DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
Standard and Advertiser
TELEPHONE No. 19.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1941.

The Common Cause

THE question whether we are really giving all the aid in our power to our Russian Allies, who are being hard pressed by the common enemy, has been disturbing the minds of many people, and it is hardly a matter for surprise that it should have given rise to a sharp debate in the House of Commons. A belief seems to prevail in some quarters that it should be possible for us to land an army on the Continent, and so make it necessary for the German High Command to detach considerable forces now operating in Russia to meet the new thrust. The Germans are using five or six million men and many thousands of tanks against Russia, and it stands to reason that they cannot be strong enough to hold the Russians and to meet fresh armies which we could throw against them. The theory seems quite sound, but whether the landing of a force on the Continent is practicable is a very different matter. It is one on which the ordinary member of Parliament can offer no opinion which is worth while. Only the members of the War Cabinet, who know the whole strategic situation from daily consultation with their Service Chiefs, can say what is the best thing to do in order to secure ultimate victory, and naturally they do not proclaim to the world, including Hitler, what their plans are. These plans may or may not include such active intervention in the near future as they must in the long run, but the War Cabinet will not be stampeded into rash enterprises by the impatience of a small number of zealous but not very cautious members. There is no reason whatever for supposing that the War Cabinet is not eager to take every reasonable chance that presents itself of dealing a heavy blow at the enemy.

Aid to Russia is indeed a most misleading phrase, for we and the Russians are in the same boat, and whatever help we can give to our ally is help to win the victory which shall save us as well as them. Every setback to Russia is a setback to us, and every victory is a victory for us as well as for our heroic comrades in arms. We have recognised this in the fullest way by sending all that Russia has asked for without any question of payment. As Mr Eden put it in the course of the debate on Thursday, "the whole cause is one cause," and we have to keep that idea firmly fixed in our minds. At the moment the most effective contribution we can make to the common cause is on the home front. Lord Beaverborok emphasized that in his speech in the House of Lords on Thursday. "We must have night shifts everywhere," he said. This means a great increase in the numbers of those engaged in the manufacture of munitions. Our enemies have been organising their war machine for years, and go well ahead of us in the output o aeroplanes and tanks and other war material. Since they have conquered other countries they have set all their industries to work to produce munitions for them. They have been responsible for the destruction of many of the war factories of Russia. All this puts a tremendous strain and a heavy responsibility on British industry. It would be hopeless for us to compete were we not assured of valuable help from the United States, as well as from Canada and other parts of the Empire.

The proper utilisation of our man-power and woman-power is most urgent. Mr Bevin has intimated that there will no longer be reservation by categories. Henceforth every man and woman will have to show that he or she is engaged in work of national importance, and if they fail to do so, then they will be drafted into industries where they will be so engaged. More ruthless methods will be used this winter than hitherto, so that the resources of the nation will be fully mobilised for the supremely important task of winning the war. We must as far as possible make good Russia's losses, which may become heavier still if Leningrad and Moscow fall. Even food supplies are needed for Russia, and we are arranging for her to get supplies of wheat and sugar. We are sending her locomotives as well as guns and tanks and aeroplanes. We must also see to it that they get there. There is no getting away from the geographical difficulties. A constant flow is proceeding across Persia to the Caspian ports. We have to see that this line is not broken. Rundstedt is pushing on for the Caucasus with the object of seizing the oilfields and of cutting off the supplies to Russia by the Persian Gulf. We have a strong army in the Middle East, which may come into action soon. But the main thing that the people at home have to make up their minds to is that, great as our production of war material is now, it is not great enough, and will have to be vastly increased, and that all men and women must pull their full weight in work of real national value. More drastic measures may be required than any that have been resorted to yet before we can even begin to see the end of our labour and sacrifice.

DUKE'S GROUSE MOOR

Galloway M.P. Terminates Tenancy

Following the references to the Duke of Bedford by Mr Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary, in the recent Commons debate, the Duke has been asked to terminate his tenancy of the Kirkcudbrightshire grouse moor and deer forest rented by his father and himself for about 54 years.

Revealing this on Thursday night, the Duke told a reporter that the landlord, Mr J. H. M'Kie, Unionist M.P. for Galloway, had sent him a telegram—to which he has not yet replied—which reads: "Kindly consider lease of shooting and fishing terminated as from Whitsunday (May 15), 1943. I presume this will meet your wishes. Please reply at once. Will meet cost of any additional words not covered by prepaid reply."

The Duke remarked: "I think the last sentence was a bit of sarcasm on Mr M'Kie's part. I do a little shooting, but not much. Mr M'Kie has been very bitter in his attitude towards me since the war," added the Duke. "He practically said in the House that he thought I should be interned."

KIRKBEAN SOLDIER KILLED.

Mr and Mrs James Murray, Southcarse, Kirkbean, have received intimation that their son, Private Jim Murray, who was serving with the Australian Imperial Force, has been killed. Private Murray went out to Australia fourteen years ago.

SOLDIER KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT.

Private Alexander Grant Watson, a Glasgow soldier presently stationed in the Stewartry, died in Dumfries Infirmary on Saturday as the result of injuries sustained in an unfortunate road accident which occurred the previous day on the Kirkcudbright-Gatehouse road, near Kirkchrist Farm, Kirkcudbright. The victim of the sad mishap was riding a pedal cycle in the direction of Kirkcudbright, and when rounding a bend in the road he collided with a motor lorry belonging to the Stewartry County Council, which was being driven in the Gatehouse direction by W. J. Tweedie, 59 Academy Street, Castle-Douglas. Private Watson was thrown heavily and sustained multiple injuries to which he succumbed the following day.

DUMFRIES GUARD DIES FROM INJURIES.

A distressing fatal accident occurred on the outskirts of Dalbeattie railway station on Sunday afternoon, when a railway passenger guard was knocked down by a passing engine and received injuries to which he succumbed later in the day in Dumfries Infirmary. The unfortunate man was Mr Richard Robb, Glengonar, Noblehill, Annan Road, Dumfries, and it appears that the train on which he was guard had just changed lines in Dalbeattie station, and he had gone forward to tell the driver that everything was clear. He was returning to the rear of the train and walking on the permanent way between the two main lines, when he was overtaken and struck by the engine of a ballast train proceeding towards Castle-Douglas. The accident occurred near the signal cabin on the outskirts of the station, and it is probable that he did not hear the train behind him on account of the strong west wind which was blowing in his face at the time. The unfortunate man was knocked down and received severe injuries to his head and a fractured left arm. He was removed to Dumfries Infirmary, where, as already stated, he died a short time later.

THANKS FROM LORD INVERCLYDE.

The remarkable success of the recent flag day organised in Dumfries on behalf of the British Sailors' Society by Mrs H. A. G. Dykes, The Grange, through which £201 was raised, is referred to in a letter which she has received from the chairman of the Scottish Advisory Committee of the society, Lord Inverclyde. The letter reads as follows: My Dear Mrs Dykes,—Heartiest congratulations. The result of the flag day which you were good enough to organise for us is simply splendid. It far exceeds our expectations, and reflects the highest credit upon your enthusiastic and efficient management, and upon that of the collectors and all who assisted you. Please accept yourself, and convey to them, my society's and my personal and very grateful thanks for this outstanding contribution.—Yours sincerely, INVERCLYDE.

THE MODERATOR-DESIGNATE

Former Glencairn Minister

The Rev. C. W. G. Taylor, D.D., minister of St George's Church, Edinburgh, has been nominated for the Moderatorship of next General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Dr Taylor was formerly minister of Glencairn Parish Church, and a fortnight ago conducted the centenary service at Morton Parish Church.

Dr Taylor, who was born in 1879 at Edinburgh, and educated at Daniel Stewart's College and Edinburgh University, was a first prizeman in Divinity, a medallist in Church History, and a prizeman in Biblical Criticism. He was appointed travelling secretary for Britain for the Student Christian Movement in 1900-1901, and on completion of his divinity course he was appointed London secretary. During this period Dr Taylor acted as honorary assistant of St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London.

In 1906 he was appointed the First Warden of Edinburgh University Settlement, and in 1907 he was ordained minister of Glencairn Parish Church. In the year 1909-1910 he was released from his parish for one year to be organising secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee, and in 1914 he was inducted to Uddingston Parish Church.

During 1916-1917 Dr Taylor served as a chaplain to H.M. Forces in France, and in 1918 he was inducted to his present charge of St George's Parish Church, Edinburgh. In 1921-1925 Dr Taylor was Church of Scotland editor of the "Sunday School Teachers' Magazine."

The selection of Dr Taylor as Moderator-Designate is significant, in that it is the first time since the Union that the nominating committee has departed from the practice of selecting in alternate years ministers chosen from the two formerly separate branches of the Church, and it may be regarded as an added tribute to Dr Taylor that he should have been chosen as the one to make the break from this post-Union tradition.

WASTE PAPER FOR MUNITIONS

The Cleansing Department of Dumfries Town Council draw the attention of householders to the appeal by Lord Beaverbrook, the Minister of Supply, for waste paper for shells and cartridge cases, with the view to releasing shipping space for carrying aid to Russia. The Ministry of Supply needs immediately 100,000 tons of waste paper for this purpose, which is vital to the production of munitions. Everything that is waste—current newspapers and periodicals, obsolete publications, and back numbers—are useful. In addition to the appeal to householders, an especial request is made to commercial houses and offices to contribute bills and circulars, notes and memoranda, old ledgers, in fact anything that has outlived its usefulness, but which, as waste paper, forms a valuable contribution to the war effort. The waste may be put out for collection by the burgh workmen in the usual way, or, if a special collection is desired, notification should be given to Mr J. C. Kelt, the chief sanitary inspector, who will make arrangements for removal.

DUMFRIES WEDDING IN NEW ZEALAND.

At the Presbyterian Church, Ross, New Zealand, on July 19, Rev. Mr Hadfield officiated at the marriage of Andrew Mason, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. Mason, Moorehouse Street, to Sarah (Cissy) Samuels, eldest daughter of Mrs Higgins, Doanston Cottage, 8 Church Street, Maxwelltown, Dumfries. "The Wedding March" was played by the organist as the bride entered the church, escorted by Mr A. Mason, sen., and wearing a lovely gown of white satin, fully flared skirt with Peter Pan collar, and tiny satin-covered buttons reaching from the neck to the waist, and the long sleeves coming to a point over the hands. A full-length hand-embroidered tulle veil with a halo of orange blossoms, and a sheaf of heather and spring flowers, completed the ensemble.

The bridegroom's cousin, Miss Clarice Walton, was bridesmaid, and wore a beautiful frock of pink taffeta, the skirt fully flared, and the bodice rucked, with a prettily pleated coatee, while she had in her hair a spray of pink flowers and carried a bouquet of spring flowers.

Mr J. Mason attended his brother as best man.

After the ceremony the guests were entertained at the home of the bridegroom's parents, Mrs Mason receiving her guests wearing a brown tailored costume with smart hat and accessories to tone, and her posy was of heather and maiden-hair fern. Many telegrams and numerous presents were received. The happy couple left later by car, the bride wearing a model frock of rust brown with hat and shoes to tone. Mr and Mrs A. Mason, jun., will reside in Ross.

ENGAGEMENT.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant John Gavin Milne Home, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, youngest son of Sir John and Lady Milne Home, Irvine House, Canonbie, and Rosemary Honor Croad, only child of Captain and Mrs Godfrey Elwes, of Northgate Grange, Bury St Edmunds, and Whimacre House, Yelverton, South Devon.

PITTENWEEM CHURCH VACANCY.

The sole nominee for the vacancy in the united charge of St Fillan's and St Adrian's Parish Churches, Pittenweem, is the Rev. J. S. Dinwoodie, Thornhill and Virginhall Church, Dumfriesshire.

EXCEEDING PERMITTED PRICE

Annan Grocer Fined £8

A fine of £8, with the alternative of forty days' imprisonment, was imposed by Sheriff Johnston in Dumfries Sheriff Court yesterday on Andrew Cowan, grocer, 57 High Street, Annan, who pleaded guilty to having on 9th May, by the hands of an employee, sold by retail to a divisional enforcement inspector of the Ministry of Food 1 lb. of ground coffee at the price of 1s 6d, being a price exceeding the permitted price of 1s 8d per lb.; (2) failed to indicate by means of a ticket or label the description of sausages offered and exposed for sale; (3) failed to display in a conspicuous position a notice specifying the categories of home-produced eggs and the price on a sale by retail of such categories; (4) failed to display a notice stating the nature of and the maximum price prescribed for butter; and (5) failed to display a notice stating the maximum retail prices of canned pilchards and imported canned herring.

The fiscal, Mr E. W. Paterson, stated that on 9th May inspectors called at respondent's shop and asked an assistant for half a pound of coffee. The assistant said the price was 1s 6d, and was told that the maximum retail price was 2s 8d per lb., and that he had charged 3s per lb. He was asked to show any coffee he had for sale, and the only other coffee was half-pound tins at 1s 6d per tin. There was a provision in the order that coffee could be sold at 2s 8d per lb. so long as there was in the shop coffee for sale at 1s 8d. On the counter there were two trays of pork sausages, on which there was no notice stating the description of the sausages. The inspector asked the assistant to see any eggs which were for sale, and from the back premises he brought three eggs, which were found to be unmarked. There was no notice stating the price and categories of eggs. The assistant was also asked about butter that was being offered for sale, and he took the inspector to the back premises, where he showed him a quantity of bulk butter which had been broken. There was no notice in the shop stating the maximum price for the butter, and there was no notice showing the maximum retail price of canned herring and canned pilchards.

Mr A. W. Baldwin, solicitor, Dumfries, on behalf of the respondent, stated that the coffee consisted of only one sealed tin, which had been in the shop for several months. The date of the invoice was 4th November, 1940, and the date of the offence was 9th May, 1941. The coffee was invoiced at 2s 3d per lb., and the order restricting the price came into force on 1st March, 1941. The inspector was told that this was old coffee and was not for sale, but the inspector insisted on taking it away.

The Sheriff: What was it doing in the shop?

Mr Baldwin: It had been for sale, but presumably it had been withdrawn.

The Sheriff: When had it ceased to be for sale?

Mr Baldwin: Possibly when the price was restricted and the coffee could only be sold at a loss. It would be seen from the invoice that this was not a case of making a huge profit out of the coffee, even at the price at which it was sold. There was no thought or intention of swindling the public, which was what the regulations were supposed to prevent. With regard to the other four charges, the respondent had a typewritten sheet in a conspicuous position in the shop showing the prices of the various articles, but he had not yet procured the special tickets which should be placed near each of them. These were on order from the Grocers' Federation, and they arrived shortly after the visit of the inspectors, and were displayed. The four offences were of a technical nature, and there was no attempt to mislead or overcharge the public. The pilchards, in fact, were sold at less than the controlled price.

The Sheriff said he had not been very much impressed by what had been said for the respondent, and he imposed a fine of £8, with the alternative of forty days' imprisonment.

DALTON RED CROSS WHIST DRIVE.

A very successful whist drive was held on Tuesday of last week in Carrutherstown Hall.

Mr Simon Carruthers presided, and explained that the proceeds would be used for providing Christmas postal orders for local members of the Forces, any balance to go to the Prisoners of War Fund.

Twenty-three tables were occupied, and at the close of play Mrs Carruthers presented prizes to the following: Ladies — 1, Mrs A. Brown; 2, Mrs T. Edgar; highest first half, Mrs Carruthers; highest second half, Miss Hulme; consolation, Mrs Bone; sitting longest at one table, Miss Bannerman; winning lady at table No. 7, Mrs Kerr. Gentlemen—1, Mr Johnstone; 2, Mr W. Stuart; highest first half, Mr Dalgleish; highest second half, Mr G. Moffat; consolation, Mr C. Carruthers; sitting longest at one table, Mr Morton; losing gentleman at table No. 21, Mr Cromar.

There were also eleven additional prizes resulting from a draw.

Mr Robertson proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mrs Carruthers for the gracious manner in which she had presented the prizes, to Mrs Fullarton who had so successfully organised the whist drive, and to all donors of prizes, donations, and to those who had helped in any way. He also thanked Mr Carruthers for supervising play. Mrs Carruthers congratulated Mrs Fullarton on the success of the evening.

After all expenses have been cleared the sum of £23 remains on hand.

WAR NEWS

RED ARMY REPULSE ATTACKS

Road to Moscow Blocked

Thursday night's Soviet communique said that the Germans on Wednesday launched fierce attacks on Soviet positions in the directions of Mojaisk and Malo-Yaroslavets (west and south-west of Moscow). The attacks were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

Thirty-seven 'planes were brought down on Wednesday for the loss of 11 Soviet 'planes, 24 of the enemy machines being brought down on the approaches to Moscow. Four enemy 'planes were destroyed near Moscow.

On the Moscow front the battle is becoming more intense in the direction of Mojaisk. The Germans suffered severely when they thrust down the Mojaisk-Moscow road. In heavy fighting near Malo-Yaroslavets the Germans have lost 100 tanks. The main road to the capital is completely blocked to the south and south-west.

Many of the heavy industrial works and other plants scattered throughout this semi-wooded region have fallen into enemy hands.

In the northern sector of the Moscow front, at Kalinin, fierce fighting has been going on for the town for eight days. The Germans have massed here considerable forces and a large number of medium and heavy tanks. "Izvestia" states that a battle is raging for every inch of territory, every street and house.

In the direction of Malo-Yaroslavets, 70 miles south-west of Moscow, the Russians launched a number of counter-attacks. The Germans were reported to be sending in reinforcements of S.S. units, while the Russians struck back with tank-borne artillery.

Behind the battle line Moscow is preparing to repulse any effort to make a mass parachute attack. Barriers of lorries are being put across airfields, poles set up in the middle of roads at night, and trenches dug at all possible landing points.

On the southern front the situation in the Donetz Basin is admittedly grave. The battle is growing in intensity, and General Kleist, the German Commander, is throwing in fresh armoured units, including several Italian, Hungarian, and Rumanian divisions, as well as many cavalry units.

In spite of the growing resistance of the Soviet forces and the heavy casualties inflicted on the Germans, the enemy's superior forces have been able to maintain their advances in several sectors. According to the "Izvestia" correspondent at the front, the Germans have so far lost about 10,000 men and hundreds of tanks, but they are continually massing fresh forces, and are in considerable numerical superiority.

The main German drive is in the direction of Stalino. The Russians are resisting fiercely, and their defence is steadily growing stronger.

CHANGE IN SOVIET COMMAND

Marshal Timoshenko, the Soviet Commander - in - Chief in the "Western sector" of the Eastern Front (which includes the Moscow area), has been replaced in his command by General Gregory Zhukov, Vice-Commissar for Defence, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, and Commander of the outer defences of Moscow.

It is learned in London that Marshal Timoshenko has been transferred to another post. A London correspondent says "the Germans will discover in due course that the change is far from reflecting in his military abilities."

General Zhukov, who is 47, was appointed Chief of Staff of the Red Army in February this year. He has had 26 years of military service, beginning as a private, and has specialised in communications.

SUBMARINE'S EXPLOIT

News of daring exploits by our submarines in the Mediterranean was given in an Admiralty communique on Wednesday. One of our submarines shelled an Italian aerodrome in Cyrenaica and another attacked a heavily escorted Axis convoy on its way to Libya, torpedo hits being scored on two supply ships.

RAID ON NAPLES

"Vesuvius Wasn't In It"

Details of the raid on Naples during the night of Tuesday-Wednesday—which the Italian official communique on Wednesday said had "caused enormous damage to residential houses"—were issued in London by the Air Ministry News Service.

The raid—from which all our 'planes returned safely—was one of the biggest yet launched against the enemy in the Central Mediterranean, and was 50 per cent. heavier than that made on the city five nights previously. Many tons of high-explosive bombs were dropped during the raid, which lasted five and a half hours. A quarter of a mile square in the target area was left in flames, which rose 1000 feet into the air. Clouds of smoke reached a height of more than 12,000 feet.

The first of the formations of heavy R.A.F. bombers took off from a Middle East base laden with incendiaries, and other aircraft followed one another with clockwork regularity. "Something's going to cop it to-night," said soldiers watching the take-off. The something that "copped it" was a storage depot near Naples Harbour. Early raiders did their work well. The target was lit up and visible for miles soon after the arrival of the first two or three aircraft. "There was no mistaking Vesuvius for the target," said one pilot. "Vesuvius wasn't in it."

BREMEN BOMBED

While the port of Bremen, for the second night in succession, was the main objective of the R.A.F. on Tuesday, targets in France, Holland, and Denmark were included in a widespread and devastating night sweep. Docks, aerodromes, and a benzine plant were plastered and huge fires left burning.

It is now known that another enemy fighter, making a total of 13, was destroyed by our fighters during Tuesday's offensive sweep over Northern France. Ten of our fighters were lost in operations, but the pilots of four are safe.

U.S. SHIPS AND WAR ZONES

The White House, through its spokesman, Mr Stephen Early, emphasised on Thursday that President Roosevelt wants the early attention of Congress to further revision of the Neutrality Act to permit United States vessels to enter belligerent ports. Mr Early told reporters that Mr Roosevelt, in asking for repeal of the ban on the arming of merchant vessels, did not close the door to eliminating the section of the Act forbidding merchantmen to enter combat zones.

Meanwhile, recent sinkings have given an impetus to the campaign in the Senate to repeal the Act completely.

Mr Willkie has submitted to all Republican members of Congress a statement of 124 Republican leaders asking for the outright repeal of the Neutrality Act because "in effect it constitutes an aid to Hitler." He said President Roosevelt was "a laggard in not presenting a forthright direct international policy designed to encompass the destruction of totalitarianism by whatever means necessary."

NORWEGIANS STREAM TO BRITAIN

So large is the stream of Norwegians quitting their own country to fight for its liberation from Nazi rule that the German Commissar Terboven has decreed the death penalty for anyone attempting to leave Norway without his permission.

The Norwegians refuse to be intimidated, however. For many months large numbers of young men and women have deliberately risked death from German patrol boats, mines, and aeroplanes rather than remain in the vast Gestapo prison which Norway has become.

This amazing exodus runs into several thousands. Apart from daring trips by two or three men in a rowing boat or canoe, whole parties, sometimes 50 or 60 at a time, have come over in motor fishing-boats.

THE NEEDS OF YOUTH.

"Did you ever think of Sunday School teaching as a work of national importance?" This was the question which drew to Morton Church, Thornhill, a number of people interested in children, on the afternoon of Sunday, 19th October, when a conference was held, under the auspices of Dumfries Presbytery Youth Committee, for a group of churches in the area. The devotional part of the meeting was led by Rev. D. M. Donald, Thornhill Congregational Church. The Rev. J. Goudie, of Closeburn, gave an interesting address on "The Child, the Teacher, and the Task," and this was followed by two teaching demonstrations by Miss A. H. Porteous, of the Youth Committee staff. Then the teachers present much appreciated an opportunity of seeing the display of up-to-date literature on Sunday School and home teaching.

People connected with the churches in Dumfries and the general public will have similar opportunities at a conference to be held in Dumfries. The subject is "The Spiritual Needs of Childhood and Youth," and this will be considered with regard to the special difficulties of war-time.

BLACK-OUT HOURS

Saturday	6.22 p.m.—7.36 a.m.
Sunday	6.20 p.m.—7.38 a.m.
Monday	6.18 p.m.—7.40 a.m.
Tuesday	6.15 p.m.—7.42 a.m.

THE HOME GUARD.

The parades for "A" Company (Dumfries Burgh) of the Home Guard for next week will be:

Sunday—All platoons will parade in the Drill Hall at 10 a.m. Weather permitting, No. 1 and No. 4 Platoons will be engaged in a combined exercise with a platoon of "B" Company. No. 2 and No. 3 Platoons will have a combined exercise.

Monday — N.C.O.'s class in Drill Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday — No. 1 and No. 4 Platoons will parade in the Drill Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday — No. 2 and No. 3 Platoons will parade in the Drill Hall at 7.30 p.m.

No. 1 Platoon will be on emergency fire piquet duty for the week.

The orderly officer for the week will be Second-Lieutenant C. Scott.

THE PROVOST'S FUND.

The following contributions have been received:

	Shillings.
Brought forward ...	13,762/4
C. B.	5/
Robertson Children's effort as result of Jumble Sale, Dockhead House, Dumfries ...	142/6
Judith, Sheila, Eileen and Ian	10/
	13,919/10

MINISTER'S RETIRAL

Gift To Rev. T. Clark, Scaurbridge

In acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered to the congregation and community of Scaurbridge during the forty years of his ministry, the Rev. Thomas Clark, who has now retired, was on Monday presented with an Oxford Dictionary and a wallet of notes, and Mrs Clark was presented with an electric coffee percolator and coffee set.

The presentations were made by a deputation, which included Mr W. Brown, Burnbrae, Penpont; Miss E. Y. Drummond, Penpont; Mr John Fergusson, Thornhill; Mr W. Kerr, Penpont; and Mr John Dalziel, Druidhall.

Mr Brown, in introducing the deputation, said that he hardly felt there was need for a chairman on that occasion, but it gave him the opportunity to pay a short personal tribute to Mr Clark. Before doing so he would like to refer to letters received, even from as far as South Africa, all testifying to the service Mr Clark had given to the community. In Mr Clark's ministry at Scaurbridge there were many who could bear testimony to the spiritual powers he exercised in the pulpit and in his daily life, and many came to him discouraged and depressed, but left reinvigorated and cheered. Strenuous in the discharge of his duties, his understanding sympathy made him a firm friend of all. Mr Brown called on Mr Fergusson to make the presentation to Mr Clark.

Mr Fergusson said that he had been deputed by the session, managers, and friends to hand over a gift as a tangible expression of their feeling towards Mr Clark, testifying to the esteem in which both Mr and Mrs Clark were held. For close on forty years Mr Clark had given untiring service to the congregation, and the concord which at all times existed had been most marked. It was on an occasion like that that one recalled the Bible Class days, which Mr Clark made full of interest, while in teaching the Scriptures he had given guidance to all who searched for a sure and safe foundation in life. Mr Clark would be remembered as a guide, counsellor, and friend of every individual member. In the wider sphere of public affairs, as member of the Parish Council and chairman of the School Board, Mr Clark's work had been appreciated and remembered. In thought, word, and deed Mr Clark had left a great mark on the life of that community, which all would remember and cherish. He had pleasure, on behalf of all who subscribed, in handing over the gifts of an Oxford Dictionary and a wallet of Treasury notes as an expression of appreciation of Mr Clark's work, and he trusted Mr Clark might have length of quiet happy days to enjoy the leisure he so richly deserved.

Miss E. Y. Drummond, in handing over the gift of an electric coffee percolator and coffee set to Mrs Clark, paid tribute to the valuable work done by Mrs Clark in the Sunday School, and also in her capacity as organist she had deeply interested herself in the work of the choir. In the wider sphere of Church affairs her work in the Woman's Presbyterial Council was esteemed, as was her work in the Home Mission field. She was also associated with the local Band of Hope, and had taken a deep and helpful interest in the Girl Guides. She asked Mrs Clark, on behalf of the subscribers, to accept these gifts as a token of esteem for all she had done.

Mr W. Kerr and Mr John Dalziel expressed in similar terms the sentiments of the previous speakers.

Mr Clark, on behalf of his wife and himself, thanked the deputation and all who had contributed. It was with deep emotion that they both accepted the gifts, not only for what they had so handsomely given them, but for the feeling that had prompted their expression of goodwill towards them.

THORNHILL YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB.

At last Thursday's meeting of Thornhill Young Farmers' Club the subjects for discussion were "My Ideal Farm" and "Making the Farm Self - Supporting." Two papers with those titles were read by Messrs T. Haining, Laight, and T. Melville, Sweetbit, respectively. Both papers were well thought out, and provided many points for a stimulating discussion. Arguments between the speakers and various questioners were closely reasoned, and were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. A very useful evening closed with votes of thanks to the speakers and the chairman (Mr G. Brown, Templand), voiced by Messrs A. Ainsley, Laight, and M'K. Maxwell, Hayfield.

Mr T. Melville, Sweetbit, was unanimously elected hon. secretary of the club for the present session, and the club members decided unanimously to form a Club Savings Association, accepting the kind offer of Mrs T. Haining, Laight, to act as treasurer.

At the next meeting, to be held in Mathieson's Tearooms on Thursday, November 2nd, at 7.30 p.m., papers will be read by two members, Messrs T. Brown, Drumcork, and R. Russell, Hayfield. A cordial invitation to attend is again extended to all young farmers and students of agriculture in the Thornhill area.

THE AURORA. — On Wednesday evening there was an unusually brilliant display of the aurora borealis seen in the northern sky from the New Bridge, Dumfries. Many of the people passing over the bridge thought it was a battery of searchlights in operation. Long beams of light varying from mauve to crimson illumined the sky and continued for half-an-hour until a heavy [illegible]

Back to Clogs.

The old saying that from clogs to clogs was but three generations is no longer applicable, for mill-workers have long ceased to wear that durable and comfortable footgear. But the exigencies of war bring many changes, and we are now told that clogs of a refined type may become the accepted footwear of fashionable ladies. These clogs will not be shod with "cackers" like their plebeian predecessors. They will instead be dainty, prettily coloured, and soled with rubber. If the new vogue catches on, we may see one of the characteristic industries of Dumfries take a new lease of life.

A Black Guard.

A rather grave-looking little jackdaw perched on the railings at the Caul Back, Dumfries, on Thursday afternoon attracted a good deal of attention and quite a lot of sympathy. He seemed to be in dire need of a friendly shoulder on which to sit, and anyone who came near enough became his perch. He was obviously anxious about something, and bread was apparently not the need. His clipped wings told that he had escaped from captivity, and the splatches of paint on his shining plumage suggested that at one time or another he had been in a cage. By and by there happened along two elderly gentlemen, who recollected that he was usually to be seen around the billet of some soldiers, so back Jacky went shoulder-high. A detective would have guessed his identity in a second—the disfiguring paint was khaki coloured.

Mean Thieves.

One of the problems of publicans, hotel-keepers, restaurateurs, and canteen managements at present is to replace lost crockery and cutlery. Not only have the prices of these utensils soared to undreamt-of heights, but in some cases their replacement is virtually impossible. The theft of these small articles is exceedingly difficult to detect, and so the owners are at the mercy of the honesty or dishonesty of the customer. At Dumfries Police Court on Monday a man was charged with stealing a glass from licensed premises. While the theft of one glass might seem a trivial matter, the object of the prosecution no doubt was to act as a warning. Soldiers, too, are prone to be "forgetful" of the cups loaned to them at railway canteens, and the voluntary workers in some places are at their wits' end to make good the losses. In the case of the soldiers, to whom the service rendered is voluntary and the prices charged the minimum, it should be a point of honour to be scrupulously honest. The exercise of a little thought would do much to divert such pilferers from their selfish ways.

St Andrew's House.

The Secretary of State for Scotland has issued an invitation to all members of Parliament representing Scottish constituencies to go and see St Andrew's House next Thursday. It is said that few of them have ever seen this new home of the Scottish Government Departments, though it has been occupied now for a considerable time, and most of the Provosts and Bailies and town and county clerks already know their way about the place very well. One might have thought that the Scottish members might have been invited to see this place long ago. St Andrew's House occupies the site of the old Calton Jail in Edinburgh, just out of the bustle of Princes Street and on the road to Holyrood. When Scotland gets a Parliament of her o'n this centre of administration will be a place of even greater importance than it is now.

A Weighty Guardsman.

One who is described as the world's heaviest man has just joined the Home Guard. He is Mr Barney Worth of Severn Beach, Bristol, who when he attended for his medical examination a few weeks ago turned the scale at 42 stone. That is to say, he is as weighty as three hefty guardsmen rolled into one. No doubt the Home Guard will fit him into a proper niche that will give scope for his unique qualifications, but meantime he presents a serious problem to the makers of uniforms. His respirator is the biggest ever made.

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