

## **Berwick Advertiser 1889.**

January 4, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. Last two nights. Tonight (Friday) and tomorrow (Saturday). Will be produced for the last time in Berwick "The Silver King" as performed at the Royal Princess's Theatre, London. The production tonight under the distinguished patronage of Colonel Knox, C.B., and officers, King's Own Scottish Borderers. Doors open 7, commence 7:30.

January 4, Local News p. 3, column 3.

"Man to Man" – on Friday and Saturday nights, Miss Inez Howard's Company gave two representations of this powerful and interesting drama in the Corn Exchange to fairly numerous and appreciative audiences. The various characters were ably sustained, and the railway collision with its startling spectacular effects was a great success.

February 1, p. 2, column 1.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February, at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to sell by auction, as above, the excellent and substantial furniture of a family leaving the district, also part of the furnishings of a house in the country; comprising oak and mahogany sideboards; mahogany and walnut loo tables; drawing room suite in velvet; gilt cabinet with mirror door and ends; mahogany bookcase; [?] table with needlework top; rosewood and walnut marchioness couches; business tables and desks; sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs in various coverings; wicker easy chair; pictures, fenders, fire-irons.

Very handsome Arabian, Elizabethan, and French bedsteads and bedding; mahogany and pine wardrobes; chests of drawers; dressing tables; washstands; dressing glasses; chair bed.

Case of stuffed birds; china punch bowls; silver forks; two sewing machines in perfect order; dinner ware; rook rifle; very superior bassinette perambulator, equal to new; and a host of miscellaneous articles.

The whole will be on view on Wednesday afternoon, and catalogues may now be had from the auctioneer.

51, Church Street, Berwick, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1889.

February 8, p. 2, column 1.

Tweed Fisheries Acts. A public meeting will be held in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 7:30 p.m. to take steps to obtain an amendment of the Tweed Fisheries

laws, and to consider the Salmon Fishery Bill of the Government. His Worship the Mayor will occupy the chair. Sir Edward Grey, Bart., M.P. and A L Brown, Esq., M.P. will address the meeting. For the convenience of fishermen and others from Burnmouth and Eyemouth, Coldingham &c, a special train will leave Berwick for Burnmouth and Ayton at 9:30. The gallery will be reserved for ladies.

February 15, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February, at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to sell by auction, as above, the residue of superior furnishings not included in last sale, comprising elegant rosewood drawing room furnishings in cabinet with mirrors, roll back sofa, couch, easy chair, and six chairs in damask; walnut suite in velvet; loo tables; superior sets of mahogany chairs, sofas, easy chairs; fenders, fire-irons, sewing machines.

Very handsome Persian, brass-mounted, iron and wood French bedsteads, splendid feather beds and other bedding; wardrobe; very handsome chests of column drawers; greasing glasses, washstands, carpets, and other bedroom furnishings.

Fine old blue dinner set, old dessert set, crystal, rook rifle, washing tubs, patent mangle, cruet frame, and a host of miscellaneous articles. A quantity of books will be sold in the evening at 6:30.

On view on Wednesday afternoon and catalogues may be had from the auctioneer.

Berwick, 14<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1889.

February 15. p. 2, column 3.

#### DEMONSTRATION AT BERWICK AGAINST THE SCOTCH SALMON FISHERIES BILL.

On Tuesday night a demonstration was held at Berwick to formally inaugurate the newly formed Tweed Fishery Law Amendment Association, and to denounce the Salmon Fisheries Bill for Scotland. In order to make the demonstration as complete and imposing as possible, the fishermen along the Berwickshire coast and from Coldingham, Eyemouth, and Burnmouth were invited to take part in it. These arrived at Berwick by the evening train, and were met at the railway station by the Berwick and Spittal fishermen, as well as their wives, sweethearts and daughters. They were accompanied by the Spittal brass band. At the station a procession was formed under Mr George Hattle, who was arrayed in a cocked hat, and carried a sword for the occasion. Several of the fishermen also bore flags and stuffed fish on poles, which had been lent by Mr Carr, chemist; most of them also carried torches. The procession, which was headed by the band, proceeded by way of Castlegate, High Street and Hide Hill, to the Corn Exchange, and presented a picturesque and imposing appearance. Very

soon after the doors of the Corn Exchange were opened, it was completely filled by a numerous and enthusiastic audience, many of them had to be content with standing room, in which they were densely packed. The gallery, which was reserved for ladies, was also crowded. The chair was occupied by his Worship the Mayor, who was accompanied on the platform by Sir Edward Grey, Bart., M.P.; Aldermen A Darling, Alder, and Fleming; Councillors Gilroy, W Wilson, Nesbitt, Davidson, Crow, Marshall (Tweedmouth), Weatherston, Morrison, Harrison, Marshall (New East Farm), Richardson, and young; Rev W A Walton; Mr A Smith, Borough Treasurer; Mr T Black, Tweedmouth; Messrs Craik, J Grey, A L Miller, Berwick; Mr T C Smith, solicitor, Berwick, honorary secretary of the Tweed Fisheries Law Amendment Association; Mr Crabtree, artist, Burnmouth; Mr Dickson, fishcurer, Eyemouth; Mr Ainsley, fisherman, Spittal; Mr Martin, Burnmouth; Mr A Robertson, fisherman, Berwick; Messrs Collins and R Scott, Eyemouth; Messrs A Paton, W Grey, Robert Wood, W D Purves, Berwick; A R Lowrey, Esq., J.P.; Rev A J Blagden, Vicar of Tweedmouth; Rev J Parkes; Messrs Martin and Paul Johnston, fishermen, Burnmouth; Mr W Patterson, fisherman, Spittal; Mr Peter Wilson, fisherman, Coldingham Shore; and Mr J Borthwick, fisherman, Greenses. Mr A L Brown, M.P. for the Border Burghs was advertised to be present, but a letter was received from him in which he said – “It is with the greatest regret I cannot come on Tuesday.” The reason of his absence was an urgent request for his services at East Perthshire. Mr Brown in his letter went on to say – “I recognise the great importance of those who are opposed to the Salmon Fisheries Bill of the present Government on the upper waters of the Tweed joining the forces with those on the lower waters, and if you ask me to another meeting at Berwick, I will certainly make a point of coming to it.”

The Mayor said – Ladies and gentlemen – This meeting is convened here tonight for the of joining in the chorus of disapproval against the Salmon Fisheries Bill recently introduced into the House of Lords – (hear, hear) – which is making itself heard all along Tweedside from the source to the mouth of the river; and to assist the Marquis of Lothian to promote a better one for re-introduction next session. It must not be thought that because the date of our meeting is rather later than that of other places, that, therefore, we are indifferent or of less importance. (hear, hear.) On the contrary, if there is one place whose interests are bound up with the salmon question, whose voice should carry weight on the matter, it is this ancient borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed. (Applause.) The more we look at this bill, I suppose it is with us as with everybody else, the less we like it. – (applause.) – because it not only embodies but intensifies all these clauses in the Tweed Acts which we consider to be objectionable. (Applause.) I am happy to be able to welcome on the platform our distinguished member of Parliament, and I should have been extremely glad if several other distinguished members of Parliament, who have studied this question, and have the ability to speak upon it, had been present, but they are unfortunately unable to come through pressing business engagements. I have special letters from the Hon. E Marjoribanks, M.P., Mr A L Brown, M.P., and Mr Thorburn, M.P. On point that seems to have very great interest here is the demand of the sea fishermen to be allowed to catch salmon in the sea. (applause.) There are very many fishermen present tonight, not only from our own town, but from other communities. I am very glad to see them here; and I must heartily welcome them. I also congratulate them on the considerable light which they have already thrown upon the proceedings. (Laughter.) With

this demand of the fishermen to catch salmon in the sea I heartily concur, provided that a universal close time is religiously observed, that existing chartered interests are duly respected, and that there is a roomy, adequate playground preserved at the mouth of our river. (Applause.) Our meeting, I have every reason to believe and hope, will be hearty, unanimous and enthusiastic. If there should be any amendments by any gentleman, who may strike a discordant key, I will ask for it and for him a full and fair hearing, and I trust that above all things the political element may not be introduced. (hear, hear.) I have letters of apology from, besides the gentlemen I have already mentioned, the Hon. A D Elliot, M.P., Captain Forbes, R.N., Robt. Nicholson, Esq., Loanend; Ald. J R Black, Cheswick; Thomas Main, Esq., Haggerston; Rev. James Mursell, Rev Canon Baldwin, Vicar of Berwick; and Sir Wm Crossman. With these few remarks I am going to call upon a gentleman well-known to you, who has taken a deep interest in this matter, and who deserves to be heard upon it. I have no doubt we shall hear in the speeches supporting the resolutions that are to be put to you the question most interestingly illustrated. I have now to call upon Councillor Gilroy to move the first resolution. (Applause).

Mr Gilroy said - Mr Mayor, ladies and gentlemen – The resolution I have the honour to bring before your notice reads as follows: -

“That the right of the public to fish for salmon in the sea being recognised by the common law of England, this meeting is of opinion that the existing Tweed Fisheries Acts, by which fishermen at the mouth of the Tweed have been deprived of this right, are unjust and unconstitutional, and that it is essentially in the interests of justice, and for the preservation of public order, that the law be amended and the public rights restored.”

It is a good thing that this Salmon Fisheries Bill is so selfish, so one-sided, so tyrannic in its character, and that in some of its clauses it has gone beyond any Fishery Bill in its severity. One would think the author of the bill had taken a lesson from Rehoboam, “My father chastised you with whips, I will chastise you with scorpions.” I say it is a good thing we have it produced in its present state, else the public attention would not have been so aroused, and the denouncement against it would not have been so emphatic. We are met this night to ask ourselves a few questions. 1<sup>st</sup>, have we as a community any right to fish in the sea, and has the law of the land recognised that right, and has the law been altered for the profit or pleasure of a few individuals? 2<sup>nd</sup>, Is it just or equitable that these individuals should have exceptional rights and privileges over the great masses of the people? 3<sup>rd</sup>, Has this exceptional legislation conduced to the comfort and well-being of the people among whom we dwell? 4<sup>th</sup>, Is it needful that the law be amended, and that the rights of the public restored? (Applause.) Of these questions I shall endeavour to speak in their order. Previous to 1771 the public had perfect right to fish for salmon and all other kinds of fish in the sea, but the envious feelings of the fishery proprietors could not endure the rights of others sharing with them in catching salmon. They had the right of fishing along the sea coast and in the river, but that was not enough; they must deprive the poor man of his right; so they, with their wealth and greater political power, banded themselves together, and got an Act passed, which benefitted pecuniarily none but themselves – (Applause) – and so acted to the hurt and injury of the poor man, and to the hurt and injury of the general public. You can see by this Act it

set aside the people's recognised right, and gave it to men who have had, as proprietors, the whole and sole rule over a large number of their fellow creatures, and who have had the law so made and enforced that it has been carried out in the most rigorous and tyrannic manner. By this Act of 1771, a new era commenced, giving the power of fishing in the sea for salmon and in the river over to a body of men, whose qualification for the office of Tweed Commissioner must be that they are proprietors or nominees of proprietors of fishing waters. Not a body, mark you, elected by any outside authority among the people, but by themselves. This Act, as it exists, allowing none to fish within five miles of the shore seaward, seven miles to the south, and four miles to the north, virtually gives the fishery proprietors a monopoly of all the salmon and trout in the sea. (Applause). 2<sup>nd</sup>. Is it just or equitable that these individuals should have exceptional rights and privileges over the masses of the people? It is a commonly accepted opinion that there is not one law for the rich and another for the poor. Ladies and gentlemen, I appeal to you all if the poor man is not by these laws deprived of his rights, and if it is not a fact that the rich men have got them? I ask you all, is this justice? Is it according to our noble constitution? We look in vain for a parallel case in any business or profession where the public rights of the many are handed over to the few. (Applause.) 3<sup>rd</sup>, Has this exceptional legislation conduced to the peace, comfort, and well-being of the people among whom we dwell? We know in stormy weather, when our boats cannot venture into the sea, the fishermen have been put to great straits to live, and when there has been a lull in the storm, many of them, in a state of semi-destitution, have set a net near the shore, and caught a salmon to keep the wolf from the door, and to appease their children's hunger. They have been pounced upon, batoned to the ground, imprisoned and fined for taking that which belonged to their fathers, and should by the law of the land be theirs. (loud applause). The battle has never ceased one year since 1797, but has been more or less continued by the despotic power of the Tweed Commissioners, bringing with it much danger to life, discomfort, and ill-feeling between men who would dwell together in peace if better laws existed. (hear, hear, and applause.) We have now come to the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 1889, after many feuds and much disturbance, and we now ask ourselves the question – Is it needful that the law be amended, and the rights of the people restored? We answer emphatically, it is right. (Applause.) For more than one hundred years the old tyrannic laws have been in force; they have been tried and found a failure – a failure even in increasing the number of fish, a failure even in the ability to carry them out. Now, we demand that justice must rule and restore the right of fishing in the sea along our coast till within a half mile of the shore, as was recommended by the Government Commissioners – Messrs Walpole and Young. Let our fishermen here have the same rights as our fishermen have on the Tyne; then justice, order and contentment will dwell along our coast, and the country will be blessed by having most useful citizens in the fishermen available in time of war or time of peace (Applause.) I would desire to remind you that this public meeting, great as it is, and I rejoice to see so great a number present, will not have the effect of overturning this bill, and changing the policy which the Government seem to have resolved to carry out, so far as the salmon fishing is concerned. We are but touching the fringe of this question; we will all yet need to work both by petition and perhaps by deputation to Parliament. We will still have to be more enthusiastic and more active than we have yet been, before we obtain the reforms that are necessary, and which we seek to accomplish. I trust every one here will aid in

carrying out any petition that may be presented, and in getting these petitions forwarded when the time comes. I trust also that every one will give all assistance in his power to remedy the evils which we feel exist in our midst, in connection with the salmon fishing question. (Applause.)

Councillor Nesbitt – I rise with very great pleasure to second the resolution. It is a most difficult matter to follow Mr Gilroy on the salmon fishing question; he has given it so much study. Mr Gilroy has covered the ground so well and argued so closely all the various points, that nothing is required from me almost but to second the resolution. I must congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, upon this demonstration. The aspect of the procession down the streets is proof of the interest which the fishermen themselves stake in this matter – (Applause) – while the great number of spectators, and the large audience which has gathered within this hall is evidence that you entirely sympathise with them in what they are working for – (Applause) - I would ask if there is any class of men more deserving of your sympathy than the fishermen? (Applause.) I would ask if there is any calling that has the same risk to run in earning daily bread as that of a sea-faring life? (“No”) I know something of it, and though I am not the son of a fisherman, I have watched the toilers of the sea with very great interest indeed, and know the perils they have to undergo in earning their livelihood, aye, not only them, but also their wives and families, who watch them going out and coming in when they fish, and assist them in their work. There is one other thing I would ask you to look at, and it is this. These men were deprived of the right of fishing in water which, I am quite sure, no one would legitimately prevent them from occupying, and I think the sooner we rectify this evil, the sooner we will have peace amongst fishermen. We have witnessed sights which are not reassuring to us in connection with the present laws, and we wish these stopped. Such a result can be accomplished if the fishermen get what they desire, what they believe is just and right. We feel certain if that is granted, we shall have none of those unseemly sights which we have recently witnessed; that we shall have men who are wishful to earn their living in proper order, becoming law abiding citizens; and we shall have men who will be no longer under the terror of the Salmon Fishery Acts; who will contribute far more to the peace of the community that they have done in the past, and who will enjoy a far greater amount of prosperity. I think it is a great hardship that the fishermen should be punished as they are, and I take this large meeting, together with the large platform which surrounds me, including, as it does, all classes and Magistrates, who have been compelled to punish fishermen for offences when it was much against their will to do so, as a proof that you are desirous that the penalties and disabilities should no longer exist. We desire that the law should be altered, and I am quite certain if it be changed these men will prove themselves citizens in all respects worthy of the community to which they belong. (Applause.)

Sir Edward Grey – Mr Mayor, ladies and gentlemen – I most heartily agree with what the Mayor has already said that this is a question in which no party politics should be introduced. (hear, hear.) It is a question which has brought together as large an audience as any political question in this town; but it is also a question which is above party politics. I have not come here this evening to advocate the cause of a party. I have not come here to try to convince you that one particular thing is right and another is wrong. I have come here mainly to give you a

short outline of what my own views are on something which is most interesting to you, but I have come here just as much to hear your claims advocated in a cause, which, I believe very much needs redress. (Applause.) I have gone into the question of salmon fishing in the Tweed as carefully as I can, and I am afraid the most certain conclusion to which I have come is this – that it is such a difficult question that it is impossible for whatever I should say to be satisfactory to everybody concerned in it. The salmon, as you know, is a fish which is hardly ever at rest. It is continually moving from one place to another; it travels hundreds of miles, and every person that the salmon passes seems to consider that he has some right to take a tribute from it as it goes by. (Laughter.) If the salmon would only keep still in one place the question would be fairly easy, but as the salmon moves from place to place, the difficulty is to give a fair share of fishing for it to every person concerned, who has rights either on the river or the sea. Well, now we have to consider first of all – what is fair to the people in Berwick, and on the lower parts of the Tweed; we have also to consider what is fair to the people living higher up. I will put the question, if you like, in a different way. We have to consider what it is that people of this district want, and we have also to consider what they will be able to get. There are four main classes of people interested in the salmon fishing in the Tweed. There are the people who make a living by fishing in the sea; there are the people who make a living by fishing in the river; there are the owners of fisheries in the river; and there are the public higher up the river. Well, the duty of your representative is to learn what your interests are as fully as possible, and then his duty in the House of Commons will be to try to get a fair share of those interests secured to you by Act of Parliament. (Applause.) But I should be entirely justified in making any promise. It is impossible for any private Member of Parliament to promise his constituents that the House of Commons will or will not do any given thing. I cannot come before you and say for certain that I shall be able to secure in the House of Commons any of those things which you want. It is impossible to force the House of Commons to do anything on the salmon fisheries question, for this reason. Out of all the 670 members of it, I don't suppose there are more than 70 who are really personally interested in the salmon fishing question. Just consider what that means. When the salmon fishing question comes up in the House of Commons, there will be at least 350 members of Parliament who are ready to vote at the word of any of their whips in the House of Commons without perhaps knowing anything about this question at all. To set against them there will be 70,000 members at the outside who will be prepared to give their votes on the merits of the question. Now, I leave it to you to decide whether it is possible for any private Member of Parliament to force the House of Commons to do anything against the will of the Government of the day. If we are to get anything done in the House of Commons, it must be by making fair and reasonable demands which shall appear to the Government of the day to be so, and therefore worthy to be granted. (Applause.) Your whole contention in Berwick divides itself into two heads – first of all, that the sea fishermen have been very unfairly treated. (Applause.) You have had various Acts of Parliament passed and every one of them has been passed in the interests of the owners of fisheries in the river, to the exclusion of the interests of those who fish in the sea. Well, now, I say that things have come to this pass that the treatment of the sea fishermen is manifestly unfair. (Applause.) I would go further than that, and say it is not beneficial to the owners of the fisheries in the Tweed. We have had in late years no increase in the yield of salmon in the Tweed; you have been

prevented from catching salmon in the sea, more and more as a larger and larger space has been set apart there, but the salmon fishings in the river have not increased in value proportionally. Then you have now in the river Tweed an immense mass of disease acting with greater or less severity every year, which use not to exist before. It is not known exactly how that disease is caused, but I think that if you had greater extension allowed for net fishing in the sea, and to the net fishings in the river, you would be in a position to say that it would do no harm to the fishing in the upper reaches of the river. (Applause.) Not only are the present regulations unfair to people living at the mouth of the Tweed, and the lower reaches of the river; but I maintain that the salmon are preserved at the present moment in the interests of nobody at all, and certainly to the great disadvantage of the people living at the mouth of the Tweed, in fact, to the disadvantage of the people living all along the banks of the river. It is nearly two years since I asked a question in the House of Commons of the Government of the day as to whether they would be prepared to deal with the question of salmon fishing on the Tweed, and I received an answer that they were preparing to deal with the whole question of salmon fishing in Scotland. That promise has been before us two years now, and we have been put off with the declaration that something would be done to remedy the evils which exist. Well, at last the long promised bill has come, and I venture to say that it contains not only less than we expected, but that it is worse than anyone could have conceived. (Applause.) The bill which was introduced last Session of Parliament does nothing for the sea fishermen at the mouth of the Tweed at all. It leaves the vast extent of sea – some 150 square miles – untouched and barren, so far as everybody's interests are concerned, and providing a living for nobody in just the same way as it was before. Then as regards the other question which is so interesting to the people living on the lower part of the river – the question of having an extension of time for net fishing; the bill does nothing to help that forward. It provides District Boards and these are to have the power to petition the Secretary for Scotland to alter the annual close time. Petitions, I am afraid, do not always succeed in their object. But your District Board under the new bill would be such that it would not send any petition, which would do any good to the fishermen on the lower parts of the Tweed. The District Board proposed under the new bill is not an elective board at all. It is one to be composed entirely of the owners of fishings on the rivers. It is not in any sense a representative board; it is not based upon popular election in any way; and the principle upon which it is proposed to be constituted goes back 500 years at least. (Laughter.) I think the bill is so bad that it is not worth amending at all. (Applause.) Well, what are we to do in the House of Commons? You may say “throw the bill out.” Well, if the Government mean to pass this bill undoubtedly they have the voting power in the House of Commons to enable them to do so. But such a feeling has already been shown on all parts of the Tweed that they will not venture to go forward with the measure at all. It only remains for them, therefore, to withdraw the bill, and I think that is a very easy thing to induce them to do so. If there is one thing which a private Member of Parliament may promise, I should say it would be to induce a Government to withdraw a particular bill. But that is not enough for us as regards this question. We do not only want to see the bill withdrawn; we want to see another and better one introduced, and that is where the difficulty arises. (Applause). I am confident that this present bill will not be passed, that it will not even get a second reading. The question which remains for us, however, is – will the Government introduce a better bill? They have been

travelling at such a slow pace as regards this salmon fishery question that I am afraid the very least opposition will cause them to stop altogether. But I will, as shortly as I can, give you a sketch of the bill which you ought to have. (Applause). It will be something of this kind. First of all, it would begin by repealing the Tweed Acts altogether. (Hear, hear). It would then proceed to allow fishing in the sea for salmon by issuing licenses to fishermen, subject to certain restrictions. (Applause.) These restrictions would be these. There would have to be, there must be a close time if you are to have a large supply of fish. Then you must have within these 150 square miles of sea at the mouth of the river a certain reasonable playground marked off at the mouth of the Tweed; then you would have certain regulations as to the nets to be used; and then you would have rules to preserve the existing chartered rights of the shore fisheries. These are four reasonable qualifications, but subject to them I maintain that an Act of Parliament ought to be passed to deal with the question, and to provide licenses for sea fishermen to catch salmon on the coast. (Applause.) Well then, I think you should also have elective boards established. You must have boards not representing the proprietors of the fisheries only; you must have boards representing every class who is interested in salmon fishing; and they must be thoroughly elective. These boards having been established by an Act of Parliament, ought to deal with close times. I myself think that the close time on the Tweed is badly arranged at present, I think it might very reasonably be made one month longer at the back end of the season. (Applause.) I would say let the Act of Parliament that is passed fix the maximum and minimum for the close time, and let the elective boards have power to fix it within these limits so as to vary the close time to suit the interests of the river. I know that our friends on the upper reaches of the river think the weekly close time should be very much extended. Well, I am not sure that if you are to have the annual close time curtailed you might not promise to your friends on the upper reaches a little longer weekly close time. If you had elective boards that would be for you to settle by the members whom you sent to represent you. The Act of Parliament to be passed ought to be of such a character as to allow fishing, subject to licenses, in all unchartered waters to make the law as to close times, and to make the enforcement of that law thoroughly popular. I do not want to take up your time by going through all the other objections to the bill which has been introduced. I know there are many methods by which it is proposed to enforce the law under this new law which are exceedingly harsh and will provoke a great deal of ill-feeling. There is a great deal of opposition to the law as it at present stands, but the present bill proposes to make matters worse than they were before. A great deal might be said on that point, but I feel this very very strongly – that it is not really the methods of enforcing the law which people object to; it is the law itself. If the law was altered, and if the enforcement of it was in the hands of public bodies, then I think there would be little or no objection to the methods which might be chosen to enforce the law. The great thing, it seems to me, which we want here, is to have an alteration of the restrictions on sea fishing on the sea coast, and an alteration as regards the close time for net fishing in the river. (Hear, hear.) I do not want, as I have said, to raise hopes by anything that I may say, that I or any other representative in the House of Commons will be able to secure what you want in a short space in time; I can tell you that we can secure the withdrawal of this bill; but I am doubtful if we shall be able to get a better one introduced and passed. But this I will say. So far as a private member of Parliament can, I will endeavour both by my speech and my vote, and by conferring with the representatives of Border

constituencies all along the Tweed, to try to induce the Government to bring in and pass a bill framed on the lines which I have laid down to you this evening. (Applause.) And when this bill is brought before the House of Commons I shall ask nothing more than that I may be kept in touch with the feeling of this constituency, and that I may have advice freely given to me from Berwick as to what the wishes of the people are, and advice by which I shall be able to guide my action in the House of Commons. Then I hope when we next have a meeting of this kind it may be as large a one as we have tonight, and that it may be taken up not with looking forward to the future, but with looking back a little with some satisfaction on the past. No doubt we may then still be wanting something which we wish to have given us, as everyone has, but we may then be able to say that the House of Commons has treated the people living at the mouth of the Tweed a little more fairly than it has done in the past. (Applause.)

Rev W A Walton, after referring to his attendance at special evangelistic services in Chapel Street Church, said – I was requested by the other Presbyterian Ministers to go off to the meeting and was told that they would follow, in order that we might express our full measure of sympathy with the desires of this gathering. (Applause.) I wish to say personally that I sympathise with your efforts to secure the abolition, if possible, of the present Tweed Act, and to secure the rejection of the proposed legislation. I think the only good thing about the new Salmon Fisheries Bill for Scotland is that it has been made public so long in advance; and it has been set up as a kite by those who wish to test the feeling of the country, I hope they are satisfied with the tempest they have created. (Applause.) For sure I am of this, that there is hardly a word of approval that has been spoken on its behalf from John O’Groat’s to the Tweed. From Gala right down to the mouth of this river there has been one chorus of indignation, remonstrance, and disapproval; and I believe that what Sir Edward Grey has said will come true, that the measure will be dropped at once, and that the Government will be thankful to drop it. We find that Berwick has gone ablaze on this matter. Our Town Council to a man have unanimously resolved to petition Parliament that the bill may be set aside. I notice also with satisfaction that candidates for the County Council of Northumberland, when they canvassed the constituency of Berwick, declared themselves to a man to be opposed to the present fishery acts, and to the present bill. Now, this shows that the whole community all along the coast line have made up their minds that as far as lies in them, they will agitate and agitate until they get their reasonable and just demand satisfied. (Applause.) I believe your demands are most reasonable and just. You ask, I believe, simply for a little longer time to take salmon out of the river, when they are quite as good at the mouth as in the upper reaches – (applause) – and you also ask – what only in iniquitous and vile legislation has taken from you – that you shall be at liberty to fish in the territorial waters and out in the open sea. (Applause) My clear conviction is that it is most unrighteous legislation which has filched from you not only your natural rights, but what use to be your legally acknowledged rights; and there should be redress some day. The sooner it comes the better for all parties – (applause) – for where we have laws that create crime where there is no moral offence, and when we manufacture criminals out of decent honest men, then that law is demoralising to the community; it is doing for us what no legislation ought to be allowed to do one moment longer than we can possibly help. (Applause.) IK have said that your demands are most reasonable. One of our wisest friends in Berwick, one of the oldest freemen in Berwick, Mr

Alexander Robertson, has been showing that this new bill proposes to inflict greater pains and penalties; and says of it that when you have asked for fish the Government have offered you scorpions. The bailiffs are to have more power, the restrictions are to be more numerous, the fines are to be exacted in larger measures. This is the testimony of one who has sifted, analysed, and knows several Acts, and knows more about salmon and legislation upon that fish than perhaps any other man in Britain. However, he says “be reasonable for our Government may not be prepared to accept your terms,? Now, I do not say you may be compelled to accept terms, but this is not easy for men who know that they are deprived of what they ought to possess to be reasonable. Be as reasonable as you can by all means; but a compromise often means this – that good legislation shall be pushed aside, and that time honoured iniquities sanctioned by law shall be accepted in the interest of peace. Therefore do this – take the advice an old fellow gave to his son “aye be seek, seeking; aye be tak, taking” (laughter.) Seek as much as you can, and by all means enlarge your demands for righteousness and justice between man and man. Then do as much as you can, no matter what Government may be in power, to press the subject before it through perpetual agitation and the promise of your members of Parliament until you get what you deserve. (Applause.) I think as far as I am able to express the convictions of multitudes of my own friends, we should accept the word of Mr Robertson again, when he says “We must stand by the fishermen.” His reason is this. The proprietors of the salmon fisheries are strong enough and have proved themselves strong enough to look after themselves; and the fishing companies have money enough to fight their own battles. His verdict is: Let us stand by the fishermen who need the moral support of all who sympathise with them in their righteous efforts to secure wise and just legislation. My parting word is this – Be true to yourselves, stick by each other, keep justice in front of you, and success is certain sooner or later – I believe very soon. (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councillor John Richardson said – I have much pleasure in moving the second resolution – “That this meeting emphatically condemns the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Bill now before Parliament as a reactionary measure serving only to perpetuate the injustice and intensify the evils of which the public have so long complained; this meeting, therefore, urgently presses upon the Government to withdraw the bill now before Parliament, and to introduce a measure acknowledging the public right to fish for salmon in the sea and in all waters belonging to the Crown, curtailing the present annual close time for salmon, legalising free rod fishing for trout in all natural waters, and giving the administration of the Acts into the hands of a board representative of all the interests concerned.

The whole question has been very exhaustively dealt with by the previous speakers, but there are one or two other things I would like to speak about. With regard to fishing in the sea, I think those who framed the new Salmon Fisheries Bill for Scotland have made it as non-sensical as ever they could. They do allow fishermen to take salmon in the sea beyond a certain limit, but they do not allow them to land their fish. Do they expect that the fishermen take a fire out to sea to cook the fish, or their families out in a boat for a picnic. (Laughter) Such a clause is entirely prohibitory to any fisherman taking salmon from the sea. The

framers of the Act evidently meant that not only was the earth the laird and the fullness thereof, but also the sea. (Applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, we believe that class legislation, such as this, is now doomed. It will no longer be tolerated, because throughout the length and breadth of the land newspapers are circulated, and people see what is going on in Parliament. Instead, therefore, of only a few proprietors interested in the upper fishings getting the ear of our legislators, the people assembled in multitudes as we have done tonight, to protest against the injustice and iniquity that are being perpetrated against them. The next point in the resolution is the curtailing of the close time. This is a very necessary step. It is ridiculous, and has been proved to be absurd that when the salmon come upon the coast in large numbers, and people want all the food they can get, they are not allowed to take the fish. And why? To allow a few proprietors to have fishing which goes on for 10 weeks longer. The fish are not unfit for food when they go up the river. (Laughter). No; the gentlemen can catch them, and send them off to their friends. Bu if there were any unclean salmon the fishermen could return them to the river at the back end of the season as they do at the beginning. There is no justification for extending the annual close time to its present limits. We want all the food we can get; the people have not enough, and shall a few upper proprietors not allow more to come into the country in the shape of an increased supply of salmon? Another point is the provision of facilities for trout fishing. I have been an angler from my youth, and have enjoyed trout fishing very much. Now we find a great many proprietors beginning to shut up their lands, although the public have use and wont in their favour. I hope this matter will be taken notice of by our member of Parliament when he makes his speech in the House of Commons, and that he will look after the interests of the trout fishers. The late Frank Buck approved of all angling waters being open to the public. Is it right that at this present day, when everybody should have as much recreation as possible, which he finds necessary for health, that these places should be shut up? There is no destruction of small fish by the honest and genuine angler; he rather seeks to protect them for the sake of sport, and he should be encouraged by proprietors on the river, for he always sets his face against any foul means adopted for the destruction of fish. He is therefore the proper man to be allowed on people's property. Sir Edward Grey went so fully into the question of the constitution of District Boards that it is unnecessary for me to say more. I hope the fishermen will get their rights; that is the great point. We have a large population seething almost with rebellion on this point. Salmon legislation is against the sentiments of the fishermen and of the people. We want the law brought into accordance with the feelings of the populace, and instead of a noisy town at the end of the year – we sometimes find more boys brought before the Magistrates for going against the law – we want everything done decently and in order. We should make a strong fight for the fishermen, because at the present we are anxious to increase our Navy and our sea-faring power. Where do the men who man our ships come from? The fishermen who risk their lives by going upon the sea make the best sailors. May we not give them justice? Yes, we will. I hope this meeting will show itself in earnest to bring the greatest moral force to bear upon the Government to get the present iniquitous law repealed, the new law withdrawn and to secure right, justice and freedom for the deep-sea fishermen on the coast. (Applause.)

Mr Crabtree, artist, Burnmouth, said – I have very great pleasure in seconding the resolution. I believe that a few years ago the fishermen all along the coast of Scotland had the right to fish for salmon in the sea, and it is only within the last 35 or 36 years that the right was taken away from them. Now, I think when we are to legalise you ought to ask for what should be given you, and that is the right for fishermen to catch salmon in the open sea. (Applause.)

Mr George Collin, fisherman, Eyemouth, said – I have very great pleasure in listening to the very excellent speeches tonight, and in seeing such sympathetic feeling towards the fishermen. (Applause.) I have no doubt that good will come out of this meeting and others similar to it. I have been fisherman for nearly 40 years, and I have never caught a salmon, but I have every sympathy with the salmon fishermen. Though I have never caught salmon, possibly I may turn my attention to salmon fishing yet. Whether I do so or not, I believe it is the right of fishermen – the moral right – to catch salmon. (Applause). I think where there is moral right there cannot be a legal evil. I am pleased to hear this Salmon Fisheries Bill for Scotland has met with so much opposition, and I trust it may never pass. The evil to arise out of that measure are said to be greater than those caused by past legislation. I wonder then how far they will reach. I have every sympathy with the fishermen of Berwick and Burnmouth and Eyemouth in their demands. Those acquainted with the fishermen know the hard times we have had for some years back, in consequence of the depression in the fishing industry. It is a struggle with them year out and year in to keep the wolf from the door. There is a time when the Creator and Preserver of all good things sends along our coast those fine salmon. What an easy thing it would be for some of our fishermen to go and capture as many of these fish as would pay the house rent and clad the bairns – (hear, hear) – so that they may appear respectable at school to get their education, which will fit them for society in after years. (Applause.) Well, all this the fishermen are deprived of. If any of them with a starving family should go out at night and capture a salmon without any qualms of conscience whatever – (hear, hear) – and be detected with a salmon, he is hailed before the Magistrates and treated far worse than if he had been a felon, far worse for taking a salmon than for beating his wife. (laughter and applause.) I trust that this meeting and others may do much to modify salmon legislation, so as to make it worthy of acceptance by sensible men. (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Ald. A Darling said – After the very able manner in which the previous resolutions have been proposed and seconded, and after the very exhaustive treatment the whole matter has received at the hands of our worthy member of Parliament, Sir Edward Grey, as well as the very excellent remarks my friend, the Rev W A Walton, any observations from me would be quite superfluous. I, therefore, simply move the resolution which has been put into my hands-

“That a petition embodying the foregoing resolutions be prepared, and sent to both Houses of Parliament, and that copies of these resolutions be sent to the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Lord Advocate, Lord Tweedmouth, and the members of Parliament for Border constituencies.”

Mr Robert Scott, fisherman, Eyemouth, seconded the motion. He said – I am glad as a fisherman to be here tonight. I have gained my bread on the old ocean – (hear, hear) – and I am here to lift up my feeble testimony against a bill which would deprive me of my rights. (Hear, hear.) Resolution after resolution condemning this bill has been moved, and I say “Amen” to them. (Laughter.) Why cannot I catch a salmon out of the sea? Because there is a law which prohibits me. I go and shoot my net and break the law. Who made that law? (A voice “No the Lord” and laughter). You talk about land grabbers, but if I catch a salmon the sea grabbers come down upon me. (Laughter and great applause.) They drag me away, and I have £5 to pay as well as £2 for the fish under this new law. That is a very dear salmon indeed. What we want is our right to fish for salmon. The sea, if I understand anything, is made for the use of man – (hear, hear) – not for the use of a certain class, not for Lord So and So. Oh, bless you, no (laughter.) It is made for you and it is made for me, and I can go down to it and set my net; aye, more than that, I can ask God to bless my labours. (hear, hear.) But then the law of this God-fearing nation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century comes down upon me. I may be wanting to feed my old grey headed father, who may have no clothes to cover his nakedness, but the law says he may starve before you will be allowed to touch the salmon, which are to be kept only for the few. You have heard something in the past about a Land League; we want a Sea League – (applause) – we want to agitate, and to be banded together as one man, so that when our Members of Parliament come down to catch votes – they like to get them – we can tell them there is a grievous wrong to be redressed, as we are forbidden to make a livelihood by catching salmon in the sea. Let us press upon them to do something for the benefit of the fishermen and the community at large.. They talk about a close time. Bless you, we have a close time from January to December. (Laughter.) There is always a close time, because they will never give us a chance. Now what we want is just to get back our rights again to set our nets in the sea, and get what fish we can, whether they be cod, ling, or salmon. I think the bill will get a shake if we can only get meetings like this throughout dear old Scotland. Let us agitate and stand together so that when the bill comes to the House of Commons, if ever it should be passed down by the House of Lords, it will be kicked out altogether. (Laughter and applause.)

The resolution was adopted.

Mr H Morrill moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, and in so doing said – I feel I am not wholly out of place touching this fishermen’s question. Belonging as I do to an industry helped much in its revenue by these men, I cannot help feeling a special interest in and sympathy for them. This question is not a matter of sentiment; it is a matter of bread-winning. It has seemed to me a sad thing that the great broad sea across which the sons of our land have passed, and brought much glory back to us, that the element which is Great Britain’s crown, and which has won her honour and position in the world should be, close to the land, the source of demoralization and injustice. (Applause.) As one of the speakers was addressing the meeting, I thought of the lines of the great world poet who said

“Oh God that man should ever come

Too near his home.”

It is a great pity that there should be this perpetual friction and damage doing; and that those who in naval matters are useful to protect us, should be injured by people who are indebted to them for their safety and prosperity. Parliament should understand too, that the time has come to put an end to the scandal that good men and true, strong in excellence of moral character, should be branded almost as felons, simply for doing that against which their conscience says not a word, and which the necessities of their homes and children put above all human law. (Appplause.)

Mr A Robertson, Greenses, seconded the motion, and said – I consider the fishermen have laboured long enough under most unjust laws. I hope the time is not far distant when they will get their rights restored. All the laws we have cannot convince me that it is a sin to take a salmon out of the sea. (Applause.) It is not recorded that the salmon was made for one class, and white fish for another. We must look forward and take courage, trusting that we will get our rights in a very short time. (Applause.)

Mr A L Miller, Berwick, moved a most hearty vote of thanks to the Mayor for so kindly, ably and efficiently presiding over that large and enthusiastic meeting (Applause.)

Councillor Weatherston seconded the motion.

The Mayor, in acknowledging the compliment, said, to have presided over that magnificent assemblage was, he considered, about the most important, as it had been the most pleasurable event in his mayoralty so far. (Applause.) No one wished or desired the amendment of the Tweed Acts more than the Magistrates – (hear) – for the most unpleasant duty they had to perform was to adjudicate upon offences against these laws. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

February 15, p. 3, column 1.

Friday morning, February 15. THE SCOTCH SALMON FISHERIES BILL AND THE TWEED. On Tuesday night the people of Berwick added their voice to the chorus of disapprobation with which the Marquis of Lothian's measure has been received along the whole valley of the Tweed. Hitherto most of the agitation against the new Scotch Salmon Fisheries Bill has been confined to the upper part of the basin of our Border stream, but those interested in the net fishings, either in the river or the sea, have not been idle, and the magnificent demonstration this week is one result of their efforts. The Mayor, who made an efficient chairman at the meeting in Berwick Corn Exchange on Tuesday night, spoke of a new bill which the Marquis of Lothian is preparing on the salmon fisheries question; and Sir Edward Grey, M.P., in his able speech, said it was likely that the measure at present before the public would be withdrawn. But these intimations do not agree with an announcement recently made by one of those omniscient persons who write for the daily newspapers – the Lothian correspondent of the Glasgow Herald – who recently stated that the Marquis of

Lothian, notwithstanding the opposition which his bill has received, was determined to deal with the subject during the ensuing session of Parliament at all hazards. A paragraph which has been published in the daily press this week however states that the measure is to be modified and reconsidered. Whatever the bill may be like when it passes the House of Lords, it has to undergo the scrutiny of the House of Commons, and the people of lower Tweedside as well as the fishermen on the sea coast, should see that the members of it are supplied with reliable information on the subject, especially as Sir Edward Grey says – what we have always maintained – that only some 70 of the representatives of the people really understand the merits of the question. Even of these we fear some will not be favourable to the redress of the evils that undoubtedly exist and cause so much mischief in this district.

The first resolution adopted at the meeting on Tuesday night declared that the right of the public to fish for salmon in the sea is recognised by the common law of England. We find instances of this along the Northumberland coast. Licenses granted to fishermen living in the small sea-side villages, such as North Sunderland, Boulmer, Craster, and Newton-by-the-sea to catch salmon; 150 licenses, at £5 each year, are also granted to 450 fishermen off the mouth of the Tyne. In all these cases we believe the licenses give permission to the fishermen to take salmon within a mile from the shore. Contrast this with the state of things at the mouth of the Tweed, and also the coast of Berwickshire. At one time there were no restrictions upon fishermen catching salmon in the open sea, at least, the absence of any legislation up to 1770 implies that; while the preamble of the Tweed Act of 1797 proves it. Since that year, however, fishermen of Berwick have been forbidden by law to take salmon within five miles from the shore, and that disability since 1863 has been extended to all the fishermen of Berwickshire. There is good reason to believe that in passing such a measure the House of Commons exceeded its power by making it operative beyond the territorial boundary of three miles from land. Even had the Tweed Acts extended the limits of the mouth of the river only three miles from the shore, they perhaps would have given the proprietors on the coast rights to which they previously had no title, for we take it that the law, so far as landed owners' powers over the sea are concerned, are the same both in England and Scotland. In illustration of this point we give the following quotation from a report of a recent meeting at Cellardyke, where Mr Austerluther, M.J., addressed his constituents: -

Skipper Kay asked if British subjects had a right to catch salmon on the sea coast? (Cheers.)

Mr Anstruther said he believed the right of the Crown extended to the three mile limit, and that outside that everyone was entitled to catch a salmon. The new Salmon Fisheries Bill, he said, made that clear. In answer to another question he explained that the proprietors' rights extended from low water mark to the one mile limit.

Skipper Montador – Seeing the Government has claimed a right to the three mile limit, how does it come to pass that the 45<sup>th</sup> clause of the new Salmon Fisheries Bill is an extension of the limit to the three mile limit.

Mr Anstruther replied that there had been some ambiguity on the subject, and the Government had now decided to lay it down emphatically that the three mile limit is the right of the Crown.

Skipper Montador – When the Salmon Fisheries Bill comes before Parliament will Mr Anstruther condemn it or vote against granting the Crown the right to the three mile limit, or will he support an amendment proposing that the fishermen should have a right to fish between the one-mile and the three-mile limit?

Mr Anstruther said he had not made a careful enquiry into the charter upon which this hereditary revenue to the Crown was founded. He should not like to pledge himself to vote that what is part of the hereditary revenue of the Crown be taken away from the Crown; but if the right of the Crown was ambiguous, it would become a matter for consideration that the Crown right should for the future extend only to the one-mile limit, and not to the three-mile limit.

This discussion has a very important bearing upon the interests of the sea fishermen from the mouth of the Tweed, to John O'Groats, because it shows clearly that the meaning of the Salmon Fisheries Bill for Scotland is to deprive them entirely of whatever chance they may at present have to catch salmon beyond one mile from the shore. It would thus seem that the promoters of the measure have no intention whatever of granting fishermen any liberty to take salmon within a reasonable distance from land. Mr Anstruther says the definition in the new Salmon Bill of the right of the Crown extending to the three mile limit, is to clear up ambiguity which exists upon the subject. That is, the same insidious system which has been adopted at the mouth of the Tweed and off the Berwickshire coast by the Tweed Acts, is to be followed all along the coast of Scotland if this Bill becomes law. The insertion of the provision in the Salmon Bill that the right of the Crown is to be made to extend three miles sea-ward, is simply to enlarge the powers of the landed proprietors on the sea coast to the exclusion of the public, because no previous Salmon Act for Scotland has said anything about three miles. It would appear, therefore, that the Secretary for Scotland intends to part with Crown rights to private individuals without any compensation and fishermen, unless the Bill is altered, will have no chance to get licenses to fish for salmon in the sea. When we remember the manner in which the Tweed Commissioners treated an application by a Berwick fisherman for a license to catch salmon in the sea, we must confess that the prospect of the removal of the disabilities of "the toiler of the deep," so far as the capture of salmon is concerned, are poor indeed, for were the Bill to pass in its present shape, the proprietors of salmon fisheries would probably say, as the Tweed Commissioners say, "we have no power to grant what you ask, as the Salmon Fisheries Act for Scotland does not give us it." The fishermen and the public should, therefore, labour for the granting of facilities to take salmon from the sea. Unless these are given, the people of this district will not be satisfied; they will assert that any new measure from which facilities are omitted is unjust and unconstitutional, also that it is essentially necessary in the interests of justice, and for the preservation of public order that the law be amended and the public right of catching salmon in the sea restored.

The second resolution was similar to that adopted at other meetings at towns in the basin of the Tweed, but it went further than any of them. By this resolution the large assembly emphatically condemned the new Salmon Fisheries Bill for Scotland, as a reactionary measure, serving only to perpetuate the injustice and intensify the evils of which the public have so long complained. By it the meeting urgently prayed the Government to withdraw the measure, and introduce another which would not only acknowledge the public right to fish for salmon in the sea, and in all waters belonging to the Crown; which would curtail the present annual close time for net fishing, legalise free rod fishing for trout in all natural waters, and give the administration of the Act into the hands of a Board representative of all the interests concerned. This resolution succinctly point out all the omissions of the Bill which is at present before the country. We have already dealt with the deep sea fishermen's grievance, which is first set forth in this resolution. The second clause of it relates to the annual close time for net fishing. In previous articles we have shown how that has been extended from six weeks to twenty-one, thus depriving some fishermen of wages for fifteen weeks. Should the present Bill become law, there is a possibility that the annual close time on the Tweed may be increased by other three weeks, and made 168 days altogether, instead of 147, as the measure purposes to make a uniform period for all the rivers in the country. Of course the Bill provided for keeping the present close time as it is, but all who dwell on the banks of the Tweed know that it creates much dissatisfaction by beginning at a date when most fish ascend the river. There has been an agitation to have it extended to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, but if the present Bill passes the penalty of petitioning for such an alteration is to be the extension of the close time to 168 days, even though it be altered so as to begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. The public will thus see that in this arrangement the interests of the owners of the rod fishings are jealously preserved, and that provision is made to enhance them still more if possible at the expense of the proprietors of net fishings. In this way the present Bill is also objectionable, because it is against the public interest. The salmon fishings exist to supply food for the public, and not to provide sport for gentlemen, though there is no reason why these should not have that if they will not hamper honest industry. Perhaps if they offered the latter more facilities they would find in the long run that they would get better sport. The net fisheries in the Tweed represent a capital of about £60,000, and give employment to something like 470 men. We ask is it fair that interest upon his amount of money should be lost; that work for such a number of men should be lessened, and that the money circulated by them in the district should be reduced to benefit about 50 individuals in the upper part of the basin of the Tweed? It must be remembered that angling does little to provide work for people. We hear much of compensation being wanted for interests that may be injured by concessions, but we ask, in any compensation to be given for loss incurred n cause the annual close time for net fishings should be extended for other three weeks? There is no provision for it in the bill. Compensation was never paid when the season for net fishing was reduced by a month 30 years ago, and when stell net fishing was forbidden. Why then it should be asked for now if concessions are granted to deep-sea fishermen and net fishers? As a matter of fact, very good compensation has been paid by these already. What they have lost has gone to improve other people's property, and now these persons add insult to injury by demanding compensation! Third part of the resolution dealt with free rod fishing. The necessity of this as a means of recreation is obvious; it would also be, Mr Gilroy pointed out

in his recent speech in Berwick Town Council, a source of attraction for people from large towns. Even with present hindrances rod fishing for trout brings many people to the district in the summer time, and if greater facilities were given for it, the influx of visitors would be most beneficial to our little country villages, where the anglers would of course spend their time and their money. The resolution further pointed out the necessity of having Boards for the administration of the salmon fishing laws representative of all the interests concerned. Were such the case there would be confidence in it. The new Bill, however, proposes to make only proprietors of salmon fisheries members of the District Board, an arrangement which would be as unsatisfactory as the present constitution of the Tweed Commission.

March 8, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE BERWICK. Thursday first, 14<sup>th</sup> March, at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to remove and sell by auction, a large assortment of excellent household furnishings, comprising excellent oak sideboard with mirror back; mahogany dining table in three parts; superior mahogany telescope dining table by Purves & Sons; another do.; beautiful rosewood loo table, mahogany do.; fine cottage pianoforte, by Allison, in handsome mahogany case; square do.; excellent sofas, couches, easy chairs, and sets of chairs in various coverings; rosewood sofa, couch, and 6 chairs in green damask; walnut suite of couch, 2 easy and 6 single chairs in crimson velvet; handsome steel fender, fire-irons, window poles, Brussels carpet, mahogany bookcase, and cabinet engravings. Splendid birch Arabian bedstead; mahogany Elizabethan bedsteads with crimson damask furnishings; fine carved mahogany fourpost bedstead and damask hangings, iron and wood French bedsteads; very superior feather beds, bolsters and pillows; hair, wool, and straw mattresses, fine chests of drawers, washstands, dressing tables and glasses, baths; and a lot of miscellaneous articles, the whole of which will be on view on Wednesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

Berwick, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1889.

March 8, p. 2, column 2.

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE COMPANY LIMITED. The annual general meeting of the shareholders of this concern took place on Saturday. County Alderman Adam Darling presided. Mr Ralph Dixon, secretary, read the annual report as follows: - Your directors have again pleasure in meeting you and congratulating you on the continued success and stability of the Company. The various accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1888, have been examined and approved by your directors and duly attested by the auditor and a printed copy of the account current and balance sheet has been sent to each shareholder. From it you will see that the nett profits have been £206 13s 5d, and the reserve fund amounts to £116 6s. Your directors recommend the present meeting to declare a dividend at the rate of five per cent per annum, which will leave the reserve fund at the sum of £122 19s 5d. There have been three meetings of directors, of which Mr D Logan, Mr J B Bird, and Mr G Hogg have

attended three; Mr J Clay, Mr A Darling, and Mr G S Riddle, two; Mr James R Black and Mr R G Bolam, one; and Mr John Black, none. The retiring directors are Messrs James R Black, John Black, and R G Bolam, who are eligible for re-election. The annual balance sheet showed that the total income was £357 11s 3d, made up as follows: - £195 10s 2d each from stalls; £25 for season tickets; £62 12s 2d for penny admissions; and £68 5s 4d for rents. The expenditure was £150 17s 10d. The Chairman said he did not understand how the penny admissions were £ 66 for 1887, and £62 for 1888. The Secretary - 1887 was an exceptional year, and there were 653 Saturdays in it. The Chairman thought, considering the importance of Berwick market, the payments would have increased rather than decreased. He moved the adoption of the report. They were not permitted to pay more than 5 per cent per annum dividend, and this gave them £6 13s 5d over. Mr J R Black, Cheswick, seconded the adoption of the report, which was agreed to. Ald. William Alder, Berwick, moved the re-election of the retiring directors. Mr Riddle, Tweedmouth, seconded the motion, and this was also carried. Ald. Alder thought it would be to the interest of the company were more attention given to the cleanliness of the hall, which, he considered, was in a most disreputable state. The walls required re-decorating, and were a few pounds spent in this direction it would be to the advantage of the company, and to the satisfaction of the frequenter of the place. The Chairman agreed with Mr Alder and it was resolved to see to it. The Secretary said the roof was the most expensive part of the building, as it cost the company from £10 to £15 every year for repairs. On the motion Mr Riddle seconded by Mr Black, Mr John M Edney was re-elected auditor, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

March 22, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30. Mr Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, a splendid assortment of Bourbon, China, Tea, Moss, Noisette, and hybrid perpetual dwarf and other roses in the best names variety; Azeleas, Hellies, Aucubas, Rhododendrons, Cypresses, Retinosparas, Lillium &c, being a choice Holland and for particulars of which see catalogues.

Berwick 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1889.

March 29, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. THURSDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, AT 11. Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to sell by auction, as above, a large assortment of excellent and substantial household furnishings, removed from various residences for convenience of sale, comprising – very handsome mahogany pedestal sideboard; mahogany breakfast table; small dining table; handsome mahogany sofas, easy chairs, and chairs in various coverings; three elegant chimney mirrors; two drawing room suites – one in damask, the other in velvet; very handsome walnut chiffonier, with marble top and mirrors; gipsy and occasional tables; window poles and curtains, Brussels carpet; fenders, fire-irons, pictures, splendid walnut

Elizabethan bedsteads, with fine crimson rep curtains; mahogany do.; fine brass mounted Persian do.; straw, hair and wool mattresses; feather beds, bolsters, and pillows; superior dark mahogany chest of Scotch column drawers; dressing tables, washstands, and usual bedroom furnishings; lobby table, stair rods, wax-cloth; dinner, breakfast, and tea sets, crystal, books, music, skin rugs, rook rifle; kitchen furnishings and utensils, &c. On view day before sale. Berwick, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1889.

April 12, p. 2, column 2.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. Monday first, 15<sup>th</sup> April at 11, Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to sell by auction, as above, an extensive assortment of excellent household furniture and other effects (including part of the furnishings of a gentleman deceased) comprising mahogany enclosed sideboard, excellent drawing room suite, walnut chiffonier with marble top and mirrors, sofas, easy chairs and single chairs in haircloth, &c; mahogany chiffonier, occasional and gipsy tables, fenders, fire-irons, splendid mahogany, birch and iron bedsteads, hair, wool and straw mattresses, feather beds, capital chest of drawers, and the usual kitchen and bedroom furnishings. For particulars of which see posters. On view morning of sale. 51, Church Street, Berwick, 11<sup>th</sup> April 1889.

April 19, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick Tonic Sol-Fa Association. The 2nd annual concert of this association will be given in the Corn Exchange on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, when a varied programme of sacred and secular music will be rendered by a chorus of 80 voices.

Conductor - Mr Thos. Richardson

Accompanist - Miss M Wood.

Tickets – front seats, 2s; second seats, 1s; third seats, 6d, which may be had from Mills & Co; Paton & Sons; Plenderleith, and members of the Association. Doors open at 7:30. Concert to commence at 8. Carriages at 10:15. For programme see bills.

April 19, p. 3, Local News, column 2.

BERWICK ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY. - A special meeting of the members of this society was held in the Long Room of the Corn Exchange on Friday evening last week. There was a good attendance of members. The Mayor (Captain Norman, R.N., J.P.) occupied the chair. He, in his opening remarks, said that at the last general meeting, it would be in their recollection, there were some subjects of considerable importance which they agreed to allow to stand over for further consideration, and he understood that that special meeting was called in order that the resolution in connection with those subjects be submitted to them and

duly considered. The secretary (Mr Ralph Dixon) read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were agreed to. Mr Bowstead, Berwick, moved the first resolution as follows: - "That the Society should have two days' show, and that it be held on Wednesday and Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of November." This was seconded by Mr Smeaton, Tweedmouth. He thought it would be an advantage to the committee to have a two days' show, as it would give them plenty of time to get the birds away with the night train, which was much better for them than when carried away through the day. This was agreed to. Mr A Darling, jun., Berwick, moved the second resolution "that the show of poultry be held under the rules of the pigeon club at London if permitted by them." This was seconded by Mr P Mason, Berwick. Mr Smeaton said that he would oppose the resolution if it prohibited members being present during judging. The Secretary: it will prohibit everyone." Mr Darling said their rules would have to be forwarded to the Pigeon Club and if they agreed to them they would hold the show under Pigeon Club rules, and if they did not they would have to hold it under the existing rules. Mr Kerss asked what advantage it would be holding the show under Pigeon Club rules? The Secretary then read a portion of the Pigeon Club rules, which stated that none but those specially employed be allowed to remain in the show during judging. Mr Darling proposed that the rules be submitted to the Pigeon Club. They would have to leave it to them whether they allowed them or not to hold the show under their rules. Mr Kerss moved that the show be held under the existing rules. Mr Herdman asked if they had to pay any subscription? The Secretary: No. A vote was then taken, and it was found that 12 were in favour of referring their rules to the Pigeon Club, and 9 in favour of holding the show under the existing rules. Mr A Craik, Berwick, moved the third resolution as follows: - "That all birds exhibited be the bona fide property of the exhibitor, otherwise the birds would be sold, and the money given to the funds of the Society." This was seconded by Mr Herdman, Berwick. Mr J Grey, Hide Hill, said he could not see what benefit they obtained by that method. It was not a confined show, and any person could enter. Mr Smeaton, Tweedmouth, opposed Mr Grey's views on this matter, and said that a person might borrow birds and exhibit them under somebody else's name. Mr Cameron, Berwick, thought that the birds would require to be in the person's possession for some time - one month at least. Upon a show of hands being taken, it was agreed, with the exception of one, that the birds be the bona fide property of a person for one month previous to the show. The fifth resolution was moved by Mr P Mason, Berwick, viz.: - "That there be no entry fee charged for special prizes which were open to all." This was seconded by Mr Francis Mason, baker, Church Street, and carried by a large majority. Mr F Mason proposed that the rabbit classes be composed of Himalayas, Silver, and Dutch (all colours) and any other variety. Mr J L Gey moved that Double Lops be included as a separate class. The Chairman said that Lops were very scarce in this district, it being too cold for them; and all their entries would have to come a long way. Mr Grey then withdrew his motion, and Mr Mason's resolution was agreed to. Mr Bowstead moved that the following judges be appointed for the 1889 show: - For poultry, Mr Hall, Kendal, at a fee of £8; for pigeon, Mr F Lumley, Chelmsford, at a fee of £5; for rabbits, Mr Hutton, Leeds, at a fee of 3 guineas; for Scotch fancy and Belgian canaries, Mr A S Baird, Leith, and Mr Miller, Berwick; and for other classes of cage birds, Mr J Smeaton, Tweedmouth. These were agreed to. Other business of a routine nature was then gone through, and the meeting terminated

after a vote of thanks, on the motion of Mr Bowstead, had been accorded the Mayor for presiding.

April 26, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick Choral Union. 28<sup>th</sup> annual concert will be given in the Corn Exchange on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1889. Music "Samson". Tickets – reserved seats, 3s; second seats, 2s; third seats, 1s; and a few at 6d, at A Paton & Sons, where plan of the hall will be seen. For further particulars see hand bills.

April 26, p. 2, column 2.

Ralph Dixon, auctioneer, valuer, and accountant, Berwick-upon-Tweed. Mr Dixon respectfully intimates the following sales: - Short notice. Corn Exchange, Berwick, Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, at 11. A large assortment of excellent household furniture, removed from the country for convenience of sale, comprising mahogany enclosed sideboard, excellent drawing room suite, elegant mirrors, mahogany chiffonier; breakfast, loo, Pembroke, occasional and gipsy tables; fenders, fire-irons, ash-pans; excellent mahogany chest of drawers; very superior mahogany Elizabethan bedstead with rich green damask hangings; capital fourpost bed with damask hangings; Persian and French bedsteads; feather beds; hair and wool mattresses; and the usual general household furnishings, all of which will be on view on Monday at 2 o'clock. Also, about five hundred yards superior tapestry carpets in choice patterns.

April 26, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday first, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, at 11. Excellent household furniture and other effects (removed from various residences), including sideboards, cabinets, breakfast, dining and loo tables; mahogany, walnut, and rosewood sofas and couches; two sets of walnut chairs, haircloth do.; drawing room suite; three elegant chimney mirrors; window poles and curtains; oil paintings, engravings and lithographs. Very handsome Persian bedstead in crimson rep; brass half tester bed and curtains, handsome French bedsteads with excellent bedding; chest drawers; waxcloth, stairrods, fire brasses; dinner set; skin rugs, sewing machine, large beam and copper scales; dressing tables, washstands, and usual bedroom furnishings; kitchen furnishings and utensils, &c. On view on Wednesday at 2.

April 26, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, at 12:30 noon. FIRE! FIRE!  
BURGLARS! BURGLARS !

S Withers & Co's patent fire and burglar resisting safes are a perpetual insurance against both. Mr Ralph Dixon is instructed to sell by auction, as above, 13 first class fire and burglar resisting safes, single and double doors, from 20 inches to 4 feet high, fitted with patent powder proof and unpickable locks, with duplicate keys, cash drawers, loose shelves, &c., suitable for books, deeds, jewels, cash, and plate.

N.B. – S W & Co have been established over 35 years, and have sold during the last eight years over £50,000 of safes by auction and through auctioneers, and are Makers to Her Majesty's Post Offices in England and India, and the following banking and other companies: -

Birmingham Banking Co.

Birmingham, Dudley, and District Banking Co.

Carnarvon District Banking Co., Llandudno.

Derbyshire Banking Co., Bakewell.

Gloucester and Western Counties Co.

Knight, John, and Son, Bankers, Farnham.

Lloyds Banking Co., Birmingham.

North and South Wales, Banking Co., Swansea.

Stuckey's Banking Co., Castle Carey.

The Munster Bank of Ireland.

Westmoreland Banking Co., Windermere.

April 26, Local News p. 3, column 2.

BERWICK TONIC SOL-FA ASSOCIATION. – Last night members of this society gave their annual concert in the Corn Exchange before a numerous and appreciative audience. The chorus numbered about 80, and were under the conduct of Mr Thos. Richardson. The singers and their leader deserve much praise for the proficiency they displayed in performing the various pieces of music. Some of them were rather intricate, and taxed the resources of the vocalists to a considerable extent, but they showed much intelligence in the attack and execution of their various parts. The choruses were generally characterised by steadiness and precision. The parts were well balanced and attention was paid to the niceties of expression. Of the soloists, those who most distinguished themselves were Miss Simmonds, Mr T Richardson, and Mr Blench, though all acquitted themselves with credit. Owing to the late hour at which the entertainment terminated, we are unable to give such a detailed critique of the performance as we should have liked, and we must, therefore, content ourselves simply

with giving the programme, and adding that some of the pieces were so much enjoyed by the audience that encores were demanded: - Part I – Corus, “Gloria;” solo, “Remember Thy Creator,” Miss Simmonds; chorus, “But as for His people;” solo, “Star of Bethlehem,” Mr T Richardson; chorus, “The Morning Star;” solo, “Ora Pro Nobis,” Mrs Redpath; chorus; “In Glory High;” quartette, “What Bell are those,” Misses Simmonds and Virtue, Master Gibson and Lyle, Messrs Downes, Reid, M’Donald and Rea; chorus, “Hallelujah,” Part II – Chorus, “The Gipsy’s Life,” solo, “True till Death,” Mr Blench; part song, “Thinking of thee”; solo “Love’s Old Sweet Song,” Miss Cockburn; part song, “Rowen Tree”; solo, “When Sparrows build,” Mrs Redpath; part song, “Fox Chase”; solo, “Macgregors’ Gathering,” Mr T Richardson; quartette “Star of Descending Night,” Misses Cockburn, Pearson, Sparshott, and Hogarth; Messrs Irvine, Elder, Blench, and Reid; part song, “Meeting of the Waters”; song, “Banks of the Breamish,” Miss Simmonds; part song, “Come where flowers are flinging” from Martha; God Save the Queen.

May 10, p. 2, column 6.

BERWICK CHORAL UNION. “Samson”. On Monday the members of Berwick Choral Union gave their twentieth annual concert in the Corn exchange. The audience though numerous, was by no means so large as it should have been, considering the high class character of music, and the merits of the performance, for we do not hesitate to say that of the many excellent entertainments given by the Choral Union, this was the best and most enjoyable of them all. The oratorio selected for study this year was Handel’s “Samson”, which was a great favourite with its composer, who is said to have considered it so nearly equal to the “Messiah”, that he could not determine which should take precedence of the other. “Samson” had never been performed in Berwick until Monday night, and we should have thought that its novelty alone would have proved attractive, seeing that all Handel’s music is of such a magnificent character. Perhaps the late date of the concert may also have somewhat detracted from its success in the way of attendance, and the Committee of the Choral Union would do well to fix their entertainment for a much earlier time of the year. The chorus numbered about 70, and the various parts were evenly balanced, so that the volume of sound was of harmonious proportions. The vocalists also displayed much facility and precision in attacking and interpreting the music, of which they exhibited a knowledge which could only have been gained by diligent and intelligent study on their part, as well as by patient and effective training on the part of their talented conductor, Mr Benjamin Barker, who deserves great praise indeed for the high state of proficiency to which he has brought the Choral Union. The effect of the vocal music was much enhanced by an efficient orchestra composed as follows: - 1<sup>st</sup> violins – Mr P Lax, Newcastle; Mr T Borthwick, Berwick; Mr T Barker, Berwick; Mr W Crow, Berwick; 2<sup>nd</sup> violins – Mr Sanderson, Newcastle; Mr B Davies, Berwick; Mr A Lounton, Berwick; Mr Scott, Berwick; viola – Mr F C Courier, Berwick; violoncello – Mr G Baker, Newcastle; Mr Weatherhead, Berwick; contra bass – Mr R Weddell, Berwick; flute – Mr W Green, Berwick; clarionet – Mr F C Courier, Berwick; cornet – Mr Monkhouse, Newcastle. “Samson”, like most of Handel’s oratorios, abound in plenty of airs to try the resources and powers of vocalists, and these were entrusted to the

following soloists: - Miss L Smith, Newcastle, popular concert soprano; Miss Bellas, Newcastle, popular concert contralto; Mr T Richardson, Berwick, Choral Union tenor; and Mr John Duncanson, Durham Cathedral, bass. All the performers were accommodated on the platform at the east part of the room.

The oratorio began with an overture. The scene depicted is that of Samson blind and in chains, coming forth into the open air, when relieved from his [toil?] in consequence of a festival in honour of Dagon, the God of his captors, the Philistines. The music is supposed to proceed from the merry makers and is therefore of a joyful character. It was skilfully treated by the orchestra and formed a suitable prelude to the lively and jubilant chorus, "Awake the trumpet's lofty sound," after it had been indicated by Samson (Mr T Richardson) in a short recitative. The obligato by the cornet in the chorus was most effective. Miss Sneath the took the part of the Philistine women by delivering the aria, "Ye men of Gaza" who were exhorted to "hither bring the merry pipe and pleasing string." The music was pleasingly rendered and the runs were sung with much fluency. Samson, bemoaning his condition, subsequently gives vent to the bitterness of his feelings, and Handel portrayed these with much intensity and pathos in the beautiful "Total Eclipse," which was sung with exquisite taste and expression by Mr Thomas Richardson, who surpassed himself in the delivery of this fine air, which it is said Handel could never hear without being affected to tears. The applause which greeted Mr Richardson at the conclusion of this , his best effort during the evening, showed that the audience [?] appreciated one of the gems of the oratorio. The chorus, "Oh first created beam," which succeeded, was given with much [?] a fine burst of magnificent harmony being fitly descriptive of the light that followed God's [?]. Its strains of adoration were followed by those of a supplicant character, "To thy [?] servant life by light afford." Manoah, the father of Samson, who had [?] him in[ bewailing?] his degradation, follows with a beautiful air, which Mr Duncanson interpreted in a successful manner. He sang the runs with great care and conscientiousness , while the music gave plenty of scope for the display of his mellow voice. Samson, who acknowledges the justice of his punishment, invokes the tempest of God's wrath upon the Philistines in a spirited air, "Why does the God of Israel sleep" , which Mr Thos. Richardson delivered with much fire. This leads on to a chorus of the Israelites "Then shall they know whose name Jehovah is, which contains a number of fugal passages of much beauty, which were taken up by the different parts of the chorus with [?] and promptitude. After the short recitative "My genial spirits droop" had been declaimed by MR T Richardson, there succeeded the reassuring tones of the fine chorus "Then round about the starry throne," in which Samson's friends recount to him the joy and peace that his spirit will realise in the eternal world, where his "heavenly guided soul shall [?] and triumph over death". To the music ample justice was done by the chorus. Menoah and the Israelites beseech the Lord to have pity upon Samson, and the invocation by Menoah "Return, O God of hosts," was delivered with excellent effect and pathos by Miss Bellas, who also sustained the solo while the chorus sang "To dust his glory" the would treat with much taste and attention to pianissimo effect.[the rest of the account of part one is illegible]. The second part of the concert was begun with the chorus of Israelites "With thunder armed, Great God arise," which was sung with much devotional fervour, Harapha is afterwards sent by the Philistine lord to bid Samson attend their festival to exhibit his strength, and he at first refuses to go but

at last consents. Samson departs invoking the aid of that spirit with which he had formerly been inspired. His friends cheer him on, declaring him to be fulfilling the call, and under the guidance of heaven. This is well brought out in succeeding numbers. The beautiful air "Thus when the sun," Mr T Richardson sang with appropriate expression. Maneah having returned to tell his friends his hopes of obtaining Samson's release, and air by the Philistines is introduced, and this, "Great Dagon both subdued our foe," was sung with much spirit by Miss Sneath. The theme was continued by the chorus in ringing tones of jubilation. Then came in the beautiful air by Manoah, "How willing my paternal love", in which he manifests his fatherly solicitude for Samson. It was delivered with much pathos and expressiveness by Mr Duncanson, who received a hearty encore for the successful manner in which he interpreted the sentiment of the words and music. Subsequently an appalling, loud, and confused noise was heard, succeeded by wailing and cries for help and these were portrayed by a symphony, suggestive of a fearful catastrophe. The declamation of the recitative, "Heaven! What noise" was accordingly followed by the chorus of Philistines at a distance, "Hear us, our God," in which the different parts declaim alternately, "We sink, we die," and which terminates with music that gives a vivid idea of the exclamations of a perishing multitude. An Israelitish messenger arrives in breathless haste, and relates to the relative and friends of Samson the terrible news of his having pulled down the Philistines' temple and buried himself and his enemies in its ruins. His intelligence is described in recitatives, which were declaimed in an appropriate manner. After the air, "Ye sons of Israel now lament," by Miss Bellas and the chorus of Israelites, "Weep, Israel, weep," the Dead March was performed by the orchestra in a remarkably impressive manner, and it was followed by the solo and chorus, "Glorious hero, may thy grave." Then followed another of those brilliant and florid airs which Handel so plentifully scattered throughout his oratorio. "Let the bright seraphim" is one of his best, and it is one which taxes the powers alike of both vocalist and trumpet player to the uttermost. Miss Sneath appeared to have reserved her energies for this air, as she threw her whole soul into it, and with the brilliant trumpet obligato of Mr Monkhouse, created a great sensation, giving a highly successful interpretation of the difficult music. The long and exacting runs were delivered with considerable facility, and the high notes were rung out with telling clearness. For her delivery of the air, she was awarded an enthusiastic encore. The oratorio closed with the brilliant and most effective chorus, "Let their celestial concerts all unite," which was most superbly rendered. The swelling grandeur of its harmony irresistibly reminded us that Handel, like Milton, from whose poem the words for the music were taken, rose to the height of the great occasion, and fitly described the theme in strains of overwhelming sublimity. This chorus was declaimed with much power and fervour. It brought to close a highly successful concert, which reflected much credit upon all concerned in its promotion. Mr B Barker wielded the baton with his wonted efficiency, and the entertainment must bring to a happy termination for this season his indefatigable labours in spreading amongst the community a love of good and elevating music. Miss Barker presided at the harmonium, and performed her by no means easy part of the work to her usual efficient style, tact and judgement.

We understand the Committee contemplate giving an opera next season – probably "The Bohemian Girl" – instead of an oratorio. This, we believe, will be a most acceptable change.

June 7, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. THURSDAY FIRST, 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 11. Mr Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, a large assemblage of capital household furnishings (removed from various sources for convenience of sale), comprising: - mahogany telescope dining, round, and other tables; three capital mahogany pedestal sideboards; stage do.; mahogany chiffonier; four sofas, three couches, easy chairs, and sets of chairs; large gilt chimney mirrors; two shelved over-mantel mirrors; fenders, fire-irons, ash-pans; window poles; breakfast tables; piano stool; walnut drawing room suite; very handsome walnut Elizabethan bedstead with blue rep curtains; birch do.; feather beds; mahogany chests of drawers; dressing tables; washstands; chamber ware; bedroom chairs; excellent double mahogany writing table; pitch pine do.; very superior office table, with rising top and back conveniently fitted, copying press, fireproof safe; kitchen furniture and utensils, &c.

Also a part of the fittings of a shop in the town, comprising superior ebonized cases, fitted with plate glass; large counter, &c.

And in the evening about 7 o'clock, about 500 vols. books (the property of a clergyman deceased).

51, Church Street, Berwick, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1889.

July 5, p. 2, column 1.

1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers. New drill hall and headquarters. The Bazaar in aid of the funds of the above will take place in the Corn Exchange, Berwick on Tuesday and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> August. Full particulars in future advertisements and bills.

A T Robertson, Lieut. & W Geo. K Young, sergt. (Hon secretaries).

July 5, p. 2, column 1.

The Berwick and Tweedmouth Gas Light Co. The annual meeting of the shareholders of the above company will be held in the Long Room, Corn Exchange Buildings, Sandgate, Berwick-on-Tweed on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> July instant at 12 o'clock noon precisely, for the transaction, among other things, of the following business viz. 1<sup>st</sup> – to receive the balance sheet and the report of the directors and auditor thereon. 2<sup>nd</sup> – to elect three directors. 3<sup>rd</sup> – to elect an auditor. 4<sup>th</sup> – to declare a dividend, and which will be paid immediately after the business of the meeting is transacted.

T G Turner, Sec.

High Street, Berwick, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1889.

July 5, Local News p. 3, column 4.

Berwick Equitable Benefit Building Society. The annual meeting of the shareholders of this society was held in the Corn Exchange on Thursday night last week. – Mr Morrallee, Chairman of Directors, presiding. The annual statement of accounts, which we published last week, was submitted and approved. Messrs McGregor, Dickinson, and Burns, retiring directors were re-elected, while Mr Storar, Spittal, was chosen in place of Mr R Holmes. The auditors, Messrs J Gregg and A K Makins, were re-elected. It was stated that the bonus for the last two years was 2s 6d per share, but this year it was 4s 3d.

July 19, p. 2, column 7.

#### BERWICK AND TWEEDMOUTH GAS LIGHT COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Wednesday in the Corn Exchange – Mr C Hopper, chairman of directors, presiding.

Mr T G Turner, secretary, read the balance sheet, from which the following particulars are taken: - Income – Gas sold, £4,553 9s 4d; use of meters, £130 6s 9d; coke tar, lime, &c. sold £363 15s 5d; interest on bank accounts, £1 3s 11d - £5048 15s 5d. Expenditure – salaries, £313 4s; wages, £358 0s 5d; parrot coals, £2251 13s 10d; lime, £84 15s 3d; ordinary repairs and maintenance of works and plant, including renewal of retorts, service pipes &c, £422 11s 3d; parochial rates, £122 13s; miscellaneous, £60 14s 10d; rents, £7 3s; property and income tax, £30 4s; law expenses, 10s 6d; meters, repairing, &c., £108 10s 8d; bad debts, £19 19s 5 1/2d; insurance and depreciation, £95 - £3,875 0s 2 1/2d. There was thus a balance, being net profit, of £1173 15s 2 1/2d.

Mr Turner also read the Directors' Report as follows: - Gentlemen – “The Directors have much pleasure in again meeting you on this occasion, and submitting to you the results of the Company's operations for the year ending the 25<sup>th</sup> May last. The balance sheet and balance account have been examined and approved by your Directors, and duly certified by the Auditor, and a copy of the balance sheet has been sent to each shareholder, from which you will observe there is a net profit of £1,173 15s 2 1/2d for the year ending the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1889 available for dividend, and your Directors have much pleasure in recommending a dividend at the rate of ten per cent per annum free of income tax, and which the secretary is prepared to pay immediately after the business of the meeting is transacted. The Directors have much pleasure and satisfaction in being able to report to you and the public that they have resolved to reduce the price of gas for the current year from 4s 8d to 4s 6d per 1,000 cubic feet, which reduction will take effect from and after the 25<sup>th</sup> May last, the end of the Company's financial year. Your Directors regret to inform you that during the past year the Company has been deprived of the services of an able and efficient Director, by the death of Adam Paxton, a gentleman who always took the warmest interest in everything appertaining to the welfare of the Company. During the past year there have been 18 meetings of Directors. The three

retiring are Messrs Dumble, Lawson, and Weatherston; but they are eligible for re-election. Christopher Hopper, Chairman.

The Chairman said he rose to move the adoption of the report which would carry the reduction of the price of gas 2d per thousand cubic feet for the ensuing year. They would remember that at last annual meeting he promised that the Directors would do their utmost to be in a position to reduce the price of gas on this occasion, and he was very glad to think that they had been able to do so, and at the same time to pay the usual dividend to the shareholders. It was quite unnecessary for him to say more; the report had so thoroughly gone into their affairs that all he need now was to move the adoption of the report, which he did with very great pleasure.

Mr Turner next read the attendance of Directors. There had been 18 meetings; of these the Chairman was present at 17; Mr Dumble, 17; Mr Gray, 16; Mr Paxton, [15?]; Mr Weatherston, 13; Mr Lawson, 11; Mr Lyon, 10; Mr Fender, 8; and Mr Wilson, 4. The latter being recently [?], that accounted for the small number of their attendance.

The three retiring Directors, Messrs Dumble, Lawson, and Weatherston, were unanimously re-elected.

Mr John M Edney was re-appointed auditor.

The Chairman then formally moved, and Mr A Alexander seconded, that a dividend of 10 per cent be declared. The former hoped the day was far distant when the shareholders would be asked to take any less.

Mr T H Clark said it gave him great pleasure as one of the shareholders, to move that the meeting accord to the Directors and [managers?] a hearty vote of thanks, seeing that the Company was in such a favourite condition, a result which was due to the efficient and successful manner in which its affairs had been conducted. There could be no question of the interest which the Directors took in the business of the Company, and it must cause them a great deal of trouble to examine and decide the course they were to pursue. (Applause).

Mr W S Dods seconded the motion, which was adopted.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, said there was sometimes a good deal of work in connection with the Gas Company, and he might state that last year was perhaps the most laborious the Directors had ever had. However, when they brought it to a successful issue, and were able to meet the shareholders as they had done that day, they were amply rewarded for their trouble. (Applause.) Every Director was anxious to do his best for the Company, and they never begrudged any time devoted to its interests. He might state that the secretary, Mr Turner, devoted almost his whole time to the work; he was most indefatigable in attending to his duties. (Applause.)

On the motion of Mr G M Lamb, seconded by Mr Hume, a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman for presiding, and this being duly acknowledged, the proceedings terminated.

August 2, Local News, p. 3, column 4.

The boys from the Farningham Home – these juvenile performers will give another entertainment in the Corn Exchange on Wednesday afternoon and night, when, we are informed, their efforts will be even better than they were last year. IT is hoped that people will again kindly offer the 26 lads accommodation and food during their short stay in Berwick. Mr A Paton will be glad to receive their names.

August 9, Local News p. 3, column 2.

THE FARNINGHAM HOMES. – The band of this institution paid a second visit to Berwick on Wednesday, and gave two performances before large audiences in the Corn Exchange. In the afternoon, His Worship the Mayor (Captain Norman, R. N.), presided and was accompanied on the platform by a number of gentlemen. At intervals in the proceedings, speeches were delivered. The Mayor addressed the audience in an appropriate manner, and later on, Mr Benjamin Clarke, the Secretary to the Homes, gave a short account of the working of the institution. In the evening Dr Maclagan occupied the chair, and was accompanied on the platform by the Mayor, Rev T W Gibson, Mr Weatherhead, Mr W L Miller, M J K Weatherhead, Dr W B Macay, and Mr T Thompson. The chairman, in the course of a few remarks, said although they had not seen the Homes for themselves, they could form an opinion of them from the description given by Mr Clarke. The great object of homes such as these, was to get hold of their less fortunate brothers and sisters when they were young. – Mr Clarke followed with a description of the Farningham Homes for destitute boys, stating different trades the boys could choose, and the nature of the education they receive. The number of boys in these Homes was over 300. He afterwards gave a short descriptive account of the Swanley Homes for orphans only. There were 200 boys in these, and the trades and education taught there was much upon the same principle as at Farningham. The Lord Mayor of London, who paid a visit to the Home a short time ago, said he did not know that there was an institution of that kind giving such a broad and judicious education. In appealing to the audience for their sympathies he said they had a heavy mortgage on their building, and they wanted £15,000 a year for their expenses. He thanked all those ladies and gentlemen who had so kindly opened their hearts and their homes to the boys, and he also thanked Mr Paton, who had so kindly taken charge of the arrangements. – The Mayor, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr Maclagan, said that he was always glad to receive the names of subscribers. On the last occasion when the band was in Berwick, they secured three subscribers. He would be glad to take the names of others. He had also two collecting boxes, which he asked some of the young people to take. He had forgotten to mention the fact that, at Farningham, there was a little rescued Berwick boy, who was going on very well indeed. The vote of thanks was cordially awarded, and Dr Maclagan briefly replied. The following was the musical programme performed by the band: - Mendelsohn's Wedding March; overture, "Le cheval de bronze", fantasia, "Bonnie Scotland", selection,

“Dorothy”; valse, “Love’s golden dream”, descriptive piece, “The Smithy in the Wood,” In the fantasia the performers were loudly encored, and had to repeat the last two pieces, which were also loudly applauded. The total amount collected at the two meetings was £22 12s 1d, and this, added to the contents of Miss Hannah Holmer’s box, brought the total up to £24 2s 10d. We understand that the Secretary and the boys were highly delighted with the warm reception accorded to them, and with the substantial amount of the proceeds of their concert.

August 23, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK, Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1889, at eleven o’clock. Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions from a gentleman leaving the district, to sell by auction, as above, his substantial household furnishings and other effects, comprising mahogany pedestal sideboards; do. dining table, with screw movement; breakfast and loo tables; sofas, couch, easy chairs, and sets of chairs; chiffonier; window poles, fenders, fire-irons; large chimney mirrors; very commodious birch business table; pitchpine writing table; fireproof safe; handsome walnut bed and curtains; iron beds, palliasses, straw, hair, and wool mattresses; feather beds; chests of drawers; neat chiffonier bed; kitchen furniture and utensils; weighing machine, scales and weights; and a multiplicity of articles in every department of furnishing. A number of books at 7 in the evening.

August 23, p. 2, column 3.

#### THE VOLUNTEER BAZAAR AT BERWICK.

If Solomon had lived in these days, he would probably have said that of the making of bazaars there was no end. To these undertakings, resource is always had when other means of getting money fail. Hence, bazaars to the right of us, bazaars to the left of us rise up and plunder for various objects. As the 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers are in want of funds for the erection of a drill hall, in consequence of their ejection from the Barracks, through no fault of their own, but simply because the accommodation there is too small for them and the King’s Own Scottish Borderers, it was natural that they, like other people, should resort to a bazaar in order to raise money to add to the £426 which they had already received in the shape of subscriptions from the Duke of Northumberland (£50), Major Allan (£21), Earl Percy (£20), Messrs Mann, Crossman & Paulin (£20), &c. This accordingly took place in the Corn Exchange on Tuesday and Wednesday, and was a decided success, though it still leaves the Volunteers far short of the £1,800 which they require for the erection of their premises. However, their expectations did not lead them to indulge in any false hopes, and it is pleasing to learn that they are satisfied with what they got. The interior of the building was adorned for the occasion by Mr John Crow, painter and decorator, High Street. At the east part of the hall a painting of the Royal Arms was suspended, and this was surmounted by flags. Above the entrance was the inscription “God bless our Queen,” and over it was the ancient Volunteer flag obtained from the vestry of Berwick Parish Church. This banner, it

may be stated, was the standard of the "Independents" to whom the Mayor referred in the course of his speech, which is reported below. Near the door was an archway with the motto "Defence not Defiance," and surmounted by a miniature gun on a carriage. The rails to the gallery were adorned with variegated calico, having a scalloped border. Between the pilasters round the hall were ornamental banners, bearing various devices. The stalls were of a form suggestive of tents, thus giving the bazaar a military appearance. Most of them were for the sale of ordinary articles, while one was utilised for the disposal of refreshments. In the centre of the hall was the fruit and flower stall, which presented a very attractive aspect. A large quantity of useful and ornamental goods were on offer, and their variegated hues, together with the bright drapery of the stalls, and the bunting with which they were adorned, made an effective coup d'ail. Flowers and fruit were received from His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle; the Earl of Tankerville, Chillingham Castle; the Earl Home, the Hirsell; Major-General Sir William Crossman, Cheswick House; Hon. F W Lambton, Fenton; The Marchioness of Waterford, Ford Castle; W J Hay, Esq., Duns Castle; P Leney, Esq., Marchmont; J S Mack, Esq., Coveyheugh; Mrs Everett, Edington; Mr J B Robertson, Hoebridge; Colonel D Milne Home, of Paxton also sent a large quantity of palms to decorate the hall. Mr P Cameron, Blackadder Gardens, contributed a quantity of fruit. The various stall-holders were –

Nos. 1 and 2 Mrs Caverhill, Mrs O L Fraser, Mrs A Tower Robertson, Miss Grey, and Mrs Peters assisted by Miss Calder, Miss Torrance, Miss Stephenson, Miss Weatherhead, Miss Sanderson, Miss Richardson, Gateshead; Miss Herriot, Miss Blagden, Miss Willoby, and Miss Smith, Quay Walls.

No. 3 – Mrs W G K Young, Mrs J Henderson, Mrs Greenwood, Mrs T Nicholson, and Mrs A K Makins, assisted by Miss Kate Henderson, Darlington, and Mrs Grey, Ravensdowne.

No. 4 – Mrs A Henderson, Mrs Erswell, and Misses Hopper, assisted by Mrs Cairns, Greenburn; Miss Steven, Glasgow, miss M'Lauchlan, Edinburgh.

No. 5 – Mrs Renwick, Miss Kerss, Miss Lamb, and Miss Purves, assisted by Mrs Jeffrey and Mrs Crow.

No. 6 – Mrs Campbell, Miss Russell, Miss Gilchrist, and Mrs Scott, assisted by Miss Forrest and Miss Powys.

Extra stall- Miss Pearson, Ava Lodge; Miss Robertson, Wellington Terrace; and Miss Sherlaw, assisted by Mrs A Henderson, Miss Calder, and Miss E M C Clay.

Refreshment Stall – Mrs Geo. L Paulin, assisted by Miss Darling, Miss Short, Miss R Bolam, Miss Livingstone, Miss A Greet, Norham; and Miss Short, Bankhill.

Flower Stall – Mrs Collier, assisted by Misses Chrichton, Misses Valence, and Mr H Collier.

Parcel and Cloak Stall – Gunners Dickson, Wightman and Chapman.

Pipe Stall – Sergt. Major Nicholson.

In addition to these there was also a "livestock sale" in one of the side rooms. This was conducted by Masters Caverhill, M'Creath, Weddell, and Russell. This apartment for the nonce resembled a miniature menagerie, as pigeons, fishes, kittens, and other creatures were to be seen ranged round about. One of the birds was a blue cock Antwerp, the property of William Grey, Hide hill. In 1882 this pigeon flew from London to Berwick, a distance of 302 miles. It was highly commended at the great National Poultry Show at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham. In 1883 it flew from Penzance to Berwick, a distance of 426 miles, and the greatest distance ever accomplice in England.

At noon on Tuesday when the bazaar was opened there was a large assemblage of people, including The Countess of Lonsdale; Colonel and Lady Sybil Knox; the Mayor (Captain Norman, R.N.); Major Hope and officers of the King's Own Scottish Borderers; Colonel D Milne Home, Mrs Milne Home, and the Misses Milne Home, of Paxton; Brigade Surgeon Collier; Rev Canon Baldwin, Vicar of Berwick; Rev E Rutter, Vicar of Spittal; the Sheriff (Mr E Sanderson); Major Caverhill, commandant of 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers; Lieutenant A T Robertson; Lieutenant J L Grey; Lieutenant H A Peters; Surgeon C L Fraser; Alderman A Darling; Mr Logan, Brow-of-the-Hill; Captain and Mrs Forbes, Castle Terrace; Mr and Mrs T Paulin, London; Mr J Grey, Hide Hill; Mr T and Mrs Thompson; Miss Robertson, Tweedmouth; Mr E Willoby; Mr A L Miller; Mr M'Creath; Mr and Mrs Smail; Mr A Winlaw; Rev S Steven, Fauresmith, South Africa; Rev James Parkes, Berwick; Mrs J K Weatherhead; Mr Smith, Borough Treasurer; Dr Heagerty; Major and Mrs Warser Heriot, Ord House; Mr A and Miss Blake, Twizel; Mrs Stevenson, Berwick &c. At the door of the Corn Exchange a detachment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers formed a guard of honour and received the Countess of Lonsdale, Colonel and Lady Sybil Knox with a salute when they arrived. A squad from No. 1 Company of the Boys Brigade under Sergeant W G K Young, also presented arms. The band of the corps under Mr Courier, which was stationed in the gallery then played the National Anthem, and shortly afterwards the Mayor, the Countess of Lonsdale, Colonel and Lady Sybil Knox were conducted to a dais at the further end of the hall by Major Caverhill and the other Volunteer officers.

Major Caverhill said the pleasing duty devolved upon him of asking the Mayor to preside over the opening ceremony at the bazaar in aid of the 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteer Drill Hall. His Worship required few words of introduction from him to that or any other company in Berwick. He was a gentleman esteemed by all the population of Berwick. He came to the borough a comparative stranger 15 or 16 years ago, and had now endeared himself to all the inhabitants, more particularly the working classes. He had now very much pleasure in asking the Mayor to preside over the inaugural ceremony (Applause.)

The Mayor said – Lady Sybil Knox, Colonel Knox, ladies and gentlemen – First of all I must say that I am duly sensible of the honour which has been extended to me at being invited to preside at the ceremony of opening this bazaar today; and I assure you of my sympathy with its object, and my heart's desire for its success. (Applause.) You will very probably be aware that His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales some months ago was invited by the committee to honour us with his presence; and to do us the favour of opening the bazaar; and

I, at the same time, as Mayor of the borough, wrote in the name of the inhabitants to assure His Royal Highness that he would receive a very hearty and loyal welcome should he see fit to visit our ancient town. (Applause.) His Royal Highness not being able to give a definite reply at the time was graciously pleased to request that the invitation be repeated in July. This was accordingly done, when His Royal Highness, owing to pressure of public engagements, found it impossible to accept. You will all, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure, share with the Committee and myself the regret which we feel at the non-realisation of our hopes of seeing His Royal Highness here today. (Applause.) The question then arose who should be asked to take the place of His Royal Highness? To which there could be but one answer. Lady Sybil Knox is the wife of the distinguished Chief Military Authority of this district; her rank and position, her good nature, and the interest which she takes in the welfare of the Volunteers, at once marked her out as the proper person. Her ladyship very kindly acceded to the request, and has come here today for the important purpose of opening the bazaar, for which our best thanks are due to her, which will be more formally rendered by-and-by. Now, the object of the Bazaar, it is superfluous to state, is money, and I will endeavour, briefly, to explain how it is that the 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers have been obliged to have recourse to this fully recognised infallible receipt for impecuniosity, (Laughter.) I am not going right back to historical times to touch upon all that has passed in Volunteering annals in this borough, but I hold in my hand a very interesting pamphlet, from which I will read an extract: - It is entitled "A View of the Establishment of the Corps of Independent Berwick Volunteers," and sets forth that "the plan of instituting the corps which now bears the name of 'The Independent Berwick Volunteers' was first formed about the beginning of the year 1797, with the view and for the purpose which are specified in the following declaration of principles and offer of service: - "We subscribers do hereby declare our unfeigned attachment to his Majesty King George, the Third, and to both Houses of Parliament - considering the present very critical posture of public affairs, and having reason to fear from what has lately occurred in the sister kingdom - invasion from an enemy professing principles highly inimical to the King and Constitution of this country; we feel it a duty as loyal subjects, to come forward in the present emergency, with an offer of our services, to aid and assist the civil power, by forming ourselves into a Volunteer corps, at our own private expense, and upon such regulations as shall afterwards be agreed upon by the subscribers; in order to repel the foreign enemy, and to check or suppress riot and insurrection within the town and liberties of Berwick-upon Tweed." On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1797, the, a general meeting of the subscribers was held at the King's Arms Inn, Berwick, when certain leading articles of regulation were established, and a committee of management, as also a treasurer to the corps, and a secretary to the committee, were appointed. But leaving these gallant "Independents" we will now come down to times which will bring us more directly in touch with that Volunteer corps in whose interest we are gathered here today. You should be reminded that in August 1860, a public meeting of the inhabitants was held in Town Hall, to consider the question of raising a volunteer corps, and it was unanimously agreed to form a Battery of Artillery and a Company of Rifles. When sufficient names had been sent in to justify the promoters of the scheme to ask permission from headquarters for the formation of the two corps, application was duly made, but the reply of the Government was, that they would not sanction a Rifle Corps in Berwick until there were two Batteries of Artillery. Berwick being

in their opinion, a town where Artillery would be more useful than Rifles. After the usual formalities, the services of the 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers were accepted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1860, and the rules of the Corps duly sanctioned; and in the list of precedence of the Artillery Corps in the kingdom Berwick Artillery ranks 39<sup>th</sup>. (Applause.) The commanding officer was the late Major Renton, of Mordington, formerly in the renowned Black Watch, and among the other officers were Mr Thomas Allan, of Horncliffe House; Mr James Allan (who has been four times Mayor of Berwick); Mr Stephen Sanderson (now Clerk of the Peace for Northumberland), all of whom in due time became Commandants. The Chaplaincy was accepted by the Rev G Hans Hamilton, then Vicar of Berwick, but now The Venerable Archdeacon of Northumberland, who still holds his commission, and who never fails to preach the annual sermon, and who is therefore, one of the oldest commissioned officers in the Volunteer service. Two only of the original gunners remain, namely - Battery-Sergeant-Majors Douglas and Nicholson. (Applause.) The 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers is therefore par excellence a Berwick corps, being a regiment in itself, having its headquarters and commanding officer here, and wearing besides its distinctive button and shoulder strap, bearing the Berwick arms of a bear chained to a tree. What I have started will, I hope, further the elucidation of the point on which so many persons seem to require an explanation. Why is it that our Rifles are not associated with our Artillery Volunteers in the present movement? The reason is simply because Berwick is the headquarters of the Artillery, and not of the Rifles, the latter being only a company of the first Volunteer Battalion of Northumberland Fusiliers, whose headquarters are elsewhere, and whose companies are scattered all over the county. At the same time, I am authorised to state that the Rifles were invited to join, but their commanding officer did not see his way to comply. I am also at liberty to say, as you will be glad to hear, that, when the building is completed, the Artillery intend to offer the use of portions of their hall to the Rifles on payment of a nominal rent. Now, up to lately, our Artillery Volunteers have been obligingly provided with headquarters in the Barracks, but last year, not because of any misbehaviour, they were turned out, simply because there was no room for them, owing to the permanent increase of the depot, which is now the Depot of both Battalions of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, instead of only one, as heretofore. The Volunteers found themselves, therefore, like a crab without a shell – (laughter) – crawling about in rather a helpless condition, having been obliged to crawl out of one shell, but not having found another to crawl into. It is true that they have found a temporary shell in the billiard room of a public house, but this is altogether too small, and not advantageous on several grounds, one of which is that it leads or may lead to transactions for the good of the house, which cannot be considered as beneficial to the corps. You will see now, ladies and gentlemen, what money is wanted for – for the purpose of building a Drill Hall, with orderly room, armoury, clothing store, and other rooms attached, including, if possible, living accommodation for the sergeant-instructor, who will also be caretaker. The sum required is £1,800 of which £400 has already been subscribed. The site has not been definitely fixed upon; but, to allay anxieties on the subject, which has arisen in some quarters, I may say at once that it will not be on any bastion. (Applause.) I have always been of opinion that what is known as the Volunteer movement was an epoch of the greatest importance in the military history of our country's Volunteering. Individually, to those who engage in it, it is of immense benefit; while the collective result is a splendid army

of reserve, composed of trained, brave, patriotic men, who add enormously to the security of our hearths, and homes, and who would assuredly have to be reckoned with by any invader who might have the temerity to effect a landing on our shores. Should anyone be of the opinion that I am eulogistic, I have pleasure in reading an extract from a leading journal with reference to the late review before the Emperor of Germany, no mean military authority, which says –“The behaviour of the Volunteers was the feature of the march past, as far as the infantry was concerned. In steadiness and precision, there was scarcely a hair’s breadth of difference between them and the line regiments, and the Emperor was enthusiastic in his praise of them” (Applause.) The Committee desire to convey their very earnest thanks to the ladies who have so kindly exerted themselves in favour of the bazaar. Indeed, as you all know, without the co-operation of the ladies, always so cheerfully accorded, bazaars would be impossible. They also desire their grateful acknowledgement to many gentlemen, prominently including the name of Mr A L Miller, who is always so ready to render his valuable assistance on behalf of any of our public institutions. In concluding these remarks, and in forecasting the success of this bazaar, I hopefully remember the wonderful success which bazaars have in Berwick generally. I am also reminded, though the connection may not at first sight be apparent, of those boys who follow the coaches which ply between Edinburgh and the Forth Bridge, who turn head over heels on the road, and continually implore the passengers to “Poor out,” – (laughter) – which is the Scotch equivalent to “Fork out,” of “Shell out.” I do not propose, ladies and gentlemen, to turn head over heels, either on this floor or on the road – (laughter) – but I trust very much that large numbers of persons will liberally “pour out” in purchase of the numerous articles which are so temptingly displayed around us on the stalls, and thus show their sympathy and good will with the Volunteers in general, and in particular with the gallant corps which is of ourselves and which takes its name from our loyal and ancient borough. (Applause.) It is now my very pleasing duty to request Lady Sybil Knox to be so good as to open the bazaar.

Lady Sybil Knox said – I have now great pleasure in declaring this bazaar open. I trust it will be very successful, and I have very much pleasure in handing to the Mayor my contribution towards the fund.. (Applause.)

Mayor Caverhill said he had now another pleasing duty to perform, and that was to ask the company to join with him in giving a hearty vote of thanks to Lady Sybil Knox, who had so kindly, courteously and graciously opened the bazaar. (Applause.) Her Ladyship might not be so well known in Berwick as in her own district, where she did a large amount of good work for the Church, the Volunteers, and the population. They would couple with the vote the name of Colonel Knox, a gallant officer who came amongst them a few years ago as their head, and who, in fact, they might call their father. To him they applied for any question of military etiquette, or even of Volunteer regulations, for they were sometimes at loss about these. From him they received useful information, and good, sound advice. He asked the company also to include in the vote of thanks His Worship the Mayor. (Applause.)

The Mayor in returning thanks, said it had given Lady Sybil Knox great pleasure to open the bazaar, and it had also been a gratification to him to preside over what he hoped would be a

successful movement in favour of the consolidation amongst us of [?] Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers. (Applause.)

Colonel Knox, as senior military officer, and husband of Lady Sybil Knox, returned thanks for the kind and handsome manner in which the company had responded to Mayor Caverhill's proposition. Being strangers to the locality, they should ever esteem it a great honour that her ladyship had been selected to open the bazaar, failing the unfortunate absence of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor. They should also look upon the fact as a token of the brotherly feeling and the kindly sympathy which had ever existed between the Army and the Auxiliary Forces. (Applause.) Speaking as a military man, he could only say there were no soldiers who did not thoroughly appreciate the noble spirit of their brother Englishmen which caused the Volunteer movement to come into existence some 30 years ago. Speaking also as a soldier, he could conscientiously say that no Volunteers received the respect and admiration of the regular forces more than those of the coast, for they could not but recognise how valuable their services would be should such an unfortunate event occur as the invasion of Great Britain. He begged to thank them once more for the kind manner in which they had responded to Major Caverhill's proposition. (Applause.)

Business then began, and the fair stall holders at once proceeded to exercise their wiles for the purpose of extracting money from the purse of the visitors. How successful these "pickpockets" were may be gathered from the fact that at the close of the day's proceedings the sum realised was £257 18s 3d. The unfavourable weather militated against the attendance in the afternoon, but at night the Corn Exchange was crowded. In the livestock sale room a boy, with face blackened, and placed in a dog kennel, created much amusement by acting the part of "Jacko" a monkey; while a Punch and Judy entertainment proved a source of never failing attraction. Concerts were held in the long room upstairs, and were well attended. The vocalists were Mr J Whyte, Mr Buckland, while three men belonging to the King's Own Scottish Borderers lent their aid by singing and step dancing. A squad of volunteers also went through the sword exercise, and two detachments of the Boys' Brigade gave exhibitions of the bayonet exercises, as well as of attack and defence practice with single sticks. Music was at intervals provided by the band of the Northumberland Artillery Militia, under Mr J Courier, while the following programme was executed by the Juvenile Orchestra, under Mr Colin Campbell: - Overture, La Ruche d'Or; waltz, Grace Darling; gallop, Foxhunters waltz, Rose Queen; polka, Colonial; march, Round the World; selection, Guy Mannering; overture, Scottish, Belle; gallop, Flying Scotsman.

The bazaar was re-opened on Wednesday at noon, when there were present - the Mayor, the Sheriff, Sir William and Lady Crossman, Cheswick House; Mr and Mrs Morley Crossman, Goswick; Mrs Blake, Twizel; Rev Canon Baldwin, Berwick; Rev E Ruter, Vicar of Spittal; Colonel Hamilton and officers of the Northumberland Artillery Militia; Major Weddell, Northumberland Fusiliers; Brigade Surgeon Collier; Mr J K Weatherhead; Mr W Weatherhead; Mr J Grey, hide Hill; officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers; Captain J A Forbes, R.N.; Mr Heagerty, &c. On the entrance of the Militia and Volunteer officers, the band played the National Anthem, and a squad of No. 1 Company of were escorted to the dais at the further end of the room.

Major Caverhill said it gave him a great pleasure for the second time to ask one of their own Berwick gentlemen to preside over the opening proceedings at the bazaar. The gentleman he had to introduce was one well known to all – the worthy son of a worthy father – Mr Evan Sanderson, Sheriff of Berwick-upon-Tweed. (Applause.)

The Sheriff said it was not his intention to delay the company long from the business of the day. Indeed, after the very eloquent speech in which the Mayor on the previous day so ably advocated the interests of the bazaar and so fully explained its object, it would be hard for him to say anything more on the subject. He would therefore merely echo on his own behalf the good wishes his Worship expressed for the success of the enterprise. He was glad to hear, in spite of the bad weather, which must have had a more or less deterrent effect on the bazaar, that it was eminently successful on the first day; and they had every reason to hope that all that was wanted would be gained by that day's trading. His duty was to call upon Colonel Hamilton to open the bazaar on the second day. They had known Colonel Hamilton both in his private capacity and as a barrister, when he came down periodically to Berwick at the Quarter Sessions. Although he was no longer amongst us prominently, Colonel Hamilton had always taken a very deep interest in all our affairs and in every project which affected the welfare of the borough. That day he had shown it by consenting to open the bazaar, which he had now great pleasure in calling upon him to do (Applause.)

Colonel Hamilton said he felt it a very high honour that the Volunteers had done him, and done the Brigade which he had the honour to command, in asking him to declare the bazaar open. It showed to him also the good feeling that existed between the Militia and the 1<sup>st</sup> Berwick-on-Tweed Artillery Volunteers. He trusted that good feeling would always continue to exist in this town. It was also an honour to Mrs Hamilton, and to his father, who was the oldest officer in the Berwick Artillery Corps. His commission, as the Mayor mentioned in his kindly reference to him, for which he now begged to thank his Worship, dated back now for nearly 30 years, when the formation of the corps took place. They would recollect the circumstances under which the Volunteers were called into existence. Lord Palmerston was Prime Minister, and in order to check the ambition of the Emperor Napoleon III, he called upon his countrymen to form a Volunteer army. The call was well received by a large number of able-bodied men, who joined and formed this part of the Auxiliary Forces. Many of them would recollect on the history of the Volunteers how at one time they were very much despised. But what was their position now? The experience of those who best knew, and who thoroughly understood military matters was that the Volunteers force had immensely gained ground in this country. (Applause.) A distinguished monarch from the East had visited this country – he meant the Shah of Persia. He was asked the other day what most surprised him in England, and he said “your Volunteers – both in their physique and the way in which they drill and do their work.” (Applause.) When the Volunteer force was formed, and his father was appointed honorary chaplain to the Berwick Artillery corps many of them might recollect, although it was many years ago, that he preached a sermon and took for his text “He that hath no sword let him sell his garment and buy one.” Now they were not asked to sell their garments on that occasion, but they were asked to buy some which had been made by the ladies of Berwick – (laughter and applause) – and he had not the least doubt that they

would do so. He also said that although there was a hostile fleet bearing down on Berwick at that moment they were not asked to sell their garments and buy swords. It was only a hostile fleet naval manoeuvre, conducted by the authorities; but it had been a hostile fleet in the true sense of the word, there was not a lady in the room who would not tear the locket from her neck, and put it into a common fund in order that the Volunteers might be properly supported. (Hear, hear.) We fortunately were at peace in this country, but it was essential that we should put our house in order, and it was curious that this bazaar should take place at the very time when we are doing that, so as to secure the maintenance of this great Empire to which we belong. At this moment we were expending no less than twenty millions of money on new armaments so far as the Navy was concerned. Probably one reason why Major Caverhill and his brother officers had asked him to open the bazaar, was that for many years his father got more money out of the pockets of the Berwick people than any other single man. He had told them some reasons why they should put their hands deeply into their pockets that day, and although it was not his father who was speaking, he trusted they would act upon the suggestion of his son, and do their duty as they had always done in Berwick. He could give them a good character in that respect, for there was no single object – be it education, a new church, or a new vicarage – for which his father had asked that they did not give him. He therefore asked them that day, as the son of his father, to put their hands deeply into their pockets, to maintain the good name which the people of Berwick had always held. (Applause and hear, hear.) He had much pleasure in declaring the bazaar open.

Major Caverhill said it would be very much remiss on the part of the Volunteers if they did not propose a hearty vote of thanks to Colonel Hamilton and the Sheriff. The former had alluded to the kindly feeling that existed between the auxiliary forces of Berwick and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the Western Division of the Royal Artillery. The former commandant of the Militia, Colonel Reed, had shown his good feeling towards the Volunteers by sending a handsome donation in the shape of a cheque by that morning's post, and wishing them every success. (Applause.)

The Sheriff returned thanks, and said it had given Colonel Hamilton and himself great to do the little they had to do there (Applause.)

Colonel Hamilton said he had been asked to announce that business had been very successful on the first day, as it realised £257, and he trusted that the trade that day would be still more satisfactory.

Business was then resumed, and it was even more successful than on the previous day, if we may judge from the takings, which exceeded those of Tuesday. This fact, which is not usual in the case of bazaars, may be attributed to the fine weather, which enabled more people to attend. In the afternoon a considerable number of people patronised the undertaking, and at night it was again crowded. The concert in the long room upstairs were continued, and there were large audiences. Amongst the performers there were Miss Short, Mr A L Miller, and Masters Campbell and Crow, while some of the men of the King's Own Scottish Borderers again assisted. The Boys Brigade also performed the sword and bayonet exercise, while the Punch and Judy entertainment proved most successful. The band of the Artillery Volunteers,

under Mr Courier, played the following programme – Blake's Grand March, Waltz, Gondolier; selection of glees; polka, Rustic Fete; waltz, Rose Queen.

After the close of the bazaar a dance was held, which was largely attended. Music was supplied by Mr C Campbell's band.

A number of articles were drawn for. The pictorial screen, given by the sergeants of the corps, was won by the Mayor; No. 1 bicycle, given by Mr Joseph Devey, was won by Mr Edminson, Belford; and NO. 2 bicycle, given by the officers, was won by Mr Ball, commercial traveller, Manchester. Mr Hurst, High Street, Berwick, won a perambulator given by some commercial travellers and Mr Crow, painter, &c, Berwick; the Home Companion Sewing Machine, given by Mr Redpath, West Street, was won by Miss M Crawford, Greenses; the silver dessert knives, forks, spoons, &c, given by Mrs Caverhill, were won by Mr W Herriot; the fat sheep, given by Mrs Caverhill and others, was won by Miss Herriott, Royal Hotel, Castlegate; two bags of pearl flour were given by Mr [Thaw?], Lesbury Mills – one was gained by Mr John Hogarth, butcher, Berwick; and the other by Mr D Redpath, Berwick. A case of whisky, given by Messrs Alexander and Co.; of Leith, was won by Mr P Cowe, Butterdean; another given by Messrs J and A Davidson, Coldstream, was won by R Calder, jr., Blannerne; the fern case, given by Mr G Lamb, was gained by Mr H Caverhill, of the steamtug, Queen. The total proceeds of the bazaar were close upon £500.

October 4, p. 2, column 3.

**EXTENSIVE SLE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE. CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK.**  
Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1889, at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to sell by auction, as above, excellent household furniture and other effects, belonging to a family leaving town and others, comprising: - handsome enclosed sideboard, tables of various descriptions, very superior room suite in olive velvet, handsome walnut bedroom suite, sofas, easy chairs, couches, settees, bedroom and parlour chairs, very handsome walnut Elizabethan bedstead and curtains, iron bedsteads, straw, hair and wool mattresses, two splendid feather beds, commodious kitchen press, fenders, fire-irons, ash-pans, large chimney mirrors; fine oil paintings and engravings, waxcloth, window poles and curtains, splendid chest of mahogany column drawers, &c. Also about 300 yards superior tapestry and Brussels carpets, hearth-rugs, door mats, &c. Two very handsome white marble mantelpieces and jambe complete, two capital grates, &c. On view the day before sale, from 2 o'clock. 51, Church Street, Berwick, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1889.

October 4, p. 2, column 3.

**EXTENSIVE AND IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE RUSSIAN FURS.**

Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to sell by auction at the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> October. A very handsome selection of valuable foreign furs,

manufactured into seasonable garments, comprising sealskins, dolmans and Battenbergs, fashionable Russian shaped dolmans lined with squirrel, caluca, opossum, and other skins. A fine assortment of muffs, capes, ties, imperials, victorines, trimmings &c. Gentlemen's fur lined travelling coats, sealskin and other muff bags, martintail capes, fashionable long boas, a variety of carriage and hearthrugs in the following skins: - tiger, leopard, wolf, fox, panther, bear, opossum, tartary goat, &c, and a variety of other goods well adapted for the coming season.

51, Church Street, Berwick, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1889.

November 15, p. 2, column 1.

Volunteer Ball at Berwick. 30<sup>th</sup> annual ball in the Corn Exchange on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Prices as usual. See bills.

November 15, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick, for three night only. Commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Important engagement of Mr John Henderson, and his talented company of 25 artists in the highly emotional drama of American slave life, from Mrs Becher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin", come and see Mr John Henderson, the original Uncle Tom in "uncle Tom's Cabin" come and hear the negro songs in "uncle Tom's Cabin", come and see and hear the great plantation festival and real jubilee singers in "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Doors open at 7. Commence at 7:30. Admission 2s, 1s, and 6d (limited). "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is now being played to crowded houses. Afternoon performance on Tuesday at 4:30.

November 15, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick-on-Tweed. 959<sup>th</sup> Starr Bowkett Building Society (to be incorporated under the Act of 1874). Full commercial value of property advanced to members, re-payable in from 1 to 12 ½ years, without interest. Subscriptions, 6d per week per £100 share; entrance fee, 1s per share.

The rules, principles, and advantages of Starr Bowkett Building Societies will be fully explained in a lecture to be delivered by Mr R H Starr, or his agent, on Thursday evening, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1889, in the long room, Corn Exchange, Berwick. Chairs to be taken at 8 o'clock by his Worship the Mayor (Wm Young, Esq.). Admission free. Ladies specially invited.

November 15, Local News, p. 3, column 2.

SOIREE AND ENTERTAINMENT. – Last night a treat of this character took place in the Corn Exchange, and was well attended. Tea, which was said to be “fit for a King,” was served at half past six o’clock, and the concert began at eight o’clock. The chair was taken by a gentleman described on the handbill as Maharajah Yakoob Melek, M.A., V.S.M, B.A., F.F., L.T., J.M., which, being interpreted, was found to mean Rev James King, Master of Arts, Vicar of St Mary’s, Bachelor of Arts, Father of a family, Licentiate of Theology, and Jedburgh man. The programme was as follows: - Overture, the Berwick Juvenile Orchestra; song, “The last rose of summer,” Miss Jane Barker; Master King, described as the renowned Highland chieftain, Rob Roy of Auchtermuchty, and the McKenneth of Ecclefechan, dressed in the garb of Old Gaul, and accompanied by the King’s Own pipers, then appeared in the dance “Tullochgorum:” glee, “Let the hills resound,” St. Mary’s Choir; symphony, Hayden’s celebrated “Toy Symphony,” was performed by Mr Benjamin Barker, and eight members of Mr Barker’s family, on the piano, violins, instruments representing the cuckoo, nightingale, and corn-crake, the triangle, trumpet, and drum; whistle solo, Mr George Myles; the beautiful operetta “Faerie Voices,” performed by fifty charming elfins, conducted by Mr William George Green, assisted by the Berwick Juvenile Orchestra; song, “The Flag that’s braved a thousand Years,” Mr Thomas Richardson; part song, by the members of St. Mary’s Choir; flute solo, Mr Wm Green; sailor’s song, “England, Queen of the sea,” Mr Young, Coastguardman; dance, “Sailor’s Hornpipe” (in character) by the Brothers King; “Braga’s Seranata,” Mrs Broadbent; Trio, the Glee Party; Stump Oration, Mr James Wallace; march and chorus, “ The Order of Full Moon,” performed in character by “The Tweedside Minstrels.”

November 22, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick Bird Show. The Berwick-upon-Tweed Ornithological Society will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> annual exhibition of poultry, pigeons, cage birds and rabbits in the Corn Exchange, Berwick on Wednesday and Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November 1889. 103 classes single birds.

Judges: Messrs Hall, Bragg, Lumley, Munro, Bard and Smeaton.

Admittance to show: - first day – during judging, 2s 6d; from 2 to 6, 1s; from 6 to 10, 6d.  
Second day – 10 to 2, 1s; 2 to 4, 6d.

Ralph Dixon, Hon. Sec.

November 22, Local News p. 3, column 2.

UNCLE TOM’S CABIN - This touching and realistic play which brings before the public in a vivid fashion the various incidents of slave life in America in past years, was performed before appreciative audiences in the Corn Exchange on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The chief character in Mrs Harriet Becher Stowe’s work, as everybody knows, is Uncle Tom, and he was personated by Mr John Henderson, who did ample justice

to the part. Mr M Bristow appeared in the double role of Augustine St. Clair, and George Harris, while Miss Franklyn Grey well maintained the character of Eliza Harris. Miss Marion Thompson as Topsy, was decidedly lively; and Mr Arthur Byron as lawyer Marks, created much amusement by his eccentricities. The brutal Simon Legree found an able exponent in Mr Val Cooke, and Miss Agnes Gilroy acted the title part of the prim and prejudiced Miss Ophelia to perfection. Miss Milly Henderson charmed all as little Eva; while Mr H R Dickson as Phineas Fletcher, a great raw-boned Kentuckian, who for a pair of blue eyes became a Quaker, was very droll. The quaint negro melodies sung at intervals in the performance of the piece were very effective; the dances, plantation festival, and medley patrol, were most amusing; while the flight of Eliza with her child over the frozen river, the sale of slaves, the flogging of Uncle Tom by Legree, and the death of Eva and of Uncle Tom were extremely impressive, the two last named scenes being enhanced by lime-light and spectacular accessories.

November 22, Local News p. 3, column 3.

BERWICK-ON-TWEED STARR- BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY. – There have been three building societies in Berwick hitherto, but last night a fourth was publicly launched in the long room of the Corn Exchange, at a meeting over which the Mayor (Councillor William Young) presided. A lecture upon the system by which the Starr- Bowkett Society is worked was delivered by an agent of it but owing to the late hour at which the proceedings terminated, we have no room for a lengthened report. It appears that the new society – whose members pay a subscription of 6d per week for every £100 share, advances to those who belong to it the full commercial value of property in sums from £100 to £400, to be repaid in from 1 to 12 ½ years. The plan is to lend the money to the members of the Society in order that they may obtain houses. This money is advanced free of interest, the only proviso being that it shall be repaid in fifty quarterly instalments, and in order that all may have a fair chance, the appropriations are all balloted for. It seems impossible that a man or woman paying only 6d a week, as is proposed, should become the possessor of a house, and yet by the power of combination here is a well tried plan by means of the Starr- Bowkett Society, by which, with this contribution, and of course the re-payment of the money lent, a man can within a short time be able to live in his own house. The difference between a terminable Starr-Bowkett Society and an ordinary permanent Benefit Building society is that in the former an advance of £300 would be re-paid in ten years at £30 a year, while on a twenty year scale of a permanent society the repayment would average £38, or £156, as against £300 paid by members of this society; some permanent societies charge more than this. It must be remarked, though, that in these terminable Starr-Bowkett Societies, there would be subscriptions of 1s 6d per week for the advance of £300 to be provided for, but these being returnable, must be regarded as accumulated savings, and not as money sunk in the purchase, as is the case in all payments to a permanent society. A member obtaining his appropriation is allowed two months' time to select a property anywhere within the United Kingdom. Again, should he not wish to use the appropriation at the time, he may return it to the society, reserving to himself future right to the money, or he may sell it for a good premium. The

finer are very light, being ½ d per week for one or two shares, and 1d per week for three or four shares. These times are not cumulative, i.e. ½ this week, 1d next week, 2d the following week, and so on. These small fines, however, can be avoided, as, by a wise and valuable clause in the rules, a member by paying as many weeks' subscription in advance as he is in arrears, escapes the fines.. By this means the amount in the Starr-Bowkett balance sheet against fines is always very small. Again, a member being out of employment, or being afflicted with sickness, on giving satisfactory proof of the same to the Board of Management, they can remit all fines until he obtains employment, or recovers from his sickness. These clauses prove that the benefit of the members has been the first consideration. It is estimated that two thirds of the community pay rent the greater part of their lives, and often pay double the value of the houses they occupy. By joining this Society the money which would be paid as rent may be capitalised to purchase a house, which every working man may easily do – as thousands have done. Given a board of good directors, together with an energetic and reliable secretary, there is no reason why Berwick-on-Tweed Starr-Bowkett Building Society should not be an useful and profitable institution. The following are the officials of this latest enterprise in our old Border town: - Directors – Mr Richardson, J Atkinson, 39, Ravensdowne, Berwick; Mr James Brunskill, 43, Bridge Street, Berwick; Mr Thomas Hogg, 104, High Street, Berwick; Mr George McAdam, 39, Church Street, Berwick; Mr Ralph Thompson, Greta Villa, Berwick; Mr George Turner, 41, Church Street, Berwick; Solicitor – Mr John Dunlop, 5, Quay Walls, Berwick; Surveyor – Mr George Young, Hide Hill, Berwick; Consulting Actuary – Mr J S Parker, 23, Golden Square, London W; Actuary to Building Societies Friendly Societies; Bankers Messrs Woods & Co, Berwick Branch; Secretary – Mr Edward B Herdman, 5, Quay Walls, Berwick. The number of members of the Society is limited to 499.

November 29, p. 2, column 5.

#### **BIRD SHOW AT BERWICK.**

On Wednesday and yesterday the Berwick-on-Tweed Ornithological Society held their fourth exhibition of poultry, pigeons, canaries and British and foreign cage birds in the Corn Exchange. Hitherto the show has been confined to a single day, but this year it was extended over two days, and the experiment, we are glad to learn, has proved successful. The number of entries in the various classes was about 1000, and the capacity of the large hall of the Corn Exchange was taxed considerably to accommodate them all. Pigeons were a good show all over, the leading birds in the different classes being such as would undoubtedly be noticed even in other provincial shows. Amongst the short-faced Antwerps were some remarkably fine birds. The special for the best bird in the show went to a beautiful white fantail. Amongst the tumblers were a specimen of great excellence, which gained a special prize. Cage birds were forward in large numbers, and were on the whole a very good show, the quality of the exhibits comparing favourably with that at similar shows. In the local class the competition was keen, all the specimens being of considerable merit. Poultry were a strong section, but the quality in some instances was poor. The variety bantam class was the strongest in the

show, and was an extremely good lot. Pheasants were a very nice lot, but there were few of them. Rabbits, with the exception of the winners, were only a moderate show. Laps were best. The classes were poorly filled, and it is a pity that this department of the show, which was a new feature introduced this year, did not find more favour. The arrangements of the show were on the whole excellent, and reflected much credit on all who made them. The judges were: - For poultry –Mr George Hall, Kendal, and Mr D Bragg, Carlisle; for pigeons – Rev W L Lumley, Chelmsford; for Scotch fancy and Belgian canaries – Mr Alexander S Baird, Leith; and Mr John Munro, Edinburgh; for other cage birds – Mr John Smeaton, Tweedmouth. (an extensive and detailed list of prize winner follows this).

November 29, p. 4, column 7.

#### THE STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

As we briefly stated in our last issue, on Thursday evening last week a meeting was held in the long room of the Corn Exchange in connection with the formation of a branch of the Starr-Bowkett Building Society in Berwick. The Mayor (Councillor W Young) occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance.

The Mayor said he was very pleased to be there that night, and preside over such an audience as he saw in front of him. He thought, though he did not wish to detain them with any lengthy statement, they might excuse him if he told them how he happened to be there that night. When a deputation waited upon him, some two or three weeks ago, asking him to preside on that occasion, he enquired what the purposes of that meeting were, and asked the gentlemen if they would kindly supply him with some little information what the meeting was to be about. He had often seen the name of Starr-Bowkett Building Society, but he had not the remotest idea what it was. He was supplied with some information, which he had looked over to a certain extent and the conclusion he had come to was that there were a great many things favourable in a society of this kind, and, if it was properly conducted, there was no reason why it should not be of great use to a great number of men who wished to be the proprietors of their own dwelling houses. On the other hand there were some points he did not understand, and he was, therefore, present as well as the audience for information. That was the main purpose he was there for that night. They had present that night Mr Wilson, who was the agent for Mr Starr, who would give them all information, and explain the workings of the society to them. He had had an idea that that meeting would be for discussing the advisability of forming such a society, but he understood that a society had been formed, and that that there were at present about 100 subscribers, so that it would be for that meeting after hearing Mr Wilson, to say whether they would also become subscribers. The opinion he had formed after looking into the matter was that, getting a board of first class directors, and an energetic and reliable secretary, there was the reason why the Starr-Bowkett- Building Society should not be a reasonable and profitable institution.

Mr Wilson then addressed the meeting at some length. He said it afforded him great pleasure to come there and explain the history and working of the society. The institution was not a

new one in the country, Starr-Bowkett Societies having been in existence in London and other large towns for something like 28 years. It was something like 50 years ago since a London physician, Dr Bowkett, started a society in London. The reason why Dr Bowkett brought out this class of society was because he found in his daily travels, particularly in the East End of London, that very few people were living in their own houses. He learnt the majority of the poorer classes living in very filthy dwellings, scarcely worthy of the name of houses or shelter. He was thus led to enquire into the why and the wherefore, and he asked when there were so many Building Societies in London why people did not go into them and take the advantages they offered. He went over the rules and tables of the societies and calculated their payments, but found that these were too high, and extended over too long a period of time to enable the humble artisan to avail himself of their benefits. Dr Bowkett was thereupon led to ask was there not a 100 people to form themselves into an association of their own, to pay a small weekly subscription, and from time to time lend [??] some money to [?] or purchase their own houses. He worked out the idea until it assumed a practical shape, and the result was that rules and tables were drawn up, by which he could demonstrate how best these could be carried out. Dr Bowkett had previous to this done a great deal to improve the position of the keelmen of the Thames and the costermongers I purchasing the [?] for carrying out their trades. After a great deal of [trouble?] the doctor succeeded in getting 100 people to have [enough?] in his scheme to become members of a society. At this time Dr Bowkett was joined by Mr Starr and 37 societies were established. Mr Starr enlarged upon the scheme, so that a society might consist of 500 members, instead of 100. [the next couple of paragraphs are illegible]. Mr Wilson quoted a number of returns for the counties of Durham and Lancashire, showing the healthy state of the Society.

Questions having been invited

Mr Wilson in reply to these, said in case of the death of a member, the board returned to his widow and children in full all subscriptions on her producing the satisfactory proof of death, and her authority to recover the same. There was no interest. Their members subscribed their money without receiving interest. It would depend upon the amount of shares held by the members, how much money was required for the first appropriation. The present average was [?] shares to each member, which would give them a weekly [?] of £25. A member who had fallen in arrears did not cease to be a member of the society, until the amount of fine was equal to the amount subscribed. If a member had to leave the town, he could transfer his shares to any other person who liked to take them up. The secretary of a good healthy society always had somebody ready to take up these shares. Members could send their money from other places if they could not get their shares transferred, or a member might consolidate his shares if he could not keep them up. Roughly speaking, they had about [?] societies. He thought last year about [595?] of these sent in returns to the Board of Trade.

Mr J B King – Out of that number, how many were returned as being hopelessly insolvent.

Mt Wilson said there had been an article, which appeared in Whittaker's Almanac, written by a [?] of one of the London Societies, who had differed with Mr Starr, which gave all this information. They had been unable to contradict that statement, as that book was only

published once a year. There were many of the societies that had not half full complement of members.

Mr King asked if it was a fact that he had stated.

Mr Wilson – It is incorrect. They are not insolvent at all.

Some discussion then took place about Mr King taking up the time of the meeting with such questions, and also with trying to address the meeting.

The Chairman said Mr King was quite out of order in trying to address the meeting.

Mr King said he should refrain from asking any other questions at that time. He did not wish to address the meeting, he only wanted ---

The Chairman – Chair, chair. You are quite out of order.

Mr Wilson, in answer to further questions, said out of the nearly 1000 societies, the must naturally expect that some must go wrong. A great deal depended on the local management of the society. He did not think that 3 per cent of the societies had gone wrong, and that was a small amount over such a number. He knew cases where property had been taken from speculative builders by foreclosing, but he did not believe there had been such a case [???] A member did not require to take up his appropriation when he was drawn. So long as he did not take it up, he only went on paying his weekly subscription.

Votes of thanks to Mr Wilson and the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

December 13, Front Page, column 1.

On Tuesday evening first, December 17. Thirtieth annual Volunteer Ball in Berwick Corn Exchange, under the distinguished patronage of Sir Edward Grey, M.P.; Major-General Sir Wm Crossman, K.C.M.G., M.P.; Colonel Milne Home; Colonel Knox, C.B., and officers, Depot K.O.S.B.; Lieut.-Col. Hans Hamilton, and officers, Northumberland Artillery; Lieut-Col. Coulson, and Major Weddell, 1<sup>st</sup> V.B., N.F.; Captain Norman, R.N.; Captain Elliott, R.N.; County Alderman Adam Darling; Alderman Christison, &c., &c.

Dancing to commence at nine. Special floor. Orchestra of seven performers, led by Bandmaster Courier, R.A. Refreshments and supper under the supervision of the Committee.

Prices of admission: - Civilian's double ticket, 5s; military double ticket, 4s; ladies' single ticket, 2s.

All particulars from Wm S Dunlop, Sergeant, Honorary Secretary of Ball Committee, High Street, Berwick.

December 13, p. 2, column 4.

## RATEPAYERS MEETING AT BERWICK.

A meeting of ratepayers of Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal, was held in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Tuesday night, to protest against the proposal by the Board of Guardians to construct a new Workhouse; and the proposal by the Urban Sanitary Authority to purchase the Goal from the Corporation; as well as to provide drainage and a new water supply for Tweedmouth and Spittal. At first there was a small attendance, but at time wore on it gradually increased until the body of the hall was well filled. On the motion of County Councillor Gilroy, Councillor Nesbitt was called upon to preside.

The Chairman said he had consented to take the chair because he thought the ratepayers ought to have a voice in matters so important as those they were about to discuss, one of which affected the ratepayers of the town and surrounding districts to a very considerable extent. The first business for consideration was the new Workhouse. Most of them were aware that this subject had occupied the minds of the public and caused the Guardians great anxiety and labour for some time in consequence of the demands of the Local Government Board. He believed the Guardians had done their very utmost to meet the Local Government Board' requirements in the past, but latterly the pressure had been such as to make the Guardians divide upon the question as to whether or not there should be a new Workhouse. The division resulted in a majority of one in favour of such a project. The majority was certainly not a large one, but the mover and seconder of the motion that a new Workhouse should be built were both gentlemen who were not in any shape guilty of extravagance. On the contrary, he thought they would agree with him that both County Alderman Darling and Alderman Christison might be called economists. The building, however, would be a very costly one, and while they were quite ready to do justice to the majority, it should be observed that the minority included practical men who held that the present Workhouse might with the expenditure of a certain amount of money be made perfectly suitable for all the purposes of this town and district. Another reason also should be noticed – the transitional state of matters. We had now a County Council, and such changes might be made by Parliament as to cause the regulation and management of the Workhouse to be very different from what it was now. It was quite possible that they might make such regulations that a far larger Workhouse than the new building proposed would be needed. These things, therefore, led him to see that delay in erecting a new Workhouse would be very useful. A great many people were desirous that there should be delay in order to see if there would be any changes in the County Council administration. The holding of the meeting gave ratepayers an opportunity to say whether or not they wished a new Workhouse, and, therefore, he thought those who had called it had done wisely. The Local Government Board might insist upon carrying out their plan, but he thought there would be a great amount of good done by letting them see the opinion of the people. (Applause.)

## THE PROPOSED NEW WORKHOUSE.

Mr Thomas Marshall, farmer, West Ord, moved “that in the opinion of the meeting of ratepayers all the requirements needed for extra accommodation in the Workhouse, for inmates can be met by an additional outlay of say from £500 to £1000.” He considered that

the expenditure of this sum would provide ample accommodation. He was one of the visiting Guardians, and inspected the Workhouse frequently. It was his firm impression that if there were ten other wards added to the infirmary and infectious wards, there would be quite sufficient room in the Workhouse. (Applause.)

Mr Bell, Murton, seconded the resolution.

Mr Edward Dawson, Walkergate Lane, - Has Mr Marshall, as a Guardian, seen this accommodation?

Mr Marshall – Yes, Sir.

Councillor Caverhill – May I ask what the accommodation is, and if Mr Knollys, the Local Government Board Inspector has allowed the Guardians to say that there is sufficient accommodation? Mr Marshall is a Guardian, and it does not do for him simply to propose a motion without giving us some statistics to show the position we are in, and without stating the reason for his motion.

Mr Marshall – An estimate was made some 4 or 5 years ago by an architect, who stated that we could get plenty accommodation in the Workhouse for £800. I have been through the Workhouse several times, and I can see plenty of accommodation. I could not give you statistics, but I have seen empty beds and spaces.

Mr Dawson – Did you say there was plenty of accommodation?

Mr Marshall – Yes.

Mr Dawson – Then what do they want a new Workhouse for? Is it to put us all in together? (Laughter and applause.)

Mr Caverhill – We have had no explanation of the position we are in.

Mr Craik, tailor, Hide Hill – I am quite of the opinion of Mr Caverhill that something a little more tangible ought to be given than what Mr Marshall has stated. He knows the Local Government Board will not sanction any outlay on the present building. An architect reported five years ago what could be done by spending £700 or £800, but at that time the Local Government Board put their foot down and refused to permit the outlay of this money on the Workhouse. I have no hesitation in saying that the Local Government Board will not sanction the expenditure £800 on the present building. That is the position we are standing in at the present time. A very powerful and able committee of the Board of Guardians, most of whom are large ratepayers, came to that resolution most reluctantly.

Mr [B?] Richardson – The meeting cannot hear a single word Mr Craik says.

Mr Craik – Such is the position we stand in. The Committee went very carefully into the matter. I only want the meeting to see this very clearly.

Mr Gilroy – I am very sorry that we cannot hear Mr Craik.

The Chairman asked Mr Craik to ascend the platform as the meeting wished to hear him.

Mr Craik having complied, said he was labouring under such a heavy cold that those at the other end of the hall could not hear him.

Mr Richardson – Can the chairman give us the gist of Mr Craik’s remarks, and state whether Mr Craik is for or against the new Workhouse.

Mr Craik – The motion of Mr Marshall is a useless one to pass. The Local Government Board will not sanction an outlay of £500 on the present Workhouse. That is the gist of what I have said. It is simply a waste of time to pass a motion of that kind.

Mr W Wilson, Ravensdowne – Then we should not have come here at all.

A voice – “Are you for or against the new Workhouse?”

Mr Craik – I am against it.

Mr Gilroy – Mr Craik has come before us and told us there is no need to pass this resolution, simply because the Local Government Board will not listen to it. Where is his authority?

Mr Craik – If you have read the reports of the meetings of the Board of Guardians, you will have seen that stated over and over again.

Mr Gilroy – Where is your authority? (hear, hear, and applause.) The Local Government Board is a Government department, and when representations have been made to them by the Board of guardians for the last 40 years, they have attended to them. The officials have had very expensive schemes put before the Local Government Board, and they allowed them to pass by. The Local Government Board are a body of sensible men who will hear any statement of a sensible character, digest it and listen to it on most occasions. They respect the ratepayers and will be glad to hear important statements put before them. They will do nothing hastily, and in 9 cases out of 10 they will listen to the ratepayers. (hear, hear, and applause.)

Mr Caverhill said he would like to ask the Guardians present whether it was not a fact that they had asked permission to spend some money on the present Workhouse, and the Local Government Board had refused to sanction it.

County Councillor Weatherston said he believed the statement of Mr Caverhill was to a considerable extent true in the past. Nevertheless, money had been spent on the present Workhouse within a very few years. (Applause.)

Mr Caverhill – I may further explain that the outlay of £800 or £1000 has been distinctly refused by the Local Government Board (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting and unanimous carried.

Mr Geo Lumsden, farmer, Shoreswood, moved “that it is at present inopportune to build a new Workhouse, seeing that we are in a transitional state. The newly elected County Council

may have the duty of attending to the poor of this and other unions committed to them, and the proposed new workhouse might be unsuited for the increased number houses therein. We consider, therefore, that 6 years at least should expire ere the scheme be re-considered.”

Councillor Marshall, New Farm, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr W Wood proposed “that in the present state of business in the country district, it is wrong to press such a scheme forward.” They wanted ample accommodation in the Workhouse. If some wards there were at present overcrowded, they knew there were others which could be utilised, and if they were not sufficient, ground adjacent could be built upon. He had no hesitation in saying that the site of the present Workhouse would give ample room if a few alterations were made. He thought the scheme should be deferred until they saw what the County Council did. It would be better to spend a reasonable amount of money, which the ratepayers would willingly give, than to embark upon the larger enterprise which had been brought forward. (Hear, hear and applause.)

Mr Dawson – It is quite correct that in the present state of business there is no need for any Workhouse. I second the motion.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Councillor Robert Marshall, Tweedmouth, moved “that seeing the majority for the new Workhouse was carried by one vote only, it is not just to the ratepayers to press the scheme forward.” (hear, hear.)

Mr Robert Blakey, Greenses, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

County Councillor Weatherston moved “that these resolutions be conveyed to the Local Government Board, and also to the Board of Guardians, with the earnest desire that the scheme for the building of a new Workhouse be not proceeded with.” He was not there to say one unkind word of his brother Guardians – (hear, hear) – but rather the contrary. If he said anything at all it would be to speak of them with feelings of kindness and respect, for this reason, there was not a gentleman amongst them but had at heart the best interests and welfare of the community at large, and of the ratepayers in particular within the Union. If they differed at all, he dared to say it was only in the choice of means how best to promote that object. But when they took upon themselves to build a new Workhouse, such as was required at the present day, they did to a very great extent embark upon an unknown sea. If they were certain the figures which had been submitted to them by Ald Darling would not be exceeded, their minds might to a considerable extent be at rest. (hear, hear.) The amount estimated for the erection of the new Workhouse was something like £13,000, but they must recollect that it was based upon constructing a building to hold only 200 beds. The medical officer, however, gave them to understand that the requirement was 246 beds, and if he was correct, that made an addition of 46 beds, which, at the rate calculation adopted meant an addition of other £8,000 to the sum total Ald Darling had given. They must also recollect that they were not even then done. The Inspector of the Local Government Board was to have his say in the matter, and it was in every way likely that he would add 5 or 6 per cent to the

beds, which would bring the number up to a little over 300, and this would add other £3,000 to the calculated expense according to Ald Darling's way of putting it, and this would make the total something like £19,000. Then they must recollect they were not then altogether done. New Workhouses were got up on a most elaborate scale, and they would have to go in for building cottage homes if he might be allowed to use the expression, or at least self-contained rooms for the use of the aged couples.

Mr Caverhill – Quite right.

Mr Weatherston said he was not finding fault with the arrangement; he thought it was a good idea – (applause) – and far be it from him to go in for anything unkindly to separate a man and his wife in the very days when they should comfort each other. (hear, hear.) He had not the least doubt, however, that these etceteras for making a perfect Workhouse would cost other £2,000. Then after that, what about the drainage and water supply? That would be a very serious item alone. There was no ground in the immediate neighbourhood for a site, and they must go into the interior. That would cost another £2,000, and it would be a very cheap job if it cost less. (Laughter.) Then they were not altogether done yet (Laughter.) They must recollect that only those who shifted from a small house to a larger one had any idea of the expense it caused. (Laughter.) The Master of the Workhouse would require an assistant, and perhaps a clerk, to keep everything in proper order. The door keeper would require an assistant, and then there would be a new taskmaster. As for the 30 acres that were to be attached to the Workhouse, they would require a farmer or steward or a gardener. (Laughter and applause.) With regard to the stuff cultivated, he did not know where they would sell it, for there was more produce in the country than the people could consume. (Laughter.) Then again there would be a doctor. At the present time the medical officer gave only part of his time to the Workhouse, but when this large establishment was erected two or three miles away from the town, he would have to be resident. Then there was the preaching arrangement – (laughter) – he meant the chaplain. He was not well up in this matter, as he had never taken the chair as a teetotal or evangelistic meeting. At the present time the preaching to the inmates of the Workhouse was done by various ministers of all denominations in the town free, and this he considered was a great feather in their cap. When the new Workhouse was built, however, this arrangement would be a thing of the past, and there would be a chaplain for the Workhouse.

A voice – Perhaps two.

Mr Weatherston said that the official would perhaps cost £150 or £200, because they must pay for his services tolerably well. (Laughter) He thought on the whole the present Workhouse was a remarkably comfortable place. The inmates gave him no anxiety whatever, because he saw no crowding whatever. He believed there was a little of that in the infectious wards or the hospital, but that might easily be avoided by a small addition to the building, or by raising another storey on some other part. There was plenty of ground in the neighbourhood. Some five years ago the present Inspector of the Local Government Board pressed upon the Guardians the absolute necessity of building a new Workhouse. He had been a member of the Board of Guardians only a short time before Mr Knollys came down.

Mr Knollys made a long speech and read a long paper; after he sat down they were all petrified. (Laughter.) They sat looking like a lot of wooden men (Laughter.) An old gentleman named Allan, whom he did not know previously, got up and said Mr Weatherston would make a motion. He was taken the least thing aback, but he had been studying the question previously. He got up in a quiet way and reviewed the whole system as he knew the Workhouse from his early days. As he went over it he was not long in making the Guardians laugh, but the Inspector sat looking glum. At last the contagion caught him and no one laughed more heartily than he. (Laughter.) The consequence was that from that time till now we had never hears any more about the new Workhouse. (Applause.) He did not see the necessity for any great haste in this matter, because we were in a sort of transitional state at the present time. We did not know what powers the County Council would have in the future. Ald Darling was under the impression that if we got this new building erected it would be an advantage when District Councils were formed, but he failed to see that, for every district would be looking out to collect as much as it could for its own sake. If the new Workhouse was built in the hope that it would meet the requirements of a future District Council, we might have another white elephant upon our hands like the New Gaol. Therefore, he thought that by delaying the matter for twelve months, two years, or five, we could not lose anything, but might gain much. (Applause.)

Mr Gilroy supported the resolution, and said if the Local Government Board found such a large, unanimous and enthusiastic meeting as that holding such views, it would have a great effect with them, and might cause them to allow the scheme to remain other five years in abeyance. He had been a guardian himself several years ago, but had not been in the Workhouse lately. He had, however, asked himself the question where the inmates of the Workhouse came from, and had got as answer that they did not come from the country so much as the town. He had most reliable statistics to show that three fourths of the people became inmates of the Workhouse either directly or indirectly through drink. (Applause.) He fancied that the poor in our towns had not justice fairly dealt out to them. For instance if anyone proposed to plant a public house down in Castle Terrace or Ravensdowne, the inhabitants of these parts would protest, and rightly too, against a proposal to deteriorate their property, and to establish the source of mischief and misery in their midst. (A voice – Speak to your brief.) They ought to help working men in this matter by getting public houses removed from their [doors?], as they were the chief cause of the filling of the Workhouse. (A voice – “That’s the thing, and applause.)

The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr Caverhill said Mr Weatherston in the course of his eloquent address, had told them that five years ago when he stated his objections to the Local Government Board Inspector against the proposal for a new Workhouse, they bore some weight, and had been the means of delaying the project for five years. He was sure none would be more pleased than the Guardians of Berwick if Mr Weatherston could again get the scheme postponed for other five years. He therefore moved as an additional resolution, “That the meeting request Mr Weatherston to approach the Local Government Board Inspector, when he comes back to

Berwick, to use his influence to delay the project." He was sure the ratepayers would be only o delighted if Mr Weatherston was successful. (Applause.)

Mr Wood, Duddo, seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Mr Weatherston said he had listened very attentively to the few words that fell from the lips of Mr Caverhill, and really to tell the truth, he did not know whether Mr Caverhill meant his motion as a joke or not. (Great laughter.) They all knew Mr Caverhill, who was very much liked and respected, but they were aware how much he enjoyed a joke. (Laughter.) In fact, you scarcely knew when he was telling the truth. (Roars of laughter.) He had no objections to speak to Mr Knollys or any other Local Government Board Inspector who came down, but he was not very sure that the medicine he applied the last time would have the same effect now. (Laughter.)

#### THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE NEW GAOL.

Mt Yellowly, Berwick, moved" that the meeting of ratepayers of the borough protests against and objects to the Urban Sanitary Authority borrowing money to be applied for the purpose of the new Gaol, because the Authority has already sufficient accommodation for its requirements, and if in future more be necessary, a very slam outlay would amply satisfy any further wants." The present accommodation for the Urban Sanitary Authority was at the Shambles in Tweed Street. No complaint had been made as to the inadequacy of the accommodation there, which was used as stabling for horses and for other requirements. After spending £200 or thereabouts to put them in order, they held the shambles at a rent of £5 a year. Instead of that it was now proposed to purchase and alter the new Gaol at an expense, as they stated, of £2,600. But to fit up that building for stables, and to put it right for the accommodation of servants of the Authority, the sum would be very much increased, and it would probably reach £3,500, and the ratepayers would have the interest upon that to pay instead of the £5 which was now given for the Shambles. That he thought, would be a very great mistake. (Applause). Besides, the Gaol seemed to him quite unsuited for such a purpose. It consisted of an immense mass of buildings, which would require a great deal of money either to alter or pull down. The Urban Sanitary Authority at the present time had ample ground of their own for utilization if they wished for new stables. There was the whole of the space behind the Cattle Market, stretching down to the Bull Stob Close, upon which stables could be erected at a small cost. This would save the large expenditure of £3,500. (Applause.) There was also a serious question involved as to the purchase of this property. The freemen of the borough said the Gaol was not for sale, and they held to the opinion that they would fight the case to the uttermost, so that this property might not be taken out of their hands. (Applause.) It would, therefore, be a very serious matter for the town to enter into an arrangement which might end in a very costly lawsuit. The New Gaol was built instead of the old gaol at the Town Hall, and a Commission had been sitting in relation to cell accommodation for prisoners remanded for trial. The cells in the old gaol had been condemned, and the report from the Commission might cause legislation to follow very soon, and this might compel Berwick to provide proper cell accommodation for remanded prisoners. If the New Gaol was parted with, and the town was compelled to find cell

accommodation, the town would probably have to pay £5,000 or £6,000 for a new lock up. The freemen, therefore, said both as ratepayers and freemen that it would be very foolish to part with a proper Gaol for very little money, when in a short time they might have to find money for another. For these reasons he hoped the meeting would adopt the resolution.

Mr J Ewart, Berwick, seconded the resolution.

Mr Cameron, veterinary surgeon, Berwick, said he was not there to criticise the resolution as to whether the new Gaol was a proper place or not; what he objected to was that part of the resolution which said that the present accommodation of the Urban Sanitary Authority was sufficient. He certainly said it was not suitable. Moreover, there was a considerable amount of valuable property stored in the Shambles, and it stood there deteriorating. He thought, therefore, the resolution should be amended.

Mr Robert Dudgeon, Castlegate, said he considered that the ratepayers had far less accommodation than could be got at the public Shambles. He would tell them distinctly and plainly that the ratepayers were the poorest class of people in Berwick, especially the Castlegate farmers. And to talk about a new Workhouse! The paupers in it had their sitting room, their bed room, their dining room, and W.C.'s out of number. (Great laughter.) Had the Corporation farmers any such accommodation? He said no. The Corporation cared for itself, but what did it care for the ratepayers. (Mr Dudgeon was proceeding in this strain when he was interrupted by the Chairman, and he resumed his seat.)

Mr Joseph J Hills next ascended the platform to propose a resolution.

Mr Chairman. Before Mr Hills submits his resolution, may I ask if he is a ratepayer? It is a ratepayers' meeting, and I put the question.

Mr Hills said he was not a ratepayer and resumed his seat.

Mr Devey, bicycle maker, Castlegate, moved that a committee of twelve be appointed to attend the official meeting concerning the sale of the new Gaol, and to present a petition against such sale, signed by the ratepayers of the town and district. He said he would not say anything about this subject, but would like to make a few remarks about the new Workhouse.

The Chairman here spoke to Mr Devey, who said he could not be permitted to revert to the new Workhouse, he would simply move the resolution.

Mr Herriot, photographer, Castlegate, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

#### THE PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE OF TWEEDMOUTH.

Mr Gilroy said a scheme for the water supply and drainage of Tweedmouth had been proposed in the Urban Sanitary Authority. A few months ago a public meeting was called in Tweedmouth to ascertain the minds of the public on the subject. It was very carefully considered, and the people came to the conclusion that they had an ample supply of water. That, however, did not satisfy some gentlemen, who caused a canvass of the inhabitants of Tweedmouth to be made, with the result that they endorsed the views of the meeting which

had been held. It was considered, therefore, that the scheme should not have been proceeded with. More would have been said on this subject at this time, but he believed the Mayor would call a meeting of the Tweedmouth and Spittal Committee to thoroughly investigate the matter, and the public would hear more about it. They considered that at the present time there was no need to cause the ratepayers of Tweedmouth and Spittal any further expenditure.

That was all the business, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

December 13, Local News, p. 3, column 3.

**VOLUNTEER BALL** – This annual event will be held on Tuesday evening first, December 17<sup>th</sup>, in Berwick Corn Exchange. A special floor will be laid down in the large hall; the decorations are in the hands of Mr John Crow, Berwick, who caters so well for the Berwick and District bachelors; the music, an all important factor in a ball room, will be supplied by an orchestra of seven performers under the leadership of Mr Courier, R.A., bandmaster of the Northumberland Artillery; while the refreshment and supper department will be under the personal supervision of the committee. An excellent programme of dances has been arranged.

December 20, p. 2, column 2.

Desirable investment for sale. To be sold by public auction within the Corn Exchange (side room), Berwick-upon-weed, on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December instant at one o'clock p.m. precisely, by Mr Ralph Dixon, auctioneer.

74 £10 shares (fully paid up) of Berwick Salmon Fisheries Company Limited.

11 £10 shares (fully paid up) of Berwick and Tweedmouth Gas Light Company.

The shares will be offered in lots to suit purchasers. Further particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained on application to Messrs Sanderson & J K Weatherhead, solicitors, Berwick-upon-Tweed, or the auctioneer.

Berwick-upon-Tweed, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1889.

December 20, p. 3, column 2.

**THE VOLUNTEER BALL** – At one time, owing to the dispute between members of the Artillery and the Rifle corps, there was a likelihood of this annual event becoming a thing of the past, as the Artillery decided to have nothing to do with it, and got up dances on their own account. The Rifles, however, decided to continue the ball if possible, and the result of their efforts was the successful gathering of Tuesday night. The Corn Exchange, in which the entertainment was held, was decorated for the occasion. A temporary floor was laid down by Messrs J Cockburn and Son, and Mt John Crow, painter and decorator, exercised his artistic

skill to transform the interior of the building into an elegant temple of Terpsichore. The stalls round the hall were, as usual, screened from view by a partition of pale buff calico, upon which were placed crimson chevrons. At the top was a fancy border, and this was surmounted by shrubs and semi-circles of bayonets. At the south side, behind this partition, were two stands of arms. On the north side the recess was decorated with the Royal Arms, the Prince of Wales's feathers, a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and several banners, the rails being relieved by red calico. The windows at the east side of the hall were concealed by art muslin curtains, upon which were placed figures of the Empress of India and Empress of Austria; the royal coat of arms, and the Corporation's armorial bearings. The two latter were decked with a number of banners. The pilasters round the hall were adorned with shields and flags of all nationalities, while between them were the following mottoes painted on elegant scrolls: - "Erin-go-bragh," "Our Queen and our Country," "Briton strike home," "Defence not Defiance," "Ready aye Ready," "St George for Merry England," "Our Hearths and our Home," "Good Old Berwick," "Shoulder to Shoulder," and "Scotland for ever." The space underneath the gallery was screened off with red and white calico, upon which were placed pictures representing summer and winter. The rails above were relieved by ultramarine upon which were placed festoons of light blue material. The doorways leading into and from the area for dancing were adorned with art muslin, over the principal entrance bearing the motto "Unity is Strength." In place of the festoons of evergreens which formerly stretched across the hall and intersected each other, were coloured Chinese lanterns, a string of which was also suspended in front of the gallery. These had a very fine effect. Supper and refreshments were provided upstairs under the management of the committee, whose arrangements were of the most satisfactory character. Music was supplied by an orchestra of seven performers, under Mr J F Courier. The ball, which was attended by about 300 people, began at nine o'clock, and from that time till next morning was well advanced the company phased the hours with glowing feet, and all went as merry as a marriage bell, the devotees of Terpsichore having unstinted measure of their favourite amusement. The ball was led off by Captain Douglas, commandant of the corps, and Mrs A Steven, over 60 couples joining in the Grand March, which was the largest number seen at the opening for a considerable time. The arrangements of the committee were excellent, the whole programme being gone through without a hitch. The Masters of Ceremonies were Captain Douglas, and Sergeants W S Dunlop and W Smith. The following was the programme of dances: -

March and Triumph,	[Garb of Old Gam. ?]
Valse	Mirabel.
Quadrille	The Gendarmes.
Polka	Rouge and Noir.
Lancer	The Merry Midnight.
Valse	Donau Wellen.
Contra Dance	Milanese.

Polka	See Me Dance.
Highland Schottische	The Royal.
Parisienne	The Borderers.
Valse	Tiny.
Lancers	St George.
Polka	Colonial.
Circassian Circle	H.M.S. pinafore.
Quadrille	The Alberta.
Schottische	Romantic.
Valse	My Queen.
Spanish Dance	Estudiantina Espanola.
Polka	Garde du Corps.
Lancers	The Jubilee.
Valse	Lac D'Amour..
Highland Schottische	Earl Moirs..
Haymakers	Sir Roger.

We are informed the profits from the ball amount to about £13.

December 27, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Grand treat for the new year. Commencing Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> December. For six nights only.

W.J. Colling Hall's Celebrated Panorama, New York to California, Niagara and the Far West. The most beautifully painted picture in the world, nearly one mile in length, illustrating American, Indian, Emigrant and Negro life, and the magnificent scenery and industries of the New World.

Grand Concert Party of ladies and gentlemen – the whole forming the most interesting and perfect family entertainment in Europe.

Go and see 10,000 miles of travel – life and scenes in the Far West – American, Indian, Emigrant and Negro life – river, lake, forest, and prairie – the mighty Falls of Niagara by day, by night, in summer and winter.

Go and hear a pleasing travelling companion describing the beautiful scenery as the massive pictures carry you 10,000 miles. Sound advice to intending emigrants. How to get there and what to do. A grand, witty and original lecture.

Go and hear the Grand Concert Party of ladies and gentlemen, and take your children to this delightful exhibition, the most interesting, magnificent and complete in Europe. It is a geographical treat for old and young.

Doors open at 7:30. Commence at 8. Admission – 2s, 1s and 6d. Tickets at Messrs Paton & Sons, High Street.

Day performance on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, at 3 o'clock.

December 27, p. 3, column 3.

Sale of shares. – On Saturday afternoon, Mr R Dixon, auctioneer, offered for sale by auction in the Long Room of the Corn Exchange, several shares in local concerns. There was a numerous attendance. Mr Weatherhead (of the firm of Messrs Sanderson & J K Weatherhead) read the conditions of sale. Seventy-four £10 shares in the Berwick Salmon Fisheries Company Limited, were first offered, and bidding began at £9. It proceeded till £10 was reached, when the sale was declared open. At £10 12s 6d fifty of the shares were knocked down to Mr John Nicholson, Paxton. The remaining 24 were next offered, and they found a purchaser at £10 10s, in Mr W L Miller, banker, Berwick, acting for Mr G Armstrong, Lowick. Mr Dixon next put up 11 £10 shares in the Berwick and Tweedmouth Gas Light Company. Bidding for these began at £18 and proceeded briskly until £20 2s 6d was reached, when Mr Burrell, Berwick, became the purchaser.