

Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source

Background: The American Civil War of 1861 - 1865 caused a shortage of cotton for the Mills in Lancashire and Renfrewshire. Great distress followed for those employed in the Mills.

The following are snippets from some of the newspapers of the day.

LOCHWINNOCH. 1862 The distress so prevalent in other quarters is severely felt here where the inhabitants are almost entirely dependent upon the work obtained in Messrs Buchanan & Fulton's large cotton mill. A correspondent of the Morning Journal says:—For many months, when most of the other or neighbouring mills were upon full time, this mill was kept upon half-time. Industrious families found it even then hard enough work to keep up a respectable appearance, much more was it absolutely impossible to lay past anything for an evil hour ; and when that evil hour did come, you may imagine what a condition it found those families in. The mill has been closed, the hands paid off, whole families cast adrift; and up to this present hour, as far as I know, nothing has been done to alleviate the distress of these people, except by a few private individuals. Silently are they bearing their heavy burden. Now, it does seem to many persons who have really the interest of those people at heart, that there is one way by which they might be relieved—not by a general fund, but by good honest labour.

1862 Mr. McDowall, of Carruth, observed that the cause of the distress was the want of material. Now, unless their friends on the other side of the Atlantic stopped their war the material could not be obtained. Mr McDowall said that there where 389 in George Houston & Co's working short time, about 100 in his own, and about 80 altogether stopped.

1863

North American Powders

Upwards of 7000 sold in a few months, and in the majority of cases cures have been effected. It was an excellent remedy, for Bilious complaints, Cramp in the Stomach, Pains in the Bowels, Vomiting, Sickness, Difficulty of Breathing, Bowel Complaints, Affections of the Lungs, Inflammation, Heartburn, Dizziness, Drowsiness, Pains, Headache, Toothache, Bad Breath, and other diseases, while for Rheumatism of the most violent kind, a few Powders were an infallible remedy.

Can be had at Daniel Stevenson, Post Office, Lochwinnoch,
Price. 1s Per PACKAGE, or 2d Each POWDER



**Dan Morrison
with his Taxi**



**His Garage on
Calder Street**



Morrison Family

The 3 photos above
contributed by

Irene Edmiston

Continued:

1862 Mr Napier, of Merchiston House, thought it right to say that two of the largest mills in the county - Linwood and Lochwinnoch - had been entirely shut up for some time, and if his Lordship would cause an investigation of the distress, he would find that considerable distress prevailed. He did not come here to ask for relief, but merely to see that the suffering of a certain class should be represented.

The Chairman—How long has the mill of Lochwinnoch been shut up?

Mr Napier - For several months.

The Chairman—For six months, is it?

Mr Napier—No; for three months it has been entirely shut up. It has been going short time for six months.

The Chairman—Is it not a very usual thing to hear of that mill being shut occasionally for some months at a time?

Mr Napier—No, no.

1862 The miners of Glengarnock Iron works, in the Barkip district, have handed to the Rev Dr. Meikle, Beith by Mr. Carrick, the sum of five pounds for distribution among the unemployed and destitute in that town. It were well if prosperous working men in other parts of the country would follow the example of the miners of Barkip, and give a little of their wages for the benefit of the unemployed, and thus aid the more wealthy classes of the community in their efforts to support them in the present crisis of the cotton trade. The Rev. Dr. Smith, of Lochwinnoch, has received £6 from Mr. Wm. Eadie, secretary of committee for subscribers at Barkip Collieries for the unemployed operatives at Lochwinnoch; which was much needed, and will be thankfully received. After careful inquiry, it will be distributed as directed.

1862 Mr Campbell then proceeded to say that the state of the poor law was such that, instead of enabling the poor to receive two shillings a head, it only enabled them to receive two shillings for that whole family that was a disgrace to this country.

1863 In Lochwinnoch about 240 persons are represented as need of assistance, and a local relief fund, amounting by last report to £70, has been raised.

Saturday 17th November 1866

A short time ago an agitation was raised to get the streets lighted with gas, and a large committee was appointed to raise subscriptions for that purpose, which happily has been accomplished. About a month ago, Mr Fraser of Ardrossan, being the successful candidate for doing the work, speedily set about it, and finished the work, and had the streets well lighted on Saturday, to the entire satisfaction of the inhabitants generally. The splendid band belonging to the village perambulated the streets in the evening, and charmed the lieges by their sweet music. Altogether, Saturday week was a bright day in Lochwinnoch. Mr Fraser deserves great credit indeed for the tradesman-like style in which he has completed his contract.