
[Cover text]

Ayrshire Miner's Rows 1913

[photo caption} Miners' rows at Skares, Ayrshire; c. 1870

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Ayrshire Miners' Rows

1913

Evidence submitted to the Royal Commission on Housing (Scotland) by THOMAS
McKERRELL and JAMES BROWN for the Ayrshire Miners' Union
With notes by JOHN STRAWHORN MA PhD FEIS
AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY 1979
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Notes on the digital edition 2004.

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In the original brief notes on the subject matter appeared in the outside margins. Here these notes have been rendered as subheadings.

A POSTSCRIPT TO THE FACSIMILE

One of the most sensational advances of the 20th century has been the improvement of housing. According to the 1901 Census, more than half Ayrshire's people lived in homes of only one or two rooms. 9,936 families (19%) were in single-ends, 21,502 (41 %) in two-roomed dwellings. There was a legacy of small overcrowded but-and-bens in the old weaving towns and villages, and even more cramped accommodation in the mining communities. In the coal parishes of Dalmellington, Auchinleck, New Cumnock, Tarbolton, Dalry, and Kilwinning over a quarter were living in single apartments, while in Galston the figure was a lamentable 37%.

The squalor and indignities suggested by these statistics are brought vividly into focus by the Ayrshire Miners Union report which is here reproduced in facsimile.

Ayrshire had 14,000 coal miners producing 4 million tons annually - for household use; for factories; for the blast furnaces of Glengarnock, Kilwinning, Stevenston, Waterside, Lugar and Muirkirk; for the locomotives of the Glasgow and South Western Railway; and for export to Ireland through Ardrossan, Troon, and Ayr. The compact north Ayrshire coalfield had been extensively mined for over a century by numerous small companies, and was approaching exhaustion. Certain areas of the wide but more difficult central Ayrshire field had also been exploited, especially by William Baird the ironmaster; and the deeper seams were being worked after the sinking of the Barony Pit near Auchinleck in 1906.

In north Ayrshire the pitheads and the miners rows were sited near busy manufacturing centres. It was quite different in central Ayrshire. Many of the pits were sunk well away from towns and villages; and separate mining communities, some of them sizeable, had grown up, often in remote upland moors.

Some of the miners rows were stone built and around a century old; the newer ones were of brick. A few were thatched, most were slated, several had roof coverings of tar cloth. Most were single-storey, sometimes forming squares, but the usual plan was a series of parallel rows of connected dwellings. In a few places houses were built back-to-back. Of the houses listed - there are no reports for several places like Whitletts - 27% were single-ends, sometimes as small as 12 feet square. In one such at Drongan nine persons had their home. Set-in beds were supplemented by hurleys (see page 32). Crowded conditions were normal; subsidence and disrepair common; facilities primitive. Half the rows were without coal houses - so fuel had to be stored on the bare earth under the set-in beds. Even more rows were without wash houses - so clothes (and miners) had to be washed in tin tubs indoors on the brick tile floors. Several families had to share the outdoor earth closets - while at Burnfoothill, a community of over a thousand souls, there were no closets of any kind. Fortunately most of the rows had a good supply of piped water, obtainable from the streetside 'wells'.

Only at Dalmellington, Mossblown, and New Cumnock did the reporters find some newly-built houses of [4] tolerable standards. And the human spirit will always triumph against adversity. At one typical miners village, Skares, the *Cumnock Chronicle* tells us there were three friendly societies (Gardeners, Rechabites, Good Templars), a quoiting club, an ambulance corps, a juvenile football club, a brass band, a dramatic society, and a phonetics class.

To combat the coalmasters who controlled the pits, houses, and often the only shops serving the rows, the Ayrshire Miners Union had been formed in 1886 with James Keir Hardie as organising secretary. Turning to political action, Hardie helped form the Independent Labour Party in 1893, and was elected M.P. for West Ham (1892-1895) and Merthyr (1900-1915). A parliamentary Labour Party emerged with 29 members (1906 Election) and 40 (1910) - though only three of this latter number came from Scottish seats. Nevertheless the Liberal Government was committed to a policy of social reform, involving among other things the appointment of a Royal Commission on Housing in Scotland.

The First World War postponed the completion of the Royal Commission's work: thereafter a sequence of acts of parliaments facilitated the expansion of local authority housing. Also, in 1918 James Brown from Annbank, one of the two authors of this report, won South Ayrshire for the Labour Party, and remained the member for that constituency during 1918-1931 and 1935-1939.

But the miners rows continued long in use. In the inter-war period scarcity of public money hindered the massive tasks of slum clearance and reduction of overcrowding; and during and immediately after the Second World War building was virtually halted. In the generation between 1919 and 1948 the Ayrshire local authorities were able to build 25,000 new houses. In the following twenty years another 46,000 were added. It was in this period - near a half-century after this Report was compiled - that the miners rows were demolished. Annbank and Drongan were rebuilt. But the remoter sites were abandoned and the residents offered new houses in more convenient centres - New Cumnock, Logan and Netherthird by Cumnock, Auchinleck, Ochiltree, Mauchline, Tarbolton, Patna, and Dalmellington.

For the opportunity of publishing in facsimile this historic social document, we are indebted for a loan of an original copy to A. N. (Sandy) Fielding, then a young lad in Drongan, and at the time of writing a still-lively octogenarian retired to Maybole.

February 1979 JOHN STRAWHORN

Articles on the history of Ayrshire mining have appeared in previous issues of the *Ayrshire Collections*: Vols. 1 (1950), 4 (1958), 5 (1959), 6 (1961), 7 (1966), 8 (1969), 10 (1972); as well as in John Strawhorn's *Ayrshire: The Story of A County*, (1975), also published by the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

REPORTED BY THOMAS M'KERRELL

OLD POTTERY, PARISH OF OCHILTREE, NEAR DRONGAN.

Owned by Countess of Hardwicke. Construction of houses. Size of houses.

This property consists of 5 single apartment houses and 3 two apartment houses. They are arranged in the form of three sides of a square. On one side there are 4 single apartment houses, on the other side one house of two apartments, and in the middle row there are two houses of two apartments and one house of one apartment. Most of the houses are built of stone, and have thatched roofs. We measured one single apartment house, and its dimensions were 12 feet by 13 feet. The roadway in front of the houses is unpaved, and pools of water and mud were at every door.

Lavatory accommodation.

There is one earth closet and open ashpit for the whole property, and this provides for a population of 48. The open ashpit is about 40 feet from the nearest door. The closet has no door, and, in fact, has not been built with the purpose of providing a door. Human excretion is littered about for yards round the entrance to the closet. This is probably due to the children not having sufficient accommodation inside. The stench was abominable, and originates round the closet and ashpit which are within 40 feet of the nearest house.

No outhouses.

No outhouses of any kind have been provided, and the people store their coals below their beds.

Overcrowding

We discovered six inmates in a single apartment house, and in another single apartment house we discovered a family of four and a lodger.

Rent.

The rent of the single apartment houses is 1s 5d per week, and the two apartments is 1s 8d.

DRONGAN.

Owned by the Countess of Hardwicke.

This village is situated on the main road to Littlemill, and the houses are built in rows on both sides of the road.

Row No. 1. Construction of houses.

On the left hand side going towards Littlemill there is a block of five houses and one of ten built of stone and slated. These houses are all two apartment ones, but one of the apartments is so small that both apartments together are not much larger than an ordinary single apartment house. The roadway in front of the houses is unpaved, and in a very muddy condition.

Lavatory accommodation.

There is one earth closet for the 15 families and one ashpit. The population for which this lavatory accommodation provides is 63. The closet has no door, and from the construction it appears that no door was intended to be placed there. There are three compartments in the closet, but they are all open. Owing to human excretion being littered about the floor of the closet and for some yards around it there was a considerable stench. From conversation we elicited the information that grown up people seldom or never use the closet, and owing to want of privacy it is impossible for the women to use it. This leaves the grown up people without any closet accommodation at all.

No outhouses.

No outhouses of any kind have been provided, and the people store their coals below their beds. We observed one woman doing her washing in the open air while the rain was coming down so heavily that it was with the utmost difficulty that we could take our notes.

Overcrowding.

We discovered one house with a husband, wife, three of a family, and THREE LODGERS. The rent of these houses is 2s 1d per week.

Row No.2.

On the opposite side of the street there is a row consisting of 5 one apartment houses, and one house of two apartments, built of stone. The roadways in front of the houses are unpaved and very muddy.

Lavatory accommodation.

There is one earth closet and ashpit for this row. The closet has no door, and three open apartments, which provide for a population of 33. The ashpit was in an abominable condition. It is, as is the case with regard to all the other ashpits in Drongan, entirely uncovered, and in this instance fermenting matter was responsible for a very strong stench.

No outhouses.

No outhouses are provided, and coals are kept below the beds.

Overcrowding

In a single apartment house (12 feet by 12 feet approx.) we discovered 9 inmates.

[7]

Rent.

The rent for the single apartment houses is 1s 5d per week, and in the case of the house described as a two apartment house (the family here has rented two single apartments), the rent is exactly double, viz., 2s 10d per week.

Row No. 3.

This is situated further down on the left hand side of the street. There are 12 single apartment houses. The conditions are similar to those described in the others rows, viz., roadways unpaved, no wash-houses, etc. There is one closet for 12 families with a population of 46. The closet and ashpit are in the same condition as the others previously described, but in this case the ashpit is so far away from the houses that heaps of refuse have been thrown all over the yard immediately behind the houses, and it would appear to be a playground for the children as for many yards the kitchen ashes and fermenting potato and other vegetable refuse has been strewn about.

The rent of these 12 houses is 1s 5d per week, each.

Row No. 4.

This row is situated on the opposite side of the street to Row No. 3. It consists of 4 blocks of houses with 8 houses in each block, 32 houses in all.

Construction of houses. Subsidence.

Conditions are practically the same as in the other rows, viz., unpaved roadways very muddy, closet built purposely without doors, and open compartments. In this row the people are provided with coalhouses, which are within three yards of the doors, and one of the tenants informed us that when these coalhouses become empty they are often used as the dumping ground for refuse of all kinds, and that in the Summer time the stench at the very doors is abominable. (The people in disposing of their refuse have to travel to the end of the block, and carry their refuse to the ashpit behind, a considerable distance from some of the houses.) These houses are all two apartment ones. This row appears to have suffered from a considerable subsidence. The windows and doorways appear to be badly twisted, and in some of the blocks several courses of bricks have been added to the stone walls to bring them up to the level of the roofs. The floors of the houses consist of large brick tiles, and the subsidence appears to have had the effect of breaking, cracking, and twisting the tiles. In one of the houses we inspected there was not a whole tile in the kitchen floor, and the surface was very uneven. In this house there was a hole in the floor several inches deep, and so large that one of the party put his boot right into it. Many of the houses are in such a bad state of repair that one woman showed us the bottom of her door where the holes were so large "that cats came into the house during the night." The holes were easily large enough to admit of that [8] possibility. Many of the tenants complained of the condition of the doors, and told us that in the Winter time the cold wind rushing through the house was almost unbearable. The houses are very damp.

Population and lavatory accommodation.

The population of this row was 208, and the lavatory accommodation for this population was 4 doorless earth closets. We discovered one house with 13 inmates. The rent is 2s 1d per week.

The village of Drongan.

In the mining rows of the village of Drongan there are 48 two apartment houses, 17 one apartment houses, with a population of 350, for which 7 doorless earth closets, with open compartments, are provided.

The houses are all owned (we are informed) by the Countess of Hardwicke, and are inhabited almost wholly by miners who work in the pits of the Shieldmains Colliery Co. and their families.

The village is supplied with gravitation drinking water.

Owing to the deplorable condition of the inadequate closet accommodation grown up people cannot use it, and the whole adult population of the village has therefore no closet accommodation at all.

GASSWATER ROWS.**Wm. Baird & Co., Lugar.**

These rows are situated on the main road between Cumnock and Muirkirk, four miles from Cumnock. There are four rows. Two are built of stone and two of brick, and all are slated.

Row No. 1. Rent.

The first row (nearest Muirkirk) consists of eight houses, but six of them are unoccupied, and one tenant has rented two houses amid pays 6s 6d per month. There are eight inmates.

Outhouses. No Closets. No wash-house. No coalhouses.

There are no closets, no washhouses, and no coalhouses. The only water supply is from a pipe running into a horse trough on the side of the road about 300 yards from the houses.

Row No. 2.

The houses in No. 2 row are built of stone, and are all single apartment houses, but in some cases a family has rented two houses. The house measures 15 feet by 12 feet.

Outhouses. No wash-houses. No coalhouses.

There are neither coalhouses nor wash-houses. There are two closets without doors and ashpits without roofs. There are ten houses, but three of them were empty at the date of inspection (13th November 1913). The population was 26. The only water supply is at a pump about 200 or 300 yards away. The rent is 2s a week. Pathways in front of houses are unpaved and very muddy. [9]

Row No. 3. No wash-houses. No coalhouses.

This row is built of brick. There are ten single apartment houses. There are no wash-houses nor coalhouses. The people keep their coals below their beds. The apartment measures 17 feet by 14 feet. The rent is 2s 2d a week. There are two closets and ashpits. The closets have no doors and the ashpits no roofs. The population was 33.

Row No. 4. No wash-houses. No coalhouses.

This is also built of brick, and in the same position with regard to conveniences as Row No. 3. There are no wash-houses, no coalhouses, and there is one closet without doors for the 12 houses in this row, and one ashpit without a roof. There were two empty houses, and the population of this row was 30. The water supply is from the pump which supplies the other rows. The whole adult population of these four rows are without any closet accommodation, as owing to the want of privacy (no doors) they cannot use the accommodation provided. The surroundings of the closets are littered with human excrement. The houses are owned by William Baird & Co., and are inhabited by the workers of the pits belonging to that firm in the neighbourhood.

CRONBERRY.**Wm. Baird & Co.**

These rows are situated about three miles from Cumnock on the Cumnock and Muirkirk Road.

Row No. 1.

This row is built of brick, and the walls are cemented. The roofs are slated. There are 18 houses in this row, and the population is 101. The houses have a kitchen 15 feet by 14 feet, and two small rooms 9 feet by 6 feet each. There are no fires in the rooms, and the tenants complain they are very damp. The windows are very small, measuring 4 feet 10 inches in height and 2 feet 4 inches wide. *The windows are made so that they cannot be opened.*

Outhouses. No wash-houses. No coalhouses.

There are neither wash-houses nor coalhouses, and the coals are kept under the beds. For this population of 101 there are three closets with doors on them, and three ashpits in front of the houses. A syvor runs down the front of the houses, and there was a considerable amount of filth at the grating at the end of the syvor. The refuse taken out of the syvor is dumped down on the ground immediately outside the door of the end house.

Row No. 2.

This is a replica of Row No. 1. The population was 113. The open cesspool was in a filthy condition. There are 18 houses with three closets and ashpits built in front of the doors. One of the tenants said to us at this row – “You should have come here in the Summer time ; it costs us about 1s a week for flypapers.” [10]

Row No. 3.

This row is in exactly the same position as Row No. 2, but there are only 16 houses in this row, with a population of 73.

Row No. 4.

This row is built of brick, with walls cemented, but the roof is nearly flat and is not slated, but covered with tarcloth. There are 24 houses of two apartments. The kitchen is 16 feet by 9 feet, and the room 9 feet by 8 feet. There are no fires in the rooms, and the windows are permanently fastened. The rent is 5s 6d per month. There are three closets and three ashpits for these 24 houses. About half of the houses were empty, and the population of those inhabited. numbered 56.

Row No. 5.

This row is exactly the same as Row No. 4. The roofs are tarred instead of slated. There are 28 houses with five closets and five ashpits. The rent is the same as Row No. 4. A large number of the houses are empty. The population was 80.

Row No. 6.

This row is similar to Row No. 5. The houses are constructed in the same manner. There are 30 houses in this row, but on 13th November, 1913, 21 were empty and only 9 inhabited. There were five closets for this row.

Row No. 7.

This is a superior row built of stone, and inhabited by the schoolmaster, policeman, and foremen of various kinds. There are 13 houses, 11 two apartment houses. The kitchen measures 12 feet by 12 feet and the room 10½ feet by 10½, feet. The other two houses are one of four apartments and one of three apartments. Even in this row no washing houses are provided unless the people build them themselves, and this has been done in several cases. In this row only are the people provided with coalhouses. The rent of the two apartment houses is £4 4s per annum.

Cronberry. Summary.

The population of this village will be approximately 600, and there is not a single washing-house for the whole population. With the exception of the small Row No. 7, there is not even a coalhouse. The windows are all permanently fastened. The pathways in front of the houses are all unpaved, and in the Winter time they are in the condition of a quagmire. The village is supplied with gravitation water, and there are two wells in every row. The company employs a scavenger. The houses are said to be about 60 years old, are owned by William Baird & Co., and inhabited by the mining workers of that firm. [11]

STABLE ROW, PARISH OF AUCHINLECK.**No wash-houses. No coalhouses. No ashpits.**

This is a small row of 6 two apartment houses and one single apartment house. The rent is £5 per annum. The houses are built of stone. The kitchen is 16 feet by 12 feet, and the room 12 feet by 12 feet. The population was 37. There are no washing-houses and no ashpits. The refuse is thrown about on the ground round about the houses, and the stench is abominable. The sewage runs as a flow of filth through the ground into a burn close by. The only closet is a miserable wooden erection, with two compartments. It measured 6 feet in height, 5½ feet in width, and 3 feet from back to front. This is a horrible place. It is said to belong to the trustees of Sir Claud Alexander, of Ballochmyle.

COMMON ROW, PARISH OF AUCHINLECK.**Wm. Baird & Co. No wash-houses.**

This row consists of 96 houses built together in a long line without an opening. They are two apartment houses. The kitchen measured 14 feet by 12 feet, and the room 12 feet by 9 feet. The houses are built of stone, and the rent is 7s per month. The population of the row was 506. There is not a single washing-house for all this population. The ashpits, the closets, and coalhouses are all built together and placed only five yards from the doors of the houses. The closets have no doors, and two open compartments. There are 17 of these erections for the whole row. The stench of the closet and ashpits at the very doors of the houses is abominable. The floors of the closets are nearly all littered with human excrement, and owing to the want of privacy these closets cannot be used by females or grown up persons. The pathways in front of the houses are unpaved, and when we visited the place on the 13th November, 1913, the whole place was a perfect quagmire, and indeed it was hardly possible to step from a door without going up to the ankles in "glaur". An open syvor runs down the front of the row, and carries the filth past the doors of the houses to a settling tank, which is erected at the end of the row, from whence the sewage is discharged into the burn. The houses are owned by William Baird & Co.

DARNCONNER, PARISH OF AUCHINLECK.**Wm. Baird & Co.**

Darnconner consists of two squares of houses and several rows. The houses are built of brick with cemented walls. [12]

Low Square.

This square consists of 17 houses of two apartments. The rent is 5s 6d per month. There are no washing-houses, but several washing-house boilers have been erected. Whoever erected them forgot to build a house over them, and the women have to do their washing in the open air. There are two closets, without doors, for these 17 families ; and an open ashpit in the centre of the square was filled to overflowing and the stinking refuse strewn about for yards. Another heap of refuse was dumped down at the corner of the houses. The coalhouses were so dilapidated that several tenants kept their coals below their beds. The kitchens measured 13 feet by 13 feet, and the room 9 feet by 5½ feet. The population of this square was 99.

High Square. No wash-houses.

There are also 17 houses in this square, of the same description as in the low square. There is only one closet without doors, and two open compartments for these 17 families. The population was 90. The ashpit in the centre of the square is also here filled to overflowing and the filth strewn about everywhere. There are no pavements, and the "glaur" is inches deep at the doors of the houses.

Railway Rows. No wash-houses. Broken floors.

These are two rows running parallel to each other. Each row has 12 single apartment houses at the front and 12 single apartment houses at the back, built back to back. In all they contain 48 single apartment houses, 24 built back to back. In several cases families have rented two kitchens, and by means of putting through a communication have made them into two apartment houses. The rent is 5s per month, and where one family has rented two kitchens the rent is 9s 6d per month. For these 48 houses there are two closets without doors and two open compartments, and one closet in ruins, but surrounded by a sea of human excrement. The population of these houses is 137. The houses are very damp. The floors are brick tiles with a very uneven surface, and in one case where a tenant had attempted to improve the amenities by putting in a wooden floor, the damp was so destructive that the floor rotted, and we saw a floor with half of the wood relifted and the other half of the floor with the original brick tiles. The unpaved roadways in front of the houses are in a horrible mess. Pools of water several inches deep lay at the very doors, and all the pathways were quagmires.

School Row

This row contains 6 two apartment houses, and has one closet without doors. The population is 17. It is in the same condition as the rows previously described.

Store Row.

This row has 6 single apartment houses, with a population of 23, and has neither closet nor ashpit, unless the people go [13] across the road to use the conveniences belonging to the other rows already described. The pavement here is also a quagmire.

Darnconner. Summary.

The population of Darnconner is approximately 400, and there is not a closet, for the whole of the population, with a door on it. There is not a washing house, and the whole place reeks of human dirt and "glaur" It belongs to William Baird & Co., and is inhabited by a mining population.

BALLOCHMYLE ROWS, PARISH OF AUCHINLECK.

These are two rows of 24 houses each, facing each other on the main road. They are two apartment houses built in blocks of four. The kitchen measures 14 feet by 11 feet, and the room 11 feet by 11 feet. There is an earth closet with doors for each six tenants. The closets and ashpits are situated at the back of the houses. There are no washing houses and no coalhouses. The rent is 2s per week. The population was 227. There is no pavement in front of the houses, and there is an abundance of mud at the doors of the houses.

BROOM KNOWE COTTAGES, DALMELLINGTON.

The Dalmellington Coal and Iron Co. have built 40 model cottages in close proximity to the town of Dalmellington.

Model Dwellings.

The cottages are built in two rows, and are of brick and rough cast. There is a small garden plot of ground surrounded with a wooden railing in front of every house. Each house has both a front door and a back, and the accommodation provided is two rooms, a kitchen, a scullery, with washing house boiler and a water closet and coalhouse. The dimensions of the apartments are as follows:

Kitchen, 21 feet by 10½ feet (exclusive of set in beds).

Room No. 1, 11 feet by 10 feet.

Room No. 2, 11 feet by 10 feet.

Back kitchen or scullery, 10 feet by 9 feet.

The rent of this house is 4s per week, including rates.

The kitchen is fitted up with a large press reaching from the ceiling to the floor, and is arranged so that one compartment serves as a wardrobe and another serves as a cupboard. The back kitchen, the water closet, and coalhouse are built like outhouses, but joined to the main building. There is no ashpit, but the people put their refuse in pails, and this is collected by the scavenger every day. This is almost an ideal [14] house for a miner's family. The addition of a bathroom would have made it complete, and it will be observed that the length of the kitchen, 21 feet, leaves almost sufficient room to take a portion of it for a bathroom, and still leave an ordinary sized kitchen. This could have probably been done at a cost of another 3d per week on the rent. We are of opinion that if this were done, and houses of that description supplied to the miners the housing problem, so far as these workers are concerned, would be practically solved. We desire to draw the attention of the Commissioners specially to a consideration of this house. We consider that although in the case of a miner who is the only breadwinner the rent would be a little high, it is less than is usually paid by the artisan in the towns for a room and kitchen in a tenement building, and that the rent could easily be afforded by a miner who has some of his family working. The house for the accommodation provided is, in our opinion, very cheap.

LOUDOUN ROWS, GALSTON.

Wm. Baird & Co. Tarred roof. Rent. Closet Accommodation. No washing-houses. Houses flooded.

There are three rows running parallel to each other. They are built of brick, and the walls have a thick coating of cement and are whitewashed. The roofs are round shaped and covered with tarcloth instead of slates, and they are therefore better known as the "Tarry Rows". There are 18 houses in each row. The houses are two apartment ones. In the row nearest the Burgh of Galston the kitchens have two set-in beds, and the rent in this row is 7s 3d per month, including rates. In the other two rows the kitchen has only one set-in bed, and the rent is 6s per month. There are three erections with ashpit and closet built together, and placed only five yards from the doors of the houses in front of the buildings, for each row. The houses have no back doors. Wooden coalhouses have been provided, but there are no wash-houses, and on the date of our visit, 24th November, 1913, we saw several women washing in the open-air. The floors of the houses are brick tiles, and many of them have sunk considerably since they were laid. The surface of the floors is therefore so very uneven that some of the tenants complained to us that during wet weather the water sometimes lay two inches deep on the sunken tiles near the door. The houses are said to be very cold in the Winter time, for the walls seem to be only nine inches thick. The houses are said by the tenants to be so very damp that the water runs down the walls in wet weather. The windows are permanently fastened. The houses are situated so very near the River Irvine that when [15] the river overflows its banks they are inundated with water. We were informed that during the last nine years on three occasions the houses were so flooded that the water rose so high as to put out the kitchen fires. The pathways in front of the houses are unpaved, but owing to a good coating of ashes there was very little mud. A scavenger is employed by the company to keep the place clean, and his efforts appear to have been very successful, for there was an absence here of that filth which characterised most of the rows we have previously described.

KILLOCH SQUARE, GAUCHALLAND ROWS, GALSTON.

Galston Gauchalland Coal Co. Rent. Outhouses.

There are 36 houses in this square and these rows. They are built of stone. There are 6 single apartment houses and thirty two apartment Louses. The rent of the two apartment houses is 2s 3d per week and the single apartment houses is 6d per week, with the exception of six houses in the High Gauchalland Row, where the rent of a two apartment house is 1s 9d per week. The front row, facing the main road, has a plot of ground surrounded by a wooden railing in front of the houses. There is one closet for every two families, and one washing-house for every six tenants. All the tenants have coalhouses. The outhouses are situated in the centre of the square and a respectable distance from the doors of the houses. A slight subsidence has had the effect of causing cracks in some of the walls, and the brick tiled floors are very uneven. The pathways are unpaved, but at the date of our visit they were not very muddy. The tenants in the back row complain that their houses are very damp. The houses are said to be about 60 years old, and are inhabited by the mining population of the Gauchalland Coal Co. There is a plentiful supply of gravitation water.

MAXWOOD ROWS, GALSTON.**Littlejohn & Sons. Rent. No washing-houses.**

These rows are situated just outside the boundary of the burgh of Galston in the direction of Newmilns. There are two rows. One row consists of ten single apartment houses, and the other ten two apartment houses. The houses are built of brick, with walls thinly cemented. The rent is - For single apartment houses 1s 7d per week, and for two apartment houses 2s 6½d per week, inclusive of rates. There are four closets for the 20 families, and four ashpits. The closets have doors. but the ashpits have no roofs. Each tenant has a [16] coalhouse, but there are no washing-houses. We saw several rents in the walls, which appear to have been caused by a subsidence. The tenants complain that the houses are damp. The closets and ashpits are at the front of the doors. The pathways are unpaved and muddy. There is only one well to supply water for the twenty families. It is gravitation water, and a tank has been built to store it, but the tenants complain that very often the supply of water is so very scarce that they have to wait for a long time before getting their pails filled. This may be due to the fact that the houses are built on a considerable elevation. The measurement of the single apartment houses is approximately 16 feet by 11 feet. The houses are owned by Messrs. Littlejohn & Sons, coalmasters, Galston, and are inhabited by workers and their families.

GROUGAR ROW, NEAR GALSTON.**Rent. No washing-houses or coal houses. Closets.**

This row contains 18 houses, and is situated on the back road from Galston to Kilmarnock, about 1½ miles from Galston. Each house contains a kitchen, measuring approximately 14 feet by 13 feet, and two small rooms not much larger than cupboards. They measure approximately 8 feet by 6 feet. The houses are built of brick and face the main road. The row is formed of three blocks of houses, with six houses in each block. The windows are permanently fastened. The rent is 2s 3d per week. The floors are made of cement, and the walls are so damp that in one house we saw the wood of the set-in bed in the room had completely rotted and the mattress on the bed was completely destroyed. The pathways are unpaved and muddy. There are neither washing-houses nor coalhouses, and the people keep their coals below their kitchen beds. The closets and ashpits are placed at the back of the houses. There are doors on the closets, but in one case -the door had been broken off and the floor of the closet was littered with filth. There is one closet for every three tenants. The row is supplied with gravitation water. The houses have been leased by Messrs. Kyle, coalmasters, Burnbank Colliery, Galston, and are mostly inhabited by their workers and families.

KIRKLAND ROWS, SPRINGSIDE, PARISH OF DREGHORN.**Messrs. A Finnie & Sons. Rent. Outhouses. Paths in front of the doors a quagmire.**

There are three rows here. Row No. 1 is built in three blocks of houses. The first block contains six two apartment houses and one single apartment house. The houses are built [17] of an inferior looking yellowish brick, and the walls are neither whitewashed nor cemented. The rent of the one apartment house is 1s 6d per week, and the two apartment

house 1s 11d per week. The second block contains 10 single apartment houses. The third block also contains 10 single apartment houses. The rent is 1s 6d per week, including rates, with the exception of the poor rate, which is paid in addition. This row, therefore, consists in all of 21 single apartment houses and 6 two apartment houses. In a few cases tenants with large families have rented two single apartment houses, and by means of getting a door put through have made their houses into two apartment ones. Where this has been done the rent is double, viz., 3s per week. The single apartment houses measure approximately 16 feet by 12 feet. The house consists only of four square walls, and no presses or any other conveniences are provided in the inside of the house, with the exception of two inset beds. The floors are made of brick tiles which have become so uneven that if linoleum is put down on the floor it is cut to pieces in a very short time. Many of the floor tiles have sunk and form holes inches deep on the floor. There is one washing-house for every six tenants, and one water-closet for every four tenants. A disagreeable feature of the closets is that they are all placed together at the back of one of the spaces of the blocks, and owing to the size of the row (27 houses being built in a line) many of the tenants have long distances to travel in order to use them. The walls of the houses are said by the tenants to be very damp. Coalhouses are provided. There are two ashpits for this row, but they have no roofs over them, and a considerable amount of kitchen ashes and refuse is strewn about the back of the houses. The houses have no back doors. One of the most disagreeable features of this row is the condition of the roadway in front of the houses. At the date of our visit (25th November, 1913), the pathways at the doors of the houses were covered with mud, and pools of water inches deep at the doorsteps were quite common. Owing to the condition of the paths the women have the utmost difficulty in keeping their kitchen floors clean, as the children carry the thick mud with them on their feet into the houses. This row is said to be 42 years old.

Row No. 2. Path a quagmire.

This row contains 22 houses. They are supposed to be two apartment houses, but the room is not much larger than a decent sized cupboard. It measures approximately 9 feet by 6 feet, while the kitchen is about 12 feet by 12 feet. The rent is 1s 6d per week. The floors, made of brick tiles, are very uneven, and in many cases the tiles have sunk and left [18] holes in the floor of varying depths. There is not a break in this row, the 22 houses being joined together. There is one water-closet provided for every five tenants. These closets are all built together and placed in front of the doors, so that many tenants have to travel long distances in order to use them. The houses are very damp, and in wet weather we are informed the water runs down the walls in the inside of the houses. There are washing-houses provided - one for every four tenants and a coalhouse for every tenant. There is only one ashpit for this row, and it seems to be overworked! The pathways are unpaved, and the "muck" at the very doors of the houses is disgusting. In order to keep from going up to the ankles in "glaur" one has to walk on his heels.

This row is built of stone, and contains 20 single apartment houses. The rent is 1s 6d a week. The whole house measures approximately 16 feet by 12 feet, and it consists only of four square walls, with two set-in beds. There is one closet for every four tenants, and one washing-house for every five. The closets are all built together in the centre of the row, with the doors facing the doors of the dwelling-houses, and only about 6 yards from the doorsteps. The pathways are unpaved, and although not so bad as the other two rows (owing

to a slight elevation), they are yet in a deplorable condition with mud. This row is said to be over 60 years old.

Kirkland Rows. Summary.

These three rows contain in all 69 houses, 41 of them single apartments and 28 of them two apartments, and of the latter 22 have rooms not much larger than a cupboard, and they can hardly be called two apartment houses. The houses have gardens in front, and in many cases they are cultivated. Each row is provided with two wells for the supply of gravitation water. The roadways in front of all the rows are in a horrible condition with mud, and nearly all the houses are damp, and tenants complain that their carpets rot in a short time. The houses are owned by Messrs. A. Finnie & Sons, coalmasters, Springhill, and they are inhabited by their workmen and families.

SPRINGSIDE SQUARE, SPRINGSIDE, PARISH OF DREGHORN.

Rent. Outhouses.

These houses formerly belonged to Messrs. A. Kenneth & Sons, coalmasters, Dreghorn, but they have recently been acquired by Mr. John Herd, publican, Springside. The bottom row of the square became so dilapidated that a number of houses have been allowed to go to ruin. There are now 30 [19] houses in the square, and the walls are rough cast. Thirteen of the houses are of one apartment and 17 of two apartments. The rent of the one apartment house is 1s 3d per week, and the two apartment is usually 1s 9d a week, but in three cases the two apartment house is 2s 1d per week. The single apartment houses measures approximately 16 feet by 14 feet. No presses or any other convenience is supplied inside, with the exception of two set-in beds. No coalhouses are provided, and in the single apartment house the people have to keep their coals below the bed. In the two apartment house there is a cupboard at the door, in the inside of the house, which may serve as a coalhouse. There are four earth closets for the 30 houses with doors on them, and four washing-houses. There are two ashpits. There are two erections placed in the square. which contain the washing-houses, closets, and ashpits, all built together. There are filthy cesspools in front of the houses, and at the date of our visit several of them were choked and the filth lying all around. Human filth was littered all around the closet doors. There are no pavements, and pools of mud and water were to be seen everywhere. The aspect of this square is one of the most miserable we have seen. The measurement of the houses designated two apartment houses is kitchen (approximately) 12 feet by 12 feet and room 9 feet by 6 feet. One feels that it is a pity that all the houses here were not allowed to fall into ruin like several we saw in that condition at the bottom end of the square.

SPRINGHILL ROW, PARISH OF DREGHORN.

A. Finnie & Sons.

This row contains 14 two apartment house, and is situated on the main road between Kilmarnock and Dreghorn, about four miles from Kilmarnock. It is in a much superior condition to the rows previously described. It is built of brick, and although the row was built 43 years ago the bricks look so fresh that one would believe the row had been built

only a few years ago. The appearance of the row is greatly enhanced by each house having a flower plot of ground in front and laid off with a wooden railing, while a brick wall runs right along the extent of the row. The outhouses are placed at the back, and each house also has a garden. The gardens are all cultivated. There are four dry closets provided for the row and four washing-houses, and every tenant has a coalhouse. The kitchen measures approximately 16 feet by 14 feet and the room 12 feet by 10 feet. The kitchen has, in addition, two set-in beds and the room one. The room is provided with a fireplace. [20]

CORSEHILL ROW, PARISH OF DREGHORN.

A. Kenneth & Sons. Rent.

This row contains 48 two apartment houses built in five blocks of 6 houses, one of 10, and one of 8 houses. It is situated on the main road. The kitchen measures approximately 16 feet by 14 feet and the room 10 feet by 9 feet. The rent is 2s 3d a week, including rates, with the exception of the Poor Rate. The houses are built of a yellowish brick, and the walls are neither whitewashed nor cemented. The floor is of brick tiles, which in many cases has been so worn and sunk that there are holes inches deep on the floors. The pathways are unpaved and littered with mud. The outhouses are situated at the back of the houses, and one water-closet has been provided for every three tenants and one washing-house for every six. In one case the roof of the washing-house was blown off a year ago, and as it has never been repaired the women have to do their washing in the house. There is one ashpit for every six tenants, and several of these places were in a very filthy condition. Each tenant has a coalhouse. The row was built about 30 years ago. It belongs to Messrs. A. Kenneth & Sons, coalmasters, Dreghorn, and is inhabited mostly by their workmen and families.

SIX ROWS, PARISH OF DREGHORN.

A. Finnie & Sons. Rent. Broken floors. Damp houses. No pavements.

This place contains six rows running parallel to each other. The first row contains 10 houses of two apartments, the second 9 houses of two apartments, the third 8 houses of two apartments, and the other three rows contain 8 houses each, but the rooms are so small that they are spoken of as the "single houses". There are 51 houses in these rows altogether. They are built of brick and rough cast. The rent of the first three rows is 2s 1d per week, and the second three rows 1s 7d per week. The kitchens in the first three rows measure approximately 14 feet by 12 feet and the room 10 feet by 9 feet, excluding two set-in beds in the kitchen and one in the room. In the second three rows the kitchen measures approximately 16 feet by 12 feet, and the room (about the size of a cupboard), excluding the set-in bed, measures 6 feet by 5 feet. There are two water-closets for each row placed immediately in front of the houses, and two washing-houses. There are also very filthy cesspools in front of the doors. The brick tiles on the floors are very much broken up, and holes inches deep are to be observed everywhere. The walls of the houses are very damp, and the partitions do not appear to have been plastered. There is one ashpit for every two rows. A well [21]with gravitation water is placed in each row. There are two washing-houses for each row, but the floors are so sunken and broken up that the women complain that they have to stand to the ankles in water when doing their washing. The condition of the

roads into these rows is abominable. The road down the end of the roads is worse than a ploughed field, and pools of water and mud are to be found at every doorstep. The houses are owned by Messrs. A. Finnie & Sons, coalmasters, Springhill, and are inhabited by their workpeople.

CORSEHILL SQUARE, PARISH OF DREGHORN.

Rent.

This square is situated at the end of Corsehill Row, and consists of 30 houses - 18 two apartment houses and 12 single apartment houses. They are leased by the Bourtreehill Coal Co., Dreghorn, and inhabited by the miners who work in the pits in the immediate neighbourhood. The houses are built of stone, and are over 60 years old. The side rows of the square contain six two apartment houses each. The middle row consists of six two apartment houses and twelve single apartment houses. The rent of the two apartment houses in the side rows is 1s 11d per week, and the two apartment houses in the middle row is 9d per week. The single apartment is let at 1s 7d per week. The kitchen in the side rows measures approximately 14 feet by 14 feet and the room 13 feet by 13 feet. The kitchen in the middle row measures approximately 12 feet by 12 feet and the room 10 feet by 9 feet. There are 8 water-closets for the whole square, and 4 are built together at each side of the two side rows. Some of the closets are out of repair, and in one case the water is flushed on to the floor of the water closet, and the filth runs through the door and out on to the road. Each tenant has a coalhouse, but there is only one washing-house for each six tenants. One of the washing-houses is in a very bad state of repair. The boiler has been broken down, the lock is off the door, and the children have turned the washing house into a closet. At the date of our visit (25th November, 1913) the floor of the washing-house was literally covered with human excrement and the stench was overpowering. That washing-house will not be more than five yards from the doors of the dwelling-houses. There is only one ashpit for the square, and it was surrounded by human and other kinds of filth. The floors of the houses in the middle row are about a foot below the ground, and we were informed that in wet weather the water comes into the houses and lies inches deep [22] until the people bale it out. The whole property is in a bad state of repair, and the roads in front of the houses, especially at the middle row, is inches deep with mud. It is altogether a miserable place, and ought in the interests of the inhabitants to be destroyed.

PLANN ROW, PARISH OF KILMAURS.

Messrs. J. & R. Howie.

This row consists of 21 two apartment houses built of brick. The kitchen measures approximately 12 feet by 12 feet and the room 12 feet by 10 feet. There are six dry closets with doors on them for the whole row and two ashpits. Coalhouses are provided for every tenant, and there are three washing-houses. The closets, ashpits, and washing-houses are placed in front of the houses. The rent is 2s per week. Gravitation water is supplied. The roadways in front of the houses are unpaved, but owing to a plentiful supply of red "blaes" they are free from water or mud.

HAYSIDE ROW, PARISH OF KILMAURS.**Robert Marshall, Knockebtiber.**

This row consists of 19 two apartment houses. Twelve are built of stone, and seven houses of a newer type are built of brick. The rent of the stone houses is 2s per week and of the brick houses 2s 6d per week. The kitchen measures approximately 12 feet by 12 feet and the room 12 feet by 9 feet. There are five dry-closets for the row with doors, three washing-houses, and each tenant has a coalhouse. There are two ashpits in the row. The kitchen floors are brick tiles, and the room floors are wooden in the stone houses, while in the brick houses the floors of both apartments are made of wood. The roadway in front of the houses is unpaved and is in a very muddy condition, and pools of dirty water are lying outside nearly every door. There is a syvor running down the front of the houses, 10 feet from the doors. Owing to want of a proper flow it is in a very filthy condition, and several cesspools, on the date of our visit (26th November, 1913), were choked and evil smelling.

WEE SOUTH HOOK ROW, PARISH OF KILMAURS.

This row was originally made up of nine single apartment houses, but in two cases the tenants have rented two houses each. The row is built of stone. There are two dry-closets [23] with doors, but there are no washing-houses nor coalhouses. Several people have built wooden coalhouses for themselves. The kitchen measures approximately 15 feet by 12 feet, and the rent is 1s per week. Where the people have rented two houses the rent is 2s per week, including rates. The houses belong to the South Hook Coal and Fire Clay Co., and are inhabited by their workpeople. The roadway is unpaved, but owing to being properly covered with ashes is quite dry, and the syvor, which runs the length of the row, is made of white glazed bricks, and it is kept very clean by the tenants. There are gardens in front of the houses, and they are well cultivated. The houses are said to be about 80 years old.

HIGH SOUTH HOOK ROW, PARISH OF KILMAURS.

This row consists of 20 two apartment houses built of brick. The kitchen measures approximately 12 feet by 12 feet and the room 10 feet by 9 feet. The kitchen has a brick floor and the room a wooden one. There is one pump, which supplies the water for the row, and we were informed that the water comes from a well at the pit close by. The tenants complain that in the Summer time they are very short of water. There are six dry-closets for the row, four washing-houses, and three ashpits. The houses are very damp, and in wet weather the rain comes into the houses. Coalhouses are provided. The rent is 2s per week. The houses are said to be about 40 years old. The closets and ashpits are built in front of the houses. The roadway in front of the houses is unpaved, and very dirty. The houses are owned by the South Hook Coal Co., and their work is in the immediate vicinity.

LAURIELAND ROW, CROSSHOUSE, PARISH OF KILMAURS.**A. Finnie & Co.**

This row consists of 12 single apartment houses, but in every case one family now occupies two houses. There are two dry-closets, one placed at each end of the row, and two ashpits similarly situated. The houses measure approximately 15 feet by 11 feet. The rent is

1s 3d for a single house, and 2s 3d for two houses. There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. Several people have built coalhouses for themselves. The roadway is unpaved, but owing to a plentiful supply of red "blaes" it was quite clean. [24]

THORNTON ROW, CROSSHOUSE, PARISH OF KILMAURS.

A. Finnie & Sons.

This row consists of 27 houses, 14 single apartments and 13 two apartments. The single apartment houses seem to be built of brick, and the two apartment houses of stone. All the houses are whitewashed. The single apartment houses measure approximately 15 feet by 12 feet, and the two apartment houses - kitchen 10 feet by 10 feet and room 12 feet by 10 feet. The rent of the single apartment is 1s 3d per week, and the two apartments 1s 10d per week. The floors are of brick tiles, which are very uneven. The floors underneath the beds are earthen. There are four closets for the row with doors, and these, along with three ashpits, are placed at the front of the houses. There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses, but the tenants have made attempts in many cases to provide themselves with washing accommodation by building at their own expense washing boilers, but no houses have been built over them. They have also in some cases built themselves coalhouses. The two apartment houses appear to have suffered a considerable subsidence, and the floors are much below the level of the road. The houses are very damp, and during wet weather the rain comes into them sometimes, we were informed, inches deep. The roadway is unpaved and in a shamefully dirty condition. The "muck" in some places is inches deep. The houses are owned by Messrs. A. Finnie & Sons, and inhabited by their workpeople.

PEESWEEP ROWS, DALRY.

Front Row. Wm. Baird & Co.

The front row consists of 11 houses of two apartments, built of stone. The kitchen measures approximately 15 feet by 11 feet and the room 11 feet by 9 feet. The rent is £3 12s per annum. There are four dry-closets provided for this row and four washing-houses, but no coalhouses are provided, and, except in those cases where the tenants have built coalhouses for themselves, they keep their coals below their beds. There are four ashpits. The roadway is unpaved, but owing to a plentiful supply of red "blaes" it is fairly dry.

Turned Row. No washing-houses nor coalhouses. One apartment houses.

This row consists of 12 single apartment houses built of stone. The houses measure approximately 15 feet by 11 feet. A small porch has been built at the doors of the houses. The rent is 1s 3d per week. There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. There are four dry-closets and two ashpits for this row. The closets are placed in front of the houses, and very near the doors. The floors are brick tiles, and very [25] uneven and cracked. The roadway is unpaved, but owing to a supply of red "blaes" is not very dirty.

Wee Row. One-apartment houses. No washing-houses nor coalhouses.

This row consists of 10 single apartment houses built of stone. The house measures approximately 15 feet by 11 feet. There are two dry-closets and one ashpit built near the doors of the houses. The rent is 1s 3d per week. The brick tiled floors are very uneven and cracked. The floors in this row are about 18 inches below the surface of the road, and the

houses are in consequence very damp, and the rain occasionally comes into the houses to the depth of several inches. The roadway is unpaved, and at this row very dirty.

Furnace Row. No. washing-houses nor coalhouses.

The Furnace Row consists of 23 two apartment houses built of stone. The kitchen measures approximately 12 feet by 11 feet and the room 11 feet by 9 feet. The rent is 6s per month. The brick tiled floors are very uneven and cracked, and the floor underneath the beds is the bare earth. There are four dry-closets for this row, and two ashpits, built in front of the houses and in close proximity to the doors of the houses. There are no washing-houses nor coalhouses, and the coals are kept below the beds. The ashpits are filthy and evil smelling here. In all the rows in this place the provision of water is inadequate. There is in this case only one well supplied for two rows. The roadway is unpaved and very dirty.

Double Row. One-apartment houses back to back. No washing-houses nor coalhouses.

This row consists of 32 single apartment houses built of stone. They are built 16 on each side of a row back to back. The house measures approximately 15 feet by 12 feet. There are six dry-closets and three ashpits for this row. There are no washing-houses nor coalhouses, and the coals are kept below the beds. The floors are of the usual brick tiled type, and as is the case wherever we have seen this kind of floor provided, the surface is very uneven and cracked, and it is a heartbreak to the housewife to keep it clean. If waxcloth is laid on it it is cut up in a short time, and where no covering is put on the children carry the "muck" in from the quagmire of a road outside. There is no covering on the earth below the beds. There is only one water tap for all this row.

Stoophill Row. No washing-houses nor coalhouses.

This row contains 24 houses, but in addition to these a number at the top end of the row have had to be built up owing to their dangerous condition, caused, as we are informed, by a subsidence. The houses here are divided into several compartments. The kitchen measures 12 feet by 11 feet and the room 9 feet by 8 feet, but there are two places the size of a cupboard, with a built-in bed in each. In these places there is hardly room for a person to turn. The rent is 6s 6d per month. There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. [26] There are eight dry-closets and 4 ashpits, built together and placed immediately in front of the houses. These places, judging by their appearance, are considerably overworked. There are no syvors at this row and the sewage, on the date of our visit (27th November, 1913), was flowing from the closets and ashpits and settling down in the ground in front of the houses. The roadway in front of these houses is in a miserable condition with "muck" The brick tile floors constitute the usual eyesore to the visitor and terror to the housewife.

This finishes the description of the Peesweep Rows. We wish they were finished in the material sense as well, for the only thing more melancholy than the Peesweep Rows was the anxiety of some of the women to show us how well pleased they were with their houses, and the fear that the latter would be condemned and shut up.

CARSEHEAD ROWS, DALRY.

1st Row. Wm. Baird & Co. Closets without doors.

The first row contains 14 two apartment houses built of stone. The kitchen measures approximately 14 feet by 11 feet and the room 8 feet by 6 feet, and there is a cupboard which contains a set-in bed in addition. There are six dry-closets, without doors, for this

row. Neither washing-houses nor coalhouses have been provided, but in many cases the people have built these outhouses for themselves. The closets, at the date of our visit, were very dirty, and very difficult of access if one wished to prevent his boots from being soiled. The syvors and cesspools in front of the houses were very dirty. The roadway is unpaved and very muddy. The rent is 1s 6d per week.

“Stickit” Row. Closets without doors.

This row consists of 10 houses of two apartments built of stone. The kitchen measures approximately 12 feet by 10 feet and the room 12 feet by 9 feet. The rent is 5s 6d per month. In one house we found twelve persons, four of them grown up. There are four dry-closets, without doors, and they were all in a filthy condition. The ashpits are very large, and at the date of our visit filled with very foul material. Neither wash-houses nor coalhouses have been provided, but the people have built these conveniences for themselves. Some of the tenants complained that the houses were troubled with rats, and in the words of one tenant, “They were rotten with damp.”

“Wee Stickit” Row.

This row contains 9 two apartment houses built of stone. The kitchen measures approximately 12 feet by 11 feet and the room 10 feet by 9 feet. The rent is 5s 6d per month. [27] There are two dry-closets, without doors, and one ashpit built in front of the houses. Neither washing-houses nor coalhouses have been provided, but the people have built them for themselves.

The Carsehead Rows have houses floored with the usual sunken, twisted, and cracked brick tiles. The roadways are all unpaved and muddy, and there is a huge mound of black “blaes” in front of the rows which does not make the prospect any the more pleasing.

ARDEER SQUARE, STEVENSTON.

Merry & Cunningham, Ltd.

This square consists of four rows of houses built in the form of a square, and other three rows situated inside the square. The houses are all built of stone. There is a very large pond of water in the square for supplying the furnaces which are close at hand.

Side Row.

This row contains 16 two apartment houses. The kitchen measures approximately 12 feet by 11 feet and the room 10 feet by 9 feet. The rent is 9s 6d per month. (The rents in this square are from 30 to 50 per cent. higher than the rents of similar houses we have visited anywhere in Ayrshire.) There are three washing-houses provided in this row, and inside each wash-house a water-closet has been erected in recent years for the use of females. Some of these closets are in such a bad state of repair that they cause an offensive smell in the washing-house, and with regard to other rows in the square they cannot be used at all. Two dry-closets are provided for the males. They have doors on them, and are built in conjunction with the ashpits, and placed in front of the houses. The roadway is unpaved and dirty.

Back Row. Single-apartment houses.

This row contains 26 single apartment houses built in blocks. Three blocks have six houses each, and one block has eight houses. At the top end of the row there is a model lodging-house and dining-room, where boarders are fed and lodged at 12s per week, or

where a bed can be obtained for 6d per night. The dwelling-houses measure approximately 17 feet by 11 feet, and there is a cupboard with a set-in bed. As a rule there is one washing-house for every three tenants and a water-closet inside of it for females, and one dry-closet for every three tenants. There is one ashpit for every six tenants. As these are the sanitary arrangements for the whole square, with exceptions which we shall note, we do not propose to refer to them again. The rent of these houses is 7s 11d per month. [28]

Shilling Row. Single-apartment houses.

This row contains 8 single apartment houses, and the house measures 14 feet by 12 feet approximately. This house does not even contain the cupboard bed described in the row above. This row has no closets, washing-houses, or coalhouses, and shares these conveniences attached to the row opposite. The houses here are very damp, and in the inside of several doors the water was lying in pools. The rent is 6s 6d per month.

Front Row.

This row contains 10 two apartment houses and 8 single apartment houses. The rent of the two apartment house is 8s 7d per month and the single apartment 6s 6d per month. The single apartment house measures 12 feet by 12 feet approximately, and the double house measures kitchen 12 feet by 12 feet and room 10 feet by 8 feet. In this row there is one washing-house for six tenants, with closet in it for females, and one dry-closet for males for every six tenants. The syvors and cesspools at this row were in an abominably filthy condition, and pools of water inches deep lay on the roadway in front of the houses.

Monkey Row.

This row is formed of 8 single apartments built back to back with the 8 single apartments of the Front Row just described. In fact, they correspond exactly with rooms of the Front Row. The whole house measures 10 feet by 8 feet. They have neither coalhouses nor wash-houses, closets nor ashpits, and human filth and refuse is thrown out on the ground in front of the houses. The syvors are in an abominably filthy condition.

Middle Row. Single apartments.

This row contains 12 single apartment houses, and is the same type of house as the ones described in the Back Row, with the same rent and same sanitary conveniences.

Furnace Row. Single apartments.

This row contains 18 single apartment houses in three blocks of six houses each, and 13 two apartment houses. The single apartment measures approximately 16 feet by 11 feet, and there is the same cupboard with set-in bed as previously described. The rent is 7s 11d per month. The two apartment houses measure approximately - kitchen 12 feet by 12 feet and the room 12 feet by 9 feet. The rent of this house is 9s 6d per month. There are the same outhouses as are described in the Back Row.

The aspect of the whole Square is a most melancholy one. There do not appear to be any rhones on any of the houses, and as none of the roadways are paved the result can be readily imagined. At every gable there are large pools of water several inches deep, and ruts of mud at every row. The floors are all brick tiles, with the usual sad result of broken floors and uneven surfaces, which mock the efforts of the most industrious housewife to keep a tidy house. The houses are inhabited by the miners of the neighbouring pits and the furnace workers of the Ardeer furnaces.

Effects of housing conditions on the health of the people.

We desire to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the effect of these housing conditions on the health of the people. Dr. C. R. Macdonald, M.D., Medical Officer of Health for the County of Ayr, in his annual report for 1912, reports that in the Northern District of Ayrshire during 1912 there were 284 cases of Infectious Diseases reported. Of these 62 occurred in the Landward portion of Stevenston Parish, in which Ardeer Square is situated ; while larger parishes, like Ardrossan and Largs, have only five and seven cases respectively. The Landward part of Stevenston Parish heads the list with the number of cases of Infectious Diseases, and it is so much above the average that (with the exception of Kilbirnie, which has 52, and will be referred to later) the next highest is Dalry Parish, with 39 cases, where the same type of miserable mining rows exist as those described in Ardeer Square, and which have also been just described. It is also of interest to note that the next on the list is the Landward portion of the Parish of Kilwinning, with 38 cases, where mining rows also abound. In Dr. Macdonald's classification of diseases it is still more interesting to note that last year, in the Northern District of Ayrshire, 33 cases of Diphtheria were notified, and 14 of these were from the Landward portion of the Parish of Stevenston and 5 from Dalry Parish. These two parishes, where bad housing conditions obtain, are therefore responsible for nearly 60 per cent. of the Diphtheria cases for the whole twelve parishes. The average number of Diphtheria cases for each parish is 2.75, and Stevenston had 14 and Dalry 5. The average number of total Infectious Diseases for each parish in the Northern Division of Ayrshire for the year 1912 is 23.66, and Stevenston (Landward) had 62, Dalry 39, and Kilwinning (Landward) 38. In order that the Commissioners may study the matter for themselves we hand in as evidence the table taken from Dr. Macdonald's report. [30]

INFECTIOUS DISEASES REPORTED IN DISTRICT IN 1912

Parishes	Smallpox	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Total
Ardrossan (landward)					5						5
Beith		4		2	9						15
Dalry		5		2	32						39
Dreghorn		1		3	10		3				17
Dunlop		2		5	17						24
Irvine (landward)		1		6	3		1				11
Kilbirnie	1	2		14	33			2			52
Kilwinning (landward)		1		6	31						38
Largs (landward)		1			6						7
Stevenston (landward)		14	1	4	32		11				62
Stewarton (landward)		1			4						5

West Kilbride		1		3	5					9
Total of District	1	33	1	45	187		15	2		284

GREENWOOD ROWS, PARISH OF DREGHORN.

A. Kenneth & Sons.

There are five rows here built of brick. They were erected about seven or eight years ago.

1st Row.

The first row contains eight houses of a kitchen and two small rooms each. The kitchen measures approximately 14 feet by 13 feet, and the rooms are of about equal size, and measure approximately 9 feet by 8 feet. The floors are brick tiles, and in most houses they are much worn, and make a very uneven surface. The tenants complain that the houses are damp. [31]

Outhouses.

There is one dry-closet for every four tenants, and one washing-house for every four tenants, and one ashpit for the row. This ashpit is in a very filthy state, and the sewage from it was "seeping" into the ground all round about. Each house has a coalhouse. These outhouses are placed at the back of this row. The rent of the houses is 2s 9d per week.

Unpaved and dirty roads.

The roads are unpaved and very dirty.

2nd Row.

This row contains seven houses of a kitchen measuring 12 feet by 12 feet, a room 9 feet by 6 feet, and a small scullery. There are two dry-closets for the row and two washing-houses. Each house has a coalhouse. There is one ashpit in a filthy condition, and the closets are very dirty and evil smelling. The tenants complain that the houses are damp.

Unpaved and dirty roads.

The roads here are even in a worse condition than at the first row. One can hardly avoid going up to the ankles in "glaur". The brick tiles on the floor are in many cases badly worn and cracked.

The rent of this house is 2s 6d per week.

3rd Row

This row is similar to Row No. 2, and contains seven houses of the same type and the same sanitary accommodation. The ashpit and the closets are in a filthy condition, and very evil smelling.

4th Row.

This row contains eight houses of practically the same size as the ones previously described. In this case they have wooden floors, and even that little amenity makes a great difference in comfort to the people. There are four closets for the row, but they are very dirty, and one we opened contained 3 or 4 inches of "sludge" on the floor. This seems to be due to the rain running in below the doors and carrying mud with it. There is one washing-house for the eight tenants. The ashpit is very filthy.

Unpaved and dirty roads.

The roads here in front of the houses are in an abominable condition. Pools of water and inches of mud are at the front of every door. The people occasionally throw kitchen ashes down, but this has the effect of making the abomination worse, as the ashes get trailed all over the place.

The rent of the houses here is 2s 9d per week.

Side Row.

This row runs at right angles to the rows already described, and faces the main road down to Montgomeryfield pit.

Shamefully dirty road.

That road is truly horrible. There are large ruts made by the traffic to the pits, and the "glaur" at the doors of the people's houses lies in heaps everywhere. This road has been in this condition for years, and it is the talk of the whole place. It is related that a jocular miner asked one of the owners "if he would lease him the fishing of this road!" The road is made worse because no syvor has been provided [32] at the front of this row, and the slops and the mud combine to make such a horrible mess that one is surprised that people can be got to live here at all. There are ten houses in the row, of the same size as those in Row No. 4, and the same rent.

The same dry-closet accommodation is provided, but as some of the closets are not supplied with keys they are in such a state that several tenants told us that grown up people cannot use them.

IRONWORKS SQUARE, PARISH OF KILWINNING**Wm. Baird & Co. Double Row.**

On the left hand side entering this square is the row known as the Double Row. It is built of stone, and contains 43 two apartment houses. The kitchen measures approximately 12½ feet by 10½ feet, and the room 10 feet by 8½ feet. The floor is made of brick tiles, and, as is usual in such cases, the surface is often broken and very uneven. There are two set-in beds in the kitchen and one in the room.

"Hurly beds".

A number of people who have large families are provided with what was known as "hurly beds". This is a box arrangement made with wheels on it, which slides under the set-in bed, and it provides beds for children under the set-in beds. The parents, or grown up members of the family, use the top bed, and the children sleep in this box on wheels under the same bed.

Outhouses.

There is one dry-closet provided for every four tenants, one washing-house for every eight tenants, and one ashpit for every eight tenants. These outhouses are all built together and placed in front of the houses, 15 feet from the doors. The ashpits are in most cases very evil smelling, and being in such close proximity to the dwelling-houses we can well believe what some of the tenants told us that the smell "in the Summer time was awful." Each house has a coalhouse.

Peculiar dry-closet arrangement.

A peculiarity of the dry-closet arrangement here is that there are two seats placed in each closet, apparently for the purpose of enabling two persons sitting side by side to use them at the same time! The closets here, however, were kept very clean, and proper cement floors have been put in them. The roadway is unpaved, but owing to proper bottoming it is very clean.

Rent.

The rent is 7s 5d per month..

Cross Row.

This row runs across the top of the square, and contains what were originally 15 two apartment houses, but owing to a number of people taking two houses there are now only nine tenants occupying them. This is a proof that there is [33] a strong desire among many miners for larger houses than are now provided. The kitchen measures 12 feet by 10½ feet and the room 10 feet by 9 feet. The rent of the house is 7s 5d per month, and where one family has rented two houses the rent is double. There is the same outhouse accommodation as in the row already described. The floors are made of brick tiles, and are as usual in many cases broken and cracked. The roadway is unpaved, but comparatively free from mud.

Single Row.

This row is situated on the right hand side entering the square, and is built of stone. There are 60 houses here without an opening. The houses are all single apartment ones, but there is a very small place in addition which just holds a bed. The kitchen measures approximately 17½ feet by 10 feet. There is a small porch at the door, which serves as a coalhouse. The floors are brick tiles, with the usual uneven surfaces. The outhouses - washing-house, dry-closets, and ashpit - are built together in one erection, and placed 15 feet from the doors of the houses. The rent is 6s per month. Several of the women shewed us that their houses were very damp. The roadway is unpaved, but comparatively clean.

Brick Row.

The Brick Row is built behind the Single Row. It is, as its name denotes, built of brick. There are 34 two apartment houses. The kitchen measures 14 feet by 8 feet, and the room 10½ feet by 7½ feet. There are exactly the same outhouses as in the other rows, and placed only 15 feet from the doors. The roadway is unpaved, and although not so clean as the roads at the other rows, it is yet comparatively free from mud. There are large gardens between this row and the Single Row, and they are well cultivated. The rent is 6s 3d per month.

BARKIP, PARISH OF DALRY.**Office Row.**

There are 10 houses of two apartments in this row, built of stone. The kitchen measures 12 feet by 12 feet, and the room 13 feet by 11 feet. The floors are brick tiles and very much broken up, and the surface very uneven. There is one dry-closet for each house and one ashpit for the row. These erections are placed at the end of the row.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. The coals are kept below the bed.

The roadway is unpaved, and there are numerous pools of water at the front of the doors. The ashpit was filled to overflowing and was in a horrible mess. The houses are in a very bad state of repair. The walls are broken in some cases in the inside of the houses, and we saw several doors lying [34] off the hinges with the result, as one tenant informed us, the doors could not be locked at night. The rent of these places is 1s 3d per week.

Burn Row.

This row contains 12 two apartment houses, built of stone. They appear to have been originally one apartment houses, but in every case a tenant has now two apartments - but and ben. The kitchen measures approximately 14 feet by 11 feet, and the room is of the same dimensions. The floors are made of cement. There are two washing-houses for the row and four dry-closets. There is one ashpit, and it is very dirty. The roadway is unpaved, but is kept very dry owing to a plentiful supply of ashes. The rent is 1s 6d per week.

Brick Row.

There are 10 single apartment houses, five on each side, built back to back. They are built of brick. The house measures 11 feet by 10 feet. The floor is of brick tile and very broken, and in the house we saw there were many holes in the floor.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. We saw a woman doing her washing on the floor of the only room in the house, and the coals were stowed below the beds. There is one ashpit which was filled to overflowing. The roadway is unpaved and very dirty. There are two dirty dry-closets for the row. The rent is 1s per week.

Plantation Row.

There are 22 two apartment houses in this row, built of stone. The kitchen measures approximately 14 feet by 11 feet and the room 11 feet by 11 feet. The brick tile floors are very much broken up and uneven. There are six dry-closets for the row and two ashpits.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. The washing is done in the kitchen, and the coals are kept below the beds. The roadways are unpaved and dirty. There is only one water tap for the row, The rent is 5s 9d per month. The houses are said to be very damp, and a large gutter has been cut at the back of the houses in order to let the water run away. The tenants complain that there is very little pressure in the water tap in the Summer time.

GLENGARNOCK IRONWORKS SQUARE, PARISH OF KILBIRNIE.

These houses are inhabited by the workers at the furnaces and steel works close by. We were induced to visit them because Kilbirnie parish is second highest on the list with infectious diseases for the Northern District of Ayrshire. After seeing this square we think we know the reason for this bad pre-eminence. [35]

Front Row.

This row is in front of the square, with the doors facing to the front street. It contains 11 two apartment houses, built of stone. The kitchen measures approximately 13½ feet by 12 feet. This is the best row in the square, and there is a water-closet provided for every three tenants, and one washing-house for every five tenants. Each tenant has also a coalhouse. There are no ashpits, but a much better system has been adopted in this row for

dealing with refuse. The tenants are supplied with metal dustbins, which are emptied every day or two. The roads are paved in front and very clean. The rent of this house is 2s 6d per week, but this includes rates and gas.

Back Row. Single apartments built back to back.

This row contains 20 single apartment houses, 10 in front and 10 at the back, built back to back. The house measures approximately 11 feet by 10½ feet. The floors are brick tiles with the usual miserable results. The roads are unpaved and dirty.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. Washing is done in the only room in the house, and coals kept below the bed. There are three tenants for one dry closet, and one ashpit for the row. The rent of these places is 1s 6d per week each

Side Row.

This row contains 6 two apartment houses, built of stone. The kitchen measures 12 feet by 11 feet and the room 11 feet by 11 feet. The floor is made of the usual miserable broken brick tiles.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. The roadway is unpaved and dirty. The rent is 2s 6d per week.

Bottom Row.

The Bottom Row contains 12 two apartment houses of the same type as those in the Side Row. There is the same want of accommodation.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

No washing-houses and no coalhouses. The water supply is wretchedly inadequate. There is only one tap for all the houses in the square, and the tenants complain of being very short of water in the Summer time. There are only two ashpits for the whole square, and they are so much overworked that they are in a filthy condition. The houses of the Side Row have a very deep and, we should say, a dangerous syvor running at the back of them. We do not wonder that the tenants complain that the houses are very damp.

Bank Row.

This is a small row with one single apartment house, one two apartment house, and one three apartment house, situated behind the Side Row of the square. The rent of the one apartment house is 1s 8d, the two apartment house 2s 6d per week. There is one washing-house, said to be provided by the tenant, and the tenant has to carry the water to it herself. There is one dry-closet. [36]

Pond Row. Single apartment houses built back to back.

This row consists of 14 single apartment houses, 7 at the back and 7 at the front, built back to back. The house measures 11 feet by 10½ feet. The floors are the usual miserable brick tiles. There is one large ashpit between the rows filled with tons of evil smelling filth. The houses have no rhones on them, and the unpaved roadway in front of the houses is in a deplorable condition.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses. The coals are kept below the beds. The rent is 1s 6d per week. There is a large pond, for the supply of water to the furnaces, in front of this row. We understand it is in some places 7 feet deep. It is surrounded by a brick

wall, but there are several openings where children could wander in. The water from the pond was leaking at this row, and very large and deep pools of water were lying a few yards from the houses.

Long Rows.

These are two rows facing each other, fronting a long street. On the left hand side the row has been formed by the houses on one side of the back to back rows we have already described, and 12 two apartment houses built of stone. The kitchen measures 13 feet by 12 feet and the room 11 feet by 9 feet. The floors here are made of wood.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

There are no coalhouses and no washing-houses. The washing has to be done in the house, and the coals are kept below the beds. The roadway is unpaved and very dirty. The rent of these 12 houses is 2s 6d per week, and there is no gas provided in the houses.

On the right hand side row there are 49 two apartment houses. The kitchen measures 14 feet by 12 feet and the room 12 feet by 9 feet. There are stone floors in this row.

No washing-houses. No coalhouses.

There are no washing-houses or coalhouses for all these 49 houses. The rent on this side of the street is 2s per week. The tenants think that the reason why the tenants on the other side of the street are charged 6d more a week for rent is because they have wooden floors. A wooden floor in this locality is evidently regarded as a luxury.

Dry-closets in centre of street.

The street measures 27 feet across from the houses on one side to the houses on the other side of the street, and the dry-closets are placed in the centre of the street. The effluvia can be better imagined than described. The syvors running along each side of the street are very dirty. There appear to be only two water taps for this long street of 49 houses on each side. We also discovered only three ashpits for this great population, and they are placed at very great distances apart, and there were at the date of our visit (5th December, 1913) several tons of filth in each of them. [37]

The centre of the street is the drying green.

There are no drying greens, and the whole street was decorated with clothes hung up to dry.

The houses in these rows are largely inhabited by Germans and Poles. Some of them can speak a little English, and in several cases we discovered that they could speak German. The houses of the people which we inspected were kept very clean and tidy.

Railway Cottages.

These are two rows running parallel to each other. They are a newer type of house, and built of stone. Each row contains 14 houses, and they are built in blocks of two in each block. There is a meuse lane running between the rows. The kitchen measures approximately 14 feet by 12 feet, and the room 12 feet by 10 feet.

No washing-houses.

There are no washing-houses, but coalhouses have been supplied. There are no ashpits, but metal dustbins have been provided, which are emptied every other day. There is one dry-closet for every two tenants. The roads are unpaved, but comparatively clean. There is a horrible dirty ashpit just behind the first two houses, presumably used by the people across the street in the square. The floors are made of wood.

Rent.

The rent is 2s 7d per week.

There is only one water tap for each row and, as is the case in all the other rows, the people complain that the water supply is inadequate. There are no cesspools.

Houses damp.

The tenants complain that the houses (in their own language) "are rotten with damp."

New buildings.

This is a property recently erected. It is built of brick and rough cast, and is two storeys. There are 14 tenants living in the bottom flat and 14 tenants on the top flat. The tenants on the top flat have access to their houses by an outside stone stair. The floors are made of wood.

Outhouses.

There is a wash-house for every four tenants, and a water-closet for every two tenants. Each tenant has a coalhouse. There is a cement pavement on one side of the houses and a brick pavement on the other side. The houses on the bottom flat have both a front door and a back door. The kitchen on the bottom flat measures approximately 13 feet by 9 feet, and the room 9 feet by 9 feet. There is a lobby leading from the front door to the kitchen. The houses on the top flat are larger to the extent of the floor space of the lobby. There is a very small scullery, and every house has a water tap in the scullery

Rent.

The rent of these houses is 3s per week each. [38]

After visiting Glengarnock Square and inspecting the general overcrowding, the want of accommodation, and the general aspect of the place, we are not surprised that the number of infectious diseases notified from Kilbirnie parish is nearly as great as the number notified from Stevenston (Landward) where Ardeer Square, previously described, is situated.

AUCHENHARVIE ROW, BURGH OF SALTCOATS.**Outhouses**

This row contains 22 houses, 12 single apartment houses and 10 two apartment houses. The kitchen measures 16 feet by 9 feet, and the room 12 feet by 6 feet; and the one apartment house measures 17 feet by 9 feet. The floors are brick tiles and broken and twisted in the usual way.

Each house is provided with a water-closet, and there is a washing-house for every three tenants. All the tenants have coalhouses. The roadway in front of the houses is unpaved and very dirty. The rent of the two apartment house is 10s 2d per month, and the one apartment house 7s 11d per month. There are no ashpits, but dustbins are provided. The syvor is very sluggish, and at the date of our visit was lying filled with stagnant water. There are several taps with gravitation water for the row.

AUCHENHARVIE COTTAGES, PARISH OF STEVENSTON.

There are 35 houses in this row built, with one exception, in blocks of two houses each. They are, in the case of 15 of the houses, of two apartments each; of the other 20 they are of three apartments each, but this is only because the room has been divided into two, and they occupy practically the same floor space as the other 15 two apartment houses. The kitchen measures 13 feet by 12 feet, and the room 12 feet by 9 feet.

Outhouses

Each house has its own washing house, attached to the back of the main building, and its own dry-closet, and every house has a coalhouse. The floors of the outhouses are paved with brick, but those we saw were very badly broken. Several of the houses have brick floors, but most of them have wooden ones. The houses are all built of brick. There is a brick pavement in front of the house, but in some places it is so badly broken that water lies in the holes in a sort of puddle. The rent is 11s per month. [39]

The syvor is very sluggish and, owing to its sluggishness, filthy. So far as we could discover there was only one cesspool for the whole row, which is over 200 yards long. The sweepings from the syvor appear to be dumped down on the side of the road in front of the houses, about 20 feet from the doors. The road into this row is in a dirty condition, and we heard it described as a "puddle trench".

PART II

HOUSING CONDITIONS

REPORTED BY JAMES BROWN.

Glengarnock Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. Accommodation.

There are 148 houses in the village of Rankinston, arranged in rows of twenty at the top end. It is in the parish of Coylton, and belongs to the Glengarnock Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., with the exception of about one and a half rows, which are under the Coylton Coal Co. They are all double apartment houses, i.e., room and kitchen, with a weekly rent of 2s 5d.

Closets

There is one earth closet, with a door, for every five houses.

Wash and coalhouses.

There are coalhouses, but there are no washing-houses.

Coylton Coal Co.

The Coylton Coal Co. have about two blocks, exactly the same as the others with same closet accommodation and coalhouses, one slight difference being that there is one washing house. The rent here is 2s 6d a week.

Population.

The population, roughly, is 700.

Water

There is a fairly plentiful supply of gravitation water.

Material and age.

The houses are built of stone, and probably between 40 and 50 years old.

CAIRNTABLE TERRACES, PARISH OF DALRYMPLE**Owned by Cairntable Coal Co.**

Cairntable Terraces are built of brick in two rows on the main road between Littlemill and the village of Patna. That on the right hand side going towards Patna consists of 40 two apartment houses, with washing-house scullery. The rent is 3s 4½d a week, inclusive of rates.

Lavatory accommodation.

There is one water-closet for every two houses, and coalhouses are provided.

Water.

The water supply is from Loch Bradan. [41]

Left-hand row. Lavatory. Gardens. Concrete pavements. Age.

The row on left hand consists of 8 three apartment houses. There is a water-closet for every tenant, with full water supply inside the houses. The rent is 5s a week. There are small gardens attached to every house in both rows. There are concrete pavements which greatly improve the appearance and comfort of the houses. These houses are only two or three years old.

BARTONHOLM, PARISH OF IRVINE.**Owned by Messrs. Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd.**

There are in all 57 families in Bartonholm, with a population of 352. The houses for the most part consist of two apartments, with a few with three apartments. The rooms are very small, and the houses are of a poor type. They are built of stone, but many of them are very damp. Most of them are dingy and depressing. The pathways in front of the doors are unpaved, with the result that they are often in a bad state. The rent is 6s 5d a month.

Closets and Washing-houses.

There is one ashpit and a dry closet with two entrances, with doors, and one washing-house to every eight families. The washing-houses and ashpits are built back to back, which leaves much to be desired.

FERGUSHILL, PARISH OF KILWINNING**Owned by Messrs. Finnie & Son.**

Fergushill village, in the parish of Kilwinning, is composed of 7 rows of unequal length, some of them placed crosswise to each other. The village belongs to Messrs. A. Finnie & Son, coalmasters. Many of the houses are single apartments, with unpaved paths before the doors, with the result that some of the paths are ankle deep in mud. The accommodation is poor throughout.

Thatched Row.

There are ten houses in the thatched row, all single apartments, without coalhouses or washing-houses. There are two earth closets for these ten houses. The rent is 1s per week. Thirty-eight people live here. Small garden in front.

Office Row.

The office row has three houses, with twelve inmates. There is one earth closet, but no coal or washing-house.

Front Row.

There are fifteen double apartment houses in this row, three of which were empty when we visited it on 12th November, 1913. There are 63 persons here, with similar closet accommodation, no coalhouses, no washing-houses. The houses are of brick, and the room hardly larger than a press, 9 feet by 6 feet 3 inches. We found thirteen persons in one house. [42]

Wellington Row.

Wellington Row is the largest of these rows. There are 23 houses, two of which were empty on 12th November. The number of persons in this row was 130. One house had 10 persons, another 12, and a third 13. There is a dry or earth-closet for every six houses. No coalhouses, no washing houses, except wooden erections, which make the place hideous. These are two apartment houses built of brick. The front is unpaved, with open syvor, and a muddier frontage it would be impossible to find. The rooms here are also very small.

Burn Row.

Burn Row has 12 doorways with 69 persons. There is one earth-closet for every four doors. No washing-houses, no coalhouses. Unpaved fronts in the usual dirty state. Rent 1s 3d per week. Two houses contained 9 persons each, while a third had 10 persons.

Galston Row.

This is a row of 10 houses. Three were empty, and there were 33 persons in it. There are three earth closets for this row, but neither coal nor washing-houses. They are two apartment houses, built of stone, but the rooms are mere closets.

Store Row.

There are five houses in this row, built of brick. One house has 9 persons. One house was empty, and there were 18 persons in all. Closet, coalhouse, and washing-house accommodation the same as the other rows.

Number of houses and population.

There are in all 78 houses in this village, with a population of 363. There are small gardens attached to all the houses, though some are not cultivated.

Lack of accommodation.

The lack of closet accommodation is at once apparent, while the efforts of the people to provide themselves with coalhouses gives some of the rows a most melancholy appearance.

Of paths.

The lack of paved paths keeps the rows, especially in Winter, in a constant quagmire.

Water

The water supply is from one village pump, fed by a spring. The water seems to be good.

Rents.

Rents are - single houses 1s, double houses 1s 3d; but it must be remembered that most of the rooms are hardly worthy of the name of room, they are so small.

General

The whole village is an eyesore.

BENSLIE, PARISH OF KILWINNING**Messrs. A. Finnie & Son.**

Benslie is a village about 400 yards further up the main road, belonging to the same colliery company as Fergushill. There are 57 houses in all, stone built, with an earth-closet for every four houses. There are neither washing-houses nor coalhouses. [42]

Rents.

There are two double apartment houses at 1s 6d a week rent; the other double houses are 1s 3d per week. There are 14 single apartment houses at 1s a week rent. All have a small garden in front, but few cultivate them.

Water.

There is but one pump of spring water, which is said to be good.

Paths.

The paths are unpaved, with the consequent muddy fronts.

Age,

The village is about 67 years old.

ANNBANK, PARISH OF TARBOLTON.**Geo. Taylor & Co. Description of village.**

Annbank is a large village, wholly mining, containing 236 houses, with a population of somewhere about 1100. Looking north the rows face each other for the length of about 25 houses, when they open up into a square of 44 houses, thence continuing the rows face each other for about 250 yards further up. This portion of the village is built continuously on both sides, a close, or pend, giving admittance to the back at intervals of about 8 or 10 houses.

The topmost portion consists of a half-square and a single row.

The rows run along each side of the main roan, and are built of brick throughout.

Material.

Built between 50 and 60 years ago, there were originally only about 20 two apartment houses, but from time to time openings were made between two houses to accommodate the largest families, and a number of years ago rooms were added behind, till now there are about 50 per cent. of the houses which have two apartments.

Accommodation. Measurement.

The single houses have two inset beds, and the newer rooms two iron bedsteads, the rent of which is 1s and 1s 8d per week. The kitchen measures 16 feet by 12 feet, the rooms 16 feet by 12 feet. The rooms have wooden floors.

Closets. etc.

There is a dry-closet for every two houses, a coalhouse for every house, and a washing-house for every five. Closets and coalhouses are at the back.

Paths.

The paths are unpaved and are often muddy, though a curbstone which fronts the paths helps to keep it clean.

Water.

Loch Bradan water is supplied, though many of the inhabitants prefer the village pump, which gives a good supply of good hard water.

Further building.

The Colliery Company is presently building additional rows of rooms to the one apartment houses. The Company constantly employ a man as scavenger. [44]

MOSSBLOWN, PARISH OF TARBOLTON.**Owned by Wm. Baird & Co.**

Mossblown is a village, wholly mining, of 179 dwellings of two apartments, except twelve cottages, which have three apartments.

Where situated.

It is in the parish of Tarbolton, and within two or three hundred yards from Annbank Station. The larger half of the village was built about sixteen years ago, the other half about four.

Type of house.

The houses are of a fairly good type.

Paved pathways.

One commendable feature is that all the pathways are of concrete. This is good both for the tenant and for the house. The whole village is built of brick.

Nos. 1 and 2 Rows.

The older and larger half of the village consists of two rows on the north side of the G. & S.-W. Railway. One of them has 28 houses of two apartments.

Dimensions.

The kitchen measures 15 feet by 13½ feet, the room 13½ feet by 10½ feet.

Accommodations as to closet, etc.

There is a washing-house for every six tenants and a dry-closet for every three, with covered ashpits. These last leave much to be desired, some of them being very dirty. There are coalhouses for all.

Where placed.

All these conveniences are placed behind the row.

Water supply.

There is a fair supply of gravitation water from Loch Bradan. The rent of these houses is 2s 6d a week.

No. 2 Row.

The other row of this half of the village has 69 two apartment houses, in every point the same as the first row.

Wooden floors.

I should have said that all the houses have wooden floors. There are small gardens in front of the second row, all nicely cultivated. The drying green is at the back.

Newer half of village.

The newer half of the village is on the south side of the G. & S.-W. Railway, and consists of two rows of 32 and 38 two apartment houses, and a third row of 12 three apartment houses, called "the cottages".

Dimensions.

The apartments of the double houses are slightly smaller than those in the older rows, the kitchen measuring 15 feet by 12 feet and the room 12 feet by 10½ feet.

Water-closets here.

There is a WATER-CLOSET for every three tenants, and a washing-house for every six. There are ashpits and coalhouses, and all these conveniences are under one roof, placed in front of the doors only 20 feet away. This is to be regretted in houses so lately built.

Conveniences: where placed.

It is not only unsightly to have them here, but it is conceivably dangerous to health, as we were informed when we [45] visited the village (6th December, 1913) that well into the Autumn of this year there was what might be termed a plague of flies.

Water taps in washing-house.

There are water taps in the washing-houses of these rows.

Rent.

The rent is 3s a week.

The Cottages. Front and back doors. Lobby and scullery.

The Cottage Row has 12 dwellings of three apartments each with a front and back entrance, a nice lobby, and a good sized scullery fitted with a kitchen sink and water tap.

Flower pots.

There are nice flower plots at the front inside wooden railings.

Dimensions.

The kitchen measures 13½ feet by 12 feet, the large room 13½ feet by 12 feet, and the bedroom 12 feet by 11 feet.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There are water-closets, washing-houses, etc., in the same proportion as in the other rows.

Rent.

The rent is 5s a week.

Remarks.

These cottages could be called first class if there were baths attached. The rent, too, for the average working man is almost prohibitive; but with rents which could be paid by the average worker, and a bathroom to each of the tenants these cottages are what we could commend as suitable for our people. Mossblown is a decided improvement on many of the villages in the county.

DRUMLEY, PARISH OF TARBOLTON.**Owned by George Taylor & Co., Ayr Colliery.**

Drumley is a small village of 36 two apartment house standing near the side of the Ayr and Mauchline road, about a quarter of a mile from Annbank Station.

Age.

It was built by the Ayr Colliery Co. from twelve to sixteen years ago.

1st Row. How built.

The first row is of two storeys, the kitchen below, the room above, and consists of 20 dwellings, ten on each side standing back to back.

Dimensions.

The kitchens measure 15 feet by 12 feet and the room about the same.

Rent.

The rent is 1s 8d a week.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There is a dry-closet for every family, and a washing house for every five families, with coalhouses and open ash-pits. These are 30 feet from the front doors, and some of the ash-pits, when we saw them on 6th December, 1913, were very full and dirty.

Water supply.

There is a water supply from Loch Bradan.

Unpaved paths.

The pathways are unpaved, and in wet weather very muddy. The open syvor was sluggish and rather dirty. [46]

2nd Row.

The second row has 16 two apartment houses. This row is only one storey.

Dimensions.

The kitchen measures 17 feet by 12 feet, the room 12 feet by 12 feet.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There is the same accommodation as to washing house, closets, etc., all under one roof and only 27 feet from the front.

Remarks.

These places give the rows a dirty appearance, and must be against the health of the inhabitants. The ashpits here were also very full and dirty, and the open syvor was dirty too.

Rent.

The houses are built of brick, and the rent is 1s 8d a week.

WOODSIDE, PARISH OF COYLTON.**Owned by George Taylor & co., Ayr Taylor.**

Woodside is a village of 37 houses standing on the side of 'the Ayr and Stair road.

1st Row.

The first row, approaching from Ayr, has 16 single houses. Each of these measures 15½ feet by 12½ feet, with a rent of 1s a week.

Thatched Row.

The next row has six single houses. These are thatched and are of a poor type.

Other Rooms.

The next three houses are single apartment ones, and the remaining 12 are of two apartments. These are very small, the kitchen being 12 feet by 11 feet and the room 10½ feet by 9 feet.

Rent.

These are rented at 1s 6d a week. In several cases families have taken two single apartment houses, in which case the rent is 1s 8d a week.

Accommodation, closets, etc. Poor sanitary arrangements.

There is a washing-house for every six houses and a dry-closet for every three. There are coalhouses, but only the semblance of ashpits. What there is of them were very filthy when we saw them on 6th December, 1913. They are all placed at the back. There were no locks on any of the closet doors, and some of the closets were unspeakably dirty. The womenfolk complained bitterly against the lack of closet accommodation.

Unpaved. Dirty open syvors.

The paths, both at front and back, are unpaved but fairly clean. The open syvors were sluggish and dirty.

Gardens.

There are gardens at the back, in the cultivation of which the men take a keen interest. The people here are of a good type, and deserve better accommodation.

CONNEL PARK, PARISH OF NEW CUMNOCK.**Owned by the New Cumnock Collieries, Ltd. How built. When built.**

This is a considerable village occupied wholly by miners or men working about mines. It is built in rows, some of which form half-squares. The older rows are of stone, built by the late Lanemark Coal Co. about 40 years ago. The [47] newer rows are of brick, some of them built by the Lanemark Coal Co., some by the reconstructed Coal Co. known as the New Cumnock Collieries, Ltd. The village is a mile distant from New Cumnock railway station, on the Dalmellington road.

Condition of drainage, of fronts, and backs.

We visited it on the 13th of November, 1913, and found most of the rows in a miserably dirty condition, due to bad or ill-kept drainage and to unpaved fronts and backs.

Closet accommodation, etc.

With the exception of one or two rows, to be mentioned later, there are no water-closets. It is bad enough to be without water-closets, but the arrangement as to dry-closets, ashpits, and coalhouses is simply disgraceful. In one large row these are under one roof, only 27 feet from the back kitchen door, and some of the houses look directly into the ashpit and closet outlets, which, when we saw them, were full of human filth. In some rows there are no doors even to these closets, which prevents womenfolk especially from using them, and precludes the possibility of friends or acquaintances visiting here. There are, too, a considerable number of single apartment houses which, with the miserable closet accommodation provided, must make the lives of people miserable who desire to observe the commonest decencies.

Scavenging inadequate.

There is a scavenger employed by the Colliery Co., but the provision made for cleansing, judging from the condition of the village when we saw it, is altogether inadequate.

Water supply.

There is a supply of gravitation water which is brought from Hare Hill, 5 or 6 miles away.

Populations, names, etc., of the different rows.

The following are the population, names of rows, and accommodation of the rows in the order in which we visited them :

New Football Row.

The New Football Row contains 26 two apartment houses with sculleries, in which there is a boiler. There are 176 persons in this row, 97 above working age and 79 children. Coalhouses are provided for each house, with six dry-closets for the row. Some of these closets had a depth of three inches of water lying on the floor. Coalhouse, closet, and ashpit are under one roof, the contents of the closet being exposed and within 30 feet of the scullery. The paths, both back and front, are, literally, quagmires. The lower half of this row is often flooded from lack of attention to the drains, and before one front door was a heap of filth, paper, and mud which had been taken from the trap and left lying. The thing must be seen to be believed, and for the privilege of living here one must pay 3s 6d a week. This row is built of brick, which would facilitate its being levelled with the ground, the only thing it is fit for. [48]

The measurements are - kitchen 15 feet by 12 feet, rooms 12 feet by 12 feet, back kitchen 8 feet by 8 feet.

Old Low Boig Row and Old Football Row.

The Low Old Boig Row and the Old Football Row form an oblong square. This square contains 19 two apartment houses and 15 single apartment houses, each having a scullery. It is built of stone, and about 40 years old. The rent for the double house is 2s 9d per week, for the single 1s 10d. Kitchens measure 14 feet by 13 feet, and the rooms are the same size. The scullery is 11 feet by 7 feet, with a sloped roof. These sculleries, like all in

the village, have a boiler for washing purposes. There are no coalhouses here, except such wooden sheds as are put up by the tenants themselves; and 12 dry-closets, 6 ashpits give accommodation to 193 souls, viz., 123 over working age and 70 children. These closets and ashpits are inside the square. There are small gardens also inside the square. The paths in front of the doors are unpaved, and are, in wet weather, a litter of mud.

Long Row.

The Long Row is built of stone, and contains 12 two apartment houses and 16 single, each kitchen measuring 16½ feet by 11½ feet, the rooms 12 feet by 9 feet. Each has a scullery. The rents are- room and kitchen 2s 6d, single house 1s 10d. There are 141 persons here, 89 over working age and 52 children. The accommodation here is the worst in the village - two dry-closets of three apartments each with no doors of any kind, and two open ashpits which, when we saw them, were filled to overflowing. The paths are unpaved and dirty. The houses about 50 years old.

Store Row.

The Store Row was originally built as 16 two apartment houses, but is now used as 20 single apartment houses and 6 double. As now arranged these houses are back to back. There is a water-closet for every two apartments, a coalhouse for every tenant, and a washing-house for every four. There are four ashpits for the row, which are only 20 feet from the kitchen door, the people in the front having to carry the ashes to the back. The apartments measure 16½ feet by 11 feet. The row is built of brick, the rent 4s for double and 2s for single apartment. There are 111 persons here. In one single kitchen we discovered two married couples besides a girl of 18 years and three children. In another, four adult Spaniards kept house by themselves. The unpaved pathways were in a horrible condition. The houses are about 10 years old.

Railway Terrace.

The Railway Terrace is a better class of house. There are 34 houses of one room and kitchen and scullery, with coalhouses and water-closets. The terrace is of brick, just built, and the rent is 4s a week. There are 209 persons here. [49]

Bankbrae Row, left hand side.

Bankbrae Row, left hand side, consists of 32 two apartment houses, with sculleries. The kitchens measure 12½ feet by 11 feet, rooms 12 feet by 11 feet. Sixteen are rented at 3s 6d a week and sixteen at 4s. There is a water-closet for every two families, and an ashpit for every eight. All have coalhouses. This row is new. There are 190 persons here.

Bankbrae, right hand side, and High Boig Rows.

There are 8 two apartment houses and 15 single houses here, built of stone. The double house costs 2s 6d a week for rent, the single 1s 10d. Each house has a scullery. Kitchens measure 16 feet by 11½ feet, but the rooms are very much smaller. There are 143 persons here, 86 over working age and 57 children. There are two dry-closets of three compartments each, having no doors, as well as other two which have doors. No coalhouses.

Honeymoon Row.

Honeymoon Row contains 43 families. It is built of brick in two blocks. It was originally intended for 31 families only, but several two apartment houses have been converted into single apartment houses. The rent for double houses is 3s 6d a week and 2s for single. The population here is 211 viz., 125 over working age and 86 children. There are

three dry-closets of three compartments each, having no doors and three open ashpits. Each family has a coalhouse. On man in this row who has several daughters was compelled to convert his coalhouse into a pail closet. The sanitary arrangements are disgusting. These houses are about 14 years old.

CRAIGBANK, PARISH OF NEW CUMNOCK.

Owned by the New Cumnock Collieries Ltd.

Craigbank village was formerly owned by the late Bank Colliery, but now belongs to the New Cumnock Collieries Ltd. The village forms a square, and has a population of 247 persons. The back row of this square has two earth closets, one of which has no roof. No one can ask friends to come here. How the people who are condemned to live here manage to exist is a mystery. It is alleged that one lady visitor lately had to go out into the open moss, no other accommodation being available. She is not likely to repeat the experience. Such is the shameful state of affairs here. The houses are two apartment ones, many of them consisting of two storeys, the room above the kitchen.

New houses at Craigbank.

There are a number of new houses in course of erection presently (13th November, 1913), of a superior character. They consist of two rooms and a kitchen, the kitchen 12 feet by 12 feet, the rooms each 12 by 10. There is a BATHROOM, water-closet, scullery, and coal bunker all on the premises. There is an oven grate in the kitchen and a sink. The rooms [50] are also provided with handsome grates. If these houses are not too highly rented they will be a boon to the mining families who get them.

BURNFOOT ROW, PARISH OF NEW CUMNOCK.

Owned by the New Cumnock Collieries, Ltd.

Burnfoot Row, about three miles from New Cumnock, consists of four blocks of houses, containing in all 41 houses. It was formerly owned by the Lanemark Coal Co., now by the New Cumnock Collieries, Ltd. Burnfoot might, in common parlance, be termed the *limit*. My colleague has described Drogan, Cronberry, and Darconner, which seemed to be the worst possible. Burnfoot could give all of them points, and win in a contest for abominations.

Population.

There are 234 human beings in this village. There are six earth closets of two compartments each, having no doors, and with ashpits attached, the contents of which had long ago overflowed their walls, and were strewn about in a manner indescribable. Three of these abominations are set in between the blocks, the gables of the houses forming the walls of the alley leading to them, with a wall from gable to gable completely shutting out egress to the field. There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses, except the wooden sheds built by the tenants.

1st Block.

The first block consists of ten two apartment houses, the kitchen measuring 14 feet by 11½ feet, the room 11 feet by 9 feet. The rent is 2s 3d a week.

2nd Block.

The second block consists of 12 single apartment houses, measuring 16 feet by 11 feet. The rent 1s 8d a week.

3rd Block.

The third block has 8 houses, the same as to dimensions as the first block.

4th Block.

Fourth block has 11 two apartment houses, with sculleries, in which there is a boiler. The rent here is 2s 9d a week. The pathways to and before all the houses are unpaved, and very, very dirty in wet weather.

CRAIGMARK, PARISH OF DALMELLINGTON.**Owned by Dalmellington Iron Co., Ltd.**

Craigmark lies about a mile from the town of Dalmellington, in the parish of Dalmellington, and consists of six rows containing 52 two apartment houses and 21 single, 73 in all.

Although the frontage is unpaved the pathways are fairly clean. Each house has a water-closet and a coalhouse, with a washing-house for about every four tenants. All the houses are built of stone, and are between 60 and 70 years old. The rents are - double houses 2s 3d per week, and singles 1s 9d. [51]

There are two inset iron beds in the kitchens, but some of the houses are rather small. One kitchen might be described as a lobby, as it measures 14 feet by 8 feet. The room was equally narrow, and this house contained 11 persons. Many of the people complain of the lack of repairs, and some of those we saw were indeed greatly in need of attention. The sewage arrangements, too, leave much to be desired. The arrangement consists of what seems to be a settling tank, and we were informed that it was never cleaned and was very offensive in hot weather. Some repairs and some attention to the sewage would greatly increase the comfort of the people.

FARDLEHILL, NEAR KILMARNOCK.**Owned by Caprington Coal Co., Ltd.**

Fardlehill is a small place about a mile from Kilmarnock, on the Irvine Road, containing 10 two apartment houses. There are two rows - one of four, the other of six houses.

Dimensions.

The kitchens measure 12 feet by 10½ feet, the rooms 10 feet by 9 feet.

Closet, and other accommodation.

There are two dry-closets, with doors, and two open ashpits, but there are no washing-houses nor any coalhouses, the tenants requiring to keep their coal below the bed.

Floors.

The floors are of brick tiles, but underneath the beds there is nothing but the bare earth. When we visited this place (26th November, 1913) we found women doing their washing on the middle of the kitchen floor, which is bad for all concerned.

Unpaved pathways.

The pathway is unpaved and very dirty in wet weather. At No. 1 row we found the cesspool choked, in consequence of which a considerable quantity of mud was collected, and the house in front very damp.

Subsidence.

There seems to be considerable subsidence here, as one of the gables was shored up, and several rents were seen in the walls.

Age, Stone Built, and Rent.

The houses look very old, are built of stone, and are rented at 1s 7½d per week.

Water.

There is a supply of gravitation water.

KELK PLACE, NEAR KILMARNOCK.**Owned by Caprington Cola Co., Ltd. State of repair. Dimensions and number of apartments. Brick built and age.**

Kelk Place is a village of 30 dwellings, also about a mile from Kilmarnock on the Irvine road. These at one time must have been superior houses, but are now sadly out of repair. One house which we visited (26th November, 1913) was very dilapidated owing to the ceiling being badly broken, [52] and there were large rents across. This is due to subsidence from underground workings. The houses are of four apartments. The kitchen measures 18 feet by 12 feet, one of the rooms might pass, 10 feet by 9 feet, but the other two are mere closets, 9 feet by 6 feet each, and all of them are entered in a line from the kitchen. There are no beds in the kitchen. All are built of brick, and are said to be about 70 years old.

Water.

There is a supply of gravitation water.

Accommodation.

There are no washing-houses. There are two dry-closets to every six families, one with a door, the other without a door, with one very small open ashpit to every two closets. There are small wooden coalhouses. There are gardens behind, a small plot in front, and many of them are cultivated.

Pathways dirty and unpaved.

The pathways are unpaved and dirty, the cesspools being within a couple of feet of the door.

Rent.

The rent is 1s 10½d a week.

Remarks.

These houses, which are built in five blocks of six each, might be made tolerable if washing-houses and water-closets were erected. We would strongly urge that the front pathways should be paved here. This would add greatly to the comfort and cleanliness of these houses, as well as of all the other houses which have unpaved pathways.

BUSBIE ROWS, PARISH OF KILMAURS.**Privately owned. Brick built and age.**

Busbie Rows, about a quarter of a mile from Crosshouse, on the Kilmaurs road, is a melancholy looking village from the outside. The inside view does not give a better impression. These rows formerly belonged to a colliery company, but are now privately owned. They are built of brick, and said to be about 24 years old, but they are very much older than their years, as the material, so it is alleged, was brought from Birnieknowe, where it had formed old houses.

Local name.

Busbie Rows are locally known as the "BUG" ROWS, because of the importation of the insect with the wood and the bricks. These houses certainly do not look wholesome.

1st Row, two apartments, etc. Dimensions.

There are in all six rows, the first row consisting of 10 two apartment houses, with porches both back and front. The kitchen measures 12 feet by 11 feet, and the room about the same. The front porch is 8 feet by 5 feet, the back porch 4 feet by 4 feet.

Accommodation.

There are two closets for this row, one with a door the other with no door, and one small, dirty, open ashpit.

Rent.

The rent of this row is 2s 6d a week. It is owned, so we were informed, by Mr. Lamont, of Crosshouse. [53]

2nd Row. Vermin.

The second row consists of four two apartment houses similar to first row, except that there is only one porch in front, 9 feet by 4 feet. The kitchen floor is of cement, the room floor of wood. These houses are overrun by rats. There are no coalhouses, the coal being placed below the beds, which have no floors. This, as well as the other four rows, are said to belong to a Mr. Thompson, of Wishaw.

3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Rows. Dimensions. Rent.

Rows Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 are single apartment houses. They measure 15 feet by 12 feet. The rent is 1s 6d a week.

Accommodation.

There is a washing-house for every six tenants, but no coalhouses. There is one closet for every six houses, having no door, and one small open ashpit. Both are too filthy for words.

Unpaved pathways.

The pathways are unpaved and are very dirty, often having pools of dirty stagnant water. The open syvor is 4 feet from the doors.

Water.

There is a supply of gravitation water.

This, in our opinion, is the worst village in the Crosshouse district. We can suggest no remedy. The houses seem to be beyond remedy, and fit only to be razed to the ground and the rubbish carted to the nearest public coup.

HEMPHILL, PARISH OF KILMAURS.**Owned by Messrs. J. & R. Howie, Ltd.**

Hemphill is a small village of 21 houses, forming a half-square. It looks dingy, but the inside is rather better than the outside. These are two apartment houses, built of brick. The kitchen is 13 feet by 12 feet, the room 12 feet by 9 feet.

Accommodation.

There is one ashpit and four dry-closets for the place, all very dirty when we saw them on 26th November, 1913. There are coalhouses for all, and there are four very nice looking washing-houses.

Unpaved.

The paths were unpaved, but were covered with very rough red "blaes" which, although against the appearance of the place, kept the pathways dry.

Water.

There is a supply of gravitation water.

Rent.

The rent is 2s per week. At the time of our visit there were 10 empty houses.

BURNFOOTHILL, PARISH OF DALMELLINGTON.**Owned by Dalmellington Iron Co., Ltd. Number of houses in all. Kind of houses.**

What is known as Burnfoothill is composed of rows of various names numbering, when we visited it on November 27, 1913, about 256 dwellings. The great majority of these are single apartment houses; indeed, they were all, with a very few exceptions, originally built as single apartment houses, but some families, in the course of time, have obtained two [54] of these houses, which gives them rooms and kitchens. A number of the doors of these are built up, so that they are permanent double houses. We were informed by an old man that the dwellings formerly numbered 350, the difference being explained by this later formation of the double houses from two single ones.

Accommodation. Epidemic.

The houses are all owned by the Dalmellington Iron Co., Ltd., the majority of them built of stone, and every one of them lacking in even the elementary conveniences of life. Many families have absolutely *no washing-house, no coalhouse, no ashpit, NO CLOSET!* What do the people do? That is a question which should not be asked too loudly! From time to time one hears rumours that fever is rife here. We have only these rumours to go by, but there is certainly plenty of fever breeding ground.

Figures from Medical Report of Ayr District. Names of parishes.

Here are a few suggestive figures from the County Medical Officer's Report for 1912. What is given as Ayr District embraces the following parishes, viz., Auchinleck, Ayr (Landward), Coylton, Dalmellington, Dalrymple, Monkton, Muirkirk, New Cumnock, Ochiltree, Old Cumnock (Landward), Stair, and Tarbolton.

Number of Infectious Cases. Cases detailed.

For these parishes there is a total of 382 cases of all kinds. Three parishes had 223 cases, viz., New Cumnock 46. Coylton 53, Dalmellington 124. Take them in detail. The Ayr District had 40 cases Diphtheria, 12 of these from the parish of Dalmellington. There were 283 cases of Scarlet Fever, 101 of these from the parish of Dalmellington; 22 Enteric cases,

8 from parish of Dalmellington; 29 cases Erysipelas, 3 from Dalmellington. The remaining 8 are the less common diseases.

N.B. - Burnfoothill, at which there are no conveniences, is in the parish of Dalmellington. It would be interesting to know how many came from Burnfoothill.

PONNESSEN ROWS.

1st Row. Accommodation.

The first houses visited on the way up from Patna were Ponnessen Rows. There are three rows, the first built of stone, containing 22 families. About three-fourths of these are in single apartment houses, with sculleries. The kitchen measures 18 feet by 11 feet, the sculleries 9 feet by 8 feet. There is no washing-house, but generally there are boilers in the sculleries, but bought by the tenants. There are no coalhouses, the coal usually being placed below the bed. There are no closets in the proper sense, but a tenant may apply to the Company, who may give him a wooden erection, readymade, not much larger than a sentry box. This is set up, but nothing more, for the tenant has to place in his own pail and [55] to empty them, and as there are no ashpits the matter is either scattered among the ashes or put on ground called a garden.

Rent.

The rent for single houses is 1s 9d a week, for double 3s 6d.

Pathways.

The paths in front are unpaved, and when we saw them were lying under pools of water.

Where ashes go. The people.

The ashes and slop pails are emptied in front of the houses on the open moor. In spite of everything the people in this row, as in all the other rows, are of a superior appearance.

2nd Row.

The second row is built of brick. It contains 23 families, and is hardly anything different from the first row. Here there are no coalhouses, no washing-houses, no ashpits, and only the same tiny wooden closets. Hardly the half of the people had them. The rent is the same also. The majority are single apartment houses.

3rd Row.

The third row is built of stone, and houses 20 families. The houses are the same size, the same rent, the same lack of accommodation. Three or four of these are two apartment houses, the rest single. Ashes and slop pails are emptied on moor in front, with the same irritatingly small wooden hutches for closets, when the tenant is fortunate enough to get one.

There is a supply of gravitation water, which is brought from the surrounding hills. Paths both back and front are unpaved and muddy, and the open syvor which runs along all three rows is very flat and sluggish, the tenants themselves often having to look after them in wet weather. There is no sewage, unless one might call an iron pipe such, which empties itself on the moor a few yards from the doors.

LETHANHILL.**1st Row. Houses. Rent. Accommodation.**

The next series of rows are called Lethanhill, but every one has a distinctive name given by the people. That which we called the first row has 21 two apartment houses built of brick. The kitchen is about 17 feet by 11½- feet, the room about 9 feet by 9 feet, the scullery 8 feet by 7 feet or thereby. The rent is 2s 3d a week. There is a supply of gravitation water. The paths are unpaved and very muddy. There is not a single ashpit, coalhouse, nor closet, with the exception of the wooden hutch already mentioned, which the tenants have to clean out, scattering the matter as they think fit. The boiler in the scullery is the property of the tenant.

2nd Row. Same as No. 1.

The second row is a replica of No. 1. The houses are damp, the rain having easy access at some of the front doors. If there is any difference from the first, there are fewer of those diminutive closets. Coals usually kept in scullery. Ashes and refuse scattered in front and at back in a horrible mixture. [56]

These houses are sadly in need of repair. There are 23 houses in this row.

Briggate Row. The first ashpit.

What is called the Briggate Row contains 18 dwellings, single apartments generally, with sculleries. The kitchen and scullery are of the usual size here, and the rent is 1s 9d a week. There is a supply of gravitation water, but the people complain of the scarcity of water, there being but one well for two rows. There are no washing-houses nor coalhouses. Only nine of the tenants have those wooden closets, though the others would be glad to get even one of them. The fronts and backs are, of course, unpaved, and in the usual condition of unpaved paths. There is one broken down ashpit, the first we had seen in the whole of the district. We were told there was actually one other in some other row, though we had not discovered it as yet.

White Brick Row.

White Brick Row consists of 20 single apartment houses, but a few families occupy two. Rent of single 1s 9d, double 3s 6d per week. There are also one or two originally built two apartment houses at a rent of 3s a week.

Dimensions.

The kitchens here are 21 feet by 12 feet, the sculleries 9 feet by 8 feet.

Accommodation.

There are no coalhouses, no washing-houses, no closets, but the impertinent apologies so often mentioned, and even these are not sufficient to give one to every house. The washing boiler belongs to the tenant, as in other rows.

Disease.

People complain of prevalence of epidemic disease. It would be a miracle if it were otherwise. The other remaining ashpit was found here.

Stone Row. Rent.

The Stone Row has 20 two apartment houses. The kitchens measure 17 feet by 11 feet, the rooms 9 feet by 9 feet, scullery 9½ feet by 8 feet. The rent is 2s 3d a week.

Accommodation.

No ashpit, no coalhouse, no washing-house, no closets except a few of the kind peculiar to this district, the small wooden erections.

Age.

We learned from an old man that the age of all the houses in the rows was about 60 or 70 years.

Water.

There is one well of gravitation water.

Paths.

The paths were in the usual unpaved, muddy condition. The People complain that they cannot ask any one to visit them because of the want of accommodation.

Whaup Row.

The Whaup Row has 24 houses, single apartments, but eight families occupy 16 of them as rooms and kitchens. The rent is 1s 9d for single and 3s 6d for double houses.

Accommodation. Dimensions.

No washing-houses - one woman was standing in the rain washing (27th November, 1913) - no closets, except a few *a la* Burnfoothill, no ashpits ; but each house had a small brick [57] built coalhouse. The kitchen measures about 18 feet by 10½ feet, the sculleries 9 feet by 6 feet. Gravitation water.

Old School Row. Dimensions.

The Old School Row is built of brick, and contains 28 two apartment houses. The kitchen is 17 feet by 11 feet, the room 9 feet by 8 feet, the scullery 10 feet by 8 feet.

Accommodation. Flooded syvors in wet weather.

The accommodation is the same as in former rows. No coalhouse, no washing-house, no closets except the small wooden one, and we were told that these can hardly be got, one tenant having had to wait years for one. The open syvor at back is very sluggish, and when flooded by rain causes shameful conditions. Here, as elsewhere, the tenant must empty his closet, with no place provided to receive contents, consequently contents must be flung out exposed on the moor.

Rents. Right to ashpit.

Rents are 2s 3d a week. This row has the right to a share in the only ashpit in the district.

Step Row. Number of families. Rents.

The Step Row has 18 dwellings, in some cases the family occupying two. The kitchen is about 17 feet by 11 feet, the scullery 9 feet by 7 feet. The rent is 1s 6d a week.

Accommodation.

There are no ashpits, no washing-houses, no coalhouses, with only a few of the small wooden closets.

Gravitation water.

There is a supply of gravitation water.

Final word.

The lack of conveniences at this large village is disgraceful, and not worthy of such an important Company as the Dalmellington Iron Co., Ltd. The people in every row gave

evidence of being able to appreciate better conditions. We trust better conditions will be given to them.

KILGRAMMIE ROWS, PARISH OF DAILLY.

Owned by V. C. Dalrymple-Hamilton. Leased by the Killochan Coal Co., Ltd.

Kilgrammie Rows are beautifully situated on Kilgrammie Hill, rather better than two miles above the village of Dailly. It is probably the finest site in Ayrshire for a village, but the village as it stands is one of the worst, both as to type of house and conveniences. Happily it is not a large village, there being only 31 dwellings in it. It is leased by the Killochan Coal Co., Ltd., from Mr. V. C. Dalrymple-Hamilton.

New Row. Size.

In what is called the New Row there are 10 houses of two apartments, the kitchen measuring 12 feet by 12 feet, the room about the same. The row is built of brick and rough cast.

Accommodation.

There is a dry-closet at the back for every two houses, with two open ashpits. There are coalhouses, but no washing-houses.

Where ashpits are emptied.

The ashpits, when we visited the row on 4th December, 1913, were full of water, and about 35 yards from the houses [58] we saw the emptyings of these ashpits, which had been dumped down from time to time regardless of decency or of health. A few yards from the ashpits it was really an awful looking mess.

Fronts.

The path in front is unpaved, very dirty, and broken, owing to the rain and usage having worn much of it away.

Age.

Some of these houses are out of repair, although only about nine years old. One doorstep was completely broken down, and already this row has a drab, dirty appearance.

Rent.

The rent is 2s 6d a week.

Old Row, No. 1.

The Old Row, No. 1, consists of six houses, two having two apartments and four only one.

Rent and age.

The rent of the double house is 2s a week, the single one 1s 9d a week. We were told that the age of these houses was fully 100 years.

Closet accommodation, etc.

There is one dry-closet of two compartments, one of which had no door, and ashes and filth were strewn around. There is no ashpit, no coalhouse, and of course no washing-house.

Dimensions.

The single houses measure 16 feet by 11 feet. The double house measures - kitchen 14 feet by 9 feet, the room 18 feet by 10 feet.

Floors.

The floors are of brick tile, very badly broken.

Where coals are kept, and where washing done.

The coals are kept below the bed, and the washing is done on the middle of the floor. One woman we saw in a one -apartment house doing her washing there. A wet Winter clay, an abominable path into the house, a floor littered with dirty clothes ready for the wash, made a picture which one is almost ashamed to think about.

House damp and out of repair.

The houses are very damp, and much of the plaster is badly broken. All of them need repair.

Fronts.

The fronts are unpaved and filthy. All around were ashes, filth, and broken glass, with the other rubbish which one sees in an ashpit. The truth about this row would seem to one who had not seen it, the wildest exaggeration. The whole row is a pollution.

Old Row, No. 2.

What we call No. 2 Old Row really consists of but two dwellings of two apartments each. The kitchen measures 14 feet by 11 feet, and the room about the same.

Accommodation.

There is a dry-closet for these tow houses, but no coalhouse or washing-house.

Clean and superior to the others.

The path was unpaved but clean, and altogether this row is superior to the rows already mentioned.

Gardens. Rent.

There are large and rather nice gardens to them, and the rent is 2s a week.

Old Row, No. 3. Same as No. 2.

No. 3 Row also consists of two two-apartment houses, in size and conveniences the very same as No. 2. The only difference is that the gardens seem to be a little larger. [59]

Old Row, No. 4 or Low Row.

No. 4 Old Row, or Low Row, has two single and three two apartment houses.

Dimensions.

The single house measures 16 feet by 12 feet, the kitchen of the double house 16 feet by 8 feet, the room about the same.

Rent.

The rent for the single house is 1s 9d a week, the double house 2s a week.

Age.

These houses are very old and out of repair. They are damp, and in some cases the rain gets in.

Roofs rotten. Damp. Rain getting in.

The roof seems to be so rotten that it cannot hold slates for any length of time, and in one house the water was being caught in a pail placed at the foot of the bed.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There is no washing-house, no coalhouses, the coals being kept below the beds. There is one dry-closet, but no ashpit. the ashes being flung in heaps all around, both back and front.

Water Supply for the whole village.

The water supply is on a par with the village. It is simply surface water collected in a sort of well at which a pump is placed. This pump is about 300 yards distant, sitting on the side of the hill BELOW the rows, and the surroundings of this pump were scandalous when we saw it. We were told that in Summer tinge the water here is so thick and dirty that it has to be sieved through a fine cloth before it can be used. Many of the people prefer to go further down the hill to a common horse trough, which is on the public road.

SKARES ROWS, PARISH OF OLD CUMNOCK.**Owned by Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd.**

Skares is a village of 118 houses, about three miles from the town of Old Cumnock. It is built in three rows, and all are two apartment houses, one of the rows having a scullery besides. This is the front row. every house of which has a back and front door.

Front Row. Front and back doors unpaved.

The paths are unpaved, the front being fairly clean, but the back is rather dirty, with pools of water here and there. There are 42 dwellings here, built of stone, and the rent is £5 a year, exclusive of rates.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There is a dry-closet for every five houses, and a washing-house for every eight. There are also ashpits and coalhouses but the usefulness of these is marred, in our opinion, by all of them - the washing-house, coalhouse, closet, and ashpit - being built together practically under one roof.

Dimensions.

The size of the kitchen is 14 feet by 11 feet, the room 10 feet by 10 feet.

Water supply.

There is a supply of gravitation water, but all the tenants complain about the quality of the water. It is said to be brought from a burn quite near, assisted by a receiving tank, [60] also quite near, which, as might be expected, is discoloured in rainy weather. There is a scullery attached.

Second Row or Middle Row.

There are 40 houses in the second, or Middle Row. It is built of brick, and the dimensions, rent, and accommodation are the same as the front row, minus the scullery and one tenant less for each closet.

Paved fronts. Difference in appearance.

The one marked difference is the concrete pavement in front of the doors. This gives the row a nice, clean appearance, and is really a boon to the womenfolk.

Third Row, or Back Row.

The Back Row consists of 36 houses. It is the same in every particular as the second row. Again we saw the difference the concrete pavements made. These should be before every door. The fronts were clean in spite of a rather sluggish open syvor and a badly bottomed roadway for vehicles. There are gardens, but only a few cultivated,

GLENGYRON ROWS, PARISH OF OLD CUMNOCK.**Owned by Wm. Baird & Co.**

Glengyron Rows are about a mile from Old Cumnock, and are owned by William Baird & Co., Ltd. There are 44 two apartment houses. Of these two families have three apartments at the expense of other two families, who have now only single apartments.

Dimensions.

The kitchens measure 15 feet by 12 feet, the rooms 10 feet by 9 feet.

Rent.

The rent is £4 16s a year, exclusive of rates.

Unpaved.

The paths are unpaved, but not very dirty when we saw them on 4th December, 1913.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There is one dry-closet for every three tenants, coalhouses for each tenant, and a washing-house for every six tenants. These are all under one roof which, in our opinion, is a bad arrangement. Some of the closets we saw were ill-kept, one with the door off and very filthy.

State of repair.

The houses are in a bad state of repair. In one house we saw rain getting in and being caught in a basin. Another we saw with half of the window of the room boarded up. We were informed that it had been in this state for a year, in spite of repeated enquiries of the tenants as to when it would be glazed.

Floors.

The floors are of brick tiles, and broken.

Water supply.

There is a supply of gravitation water taken from the supply of the burgh of Old Cumnock. [61]

GARALLAN ROWS, PARISH OF OLD CUMNOCK.**Leased by the Carraden Coal Co. from Boswell of Garallan.**

Garallan Rows contain 22 houses, four being two apartments and eighteen single. It is leased from Boswell of Garallan by the Carraden Coal Co.

Rents.

The rent for double houses is 2s 1d and 1s 11d for single. The single houses are back to back, and one of these has been halved, one half each being given to two tenants, thus making a small room.

Dimensions.

The double houses measure - the kitchen 14 feet by 12 feet, the room 12 feet by 12 feet. The single houses measure 15 feet by 13 feet.

State of repair.

All of these are in a shameful state of repair. We saw in one house a pail placed in bed to catch the water which was coming in from the roof on 4th December, 1913.

Damp.

All of them are very damp. We saw in another house the roof discoloured and the paper hanging in shreds from the walls. One woman said to us – “Ane has nae heart to clear them, for your work is never seen.” That is not difficult to believe. The floors are of brick tiles and badly broken. The rooms are wooden floored.

Unpaved.

The paths are unpaved and unspeakably dirty, and then are dirty cesspools in front of the doors.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There are six dry-closets, ill-kept and dirty. We saw some of them with at least three inches of water lying in them and some of the seats were covered with filth deposited by children we presume, for no self-respecting adult could use them. There are no washing-houses and no coalhouses, the coals being kept below the bed.

Water supply.

The water supply, so we were informed, was from field drains.

This row is fully a mile from the town of Old Cumnock.

GLENBUCK, GRASSHILL ROW, PARISH OF MUIRKIRK**Owned by Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd.**

Glenbuck is a village in the parish of Muirkirk, about three and a half miles from the town of Muirkirk, nestling among the Glenbuck Hills. Our investigation only covered the Grasshill Rows, owned by William Baird & Co., Ltd. although most of the village is occupied by miners.

No. of houses and population.

These Grasshill Rows have 33 two apartment houses with a population of 123. There were three empty houses when we visited the village on 4th December, 1913.

Rent.

The rent is 7s a month (lunar).

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There is one dry-closet for every four tenants, formerly without doors, but now protected by sparred gates, with [62] locks. The peculiarity of these closets is that each of them could accommodate two persons; in fact, are seated to do so, but are without partition of any kind. There are coalhouses, but no washing-houses. The closet, ashpit, and coalhouse are under one roof, only 12 feet from front door. The ashpits were very dirty.

Unpaved.

The footpaths are unpaved and dirty, with dirty, sluggish, open syvors in front.

Dimensions.

The kitchen measures 15 feet by 12 feet, the rooms 12 feet by 9 feet. The floors are of wood.

State of repair.

Many of the houses have large rents across them, due, it is thought, to the vibration of the works locomotives and waggons passing so near, and because the foundations are in mossy ground.

Water supply.

There is a supply of gravitation water brought from the Hareshaw Hill.

Sewerage.

The sewage runs in an open drain till it reaches the main road, 20 or 30 yards away, and, we were told, smells badly in Summer.

MUIRKIRK SOUTH, PARISH OF MUIRKIRK.**Owned by Wm. Baird & Co. General Notes.**

Muirkirk South is a considerable village on the south side of the River Ayr from Muirkirk proper. It is built in rows, having 237 dwellings, with a population of 1064, exclusive of official' houses and of Linkieburn, most of which is tenanted by Spaniards, making it a little difficult to get exact figures. It belongs to Messrs. William Baird & Co., Ltd., and is tenanted chiefly by miners. In Linkieburn and Linkieburn Square there are a number of furnace workers, the -Muirkirk furnaces being quite near.

Linkieburn. Right side up.

The row nearest to the station is Linkieburn. On the right hand side up there are 14 houses, with only seven entrances. It is almost wholly inhabited by Spaniards, some of whom have rented two houses for the purpose, we presume, of accommodating lodgers.

Size of house.

The size of the house is 14 feet by 12 feet, and the rent is 2s for the two houses. They are built of stone.

Left side up.

There are six house, of two apartments on the left hand side up.

Rent.

The rent is 2s 1d for this double house.

Accommodation.

There are two dry-closets, with doors, for both sides, but no coalhouse and no washing-house. One Spaniard on left side of row had built a washing house for himself, so we were told, the use of which he allows some of the other tenants.

Unpaved paths.

The paths are unpaved, but very clean. [63]

Spaniard a good type.

The Spaniards here are of a good type, one house we were in being nice and clean.

Water supply.

There is a good supply of water, a continual run going down the open syvor.

Linkieburn Square. No. of houses. Population.

There are 15 two apartment houses in Linkieburn Square. The kitchens measure 15 feet by 10½ feet, but the rooms are mere strips, 11 feet by 6 feet. There are in all 64 people here.

Rent.

The rent is £4 4s per year.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There are no washing-houses and only three coalhouses, but some of the tenants have built wooden ones for themselves. There is a dry-closet for every four tenants, with open ashpits. The closets were very clean.

Unpaved paths.

The paths are unpaved, but very clean. There is a copious supply of water always running in the open syvor about 9 feet from the door.

Water supply.

This water is led in pipes from the hills.

Brick built.

This square is built of brick, and some of the houses are slightly damp.

Midhouse Row. Population, etc. Rent.

There is a population of 90 in what is called Midhouse Row, inhabiting 25 two apartment houses. Some rent two of these two apartment houses, the rent of which is 3s 10d a week, and 2s for the ordinary house.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There is a washing-house for every five tenants, a dry-closet for every three tenants, with coalhouses and covered ashpits. All these are under one roof, only 12 feet from the door, which is always undesirable.

Unpaved paths, etc.

The paths are unpaved, but very clean; the kitchen floors of brick tile and the rooms of wood.

Water supply.

Like the other rows there is plenty of water running, as well as for use.

Railway Terrace, No. 1.

Railway Terrace, No. 1, contains 26 two apartment houses built of brick, with a population of 101.

Same as previous row.

It is the same as to size, rent, and accommodation as the Midhouse Row. In this Railway Terrace, No. 1, a good number of tenants have rented three apartments.

Railway Terrace, No. 2.

Railway Terrace, No. 2, contains 27 two apartment. houses, with a population of 146.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

These houses are built of stone, with the same washing-house, closet, coalhouse, and ashpit accommodation as the two previous rows.

Rent.

The rent is 1s 10d a week.

Condition.

These houses are said to be a little damp.

Unpaved.

The paths are unpaved, but clean. As in the other rows, there is plenty of water.

Kames Row, No. 3.

Kames Row, No. 3, is built of brick, containing 27 houses, with a population of 123. The kitchen measures 14 feet by 12 feet, the room 12 feet by 10 feet. [64]

Rent.

The rent is 2s a week.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There is a washing-house for every eight tenants, and a closet for every four. There are coalhouses and covered ashpits.

Paved.

This row is paved in front, which is a great help to the appearance and comfort of the houses.

Water.

Plenty of water, as in the other rows.

Kames Row, No. 2.

Kames No. 2 is a replica of Kames No. 3. There are several tenants here who have taken three apartments. The population here is 291, inhabiting 56 dwellings, and the rent is 1s 11d a week.

Kames Row, No. 1. Accommodation. Unpaved.

Kames No. 1 has 98 houses of two apartments, with a population of 249. It has the same accommodation in everything as the others, but is unpaved.

Rent.

The rent is 1s 10d here.

General Remarks.

At the lower end of these rows there is a settling pond which ought to be removed, as it gives off a very bad smell, especially in Summer. The flies at this lowest row are a perfect plague. Another thing which is to be deprecated is the washing-house, coalhouse, closet, and ashpit all under one roof, and in many instances only 12 feet from front door.

Water.

The water supply is excellent, the gravitation water being brought from Cairntable. The water is plentiful and good.

Inhabitants.

The inhabitants are a markedly good type. They take a great interest in their gardens, many of them having glass frames and some large glass houses. A great many of them have rented three and four apartments, which is proof that the people here are willing to pay for better accommodation.

What is lacking.

The one thing lacking here is water-closets. if those were erected, and a bathroom added, we believe that the people would justify their erection by using them and appreciating them. On the whole this is a good type of village. A very little trouble and expense would make it a desirable place to live in.

TRABBOCH, PARISH OF STAIR.**Owned and leased by Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd. Description. Number of apartments.**

Trabboch is a village of 94 dwellings on the Stair and Littlemill road, about two miles distant from Stair. It is made up of four rows, three of 18 houses each and one of 40. The bulk of the houses are of two apartments. It was in the parish of Ochiltree, but is now in the parish of Stair, the alteration being made for parochial purposes.

The 1st or Long Row. In blocks of 8.

The first, or Long Row, contains 40 houses, built in five blocks of eight each. The end house of each block is of three apartments, the others of two.

Dimensions.

The measurement of the two apartment house is 14 feet by 12 feet for the kitchen, and for the room 12 feet by 6 feet. The three apartment house is not much larger in floor space. [65]

2nd Row.

The second row has 18 houses on the same principle as the Long Row.

3rd and 4th Rows.

The third and fourth rows are exactly the same as the second row. All the rents are 2s a week.

Cottages.

Besides the houses mentioned, there is a cottage built crosswise at the beginning of each of rows 2, 3, and 4, the rent of which is 2s 6d a week. These have four apartments. The three rooms are very small, the largest being 9 feet- by 8 feet. The kitchen is of a fair size.

Water supply.

The water supply is from Loch Bradan.

Accommodation, Closets, etc.

There is a washing-house for every four houses, and a coalhouse and a small dry-closet for every house. There is a tiny ashpit attached to every closet.

Closets and Ashpits dirty.

There were no doors on any of the closets when we saw them (6th December, 1913), and both closets and ashpits were deplorably dirty. Some of the ashpits were half-full of foul water and rotten matter.

Paths unpaved.

The paths are unpaved, parts of them badly cut up, and in wet weather exceedingly dirty.

Remarks.

With a little attention Trabboch could be much better. Pavements before the doors would be a great help both as to appearance and comfort.

HIGHHOUSE ROWS, PARISH OF AUCHINLECK.**Owned by Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd.**

Highhouse Rows stand on the side of the Ochiltree and Auchinleck road, just outside of the village of Auchinleck.

Number of houses.

There are two rows of 49 and 48 dwellings respectively, of two apartments.

The first row.

The first row contains 49 two apartments, except four which have three apartments. The two apartments are rented at 2s 1d a week, the three at 3s 6d, exclusive of rates.

Dimensions.

The kitchens measure 13 feet by 11 feet, the rooms 12 feet by 10 feet.

Of stone.

This row is built of stone, which gives it a nice, clean appearance.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There is a washing-house for every four houses and a closet for every four, with coalhouses and ashpits. These have the defect common to most rows - all built together in front of the houses, and only 18 feet distant in this case.

Water supply.

There is a supply of Loch Bradan water.

Paved.

The paths are paved, which give here, as everywhere else, the houses a better appearance, and help to keep the inside of them much cleaner.

Open syvors.

The open syvors at the top of this row were almost stagnant, and when we saw them on 6th December, 1913, contained quantities of dirty water. [66]

Houses inside.

The houses inside are fairly comfortable, having wooden floors, and in the dwellings we visited were oven grates.

Second row.

The second row is built of brick, otherwise it is the same as the first row.

Bad smell at top.

There is often a bad smell at the top here, so we were informed, from the fact that there is an outlet from all the closets here. There are provisions for flushing regularly, but this is often neglected. The ashpits, too, were very dirty; indeed, some of them were disgraceful. We were told that in Summer the flies were "something awful". We could well believe it from the state in which we found the ashpits. Some of the people to whom we spoke expressed an earnest desire for water-closets. The open syvors all along the rows looked dirty, and better scavenging here is urgently needed.

HURLFORD, PARISH OF RICcarton.***Marchmont Place.*****Owned by Messrs. J. & R. Howie, Ltd.**

Hurlford is a large village about two miles from Kilmarnock. With the greater part of the village we will not deal, our purpose being to report on houses owned by colliery owners, as well as on a few in which miners live.

Number of houses.

Marchmont Place is a "land" of 16 dwellings in all, eight upstairs and eight on the ground floor. It is situated on the right hand side of the Galston road, a short distance from Hurlford Cross.

Appearance of houses.

These houses are of a good appearance, and have fair accommodation. Some are of three apartments.

Rents.

The rents of these are £11 a year upstairs, and on the ground flat £10. The two apartment house on the ground flat is £8 10s. These have cement floors, while the others are of wood.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

Every family has a water-closet and every four have a washing-house. There are small open ashpits over against the courtyard, which might be better arranged.

Unpaved, but clean.

The paths are unpaved, but when we saw them on 6th December, 1913, they were clean. The backs might be muddy in wet weather.

Next Row, or Red Row.

There is a small row next to Marchmont place of one storey, having six dwellings of two apartments and sculleries. These also have a fine appearance, and we believe are comfortable. The paths, etc., are the same as Marchmont place.

The rent is £8 a year. [67]

Collier Row.**Rent.**

The next now on the same side of the road is called the Collier Row, and consists of 12 two apartment houses rented at £5 17s 6d. The kitchen measures 14 feet by 12 feet, the room 12 feet by 10 feet. The floors are of brick tile.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There is a closet for every three tenants, with an ashpit and a washing-house. Coalhouses are provided also.

Paths clean.

The paths in front of this row are clean and dry, though unpaved. This row is very much older than the others mentioned, but it is in a fairly good state of repair.

Salisbury Place.

The next row is of two storeys, with 14 houses of two apartments. The top storey is reached by an outside stair.

Rent.

The rent is £7 10s a year.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There is a washing-house for every four tenants, and a closet, with open ashpits - not too clean when we saw them There are coalhouses also.

Water supply.

There is a supply of gravitation water throughout.

Owners. Ornamentation.

We believe all these rows belong to Messrs. J. & R. Howie Ltd. The path all along is dry and clean, and there is an attempt at ornamentation by young trees being planted at intervals along the front.

Office Row.**Number of Apartments.**

Crossing the road we get the Office Row. It was originally a row of six single apartment houses, but two tenants were occupying two houses each and two the remaining single ones when we visited it on 6th December, 1913.

Type of house.

The houses are old and of a poor type.

Dimensions.

Each measures 13 feet by 11 feet, and some of them are rather damp.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

The conveniences are very poor, there being only one closet for the row and one small ashpit. These were disgracefully foul, dirty, stinking water lying in pools around. There are coalhouses, but no washing-house.

Owners. Rent.

They belong to the Messrs. Howie, and the rent is 1s 7d a week.

Chapel Cottages.**Owned by Messrs. J. & R. Howie, Ltd.**

The next row, coming back towards Hurlford Cross, is Chapel Cottage Row. There are four houses here of two apartments and scullery - two at front and two at the back - with a sink and water tap. [68]

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There are water-closets and one open ashpit in a deplorable condition.

Rent.

The rent of the two houses at the front is £7 a year, those at the back being £6 10s. There is one washing-house.

Owned by Messrs. J. & R. Howie, Ltd.

Alongside of these is Chapel Buildings. This is a tenement of four houses - two on the ground floor and two above. One is of three apartments, the others two apartments.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There are water-closets, but the one ashpit, already mentioned, has to serve for these four houses also. When we saw it it was overflowing.

Skerrington Row.**First two houses. Rent.**

The next row down towards the Cross is the Skerrington Row. The first two houses, so we were informed, belong to J. & R. Howie, Ltd. They are of two apartments, at a rent of 2s 6d a week.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There is a water-closet for these, but no washing-house nor any coalhouse. These two have the privilege of sharing with the Chapel Cottage and Chapel Buildings the use of ashpit already described.

The rest of Skerrington Row.

The remainder of Skerrington is privately owned. It is a pity there is any remainder.

Number of houses.

This portion of it consists of three houses in front and six down the side - all of two apartments.

Rent.

The rent is 2s 2d a week.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There is one washing-house for all the Skerrington Rows. There are two small boilers, but there was not a single whole pane in the window when we saw them on 6th December, 1913. There is one dry-closet of three compartments, with no locks on the doors. There are no coalhouses. The closet entrance was flooded with foul water. There is a woman employed to keep them clean, but is unable because of the nature of them.

Dimensions.

The size of the kitchen is 12½ feet by 12 feet, and the rooms about half that size. The side row is out of repair and is very damp. The water gets through the ceiling. The floor is brick tile, badly broken. The pathway here is unpaved and beggars description. Besides the 2s 2d a week for rent for these houses, the rates this year amount to 27s 9d.

Next lot. Number of houses.

The next lot of Skerrington houses consists of five fronting Hurlford and nine fronting the Galston Road - four of two apartments upstairs at the back, at a rent of 2s 7d a week, and four of two apartments downstairs at the front at the same rent; except one tenant who pays 3d a week extra because there is a back door. The other house has one apartment at 1s 10d a week. [69]

Condition.

There are other four houses of one storey fronting the road. All of them are damp.

Factor.

We were informed that the factor for these houses is Mr James Finlay.

Remarks.

The type of these houses is as poor as can be imagined. The accommodation as to closets, washing-houses, etc., is altogether inadequate. At the lower end of the side row we looked into an empty house which had a broken door, and which was littered with every conceivable abomination.

Howie's Square.**Owned by Messrs. J. & R. Howie, Ltd.**

Coming still back towards Hurlford Cross, behind the front street is what is known as Howie's Square.

Number of houses.

There seems to have been 11 dwellings originally, but only four single apartments were occupied when we visited till square on 6th December, 1913.

Kind of houses.

Whatever these houses may have been, they are dingy enough looking now. The inside appearance confirms the impression given outside.

Where situated.

The square is situated on the margin of the River Irvine and in high floods the houses are inundated.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There are three dry-closets, one washing-house, and an open ashpit. This was full of all kinds of decaying vegetable matter, and was littered in front fully 12 feet. We were informed that 20 tenants, besides two shops, use this ashpit.

Rent.

The rent of the single house is 1s 3d a week.

Portland Rows.**Owned by Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd. General description.**

Portland Rows are on the right hand side of the main road to Riccarton, about three minutes walk from Hurlford Station. There are two rows.

Front or Old Row. Number of dwellings/

The front, or old row, is a huge tenement of two storeys built originally, so we were informed, to house 180 families. We were slow to believe this statement, but the same number was given to us when we made further enquiries.

How constructed.

There are 20 double porches at the front, giving an entrance to four houses each, and a like number at the back. The entrance from one side of the porch goes straight in to the house on the ground floor, and to the left is a stone stair leading to the flat above. On the other side of the porch the stair to the room above is on the right. It was the construction of these stairs which led us to believe that both up and downstairs were meant for one tenant, but we were assured that that was not so. It is true that a goodly number of families are occupying an upstairs and a downstairs house, [70] but on the other hand it seems also to be true that there are some who have only the one apartment. A number of these houses were empty when we visited the row.

Dimensions. Rent.

The size of the house on the ground floor is 14 feet by 12 feet, and the porch 8 feet by 6 feet. They are said to be about 70 years old, and the rent is, for the single house, 5s 5d a month, exclusive of taxes.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There are six washing-houses, but some of those on 6th December, 1913, had not a single pane of glass. There are sixteen dry-closets in all, some with doors, some without, with a few small ashpits only 18 feet from the porches at the back.

Unpaved.

The paths, both at front and back, are unpaved, and muddy in wet weather. Beside the porches at the back is a brick paved space, very badly broken and lying in pools of water. There is a small cesspool, one of which had been closed by the tenants because of the offensive smell. There are no coalhouses, the coals in some instances being stored in the porch. The accommodation is far below what it ought to be both as to amount and quality. The population in this row is 250.

New, or Back Row. Dimensions.

The New, or Back Row, has 20 houses of two apartments. The kitchen measures 13 feet by 11 feet, and the room about 10 feet by 9 feet.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There are dry-closets for every three tenants, with ashpit, etc. As is the case in many other places, the washing-house, coalhouse, closet, and ashpit are all under one roof, about 12 feet from the front of the row.

The paths are unpaved and very muddy. There are open syvors in front of the doors not too clean.

Rent.

The rent is 7s 4d a month.

Owners.

Both rows belong to Messrs. William Baird & Co., Ltd.

Furnace Row.**Owned by Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd. Number of houses.**

The Furnace Row is situated on the right hand side of the main road to Riccarton, about a stone throw from Hurlford railway station. It is owned by William Baird & Co., Ltd., and consists of 16 two apartment houses.

Dimensions.

The kitchen measures 12½ feet by 6 feet, the room being 11 feet by 6 feet. The rent is 8s 8d a month, inclusive of taxes. There are no fires to the rooms.

Accommodation, closets, etc.

There are two washing-houses at the far end, but they are in very bad repair. There are two dry-closets of two compartments each. The two at upper end had no doors when we saw them on 6th December, 1913, and were very filthy. We were told they were never used except by children. Those at the other end of the row were not much better, and rarely used. As one man put it, "We are compelled to go to the fields, and may be taken up any day for trespassing."

Filthy ashpits.

The two ashpits were in a horrible litter. We were told these places in Summer were "hotchin with mauks", i.e., moving with maggots.

Drying green.

There are six or seven coalhouses at the back, and running parallel with the backs of the houses is a high stone wall, 19 feet from the houses, in which space is the drying green so called. This space is littered with refuse and filth, the children evidently using it as a closet.

Unpaved.

The front paths are unpaved, but fairly clean.

Water supply.

There is a supply of gravitation water.

Remarks.

These houses are of a poor type, and the sanitary arrangements are abominable. [72]

PART III

DESCRIPTION OF WORKMEN'S HOUSES

AND

**PLAN PREPARED BY WILLIAM HORSFIELD,
TEACHER OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.**

The houses are built of brick with cavity walls, on concrete foundations, bonded with galvanised iron ties. Outer walls of dwelling-house in rooms and kitchen lathed and strapped, and the whole of the inside walls plastered. All the external walls finished with two coats Portland cement plaster, each $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick, and then rough cast with granite chips. Windows and doors with smooth cement ingoings and rybats, rough sawn wood, white pine sleeper joists, wallplates and lintels, red pine finishing. Best selected white pine flooring, $4\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{8}$ white pine. Scullery and bathroom floors, 4" concrete with $1\frac{1}{2}$ " of finishing, with granite Chips laid on 4" hard bottoming. Coalhouse roof, 4" concrete finished smooth. Damp-proof course throughout on all walls, also vertical damp-proof where required. All roofs slated and flashed with 5 lb. lead and zinc ridges.

Porcelain enamelled cast iron bath.

Washdown fireclay «Bite enamelled closet. with galvanised iron 3-gallon flushing tank.

Hot water boiler, washing boiler, cold water storage cistern for hot water supply.

White enamelled fireclay sink on brackets.

Drains, traps, vent pipes, rhones;, and all complete for £180 per house, including ranges, grates. and gasfitting.

Kitchen, 12' x 12'4", exclusive of beds and passage.

Room No. 1, 12'6" x 10'6".

Room No. 2, 12'6" x 9'6".

Front Lobby, 5' x 5'.

Back Lobby, 7'6" x 3'6".

Scullery, 10' x 9'.

Bathroom, 6' x 5'.

Coalhouse, 4' x 4'.

All finished free from damp or in any way insanitary, and in accordance with the building regulations of Public Health Act or Burgh Police Act. If there is no access for drains at back of houses the drainage can be drained to front through houses in cast iron lead joined pipes. [73]

SUGGESTED REMEDIES.

The only remedy: a Closing Order. Employers should not be the house owners.

After visiting all the rows described in parts 1 and 2 of the evidence submitted, we are of opinion that the great bulk of the houses cannot even be patched up sufficiently to make them decently habitable, and, with the exception of the Broomknowe cottages at Dalmellington and the Mossblown cottages, there is no remedy but a Closing Order for them all. We do not think that the provision of houses by the employers should be encouraged. The tenants in many cases fear, rightly or wrongly, that it is not to their interests to complain to the employer to whom they are indebted for their employment about the condition of their houses, and the fearful state of disrepair into which many of the houses have fallen may be attributable to this cause. The ownership of houses by the employers is bad also from the fact that a condition of employment in most cases is that the tenants must vacate their houses whenever they leave the employment. The owners have practically under these conditions the right of summary ejection, and the effect on the workpeople often is that they put up with inferior conditions of employment rather than run the risk of ejection from their homes.

Public Health Acts not administered. County Councils a failure.

We desire also to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the fact that the Public Health Acts, so far as the Ayrshire mining rows are concerned, are practically dead letters. Had there been no Public Health Acts at all some of the rows we have seen could not possibly have been in a worse condition. The only conclusion we can come to is that the Public Health Acts have not been put into operation because, in many cases, the owners of these houses are the representatives on the County Council, and that the Sanitary Inspectors do not desire to offend the men whom they regard as their employers by compelling them to conform to the Public Health Acts and the byelaws which the County Council are empowered to establish. We therefore submit to the Commissioners that, [74] in any new legislation that is proposed, some authority butside the pale of local influence should have the duty imposed upon it of enforcing the provisions for the regulation of Public Health.

Immediate necessities.

We are aware that it would not be wise to close the present houses until new houses were built, but we suggest that the owners of the present houses should be compelled until new houses are built, to provide the following:-

- (1) Every house ought to have a wooden floor.
- (2) There should be a cement pavement in front of every house.
- (3) Each family ought to be provided with a coalhouse and a closet, and there should be at least one washing-house for every three tenants.
- (4) Every ashpit should be swept away at once, and each family provided with a metal dustbin which should be emptied every morning.

The ashpits must be prolific sources of disease. The refuse lies fermenting in them for weeks - we are informed, sometimes for months - and in many cases they are situated

within 12 feet or 15 feet of the doors of the houses. The stench at all times is disgusting, and in Summer time it is almost unbearable, and the houses of the people are tilled with swarms of flies.

We think that immediate legislation should be passed (if the authorities have not already sufficient powers to do so) to insist on these four provisions being carried out at once. If the authorities have power to do these things legislation should be passed to compel them to use their powers.

Power to Parish Councils to build workmen's dwellings.

We further suggest that the powers of the Parish Councils should be enlarged in order that they would be empowered to build workmen's dwellings, and that a petition from any ten ratepayers to the effect that housing in any locality is inadequate, sent to the Local Government Board, should be sufficient to cause an enquiry by that Board to take place, and if the Board was satisfied that such was the case they should, in co-operation with the Parish Council or other local authority, proceed to build workmen's houses from funds provided at a low rate of interest by the Government, and that the Parish Council or other local authority should have the supervision of the housing scheme. Legislation should be passed prohibiting the building of any houses for workmen's dwellings of smaller dimensions than three rooms, scullery, and bathroom, with -water closet and coalhouse attached.

We desire to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the houses at Broomknowe, Dalmellington, and at Mossblown, Annbank, where houses of that description, with the exception of the bathroom, have already been built and let at 4s and 5s a week respectively, as a proof that a house of this description is quite within the bounds of possibility for every miner's family.

In part 3 of the evidence are a sketch plan and specification of such a house, with a bathroom. The plan has been made on the lines of the Broomknowe cottages. Mr. Horsfield, who has produced the plan, guarantees that this house can be built for £180. If this house at that price was erected by a public authority with money borrowed at say 3 per cent., and with a 60 years' repayment, even though £1 per year was paid for feu-duty and £1 for repairs and upkeep, it could be let without loss at less than 4s per week.

We suggest that a house of this description should be the minimum in any future legislation, and that the local authorities, including the Parish Council, should not only be empowered but compelled to build and own houses of that description. The principle has been adopted in Ireland that any person who is not an agricultural labourer may be allowed to occupy a house where the rent is subsidised by the local rates and from Government funds, provided his wages are not greater than 15s a week. We suggest that houses should be built and subsidised in the same way for the labouring classes in this country, where the wage is less than 24s a week.

(Signed) JAMES BROWN,

(,) THOMAS M'KERRELL,

Agents for the Ayrshire Miners' Union.