RIVER WEAR COMMISSION.

DREDGING OF THE RIVER.

AN EXTENSIVE SCHEME.

A monthly meeting of the River Wear Commission took place at noon to-day in the Board Room, over Lambton's Bank. Mr R. S. Briggs presided, and there were also present Sir James Laing, Messrs R. M. Hudson, G. R. Booth, Robert Thompson, John Dickinson, E. Featherstonhaugh, Jenueson, Taylor, T. B. Briggs, Jas. Westoll, R. M. Hudson, jun., D. H. Haggie, T. W. Pinkney, W. Dixon, W. A. Watson, Frederick Gordon, W. Stobart, Herbert Webster, T. Steel, S. J. Ditchfield, Frank Stobart, V. T. Thompson, Geo. Butchart, Hugh Laing, and A. N. L. Wood.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the loss the Commission had sustained by the death of Mr Arthur Laing. He was not only a very useful member of the Commission, but his various enterprises brought a great deal of business to the port. His death was especially sad, occurring so untimely and in the midst of a highly-promising career. The sympathy of everyone went out to his parents as well as his bereaved wife. He proposed that an expression of sympathy be sent to Sir James and Lady Laing and Mrs Arthur Laing.—This was agreed to.

Sir JAMES LAING, speaking with deep emotion, thanked the chairman for the kind way in which he referred to the loss of his very dear son. All the chairman said of him was well deserved, for a better son a father could not have. He had never caused him a moment's anxiety. He should be glad to tell his wife how kindly the chairman had spoken of her son.

A letter was read from Mr George Clark acknowledging the resolution of condolence on the death of his father.

A VACANCY.

The CLERK stated that the death of Mr Arthur Laing made a vacancy in the representation of the landowners on the Commission.

Mr R. M. HUDSON gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that Mr Joseph Short be elected to fill the vacancy.

THE DREDGING OF THE RIVER.

The Works Committee reported that they had accepted the following tenders:—Mr Anthony Irving to execute certain towage in connection with the Commissioners' dredging operations; Messrs J. and W. Wilson and Sons for the supply of red wood deals; Mr W. Briggs for sawn pitch pine timber required in connection with the reclamation of land in Hendon Bay; and Mr Edward Sisterton for the supply of steel rails and the necessary fish plates, fish bolts, and spikes required for the New South Pier works and the extension of the Hendon-foreshore barrier.

They also reported that they had had under consideration the subject of the present condition of the river from Hylton to the South Dock entrance; and, in view of the necessity which existed for its improvement in its upper reaches by means of sympathetic dredging, they asked the Board to authorise them to carry out the required work, and to accept a tender for the supply and delivery of two new dredgers, which they found would be requisite in order to execute the work expeditiously and economically.

Mr R. THOMPSON moved the adoption of the report. The scheme for dredging the river was rather an extensive one, and involved considerable expenditure. Some years ago Mr Stobart reminded him a deputation advocated the dredging of the river from top to bottom. The recommendations would not, perhaps, realise all the deputation had desired, but he thought it was a fair instalment, and thought he should have the support of Mr Stobart. The matter had been under consideration for a long time, and, besides the deputation, they had had letters from almost every firm that used the river asking for a better channel, and in fact the chairman of the Works Committee had been inundated with letters on the subject. Therefore the scheme had not been a matter of choice, but of necessity. The scheme drawn up by the engineer was that the river from Raven's Wheel to Priestman's yard should be dredged to a depth of 10 feet below low water mark, and from Priestman's yard to Hylton Ferry to six feet below low water mark, and that this be done to a breadth of from 50 to 50 yards. To do it would involve the dredging of 2,400,000 tons. The next question was how to do it with the greatest expedition and at the least possible cost. The engineer worked out three schemes. The first was as to whether they could utilise the present dredging plant; secondly, as to whether they could hire dredgers to do it economically and expeditiously; and lastly, whether they should provide themselves with sufficient plant to do the work irrespective of the hopper barges. This old plant was required for other purposes, and even if they were disposed to let that go, and use their own plant, it would cost them into the teens of thousands of pounds more and occupy about three times longer than the scheme they proposed to adopt. As to hiring dredgers, those they had inquired about were not fit for the work, as they drew too much water, and, further, the cost was as much as would purchase the new plant required to do the work and pay for the work of dredging into the bargain. Therefore they were thrown back into the position of having to provide themselves with two suitable dredgers to execute the work. The two they proposed to have would dredge 900 tons per hour each, or 700,000 tons each per year, being 1,400,000 per year for the two, so that in two years they would accomplish the removal of the whole 2,400,000 tons. It was necessary the work should be done, and done expeditiously.

Sir JAMES LAING said he was sorry to oppose the proposal. For two years past the Dredging Committee had not been called together, notwithstanding that the matter was urgent. Although an important coalowner like Mr Stobart and others had asked them to do something in the past nothing had been done, and the whole thing had been treated with contempt, so that he was afraid it would end in their knowing that the Wearmouth coal would go to Tyne Dock. As to why nothing had been done, it was for the chairman of the Works Committee to answer. They had been dredging in the dock, but that was not required. The present plant was not so old that it could not do some of the work, and he thought that before they spent £40,000, having other works on hand, they ought to pause, and make the present plant do a good deal of the work which it was capable of doing without resorting to a fanciful sort of machine as was now proposed.

Mr HAGGIE, in seconding the report, said he supposed fully all Mr Thompson had said, and had heard nothing so far which should prevent them going on with the dredging of the river. He had heard what Sir James Laing had said, that the delay had been serious, but under those circumstances he thought there was no doubt they should tackle the matter in a proper and large-hearted manner. Neglect in the past was no reason for neglecting it in future. He regretted they had to place the orders for the dredgers in the hands of foreigners, but when they looked at the report and saw that the foreign firm were something like half the price of the British dredger-builders he thought they would be neglecting their duty as members of a public Board if they did not place the order with the cheapest firm, if satisfied they would carry out the work satisfactorily. He thought there was no doubt they would give an undertaking to do so. Mr Dickinson and Mr Thompson had seen some of the work of the firm, and were satisfied that the work they had undertaken would be properly carried out. The same specifications were sent to the British builders as to the foreigners. The price was practically only the cost of hiring dredgers, and that being so they would be very foolish if they did not accept the tenders and get the most approved plant.

Mr W. STOBART said that, having every desire to retain the trade that naturally belonged to Sunderland, he could not agree to oppose any proposal that would seek to aid that trade. There had undoubtedly been great, and if further facilities were not given for shipping the quality of coal from Hylton Colliery, a large place. It would be criminal on the part of the Commission if they did nothing to prevent such a catastrophe, which would be a reflection upon the Commissioners and the town generally. The question of finance belonged to the Finance Committee, and if they showed clearly that the money could be spent he thought the Commissioners were bound to take the steps proposed, and he hoped they would prove as efficient as was expected.

Mr STEEL inquired whether, if it were a question of finance, the work in connection with the two piers could not be suspended, so that the means could be obtained for dredging the river. If there was a fair prospect of getting the money, he thought the scheme should be carried out.

Sir JAMES LAING said the old dredgers on a past occasion had obtained a considerable depth of water so far as Hylton; they could do it again. They ought not to go to the expenditure of £40,000 unless they saw their way clearly to get the money.

Mr R. THOMPSON said he was not going to reply to the allegations made against the Dredging Committee or the Works Committee. He, however, would read from the Engineer's report as to what would be the result of their using the present plant. He was reading an extract when Sir James Laing interrupted.

Mr THOMPSON: I shall be much obliged if you will let me go on. I have not interrupted you or asked you a question.

Sir JAMES LAING: I beg your pardon.

Mr THOMPSON: I must ask to be allowed to go on without interruption. He went on to show from the report that if they bought the new dredgers they would not only save £11,406, but would have the two dredgers into pocket into the bargain.

Sir JAMES LAING said he begged to dispute the figures, and he was quite ready to ask Mr Wake to meet him any day and any hour to explain why he did so. He contended that arrangements could easily be made so that their dredger could float in nine feet of water and dredge ten. He asked Mr Wake if that were not so, and Mr WAKE replied that it was, and he had said so in his report.

Sir JAMES then asked what was the use of going to enormous expense if that were so. As to delaying the work on the piers, he pointed out that the money for making the piers could not be used for other objects.

Mr FRED. GORDON said that not having seen the report they had either to trust to the Works Committee and adopt the scheme, or send the report back so that they could consider it.

Mr BOOTH, as chairman of the Finance Committee, said that committee were convinced of the absolute necessity of the work being done.

Sir JAMES LAING moved that the report be deferred for further consideration.

Mr GEO. BUTCHART seconded, not with the intention of opposing the dredging of the river, but because it was an important question, and one in regard to which every member should have a copy of the report, and should know all about the matter.

On a vote being taken only two voted for the amendment, and the report was then carried.

The CHAIRMAN said it was due to Sir James Laing that the Works Committee had been stimulated to take steps for the dredging of the river in the energetic manner they had. The present dredgers were however required for the work in the dock and harbour, and such occasional dredging as was absolutely necessary, and if they were utilised for dredging the river the Commission would have to purchase fresh dredgers for doing the work that the present ones were doing.

Sir JAMES LAING: Mr Chairman, I do not agree with you.

Mr WATSON said a copy of the report should be sent to each member of the Traffic Committee.

It was decided to send one to each member of the Board.

Mr BUTCHART: That should have been sent before this meeting, Mr Chairman.

INCREASES OF SALARIES.

At a special meeting of the Asylum Visiting Committee held in the Town Hall last night under the chairmanship of Coun. Annison, it was decided to recommend that the salary of the matron, Miss Harper, should be increased from £85 to £90 a year, and that of the head attendant from £80 to £85 per year.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT.

Robert Coates, aged 56, of 22, Nile Street, was on April 17th following his employment at the North-Eastern Shipbuilding Co., on the deck of a steamer, when one of the planks gave way, and he fell a distance of 12 feet. In descending he struck his left side against a plank. He did not appear much worse, but had to be attended by Dr Brown at his home, and died on Monday, the injury to his ribs having apparently set up pneumonia.

SUNDERLAND CRICKET AND FOOTBALL CLUB.

At a meeting of the Governing Board of the Sunderland Cricket and Football Club, held last night, Mr B. S. Branfoot was re-elected secretary and Mr W. Davison, jun., auditor. The following committees were elected:—Cricket Committee, Sports Committee, Bowling Committee, and Ground Committee. It was decided that cricket practice commence at once, and that the ground open for the season with a League match with Hendon I. on Saturday next. Bowling and tennis will also commence on that day. The Cricket Committee have elected Mr E. W. Elliot captain of the first team, Mr W. J. Robinson captain of the second team, and Mr B. S. Branfoot secretary. The secretary (Mr B. S. Branfoot) will be pleased to receive the names of any who wish to become members.

TO-DAY'S POLICE COURT.

Before Ald. Burns (chairman) and Councillor Pratt.

COAL-STEALER SENT TO GAOL.—A charge of stealing coal was preferred against Esther Hudspith.—Mr E. Bell prosecuted on behalf of the Wearmouth Coal Company. He said the woman was found by colliery P.C. Carruthers gathering coals from a spout at the Wearmouth Drops yesterday afternoon. She went to the spouts daily, and he believed earned her living by selling the coals gathered there.—P.C. Carruthers said the woman had admitted that she sold the coals.—This was her eleventh appearance, and she was sent to gaol for two months.

DRUNK WHILST BEGGING.—James Haughey, a powerful-looking fellow, was shown by P.C. Gill to have been drunk and begging in Newcastle Road yesterday afternoon, and was fined 10s and costs or 14 days' imprisonment.

UNLICENSED DOGS.—Two persons were fined 7s 6d and costs each, and one 10s and costs, for having dogs for which they had not obtained licenses.

ASSAULTING A STEP-MOTHER.—John Martin was charged with assaulting his step-mother, Elizabeth Martin.—Complainant deposed that prisoner was married, and lived in Phœnix Square. On Monday night, after ten o'clock, when she was in bed, he went to her house in Hendon Street, and going to the bedroom said, "My father's doing a month for you, but I'll do six." He then spat in her face and assaulted her.—Prisoner said he was drunk at the time.—He was sent to gaol for two months.

INTELLIGENT HORSES' DRIVER FINED.—A driver named Frank Collinson was charged by P.C. Byers with having no control of two horses and flat that were in his charge. The evidence showed that on the 15th, while defendant was in the Board Inn, Herrington, the two horses in his charge went off with the flat and came to Sunderland alone. Defendant had a boy with him to look after the horses when he was absent, but he was in the inn also.—A fine of 5s, including costs, was imposed.

TUESDAY.

Before Ald. Burns (in the chair), Coun. Pratt, and Mr J. Wilson.

John Bellamy was fined 20s and costs for playing at pitch and toss on the beach at Roker.

Martha Ann Craggs was summoned for having assaulted William Stephenson on the 13th inst. Mr W. H. Bell represented complainant, and Mr W. H. Hope defended. There was a cross summons.—Craggs was fined 5s and costs, and the charge against Stephenson was dismissed.

Elizabeth Jane Lynn, Annie Earl, and Mary Ann Couley were charged with damaging a door, the property of John Swinhoe, of 24, Zion Street.—Mr W. H. Bell, who represented the complainant, said that Mrs Swinhoe was the mother-in-law of Lynn, and a separation order had been made between Lynn and his wife, the custody of the child being given to Lynn, who was living with his step-mother, Mrs Swinhoe. On the Tuesday night the three defendants went to Mrs Swinhoe's house, and broke open the door and took the child away.—The Bench fined defendants 5s and 2s 6d damage each.

William Robson was sent to prison for two months for assaulting his mother. It was his 17th appearance.

MARRIAGE OF MR J. SPAIN AND MISS L. BARNES.

This morning the marriage of Mr Joseph Spain, architect, son of Mr Jacob Spain, of East Boldon, and Miss Laura Barnes, eldest daughter of Mr Wilkinson Barnes, of Sunderland, was solemnised at Christ Church, the Rev. C. G. Hopkinson officiating. The bride looked lovely in her dress of cream silk voile, with silk and lace guipure, and a hat trimmed with lace and flowers. Her bridesmaids were Miss Edith Barnes, Miss Florrie Barnes, Miss Lena Barnes, and Miss Ethel Barnes. The two former were attired in silk voile, hedge-sparrow egg tint, and wore gold bracelets, the gift of the bridegroom; whilst the two latter were attired in white silk; trimmed with lace, and wore gold brooches, also the gift of the bridegroom. They all carried lovely bouquets. The best man was Mr Douglas Spain; and the bride was given away by her father, Mr Wilkinson Barnes.

The nuptial ceremony having been duly performed, the wedding party returned to the home of the bride—25, Harold Street—where a reception was held.

The wedding party consisted of, in addition to the bride and bridegroom, Mr Wilkinson Barnes, sen., Mr Wilkinson Barnes, jun., Mr J. Spain, sen., Mr J. Spain, jun., and Miss Spain; Mrs Lumsdon, Mrs Sutherland (Shields), Mr and Mrs Dryburgh (Newcastle), Mr and Mrs Gradon (Durham), Mr C. W. Hines (East Boldon), Miss Hodgson, and Miss Wilson.

The following is a list of the presents:—

Father of the bride, cheque; father of the bridegroom, cheque; Mr Wilkinson Barnes, jun., canteen; Miss Edith and Florence Barnes (sisters of the bride), silver luncheon tray; Misses Lena and Ethel Barnes (also sisters of the bride), marmalade jar and silver salt spoons; Mr T. W. Barnes (brother of the bride), case of silver teaspoons; Miss Hodgson (cousin of the bride), case of fish-eaters and carvers; Mr Douglas Spain (best man), silver table lamp and shade; Mr Jacob Spain, jun., silver and glass cruet; Mrs Lumsdon and Miss Spain (sisters of the bridegroom), Chippendale secretaire and brass candlesticks.

Col. Peters, diamond and pearl pin and stud; Capt. Strangwayes, set of carvers; Mr C. W. Hines (East Boldon), silver strawberry bowl; Mr J. H. Brown (Newcastle), silver tea and coffee service and revolving desk; the Misses Jacoby, Dresden ornaments; Mrs W. Vincent, three vases; Mr and Mrs R. Kirtley (East Boldon), two Royal Worcester vases; Mrs J. Mearns, quilt; Mrs O'Brien, quilt; Mrs Whitfield (Stockport), bronze and brass fruit bowl; the Misses Spain, silver fruit dish and spoon; Mr Edwin Spain, silver salts; Mrs J. T. Wilson, china fruit dishes; Miss Wilson, silver cake basket; Mr M. Laverick, silver knife rests.

Mrs and Mr Arthur Watson (North Shields), silver salts; Mrs Sutherland (North Shields), silver muffineers; Mr and Mrs Griffiths, copper salver, plant stand, and tobacco jar; Mr and Mrs Gradon (Durham), silver plant pot; Miss Moore, painting; Eliza, teapot; Miss Kate Barry (Ferryhill), tray cloth; Mrs T. Dixon (Tullamore, Ireland), silver sugar and sifter; Miss Netta Lloyd, silver bread trencher; Mrs and Miss Lloyd, silver butter knife and fruit spoon; Mr and Mrs J. Cottee, coal vase; Mr A. H. Pinkney, oak clock.

Mr E. Clarkson (East Boldon), silver ink-stand; Mr and Mrs Isaac Spain, Chippendale piano stool; Mr and Mrs W. H. Black, china plant pot and plant; Mr and Mrs Joseph Parker, silver flower vase; Mr and Mrs Dryburgh (Newcastle), fire screen; Mr J. Pratt (Southwick), silver sugar and cream, and tongs; Dr and Mrs Stobo, china plant pot; Mr and Mrs J. Weston Adamson, set of silver fruit spoons; Mr J. T. Calvert, Doulton china plant pot; Mr and Mrs Bryan Wilson, silver gravy bowl; Mr and Mrs Ralph B. Annison, fish, meat, and game carvers; Mr W. Greenwell, cut glass and silver vases; Dr Gordon Bell, copyright Works of Tennyson and E. B. Browning; Mr C. E. Harvey (London), silver candlesticks.

After the reception Mr and Mrs Spain left for London en route for the Isle of Wight, where they will spend the honeymoon.

The wedding cake was presented by Mrs Lamb, late of Frederick Street, and Mrs Horan.

THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL.

Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the workmen engaged at the North-Eastern Marine Engine Works was held. It was decided to subscribe the same amount they had subscribed to the Reservists' Fund for a period of 12 weeks on the closing of the Reservists' Fund.

INJURED BOXER DEAD.

At Charing Cross Hospital, at 11.45 o'clock today, the Central News was informed that Wm. Smith, of New York, who was injured in the boxing match at the National Sporting Club on Monday, had just died. He has never been conscious since his admission.

TERRIBLE MURDER OF FIVE CHILDREN.

The *Daily Telegraph* Paris correspondent wires:—Five children have been murdered in a horrible manner at Grancey, a village near Chartres, and their father, a widower, named Briere, is at death's door. The wholesale butchery was the work of tramps, supposed to be two in number. While M. Briere, who is a farmer, was out on Sunday night in a cafe his house was entered by the murderers, who were on the look-out for plunder. The five children, four girls and a boy, were asleep. The oldest girl was 14 years old, and the youngest four. The boy was only seven. The robbers first killed a little dog which barked at them after they had broken in through a badly-barred door. The children were stabbed and bludgeoned to death as they slept. Soon afterwards their father came home, and was met in the yard by the tramps, who tried to club him. He fought desperately, but was at last made insensible by cuts and blows. The robbers secured about £60 in ready money, and also stole small articles from the farmhouse. M. Briere was found in a desperate state this morning by two of his neighbours.

TRADE AND WAGES.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAYMEN

A ballot has been taken of the North-Eastern railwaymen on the question whether they are prepared to strike to enforce the programme recently submitted to the company. The papers were yesterday forwarded by the branch secretaries to headquarters, where the counting will take place.

DOCKERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

The dispute at Victoria Docks, London, between 700 dock labourers and the shipping companies has terminated in favour of the men, who are to be taken on in the road and at the dock gates as formerly.

LEGHORN STRIKE ENDED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

LEGHORN, Tuesday.

The men employed in unloading coal resumed work this morning, and the strike at this port is thus at an end.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY TRAFFICS.

For the week ending Saturday last the traffic receipts of the North-Eastern Railway Company again show a decrease in all departments. The total decrease, compared with the corresponding week in last year, amounts to £28,335.

TRAFFIC RETURNS.

	Increase.
Great Central	£6,117
Great Northern	297
Highland	202
Great North of Scotland	42
	Decrease.
North-Eastern	£28,355
Cheshire Lines (G.C. Section)	94
London, Tilbury, and Southend	914
North Staffordshire	2,143
South-Eastern and Chatham	4,667
Lancashire and Yorkshire	4,714

A SUCCESSFUL FIRM.

The United Furnishing Company, of North Bridge Street, Sunderland, are doing a large business, and it is not to be wondered at, simply because the various points of superiority in the goods they sell are expressed by a combination of good qualities, which are Excellence, Elegance, and Durability.

Intending purchasers would certainly do well to pay them a visit. Sunderland branch North Bridge Street, and corner of Dundas Street.—(Advt.)

LOCAL PARAGRAPHS

Cyclists light lamps to-night at 8.18.

In the House of Lords last evening, the Shields Bridge Bill was read a third time and passed.

John Bellamy, who was fined for playing pitch-and-toss at Roker, is not in any way connected with the well-known vocalist of that name.

The Medical Officer of Health desires to thank Mrs Hodgson, 8, Cleveland Road, for magazines sent to the Borough Sanatorium.

The census returns for York City show that the population numbers 78,915. On the occasion of the census in 1891 the total was 66,984.

A Board of Trade inquiry has been ordered into the circumstances surrounding the recent mishap to the steamer Samuel Laing, of Sunderland.

It will fall to the Bishop of Newcastle to fill the seat on the episcopal bench in the Upper House rendered vacant by the death of Dr Stubbs.

At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Guardians to-day Mr J. C. Moor was unanimously elected chairman and the Rev. Father Smith vice-chairman.

Mr Sandon Perkins has, at the special request of some of his most influential patrons, arranged to give at least one more "musical hour" at the Assembly Hall, next Sunday evening.

The Rev. Canon Greenwell, who was yesterday unanimously re-elected president of the Durham and Northumberland Archæological and Architectural Society, is now in his 81st year.

The *Gazette* announces that the King has approved of the grant of the medal for distinguished conduct on the field being granted to Sergeant W. Smith, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

Mr J. W. A. Eskdale, L.R.A.M., and bandmaster in the town, was in the final list of selected candidates for the post of adviser in music to the London County Council. Mr Carl Ambruster is the successful candidate.

Y.M.C.A. SCHOOL OF SHORTHAND.—The following pupils of this school have been awarded Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons' theory certificate:—Henry Downes, Southwick; Henry Thomas, New Silksworth; Fred Robinson, Millfield; E. Wake, Haswell; and W. Turnbull.

The census returns relating to the borough of Tynemouth have been made known. They give a total population of 50,437. The return of the last five censuses are as follows:—1851, 29,170; 1861, 34,021; 1871, 38,941; 1881, 44,118; 1891, 46,538.

Sergt. Hewitt, of the North-Eastern Railway police force, reports that about 6.20 a.m. yesterday he found the body of a child floating in the water at Tyne Dock. He recovered the body, and conveyed it to the mortuary at Tyne Dock, where it now lies. The body is much decomposed.

FREEMASONRY.—A special convocation will be held at the Masonic Hall, Durham, on Saturday afternoon, May 4th, for the purpose of initiating the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., as Grand Superintendent of the Province of Durham.

FAWCETT STREET WESLEYAN CHURCH CHOIR CONCERT.—The members and friends of this choir rendered an acceptable programme of songs, part songs, quartettes, &c., last night in Burn Park Schoolroom. Mr George Shimmin presided. Mr T. W. Panton contributed violin solos, and Mr W. R. Batey was warmly encored for his songs. Mr C. A. Murray was accompanist.

THE ORDER OF DRUIDS.—On Monday night the fortnightly meeting of the Loyal Victoria Lodge was held at the Ship Isis Hotel, Silksworth Row, Bro. H. C. Douglass, PNGA, in the chair, and Bro. G. Holmes, PNGA, in the vice-chair. There was a good attendance, and a pleasant night was spent. Two new members were made by Bro. H. Fenwick, PNGA. The takings for the night were £8 15s.

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE NEW COLLEGE.—At a special meeting of the Technical Educational Committee, in the Town Hall yesterday afternoon, the number of candidates for the position of Principal of the New College was further reduced to three, namely:—B. Branford (Leeds), H. B. Knowles (Swindon), and J. J. Stewart (Newport, Mon.) The names of these candidates will be again considered at a special meeting of the committee on Tuesday next.

WATCH COMMITTEE.—On Monday afternoon a meeting of the Watch Committee was held, under the chairmanship of Coun. Potts, in the absence of the chairman, Ald. Fairless. The resignations of two fire-brigademen and a constable were accepted. The monthly report as to the checking as to the weights of cartloads of coal was satisfactory. In only one case had there been a little underweight, and the merchant was cautioned. Sergt. Oakley was appointed an inspector under the Weights and Measures Act.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.—The usual Tuesday evening concert was kindly arranged this week by Mrs Longden, assisted by Mrs Coates and friends. There was a splendid muster of seamen. A long and varied programme was gone through, each item being well received. During the interval the chaplain briefly addressed the men. Solos were rendered by Misses Spensley and Longden, and Messrs Sladden, Hopps, and Speight, and banjo duets by the Misses McKenzie. Miss Longden and Mr Coates acted as accompanists.

THE POPULATION OF CHESTER-LE-STREET.—The census returns for the Chester-le-Street rural district area have just been completed, and show that in the Chester-le-Street district the population at the recent census was 34,734, Chester-le-Street itself having 11,753 inhabitants. In the Harraton district there were 25,817 names recorded, giving a total for the whole union, which comprises 19 parishes, of 60,552, as against 50,594 at the last census. This represents an increase of 20 per cent., Chester-le-Street itself having advanced at the rate of 36.3 per cent.

"ATHLETIC NEWS CRICKET ANNUAL."—The "*Athletic News* Cricket Annual" for the season has just been issued. There is a number of features of great interest to the followers of the pastime. The chief fixtures are given in order of date, and also classified under the heads of clubs. The photo on the cover is that of Mr R. E. Foster, the new Worcestershire captain. A carefully-compiled table, showing the number of catches by various cricketers, and another giving wicket-keepers' performances, will doubtless be appreciated. Special articles are devoted to the prospects of the various counties, and "facts often asked about" are brought up to date. The secretaries' directory contains the names and addresses of about 400 secretaries, the book being made up of 180 pages. The book will be on sale on Friday next, and the price is as usual 3d.

BRITISH WORKMAN AND GENERAL INSURANCE Co.—The report published in our advertising columns yesterday shows another year of progress for the company. The figures for 1900 excel all those of previous years. The company has a bright future under able and careful management. Mr T. W. Bellerby is the local superintendent, and he holds the third position for the company for last year in the ordinary branch. The surplus balance on the year's transactions was £110,950, and, after making ample provision for writing down investments, furniture, &c., the sum of £100,583 has been added to the reserve funds. These results have been acheived in face of the exceptionally high death claim rate experienced; and no less than £53,466 under endowment and endowment assurance policies matured during the year. The total paid in claims during the year was £325,827, and the total paid in claims since the establishment of the company is £2,875,455.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr Epps has provided for our breakfast and supper a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette*.—Made simply with boiling water or milk.—Sold only in packets and pound tins, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS AND Co., Ltd., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—(Advt.).

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR we still assert that J. G. Scott's Millinery is unsurpassed for style at moderate prices. We are also pleased to notice that his Establishment, "Clyde House," closes at one o'clock on Wednesdays.—(Advt.)

CELANDINE is the only positive Cure for Corns. Never fails to remove them by the roots in a few days. Thousands of testimonials. Bottles 1s each. Post free for 14 stamps from Chave and Jackson, Hereford. Agents everywhere. Refuse imitations.—Agent: G. P. Fairman, Chemist, The Pharmacy, 24, Vine Place, top of Borough Road, Sunderland.—Advt.)

THE BOER WAR.

LATEST SUMMARY OF NEWS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CAPETOWN, Monday.

The rebels in Bushman's Land have retreated to the hills near Pella.

Kritzinger is reported to be proceeding to Orange River Colony.

De Wet is said to have crossed the railway at Wolvehoek on the 18th inst., but another report places him at Senekal.

Generally speaking the situation is satisfactory. The enemy are considerably harassed.

The number of prisoners now amounts to 18,000.

DEATH OF A DURHAM MILITIA OFFICER.

Lieut. Francis Hubert Airey Sowerby, of the 3rd Durham Light Infantry, whose death from enteric fever is announced in last night's casualty lists, was one of three brothers who have all been serving with this battalion in South Africa. They are the sons of the late Col. George Sowerby, of Futteridge Park, Luton; Dalton Hall, Yorkshire; and Dalston Hall, Cumberland, who commanded the Durham Militia. Francis was the youngest of the three brothers.

LAND IN RHODESIA.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CAPETOWN, Tuesday.

The Chartered Company has offered 100,000 acres of land to induce Australian and other colonial farmers to settle in Rhodesia. The sole condition attaching to the offer is that £100,000 should be spent on improvements in 10 years.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

MALTA, Tuesday.

To-day being St. George's Day, the regimental colours were trooped by the 5th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers opposite the Governor's Palace at Valletta, and a large crowd witnessed the ceremony. The regimental colours were wreathed with white and red roses. This evening Lieut.-Col. Lord Percy and the officers of the Northumberland Fusiliers will give a ball at the Union Club.

THE MURDERED MISSIONARIES.

Dr Parker, presiding at a meeting of the Congregational and Baptist Unions in London, yesterday, announced that confirmation had been received of the murder of Dr Chalmers and other missionaries.

The London Missionary Society received the following telegram from their agent at Sydney:—"Wired Thursday Island. Received following: News from Daru states:—Chalmers, Tomkins, 12 students murdered Aird River; tribal fight at time; Chalmers landed, tried to make peace."

TO-DAY'S SPORTING.

EPSOM SPRING MEETING.

1.30—APPRENTICES' PLATE of 100 sovs; weight for age. About one mile and a half.

Mr H. Powney's BRISSAC, 4 yrs, 8st 2lb ..... R. Jones 1
Mr T. Sherwood's MURVAGH, 5 yrs, 8st 7lb ..... L. Sherwood 2

Betting: 11 to 10 on Murvagh.

Murvagh led for half the journey, when Brissac drew to the front and won by four lengths. Off at 1.35.

2.5—BETCHWORTH STAKES of 5 sovs each, with 100 sovs added; for two-year-olds. Five furlongs.

Mr Hanbury's ITA FILLY, 8st 9lb ..... L. Reiff 1
Mr Lamb's SERENITY COLT, 8st 12lb .. Halsey 2
Mr Straus's MYRRH FILLY, 8st 9lb ..... Fagan 3

Also ran: Trail colt (Maher), Emissary (Rickaby), Kennerley (Orbell), Sally Whitestockings (Routledge), Cobweb (Madden), Mountain Mist (M. Cannon), Impulse filly (Mr Randall), Secta g (S. Loates), and Miss Witty (K. Cannon).

Betting: 4 to 1 each agst Serenity colt and Mountain Mist, 9 to 2 Myrrh filly, 6 to 1 Miss Witty, 10 to 1 each ITA FILLY and Secta g., and 100 to 6 each of the others.

Won by a length and a half; two lengths between second and third. Off at 2.7.

2.40—TADWORTH PLATE (Handicap) of 100 sovs. Six furlongs.

COLLEGE QUEEN 1
SIMON GLOVER 2
WHITE NUN II. 3

Thirteen ran.

CARLISLE SPRING MEETING

2.0—SELLING HURDLE RACE PLATE of 40 sovs; weight for age. Two miles.

Mr Colling's RED REEL, 4 yrs, 10st 7lb .. Phillips 1
Mr Gibb's CROW NOT, 4 yrs, 10st 2lb .. A. Holland 2
Mr C. J. Cunningham's KALE, a, 11st 7lb ..... Mr Knox 3

Also ran: Restored (R. Scott), Old Sarum (Mr Havelock-Allan), Vispera (H. Caley), Sweetdale (E. Williams), and Muscovado (H. Thompson).

Betting: 2 to 1 agst Vispera, 9 to 4 RED REEL, 6 to 1 Kale, 8 to 1 Restored, and 10 to 1 each of the others.

Won by two lengths; one length divided second and third.

2.35—JUVENILE SELLING PLATE of 100 sovs. Five furlongs.

Mr Allerton's SWEET REPOSE, 8st 9lb ..... T. Weldon 1
Mr Phillips's SEMPER EADEM, 8st 6lb .. Finlay 2
Mr Cairns's PALMBLOOM G. 8st 11lb (all. 5lb) ..... J. McCall 3

Also ran: Yard Dog (J. Ellis), Ada Pearl colt (Connor), Queen Light colt (J. Harris), Quietude (H. Caley), Sister Floss (C. Yarnell), Mistress Carew g. (Heppell), and Forequarter (F. Osborne).

Betting: 5 to 4 agst SWEET REPOSE, 4 to 1 Semper Eadem, 8 to 1 Palmbloom g.

EPSOM COURSE BETTING.

(BEFORE RACING.)

CITY AND SUBURBAN HANDICAP.

One mile and a quarter. Run Wednesday, April 24th.

9 to 2 agst Alvescot, o
5 to 1 agst Australian Star, o
6 to 1 agst Pellisson, o
100 to 14 agst David Garrick, o
10 to 1 agst Little Eva, o
100 to 8 agst Sonatura, o
100 to 7 agst Parthian II., o
20 to 1 agst the others, o

BETTING BETWEEN RACING. CITY AND SUBURBAN.

4 to 1 agst Pellisson, t — 2.15 p.m.
5 to 1 agst Alvescot, t
7 to 1 agst Australian Star, t
8 to 1 agst David Garrick, t
8 to 1 agst Little Eva, t
1000 to 60 agst Fiume, t

A POLICEMAN'S PLUCKY ACT AT EPSOM.

A plucky act was witnessed on the part of a police constable at Epsom yesterday. Directly after the horses had passed the post for the Great Metropolitan Stakes a horse attached to a dog-cart took fright and galloped down the course at a terrific rate, and a serious accident was only averted by the action of a constable, who pluckily held on to the harness. He was rewarded by a collection of about £40.

On Monday both the Sheffield United and Tottenham Hotspur clubs lodged protests with the English Association against having to play their tie next Saturday at Burnden Park, Bolton, on the ground that this enclosure is not suited to the needs of a final. Both clubs in their protest expressed preference for Villa Park, Birmingham. The members of the Emergency Committee will deal with the protest at once.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—Clarke's World-Famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities. For Scrofula Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Sold everywhere. 2s 9d.—(Advt.)

TO MOTHERS.—Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pains, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhœa. Of all Chemists, 1s 1½d.—(Advt.)

TERRIBLE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT TRALEE.

TWO MEN KILLED.

TRAIN DASHES INTO STATION BUILDINGS.

The Central News Tralee correspondent telegraphs:—When the morning goods mail from Dublin on the Great Southern and Western Railway, due here at 5.10, was approaching the station this morning the brake failed to act, and the engine dashed with terrific force into the stop block. The engine jumped the bank, which is over 5ft. high, and ran into the station buildings, completely wrecking them. The driver, Joseph Connor, and the guard, Paul Brennan, were killed instantly. The fireman, Michael Connell, was shockingly injured, and his recovery is despaired of. The guard at the rear of the train and another employe of the company, who were the only other passengers in the train, escaped with slight shakings.

The correspondent, telegraphing later, says:—The train was made up of two goods vans, a large luggage van, and 15 waggons. Five coaches followed the engine over the bank and telescoped. They were completely wrecked. The engine was embedded in the centre of the wrecked buildings. The post office officials who were waiting for the mails had a narrow escape. The greater portion of the mails is destroyed. The signalman states that the train passed his box at a high speed. Both the driver and fireman were at the brakes, which apparently did not work. The guard in the rear van worked his brake, but without much effect.

TRADE AND FREIGHT REPORTS.

Cardiff.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM.)

CARDIFF, Tuesday.

Tuesday's complete fixtures:—Cardiff to La Rochelle, option St. Nazaire, 5¼f., 2,000 tons; Bordeaux, 5.75f. Isabel, and 5.75f. Pomaron; Algiers, 9.25f