrowding somewhere. The three class-rooms, even if not full, are small and blocked with furniture: and the space in the main room is not all available. The Board will require to consider seriously the question of supply from Maddiston eastward.

Falkirk Herald 7th June 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Monday. (Before Sheriff Bell.)

CHARGE AGAINST A STANRIGG MAN -

James Dick, miner's brusher, Standrigg, was charged with having, on the 15th May (1), on the public road at Maddiston, assaulted Peter Aitken, farm servant, Glenend Farm, Muiravonside, and presented a double-barrelled gun at his person, he being then about two yards distant, which gun was loaded with powder with powder and shot or at least was believed by the said Peter Aitken to be so loaded, and did threaten to shoot him and kill him therewith; (2). At the same place recklessly discharged said gun, loaded with powder and shot, in the direction of the said Peter Aitken, who was then about 100 yards distant, to his danger and alarm, and did thereafter discharge the said gun so loaded in various directions, to the danger and alarm of others of the leiges; and (3), on the Maddiston and Blackbraes Road, near to the entrance to Glenend Farm, committed a breach of the peace and used threatening language towards James Aitken, farmer. Accused pleaded not guilty, and the case went to trial, the defence being conducted by M. Andrew Hunter, solicitor. After hearing the evidence, the Sheriff found the prisoner guilty of the second charge only, and sent him to jail for thirty days

Falkirk Herald 11th June 1902

BURGH COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Baillie FAIRLIE.)

A MEAN THEFT. -

John Pender, miner, Maddiston, was charged with having, from a waiting-room at Grahamston Station, stolen a parcel containing a quantity of household provisions of the value of 2s 6d. The Fiscal said the goods belonged to a poor person, and had been bought for sustenance during the Sunday. This young man was earning good wages, and ought to have been above such a thing. It was a most impudent and mean theft. The Magistrate, seeing the case was more one of malicious mischief rather than theft, and the provisions having been recovered, imposed a fine of 10s, or seven days.

FALKIRK SHERIFF COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

BREACH OF THE PEACE.-

Margaret Campbell or McMillan, wife of Thomas McMillan, miner, Standburn Rows, Muiravonside, was fined 10s or seven days for a breach of the peace committed at Standburn.

Falkirk Herald 14th June 1902

STANDBURN.

STANDBURN PUBLIC HALL. -

A correspondent writes as follows: - The Public Hall and Recreation and Reading-Room, erected at Standburn from the profits of the Gothenburg Public-House situated there, has now been in operation for eight months, and appears to be fulfilling the expectations of its promoters. On the 5th inst. the trustees, one of whom is the Convener of the County, the others local Justices, met with the resident committee (mostly miners), who are in charge of the place, and their report was very gratifying. They were unanimous in stating that

drunkenness was diminishing; that while it was difficult to get the older men who were addicted to intemperance weaned altogether from their evil habits, the younger men were being attracted to the hall, and the average attendance last week was 120. The schoolmaster reported that the children were coming to school cleaner and better clothed than formerly. It is impossible, of course, to dogmatic as to the influence being exerted, it will take time. Meantime the tendency seems to be entirely favourable. Up to the present the hall is quite self-supporting. Various schemes for further utilising the large hall are in contemplation, such as courses of lectures on popular subjects, with lime-light, and classes for gymnastics and military drill under a qualified instructor. MR. GEORGE GIBB, Late manager at Muiravonside Collieries, and presently general manager to Messrs J. Nimmo & Co, has been invited to give evidence, before the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies at St. Stephen's, Westminster. The Government Commission are taking evidence from the highest authorities on the subject, and only experts of the highest standing are invited.

Falkirk Herald 18th June 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

MALICIOUS BOYS. –

Four Causewayend boys, named John Mullen, David Mullen, James Duff, and John Duff, pleaded guilty to having at Causewayend Foundry, smashed the handles from 39 cast-metal moulding boxes, valued at £10. John Mullen and James Duff were fined 5s each, with the option of three days' imprisonment, and the other two accused were admonished on account of their youth.

FAILING TO EDUCATE. –

Mrs. Hanlin, residing at Crosscroes, Muiravonside, was admonished for failing to provide education to her Son, William Graham.

A NOVEL METHOD OF CELEBRATING THE DECLARATION OF PEACE. –

Wm. Thomson, John M'Nee, Thomas M'Aullay, and John M'Tague, miners, Rumford, were charged with having, on the 2nd June, in a plantation on the estate of Parkhall belonging to Mr. Thomas Livingstone- Learmonth, inserted charges of dynamite into five growing trees and blew them up. They pleaded guilty. The Procurator-Fiscal explained that this was an unusual kind of charge. He read a letter he had received from a son of Mr. Livingstone- Learmonth, stating that the four accused, together with a number of young men, blew up the trees as a way of celebrating the declaration of peace. His father was not desirous that the accused should be severely punished. The value of the trees destroyed was about £5, and he had on several previous occasions to complain of the destruction of wire fences. He read a letter from Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth himself, which was to a similar effect. The Procurator-Fiscal said that this was a dangerous as well as a nasty offence. There were a great many people about, and some of them might have got themselves hurt, and some of them were not particularly sober. Mr. Learmonth, solicitor, appeared for the accused, and said that this was the method which those parties took of showing their joy at the end of the war. The offence was committed perfectly openly, and the whole of the inhabitants of the village were round about. It was certainly a peculiar method of showing their gratification. He had asked the accused if they wished to take the trees for a bonfire, and they said no - their intention was that they would have a symbolical representation to the full (FALL?) of Kruger. (Laughter.) The Sheriff - But there is only one real Kruger, and five trees were destroyed. (Laughter.)

Mr. Learmonth - My information is that the trees were decaying - they were not in a healthy state of growth. I submit that in the circumstances this is a case for an admonition. The Sheriff - It is becoming enough to rejoice in the declaration of peace, but the rejoicing must be done in a becoming way, and to blow up another man's trees is not becoming. An example must be made to prevent such things occurring again, as they might occur next week or on any other occasion. A fine of £1 was imposed on each of the accused, the alternative being ten days' imprisonment.

ASSAULTING A FARMER. -

Peter Ferguson, miner, Candie, Muiravonside, pled guilty to having, on a field at Whiterigg Farm, assaulted Jas. Taylor, the farmer, by knocking him down and scratching him with his finger nails on the face to the effusion of blood. The Procurator-Fiscal said that the accused was walking through a field on the farm the worse of drink, and he went off with a wooden sheep trough. He had not, however, charged him with stealing it. The farmer shouted to him to lay down the trough, and he then assaulted him. Mr. Learmonth, solicitor, who appeared for the accused, said that he was going through the field for a short cut with a brother who had recently returned from South Africa. The farmer was annoyed at them trespassing on his fields, and set his collie dog on them. The dog tore their legs badly. A fine of 30s, or fifteen days' imprisonment, was imposed.

A RELIGIOUS QUARRELL. –

John O'Hare, miner, Standburn, pleaded guilty to having, on the 7th June, committed a breach of the peace at the house at Standburn occupied by Walter Lauder, miner. O'Hare made a statement on his own behalf, from which it appeared that he had been provoked by the complainer interfering with his religion. As he had been previously convicted, he was fined 15s, or ten days.

Falkirk Herald 21st June 1902

MADDISTON.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS. –

A meeting for the purpose of making arrangements for the above was held in the school on Monday evening last. Mr. Barr manager, Manuelrigg, presided. After some discussion it was agreed that a day's enjoyment for the children of the village, apart from the rest of the parish, be provided on the occasion. Mr. Scott of Toravon having granted one of his parks for that purpose, sports of a fitting nature are being arranged for by a committee, some of whom are - Mr. J. S. Wilson. Teacher, Maddiston; Mr. Barr, manager, Manuelrigg; Mr. Haldane, tailor, Maddiston; Mr. Pearson, blacksmith, Maddiston. The funds already collected amount to £11 odd.

THE TEMPERANCE HALL. –

The ceremony of cutting the first sod in connection with the above was performed by Mr. John Haldane, C.T. of the lodge, on Monday last. Every credit is due the members of the Maddiston Lodge of Good Templars for the great progress they have made in the carrying on of temperance work in the village during the past four years. As a result of an effort organised by them some time ago they are now about to supply the village with a long felt want - viz., a hall. The hall is to accommodate 200 persons, and will be entirely under the management of these associated with the temperance movement.

Falkirk Herald 21st June 1902

STANDBURN.

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT HOME –

On the occasion of the marriage of the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, the esteemed pastor of the Congregational Church, to Miss Anderson, Candie Cottage, and which took place on Thursday of last week, an at home was held in the church on Thursday evening last. By the invitation of the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Saddon upwards of 120 invited guests sat down to an excellent tea, which was purveyed in first-class style by Mr. Jamieson of the Palace Bakery, Linlithgow. The church was beautifully decorated under the direction of Mrs. John Finnie by Mrs. Allan and Mrs. Lindsay and Misses Calder, Gordon Adamson, and Mrs. Baker, the motto "Welcome Home" stretching across the church. The Rev. Mr. Snaddon occupied the chair, and was accompanied by the Rev. John Richardson, Greenock; Mr. John Wilson, Edinburgh; Mr. John Finnie, manager; Mr. and Miss Russell, Greenhill; Miss Main, Sauchenford; and others. Alter praise and prayer, Mrs. Snaddon put the knife in the brides cake, and the Rev. Mr.

Richardson cut is up. Tea was then served by a number of young ladies, the tables being artistically laid off with flowers and pot plants kindly lent by Mrs. Finnie, Candie House, and Mrs. Waugh, Avonbridge. After tea, Mr. and the Misses Davidson, Clydebank, contributed violin selections, which were highly appreciated. The Chairman, in a few remarks thanked the company for doing honour to himself and Mrs. Snaddon. Mr. John Wilson, in a humorous speech, referred to the event over which they had gathered, and congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Snaddon expressing the wish that it would be a happy union. He knew what a minister had to do, and he urged them all to work and pray for their minister and at the same time to identify themselves with some branch of Church work. A duet was then skillfully played on the violins by the Misses Davidson. Mr. Alex. Kerr, church treasurer in presenting from the congregation their tokens of esteem, said that since coming to Standburn he had formed a very high opinion of Mr. Snaddon, and was pleased to be considered a friend, and trusted that he would continue to merit that pleasure. His friendship as time went on was strengthening. (Applause.) In name of the congregation he then asked Mr. Snaddon's acceptance of a handsome roll-top desk, and Mrs. Snaddon's of a beautiful biscuit box, expressing the wish that they would get on happily together, and that the box would never be empty. (Applause) Mr. Snaddon, in reply, thanked the congregation for the good will expressed in the handsome gifts presented. Mr. William Meek, choirmaster, then presented Mrs. Snaddon with a gold bangle from the members of the choir, Mrs Snaddon having been a member of the choir previous to her marriage. Mr. Snaddon in reply, said that Mrs. Snaddon was very grateful indeed to the choir members. These gifts would serve to recall pleasant memories in connection with the church choir. The Rev. Mr. Richardson, then spoke and added his good wishes and hoped that God would guide their paths. Games, etc., were then entered upon and carried on with great zest till a seasonable hour. During the absence of the minister the pulpit of the church was occupied on Sabbath last by Messrs Alex. Kerr and H. Baker.

Falkirk Herald June 25th 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION QUESTION.

INDIGNATION MEETING –

PERSONAL FEELING BETWEEN BOARD MEMBERS.

On Friday night a meeting of the ratepayers of Maddiston was held in the Maddiston Public School to protest against the action of the Parish School Board in resolving to extend the Muiravonside School, instead of enlarging the Maddiston Public School, to make it suitable for the purposes of a mixed school. There was a large attendance, and Mr. James Thom was called to the chair. The Chairman said that a month or two ago the Parish School Board proposed to extend the Maddiston School, and to make it a mixed school. The ratepayers of Maddiston Village were delighted at the prospect of such a necessary step being taken, but they were astonished to learn that at its meeting on Thursday the Board had overturned its decision, and resolved to extend the Muiravonside School, instead of enlarging the school at Maddiston. Mr. Myles, one of the members of the Board, addressed the meeting at considerable length and showed how the ratepayers would benefit financially, educationally, and from a humanitarian point of view by the enlargement of the Maddiston School, to make it for the purposes of a mixed school. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Myles said that two months ago he tabled a motion to the effect that Maddiston School be converted to a mixed school. At the request of the Board, he waived his proposal to allow it to lie on the table for two months, that they might come with their minds fully matured on the subject, and have it finally settled. The Board was almost unanimous on this point, that, if building was necessary, it must be at Maddiston first. (Applause.) The Board could offer very little reason why his proposal should not be carried into effect, and Maddiston School made a mixed one. The only reason they gave was a financial one - the increasing of the rates. The Board, which was in office for the term before he entered it - that was, the Board before the last one - built the Maddiston School. At that time the intention of the Board was to build a mixed school, and the probable cost of the building was something like £1400. Some little enmity cropped up at that time amongst some of the members, and because of that they changed their original plan, and made the school an infant one. When he told them that the original plan for the building of a mixed school was to cost £1400, and that this little infant school cost £1150 - (sensation) - they would readily see the want of business tact and the want of foresight which the School Board had displayed. They would see that instead of reducing the rates and acting in the interests of the ratepayers, they were acting in a way which was directly opposed to those interests. (Applause.) The Board had taken off an acre of ground, at £8 an acre, to build this school, and they had only used half an acre, the other half acre having never been utilised. The ratepayers of the parish had therefore paid £28 for the half of the feu which had been acquired, and Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth's cattle were grazing on the ground. It was quite right for Mr. Learmonth to take advantage of the grass, but it was seriously wrong for any School Board to acquire an acre of ground when they only required half an acre, and to throw away annually the sum represented in half of the feu-duty. (Applause.) Again, the Maddiston School was built as an infant school, and so long as it remained so the Board could not earn grants in it for class subjects. Consequently for the last seven years they had been losing on an average £11 per annum in that way. That money had been actually thrown away, as they could have had every penny of it had the school been built as a mixed school. He had instructed their compulsory officer, on the occasion of his last visit to the Wallacestone School, to find out the number of pupils who were being educated there from the northern portion of Muiravonside parish, and he found that there were 50 pupils who were crossing their boundary, and were being educated in the Wallacestone School. These children would earn, in Government grants, £1 per head on the average, so that they were losing £50 through not having those 50 children educated at Maddiston. Some of the members spoke of the cost which would be entailed in paying teachers if the Maddiston School were made a mixed school. Why, £50 would get an excellent ex-pupil-teacher, and they would be educating their own children, and be in a better position to look after the educational interests of their own parish. They could therefore readily see whether or not the School Board was looking after the interests of the parish. (Applause.) Recently the Board had been almost engaged in litigation with Messrs Nimmo and Co. over the subsidence at Drumbowie School. The whole school was almost, totally wrecked, and when some of them demanded to see the feu-charter and the titles, they were snubbed by other members, and they were told that the Board had no claim whatever. But they insisted on seeing those titles, and were materially assisted by the clerk of the School Board. He jeopardised his own office in giving them that assistance, as the chairman took him severely to task, and told him he was going out of his place in taking anything to do with it. When the titles were examined they found that they had a claim both against the mineral tenant and the superior. (Applause.) He might tell them this, as the meetings were then secret, and the reporters were excluded from them, that the Board had a claim against the superior to the extent of all the mineral royalties paid, and one installment was entered in the minute-book to the extent of £38. He only wished that one member of the Board, now deceased, had been living now as there would have been more about this. The School Board's rights were signed away by that individual, and they had no further claim against the superior. But when the lease was renewed in 1892, it was made clear that the whole responsibility was saddled on the mineral tenant, and he was liable for all damage under the School Board's feu at Drumbowie. Even after that was discovered, the chairman wanted to shelve the whole question, as also did Mr. Binnie and Mr. Bryce. ("Shame.") But other members of the Board insisted on the entire amount of damage done to the Drumbowie School - £155 being paid. Messrs Nimmo offered £145, and Mr. Bryce was the man who moved that they accept that offer. He (Mr. Myles) moved that they accept nothing less than the ratepayers had paid, and by the very last vote he succeeded in carrying his motion, and thereby saved a sum of £15 to the ratepayers. (Applause.) It was not in the interests of the ratepayers generally to add even a single room to the Muiravonside School, as that school was overcrowded in every room, and the £300 which the additional room would cost might just as well be thrown in the fire. The population of

Muiravonside district was not increasing, and it would not increase in the future unless something new strikes up. The Board must draw from every room in the Muiravonside School to fill the new room which was to be built. They must also build at Maddiston. At one time every member of the Board, except Mr. J. B. Bryce, decided that building must first take place at Maddiston. It seemed that if he (Mr. Myles) wanted anything to be done by the Board for Maddiston, the best way of getting it done would be to move that it be not done, and that was a most disagreeable position for anyone to be in who had been sent to represent them on the Board. (Applause.) He met the chairman of the Board recently, and on speaking to him about a mixed school for Maddiston, he said, "I am afraid I have changed my mind." He asked him how he had changed, and he replied that a huge ratepayer had told him that they would be doing wrong were they to build at Maddiston. He asked him if he guessed the name of the gentleman who told him so would he say he was correct, and he said "Yes." He then mentioned the name of Mr. James Mackay, an ex-member of the Board. If members of the Board were to be dictated to in that way, and if party feeling was to come into their work from outside, it was the duty of the ratepayers to see that that compact was broken up. (Applause.) - The Board could not be in a worse plight than it was at present. Maddiston School was overcrowded to the extent of 19. Blackbraes School was overcrowded to the very door, and instead of making provision there for the education of the parish, they were asking the headmaster to keep out all children who came to Blackbraes School from the Shieldhill portion of Grangemouth parish. The Grangemouth Board were educating 50 of their children at Wallacestone School, which was almost overcrowded, and the moment they closed the door to their children at Blackbraes School, it was only reasonable to expect that they would close the doors of the Wallacestone School against all Muiravonside children. To build one room to one school only could never relieve the congestion. Then, from a humanitarian point of view, the Board's, action in refusing to make the Maddiston School a mixed school was to be condemned. It was a sad thing to see elder children coming to the Maddiston School with their younger brothers and sisters, and to see the little ones look pathetically in their faces as they were left at the gate, while the elder children walked almost two miles to the Muiravonside School, often, in most inclement weather. (Applause.) There was not a spark of humanity in any man who would ask children to pass the door of the Maddiston School and to go such a distance to a school when they had it in their power to make the school at Maddiston a mixed one. Money spent on this would bring its own value in the financial return which would be obtained for the ratepayers. (Applause.) The Chairman said that after listening to the weighty address which Mr. Myles had given them it must be apparent that the actions of certain members of the Board were not altogether in the interests of the ratepayers. He had no doubt that some of the members were quite prepared to admit that the position Mr. Myles had taken up was the correct one, but simply because it was his idea they had resolved to fight him. Mr. Myles - If I thought that my resignation would get you a mixed school at Maddiston I would resign to-morrow. (Cries of "Do not do it.") Mr. Haldane, another member of the Board said, that although he could not add very much to what Mr. Myles had said, his feelings on the subject were strong. After Mr. Myles had left their School Board meeting on previous day, one of the members turned to him (Mr. Haldane), and said "If it had not been for that man it might have been otherwise." (Sensation, and cries of "Name.") If they would have his name, it was Mr. Daniel Binnie. ("Shame.") His reply was that he did not think it was fair that the ratepayers of Maddiston should suffer because of one man. The rest of his colleagues then advised him to stop to let the other business proceed, and that was the end of the matter. Continuing, Mr. Haldane endorsed Mr. Myles's views on various points, and referred to what he had done to establish a successful evening school at Maddiston, when others had failed. The Chairman - It says very little for Mr. Binnie that he spoke as he did concerning a colleague on the Board, and in direct opposition to the interests of those whom he professed to represent. Mr. Myles - I am not aware that I have done anything to injure even the feelings of the members of the Board that they should oppose your interests because of me personally. The same excuse was made regarding a deceased member of the Board, and a gentleman whom I respected very much, and probably you might have had a mixed school at Maddiston had it not been for him. The Chairman - I think the ratepayers here are well satisfied with the work- which Mr. Myles does on the Board. (Applause.) It has taken him a long time to reach this point, and it seems strange to me that one meeting should overturn what has been in progress so long. As to bitter feeling in the Board against- Mr. Myles, he might trample that under his foot, so long as he was acting in the interests of the ratepayers. (Applause.) Mr. Myles Mr. Strang tells me that to make Maddiston School a mixed school, and to provide accommodation at it for 250 children, would cost £1235. Mr. Eccles had told him that 1d per £ on the rates would raise £1000 in the parish, and no one will grudge 1d per £ to have superior accommodation and to have their children better educated. Mr. James Hunter said that as one of a committee of three, he called on Mr. J. B. Bryce, one of the Board members, to invite him to the meeting, but he said that as it was a premature and bogus meeting he would not condescend to come. If the meeting were constitutionally called, and all the Board members invited to be present, he would take part in it. Mr. Haldane. When Mr. J. B. Bryce was telling you that, he might have told you about the illegal Board meeting on Thursday afternoon. I received my notice for that meeting on the Thursday, and the regular time for calling a meeting is six days. I hold that therefore the motion that was carried at that meeting was quite illegal. Mr. James Hunter - I made that clear to him. I said, "Your School Board meeting on Thursday was not constitutional, as some of the members were not present because of the insufficient notice they got to attend. The Board seem to have two laws - one for themselves, and another for the ratepayers. Mr. Myles - My notice for Thursday's meeting came so late that my wife forgot to give it to me, and she had to send it to the pit to me. (Laughter.) The Chairman - It may turn out that the Board's action in this matter may go to the wind if the meeting was unconstitutional. Mr. John Hunter moved that the meeting protest against the finding of the majority of the Board. Mr. Thomas Clayton seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Falkirk Herald 25th June 1902

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT ON STIRLINGSHIRE. MATTERS OF INTEREST IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

The eleventh annual report by Dr John C. McVail, officer of health for Stirlingshire, has just recently been published. The details of population from the census returns are of interest, and help to indicate the exceptional prosperity of Stirlingshire during the past decade. The total population of the County of Stirling was at the 1901 census 142,338 (males 72,697; females, 69,641), as compared with 118,021 at the census of 1891. This shows the very large increase of 20.6 per cent. A table is shown, which indicates that the growth of the population in the last decade has been very much larger than in any previous ten years since census-taking was begun. Only two counties in Scotland show a larger proportional increase since 1891, namely, Linlithgow with 24.4 per cent., and Lanarkshire with 21.1 per cent. The population of the present area of the landward part of the county is 69,438 as compared with 63,623 at the census of 1891 showing an increase of 9.1 per cent. This, however, takes no cognisance of the large population transferred to the burgh of Falkirk in 1900 there was also several years ago a small transference to the burgh of Grangemouth. In reality, the percentage increase of what was the landward part of the county has been as great as that of the burghal area. In the Central District the landward population in 1891 was 15,431. At the census it had increased to 19,355 a rate of 25.5 per cent. In the Eastern District in 1891 the population was 36,215. At the census in 1901 it was 38,985, an increase of 7.6 per cent. In the Western District the population was 12,473 in 1891 and at the recent census it was 11,098, a decrease of 875, or 11.2 per cent., owing to the disappearance of a large body of the navy population. Coming to the population of the parishes, in the Eastern District the parishes of Polmont and Bothkennar, along with a part of the Parish of Falkirk, have been formed into a new parish of Grangemouth, and a small part of the old parish of Bothkennar has been transferred to the parish of Falkirk. The village of Airth which a casual visitor might regard as being completed or

perhaps on the downgrade, is credited with an increase of population from 440 in the earlier census to 558 in the recent enumeration. Longdyke is set down as having diminished from 340 to 304. Skinflats as having increased from 483 to 505, Polmont from 485 to 561, Redding from 643 to 874, East Shieldhill from 566 to 810, Wallacestone and Standrigg from 566 to 558, Carronshore from 1076 to 1118 Kinnaird has diminished (under the Housing of the Working Classes Act) from 344 to 306. In the parish of Grangemouth, Brightons appears for the first time, its population being 736. The village of California has also now a place on the list, with a population of 490. In Larbert parish, Stenhousemuir has grown from 3718 to 5184, Larbert from 904 to 1442, and Carron from 1208 to 1942. The part of Bonnybridge in Falkirk parish has grown from 1243 to 1935, and Bonnybridge as a whole from 2039 to 3009. In Laurieston the population in 1891 was 1725, and is now 2080. Coming to Muiravonside parish Blackbraes has increased from 510 to 558 Maddiston and Sooty Hill from 311 to 617 and the new village of Standburn, with a population of 949, has come into existence. Avonbridge has a population of 510, of which 295 is in Muiravonside parish and 215 in Slamannan. In the parish of Slamannan the story is different. Owing to the closure of collieries, Binniehill and Southfield which included several colliery rows have diminished from 2018 to 1022 Limerigg and Lochside from 1419 to 956, and Slamannan (including Blinkbonny) from 1812 to 1720. Excluding Slamannan, it is doubtful whether any part of Scotland can show greater prosperity than the Eastern District of Stirlingshire, both rural and landward. In its rapid growth and manifold activities it reminds one, as the medical officer says, of parts of Lancashire in the early seventies. In Denny parish the part of Bonnybridge therein has increased from 786 to 1074. Parkfoot and Longcroft have increased from 533 to 969. Dennyloanhead and its neighbourhood, which did not appear as a village in the former census, is now regarded as a place with a total population of 518 Hollandbush and Haggis, in the parishes of Denny and Kilsyth, have increased from 623 to 1296. In Kilsyth parish, Banton and Mallins are now grouped as a village with a population of 427 and the new village of Queenzieburn (including Gavell) has a population of 551. In Kippen the village of Buchlyvie has grown from 313 to 386.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

In the year 1901 the births were 2370, giving a rate of 34.131 per 1000 of the population. This is lower than last year, but higher than the rates for the preceding three years. In the Central District the rate was 34.358, and in the Eastern District, 36.988. The deaths in the year were 1142, giving a rate of 16.446 per 1000 of population. In the Central District the death-rate was 19.064, and in the Eastern District 14.852.

WATER SUPPLY

Work on the East Stirlingshire water scheme is now in active progress. The work has so far been divided into nine contracts, of which six have been already let. Considerable progress has been made with the reservoir contract, where, so far, the ground has proved of a highly satisfactory character. While it will take between two and three years to complete the reservoir, the remainder of the work is being pushed forward with a view to having water delivered to the district in about eighteen months by passing the water direct from the intake channel to the main leading to the filters and clear water tank, and thence to the supply area, but a great deal of heavy work has to be accomplished before this much-desired result can be maintained, and the time of supply is somewhat problematical.

DRAINAGE.

In the districts of Brightons and Polmont Station the need for systematic drainage grows more acute with increase of population, and of watercloset accommodation. The whole question is being reported upon by the committee's engineers, the main point for discussion being whether there should be one scheme embracing an extensive population, or a number of smaller drainage districts, each with its own system of treatment and its own outfall. Other things being equal, it seems desirable that the special district should be large, and the treatment of the sewage dealt with as a whole instead of in sections. The places under consideration are Polmont Station, Brightens, Wallacestone, Shieldhill, Redding, and Laurieston. In the greater part of the southern division the provision of drainage cannot seriously be undertaken until the water supply works are further advanced.

SCAVENGING.

Systematic scavenging in the Southern Division is attended to only in so far as some of the colliery firms employ a scavenger for their villages, as at Standburn and Blackbraes. In villages where there are many different proprietors the only practical course for overtaking proper scavenging is the formation of a special district, and the medical officer regrets that this has not so far been done in any of the southern populous places.

CAMELON HOSPITAL.

What the report contains concerning Camelon Hospital is very satisfactory. On 12th February a letter was received from the Local Government Board stating that their medical inspector had made a surprise visit to the hospital on 22nd January, and after a careful inspection, he had reported his observations to the Board, who had the satisfaction of stating to the committee that their inspector had summed up his impressions in the following terms: - My inspection, which was made without notice, justifies me in saying that this hospital is well organised and well managed. From the relatively large number of patients I infer that it has secured the confidence of the district, and is fulfilling the expectations of the Local Authority." A very useful extension was made in the beginning of the year, consisting of an additional pavilion of wood and iron giving accommodation for eight patients, at the standard allowance of 2000 cubic feet per patient. It contains also kitchen, scullery, bedroom for staff, and all that is required for a separate hospital, excepting laundry and steam disinfection. If the pavilion were used for any disease requiring entirely separate administration, soiled clothing, etc., the report says, could be thoroughly steeped in disinfectant solution before being sent to the laundry.

Falkirk Herald 28th June 1902

STANDBURN.

FOOTBALL CLUB SPORTS. -

The annual sports of the Standburn Rangers F.C. were held in their field on Saturday last. Despite the weather, the attendance was very good. The entries were also up to the usual standard, the sprint drawing some of the best "peds." from a considerable distance.

Blackbraes Brass Band were in attendance, and enlivened the proceedings with some excellent selections, and also provided a lengthy programme of dance music. The arrangements were in the capable hands of Mr. Cunningham, secretary. Results: - 100 yards (handicap), first in each heat to run in final -

First heat -

F. Binnie (4 yards), Polmont; 2, W. M'Gowan (3 yards), Airdrie.

Second heat -

1. Thomas Barber (5 yards), Bo'ness; 2, R. Simpon (7 yards), Glasgow.

Third heat -

1, W. Ormiston (1 yard), Haddington; 2, J. Russell (scratch). Mayburn; 3, J. Horn (7 yards), Whitburn.

Final -

1, W. Ormiston; 2, T. Barber. Half-mile race 1, R. Martin, Bannockburn; 2, J. Cousland, Falkirk.

Consolation race

1. J. Russell; 2, F. Binnie.

Quitting, 18 yards -

Prizes divided between Messrs James Henderson, John Love, and J. Neilson.

Five-a-side football tournament (juveniles) -

Final - Standburn Rangers No. 1, 1 point, beat Slamannan Hibs., nil.

Five-a-side football competition (open) -

Final - Clyde Seniors, 1 goal 2 points, beat Standburn Rangers No. 2, 1 goal 1 point.

Falkirk Herald 2nd July 1902

POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

SAD FATALITY TO A MUIRAVONSIDE FARMER. –

On Monday forenoon Peter Taylor, 35 years of age, farmer, Coxhill Farm, near Maddiston, met with a fatal accident near Polmont Station. He was engaged carting stones from Craig's Quarry, and when about 20 yards to the east of the road which leads into the quarry he met a boy named Archibald Mackie, who was carrying a bag of grass. Mr. Taylor offered to take the boy into the cart, and when in the act of doing so the horse bolted. When trying to stop it he was knocked down, and one of the wheels of the cart passed over him. He was conveyed home in a cart, and a doctor was sent for, but before he arrived Taylor had expired. Dr. Calderwood, Standburn, who examined the body, certified that death was due to rupture of the bowels and internal injuries of the abdomen. The deceased was unmarried.

Falkirk Herald July 5th 1902

MADDISTON.

ENTERTAINMENT TO CHILDREN. –

The Coronation festival for the children of Maddiston, organised by a village committee, of which Mr. R. Barr, manager, Manuelrigg, was chairman, was successfully carried through on Thursday. The children, to the number of 250, assembled at Maddiston School, and, headed by a pipe band, marched in procession by way of Parkhall to a field which had been granted for the occasion by Mr. Wm. Scott of Toravon. There each child was presented with a Coronation mug, and thereafter served with bread and milk. A carefully arranged programme of sports was then carried through, the prizes, which took the form of gifts appropriate to the Coronation, and were presented to the winners during the course of the afternoon by Miss Scott of Toravon and Miss Learmonth of Parkhall. After the service of tea in the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Scott were, on the call of Mr. J. L. Wilson, awarded a hearty vote of thanks for the assistance they had so kindly given the committee, and, on the call of Mr. R. Barr, a similar compliment was given Miss Scott and Miss Learmonth. Mr. Scott, in acknowledging the vote of thanks to the ladies and himself, remarked that the success with which the festival had been carried through did credit to the committee; and while to older people, the illness of our King had cast a gloom over the brightness of an otherwise unclouded day, the innocent pleasures which the children seemed to have so much enjoyed would remain as a pleasant memory. The procession was then re-formed, and, as the children filed past the house, each received from Misses Scott and Learmonth a King Edward penny as a memento of the occasion.

Falkirk Herald 5th July 1902

STANDBURN.

CORONATION FESTIVAL. –

The children belonging to the district had their Coronation treat on Thursday of last week, However much the committee felt for the condition of the King, it was deemed advisable, seeing the preparations were in such an advanced state, to go on with the programme. Fully five hundred met at the school grounds, where they were put into processional order by Mr. George G. Mackay, headmaster. The procession then marched off, headed by the Avonbridge Pipe Band, and what with the display of flags, etc., it presented an appearance that never has been equalled in this district. After going round the neighbouring villages they proceeded to the Public Hall, where all were amply regaled with buns and milk, each being the recipient of a handsome Coronation mug. This over, the crowd again marched to the football field, where an exhaustive programme of sports was gone through, upwards of one hundred prizes being offered. In the afternoon refreshments were again served. The day passed all too quickly, and the thanks of the community are due to the committee, everything passing off without a hitch. Votes were afterwards given the committee.

PIC-NIC. –

On Friday last the children connected with the Christian believers' mission had their annual outing to Dunmore. Three conveyances (provided by Mr. Wilson Marshall) were occupied by the Standburn children and friends, whilst two brought a contingent of friends connected with the mission from California. A pleasant drive brought the company to their destination, where a plentiful supply of buns and milk was served. Games etc., were afterwards resorted to, and carried on with great zest. Previous to leaving, the whole company were again regaled. Standburn was reached at a seasonable hour, all being thoroughly satisfied with the day's outing.

PRESENTATION. -

On Wednesday last a deputation of the workmen of Candiehead colliery (Messrs J. Nimmo & Co.) waited upon Mr. Edward Daly, oversman, at his residence, Blackstone, and presented him with a handsome marble timepiece, suitably inscribed, together with a diamond ring for Mrs. Daly, on the occasion of their leaving the district. Mr. James Fulton acted in the capacity of chairman, and Mr. Samuel Thomson, in felicitous terms, handed over the gifts. Mr. Daly feelingly and appropriately replied both for Mrs. Daly and himself. Thereafter Mr. and Mrs. Daly entertained the deputation. A pleasant evening was spent with song, &c.

Falkirk Herald 9th July 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Acting Sheriff Substitute GRAHAM.)

HOLDING THE CORONATION FESTIVAL AT STANDBURN.

Two miners named James Dalzeil and John Young, appeared on a charge of having, on 27th June, on the road opposite the former's house at Standburn, committed breach of the peace. Dalzeil had four previous convictions libeled against him. Dalzeil - We were holding the Coronation festival, and that was what put us away. (Laughter.) The Sheriff, in view of his former convictions, fined Dalzeil 20s, or ten days, and Young he let off with fine of 10s, or seven days.

A SLIGHT MISTAKE. -

William O'Hare, miner Standburn, pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace there on 23rd June. Accused said he was drunk at the time the offence was committed and made a slight mistake. He was fined 10s or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 12th July 1902

STANDBURN.

BILLIARD TOURNAMENT. - The billiard tournament promoted by the committee of Standburn Public Hall, and which has been in progress for the last few weeks, was brought to a close at the beginning of this week. Six prizes were offered, which brought, out an entry of 42. The progress of the various ties was followed by interested spectators, who crowded the space allotted to them. All over the play was good considering the fact that most of the players never handled a cue until the tables were introduced into the Public Hall. In some cases the ties were closely contested, only a point or two separating the contestants. Mr. Allan M'Lean secured premium honours after some hard games. The tournament was in every way a most successful one, and Mr. M'Andrews, janitor, deserves praise for the manner in which he carried it through scores were: -

1st Round. –

Alex. Ure (10) - 150 R. M'Andrew (30) - 118

J. Scanlan (scr.) - 150 Wm. Carlin (20) - 145

Jas. Scott (30) - 150 Don. Rankine (10) - 128

John Moore (40) - 150 R. Stewart (30) - 82

Hector M'Neil (30) - 150 Jas. Aitchison (40) - 133

Wm. Geddes (scr) - 150 Peter Aitken (30) - 137

A.M'Lean(10behind) - 150 Matt. Aitchison (30) - 145

And. Geddes (30) - 150 Wm. Canning (40) - 133
 F. Fitzsimmons (20behind) - 150 Philip Kerr (40) - 79
 J. Douglas (scr) - 150 Jas. Henderson (10) 117
 J. Cheyne (20) - 150 M. Aitchison (30) - 119
 T. Moore (10 behind) - 150 Allan Barr (40) - 108
 J. Kinniburgh (10) - 130 Robt. Moore (10) - 111
 R. Young (40) - 150 D. Scott (30) - 89
 Geo. Nicolson (30) - 150 W. Cunningham (20) - 98
 And. Graham (scr) - 150 W. Walker (20) - 115
 T. Hugh (30) - 150 H. Struthers (30) - 123
 J. Gardner(20behind) - 150 H. Gillespie (20) - 94
 Jas. Henderson (10) - 150 Wm. Forgie (40) - 108
 Jas. Ure (10) - 150 Jas Scott (40) -123
 W. Henderson (20) - 150 W. Aitchison (40) 139
 2nd Round.
 J. Douglas - 150 R. Young - 143
 J. Kinniburgh - 150 H. Graham - 124
 J. Moore - 150 T. Hugh - 115
 F. Fitzsimmons - 150 J. Henderson - 140
 Wm. Geddes - 150 J. Sconlar - 114
 W. Henderson - 150 James Ure - 93
 T. Moore - 150 Alex Ure - 93
 A. McLean - 150 Hector M Neil - 111
 J. Gardner - 150 J. Cheyne - 105
 Byes - A. Geddes, J. Scott, and G. Nicolson.
 3rd Round.
 James Scott 150 J. Moore - 119
 A. Geddes - 150 J. Douglas - 90
 W. Geddes - 150 G. Nicolson - 95
 J. Gardner - 150 Wm. Henderson - 109
 Byes - J. Kinniburgh, F. Fitzsimmons, T. Moore and H. McLean.
 4th Round.
 J. Gardner - 150 T. Moore. - 97
 J. Scott - 150 H. Geddes - 148
 F. Fitzsimmons - 150 J. Kinniburgh - 140
 H. McLean - 150 Wm. Geddes - 140
 Semi-Final.
 A. McLean - 150 J. Scott - 143
 J. Gardener - 150 F. Fitzsimmons - 132
 Final
 A. McLean - 150 J. Gardner - 137
 For Third Place.
 J. Scott, 150 F. Fitzsimmons - 148
 For Fifth and Sixth
 Wm. Geddes - 150 T. Moore - 138
 H. Geddes - 150 J. Kinniburgh - 147
 5th 6th
 Wm. Geddes - 150 A. Geddes - 132.

Falkirk Herald 23rd July 1902

**MUIRAVONSIDE. MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.
 PROPOSED ADDITION TO MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL -
 A LIVELY HALF-HOUR.**

The usual monthly meeting of Muiravonside School Board was held at Maddiston yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wilson, the chairman, presided, and there were also present Messrs D. Binnie, A. Binnie, J. Bryce, J. B. Bryce, R. Myles, and Haldane.

**PROPOSED ADDITION TO MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL.
 MR MYLES OBJECTS.**

At the outset, the Chairman said the first business of the meeting was to consider and approve of plans of a proposed addition to Muiravonside School. Mr. Strang, who was present, would lay the plans before the Board for the members' inspection. Mr. Myles said the first item of business was not the approval of plans, but the consideration of an addition to Muiravonside School. He did not know how this had come about, but it certainly was not by a resolution or motion. As an individual member of the Board, he proposed that they do not approve of such a thing. The Chairman said they had heard a great deal about this illegal action of the Board, but by taking a vote at the present meeting it would settle whether the action of the Board was illegal or not. Mr. Myles - You can take it then. Mr. John Bryce - Is it necessary for me to propose my motion again? Mr. Myles - Absolutely necessary. Mr. Myles then rose to his feet, advanced to the table, and, addressing the chairman, said - You will be kind enough not to "dry-nurse" the mover of this motion. (Laughter.) The Chairman - I hope, Mr. Myles, you will behave yourself like a gentleman. Mr. Myles - I have always been able to do that so far. Mr. Bryce - The congestion is really in the east end of the parish. By building at Muiravonside we will have a staff there quite sufficient to undertake any additional scholars; while by building at Maddiston we do not - Mr. Myles - I object to that. That is the very point I object to. Mr. Chairman, I hope you will behave like a gentleman. That is the very point on which you objected to me. Mr. Bryce again proceeded to speak in support of his motion, and on the conclusion of his remarks the motion was seconded by Mr. Daniel Binnie. The Chairman is there any amendment? Mr. Myles - You know perfectly well there is an amendment, Mr. Chairman. Perfectly well you know. When I moved my resolution three months ago, it was the unanimous finding of the Board, with the exception of Mr. Bryce here. Mr. John B. Bryce made reply. Mr. Myles - Do not again interrupt me while I am talking. I did not interrupt you. I am talking to the chairman, not to you. Three months ago it was the unanimous finding of this Board that if building was required, then the building should take place at Maddiston. The Chairman - That is not the case. Mr. Myles - But it is the case. Before proceeding, I wish the clerk to turn up the minute book and verify my statement. I want either to be in my right place, or the chairman. I am either talking the truth, or false. Mr. Hunter, the clerk, turned up the minute of 29th April, and read the motion, for Mr. Myles' satisfaction. Mr. Myles - Is there not anything about Mr. Bryce entering his dissent? The Clerk No; I think Mr. Bryce was ruled out of order, and that ended the matter. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I moved that we build at Muiravonside, instead of Maddiston, as an amendment, and I was ruled out of order. Mr. Myles - It was incompetent. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I held that, according to the standing orders an amendment did not require to be lodged at a previous meeting. Mr. Myles - I am here to move that we do not approve of the addition to Muiravonside School and I do so for this reason; Muiravonside School is in a district that is pretty well served with school accommodation. Muiravonside is not a district that is at all likely to increase in population in any way, even to the east of Muiravonside School. There has not been an increase in the population there these last ten years. There has not been an increase even in twenty years in the eastern district of Muiravonside. For the last ten years I have lived in Maddiston, and during that time the population has doubled. Since I came to Maddiston the largest portion of the population there are occupying the houses that have been built during the last ten years. That was disputed at last meeting, but it cannot be refuted; it cannot be set aside. So far as the overcrowding in Muiravonside School is concerned, it is off the Maddiston district. Muiravonside School is overcrowded in every room, and to build a room, as you stated at last meeting, would mean the expenditure of £300. Of course, I have not seen the plans, but I say my version of the matter is correct. To build a room that would cost £300 would just be like some of the rest of the School Board's work in connection with this parish, throwing away

uselessly the ratepayers' money. Mr. Binnie - Question! Mr. Myles - Question away. I will be able to answer your question, or the question of any other member of this Board. If you build at Muiravonside you will have to draw from every other room, and occupy that single room. Every class is overcrowded in every room. It might be of considerable advantage to the schoolmaster, so far as the working of the school is concerned, but so far as relieving the congestion at Maddiston School and Muiravonside School is concerned, it cannot do that. This room would be built at a cost of £300, and you would have to draw from every other room and every class in every room to fill up that room. On the other hand, if you build according to the original plans at Maddiston, you would relieve the congestion of both schools. I would rather that we build no school at all than build one at Muiravonside. Some of the members said that things would have been otherwise had it not been for me. Prove that, and I will tender my resignation and never enter one of your meetings again. It is the educational interests of the parish that we should look after, and if we attend to that we should pay no attention to individuality or personal antipathy to one another. That is a thing that should be placed beneath our feet. That is the point, we must come to. (At this stage the members were paying little or no attention to Mr. Myles' remarks, but were engaged examining the plans, which were on the table.) Taking notice of this, Mr. Myles proceeded - Do not be wriggling and wriggling with the plans while a gentleman is talking. Distraction is one of the very worst features of any meeting. It is the baddest taste that anyone can exemplify in any meeting. Mr. Chairman, you are the worst of the lot. The Chairman - It is a great pity that any meeting should be annoyed with you. Mr. Myles - You are perfectly incapable of ruling a meeting. You are perfectly incapable of looking after the educational interests of the parish. You are a perfect imbecile in the chair, and have been all along. Mr. J. B. Bryce objected to Mr. Myles addressing the chair in that fashion. Mr. Myles - I move that we disapprove of the addition to Muiravonside School. Mr. Haldane seconded this amendment. Mr. J. B. Bryce then proceeded to address the meeting. He said he would go on the lines of the inspector's report. He had read last report over very carefully, and he would deal principally with the schools under discussion. The inspector, in dealing with Maddiston School, said nothing about overcrowding, while in Muiravonside it was all overcrowding. The tenor of the report was "the class did well, considering the room allotted to them," and he finished up by stating that the Board would have to seriously consider the supply from Maddiston eastward. Where did the supply come from? In 1891 the population of Maddiston was something like 300. Now, they found, as Mr. Myles had said, that it was nearly double that. But take into consideration how the census was taken in 1891 and 1901. In the former year Maddiston was put in the census report without Caberton, Cairney Mount, and Smithyhill, whereas these districts were included with it in the last census. Mr. Myles - Entirely false, Mr. Bryce - Please do not interrupt me. I did not interrupt you. Mr. Chairman, keep Mr. Myles in order. Mr. Myles - You cannot keep me in order, because you are false. The Chairman - Hold your tongue. Mr. Myles - I will not hold my tongue unless I like Mr. Bryce - There is no use in any one coming to this meeting but Mr. Myles. Mr. Chairman, keep this gentleman in order while I am speaking. Proceeding, Mr. Bryce said that from 1891, for seven years, Maddiston had an increase, but during the last three or four years it had been at a standstill. Mr. Myles (again interrupting) - Why is it you gentlemen are not talking about the plans? When I was talking, the plans were going round and round. Answer that question. Tell me why it is the plans were going round the table when I was talking. The Chairman - The members do not pay any attention to you. Mr. Myles - Attention to me! I will meet you before the ratepayers. I will make the ratepayers pay attention to you. The Chairman - Allow Mr. Bryce to proceed. Mr. Myles - Mark you, I will prove that this is a clique, this compact of four, who is at the head of the wire-pullers of the parish, I have you all; I have got you. I have you all marked. (Laughter.) Mr. Bryce - I must have my share of the meeting, as well as Mr. Myles. (To Mr. Myles, who continued to interrupt - You are not the chairman, though you would like to be. Mr. J. Bryce here ventured a remark. Mr. Myles - I could learn a parrot to say all you could say. You are only a parrot. (Laughter.) Mr. J. B. Bryce again proceeded with his remarks. When the congestion took place in Muiravonside School, he said, it was relieved. A footpath was made to Maddiston by the County Council to accommodate the children going to Muiravonside School. Then Muiravonside School became overcrowded, and the Board withdrew Standard II., and allowed them to go to Maddiston School, to relieve the congestion at Muiravonside School. Mr. Myles - The man's lost his head. See, of course, he has. (Laughter.) Mr. Bryce, proceeding, said the Board then withdrew Standard I. and the infants, and put them into Maddiston School. Three times has the congestion been relieved, and last year not a word was said about overcrowding at Maddiston, while there was overcrowding at Muiravonside. The Chairman quite agreed with Mr. Bryce. It was in the east end where the increase has been, and the children had been brought from Muiravonside to fill Maddiston School. Mr. Archibald Binnie said that if he remembered aright there was great objection at the meeting six months ago in regard to building owing to the high rates, and it was then agreed that nothing be done in the matter. He did not think the overcrowding was very much greater now, though it might be slightly. Of course, they had the inspector's report, but he (Mr. Binnie) was of opinion that if this matter could be delayed at that time, it could be delayed yet. Mr. Myles had raised objection at that meeting at something he had said, but he did not finish the statement. Mr. Myles - No, I have nothing to say against anything you said. Mr. Binnie I am of opinion that we are in something of the same state as we were in then. I cannot therefore see my way to support either the motion or the amendment. I think building should be delayed. Maddiston has increased greatly. I remember when a boy Maddiston was not half the size it is now. It has increased more than double. Mr. J. B. Bryce - No. Mr. Binnie - of course, I am not speaking from statistics. It might be judicious to refrain from building, and Muiravonside might remain a mixed school, and by that time an addition might be made to Maddiston, and it made a mixed school too. I do not think that the grant would make up for the deficiency, because if we make it a mixed school, there will be two weak schools. I think Maddiston should be where the addition should be made, but not at present. I stand on the same ground as I did six months ago. I cannot vote for either the motion or the amendment. The Chairman said he agreed with a good deal of what had been said. Independent of Maddiston, more accommodation was required at Muiravonside. Even should the Board build an additional room at Muiravonside, he was quite prepared to build one also at Maddiston as soon as it was required. He had no objections to build there when there was necessity for it. The Board had been annoyed by Mr. Myles presenting this motion during the last five years. The Board could not get peace for him always bringing it up. The Board asked two months to consider it when he brought up this motion. Only a month before that it was lost by 5 votes to 2, and then, within two months' time, he brings up the same motion again, for no reason whatever. He had given the matter very serious consideration, and he had come to the conclusion that there was no necessity for building at Maddiston, but as a room was required at Muiravonside at any rate, that would be quite sufficient to meet the wants of the district for the next ten years. Mr. Myles said he would certainly never have the motion for the second time in the same year were it not for the fact that the inspector drew the committee's attention to the overcrowding in both schools. He appealed to Mr. Haldane if what he was saying was not correct. Mr. Haldane - I would not say both schools. I will tell you what the inspector said to me. He said he was surprised that the Board had not taken steps in connection with the overcrowding of Muiravonside School. I told him that the matter was before the Board for an extension at Maddiston, and I also said that there was a motion to extend at Muiravonside. Each of the members here know what kind of report the inspector gave, for I will not give it for the reason of it going to the press. Mr. Myles said that was one of the principal reasons why he, as convener for both schools moved the motion the second time in the one year. The reason why he moved that the addition should be at Maddiston was because the Board had a feu there for which they were paying £4, and it being an infant school, they were losing money by it being under that category, it would relieve the congestion in both schools and, in fact, might finally relieve them. If they decided to build at Muiravonside, they would ultimately have to build at Maddiston as well. Consequently the money spent at Muiravonside would be absolutely thrown away. Were they to build at

Maddiston, they would be economising. He had given them his opinion, and if they adopted the course he proposed, they would be acting strictly in the interests of the ratepayers. The Chairman - There is no use in discussing the matter further. I think the parish knows all about the matter. The vote was then taken, when Messrs Myles and Haldane voted for the amendment, that the Board do not build at Muiravonside; and there voted for the motion, that they do build, the chairman and Messrs D. Binnie, J. Bryce, and J. Bell Bryce. Mr. Archibald Binnie entered his dissent. At this stage Messrs Myles and Haldane left the meeting. Mr. Strang, architect, Falkirk, then submitted two alternative plans to the meeting, one for an addition that would accommodate 80 children at a cost of £720; and the other, that would accommodate 60 children, at a cost of £574. The latter plan was accepted. This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 30th July 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY

(Before Interim Sheriff-Substitute GRAHAM.)

NOISY MUIRAVONSIDE MINERS. -

Wm. Pender, miner, Rumford, and Frederick Clayton and Thomas Clayton, miners, Smithy Hill, Muiravonside, were fined 10s each, or seven days, for committing a breach of the peace on the public road at Smithy Hill on the 17th July.

A ROW IN THE STANDBURN "GOTHENBURG."-

John Campbell, hairdresser, Standburn, Muiravonside, was charged with having on the 22d July, at the " Gothenburg" public-house at Standburn, Muiravonside, assaulted Allan McLean, barman, Candiehead, and thrown a tumbler and a glass measure at him, and committed a breach of the peace. The accused pleaded guilty. The Fiscal said that Campbell was the worse of drink, and the barman refused to supply him. He returned, and lifting a tumbler threw it at the barman's head. Mr. Hunter, solicitor, appeared for the accused, and said that this public-house was the only one in the village of Standburn, and it was conducted on the Gothenburg, system. They were told that in this public-house they discouraged drinking rather than otherwise. But the fact remained that Campbell was in the public-house earlier in the day and got sufficient drink to make him intoxicated. He called again in the evening, and asked for a further supply, and was refused. A friend who was standing at the bar gave him a bottle of beer. The barman took the beer from him, and seizing a tumbler the accused threw it at him, but missed him. The barman then gave him a severe hammering. Had he used a little moral suasion, he might have got the accused out quietly. This was a Gothenburg public-house, and Campbell was perhaps a little more harshly treated than he would have been in an ordinary public-house. The Fiscal - He threw a glass well as a tumbler at the barman. The Sheriff said that this was a serious offence. The barman was quite entitled to refuse the accused drink, and he ought to be commended for doing so. His Lordship imposed a fine of 20s, or fourteen days.

A NOISY STANDBURN MINER. -

John Carlin, miner, Standburn, was fined 10s, or seven days, for committing a breach of the peace at Standburn.

THEFT OF COALS. -

Three women, named Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Cousland, and Mrs. Clerk, wives of miners, residing at Drumbowie Rows, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having, at No. 6 Pit, Muiravonside Colliery, stolen 56 lbs. of coal. With the accused in the dock were three young children, who were charged with being concerned in the offence, but against them the charge was dropped on the ground that they had acted at the instigation of their parents. Mr. Hunter, solicitor, appeared for the accused, and explained that the parents got coals from the firm. This supply had run out, and pending the delivery of the fresh supply they were to get in a day or two, they took some bits of coal. The Fiscal said that the proper course would have been to tell the pit manager that their supply had run out, and they might have been supplied at once in the regular way. The Sheriff said it was to the credit of the women that they admitted the offence themselves, instead of leaving their children to face the charge. It was a most pitiful thing to see such young children put into the dock at all charged with theft. It was a lamentable and most serious thing to encourage young children to commit theft. He fined the women 7s 6d each, with the option of five days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 2nd August 1902

MADDISTON.

At the examination under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society London, held in Maddiston School on the 23rd of April, with Mr. J. S. Wilson officiating as supervisor, we are pleased to note that Mr. Joseph Blair, gardener to William Scott, Esq. of Toravon, has been successful in gaining the certificate in horticulture of the society.

Falkirk Herald 13th August 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

FRIDAY

A MUIRAVONSIDE MINER GETS TWO SENTENCES OF IMPRISONMENT. -

Peter Ferguson, miner, Candie Rows, Muiravonside, was charged with having on the 26th July, at the stableyard in Standburn, occupied by Wilson Marshall, contractor, assaulted Donald Gow, police constable, Standburn, while in the discharge of his duty, by striking him a blow on the face with his fist. He was further charged with committing a breach of the peace. Panel pleaded guilty, and was sent to jail for ten days. The same accused was also charged with having, on the 18th July, at the house in Candie, occupied by James Hamilton, miner, maliciously smashed and destroyed two panes of glass in the window of the said house, and committed a breach of the peace. Having been previously convicted, he was sent to jail for other ten days, to date from the time he was imprisoned.

Falkirk Herald 16th August 1902

POLMONT AND DISTRICTS.

PING PONG MATCH REDDING V. MADDISTON. -

A match between the above clubs was played on Mr. Forsyth's table at Brightons on Monday night, and ended in a win for Redding by 63 points. Scores: -

REDDING.		MADDISTON.	
P. Walker	30	W. Cummings	17
A. Walker	30	H. Todd	19
J. Russell	30	J. Todd	22
P. Taylor	30	A. McLellan	25
J. M'Queen	30	J. Low	22
W. Grant	29	W. Thom	30
R. Grant	30	W. Pearson	11
	200		146

Falkirk Herald 27th August 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

ANOTHER LIVELY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

A meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board took place in the Maddiston School yesterday - Mr. Wilson (chairman) presiding. The proceedings were of a very animated description, and some lively passages took place, especially between Mr. Myles, Mr. D. Binnie, and the Chairman over several matters. The Chairman proceeded to correct some misstatements made by Mr. Myles at a public meeting at Maddiston, held to condemn the action of the Board in building at Muiravonside instead of at Maddiston. Mr. Myles made a heated retort, and the proceedings ended in a personal wrangle between the two. Mr. D.

Binnie rose to leave the meeting, saying that he was disgusted and was going away. Mr. Myles - You have good reason to be disgusted too. It was the chairman who started it. A full report of the meeting will appear in our Saturday's issue.

Falkirk Herald 27th August 1902

FATAL ACCIDENT INQUIRIES.

Five fatal accident inquiries were held before Sheriff Bell and a jury in the Falkirk Sheriff Court yesterday. The first inquiry was into the circumstances attending the death on 30th June of Peter Taylor, farmer's assistant, Coxhill Farm, near Maddiston. After hearing the evidence, the jury found that the deceased met his death through the horse attached to a cart laden with stones which he was driving at Craigs Quarry, Avonbridge, taking fright and bolting, and throwing him to the ground, whereby one of the wheels of the cart passed over his body. It came out in the evidence that the deceased, before the accident, met a boy carrying a bag of grass. He stopped his cart and offered to take the lad's load along the road. The horse took fright at the sight of the bag, and the deceased, who had not a proper grip of the reins, was thrown off his cart and killed. His Lordship remarked that it was evident that this unfortunate young man had met his death through trying to do an act of kindness to a boy.

Falkirk Herald 30th August 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MUIRAVONSIDE FLOWER SHOW. -

The annual exhibition of the Muiravonside Horticultural Society was given in Maddiston School on Saturday last, and being favoured with a beautiful day, secured a record attendance of the public. Owing to the backward season, the exhibits generally did not reach their usual standard of excellence. This was particularly apparent in the section allotted to cut flowers, while in the vegetable class the most of the exhibits were of excellent quality. The handsome prizes given by Mr. William Scott of Toravon for the best-kept cottage frontages in the village of Maddiston have attracted great interest and keen competition, and the generous donor has the satisfaction of seeing the competition result in the beautifying of the village.

Full report of meeting of Muiravonside School Board will be found on page 7.

Falkirk Herald 30th August 1902

MADDISTON.

PRESENTATION. -

On Wednesday evening last Mr. Peter Johnston, late of Maddiston Store, was met by a large number of friends in Maddiston School and made the recipient of a handsome travelling bag and a beautiful walking stick, to mark the occasion of his leaving the district to fill an appointment in Clydebank. Mr. J. S. Wilson, teacher, Maddiston, presided, and the gifts were presented to Mr. Johnstone by Mr. Thomas Pearson. In a few well chosen remarks Mr. Johnstone expressed his gratitude for the handsome presents, and thereafter an enjoyable evening was spent in song and sentiment.

Falkirk Herald 30th August 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

LIVELY PROCEEDINGS

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Wilson (chairman) presided, and present Messrs D. Binnie, Myles, J.B. Bryce, Haldane, and J. Bryce.

MR. MYLES COMPLAINS OF BROKEN PLEDGES AND BROWBEATING.

At the outset Mr. Haldane objected to a girl of 12 years and 9 months, a relative of one of the members of the Board, having been exempted from school attendance; and Mr. Myles and Mr. Haldane objected to minutes of the previous meeting in respect that they contained no record of a letter sent by them to the clerk protesting against the last special meeting. Mr. Haldane, speaking regarding his own complaint certain members of the Board got their friends away from school earlier than they ought. This was not the first time that had happened. A child of 12 years and 9 months too young to be exempted from attending school, and he thought they should set themselves anything of the kind. The Chairman said he quite agreed with that, but there had been similar exceptional cases treated in the same way. Mr. Haldane - This case has no precedent. The Chairman - It was done by the Board, and the Board are in the hands of the Department. If the Board have done wrong they will be corrected. Mr. D. Binnie - I propose that we go on with the business. If we go on at this rate, we will be sitting here all night. Mr. Myles - You may move anything you like, but it is our duty to put things right which are wrong. Here is the code, and we must be guided by it. Mr. Binnie - There is too much killing of time at this Board. Mr. Myles - You have done something at that yourself. You have played the same game before, and if you are going to object now, here is one who will meet you. There is no man at this Board who conducted himself more harmoniously towards the members than I did before you broke your pledges with the ratepayer. You are not an honorable man to yourself. Mr. Haldane - Mr. Myles handed a letter to the clerk protesting against the special meeting and as it is not recorded in the minutes I have no more to say. Mr. Myles - (to the chairman) - If you begin to browbeat, it is the wrong game to play. It should be stated in the minutes that such a letter, from members of the Board, was before you. Do you want to play with us? Do you want to make schoolboys of us? You have the wrong two men to deal with if you want to do that. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I have nothing to do with that. Mr. Myles - But I have to do with it. If we cannot get our wishes carried out by a vote in the Board, we make our voices be heard. The minute of the last meeting was then signed by the chairman as a correct record of what occurred. Mr. Myles - I want to move that the minute of the meeting of the Board held at Muiravonside is not correct. Mr. John Bryce - In what respect is it not correct? Mr. Myles - Because of our protest not being entered. It must be entered now, and come up for explanation at next meeting, seeing Mr. Hunter, the clerk, is present to-day. The Chairman gave his consent to Mr. Myles' protest being entered in the minutes, and asked him to repeat it. Mr. Myles - It is that an entry should have been made regarding our protest, and also the purport of the letter lodged with that protest, and an explanation must be given at next meeting. The protest was then entered.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE -

EXCESSIVE OVERCROWDING AT MADDISTON SCHOOL.

The officer reported that the school attendances as follows :-

	On Roll.	Av.Att.
Muiravonside School	196	167
Drumbowie School	453	362
Blackbraes School	401	330
Maddiston School	130	109
Avonbridge School	74	68

Mr. Haldane asked how the attendance at Maddiston School was made up? The first week after the opening he said, the roll was 132, last week it was 134, and this week it was 132.

The officer said that that one week the roll fell to 128 and that made the difference. Some children left and went to Wallacestone School. Mr. Myles - The parents of those children came to me and said their children were put out of the school, were no seats for them. A Mr. Cherry told me he was going to withdraw his children from the school, as when he went to the school he found them sitting on the floor. The Chairman - There will be plenty of room when this addition is made at Muiravonside. (Laughter)Mr. Myles - You will be no better off there when the addition is made and the £1,000 spent. The Chairman - Muiravonside is requiring it Mr. Myles - My point is this, that you have enrolled a number in that school already sufficient to fill the new room. The Chairman - We will need to give accommodation when it is required. Mr. Myles - Very well; put the accommodation where it is required. If you do that you will not have to build in two places instead of one, and squander the ratepayers' money, the subject then dropped.

SCHOOL REPORTS - DRY ROT AT DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL

Mr. J. B. Bryce reported with regard to Blackbraes School that the two new teachers had

begun work. Mr. Campbell had to put the ex-sixth standard class in the large schoolroom, which was not so much overcrowded. There were 104 children from Polmont parish attending the Blackbraes School. Mr. D. Binnie, reported regarding the Drumbowie School, said that Miss Murray had resigned her situation there, and the clerk was instructed to advertise for a certificated infant mistress. The Chairman - Something should be done to try and stop the rot at Drumbowie School. Mr. J. B. Bryce suggested that a specialist might be called in to advise what ought to be done. It was only a small piece of the woodwork which was affected. The wood was as good as it was when it was put in, only the fungus was there. The matter was left in the hands of the School Committee. Mr. Myles said he had visited Muiravonside School, but he had nothing special to report. The school had been all cleaned, and Mr. Watt, the headmaster, said it had never looked better since it was a school.

CHILDREN SITTING ON A SCHOOL FLOOR.

Mr. Haldane - I visited Maddiston School yesterday and I found some of the children sitting on the floor. I asked the teacher if she could not get seats for them to sit upon, and she said there would be no room to walk up and down if that were done. The Chairman - We will try and get seats by and by. Mr. Myles - If you had put the seats in the right place, you would have made a man of yourself in the chair. Mr. D. Binnie - Next business, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Myles - It is the unanimous opinion of the ratepayers of the Parish that the addition should have been made to Maddiston School, instead of Muiravonside School. THE DEPARTMENT AND THE PLANS FOR THE MUIRAVONSIDE ADDITION.

Mr. Myles (to the clerk) - Have the plans for the addition to Muiravonside School been approved of by the Department yet?

The Clerk - No.

EVENING CLASSES.

Mr. Marshall, organising secretary of the Eastern District of Stirlingshire Technical Instruction Committee of the County Council, was introduced, and gave a full and interesting account of what the committee proposed to do during the winter months with the aid of the School Board, in the way of promoting technical instruction in Muiravonside parish. He mentioned that the subjects in which instruction would be given would have reference to the three main industries of the district - mining, agriculture and iron founding. The County Committee did not propose to support classes for cookery or dressmaking. At the same time, the grants for such subject were so liberal that there seemed no reason why School Boards should not provide a class themselves if there was a demand for one. The classes would be conducted on the same system as formerly, only that in the case of the Muiravonside classes the County Committee would not recognise them unless there was an attendance of 12. Arrangements had been made for the starting of a butter-making class in the district, and he invited the Board to attend the opening demonstration next Monday. They would all welcome Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside back to his duties as a County Councillor, and he had arranged for him to preside. To assist honours students in mining, engineering, and such subjects, the Technical Instruction Committee were prepared to arrange scholarships which would meet the cost of travelling to such institutions as the West of Scotland Technical College and Coatbridge Mining School. Scholarships were also offered to selected farmers, tenable at the West of Scotland Agricultural College while in the same Interest the bulletins of the college giving the results of agricultural experiments would continue to be posted to all the district farmers. An allowance for travelling expenses would be made to students at the county classes at Falkirk and Slamannan Art Schools, provided they resided beyond three miles from these centres. An important part of the scheme was the provision at Falkirk for the instruction of their teachers in such subjects as nature knowledge, frearm drawing, manual exercises, and physical drill. Dealing with the financial aspect of the proposals, Mr. Marshall explained that while the Board must meet the loss upon the ordinary elementary continuation classes, the Technical Instruction Committee would recoup them of the loss incurred upon the technical subjects arranged for. Several questions were put to Mr. Marshall, and answered by him to the satisfaction of the Board. Mr. J. B. Bryce expressed his disappointment that the County Committee were going to neglect the young ladies. Some of them were looking forward to a dressmaking class being started this session. Mr. Marshall was heartily thanked for the valuable information he had laid before the Board on the question.

THE CHAIRMAN AND THE INDIGNATION MEETING -

A " SCENE."

The Chairman - Before the reporter leaves, I would like to say a few words. Of course, you will all have heard of the indignation meeting which was held in this school. It is a little time ago since it took place, but this is the first chance I have got of contradicting a lot of the statements which were made by Mr. Myles at that meeting. In fact, they were all very misleading. Mr. Myles - Before you proceed further, you will give me an opportunity of replying. Will that opportunity be granted? The Chairman - Certainly. Mr. Myles - Then contradict anything I said if you can. The Chairman (continuing) said that a lot of very misleading statements were made at the public meeting to which he was referring, and these could be easily disproved. He would only mention one or two of the misstatements as an example of the whole. Mr. Myles had said there were fifty children educated in Wallacestone School from the Muiravonside parish. He (the chairman) found that that was not the case: and Mr. John Bryce had a letter from Mr. Biggar, the headmaster of Wallacestone School, giving a full statement of the scholars who came to his school from this parish. He said that from Rumford, which was in Muiravonside parish, nine pupils attended Wallacestone School only two of whom were above Standard II. He also said that, supposing there were a mixed school opened at Maddiston, he did not believe those, nine children would attend it unless they were forced. Mr. Myles also stated that by having fifty children educated outside the parish the ratepayers were losing £50, or £1 per head. With regard to that statement, his reply was that anyone who knew anything about schools or education knew very well that they could not educate their children for the grant, if they could, they would require no school rates at all. They knew quite well that to educate their children cost about £1 per head in addition to the grant received per scholar. Therefore, instead of losing £50, the fact was that they were saving £50 to the ratepayers supposing it was the case, which he denied, that they had fifty children being educated outside the parish. Mr. Myles made another misstatement, that 1d per £1 raised £1000 in Muiravonside parish. Those who knew anything at all about the rating of the parish knew perfectly well that was not the case. He had got the exact figures, and 1d per £ would raise about £100. That was a very misleading statement for Mr. Myles to make, but apparently the audience believed him and took it all in. They appeared to take in anything about Maddiston. A lot of other statements were made which had no connection whatever with the building of a school at Maddiston, and they were of the same class -misleading and ridiculous statements. But he was not going into that at present. He wanted to state his reasons for not building at Maddiston in the meantime. Adding the average attendance at the Muiravonside and Maddiston Schools together, they had only 276 children, which they would all admit was hardly a sufficient number for one school, far less for two. He held that it would be a great mistake to put an addition to this school at the present time, and to put a headmaster and a fully equipped school at Maddiston, the same as at Muiravonside, when there were only 276 children at the two schools. That was his reason for not building at Maddiston at present. There had been a great deal said about Maddiston increasing. There was no doubt that Maddiston had increased a good bit within the last 25 years, but he thought that at the present time there was no increase or any likelihood of an increase. He was informed on good authority that the minerals were nearly all wrought out at Maddiston and that, instead of there being an increase there was likely to be a decrease of population there. He was quite agreeable to build a mixed school at Maddiston as soon as it was necessary, and as soon as he saw that, there were children sufficient to fill the school. But they required to build an additional room at Maddiston independent of this school altogether. The infant department at Muiravonside School was overcrowded at present to the extent of about thirty, and those children all came from the east. There was not an infant at Muiravonside School from Maddiston. They were bound to provide accommodation for those children quite independent

of this school at Maddiston, so that it would have been a mistake to have built at Maddiston at the present time. Mr. J. Bryce then read the letter from Mr. Biggar which the chairman had referred to. The letter bore out the chairman's statement as to the number of Muiravonside parish children attending Wallacestone School, and in conclusion the letter stated: - "I make bold to say that not one of those over Standard II., would go away if, Maddiston taught even up to Standard VI. There is not even the shadow of a case in it. Taking in the brick work, there are ten who do not go though they may, and six who would not go though they could. To put it in another way there are only six pupils to draw on here to fill the new Maddiston School, and I expect they will have to be forced." Mr. Myles, in replying to the chairman's criticisms, said he was charged with making a false statement regarding the number of children from Muiravonside parish attending Wallacestone School. That he totally denied. The statement he made on that subject he got from the compulsory officer, paid by the ratepayers through the Board. He asked the officer to come from his room and give the Board a report on the number of Muiravonside children attending Wallacestone School, and he said the number was 51. That was not his (Mr. Myles) statement. It was that of the officer, and if their officer's books were false and misleading, take him to task. It did not become the chairman of the Board, sitting at the Board meeting and hearing the officer give that report, and not to characterise them false and misleading till he (Mr. Myles) repeated them. The Chairman - I never listened to the officer make such a statement. Mr. Myles - Is it not the case that I asked Mr. Williamson, the officer, to come from that room and tell the Board the exact number of children attending Wallacestone School from Muiravonside parish? The Chairman - Never in my hearing. Mr. J. Bryce - It will never do for you to shelter yourself under that, Mr. Myles. Mr. Haldane - It is the case; Mr. Myles is quite correct. Mr. J. Bryce - Then Mr. Myles ought to have verified the report. Mr. Myles - I did not interrupt you while you were speaking, and do not interrupt me. Mr. J. Bryce - You are putting off time. Mr. Myles - It is you who are making me put off time, but that sort of thing will not do for me. At the first Board meeting we have I will make Mr. Williamson produce his report, and put the lie on the right shoulders. As to my having stated that 1d per £ would raise £1000, that was not the case. That is not Mr. Myles' idea, if the chairman has a false idea of what I said. What I said was that 1d per £ would pay the interest and part of the principal on £1000. That is misstatement No. 2 refuted. It is the case that I said that if we taught in Muiravonside parish the fifty children which the officer said were being educated in Wallacestone School, we would be earning £50, or £1 per head. We would be bringing £50 worth of labour into the parish, and employing another teacher. Mr. J. B. Bryce - We do not wish to create teachers. Mr. Myles - You will be saving £50 a year to the ratepayers by teaching those children here. You may bring as many misstatements against Mr. Myles as you like, but they will be refined. The Chairman - After all Mr. Myles' refutations, the case still stands the same. Mr. Myles - It may be in your estimation. The Chairman - I base my statement on what is reported in the "Falkirk Herald," and it is very fair. Mr. Myles - "The "Falkirk Herald" is always very fair, and let this appear in the "Falkirk Herald" as between you and me, and let the ratepayers be the judges. I take the officer's report in preference to Mr. Biggar's till the former is disproved. It will be proved who is correct when at next meeting; the officer gives his statement through his books. The Chairman I take the "Falkirk Herald" as my authority. I was not at the meeting. Mr. Myles - But I was at the meeting. The Chairman - I was quite surprised at the Maddiston people. They take in everything without the slightest gram of salt. Mr. Myles - The Maddiston people are as good judges of what are statements of fact as are the people of any part of the parish. The Chairman - We will leave the public to judge which statement is correct. I am finished. Mr. Myles - I will not say I am finished; it will be a long time till I am finished Mr. Haldane - By your statement, Mr. Chairman, you have filled Muiravonside School The Chairman - We will be quite pleased to see every school filled, and Maddiston School also. Mr. Myles - You said repeatedly that, if building was required, it would be at Maddiston first. You have now acted directly the opposite, and broken your word. Mr. J. Bryce - We are not going to be dictated to by a minority of the Board. Mr. Myles - I am not speaking to you. The Chairman - I asked two months to consider what we should do. I said we would likely require to build here, but I very soon found that we would not require to do so. I am satisfied that 95 per cent, of the ratepayers of Muiravonside parish are opposed to building at Maddiston. Mr. Myles - Is it not a fact that it was known at Avonbridge before the Board meeting to decide the question that there would be no building at Maddiston School? The Avonbridge school master was able to state that a month before the Board met to decide it. Who put him in possession of his information but yourself? Mr. Chairman? The Chairman - You have nothing to do with that. Mr. Myles - I have to do with it. You put him in possession of his information, which was utterly fulfilled. The Scriptures tell us that "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." You have one mind to us, and another to the public outside. The Chairman - If I did it. Mr. Myles - Who was to do it but you? The Chairman - I wanted two months to consider the question. I wanted to get the feeling of the ratepayers, and I found it out. Mr. Myles - How did you get the feeling of the ratepayers? Had you a meeting with them? The Chairman - You do not need to mind anything about that. Mr. Myles - No silliness about it; come, out with it. The Chairman - I got to know the feeling of the ratepayers of Muiravonside. Mr. Myles - Name the ratepayers whose opinion you got. If you do not, I can. It was the feeling of one or two you got, in whose hands you are a tool to be used as they like. The Chairman - I am an instrument in the hands of the ratepayers. Mr. J. B. Bryce- I am surprised at you continuing this discussion, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Myles (to the chairman) - If you are silly enough to be made a tool of in their hands, you are perfectly right to come here and defend your position. The Chairman - Look here Mr. Myles, you are not responsible for what you are saying. I am a representative of, the ratepayers as well as you, and do you expect I am going to go against the feeling of my constituents? Mr. Myles - If you had said you had got the opinion of the ratepayers at a public meeting your position would have had some justification, but when you have only got the opinion of a few of the wirepullers in the west end of the parish, it is ridiculous. The Chairman - I have got the feeling of the ratepayers of Muiravonside, and 95 per cent, of them are opposed to building at Maddiston. Mr. Myles - Call a meeting of the ratepayers. and if after they have heard both sides of the question, they decide not to build at Maddiston. I will have no more to say. Mr. D. Binnie - I am thoroughly disgusted. I am going away. Mr. Myles - You have a good reason to be disgusted too. It was the chairman who started it. The Chairman - Sit down, Mr. Binnie I am finished. Mr. Binnie then resumed his seat. The Board then dealt with a number of defaulting parents.

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STANDBURN.

PRESENTATION. -

On Thursday evening a deputation from Calderwood Lodge (No. 2339) of the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds, Avonbridge, waited upon Bro. Dr. Calderwood at his residence for the purpose of showing their appreciation of services rendered towards the lodge. Bro. Sinclair, secretary, in name of the lodge, presented Bro. Dr. Calderwood with a handsome enlarged stereographic photo, (framed in oak) of the members of the lodge, taken at the unfurling of their banner, as a token of esteem for the interest taken by him at the inception of the lodge. Dr. Calderwood, in reply, thanked the deputation for the goodwill expressed in the gift presented, which, he said, would always be placed in a prominent place in his house. Thereafter the deputation were hospitably entertained by the worthy doctor, a pleasant evening being spent.

HOMING. -

Under the auspices of the Standburn Homing Club, a race was held on Saturday last from Alnwick for a silver cup presented by Mr. William Moore. The result was: - Cup and gold badge, James Aitchison; 2 (gold centered badge), Nathaniel Aitchison; 3 (silver badge), Robert M'Lean.

PRESENTATION. -

On Thursday afternoon the pupils and teachers of Drumbowie Public School met together for

the purpose of bidding adieu to one of their number, Miss M. M. Murray, on the occasion of her leaving to fill another appointment under the Dalkeith School Board. Mr. George Gordon Mackay, headmaster, in name of the teachers and subscribers, presented Miss Murray with a handsome dressing bag, suitably inscribed. Miss Murray, in a fitting manner, expressed her appreciation for the kindness shown to her. Later in the evening Miss Murray entertained the teachers at her residence, where an enjoyable evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald 30th August 1902 AVONBRIDGE.

THE WATER SCHEME. –

Mr. Thomas Christie, contractor. Has been successful in securing the contract under the East Stirlingshire water scheme for the laying of 14 miles of water pipes in Slamannan, Avonbridge, and district. A commencement was made last week: at Gateside, near Standburn. Messrs Warren and Steuart, C.E., Glasgow, are the engineers for the works, the old Factory at Avonbridge is to be fitted up as a bothy for the navvies.

Falkirk Herald 3rd September 1902

MUIRAVONDSIDE. MUIRAVONDSIDE FLOWER SHOW.

As briefly reported in our last Saturday's issue the annual exhibition of the Muiravonside Horticultural Society was given in Maddiston School on Saturday, 23rd August, and being favoured with a beautiful day, secured a record attendance of the public. Owing to the backward season, the exhibits generally did not reach their usual standard of excellence. This was particularly apparent in the section allotted to cut flowers, while in the vegetable class the most of the exhibits were of excellent quality. The handsome prizes given by Mr. William Scott of Toravon for the best-kept cottage frontages in the village of Maddiston have attracted great interest and keen competition, and the generous donor has the satisfaction of seeing the competition result in the beautifying of the village. The following gentlemen officiated as judges in the respective sections of the exhibition: - Flowers, fruits, and vegetables - Messrs Alex. Hay, Linlithgow; A. Copland, Polmont; W. Murray, Parkhall; and John McCormack, Lochmill. Dairy and farm produce - Messrs W. Aitkenhead, Meadowbank, and J. Aitken, Newlands. Fretwork - Mr. R. Thomson, Brightons. After the judging the committee and judges dined together in Maddiston Inn, where an excellent dinner was purveyed by Miss Galloway. Mr. J. B. Bryce, president of the society, occupied the chair, and the duties of croupier were discharged by Mr. J. S. Wilson, secretary. The following is the prize-list:-

POT PLANTS. –

Rose in pot - J. Leishman; 2, J. McLachlan.
Hydrangea – 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. McLachlan.
Fuchsia, light - P. Wardlaw.
Fuchsia, dark - Thos. Rait.
Geranium, double - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. McLachlan.
Geranium, single - J. McLachlan.
Geranium, variegated - P. Wardlaw.
Heliotrope - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. McLachlan.
Pot liliiums - J. McLachlan.
Begonia - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Petunia - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. McLachlan.
Pot musk - 1, J. Williamson; 2, R. Heeps.
Pot fern - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, P. Wardlaw.
West Indian juniper - P. Wardlaw.
Pot lobelia - 1, T. Rait; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Plant, distinct from the preceding - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Two ten week stocks, shown in pots - 1, Jas. Leishman; 2, A. Richardson.
Calceolaria in pot - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, A. Richardson.
Best British fern - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, Jas. Taylor.
Geranium, fuchsia, and petunia - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. McLachlan.
Table of plants - P. Wardlaw.
Two table plants, foliage - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. McLachlan.
Best plant in flower - P. Wardlaw.
Best plant in sections 1 and 2 - P. Wardlaw.
Four pots asters (chrysanthemums,) - 1, A. Richardson; 2, Thomas Rait.

WINDOW PLANTS. -

Fuchsia, any sort - David Smith.
Geranium, any sort - David Smith.
Rose in pot - 1, D. Smith; 2, A. Anderson.
Begonia, any sort - D. Smith.

CUT FLOWERS. –

Six dahlias, cactus - P. Landles.
Six asters, quilled - 1, T. Rait; 2, P. Landles.
Six asters, other than quilled - 1, A. Richardson; 2, P. Landles.
Four spikes antirrhinums, sorts - 1, J. M'Cawley; 2, A. Rhind.
Four spikes pentstemons - A. Richardson.
Four spikes phlox - J. McLachlan.
Six French marigolds - 1, A. Rhind; 2, A. Richardson.
Twelve fancy pansies - 1, J. Taylor; 2, R. Brown.
Six varieties of show pansies - 1, R. Brown; 2, J. M'Cawley.
Four bunches hardy annuals, variety - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, P. Landles.
Four spikes herbaceous - J. Williamson.
Bouquet of wild flower, gathered by children - 1, J. Williamson; 2, W. Williamson; 3, J. M'Cawley.
Six sprays violas - 1, R. W. Brown; 2, D. Smart.
Six trusses geraniums, variety - 1, P. Landles; 2, J. McLachlan.
Twelve pansies (6 fancy, 6 show) - 1, J. M'Cawley; 2, J. Taylor.
Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Landles; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Hand-bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Landles; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, P. Landles.
Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Landles; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Bouquet of roses - A. Anderson; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Bouquet of cut flowers, not built on wire or heather - 1, P. Landles; 2, T. Rait.
Bouquet of roses - 1, P. Landles; 2, T. Rait.
Table bouquet, not built on wire or heather - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, P. Landles.
Stand of cut flowers, hardy sorts, arranged for effect - P. Wardlaw.
Hand bouquet - P. Landles.
Hand bouquet, not built on wire or heather - P. Landles.
Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Landles; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Rose - J. Leishman.
Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Landles; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Hand bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Landles; 2, P. Wardlaw.
Six bunches sweet peas - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, A. Rhind.

FRUIT-

Twelve gooseberries, flavour considered - 1, R. W. Brown; 2, J. Leishman.
Best 1/2lb. red currants - H. W. Haigh.
Best 1/2lb. black currants - 1, H. W. Haigh; 2, J. Williamson.
Six heaviest gooseberries - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. McLachlan.
Collection of fruit - 1, H. W. Haigh; 2, A. Anderson. Six apples - H. W. Haigh.
1lb. gooseberry jelly - 1, Mrs. J. Meikle; 2, Mrs. P. Wardlaw; 3, Mrs. J. Williamson.

VEGATABLES –

Early cabbage - 1, D. Smith; 2, A. Anderson.

Red cabbage - 1, T. Rait; 2, Thos. Williamson.
 Savoy - , J. McLachlan; 2, J. Carmichael.
 Curled green - 1, P. Wardlaw ; 2, D. Smith.
 Six onions, spring grown - 1, A. Rhind; 2, T. Williamson.
 Six eschallots - 1, J. Williamson; 2, D. Smith.
 Six potato onions - 1, T. Williamson; 2, Thos. Rae.
 Three Parsnips - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, A. Richardson.
 Three carrots - 1, A. Richardson; 2, D. Smith.
 Three beetroot - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, A. Rhind.
 Three turnips - 1, D. Smith; 2, T. Williamson.
 Three stalks finest rhubarb - 1, J. Williamson; 2, J. Taylor.
 Six pods beans - 1, Thomas Rait; 2, T. Williamson.
 Six pods peas - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, A. Rhinds.
 Parsley plant shown in pot - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, A. Landles.
 Four best leeks - 1, A. Rhinds; 2, J. McLachlan; 3, Thos. Rae.
 Two cauliflower heads - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, A. Rhinds.
 Six potatoes, any one sort, early - , R. Heeps; 2, J. McLachlan.
 Six potatoes, any one sort, late - 1, R. Heeps; 2, J. McLachlan.
 Collection of potatoes, six sort, three of each - 1, J- M'Cawley; 2, J. McLachlan.
 Collection of vegetables, six sorts, excluding tomatoes and cucumbers - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, P. Wardlaw; 3, James Taylor.
 Three heads of celery - 1, A. Rhinds; 2, J. Williamson.
 Late cabbage - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, Jas. Taylor.
 Four stalks heaviest rhubarb - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, T. Williamson.
 Heaviest three eschallots - 1, D. Smith; 2, Thomas Rait.
 Three leeks, three onions, and three turnips - 1, A. Rhinds; 2, T. Williamson; 3, J. McLachlan.
 Six lbs. of eschallots - 1, T. Williamson; 2, D. Smith; 3, D. Laing.
 Two parsnips, two carrots, two beetroot, and two turnips - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, James Taylor ;3, J. M 'Cawley.
 Collection of vegetables, eight sorts - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, T. Rait.
 Best and heaviest vegetable marrow - J. McLachlan.
 Heaviest leek - 1, A. Rhind ; 2, J., McLachlan.
 Six best tomatoes - P. Wardlaw.
DAIRY PRODUCE –
 1 lb. fresh butter, in prints - 1, Mrs. J. McLachlan; 2, Mrs. J. Meikle; 3, Mrs. J. Williamson.
 1 lb. powdered butter, in jar - 1, Mrs. J. McLachlan; 2, Mrs. J. Meikle; 3, Mrs. J. Williamson.
 One dozen hen eggs, best - 1, James Taylor; 2, J. M 'Lachlan.
 Best three flour scones - 1, Mrs. Meikle; 2, Mrs. McLachlan; 3, Mrs. Williamson.
 Best three farls of oatmeal cakes (meal and water) - 1, Mrs. J. McLachlan; 2, Mrs. J. Meikle; 3, Mrs. D. Smith.
 Twelve heaviest hen eggs - J. McLachlan.
 Best three oatmeal cakes, baked by ladies under 25 years of age - Miss Aiken.
FARM PRODUCE –
 Three Aberdeen green top yellow turnips - 1, J. McLachlan ; 2, J. B. Addison ;3, J. Meikle.
 Twelve potatoes, two varieties - 1, J. B. Addison ;2, J. McLachlan.
 Best six stalks of field beans - 1, J. B. Addison; 2, J. McLachlan; 3, J. Meikle.
 Best three Swedish turnips - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, J. Meikle.
 Head of corn, most pickles - J. B. Addison.
 Best late cabbage - 1, J. McLachlan ; 2, J. B. Addison.
 Twelve stalks best corn - , J. McLachlan; 2, J. B. Addison.
 Sheaf of ryegrass - 1, J. McLachlan; 2, J. Meikle.
 The most successful exhibitor in the dairy section was Mr. James McLachlan, Kendieshill;
 the most successful exhibitor in the farm section - Mr. James McLachlan;
 and the most successful exhibitor over all sections of the show - Mr. James McLachlan.
 Best specimen of fret-work 1, Mr. A. B. Bryce, Manuel; 2, P. Forsyth, Maddiston; 3, M. Forsyth, Maddiston.
 In the competition for prizes of £3, £2, and £1 respectively for the best cottage frontages in the village of Maddiston the award of the judges is as follows:-
 1, Geo. Todd ; 2, Thos. Rae, Gowanlee; 3, David Smith.

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MADDISTON.

SCHOOL EXTENSION. –

A Maddiston correspondent writes as follows: - Much indignation is being expressed throughout the parish with regard to the refusal of certain members of the School Board to allow of the above school being extended in order to meet the growing need of the village. In spite of the fact that at present a large number of the pupils attending this school have to find seats on the floor space, a section of the Board refuse to allow an extension to be made and by " voting down " the members of the Board who seek to grapple with the question, it has been arranged to build in another part of the parish, where there is no growth of population at all. It is clearly seen that from the present state of matters in the Maddiston School, if it is to be tolerated, even as an infant school, much longer, it must be extended, and as the extension agreed to in the other part of the parish will have for its purpose the same motive as the coming extension at Maddiston, the extension agreed to simply means a throwing away of the tax payers money. Then, again, Maddiston having of recent years developed into a large centre, there is a demand for a school such as will allow of evening classes being conducted, and in order to allow of this a mixed school is required. Comparing the demand at Maddiston for the accommodation referred to with the demand at the part of the parish where it has been agreed to build, last year an evening class, attended by an average of 30 pupils, was conducted (in spite of difficulties), in the Maddiston School, while at Muiravonside a similar was attended by only seven pupils on an average. It is stated that the refusal of the Board to build at Maddiston means that no evening class is likely to be conducted at Maddiston this year, and as only seven pupils attended Muiravonside evening class last year, the County Council will not tolerate the continuance of that class. Such is the state of matters with regard to educational affairs in the parish meantime, and no end of comment is to be heard.

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FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT. Monday.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Cockburn.)

NOT PROVEN.-

James Hunter, Maddiston, pleaded not guilty to committing a breach of the peace there.

Evidence was led. Mr. Blane solicitor, conducting the defence.

The charge was found not proven.

RELATIVES DISAGREE - .

Rachel Forgie or Heaps, wife of Thomas Heaps miner, The Square, Blackbraes pleaded guilty to having (1), at the house at Blackbraes occupied by John Whyte, retired miner, assaulted Jane Whyte or Heaps, wife of Alex. Heaps, miner, South Row, Blackbraes, and thrown a pint beer bottle at her; and (2), on the public road at Blackbraes, again assaulted the said Jane Whyte or Heaps by beating her on the face and body with her fists and with a door key. The Fiscal said that the two women had quarreled, and the accused threw a bottle at the complainer, which fortunately did not strike her. Mr. Binnie, for the accused, said she was married six weeks ago, and the complainer, who was the aunt of her husband, was not satisfied with her nephew's choice. Every time the accused went through the village she was subjected to very abusive language. On Wednesday last the complainer threw a bottle at her, and she threw it back, but it did not strike the complainer. The latter then went for the police,

and on returning the accused met her and on a sudden impulse struck her. The Sheriff, in imposing a fine of 12s 6d, or seven days, said that the offence would have been more serious than it was had the bottle struck the complainer. Whether she fought with her fists or not, she should be careful not to use a weapon.

THEFT OF APPLES –

James Laing, steam-hammer driver, No. 43 West Carron, was fined 10s or seven days, for stealing two apples from the garden at Stenhouse Mansion-House, Larbert

Falkirk Herald 13th September 1902

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday. In the absence of Major Dobbie (convenor), ex-Provost Mackay, Grangemouth, was called to the chair. There were also present Mr. A. Peddie Waddell of Balquhaton. Mr. Salvesen of Lathallan. Mr. Mitchell of Millfield, Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside. Mr. Hunter. Glennfuir; Provost Mackay, Grangemouth; Mr. J. B. Cochran, Stenhousemuir; ex Provost Griffiths, Falkirk; Mr. Baillie, Carron; Mr. A. N. McKillop, Polmont Park; Mr. Charles Brown, Kerse; Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout; Mr. Wm. Munnoch, Redding; Mr. James McKay, Avonbridge; Mr. J. B. Smith, Clifford Park; Mr. Gardner, Slamannan; Mr. Rankine, Laurieston; and Mr. J. H. Burns, clerk.

TELEPHONE EXTENSION.

The Telephone Company having arranged to connect Toravon and Vellore Houses with a telephone service, it was agreed (so far as the Council could do so) to grant them permission to erect seven poles at the side of the road at Maddiston village on the usual conditions.

MADDISTON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.

The Road Surveyor said he had arranged with the representatives of Mr. Kincaid Smith and others for the giving off of the necessary ground to widen and improve the road between Maddiston and Bowhouse as agreed upon. It was too late in the autumn to begin now, and he proposed to delay starting with the work till the spring of the year, more especially as they were not sure how their funds would stand in relation to the valuation this year. This was agreed to.

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SALE OF WORK

In Aid of the UNITED FREE CHURCH MISSION, STANDBURN,

Will be held in the PUBLIC HALL, STANDBURN, On FRIDAY and SATURDAY, 19TH AND 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1902.

The Sale of Work will be Opened on FRIDAY, 19th September, at 4 o'clock by GEORGE GIBB, Esq, Carmyle - chairman, JOHN FINNIE, Esq, Candie House; and on SATURDAY, 20th September, at 3 o'clock, the Sale of work will be Opened by Dr. CALDERWOOD, Standburn - Chairman, Rev. JOHN LINDSAY, M.A., Bathgate.

ADMISSION, 6 EACH DAY. CONCERTS, ENTERTAINMENTS, and SHOOTING COMPETITIONS EACH EVENING.

For Particulars see Circulars. A Large Selection of USEFUL and BEAUTIFUL ARTICLES for Sale, and all at Moderate Prices.

Falkirk Herald 20th September 1902

STANDBURN.

SALE OF WORK. –

A two days' sale of work was opened in the Public Hall yesterday afternoon, in aid of the United Free Church Mission, Standburn. There was a large selection of useful and beautiful articles offered for sale at the various stalls, which were presided over by ladies in the district interested in the Mission. When the sale of work opened yesterday there was a good attendance. Mr. John Finnie, Candie House, presided, and in a few remarks introduced Mr. Geo. Gibb Carmyle, who commended the object for which the sale of work was held to the company, and declared it open. Business was then proceeded with, and a good many purchases made during the afternoon and evening, a fair sum being realised. In the evening a shooting competition and various entertainments were held.

Falkirk Herald 20th September 1902

MADDISTON.

RETURN OF A MADDISTON SOLDIER FROM SOUTH AFRICA. –

Private. Robert Simpson, of the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, has just returned from South Africa, having served with his regiment there since the outbreak of the recent hostilities. His record as a soldier is in the highest degree praiseworthy. During his term of service, which is spread over a period of nine years, he may be said never to have been allowed to "rest on his oars," and has always been able to acquit himself creditably. Notwithstanding the fact that he holds the "possible clasps" secured by those of his rank during the recent campaign in South Africa as a result of having taken his share of the conflict, he can boast of having come off without even a scratch. Private Simpson can also boast of having taken part in the Egyptian campaign under Lord Kitchener, for which he holds two medals and six clasps. Meantime he is the hero of the hour in Maddiston, and it has been arranged to have a public function in honour of his return home.

Falkirk Herald 27th September 1902

MADDISTON.

PRIVATE ROBERT SIMPSON.

The above is a portrait of Private Robert Simpson of the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders who, as reported last week has returned from South Africa, after having served with his regiment there since the outbreak of recent hostilities.

(photo at bottom of page)

Falkirk Herald 27th September 1902

STANDBURN.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH –

The quarterly communion of the above church was held last Sabbath, and in the evening a service of praise was held, the Falkirk Male Voice Choir, under the able leadership of Mr. D. Forsyth, was present and rendered very valuable services. The sacred pieces rendered by them were, "Man's Life is a Story," "On Mighty Fortress," "Faith, Hope, and Love." The combined choir, under Mr. Meek rendered "Send the Light" and "Whiter than Snow" with telling effect. Miss Russell, of Falkirk, sang very sweetly "Ora pro Nobis." M. Marshall, Falkirk, next sang "When the Mists have Rolled Away," and Mr. Leitch, Falkirk, "The Throne of Grace." The pastor gave a brief address on "The Soldier's Purpose." Miss Russell ably presided at the organ.

DEPARTURE OF STANDBURN MAN FOR NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Robert Moore, Standburn, who, for a period of three years, has filled the office of secretary to the Scottish Central Miners' Association, was, on the occasion of his leaving the district to fill a more lucrative appointment in Wellington, New Zealand, (was) presented by the officials of the above association with a handsome gold watch. Mr. R. C. Robertson made the presentation, and Mr. Moore suitably acknowledged the gift. Mr. Hugh Murnin, president, added his good wishes. On Monday evening Mr. Robert Anderson, on behalf of the workmen of Blackstone Colliery, presented Mr. Moore with an elegant gold badge as a souvenir of the esteem and respect in which he was held by them. On Tuesday evening the members of the Standburn Welcome Tent of the Independent Order of Rechabites met in Mr. Cheyne's Restaurant to honour Bro. Moore, who discharged the duties of secretary with much acceptance during his tenure of office. After an enjoyable tea, purveyed by Mrs. Cheyne, Bro. Jas. Henderson, who discharged the duties of chairman, called upon Bro. J. Mackie to make

the presentation. Bro. Mackie, in doing so, referred in eulogistic terms to the worth of Bro. Moore as a gentleman, and his connection with the tent. He then handed Bro. Moore a meerschaum pipe, suitably inscribed, which carried with it the best wishes of all the members for his future success. Bro. Moore thanked the members for the kindness shown him. Thereafter the company adjourned to the Public Hall, where a dance was held, and carried on with great gusto till an early hour in the morning, songs being sung at intervals by several of those present. On Wednesday night a number of Mr. Moore's Masonic brethren met in Mr. Cheyne's for the purpose of showing their appreciation, when Bro. Andrew Cheyne presented Bro. Moore with a valuable signet ring; whilst Bro. Dr. Calderwood, on behalf of the Royal Arch Masons, presented Bro. Moore with a gold Masonic jewel. Bro. Moore expressed in a fitting manner his appreciation of the kindness shown in the handsome gifts presented. Mr. Moore, who by his genial and courteous manner, made himself esteemed by all those with whom he came in contact, left Standburn on Thursday evening, with the best wishes of a host of friends.

FREE COLLIERS -

On Wednesday evening a deputation of the Sir William Wallace (Grand Ledge of Scotland) Lodge of Free Colliers, Redding, met in Standburn Public Hall for the purpose of forming a lodge in Standburn. There was a favourable attendance, and Bro. Wm. Reid, Grand Master, presided. After explaining the object of the meeting, Bro. James Wilson gave a resume of the progress of the lodge since its inception. Messrs James Middleton, Andrew Hamilton, and Arch. Geddes, were thereafter appointed to take in names of intending members, and report at a future meeting.

U.F. CHURCH SALE OF WORK. A two days' sale of work in aid of the Standburn United Free Church Mission was opened in the Public Hall on Friday of last week, the object being to raise funds for the purpose of clearing off the debt on the church building. Since the resolution to hold a sale of work was adopted the appeal met with the general and hearty support of the public. The committee of management, and particularly the lady members of the congregation, ably assisted by various ministers and their wives connected with the Presbytery, left nothing undone to make the movement an unqualified success, ample evidence of their industry being found in a collection of beautiful articles such as are seldom seen outside large centres. The stalls were nicely arranged round the hall, and were artistically draped in different colours. Entertainments were a special feature, no efforts being spared to make them as attractive as possible. The shooting competitions were well patronised, several crack shots being amongst the competitors. The stalls and stall-holders were: - Presbytery Stall - Mrs. Lindsay, Bathgate, convener; assistants - Mrs. Rouse, U.F. Manse, Avonbridge; Miss Calderwood, Standburn; Miss Waugh, Avonbridge; and Miss M. Main, Candie. Mission Stall - Miss Murray, Edinburgh, convener; assistants - Mrs. F. Wardlaw, Miss Mutter, Miss Gordon, and Miss Adamson, Standburn. Fancy Goods Stall - Miss Hunter, convener; assistants, Mrs. Buchanan, Miss Binnie, and Miss M'Ritchie. Refreshment Stall - Mrs. Cheyne, convener; assistants - Mrs. Balloch, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. A. Hoggan, Miss Mackie, and Miss Nicholson. Prominent amongst the numerous articles which the Presbytery Stall displayed were paintings by Mr. Gibson, of Longridge, crochet work, bronze carved trays (done by natives of Old Calabar), poker work, table centres, and all manner of plain and fancy work. The Mission Stall displayed a great variety of useful articles. The century clock, in fretwork, the work of Mr. Andrew Philips, was greatly admired. At the opening there was a good attendance. Mr. John Finnie, Candie House, presided, and was accompanied on the platform by the Revs. J. Lindsay, Bathgate; Dickie, Longriggend; Scoullar, Avonbridge; Rouse, Avonbridge; and Kechie, Standburn Mission. Mr. M'Kay, School house; and Dr. Calderwood. After prayer by the Rev. Mr. Rouse, a letter was read from Mr. Geo. Gibb, in which he said: - I am extremely sorry that I cannot be with you on Friday as promised. This to me is very disappointing, but I hope will not seriously inconvenience you. I trust your expectations will be fully realised, and that the Standburn Mission Church may have long years of useful work before it." The Chairman, in a few words, said that it gave him great pleasure to preside over this auspicious gathering, and he trusted that not only would the amount required be raised, but that a handsome surplus would be realised besides. He then called upon the Rev. J. Lindsay to open the proceedings. Mr. Lindsay, on rising, said he was glad to see the people of Standburn facing their debt. It gave the Presbytery of Bathgate much pleasure to assist them in their work, and he expressed the wish that by the close on Saturday night a good sum would be realised. He concluded by wishing the sale every success. After the votes of thanks to the chairman and Mr. Lindsay, on the motion of Mr. Dickie and Mr. Mackay respectively, the work of the sale was then proceeded with. In the evening the following attractive musical programme was submitted: - Miss Westwater, "The Old Countree"; Mr. and Miss Westwater, duet, "The Gipsy Countess"; Miss Baxter, "Angus M'Donald" and "Killarney"; Miss Murray, "Anchored"; Miss Waugh, "In Friendships, Name"; Miss M'Ritchie ably discharged the duties of accompanist. Violin and piano selections were contributed by Mr. and Miss Westwater. The drawings for the day amounted to upwards of £46. On Saturday there was a good attendance at the opening. The Rev. David Bayne, Muiravonside, presided, and in the course of some remarks, said he could not let the occasion pass without congratulating the ladies on the effective display all round. He was exceedingly pleased to hear of the success of the previous day, and was present to show his appreciation of the work that was being done by the Mission in Standburn, and he congratulated the Rev. Mr. Kechie on the band of workers round him. He then called upon Dr. Calderwood, whom, he said, required no introduction to a Standburn audience. Dr. Calderwood said he was pleased to hear of the previous day's success, and he hoped that the ladies would use their persuasive powers, and have the stalls cleared before the advertised time. Bazaars, he said, were a good thing for raising money, and if the inventor could be traced he felt confident that it would be a lady. (Applause.) He felt sure that the sale of work would be a success, and that the ladies would think more of themselves after when they saw the result of their efforts. On the motion of Mr. Mackay and Mr. Kechie, hearty votes of thanks were given the chairman and Dr. Calderwood. The work of the sale was then proceeded with. The drawings amounted to upwards of £66, which brought the total to over £100. In the afternoon 50 scholars of Drumbowie Public School, under the direction of Misses Murray and M' Ritchie, gave an interesting demonstration of musical drill before an admiring crowd of parents and friends. Altogether, their drill showed a high standard of training and the exhibition throughout reflected great credit on the instructors. Later in the evening a select company, comprising the following, kindly assisted in making up another very fine musical entertainment: - Miss Heeps, "The Holy City" and "Come Back to Me"; Miss Gordon, Bathgate. "The Old Countree" and "When the Kye Comes Home"; Messrs Broom, Bathgate; Somerville, Bathgate: J. Johnstone, violinist, Redding; R. Drummond, flautist; Falkirk; and T. Edmonds. All rendered their various parts in an appreciative manner. Mr. J. W. Gray discharged the duties of accompanist and the Rev. A. Scoullar presided. The beautiful timepiece offered in the shooting competition was carried off by Mr. Thos. Hardie, Avonbridge, as also were a few of the minor prizes, Mr. Robt. Bulloch and Mr. M'Andrew being close up. Those in charge of the arrangements are highly satisfied with the result. At the close, on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Rouse, the stall holders and assistants, and all who contributed in any way to make the sale successful, were warmly thanked for their services.

Falkirk Herald 1st October 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Parish School Board. -

The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held yesterday afternoon - Mr. Wilson, chairman, presiding. There was a full attendance. Mr. Myles asked the compulsory officer, Mr. Williamson, if it was a fact, that he had reported to the Board that there were 50 Muiravonside parish children attending Wallacestone School? Mr. Williamson said that was the case, but the report was submitted ten months ago. There were now 20 Muiravonside children at the Wallacestone School, 7 having joined the school after last examination from Rumford alone. Mr. Myles remarked that the officer's report conflicted with that given by Mr. Biggar to one of

the members of the Board, which was produced at last meeting. He had found that from two Muiravonside families alone there were 9 children attending Wallacestone School. Mr. J. B. Bryce said there must be something wrong between the two reports, and to get to the bottom of the matter he had gone and seen Mr. Biggar. The Clerk - If we wish to get reliable information on the matter, I should be instructed to get it through the clerk of the Grangemouth School Board. This suggestion was adopted. Mr. J. B. Bryce complained of his having seen four children sitting on the floor of the Maddiston School when there was no necessity for it. There was a spare form in the school, on which the children were prevented from sitting. Mr. Myles denied that either he or his colleague on the Maddiston School Committee (Mr. Haldane) had given instructions that the form was not to be used, and he would ask the head mistress to appear before the Board and explain. The Clerk said that the Department had returned the plans of the Muiravonside School addition, and they had approved of them practically without comment. He also reported that he had got the Department to pay the sum of £38 which they had deducted from the Drumbowie School grant for some breach of article 32 of the code. The committees of the various schools submitted their reports, and a number of defaulters were dealt with.

Falkirk Herald 8th October 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE. - Robert M'Lean, jun., miner, Standburn, and Christina M'Lean or Clark, wife of a miner, residing there, pleaded guilty to creating a disturbance at Standburn. Mr. A. Hunter, solicitor, appeared for Mrs. Clark, and made a statement on her behalf. They were fined 10s each, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 11th October 1902

STANDBURN.

MESSRS McLAREN and Veitch preached and Gospel last Sabbath in the Congregational Church to large congregations.

U F. MISSION CHURCH. -

A joint meeting ladies of the sewing meeting and the committee of the management was, held in the church on Wednesday evening the Rev. J. B. G. Rouse, presiding. The balance-sheet of the recent sale of work was submitted and approved of. The total amount raised by the sale of work was £113. 16s. The expenditure was £14 5s, and after deducting this amount for working expenses, the handsome sum of £99 11s was handed over to the funds of the church. It was also intimated that all the various accounts and the debt on the church had now been paid; the amount paid out being £36 17s 1d. All present at the meeting were greatly delighted that the sale of work had been so successful.

PRESENTATION -

On Monday evening a deputation of the workmen of Messrs James Nimmo & Co.'s colliery, Muiravonside, waited upon Mr. Isaac Park, and presented him with a tangible token of their esteem and regard for him on the occasion of his marriage. Mr. John Finnie, manager, presided, and of the behalf of the subscribers presented Mr. Park with a handsome marble timepiece with side ornaments, together with two elegant gold bangles and a silver cake basket for the future Mrs. Park. In handing over the gifts, Mr. Finnie expressed the wish that Mrs. Park might be long spared to prize the gifts, which conveyed the best wishes of all the workmen Mr. Park, in a fitting manner, expressed his appreciation of the kindness shown to him. A pleasant evening was afterwards spent.

Falkirk Herald 11th October 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE.

CURLING CLUB. -

The annual meeting of Muiravonside Curling Club was held in Mr. Ballantine's on Wednesday evening, when the office-bearers were elected: President, Mr. J. J. Tweedy; vice president, Mr. G. Bartholomew; secretary, Joseph Allison; skips, Messrs Robert Thomson, Peter Baird, Joseph Allison, Colin Maxwell.

Falkirk Herald 15th October 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A STANDRIGG DISTURBANCE. - Janet M'Farlane or Strang, wife of Adam Strang, miner Standburn, pleaded not guilty to a charge of creating a disturbance at Standrigg. Evidence was led, the accused conducting her own defence. After the witnesses for the prosecution had been examined, she was asked, but, declined, to give her evidence on oath. Asked if she had anything to say, she replied - "Only that I am not guilty. I will never plead guilty to a thing I never did." The Sheriff - I am afraid you are guilty, 10s, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 18th October 1902

TO CONTRACTORS

PROPOSED NEW CHURCH AT MADDISTON

TENDERS are WANTED for the MASON WORK, JOINER, SLATER, PLUMBER, PLASTER, GLAZIER and PAINTER WORKS, and HEATING. Plans to be seen with and schedules of Quantities to be obtained from the subscriber, with whom Offers are to be lodged by THURSDAY the 30th inst. The lowest or any offer may not be accepted.

JAMES STRANG. Architect.

Falkirk, 17th October, 1902.

Edinburgh Evening News 23rd October 1902

GENERAL NEWS.

INCREASING SOBRIETY. -

The net profit, of the Gothenburg public-house at Standburn for the past financial year was £823, compared with £1107 in the previous year. The decrease is said to be due partly to an increasing sobriety in the district.

Falkirk Herald 25th October 1902

STANDBURN. THE GOTHENBURG PUBLIC HOUSE. - The Committee of Management had recently under their consideration the balance-sheet and profit and ; loss statement of the working of the Gothenburg pubic-house at Standburn for the for the year ending 30th June last. The net profit after all charges had been met was shown be £823. 16s. 3d, as compared with the sum of £1107 3s 11d for the previous year. The total sales of liquors, &c., for the year amounted to £3110 5s 11d, as compared with £3955 10s 9d for the previous year. This decrease in the turnover and profit is no doubt partly due to the reduced wages of the miners in the district but careful local inquiry goes to show that it in no inconsiderable extent due to an increasing sobriety. Important testimony was afforded the committee by representative men in the district to the better condition of things existing since the Gothenburg public-house was established as compared with the previously existing state of matters. The Committee of Management are so endeavouring to conduct the public-house as to supply first-class spirituous liquors and at the same time to encourage as far as possible the use of non-intoxicating drinks. The public hall, reading and billiard rooms, which were erected out of the profits of the public-house, have proved of great advantage to the district. They are very largely taken advantage of, and are not only self-supporting, but the committee have had sufficient funds in hand to allocate a sum by way of prizes for competition at billiards, &c., during the winter. The ball is used for concerts, soirees, and other social gatherings, and the

committee intend to take further advantage of it during the winter months by the introduction of gymnastics, carpet-bowls, &c. They expect that in this way the counter-attraction which the hall and rooms provide will steadily exercise a strong influence in the district, and that through such efforts ideas of thrift and sobriety will be more and more disseminated. The total cost of the hall, reading and billiard rooms, with the furnishing thereof has reached a sum of nearly £2600, which has been provided entirely out of the profits of the public-house. In addition to this a thoroughly qualified medical nurse has been working in the district during the year, and there is abundant local testimony to the value of the services which she has been able to render in times of sickness among the families of the miners.

Falkirk Herald 25th October 1902

FIRE. -

Early on Thursday morning fire broke out in the Public Hall, Standburn, but fortunately the outbreak was noticed before it had got a right hold of the building. The fire originated on the top flat, and was first noticed by Mr. James Thomson, who had occasion to go out early in the morning. On entering the building it was almost impossible to locate the seat of the fire owing to the dense smoke. A large number of people turned out and willingly assisted in carrying water from all the barrels that came their way. One young man - Mr. Andrew Philips - had a narrow escape. He was pouring water under the floor when it gave way. He saved himself, however, by catching hold of the leg of one of the billiard tables. Mr. M'Andrew, the janitor, wrought heroically along with Messrs Rankine, M'Neil, and a host of others until they extinguished the flames, which was no easy matter after the floor gave way. The origin of the fire is unknown £100 is supposed to cover the damage.

Falkirk Herald 25th October 1902

OFFERS WANTED for PAINTING WORK of REDDING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY'S NEW BRANCHES

at POLMONT STATION and STANDBURN.

Specifications to be had from ARCHITECT Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society, 95 Morrison street, Glasgow.

Offers to be lodged with Committee on or before the 7th November.

Falkirk Herald 1st. November 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE. SCHOOL BOARD. -

The monthly meeting of Muiravonside School Board was held at Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon. In the absence of the chairman Mr. John B. Bryce was called upon to preside, the other members present being- Messrs Haldane, John Bryce, A. Binnie, and D. Binnie. With regard to the attendance at Wallacestone School of children from Muiravonside parish, the Clerk stated that he had as yet received no communication from the Grangemouth School Board. Mr. D. Binnie reported that Drumbowie School was still short of teachers, but they had now got the offer of one who resided in the district, and this would obviate any difficulty as to the securing of suitable lodgings. The school committee having powers to do so, it was understood that they would appoint this teacher to Drumbowie School. The Clerk intimated that Miss Catherine Mackinnon, Links Place School Leith, had accepted the appointment of infant mistress at Drumbowie School. Mr. John Bryce reported that a teacher was still required for Blackbraes School. A letter was read from Miss Bella Boyd resigning her appointment at that school, and it was agreed to accept the resignation and advertise for a successor. A letter was read from one of the teachers asking the Board to increase the maximum in the present scale of salaries, but it was decided to do nothing in the matter. The date of the School Board election was fixed for Saturday, 4th April next, the polling hours to be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The officer submitted the following report on attendance: -

	On Roll.	Av.	At.
Muiravonside School	195	158	
Drumbowie School	448	387	
Blackbraes School	400	341	
Maddiston School	126	108.6	
Avonbridge School	72	63	

THE PROPOSED ADDITION TO MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL -

SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTORS. -

A meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Clerk's Chambers, Newmarket Street, on Thursday, when the schedules for the various contracts in connection with the addition to Muiravonside School were opened. The following were the successful contractors: - Mason work, Mr. Alex. Marshall; joiner work, Mr. Robt. Thomson; plumber work, Messrs A. and G. Robertson; slater - work, Mr. J. D. Maxwell; plaster work, Mr. Wm. Davie. The estimated cost of the extension is £586 17s. The Board agreed to apply to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan of £700, at 3 1/4 per cent, repayable in three years

Falkirk Herald 1st. November 1902

STANDBURN.

ENTERTAINMENT. -

On Tuesday evening last the Kennedy's Royal Scottish Concert and Comedy Company occupied the Standburn Public Hall, and submitted a high-class programme, which was received with the utmost approbation by the large audience present. Miss Grace Castella, the American ballad vocalist and coon impersonator, sang "Ma Sunflower Sue" and "La Belle Parisienne," and had to respond to a persistent encore. Miss Helen Kennedy, soprano, contributed "The Holy City" and "Far, Far Away" in a manner which captivated the audience. Handell, in his marvellous sleight-of-hand tricks, greatly amused those present. The comic element was ably sustained by Mr. Ronald Lamond, Scotch comedian; his various songs kept the audience in the beat of humour. The cinematograph was afterwards brought into use, and a large number of animated pictures were shown. Mr. Albert Sayers gave selections with band bells, which were highly appreciated. The entertainment was brought to a close with the laughable comedy entitled "The Girl from Chicago"

Falkirk Herald 1st. November 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY

Before Sheriff BELL)

BREACH OF THE PEACE. -

STANDBURN DISTURBANCES. -

John McLean and David Clark, miners, Standburn, and Agnes Boyle or Beveridge, housewife, Standburn, were convicted of committing a breach of the peace and were fined 10s each, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 8th November 1902

THE GOTHENBURG PUBLIC-HOUSE AT STANDBURN.

Standburn, Avonbridge, Oct. 29, 1902 SIR, - In your issue of the 25th October there is an article dealing with the Gothenburg public-house at Standburn which I consider both erroneous and misleading. In the first place, I would like to ask your correspondent, if he (or she) is aware that there has not been a nurse in Standburn for a considerable time? Secondly, the article says "the committee of management are endeavouring to encourage the use of non-intoxicating drinks." What means have they taken to secure that object? And again, this report says that important testimony was afforded the committee that the decrease in sales was due to increasing sobriety. Well, that sounds very nice and good in a newspaper report, but it is not the truth. The fact of the matter is that the decrease of sales is due to several causes chiefly reduced wages, irregular work, and so many people leaving the village.

Another question I would like to ask is, who are the committee of management, and who elected them! Most assuredly it was not the people of the village, as I never knew of a meeting being held for the purpose of electing a committee, or yet for giving any report whatever regarding the affairs of either public-house or the hall. The general opinion of the people here is that they are being kept pretty much in the dark regarding the affairs of their public-house, and also that the management might take a "tip" from the Kelly Gothenburg, for example. Trusting that the unknown-quantity committee will see their way to let the public know what they are entitled to know. - I am, etc.,
A MINER

Falkirk Herald 8th November 1902

MADDISTON

Maddiston School, 5th Nov., 1902 SIR. - In your report of the September meeting of Muiravonside School Board, Mr. J. B. Bryce is said to have stated that he visited the school, and found four children sitting on the floor, unnecessarily. The number present that afternoon was 117 and there was accommodation for 120. One part of the school was not filled. He asked the headmistress if her school was filled, and she said, "Yes; there are four pupils sitting on the floor." He drew her attention to an empty form, which was in the school, and her reply was that there was no room to use it. If the form was not to be used for children sitting upon, it should not be allowed to remain unused and to take up room in the school. He hoped the Board would see that the affairs of that school were conducted in a business-like manner, and that children were not kept sitting on the floor when there was no need for it. Mr. Myles said that with regard to the disused form in Maddiston School he would say nothing till the headmistress appeared before the Board on the subject. Neither he nor his colleagues on the committee had ever prevented the children sitting on empty forms. It was a most ridiculous charge for the headmistress to place against them. Now, as headmistress of Maddiston School, I think it only fair to myself to object to Mr. Bryce's statements. In the first place, the children were not sitting on the floor unnecessarily. All the seats in their class were filled, and when Mr. Bryce pointed to two or three vacant spaces in other classes, and asked if the children could not be put there, I told him that the inspector objected to children of different classes sitting together. Mr. Bryce stated that one part of the school was not filled. I do not know to which part he refers. He said on the occasion of his visit that he did not think the school was so well filled, and suggested that I should ask the committee to provide more forms. He also remarked that if an addition was not built at Muiravonside, something would need to be done for Maddiston School. If Mr. Bryce saw that one part of the school was not filled, was it necessary to ask me if the school was filled? As a matter of fact, Mr. Bryce did not ask such a question. Why did he suggest that I should ask for more forms if he did not see the need of them? I did not say the school was filled nor did I draw his attention to fact that children were sitting on the floor. He saw for himself how we are situated as to accommodation. It is true there were 117 present, and it is possible to seat 122 children in Maddiston School, but there is not actually working room for that number, according to the requirements of an infant school. As to the unoccupied form, it is one of the forms got for the use of the men attending the evening school, and, as I informed Mr. Bryce, is quite unsuitable, as it is too high, and has no back. It is, in fact, eighteen inches high, while the forms used by children are only eight inches high. As to there being no necessity for the evening school forms standing in the class-room, there is no other place to put them, as Mr. Bryce knows perfectly well. I should like to know on what grounds Mr. Bryce makes the assertion that Maddiston School is not conducted in a business-like manner? Then as regards the statement that I accused the committee of forbidding me to allow the children to use the form in question there is no truth whatever in it. Mr. Bryce now denies that he made such a statement at the September meeting. If he did not make this statement, why did he not contradict Mr. Myles there and then when the latter spoke about me appearing before the Board to give an explanation? He interrupted Mr. Myles by saying that he wished to be fair. If he had said that he wishes to be unfair, that would have been nearer the truth.

Yours, etc.

J. F. WALKER, Headmistress, Maddiston School.

Falkirk Herald 8th November 1902

STANDBURN. THE NATIONAL INCORPORATED WAIFS' ASSOCIATION (DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES)

A special meeting on behalf of the above homes is to be held in the Public Hall Standburn. For thirty-six years "Dr Barnardo's Homes" have been labouring in the cause of destitute, orphan and waif and stray children. To-day 6000 boys and girls are under the care of the institutions, and fresh admissions are taking place at the rate of sixty every week. All in all 46,000 young people, rescue from the most pitiable conditions, have passed through the homes. Of these 13,340 have been emigrated to Canada and the Colonies, where 98 per cent have done full credit to their training. The work is truly national in principals and methods and extents. Children are admitted freely and unconditionally, on proof of destitution, from all parts of the Empire. The homes have had a very large share in emptying our goals and workhouses, and thus they make a practical appeal to the pockets of our ratepayers as well as to the sympathies of the philanthropic. We draw the attention of our readers to the advertising columns in this issue, in which will be found a notice of a meeting to be held in aid of these institutions.

Falkirk Herald 8th November 1902

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Sheriff BELL.)

A FATHER AND SON IN TROUBLE -

Robert M'Lean and his son John M'Lean, miners. Standburn, were charged with a breach of the peace and assault committed at Standburn on the 18th Oct. The father admitted the offence, and the son pleaded guilty to breach of the peace only. The Procurator-Fiscal agreed to accept this plea, and after Mr. Halley, solicitor, had made a statement on behalf of the accused, Robert M'Lean was fined 25s, or 14 days' imprisonment, and John M'Lean was fined 10s, or seven days

Falkirk Herald 8th November 1902

THE NATIONAL INCORPORATED WAIFS' ASSOCIATION

(OTHERWISE KNOWN AS DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES)

A UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENT.

Mr. JAMES B. WOOKEY AND THE MUSICAL BOYS (FROM LONDON), IN THE PUBLIC

HALL, STANDBURN

On MONDAY, 24th NOVEMBER, 1902.

IMPRESSIVE LIMELIGHT VIEWS,

As Shown at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

The Chair will be taken at Eight o'clock by JOHN FINNIE, Esq.

Admission: - Front Seats, 1s; Second Seats, 6d.

A SPECIAL COLLECTION in aid of the 6000 Waif Children now in the Homes.

Falkirk Herald 15th November 1902

MADDISTON.

NEW CHURCH FOR MADDISTON. -

Steps are being taken to erect a new church at Maddiston to accommodate members of the Muiravonside Parish Church resident in that district. The church, which is to be erected by means of funds left by the late Mrs. Urquhart of Vellore, will be situated at Cairneymount, Maddiston Brae, alongside the main road, about three miles from Muiravonside Parish Church. The building, which will be of Gothic architecture, and face the west, will have a

vestry attached, and be seated for 250. The estimated cost is from £1600 to £1700. Rev. Mr. Bayne, the parish minister, will conduct the services both in the Parish Church and the new church. Mr. James Strang, Falkirk, is the architect, and the following are the contractors: -Mason work, Messrs Ramsay Bros., Laurieston; joiner, Mr. Robert Thomson, Polmont; plumber Mr. Robert Brown Falkirk; slater Mr. J. D. Maxwell, Laurieston; plasterers, Messrs Buchanan & McDonald, Falkirk; glaziers, Messrs Ure & Paterson, Falkirk; heating, Messrs James Combe & Son, Glasgow.

Falkirk Herald 15th November 1902

WILSON - At Habor Cottage, Maddiston, on the 7th inst., Mrs. R. Wilson, of a son.

Falkirk Herald 15th November 1902

STANDBURN. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. -

The monthly meeting of the managers of the above church was held last Saturday evening. The Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, who in the course of his remarks, said that this was now the third year of the church's existence, and the church was never in a more prosperous condition than at the present moment. The balance sheet issued to the congregation shows an income of £300 0s 6 1/2d carrying forward a balance of £2 11s 8 1/2d. Dr. Barnardo's travelling secretary, Mr. James B. Wookey, with his company of musical boys are to be in the church on Sabbath, 23rd November, and in the Public Hall on Monday evening.

MASONIC SUPPER. -

The first annual supper of the members of various Masonic lodges resident in Standburn and district was held on Friday evening last in Standburn Public Hall. Upwards of 70 ladies and gentlemen sat down to an excellent repast, which was in first class style by Mrs. Cheyne. Bro. George Gordon Mackay presided, and Bro. Dr. Calderwood acted as croupier. After supper, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given by the Chairman, the "Army and Navy" being replied to by Bro. Samuel Thomson. "The Craft" was proposed by Bro. R.H. Ritchie Snadden, and replied to by Bro. Isaac Donaldson: "Standburn and District," proposed by Bro. Alexander Kerr, and replied to by Bro. Dr. Calderwood; "The Ladies," proposed by Bro. Meikle and replied to by Bro. MacLaren. The Chairman referred to the pleasure he had in presiding over the first assembly of the brethren in the district. At intervals during the evening songs were sung by Misses Ritchie and Mackie and Mr. James Middleton, and Bros. Andrew Philip, Matthew Steele, David Kelly, and James Pow, and recitations were given by Bro. Matthew Myles. A dance followed, the music being admirably supplied by Mr. M'Kee's orchestra, and the duties of M.C. being discharged by Bro. John Moore.

MUIRAVONSIDE.

THE LATE MR. ROBERT LEEDER. -

The remains of the late Mr. Robert Leeder were laid to rest in Muiravonside Cemetery on Thursday last. The deceased acted as gardener at Muiravonside House for the last 22 years and during that time was greatly respected by all with whom he came in contact, being of an agreeable and obliging manner. Mr. Leeder succeeded his father, who for 40 years occupied the same position, thus for the long period of 60 years the family have filled the same position. Great sympathy has been expressed on all sides for the young family. Mrs. Leeder having pre-deceased her husband in March, 1901. We understand Mr. Charles Leeder presently gardener at Culdees, succeeds his brother as head gardener at Muiravonside House.

Falkirk Herald 26th November 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE. MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

SPIRITED PROCEEDINGS - MR. MYLES MAKES THINGS LIVELY.

The usual monthly meeting of Muiravonside School Board was held in Maddiston School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wilson, chairman, presided, the other members present being Messrs J. Bell Bryce, Daniel Binnie, J. Haldane, and R. Myles.

MR MYLES ON THE ACCOMMODATION AT MADDISTON.

From the minute of last meeting read it was seen that Miss Walker, the infant mistress, had been in attendance at the meeting in connection with certain statements made regarding the seating accommodation for the children, some of whom had been obliged to sit on the floor, while a form was standing in the room which, it was stated, she was not allowed to use, but which in any case, she stated, was unsuitable for the children. The minute stated that Miss Walker had given a statement of the matter to the Board, and her explanation was considered satisfactory. Mr. Myles - There is one thing arising out of the minute which I would like to refer to. From the first part of the minute I see that Miss Walker appeared here before this Board - unfortunately, I was not present at that meeting and the minute, states that things were arranged satisfactorily. Well, Mr. Chairman, I do not see how that can really be the case. The Clerk - The minute states that she explained satisfactorily. Mr. Myles - I do not see how that can be satisfactory when a letter appears in both the local papers giving a flat denial to the charges made both against the School Committee as well as Miss Walker. I want to understand at this meeting if Mr. Bryce and Mr. Binnie, who were present at that meeting, recollects that Mr. Bryce stated that he had visited this school, and discovered a few children sitting on the floor and some forms empty, and that Miss Walker had stated that the School Committee had instructed her not to use them. Mr. Bryce - That is false, to begin with. Mr. Myles - I know it is a falsehood, and the falsehood lies with yourself. Mr. Bryce - I made no such statement. Mr. Myles - If you keep quiet, you will have the privilege of reply when I am finished. Mr. Bryce - I understand so. Mr. Myles - The chairman at that meeting gave you the privilege of making an elaborate statement without being called to order. When I rose to my feet I stated clearly and distinctly that, as Miss Walker was not present, I could not have these statements verified, but I assured the Board that the committee never gave Miss Walker any such instructions, and I would like to see her appear before the Board, so that we might have the statements verified. Owing to circumstances over which I had no control, I was not present at the subsequent meeting, but I understand that you yourself (addressing Mr. Bryce) and some of the rest of the Board stated that they did not recollect anything about it. Now, from the fact that I called this in question, and when the report appeared in the local papers, Miss Walker's attention was drawn to it, and she made a statement herself to the Board in her own behalf, a flat denial is given to the statement made here by you, and such statement is equal to a common lie. I have to ask this at your hands, that you apologise to Miss Walker for the false statements made against her, and that you apologise also for the statements made against myself. The Chairman - There is no necessity in bringing that up in adopting the minute. The minute says it was satisfactorily explained at the meeting. So far as the letter which appeared in the papers is concerned, it would have been better had it not appeared, because there was no necessity for it. Mr. Myles - If so, there was no necessity for Mr. Bryce coming here and making a false charge both against Miss Walker and the committee. Mr. Bryce - It was you who made the false charge. Mr. Myles - It was you, sir. That is the case, and I will get a verbatim report in the papers of your statement, in which you stated that the committee would not allow Miss Walker to put the children on the form. Allow that to pass? Say it has no right to be brought up here? Anyone who lies against any member of this Board has a right to be called in question. As it stands at the present moment, Mr. Bryce should be severely censured for visiting the school and making false statements against the committee. The Chairman - I do not blame Miss Walker for this matter being brought up again. Mr. Myles (angrily) - You do not blame Miss Walker? Do you blame me, Mr. Chairman. The Chairman - No, I do not blame you. I am not referring to you at all. Mr. Myles - You need not crack your fingers at me, Mr. Bryce, because cracking your fingers is no use. (Laughter.) Mr. Bryce - We are not here to discuss newspaper reports. I have got it over the fingers for that. The statement that I made at this Board regarding the forms was this: When the four children were sitting on the floor, my eye caught sight of this, form in the corner. I said to Miss Walker, "What about this empty form?" She said that it belonged to the evening school, and it was not suitable. I then said, "Why not ask your committee for suitable forms?" She said, "I have asked, but I have not got them." Mr. Haldane says that is the truth. Mr. Haldane - It is not the

committee that are to blame; it is the Board. I brought the matter before the Board some time ago, and the Board said they would consider the matter directly the question came up for the seating of the children in the school. Mr. Myles - Do you perfectly agree with me, Mr. Haldane, that Mr. Bryce made a charge against the committee distinct from that against Miss Walker? Mr. Bryce - You put the words into my mouth. When Mr. Myles said that at the meeting he put the words into my mouth, which a member of this Board drew my attention to. I never said that the committee had prevented Miss Walker from giving the children the use of those forms, but that suitable forms had not been provided by the committee. Mr. Myles - That is a very lame excuse. The subject for the moment dropped, and other business was proceeded with, but the discussion was re-opened on Mr. Bryce asking if the children at Maddiston School were still sitting on the floor, and if anything had been done to prevent them doing so. The Chairman - I don't think they will be sitting on the floor now. Mr. Haldane I cannot say, because I have not been at the school this month. Mr. Bryce - I think suitable forms should be got, because I feel very keenly about this matter. Mr. Haldane - I spoke to Miss Walker, and she said there was no room on the floor to put the forms even were they got. The Clerk - This matter will come up in connection with a communication I have got from the Department. The Clerk then read the communication, which stated that the inspector had visited Muiravonside and Maddiston Schools on 13th curt., and had found (1) that the former was quite full, having a roll of 128 and an attendance of 111, while the accommodation was sufficient for 112; and (2) that the latter school was more than full, the roll being 199 and the attendance 174, while the accommodation was for 175. In the latter the figures for the infant room were: - Roll, 65; attendance, 59; accommodation, 45. As this room contained a cooking stove, the temperature was too high at one side, and could not be good for the children. These infants all belonged to the immediate neighbourhood, and could not be provided for in any other school under the Board. The attention of the Board was seriously called to this matter, and it was asked what steps the Board was prepared to take to remedy this state of matters. Continuing, the Clerk said he had written acknowledging the letter, and pointed out to the Department that a plan had been before them for an extension which would accommodate 60 additional children. The Chairman - According to that report, we are bound to put up accommodation at Muiravonside School for the infants. Mr. Myles - What are you going to do for Maddiston School? Mr. Bryce - That is just what I was going to ask. Mr. Myles - I have often said that the accommodation was too small, and now my statement is verified by H.M. Inspector, although it has been repeatedly repudiated by members of this Board. Then the Board also committed themselves to do something for the evening school. Everyone is complaining about the want of accommodation in the evening school. Mr. Bryce - You are now drifting from the day school to the evening school. The Clerk - It seems useless to provide additional sitting accommodation for the infants, because the attendance is bigger than the accommodation. Mr. Bryce - I say the committee has failed to provide proper sitting accommodation, and I move that two forms be provided. Mr. Myles (indignantly) - Do you say the committee has failed? Your whole work on this Board has been a failure, as you will find out before many months have passed. You will then understand where your failure comes in. Mr. Bryce - You will get paid for it. Mr. Myles - Pay! Did you say pay? Do you say I get pay for it? Mr. Bryce - You wanted pay for it. Mr. Myles - You - you are only a nuisance. (Laughter.) Mr. Bryce's motion was not seconded, so fell to the ground. The clerk was instructed to reply to the Department, and state that the Board was providing additional accommodation at Muiravonside School, and this was expected to: relieve the congestion in Maddiston School.

ATTENDANCE.

The following report, was submitted on the attendance at the various schools:-

	On Roll.	Avg. Att
Muiravonside School	197	158
Drumbowie School	446	370
Blackbraes School	396	331
Maddiston School	127	106
Avonbridge School	74	66

VACANCY AT BLACKBRAES.

The Clerk stated that no successor had yet been appointed to Miss Boyd at Blackbraes School. He had advertised for a teacher, and got one applicant, but she refused to accept the appointment. He had advertised again, and had got an applicant, but no appointment had as yet been made.

This was all the business of public interest.

Evening Telegraph 27th November 1902

"Equal to a Common Lie,"

LIVELY INTERCHANGES AT A SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

For some weeks past a pretty quarrel has been developing between certain members of the School Board of Muiravonside, which is situated in the eastern part of Stirlingshire. The matter in dispute concerns the accommodation at Maddiston School, which, it has been alleged, is so inadequate that some of the pupils have been obliged to sit on the floor. The question was again brought up at the last monthly meeting of the Board, when Mr. Myles said that he saw in the local papers a letter from the Headmistress, in which she gave a flat denial to the changes made by Mr. Bryce against the School Committee. Mr. Bryce replied that the words attributed to him were put into his mouth, and he further asserted that Mr. Myles was stating what was false. "Yes, it is false," retorted Mr. Myles, "but the falsehood lies with you." The teacher, he repeated, had given Mr. Bryce's statement a flat denial, which was "equal to a common lie." A smart interchange of forcibly expressed views thereupon ensued between the two members. "Don't crack your fingers at me," exclaimed Mr. Myles, "because it is no use." Later on, when Mr. Myles vouchsafed the opinion that the whole work of the present Board had been a failure, and they would know that before long, he was met with the rejoinder from Mr. Bryce - "And you will understand where your pay comes from." Which enigmatical remark had the effect of exciting Mr. Myles to great indignation. He sprang to his feet, and pulling up his shirt sleeves, displayed his arms and hands, which he shook in front of Mr. Bryce and told him that with these he could work for his pay. This ebullition seemed to have a soothing effect on the two antagonists, and the business of the Board was proceeded with.

Falkirk Herald 29th November 1902

MADDISTON.

CONCERT. -

A concert was held in the Good Templar Hall on Friday last, when a large audience was present, the chair was occupied by Mr. Jas. Thorn, sen., Maddiston, and the following talented artistes appeared: - Misses Menzies and Walters, Messrs Boag, Hall, Jones, Russell, M'Ghee and Barrowman, and Master Jones. The concert was a very successful one.

Falkirk Herald 29th November 1902

STANDBURN.

RECHABITE CONCERT. -

Under the auspices of the Standburn Welcome Tent of Rechabites a grand concert was given in the Public Hall on Friday evening last. There was a large attendance, presided over by Mr. John Finnie, whose humorous remarks added not a little to the evening's enjoyment. The programme was an admirable one, and was highly enjoyed by the audience, who were not slow in showing their appreciation in no unstinted fashion. The soloists were - Miss Meek Slamannan; Miss Robb, Miss Heeps, Polmont; Miss Westwater, and Mr. Billy Weir, Airdrie. Messrs Smith, Edmonds, Malcolm, and Lamb, in their various pieces, came in for loud applause. Miss Westwater discharged the duties of accompanist. An assembly followed, the music being supplied by Mr M'Kee, whilst the duties of M.C. were discharged by Mr. Colin Maxwell.

THE NATIONAL INCORPORATED WAIF'S ASSOCIATION. -

Mr. James B. Wookey, deputation Secretary, and the musical boys from the National Incorporated Waifs' Association, otherwise known as Dr. Barnardo's Homes, arrived in Standburn last Saturday night. Hospitality for the company was most willingly extended by Mr. John Finnie for Mr. Wookey; Mr. R. McAndrew for Mr. Evans, Mr. Wookey's assistant; Messrs Ivory, Rushford, Lindsay, Mackie, Mitchell, Murray for the boys. The party was met at Bowhouse Station by the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Standburn, who saw them placed immediately in charge of their hosts. On the Sabbath Mr. Wookey preached at both diets of worship in the Congregational Church. A solo sung at each of the services by one of the orphans was highly appreciated. As usual, large congregations filled the church, and retiring offerings at both services were taken for the homes. At the close of the church service, another meeting: was held in the Public Hall attended by over 300 persons. The boys sang and played on their 90 silver-toned bells. On the Monday night the Public Hall was filled, about 150 failing to find seats prior to the advertised hour of commencing. Everyone was in expectation, and ready to appreciate what turned out to be one of the most unique entertainments ever held in Standburn. Mr. John Finnie, who presided, after calling upon the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon to engage in prayer, fittingly introduced Mr. Wookey and his boys to the meeting. Every item on the programme was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. This effort on behalf of the Homes in church and Public Hall brought in nearly £20, which was considered highly satisfactory. The stewards in charge were Messrs Calder, Lowe, Clark, Johnstone, Ivory, and Baker, Mr. Robert Aitchison taking charge of the pay-box. Dr. Calderwood warmly supported the work, and was present at the meeting.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE MEETING. -

The opening Gospel Temperance meeting in connection with Standburn Congregational Church will take place to-night in the Public Hall at 6.30 p.m. The gathering will be presided over by Mr. John Finnie, manager. Addresses will be given by Mr. Neil McIntyre, the blind preacher, Glasgow; Mr. Colville, Glasgow; Mr. S. Thomson, Avonbridge; Mr. Henry John Baker, Maddiston; Rev. D. S. Ritchie Snaddon, &c. Grace Pettman's story, "Shadowed by Sin," accompanied with impressive lime-light pictures, will be a feature in this meeting, and Mr. Alex. Kerr is to give the connective readings. Tea will be served, an excellent musical programme has been drawn up, and everything has been done to make their opening meeting a success.

Falkirk Herald 29th November 1902

STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

TO-NIGHT, in PUBLIC HALL, at 6.50 P.M.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE MEETING.

SPEAKERS. -

Mr. NEILL McINTYRE, the Blind Preacher, Glasgow;

Mr. COLLVILLE, Glasgow;

Mr. S. THOMSON, Avonbridge;

Mr. J. BAKER, Maddiston;

Rev. D. H. RITCHIE SNADDON.

THRILLING TEMPERANCE STORY.

"SHADOWED BY SIN," BY Mr. ALEX. KERR.

Impressive Limelight Views.

Unique Musical Programme.

Everything brief and bright. Not a dull moment.

Tea will be served.

Chairman - JOHN FINNIE, ESQ.

Tickets, 4d each from Shops and Friends, or at Door on Night of Meeting.

Everybody invited. Everybody Come. Everybody Welcomed.

Messrs McIntYRE and COLVILLE will PREACH and SING the GOSPEL

on SABBATH FIRST in above CHURCH at 12 and 5.30 P.M.

Falkirk Herald 6th December 1902

LOST, FOUND, & c

LOST.

Silver-Mounted Bicycle Lamp between Linlithgow and Maddiston -

Finder kindly return same to Wm. Campbell, Maddiston.

Reward

Falkirk Herald 6th December 1902

STANDBURN.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. -

On Saturday night last the opening Gospel temperance meeting in the Public Hall took place.

From the standpoint of attendance speaking, singing, and lime-light views the effort was a

great success. On Sabbath Mr. Neil McIntyre, the blind preacher, Glasgow, and Mr. Colville

Glasgow, preached and sung the Gospel to fairly large gatherings. These special Saturday

night and Sabbath services are resulting in much good to the mining village of Standburn and

district.

Edinburgh Evening News 6th December 1902

RESULTS OF A WIFE'S DISGRACE.

Evidence was led before Lord Stormonth Darling to-day in an action of divorce by Alexander

Robertson, miner, Standburn by Avonbridge, Stirlingshire, against his wife, Bella Gray or

Robertson, a 148 Standburn. The pursuer (28), examined by Mr. Trotter, said he was married

to the defender in April, 1900. After living together for three months they separated because

the defender gave birth to a child of which witness was not the father. He was willing to

continue living with her, but she "could not look at him" on account of her shame, and went to

stay with her mother. He had once seen a letter purporting to be written by the defender to a

man named Anderson reproaching him with having put her out of house and home, and

asking what name he proposed to give his child. He made farther inquiries, and in

consequence of certain information he had received he raised the present action. The

Inspector of Poor for the parish of Avonside gave evidence to the effect that the defender had

applied for parochial relief, and had been for about a month in the poorhouse. She informed

him that a man named Anderson was the father of her baby, and that she had been put out of

a home. After further evidence his lordship give decree.

Edinburgh Evening News 9th December 1902

BOYS CLUB TOGETHER TO BUY WHISKY.

At Falkirk J.P. Court to-day, Francis M'Lean pleaded guilty to having been found drunk and

incapable at Standburn. The fiscal said that the accused and two other boys had "spliced" to

obtain whisky. The accused gave, sixpence and the other boys threepence each, and then

they got a man to buy liquor for them, which they consumed in a wood, M'Lean afterwards

being found helplessly drunk on the road. The magistrates in admonishing the accused said

that they would have liked if they had had the man before them who bought the liquor.

Falkirk Herald 10th December 1902

DRUNK AT FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE. -

J.P. Court yesterday - ex-Provost Griffiths and Mr. Robert Hunter on the bench - Francis

M'Lean, 14 years of age. son of and residing with Robert M'Lean, miner Standburn Rows,

Muiravonside was charged with having, on the 11th October, been found in a state of helpless

intoxication on the public road passing through Standburn Rows. The boy pleaded guilty, and

the prosecutor, Mr. Jas. M. Wilson, said that accused had "spliced," as he termed it, with two

other boys, to get the drink, he having given 6d and the others 3d each. They said that they

then got a man to buy the liquor for them, and they adjourned to a plantation and consumed it.

The liquor must have been bought by an adult, as the police had made enquiry at the public-houses in the district, and no boys had applied for liquor. The accused was afterwards found in a helpless condition with drink on the public road, with a large crowd of people collected round him. He could scarcely speak. The two other boys were 13 years of age. Ex-Provost Griffiths, in admonishing the accused, said it was a pitiable case, indeed, that a boy such as the one before them should have been found drunk and incapable. It was also a very serious thing to know that any grown-up person should have supplied little boys with drink. He was sorry to see so young a person charged with such an offence, and he would have much preferred that the man who obtained the liquor for the boys should have been in the dock. It certainly did not reflect credit on him. The boy's parents should see that he had not the opportunity of repeating the offence. If there was another conviction he would be severely dealt with.

Falkirk Herald 10th December 1902

STANDBURN.

A HEARTBREAK TO HER FRIENDS. -

In the Court of Session on Saturday, evidence was led before Lord Stormonth Darling in an action of divorce by Alexander Robertson, miner, residing at Standburn, by Avonbridge, Stirlingshire, against Bella Gray or Robertson, 148 Standburn. The pursuer (28) said he was married to the defender on 12th April, 1900. They lived together as husband and wife for three months, when the defender gave birth to a child, of which the pursuer was not the father. He wished the defender to remain with him, but she did not do so, and went to stay with her mother. He had never spoken to her since. He got a letter in his wife's handwriting last February, which she had sent to a married man named James Anderson, who resided in Standburn, in which she told Anderson that he was responsible for having put her out of her home and making her a heartbreak to all her friends. She addressed Anderson as "Dear James," and wound up with three crosses. Evidence was led to show that in March last the defender, who had been in domestic service in Glasgow, gave birth to another child, of which she said that Anderson was also the father. Both children were dead. Further evidence was led, and decree was granted.

Counsel for Pursuer - Mr. Trotter. Agent. - J. G. Bryson, S.S.C.

Falkirk Herald 13th December 1902

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday. Owing to the indisposition of the chairman, Major Dobbie, Mr. A. Peddie Waddell of Balquhatston was called upon to preside. There were also present Mr. Mitchell of Millfield; Mr. Salvesen of Lathallan; Mr. Hunter, Glenfuir; Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Stenhousemuir; ex-Provost Griffiths, Falkirk; ex-Provost Mackay, Grangemouth; Mr. Brown, Kerse; Mr. Malcolm, Dunmore; Mr. Wm. Wilson, Bogo; Mr. A. N. McKillop, Polmont Park; Mr. W. H. Rankine, Laurieston; Mr. J. B. Smith, Bonnybridge; Mr. Jas. Mackay, Avonbridge; Mr. Wm. Munnoch, Shieldhill; Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout; and Mr. J. H. Burns, clerk.

ROAD MATTERS.

With regard to the proposal to widen the road at Blairs, Redding, it was reported that three poles of ground would be required for that purpose, and that the proprietor, Mr. Mitchell of Millfield, had kindly given off that amount of ground, if the Council would arrange with his agricultural tenant, Mr. Aitkenhead. The latter, two years ago, entered on a 19 years' lease of the ground, and he sought £5 as compensation. The meeting thought the request reasonable, and granted it. Mr. Mitchell was, on the motion of the Chairman, thanked for his generosity in the matter. The widening of the road will now be proceeded with.

Some discussion took place regarding an illegal encroachment upon a road at Standburn due to feuurs using the bank which bounded the public road and which the road surveyor held should be regarded as part of the road. The proprietor of the ground adjoining the road had, it was stated, claimed that the slope was part of his land, but he had now departed from that claim. In the case, of a church which had built steps on the ground occupied by the slope, the clerk was instructed to intimate to the congregation that the Council did not wish to interfere with the steps at present, but that they would require to give an undertaking that they would remove the steps when called upon. This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 20th December 1902

LOST, FOUND, &c.

LOST. on Monday, between Toravon and Maddiston, Small Gold Padlock. Reward. - Address 1934. Herald Falkirk.

FOUND, on Thursday. Retriever Dog. - Apply Wm. Blair, Drumbroider, near Standburn.

Falkirk Herald 24th December 1902

MUIRAVONSIDE. MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

The usual monthly meeting of Muiravonside School Board was held in Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Wilson, chairman, presided, and the other members present were Messrs John Bryce, Archibald Binnie, J. B. Bryce, Robert Myles, and Daniel Binnie.

ATTENDANCE.

The Officer submitted the report on the Attendance at the various schools as follows: -

	On Roll. Ave. Att.
Muiravonside School	193 158
Drumbowie School	447 360
Blackbraes School	398 323
Maddiston School	129 113
Avonbridge School	76 62

SCHOOL STAFF CHANGES.

The Clerk stated that he had experienced great difficulty in getting a certificated infant mistress for Blackbraes School. He had offered the appointment to several applicants, but they had all refused it. He had ultimately offered the position to Miss Jeannie Beattie, Forglan Public School, Turriff, and she had accepted the appointment, and would begin duties on 16th January. The salary is £65 per annum. The Clerk also stated that he had received a letter of resignation from Miss M'Leod, ex-P.T. in Drumbowie School, who made an application for an increase of salary at last meeting, which was refused. As instructed, he had advertised for a successor, and Mr. Mackay had asked him to offer the appointment to Miss Fenton, a teacher belonging to Grangemouth, but who was presently teaching under the Whitburn School Board. She had accepted the appointment, and would begin duties on 12th January. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The Christmas holidays were fixed to run from 24th December to 6th January, the schools to resume work on the latter date.

LOAN FOR BUILDING.

The Clerk stated that he had received a communication from the Department sanctioning the borrowing of £700 for the purpose of the enlargement of Muiravonside School.

EVENING SCHOOL GRANTS.

The amount of grants earned by the different evening schools was submitted by the clerk as follows: - Blackbraes School - Division 1, £17 8s 4d; division 2, £3 2s 4d. Drumbowie School - Division 1, £18 16s 8d; Division 2, £2 0s 8d. Maddiston School - Division 1, £29 1s 8d; Division 2, £5 2s 8d. Muiravonside - Division 1, £3 1s 8d; Division 2, £1 1s - total. £80 15s. The Clerk pointed out that the amounts of grant earned by division 2 was considerably less than the salaries paid to the teacher for teaching that division, but the deficit would be made up by the County Council.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

The following is the report by Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, M.A., who, on behalf of the

Association for aiding School Boards in the inspection of religious instruction, has visited the different schools under the Board and examined the children in religious knowledge:-

Maddiston Infant School. – The infant Class is divided into four sections, of which the youngest consists of those recently come, who have not yet learnt anything. The other three, and especially the other two, repeated their Psalm and Paraphrase correctly, and answered, readily on the lesson from Genesis and the birth of Christ. The standards went over the same work, but continued further, and with additional repetition, in all of which they made a good appearance. A number of hymns were sung.

Blackbraes Public School. – This well-organised school continues to maintain its high standard of religious instruction. The infants were taught in two classes, the younger of which did exceedingly well both in Bible lesson and memory work. The senior infants did not profess much, but answered readily on what they had gone over Class VI. spoke out clearly in their repetition, and showed a good knowledge of their Bible lesson, especially in the portions from Genesis. An admirable appearance was made by Classes V. and VI. both in the large field of work which they covered and in the high quality of the answering. The Old Testament history had been very minutely gone into, and a thorough acquaintance was shown with the incidents in the life of Christ, including some miracles and parables. In Classes III. and II. a full memory programme was gone over with accuracy and intelligence. A specially-good, examination in the history of the Kings of Israel and Judah and there was also ready answering on the New Testament. The senior class distinguished itself by its intelligent explanation of the passages repeated, by its thorough mastery of the period of Saul and David, and by its ready narrative of several parables, along with the lessons taught by them. It might be well to have the blackboard maps supplemented by wall maps for fuller information. In all the classes there was good hymn singing. Drumbowie Public School.-The junior classes in this school have suffered owing to the changes of teachers. The infants are taken in three divisions of which the younger had both Old and New Testament lessons, the middle New Testament only and the senior Old Testament only. This last class made a good appearance, showing a ready knowledge of the life of David. Standard I. came short in memory work but did rather better in the gospel lesson. From Standard II. upwards the school did much better. The repetition of the Psalms and Paraphrases in Standards II. and III., had been carefully attended to, both as to accuracy and proper emphasis, but the boys were weak in Catechism. The Old Testament history was well answered, and a number of parables were given intelligently by Standard III. The model class of the school is Standard IV., under Miss Hunter's' very efficient teaching. There was a thoroughness and a finish about, the whole of their work that made the examination a pleasure. The full memory programme was rendered in a clear, intelligent, and perfectly accurate, manner, and it had been selected with a view to illustrate the Bible lesson, in which the answering as regards both the history and geography fully maintained the high standard of last year. The class also made an excellent appearance both in the accuracy of their full knowledge of the life of Paul, illustrated by the map. The singing in all the classes was good. .

Muiravonside Public School – The religious instruction in this school continues to be satisfactory. Great care is taken to draw out a syllabus which properly graded, in which the Psalms and Hymns are suitable to the ages of the children and the Scripture passages throw light on the Bible lessons. The infant class goes on improving and their admirable answering in the Bible lesson were specially noteworthy. In spite of a change of teacher, Standards II. and III. did very well, and there was a marked improvement in the work of Standard IV. The upper standards do excellent work, alike in their repetition, which is accurate, and said with appropriate expression, and in the full knowledge which they show of the history and geography of the periods studied. The hymn singing of the school was very good, and the general tone was excellent. This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 27th December 1902

STANDBURN.

U.F. CHURCH SABBATH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE. –

On Tuesday evening the annual Christmas tree in connection with the above was held in the church. There was a large attendance of children and their parents, presided over by the Rev. Gilbert P. Kechie. After tea, addresses appropriate to the occasion were given by the chairman, the Rev. J. B. G. Rouse, Mr. Geo. G. Mackay, and Mr. A. Binnie. At intervals solos were pleasingly rendered by Misses Mackie and Ritchie, and Mr. Andrew Philips. A trio was also contributed by Miss Sharp and Mr. D. Sharp, sen., and Mr. D. Sharp, jun. Miss M'Ritchie accompanied in her usual efficient manner. Thereafter the heavily laden tree was dismantled, and the usual votes of thanks brought a happy gathering to a close. **CONCERT. -**

On Wednesday evening Dunn's Concert Company occupied Standburn Public Hall, when a splendid programme was submitted. The programme was of a high-class order, the audience not being slow to mark their appreciation of the efforts of the various artistes. The artistes were: - Miss Mina M'Kinnen, soprano and mandolinist; Miss Bessie Campbell, dancer; Miss Hossack, soprano; Messrs Granger (tenor), J. K. McFarlane, Livingstone, T. W. Harvester, Negro comedian; W. M. Maither, cornet soloist; and R. M'Lean, piper. Mr. H. Jeffrey acted as accompanist.

CO-OPERATION. -

On Thursday evening the new drapery department, built by the Redding Co-operative Society at their Standburn Branch, was opened in presence of a small gathering of people, no doubt due to the inclement nature of the weather. The directors assembled at the main door, and Mr. Thomas Barker, in a few words called upon Mr. William Reid, the oldest member of the directors, to perform the opening ceremony. Mr. Reid thereupon opened the door amid cheers and declared the premises open. It may be here stated that hitherto the drapery had been occupying the same place as the grocery departments, and as the trade has been rapidly increasing, was totally inadequate to carry on both branches in one place successfully. After making minute inspection of the interior of the building, the directors and servants adjourned to the room upstairs where an excellent knife and fork tea partaken of, purveyed by Mrs. Gray in good style. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, the Chairman in a few remarks referred to the trade of Standburn branch within the last few years, and from figures quoted showed that the sales for the present quarter had almost tripled in that short time. Referring to the new premises he felt confident they would be a success. Mr. Alex. Thomson, Mr. Richard Brown, Mr. Smart manager, and Mr. Geo. Gray also spoke. At intervals songs were rendered by Miss Baxter and Messrs A. Smart, J. Forsyth, Thos. Bennie, J. Mackie, Geo. Todd, F. Osborne, D. Hendry, and H. Struthers, and a recitation by Miss Brown. An enjoyable evening was brought to a close with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

ACCIDENTS. -

On Tuesday a miner named Wilson, employed at Candiehead Colliery, met with an accident whilst working at the coal cutting machine there. It appears that his hand had got accidentally into the picks of the machine, causing extensive laceration. On the same day brusher named Wm. Davies got his foot fractured by a fall of material from the roof. Dr. Calderwood attended both cases with his usual promptitude.



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Falkirk Herald 3rd January 1903

STANDBURN.

NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. -

The works in the district closed on Wednesday for the New Year holidays, and will be re-opened on Monday of next week.

SILVER WEDDING. -

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Kerr celebrated their silver wedding at their residence in Standburn on Saturday evening last. The parties were married at West Calder on the 28th December, 1877, by the Rev. James Grant, parish minister. On the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Kerr, a number of invited guests sat down to an excellent repast. During the evening they were made the recipient of some handsome presents as mementos of the interesting occasion. A pleasant evening was spent with songs, &c.

SOCIAL MEETING AND DANCE. -

On Tuesday evening the members of the Standburn Dancing Club had an enjoyable social meeting in the Public Hall. Mr. Colin Maxwell acted in the capacity of chairman. After an excellent supper, purveyed by Mrs. Cheyne, Mr. Matthew Aitchison presented Mr. Colin Maxwell with a handsome gold badge in recognition of his services as M.C. Dancing was afterwards engaged in, songs being sung at intervals by Messrs Wm. Geddes, Donald Rankine, Colin Maxwell, and Wm. McLean. Mr. Wm. Love supplied the music, whilst Mr. Colin Maxwell discharged the duties of M.C.

Falkirk Herald 7th January 1903

AGENTS

By whom Advertisements and Orders for the Paper are received:

Blackbraes - M. Watson, Grocer.

Bowhouse, - J. Smith.

Linlithgow Bridge, - Mrs. Dickson, Post Office.

Maddiston, - Arch. Forsyth, Merchant.

Manuel, - James Stewart, Manuel Station.

Falkirk Herald 10th January 1903

STIRLING COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday. Major Dobbie (chairman) presided, and there were also present Mr. A. Peddie Waddell of Balquhatston, Mr. Mitchell of Millfield, Mr. Salvesen of Lathallan, Mr. Stirling of Muiravonside, Mr. J. B. Smith of Clifford Park, Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Stenhousemuir, ex-Provost Mackay, Grangemouth; Rev. Allan Reid, Slamannan; Mr. Brown, Kerse; Mr. A. N. McKillop, Polmont Park; Mr. Rankine, Laurieston; Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout; Mr. Mackay, Avonbridge; Mr. Munnoch, Redding; Dr. M'Vail, medical officer; Mr. J. H. Burns, clerk; Mr. Ballantine, road surveyor; and Messrs Bremner and Stewart, sanitary inspectors.

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

The Clerk intimated that the following Parish Council representatives had been appointed to act on the committee for the ensuing year: - Airth parish, Mr. Malcolm; Larbert parish, Mr. Graham; Falkirk parish, Mr. Rankine; Muiravonside parish, Mr. Wilson, Avonbridge; Slamannan parish, Mr. Joseph Gardner; Grangemouth parish, Mr. Munnoch. The minutes of meetings of the Finance and Public Health Executive Committees were read and adopted without comment.

THE POLLUTION OF THE RIVER AVON.

The Clerk read the following report by Mr. Stewart, sanitary inspector, with regard to the pollution of the River Avon: - There was pollution of the river from three sources, viz. : - Effluent from paper works, effluent from coal dross washing, and sewage. Paper works. - The most serious pollution is from three paper making works, viz. : - Westfield, Avon, and Lochmill, all of which are situated on the Linlithgow side of the River Avon. The effluent from these works discolours the whole water of the River Avon until it reaches the Firth of Forth. Coal dross washing. - Coal dross washing is carried on at the following seven collieries, viz. : - No. 3 Broadrigg Pit, Blackrigg Pit, Loehend Colliery, Shieldhill No. 1 Pit, Blackstone Colliery, Manuelrigg Colliery, and East Roughrigg Colliery. The three first named are situated on or near the boundaries of the counties of Stirling and Lanark and in the vicinity of Slamannan, while the remainder are situated near the villages of Shieldhill, Candiehead, Maddiston and Crosscroes.

No. 3 Broadrigg Pit. - In my report of 12th February on the pollution from this pit. I stated that the manager had promised to heighten and strengthen the embankments. This to a considerable extent he has done, and although not completed I have at my inspections seen no overflow or break in the embankment.

Blackrigg Colliery. - Owners, John Nimmo and Sons, Ltd. Here about 150 tons are washed daily. The effluent is passed through a series of settling ponds, having an area of about 8000 square yards. It is then passed through a filter 50 feet long by 9 feet broad by 6 feet deep,

divided into five compartments. The filtering medium is rough engine ashes. It then discharges into the Kirk or Kelloch Burn. Since my first inspection on 17th February the banks of the lower series, of ponds have been heightened, and the filter re-charged. At my visits here I have always found a good clear effluent passing into the burn. Lochend Colliery. - Owners. Messrs James Nimmo and Co., Ltd. Here about 130 tons are washed daily. The effluent is passed through a series of settling ponds of large area. The embankments seemed to be formed of too open materials, and the effluent on passing into the burn was not clear. By appointment on 12th March I met on the ground Mr. Gibb, James Nimmo and Co.'s general manager, and Mr. Murray, manager of Lochend Colliery. They agreed in the meantime to improve the embankments, and at the same time stated that arrangements were being made for providing a circulatory system whereby the same water would be used and re-used continuously, and from which very little effluent would escape, and that little would be thoroughly purified. At my inspection on 11th November the circulatory system had not been adopted, but the huge settling ponds were working so satisfactorily that a perfectly clear effluent passed into the Kirk Burn.

Shieldhill No. 1 Pit. - Owners, Carron Company. About 200 tons are here washed daily. The effluent is passed into a series of four small settling tanks, each of which is subdivided into three compartments. The effluent overflow from these tanks is used and re-used continuously while, the effluent escaping from the bottom of the tanks and the drip from the loading of waggons is passed down the pit, thence, through a filter to Herdshill Pit, from which it is pumped back again and reused. At my first inspection on 20th February, as there was some effluent deposit on the ice the adjoining burn, I called on Mr. McCulloch, the manager, who explained that the conduits back to the pit shaft were frozen. Since then I have frequently inspected the burn, but found no pollution. There is evidence, however, that some of the effluent is occasionally passed from Herdshill Pit to Westquarter Burn.

Blackstone Colliery. - Owners, James Nimmo and Co., Ltd. About 200 tons of dross are here washed daily. The effluent is passed into a series of four circular settling tanks, each 10 feet in diameter and 10 feet deep. From these it is passed into a brick tank 40 feet by 30 feet, from which it is pumped and received continuously. The tanks are emptied regularly in rotation. At my first inspection (17th March. 1902) the dripping from the loading of waggons and a considerable escape of the effluent was passing in a crude state into a channel, which is carried alongside the Slamannan Railway to Bowhouse Railway Station, thence into a burn communicating with the River Avon. At my subsequent visits such improvements had been effected that, except on one occasion, the effluent passing into the burn was clear.

Manuelrigg Colliery. - Owners, United Collieries. Ltd., per David Gemmel, secretary, 103 Hope Street. Glasgow. Here about 25 tons of dross are washed daily. The effluent is passed through a series of six settling tanks, having an area of about 150 square yards. It is then passed through a small filter of engine ashes. At the date of my first inspection (17th March. 1902) the effluent was not at all satisfactory. I called on the manager, Robert Barr, who stated that there was a proposal to discharge the effluent into a disused quarry situated a little to the west of the colliery. I have made several inspections, and at my last, on 18th November, nothing had been done to carry the proposal into practice, and the effluent was passing into the burn in a crude state. I have now communicated with the secretary, United Collieries Company, Ltd., who promises that measures will be taken to remove the cause for complaint.

East Roughrigg Pit. - Owners. Robert Forrester and Co., Ltd. About 15 tons are here washed daily. The effluent discharges first into a small iron tank, thence into settling ponds of large area. From there the water is pumped back and re-used. There is no indication of pollution of any stream.

Sewage, - The sewage from Lochside and High and Low Limerigg, after lodging in foul ditches in the vicinity of the houses, passes into a streamlet, along which it flows for a considerable distance. It then receives the sewage of Burn Row, and ultimately joins the Kirk Burn. The Kirk Burn receives the sewage of Station Row and Slamannan Station, but as there is a good flow of water it as yet gives little indication of being polluted with sewage. In its course the Kirk Burn skirts part of the village of Slamannan, the sewage of which (including that of slaughter-houses) passes directly into it. The burn, as it passes through Slamannan, is used as a receptacle for all sorts of refuse and rubbish. During the summer it was in a foul condition. Part of the sewage of Avonbridge finds its way untreated into the River Avon. However, the volume of water in the Avon is so great that there is no perceptible pollution. The sewage of Standburn village continues to discharge without treatment into the adjoining burn. Although this burn is greatly polluted, I have received no complaint from the farmers through whose fields the burn passes on its way to the River Avon. Part of this burn near to the rows was cleaned out on two occasions during the year by the owners of the rows. The sewage of Maddiston passes into the adjoining burn, and ultimately discharges into the River Avon. During the summer the burn near the bridge was in a foul condition. The sewage of Linlithgow Bridge meantime passes into the River Avon, but the authorities of Linlithgow burgh have almost completed purification works for the treatment of this sewage coming from the east side of the river. The sewage of Blackbraes, California, part of Wallacestone, and the whole of Roughhaugh and Rumford passes into Gardrum Burn. The condition of the burn is not remarked on until Rumford is reached. At this point it is made a receptacle for refuse of every description, and during the summer was frequently in a foul condition. Opposite Rumford Square it was repeatedly cleaned by the lessees of the houses. Most of the sewage of Shieldhill, after lodging in offensive ditches in the vicinity of the houses, finds its way into Westquarter Burn, which ultimately discharges into the River Avon. The sewage of Polmontside Square, part of Wallacestone, part of Reddingmuirhead, and the whole of Brightons and Polmont, passes into Polmont Burn. During the year this burn at Polmont Station was in a foul condition. The sewage from the villagers having in most cases to flow considerable distances in the burns, is purified to such an extent before reaching the River Avon that it will not interfere with fish life in the river." Mr. Munnoch pointed out that the Shieldhill sewerage did not go into the Avon; it went into the Grange Burn. The Chairman - That is a mistake in the report, which may not be wondered at, seeing the inspector is new to the district. The report he has given us is a fairly correct and very comprehensive statement. So far as the collieries are concerned, they do not seem to be very great sinners with regard to the pollution of the river. Mr. Stewart said that the coal washings at Manuelrigg Colliery were now being discharged into a quarry. Mr. Wilson, Jinkabout - During the heavy rains and when the Avon was in spate the water has been coming down the river almost as black as ink with coal washings. It is not so bad when the parties put these washings into the river while it is in spate. The harm is done when they put the washings into the river expecting a spate, which does not take place. The Chairman - During the time of a spate the firms take the opportunity to clear out their tanks, so that the effluent might be washed down the river. It is perhaps not so objectionable then. Mr. Stirling thought that the report was a very valuable one. It kept them posted up with regard to the pollution of the river, and let them see what was being done to mitigate the nuisance. With regard to the collieries, Mr. Stewart seemed to have gone very carefully over the different works, and pointed out what should be done to keep things right. But he had not referred to the paper mills the most serious source of the pollution. It would be well if Mr. Stewart would, from time to time, keep his eye on the paper mills which were polluting the river, and in cases of serious pollution he should be instructed to write the millowners pointing out the damage which was being done, and instructing what steps ought to be taken. As to the pollution from Standburn, the burn there was an open one, running alongside the road for a short distance only, and like many other burns in other parts of the district, it was practically used as a shoot for all the rubbish in the district. He would be inclined to think that that burn should be covered in and a pipe inserted in it. That would mitigate the nuisance in that part of the district. Mr. Mitchell - Both the paper mills and the collieries are receiving constant attention, and to my mind the pollution is getting worse instead of better. The inspector should be instructed to give the subject his continued and frequent attention. Mr. Stewart - With regard to the paper mills, they are outside of my district, and I have no control over them. The Local Authority should be instructed to look after them. Mr. Salvesen -

In that case should we not take joint action with the Linlithgow County Council? Mr. Peddie Waddell - A joint committee has been already appointed to deal with the Linlithgow County Council with regard to the matter. Mr. Stirling - hat was only a temporary arrangement. There is power in the Act to appoint a joint committee. That has been done in the case of Linlithgowshire and Midlothian. Dr. M'Vail said that the joint committee already appointed had met the Linlithgow Committee in Linlithgow with regard to the pollution of the River Avon from Westfield Paper Mills, which were the largest in the district. The proprietors of these works improved their filters, and did a great deal which should have resulted in the purification of the river. At Westfield the burn was very small in proportion to the size of the works, Westfield seemed to be a prosperous mill, and a good deal of work was going on. The best method would be to take samples, and submit them for analysis. Mr. Peddie Waddell said that the pollution from coal washings seemed to be much improved, but he deprecated the statement which had been made that it was a good thing that parties should avail themselves of a spate in the river to clean their tanks. That was the time he thought their inspector should keep an eye on them. They let out their tanks in the time of a spate, and when the banks were flooded the material got on to the banks, and then it was that it did damage to the farmers. The Rev. Mr. Reid would bear him out in that. Rev. Mr. Reid - I concur in what Mr. Peddie Waddell has said. Mr. Smith - How did this matter of the pollution of the Avon arise? Was it in consequence of a complaint? The Chairman - It has been before us for many years. Mr. Stewart - A complaint was lodged by the farmer of Rashiehill Farm, Slamannan. Mr. Mackay, Avonbridge - If the inspector examines the Avon after a spate he will find that the pollution from the paper mills does more harm than the pollution from the coal pits. If the report is correct, there are men working all night shovelling material into the river. That might be a wrinkle for the inspector to work upon. The Chairman said he hoped they would be able to deal with the pollution from village sewerage when their water supply was introduced. They went through the villages some time ago, and the condition of several of them was very unsatisfactory indeed. He supposed the decision of the meeting would be that the inspector should continue to attend to his instructions with regard to the pollution of the river, and to report occasionally. This was agreed to.

Falkirk Herald 10th January 1903

STANDBURN.

PRESENTATION. -

Last week a number of the members of the Standburn Congregational Church met in a social capacity for the purpose of presenting their treasurer, Mr. Alex. Kerr, with a token of their appreciation for the many services rendered towards the church since its formation, on the occasion of his leaving Standburn to fill the position of manager with Messrs J. G. Stein and Co., Castlecary. After tea, the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, who presided, presented Mr. Kerr with two handsome volumes of "Andree's Coal Mining." Mr. Kerr replied in appropriate terms.

Falkirk Herald 10th January 1903

LOST, FOUND, &c.

FOUND, on Standburn Road. 31st December.

Small Parcel of Clothing. -

Apply Police Office, Avonbridge.

Falkirk Herald 17th January 1903

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT, Monday.

(Before Sheriff Bell.)

A LATE START -

Thomas Harper, miner, Maddiston (an elderly man) was charged with creating a disturbance at Maddiston on 2nd January. Panel pleaded guilty, and said that he was getting very weak when he got a "glass," and it being the holiday time he asked his lordship's discretion. (Laughter) The Sheriff - This is the first time you have been here. You should not begin at your time of life.

Falkirk Herald 28th January 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE. SCHOOL BOARD MEETING -

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in Maddiston Public School yesterday. With the exception of Mr. Myles, all the members were present, and Mr. Wilson (chairman) presided. The School Committees gave in their monthly reports, which contained no point of public interest. The clerk read a letter from Mr. Strang, architect, in which he said that he had been urging the builder to push on the new addition to Muiravonside School, and that he had replied that he would be making a start very shortly. The Clerk also reported that the Public Works Loan Board had agreed to give the Board a loan of £700, repayable in thirty years, at 3 1/4 per cent. The School Board election was fixed for 14th April, and it was decided that the first meeting of the new Board should be held on Tuesday, the 14th April. It was stated that the office of compulsory officer had been vacant for some time, and that in consequence the attendance of children at some of the schools was suffering. The meeting agreed to advertise for a compulsory officer at a salary of £25. Mr. J. B. Bryce called attention to a fence which encroached on the Maddiston School feu. Permission, he said, had been given by a School Committee to erect the fence in its present place, but Mr. Baxter was to give them a letter undertaking to remove the fence back to its original position at any moment when the Board asked that to be done. So far as he was aware that letter had never been given to the Board. The present Board would only have two more ordinary meetings, and "as a new king might arise who knew not Joseph," the Board would be better to set its house in order. The clerk had given the opinion that it was illegal for the Board to have allowed this encroachment on the school feu, and he moved that Mr. Baxter be asked to remove the fence back to its original position before next meeting. The Chairman - I doubt you will have to give notice of that motion for next meeting. Mr. D. Binnie - No, no. Mr. Haldane seconded the motion, and homologated the statement made by Mr. Bryce on the subject. The motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

STANDBURN.

RAILWAY GREIVANCE. -

Formerly passengers from this district travelling to Glasgow from Avonbridge, via Coatbridge, and returning to Polmont, were requested to pay the full fare from Glasgow to Polmont. One of these passengers, however, Mr. Robert Moore, entered into negotiations with the general manager anent this grievance, and has received the following reply: - "Dear Sir, - With further reference to your letter, I have to inform you that instructions have been given that when the east train for Avonbridge, via Coatbridge, has gone, and a passenger travels via Falkirk, the difference of fare - viz., 5d - must only be charged. I trust this will prove satisfactory to you. - I am, yours truly, W. S. Jackson."

A word of thanks is due to Mr. Moore for the interest he has taken on behalf of the travelling public.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. -

Miss Hunter, teacher, Drumbowie Public School, has received a letter from the treasurer of the Royal Hospital for sick Children, Edinburgh, acknowledging receipt of £3 4s being amount collected by her for the hospital, and thanking her very sincerely for all the trouble she has so kindly taken.

Falkirk Herald 7th February 1903

STANDBURN.

PRESENTATION. -

On Saturday the directors of Redding Co-operative Society paid a visit to their Standburn

branch, where extensive alterations are presently being carried out. Whilst there they took the opportunity of presenting one of their number, Mr. William Reid, with a handsome gold badge as a memento of the occasion of his opening the new drapery department. The badge bore an appropriate inscription. Mr. Alexander Thomson, in handing over the gift, referred to the esteem in which Mr. Reid was held by his fellow-directors, and also to his long connection with the society. Mr. Reid appropriately replied.

Falkirk Herald 7th February 1903

**EXTRAORDINARY SCENE IN A STANDBURN CHURCH.
MR. D. H. RITCHIE SNADDON NOT ALLOWED TO PREACH.
LEAVES THE CHURCH BY THE BACK DOOR.
HEATED CONTROVERSY BETWEEN CHURCH MEMBERS.**

For a number of years past the mining village of Standburn, in the parish of Muiravonside, has attracted a good deal of notice in this district, alike because of the successful Gothenburg public-house experiment which has been carried on here, and the apparently aggressive Christian work which has been conducted in the village by Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, who was at one time missionary in charge of the United Presbyterian Church Mission in Standburn, and who has latterly been officiating as pastor of the Standburn Congregational Church, a congregation which is the product very much of his own energy and resource. So far as we have been able to learn, Mr. Snaddon came to Standburn from Alloa fully five years ago, and quickly established himself in popular favour amongst the people because of his zeal in religious work and his special organising faculties. He was brought to the district by the United Presbyterian Church at Avonbridge to take charge of their Standburn Mission, and he soon made the place the centre of progressive Christian work. His methods of carrying on the work, however, did not appeal to his employers at Avonbridge, and he had to vacate his post. The bulk of the people of Standburn considered he had been rather badly used, and before his connection with the mission was severed they created a demonstration on his behalf, and the Rev. Mr. Rouse, the minister of Avonbridge United Presbyterian Church, was somewhat rudely handled. Backed up by his many followers in Standburn Mr. Snaddon remained in the district, and founded the Standburn Congregational Church, and an iron building was erected in the village as a place of worship for the new congregation. Application was made for admission to the Congregational Union of Scotland, but the application is understood to have been refused on the ground that Mr. Snaddon had not by training qualified himself for the ministry. Mr. Snaddon, however, continued to labour on behalf of his new congregation with even increased assiduity, and he instituted in connection with it every conceivable branch of church work. He did everything possible to keep up the attendances at his various church meetings, and even went the length of bringing to Standburn from London a deputation of Dr. Barnardo's boys, and of appealing to Dr Andrew Carnegie for an organ. His resource in the matter of church literature and newspaper advertisements was unbounded, and the many leaflets, etc., which he issued broadcast to the religious and benevolent public throughout the United Kingdom might have warranted him in acquiring a printing press of his own. His appeals for monetary aid found their way into the leading religious and secular press. Here is one of his appeals, which appeared in the columns of "The Christian" :-"THE 'FORWARD MOVEMENT' AMONGST MINERS". - The Standburn Church and 'Forward Home Mission Evangelistic and Temperance Movement' carries on an extensive and aggressive work amongst the miners of East Stirlingshire, Scotland. The Rev. D. R. Ritchie Snaddon, who superintends the work, comes constantly into contact with all classes of miners, many of whom come from the coalfields of England. The spiritual needs of this people are constantly being attended to, and much blessing has been received in the work. Scarcely a week goes past but cases of conversion occur, and many are induced to attend regularly a gospel service for the first time in their lives. The ladies of the movement have issued a special appeal for 3000 shilling subscriptions to clear the debt resting on the miners' church at Standburn. Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose, the Right Honourable Lord Overton, Sir John Usher, Bart., Mr. George Cadbury, and many others have contributed to the fund." The Christmas before last he also issued a lengthy and characteristic printed appeal to the public for assistance on behalf of his work in Standburn and the people of the place, whose character he depicted in a manner the reverse; of laudatory. We have seen another of his printed appeals, which has for its title "Thank-offering for mercies received; for the sake of the children and others." This is in the form of a slip containing money columns for donations to the various branches of church work, and it is intimated that "cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, Avonbridge, Stirlingshire. N. B." The funds for which donations are asked are: - "For children's Christmas treat, for incurables' Christmas treat, for poor's Christmas treat, for special winter's evangelistic campaign, for temperance work, for Bible women's fund, and for one shilling fund. We have also in our possession another printed appeal, dated "Standburn, Stirlingshire, 1902." It is as follows: - "Dear friend, - "While we have not yet connected ourselves with the Congregational Union of Scotland, it is a fact not very well known that our work is the only mission of its kind conducted purely on Congregational lines in Scotland. In making our existence and work known to Congregationalists we venture to believe we shall enjoy their sympathy and support in a greater measure than hitherto. We have published the names of a few of our subscribers, and the names with the stars opposite are Congregationalists, and we hope to be favoured with the addition of your name to the list. You could further assist us by using enclosed collecting card amongst your friends; you might be able to obtain a few small subscriptions. Above all, will you please pray for a mighty outpouring of God's spirit upon our work here, so that we may have times of revival." Then note the urgency of the appeal: - "We sincerely trust you will be able to send us a donation, however small, 'by return of post.' Should you not be able to send a 'very small donation' (these words are in bold letters) will you kindly use enclosed stamped addressed envelope, to let us know that you are praying for our work. -"With Christian greetings, yours heartily in Christ's service, D. H. Ritchie Snaddon." Then, as a sort of "P. S." there is the following: - "Funds urgently needed. Who will send £1; who 10s; who 5s; who 2s 6d?" The Standburn people have thus had in Mr. Snaddon not only an enthusiastic organiser and worker as a pastor, but, at the same time, a resourceful and active suppliant for aid. We have no definite knowledge as to what extent the church and the people of Standburn have benefitted by these appeals, and while we do not suggest that Mr. Snaddon has received any personal benefit by them, yet this and other matters have been exorcising the mind of the church officials and the congregation to such an extent that the relations between Mr. Snaddon and the large bulk of his people have of late become strained. It has also come to light that Mr. Snaddon, in addition to the labour which his church, its manifold forms of religious and social work, and his extensive correspondence has involved upon him, has been finding time to devote to the business of a tea agent, if not of a tea merchant. We have seen a letter written by himself, and bearing the printed address of "Candie Cottage, Avonbridge" (which is Mr. Snaddon's residence), in which a lady is asked to invest in a quantity of "Rockwell's Teas." These teas are described in the printed advertisement, and on a specimen bag we have seen shown as being superior to many others, and entirely wholesome, and in the letter there is emphasised this additional feature, that all the profits derived from the sale of the tea, after paying working expenses, are to be devoted to Christian work. There is this peculiarity about the letter before us: While it is manifestly in Mr. Snaddon's hand-writing, and is sent from his own address, it is signed "Oril V. Rockwell." While calling attention to this fact, it is only fair to state that "Oril V. Rockwell" may be the tea merchant, and that Mr. Snaddon may have omitted to add "D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, agent." As already stated, the relations between Mr. Snaddon and his congregation have recently become strained. There are several reasons given for the discontent which prevails, and in particular a strong desire has been manifested amongst a section of the congregation that some statement was necessary from Mr. Snaddon with regard to his various financial schemes, the Carnegie organ, and the tea agency with which he was associated. It was mooted in the village some time ago that he intended to resign his charge. He made known to us last week the fact that he had done so in the following note, which was intended for publication: - At the close of the evening service, held in the Congregational

Church on Sabbath, the 25th ult., the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon, minister of the congregation, intimated that he would preach his farewell sermon on the last Sabbath in February. The intimation has caused profound regret, and an effort is being made to get Mr. Snaddon to reconsider his decision. It is understood that Mr. Snaddon's services have been sought after by several churches, and that he has decided to accept one of the calls. He appears to have changed his mind as to accepting the call, and has determined to go on an evangelistic tour. In a subsequent note to us he says: - "The Rev. D. H. Ritchie Sanddon, after fully five years' work in Standburn, Stirlingshire, has, much to the regret of his people, resigned his pastorate. Mr. Snaddon was minister of the Congregational Church, and directed the 'Forward Home Mission and Temperance Movement.' He has given up his present work in preference to that of an evangelist, and will shortly go on an evangelisation tour, accompanied by Mrs. Snaddon." In consequence of a disgraceful scene which occurred in church on Sunday evening it is doubtful if Mr. Snaddon will ever preach his farewell sermon, or even preach again in the church. The disturbance which ensued on Sunday night has no parallel in ecclesiastical circles in this district. There was a large congregation, many people, not regular worshippers, it is stated, having been attracted from Avonbridge and elsewhere in view of a contemplated demonstration hostile to Mr. Snaddon, or to listen to some allusions he was to make to his opponents. From information we have received with reference to the scene which took place, the circumstances are these: A number of new deacons had recently been elected by the congregation, but, had never been formally installed into office. Mr. Snaddon proposed to call a meeting after the service to consider some important church business, but two of the deacons met him in the vestry before the service, and advised him to postpone the meeting, as very probably a row would take place. According to some accounts, he was told that there were some people from Avonbridge in the church for no other purpose than to create a disturbance, although in the rowdy proceedings which subsequently occurred a good many of the people of Standburn figured. Mr. Snaddon acquiesced in the advice which was given him to postpone the meeting, and entered the church to conduct the ordinary evening service. After the opening devotional exercises had been engaged in, he proceeded to make the intimations, one of which was that the meeting of deacons he contemplated holding after the service had been postponed, but would take place on another date. Mr. Meek, the ex-precentor of the church, asked him where his deacons were, but Mr. Snaddon made no reply. A member of the church (Mr. John Blair) rose and told Mr. Meek to sit down, saying he had nothing to do with it. Mr. Snaddon then announced his text, Revelations ii. 10 - "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." He began his sermon, but had not proceeded far when cries of "Question" came every now and then from Mr. Meek, who, it has been said, considered that the preacher was not keeping to his text, and that his remarks were of an insinuating nature. The preacher made no retort, and Mr. Meek thereupon put to the congregation the question whether they would allow Mr. Snaddon to stand and preach in the pulpit as he was doing. "Then," according to one of the members of the church, "the row began, and the scene which ensued was such as I have never witnessed outside a church, far less inside, and I trust I will never behold the like of it again. It was a regular 'Donnybrook' - people seemed to forget for the time being that they were in a church, and in angry and excited tones they began to argue with one another. Some were for Mr. Snaddon and some were against him, and at times several of those on either side employed language to one another which was not of the choicest character. In the midst of a regular babel of voices, Mr. Snaddon intimated that the sermon was finished, and, pronouncing the benediction, he left the church by the back door, accompanied by Mrs. Snaddon. The congregation remained in the church for a considerable time, still in heated controversy with each other. In the scene several women took a prominent part. One elderly female accosted Mr. Meek, and asked him 'Why should he, a Christian, meddle with the man on such a night as this?' His reply was that he wanted Mr. Snaddon to tell him who his deacons were, and the female retorted, "You know very well he has no deacons. One has flitted from the place; another has flitted from it; you have deserted him, and he has no deacons. What is the man to do?" Then from another came the cry. 'Are there no deacons in the place to put this man out?' An elderly man addressed a younger man, said to be a church office-bearer, as follows: - "My man, if I were as young as you I would twist your neck and throw you out of the church." A middle-aged woman, who championed the cause of Mr. Snaddon in language more expressive than polite, said "you are just a lot of pigs. I have paid pounds into the church for some of your pennies, and I would give Mr. Snaddon a pound yet if he needed it." The disturbance inside and around the church is said to have lasted over an hour, and while he had a number of ardent supporters, it was evident that, the large body of those present were opposed to Mr. Snaddon. A meeting of the congregation was held in the church on Monday night to consider what should be done in the circumstances. The deacons met at 6.50, and it was intended that the congregation should meet an hour later. The former meeting was however, very prolonged, and it was 8.30 before the congregational meeting took place. Some difficulty was experienced in appointing a chairman. Several parties were proposed, but declined to act, but ultimately Mr. Meek was unanimously elected to the position. The Chairman called attention to the presence of two reporters, and asked if it was the desire of the meeting that the proceedings should be public. A Member - I object to their presence, and if they are allowed to remain, we who are members of the church will leave. A vote was then taken, when the Chairman said there seemed to be a majority in favour of the reporters remaining. A Member - If they are going to stop here, I will be out. The Secretary of the church said - This is not a public meeting, and they have no right to come into this church. The meeting is only for members, and the reporters must leave. Another member said they had heard enough of the scandal, and did not wish it to go through the newspapers, and another remarked. "We do not wish it in the newspapers." "The papers will soon get it anyway," remarked another, and to this statement came the retort that "they should not get it if we are all loyal to the church." The Chairman then asked the reporters, and all who wore not members or adherents of the church, to withdraw. The private meeting lasted till about 10.30, and was of a very disorderly character, several heated passages taking place between members for and against the minister. We learn that two letters were read with regard to the shilling fund for the poor of Standburn, and in regard to the organ. Two members were appointed to meet Mr. Snaddon to-night to request him to attend a meeting of the members of the church on Monday first, at 7 o'clock, to make a statement, and to explain certain matters. We have received another statement regarding the meeting of the congregation on Wednesday evening, which states that, the meeting was of a quiet nature. Mr. Baker read a statement from Mr. Snaddon in regard to "The Saviour's Pence Association Appeal" (an organisation conducted by Mr. Snaddon, with branches in various parts of the country), and the 3000 shilling scheme. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the statement. The tea agency was also discussed. The meeting unanimously agreed to appoint two of their number to wait upon Mr. Snaddon, and give him the finding of the meeting, and to request him to meet the congregation on Monday evening first, to give a personal explanation. There are a number of families in Standburn strongly attached to Mr. Snaddon, and the head of one of these families, in conversation with a "Falkirk Herald" representative, said - "We have only been four or five months in Standburn, but during that time we have found Mr. Snaddon nothing but a gentleman. He has done a lot of good in the village, and those he has been best to have been hardest on him at the present time. Those who have ate and drank tea at his fireside are now amongst his most bitter opponents. He is a nice homely man - indeed, he is as fine a man as ever put his foot in a leather shoe. Some of those who took a prominent part in Sunday's disturbance had never been in the church before. Mr. Snaddon would have stood his ground but for his wife, who was greatly put about. Mrs. Snaddon was as white as death, and I stepped over a seat, thinking I might be of some assistance to her, but just then she was taken to the vestry, and left the church by the back door. Such a scene I have never witnessed before. The anger and passion which was displayed was something awful, and it would be impossible to accurately describe all that took place. It was a sad sight, to see Christians quarrelling with each other as they were doing. Someone said. "I do not think there is a Christian in the church." and this remark was answered by one of Mr. Snaddon's opponents,

shouting, 'Begin at the pulpit.' I said, 'We have no need to begin at the pulpit: we can say nothing against the man in the pulpit.' We heard them, when we came out of church in the morning, making their arrangements for the row in the evening. Another elderly member of the church said, "The church has got 10s every month from this house, and I can safely say that I and my family have done more for it than any of those who created the row on Sunday night. We even collected the money to buy the church carpet, and we provided the pulpit cushion. I have a good mind to go and remove it. Mr. Snaddon has our fullest confidence, and will have till we find that his actions have forfeited it. I am confident that his opponents cannot, prove a single thing against him, and he would have been at the meeting to-night (Wednesday) to defend himself if he had not previously arranged to take part, in a soiree at Greenock. The Sunday before last he intimated that he would preach his farewell sermon on the last Sunday of February. He would then speak from the bottom of his stomach to them, and he remarked that those who said he was not worth hearing could stay away." The affair is creating a great deal of talk in the district, and there is a general belief that on account of what took place, on Sunday night, the "Forward Movement," carried on by Mr. Snaddon amongst the miners of Standburn, has been brought to a sudden and abrupt termination. Further developments of the dispute are, however, expected next week.

STATEMENT BY MR SNADDON.

Mr. Snaddon called at our head office in Falkirk yesterday, and requested us to publish the following statement: - The present upheaval is caused by individuals who have long absented themselves from the church, and on learning that I had a preference for work elsewhere, and had decided to preach my farewell sermon on the last Sunday in February, these individuals put in an appearance at the church on Sabbath evening, in keeping with a prearranged plan to upset the service. It may be stated that at the close of the service on Sabbath evening a congregational meeting was to have been held. Those individuals came to the church in anticipation of that, meeting to discuss matters not in keeping with the purpose for which the meeting was called. Prior to entering the pulpit I was advised by the deacons not to have that meeting, and I accordingly intimated this to the congregation. This seems to have been a note of warning for those individuals, the majority of whom were not connected with the church, to make the most of the present meeting. At this point I intimated that the subject of agitation on their part would receive attention prior to my leaving. A scene then took place in the church. I stopped my sermon, gave out a hymn, and pronounced the benediction. The whole service lasted ten minutes, immediately after the benediction was pronounced I left the church as a protest against this unseemly conduct in the House of God on a Sabbath evening. I have severed my connection with the church. The deacons met on Monday evening, when the various points of difference (that is to say, the Carnegie organ, the shilling fund, and other details), were discussed by them in my presence. The meeting was a most harmonious one, and the deacons sympathised with the attitude taken up by me. They also gave me the following statement: - This is to certify that we the deacons of Standburn Congregational Church, accept the voluntary resignation of the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon from our pastorate with deep regret. On parting, Mr. Snaddon gave us a detailed statement regarding the Carnegie organ, the Shilling Fund, and other points of difference, all of which were accepted as satisfactory; and in parting we have no charge to prefer against him, and no reflections whatsoever.

Signed by the following deacons:

H. J. Baker (secretary and treasurer).

John Blair.

Joseph Johnston.

James M'Kee.

John Low.

Alex. Clark (representing the old managers).

A. B. M'Cutcheon, John Smith (witnesses).

This evening a farewell social meeting is to be held, with all the deacons and their wives."

Falkirk Herald 14th February 1903

THE STANDBURN CHURCH SQUABBLE.

MR. SNADDON DECLINES TO RECEIVE A DEPUTATION.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON MONDAY NIGHT.

STATEMENTS BY A DEPUTATION OF DEACONS AND BY MR. SNADDON.

The services in the Standburn Congregational Church last Sunday were concluded in the morning by Mr. Kerr, Castlecary, formerly of Standburn, and in the evening by Mr. Baker, one of the deacons of the congregation. A meeting of the congregation was held on Monday evening, in the church - Mr. Baker presiding. The two gentlemen - Mr. McKee and Mr. McAndrew -, who were appointed at last week's congregational meeting to wait on Mr. Snaddon and get a statement or explanation from him relative to certain matters, were unable to be present at Monday night's meeting. Mr. McAndrew wrote regretting his inability to be present, while Mr. McKee was absent in consequence of the death of a relative. Mr. McAndrew's report was read by Mr. Aitchison, the secretary, and in it he stated that, along with Mr. James McKee, he visited Mr. Snaddon, at Candie Cottage, and was received by Mrs. Walker, the occupant of the cottage "On knowing our business with Mr. Snaddon, she said that he (Mr. Snaddon) did not wish to hear anything more about the church, as he was entirely finished with it. I have no doubt Mr. McKee will corroborate this statement." After the report was read to the meeting, some discussion took place, and it was unanimously agreed that the congregation completely ignore Mr. Snaddon, refuse to pay him his salary, and to make known to the public through the local press what the congregation wished from Mr. Snaddon. We are informed that the congregation wished, amongst other matters, a statement from Mr. Snaddon with regard to the 3000 shilling fund, instituted in the name of the Ladies' Committee, there being, it is alleged, no Ladies' Committee in connection with the church. They also ask a statement with regard to the appeal on behalf of the poor of Standburn and the Christmas treat for children. Mr. Snaddon has, it is stated, told his deacons that those appeals were private appeals made by himself, although they were issued in the name of the members of the church. An explanation is also desired from Mr. Snaddon with regard to the Carnegie organ. Mr. Snaddon, some time ago, we are told, said he got £25 from Mr. Carnegie, and that he was going to give £25 from his own pocket to place an organ in the church, but that owing to the attitude of the people towards him, he had abandoned the idea of giving £25 himself, and had returned Mr. Carnegie's £25. They want also a statement with regard to a cantata held in the church some time ago the meeting considering that placed before the deacons not satisfactory. They further desire an explanation with reference to Mr. Snaddon's connection with the Oral v. Rockwell teas, and with regard to Dr. Barnardo's boys' visit to Standburn; they want Mr. Snaddon to say how much he claimed from Mr. Barnardo as local expenses in connection with the visit. Mr. Snaddon stated, in connection with certain of his appeals, that cheques and postal orders were to be crossed and made payable to the Rev. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon. These, we are informed, would have been made payable to the treasurer of the church, instead of Mr. Snaddon, had the people known, the treasurer of the church being the proper party through whom all donations for church schemes should have come. With regard to the statement published in our last Saturday's issue from Mr. Snaddon, we are informed by a deputation of the office-bearers, who called upon us, that the certificate signed by the deacons of the church was given by Mr. Snaddon to the deacons, and that he prepared the statement himself, and got the deacons to sign it. It was also stated by the deputation that the list of gentlemen signing the certificate contained only the names of one deacon, the other four names being the names of gentlemen who are not, deacons at all, but deacons appointed by an illegal ballot, who were never ordained. Mr. Baker's name appears as secretary and treasurer, and he is treasurer only. Mr. Robert Aitchison being secretary, Mr. Baker, who was one of the deputation, told us that he regrets putting his name to the statement. Mr. Baker, who is the only legally elected and ordained deacon, also expressed his own feeling that he never anticipated that any such use was to be made of the certificate by

Mr. Snaddon in forwarding it to the press. With regard to Mr. Alex. Clark who signed the certificate as representing the old managers, it is stated that previously there was in connection with the church a board of managers and a board of deacons. That board of managers has not been displaced by the members, and they still act. The church never appointed Mr. Clark to represent them, but Mr. Snaddon did. It was further stated by the deputation that Mr. McCutcheon and Mr. John Smith, who signed the certificate as witnesses, are both new members, and have only been about three months in the village, and know practically nothing about the affairs of the church. The deputation deny the statement made by Mr. Snaddon that on the night of the scene in the church "many people, not regular worshippers, were present from Avonbridge and elsewhere in view of a contemplated demonstration hostile to Mr. Snaddon." It is stated that only four persons from Avonbridge were present in the church, three of them (ladies), leaving at the commencement of the scene, while one (a gentleman), took no part in the scene. The deputation also stated that on the Sunday evening on which the disturbance took place in the church, a meeting of the congregation was to have been held, after the usual service was over, to consider a constitution in favour of the congregational minority union, drawn up by the deacons of the church. Several of the members who are deacons and managers decided privately that they would try and oppose the constitution, and have it laid aside for an indefinite period of time. Mr. Snaddon says he was advised by the deacons to postpone this meeting, and he attributed the scene to the postponement of this special meeting. The deputation informed us that the scene would have taken place whether the meeting had been held or not. The scene, they say took place owing to the conduct of Mr. Snaddon in the pulpit, and to his very personal remarks. As to Mr. Snaddon's paragraph and appeal in "The Christian," and his reference in that paragraph to the "Forward Movement" amongst the many English miners in Standburn, the deputation stated that, there are only two English miners in Standburn; that only one English miner attends the church, and that he was a converted man before he came to Standburn. Mr. Snaddon termed one of his appeals, "The Annual Christmas and New Year Appeal," and the deputation state there never was a Christmas or New Year appeal in Standburn before. They deny the statement made by Mr. Snaddon that it is much to the regret of the people that he is leaving, and state that the great majority of the people are highly pleased that he has left the church.

STATEMENT BY MR. SNADDON.

Mr. Snaddon writes us as follows: - "Had I my choice, I would not wash dirty ecclesiastical linen in the laundry of the secular press. It always does more harm than good: but I feel I cannot allow many of your statements in last week's issue to go unchallenged. No person who followed closely the church disturbance which occurred two years and a half ago can fail to see the same spirit and tactics, dominating the present case. It takes very little foresight, even on the part of those who only get an imperfect idea of the case from the press to see that behind the actors in the present drama, there is a living real influence at work to smash the Congregational Church, and those who came in accordance with the pre-arranged intention of creating a "scene" on the Sabbath night, blindly played into the hands of those who wished this to be brought about. Surely, had they been dominated by a Christian spirit, and a desire for the continued prosperity of the church, it would have been the proper course, had any one had a grievance, real or imaginary, to have brought it before the notice of the Deacons' Court, and the matter would have been attended to at once. This was never done, and it is untrue to publish that the matters you refer to had exercised the minds of the officials of the church for some time. I refer you to Mr. Henry John Baker, the secretary to the deacons, to bear me out on this point. It is also fair to say that several who were once managers of the church, and who, in some instances, had verbally severed their connection, and others who had absented themselves for months, and refrained from contributing to the church funds, and whose names were about to be erased from the roll, may be considered the opposition; and while they may have had the matters referred to in their minds, no petition or complaint was ever handed in to the deacons, who have the spiritual oversight, and are the governing body of the church. The first I heard of this matter was one hour prior to the evening service, but more especially as the bell was ringing, and that, from the deacons. Had it been matters on which they had been refused satisfaction, then there might have been some excuse. At a meeting of deacons held on the Monday following, testimony was given to the fact that clandestine meetings had been held, and the district canvassed regarding the Sabbath night service. While no direct charge is made, you raise the doubt regarding the financial condition of the church. I repudiate the same, and roll it back on its author. I have never had any connection or handling of church finance. We have always had a treasurer above reproach, and all money passed into the funds, after being checked by two office-bearers and the treasurer' receipt for money he got. It is true that I had a One Shilling Fund, and other funds besides. It is also true that there were contributors to these funds: and last of all, it is further true that an accurate account of income and expenditure of these private funds has been kept, submitted to the deacons, and passed as satisfactory, although it was only to the donors I was responsible, and a statement shall be sent to them in due course. All money sent to me privately by friends has been put to the purpose for which it was contributed, and I challenge any one to dare say otherwise. Mr. Carnegie promised an organ on his usual conditions. I decided to give £25 stg. towards the organ. On the strength of having this £25 sterling, Mr. Carnegie sent other £25 to obtain a £50 organ. Arrangements were made for the getting of this organ. To pay for organist, the church couldn't, and an honorary permanent organist has not been procured up till now, the matter of organist being kept before the people with pulpit intimation. On account of this uncalled-for squabble, I have withdrawn my donation of £25, and as Mr. Carnegie's £25 was given to me on the understanding that other £25 had been contributed, I don't feel free to hand the same over to the congregation. I have written to Mr. Carnegie with a view to sending him back the money, and have asked the deacons to apply to him for it. This course of action was unanimously homologated by the deacons at their meeting with me. Your statement that I was refused admission to the Congregational Union of Scotland is untrue. I think, when you publish such statements, the name of the informant should go with them. Our Church, on ministerial advice, withdrew their application in preference for the minority union, where it lies to this day. I wish to make it known that this quarrel was not the cause of my resignation, and I intimated the preceding Sabbath my intention to preach my farewell sermon on the last Sabbath in February. It is as a protest against such shameful conduct on the Sabbath night that I have terminated my work in Standburn before then. I am more than surprised that a paper occupying the high position that the "Falkirk Herald" does, should go into this incident - my connection with Oril V. Rockwell and Co., tea merchants. I have yet to learn what connection this has with church affairs, either in Standburn or Avonbridge. Why not pry into the private affairs of all ministers, and proclaim on the house-tops how many shares some of them have in breweries and distilleries - surely more discreditable commodities than tea. They say that the Gothenburg and church quarrels have brought Standburn to the front; but I am convinced had there been no Gothenburg, there would have been no church trouble now. Is it wrong to have strong temperance convictions? I don't think so, and I purpose holding to them at whatever cost."

STATEMENT FROM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH.

One of the church members (A. B. McCutcheon), writes: - "The so-called congregational meeting of the above church was held last Monday night, over which Mr. Baker presided. The attendance was from 25 to 30. No person with an unbiased mind could fail to observe that the prevailing spirit of the meeting was that if Mr. Snaddon is faultless, we will make faults and saddle him with them. It is a fact only too apparent that the solid, substantial, paying members, who are all on the side of Mr. Snaddon have refrained with a few exceptions, from attending these meetings, convened irregularly, and with the direct intention to do injury where it is not deserved. The result is that the finding of these meetings, as published, is no real criterion of the mind of the congregation. The whole thing seems to be a plotting, a scheming, and a contriving to ruin a man who has devoted for fully five years his time and energy for the benefit, and in the interest of the place, and who has never intentionally done an ill turn to one

of them, but many a service he has rendered, and many a helping hand extended to not a few in the hour of need. A deputation has been asked to wait on Mr. Snaddon on Saturday to invite him over to the meeting, but he declined to receive them. They were not present, but sent in a report, to that effect, which called forth a good deal of criticism. The whole of the items brought up were such as had been dealt with at the deacons' meeting, and regarded as satisfactory, Mr. Snaddon receiving a signed statement to that effect from them. The finding of the meeting was that all that was in the "Falkirk Herald" of Saturday was a lot of lies (though they were partly the contributors), but that the truth would be put in this time and published broadcast. Though I was notified to attend the previous meeting by postcard yet at both it and this one, I was not allowed, along with other six, who had joined the church over three months ago, to have a vote, and one person was allowed to vote who had severed his connection by letter in the month of December last, and who had not since joined the church. One of the six, also at the election of the new deacons in the middle of November, was proposed and seconded, after his name printed on the voting papers, and yet they had the audacity to say he had no vote. This gives an idea of how the business is conducted by those men who are croaking against Mr. Snaddon. Surely they are getting near the bottom of the barrel now when they are raking up accounts which were submitted, audited, and passed into the minutes, and published in the yearly financial report, of the church. A few clubbed together can cruelly throw out random accusations, but not one man make a definite charge and take the consequences. There was a feeling expressed even by Mr. Snaddon's most bitter opponents that he should meet them and give them the statement that he gave the deacons (which they accepted in name of the church), then the matter would drop, and full confidence would be restored. Mr. Snaddon, in consenting to do anything of the kind, would be casting a slight on the honesty of the deacons, all of whom are worthy of the confidence of the people, else why did they appoint, them to the office? The friends of Mr. Snaddon would like him to remain; even, I suspect, some of his foes also, now they have got their wind out, are inclined that way. For it will only be when he is away that they will realise how much of the burden of the affairs rested on his shoulders, and what knotless threads they will be without him, and how much he will be missed in Standburn. Mr. Snaddon decided to leave at the end of this month, but did so at the beginning of it as a protest against the scene caused by professedly Christian people. Seeing he has determined to go, there was no need of him receiving the deputation, as he was seeking no further dealings with them. Another finding was that the portion of his stipend due would not be paid. So the opposition say; but his supporters say, 'we will see to that,' and they are doing so in a very practical way. As Christian members, they feel they must pay their just debts".

Falkirk Herald 18th February 1903

DEATHS

IVORY. - At Standburn, on the 12th inst., wee Lizzie, aged 4 1/2 years, beloved daughter of James and Janet Ivory Kindly loved by all who knew her.

Falkirk Herald 18th February 1903

CASUAL COMMENTS. By "ARGUS."

In earlier days the embryo man's first experiment at smoking generally took the form of a piece of carpet switch or a quantity of wild herbs in an old clay pipe. Nowadays, however, the juvenile smoker is more fastidious, and the "pestiferous" cigarette is the smoking medium he most affects. Of its deleterious effects from a medical and physical point of view there appears to be little doubt, and in the moral aspect also it seems to be injurious, and to tend to obscure the difference between *meum* and *teum*. For instance, at the Sheriff Court last week, there appeared three boys from Standburn, whose ages ranged from 12 to 14 years, and whose desire for cigarettes had compelled them to break into the shop of a local tobacconist, and abstract no less than 60 penny packets of cigarettes.

Falkirk Herald 18th February 1903

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT.

Monday.

(Before Bailie Whyte.)

INDECENT LANGUAGE. -

Wm. Muirhead, miner, Standburn, admitted having used obscene and indecent language in Wooser's Court on Saturday, and was fined 10s, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 18th February 1903

STANDBURN.

KINDERSPIEL. -

The national kinderspiel, "Rob Roy", was given before a good audience in Standburn Public Hall on Monday evening last by Mr. J. F. Morris's juvenile choir, Polmont. The following were the characters: - "Rob Roy" Wm. McQueen; "Bailie Nicoi Jarvie", - ' Charles Henderson; "Francis Osbaldstone," Robert Thomson; "Rashleigh Osbaldistone." William Allan; " Dougal Cratur," Dow Hasten; "Captain Thornton." Wm. Haston; "Major Galbiaith," R. Macgregor; "McStewart," Robert Eaton; "Mr. Owen," T. Townsley; "Duncan," J. Stewart; "Allan Ewan," Spence McFarlane; "Andrew Fairserve," Robert Stewart; "Helen Macgregor," Isa Forsyth; "Jean M'Alpine," Janet Barron; "Jenny," Annie Thomson; "Mattie", Lizzie Heeps. The chorus was ably assisted by a small orchestra. The whole entertainment was of a most delightful and successful character, each of the characters portraying their various parts in a manner which reflected the highest possible credit on their painstaking conductor, Mr. J. F. Morris.

Falkirk Herald 21st February 1903

THE STANDBURN CHURCH DISPUTE.

ANOTHER STATEMENT BY MR. RITCHIE SNADDON.

Mr. D. H. Ritchie Snaddon writes us as follows: -

I have no desire to prolong this controversy, but I shall count upon the generosity of the publishers and fair-minded readers of this paper to bear with me in this my final word through this medium.

1. Messrs Aitchison and Baker, the deputation which waited upon you, said that I wrote the certificate which the deacons signed. True, I wrote it, but it was only in dictation to their unanimous vote. When one has turned in real acrobatic style a somersault in the short space of one week, reminding us of the type of character who say one thing today and unsay it to-morrow, I leave business men to judge whether I acted wisely or not in getting them to put in black and white what they had uttered with the lips. The men who signed the document exonerating me entirely from those trumped-up allegations did not do so hurriedly, blindly, or of necessity. The meeting lasted four hours, and every item was carefully and minutely dealt with. There was not at that meeting one dissenting voice.

2. The status of the deacons at that meeting is questioned. What are the facts? After being intimated on two consecutive Sabbaths, nominations took place. The nominated names were placed on ballot papers and issued to the members, the returns being handed to the secretary of the deacons, who, before witnesses, counted the votes. Several of the nominated, although successful, declined the honour, their places being filled by the next on the list. A meeting of the new deacons was held, they then being declared members of the Deacons' Court, and their ordination would have taken place in due course but for this upheaval. To all intents and purposes they were as much deacons as though all the Popes of Rome had laid his hands upon them. All conversant with church affairs will know that the above is in order. It is very difficult to convince some men, who know no more about ecclesiastical government than Julius Caesar knows about Lord Rosebery's new Liberal construction scheme.

3. The church, although conducted on Congregational lines, has been without a constitution. The deacons, for certain reasons, refrained from moving in the matter. Strange to say, the only individual who spoke about this matter was the ringleader in their clandestine meetings, which they admit they had, for the purpose of opposing a constitution which the deacons had now

framed and submitted to the members for adoption. I consider it most highly dishonourable, discourteous, and reprehensible on the part of these persons to hold such meetings for no other purpose than to engender strife, disloyalty, and sedition in the church to which they had pledged allegiance. But what was their objection to the constitution? They said it was drawn in favour of the minority union. Supposing it had been, this was no constitutional way to oppose it. As a matter of fact, no union is mentioned in it. This allegation, like all others, is false, and has its foundation in ignorance.

4. There are two secretaries in the church, i.e., the secretary to the deacons and the secretary to the managers. Yet your issue of the 7th inst. contains the first and only intimation of a deputation coming to see me to invite me to a meeting of the church. In your issue of the 14th inst., I observe it is stated that the business of the deputation was to get a statement or explanation from me relative to certain matters. Which am I to believe? They can't both be right. The one week it is one, and the next another. Referring to this point, an old farmer's wife said, "Ne'er fash yer heid; they're just a lot o' blethers." Is she right?

5. I have been a contributor to Dr. Barnardo's Homes for years. It is true, and I am not ashamed of the fact that I did all in my power to make the visit of their deputation secretary and boys a success. Be it known they came entirely on their own responsibility, not invited by the church or in connection with it. My private donation to the home was then paid. The result of the meetings exceeded the expectations of Mr Wookie, who expressed to me his personal satisfaction for all that I had done. This is a matter between the home and myself, and which these busy bodies have nothing to do with. They dare to insinuate that I had personally benefited by this visit. True, I have, but it is in deepened interest in the noble work, and not in coins of the realm, and I shall be happy to pay to Dr. Barnardo for his children £100 sterling if any one will come forward and prove that there is one grain of truth in the insinuation thrown out. What, was refunded to me for personal expenditure in connection with their meetings is a matter between Dr. Barnardo and myself, and the doctor's representative, as I have already stated, expressed his satisfaction.

6. Regarding the cantata held nearly a year ago, while successful, yet it was not so successful, from a financial standpoint, as it might appear to be. In these meetings in Standburn there is always a leakage, i.e., for tickets distributed amongst, deserving poor and other not accounted for, perhaps not intentionally. The accounts in connection with this matter have long been settled and embodied in last year's financial report of the church.

7. Since the people formed this church and called me to the pastorate I can honestly say I have done all in my power to further its interests I have toiled night and day to make it by the help of God, the blessing it has been to many. From first, to last, the building I believe cost about £400. This I have been enabled to reduce to fully £100. Personally, I have been no burden to the people. I have received no more in stipend than the ordinary miner has received in wages. Had I looked to personal interest, as alleged, I should long have left Standburn. It is trying indeed to see those one has gathered together alienated from this church through the foolishness of a few. I know it is. True, I had the opposition of the whisky ring here, and time will tell as to whether or not they made the balls and got their dupes to fire them. I take this opportunity of returning my sincere thanks to the many friends in Falkirk and district for their kind letters received.

STATEMENT BY A CHURCH MEMBER.

We have also received the following from Mr. A. B. M'Cutcheon, a member of the church: - I thank you for inserting my letter of last Saturday. The deputation which waited on you last week said that I had been only three months in the place, and knew nothing about the church. True. I have only been three months, but also knowing about the church, that is another question. Mr. Snaddon called on me the day after I came to the place, and we immediately joined the church. Since then I and my family have been regular attenders, which is more than some of the ringleaders in this agitation can say. I scarcely ever saw them at the church, and certainly never heard their voice till lately. I was present at a meeting of managers in the month of December last, when I saw the treasurer of the church, who was resigning, handing over his books and cash, and heard him state that all was correct. That statement was received. Now, why is it that those who received it as correct then question it now, and blame Mr. Snaddon? The purpose is evident. I was one of those who signed the document along with the deacons, who were all then most happy to do so. All the stipend that the church owes Mr. Snaddon is one month, but to withhold it without a reason is unprecedented on the part of a church, and instead of rushing to the public with it, they might be ashamed even to whisper it. I have many a time heard of a minister being found fault with for being lazy, but never for doing too much, which seemingly is all the fault they have with Mr. Snaddon. While they would insinuate other reasons for keeping back his money, I believe the real reason will be that they have not got it to give him. Mr. Aitchison said at the so-called meeting of members that after all was published last Saturday; the people would flock to the church as usual. This was not the case. I believe, along with many others, that no blessing can attend this church until they do the right and atone for their treatment of Mr. Snaddon, which has been shameless and un-Christian. They say the great majority of the people are glad that Mr. Snaddon has resigned. Instead of a well-filled church (and sometimes filled to the door) under Mr. Snaddon's ministry, only about a dozen attended each service last Sabbath. Though he has only been away two Sabbaths, already they are feeling the want of him. Many of those who had most to say are such as an ordinary church service has no attraction for. My opinion is, whatever they may say or do, Mr. Snaddon was the right man in the right place. They will wait a long time before they get a minister who can handle miners better than he did. Many today, both here and elsewhere, will thank God for the day he came into their midst. His acts of kindness and benevolence won for him their affection, and long after those clamouring tongues of foolish men have ceased, his memory will be cherished by many. I am glad to inform his many friends that his presentation, of which I am treasurer, is being most generously contributed to.

Falkirk Herald 25th February 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

TROUBLE OVER A FENCE - A SLIGHT "BREEZE."

The usual monthly meeting of Muiravonside School Board was held in Maddiston School yesterday afternoon. Mr. Wm. Wilson, chairman, presided, and there were also present Messrs Myles, John Bryce, J. B. Bryce, A. Binnie, and Daniel Binnie.

THE SHIFTING OF A FENCE.

The Clerk stated that the only matter arising out of the minutes was the matter in connection with the removal of the fence at Maddiston School. He had written to Mr. David Baxter regarding the matter, and he had received a reply in which Mr. Baxter stated that the fence was shifted 1 ft. 3 ins. for the purpose of preventing the cattle from destroying his property. The fence, he continued, would be put back to its original position when the Board required the ground for building purposes or otherwise. Mr. J. B. Bryce said that showed that when anyone got an inch they took an ell. Mr. Baxter had stated in his letter that the fence would be put back any time the Board required the ground. It should be put back whenever the Board said it had to be done. It should have been put back before that meeting. The next thing for the Board to do was to see what should be done in the case. Mr. Myles said the next thing the Board would have to do was to dispense with the services of the Maddiston School Committee, as the fence was shifted at the instigation of that committee. When dealing with this matter, of the evils which existed they had chosen the least. He did not think there was any material difference between Mr. Baxter having 15 inches of the School Board's feu and Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth having the whole. They had now got sufficient guarantee that the fence would be removed back. Mr. Baxter, he considered, was perfectly right, and if any person was wrong it was the School Committee. If the fence was to be put back at the instigation of the School Committee, then they could dispense with the services of Mr. Haldane and himself. Mr. Daniel Binnie - Will it be done then? The Clerk - If the Board says it

has to be put back, it will have to be done independent of the School Committee. Mr. Myles
 The Board said we were to deal with it as we thought best. The Chairman - The committee got
 authority to raise the fence higher if they thought fit. They got no authority to shift it. Mr. Myles
 - If we removed the fence back 15 inches, you were the very gentleman who said it would be
 much better to put another wire on the fence. The Chairman - No, Mr. Myles - Yes. The
 Chairman - You only got instructions to heighten the fence. Mr. Myles - Mr. Baxter never asked
 ----- Mr. J. B. Bryce - Yes, these were your instructions. Mr. Myles - I have the chair, Mr.
 Bryce. Mr. J. B. Bryce - Well, keep the chair, and sit on the chair, if you like. (Laughter.) Mr.
 Myles - None of your insolence, sir. Because, if you want that game, I am just the very
 gentleman for you. (Laughter.) Mr. J. B. Bryce - Oh, we are tired of those games. Mr. Myles -
 You will be more tired before the meeting is finished. If the fence is to be removed back, it
 should be done at the expense of the Board. The Chairman - No; at the expense of the man
 who shifted it. Mr. Myles - The School Committee shifted it. You put it in the School
 Committee's hands. The Chairman - No. Mr. John Bryce - You wanted to shift the fence back,
 and the Board would not listen. Your instructions were to heighten the fence. Mr. Myles - The
 Board did listen. The Clerk - The Board agreed to ask Mr. Baxter to put this fence back. Mr.
 Baxter has refused to do so in the meantime, and it is now for the Board to say what they shall
 do. The Chairman - The only thing is to remove it back. Mr. J. B. Bryce - We are not here, Mr.
 Chairman, to take a friend's part. We cannot do that as a Board here. Mr. Myles - He is no
 friend of mine. Mr. Daniel Binnie - The fence should be removed back as soon as possible. Mr.
 J. B. Bryce - The committee -----Mr. Myles - Do not shift your clique a bit. Sit in your clique,
 enjoy your clique; you have had a very good time of it. Mr. Bryce - I will be very glad. Mr.
 Myles. Mr. Myles - I shall be glad too, and I believe I shall have sufficient reason to be glad.
 Mr. J. B. Bryce - It is 17 inches, not 15. Mr. Myles - Nothing of the kind. Mr. J. B. Bryce - Miss
 Baxter told me. Mr. Myles - I was when it was measured, and you were not. You are always
 consulting the ladies about these sorts of matters. (Laughter.) Mr. J. B. Bryce - You are in a
 clique, and entangled in a wire fence. I am not a lady-hater. (Laughter.) Mr. Myles - I am in no
 clique. The Board consists of four, and you have worked the thing very well. Mr. John Bryce -
 It only consisted of one for a good long time. The Clerk was ultimately instructed to write to Mr.
 Baxter calling upon him to return the fence to its original position within three days, or legal
 steps would be taken against him.

REPORT ON ATTENDANCE.

The officer submitted the following report on the attendance at the various schools: -

	On Roll.	Ave. Att.
Blackbraes School	382	319
Drumbowie School	445	351
Muiravonside School	197	150
Maddiston School	129	115.4
Avonbridge School	75	66.8

ADDITIONAL GRANT.

The Clerk intimated that he had succeeded in getting an additional grant of £4 17s 4d for
 Muiravonside School under article 50 of the code, on the ground that it was in a rural district.

TEACHER'S RESIGNATION

The Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Miss Brunton, of Blackbraes School,
 resigning her appointment there, she having received another appointment in Musselburgh
 Public School. He had advertised for a successor, and had received one application.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

It was decided to hold next monthly meeting a week earlier than usual, namely, on Tuesday,
 24th March.

This was all the public business

Falkirk Herald 28th February 1903

STANDBURN. BILLIARD TOURNAMENT. -

The second annual billiard tournament prompted by the committee of the Standburn Public
 Hall was brought to a close on Thursday evening last before a large crowd of spectators, the
 finalists being Mr. Thos. Moore and Mr. Andrew Geddes. For several weeks the tables have
 been busy with aspirants for the valuable prizes offered. There were seven prizes offered, and
 the results of the various ties showed that the handicappers had given every competitor justice, as
 some of the results were pretty close and exciting. The play, on the whole, showed that since
 last year a few of the competitors had made rapid progress. The game was one of 200 up.
 Great credit is due to the committee in charge of arrangements - Messrs Wm. Aitchison, John
 Douglas, and Robert MacAndrew (janitor), who acted as referees of the various ties. A
 consolation tournament will shortly take place amongst the non-prize winners.

The following were the scores: -

First Round.

Jas. Henderson, jun. (30) 200 Wm. Hyslop (40) 116
 And. Graham (20) 200 Jas. Walker (90) 196
 Rod. Stewart (80) 200 Mat. Aitchison (50) 197
 John Cheyne (50) 200 Henry Hainey (Scr) 141
 Wm. Moore (50) 200 Wm. Canning (70) 161
 Wm. Walker (40) 200 Jas. Aitchison (90) 199
 And. Geddes (50) 200 W. Henderson (69) 139
 Thos. Moore (scr) 200 David Forbes (50) 157
 Walter Cheyne (90) 200 Don. Rankine (20) 199
 John Scanlan (30) 200 Hugh Walker (30) 180
 Jas. Henderson, sen. (20) 200 Harry Struthers (80) 196
 N. Aitchison (50) awarded tie. Alan McLean (10) below scratch
 James Scott (80) 300 David Rankine (50) 181
 Geo. Walker (50) 200 Geo. Clark (50) 159
 F. Fitzsimmons (scr) 200 And. Cbeyne (50) 190
 Wm. Geddes (scratch) a bye.

Second Round

James Henderson, jun. (30) 200 Wm. Geddes (scr) 114
 And. Graham (20) 200 Jas. Henderson (20) 135
 John Cheyne (50) 200 John Scouler (30) 197
 Walter Cheyne (90) 200 Wm. Moore (50) 196
 Rod. Stewart (80) 200 Nath Aitchison (50) 167
 Geo. Walker (80) 200 F. Fitzsimmons (scr) 188
 And. Geddes (50) 200 Wm. Walker (40) 161
 Thos. Moore (scr) 200 Jas. Scott (80) 140

Third Round.

Thos. Moore (scr) 200 Geo. Walker (50) 178
 Jas. Henderson (30) 200 Walter Cheyne (90) 190
 And. Geddes (50) 200 And. Graham (20) 126
 R. Stewart (80) 200 John Cheyne (50) 196

Semi-Final.

Thos. Moore (scr) 200 Jas. Henderson (30) 154
 And. Geddes (50) 200 R. Stewart (80) 185

Final.

And. Geddes (50) 200 Thos. Moore (scr) 183

Third and Fourth Prizes.

Jas. Henderson (30) 200 R. Stewart (80) 136

Fifth and Sixth Prizes.

Geo. Walker (50) 200 And. Graham, (20) 166

Seventh Prize.

Walter Cheyne (90) 200 John Cheyne (60) 163

Falkirk Herald 14th March 1903**STANDBURN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

The services in the above church on Sabbath last were conducted by the Rev. A. Scouler, of the Congregational Union Church, Avonbridge. At both diets of worship there was a good attendance, and the rev. gentleman preached able discourses, which were attentively listened to. On Wednesday evening a meeting of the members of the church was held, when there was a good attendance. Mr. H. J. Baker, presided. The appointment of a new board of managers was left over till a future period, as was also the consideration of what steps should be taken to get a minister for the church. The financial statement by the treasurer was submitted, and considered satisfactory. A committee was appointed to make an appeal to the public on behalf of the defence and church organisation. Mr. Wm. Meek was unanimously re-appointed choirmaster.

Falkirk Herald 18th March 1903**FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.****MONDAY.**

(Before Acting Sheriff-Substitute GRAHAM.)

"A HUNGRY MAN IS AN ANGRY MAN." –

Wm. Gardner, miner, Standburn, pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife by striking her a blow with his fist on the eye and head, to the effusion of blood. Accused said he assaulted his wife because she would not make his dinner on Sunday. The Procurator-Fiscal - My story is that he did not give her-enough money to get in provisions for Sunday's dinner. Accused - I was not able to do so when I could not get work. The Sheriff - You could not expect your wife to have dinner for you if you did not work for it. The Accused -But there was dinner in the house to make ready. The Procurator-Fiscal - She was boiling potatoes, but they would not boil fast enough for him. A fine of £1 was imposed, the alternative being ten days' imprisonment.

Falkirk Herald 21st March 1903**MADDISTON.****CONCERT. –**

A grand concert under the auspices of the Maddiston Horticultural Society was given in the Good Templar Hall, Maddiston, on Wednesday evening last, and proved a great success in spite of the inclemency of the weather. Mr. John Meikle, Melon's Place, occupied the chair, and was assisted on the platform by Mr. James Wilson, the esteemed secretary of the society. An apology for absence was read from Mr. Scott, Toravon. After the chairman's remarks, a lengthy programme of music was gone through, songs being sung by Messrs Meikle, A. Malcolm, J. Gardiner, and Misses Smart, Ross, Beattie, and Clark. Miss M'Ritchie ably officiated as pianist. Selections were given on the piano by Mrs. Hunter, two violin solos being given by Master George Sharp, Brightons. Every item on the programme was greatly applauded, all present being pleased with the evening's entertainment.

I.O. G.T. BAZZAR.

- A two days' bazaar in connection with the Maddiston's Freedom Lodge of Good Templars was held in the Good Templars' Hall, Maddiston, on Friday and Saturday last. The object of the bazaar was to clear off the debt on the new hall. On Friday the opening ceremony was performed by Mr. John Stirling, Muiravonside House, the chairman being Mr. Wm. Brown, Vellore House; and on Saturday it was opened by Dr. R. Wyse, Blairs, Redding. Mr. T. Livingstone Learmonth, Parkhall, acting as chairman. The Sports Committee arranged tournaments for pingpong, shooting, pitching, and also a doll-dressing competition, the prize-winners being as follows: -Ping-pong - Joseph Todd. Air-gun shooting, for gentlemen - John Lowe. Air-gun shooting, for ladies - Miss Watt. Pitching - Wm. Campbell. Shooting - Thomas Hamilton. Doll-dressing - Miss Mary B. Todd. Selections were given on the piano on both days by Miss Hunter and Miss M'Ritchie, and also on the gramophone, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Leishman. Redding Muir. The bazaar on both days was a great success financially, the sum aimed at being £80, and the total drawings for both days amounting to £83 6s 9 1/2d.

Falkirk Herald 21st March 1903**MUIRAVONSIDE. PARISH SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION. –**

The nominations of candidates for the Parish School Board were received yesterday. The following nine candidates have been nominated for the seven seats: - Archibald Binnie, timber inspector, Parkview Terrace, Redding; Daniel Binnie, farmer, Bowhouse; Robert Bowie, farmer, Gilmeadowland; John Bryce, farmer, Ballanbreich; John Bell Bryce, retired engine-keeper, Ouarrothead; John Haldane, tailor, Maddiston; Thos. Harper, miner, Maddiston; Robert Myles, miner, Maddiston; and Wm. Wilson, farmer, Bogo. With the exception of Messrs Bowie and Harper, all the candidates were members of the last Board.

Falkirk Herald 28th March 1903**STANDBURN.****THE GOTHENBURG PUBLIC-HOUSE. –**

On Thursday last the Marquis of Graham, son of the Duke of Montrose, and Mr. William Stewart Templeton (a friend of Dr. Andrew Carnegie), chairman of the Glasgow Public-house Trust, accompanied by Mr. Robert Clarkson of Toravon, paid a visit to Standburn with the view of getting acquainted with the working of the Gothenburg Public-house there. They were met by three of the local committee, Mr. John Finnie, Dr. Calderwood, and Mr. Geo. G. Mackay. After being conducted through the public-house, the reading and recreation rooms, and shown the ambulance waggon, the committee explained how the places were wrought. The visitors were delighted with all they had seen. On the invitation of Mr. Mackay, they visited the public school, where they expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the healthy and clean appearance of the children, together with the excellent discipline shown.

Falkirk Herald 28th March 1903**MADDISTON.****SOCIAL MEETING AND DANCE. –**

On Friday evening last the teachers and students in connection with the Maddiston Evening Continuation classes brought the session to a close with a social meeting and dance, held in Maddiston School. Mr. Robert Myles presided over a large attendance of pupils and others. In the course of the evening it was mentioned that four of the students had made a perfect attendance during the session, namely, Messrs John Kilsyth, Brightons; David Baxter, Maddiston; Peter Malcolm. Muiravonside; and John Whyte, Polmont. Each of those pupils received a prize from the teacher, Mr. Wilson. At an interval in the proceedings, opportunity was taken of presenting Mr Wilson with a handsome davenport chair and a silver-mounted inkstand, as a mark of the appreciative manner in which his services had been held. Mr. Mathew Myles in a few appropriate words, made the presentation on behalf of the pupils. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

Falkirk Herald 11th April 1903**SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.****CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY. -**

The 165th quarterly meeting of the Redding Co-operative Society was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening last. The attendance was one of the largest that has ever been in the history of the society, many failing to gain admission. Mr. Thomas Barker, president, presided. After complimenting the members on the continued prosperity of the society the secretary read the minutes of the last quarterly meeting. The synopsis of the committee meetings held during the quarter were also read and approved of. The report and balance-sheet was then submitted, which indicated a most prosperous quarter, the sales amounting to the handsome total of £28,848, an increase of £326 over last quarter's transactions and £1678 over the corresponding quarter last year. The profits from all sources this quarter are £6410 1s 1d,

which will pay a dividend of 4s 3d per £ on members' purchases. The rate per £ for the different departments are:- For Redding grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 4d; bakery, 4s 11d; fleshing, 4s; shoemaking, 2s 9d; oil trade, 4s 3d. Blackbraes grocery, 4s; drapery, 4s 11d; shoemaking, 7d. Maddiston grocery, 3s 11d; drapery, 4s 6d; shoemaking, 2s 6d. Standburn grocery, 4s 2d; drapery, 4s 2d; shoemaking, 3s. Polmont Station grocery, 4s 2d; drapery, 4s 1d. The election of president was the next item on the agenda of business. Mr. Barker then vacated the chair, which was taken by Mr Maxwell, Chairman S.C.W.S., to receive nominations. Mr. Thomas Barker was proposed for re-election, together with Mr. William Munnoch and Mr. John Williamson. The voting resulted -Barker, 227; Williamson, 93; Munnoch, 63. The result was received with applause. Mr. Barker then took the chair. A number of unimportant questions were afterwards put, and at times the meeting was of a disorderly nature, it being difficult to know who was speaking. Mr. Alexander Thomson, director, who had given notice of motion re the closing of account of Mr. D. Abercrombie, joiner, then spoke to his motion, finally moving that it be opened. The chairman afterwards explained as to how the account had been closed two and a half years ago, saying that when he entered the committee one man had the monopoly, and he was opposed to that. He thought that Mr. Abercrombie had suffered by being kept from their employment. It was unanimously agreed to re-open the account. The consideration of the proposed extension to the drapery department at Blackbraes was deferred till next quarterly meeting. The following donations were granted: - Eye Infirmary, Glasgow, £5; Lifeboat Institution, £2. CHILD FOUND DEAD IN ITS CRADLE. - On Tuesday a child of four months, named John Smith, son of John Smith, miner, The Square, Blackbraes, was found dead in its cradle by its mother. The child had been in delicate health for about a week, but nothing was observed to be wrong with it when put to bed an hour previously. Death was due to syncope.

Falkirk Herald 14th April 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

MEETING OF RATEPAYERS -"A SCENE"

A meeting of the ratepayers of the parish of Muiravonside was held in the Drumbowie Public School on Wednesday evening for the purpose of hearing the views of the candidates who have been nominated for election to the new Board. There was a large attendance, and Mr. Finnie, colliery manager, was called to the chair. All the members of the old Board were present, except Mr. Archibald Binnie, together with Mr. Thos. Harper, one of the new candidates. After a few remarks from the Chairman, Mr. Wilson, Bogo, the chairman of the late Board, delivered a brief address. He referred to the negotiations which had taken place between the Board and Messrs Nimmo, coalmasters, with regard to the question of the minerals below the Drumbowie School, and complimented the Board on the successful way in which it had settled these negotiations. Dealing with the school accommodation question, he said that the Board had now started to build an addition to the Muiravonside School, and he considered that addition would suffice for a number of years to come. With regard to the much-discussed question of a mixed school for Maddiston, they would no doubt have heard and read a great deal about that matter, and he was sorry to say that some of the discussions which had taken place with regard to it were not very creditable to the Board. He was prepared, however, if returned to the new Board, to agree to the building of an addition to the Maddiston School, if he found that increased school accommodation was necessary in the eastern district of the parish. (Applause.) Mr. Haldane, the next speaker, said he had been called to 36 meetings of the Board, and had attended 33. He claimed to have fulfilled the pledges he had given the ratepayers at the last election. One of these promises was that he would endeavour to have an evening school started at Maddiston, and one had been begun, and had proved a great success. He had also promised to endeavour to have a mixed school for Maddiston, and although he had done his best in that connection, the matter was in the same condition as it was when he entered the Board. As to the minerals under the Drumbowie School, the working of which was wrecking the building he said that although that matter had been satisfactorily settled, it was not the work of the Board. He was of opinion that it was more the work of the clerk, and one or two of the members of the Board. The addition which the Board were making to Muiravonside School was not going to relieve the situation one bit, and he was strongly of opinion that the proper place for the addition should have been at Maddiston School. (Applause.) A sum of £700 had been got for the Muiravonside addition; whereas £1000 would have been sufficient for an addition to Maddiston School. It was simply throwing away money to build at Muiravonside, as that part of the district was not likely to increase. He was still in favour of the Maddiston School being enlarged and made a mixed school, and if returned to the Board he would support such a proposal. (Applause.) Mr. J. B. Bryce then spoke at some length. He remarked at the outset that they would have seen from the local papers that so far as his School Board attendances went, he was not a half-timer. He had given all his time to the Board, and the best of his poor ability to promote the educational interests of Muiravonside. (Laughter and applause.) Dealing with the school accommodation question, he gave figures from the returns taken in the last census, and the previous one, to show that Maddiston village had not doubled in population as was asserted. The increase had only been one-third. That increase had taken place in the first, seven years, from 1891. After that the increase was in the Manuel and the Loan directions. What had been done by the Board for that increase of population? An infant school had been built at Maddiston, which relieved the Muiravonside School for some years. But again, the latter school got overcrowded, and to further relieve the pressure there, the Board opened the doors of the school at Maddiston to standard II. children. In his last report H.M. Inspector said nothing about overcrowding at that school. Dealing with the Muiravonside School, however, the inspector, in his last report, said that standard II., acquitted itself well, considering the small room allotted to the children. The infant, room, he also remarked, was overcrowded to the extent of 30, and there was a cooking stove in one end of the room, which must get over-heated sometimes. The inspector further stated that he found that the school children in the Muiravonside district were increasing to such an extent that it would be unfair of the Board to build elsewhere and cause the children to travel, and he added, "Your Board will require to seriously consider the supply from Maddiston eastwards." It was on those grounds that he (Mr. Bryce) supported the proposal to build at Muiravonside. Mr. Bryce then proceeded to review at some length the negotiations which had taken place between the Board and Messrs James Nimmo and Co., with regard to the minerals under the Drumbowie School, and reminded the ratepayers that Messrs Nimmo denied liability at first, subsequently offered the Board £70 to settle the dispute, and ultimately paid over to the Board a sum of £255 in full of its claim for the damage done to the school by the mineral workings. He considered the Board, and its clerk (Mr. Hunter) were entitled to credit for the satisfactory manner in which they had carried out these negotiations. (Applause.) He was against, the age limit as now applied to schoolchildren, and would prefer that their children should get a "good smattering" of the "three R's" The Department said they must crush something else into an already crowded curriculum, and gave the children a smattering of everything with a real foundation for nothing. He would say "give the children a smattering of the three R's and let the smattering of something else come in after they had mastered those." (Laughter and applause.) They were not to think he was advocating for their children getting the "crumbs of education." (Laughter.) Mr. Bryce concluded his speech amidst interruptions by remarking on the necessity for Scottish history being taught in their schools. "Woe to Bonnie Scotland," he said, "when the story of Bannockburn is taken from our school reading books." (Laughter.) Mr. D. Binnie, referring to the financial aspect of the school accommodation question, said that if the Board built a mixed school at Maddiston, it would not only require to build the school itself, but to build also a schoolmaster's house, which would cost at least £2000. In his opinion such a proceeding would involve an increase of 2d per £1 on the rates. These were heavy enough already, and he would like to see them reduced. (Applause.) The time had not yet come when there should be a mixed school at Maddiston. (Applause.) The Board had been raising the

salaries of their teachers of late owing to the scarcity of teachers, and although that had been done they still had great difficulty in getting teachers. He was of opinion that the Board would have to still further increase the teachers' salaries in order to keep up their school staffs. He spoke of the hardship to working men of children, especially boys, being kept at school until they were 14 years of age, and said that the Board had been allowing children to leave school who were over 13 years of age and who had passed the sixth standard. (Applause.) Mr. Archibald Binnie wrote that he was unable to be present, but he sent a written speech, which the clerk of the Board read to the meeting. The speech covered much of the ground taken up by the previous speakers, and Mr. Binnie said that if returned to the Board he would pursue his former policy, and do his utmost to promote the interests of the ratepayers of the parish. Mr. Robt. Myles followed with an address of considerable length, in which he said that, taking Muiravonside Board, past and present, it would be difficult to find a precedent for it amongst the School Boards of Scotland. (Laughter and applause.) Continuing, he dealt with the early history of the question of the minerals beneath the Drumbowie School. He said that in the year 1877 the feu charter was granted, which stated that the Board was to be protected against all damage done to their property by the minerals. As a matter of fact, it was recorded in the minutebook of the Board that a sum of £35 had formerly been paid to the Board on that account. Then, he said, the School Board's rights were signed away by means of a secret compact, as there was no record in the minutes that the arrangement then made was agreed to by a quorum of the Board. When the main coal beneath the school was to be wrought, Messrs Nimmo wrote asking what sum the Board would offer if it were not wrought. A mining engineer was employed to make ft survey, and it was found that the Board would have to pay £2500 if the coal was left in. They therefore abandoned the idea of offering anything to Messrs Nimmo. But while the main coal was being removed, the school suffered considerable damage. He asked if the Board's property was protected, and the chairman answered "No." He then asked the clerk if he was in possession of the feu-charter and the titles, and he got the same reply, but added that he would very soon find them. The charter was produced, together with a new one, dated 1892, and both showed that the Board's property was protected against, damage. The subsequent steps taken by the Board on the subject were then referred to and Mr. Myles remarked that at one stage the chairman insisted on the Board shelving the whole question and leaving it for another Board to deal with. He (Mr. Myles) insisted that the matter be dealt with at, once, and that became the Board's finding. The last offer of Messrs Nimmo to the Board in respect of the damage was £240, and Mr. J. B. Bryce moved that that be accepted. He (Mr. Myles) moved an amendment, which was agreed to that they accept nothing less than what was actually spent, on repairing the school (£235), and at the following meeting it was reported that Messrs Nimmo had settled for that sum. The Board was entitled to a good deal more to cover the expenses they had incurred in the matter. When it was discovered from the feu-charters that the Board were protected, the chairman said there were those sitting on the Board who knew all along that they were protected. The only individual who could have known was Mr. Daniel Binnie and if he had given the Board the information he would have saved it considerable trouble as well as expense. At this stage Mr. Binnie rose, and was proceeding towards the chairman's table, when he was received with repeated cries from the audience of, "Keep your seat, Mr. Binnie," while one elector shouted, "Give him rope enough, Daniel, and he will hang himself." The meeting was in a state of great, excitement, apparently wondering what form the proceedings would next take; but Mr. Binnie turned and resumed his seat, making some remark which was not audible. Mr. Myles - "Allow him to speak, and I will knock him out in two or three rounds. (Sensation.) Mr. Binnie - "I suppose you think you can. Mr. Myles then proceeded with his address, and referred to the school accommodation question, emphasising the opinions he has frequently expressed in favour of a mixed school for Maddiston. He said the Board was borrowing £700 to give additional accommodation at Muiravonside School for 60 pupils. The original plan for a mixed school at Maddiston was to give accommodation for 250 pupils at a cost of £1400. When the plans were altered to an infant school for 110 pupils the cost was £1150. They would therefore see that if the Board had built the mixed school they would have had accommodation for 140 more children at a cost of something like £250 additional, whereas it would cost £700 to make an addition at Muiravonside for 60 pupils. (Applause.) Mr. John Bryce also addressed the meeting, and said that the Board would, in the near future, have to face the question of building a new school at Blackbraes, as the present school was unsuitable in many ways. Mr. Thomas Harper made a humorous speech, in which he said it was not to "get a handle to his name" that he wished into the Board. He wanted to come in between the two parties in the Board and keep them from fighting. (Laughter and applause.) He might tell them he was in favour of a mixed school at Maddiston as they might just as well build on the top of Cockleroy as build at Muiravonside. (Laughter and applause) Questions were invited, but none of any importance were put and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Falkirk Herald 15th April 1903

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.
MONDAY.

(Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute COCKBURN.)

A STANDBURN DISTURBANCE

George Skinner, miner, Standburn, was fined 10s, or seven days, for creating a disturbance at Standburn.

Falkirk Herald 18th April 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD. –

The first meeting of the newly-elected School Board for the parish of Muiravonside was held in Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon, the principal business being the appointment of chairman. Mr. Archibald Binnie moved, and Mr. Harper seconded, that Mr. Daniel Binnie be appointed chairman. There being no amendment, the returning officer declared Mr. D. Binnie elected as chairman of the Board. Mr. Binnie, after assuming the chair, thanked the members for the unanimous appointment. Mr. Andw. Hunter, solicitor, Falkirk, having been again appointed clerk to the Board. Mr. Haldane gave notice that at next meeting he would move that the clerk's salary be increased. A discussion took place regarding the appointment of the various school committees, and it was ultimately agreed that these committees be as follows: - Drumbowie - Messrs Wilson and Harper, Mr. Wilson convener. Blackbraes - Messrs J. Bryce and J. Haldane, Mr. Bryce convener. Muiravonside, and Maddiston - Messrs J. B. Bryce and A. Binnie, Mr. Bryce convener. The chairman is a member of all committees ex-officio. The meeting proceeded to revise the existing standing orders. The first referred to the time and place of meeting, and Mr. Wilson moved that the regular meetings be held in Drumbowie School, after the Board had, in the first place, held consecutive meetings in the respective schools. Mr. John Bryce seconded. Mr. John B. Bryce moved that the regular meetings be held at Maddiston and Mr. John Haldane seconded. On the amendment being put to the meeting, there voted therefore Messrs D. Binnie, A. Binnie, Haldane, Harper, and J. B. Bryce (5), and it was accordingly declared carried. It was agreed that before meeting regularly at Maddiston School, one meeting should be held in each of the other schools, and that, this should be done every year. The clerk was instructed to draft a new standing order regulating the business of the meetings, especially with regard to discussion. With the exception of some small alterations, the existing standing orders were adopted. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board be held in Drumbowie School on Tuesday, 23th inst., at 4.50 p.m.

This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 2nd May 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held at Drumbowie School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. D. Binnie (chairman) president, and all the members were present.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The Officer reported that the attendance at the various schools for the month was as follows:

	On roll.	Av. att.
Drumbowie School	440	376.3
Blackbraes School	380	331
Muiravonside School	197	167
Maddiston School	115	107
Avonbridge School	77	67

THE DRUMBOWIE SUBSIDENCE.

Mr. Wilson, convener of the Drumbowie School Committee, reported that the wall on the west side of the Drumbowie School required attention, as also did the ceilings of the teacher's house. This was chiefly attributed to the subsidence of the ground through the mineral workings. After discussion, it was agreed to leave the matter over to be dealt with when the schools were on summer holiday.

BLACKBRAES SCHOOL.
Mr. John Bryce reported that he had visited Blackbraes School, and that the schoolmaster's house required pointing. It was remitted to the school committee to have this done.

MADDISTON SCHOOL SEATING ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. J. B. Bryce reported that, the seating accommodation for standard two in the Maddiston School was insufficient, and he suggested that four dual desks be got. This was agreed to.

THE MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL ADDITION.

Mr. J. B. Bryce also reported that the building work at Muiravonside School was nearing completion. A letter was read from the sanitary inspector of the district, suggesting certain alterations on the plans, especially in connection with the offices, and after discussion, it was remitted to the school committee to meet the sanitary inspector on the ground, along with the architect and to report to the next meeting of the Board, which will be held at Muiravonside School.

THE DISPUTED SCHOOL FENCE.

The Clerk read a letter which he had received from Mr. Baxter regarding the Muiravonside (Maddiston) School fence, and stating that the fence was back to its original position. Mr. J. B. Bryce questioned if this was so. After deliberation, Mr. John Bryce moved that the whole of the school feu be measured by Mr. Strang, architect, Falkirk, and enclosed by a suitable fence. Mr. Archibald Binnie seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS DEDUCTION FROM BLACKBRAES SCHOOL GRANT.

The Clerk reported that he had received payment from the Department of the following grants:

- Drumbowie. £423 9s 5d; Blackbraes. £368 17s 9d; Muiravonside. £182 12s 8d; Maddiston, £106 16s 3d. The Blackbraes School grant was reduced by £14 owing to the insufficient staffing of the infant department throughout the year.

CHECKING DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL REGISTERS

A "BREEZE."

The Department called the attention of the Board to the failure to check the Drumbowie School registers. In connection with this observation by the Department, Mr. J. B. Bryce asked Mr. Mackay the headmaster of the school, who was called in to produce his log-book and he maintained that in the terms of the code it was the teacher's duty to make the entry in the log-book, and not the visiting manager. Mr. Mackay showed that, it was necessary that, the managers should check and sign the register, and make the entry in the log-book. At this stage a slight "scene" took place. Mr. J. B. Bryce seemed to resent Mr. Mackay's participation in the discussion, and ordered him to leave the room. Mr. Mackay responded that he was called in by the chairman, and would only leave with the chairman's orders. The Chairman, however, did not ask Mr. Mackay to leave, and he explained his log-book. The subject afterwards dropped.

H.M. INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON MADDISTON SCHOOL.

The Clerk read the following report by H.M. inspector on his visit, to the Maddiston School: -
"The infants make a very fair appearance on the whole standards one and two do remarkably well in written work, and the answering in class subjects is satisfactory. It should be noted, however, that there is a good deal of low and indistinct answering which makes the impression less favourable. Owing to the lack of accommodation and of suitable apparatus, no drawing is professed beyond the infant classes. This matter requires the immediate attention of the managers. Needlework is praiseworthy. The discipline is very good on the whole. I am to request an explanation with regard to the failure of the managers to provide instruction in drawing." The report was favourably commented upon and was stated to be one of the best which had been obtained by the school. Mr. Haldane referring to the last paragraph in the report, said the Board's answer should be that there was not sufficient accommodation in the school to teach drawing.

This was all the business.

Falkirk Herald 9th May 1903

HOUSES, SHOPS, &c, TO LET.

FARMHOUSE, 5 Rooms. Bath. Kitchen, etc.: nicely situated near Station; 1 Hour Glasgow or Edinburgh. Also, Cottage - M'Dool, Windyyett, Avonbridge.

BARBER'S Shop to Let at Standburn, near Avonbridge; good Business. - Apply Mr. Andrew Cheyne.

HOUSE of 3 Apartments to Let. - Apply Hunter, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 20th May 1903

FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

MONDAY.

(Before Interim-Sheriff Substitute GRAHAM.)

NOISY FEMALE. -

Margaret Wilson or Traquair, wife of a miner, residing at Standburn, pled guilty to committing two acts of breach of the peace on different occasions at Standburn. The accused said she had been provoked to commit the offence on the 7th May by a woman throwing water upon her. The Procurator-Fiscal admitted the provocation, and imposed a fine of 5s, or three days.

A RUMFORD DISTURBANCE. -

Thomas Bonnar, miner, Quarrolhead, Maddiston, pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace on the public road at Rumford. He was fined 10s, or seven days.

NOISY MINER. -

For a committing a breach of the peace at Standburn, Walter Lauder, miner, residing there, was fined 10s, or seven days.

Falkirk Herald 27th May 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE. MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting at the Muiravonside School Board was held in the Muiravonside School yesterday afternoon. Mr. D. Binnie (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs A. Binnie, J. Wilson, J. Bryce, J. B. Bryce, Haldane, and Harper.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.
The Officer reported that the school attendance was as follows:

	On roll.	Av. att.
Blackbraes School	392	340
Drumbowie School	454	369

Muiravonside School	204	167
Maddiston School	107	94

SCHOOL VISITATION.

Mr. Wilson reported that he had visited the Drumbowie School. The walls at the school were getting worse, and the ceiling of the teacher's house was broken. Miss M'Neil's parents were leaving the district, but she would continue as a teacher in the school if her salary were increased from £35 to £40. It was agreed that the clerk write Messrs Jas. Nimmo and Co. pointing out the damage to the schoolmaster's house and the school wall, and notify them that the Board intended to repair the same. The Clerk was instructed to advertise for offers for the repairing of the ceiling, and for the painting and papering of the headmaster's house Mr. Haldane reported having visited the Blackbraes School. He did not wish to say much about it, but he was surprised that the school had been closed for holidays after the examination without his being notified of it. It would have been awkward to him if he had gone to Blackbraes and found the school closed. The clerk was instructed to write the head teachers that the school committee must be notified before the school was closed. Mr. J. B. Bryce reported that he had visited Maddiston School. Four new dual desks had been put into standard two room, and were giving great satisfaction. There was now a sitting or two to spare. The Clerk reported that Mr. Strang, had, as arranged, visited the Maddiston feu. He took the Board's title with him, and he had given him a report, in which he said that he had surveyed and re-pegged the ground at Maddiston School. The wire fence which had been erected on the east side was clear of the school feu.

A SCHOOL CLEANER'S COMPLAINT.

The Clerk read the following letter which he had received from Miss B. Baxter, Maddiston : - "I put in this complaint with regard to Miss Walker and Mr. Bryce saying I have given, up the school cleaning, which is not true ; and you know Mr Bryce is no friend of ours (laughter) and Miss Walker is not so easy pleased with the cleaning of the school, for she thinks I should scrub it every four or six weeks, and it has been done five times since the last holidays: but I will leave it to the committee." Mr. J. B. Bryce "She is neither a friend or a foe of mine. (Laughter.) The Clerk here handed a letter on the subject, handed him by Mr. J. B. Bryce, and which the latter had received from Miss Walker, the headmistress of Maddiston School. In her letter Miss Walker stated that she found that the school had not been scrubbed, and when she spoke to Miss Baxter about it, she said she had no time, and that she could not do more than she was paid for. Miss Walker suggested that if Miss Baxter had no time to do the work she should give it up. Mr. J. B. Bryce remarked that Miss Baxter was very convenient for the cleaning of the school. When he visited the school, he saw that the walls were dirty, and he told Miss Walker to speak to Miss Baxter about it, and she said she would. He met Mr. Stewart, the sanitary inspector, who had been investigating a case of diphtheria at Maddiston. He said he had called at both schools, and he stated that he was not going to say anything regarding Muiravonside School, which was under repairs, but that the Maddiston. School was not properly cleaned. He (Mr. Bryce) asked in what respect was the Maddiston School not properly cleaned, and he replied that the walls were dirty. He told Mr. Stewart he had a complaint from Miss Walker about that, and that he would bring it before the present meeting. Miss Baxter must keep the school clean, to the satisfaction of Miss Walker. He moved accordingly. This was agreed to.

MUIRAVONSIDES SCHOOL.

It was reported that the Board had that day met with Mr. Strang, architect, and Mr. Stewart, sanitary inspector, at Muiravonside School, and that they had agreed to certain alterations being made on the offices.

RESIGNATION'S OF TEACHERS.

It was reported that Miss Shaw, certificated assistant, Muiravonside School, had resigned, and that Miss Davidson, Stonehaven, had been appointed in her room at a salary of £75. Miss Swanson wrote resigning her appointment at Blackbraes School and the resignation was accepted.

APPLICATIONS FOR INCREASE OF SALARY.

Letters were read from Miss Walker and Miss Mackay, of Maddiston School, requesting increases of salary. The applications were left to the school committee to grant increases according to the scale. THE HOLIDAYS. The summer holidays were fixed to take place from 26th June to 4th August.

STANDING ORDERS.

Proofs of the proposed standing orders of the Board were handed to the members for final revision and adoption. Mr. J. Bryce - We had not many standing orders before, but we have plenty now. The Chairman - I see the chairman has great powers under these standing orders. I hope he will not require to exercise them. The standing orders were, with some slight alterations, adopted by the Board.

This was all the business of public interest, and the Board afterwards dealt with applications for exemption, and with defaulters.

Falkirk Herald 30th May 1903

STANDSURN. CO-OPERATIVE STORE BROKEN INTO. -

Between Friday evening and Saturday morning of last week the Standburn branch of the Redding Co-operative Society was broken into. The salesman, in proceeding to open the premises, was greatly surprised to find the door standing ajar. From the way in which the door had been forced open, it appeared that the burglars wire no strangers to the job. On looking over the premises nothing was found to be amissing, although the cash desk had undergone an upheaval, some bags of tokens being tampered with. The safe did not bear any signs of being touched, but it is supposed that the intruders had been scared while at their nefarious work. The police were immediately communicated with, but as yet no arrests have been made.

Falkirk Herald 3rd June 1903

Lost, found, & c.

Found, between Blackbraes and Maddiston. Small sum of money. - Apply Charles Wardrop, Furandrigg, Avonbridge

Falkirk Herald 10th June 1903

JUVENILE GOOD TEMPLARS.

On Saturday afternoon, a large party, numbering about 400 young people, members of six of the juvenile lodges of the I.O.G.T. in Stirlingshire South Eastern (Falkirk) District, accompanied by about 200 adults, visited Banockburn on the occasion of their annual outing. In former years smaller parties have made the historic locality their camping ground, but on this occasion a combined effort took place, with pleasing results. The party was met at the railway station by the Bruce and Thistle Good Templar Band and members of the Robert de Bruce Lodge, and, with motto and other banners displayed, made an imposing and attractive appearance as they wended their way to a park on the dairy farm of Mr. Kerr, overlooking the river Bannock and Beaton's Mill (where King James III. was treacherously slain after the Battle of Sauchieburn), with Caldam Hill and Borestone Flagstaff to the left, Stirling Castle in the distance, and Bannockburn House (with associations of Prince Charlie and the '45) to the south. The day was an ideal one for an outing, the warmth of the sun's rays being tempered by a gentle breeze, which helped to make the lengthy walk from the station less fatiguing for the young folks than it otherwise might have been, and on arrival at the venue for the day, buns and milk were served out, the adults set about preparations for tea, and lemonade and other refreshments were in request. Each lodge had its allotted spot, and, under the guidance of the superintendents and assistants, races, football, skipping-rope, and other pastimes were engaged in, a few of the boys taking advantage of the proximity of the Bannock for a bathe. Some of the sturdier adults made a pilgrimage to the historic Borestone, the band played bright selections, the youth and beauty "tripped it on the green" to the stirring strains, and all went mery as the proverbial marriage-bell until 7 o'clock, when camp was struck, and the

procession reformed. Before leaving the ground Bro. A. Earsman, Camelon, District Chief Templar, and Bro. Wm. M'Laughlan, Maddiston, District Superintendent of Juveniles, briefly addressed the young people, the latter calling for votes of thanks to the band, the committee, and other friends who had helped to make the outing so delightful, incidentally noting the locality they had visited, and the occasion which had rendered it famous as the battle-ground of civil liberty, and remarking on the war against intoxicants in which they had enlisted as recruits, and which called for unremitting and uncompromising effort.

Falkirk Herald 13th June 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE.

THE SCHOOL BOARD'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS –

A special meeting of the Parish School Board was held in Maddiston School on Tuesday - Mr. D. Binnie chairman, presiding - to fix the amount to be asked from the rating authority to meet the Board's deficiency for the Current year. The treasurer's accounts and estimates were submitted. The treasurer (Mr. A. Hunter solicitor Falkirk) submitted the balance-sheet, which showed the actual expenditure as at 15th May last, including a debit balance of £374 7s 7d carried from the previous year, to be £3696 12s 8d as compared with £3701 12s 2d for the previous year. The actual income, including the school rate was £3321 6s 9d, as compared with £3327 4s 71/2d for the previous year. The treasurer, in his estimate submitted that the amount required from the rating authority to meet the deficiency for the current year was £1400. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to ask that sum. As the assessment imposed last year £50 more than was required, it is expected that the school rate will this year be reduced 3/4d per £.

Falkirk Herald 17th June 1903

TRAVELLING ON THE RAILWAY WITHOUT A TICKET. –

At the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Monday - before Interim Sheriff-Substitute Young - Wm. Shearer, miner, Crosscroes, Avonbridge, was charged with having traveled in an N.B. passenger train between Longriggend and Avonbridge Stations without having previously paid his fare, and with intent to avoid payment. Accused pleaded guilty. Mr. Stevenson, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the accused, and said he was a very respectable man, but that on the day in question, having met three friends, he took rather too much liquor. The result was that he did not know what he was doing. When he got sober, and being informed of what he had done, he went and tendered payment of the price of the ticket - namely, sixpence - but payment was not accepted. The Procurator-Fiscal said that the accused called next day and offered to pay the sixpence. He denied travelling with the train at all, tried to make off, and gave a false name and address. The Sheriff imposed a fine of 2s 6d, with 21s 6d expenses, or seven days' imprisonment.

CYCLING WITHOUT LIGHTS. -

At Falkirk J.P. Court on Monday - ex-Provost Watson and Bailie Whyte on the bench - Wm Milligan, engineman, California, Polmont, pleaded guilty to having cycled without a light after dusk on the night of 24th April, on the public road between Avonbridge and Standburn. Mr. Stevenson, solicitor, appeared for the accused, and said that he and his brother, who also had a bicycle, had been visiting a relative, and they had one lamp between them. The accused had only cycled 100 yards without a light. A fine of 1s, with £1 1s 6d expenses, was imposed and paid at the bar.

Falkirk Herald 17th June 1903

FALKIRK BURGH POLICE COURT.

Monday.

(Before Bailie Whyte.)

FOUND BEGGING. –

John Burns, miner, Rumford, was charged with being found begging in High Street on Saturday. Accused, who pleaded guilty, said he and another man came to Maddiston on the previous Thursday, and they worked part of Thursday, and were paid 4s between the two of them. They had no food on Saturday, and were obliged to beg. Accused said he came from Coatbridge. The Fiscal said that on Saturday Inspector Davidson and another officer were very suspicious of this man's actions, and ultimately found that he was begging. Accused said there was no food in the house, and he was obliged to try and get food. A fine of 7s 6d was imposed, or five days.

Falkirk Herald 20th June 1903

STANDBURN. CYCLE RACE FOR £10. -

On Thursday morning a cycle race between Mr. John Hume, Avonbridge, and Mr. Archibald Hoggan, Standburn, took place, the distance being one mile. From the start Hoggan made the pace and maintained the lead till within 100 yards from the winning post, when Hume, with a fine sprint, dashed ahead, and won an exciting race by about 20 yards. Notwithstanding the early hour, there was a good turnout of interested spectators.

OBITUARY. -

Last week a young lad named Charles Skinner, aged 13, died somewhat suddenly from the effects of a chill caught whilst bathing a few days previously. On Friday a few of the boys belonging to his class, accompanied by the headmaster, conveyed to his parents a beautiful wreath, subscribed for by the teachers and scholars of Drumbowie Public School, as a tribute of respect.

Falkirk Herald 24th June 1903

CROP PROSPECTS IN STIRLINGSHIRE –

At present wheat is looking very well. To be sure, some fields in the low-lying parts have got blanky owing to the wet winter. Barley will be late, but brairding is fairly good, and it may be predicted that as the season advances it will come to an average crop. Lea oats are looking very well. In this district fortunately the grub has not been in nearly the same degree of evidence as in other portions of the country. Oats on turnip land are looking well, though in some cases the weed is getting up and smothering them. Hay in the carse is looking hopeful, especially timothy. Lack of rain has rendered it a light crop on dryfield land. Beans are very late, and they have a fair braird. Owing to lateness they will not be an average crop. For the season there is a fair show of grass. With favourable weather it should turn out a very full crop. Potatoes are later than usual, and have an exceedingly good appearance. On dryfield land the turnip braird is very good, and just coming to singling. On carse land the crop will be later, owing to dry weather. In some cases, indeed, there are second sowings. To sum up, the cereal crops will be a fortnight late, potatoes about a week, and turnips will be about the average time.

Falkirk Herald 24th June 1903

SALVATION ARMY -

SOCIAL MEETING.

A united social tea meeting was held in the Salvation Army Hall, Wilson's Buildings, Falkirk, on Monday evening, the corps at Maddiston and Bathgate uniting with the Falkirk Corps for the occasion. The meeting was presided over by Captain Lackie, of Bathgate. There was a large attendance, the hall being quite filled. After tea, a very enjoyable programme was submitted. Captain Parkinson gave a humorous recitation, entitled, "Remember Potatoes," which caused much merriment. A musical party from Maddiston sang the song, entitled "The Salvation. Lifeboat"; while the lieutenant of that corps recited a piece, "Only Thirty-Five Years of Age," which caused much amusement. Short addresses were given by Sergeant-Major

Brand, of Maddiston; Sergeant Ferguson, and Captain Parkinson. Musical selections by Maddiston and Falkirk Bands completed a very enjoyable programme. Votes of thanks to the various contributors were proposed by Ensign Edwards. The proceeds from the social meeting go towards purchasing two new instruments for the Falkirk Corps Band

Falkirk Herald 24th June 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE.

FAILING TO EDUCATE HIS NEICE. -

At a J.P. Court at Falkirk on Tuesday - Messrs Borthwick Watson and R. H. Lochhead on the bench - Patrick M'Cafferty, miner, Crosscroes, Muiravonside, pleaded guilty to having for the period of one month failed to provide sufficient elementary education for his niece Annie, a daughter of his sister, aged between 12 and 13 years, to whom he acted as guardian. Mr. Wm. Stevenson, solicitor, who appeared for accused, stated that he thought it was right that he should explain to their Honours that this case had come up before the Court last week, when he (Mr. Stevenson) stated certain objections to the relevancy, but the Court repelled them. His friend (Mr. Hunter), however, on looking into the matter, found that his objections were well founded, and accordingly withdrew the first complaint, and served a new one upon accused. He thought that, in view of this, his client was entitled to an admonition, seeing he had to come all the way from Crosscroes twice in connection with the case through no fault of his own. Mr. Stevenson also stated that accused's wife attended a meeting of the Muiravonside School Board to explain that her husband could not attend, as he had that day sustained a sprained ankle, but the Board refused to listen to the explanation. Mr. Hunter, clerk to the Board, stated for the prosecution that while it was true he had served respondent with a new complaint, that did not alter the fact that accused pled not guilty at the first diet, and would have required to appear at the Court in any case. Their Honours, in passing sentence of a fine of 2s 6d, with 5s of expenses, stated that no doubt the Board should have at least have asked the wife the reason her husband was present, in common fairness to the husband. Still, accused had pleaded guilty to allowing the child to be absent, and they were therefore quite justified in imposing the penalty they had fixed.

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

The usual monthly meeting of the Muiravonside School Board was held in Blackbraes School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Daniel Binnie presided, the other members present being Messrs John Bryce, John B. Bryce, John Wilson, Archibald Binnie, and Harper.

INCREASE OF SALARY.

The application of Miss M'Neil, assistant in Drumbowie School, for an increase of salary, which had been held over from last meeting, came up again for consideration, and it was agreed to give her the increase of £5 asked for, raising her salary to £30 per annum.

ATTENDANCE.

The report on attendance was submitted as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Att.
Blackbraes School	385	314
Drumbowie School	397	356
Muiravonside School	200	161
Maddiston School	109	96
Avonbridge School	73	65.4

ALLEGED DAMAGE AT DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL.

The Clerk read a letter from Messrs James Nimmo and Co., in reply to a communication he had sent them, in which they stated that the damage to the boundary wall of the Board's feu at Drumbowie School and to the ceilings of the schoolmaster's house through a subsidence resulting from their underworkings was receiving their attention, but they added that they could not say that the damage was caused by them, or that they were responsible.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

Mr. Harper reported that he had visited Drumbowie School on, the previous day, and he found everything going on satisfactorily. Mr. John Bryce, convener for Blackbraes School, said that the school closed on Friday for the holidays, but it was desirable that the children get a holiday on Thursday, when a children's demonstration would be held. Permission was granted. He also reported that two offers had been received for the repairs proposed to be made on the schoolmaster's house. After consideration, it was decided to accept the offer of Mr. Wm. Forrester, Arnloss Cottage, Slamannan. Mr. John B. Bryce reported that the work was going on satisfactorily at Maddiston School. With regard to increases of salary, it was found that Miss Walker was entitled to an increase of £2 10s from the 1st of January, and the committee, recommended that this be granted; while Miss Mackay had got no advance for the past three years, and the committee therefore recommended that she also receive an increase of £2 10s for long service and good conduct, raising her salary to £47 10s per annum. These increases were agreed to. Mr. Bryce stated that the playground at Maddiston was in a deplorable state, and he suggested that the large boulders be removed and ashes put in. He also recommended that the walls and ceilings of the school be whitewashed. Those recommendations were agreed to.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A CLEANER FOR MADDISTON SCHOOL.

Mr. Bryce also reported that the cleaner of Maddiston School had left, and that Mrs. Andrew Bryce had been appointed in her place. Mr. Harper, in connection with this appointment, said he did not think it was his duty to remain on the Board without explaining things as they should be. Mr. Bryce at last meeting had explained the difficulty he had had in finding a cleaner for the school. He (Mr. Harper) now wished to put the matter in, its true light. Through conversations which Mr. J. B. Bryce had with his (Mr. Harper's) wife, he was led to understand that his daughter had been appointed cleaner of the school, but the next he heard was that Mrs. Andrew Bryce had been appointed to the position. He held that this was a very cruel joke, done in a very selfish manner. Though he had entered the Board as a peacemaker, he was not going to have peace at any price, and thereby sacrifice the honour of the gentlemen on the Board. Mr. John B. Bryce said that what Mr. Harper had stated was unfounded nonsense. After Miss Baxter proposed to give up the school, he was speaking to a lady with a child in her arms, and when he told her she said would he not give her the cleaning of the school. Mr. Harper's wife then came up, and said, "Would you not give it to my lassie?" The girl was a dressmaker, and Mr. Harper could not deny that she was a delicate young woman. In fact, he really took the offer as a joke, and he thought that Mrs. Harper offered it as a joke. He really had some difficulty in getting a cleaner. On the Monday evening Miss Walker wrote to him and informed him that Miss Baxter had given up the cleaning of the school. At that time he had another woman in his eye, but she declined to accept the position, and he then went to Mrs. Andrew Bryce, and she took it. Mr. Harper - You said that what I said was a lot of bosh. Did you not approach me on this question? Mr. Bryce was understood to say that he did not remember having done so. Mr. Harper - Do you not remember distinctly, within my house, saying that you would be only too pleased if my lassie got the school cleaning? Mr. Bryce - What I said is the truth. You know well enough that your daughter is not fit for the work. Mr. Harper - She received the cleaning from you in a kind of "heek-ho" way. (Laughter.) She was applying for a situation that was advertised in the "Falkirk Herald" at the time, and she did not go because of that. I say it is a very cruel joke of you, and a very selfish joke, too. Gentlemen, I appeal to the honour of the Board to make it right. Mr. J. B. Bryce - It has been made right, so far as the Board is concerned. The Chairman - It lies with the committee to appoint a cleaner. Mr. Archibald Binnie - I would like to know why you went in search of a cleaner before Miss Baxter resigned? Mr. J. B. Bryce - Miss Walker approached me by letter, which I presented to the Board, saying that the school was not properly cleaned, and the sanitary inspector said the same, which was reported at last meeting. Shortly after I got that letter I was going through the village, when I met this lady saying that Miss Baxter was giving up the school cleaning because she could not please Miss Walker. Mrs. Harper just then, came round the corner, and said, "Would you not give it to my daughter?" Mr. Harper - I say again that it was a very cruel joke. Before ever Miss Baxter gave, up the cleaning you were

concerned about a cleaner. Mr. J. B. Bryce - I think I have done my duty honestly and straightforwardly. Mr. Archibald Binnie complained that he knew nothing about this matter, although he was member of the committee. He had however, told Mr. Bryce that if he was in any difficulty about a cleaner, and if he found one to just make the appointment. Mr. Binnie also complained that he had known nothing about Miss Shaw's resignation until a week before she left when he was told by an outsider. It looked rather awkward when an outsider knew more the School Board matters than he knew himself. Mr. J. B. Bryce said that which Mr. Binnie had stated was rather misleading. When the committee was appointed, Mr. Binnie said to him, "Now, I am not going to criticise you; I will leave matters pretty much to yourself." Mr. Binnie knew about Miss Shaw's leaving before she left, and had a conversation with her. Mr. Harper - If Mr. Haldane had been here, I would never have spoken about the matter, as another man was talking to him about it. Once before, a member of this Board proposed his daughter for the cleaning of the school, and she was appointed at once. Mr. J. B. Bryce - That has never been done. Mr. Wilson - I don't think. Mr. Harper, that you have any remedy. Mr. Bryce has said that he never appointed your daughter. The Board confirmed the appointment made by the committee. Mr. Archibald Binnie proposed that in future when a cleaner is wanted, the position be advertised, and this was agreed to.

The subject afterwards dropped.

REPORT ON COOKERY CLASS.

The report by the inspectress on the cookery work at Muiravonside School stated as follows: -" This class is very satisfactory in every respect. The pupils were examined, and acquitted themselves admirably. Fewer utensils might in future be put on the tables; this would save time in cleaning, and give more space for practical work."

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

The Clerk read a complaint from a parent as to his children receiving unnecessary corporal punishment from one of the teachers in Muiravonside School, and the matter was remitted to the School Committee to make inquiries.

THE SCALE OF SALARIES.

A letter was read from Miss Beattie and Miss Ross, certificated teachers in Blackbraes School, stating that, the starting salary of £55 did not compare well with the payments of other Boards, and suggesting that it be increased to £65. The letter was left over in the meantime.

NEW DESKS.

A letter was read from Mr. James Strang, architect, recommending the Board to procure 75 new desks from the Bennett Furnishing Company Glasgow, at a cost of £25 10s, for the infant department of Muiravonside School, and the recommendation, was agreed to. This was all the public business.

Falkirk Herald 27 June 1903

MADDISTON.

We are pleased to note that Mr. Matthew Myles, Maddiston has been successful at the recent examination in Edinburgh for second-class certificates of proficiency as under-manager of mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act. Mr. Myles is a student of the Maddiston Continuation Class, and of the Falkirk Mining Class, under the Stirling County Council.

Falkirk Herald 27th June 1903

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT. BLACKBRAES CHILDREN'S GALA DAY. -

In accordance with a resolution come to last year - when the Coronation festivities were held - to make the gala day an annual affair, this year's event came off on Thursday last. The weather in the morning was not of a very promising nature, but, fortunately for the "bairns," who had looked forward to the day with great glee, the sun shone out, and by mid-day the weather was of an ideal description. Early in the afternoon the children met at Blackbraes Public School, and after being put into processional order, they walked round the principal places in the district, headed by Mr. Boyd, The Sheds, Blackbraes, on horseback and accompanied by Blackbraes Silver Band. The rendezvous of the day's enjoyment was in a held near California, kindly placed at their disposal for the day by Mr. George Baird, Burnside. On reaching the field the children were amply regaled with an abundant supply of good things. Thereafter an exhaustive programme was gone through, whilst action songs and drill were performed by the school children under the guidance of their teachers. The results of the various events were as follows: - Married woman's race - Mrs. Shepherd and Mrs. Clark equal, unfortunately the former stumbled near the winning post with the result that one of her arms was broken at the wrist. Dr. Calderwood, who was amongst the spectators, attended to her injuries.

Married men's race - 1, Gavin Irvine; 2, Thomas Heeps.

Three-legged race - 1, Hugh Forbes and James Sneddon; 2, Wm. Craig and J. Storie. Teachers' race (Blackbraes School) - 1, Miss Beattie; 2, Miss Ross; 3, Miss Tripney, 4, Miss Smart; 5, Miss Simpson. An exciting race, won by half a yard. Mr. Thomas Heaps gives the winners a gold brooch each. The arrangements were admirably carried out by the committee - Messrs A. Campbell, Schoolhouse; Thomas Heaps, Greycrigg Inn; John White, John M'Lay, James Wardlaw, Robert Jenkins, John Lockhart, Wm. and Andrew Anderson, James Strang, Wm. Forgie, and Alex. Brock, who deserve credit for bringing the day to so successful an end. Wallacestone Band was in attendance in the evening, and together with Blackbraes Band, enlivened the proceedings by contributing some spirited selections and also a lengthy programme of dance music, which was greatly taken advantage of. At the close Mr. Campbell, on behalf of the committee, thanked all who had contributed in any way to make the day a success. A five-a-side football competition was also held, California Violet beating California (Our Boys) in the final.

CYCLING ACCIDENT. -

On Monday afternoon a young lad named Wm. Graham, Blackbraes, met with an accident whilst out cycling. He was descending a hill on the way to Shieldhill when it appears lost control of his machine, and in attempting to take the turn he failed, being thrown with great force to the ground. With the exception of few slight bruises he was otherwise uninjured.

MINING SUCCESS. -

From the results of the recent examination held in Edinburgh under the Coal Mines Regulation Act we are pleased to note that Mr. Drummond Liddell, Cowdenbeath, and late of Shieldhill, has been successful in obtaining a first class certificate. Mr. Liddell commenced his studies at Blackbraes evening classes under Mr. Kerr, M.E.

SILVER WEDDING OF MR AND MRS CAMPBELL, BLACKBRAES SCHOOLHOUSE. PRESENTATION OF TESTIMONIAL.

Last night a deputation waited upon Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, at The Schoolhouse, Blackbraes, to do them honour on the occasion of their silver wedding. Mr. Daniel Binnie, chairman of the School Board, presided, and said that Mr. and Mrs. Campbell had made many friends in the district during the past quarter of a century, and he, with others, thought it was highly desirable that they should show in some small way their appreciation of the worthy couple. He then called on Mr. McKay, Avonbridge, to make the presentation, which consisted of a handsome solid silver rose bowl, filled with roses, for the occasion. Mr. McKay said that he had been sufficiently long in the district to know that Mr. and Mrs. Campbell deserved to be loved and respected by all with whom they came in contact. During the long period of 25 years they had been foremost in every good work for the welfare of the community. He trusted that the remainder of their walk through life would be truly a path of roses. Mr. Campbell, in reply, said that he felt the inter inadequacy of words to suitably express what he and his wife felt on this occasion. They felt honoured by the presence of so many friends and acquaintances. The quarter of a century in the bonds had not been sufficient to banish the "joy of life." That School Board members, past and present, should be associated in this business was somewhat unique, and on that account the meeting was all the more valued by them. In this connection he might say that the Muiravonside School Board had been considerate to the teachers of the parish, sympathising with them in their difficulties, and encouraging them in their work. Of the

two male teachers who had completed their apprenticeship under him, one was a clergyman in Glasgow, and the other, Mr. Hunter, of Falkirk, both of whom had made respectable positions for themselves. Mr. Campbell concluded by paying a high tribute, to the villagers for their kindness, as they had simply been loaded with presents. Mr. Hunter next presented a handsome morocco case containing a list of the subscribers, and having done so, said that no more eloquent testimony of the esteem and affection in which Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were held in the district could be given than the fact that this handsome testimonial was subscribed for and presented exactly two weeks from the announcement of the intention of its promoters. The matter was taken in hand with the greatest enthusiasm, with the result that within one week 133 persons had subscribed; but what is still more gratifying was the hearty expression of goodwill and affection which accompanied the contribution. Personally, Mr. Hunter was delighted to have the opportunity of expressing his indebtedness to Mr. Campbell, whom he had known from the day in which he entered on his duties, 27 years ago. He (Mr. Hunter) was then a pupil-teacher, and he could assure these present that the affection and regard he formed for Mr. Campbell then had been maintained through all the long years. Mr. Campbell had a noble record of work accomplished. Besides taking charge of the day and evening schools, he had found time for private study, and had graduated as B.A. of the London University - a degree which was of the most difficult of attainment in the United Kingdom. But any estimate of Mr. Campbell would be incomplete were attention confined alone to his work as a teacher. He and his worthy helpmeet had been in the forefront of every good work connected with the village and district, and for generosity and largeness of heart their equals would be difficult to find. The Rev. Mr. Fleming Kerr congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Campbell on the auspicious occasion, and said that he was pleased to be present and to express his gratitude for the great kindness he and his had received from Mr. and Mrs. Campbell. Their home was always peaceful, and visitors were ever warmly welcomed. Mr. McKay, Drumbowie, on behalf of his professional brethren of the parish, said he had the greatest pleasure in testifying to the hearty relationship that had always existed among the teachers in the parish, and that this was in no small measure due to Mr. Campbell. Further remarks were made by Dr. Calderwood, Mr. Bryce of Ballinbreich. Mr. Munnoch, Shieldhill; and Mr. Wilson, Bogo. The company were afterwards entertained to tea, and a pleasant evening was spent. The following are the names of the committee who had charge of the arrangements for the testimonial: - Daniel Binnie, chairman of Muiravonside School Board, who acted as chairman of the committee; Mr. Hunter, teacher, Falkirk, secretary; Mr. Biggar, M.A., Wallacestone; Mr. McKay, colliery manager, Avonbridge; J. Bell Bryce, Thomas Harper, and Alex. Hunter, Maddiston; Mr. Wm. Munnoch, Shieldhill; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; Mr. John Bryce of Ballinbreich; Mr. Wilson, Bogo. The committee were ably assisted by Rev. Mr. F. Kerr, Shieldhill, and Messrs James Rankine and Peter Munnoch, Blackbraes.

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POLMONT AND DISTRICT.

CO-OPERATION.

By the resignation, en bloc, of the committee of Redding Co-operative Society, special meetings of the members of the various branches were held during the week to appoint representatives. Redding, Blackbraes, and Standburn meetings took place on Wednesday evening, and Maddiston and Polmont Station on Thursday evening. The following were selected: - Redding - James Baxter and Martin Brown for 12 months, and Wm. Townsley and Alex. Williamson for 6 months. Blackbraes - Messrs George Thomson and John Baxter for 9 months, and Messrs Robt. Brown and David Wats for 3 months. Standburn - Ninian Young, 9 months; and Thomas Moore 3 months. Maddiston - John Cummings and Ralph Dickson. Polmont Station - George Cummings and Robert Raisbeck.

Falkirk Herald 1st July 1903

SHIELDHILL AND DISTRICT.

SILVER WEDDING OF MR. AND MRS. CAMPBELL, BLACKBRAES SCHOOLHOUSE.

PRESENTATION OF TESTIMONIAL.

On Friday night a deputation waited on Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, at The Schoolhouse, Blackbraes, to do them honour on the occasion of their silver wedding. Mr. Daniel Binnie, chairman of the School Board, presided, and said that Mr. and Mrs. Campbell had made many friends in the district during the past quarter of a century, and he, with others, thought it was highly desirable that they should show in some small way their appreciation of the worthy couple. He then called on Mr. McKay, Avonbridge, to make the presentation, which consisted of a handsome solid silver rose bowl, filled with roses, for the occasion. Mr. McKay said that he had been sufficiently long in the district to know that Mr. and Mrs. Campbell deserved to be loved and respected by all with whom they came in contact. During the long period of 25 years they had been foremost in every good work for the welfare of the community. He trusted that the remainder of their walk through life would be truly a path of roses. Mr. Campbell, in reply, said that he felt the utter inadequacy of words to suitably express what he and his wife felt on this occasion. They felt honoured by the presence of so many friends and acquaintances. The quarter of a century in the bonds had not been sufficient to banish the "joy of life." That School Board members, past and present, should be associated in this business was somewhat unique, and on that account the meeting was all the more valued by them. In this connection he might say that the Muiravonside School Board had been considerate to the teachers of the parish, sympathising with them in their difficulties, and encouraging them in their work. Of the two male teachers who had completed their apprenticeship under him, one was a clergyman in Glasgow, and the other Mr. Hunter, of Falkirk, both of whom had made respectable positions for themselves. Mr. Campbell concluded by paying a high tribute to the villagers for their kindness, as they had simply been loaded with presents. Mr. Hunter next presented a handsome morocco case containing a list of the subscribers, and having done so, said that no more eloquent testimony of the esteem and affection in which Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were held in the district could be given than the fact that this handsome testimonial was subscribed for and presented exactly two weeks from the announcement of the intention of its promoters. The matter was taken in hand with the greatest enthusiasm, with the result that within one week 130 persons had subscribed; but what is still more gratifying was the hearty expression of goodwill and affection which accompanied the contribution. Personally, Mr. Hunter was delighted to have the opportunity of expressing his indebtedness to Mr. Campbell, whom he had known from the day in which he entered on his duties, 27 years ago. He (Mr. Hunter) was then a pupil-teacher and he could assure those present that the affection and regard he formed for Mr. Campbell then had been maintained through all the long years. Mr. Campbell had a noble record of work accomplished. Besides taking charge of the day and evening schools, he had found time for private study, and had graduated as B.A. of the London University - a degree which was one of the most difficult of attainment in the United Kingdom. But any estimate of Mr. Campbell would be incomplete were attention confined alone to his work as a teacher. He and his worthy helpmeet had been in the forefront of good work connected with the village and district, and for generosity and largeness of heart their equals would be difficult to find. The Rev. Fleming Kerr congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Campbell on the auspicious occasion, and said that he was pleased to be present and to express his gratitude for the great kindness he and his had received from Mr. and Mrs. Campbell. Their home was always peaceful, and visitors were ever warmly welcomed. Mr. McKay, Drumbowie, on behalf of his professional brethren of the parish, said he had the greatest pleasure in testifying to the hearty relationship that had always existed among the teachers in the parish, and that this was in no small measure due to Mr. Campbell. Further remarks were made by Dr. Calderwood, Mr. Bryce of Ballinbreich, Mr. Munnoch, Shieldhill - and Mr. Wilson, Bogo. The company were afterwards entertained to tea, and a pleasant evening was spent. The following are the names of the committee who had charge of the arrangements for the testimonial: - Daniel Binnie, chairman of Muiravonside School Board, who acted as chairman of the committee; Mr. Hunter, teacher, Falkirk, secretary; Mr. Biggar, M.A., Wallacestone; Mr.

M'Kay, colliery manager, Avonbridge; J. Bell Bryce, Thomas Harper, and Alex. Hunter, Maddiston; Mr. Wm. Munnoch, Shieldhill; Dr. Calderwood, Standburn; Mr. John Bryce of Ballinbreich; Mr. Wilson, Bogo. The committee were ably assisted by Rev. Mr. F. Kerr, Shieldhill, and Messrs James Rankine and Peter Munnoch, Blackbraes.

Falkirk Herald 11th August 1903
STIRLINGSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the Eastern District Committee of the Stirling County Council was held in the County Buildings, Falkirk, on Thursday. Major Dobbie, Larbert, presided, and there were also present Mr. Peddie Waddell of Balquhatston; Mr. Mitchell of Millfield; Mr. Salvason of Lathallan; Mr. Stirling, of Muiravonside; Mr. J. B. Smith, of Clifford Park; ex-Provost Mackay, Grangemouth; Mr. Brown, Kerse; Mr. Robt. Baillie, Carron; Mr. J. B. Cochrane, Stenhousemuir; Mr. McKillop, Polmont Park; Mr. J. Wilson and Mr. J. Mackay, Avonbridge; Mr. Malcolm, Dunmore; Mr. Munnoch, Redding; Dr. M'Vail, medical officer; Mr. J. H. Burns, clerk; Mr. Ballantine, road surveyor, and Messrs Stewart and Bremner, sanitary inspectors.

THE ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR - THE STATE OF THE ROADS.

Ex-Provost Mackay submitted and explained the estimates of receipts and expenditure for the year from 15th May, 1903, to 15th May, 1904. It appeared that for road maintenance and management a sum of £8423 would be expended. As against that a sum of £969 15s 4d would be received in grants, etc., leaving a sum of £7453 4s 8d to be provided from the rates. To meet this deficit the same assessment as last year would be imposed - 5 1/2d per £1 on owners, and 5 1/2d per £1 on occupiers. Under public health the expenditure would be £3494 6s 8d, and the income from grants, etc., £2273 12s., leaving a deficiency of £1220 14s 8d. To meet that deficit a rate of 1d per £1 on owners and occupiers each would be imposed. Last year's rate was 3d per £1 on owner and occupiers equally.

Mr. Peddie Waddell referred to a statement in Mr. Ballantine's report in submitting his estimates for road maintenance that "the roads in the district continue to be maintained in a fair state of repair, and the leading roads during the past few years have been much improved." He had felt for some time, that in their desire to improve public health and sanitary matters in the district, they had rather neglected the roads. There was no doubt that the sanitary condition of the district, when they started to work upon it, demanded their immediate attention and consideration, and he thought they had given it that He thought it might be said that the sanitary condition of the district was now in a good state, rather than in a fair state, and he felt that increased attention should now be given to the roads, and that they should apply their minds more than they had hitherto done to that subject, which so much affected the comfort of the public. To have the roads in a fair condition was not good enough. They ought to be in a good condition. Mr. Ballantine had done the very utmost that he could have done with the means at his command, but there was a strong feeling in the district with regard to the state of roads, and particularly the outside roads. There was a feeling that the same attention was not given to outside roads as was given to the more public roads. They ought to consider, in approving of these estimates, whether they were making suitable provision for the improvement of these roads in order to bring them up to the state they should be in. He did not know what Mr. Ballantine's view of the matter was, but he thought that the community generally would willingly pay a larger rate to have the roads in a better state rather than to have them kept as they were. Mr. Ballantine might say whether he meant next year to keep the roads going as they were, or whether he was going to make an improvement on them. If not he (Mr. Peddie Waddell) would propose that the road assessment be increased to enable an improvement to be made. Mr. James Mackay said that from what he knew of the state of the roads in the district in which he resided, he could corroborate what had just been said.

Two months ago a deputation of farmers and others waited upon him, asking if nothing could be done to improve the roads in Avonbridge district, as they were in a deplorable state, and they threatened to get up an indignation meeting if nothing was done. He was asked to go and see the roads, and he went, and he must say they were anything but suitable for present-day traffic in that locality at least. In his opinion they were far from being in a fair state. He was glad that Mr. Peddie Waddell had raised that question. There had, however, been a little improvement made on the roads since then. As Mr. Peddie Waddell said, he believed that Mr. Ballantine was doing the best he could do for the roads with the means at his disposal, but he (Mr. Mackay) was strongly of opinion that something more should be done. He had people complaining to him repeatedly of the state the roads were in, and he knew they were very defective. Mr. Ballantine said that this question had come up rather unexpectedly, or he might have been prepared with figures to show what he was doing. He might however, say generally that since they had increased the road assessment from 6 1/2d to 11d per £ he had made the roads very considerably better than they had been, and if they continued to pursue that policy for years, they would not only make the roads fair, but good. The leading roads were now in really in good order. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Road was now as good a road as they could find. He drove over the wester road to Slamannan on Wednesday and it had a good surface. The farm roads in the outlying districts had not received so much attention, and if it was those roads which were referred to, he might say it was his intention to devote more attention to those roads as soon as he got the leading roads put in order. It was of the greatest importance, to put the leading roads in order. He had to go wherever the traffic was, and he thought the assessment proposed would be quite sufficient to meet the wants of the roads this year. They proposed shortly to visit the roads, and they would be glad if Mr. Mackay would take them over the roads complained of, so that they might see what could be done to improve them. Mr. Peddie Waddell said that after the remarks of Mr. Ballantine he would not propose any addition to the estimates. He could endorse what he said about keeping in good order the main roads when the traffic converged on them, but the traffic could not with convenience and comfort converge on them if the branch roads were in a bad state. People in the outlying districts complained that they got no return for the road assessment they paid. Mr. Salvason said there was one matter to which Mr. Ballantine had not referred, and that was that great many of the bad roads were not properly bottomed. It was a difficult matter to deal with those roads, as they were not strong by any means. Unless they were properly bottomed, it would not be easy to thoroughly improve them. Mr. Ballantine - There is another matter I omitted to mention. Contractors have been opening up their roads in the southern part of the district to lay a pipe track, and there have been inconvenience and ground for complaint through parts of the road lying open week after week. Just now we have four contractors opening up their roads in different parts of the district, and the inhabitants must put up with the inconvenience caused on that account. Mr. Brown said he would like a fair comparison made between machine-broken metal and hand-broken metal. It seemed to him that machine-broken metal was too much crushed up. If they were to try hand-broken metal on a portion of their roads, they would discover whether they were not more easily kept up with that kind of metal than with machine-broken metal. The roads seemed to be more easily affected by the weather now. On the first wet day they had the appearance of a quagmire, and on the first hot day they were covered with dust. Mr. J. B. Cochrane said he was travelling in Yorkshire some time ago, and he was struck with the cleanly state of the villages through which he passed. He found that tar-macadam was used for the roads. It was sprinkled over and bound together, and made a beautiful road, almost as good as causeway. Ripon was a beautiful town. Its roads were treated in that way, and it made a splendid road. It was not very costly, and very lasting. Mr. Ballantine said he knew Ripon, having been there. It was, however, a burgh. The Chairman, in bringing the discussion to a close, said he hoped that this discussion on the roads, would lead to an improvement upon them. He had no doubt that Mr. Ballantine was doing his very best, with the means at his command, to give them good roads. If the representatives of the various parishes would take up the matter with Mr. Ballantine and draw his attention to anything that was required to be done, it might lead largely to improvement. Mr. Peddie Waddell - When I introduced the subject, I had no intention of reflecting on Mr. Ballantine. On the contrary, I have the greatest confidence in Mr. Ballantine, and he would be only too glad, if more money were put in his hands, to make the roads better. Ex-Provost

Mackay - I might say for the Finance Committee that he has got as much money as we can afford, and as much as he can spend. I might also point out that this discussion is a little irregular. It should have taken place when the road estimates were before us. Mr. Baillie - Our roads, generally speaking, need improvement, and the sooner they are improved the better. The estimates were approved of and ordered to be transmitted to the County Finance Committee.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Chairman said they had no doubt all received copies of Dr. M'Vail's annual report. Their thanks were due to Dr. M'Vail for the able and comprehensive report he had placed before them. It was very lucid and interesting, and he had no doubt it would be very useful to the committee. (Applause.) Dr. M'Vail must have expended a great deal of labour in the preparation of the report.

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE ROADS. Mr. Salvesen said they had heard a great deal of talk about the roads that day, and although they had arranged to visit the water works, they might also try to arrange a visit round the roads. There might be some hesitation with regard to their having two outings similar to each other, but there had been much work going on in connection with the roads which should be seen. A great improvement had been effected by the cutting of the hill at Maddiston, and that improvement was nearly completed. At Herdshill, near Reddingmuirhead, a great improvement had also been brought about. As convener of the Wider Committee, he would have pleasure in seeing them all at the water works, and perhaps Major Dobbie would arrange about the roads visit. It was agreed to visit the water works on the 21st. July, and the roads as soon as possible afterwards. The Chairman said he had seen their old chairman yesterday, and he was very anxious to be present at the visit to the water works. (Applause.) He would let him know the date which had been fixed, and they would all be delighted to see him.

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FALKIRK SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.

Monday.

(Before Sheriff-Substitute BUCHANAN-YOUNG.)

A STAND UP FIGHT. -

Charles Ferguson, miner, Croscrows, and Felix O'Hare, miner, Standburn, admitted having created a breach of the peace on the public road at Croscrows. O'Hare said he had got some provocation. He only pointed out Ferguson when passing as the man who had mauled him some time previously, when the latter attacked him. Ferguson said that O'Hare gave him considerable abuse, and challenged him to fight while he was sitting on a gate at the roadside. A fine of 10s each was imposed, or seven days' imprisonment

THEFT OF TURNIPS. -

Five boys, named George Campbell, miner's drawer; Wm. Denholm, apprentice painter; John Smith, Wm. Henderson, and Wm. Baxter, all residing at Maddiston, pled guilty to having, on 16th July, in a field of growing turnips on the farm of Gilmeadowland, occupied by Robert Binnie, stolen five turnips. Mr. Wm. Stevenson, solicitor, appeared on their behalf, and asked his Lordship to dismiss the boys with an admonition. The Sheriff imposed a fine of 5s, or three days, upon Campbell and Denholm, being the older boys, and the other three he dismissed with an admonition. His Lordship said that if any more cases of this kind came before the Court the boys would be punished. This sort of thing, he said, had got to be stopped.

MALICIOUS MISCHIEF. -

Seven boys, named David Baxter (14), James Cumming (15), George Campbell (14), Wm. Denholm (15), Wm. Rae (12), John Smith (13), and Wm. Hunter (12), were charged with having, on 16th. August, on the Blackbraes branch of the North British Railway, near Parkhall, willfully and maliciously interfered with a surfaceman's bogie, by bursting open and destroying the padlock of the bogie, placing the wheels on the line of rails, and running it along the line for a considerable distance, thereby damaging the axles of the bogie. All pled guilty with the exception of Rae, who tendered a plea of not guilty. Mr. Wm. Stevenson, solicitor, having addressed the Court on behalf of the boys, the Sheriff imposed a fine of 5s, or three days' imprisonment, on the elder boys - namely, Baxter, Cumming, Campbell, and Denholm - and the other three he dismissed with an admonition.

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MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in the Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. D. Binme (chairman), presided, and there were also present Messrs Wilson, J. Bryce, J. B. Bryce, and Harper.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. The Officer reported that the school attendance was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Av. Atten.
Blackbraes School	382	306
Drumbowie School	360	312
Muiravonside School.	197	166
Maddiston School	111	99
Avonbridge School	79	69

BLACKBRAES SCHOOL.

Mr. J. Bryce reported that he had visited Blackbraes School, and found everything in order. Attention was called to the fact that the gutter at the school was not in a satisfactory state. The committee was instructed to get the gutter rectified.

DRUMBOIWIE SCHOOL.

Mr. Wilson reported that everything was proceeding satisfactorily at Drumbowie School.

THE MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL ADDITIONS. Mr. J. R Bryce reported that the work at Muiravonside School was proceeding rather slowly, particularly the joiner work. He had spoken to the tradesmen concerning the matter and he hoped that there would now be no unnecessary delay. Mr. J. B. Bryce also called attention, to the defective position of the seats in the w.c. at the new school at Muiravonside. The clerk was authorised to see Mr. Strang, architect, and to instruct him to have the defect remedied.

ALLEGED EXCESSIVE PUNISHMENT OF A SCHOLAR.

The Muiravonside School Committee reported that inquiry had been made into Mr. Smith's complaint about the excessive punishment of his child. As a result the clerk was instructed to write Mr. Smith, stating that his complaint had been investigated, and that though it was somewhat exaggerated, the committee had spoken to the teacher concerned on the matter. The Board also instructed the clerk to write the lady teacher, against whom the complaint had been made, with regard to the subject.

THE MADDISTON SCHOOL FUE.

The clerk was authorised to write Mr. David Baxter regarding the abuse of the feu at Maddiston School, by using it for the bleaching of clothes, the erection of a scaffolding, and children wasting the hay after it had been cut.

TECHNICAL CLASSES

Mr. Marshall, organising secretary of the County Council Secondary Education Committee, attended the meeting, and detailed his committee's proposal with regard to technical courses to be conducted in the parish next session. It was agreed to carry out the proposals submitted on the same lines as last year. LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The Clerk intimated the following results of the recent leaving certificate examinations: -Miss Annie P. Paterson, passed in lower English; Miss Nettie Watt, passed in lower arithmetic and English. DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL COOKERY AND LAUNDRY WORK CLASS.

The Clerk read the following report of the inspectors on the recent examination of the Drumbowie cookery and laundry class: - "This class is very efficiently conducted. The pupils were freely questioned, and they gave ready and intelligent answers. More time should be given to practical work, however, and not more than one-half of the number of hours to demonstration classes. The teacher is very capable, and manages his class well."

EVENING CLASSES - PROPOSED REDUCTION OF TEACHERS' SALARIES.

Some discussion then took place between the Board and the teachers of the various schools regarding the re-opening of the evening classes. It was agreed that the arrangements should be the same as last year, and the clerk was instructed to have the necessary bills printed and issued throughout the district Mr. J. B. Bryce moved that the salaries of the evening school teachers be reduced by £10. He said he liked the salaries of the teachers of the various schools to be as high as possible but it was with the view of keeping down expenditure that, he made this proposal. He found that the teachers were being too highly paid for the work actually done at the evening schools. In some of the classes there were only a few pupils being taught, and that being so he considered that the salaries paid were too large. The motion was not seconded, and the matter was allowed to drop. Several defaulters were afterwards dealt with.

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PENDER - At Ebenezer Place Maddiston, on 22nd inst., wee Polly, dearly beloved daughter of Andrew and Catherine Pender, aged 1 year and 10 months

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MUIRAVONSIDE FLOWER SHOW.

The annual exhibition of the Muiravonside Horticultural Society was given in Maddiston School on the afternoon of Saturday last, and being favoured with a beautiful day there was an unusually large attendance of the public. The Laurieston Brass Band was in attendance, and during the evening dancing was heartily engaged in by the young folks in the small field adjoining the school, kindly granted by the School Board for the occasion. The cottage-frontage competition for the handsome prizes presented by Mr. William Scott of Toravon this year attracted much interest and excited keen competition. The generous donor has to be congratulated on the great improvement which this competition has effected in the village, as it can be safely said that few villages in Stirlingshire could favourably compare with Maddiston for the beauty of its front garden plots. The judges this year were Mr. John M'Laren, of Millfield, and Mr. Joseph Blair, of Toravon, and their awards, which appeared to give general satisfaction, are as follows: - Mr. Alexander Anderson; 2, Mr. Thomas Rae, Gowanlea; 3 and 4, Mr. George Todd and Mr. James Thom, sen, (equal); 5, Mr. David Smith. The pot plant and cut-flower sections of the show were weaker than usual; but the vegetable section was exceedingly creditable. The judges in the flowers and vegetable sections were - Messrs John Lonie, Lathallan; John M'Martin, Laurieston; Wm. M'Cracken, Bathville; and John Scott, Polmont Park; and in the dairy and farm produce sections Messrs Geo. Wallace, Kinglass, and James Gray, Redbrae. After the judging the committee and judges dined together in Maddiston Inn, where an excellent dinner was purveyed. Mr. John Meikle, Melons Place, president of the society, occupied the chair; and Mr. J. S. Wilson, secretary, officiated as croupier. A new attraction of the show this year was a cycle parade organised by the Brightons Cycle Club. The costumes of the cyclists were amusingly varied, gay, graceful, and ludicrous. The judging was entrusted to Mr. John Stirling of Muiravonside, who was accompanied by Miss Mia Stirling. The prize for gentlemen was awarded to Mr. W. R. Gardiner, Polmont, and that for ladies to Miss Forbes, Glenbank, Redding. This decision seemed to have the hearty approval of the spectators, and, on the call of the secretary, Mrs. Stirling was awarded a vote of thanks for her patronage. The following is the prize-list of the different sections: -

POT PLANTS. -

One rose in pot - 1, James Leishman; 2, Alex. Anderson. Hydrangea - 1, James M'Lachlan; 2, Peter Wardlaw. Fuchsia (light) - 1, W. Williamson; 2, P. Wardlaw. Fuchsia (dark) - W. Williamson. Geranium (double) - 1, R. Heeps; 2, James Leishman. Geranium (single) - James Leishman. Geranium (variegated) - Peter Wardlaw. Heliotrope - 1, Jas. M'Lachlan; 2, P. Wardlaw. Pot iliums - P. Wardlaw. Begonia - 1, James Taylor; 2, James M'Lachlan. Petunia - 1, James M'Lachlan; 2, P. Wardlaw. Pot musk - 1, R. Heeps; 2, W. Williamson. Pot fern - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, Jas. M'Lachlan. West Indian juniper - P. Wardlaw. Pot lobelia - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, A. Richardson. Plant, distinct from preceding - 1, A. Anderson; 2, P. Wardlaw. Two ten-week stocks - 1, D. Smith; 2, James; Paton. Sweet-scented verbena - 1, Wm. Heeps; 2, P. Wardlaw. Calceolaria in pot - 1, A. Richardson; 2, James Paton. Best British fern - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, James M'Lachlan. Geranium, fuchsia, and petunia - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, Wm. Williamson. Table of plants - P. Wardlaw. Two table plants (foliage) - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, James M'Lachlan. Four pot asters (chrysanthemums) - James Paton. Best plant in flower - P. Wardlaw.

WINDOW PLANTS. -

Fuchsia (any sort) - Wm. Heeps. Geranium (any sort) - 1, Wm. Heeps; 2, David Smith. Rose in pot - 1, A. Anderson; 2, David Smith. Begonia (any sort) - 1, W. Heeps; 2, David Smith. Hydrangea - William Heeps. Pot musk - 1, W. Heeps; 2, David Smith. Hanging plant, in pot or basket - 1, W. Heeps; 2, A. Anderson. Plant, any sort, grown in a teapot - 1, W. Heeps; 2, A. Anderson. Best plant grown in first and second sections - P. Wardlaw. Cut Flowshs. - Six dahlias (cactus) - 1, James Leishman; 2, John Battison. Six asters (quilled) - 1, James Leishman; 2, A. Rhind. Six asters (other than quilled) - 1, A. Richardson; 2, A. Rhind. Six African marigolds - P. Wardlaw. Four spikes antirrhinum (sorts) - 1, James Paton; 2, W. Heeps. Four spikes pentstemons - 1, James Paton; 2, W. Heeps. Four spikes phlox - P. Wardlaw. Six French marigolds - 1, A. Richardson; 2, R. Brown. Twelve fancy pansies - 1, R. Bishop; 2, A. Rhind. Six varieties of show pansies - 1, R. Bishop; 2, A. Rhind. Six roses (three varieties) - 1, A. Anderson; 2, Jas. Leishman. Four bunches of hardy annuals (varieties) - 1, P. Landles; 2, P. Wardlaw. Three spikes gladioli (varieties) - A. Rhind. Six carnations - 1, R. Brown; 2, A. Rhind. One hollyhock spike - P. Wardlaw. Four spikes herbaceous - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, Jas. M'Lachlan. Bouquet of wild flowers, gathered by children under 12 years of age - 1, W. Heepi, jun., Redford; 2, John Wardlaw, Linlithgow Bridge; 3, Eliza Wardlaw. Sprays violas, 6 blooms in each spray - Robert Brown. Six trusses geraniums (varieties) - 1, J. Leishman; 2, P. Landles. Bouquet of everlasting flowers - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, P. Landles. Bouquet of everlasting flowers - (natural colours) - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, P. Landles. Bouquet of roses - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, W. Heeps. Table bouquet, not built on wire or heather - P. Landles. Stand of cut flowers - P. Wardlaw. Hand bouquet - 1, W. Landles; 2, P. Wardlaw. Six sprays dahlias, pompons, three in each spray - P. Wardlaw. A rose - P. Landles. Bouquet of everlasting flowers, natural colours - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, P. Landles. Hand bouquet of everlasting flowers, natural colours - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, P. Landles. Six bunches of sweet peas - 1, R. Bishop; 2, P. Landles.

FRUIT. -

Twelve gooseberries - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, J. Battison. Best 1/2lb. red currants - H. Haigh. Best 1/2lb. white currants - H. Haigh. Best 1/2lb. black currants - 1, W. Heeps; 2, H. Haigh. Six heaviest gooseberries - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, A. Anderson. Collection of fruit - 1, H. Haigh; 2, A. Anderson. Six apples - H. Haigh. Best 1 lb. gooseberry jelly - 1, Mrs. H. Haigh; 2, Mrs N. Younger; 3, Mrs P. Wardlaw.

VEGETABLES. -

Early cabbage - 1, John Smith; 2, Wm. Williamson. Red cabbage - 1, Alex Rhind; 2, Alex. Laing. Savoy - 1, John Smith; 2, Wm. Williamson. Curled green - 1, D. Laing; 2, P. Wardlaw. Six onions (spring sown) - 1, Alexander Rhind; 2, P. Wardlaw. Six eschalots - 1, A. Richardson; 2, John Campbell. Six potato onions - 1, Wm. Heeps; 2, John Heeps. Three parsnips - 1, James Paton; 2, John Campbell. Three carrots - 1, John Smith; 2, P. Wardlaw. Three beetroots - 1, P. Wardlaw; 2, John Smith. Three turnips - 1, A. Rhind; 2, R. Heeps. Three stalks finest rhubarb - 1, David Smith; 2, D. Laing. Six pods beans and six pods peas - 1, Wm. Heeps; 2, John Heeps. Parsley plant - 1, P. Landles; 2, A. Richardson; 3, A. Rhind. Four best leeks - 1, A. Rhind; 2, P. Wardlaw; 3, D. Laing. Two cauliflower heads - 1, James McLachlan; 2, P. Wardlaw. Six potatoes (any one sort, early) - 1, John Smith; 2, R. Bishop. Six potatoes (any one sort, late) - 1, John Smith; 2, R. Bishop. Collection of vegetables, six sorts,

excluding tomatoes and cucumbers - 1, P. Wardlaw ; 2, Wm. Heeps. Three heads of celery - 1, Alex. Rhind ; 2, P. Wardlaw. Late cabbage - 1, John Smith ; 2, D. Laing. Four stalks heaviest rhubarb - 1, D. Laing; 2, Thomas Williamson. Heaviest three eschalots - 1, A. Richardson ; 2, D. Laing. Three leeks, three onions, and three turnips - 1, James Paton; 2, P. Wardlaw ; 3, Thomas Williamson. Six lbs. eschalots - 1, D. Laing ; 2, Thomas Williamson ; 3, David Smith. Two parsnips, two carrots, two beetroot, and two turnips - 1, P. Wardlaw ; 2, James Paton ; 3, D. Smith. Collection of vegetables, eight sorts - P. Wardlaw. Best and heaviest vegetable marrow - 1, P. Wardlaw ; 2, James Paton Heaviest leek - A. Rhind. Six best tomatoes - 1, P. Wardlaw ; 2, A. Rhind. Six podd beans - 1, Thos. Widiamsom; 2, D. Laing. Six pods peas - 1, A. Rhind ; 2, John Smith.

DAIRY PRODUCE. -

One lb. fresh butter - 1, Jas. M'Lachlan ; 2, John Meikle. One lb. powdered butter - 1, James M'Lachlan ; 2, John Meikle. One dozen hen eggs, best - 1, Henry Haigh; 2, Neil Younger. Best three flour scones - 1, P. Wardlaw ; 2, James McLachlan; 3, John Meikle. Best 3 farrells of oatmeal cakes (meal and water) - 1, James M'Lachlan; 2, John Meikle. Twelve heaviest hen eggs - 1, James M'Lachlan; 2, Neil Younger; 3, John Battison. Farm Produce. - Three Aberdeen green-top yellow turnips - 1, John Addison; 2, James M'Lachlan; 3, John Meikle. Twelve potatoes, two varieties - 1, James M'Lachlan; 2, George Shanks; 3, John Addison. Best six stalks of field beans - 1, James McLachlan ; 2, George Shanks; 3, John Meikle. Best three Swedish turnips - 1, James M'Lachlan; 2, George Shanks. Best late cabbage - 1, James M'Lachlan; 2, John Meikle.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Messrs Dobbie & Co.'s medal for the most successful exhibitor in the horticultural sections - Mr. Peter Wardlaw, Linlithgowbridge. Most successful exhibitor in the dairy section - Mr James M'Lachlan, Kendieshill. Most successful exhibitor in the farm produce section - Mr. James M'Lachlan. Specimen of wood-carving - 1, Adam Todd; 2, P. Forsyth. Specimen of fretwork - 1, Andrew Pearson; 2, Matthew Forsyth; 3, Alexander Pearson.

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STIRLINGSHIRE MINERS' GALA DAY.

LARGE GATHERING IN VICTORIA PUBLIC PARK.

ADDRESSES BY LIBERAL M.P.'s. MR. DONALD M. SMEATON AS A LIBERAL-LABOUR CANDIDATE. ADDRESSES BY MR. GILMOUR, LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR FALKIRK BURGHS.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S PROPOSED FISCAL POLICY CONDEMNED.

The annual miners' gala-day, held under the auspices of the Stirlingshire Miners' County Union, took place in the Victoria Public Park on Thursday. The weather, though wet and threatening in the morning, broke out bright and clear as the day advanced, and a bright sky above, with a steady breeze blowing, made pleasant weather conditions for such an outdoor function. Between three and four thousand miners were present from various part of the county, special trains being run from Bannockburn and the Plean, Banknock, Dennyloanhead, and Bonnybridge, Denny, and Polmont, while large numbers arrived by brake and bicycle from the districts in the immediate neighbourhood of Falkirk. No less than nine brass and pipe bands took part in the demonstration. Mr. Robert M'Ewan, Dennyloanhead, president of the union, presided, and the principal speakers were Mr. James Caldwell, M.P. for Mid-Lanark ; Mr. J. D. Hope, M.P. for West Fife; Mr. Donald M. Smeaton, Liberal candidate for the county; Mr. David Gilmour, Labour candidate for the Falkirk Burghs; and Mr. John Weir, miners' agent, Fife. These gentlemen were accompanied on the platform by Mr. Wm. Webb, agent and general secretary, Falkirk; Mr. Hugh Murnin, agent, Bannockburn; and other members of the Executive Council and committee. The miners assembled round a commodious platform in the park, from which the various speakers addressed the gathering. The Chairman first called on Mr. Webb, general secretary, who read over the various resolutions to be submitted to the meeting, and the various speakers afterwards dealt with the matters referred to therein. The first resolution, which was moved by Mr. J. D. Stevenson, Bannockburn, and seconded by Mr. James Hay, Falkirk, was:-That this meeting, having regard to the long delay in passing an eight hours' bill for miners, and the rejection of other measures that would add to their safety, is of the opinion that the House of Commons does not adequately represent the views of the working classes of the country; agrees to continue the agitation for these and other measures of reform, and pledges itself to support the British Miners' Federation scheme to secure better representation of labour in Parliament." The second resolution, moved by Mr. James Ferguson, Maddiston, and seconded by Mr. Thos. Bennie, Redding, was as follows: -"That we most strongly condemn the continued imposition of the coal tax, being convinced from experience that the tax has a prejudicial effect on the wages of the workers employed in and about coal mines." Mr. Wm. Barbour, The Plean, seconded by Mr. Hugh Cairney, moved the third resolution: -" That while we express our satisfaction with the reform in the law affecting employers' liability which has been obtained by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, we are of opinion that a strong effort should be made to have the Act so amended as to make it more intelligible, and to include all workers within its scope, and make compensation payable from the date of any accident." Mr. David Weir, Shieldhill, was the mover of the fourth resolution, seconded by Mr. James M'Lean, Bannockburn. It was in the following terms: - "That this meeting most emphatically protests against the policy of taxing the food of the people, believing such a policy to be a violation of the principles of Free Trade, and detrimental to the best interests of the workers; that it would result in a higher cost of living, without any corresponding increase in the wages, and that the prospect of higher wages held out to the workers as the result of such a proposal being passed into law is a delusion." Speaking to the resolutions, Mr. Webb said that no doubt the Durham and Northumberland miners had been the block in the progress of the eight hours day movement, but he had reason to believe that very soon the miners of Great Britain would have an eight hours' day from bank to bank. Then as to labour representation, although there might be a difference of opinion as to the method of obtaining it, they were all agreed as to its necessity. The coal tax had been injurious to the trade of that district, and it was the duty of every miner to do his level best to get the tax abolished. As to the Workmen's Compensation Act, he was strongly of opinion that it was the best Act that had ever been passed for the working man. It had not been administered in the spirit in which it was intended it should have been administered. Experience, however, had shown them that it was a lawyer's measure, and what was wanted was that the law should be made more intelligible. Regarding the proposal which, he said, had been made to tax the food of the people, he maintained that the country had prospered for the last fifty years under Free Trade, a system which he thought they should endeavour as far as possible to retain. (Applause.) Mr. Caldwell, M.P., said he was glad that circumstances had enabled him to be present at their gala demonstration. For many years he was in business and interested himself in public and political affairs in the county, and he had still a vote in the constituency. He was glad to learn from the statement of their secretary, Mr. Webb, that their union was increasing so largely in number. He attributed to the better organisation of the miners of Scotland the higher wages, shorter hours, and better conditions of labour under which they were working. He considered a Miners' Union to be of advantage to the masters as well as to the men. It placed all masters on an equal footing as regards competition, and protected the good, master against the unfair competition of the unscrupulous master who worked his men longer hours or paid lower wages. Coal in this country was not subject to foreign competition, as were the iron industries around Falkirk. The masters in the coal trade being placed on equal term of competition, whatever the agreed-on wage might be, the price of coal would rise to meet the wage. He had no sympathy with the non-union men - (hear, hoar) - of whom he noticed from the speech of their secretary there were still a considerable number in Stirlingshire. The non-union men were at all times ready to avail themselves of the higher wages, shorter hours, and better conditions of labour which the miners' organisation might secure, but they did not wish to bear any share of the expense. (Hear, hear, and applause.) To keep the coal trade in a healthy state it was necessary at times to restrict the

output, and to keep the supply more in accordance with the demand. This was necessary in the interest not only of the trade as a whole, but even of the consumers of coal, as it kept the price of coal more regular and uniform, instead of the great fluctuations in price which not infrequently occurred. He was glad to notice that, by a mutual arrangement, masters and men had been able to agree upon a higher level of wage without recourse to strikes. There were some wise people who were averse to strikes under any circumstances. He deprecated the necessity for having recourse to strikes as much as any person. Strikes entailed more loss on the men and more misery to their families than loss to the masters, whose profits, taking an average of three years, might not be much affected. Indeed, some masters rather liked a strike, to clear off old stocks and enjoy the luxury of a little gamble when prices got up. But even to workmen and their families strikes, like Christian suffering, although not joyous but grievous, nevertheless in many cases worked some good to those exercised thereby. The pent up tension between masters and men got relief in combat, and, not unlike other combatants, they came to have a greater feeling of respect and friendship for each other after the fight was over. (Laughter and applause.) The great railway strike in Scotland, although ended by the unconditional surrender of the men was eventually followed by a rise of wages, shorter hours, and better conditions of labour for the railway servants. The same with what some would term the disastrous ending of the great miners' strike, out of which has sprung the better organisation of miners they see to-day, with the improved condition of the men. He hoped it would be a long time ere they would require to resort to a miners' strike in Scotland - (hear, hear) - and he considered a strong miners' union was the way to prevent strikes, but they must not put aside the possibility of a time coming when resort to a strike might be necessary; and he advised them to lay past for such a contingency, so as to be the better able to stand the strain should it occur. He sympathised with the movement to have more direct labour representation in the Imperial Parliament. Every Member of Parliament claimed that he represented every interest in his constituency, and that labour especially was one of the interests he represented. That was quite true in a sense, but they found at present that there were certain interests which were very specially represented in the House of Commons in addition to the ordinary representation, and what was wanted, therefore, was that labour should have representation in Parliament by men whose first and primary duty should be to attend to labour interests, and after that to represent the constituency in other matters as well. He did not wonder at the desire of working men to have special representation. How was that to be accomplished? They knew that working men had not the means to pay for a contested election. In his own case it cost him £1000 and he had the honour of having a contest each time. (Laughter.) They could not expect working men to pay expenses of that kind. It was honourable to those who could not make the sacrifice themselves that they should be willing to pay the expenses of a working man to represent them. Sometimes it was said that a Labour man should have nothing to do with any political party. At the present time they had a team of the very best working men representatives that ever sat in the House of Commons. Every one of them sat on the Liberal side, and, after attending the labour matters, voted with the Liberal party. They did not find a Tory Labour man. Such a thing was not in existence. He had yet to be born - (laughter) - and, therefore, till that man appeared they had to deal with this fact, that the Labour men had the sympathy and support of the Liberal party. He (Mr. Caldwell) had voted against the imposition of the coal duty as being an unfair tax upon a special industry and a tax which eventually affected the interests of the working classes. He had always voted for the abolition of the tax, and would continue to do Mr. Caldwell then dealt with the history of the workmen's compensation. Liberals had introduced an Employers' Liability Bill, into which the House of Lords introduced a contracting out clause, compelling the Liberal Government to withdraw the bill. If the Employers' Liability Bill did not go so far as the Workmen's Compensation Bill, it went further than the Tory Opposition at the time desired. At last General Election they heard a great deal about the incompleteness of the Workmen's Compensation Act, of its not including all tracks, of the absurdity of the 30 feet limit in the building trade, and of the injustice of not paying compensation from the time of the accident. The Government had frittered away the time of Parliament with Education Bills, in the interest of the clergy, but had found no time to redeem their pledges to working men. Mr. Caldwell next touched briefly on the resolution with regard to the fiscal policy. To anyone who asked him if he was in favour of inquiry his answer was that it was the duty of the Government from day to day to see the effect of their fiscal policy, and whether the trade and commerce of the country were making progress. Why were they sleeping when it was their duty to have been inquiring as they went along? It was said that Germany was beating us because of the Free Trade policy of this country. The real secret was that Germany had wakened up of late years, and had set itself to spread its trade and commerce all over the world. Aided by an excellent system of education, and improved conditions of labour by compensation to workers and the State insurance of eighteen million workmen, the Germans were making headway, and the only way this country could compete with such nations as Germany was to follow the same footsteps and fight on equal lines. (Applause.) Mr. Donald M. Smeaton, in supporting the resolutions, said he stood as the Liberal and Labour candidate for Stirlingshire. He was in absolute sympathy from start to finish with every movement which had been made by the labour communities in Scotland and in the five resolutions which had been sketched by Mr. Caldwell. They had his absolute support. With regard to Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy, he remarked, that that policy involved a large diminution of the working-man's income. If his income was largely reduced, where would he get the funds for his federation, for his Parliamentary representative, for his trade union, and for the Co-operative Society? According to the most eminent statistical authorities, the scheme which Mr. Chamberlain had thrust upon the country would, if it were carried into effect, have this result, that the labouring man whose income amounted to £50 would have to spend £10 more than he now spent on the cost of living. What did that mean? Where did the saving come in? Where did he get the money to support his trades union and his trade organisation, which were so admirable, and upon which the success of the labour movement so much depended? Where would he get the money to support his member in Parliament? He would not have it; he could not get it. At the present moment three-fourths of the food of the country comes from foreign parts and one fourth from the colonies. Mr. Chamberlain's proposal was to put a tax on foreign imports of food. That tax must be such that the colonies would reap a distinct and tangible advantage. What did the great statistician, Sir Robert Giffen, say? He said that a tax of 5s per quarter on wheat would have to be imposed before the colonies would reap any considerable advantage. Five shillings meant 20 per cent, on the present price of wheat. The colonies had told them that not only would they insist on this, but that their beef must have a preference of 1d or 1 1/2d per £, and their butter must have a benefit of 3d per £1. That meant that on their food they would have to pay from 15 to 20 per cent, more than they paid now. The home farmer, the home dairyman, and the home grocer would insist on getting the same price. Their produce would rise in value, and the cost of living would increase. Some of the colonies produced wood, and some produced timber. Eastern Canada, for instance, sent in seven millions of timber. They said "If you give us a preference on our dairy produce, etc., you must give us a preference on our wood and timber." It meant that every single thing which went to build up the cost of living would be taxed. Though he concealed it as far as he could, that was what Mr. Chamberlain proposed. The man whose income was £50, and who saved from that £5 per annum, would have to pay £55 for his living, as in addition to the increased price of food, the increase in the price of wood would mean an increased rent. The price of imported iron would also be increased, and there would be a higher price charged for tools and for fire appliances. That would all tend to increase the cost of living. Where was their saving? Proceeding, Mr. Smeaton dealt with the resolution, and said that one way of supporting their Federation was to keep their incomes from being diminished by not supporting Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy. It was said they compared unfavourably with Germany, but he asked them to look at the condition of the German working man. They ate rye-bread, and very seldom saw butcher meat. He urged them to resist Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy till the death. It was their only safeguard to stick to Free Trade. It was by Free Trade that Great Britain had been made the largest carrying country in the world. Their ships

were more numerous and their tonnage was larger than the whole mercantile nations of the world. The Eight Hours Bill for miners had his earnest support, and he also advocated strongly Labour representation in an increased ratio in the House of Commons. He believed, with Mr. Caldwell, that the Labour candidate must be a Liberal candidate, and he stood as both. As to the Workmen's Compensation Act, he had frankly to confess that neither he nor the judges or the lawyers understood it. He did not believe there was a man in existence, whether he were a judge, or an advocate, or a Member of Parliament, who could understand one-half of the Act. As to Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy, he expressed the opinion that it would impoverish the country, destroy their trade, and raise the enmity of the nations. The nations which were not their enemies would resent that policy, and would also impose a heavier duty on British imports and injure their export trade. He concluded by urging them to keep in mind the effect of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme, and the effect which it would have on their organisation and cost of living, and to resist it to the death. (Applause.) Mr. David Gilmour, who also supported the resolutions, said he was in the rather unfortunate position of being the Labour candidate for the Falkirk Burghs. He would have been ten times happier working at his present duty, but the movement for Labour representation in the burghs had been agreed to by the miners as a body, and he would be a coward who would refuse to carry the flag of Labour when the flag was handed to him. (Applause.) But he did not come there to deliver altogether a political address. His chief business was to extend the right hand of fellowship from the Lanarkshire miner to the united miners of Stirlingshire. Never, so far as he remembered, had they a united meeting of Stirlingshire miners before, and he congratulated them on the position they had attained. He hoped that now that the division which had existed in their organisation had been swept aside they would make every effort to perfect their organisation in the county. If their union had done nothing else than fix a reasonable living wage it had justified its existence. He urged them not to stand with their hands in their pockets waiting on Parliament putting an Eight Hours Day Bill for miners. Some people would have them to believe that the Liberals had done their duty with regard to that question. So far as the Liberal party was concerned, they had never taken up the eight hours question as a measure they were prepared to carry through. When they could not get the Conservative or Liberal party to take up such a small measure that was sufficient justification for the miners of the country seeing that they had someone in Parliament to see that Parliament did their duty to them in that matter. He condemned the tax on export coal, and said that the reduction of miners' wages in South Wales, and in Scotland also, had proved that that tax had come out of the pockets of the miners. After pointing out several defects which required remedy in the Compensation Bill, Mr. Gilmour went on to deal with the question of preferential tariffs, and remarked that if they put a tax on imported American flour the first thing the Americans would do would be to increase the tax on the cotton they imported to the Lancashire mills, and 100,000 workers in Lancashire would be thrown out of employment. History had proved to them that the time wages were lowest food was highest. (Applause.) Mr. J. D. Hope, M.P., after stating that he endorsed all the resolutions, said that the fiscal question seemed to be pretty well absorbing every person's attention. As a Radical and as a Democrat he was glad of that in some ways and sorry in other ways. He believed the more this fiscal question was looked into the more would the people of this country make up their minds that Mr. Chamberlain must no longer be allowed to hold office. He believed the fiscal question would be the means of terminating his political career. He had always maintained that on the Colonial Secretary's shoulders rested the responsibility for the terrible and unjust war in South Africa. (A Voice - "Not at all.") He was rather afraid, however, that in the din of the conflict which was going to rage on this question a great many topics would be overlooked and ignored, and that the men who were opposed to any alteration of the Free Trade policy would be returned to Parliament nominally as Liberals while they were not Radicals at all. He thought that was a very serious danger, and the electors in all constituencies should see that the great measures of practical reform, such as the land laws, manhood suffrage, and payment of members, were not looked. Mr. John Weir, Fife miners agent, also spoke at some length in support of the resolutions, and said that if the miners of Falkirk Burghs did not return Mr. Gilmour to Parliament they would be fools, as they would be still contributing to the fund for Labour representation whether he was elected or not. The Workmen's Compensation Act had been a wonderful improvement upon legislation of its kind, and they thanked the Government it. Though Mr. Chamberlain had received great praise for having been instrumental in passing the measure into law, Mr. Chamberlain was not the author of the measure. The trades unionists of the country had been for half-a-century advocating for workmen's compensation, and they got Mr. Asquith, in the last Liberal Government to bring in a Workmen's Compensation Bill. The Tories refused to have it, but they had adopted a more far-reaching measure. The measure was neither the child of the Liberals nor the Tories; it was not the offspring of Chamberlain; it had been given birth to and nurtured by the trades unionists of the country (Applause.) He hoped that as the result of this demonstration, the miners of Stirlingshire, who had not been at high-water mark for some years as to organisation, would build up an organization far better and greater than it now was. (Applause.) Mr. Murnin, Bannockburn, proposed a number of votes of thanks, and the proceedings terminated.

Falkirk Herald 19th September 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

CONTINUATION CLASSES will be OPENED on MONDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER, 1903, at Seven o'clock P.M., in DRUMBOWIE, BLACKBRAES, MADDISTON, and MUIRAVONSIDE SCHOOLS. SPECIAL CLASSES for DRAWING and TECHNICAL ARITHMETIC under the Scheme of the Technical Instruction Committee of the County Council. ANDREW HUNTER, Clerk

Falkirk Herald 19th September 1903

HUNTER - At Maddiston, on the 13th inst., wife of James Hunter, carriage hirer, of a daughter; both doing well.

Falkirk Herald 3rd October 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE.

The Parish Church. —

Early in the year the heritors of the parish agreed to repair the Parish Church, and during the past few weeks the building has undergone a complete renovation, during which the Sabbath services have been held in the Templars' Hall, Maddiston. The interior has been all re-painted by Mr. Graham, painter, Falkirk, whilst a number of box seats have been, taken out and the ordinary kind put in. The memorial window, to the late Rev. Mr. Keith, has also been altered, four new panels being added. The congregation have contributed spontaneously toward the repairs, a new communion table being subscribed for by them. Mr. Brown, Vellore, has gifted to the congregation a handsome baptismal font. The choir seats have also been re-arranged. The services were conducted in the church on Sabbath last, when there was a large congregation.

Falkirk Herald 3rd October 1903

MADDISTON.

We are pleased to note that Miss Lizzie Y. Rae, Gowanlea Cottage, has been successful in gaining a certificate in millinery under the City and Guilds of London Institute. She was a student of the Comely Park School Continuation Class, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald 3rd October 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Pariah School Board was held at Maddiston on Tuesday. Mr. D. Binnie presided, and there were also present Messrs A. Binnie, John Bryce, John Bell Bryce, and John Haldane, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

It was reported that the attendance at the various schools was as follows: -

	On roll.	Av. att.
Blackbraes School	364	319
Drumbowie School	357	308
Muiravonside School	193	168
Maddiston School	113	99
Avonbridge School	70	64

BLACKBRAES EVENING SCHOOL.

Mr. John Bryce reported that he had visited Blackbraes School on the occasion of the opening of the evening school there. There was an attendance of 27 pupils, but that number was likely to be increased. He suggested that the officer should be given a list of the exemptions at the various schools, so that the pupils exempted might be made to attend. The suggestion was agreed to.

OVERCROWDING AT MUIRAVONDSIDE SCHOOL – SLOW PROGRESS WITH THE NEW ADDITION – DRUMBOWIE SCHOOL OVERSTAFFED.

Mr. John Bell Bryce reported that he had visited Maddiston and Muiravonside Schools. The attendance at Maddiston School was a little below the average. Muiravonside School was overcrowded, but none of the children, he was happy to say, were sitting on the floor. As regarded the water closets, nothing had been done. They were in the same position as on the occasion of his last visit. The playground was in a disgraceful state, and the headmaster was afraid there would be some accident. It appeared that some of the tradesmen were doing their work in pennyworths, and some of the contractors had been very backward. The mason had detained the joiner a fortnight waiting for the dwarf walls, and the work was at a standstill again. The job was begun, last, New Year and it was practically the builder who was keeping the whole work back. As regards teachers, Miss. Templeton had resigned. Three applications had been received for the vacancy, but before appointment could be made, two of them had received other appointments, and the third was not suitable. Other advertisements had been inserted. In this connection they ought, he said, to seriously consider the staffing at Drumbowie School. There was at present 357 pupils on the roll of that school, while the average attendance was 308, whereas it used to be 550, still the same staff of teachers was employed. He would not be a party to keeping on that staff, and he really thought the Board should consider the question of reducing it. They ought to withdraw some of the teachers for a time at least. To say that the Board should keep on the same staff for 350 pupils as for 550 was ridiculous, and they should seriously consider the advisability of transferring a teacher or two from Drumbowie School. The Chairman - It is awkward that there is no Drumbowie representative here. Mr. J. B. Bryce - We have the facts before us, and we can deal with the matter without them. The Chairman - We would be better to dispose of the staffing of Muiravonside School meantime. It was agreed to delay the matter till the correspondence was considered.

STRONG CRITICISM BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - ALLEGED NEGLECT OF DUTY.

The Clerk read the following letter which he had received from the Education Department: - "I am directed to state that my Lords have had under consideration the reports of His Majesty's Inspector on the continuation schools conducted by your Board last session. The attention of the Board is called to the following remarks, which demand special consideration: - Muiravonside Continuation Classes - The pupils would be encouraged to attend more regularly if managers were to visit the school more frequently. They appear to have been neglectful of this part of their duty. Blackbraes Continuation Classes - The attendance fell off considerably after the Now Year, and at the second visit only seven pupils out of the 21 enrolled were present. Classes under Division I. are much required at this district, and they would possibly be better attended if managers were to take greater interest in the school. At 15th January no manager had visited the school since it was reopened. The record of work of the classes must be regularly kept, and must be valuable (available) for examination by His Majesty's Inspector. Drumbowie Continuation Classes - The very intermittent attendance has greatly hampered progress. It is hoped that the managers will do their utmost to raise the efficiency of the classes under their management during the ensuing session by personal interest in the work. They would also remind the managers of their responsibility for the due observance of the rules for registration by the teacher. In the case of Muiravonside Continuation Classes, it is reported by His Majesty's Inspector that the time of marking had not been entered in the registers." Mr. J. B. Bryce - I am very strange over that circular. I visited Muiravonside Continuation School several times, signed the register, and marked the number of pupils, and I cannot understand it. Mr. John Bryce - For three or four months I was confined to the house, and was not at the Blackbraes Continuation School. Mr. J. B. Bryce commenting on the circular, and shaking his head, said - Just look at Blackbraes! seven pupils, costing over £40 of salaries! I was never aware of that till I got that circular. After some further discussion, a suggestion was made that an answer should be sent to the Department's letter, but it was thought better to leave it alone, and the matter dropped.

RESIGNATIONS OF TEACHERS -

SUGGESTION TO REVISE THE SCALE OF SALARIES.

Letters were read from Miss Russell, resigning at Maddiston School: from Miss Templeton, resigning at Muiravonside School: and from Miss Tripney and Miss Morrison, resigning at Blackbraes School. Mr. John Bryce remarked that there was only one way of avoiding these resignations. They would have to revise their scale of teachers' salaries. Mr. John B. Bryce - Muiravonside School pays as good salaries as any School Board under the sun. (Laughter.) Mr. Haldane - No, no Mr. A. Binnie - We must understand that teachers' salaries are going up everywhere. The Chairman - It seems too bad that when we have a good teacher we should be tied down to a scale. I would pay a man or woman according to his or her ability, and give a good teacher more than an indifferent one. If we can increase the salaries by £5 we should do it. After further discussion, it was agreed to appoint Miss Jeffrey to the vacancy at Muiravonside School, and the clerk was instructed to advertise for a certificated teacher and ex-pupil teacher for Blackbraes School, the filling of the vacancy in Maddiston School to be left over in the meantime.

TWO NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. John Bryce gave notice that he would move at next meeting that the Board revise the scale of salaries, with the view of increasing assistants' salaries. Mr. John Bell Bryce - I therefore give notice of motion that we consider at next meeting the advisability of reducing the staff at Drumbowie, not by dismissing it, but by transferring part of the staff to the other schools in need of teachers

APPLICATIONS FOR INCREASES OF SALARY

An application by Miss Smart, Blackbraes School was considered, and £5 was granted. Miss Beattie and Miss Ross, Blackbraes School whose applications had been held over were granted £2 10s each, to date from their last increase, making their increase in all £5 each.

CONTINUATION CLASSES.

The Chairman reported that Maddiston Continuation, Classes had been opened, and that there were 17 pupils on, the first night. At Drumbowie Continuation Classes there were 16 pupils.

This was all the business of public interest.

Falkirk Herald 10th October 1903

MADDISTON.

TRANSFER OF LICENCE

At the monthly J.P Court held at Stirling on Monday, Miss Jeannie Galloway, Maddiston, was granted a transfer of the public-house license held by her late father.

Falkirk Herald 14th October 1903

COUNTY OF STIRLING.
 LIST OF APPLICATIONS for CERTIFICATES for the SALE OF EXCISABLE LIQUORS for the
 COUNTY of STIRLING, for NEW PREMISES, by NEW TENANTS or OCCUPANTS, and for
 RENEWAL of TRANSFERRED
 CERTIFICATES

Name Designation and Residence of Applicant for	Place and Parish of County of Premises. Name and Address of Landlord Place.	Parish.	Class of Certificate applied
111.-FOR RENEWAL OF TRANSFERRED CERTIFICATES			
Wliarm Hutton, Grocer, Groceries Maddiston, Muiravonside, Provisions	Janet Dick or Cunningham, Maddiston, Proprietrix	Muiravonside,	A Dealer in and
Miss Jeanie Galloway Applicant, Proprietrix.	Maddiston	Muiravonside,	Public House,
Spirit Dealer, Maddiston, Polmont Station.			

Falkirk Herald 31st October 1903

MUIRAVONSIDE.

Muiravonside. School Board. -

The usual monthly meeting of Muiravonside School Board was held in Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoons Mr. Wilson in the chair. The clerk reported that as instructed he had asked Miss Smith to agree to a temporary transfer to Blackbraes or Muiravonside School, but that she had written declining. He also, in consequence, intimated to Miss Main, Avonbridge, and Miss Dobbie, Blackston, their respective appointments of certificated teacher and ex-pupil teacher at Blackbraes and Muiravonside School. Both, however, had declined to accept. The result was that there was still a teacher wanted for Blackbraes and Muiravonside. After discussion, Mr. J. B. Bryce moved that the clerk be instructed to communicate with the Department that the Board had resolved to reduce Drumbowie staff by two teachers in view of the decrease in the average attendance, thereby dispensing with the services of two ex-pupil teachers. In the event of the Department consenting to this, it was agreed that Miss Smith be notified accordingly. On the suggestion of Mr. Campbell, headmaster, contained in a letter, it was agreed to appoint Miss Margaret Rankine, Carstairs, Johnstone, whom failing, Miss Inglis, Leith, certificated teacher at Blackbraes. Instructions were given to the clerk to communicate with the Parish Council as to the state of the road to the east of Muiravonside School, and call upon them to repair it. Mr. John Bryce then moved the motion of which he had given notice at last meeting as to the revival of the scale of salaries. After consideration, however, it was agreed to delay the matter until next meeting, when there would be a fuller attendance, and in the meantime the clerk should furnish Mr. Bryce with particulars of salaries paid by other Boards

Falkirk Herald 7th November 1903

HOUSE, SHOPS, &C., to LET

DUNELM. Maddiston, Polmont Station, to Let: 5 Apartments; every convenience. - Apply Wilson, present Occupant.

T0 Let. House, 3 Apartments, for November Term. - Hunter, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 7th November 1903

LANDAU and Coffin-Box, 2 Waggonettes, and Trap, in good order; cheap. - Hunter, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 2nd December 1903

STIRLINGSHIRE MINING NOTES.

MADDISTON DISPUTE SETTLED.

The section of men employed in the mill coal seam, who remained idle during last week on account of the reduction made on the rates, have now resumed work. Mr. Webb had an interview with the manager on Saturday, when a modification was brought about. Five places out of the eight affected are to receive twopence per ton. The three other places having practically no draw, the manager contended that 2s 9d per ton would enable the men employed in them to earn the standard wage. The agent, while willing to advise the workmen to give it a trial under the changed conditions, wished it to be understood that in the event of the men in question not able to earn the desired rate of wages the question would be reopened. The pits here have been going regularly for some time past, but there seems at present to be a little slackness in the supply of waggons.

Falkirk Herald 12th December 1903

Properties, &c., For Sale and Wanted.

PROPERTY AT MADDISTON.

There will be exposed to Public Sale, within the Crown Hotel, Falkirk, on THURSDAY, 17th December, 1903.

THAT PROPERTY at EAST END, MADDISTON,

Consisting of Two Storeys, occupied by James Gibb, John Livingstone, and others, with Garden ground adjoining.

The Property consists of Four Dwelling-Houses set at £8 each. Feu-duty, £2.

UPSET PRICE, £400.

For further particulars apply to JAMES WILSON & SONS, solicitors, Falkirk, who have the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup

Falkirk Herald 16th December 1903

AGENTS.

By whom Advertisements and Orders for the Paper are, received: -

Blackbraes, - - - - - M. Watson, Grocer.

Bowhouse, - - - - - J. Smith.

Linlithgow Bridge. - - Mrs. Dickson, Post Office

Maddiston, - - - - - Arch. Forsyth, Merchant

Manuel, - - - - - James Stewart, Manuel Station

Standburn, - - - - - C. Nicol.

Falkirk Herald 19th December 1903

LADY'S Bicycle, in good order. £4. - Can be seen at Pearson's, Blacksmith, Maddiston.

Falkirk Herald 19th December 1903

LANDLORD AND TENANT CASE.-

In the Falkirk Sheriff Court on Wednesday proof was heard in an action at the insistence of James Hunter, coal merchant, Maddiston, against David Maxwell, underground manager, Anglepark, Brightons, for the sum of £4, being the half-year's rent of a dwelling-house at Maddiston due at Martinmas last. Evidence for the pursuer was led to the effect that the pursuer had taken the verbally for six months from Whitsunday last to Martinmas last. Neither of the witnesses for the pursuer could say that they heard the whole of the bargain made. Defender that he went to see the house and promised to take it if his wife was satisfied with it. About three days after he had visited the house in question the pursuer sent him a missive made out for a year, which the defender returned to the pursuer unsigned, stating that he was not going to take the house at all. The Sheriff stated the case was a narrow one, and held that

it had not been proved that the defender had taken the house for six months, and pointed out it seemed peculiar if he had taken it, that pursuer should send a missive to the defender binding him for a year.

The Sheriff granted decree in favour of defender with expenses.

Agents: - For pursuer, Mr. Andrew Hunter, solicitor; for defender, Mr. Wm. Stevenson, solicitor.

Falkirk Herald 19th December 1903

PROPERTY SALE –

A two-storey tenement of four dwelling-houses, with garden ground, yielding a rental of £32, and situated at Maddiston, was exposed for sale by public roup in the Crown Hotel on Thursday, at the upset price of £400, and was purchased by Miss Galloway, The Inn, Maddiston, at the upset price.

The auctioneer was Mr. Neilson, Falkirk, and the agents in the sale were Messrs Jas. Wilson & Sons, solicitors, Falkirk.

Falkirk Herald 19th December 1903

CONTRAVENTIONS OF BUILDING BYE-LAWS –

A Warning to Builders. –

A number of prosecutions under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, were recently raised in Falkirk Sheriff Court by the Eastern District Committee of the County Council of Stirlingshire for contraventions of the building bye-laws made by the District Committee in virtue of section 181 of the Public Health Act. The principal prosecution was one in which Mr. David Abercrombie, builder, Redding, Polmont Station, was charged with contravening the byelaws (first) in so far as he, having, between the first day of October, 1902, and the 14th day of May, 1903, erected a double cottage or house or building on the north side of the public road at Brightons, Polmont Station, within the complainers' district, and having intimated to the complainers the completion of the erection of said double cottage (a), did fail to provide the drainage of the said cottage with efficient means of ventilation, in contravention of bye-law No. 20; (b), did fail to provide a suitable ventilating trap for waste water pipe from sink in kitchen of westmost half of said double cottage, in contravention of bye-law No. 23; (c), having constructed the ashpit at the back of said double cottage without a floor, and the inside walls of said ashpit not being pointed or rendered with cement, did fail to construct said ashpit, of such material and in such a manner as to prevent absorption by the receptacle of any filth deposited therein, in contravention of bye-law No. 37; (d), did fail to provide the said ashpit with a roof of suitable material, in contravention of bye-law No. 39; and (second) he having, on or about the 15th day of June, 1903, received from the complainers (through their sanitary inspector), in terms of bye-law No. 47 of said bye-laws, notice in writing specifying a contravention of the said bye-laws in respect that the said building was disconform to the bye-laws before specified, and requiring him to amend same within fourteen days from the date thereof, did, in contravention of the said byelaw No. 47, fail to comply with the requirements of said notice. There was also a second complaint against Mr. Abercrombie in respect of another cottage recently erected by him also at Brightons, and similar prosecutions were at same time raised against Messrs Andrew Beveridge, Redding; Robert Wilson, Maddiston; and Robert Livingstone, California, charging them with various contraventions of the bye-laws at their new buildings. Representations having been made to the County Council by Messrs Beveridge, Wilson, and Livingstone, that they had all along been perfectly willing to do the work, but that they could not get their contractor to complete it, an extrajudicial arrangement has been entered into with those parties, by which each of them undertook to complete the work within a given time, and to relieve the District Committee of all expenses in connection with the matter. A similar arrangement has we understand, been come to with Mr. Abercrombie, who has signed an undertaking to perform the work to the satisfaction of Mr. Stewart, sanitary inspector, and to pay the expenses of the prosecution. In respect of those extrajudicial arrangements, the District Committee has resolved not to insist on any conviction against the parties, and all the prosecutions have now been withdrawn from Court.

Agent for pursuers, Mr. J. W. Burns, solicitor; agent for defender Abercrombie, Mr. Jas. Learmonth, solicitor.

Falkirk Herald 26th December 1903

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Muiravonside Parish School Board was held in Maddiston School on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. D. Binnie-(chairman) presided, and there were also present - Messrs A. Binnie, W. Wilson, John Haldane, Thos. Harper, and J. B. Bryce. It was reported that the attendance at the various schools for the month was as follows: -

	On Roll.	Avg. Atten.
Blackbraes School	360	305
Drumbowie School	346	301
Muiravonside School	190	158
Maddiston School	109	91
Avonbridge School	85	75

The clerk read a letter which he had received from Dr. M'Vail, medical officer of health for Stirlingshire, requesting that Muiravonside School be closed on Friday, 18th inst., owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever. The school had been closed accordingly. It was agreed to request Mr. Strang, architect, to report on the damage recently done to Drumbowie school-house and boundary walls through the mineral workings, and to certify the sum due the Board in respect thereof. It was also agreed that after Mr. Strang's report had been approved of by the clerk, that the claim for the amount be intimated to Messrs Nimmo. It was agreed to accept the offer of J. & H. Wilson, painters, Falkirk, to paint the walls of the remaining class-rooms at Muiravonside School at a cost of 6d per yard, according to Mr. Strang's measurement. Mr. A. Binnie moved tube motion, notice of which he had sent to the clerk, "That instead of monitors being appointed on recommendation, as at present, notice be given to the various schools under the Board, and that candidates be examined and appointed according to merit." The motion was seconded by Mr. Haldane and agreed to. A number of letters were read from teachers requesting increases of salary, and the following increases were granted to teachers at Drumbowie School: - Miss Hunter, £5; Mr. J. S. Wilson, £5; Miss M'Ritcbie, £5; Miss A. B. Gordon, £5. The salary to be paid to Miss Janet Sharp, teacher at Maddiston School, was fixed at £10. A letter was read from the Parish Council intimating that they were expending £8 on the footpath at Muiravonside School. It was agreed to appoint Miss Mary Hanton, ex-pupil teacher at Muiravonside School, at a salary of £45. It was reported that Miss Fenton had been appointed certificated teacher at Blackbraes, and that, since then, Miss Irving had resigned. The Clerk was instructed to advertise for a successor to Miss Irving at a salary of £65. This was all the business.

1909

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser 3rd & 5th February 1900

The "Gothenburg" public-house at Standburn, Stirlingshire, made a profit in its last financial year of £6831, compared with £618 for the previous year.

1910's

1913

Dundee Courier - Friday 1 August 1913

HEROES REWARDED BY CARNEGIE TRUSTEES.

The monthly meeting of the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust was held Dunfermline yesterday Dr John Ross, the chairman, presiding.
For having endeavoured to rescue a minor from drowning in the River Avon, Muiravonside, Robert Allan, miner, Oilworks Cottage, Levensat, Fauldhouse, was granted an honorary certificate and £5.

Dundee Courier - Tuesday 11 November 1913

SCOTTISH MINER HAS LEG CUT OFF, AND DIES BEFORE REACHING PITHEAD.

Archibald Cousland (39), Carron Terrace, Rumford, Polmont, met a painful death at No. 1 pit, Craigend Colliery, Muiravonside. While attending to an electric coal-cutting machine in the pit, it appears that the wheel of the machine struck the coal and bouncing back, caught hold of Cousland, who was pinned between the wheel and the machine. His right leg was cut off above the thigh, and he received serious bodily injuries. Cousland died before could be taken to the pit-head.

1914

Dundee Courier - Tuesday 14 July 1914

MINERS, TIRED WAITING FOR HUTCHES. LEAVE OFF WORK AND ASCEND SHAFT. CURIOUS PROSECUTION AT FALKIRK.

A case of considerable interest to miners came before Sheriff Moffatt at Falkirk yesterday, when seven miners were charged with having on 18th May, at Craigend Colliery, Muiravonside, owned by Carron Co., while the haulage was in motion, travelled on foot on the haulage road leading from the Glenfuir seam to the surface; and (2) with having on the haulage road refused to comply with an order of the mine manager to leave the haulage road with a view to safety. All of the accused pleaded not guilty, and evidence was led, the case extending over a five hours' hearing.

Why They Went Home.

It was stated that there was considerable dissatisfaction among the men with regard to the management owing to the scarcity of hutches. On the day in question the men waited for four hours, during which time, in one case, only one truck was supplied. The men, tired and dissatisfied, went home despite the protests of the mine manager. For the prosecution it was urged that the men were not entitled enter the shaft, in the face of the regulations, in order to get home from their work. Men in a pit were not altogether free, they required the permission of the officials to use the cage, and if it so happened that they entered the shaft against the orders of the manager and the machinery was put in motion, it was contended that they had contravened the Act.

Responsibility for Safety.

The defence argued that there was nothing in the Coal Mines Act prohibiting miners from going home without the permission of the manager. It was contended that when the men entered the shaft the haulage was stationary, and the management, knowing that the men were in the shaft, were responsible for their safety; but if after they had entered the shaft and the machinery was set in motion then a perfectly legitimate act was turned into a penal act, but not through any fault of the men, who, in entering the shaft while the machinery was stopped, had committed no offence.

Sheriff's Sympathy.

His Lordship said he was satisfied that when the men entered the shaft the machinery was only temporarily stopped - a fact which the men knew. He did not think that the men were entitled to have the machinery stopped for their convenience, and accordingly found all the accused guilty of the first charge, and one of the accused guilty of both; but in view of all the facts he felt justified in dismissing the men with an admonition, indicating his sympathy with them in having to wait so long below ground without getting any work to do. The decision was received with applause in Court.

1918

Dundee Courier Friday 4th of July 1918

AGRICULTURE FOR SCOTLAND.

WART DISEASE POTATOES (SCOTLAND) ORDER OF 1918.

THE BOARD AGRICULTURE FOR SCOTLAND HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the WART DISEASE OF POTATOES (SCOTLAND) ORDER of. 1918, which came into force on 1st October, 1918. The following areas have, been certified to be "infected areas" for the purposes the Order: (1) An area comprising (a) the Administrative County of Kinross; (b) the Administrative County of Clackmannan; (c) the Civil Parishes of Logie, Stirling, St. Ninian, Airth, Larbert, Grangemouth, Muiravonside, Slamannan, Falkirk. Dumpace, Denny, Kilsyth. Campsie, Baldermock, and Strathblane all in the Administrative County of Stirling, and the Municipal Burghs of Stirling and Falkirk.

Goes on to mention many other areas ----

Save in the case of holdings exceeding half an acre in extent. NO POTATOES MAY PLANTED in any land situated in the areas except potatoes varieties which have been approved by the Board immune from Wart Disease, and NO POTATOES FROM AN "INFECTED AREA" MAY BE SOLD OR USED FOR PLANTING IN ANY LAND WHICH IS NOT IN AN "INFECTED AREA." The provisions the Wart Disease Potatoes (Scotland) Order 1913, requiring all outbreaks of Wart Disease to notified to the Board or to an Inspector, and requiring measures to be adopted to prevent the spread the disease, have been embodied in the new Order.

1920's

1928

Evening Telegraph - Tuesday 13 March 1928

STIRLINGSHIRE DIAMOND WEDDING.

Queen Victoria Incident Recalled.

Mr Mrs John Jamieson, of Redford Cottages, Maddiston, Falkirk, celebrate their diamond wedding to-day. They were married by the late Rev. Andrew Dodds of Avonbridge, at Blackbraes in 1858. Mr. Jamieson is 81 years of age, and was, before his retiral, employed for nearly years with Messrs Nimmo & Co., of Redford and Candie Collieries, an enginekeeper and locomotive driver. His wife is 78 years of age. Of their family of eleven, five sons and three daughters survive. Mrs. Jamieson is the youngest daughter of the late William Sutherland, of Blackbraes and interesting to recall that her father, on the occasion of the late Queen Victoria's journey through Falkirk on her way from Balmoral 1842. shook hands with the Queen. At that time great preparations were made by the lord of the manor at Callander House for the reception of Her Majesty, but the Queen did not proceed to Callander House, but paused at the gate for a moment to acknowledge the salutes of the people assembled. At that stoppage, however, Sutherland saw his opportunity, jostled his way through the crowd and approached the Royal carriage. The bodyguard tried prevent him. and one soldier even drew his sword, but lowered at gesture from the Queen. Her Majesty asked what he wanted and said he desired to shake hands with her and she, smiling, held out her hand Sutherland was a miner, and, Her Majesty took his hand made reference to his "black glove," an allusion to his hand blackened by toil. He was made a popular hero that night, being carried shoulder

high through the town. Mrs. Jamieson has also another claim to Royal connection, for her aunt, Miss Janet Sutherland, was embroiderer to the Queen. Miss Sutherland carried her business Falkirk, and Mrs. Jamieson has in her possession the brass plate from the door of her house which bears the inscription. "Miss Sutherland, embroiderer to the Queen."

1930's

1932

Nottingham Evening Post 13th April 1932

ORGAN SMASHED IN SCOTTISH CHURCH.

BURGLARS TEAR HYMN BOOKS AND BIBLES TO PIECES.

After breaking into a licensed grocer's premises and drinking whiskey, burglars went into a church at Muiravonside, near Falkirk, where they mutilated the furniture. The organ was smashed to pieces and hymn books and Bibles ripped into pieces and scattered all over the church.