

AYR NOTES.

(For the "N. Q. Register.")

AYR, January 22.

We have had another week of satisfactory weather, clouded skies, scattered storms with intervals of oppressive heat have been the prevailing conditions for the past few days. The promise of further rain has been fulfilled and showers have fallen on most of the days under review. Whilst the registration of rainfall in the town is only moderate, we understand that the country districts have benefited by much heavier downpours. The official figures given at the Post Office are as follows:—For the twenty four hours ending at 9 o'clock on the 15th, 25 points, the 16th, 35 points, 20th, 19 points, 21st 96 points, 22nd 56 points, making a total for the month to date of 557 points, for which everybody is profoundly thankful. The next season's crop of cane under this generous treatment, is making excellent progress, although it is officially stated that it is generally less advanced than it was at this time last year.

The heavy rain in the upper reaches of the Burdekin have caused a big fresh in the river at Inkerman Bridge where the water is again slowly rising covering the new traffic bridge.

Warnings of a cyclone lurking along the coast have caused the red flag to be hoisted outside the Shire Hall on three successive days, and on Monday night some heavy gusts of wind accompanied the rain.

The executive of the Kalamia and Pioneer Mill Suppliers Committee together with Mr. W. H. Ferguson met recently to go into the matter of the actual cost of production in this locality for official purposes. The statements of the working expenses of representative farmers in the district, whose names of course were not divulged, were used as the basis of the estimate. This was the sole business of the meeting.

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The esteem in which Mr. R. D. Low is held by the members of the Bowling Club, of which he is the first President, was reflected in the cordial send off accorded him on Sunday afternoon just prior to his departure for the south. Mr. Gordon Wilson, who by the way has been appointed deputy President of the Club during Mr. Low's absence, in making a presentation of a case of pipes, referred to the prominent part Mr. Low had played in establishing the Club at Ayr and said that they now had a green which was second to none in North Queensland, thanks to their President's vision and generosity.

Occasion was also taken of this function to present to Mrs. Low the gift of a handbag as a small token of appreciation of the many kindnesses she had shown since the inception of the Club. It is indicative of the progress of the Club that 38 members with their wives assembled at the green for this happy little function on Sunday afternoon.

Some excellent flashlight photographs of the ceremony of unveiling the Drysdale Memorial were taken by our local artist, Mr. Ostrin, and one of these showing the large attendance at the Clock has been selected by the Executive of the Memorial Committee to be enlarged, framed in Burdekin Plum and sent to the Drysdale family in Scotland. A similar enlargement will be sent to the Head Office of the A.S.P.A. whose directors were among the most generous contributors to the scheme.

During his recent visit to the town, Mr. Clavin, District Inspector of Posts and Telegraphs was interviewed by Mr. B. S. Donavan, as representative of the Ayr Chamber of Commerce on the question of the understaffing of the local Post Office, a matter which has been the subject of many petitions in the past few months. Mr. Donavan referred to the congestion at the office during the busiest hours of the day, and the amount of valuable time lost in waiting for attention due to the insufficient staff. In making comparisons between Ayr and

attention due to the insufficient staff. In making comparisons between Ayr and Mackay, he stated that whilst the Burdekin produced 30,000 tons of cane more than Mackay, they had to be content with one Post Office as against Mackay's ten. The Inspector, in reply, said that they were following the line of strict economy laid down by the Government, but they did not intend to sacrifice efficiency to economy. He promised that an addition would be made to the counter staff at the commencement of the season to cope with the extra business. It appears that Ayr will have to be content with the present old and overcrowded office for some time to come.

The local Returned Soldiers are pushing ahead with their scheme to erect a building of their own which

will serve the dual purpose of Club room and sub branch Head Quarters. At a meeting of a special committee of the League held last night, it was decided to close with an offer of a plot of land excellently situated in the centre of the town, and to consider specifications for the building to be erected thereon. The building, which will take the form of a house rather than a hall will have one large main room measuring 30 by 20 feet, with a commodious verandah at the side and back. The back verandah which will measure 30 by 12, will be so built that it may be converted into additional rooms if and when occasion requires. The front of the allotment will have a paling fence with a K wire fence at the side.

At the recent annual meeting of the sub-branch of the League, in addition to the appointment of Mr. A. McIntyre to the Presidential chair, Messrs S. Kann, R. McDonald, and Donald Grant were made Vice-Presidents, and Messrs C. Nash and A. Turner were unanimously re-appointed Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Despite wind and weather conditions a very successful shoot the first of three for the Jackson Trophy, was conducted at the Avr Rifle Range on Sunday last when 27 members competed.

Cricket matches between Rita Island and McDesme, and Cities v. Centrals were resumed on Sunday last at the Racecourse wickets. Rita Island, who were one wicket down for 37 at the close of play the previous week failed to overhaul McDesme's total of 221, compiling only 141, of which P. Land made 75 in fine style. A. Whitson, for McDesme, took 3 wickets for 44, and W. Southward 3 for 48, while J. Rogister headed the bowling average with 3 for 25. McDesme, in the second innings put together 118 runs for the loss of 5 wickets and the match was drawn. McDesme taking points for a first innings win. In the Cities v. Centrals match, the former closed their innings at 231 for 3, and scored an innings win. Centrals, whose first innings produced only 72, failing in their second knock which totalled 82.

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Heavy rain has been falling at intervals throughout the day, and the sky is still overcast with rain clouds pointing to further downpours before night.