

## CHAPTER II

### FARM LIFE

**P**AYMENT of rent in money was unknown on the Border till after the Union of the Crowns in 1603.

The chief's "living" or income was derived in great part from the produce of the lands round the castle that he kept in his own hand, and from the flocks and herds pastured thereon. The tenants on his other lands paid for their holding by military service or by so many "days' dargs," or day's work, a year on the chief's lands, and by other items in shape of farm produce, etc. The mill might be one of his best sources of food supply. Every farmer was "thirled" to one mill or other, and had to give one-ninth of the corn to the miller for grinding it. The miller in turn would need to give his superior a good percentage of that ninth for his tenancy. Some of the peasantry of this century seemed to have thought that military service was amply sufficient for rent, and any other form seems to have been strongly objected to, as we have seen in a former page by the tragic fate that befell Lady Wamphray's baron officer and his son when she sent them to demand rents from one of her tenants in 1588.

The houses of the peasantry were hastily erected and of the meanest construction, as they were never sure when they might be burned down by marauding parties. The horses were used by the "raiders" for

their excursions. Bullocks were the ordinary draught animals at that period for plough and wagon.

A new order of things came in with the Union of the Crowns. Military service was no longer required by the chief to safeguard his possessions, and protect his retainers. The law now protected both him and his tenants. Henceforth a regular system of rents payable at certain dates began to be introduced by the landlords.

These rents consisted of a certain quantity of farm produce, a set number of days' "dargs" (work) and a fixed sum of money, when obtainable; the last item was at first nil, or almost so, till towards the end of the 17th century, for we see from official records that the "Valuation of the parish of Wamphray" in 1671 was only £237. This state of things may be considered typical of all the Border estates, and this system of rental continued over all till nearly the end of the 18th century. Gradually as money became more plentiful, the rent paid in produce and work decreased, and the money part increased, till finally about the beginning of the 19th century the whole rent was paid in money.

The rent, it seems, was looked upon at first by the tenants as a tyrannical exaction, and as the following incident shows was sternly resented.

In 1611, the laird of Wamphray estate was obliged to issue "Letters of Horning against thirty-three of his tenants for non-payment of rent." Twenty of these defaulters, all armed, went one night to the "Place" of Wamphray, waylaid the laird "coming to his house, fired shots" at him, "struck him with stones," and the "saplings of trees" and might have "killed him in their rage had he not escaped from their hands into

Bighill Bank." <sup>1</sup> His wife ran out to pacify the enraged tenants but ungallantly they applied the "saplings of trees" to her also. There is no record of the tenants paying their "back rents," but that barbarous method of treating lairds was not again repeated in Wamphray. Some of the malcontents did afterward take a mean revenge on him by "goring his oxen" and "straiiking their tails off." Other lairds at that time may have been experiencing a like treatment. The days of raiding and rieving to fill their larders and stock their farms were now past, and not yet had the "auld gang" taken kindly either to honest, industrious habits or to pay rent. It is satisfactory, however, to learn that some of the descendants of these turbulent chieils did settle down before 1700 to practise both these requirements to success in life, in an old country, for we find Peter Johnstone, Fingland; and John Johnstone of the Bighill family, elders in the kirk in 1695, and both were descended from notorious freebooters.

Towards the end of the century an almost entirely new set of names appears on the rent roll. Where these came from it were hard to say, if we don't suppose them to be descendants of those "law-abiding people" that the lords of Lochwood were ordered to protect, in the numerous mandates which the Privy Council sent to them during the lawless, rieving period.

#### NAMES OF FARMS, AND NEW NAMES AMONG THE TENANT FARMERS.

Before 1690, there were Hallidays in Laverhay, Braefield, and Cammock; Frenches in Wamphray

<sup>1</sup> *Privy Council Records.*



Gate, Langside, and other farms; Gillespies in Little Dalmakeddar, Reids in Staywood, Littles in Hungrils, Brydens in Aikielknowe, Burgesses in Old Saughtrees, Beatties in Castlehill, Moffats in Hazlebank, Bells in Hillhouse, Henrys in Cacrabank, and so on with all the numerous farms of that day. Hallidays, first and last, tenanted eight farms before they finally left for farms in Johnstone and other parishes. Indeed on all the Marquis' estates tenants of the name of Halliday were numerous.

It seems to have been the prevailing name in Annandale about the time of the Norman Conquest. Of the five thousand men that the Earl of Huntingdon led to the third Crusade (1189-1192), a thousand of them hailed from Annandale and these "almost to a man of the name of Halliday."<sup>1</sup> That name appears in the religious and patriotic wars in Scotland, but it does not come to the front in the Border rieving and raiding times. Brydens and Littles are still in the parish, Burgesses in the neighbourhood, and the last of the Henrys in Cacrabank left the old place in 1903 for a farm in Cumberland.

There was much marrying and intermarrying among these old families till nearly all the inhabitants of the parish were akin.

#### FARM WORK.

Farm work was conducted in those days with the maximum of human labour and the minimum of mechanical help. The implements of husbandry were of a very primitive kind, and bullocks were much in use as draught animals both in plough and wagon. Drainage was not much practised and only the drier

<sup>1</sup> *Scottish Nation.*

grounds were cultivated, but as Wamphray has, over all, a comparatively dry soil there was in ancient times more land under cultivation there than in most of the neighbouring parishes, and there are also evident traces that the plough ran further up the hill and among the hills than it does nowadays. Indeed the oldest inhabitant says that long stretches of heather now cover what once were ploughed fields. Tradition also reports numerous dwellings in the far reaches of the glen, where at present only two stand. The modern eye cannot see how any one could ever make a living there. But as security was a first requisite in remote times, the steadings may have been placed in these recesses, while part of the land the occupiers tilled, and the pastures the cowherd drove the cattle to and from, morning and evening, may have been at a considerable distance from them. The two traditions, the one of population, the other of a chapel or mission house being there, act and react on each other and lend a feasibility to the truth of both.

#### THE STAPLE GRAINS.

The staple grains used by the farmer in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries in Upper Annandale, were peas, oats, barley, and probably wheat to some extent. Potatoes and turnips were not field crops till near the end of the 18th century. Artificial manures were not used, unless we call by that name the ashes which were obtained by burning the turf cut off certain soils and scattering it over the flayed part before ploughing it. Marle might be used as a top dressing by some, but lime was a luxury that few lairds or tenants could indulge their lands in. Their stock consisted of horses, black

cattle, and black-faced sheep, but these were neither cared for, housed, nor fed as they are at the present day. The implements on the hay field were the scythe, the hand rake, and the pitchfork. Till the 19th century was well advanced the grain was cut by the "hook." Threshing mills and fanners were not in use till close on 1800. The thumping flail, heard in every barn in the autumn and winter months, was the instrument for threshing grain. The winnowing was done by a hand riddle, either outside, or between two barn doors on a windy day. The machinery of the grinding mill was both simple and defective. It had no sifter to separate the seeds from the meal. That was done by the hand with a perforated skin riddle, tightly fastened to a round wooden frame.<sup>1</sup> The byword "they'll no' set the tems on fire" was used against the lazy sifters. It seems improbable that the modern phrase with the word "Thames" should have reached so far north 200 years ago.

#### FENCES.

Before the middle of the 18th century there were few or none in the hedge form. Earthen dikes separating field from field with whins (furze) growing on top were the most common, but even these were mostly used to enclose square, round, and oblong spaces as folds for sheep and cattle. This system of fencing was not confined to Wamphray, but was general.

#### HIGHWAYS.

The track of the old Roman road was perhaps the best existing. Parish roads were mere tracks and full

<sup>1</sup> Exactly like shakers used by masons at the present day to riddle lime.

of ruts. The mode of locomotion was on foot or horseback. Much of the merchandise of the country was in those days carried on horseback.

#### FARM STEADINGS.

The farm steadings were still primitive in style and architecture. When the church and manse in 1680 had clay floors, unglazed windows, and heather thatched roofs, it is not hard to guess what the farm houses and the solitary cots would be like in the parish and district. The minister at the above date had to disburse money to the heritors to glaze the manse windows. If the tenants wanted glass windows they would need to do the same; but it is probable that they used glass only to a very limited extent, the half at least of the window being a wooden panel. Horn was used in lanterns till a comparatively late date. The steading was one long row partitioned off into dwelling house, barn, byre, and stable.

The steadings which the earl built had stone and lime walls, and the windows were more fully glazed. Three apartments was the rule for dwelling houses; the kitchen fireplace was on the hearth, and at some distance from the wall. On the cross beam from wall to wall on each side of the fireplace, partitions of clay wattle rose to the "roof tree." This was called the brace, a device to draw the smoke up and out at the "lum," or opening in the roof right over the fire. Sometimes the smoke took the hint and sometimes it didn't.

With regard to their "kailyard," its hedge was bour-tree (alderberry), and rowan trees were not awanting at the "yett." The common vegetable was "greenkail." Cabbages were not planted till near the end of the next

century. What fruit trees and berry bushes and beehives there were we do not know, but as these were in every garden in the Hopetoun crofts before 1780 it is not likely they were a new importation.

#### TRADESMEN.

As to tradesmen, the wright and blacksmith were there, so were coopers and weavers, and John Sprot conducted a waulkmill at Leithenhall before the end of the 17th century.

#### STATE OF TIMES BETWEEN 1700 AND 1745.

The 17th century ended, the 18th was moving on, and the small farmers were still pursuing their work in field and barn, and among their flocks and herds in their slow old world way. Mistress and maid were busy in the old fashioned dwellings with the daily domestic duties incident to the farm house of that day.

The kitchen utensils, or in homely phrase, the "dish and spoon" they handled, showed as much evidence of the craft and skill of the cooper, the turner, and the horner, as those of modern times do of the art of the potter, the moulder, and the whitesmith. Any old article of furniture that still remains of these times is of oak wood. Glass was slowly creeping into the small windows, and welcomed for the light and comfort it gave. Little Dalmakeddar (an "annexed farm") has always been pointed to as the first farm house in Wamphray that had a glass window.

No one now was liable to legal prosecution or persecution for their religious principles. But the times were still full of unrest. The grievous pressgang was at work, carrying off the young men to foreign battle-



fields. The "Darien Scheme" which the Scottish people had fondly expected to better their financial condition, had proved a failure, and a bitter resentment (nowhere stronger than in Annandale) lingered in the mind of the nation, against King William and the English Government for the part they played in causing it. Wamphray folk had a full share of the exciting political and ecclesiastical events that followed in 1707, 1712, and 1714. At least week-day and Sunday they heard more than enough about them. Mr. Taylor, the minister, had kept "thundering away" in the pulpit against every State and Church Act of William and Anne during his incumbency till the elders grew tired of his fulminations and reported him to the Presbytery for preaching "politics." The Marquis of Annandale, through his kinsman the laird of Girthhead, was busy among his Wamphray and other tenants in favour of King and Government, while the laird of Wamphray estate was working hard in favour of the Pretender. On this occasion the lads of Wamphray did not respond heartily to either side.

The laird of Wamphray took the field with the Jacobite party, but soon saw the futility of the enterprise he had entered on, returned and surrendered as before mentioned to Johnstone of Westerhall—the leader of the King George party. Johnstone of Girthhead and his company were acting under Westerhall's command. How many of the tenantry were out on each side is not recorded.

Things went on as formerly for the next thirty years, then the rumour of a Jacobite rebellion on a larger scale when the '15 one arose. Annandale folks, generally, looked coolly on Prince Charlie's cause, and as the

soldiers of Lord George Murray passed south, put everything of value out of their reach, and gave them food and a dram to get them away quietly.

When this last Jacobite effort to regain the British throne was completely crushed, political affairs became more settled. Landed proprietors, great and small, had now time to turn their attention to agricultural affairs. From that time to this, have taken place the improvements in farming, which have placed the Scottish farmer in the front rank of agriculturists.

#### CHANGES IN SYSTEM OF FARMING.

John, Earl of Hopetoun, may be called the pioneer of the new system in Annandale. He purchased Wamphray estate in 1747, and soon afterwards began a series of changes, which were followed by every landlord in the dale. He planted woods, drained marshy places, planted thorn hedges, and began the system of combining farms, as tenancies expired. Still further, and to use his lordship's words, "as a benefit to the industrious poor" he "laid off," about 1764, the ten small holdings that form the east and south side of the present crofter village of Newton. These were called the Hopetoun crofts in contradistinction to the six Annanholm and Roughlake ones, provided at an earlier period by a former proprietor.

The small steadings on these crofts, or "pendicles" as they are called, were built of a better material and were much superior in comfort and accommodation to those which the tradesfolk had formerly occupied. His lordship's building did not stop there, for he rebuilt a number of the farmhouses in the parish.

The Statistical Report of 1794 by Sinclair gives the

number of the inhabitants in this crofter village, young and old, about eighty.

#### NEW NAMES.

With a change of proprietor new names appear in the parish, and as the possessors of these played a leading part among the natives of the district for more than a hundred years, and some remain to the present day, it may be of local interest to mention a few of these. In the order of time, first came the Rogersons, Corries, Proudfoots, Kennedys, Frenches, Shaws, and Hamiltons. The last in 1814. In Poldean farm (so long the property of the Johnstones and Hopetouns), Hope, Gibson, Brown, Barries, Wilson, and Paterson have been tenants. The last named has recently purchased the property from the Earl of Hopetoun.

#### THE FACTOR'S REMARKS ON FARMS FROM 1764.

When Earl John bought Wamphray estate none of the farms were large, some much too small. The same state of things existed on the Marquis of Annandale's property in the parish, and probably also on that of the three smaller proprietors, Girthhead, Stenrishhill, and Mylne. Tradition, names, and official records show that there must have been more than forty farms at that date. Indeed, wherever the land was dry and fertile the guess may be hazarded that small farms were the rule and not the exception then in Scotland. Mr. Hoggan was factor to the marquis. In his estate book, the rents vary of course, according to acreage. Some are £5, some £35 a year. Sometimes he lets three-quarters of a farm<sup>1</sup> to one man and the remaining quarter to another.

<sup>1</sup>Annanholm.

It was not uncommon for two men to enter into partnership over a farm. In one instance<sup>1</sup> there is a case of three going in for a £17 17s. rent—a woman and two men. The factor had apparently been doubtful of the stability of this triple alliance, as he let it to them for one year only. His remarks on the farms and tenants are interesting. Of a couple, he says, "a cheap farm and tenants good," of another of the same "a cheap farm and tenants substantial." Bryden and Harkness were the "substantials." On the triple alliance he does not venture any eulogy, but the farm is "good." The Proudfoots were favourite farmers with Mr. Hoggan. They were long in Hillhouse and Wamphraygatehead—£35 rent for the two. At this date there were four commons in Wamphray—Middlerigg, Bleeze, Dundoran, and Wamphraymuir—on which the farmers in the neighbourhood of each had the right of grazing their sheep, cattle, and horses.

Sinclair in his Statistical Report for 1794, gives the following particulars regarding the parish of Wamphray:—Population, 487—males, 235; females, 252—(formerly more populous, as before that date ten to twelve farms had been thrown into one); heritors, 5; rental of parish, £1570; inhabited houses, 90. In the professions there were—2 clergymen, 1 doctor, and 1 teacher. Of tradesmen there were—3 masons, 2 joiners, 4 tailors, 9 weavers, 2 smiths,<sup>2</sup> 2 shoemakers, and 2 shopkeepers. The wages to tradesmen and day labourers from 1750 to 1794 had doubled, and at the latter date averaged 2/- a day for tradesmen, and about

<sup>1</sup> Staywood.

<sup>2</sup> The smith was paid partly in oats and partly in coals.



1/3 for labourers.<sup>1</sup> Farm servants' wages ruled as follows:—men, £6 to £8 per annum; women, £2 10s. to £4 4s. per annum. Of stock in the parish there were about 6000 sheep (black-faced) and 500 black cattle. Ploughs numbered 40, and there were 480 acres under tillage. Farm produce—oats, about 318 acres; barley, 40 acres; potatoes, 40 acres; peas, 8 acres; turnips, 4 acres; sown grass, 70 acres. The rent for a sheep run was 6/- per acre, and for arable land, 10/- per acre. By 1794 the farms were reduced to 25 in number, the rents of these varying from £20 to £150 per annum. The length of lease on the Earl of Hopetoun's land was 21 years for arable, and 14 years for sheep runs. In 1793 the earl's leases ended. "All the tenants got a renewal of their leases for another 21 and 14 years." The arable leases ended in 1814, the sheep runs in 1807. 2000 bushels of lime were divided among them to lay on pasture land. The houses were mostly thatched, a few had slated roofs, and the school had a flagstone roof. "Several of the farms are well enclosed by thorn hedges."

Dr. Singer in a report supplemental to Sinclair's in 1798, gives the rental at £1925, and adds, somewhat in a vexed tone, "£1400 of that is spent out of the parish."

CROPPING TABLE FOR 1798. (*Dr. Singer.*)

| Grain, etc.   | Acres. | Value per acre. |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|
| Oats, - - -   | 420    | £5 10 0         |
| Barley, - - - | 48     | 6 0 0           |
| Wheat, - - -  | 7      | 12 0 0          |

<sup>1</sup>The increase in the number of tradesmen and the rise in wages were due to the repair and re-building of houses, and to the other work carried on by the Earl of Hopetoun.

| Grain, etc.          | Acres. | Value per acre. |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Peas, - - -          | 28     | £5 0 0          |
| Potatoes, - - -      | 48     | 10 0 0          |
| Turnips, - - -       | 20     | 6 6 0           |
| Flax, - - -          | 3      | 6 0 0           |
| Ryegrass, - - -      | 70     | 3 0 0           |
| Natural grass (hay), | 90     | 2 0 0           |

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|                 | No.  | Value.        |
|-----------------|------|---------------|
| Black cattle, - | 296  |               |
| Cows, - - -     | 204  | - £7 each.    |
| Sheep, - - -    | 6000 | - 13 a score. |
| Horses, - - -   | 89   | - 8 each.     |
| Swine, - - -    | 100  | - 3 each.     |

The return for oats on unexhausted land was four seeds, or six bolls or twelve Carlisle bushels to the acre. The doctor loses his patience at the system of husbandry practised by the farmer, and exclaims, "Three crops of oats after lime!! Most exhausting!!!" He remarks that early peas do pretty well.

Potatoes became a field crop about 1760. Dr. Singer relates, that on their first appearance in the district, they were planted in the gardens, lifted when ripe, carefully washed and put into a barrel among corn seeds to "keep" properly. Eight farmers in his day raised turnips. With regard to the steadings, "They are not uncomfortable, but not what they should be" says the doctor, and he adds: "the stone and turf walls of some of the houses of the poor are far from comfortable."

The earl also relieved his tenants of thirlage to the mill, and reduced the "multure" (that is the miller's fee for grinding the corn) from one-ninth of the corn to one-thirtieth of the meal.

NUMBER OF FARM IMPLEMENTS IN 1798. (*Dr. Singer.*)

|                              |   |   |   |   |    |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| Threshing mills,             | - | - | - | - | 2  |
| Two-horse ploughs,           | - | - | - | - | 33 |
| Three to four-horse ploughs, | - | - | - | - | 5  |
| Carts,                       | - | - | - | - | 55 |

## SERVANTS AND WAGES.

|                | No.  | Wages.                               |
|----------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| Male servants, | - 40 | - £6 to £8 a year. <sup>1</sup>      |
| Maid servants, | - —  | - £2 10s. to £4 a year. <sup>1</sup> |

Both male and female servants were boarded in the farmhouse. A herd boy or lassie was an indispensable adjunct to a farm then. Their wages were nominal. The married ploughman got £5 to £6 of wages, a house, peats, fifty-two stones of oatmeal, and a cow's grass. The wages of tradesmen and labourers continued much the same as in 1794.

The farmers planted a hundredweight of potatoes to the cottars on his ground, supplying also the manure. The charge for that to each was eight days' shearing in harvest. Sinclair (supported by Dr. Singer) has the following comment on this custom:—"Heritors and farmers are an intelligent class of men who have the good sense to see that their own interest and prosperity are interwoven with that of their country."

It may be remarked here that Dr. Singer was one of the distinguished clergymen of his day. He was moderator of the General Assembly, and an enthusiast on both agriculture and education. The first report on the agriculture of Dumfriesshire was written by him. In educational matters, he regrets that there were no university subjects taught in Wamphray school in his

<sup>1</sup> Average wage in Scotland at that date.

day, and inveighs strongly against the Government for the meagre salaries allotted to schoolmasters; and condemns in strong terms the observation of the letter, instead of the spirit of the Act whereby the chalders due to the teacher was commuted into a money value, at a date disadvantageous to the profession.

IMPROVEMENTS BY THE NEW PROPRIETOR,  
DR. ROGERSON.

Between 1810 and 1823, Dr. Rogerson spent large sums of money in improving his Wamphray estate. He planted woods, drained marshy land, carried on the planting of thorn fences commenced by the Earl of Hopetoun, and built excellent new steadings on every farm meant to remain a separate one, and on some of the pendicles or crofts also. The farms in the parish had now diminished to nine in number. These and the seven small properties made in all sixteen farms—the number at the present day, with the exception that, now there is one farm more and one small property less—Lord Rollo holds land in Wamphray but there is no steading on it: it is let along with another farm. Cammock and Cacrabank have no steading, being annexed to the estate of the proprietor, the laird of Shaw, in Hutton parish.

By way of comparison we may present the Statistical Report of 1834, by the Rev. Charles Dickson. This report is not detailed so fully as, and the calculations are made out on a different basis from, the 1798 one.

“There was a threshing mill at every farm steading in the parish in 1834.” “The average amount and value of gross produce yearly raised in the parish, may be as follows” :—



## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE TABLE.

| Imperial acres.   | Value.     |
|---|------------|
| 750 of grain of all sorts, including fodder,<br>at £5 per acre, - - - -   | £3750 0 0  |
| 250 of turnips and potatoes, nearly in<br>equal quantities, at £5 per acre, -   | 1250 0 0   |
| Hay, ryegrass, and meadow, valued at -  | 600 0 0    |
| 470 black cattle, young and old, gross<br>products, including dairy produce<br>after deducting green crop and<br>fodder at £2 5s. - - - - | 1057 10 0  |
| 15,700 sheep, of which, 1000 are black-<br>faced, and 14,700 Cheviot, gross<br>yearly produce, - - - -                                    | 1900 0 0   |
| 250 swine, after deduction of potatoes<br>and grain consumed by them, there<br>may be left for profit, £1, - -                            | 250 0 0    |
| The rearing and breeding of young horses,   | 150 0 0    |
| The annual felling and thinning of woods,   | 65 0 0     |
| Produce of garden and orchards, - -   | 45 0 0     |
|   | <hr/>      |
|   | £9067 10 0 |

## RATE OF WAGES.

Men servants, wages run from £5 to £6 the half-year—a few get £7; and maid servants get from £2 5s. to £3 the half-year, with victuals. The married and unmarried ploughmen are not separated in this report. Unskilled labourers get  $\frac{1}{6}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  a day in summer and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in winter, and masons, carpenters, and slaters have each  $\frac{2}{6}$  in summer and 2/- in winter per day, without victuals.

In 1906 the wages of men servants run from £12 to

£16 the half-year, women servants, according to employment, from £8 to £12, both with board. Now is the opportunity for country servants to "lay by" something against the "rainy day" which comes sooner or later to everybody.

The average wage of a married ploughman in this district at the present day is about £40 a year, and a house. Some of them get in addition a load of meal and a ton or half ton of potatoes. The wages of shepherds, from certain arrangements of former days which were necessary then, have always been higher than those of ploughmen.

The high price of certain agricultural produce led to competition among farmers, and rents rose everywhere in the beginning of the nineteenth century; and the new and commodious steadings in Wamphray were an attraction. Rents on the crofts had risen also during the same period, but after 1818 a very considerable and general reduction took place. In 1834 the total rental of the parish amounted to about £4000. The total acreage of the parish is about 12,000.

Great as the improvements made by the different proprietors of Wamphray have been, still greater is the transformation that has taken place in the neighbouring parish of Johnstone. From being, a hundred years ago, a wind-swept moor, from one end to the other it is now a smiling garden with its plantations, hedge-rows, and cosy and commodious farmhouses. These improvements were chiefly planned and carried out by the late J. J. Hope Johnstone, Esq., of Annandale, assisted by his able factor, Charles Stewart, Esq., Hillside. A special feature of the Annandale estates is the grading of the farms from small to large.

TABLE SHOWING INCREASE IN VALUE OF THE  
PARISH SINCE 1855.

*From Valuation Roll of Wamphray parish.*

| Year. |     | Lands. |     | Railways. |
|-------|-----|--------|-----|-----------|
| 1855, | - - | £4853, | - - | £4168.    |
| 1861, | - - | 4158,  | - - | 3056.     |
| 1871, | - - | 5413,  | - - | 2449.     |
| 1881, | - - | 7074,  | - - | 1352.     |
| 1891, | - - | 5780,  | - - | 1779.     |
| 1901, | - - | 5814,  | - - | 1445.     |
| 1905, | - - | 5248,  | - - | 1248.     |

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS—1857.

*Acreage under the following crops in the parish of Wamphray.*

Imperial acres.

| Wheat.          | Barley. | Oats. | Rye.            | Beans and Peas. | Turnips. | Potatoes. |
|-----------------|---------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 21      | 554   | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{3}{4}$   | 251      | 45        |

Bushels of each per acre.

|    |    |    |    |          |                       |
|----|----|----|----|----------|-----------------------|
| 30 | 25 | 37 | 20 | 18 tons. | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons. |
|----|----|----|----|----------|-----------------------|

It was, and still is, a frequent occurrence for Wamphray farmers to head the prize lists at the local agricultural shows. But the only names that appear from Wamphray on the prize lists of the Highland and Agricultural Society are Walter and John Carruthers of Kirkhill. From 1848 onwards the name of Walter and, after his death, that of his brother John are recorded in the annals of the society as prize winners in the Cheviot sheep and Galloway cattle classes. John Carruthers also won the gold medal, and first prize for Cheviot sheep at the great International Agricultural Show held at Paris in the sixties of last century. In the North American herd book of pure-bred Galloway

cattle there are ten entries from the herd of Carruthers of Kirkhill, Wamphray, and three from that of Rogerson of Leithenhall, Wamphray.

#### PLOUGHING MATCHES.

*From report of Highland and Agricultural Society.*

These were originated by the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland at their general meeting on the 13th January, 1801. Ten guineas were set apart for prizes to each of the districts, Carrick in Ayrshire, and Annandale in Dumfriesshire.

The first match in Scotland took place on the 7th of November, 1801, in a field on the Hoddom estate. The members of committee who appeared on the field were Lieutenant-Colonel Dirom of Mount Annan, William Stewart of Hillside, John Murray, Yr., of Tundergarth, and Mr. Jeffrey, convener.

Seventeen ploughmen appeared to compete, and several thousands of spectators were on the field. Three practical farmers were chosen by the committee to act as judges. They withdrew into a house at some distance. A rood of land was allotted to each ploughman, and each drew his rood by lot. They started at a given signal, and in two and a half hours each man had ploughed his lot.

The judges were brought on to the field, and decided the lots entitled to the three prizes. The first prize, value £3 3s. and the society's medal, was won by Robert Dalglish, servant to Mr. Davidson, Cushethill. The second prize of £2 2s. was awarded to George Bell, servant to Mr. Clow, Mainholm. The third of £1, was won by Alex. Scott, servant to Mr. Church, farmer, Hitchel. Each of the unsuccessful competitors got 3s.



Master John Paisley Dirom presented the prizes.

The second ploughing match in Scotland was held at Luce Holm, near Ecclefechan, on the 1st November, 1802. A number of ladies and gentlemen, many influential farmers, and a crowd of spectators attended on this occasion. Cornet Ram of the third regiment of Dragoon Guards brought a party of men from Annan to keep the ground. Messrs. Thomas Richardson, Woodhouse, Gretna; French, Girthhead, Wamphray; and Pagan, Craigs, near Dumfries, acted as judges. At this second match, eighteen competitors appeared.

Alex. Scott, servant to Mr. Church, Hitchel, won the medal and first prize of £3 3s. The second, value £2 2s., fell to Adam Robson, servant to Mr. Grierson, Rockhall. The third, value £1, was awarded to George Bell, servant to Mr. W. Stewart, Hillside, Dryfesdale. Mrs. Dirom, Mount Annan, presented the medal and prizes to the successful competitors, and pinned a bow of pink ribbon on each of their hats.

#### FARMERS.

Tenants on Wamphray estate who, having first been tenants of small farms, continued as tenants when the holdings were enlarged in size and reduced in number:

The family of Carruthers of Mylne were in Kirkhill, from 1760 till 1888. In 1787, a Carruthers of Mylne entered on Laverhay farm, which continued to be occupied by a member of that family till 1896.

Rogersons from Lochbrow in Johnstone parish, were in Fingland from 1752 till 1877. The sixth generation, as tenant-farmers, of that family left Saughtrees at Whitsunday last, 1906.

Corries or Curries, from early in the latter half of the

18th century, tenanted several of the small farms, and finally Pumplaburn after it was enlarged. The last of the name left in 1876.

The Frenches, from Lanarkshire, came to Girthhead in 1799, and thence removed to Wamphray gate. The last tenant of that family, Mr. Alexander French, died there in 1877.

David Kennedy entered on Annanholm towards the end of the eighteenth century, and was successively a tenant in Broomhills and Stenrishhill. That family flitted to a farm in Kirkmahoe parish. There Mrs. Lawrie, his youngest daughter, still resides.

The Rogersons of Leithenhall, from 1812 till 1875, (brothers and sister of the proprietor) Samuel, David and Miss Rogerson, took a lively interest in all that concerned Wamphray.<sup>1</sup> Miss Rogerson, built and endowed a school in the village, for girls and infants. It is now incorporated with the parish school. Her brother David invested a large sum of money the interest of which provides bursaries to lads attending the university, from Wamphray school. These bursaries are also available to students attending the agricultural and technical colleges. [The lads of Wamphray should take a note of this.]

George Kennedy, brother to David, removed from Staywood in 1814 to Kilbrook, and died there. Two of his sons emigrated to Australia. One was farm manager to the Duchess of Athole, and the fourth farmed Kilbrook, and lastly, Mains of Johnstone. The last member of that family, Mrs. Hyslop, died at Saughtrees in 1900, at the great age of 90 years.

<sup>1</sup>All these seven families were akin to Dr. Rogerson, the purchaser of Wamphray estate.

Joseph Hamilton came to Saughtrees, with Staywood and Swaire annexed, in 1814. He is specially named in the statistical account of 1834 as a "man of means and enterprise," who gave a great deal of work to the poor, at a time when the population of the parish was at its largest, and employment scarcely to be had. He married Joan Mounsey a great grand-daughter of Janet Paterson, sister to William, founder of the Bank of England. The Rogersons of Gillesbie, and Gillespies of Mouswald had also married sisters of the same family. Mr. Hamilton died young, the result of an accident. His son succeeded him in the tenancy, and left the parish in 1859.

Arch. Hamilton, brother to Joseph of Saughtrees, came to Broomhills, Wamphray, also in 1814. He farmed well and energetically till over eighty years of age. He married Mary Thomson, a member of the Crunzeaton and Nether Raehills family. He died at Broomhills in 1865 in his ninety-fourth year. These two brothers hailed from Torthorwald. Both had been in the yeomanry along with Burns, and Archibald used to relate, with pride, that he rode knee to knee with the poet. James, a younger brother, who was afterwards minister of Newabbey for over forty years, was one of the squad who fired over the poet's grave at his burial in St. Michael's churchyard, Dumfries. That family of Hamiltons, claim to belong to the Preston branch of Hamiltons. Mrs. Hutchison, daughter of the minister of Newabbey, is the only surviving member of the families of the three brothers. Mr. A. Hamilton succeeded his father as tenant in Broomhills, and died there, an octogenarian, a few years ago. His son Archibald succeeded him in the farm.

The Johnstones of Cammock were among the olden-time farmers of Wamphray. Early in the nineteenth century they removed to Moffat parish, and there made the name famous in the agricultural world both as tenants and farmers.

The Proudfoots, old residenters in Wamphray, purchased and farmed the properties of Hazlebank and Burnhill, now Gateside. The last of the family died at Gateside in 1882.

The oldest farmer-family leasing land or farming their own property continuously are the Carruthers. They date back to before 1648.

The present tenant in Roughlake represents the Littles, who were tenant farmers in 1696, and who have since held larger or smaller holdings continuously in Wamphray parish.

In social life, the generations of farmers we have referred to above, did just as the former 1696 ones did. They married and intermarried, till the whole parish was near akin. As in other parishioners, strong individuality, energy, and intelligence were striking features of their character. Mingled with these were a keen business faculty, strict attention to daily duty, and a love for social intercourse. As for the good-wives, their kindliness, their thrift, and their general demeanour made them able help-meets to such men.

With the new regime have come in an almost new class of farmers, who are maintaining the traditional qualities of their predecessors.