

Contributors

Wellingborough (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1894

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THE NEWS, FRIDAY, Dec

As requested I forward report of my annual report to the Wellingboro' Rural District Council which is I think pretty accurate

Yours truly
 J. A. Wood
 The Doctor B. M. S.

P.T.O.

The Wellingborough News.
 Friday, March 8th, 1895.
 DECLARATION OF WAR IN THE
 SHOE TRADE

To all appearances a look at the shoe trade is inevitable and unless something else happens between now and the 1st of March we shall have all the factories of the members of the Federation closed, and many thousands of boot operatives thrown out of employment. In the earlier part of the week, recognising the gravity of the situation, and how much there is at stake, several members of Parliament have been using their good offices to get the whole of the matter in dispute referred to arbitration. Mr. Chamberlain was the first to move in this direction and the very sensible letter that he sent to Mr. Inskipp and Mr. Ward will be found on another page. The answers the hon. member received from those gentlemen are also published and therein we see the points of difference. Mr. Inskipp expresses the willingness of the executive of the Men's Union to refer the whole matter to arbitration, the name of Sir Henry James, who has formerly acted as arbitrator, being approved by them. Mr. Ward, on the other hand, points out that the manufacturers are not the striking party, and whilst recognising how serious a matter a strike would be to the trade of the country, expresses his opinion that no good could come from a conference on the subject, and that if they submitted to the terms of the Union it would mean ruin to the trade. Their position as manufacturers, he says, has become unbearable, and he adds the significant sentence that even a fight, terrible as it may be, might prove a lesser evil all round than a capitulation which would end in disaster to the trade. Mr. Hazell and Mr. Broadhurst, the two Leicester M.P.s, and Mr. Labouchere, Northampton senior member, have all written letters on the subject, and the last named obtained from

joined by the work of this mode of manufacturing combined with the votes of the County Council, brought in the "The" was largely should great have seen the answers given to Mr. Ward, and the gentlemen can see the feature of the situation. Mr. Inskipp expresses the points of difference. Mr. Inskipp expresses the willingness of the executive of the Men's Union to refer the whole matter to arbitration, the name of Sir Henry James, who has formerly acted as arbitrator, being approved by them. Mr. Ward, on the other hand, points out that the manufacturers are not the striking party, and whilst recognising how serious a matter a strike would be to the trade of the country, expresses his opinion that no good could come from a conference on the subject, and that if they submitted to the terms of the Union it would mean ruin to the trade. Their position as manufacturers, he says, has become unbearable, and he adds the significant sentence that even a fight, terrible as it may be, might prove a lesser evil all round than a capitulation which would end in disaster to the trade. Mr. Hazell and Mr. Broadhurst, the two Leicester M.P.s, and Mr. Labouchere, Northampton senior member, have all written letters on the subject, and the last named obtained from

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RIDAY, MARCH 8, 189

JMN.

WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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The monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, when there were present:—Rev. T. Richards (chairman), Mr. George Parsons (vice-chairman), Rev. W. D. Sargeant, and Messrs. C. Parsons, J. Parsons, H. Hutchinson, W. H. Callis, H. Tassell, George Bayes, J. C. Eady, W. Bradshaw, Charles Dunkley, J. Keech, V. L. Smith, W. S. Gibbard, C. F. Groome, W. O. Sanders, and Willan Jackson (clerk).

THE WORK OF THE HIGHWAY BOARD.

After the 25th inst. the Council will take over the powers and duties of the Highway Board, and arrangements were therefore made for carrying on this work. Mr. J. Marriott, surveyor to the Highway Board, was in attendance, and presented his estimates for the repair of the main and district roads for the ensuing year, showing that a total of £2,215 was required against £2,990 last year, and that owing to extraordinary traffic Irthlingborough and Wollaston were slightly higher this year.—The Clerk was instructed to prepare a statement of the contributions which will be required, and present it at the next meeting.

THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

The annual report of the medical officer, Dr. F. H. Morris, was read as under:—

It again becomes my duty to lay before you the annual report of the sanitary condition of the Wellingborough Rural District, which consists of three sub-divisions, with an estimated population of 20,100 of which Earls Barton contains 8,098, Finedon 6,049, and Higham Ferrers 5,953. The registered births have been 630, including 13 illegitimate, the births in the Earls Barton district have been 214, in the Finedon district 194, and in the Higham Ferrers district 222, this gives a birth-rate of 31.34 per 1,000 for the whole district, or 26.42 per 1,000 for Earls Barton, 32.06 for Finedon, and 37.29 for Higham Ferrers. The registered deaths have been 302 for the whole district and 117 for Earls Barton, 91 for Finedon and 94 for Higham Ferrers, thus giving a death-rate of 15.02 per 1,000 for the whole district, 14.44 for Earls Barton, 15.04 for Finedon, and 15.79 for Higham Ferrers, being an improvement upon last year, which was 16.018 for the whole district, Earls Barton being 16.000 while Finedon was 20.005 per 1,000.

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and Higham Ferrers 16'... been 123-80 per 1,000 births ft. Earls Barton has been 154-2, 1,000 ft. Higham Ferrers 108-1. This shows that out of 100 children born 12-380 have died before attaining the age of one year.—Zymotic diseases: 235 cases of infectious diseases have been reported during the past year, 103 in the Earls Barton district, 18 under 5 years of age, 85 over 5 years, 95 in the Finedon district, 20 under 5 years, 75 over, and 37 in the Higham Ferrers district, 11 under 5 years and 26 over.—Small pox: No case has occurred in the district during the past year, but vaccination has become almost a thing of the past as no steps have been taken to enforce the Act.—Scarlet fever: 170 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, 75 in the Earls Barton district, 17 under 5 years of age 58 over, 72 in the Finedon district, 20 under 5 years of age 52 over, and 23 in the Higham Ferrers district 10 under 5 years of age 13 over. There have been 3 deaths, 2 in the Finedon district, 1 under 5 years, 1 over, and 1 death in the Higham Ferrers district under 5 years.—Diphtheria: 9 cases have been reported, all over 5 years of age, with one death of the 9 cases; 6 have occurred in the same house the others were sporadic, one being in a patient suffering from scarlet fever.—Typhoid fever: 28 cases have been reported, 8 in each district, with 4 deaths, 2 at Wollaston in the Earls Barton district, and 2 at Finedon, all over 5 years of age.—Erysipelas: 32 cases have been reported, 20 in the Earls Barton district, 1 under 5 years 19 over, 6 in the Finedon district with one death, and 6 in the Higham Ferrers district, all over 5 years; all these cases have been sporadic, in no instance has any other in the same house been attacked.—Measles not being included in the Notification Act have not been reported; there have, however, been 10 deaths from this cause, 4 in the Earls Barton district, and 6 in the Higham Ferrers district all under 5 years old.—Whooping cough is accountable for 17 deaths, 6 in the Earls Barton, 3 in the Finedon, and 8 in the Higham Ferrers district, 16 being under 5 years and one over.—Diarrhoea has been fatal in 4 cases in the Earls Barton district, 2 being under 5 years and 2 over.—The deaths from the Zymotic diseases have been remarkably low. This must be attributed to the very efficient system of disinfection, every case has been visited and instructions given and disinfectants applied. There being no Isolation Hospital in the district it has been impossible to prevent the spread of these diseases.—Respiratory diseases: Phthisis has caused 24 deaths, 12 in the Earls Barton district, 3 in the Finedon and 9 in the Higham Ferrers districts.—Bronchitis and pneumonia have been fatal in 69 cases, 23 in the Earls Barton district, 20 in the Finedon, and 21 in the Higham Ferrers district; of these 41 have been under 5 years of age, 23 over. Heart disease is accountable for 30 deaths, one under 5 years, 29 over. There has been one death from rheumatic fever. Influenza has been fatal in 6 cases, 5 of which were over 60 years of age, 1 being 53. Injuries have caused 4 deaths. Of the so-called preventable diseases, measles and whooping cough, although not included in the Act, have caused more than double the number of deaths than all the others combined. Why these should have been excluded is best known to the framers of the Act. I have again to call your attention to the inefficient water supply throughout the district, which consists of shallow wells which are constantly liable to pollution. Earls Barton is the only village in the district which has waterworks. There is also no proper drainage system in the district, the whole drainage being discharged into the several streams and finally into the river. I wish to recommend the use of peat-moss for the pail system, its special claims for consideration are, first, its power of absorbing liquids from 9 to 12 times its own weight; second, its power of fixing and retaining ammonia; third, its deodorizing powers; lastly, its value as a manure and its suitability for all soils, one ton of peat manure being equal to double the quantity of farm-yard manure. It is obtainable at a moderate cost, and having had about 12 years personal experience of its value I can recommend it with the greatest confidence. I would also recommend the pails being emptied more frequently, twice a week, instead of once, as at present. Many samples of water have been analysed, but, as mentioned in my monthly reports, chemical analysis is no certain test of absolute purity, yet, where found to contain an abnormal amount of organic matter, it becomes a duty to condemn it for domestic purposes. Several cases of overcrowding have been remedied, as also several houses found to be too filthy for human occupation. The several factories and workshops throughout the district have been inspected, and those in an overcrowded state, or not having proper means of ventilation or accommodation for the different sexes and those requiring white-washing or cleansing, have been rectified. Some pieces of unsound meat have been seized and the parties prosecuted and fined. I beg to express my gratitude to your Inspector for the estimable manner in which he has carried out his onerous duties, also for the valuable assistance I have derived from him in the exercise of our sanitary work."

The monthly report of Dr. Morris was as under:

I have to call your attention to a house at Great Harrowden in the occupation of Wm. Hart, with his three children, girls aged 9, 8, and 7, sleeping in one bed which is in a most filthy state. At the time of my visit he had engaged a

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one could scarcely imagine that it had been by human beings. Irrespective of dirt th in such a dilapidated state that it is totally human or any habitation and must therefore be damned. There have been 43 cases of infectious diseases reported during the past month, viz., 41 of scarlet fever, 35 at Earls Barton, 5 at Ecton, and 1 at Sywell. The disease was imported at Ecton and also at Sywell from Earls Barton, one case of erysipelas at Earls Barton, and one case of typhoid fever at Great Doddington.

Mr. George Bayes, sanitary officer, presented his annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1894, which was as under:

Infectious diseases: 235 cases have been visited, houses cleansed and disinfected, bedding and clothing destroyed in the small-pox cases at Irthlingboro' and in one of the typhoid cases at Wollaston. Dwelling-houses: 65 dwellings have been repaired, 9 dilapidated ones abolished, and replaced by new ones. 16 overcrowding cases and 12 filthy dwellings dealt with. Accumulations: 73 foul accumulations and 49 animals removed, 9 ashpits, 12 pigstyes, and 18 privies abolished, 36 cess-pits filled in and closets made on the pail system, 28 new closets erected, 14 cleaned and repaired. Several ashpits abolished and receptacles provided. Sewers: Lengths of sewers have been laid at Earls Barton, Finedon, Irthlingboro', and Wollaston. Private drains: 20 old drains were taken up and re-laid with 4-inch or 6-inch glaze pipes by owners, 45 blocked and defective drains repaired, 37 trapped, and 8 sink pipes disconnected. Bake-houses, slaughterhouses, dairies, and workshops regularly inspected, 9 cases of overcrowding in workshops dealt with, 73 notices for abatement were served, 5 cases were brought to the Police Court, conviction in each case.

Mr. Sanders said with regard to the water supply mentioned in the report, he thought that Council should make every endeavour to provide a supply of water in the larger villages. It was, if anything, in his opinion, a more important question than the disposal of sewerage. He had no faith in any shallow well system, but he thought it was their duty to see about providing better water supplies for all places that were increasing in population.—Rev. T. Richards said he thought the position they had taken up was this: that if any of those large parishes desired a water supply they would put no scotch in the wheel to prevent it.—Mr. G. Parsons said their sanitary inspector had gone through their parish from end to end, every well not in a satisfactory state having been remedied, and he supposed it was the same with other places. He believed Irthlingborough was in a very satisfactory state.—Rev. T. Richards thought it was a matter they should all bear in mind.—The annual report was considered to be of a satisfactory character.—In the case of the house occupied by Hart at Great Harrowden, arising out of the monthly report, an order was made for the nuisance to be abated, and the house was condemned as unfit for habitation.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Clerk read a communication from the Earls Barton Parish Council, containing the following resolution which had been passed at the last meeting with reference to the sewage farm: "That the additional seven acres required to make up 20 acres be taken out of Lucas' barn field on the north side of the 13 acre field already adopted."—Mr. Dunkley proposed "That the Council approve the recommendation of the Parish Council, and as advised by the Local Government Board, accept the offer of Mr. J. W. Sharman's trustees to sell them five acres more land, making 20 acres in all, at £50 per acre, for the purpose of the sewage farm, and that the

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