BUSINESS NOTICE.

Letters intended for publication, and local news paragraphs, should be addressed to the Editor, "Free Press" Office, 64, Main Street, Ballymoney. The non-observance of this rule involves either rejection of the manuscript or delay in insertion.

Matter for current week's issue must be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday.

Advertisements, and payments of same, should be sent to the Manager, "Chronicle" Office, Coleraine.

Ballymoney Free Press AND Northern Counties' Advertiser

THURSDAY, 27th OCTOBER, 1927.

Ballymoney and District.

THE WISDOM OF BUYING NOW.

Every wise housewife who realises the state of the market is now making her purchases of Cotton Goods, such as Sheets, Flannelettes, Calico, Cotton Blankets, Shirting, etc., Hosiery, Gloves, Hats, H.M.C. HAMILTON & SONS now. This firm with their usual forethought made extensive purchases early in the spring, which they are offering to their customers at lower prices than has been possible for the past ten years, in spite of the fact that cotton is almost double the price it was about six months ago. The advance in prices cannot be avoided for as soon as their present stocks are exhausted.

ASTOUNDING OFFER.

Of New and Up-to-date Drapery Goods, including Millinery, Furs, Coats, Cardigans, Jumpers, Gloves, and Underclothing of all descriptions. Blankets, all wool, from 16s 6d a pair up to 37s 6d. A few all-wool large size (68x90 inches) at Bargain Prices. All wool Shirts and Drawers from 4s 6d up. Ask to see our famous Double-Knitting Wool at 2s 6d. Get a pattern and compare our 36in. wide Double-Warp Flannelette at 1s yard. Motto: Small Profits; Quick Sales for Spot Cash. J. MOORE & CO., Wholesale and Retail Drapers, Ballymoney.

Large consignment of Gent.'s Boots and Shoes secured before the present advance in prices; best Northampton make, just arrived. "Drifut" ensures dry feet, and is the leading make for stylish comfort, and endurance. See window display.—R. STINSON & SONS, Hight Street. 3

Quite a noteworthy feature of last Petty Sessions was the absence of any cases for drunkenness. There are many causes which might contribute to this result, but one of the most important is the increased tax on spirits. On the other hand, poteen is more plentiful in the district, and one has not far to seek for the cause.

A meeting of the Ulster Teachers' Union was held in the Y.M.C.A. on Saturday—Mr. M. A. Gillespie presiding. Mr. R. M Clure (Stranocum) was appointed secretary in place of Mr. T. J. Blair, resigned. Messrs. G. C. Ashe and R. M'Clure were appointed delegates to attend the forthcoming conference in Belfast.

A further meeting was held in the art room of the Technical School, when Mr. J. F. Hunter, inspector of drawing under the Ministry of Education, read a paper on drawing in public elementary schools. There were upwards of 100 teachers present, and points were raised by Messrs. S. Boyd, J. Donnelly, and R. J. Boyd. At the close of the meeting Mrs. Montgomery (Benvarden) drew attention to a scheme for providing pictures for schools. On the motion of Mr. Ashe, seconded by Mr. J. J. Tomb, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Pettigrew and the North Antrim Regional Education Committee for the use of the room.

While engaged in cill-hunting on Sunday in the Dunaghy district, where several convictions have already been obtained for illegal distilling, Sergeants Barry and Stratford came on a still hidden in a cave, a second still head, and a receptacle for fermenting liquor in, concealed in an outfarm at Greenaleds. The place had the appearance of being recently used. All the receptacles were fitted with lugs to make them more portable. Up to the present no arrests have been made. The police are inquiring into the matter.

A meeting of the Ballymoney Pension Sub-Committee was held in the Board-room on Monday—Mr. W. W. B. Keers presiding. The other members present were Captain Lecky, J. P., Mesdrs. W. M'Keague, J.P., and W. D. Hamilton, J.P. Mr R. A. Warnock, pensions officer, and Mr. T. B. Hanna, clerk, were present. Fourteen claims and three questions were submitted and considered; twelve claims and two questions were approved; one claim and one question rejected; and one claim adjourned.

The quarterly meeting of Ballymoney District Independent Life Church, was held in the Protestant Hall on Friday—Br. Thomas Henry presiding in the absence of the W.D.M. All the lodges in the district were represented. The election of officers for the ensuing year was held, and resulted:—Brs. Thomas Dunlop, W.D.M.; T. Henry, D.D.M.; S. M'Conaghie, chaplain; J. Beverland, secretary; James Tosh, treasurer; committee—Brs. Wm. Lee, Jas. M'Conaghie, James White, Samuel Black, and Thomas Gray; tyler, Br. G. M'Bay.

Vimy Ridge has come well to the front in the County Committee of Agriculture's cottage prize scheme for ex-servicemen's cottages, three of the five tenants being prize-winners. Mr. James Hunter was awarded 2nd prize; Mr. Hugh Connor, 3rd prize; and Mr. Joseph Henderson, 4th prize. The judge in making his award says:—"It will be seen that throughout there has been a high standard in the cottages and premises are well kept, clean, neat and tidy. In the gardens there was a good supply of seed potatoes for summer, autumn, and winter use. In several there was a good supply of soft fruits and a good display of flowers."

At the social meeting of First Ballymoney congregation on Monday evening the power of song was fittingly illustrated. Mr. J. F. Newell, Ballina, and another by his rendering of "The Arrow and the Song," and as an encore "Lookin' at the Sky." Possessed of a vibrant baritone voice, combined with a pleasing personality, Mr. Newell sprang a surprise on his audience. Before giving his next item he announced that he wished the audience to join in the chorus. The song was "Ho-ro, my nut-brown Maiden," one of the most popular of really Highland melodies, and unfamiliar to most of the audience. There are many versions of this song in the Gaelic, the peculiarity of such songs being that they each commence with the chorus. Mr. Newell repeated the words of the chorus, and the audience before they really knew it were taking part in community singing, and under the guidance of Mr. Newell the effect was very pleasing. At each attempt the pretty haunting tune was heard to better effect. Several times it was sung softly, when the beauty and sentiment of a great song was heard in the words—

Ho-ro, my nut-brown maiden,
Hee-ree, my nut-brown maiden,
My bonnie winsome maiden,
I'll wed you yet, my but 'ee.

Mr. Newell's later contributions included another beautiful old Highland song, "Turn ye to me." Quite in contrast was "Because I was Shy" and the more stirring rendering of "Corporal Jim," and to a second recall the pleasing old song, "Jane."

HISTORICAL CHURCH.

First Ballymoney's Anniversary Celebration.

ADDRESS BY REV. R. K. HANNA.

Founded in 1636, the congregation of First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church marked the 150th anniversary of their present church building on Sunday, when the Rev. Dr. Leacher and the Rev. R. K. Hanna, D.D., ex-Moderator of the General Assembly.

Rev. A. H. Dill, in the name of the congregation, cordially welcomed Dr. Hanna to conduct the anniversary celebrations in the church that day.

In the morning a striking and eloquent sermon on the incident in David's life when he offered to build an house to God, Dr. Hanna showed how the high souls David had in view. A man, he went on to say, could not live with a great ideal without being uplifted himself. The breadth, the width, the height, the depth, and the nobility of that aim. Let them not be afraid of ideals. Take prohibition. It might be an ideal. They might never see it and it might never come in their time. But it was a fine ideal to keep before them and their people. In spite of everything that was said to the contrary, it had done great things in America, and it could and would eventually prove whether in their time or not—great things for their native land. Ideals often meant disappointment and defeat, but it was in this way men became pioneers and leaders and wrote their names on the portals of the City of God.

Their forefathers came over there from Scotland between the years 1600-1650, and settled first in counties Down and Antrim Down. It must have been a very desolate scene when they first came. The country was nearly depopulated there, and there were told that the soil was most uninviting, that a great part of the country was covered with morasses and forests. There were no towns and very little of a population. The town of Ballymoney, he understood, was just a little clachan of houses on the main road that led, as it led still, from Coleraine to Ballymena. It was a very different picture from the thriving and prosperous town of which they were to-day citizens.

Now these people who came over from Clautyre were poor men who had been in Scotland. They had a big job before them—the forests to clear, their farms to drain and make suitable for agriculture, and yet above it all they brought their religion with them, and said that in that place they would build an house to the Lord God of Israel. They had no help behind them; no Government funds. They built their churches themselves. It was a fine tribute to their forefathers, to their religion, to their spirituality, and to their devotion that they built this church in 1777 to the glory and for the worship of Almighty God. Furthermore, they builded with the idea that the gospel of redemption should be proclaimed from that pulpit. That idea had been fulfilled. That church had been ministered to by a succession of able and devoted men, and he was very proud and thankful to say that the present minister, Mr. A. H. Dill, who was the twelfth in that distinguished succession, was a man well worthy of his place. Mr. Dill was an outstanding figure in their Irish Presbyterianism, a man who was respected and honoured and even loved throughout the breadth and breadth of their Irish Presbyterianism. From that pulpit men all down the generations had pointed to Jesus Christ not only as the Saviour of the soul, but as the highest ideal of human life.

He looked upon it as a great privilege and honour to be present to take part in that memorable service when they were celebrating the 150th anniversary of that church, the congregation being much older still. He had just been thinking of the generations that had come and gone through that building, the men and women who had so often sung in the past the Psalm they had just been singing, "The Lord is my Shepherd." He thought of the people who had gone out from that congregation to all parts of the earth, and he thanked God that the congregation was still so strong, so vigorous, and so healthy. Their hearts should be full of thankfulness to Almighty God, and the offerings they made that day would be tokens of their gratitude to God for the goodness and mercy which had followed that congregation all through its long history.

Dr. Hanna was also the special preacher at the united evening service in First Ballymoney, when there was a very large congregation.

THE CONGREGATION'S LIBERALITY. THANKSGIVING OFFERING OF OVER £500.

COMPLIMENT TO REV. A. H. DILL.

To have contributed a sum of almost £4,000 at four special offerings within the last eight years, in addition to a sum of over £500 for a war memorial to the church, is the proud record of the congregation. Following the anniversary services held on Sunday previous to the church, the members of the congregation, at the invitation of the session and committee of the church, were entertained at a social meeting in the lecture-hall, when Rev. A. H. Dill presided over a very large attendance.

A blessing having been asked by Rev. John M'Cammon, tea was served to all present, the tea-tables being presided over by Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Dill, Mr. M'Keague, Mrs. W. M. Knox, Mrs. Agnew, Mrs. Robinson (Culduff), Mrs. Hackett, Mrs. J. Smyth (Ballinamore), Mrs. J. Smyth (Drumart), Mrs. Alex. Morrison, and Miss Knox (Ballywattick).

After tea, the Chairman, on behalf of the kirk session and committee of the congregation, extended a hearty welcome to Dr. Hanna. Continuing, he said that a letter of apology had been received from Rev. A. E. Crawford, Rev. A. Crothers, Rev. H. B. Greenfield, Rev. J. Henderson (Croaghmore), Mr. and Mrs. Kinley (Belfast), Rev. John Jackson, D.D., and Mrs. Jackson (Ballymoney), Rev. J. Dill, and Mrs. Magill, Rev. J. G. and Mrs. Paton (Belfast), and Rev. R. H. Wilson, who had spent many years in the Mission Hall, James's congregation and on his own behalf extending heartiest congratulations on the attainment of the 150th anniversary. Captain James H. H. Pollock, West Africa, wrote:—"On the eve of my departure I wish to take the opportunity of sending my felicitations and congratulations to First Ballymoney Church on the occasion of its anniversary celebration with the 150th year. It is a matter of great regret to me that I am unable to be present and join with the rest of the congregation in the expression of joy and thankfulness on this occasion."

A happy ceremony now took place. Mrs. Greer and Mrs. W. M. M'Keague assisting the platform and investing Mr. Dill with a Master of Arts gown. Mrs. Greer said it had long been the desire of the women of the congregation to give him a garment for service in the church, but hitherto a fitting occasion had not presented itself. Now when they were celebrating their 150th anniversary they thought the time had really come when they should add to his venerableness. "I think," concluded Mrs. Greer "that this really is an addition to your venerableness. We give it with our deep affection." (Loud applause.)

Mr. Dill, in reply, said he was very pleased that they had signified their approval of this latest innovation in their old church. It was a great relief to him to find that he had their entire approval in wearing that garment. He wished to thank the ladies of First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church cordially and sincerely from the bottom of his heart for their great kindness in giving him that garment. Continuing, the Chairman said that on the previous day they had taken up a thanksgiving collection, and he would now call on their secretary and treasurer, Mr. James Boyd and Mr. S. Agnew, to make a report on the collection.

Notable Givings.

Mr. Boyd recapitulated some of the givings of the congregation. The first collection that they had a record of amounted to £1,692, which was put on the plate at a morning service in 1919. (Applause.) In 1921, £836 18s 9d was given; and in 1922, £738. In addition to this, a considerably over £500 was subscribed for the war memorial window in the church. The congregation had also put down for £500 for some necessary arrangements they were making in the church. He was very much gratified the day before to find that the working members of their congregation had far outstripped the nominal classes in their giving to this collection. The result was that the congregation had exceeded the £500, as the amount this collection was £516 3s 7d. (Loud applause.)

On hearing the result, all present rose and joined heartily in the singing of the doxology.

In returning thanks, the Chairman said the offering had been a collection from practically the entire congregation. They had those who were blessed with considerable means giving liberally, but he thought they would all agree that more liberal were the offerings of those who had smaller means, and especially those wage-earners, some of them in a very small way, who had laid upon the plate most munificent offerings according to their income. (Applause.)

Ministerial Congratulations.

Rev. J. B. Armour, the senior minister of of Ballymoney, who met with an ovation, said it was one of the greatest pleasures in his life to stand there in the midst of that congregation to congratulate both congregation and minister on a splendid act of service for the Church of God. He thought there was no congregation in Ireland, England, or Scotland that had the same record for liberality. He wanted also to congratulate most heartily Mr. Dill, who occupied a position in the affairs and gratitude of the congregation as had possibly no other minister ever had. (Applause.) Mr. Dill deserved very great credit from the community as well as the church for the erection of the splendid Town Hall, for the accommodation of the young people of the place. Mr. Dill had set an example to the members of the community who had made their money in the town, some of whom had forgotten to give anything to any good cause when they passed away. (Hear, hear.) It was said that money was made there and spent in Ballymoney, and this was owing to their genius. If a man in Ballymoney made a fortune, he had helped a number of clients, and he could not make a fortune without the clients, no matter what genius he had. Such men had a right to consider the town and its requirements, and in this respect Mr. Dill had set an example to them. He was well aware it would be an example to other people. (Applause.)

Rev. W. B. M'Murray, Whiteabbey, said if he wanted to select a town in which to see Presbyterianism at its best he would select the town of Ballymoney. The three congregations in the town rivalled each other in good works, and First Ballymoney was not behind the other two. The manner in which they upheld the blue banner in Ballymoney was a great strength to Presbyterianism and Christianity in the North of Ireland. (Applause.)

Rev. R. K. Hanna, D.D., Adelaide Road, Dublin, conveyed the congratulation a message from a former minister of the church, Rev. Denham Osborne, D.D., Dublin, given them his congratulations and congratulations on their anniversary. Continuing, Dr. Hanna said First Ballymoney represented the mother church of Presbyterianism in the North of County Antrim, and in that respect was an object of interest and of pride to Presbyterian community in Ireland. There were a great many things at the present time to discourage every Sabbath desecration was growing, and the motor-car had increased it. Then there was the tremendous desire for pleasure. He did not know how it was there, but in Dublin they were threatened on all sides with this craze for pleasure, and behind it there was the craze for gambling—greyhound racing, for example. Then they had the growth of materialism—men coming to believe that a man's life consisted in the abundance of things which he possessed. These were serious menaces, and there was no doubt that the state of religion was low. But it had been low before. There had been times in the history of the Church before when it seemed that everything was dead, but there was never a time when God did not come and revive His Church, and the winter of discontent was followed by a springtide of revival and blessing. Being an evangelical church, they went on believing in Jesus Christ, the Saviour, the Saviour, so they faced the future with courage. (Applause.)

Rev. J. T. Armstrong, rector of Ballymoney, conveyed the congratulations and good wishes of all connected with the Irish Church.

During the proceedings the choir, under the conductorship of Mr. H. G. Lockett, gave delightful renderings of the anthems, "Father in high heaven dwelling," "Sing a song of praise," and "God so loved the world." Mr. J. F. Newell, Ballina, a popular baritone, had a great reception and contributed seven items, each of which was rapturously applauded. Mr. Lockett skilfully accompanied on the organ.

At the conclusion, Rev. S. Wallace proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for the tea-makers, helpers, the ladies who gave flowers to decorate the church and hall, to the choir, to the organist for music, to the organist and accompanist (Mr. Lockett), to Mr. Newell, and to the session and committee of the congregation for providing that social meeting. He joined with the other speakers in hearty congratulations to Mr. Dill and the congregation on the prosperity that had attended them for the last 150 years. The history of the congregation dated back to back. On behalf of the congregation with which he was connected he was pleased to join with them in their rejoicings that night.

Rev. H. C. Waddell seconded, and the vote was passed with acclamation.

The proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Garvagh and District.

The united evening service was held on Sabbath last in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, the preacher being the Rev. Wm. M'Cullough, M.A., Drimbolg.

The potato crop in this district is not nearly so good as was anticipated, and there are a great many diseased tubers. The crop in fields that gave good yield was expected has been disappointing.

It appears that on Monday night or early on Tuesday morning some mischievous persons or persons broke the embankment of the mill-race at Moneycarie Bleach Works, where it had been cut to allow water three feet in width for the purpose of erecting a sluice. The water got away and emptied the mill-race completely at the particular spot. The water was lifted at the turbine wheel, which allowed a quantity of mud and dirt to get into the turbine. The wheel of the turbine was broken and considerable damage done. It is considered the action was the work of poachers to get fish.

Flies are carriers of filth and disease, and until people become as ashamed of having flies about their homes as they are now of having fleas I do not think we will make much progress.—Lieut.-Colonel T. B. Layton.

LOCAL VETO CAMPAIGN.

Public Meeting at Ballymoney

Issue at the Next General Election

In connection with the local option campaign a public meeting was held in the Ballymoney Town Hall on Tuesday night, when Mr. John M'Elderry, J.P., presided, and there was a crowded audience. The speakers included Mr. J. A. Pringle, K.C., M.P.; Rev. T. H. Johnstone, convener of the General Assembly's Committee on Temperance; and Rev. John Pollock, minister of St. Enoch's Church, Belfast.

Certain of Victory.

Rev. T. M. Johnstone said that he had never at any time during the last two years been more certain of ultimate victory for their cause than he was at that very moment. His certainty of victory rested upon the assured conviction that God was with them, and that He was utterly rout all the selfish and time-serving interests that were ranged against them. He believed that amazing right of inaction and reaction—by whatever specious names they disguised themselves, would not continue to withstand overthrown. God had not so signally delivered Ulster from her enemies without to allow her now to be overthrown by her enemies within. And he had no hesitation in characterising as an enemy of Ulster, and one of the very worst enemies, the man who at this late hour of the day refused to grant the people the power of protecting themselves and their children against the outrages which were brought by the liquor traffic. For that was local option in a nutshell, and that was what the Christian people of Ulster were now out to secure (Applause.) Proceeding, Mr. Johnstone denied that temperance reformers had ever alleged drink was the sole cause of the present unemployment. What they always said was, "Let drink be done away with, and the six million pounds which it costs be turned to labour-employing industries, and forthwith our troubles in this department will disappear." On the moral side, the speaker continued, there were 15,700 drunkards in Ulster, and these were responsible for at least 156,000 instances of drunkenness annually, resulting in close on 6,000 police court convictions. There was also over 20,000 ragged, hungry, ragged children, the offspring of those drunkards. It was sheer moonshine, declared Mr. Johnstone, to argue that local option would rouse the political danger of bringing Ulster into a Dublin Parliament; temperance reform endangered no interests save those of the liquor traffic.

Selection of Candidates.

"But the Unionist Party has the solution in its own control," he said. "If its selection committee had put forward men who are not only sound Unionists but also in favour of further temperance reform going beyond option lines, that is one possibility of a split, but, instead, a victorious return of all its nominees. If, on the other hand, those selection committees flout the temperance sentiment of the people by choosing candidates who are not prepared to pledge themselves to the great moral and economic reform, then they will have none but themselves to blame for the result." Politicians are out for mixers of cocktails, and many a strange concoction they have shaken together in Ulster. But the time came when tion they try to shake together and offer the country Unionism and liquor, I am here to-night to say that there is a great and growing body of voters in Ulster who, in God's holy name, will refuse the mixture. After over half-a-century's advocacy of the local option, they thought they have now come to the point where they are determined never in future to record a vote for any candidate who is not in favour of granting to the people the popular control of the drink traffic. For they believe with Burke, that Lord Shaftesbury that whatever is morally right can never be politically wrong, and whatever is morally wrong can never be politically right.

Mr. Johnstone next replied to the recent speech of the Minister of Finance in regard to the manifesto issued on behalf of the Churches, and referred to the Minister's "unfair methods of controversy." In conclusion, he said—Like our fathers in Ulster, we are marching to certain victory under the blue banner of the Covenant. The barometer is "set fair," but we are pressing forward to "very fair." Nevertheless, you must not be disappointed if you hear from time to time of some faint heart growing disheartened. The work of every great reform is strewn with the discarded helmets and rusted swords of faint-hearted soldiers who have lost the love of some cherished honour or appointment. But, thank Heaven, no Government has to call option upon the Church for aid, and, though here and there an individual may covenant with the enemy and sell his Lord, the great body of reformers will reach the goal." (Applause.)

Critical Stage Reached.

Mr. J. A. Pringle, K.C., M.P., said the local option movement had now reached a critical stage. In the past two or three years the question would be decided whether this reform was to be granted or definitively postponed. The matter hung reluctant they might be to differ from those with whom they were in entire agreement on other matters, they must, in the interests of Ulster, take a definite stand on this question. The trade was trying to rope in those who were personally interested in it to argue that it was morally or economically justifiable. Mr. Pringle said that Capt. Hill, Pollock, who sometimes spoke against local option for Ulster, did not seek to justify the trade, but contended that it was a necessary evil. "I have the greatest respect for Mr. Pollock," said Mr. Pringle, "and I think I would be doing him a gross injustice if I implied from any of his public utterances that he was in favour of the trade on its merits. His attitude was that of an apologist who, while not denying the evils that follow in the train of the trade, seeks to excuse it on the ground that it is necessary to produce the revenue which he requires or that you cannot give the people the opportunity of crushing it without being a disturber of the party peace. Until some public men of standing can come to say that the trade as a trade, judged upon its merits, can be justified, I am entitled to assume that the best men in Ulster only tolerate the trade."

Continuing, Mr. Pringle said he agreed that local option in the areas where most drink would decrease, and his hope and expectation were that the decrease, though gradual, would be continuous (Applause.) He did not agree with the statement of the Minister of Finance that prohibition was a corollary of local option. They could have had local option in Scotland had not produced the results which its supporters hoped for, as comparatively few districts had adopted it. This thought should bring some comfort to the Finance Minister on the revenue question, but he would be sorry if local option had not resulted in Scotland since they obtained even a very imperfect Act, and he had hoped that local option in Ulster would had done Scotland any harm. Local option had conferred one great boon upon the Scottish people in that it had looked to this drink problem from all the ordinary political issues of the day. He had always treated that they as Unionists should be given this right. (Applause.)

Prohibition in the States.

Rev. John Pollock said he had five times visited America, and he had marked the advance in temperance sentiment and also the steady progress of prohibition itself. Of all the miscalculations uttered by the liquor interest in this country, there was none more scandalously false than the assertion that prohibition was rushed, that it was secured by a catch vote, that the American people were caught napping, that they were taken utterly by surprise, and were now waiting most eagerly for an opportunity of revising and reversing the decision of nearly a decade ago. It was in the year 1913 that the slogan was first uttered by Christian Endeavour: "A dry America by 1920." It was greeted by the saloon-keepers with defiant scorn. The principal argument in favour of the change was this—that the country was ripe for it. The race was regarded by all students of social reform as having reached the last lap, and the Union actually reached a year earlier than was anticipated. A sufficient reply to those who spoke of prohibition as if it was a new idea was that from the blue. Two years after the advent of prohibition he (Mr. Pollock) was in New York. Away at Mount Pell, Bronxville, Daniel M'Neill, J.P., James M'Cready, Thomas M'Clure, Daniel Gillan, Wm. Scally, and James Drain.

NURSE WITHDRAWS.

The Ministry of Home Affairs wrote sanctioning the appointment of Mrs. Agnes Smyth as maternity nurse for Derrock dispensary district at a salary of £40 per annum.

Mrs Smyth wrote withdrawing her application for the position owing to there being no house in the district which she could get at a reasonable rent.

It was decided to advertise for a successor.

THANKS.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Alexander Turner, J.P., conveying thanks to the Guardians and Rural District Council for their kind expression of sympathy in his deep sorrow and irreparable loss.

POOR LAW COMMISSION.

Mrs Montgomery drew attention to the recent report of the Poor Law Commission. As far-reaching changes were proposed, she thought the Guardians should make no comment at present.

Mr. M'Henry concurred, and said that in Ballymoney they had done away with the workhouse proper and retained the infirmary for the sick poor.

Mr. Keers agreed with Mrs. Montgomery's suggestion. The general opinion was that the Government had jobs—

The President—Oh, now, now.

Mr. Torrens—That is what it will end in.

Mr. Keers—You will not, I think, object when I say that I do not know where the funds are to come from to pay for the officialism that is being heaped upon us.

It was decided to consider the report at the next meeting.

"DUTY" AND "PRIVILEGE."

Mr. M'Henry said he noticed in the Press that Mrs. Armour had stated that none of the gentlemen of Ballymoney had visited Coleraine workhouse. The Board had specially appointed the lady Guardians to look after the Ballymoney inmates in the Coleraine workhouse, and considered they were well qualified to look after those duties. The other members had to look after such duties as the cleaning and repairs of labourers' cottages, selection of sites, sanitary work in connection with the rural district, and many other things. When Mrs. Armour's statement went out to the public it might be inferred that the Ballymoney ladies were neglecting their duties, when such was not the case.

Mrs. Armour—I was looking upon it as a privilege you had neglected.

The President—I think you had better make a different decision.

Mrs. Armour—I merely mentioned what they had said when we were there.

Mr. Keers—Did you visit the place we had no need to do so.

Mr. Torrens—I think Mr. M'Fall should have paid a visit. (Laughter.)

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. S. M'Henry, J.P., presiding.

HOUSING SUBSIDY.

The Chairman gave notice of motion to consider the advisability of the Council not giving any further subsidy for the erection of houses in the rural district when the present period expired. The Council was about to take into consideration the rents of labourers' cottages, and he thought the amounts paid away in subsidy would be better employed in helping to reduce the rents of the cottages.

The Ministry wrote for payment of £54 6s 7d expenses in connection with the inquiry held on the 26th and 27th May, 1926, and it was agreed to pay the amount.

REPAIR OF HOUSES.

A resolution was received from the Londonderry R.D.C. directing attention to the Rural Workers Housing Act, 1926, under the Scottish Board of Health, whereby loans could be advanced for the repair of houses for agricultural workers, and suggesting that a similar Act in Northern Ireland would be a great public benefit.

It was agreed to consider the matter on that day month.

RENTS OF COTTAGES.

The rents proposed to be charged for the new cottages being erected were considered. After discussion, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Keers, Mrs. Montgomery, Messrs. Keers, Boyd, Drain, Moore, and Madden, was appointed to go into the question of the rents of all the Council cottages and to report at the next meeting.

COTTAGE PRIZE SCHEME.

Awards by Antrim Agricultural Committee.

The awards for 1927 in connection with the cottage prize scheme promoted by County Antrim Committee of Agriculture have been published and over fifty holders throughout the county have qualified for prizes. There are three sections—the cottage with garden class, the special class for ex-servicemen, and the champion class. Points were given for cleanliness and general order, cultivation of the garden, general management and care of live stock, the growing of crops, and general management of beds. The general standard was exceptionally high. The awards include—

Ballymoney Rural District—1, John Caldwell, Ballymacormick, Ballymoney; 2, Edward M'Closkey, Ballycastle, Ballymoney; 3, Samuel M'Cullough, Ballycastle, Ballymoney, and John Morrison, Seacon, Ballymoney; 4, Robert Boyd, Leaney, Ballymoney, and Mrs. Annie M'Lean, Ballymacnonelly, Rasharkin.

Ballymena Rural District—1, John Erwin, Ballygarvey, Ballymena; 2, John Cathcart, Craigywarren, Ballymena; 3, James Irwin, Ballygarvey, Ballymena, and Patrick M'Cluskey, Ballycastle, Ballymena; 4, William M'Neill, Killygore, Ballymena, and William Greer, sen., Aughaboy, Portglenone.

Ballycastle Rural District—1, Daniel M'Elroy, Acrivella, Ballycastle; 2, Patrick M'Keegan, Tawnaghee, Ballycastle, and Thomas Watson, Carneatley, Ballycastle, and Patrick Mullan, Moyaver, Armoy; 4, Henry Carnegie, Hillhead, Ballycastle, and John M'Neill, Riverside Cottage, Cushendun.

Championship Class—1, George Corken, Kilmakee, Dunmurry; 2, Jos. M'Clintock, Ballygarvey, Ballymena; 3, Hugh Russell, Ballygarvey, Ballymena.

Ex-Servicemen's Class—2, Jas. Hunter, Newhill, Ballymoney, and David M'Cullough, Tonnes Road, Ballymena; 3, Hugh Connor, Newhill, Ballymoney; 4, Joseph C. Barclay, Newhill, Ballymoney, and R. G. Wilson, Townparks, Ballycastle.

Entertainment at Ballygan.

Helping the Agricultural Association.

A successful variety entertainment in aid of the local branch of Ballygan Agricultural Association bazaar, and organised by Mrs. M'Keague and Miss J. Boyd, was presented in the Hall, in Ballygan Schoolhouse on Friday evening.

Mr. W. M. M'Keague, J.P., the respected manager of the school, presided, and in his imitable witty style introduced the performers.

Miss Kathleen Dervock, delighted the audience with her monologues, which caused unbounded hilarity. The newly-formed "Ballygan" Band—Mr. T. Adams (piano), Miss D. Warnock (cello), Mr. James Hill (banjo), and Mr. J. Thompson (violin)—rendered selections which were much appreciated. Miss Kathleen M'Question was clamantly recalled for her rendering of some well-chosen songs. This young artiste, who is a pupil of Madame Drinkwater, has a sweet soprano voice of much promise. Miss Molly Barte was warmly encored for her "Monologue—Thank Goodness, I'm Home Again," as were the Misses Bessie Nevin and Dorothy M'Lean in their duologue, "In Persevering Ways." Mr. James Warnock, Loughan, contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the evening by his songs and stories. Mr. "Jamie" Stewart, without whom no concert in the district is complete, kept the audience convulsed with merriment, and had to respond again and again to vociferous encores. Miss Betty Wright and Master John Hart, who were introduced by Master Tom Anderson, rendered the duet "My Man John" in fine style for such young performers. The Ballygan school choir, led by Mrs. M'Question, the talented principal of the school, rendered two very pleasing selections, "Sea shanties," etc., with much expression and sweetness. The accompaniments to the choir items were skilfully played by Miss Kathleen M'Question, Miss Doreen Warnock, and Mr. Hubert Lockett.

Mr. Samuel Boyd, Ballywindland, moved and Mr. J. D. Hart, Coolbreene, seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, organisers of the entertainment, which enthusiastic vote was passed by acclamation. The Chairman suitably responded. The performers and their friends were hospitably entertained after the concert by Mr. and Mrs. M'Keague, Thornmount.

DERRYKEIGHAN PARISH CHURCH.

The annual harvest thanksgiving services were held in the above church on Sunday last. The church was profusely adorned with fruit and flowers. The preacher at the morning service was Rev. J. Armstrong, very liberal, were an eloquent sermon from Revelations, xv., 3, to a large congregation. Special music in the afternoon of an anthem, "The Joy of Harvest" (Maunder), was rendered by the choir, under the leadership of Miss Mitchell, Dervock, and Miss Greenvale, the organ. The evening service was Rev. Samuel Barnhill, M.A., rector of the parish. The collection was very liberal, were devoted to the clergy superannuation fund. Those who sent fruit and flowers were Mrs. Barnhill, Ballymoney, Mrs. Montgomery, Benvarden; Miss Stuart, Ballyhivistock; Miss Mitchell, Dervock; and Miss Greenvale, Benvarden. The decorators were the Misses Barnhill, Mrs. Montgomery, Benvarden; and Miss Mitchell, Dervock.

DERRYKEIGHAN MISSION.

The annual harvest thanksgiving service in connection with above was held on Sunday evening, when the preacher, Rev. Herbert A. M'Kegney, curate of Derry, delivered an eloquent sermon to a crowded congregation, the school being so packed that many were unable to gain admittance. Suitable harvest music was rendered, solos being sung by Mrs. Barnhill, "The fields are white unto harvest" (Miss Barnhill, Cloghan), and "Jesus", Miss Winifred Barnhill, "The Ivory Palaces"; and Mr. R. Richmond, Buchnoll, "Thou remainest." Miss Barnhill presided at the organ. The school was profusely decorated with fruit, flowers, and corn. A special feature of the decorations was a miniature corn stack, built for the occasion by Miss Jeannie Stuart, The Loop, Derrykeighan. Those who decorated were the Misses Barnhill, The Rectory; Mrs. Ferguson, Curnalf; Miss Mary Neill, Curnalf; and Mr. Robert M'Candless, Derrykeighan.

The annual meeting of the Coleraine and District Homing Pigeon Society was held in the club-room, Circular Road, on Monday evening—Mr. R. Cameron (chairman) presiding. Satisfactory reports dealing with the Society's progress during the past year were presented. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Chairman, Mr. Robert Cameron; trustee, Dr. R. Allison; joint secretaries, Messrs. W. Leighton and D. M'Dowell; treasurer, Mr. J. Gillooly; committee—Messrs. M. M'Leister, W. H. Daley, J. M'Cormick, S. Maguire, T. Park, W. Henry, S. Leighton, and Dr. Edmiston. Consideration was given to the question of holding a show under the auspices of the Society.

Ballymoney Guardians and Rural Council.

THE POOR-LAW COMMISSION'S REPORT.

MALE COUNCILLORS AND THEIR DUTIES.

This Board met on Thursday—Miss C. E. Hamilton, J.P., presiding. The other members present were—Miss Watt, Mrs. Armour, Mrs. Montgomery, Messrs. A. Boyd, J.P., S. M'Henry, J.P., Alexander Hayes, James M'Kinney, John Boyd, Samuel Torrens, James Madden, Robert A. M'Fall, Robert Boyce, Daniel M'Neill, J.P., James M'Cready, Thomas M'Clure, Daniel Gillan, Wm. Scally, and James Drain.

NURSE WITHDRAWS.

The Ministry of Home Affairs wrote sanctioning the appointment of Mrs. Agnes Smyth as maternity nurse for Derrock dispensary district at a salary of £40 per annum.

Mrs Smyth wrote withdrawing her application for the position owing to there being no house in the district which she could get at a reasonable rent.

It was decided to advertise for a successor.

THANKS.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Alexander Turner, J.P., conveying thanks to the Guardians and Rural District Council for their kind expression of sympathy in his deep sorrow and irreparable loss.

POOR LAW COMMISSION.

Mrs Montgomery drew attention to the recent report of the Poor Law Commission. As far-reaching changes were proposed, she thought the Guardians should make no comment at present.

Mr. M'Henry concurred, and said that in Ballymoney they had done away with the workhouse proper and retained the infirmary for the sick poor.

Mr. Keers agreed with Mrs. Montgomery's suggestion. The general opinion was that the Government had jobs—

The President—Oh, now, now.

Mr. Torrens—That is what it will end in.

Mr. Keers—You will not, I think, object when I say that I do not know where the funds are to come from to pay for the officialism that is being heaped upon us.

It was decided to consider the report at the next meeting.

"DUTY" AND "PRIVILEGE."

Mr. M'Henry said he noticed in the Press that Mrs. Armour had stated that none of the gentlemen of Ballymoney had visited Coleraine workhouse. The Board had specially appointed the lady Guardians to look after the Ballymoney inmates in the Coleraine workhouse, and considered they were well qualified to look after those duties. The other members had to look after such duties as the cleaning and repairs of labourers' cottages, selection of sites, sanitary work in connection with the rural district, and many other things. When Mrs. Armour's statement went out to the public it might be inferred that the Ballymoney ladies were neglecting their duties, when such was not the case.

Mrs. Armour—I was looking upon it as a privilege you had neglected.

The President—I think you had better make a different decision.

Mrs. Armour—I merely mentioned what they had said when we were there.

Mr. Keers—Did you visited the place we had no need to do so.

Mr. Torrens—I think Mr. M'Fall should have paid a visit. (Laughter.)

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. S. M'Henry, J.P., presiding.

HOUSING SUBSIDY.

The Chairman gave notice of motion to consider the advisability of the Council not giving any further subsidy for the erection of houses in the rural district when the present period expired. The Council was about to take into consideration the rents of labourers' cottages, and he thought the amounts paid away in subsidy would be better employed in helping to reduce the rents of the cottages.

The Ministry wrote for payment of £54 6s 7d expenses in connection with the inquiry held on the 26th and 27th May, 1926, and it was agreed to pay the amount.

REPAIR OF HOUSES.

A resolution was received from the Londonderry R.D.C. directing attention to the Rural Workers Housing Act, 1926, under the Scottish Board of Health, whereby loans could be advanced for the repair of houses for agricultural workers, and suggesting that a similar Act in Northern Ireland would be a great public benefit.

It was agreed to consider the matter on that day month.

RENTS OF COTTAGES.

The rents proposed to be charged for the new cottages being erected