

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Work, Food and Poverty in Wartime



BUNDLE 3



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Hard Vrocht Grun Project

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William Leslie.

The Inspector also reported that William Leslie, a ship's fireman and ex-serviceman belonging to Aberdeen had applied for relief on the evening of Saturday 20th March. He had been tramping the country in search of work and arrived exhausted in Longside. He wished to get to Aberdeen and the Inspector advanced 6/- to pay his fare & claimed on Aberdeen. This was approved.

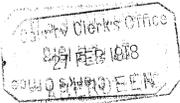
Longside Parish Council Minutes 13th April 1920

M7/B.S.

Telephone Nos. 2263-4.
Telegrams:—"LAREX, ABERDEEN."

MINISTRY OF LABOUR,
EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE,
49 MARKET STREET,
ABERDEEN, 26th February, 1918.

Wm. Murison, Esq.,
County Clerk,
ABERDEEN.



Dear Sir,

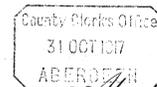
The Bearer, James Milne, who was a Pte. in the Gordon Highlanders, was discharged as being physically unfit. He suffers from tuberculosis and may be suitable as a garden labourer with Mrs. Bisset or Lessendrum.

Yours faithfully,

MANAGER.

Letter from the Manager of the Aberdeen Employment Exchange to the Aberdeen County Clerk regarding the employment of James Milne, 26 February 1918

County of Aberdeen - Tuberculosis Department.



16 Golden Square,

TUBERCULOSIS MEDICAL OFFICER,
TEL. NO. 3010.

Montgomery

30th October 1917.

Dear Mr. Murison,

I was out this morning seeing a family of motherless children at Strathathie whom Dr. Rae looked after and was very good to. Their father was in the Navy and they have just got word that he is missing. Two of the children are notified cases. I shall be very glad if I can give any assistance when the Pensions Committee have to deal with the case later on. I was not greatly impressed with their Aunt who was looking after them but a grand-uncle, the schoolmaster at Belhelvie, seems an exceedingly nice and capable man who says that their Aunt is really fond of and good to the children. I think they would like to keep the family together if that is possible.

Yours faithfully,

William Murison, Esq.,
County Clerk,
County Buildings,
ABERDEEN.

Letter from the Aberdeen County Tuberculosis Department to the Aberdeen County Clerk regarding the family of a missing serviceman, 30 October 1917

Bundle 3

THE SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY LTD

Hon. President: HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BuccLEUCH, K.T.
 President: CHARLES M. DOUGLAS, ESQ., D. SC. OF AUCHLOCHAN.
 Vice President: LIEUT. COLONEL GILMOUR, M.P.
 Hon. Treasurer: SIR HUGH SHAW STEWART, BART., C.B.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED BY MEMBERS.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BuccLEUCH, K.T., SIR HUGH SHAW STEWART, BART., C.B.	LIEUT. COL. R. CAMPBELL PRESTON, COLONEL, PLYVA.	J. ARTHUR CAMPBELL, ESQ., MAJOR, WAVERLEY, M.P.	C. RANDOLPH DUGGON, ESQ., J. J. FARRELL, ESQ.	J. H. MILNE HOME, ESQ., W. MONTGOMERY NELSON, ESQ., JAMES CAMPBELL, ESQ., LL.D., E. M. WOODBRIDGE, ESQ., D.Sc., M.B.
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ELECTED BY THE MEMBERS ON THE NOMINATION OF

EDINBURGH & EAST OF SCOTLAND COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE. COLONEL T. G. WARDLAW BANSAY, JOHN ESCOTT, ESQ.	WEST OF SCOTLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. DAVID WILSON, ESQ., D.Sc., MAJOR J. A. ROUSSEAU CRAUFORD.	NORTH OF SCOTLAND COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE. SIR JOHN J. CAMPBELL, ESQ., J. T. GARRIGOH, ESQ.	CHAIRMEN OF COUNTY COUNCILS OF DROPPING COUNTIES. J. MCELACHLAN, ESQ. OF MACLAGLAN.
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Secretary,
JOHN DRYSDALE.
 TELEGRAMS: "AGRICOLA, GOSWORTH"
 TELEPHONE: N° 5147 CENTRAL.

*5 Saint Andrew Square,
 Edinburgh*
 14th February, 1918.
**Training of Discharged and
 Disabled Sailors and Soldiers in Rural
 Settlements.**

Dear Sir,
 The Executive Committee of this Society have had under consideration a letter addressed by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland on 1st November 1917 to District Committees with reference to a Scheme of Rural Settlement for ex Sailors and Soldiers.

The Committee observe that, among other matters, the letter refers to the desirability of instituting co-operative schemes in connection with any such settlements as may be formed, and they desire me to point out that this Society exists for the purpose of furthering Agricultural Co-operation and that its Organisation is entirely at the disposal of any District Committees, which have in view the formation of settlements for returned sailors and soldiers. If your Committee should contemplate any action in the matter, the Executive Committee would be happy to arrange either to confer with the District Committee, or to give any help that might be desired in organising co-operative schemes.

Yours faithfully,

John Drysdale

Secretary.

Circular letter from the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd, supporting a scheme for housing ex-servicemen in rural areas, 14 February 1918

SCOTTISH NATIONAL HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING CONGRESS

(Under the auspices of the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Committee established (1916) to work in co-operation with the National County Clerks' Office and Town Planning Council)

14 JAN 1918
 ABERDEEN

TO CONSIDER

Housing and Town Planning after the War,

WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION

ON

The Housing of the Working Classes in Scotland,

IN

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY CHAMBERS, EDINBURGH

(By kind permission of the Edinburgh Town Council).

ON

Thursday, February 21st, 1918, and Friday, February 22nd, 1918,

11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 2.30 to 5 p.m., each day.

Chairman: Sir THOMAS HUNTER, LL.D. (Town Clerk, Edinburgh).

Vice-Chairman: Sir JOHN LINDSAY (Town Clerk, Glasgow).

SCOTTISH NATIONAL HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Established (1916) to Work in Co-operation with
 the National Housing and Town Planning Council.

Chairman: Sir THOMAS HUNTER (Town Clerk, Edinburgh).

Joint Secretaries: HENRY R. ALDRIDGE (Secretary, National Housing and Town Planning Council), 41, Russell Square, London, W.C.

Vice-Chairman: Sir JOHN LINDSAY (Town Clerk, Glasgow).

W. E. WHYTE (Clerk to the Middle Ward District Committee of the Lanark County Council), District Office, Hamilton.

14 JAN 1918
 ABERDEEN

9th January 1918.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Committee, we have pleasure in inviting the appointment of representatives to attend the Scottish National Congress which will be held in the Council Chamber, Edinburgh (by kind permission of the Edinburgh City Council), on Thursday and Friday, February 21st and 22nd - Sir Thomas Hunter in the Chair - to consider Housing and Town Planning after the War, with especial reference to the Report of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes in Scotland.

It will be generally agreed that the Congress is being called at a specially opportune time, since it will be possible for the representatives not only to discuss and make representations to the Government relating to points of difficulty arising in relation to the preparation of housing schemes to be carried into effect by Local Authorities at the close of the war, but to discuss the proposals contained in the special-making Report of the Royal Commission.

Full details as to the general scope and character of the proceedings are given in the Programme of the Congress, and it is therefore only necessary for us to refer to two special points:-

- (1) We understand that the Scottish Office will - as in the case of earlier Housing and Town Planning Conferences - be willing to favourably consider the giving of sanction to the reasonable expenses of Delegates appointed by Local Authorities to attend.
- (2) As stated on page 4. of the Programme, a Special Committee has been appointed to draft the Resolutions to be submitted to the Congress relative to the recommendations of the Royal Commission. These Resolutions shall be forwarded at the earliest possible moment to the Delegates appointed to attend.

May we add, in conclusion, that it is hoped that all those Local Authorities in Scotland conscious of the existence of housing and town planning problems in their districts will appoint representatives to attend and take part in this Scottish National Congress. Similar English Conferences - held in November and December - have been attended by several hundreds of Delegates of Local Authorities, and the members of the Scottish Committee are confident that in regard to this question Scottish Local Authorities will show equal earnestness and determination to deal with problems which affect so vitally the health and well-being of the people of Scotland.

On behalf of the Committee, we beg to remain,

Yours sincerely,

H. R. ALDRIDGE } Joint
 W. E. WHYTE } Secretaries.

P.S. We shall be glad if you will kindly send all letters relative to the Congress to us, care of The Town Clerk, City Chambers, EDINBURGH.

Circular letter from the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Committee, advertising a conference to discuss post-war housing and town planning, 9 January 1918

Flyer from the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Committee, advertising a conference to discuss post-war housing and town planning, 9 January 1918

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TELEGRAM STATION KENNETHMONT
 County Clerks Office
 KNOCKESPOCH,
 17 JUL 1918 CLATT,
 July 16 1918 ABERDEEN ABERDEENSHIRE.

Dear Morrison.
 I hope you will keep in mind my need of a discharged soldier. Take charge of a pony & cart - odd jobs - light work. Cox sent out a man from city, but he had no knowledge whatever of country. Yrs sincerely.
 H. G. Fellowes Gordon.

Letter from H. G. Fellowes Gordon to the Aberdeen County Clerk requesting the services of a discharged soldier to do light work for him, 17 July 1918

TELEPHONE No. 2
 County Clerks Office
 24 JUL 1918
 ABERDEEN
 W. F. G. DAWSON, *Lensch.*
 Aberdeenshire
 23rd July 1918.

Dear Mr. Morrison,
 I take the liberty to write you on behalf of Mr. James Chalmers presently Acting as Accountant at the Five Keith Branch of the North of Scotland & Town County Bank, who I understand is an applicant for an Assistantship in your Office.
 Mr. Chalmers served his Apprenticeship under me in the Inver Branch of the Bank and was afterwards Accountant at other Branches. He returned here in that capacity on ex-
 vacamoy occurring and served several years with much efficiency and credit to himself. After the outbreak of war he obtained a commission in the Gordon Highlanders and was attached to the Machine Gun Corps. Recently he resigned and got his discharge on account of a weakness in his feet, after three years service. He is now quite well and has been on duty with the Bank for several months. I know him to be a very steady capable young man, most agreeable to work with.
 He is a son of Mr. James Chalmers, Comhill, Banffshire, a steady & prosperous man. From his respectability and training I should think him specially well qualified for an appointment such as advertised. If I can give you any further information regarding Mr. Chalmers, I shall be very pleased to do so on hearing from you.
 I remain
 Yours faithfully
 W. F. G. Dawson

Mr. Morrison Esq. }
 County Clerk }
 Aberdeen }

Reference letter from W G Dawson to the Aberdeen County Clerk concerning James Chalmers suitability for employment 23rd July 1918

Bundle 3

Highfield
Kingussie
Inverness-shire
July 13. 1918.

County Clerk Office
13 JUL 1918
ABERDEEN

A. Macntyre Esq.
Aberdeen

Dear Sir,

As a discharged soldier and undergoing five months treatment at the Annex in Charlotte Street and having had several interviews with you I thus take the liberty of writing you to ask your advice and if possible your assistance in a matter which concerns me very much. I am very anxious to get my son, who is sixteen years past, into an Electrical Department to train as an Electrical Engineer, and I am anxious to get him to train as well in Aberdeen. Not knowing very well how to go about getting him in to such a department I take the liberty of thus writing and asking if you could do anything for me by way of advice or practical assistance. I would be pleased to go to Aberdeen and have an interview with you any day between the last week of July and middle of August if such dates would be convenient for you. I feel very much thus trespassing upon your valuable time and the kind way you always received and spoke to me while in Aberdeen makes me more confident in writing. Thanking you in anticipation of a reply and apologizing for taking up so much of your time.

I am,
Yours faithfully
A. M. Macntyre

Letter from A. M. Macntyre to the Aberdeen County Clerk requesting help to find employment for his son, 13 July 1918

CIRCULAR No. 1163
1918
ABERDEEN

SCOTTISH OFFICE, WHITEHALL, S.W. 1.
25th Feb 1918.

25th Feb 1918.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary for Scotland to say that he has been consulted with regard to the case of constables who, as reservists, were called up for active service with the armed forces of the Crown, or who enlisted with the consent of the Chief Constable, and who have been discharged as unfit, through disability, for further service in the Army or Navy. The question of taking such men back for service in their police force, under the provisions of the Police Constables (Naval and Military Service) Act, is, of course, one primarily for the discretion of the Police Authority. The Secretary for Scotland thinks however that it may be of advantage to observe that a disability which unites a man for naval or military service may not preclude him from the efficient performance of police duty, more particularly of lighter kinds, such as clerical work, court duty, acting as warders, orderlies, caretakers, etc., for which even the loss of a limb need not necessarily be a disqualification.

In the case of any such men whose injuries are too severe to enable them to be accepted, under any conditions, as efficient Constables on the authorized establishment, the Secretary for Scotland would suggest that it may in some cases be possible for employment to be found for them in connection with the Force but not paid for as police duty.

The
County Clerk.

The Secretary for Scotland trusts that Police Authorities will bear these considerations carefully in mind in dealing with any such cases which may come before them.

I am to add that a copy of this circular has been sent to the Chief Constable.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
The Secretary for Scotland.

Circular letter from the Scottish Office regarding employment for discharged servicemen who were police constables before the war, 9 February 1918

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County Clerks Office

26 JUN 1918

ABERDEEN

Housing and Town Planning.

No. 2. 1918.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD,

EDINBURGH, 24th June 1918.

PROVISION OF HOUSES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES AFTER THE WAR.

SIR,

With reference to the Board's Circular of 18th March, I am now directed to transmit for the information of the Local Authority, copies of the Form and Balance Sheet referred to in paragraph 7 of that Circular. When these have been duly filled up they should, together with the relative plans and documents, accompany any application for the Board's approval of a housing scheme proposed to be carried out by the Local Authority.

In regard to the preparation of plans, I am to inform the Local Authority that the Board are arranging for the Institute of Scottish Architects to conduct a competition among architects. The object of the competition is twofold, *first*, to establish a panel of architects from which Local Authorities, if they so desire, will be able to choose an architect to assist and advise them in the preparation and carrying out of any housing scheme on terms to be arranged between the Local Authority and the architect so chosen; and *second*, to have prepared specimen plans of various types of houses and modes of development which will be available to Local Authorities for their guidance in the consideration of their schemes. The results of this competition will be made public in due course, and meantime the Local Authority may desire to delay the final preparation of their scheme until these results are announced. In the interval, however, the Local Authority should be considering carefully the needs of their area, and the scheme most suitable to those needs, and should expedite the preparation of as many of the preliminary details of the scheme as possible, including the selection of the site, the determination of the number and types of houses to be provided, the accommodation to be provided, etc. etc. They should also consider the question of the provision of water supply, drainage, and lighting in relation to their proposed housing scheme.

As regards the selection of a site, I am to remind you that,
M & G Ltd Wt 496/2081 6-18 1000 G.2

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as stated in paragraph 8 of the Board's Circular of 18th March, their approval to the site proposed should be obtained before arrangements are finally made for acquiring it.

The Board also hope to issue in due course for the information of Local Authorities a short memorandum including copies of specimen plans of houses and modes of development of housing schemes which have recently been undertaken by the Board for the Admiralty and the Ministry of Munitions. They are also appointing a Women's Committee to advise and report to them on the planning of houses from the housewife's standpoint.

I am further to say that the Board and their officers will be prepared to confer with and assist the Local Authority and their officials in determining the designs most suitable for their locality, and to advise on the suitability and lay-out of any proposed site, and otherwise to give such assistance to the Local Authority as will enable them to proceed with the framing of a housing scheme most appropriate to their requirements.

Since the issue of their Circular of 18th March, questions have been addressed to the Board as to the basis on which the valuation referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of that Circular would be made. I am now directed to state for the information of Local Authorities that the valuation will be determined on the basis of rental, and will be made by a qualified surveyor or valuator appointed by the Treasury and not in the salaried employment of any Government Department. This surveyor or valuator will be asked to make the valuation on the ordinary lines upon which valuations are made between a willing buyer and a willing seller for the purchase and sale of similar property.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

John I. Maxwell

Secretary.

The Clerk to the Local Authority.

Circular Letter from the Local Government Board for Scotland, arranging a competition to establish an Architects Panel and set plans for developments to be used in post-war regeneration projects in Scotland, 24 June 1918

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

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Any further communication should be addressed to—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND,
and the following Number should be quoted:—

25478.A.H/124.

County Clerk: SCOTTISH OFFICE,
17 OCT 1918
ABERDEEN
Circular No. 1303.

WHITEHALL, S.W. 1.

15th October, 1918.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary for Scotland to say that he has no doubt that local authorities have fully in view the special claims of ex-service men to be employed in the public services. Mr Munro is informed that a number of officers and men are now available for civilian work who are properly qualified for administrative and higher clerical posts, and in certain cases for technical posts. In order to secure them employment, the Ministry of Labour have set up an Appointments Department which has concentrated the various registers of men available for such positions. It is proposed that Government Departments shall notify the Appointments Department of all suitable vacancies that arise, and it is suggested that local authorities should take similar action in regard to posts at their disposal.

A note of District Directorates set up by the Ministry of Labour is appended.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The County Clerk.
The Town Clerk.

- James M. Dundas*
- No.1. PERTH. - Queen's Hotel, Leonard Street; Perth, Inverness, Argyll, Aberdeen, Forfar, Elgin, Fife, Clackmannan, Dunbarton, Kincardine, Ross and Cromarty, Caithness, Sutherland, Nairn, Banff, Kinross, Stirling, Renfrew, and the Isles.
- No.2. EDINBURGH. - Balmoral Hotel, Princes Street; Linlithgow, Haddington, Roxburgh, Kirkcudbright, Wigton, Lanark (with all Glasgow area). Selkirk, Edinburgh, Berwick, Dumfries, Ayr, Peebles.

Circular letter from the Scottish Office regarding arrangements for employing ex-servicemen in public services, 16 October 1918

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Library sources information on James Mair

James Mair was born on 31st March 1885 at 5.13am. His father was George Mair, his mother Annie Mair (nee Taylor). He was born at Bauds in the parish of Rathven. I don't have an enlistment date (yet!) but he was 31 when he enlisted in 1916 (which was quite old, though he was still single, though betrothed), leaving an established business which he had established in Portessie, employing thirteen men. He was a master builder. [His father died in January 1916 and this event took place before James joined up]

He served with the Royal Engineers and was under consideration for promotion to Lieutenant when he was severely wounded (according to a reference from his CO when he applied for the Inspector of the Poor and Registrar post in Longside).

Information from Longside Parish Council records relating to James Mair, Inspector of the Poor

Appointed on 18 June 1918 (AS/APing/5 pp. 109-10), with the additional roles of Clerk to the Council and Burial Committee, Registrar and Collector of the Poor Rates.

His starting salaries p/a were:

Inspector and Clerk	£47.10s
Collector of Rates	£20
Registrar	£15
Clerk to the Burial Committee	£5
Duties under Children's Act	£3.10s
Total Salary	£91 p/a

10 December 1918

"Letter from Mr Murrison, County Clerk, calling the attention of Public Bodies to the desirability of employing disabled Officers and Men in the Local Public Service whenever possible and the Clerk was instructed to intimate to Mr Murrison that the Council had already given effect to the recommendation and had employed a disabled soldier as Inspector of Poor etc." (AC6/49/5 p.123)

11 February 1930

"Parish Councils cease to exist after 15 May next...with the re-organisation of areas foreshadowed by the Local Government (Scotland) Act of last year, the Chairman suggested that representations be made to the transferral authority regarding the retention of the services of the Inspector...[extract to be sent to County Council] viz: That this Council desires to place on record its deep appreciation of the services rendered to it by James Mair, Clerk and Inspector of Poor, who by his painstaking efforts, his conscientious attention to duty and his extensive knowledge of Poor Law rendered splendid service to the Council and to the Community. They express the sincere hope that the new authority will retain his services, and have every confidence in recommending Mr Mair's services in whatever capacity they may decide to employ him." (AC6/49/6 p. 146)

Individual cases related to War

AS/APing/5

13 Apr 1920, p. 147 Wm Leslie Case – ex-serviceman tramping countryside looking for work

12 Dec 1921 p. 184 Wm John Burton Unemployed. Discharged from Army after 14 years service. His wife was a native of Longside. He was allowed unemployment benefit, & offered work on the new Golf Course & Tennis Court for the area when it became available. (Subsequently went down to Birmingham for work on 14 Feb 1922 – p. 187)

8 Aug 1922, p. 197-8 Parish Council accepted responsibility for maintenance of War Memorial

10 July 1923, p. 216 application by relatives of Robert Simpson to have his name inscribed on the War memorial. He had died after his discharge from the Army, and his death was considered to be indirectly attributable to the War. Application was granted.

AS/APing/6

14 Oct 1924, p. 11 Inspector asked to procure a second-hand or new artificial limb for James Penny, a pedlar who had become chargeable on several occasions owing to the condition of his artificial leg.

13 July 1926, p. 65 Inspector granted leave for a further operation on account of his war wounds. His wife carried on the duties in his absence.

11 Oct 1927, p. 92 The Husband of Agnes Gunn or Pattison returned after a long absence. As a result of the war he was suffering from Neurasthenia, & had been granted a pension of 24/- a week. Her alimnt was duly reduced.