The Spey Pollution Case.

A QUESTION OF EXPENSES.

In the Court of Session on Wednesday, counsel were heard by Lord Kyllachy in the action at the instance of the Countess of Seafield and others against Roderick Kemp, Macallan Distillery, in which interdict was asked against the respondent allowing the Ringorm burn and the Spey to be polluted by discharges from his distillery. Counsel for the complainers asked that they should be found entitled to expenses up to the date of the remit to Dr Readman and Mr Manners to report upon the remedial measures which the respondent had adopted to obviate further pollution. Lord Kyllachy suggested that the motion should stand over until March, when it was probable that the operations would be within visible distance of the end. Counsel for the pursuers agreed to the suggestion.

Provost Symon, Dufftown.

Provost SYMON, Dufftown.

The above is a portrait of Mr John Symon of Pittyvaich, the newly re-elected provost of Dufftown. Mr Symon has been a member of the Town Council continuously for the past 30 years. The provostship is no new honour to him seeing, he held that position for the long period of 19 years before the Burgh Police Act was adopted. Mr Symon has taken an active part and interest in the progress of the town and in the many undertakings which have so materially increased its growth and prosperity. Personally, he has done more than any other individual in improving the amenities of the burgh by the erection of new dwelling-houses and the improvement of existing ones on his property. Though now resident on his Pittyvaich estate, Mr Symon has ever been ready to take the lead in any proposal for the welfare of Dufftown—a fact of which the people have shown their appreciation by just returning him at the top of the poll with a thumping majority.

Upper Cabrach.

At the request of Mr Jas. Sheed, Aldunie, County Councillor, a meeting was held in the school of Upper Cabrach on Monday night, when arrangements were made to collect subscriptions in aid of the funds for the relief of sufferers by the war.

Craigellachie.

An enjoyable smoking concert was held under the auspices of the Curling Club in the Hotel Hall on Friday, 10th inst. Mr Stuart of Inverfiddoch, President of the Club, was in the chair. The following gentlemen contributed to the programme, which was long and varied—Messrs Maxwell and Stuart, Aberlour; Mr Smith, Maggieknockater; and Messrs Trimmer, Shiach, M'Kinnon, and Milne, Craigellachie. A feature of the evening was the rendering of Gaelic Songs by Messrs Ronald M'Donald and Donald Maclean. Mr Hutcheon, Aberlour, acted as accompanist.

Aberlour.

The half-yearly feeing market was held on Thursday. Wages were not much changed, but where servants were shifting tended to be lower; and the supply was in excess of the demand. Foremen got from £16 to £17; second men, £14 to £15; third men, £12 to £13; boys, £8 to £10. There were no women at the market for engagement. The shows are diminishing greatly, but they were not altogether absent. The day kept dry although dull.

The Town Council met on Friday, 10th inst.—Provost W. Gowan presiding. There was no vacancy in the magistracy, Rev. C. Jupp continuing first bailie and Mr Macpherson second. Mr A. Stuart was promoted to be treasurer—Mr Hendry, the retiring treasurer, declining to accept office. He received a vote of thanks for his past services. The various committees were appointed. With the view of scouring out the drain it, was resolved to connect the curling pond with the burgh sewer, and permission was granted by the Hospital Trustees to connect with this pipe. A complaint was read by Mr Davidson, county road surveyor, about the way the public streets were left after being opened by plumbers, etc., and the burgh sanitary officer was asked to look after them better in future.

Glenlivet.

A concert in aid of funds for the Glenlivet Public Library was held in Glenlivet School on Friday. Rev. Calder occupied the chair, and in his opening remarks gave a short and appropriate address on taste in literature. There was a large and appreciative audience. The part-songs and duets were well rendered, and the soloists, Miss N. Dawson, Mr Unkles, and Mr M'Rae, sang with good taste and expression, and were heartily encored. Miss Grant, Downan, played the accompaniments. The arrangements were in the hands of the energetic secretary, Mr J. B. Grant, who spared no pains to make the evening a success The programme was as follows:—Instrumental music, the band; "Scots wha hae," choir; "Rocked in the cradle of the deep," Mr Unkles; song, "We're a' Scottish here," Miss N. Dawson; duet, "Larboard Watch," Messrs Unkles and M'Rae; song, "The baby on the shore," Mr Stuart; reading, Mr M'Culloch; duet, "Baron's Heir," Miss Grant and Miss N. Dawson; song, "Old Brigade," Mr M'Rae; song, "Our Conversazione," Mr Fraser; Instrumental music, the band; part-song, "Garb of Old Gaul," choir; song, "Sailing," Mr Stuart; recitation, "Bingen on the Rhine," Miss J. Abel; song, "White Squall," Mr Unkles; song; "Hearts of Oak," Mr M'Rae; duet, "Come under my plaidie," Miss N. Dawson and Mr Unkles; song, Mr Fraser; part-song, "Craigielea," choir, "Auld Lang Syne."

Aberlour and Sir W. Wedderburn, M.P.

CENSURE MEETING.

A public meeting—called by Provost M'Gowan, at the invitation of six requisitionists—was held at Aberlour on Wednesday night to consider the conduct of Sir William Wedderburn, M.P. for the county, in voting against the Government on the question of the war in South Africa against the Boers.

Provost M'Gowan, who was called to the chair, said Banffshire people were not guilty of finding fault with their representative in Parliament, and he did not remember any such case within the last thirty or forty years. But in this case they had great reason to find fault. They would be willing to give their member plenty of shoulder room, but there was a limit, and they were quite right in the present instance in finding fault with their sitting member, Sir William Wedderburn—(applause). When war was proclaimed against the nation, they generally found the members of all districts and all loyal men combined in helping the governing body. In this instance our nation did not declare war—it was the Boers who declared war against us, with an order to remove our troops from their borders within three days. That was a species of dictation which Great Britain would take from no nation on the face of the globe. Our troops even yet had not taken the initistive—they had merely acted in self-defence. We had fallen back from point to point—from Dundee down to Ladysmith, and to Mafeking and Kimberley; and that night their hearts went to their soldiers who were fighting their battles—(applause). The people of Banffshire had always been characterised by their loyalty, and so had all portions of Great Britain—he would not say so much for Ireland. The wealth of South Africa had been made by Britons, and now, when we had enriched the Boers, they turned round and kicked us. Under British rule, the Transvaal would be one of the finest countries in the world—(applause). No one in the Government or in the country wished war for it was a horrible thing; but here we could not avoid it, and, in a loyal and good spirit, they had met that evening to consider the action of their member in regard to it—(applause).

Rev. J. S. Boyd, Free Church Aberlour, said he could assure the meeting that he felt his position there that evening, as he appeared as a personal friend of Sir William Wedderburn, and as one who knew him some years before he became representative for Banffshire. He had the greatest respect for Sir William Wedderburn, although he was to move a motion disapproving of his action in regard to his vote on the question of supplies for carrying on the present war with the Transvaal. Personally, he held the view that their representative was an honest and sincere man, and he believed that, although he had on this occasion voted on the wrong side, he voted rightly as regards motive, and he could not but express his admiration for Sir William's manly, straightforward, and conscientious conduct in regard to this matter, according to his light—(applause). He would be generous to Sir William, knowing him as he did; but he felt that Sir William had voted on the wrong side, and had not expressed in the House of Commons the opinions of that county. He appeared at that meeting from a sense of duty. He had studiously avoided politics since he came to Aberlour, but he was glad to know that they met there that night as representing not one political party, but as representing all shades of political opinion—(applause). He was a Liberal, and intended to remain one, but he respected Conservatives; and what he had to say would have more weight than that of a political opponent of their member. He moved the resolution because he felt that Sir William Wedderburn had done wrong in allying himself with Dr Clark and the two other British representatives—Sir Wilfred Lawson and Mr Bryn Roberts—and with disloyal Irish members—for, although, in politics, he always believed in Home Rule, he must say that the education he had got in the past two or three years had convinced him now that the Irish were not fit to govern themselves—(applause) He made that admission with great hesitation, as he had always supported Home Rule; but, after what he had seen and heard of these Irish members, he doubted very much if in the future he would give his vote for Home Rule, unless Home Rule was accompanied with some measure of justice to Wales and Scotland. He was in entire sympathy with their member to a certain stage. He admitted that there was room for criticism; but the proper time for criticism was after the war was over—(applause). Anything that might be said or done to hamper the carrying out of our operations in the Transvaal at the present time was, he thought, unpatriotic in the extreme—(applause). He would move "That this meeting of electors—of all shades of political opinion—in the parish of Aberlour hereby records its strong disapproval of the recent vote of the Parliamentary representative of the county, Sir William Wedderburn, on the question of granting supplies for the prosecution of the war with the Transvaal."—(applause). Every elector in the parish would, he thought, support the motion, or else that elector was—to put it shortly—as unpatriotic as those members of Parliament who voted against the granting of the supplies to our gallant soldiers, who were fighting a hard battle for us in South Africa. He might add that he received a letter on the previous day from Mrs Findlay, thanking him and all the people in the parish for the sympathy kindly extended to her in view of her son being seriously wounded. Aberlour had, therefore, a personal tie with the Transvaal that evening. He was sure they would all express their highest sympathy with Mrs Findlay and the whole family—(applause).

Mr Garrow seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

Mr Macgregor, superintendent of the Spey salmon fisheries, said he hoped the meeting would, in a wide patriotic spirit—the spirit inherited by them from loyal Highland forefathers—and feeling aside and place on record its entire satisfaction with the work and policy of the Government, demanded through the humane purpose of redressing the long-standing grievances of our down-trodden fellow-countrymen in the Transvaal—(applause). He moved "That this meeting heartily approves of the strong and active measures the Government is taking in endeavouring to bring to a speedy conclusion the war against the Boers, and, by this means, to give liberty, freedom, and peace, to all subjects of the Queen, and equal rights and privileges to the subjects of every nation."

Mr James Stewart, fencer, seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman moved:—

"That this meeting regrets the great loss of life that has taken place by the war, and recognises with pride the great bravery and courage displayed by the officers and men in the various engagements, more especially the Gordons and other Highland regiments.

—(applause).

Three cheers were given for the Gordons, and afterwards the motion was seconded by Mr Macgregor and unanimously agreed to.

Have you tried BUDDEN'S BALSAM OF HORSEHOUND AND COLTSFOOT? It is the best known remedy for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, or any affection of the Chest and Lungs. For any of the complaints it stands unrivalled. One dose relieves; one bottle cures. Don't be persuaded to take anything else. Bottles, 1s 1½d and 2s 9d. Sold by all Chemists.

THE WAR.

RUMOURED DEATH OF GENERAL JOUBERT.

The Relief of Ladysmith.

According to the London "Evening News" of Thursday night, an official statement was issued by the War Office from which these facts appear:—

1. Arrangements for relief of Ladysmith are now complete.

2. Remaining troops will be utilised in accordance with the original plan of campaign.

3. Sir Redvers Buller has left Cape Town, and has gone up country.

THE RUMOURS ABOUT GENERAL JOUBERT.

REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION.

Durban, Sunday.—A rumour is current here that General Joubert, the Boer Commander-in-chief, is dead.—Reuter.

Durban, Sunday, 7·35 p.m.—The "Times of Natal" publishes a telegram from Lourenzo Marques stating that General Joubert was killed in action on Thursday.—Reuter.

Durban, Monday.—The report of the death of General Joubert has not yet been confirmed.—Reuter.

Estcourt, Sunday, 6·50 a.m.—A report received here states that General Piet Joubert has been killed.—Laffan.

A Plymouth correspondent was on Thursday informed that the Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe had received from his brother-in-law, Lord Lansdowne, the Secretary for War, a message stating that General Joubert is dead.

As the result of inquiry respecting the above report the Press Association has the highest authority for stating that the Secretary for War has sent no such telegram to Lord Mount-Edgcumbe.

Up to 8 o'clock on Thursday evening no news to the effect that General Joubert was dead had been posted at the War Office.

RAILWAY BLOWN UP NEAR COLENSO.

CAVALRY ENGAGEMENT AT BESTERS.

Estcourt, Monday, 8·35 a.m.—Patrols in armoured trains went out yesterday morning, and returned in the afternoon. They report that the Boers have blown up the line between Colenso and Chieveley, a station near the 189th mile-post (that is, about four miles south of Colenso). Beyond the fact that the rails were bent, comparitively little damage was done. They also blew up a small culvert with a span of about four yards over a donga. On seeing our patrols the enemy retired.

The impression is gaining ground that, had the Boers intended to advance upon Estcourt, they would have been here long ago, and that every day lessens the chances of their coming farther south.

The Kaffirs report that a commando between 400 and 500 strong, with waggons, is pointing towards Colenso. This is probable the foraging party which I mentioned in my telegram of yesterday.

The Kffirs also reported that some cavalry regiments belonging to Sir George White's force had an engagement with the enemy at Besters, the result of which is at present unknown.—Press Association Special.

Estcourt, Sunday, 9·30 a.m.—The Boers are gradually hemming Estcourt in. Detached bodies of the enemy have been seen south of the river Tugela. This renewed activity indicates a probable attack upon this place.

Signallers under the direction of Captain Keyser have been out all day, vainly endeavouring to communicate with Ladysmith.—Laffan.

Monday, 4·15 p.m.—To-day a party of Boers some 500 strong, accompanied by a waggon, arrived at Chievely Railway Station, which lies about 12 miles north of Estcourt. They succeeded in blowing up the line in two places with dynamity, but retired when a patrol of the King's Royal Rifles Mounted Infantry made its appearance upon the scene.—Laffan.

ARRIVAL OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT.

12·35 p.m.—The West Yorkshires have arrived. The men look very fit.

The bombardment of Ladysmith continues. Heavy firing was heard early this morning.

The armoured train is out on a reconnaissance towards Colenso.—Reuter.

Pretoria, November 9th.—Reports have been received from the Boer camp at Ladysmith bearing to day's date.

The advices are to the effect that heavy cannonading started at daybreak, and that some commandoes have arrived within 1500 yards of the British position.

The cannonading has ceased, and musketry fire has begun.

From Mafeking and Kimberly it is reported that all is quiet.—Reuter.

Stories and Legends of the Highlands.

CHAPTER II.

GILLESPIE AND THE SMUGGLERS.

The rivers Dee and Don take their origin from a number of streams, draining the eastern slopes of a part of the highest mountain range in Scotland. The streams rush, each down a glen or valley, the lower reaches of which broaden out into open spaces or haughs comparatively level, and admitting of cultivation; but the upper part of the glen is often a gorge among the hills, and always surrounded by moors and mosses, frequented only by sheep and deer, while the eye could only rest on heather, rock, or scaur. These glens being at least a thousand feet above sea level, their climate is about the coldest in Britain, and the late spring, or early autumn, frosts often blight the crops of oats, and even those of barley or bere, which ripens earlier, and has ever been considered the more to be depended on for malt and meal. The want of roads, and the limited demand for bere-meal, encouraged the farmers and crofters to turn their grain into whisky, as an article of easier carriage and of more demand. As it is obvious, that the Government could not collect the duties from a multitude of "sma' stills," the conversion of the surplus of that grain, which was their only sure crop, into spirits was strictly prohibited, and a long series of contests between the smugglers on the one hand, and the preventive officers on the other, has only ceased within the memory of many now living. In this warfare, the illicit distillers had always the sympathies and support of the people. Little help, or reliable information, indeed, gave they to the one side, and much to the other. In these glens are still remembered many adventures of the smugglers of the old time, while a lingering partiality is even yet still evident, in the fact, that in those reminiscences the smuggler almost always outwits the excise-man.

There are many variations of the following narrative, but the following may be considered as the most common, and though it may be of limited interest, it may be, at least, considered as illustrative of local feeling, and of manners in the first decade of the century. At that time illicit distillation was extensively carried on in the district we have indicated. In Glen Ernan, Glen Nochty, and Glenbucket, the greater part of the bere crop was malted, dried, ground, and kept in store, ostensibly for the making of household ale, and, although the excise officers regularly measured and registered the malt, it commonly disappeared in an unaccountable manner. It was scarcely safe for them to go in search of the stills, except in a large party, which was easily observed and its course noted by watchers on high grounds, who generally gave out, with a smile, that they were looking for sheep.

The excise officers, after many years experience, found it impossible to put down the illicit manufacture, so liable were they to be deceived and defeated in various ways. At last it was determined to appoint, for its suppression in that district, a certain Captain Gillespie, who had the reputation of being a man of the most infamous character, and, at the same time, of being an able, experienced, and determined officer. He fixed his headquarters at Aberdeen, and lost no time in visiting Strathdon. He passed through several suspected localities, and saw nothing unusual, till, returning through Glen Nochty, he noticed an old man of low stature, descending the hill with a pony, which carried on its back what was evidently a sack, with a keg in each end. The man, Willie M'Hardy, on observing the stranger, turned aside and made haste towards a low turf hut, or shieling, which stood in a sheltered corner by the side of a burn. The captain hastened to the place to make a seizure, but the nature of the ground hid, for a few minutes, M'Hardy, the cottage, and the burn near it from the view of the invader. On the arrival of the latter with two of his men, which were with him, Willie was standing quietly beside his pony, with the sack on its back, indeed, but the kegs were nowhere to be seen. Gillespie entered the hut, which was inhabited by a poor old woman known as Bauby Bane, or white-haired Barbara. He expected to find the kegs at once, but was disappointed. His men, in the roughest manner, searched in every direction, but in vain. Poor Bauby's furniture, her bedding and utensils were thrown in a heap on the floor, while she assailed the party in language before which even Gillespie seemed to quail. In English and Gaelic, which latter is known to be especially rich in terms of execration, she is said to have upbraided him with the chief villanies of his past life, which he was astonished that such as she could know, and finally told him that he would come to a bad end, and die a shameful death. As a token of her true words, he would be in great danger of being drowned in the Don, but assured him that his weird was such, that he could not die by water. The men speedily retired, being glad to get beyond reach of her tongue. As soon as they were at a safe distance, M'Hardy led Bauby to the bank of the burn, and pointed out to her the position of the kegs, which he had contrived to sink in the dark and mossy waters, where they could not be seen.

This Bauby had long been a widow. She was the last of a large and spirited family, of which she had now nothing except a memory of love and grief. Two of her sons had fought for their country, and fallen in a foreign land; others had emigrated in a ship which was no more heard of, and her youngest daughter, the loveliestand the last, had not long before been carried to the quiet kirkyard of Strathdon. Left alone, and without means, she had too much spirit to receive assistance as one of the poor; but from the many houses, which she visited, and in which she was ever ready with her kind and wise advice, she received as a friend, all that, and more than, was necessary for her comfort. As it was often the case in the Highlands, that any woman gifted with more than the usual educational requirements of the country at that time, and who had also profited by the experience of an advanced life, so it was with Bauby, who was considered "to ken mair than she ocht." No one ventured to go so far as to mention the word "witch," for one and all (as is, indeed, usual in this our time) professed that they "didna believe in ony sick havers, but it is better to be on the safe side, ye ken. We wud far rather ha'e canny Bauby's gweed word than her ill wishes. Sae, at an orra time we never miss, for her sake the corner o' a kebbuck, or twa three ells o' plaiding o' oor ain 'oo. Oor sheep winna thrive the waur. Besides, it's weel kent she whiles haes the insight (second sight). Did'na she tell whar to fin' the corp o' the gley'd packman, that was smor't in the sna' in the sair storm o' fern year?"

Willie M'Hardy dwelt in the same glen, and, though considerable past middle age, was yet hale and hearty. His energies found sufficient outlet in connection with his croft, the game in the hills, his sma' still, and a few sheep. The last were of little value, but they seemed to require most of his time in distant and lonely places. He was a man who said little, but had a great reputation in the glens for his commonsense, and advice in matters of importance. Every glensman could depend on his word, so also could even an exciseman rely on his promise, but in this case M'Hardy never considered himself responsible for the sense in which that promise was received.

(To be continued.)

Craigellachie Distillery and By-Products.

Pending the discovery of some more satisfactory method of treating distillery effluents than is as yet known, and to avoid passing the burnt ale (the most difficult to treat) through the filter bed—which as a purifier has not been successful—Craigellachie Distillery managers have arranged to drive the ale on land for manure. They have also offered farmers in the neighbourhood 2d per load for all they choose to remove for themselves. This will prove a boon to farmers in a year like this, when turnips are scarce. The ale, when new, is excellent feeding. Draff is dearer this year, and distillers find a ready market for it. With the commencement of distilling operations, the riparian proprietors continue to show their determination to keep the river clean, and other distillers situated near the river, or near dwelling houses, are being obliged to drive the ale away for manure, the method of treating it in settling tanks and filter beds having, as already stated proved a failure.

Rothes.

SCHOOL BOARD.—On Friday evening, 10th inst., this Board met in the Public School. The question of the appointment of an assistant teacher was up, and, as there was only one recommended by the rectors of the Training College, he was appointed at a salary of £85 per annum. Mr Peter Law, M.A., Aberdeen, who was appointed, it was stated, had in the interim accepted another appointment, and, in the event of his declining, the Clerk was instructed to advertise for a Normal trained certificate male teacher, at a salary of £95, or a female with the same qualifications at a salary of £65. The use of the school was granted for an ambulance class. It was intimated that Harry Scott had won the Simpson Bursary of £5, tenable for two years. The Committee reported that evening classes had been commenced at Rothes, and that Miss Cran was to commence a cookery class. It was arranged to advertise for a loan of £240 to pay the debt on the Inchberry water supply.

For the Families, Widows, and Orphans of Soldiers.

The Vinolia Company, Ltd., will forward to the Transvaal War a halfpenny on every tablet of Vinolia Soap sold by them for the United Kingdom during one month beginning with Monday, November 6, 1899, and ending December, 5, 1899. While the Company cannot execute orders from the public, every chemist, store, or grocer is an agent for Vinolia Soaps.

If one in every dozen persons in the Kingdom were to buy, say a tablet of Premier Vinolia Soap only (costing 4d), the Vinolia Company would be in a position to forward a cheque for something like £7000 to the "Transvaal War Fund."

GRAIN TRADE IN THE NORTH.—At Huntly, on Wednesday, oats, 40 lbs. per bushel, were 13s 6d per qr; barley and bere, 54 lbs. per bushel, 22s 6d per qr.; oatmeal, 12s to 13s per boll of 140 lbs.—At Banff, on Friday, common oats, 40 lbs. per bushel, were to 14s 1s 6d per quarter; potato oats, 40 lbs. per bushel, 13s to 13s 6d per qr. barley, 54 lbs. per bushel, 21s per quarter; bere, 54 lbs. per bushel, 18s per quarter; oatmeal, to 13s per boll of 140 lbs. At Aberdeen, on Friday, common oats were 14s to 14s 6d per qr.; potato oats, 40 lbs. per bushel, 13s 6d per qr.; bere, 54 lbs. per bushel, 19s to 19s 6d per quarter; barley, 54 lbs per bushel, 21s to 23s per quarter; and oatmeal was 13s 6d per boll of 140 lbs.—"Banffshire Journal."

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