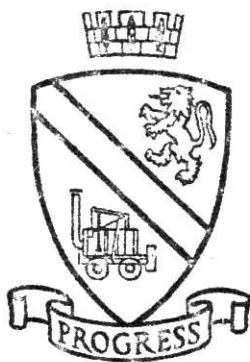


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HETTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CIVIC NEWS LETTER



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CIVIC NEWS LETTER

Vol III

July, 1959

No.1

Foreword by Councillor H. Ramshaw, J.P., Chairman of the Council

I have great pleasure in compiling the Foreword for the current issue of the News Letter. It is right and proper that the people should be informed, as to what takes place in the matters of Local Government and its Administration. Members of any Local Councils have a great responsibility to face up to, and in the main we at Hetton can look back over the post war years with a sense of pride, at the remarkable changes that have been accomplished over those years, and our thanks must be extended to all departments of the Council in the planning and administration.

Development of the Area

This has gone on inspite of the increased interest rates, and the district has certainly "had a face lift". When one reflects on the condition of the Brickgarth, as it was and as it is now, one is led to wondering what our forebears would think if it were possible for them to see the changes that have taken place.

Indeed, I can imagine that any person that had left the district prior to the redevelopment, and returning for a visit asking if they were at Easington Lane. Also there is the very gratifying change taking place on the High Street, when this is complete we shall have a main street second to none in the County. The County Council have made a grand job of the road through the High Street, about which at first we were a bit sceptical; however, we have seen the benefits, that such a change has been brought about.

In many parts of the district developments are taking place, one in particular at George Street, Hetton Downs. This is a moving with the times, old Colliery houses are being demolished and new Council houses taking their place, with all the

advantages of the modern amenities. Gone are the days of having the wash tub on the floor, for the wage earners of the family to have their bath on arriving home from work, and one could go on to mention the hundred and one advantages of the modern house.

In this matter of development, it is the intention of the Council to press on and to keep up with progress; we must pay tribute to the National Coal Board, for their willingness to co-operate at all times, in the matter of slum clearance and redevelopment.

Amenities offered

These are many and varied and at all times if any member of the public is in doubt about any aspect I am sure that enquiry at the Council Offices will be of benefit. All Wards in the District, have their Old Peoples' Club with the Central Committee meetings held in the Council Chamber.

Now to the future, time alone will tell of the changes that will take place. However I must mention one that will take place and will almost involve each of us. The opening of the Hawthorn Shaft in September will be very important. It will see the end of the mineral line that runs from Elemore Colliery down to the Docks at Sunderland. Whilst we regret the loss of an old friend, we certainly welcome the change. It will mean there will be no stopping at the White Gates, no more smoky locomotives passing through Hetton and may be the making up of the road in Caroline Street.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the many personal well wishers who were so kind as to wish me well during this term of office as Chairman. It is indeed an honour and I will endeavour to uphold the dignity and efficiency of the Council, with all the power and character that I possess.

H. RAMSHAW.

Comment

It is regretted that there has been some delay in the publication of this issue of the News Letter, but it is hoped that regular quarterly issues will be maintained in the future.

Since the last News Letter quite an amount of legislation has been passed which is of interest to tenants and owners of property, particularly the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959, which deals, in the main, with the purchase and improvement of older property. A summary of the provisions of the Act is contained in this issue.

Once again the rate has been levied and comment is made on certain aspects, particularly in view of the revised grant system.

Your Money

As indicated in a previous issue, a revision of grants from the Central Government towards local authority expenditure took place as from the 1st April, 1959 and, as Hetton was a "receiving" authority, notwithstanding an increase of 2/- in the £ on the rate levied for County Council purposes, the total rate for the district was kept at 17/6d. in the £, the same as for the year 1958/9.

The following tables shows the respective rates for the past four years :-

	<u>1956/7</u>	<u>1957/8</u>	<u>1958/9</u>	<u>1959/60</u>
Hetton U.D.C. Rate	6/4	6/-	6/-	4/-
Durham C.C. Rate	9/-	11/-	11/6	13/6
	<u>15/4</u>	<u>17/-</u>	<u>17/6</u>	<u>17/6</u>

There were three main factors which enabled Hetton to reduce its rate (a) a net increase in Government Grants of £9000 (b) the re-rating to 50% of industrial premises and (c) the revision of electricity board assessments - these

latter two factors contribute mainly to the product of ld. rate increasing from £400 to an estimated £450.

The following table shows the expenditure of the Council allocated over the various departments compared with last year.

	1958/9		1959/60	
	Expenditure	Rate	Expenditure	Rate
	£	in £	£	in £
Collection of Hse. Refuse etc.	11000	2 3	11717	2 2
Sewage Disposal	5156	1 1	5639	1 0½
Infectious Disease Prev.	1043	2½	1700	4
Public Conveniences	530	1¼	570	1¼
Public Lighting	3973	10	3695	8
Highways	8176	1 8¼	10560	1 11½
Street Scavenging	2448	6	2400	5¼
Parks and Open Spaces	4900	1 0	4975	11
Cemeteries	2132	5¼	2278	5
Admin. Finance etc.	8132	1 8¼	8358	1 6½
Housing Rate Contribution	7000	1 5½	6000	1 1½
	54486	11 3	57892	10 8½
Less Government Grants	25542	5 3	36292	6 8½
	28944	6 0	21600	4 0

The following works are provided for in the current year's estimates :-

(a) Private Street Works

- (1) Railway Terrace - work is complete on the making up of the part of Railway Terrace between Downs Lane and William Street.
- (2) Broomhill Terrace - Notices are being served and work

should commence within the next month or so.

- (3) Seymour Terrace - preparatory work is practically complete and work should commence in January or February, 1960.
- (4) Logan Street, Wear Street etc. - preparatory work is being done and work should commence at the same time as Seymour Terrace.

(b) Highways :-

A good amount of cold asphalt carpetting is provided for and the following major jobs will be undertaken:-

- (1) Dunelm Road - reforming cul-de-sac at east end and tidying up of open spaces.
- (2) Thames Street - widening of carriageway and adjustments to footpath.
- (3) Downs Pit Lane - raising of channels, improvements to gullies and re-surfacing

(c) Public Lighting :-

Tenders have been accepted for materials to provide Sodium Discharge Lighting on the main road from the boundary with Houghton U.D.C. at Broomhill to the Four Lane Ends. Work will commence within the course of the next few weeks and should be finished before the winter.

Surveys and preparatory works are being done on the remainder of the road to Snippersgate.

Improvements will be carried out in various parts of the district, the first two of which will be Park View and Bog Row to the junction with the main road at the Fox and Hounds and Murton Lane from the High Street Junction to East View.

(d) Parks and Pleasure Grounds

- (1) The Peat Carr Playing Field is now complete and in regular use.
- (2) The Brickgarth Flats are being levelled and grassed to provide a childrens playground with equipment and a playing area.
- (3) Work will be commenced shortly with the provision of a childrens playing field in Barnard Park (opposite entrance to the Park)

(e) New Depot

Plans and estimates have been submitted to the Ministry for approval in connection with the building of a new depot at Hutton Street. This Depot will replace the Front Street and Coach Row Depots. With the clearing of the Coach Row Depot progress can then be made with the development of this area for housing purposes.

Chairman of the Council 1959/60

On the 25th May, 1959 the Council elected Councillor Harry Ramshaw of 14 Sheriffs Moor Avenue, Easington Lane, Chairman of the Council for the year ending May 1960. Councillor Ramshaw has been a member of the Council since 1949 and is Training Secretary at Elemore Colliery.

Councillor Ramshaw is Secretary of the Elemore Colliery Welfare Committee and is a well known local preacher in the Methodist Church.

Council Houses - Arrears of Rent

Once again it is pleasing to note that the arrears of Council house rents at the 31st March 1959 were at the remarkably low level of £2.8s.9d. £126,209 was collected during the year from 2454 houses.

Traffic Congestion - Richard Street
and Market Street

Complaints have been received regarding traffic congestion in Richard and Market Streets. Whilst it is appreciated that, particularly in Market Street, commercial vehicles must deliver goods to business premises and in doing so cause congestion, it is felt that local residents could materially assist by parking their vehicles in the side roads or back streets. Approaches have been made to occupiers in both streets requesting that this should be done, in order to avoid the Council taking the unnecessary action of having a prohibition order placed on the street concerned.

Dust Nuisance - Sheeting of Lorries

With the increasing amount of coal being transported through the area by road, the question of sheeting the lorries to prevent a dust nuisance was taken up with the National Coal Board. A considerable improvement has taken place recently but the position is being watched as certain contractors are occasionally transporting the coal without sheets.

Gift of Seat - Houghton Rotary Club

The Houghton Rotary Club have presented to the district a ~~teak~~ seat to be placed in a position where it will benefit old people. It has been decided that the seat should be placed on the lawns recently laid out at High Street, Easington Lane

Derelict Reading Room, High Street

Negotiations are still proceeding for the purchase of the site of the Reading Room adjacent to the Church Hall in High Street, Easington Lane. It is hoped that the building will be demolished shortly and the site incorporated in the Brickgarth Recreation scheme which is at present under construction.

Electrical Appliances

The attention of the Council has been drawn recently to the fact that residents are purchasing electrical appliances, particularly lighting bulbs, without having regard to the voltage. The declared voltage for this district is 240 volts not 250. In order to get efficiency only bulbs or appliances applicable to 240 volts should be purchased.

George Stephenson's Railway

With the centralisation of coal drawing at the new Hawthorn Project, the railway built by George Stephenson which traverses the district, will be removed. The history of the railway and its association with George Stephenson has already been included in the News Letter but with the removal of the last important link between the district and the development of railways throughout the Country, some form of commemoration will take place. Consideration is being given to various suggestions and it is hoped in the next issue to give details.

Housing Development

(a) High Street - The first phase of 30 houses has now been completed, houses are occupied, lawns laid and footpaths and carriageway complete. Work on the second phase which will include 12 houses, a lock up fish shop, Doctors' surgery accommodation and police houses is to commence shortly.

(b) George Street - the first phase is nearing completion (16 houses are let) and work is well advanced in the second stage of 16 houses.

(c) Site in High Street opposite St. Michael and All Angels Church - roadworks are being done and a commencement will be made shortly on the erection of nine houses.

(d) Hornsey Terrace and Pemberton Bank - Tenants are being re-housed and preparatory work done for the redevelopment of the site.

(e) Shaws Row - Within the next month or so, it is hoped to demolish the derelict shop and erect the remaining four houses to complete that part of the scheme.

Introduction of New Industries into the County

On the 18th May, 1959 the Durham County Council convened a Conference of all local authorities, and new town corporations in the County together with representatives of the North Eastern Trading Estates Limited and the North East Industrial and Development Association to consider industrial problems, particularly with regard to employment and the attraction of new industries to the County.

The problem which may be created by the reduction of employment opportunities in the basic industries of the County must be given serious consideration and the idea of the Conference was to exchange information and co-ordinate and direct efforts to make the County more attractive to new industry.

As a result a representative standing Conference was appointed to

- (a) investigate and execute the means whereby the efforts of all local authorities can be co-ordinated
- (b) to act on suggestions and recommendations made at the Conference.

This Standing Conference has met and is actively pursuing a number of suggestions made at the main Conference.

In the meantime representatives of the Council are to meet members of the County Council to discuss the future development of the Hetton Lyons Colliery Site as a prospective industrial site.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Clothing Appeal

This year W.V.S. will be 21 years old and the history of W.V.S. Clothing goes back to the war years when 50,000,000 garments were received and distributed from W.V.S. depots.

W.V.S. now has clothing depots all over the country and the bulk of clothing distributed is for needy people in this country although a percentage is sent overseas every year.

The bulk of clothing stocks held by W.V.S. is composed of secondhand garments given by the general public and carefully cleaned, mended etc. In the same way odd bits of wool are knitted up into squares for blankets. Nothing is ever wasted.

In order to meet the regular demands made upon them it is necessary for W.V.S. to keep their clothing stocks at about 4,000,000 garments and at the present moment this figure has fallen to just over 1,000,000 garments. Apart from regular day to day work W.V.S. must be ready to meet the first needs of victims of disasters such as the East Coast Floods of 1953.

Hetton W.V.S. now appeals for any second hand clothing, particularly clothing for men and boys and garments for babies, but it must be emphasised that all gifts of clothing would be accepted by W.V.S. with great gratitude and put to good use.

W.V.S. members will be at the Civil Defence Centre, Office Place, Hetton-le-Hole (at the rear of the Council Offices) from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th July and each Tuesday afternoon during August, to accept any clothing. Any large parcels will be collected if you will leave your name and address at the Council Offices.

Magazine Adoption

The Hetton W.V.S. have adopted three regiments - two on the Continent and one in Malaya to which parcels of magazines are regularly sent.

Any magazines which are in good condition will be gratefully received at the Civil Defence Centre on Tuesday, the 28th July and each Tuesday during August from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., or they may be left at the Council Offices.

No Women's Magazines are required but recent copies of such publications as John Bull, Everybody, etc. and paper backed books such as Penguins, Pan Books, Readers Digest etc. are very popular.

Bound books are also needed for overseas. All types of books are required, for W.V.S. Headquarters send them not only to servicemen but also to their wives and children living abroad with them. We therefore need travel books, novels, technical books etc.

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Planting of Trees - Colliery Spoil Heaps

Since coal working first started in the County increasingly large areas have been spoiled by the tipping of waste materials. There are today nearly 3000 acres of colliery tips in the County and of these about 1000 acres are disused and no longer of interest to the National Coal Board for tipping purposes.

For some time concern has been expressed about the acres of derelict land in the County and the County Council have

carried out a survey of all derelict tips with a view to deciding which should be planted with trees. Some tips may be required as filling for roads etc., others may be removed and levelled for a productive use but for the remainder afforestation is the most suitable use to which they can be put.

So far 7.3 acres of the Alexandria tip near Rainton was planted in the year 1956/7 and last year 4.7 acres of the Stobley Moor tip was finished. On the Stobley Moor tip 8,200 trees were planted (pine, sycamore, birch and elder) but unfortunately owing to the drought a number have been lost and will have to be replanted.

The primary object of planting the heaps is to add beauty to the landscape but it is hoped that in the years to come the heaps will provide a timber crop which means that land formerly completely unproductive will eventually produce marketable timber.

Hetton and District Agricultural and Trade Show

The Hetton and District Agricultural and Trade Show will be held in the field opposite Gargles Estate, South Hetton Road, on Saturday, the 22nd August, commencing at 11 a.m.

The Show has been enlarged this year by the inclusion of a Dog Show and one of the main attractions will be a display by the Royal Air Force Gymnastic Team which appeared at the 1959 Royal Tournament in June.

Each year more interest is being displayed in the Show - and there are now thirteen trophies awarded for the various sections and classes.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 which came into operation on the 14th June 1959 deals with certain measures to make house purchase easier and introduces a new system of standard grants for the improvement of houses.

Certain building societies will be assisted by the Government to enable them to lend up to 95% of the value

on purchase of houses built before 1919. They will also make loans of up to 95% for the purchase of houses built between 1919 and 1940 as far as their resources permit.

So far as improvement grants are concerned a new system of standard grants has been introduced. These new grants can be claimed as of right and are payable only in respect of the provision of specified standard amenities.

The five standard amenities eligible for grant are :-

- (a) a fixed bath or shower
- (b) a washband basin
- (c) a hot water supply
- (d) a water closet
- (e) satisfactory facilities for storing food.

The dwellings must, after improvement, be equipped with all five standard amenities and the approval of the local authority must be obtained before the work is done.

The amount of grant payable is to be one half of the cost incurred subject to the following maxima :-

(a) All five standard amenities provided		£	155
(b) If a bath is already installed	deduct		25
(c) If a washbasin is already installed	"		5
(d) If a hot water supply is already installed	"		75
(e) If a water closet is already installed	"		40
(f) If a foodstore is already installed	"		10

It is of no consequence how much of the expenditure incurred went towards providing each of the amenities, the grant is calculated on the total cost.

The main condition to be observed after a grant is paid is that the house must be occupied by the applicant or a member of his family or kept available for letting for a period of three

years from the date of payment of the grant. After this period the house may be sold without any portion of the grant being repaid to the local authority.

The above summary of the provision of the Act is of necessity brief. Further details and assistance can be obtained on application to Hetton House.

Elemore Welfare Handicapped Persons Club

There appears to be no end to the willingness of people in the district to assist others who are not so fortunate as themselves. When early in 1959 Elemore Colliery Welfare Committee were considering what uses the new hall could serve, a suggestion was made that a club for handicapped persons could be formed and use the new hall as its headquarters. By March a sub-committee had been formed and various persons interested in the scheme got together with the result that on the 7th May, 1959 the Inaugural Opening Ceremony took place. Representatives of all organisations in the district attended together with quite a number of handicapped persons. And once again a very useful and important society came into being.

The objects of the Club are to look after the social needs of handicapped persons in the district, organise handicraft classes, hobbies, outings etc. and generally to foster fellowship amongst those who are unfortunate to be handicapped in any way.

So far thirty handicapped persons are attending meetings held in the Welfare Hall, Brickgarth, every other Tuesday night - handicraft classes have commenced and already an outing has been held.

The real need at present is for associate members (subscription 6d. per month) to assist on Club nights and with other functions which may be held. Further information can be obtained from Sister P. Anderson S.R.N., Elemore Colliery Medical Centre (telephone number Hetton 2251), during office

hours or at her residence, 12 South Hetton Road, Easington Lane.

All handicapped persons in the urban district will be most welcome, children as well as adults, and offers of assistance would be appreciated.

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Water System - Reporting of Defects

The Sunderland and South Shields Water Company are now the water undertakers for the urban area, and the following notes may be of assistance :-

- (a) Dripping taps (hot and cold) are repaired free of charge.
- (b) Defective ball valves (dripping overflows) are repaired and charged for.
- (c) Reports of defects, bursts or suspected bursts should be made as follows :-

Day time: District Foreman (Mr. N.M. Harrison)
14 Deepdale Street, Peat Carr,
Hetton-le-Hole
or
Council Offices, Hetton House,
Hetton-le-Hole.

Night time: District Foreman (as above)

Telephone Numbers - District Foreman's Residence
Hetton 2213
Hetton House Hetton 3212
(or failing above Sunderland Depot
Sunderland 4664)

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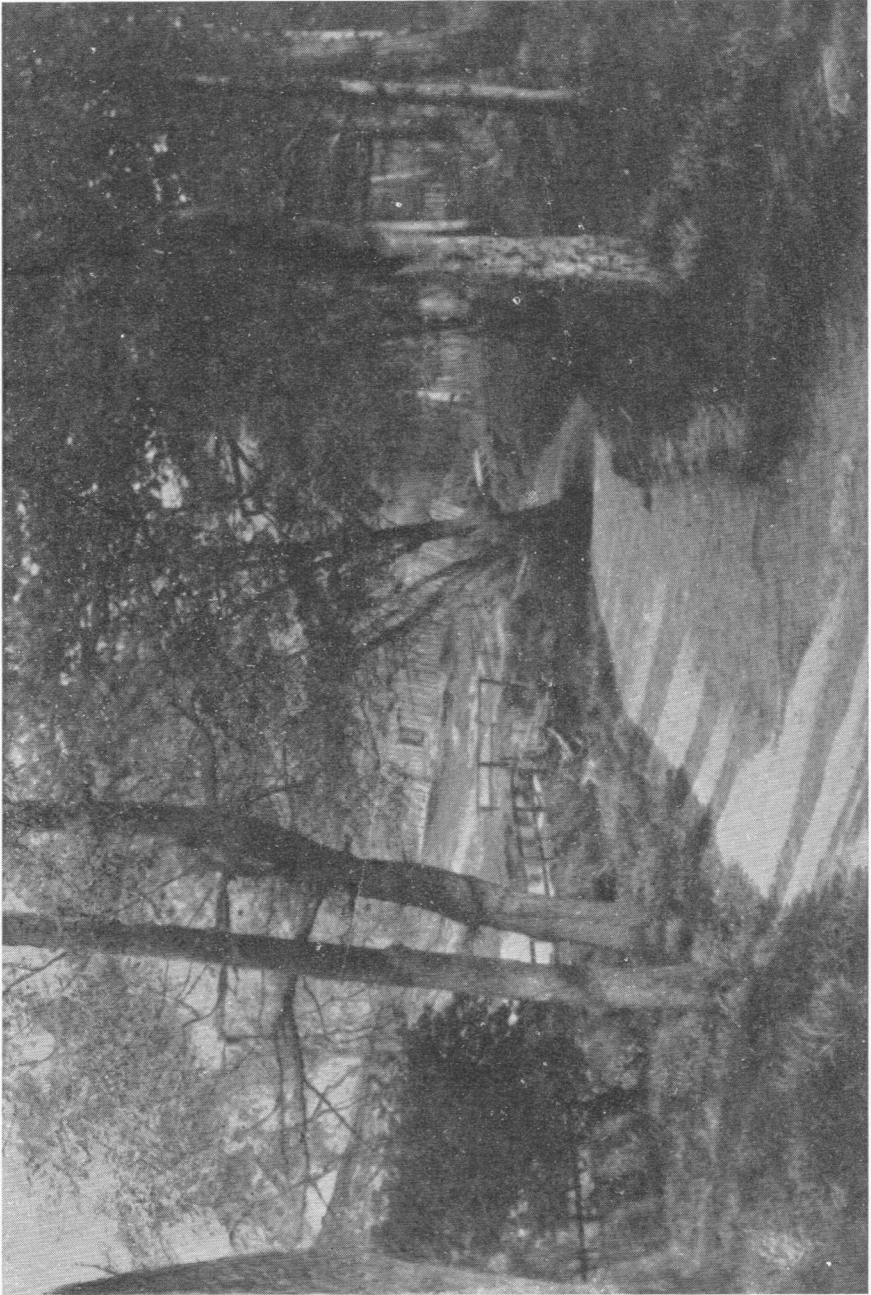
THE HISTORY OF HETTON-LE-HOLE (continued)by C.A. Smith, M.A.Eighth Instalment

Today we are going to stroll again into the distant past, long before the advent of coal mining, and through the small agricultural village of Hetton-le-Hole as it was when William Heppedune and William Laton and the Prince Bishops of Durham were Lords of the Manor.

We have already met these Lords and their Stewards, reeves and other high placed officials; but today we shall meet the small population of rural workers, perhaps in the tiny cluster of cottages surrounding the Hall or Manor-house near the present Bog Row area, where the Old Hall once stood. We shall find them to be a poor hard-working folk who toil six days a week from dawn to dusk in the wide open fields, at first in obedience to their Lord's commands and later for themselves in their own tofts and crofts.

We observe that they are wretchedly housed, clad and fed, and with little prospect of a change of fortune or progress, much less of recreation or leisure, except on May Day or at Houghton Feast.

But the years roll by and as we stroll again we find that there is a feeling of anxiety and unrest abroad. Time which apparently has stood still in this village is now witnessing a change; for the new Law of Enclosure is causing the open village fields to be divided up into holdings which favour the rich landowners only. Consequently some of the families we met before and which for years have occupied strips of land are now being expelled unless they can produce documents to prove their copy-hold - and this few can do. The old indentures, which their fathers held, are lost or destroyed for few can read or write and so they can prove no legal right to their holdings. Besides, now that the open fields are being enclosed, the villagers have no longer the right to use the free common land for grazing their cattle or any other animals they may possess, or even to gather firewood and fuel in the Hetton Park Wood or denes "by hook or by crook", as the old saying recalls. In



Hetton Park Wood



Front Street, Hetton-le-Hole
(now shop of Mr. E. W. Gardiner)

fact once my Lord has enclosed the land for sheep farming (for wool was then what coal is today) agriculture ceases to be a sure means of livelihood for our forbears in Hetton, and so some are forced to migrate elsewhere or turn to domestic industries until the more settled days of coal mining.

The details of such a stroll may seem very remote from us in this year of grace 1959; but the fact is that certain documents which have come to our notice since we wrote the early instalments of this historical sketch, tell the story of the lives of those who chose to stay on at Hetton after Enclosure prevailed. They present a picture of the struggle experienced by the villagers in those days of slump and depression to provide themselves with the bare necessities of life. And not only this, but the names of the early dwellers in Hetton have come to light, and we felt it would be well worth while to tell you about them before we continued our story of the miners themselves.

The documents then reveal the names of those who lived and laboured here, seemingly without fame or fortune. They tell us also how they fared, how much money they earned and what they could buy. Through the medium of these records we meet also with some of our forbears who dwelt in Hetton in the time of Henry VIII and paid tithes regularly to the Rectors of Houghton.

Such were :-

Robert Byran,	John Harrison	Richard Harrison
Michael Hird	William Hodge	William Lythfare
Aly. Matthew	Richard Robinson	William Speed
Agnes Summerscope	Jenny Smith	Elizabeth Todd
William Todd	John Tunstall	Robert Trewhit
Cuthbert Welch		

The tithes they paid consisted of wool, lambs, pigs, hens, geese, corn, lyne or flax and hay as well as rent charges which prove that these villagers held small holdings - crofts and tofts of their own.

But as we said along with the Law of Enclosed lands came the slump and the menfolk fell on evil times, yet their poverty was often offset by the courage and initiative of their wives and daughters who strove to support their failing fortunes at this crisis in agriculture. For example we meet with the names of

women in Hetton who kept and sold small livestock and who gathered and sold lyne for 1/6d. a bundle and who practised spinning as well.

Such were :-

Dame Bryce, Dame Matthew, Dame Silvertop (a charming and famous family name), Dame Summerscope, Dame Thornley, Dame Todd and Agnes Wheatley (probably a "Miss") and several others. Among them they sold also 136 lambs reckoned at 1/- each, making a total of £6. 16s. 0d. One hundred geese at £1. 13s. 4d. the lot, and two hundred and sixty hens at 2d. a-piece, making a total of £2. 3s. 4d. This account which is dated 1531 shows no errors of arithmetic and is for one year only. Those who smile at the price of 1/6d. per bundle of lyne may be interested to see some of the prices for food and the wages obtaining in those days. Various old accounts, some referring to Houghton and Hetton up to about 1500 show that --

Eggs cost from 1/2d. per dozen

Two chickens cost 1 1/2d. the couple

A fat cow cost 5/-

An ox cost 6/8d.

Pigs cost 2/- each

Geese cost 4d. each

A good working horse cost 10/-

Lambs cost 1/4d. at Christmas and 8d. to 1/- after

Beer cost 2d. a gallon

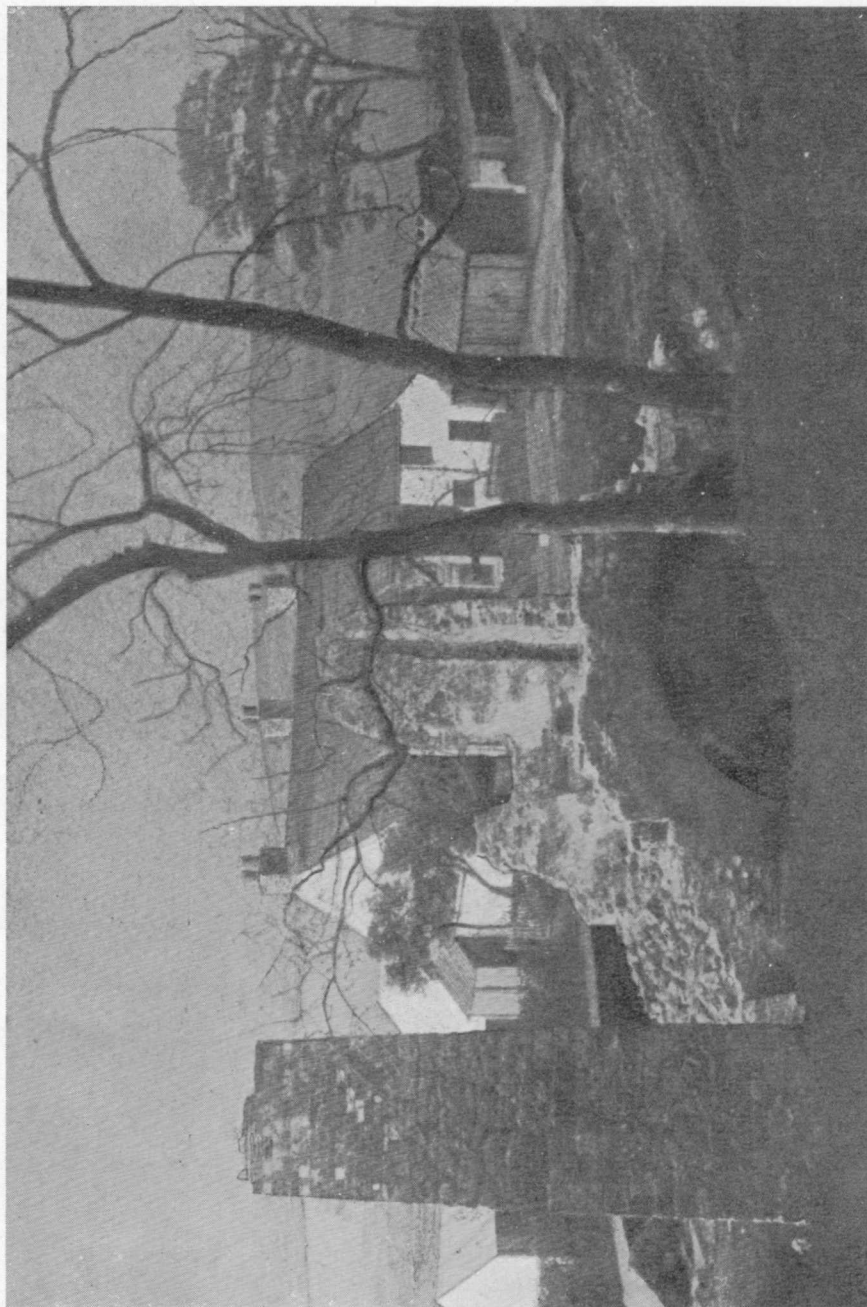
Red wine cost 4d. a gallon

White wine cost 6d. a gallon

} The good old days!

Wheat cost from 3/4d. a quarter, but the price for corn generally varied considerably in times of stress or bad harvests. In 1553 however it was enacted that butchers should sell their beef and mutton by weight; beef at 1/2d. per lb. and mutton at 3/4d. per lb. Charcoal was dear, about 12/- per load. Labourers wages were at the rate of 1d. to 2d. per day with board and lodgings and with an addition of 2/- per annum for clothes. This worked out to an average of about 25/- per annum, with keep or £3 per annum without keep. Such values prove that the price of 1/6d. per bundle of lyne sold by the Dames of Hetton represented no mean addition to the family budget.

Some years later the prices and wages more than doubled



Hetton Mill in the Bogs

themselves, but naturally very little benefit resulted.

In the earliest period the only coins in use were silver pennies. From the reign of Edward I various denominations were minted in silver and gold, but only the silver 1d, groat 4d. and half groat 2d. were in common use. Many of the silver pennies were minted at Durham Castle for the Prince Bishops of Durham who held this privilege from the King until the time of Henry VIII, and these coins are known as Ecclesiastical money. We include a photograph of the type of pennies, groats and half groats used here in this period, all are of hammered silver and some show the usual signs of clipping. Of these we possess a large collection including money minted at Durham. What stories they could tell!

We have read an interesting letter which refers to coal supplied to the Rector of Houghton from outcrop or opencast workings at Moorhouse and Rainton by the Colliers Richard and Robert Wright in the year 1604. Before that date we have coal accounts for £2. 8s. 8d. from Spence, the Collier at Rainton in 1531, and an earlier mention is made of coal delivered in 1250 and 1180 in the Boldon Book. There is a record of one Matthew Randon who sold a house without a chimney! He was fined 3/4d. for an act which was not that of a good neighbour! Domestic details occur and one of these mentions the marriage of George Shadford, Gentleman of Eppleton Hall to Margaret James, Lady of Hetton on the 22nd September in the year of our Lord 1653. We read too of the birth of six children to the wife of Thomas Watson, Constable of Hetton-le-Hole in the years 1622-38 and of five children to the wife of Thomas Delavall of Hetton between 1646-58. Generally these were the days of large families but alas of frequent burials!

The whole area was infested by plague on several occasions, notably in 1564 and 1582. One of the Rector Bernard Gilpin's pupils described it thus:-

"Those who are seized with this plague are in the utmost torment. Their bowels are burnt up, they call earnestly for drink, they cannot bear the touch of clothes. They entreat the bystanders to throw cold water upon them. Sometimes they are quite mad, rise up against their keepers and rush naked out of their houses and often try to put an end to their lives.

The physicians are confounded declaring that they have met with nothing similar before either in reading or in practice, and they do nothing to show that they are acquainted with its nature". My brother, Dr. R.C.F. Smith, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., our Medical Officer of Health, has written a very full and interesting account of the Aetiology of Disease and Death from the 13th Century. It is entitled "The Dark Ages" and, inter alia, tells us of a new infection known as the "Sweating Sickness", which appeared here at the close of the 15th century and lasted in epidemic form until the reign of Edward VI (1547-1553). It was apparently a form of virulent influenza, not unlike that of the 1914-18 war.

In addition to this disease, plagues of the typhus variety became endemic and prevailed until the reign of Charles II (1660-1685) so that altogether this was a sad and unwholesome period for our forbears. One has only to peruse the old Parish registers at Houghton to realise how frequently the Angel of Death visited the homes of masters and men alike. Whole families were wiped out in a few hours and were buried on the next day. One family named Thoroughgood at Hetton-le-Hole lost six children and their mother and father within a few hours. Bernard Gilpin, the famous Rector of Houghton, witnessed the ravages of the plague. In his Will, a copy of which is in Houghton Church, he writes in 1582, "Knowing the frailty and uncertainty of man's life, and seeing even now before mine eyes in this time of God's visitation many and daily examples of death I do institute and make this my last Will and Testament". These words make clear reference to this deadly scourge, a fact amply proved by the numerous entries in the Burial Registers of the same date.

Maternal mortality too was high due to other causes, and we find the records of Births often closely followed by the dates of their Burials.

Much of this appalling mortality was due to general insanitary conditions, lack of drainage, stinking ditches, piles of festering refuse in the streets, lack of adequate light and ventilation in the houses, floors covered with filthy rushes which were rarely changed, and which became a sodden tangled mass of embedded food, bones vegetation

and worse! Little personal hygiene, frequent pollution and contamination of food and water, filthy clothing infested by lice and vermin lie behind these dismal records of disease and death in sorry contrast to the amenities provided by the Health and Sanitary Services today. Of such is the story of Hetton in those far off days!

Now let us press on to the coal mining era of 1822 and try to discover definite data regarding the residents in Hetton, together with some assessment of their habits and social conditions as far as our records allow.

In 1821-2, the year when the Hetton Colliery began to operate, the population of Hetton had risen to 919 persons with 145 families living in 107 houses. In 1801 there were 212 persons only in Hetton and 264 in 1811. In 1821-2 the annual value was £3137.

It is quite clear from the old Colliery Bonds, which we have already shown and discussed, that the average miner could neither read nor write and so depended upon rumour or hearsay for his knowledge of anything happening beyond the limits of the village.

His wages varied between 2/6d. and 1/4d. per day according to his strength and ability to toil for not less than ten or twelve hours underground, often as you have seen in indescribable conditions. Boys worked still longer hours at first and for less than half these wages. But what about the conditions of life above ground?

Try if you can to picture the township of Hetton with few of the amenities it enjoys today. No efficient Parish Council, Urban District Council or Social Services, no National Schools, no Savings Banks, no Co-operative Societies, no Workmens Hall or Club, no Cinemas, no organised sport and so no trips to Roker "to see the Lads", (although some of us may not regard this as a very great hardship today!). No efficient Police Force or handy Postal System, no passenger Railways, no buses, trams or motor cars, no telephone, wireless or television. In fact little or nothing of the amenities and recreations which help to make up our lives today, if we care to except the numerous Inns and Taverns.

Now let us quote some actual details of Hetton-le-Hole in the years 1822-1828 - say one hundred and fifty years ago. For a population numbering 919 men, women and children, there were no less than 30 public houses and 5 breweries. Of the latter one belonged to Mr. Francis Love and was later owned by Mr. Thomas Lamb. Another was the Bleach Green Brewery owned by Mr. Thomas Raine where in our own time old Mr. George Stephenson had his Smithy and where once linen was bleached on the green bank near the Rectory. The other three were owned by Messrs. James Armstrong, John Cheatham and Joseph March respectively. Joseph March brewed privately at the King's Head and James Armstrong at the Board. Board Inns were numerous in those days.

We append a list of some of the other Inns and Taverns together with the names of the Landlords or Landladies in the Hetton township which, of course, included the Downs and Easington Lane. All were in existence in 1822-8. How many can you recognise today?.

INN

LANDLORD OR LANDLADY

Bee Hive (now Robinsons the Grocers in Front Street)	Harry Walker
Board Inn (Brewery)	Ann Armstrong
Bonny Pit Lad (Easington Lane)	Francis Snaith
Board Beer Shop	William Chambers
Board Inn (Easington Lane)	Joseph Hart
Coach and Horses (The Commercial)	Thomas Mills
Cross Keys	Joseph Bainbridge
Downs Inn	Thomas Hardy
Fleece	Thomas Lamb
Fox and Hounds	Joseph Dawson
Gardeners Arms (Easington Lane)	Edward Henderson
Golden Lion	Nathaniel Carr
Hetton Colliery Inn (where the old Police Court used to be held)	John Hutchinson
King's Head (Brewery)	Joseph March
Lyons Inn (Easington Lane)	William Jewitt
New Inn (Easington Lane)	John Gowland
Queen's Head	Thomas Willeys
Rose and Crown	Thomas Harrison
Shoulder of Mutton	William Huscroft
White Lion (in Park View) later transferred to the Downs)	Thomas Day

Those built after 1822-8 are, of course, not included in the above list e.g. The Brewers Arms.

The Farmers in 1822-8 were :-

John Beckwith died 1865 (Still remembered by Beckwith's fields)
Thomas Hall at Gargles House Farm, Easington Lane.
Thomas Smithson at Hetton Moor
John Eltringham at Hetton; the Parish Overseer

There were eight private schools or academies in Hetton and Easington Lane. These were :-

William Dent's Academy in Easington Lane
Elizabeth Elliott's at Lyons
Thomas Greener's in Hetton
William Greatoner's in Hetton
George Hunter's in Easington Lane
Samuel Neele's in Easington Lane
Ann Oswald's in Hetton
Peter Templeton's in Easington Lane.

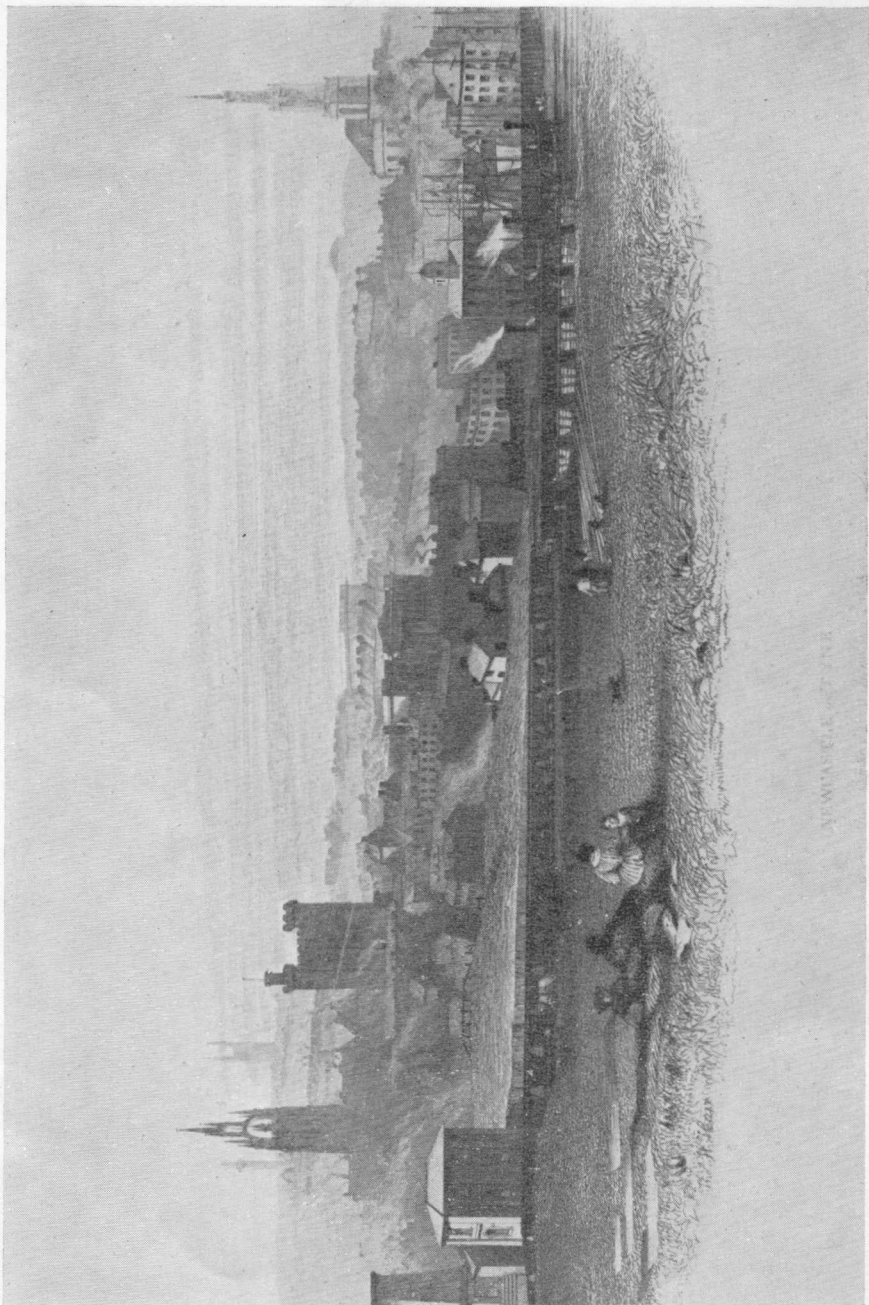
The Hetton Mill was owned by Mr. William Scott whose family owned the Rainton Mill also. We include an old photograph of this Mill taken about 80 years ago when it was already in ruins. Can you recognise the site?. It was in the Bogs opposite to the Wood, where the site may still be traced. (See page 21)

We now append a list of the various tradesmen etc. in alphabetical order as far as we can trace them up to 1828.

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TRADE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>
2	Bakers	William Lowes William Philipps
5	Blacksmiths	Robert Alder Joseph Dawson William Liddle William Morrell Robert Young .

NUMBERTRADENAMES

7	Boot and Shoemakers	Colin Atkinson Thomas Hudspeth Matthew McIntosh Joseph Neal William Vasey Peter Watson James Waters
1	Builder	George Johnson
10	Butchers	William Greenwell George Harbottle Martin Hardy John Harrison William Huscroft John Ison John Hutchinson Joshua March William Robinson William Thompson
1	Clock and Watchmaker	Thomas Laidlaw
12	Drapers and Grocers	John Astley John Butson Ralph Day Thomas Gardiner Francis and Joseph Love Matthew McIntosh Stephen Roxby James Stark Isabella Stokoe Thomas Walker Daniel T. Watson
5	Druggists & Grocers	William Armstrong Michael Anderson George Brown Joseph Graham Old Humphrey
2	Hairdressers	John Elliott Robert Fleming



Newcastle upon Tyne about 1829

The Durham County Advertiser,

COMMERCIAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND LITERARY JOURNAL.

The first Newspaper established between York and Newcastle.

SHAM, NORTHUMBRELAND, CUMBERLAND, WESTMORLAND, and YORKSHIRE, the Southern Counties and the Metropolis of SCOTLAND, and the principal Sea Ports and Maritime Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1826.

Price 7d. READY MONEY WITH ADVERTISEMENTS.

TURNPIKE ROAD

Leading from Bishopscleeve to Norton, in the County of Durham.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING of the TRUSTEES of this Road will be held at the Castle Eden Inn, on MONDAY the twenty-third day of October next, at eleven o'clock, when the Accounts will be audited, the state of the Road reported, and other business transacted.

By order,
BEDFORD RAND, Clerk.

Castle Eden, Sept. 28, 1826.

TURNPIKE ROAD

From Wearmouth Bridge in Tyne Bridge, with a Branch to South Shields, all in the County of Durham.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING of the TRUSTEES and COMMISSIONERS of the above Road and Branches, will be held at the Commission Room in the Exchange Buildings, in Sunderland near the sea, in the County of Durham, at twelve o'clock on TUESDAY the twenty-fourth day of October next, when the accounts will be audited, the state of the Road reported, and other business transacted. New Trustees will be chosen in the room of such as are dead or have declined acting.

By order of the Trustees,
RALPH LAWS, Clerk.

Sunderland, September 28, 1826.

Throughbridge to the City of Durham.
Turnpike Road from Darlington to West Auckland.
Sunderland to Bishopscleeve.
Cockerton Bridge to Slaughtup.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING of the TRUSTEES of the above Roads is appointed to be held at the Town-Hall, in Darlington, on MONDAY the thirteenth of October inst. at twelve o'clock at noon, to audit the Accounts, report the state of the Road, appoint new Trustees, and on other business relating to the said Roads.

By order of the Trustees,
THOMAS BOWEN, Clerk.

Darlington, 2d October, 1826.

DURHAM AND TYNE BRIDGE

TURNPIKE ROAD AND BRANCH.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING of the TRUSTEES of the said Road and Branch, is appointed to be held at the house of Mr John Freeman, Innkeeper, in Gateshead, on TUESDAY the 31st day of October instant, at twelve o'clock at noon, for the purpose of auditing the Accounts, reporting the state of the Road, and on other business relating thereto.

JOSPH WILLIS, Clerk.

ROAD, SAFE, AND CHEAP TRAVELLING By the Regent NEW RAILWAY COACH,



THE UNION,

Which will COMMENCE RUNNING on the STOCKTON and DARLINGTON RAILWAY, on MONDAY the 15th day of October, 1826.

And will call at Yarm, and pass within a mile of Middleton Spa, on its way from Stockton to Darlington, and vice versa.

FARES. Inside 14s.—Outside 14s. per Mile. Parcels in proportion.

No gratuities expected by the Guard or Coachman.

N.B. The Trustees will not be accountable for any Parcel of more than £1. value, unless entered and paid for accordingly. THE UNION will run from the Black Lion Hotel and New Inn, Stockton, to the New Inn, Yarm, and to the Black Swan Inn, near the Croft Branch, Darlington, at such of which Inns passengers and parcels are booked, and the times of starting may be ascertained, as also at the Union Inn, Yarm, and Talbot Inn, Darlington.

On the 15th and 20th of October, the Fair Days at Yarm, the Union will leave Darlington at six in the morning for Yarm, and will leave Yarm for Darlington again, at six in the evening; in the intermediate days, each day, it will ply constantly between Stockton and Yarm, leaving each place every half hour.

WANTED TO RENT,

From Martinmas or May-day next, in the neighbourhood of Durham,

A Small comfortable DWELLING-HOUSE, with suitable out-buildings, and a few ACRES OF LAND contiguous to the same.

For particulars apply to the Printer; (if by letter, post-paid.) September 26th, 1826.

HUNTERS FOR SALE

To be SOLD by private Contract,
A BROWN COBBLER.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

At the house of Mrs Martha Hosson, the Black Lion Hotel, in Stockton, in the County of Durham, on TUESDAY the 17th day of October, 1826, at eleven o'clock in the afternoon.
(By order of the Assignees of Mr John Hutchinson, a Bankrupt.)

TO BE PAID ON 15th 1826.
THE DIVIDENDS payable during the Life of the said John Hutchinson, now in his 59th year, of the principal sum of £2100. New 4 per Cent. Bank Annuities.

Also, the DIVIDENDS payable during the joint lives of the said John Hutchinson and Mrs Elizabeth Caroline Hutchinson his wife, now in her 61st year, of the principal sum of £1494.

FIRE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Austrian Ambassador of the 24th ult. contains the following details of the dreadful conflagration which has devastated Constantinople.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 7.—The falling down of the roof and of the Droptch, which was to have taken place on the 21st August, was necessarily delayed to the 2d of September, on account of the dreadful fire which broke out at Constantinople just before the hour when the several offices of state were to assemble for this ceremony. This fire, which has destroyed nearly the eighth part of this immense capital (about 6000 houses), continued for thirty-six hours. The violence of the wind, the heat of water, and the extraordinary draught, lessened the efficacy of the measures which the public authorities directed, with indefatigable zeal, to the various parts to which the rage of the flames extended. The immense magazines, known by the name of Khana, Bazaar, and Tektarich, the hotels of almost all the Ministers and great Officers of the Empire, the Palace of the Grand Vizier, called the Sublime Porte, the Palace of the Armenian Patriarch, with the Patriarchal Church, and many other public buildings, are reduced to ashes. The loss to the Government is estimated at above six millions of piastres; that of the Turkish and Armenian merchants and tradesmen, above 20 millions. It has not been certainly discovered whether this great disaster is to be ascribed to accident or whether it may be ascribed to the discontented, for it is certain that the fire broke out all at once in very distant quarters, whose neither the direction nor the force of the wind could have varied it. The storm was adopted by the Grand Vizier, in concert with his Seraglio, with an energetic as rapid. About 8,000 troops and four brigades of field artillery, were stationed in the interior of the retreating order of battle; all the streets were occupied by soldiers, and no citizens ventured any where to show themselves. The Sultan has opened all the gates of his palace to receive the unfortunate families that seek an asylum; several thousand widows and children are lodged in palaces belonging to the Government; others have received ample pecuniary relief. A part of the magazines will be rebuilt at the expense of the Government, and the building of the new barracks is deferred till after the cessation of the public buildings, which are indispensable to commerce. The Bersaker mingled with the French, to encourage them, and worked with all his strength for two hours; the Chief of the several corps tied with him in activity and exertion to preserve order. The great majority of the people ascribe this misfortune to the usual vengeance of the Janissaries, who are become objects of universal execration. The Sultan, to stop one source of discontent, which might lead to a re-action, has resolved to revoke the Firman which abolished, without distinction, all the *Essems* issued after the war in Egypt. Partial payments have already been made to several thousand individuals, whose demands were rejected a few days before. The standard of Mahomet was replaced on the 1st, with the usual ceremonies, in the apartment allotted for the preservation of the relics of the Prophet. At the

Union Coach

It will be noted that several tradesmen possessed more than one type of business and that the various shops were situated in Hetton and Easington Lane. We expect some will recall the names of their ancestors from these lists especially where the trade names still exist.

Some idea of Front Street, Hetton may be gathered from the old photograph on page 17. The list continues :

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TRADE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>
7	Joiners, Cartwrights etc.	John Anderson George Carr Thomas Fenwick George Johnson Thomas Walker Thomas Robson Thomas Williamson
1	Printer and Publisher	James Johnson
12	General Dealers	Bartholomew Atkinson George Harbottle Matthew Hope Mary Lamb Elizabeth Mason Thomas Moore Edward Pickering Jane Thompson Ann Todd Jane Watson William Waddle Joseph Wright
2	Stone Masons	Ralph Day Thomas Dunlop
3	Milliners etc.	Elizabeth de Magistors (a very unusual name) Ramsey and Storey Jane Thompson

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TRADE</u>	<u>NAMES</u>
6	Tailors	John Anderson Thomas Crofton Edward Spencer William Summers John Thompson Thomas Turner
1	Tinsmith & Brazier	William Maddison

The number of shops is surprisingly large for so small a population.

The physician was Dr. Richard Phillipson Edger and the Surgeon, John Meggeson.

The Rector was Rev. E.S. Thurlow M.A., Houghton Rector and the Curate, Rev. Daniel Crosthwaite B.D., Houghton, for there was no Church of England as yet in Hetton-le-Hole. I shall describe the Non-Conformist Churches and Chapels and the splendid work they did in a subsequent issue.

Carriers operated as follows :-

To Bishop Auckland via Durham

John Jobson and William Wilson every Thursday and Saturday

To Newcastle

Christopher Adamson, Thomas Bell, John Walker, every Tuesday Thursday and Saturday.

To Sunderland

John Jobson every Tuesday and Friday.

Housewives often travelled with the above to market also.

Long Distance Travel

Passengers to London, Leeds, Edinburgh etc. travelled by stage coach as follows :-

First from Houghton-le-Spring via Red Lion and White Lion Inns by the Prince of Orange Coach to Sunderland or Durham and hence by connections to North or South.

The Prince of Orange left Houghton at 9.30 a.m. and 6 p.m., also by the Union Coach to Durham or Sunderland every day except Sunday and at the same times. We show a picture of the Union Coach running with grooved wheels on part of the Darlington Railway, Clarence Section, as advertised in the Durham Chronicle in 1826. This system was quicker than the passenger train at this period and at more frequent intervals to Stockton and Yarm.

From Sunderland these coaches connected with the following from Miss Jowsey's Bridge Inn, High Street, Bishopwearmouth :-

The Royal Mail coach to London
The Pilot to Leeds, Harrogate etc.

From the Golden Lion in High Street, Sunderland ran :-

The Expedition to Leeds
The Collingwood to Newcastle and other coaches ran from the George Inn, Gardeners Arms, Grey Horse and The Wheatsheaf in Sunderland.

From Durham there were numerous coaches to both North and South. These ran especially from the old Waterloo posting house in Elvet and the Three Tuns and Half Moor Inns. Famous coaches from these Inns, which ran several times a day or night were :-

The Royal Mail ran between London and Edinburgh
The True Briton to Newcastle
The Expedition ran between Leeds and Newcastle
The Wellington ran between London and Edinburgh
The High Flyer ran between Newcastle and London
The Express ran between Newcastle and London
The Royal Telegraph ran between Leeds and Newcastle, and many others.

These coaches offered a frequent, and for those days, a tolerably comfortable journey to most large towns in Great Britain at a speed which averaged from six to ten miles an hour. A fast run, with more frequent changes of horses, from London to Edinburgh took 45 hours, often over indescribably

rough roads on solid tyres and without heating except from pocket flasks! Our forbears, however, were tough and used to such discomfort, as well as the risk of meeting highwaymen en route.

The year 1825 saw the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, and the system spread with great rapidity. Its expansion soon killed the passenger coach service, the loss of which was regretted by all. Indeed when the last mail coach for Edinburgh pulled out of Newcastle in 1847, the City flags flew at half mast!

"SIC TRANQUIT GLORIA MUNDI"

We append a picture of the old railway at Newcastle on page 28.

All the names in the lists you have been reading are those of the professional and business people resident in Hetton roughly one hundred and fifty years ago. You may be quite sure that their lot was far superior to that of the mining population whose names would have passed into oblivion but for the records in Colliery Bonds and the Parish Church Registers or Accounts. Such families lived in the houses provided by the Colliery owners and which, judged by modern standards, were drab, dark and insanitary. There they dwelt until disablement, sickness or old age overtook them. Their only hope of help, apart from some possible aid from a Friendly Society, was by application to the Parish Overseer, John Eltringham at Hetton, part of whose duties was to disburse the scanty funds available for cases of destitution or need for burial.

So far the picture we have sketched seems dark and forbidding but that is only half the truth. Those who would like to know what it was that kept the mining folk in Hetton so cheerful and warm-hearted both in sickness and in health, should listen to Tommy Wilson who sang about them -

"Take a lesson pampered wealth,
And learn how little it requires
To make us happy when we've health
Content and moderate desires."

and await our next instalment, which will describe a visit to a typical home in Hetton during this early period.

(To be continued)

The pictures and photographs in this issue were kindly provided by Dr. R.C.F. Smith, Mr. C.A. Smith and Mrs. B. Dagg. They were arranged and prepared by the courtesy of Mr. R.W. Gallantry of the National Coal Board.

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D.C. RICHARDSON,
Clerk of the Council.

Hetton House,
Hetton-le-Hole.