

1881 – Newspapers

Norwich Mercury 05 February 1881

HAPTON.

THE poor of this parish wish to tender their sincere thanks to the Rev. J. Moore and other gentlemen for the liberal distribution of coals during the past severe weather.

Norfolk News 19 February 1881

WYMONDHAM AND FORNCETT RAILWAY.—The opening of this line for passenger traffic which was to have taken place about the middle of this month has been deferred, the unpropitious weather causing the delay. The report of the sinking of a bank at or near Hapton, although having an ugly appearance, is not thought by those interested to be of a very serious character.

Norfolk News 23 April 1881

FORNCETT AND WYMONDHAM RAILWAY.—The official inspection of this line by the Board of Trade took place on Wednesday, Major-General Hutchinson, R.E., being the inspector. Commencing at the junction with the Ipswich line at Forncett the new line, including the numerous bridges, culverts, &c., was very closely examined. The lofty embankment and viaduct at Forncett St. Mary, and the heavy works in the vicinity of Hapton, were thoroughly tested and gave entire satisfaction. An excellent luncheon was provided, supplied by Mr. George Pearson, Queen's Head Inn, Wymondham, in the commodious new station at Ashwelthorpe, and the company having partaken of this examined the station works and then proceeded towards Wymondham, which was reached about half-past five. We understand that everything connected with the working of the line was found satisfactory, and that only a few alterations, which will not occupy more than two or three days to execute, were suggested by the inspector. Four heavy tank engines and saloon were placed at the disposal of Major-General Hutchinson for his scrutiny of the bridges. A large company of officials accompanied the general, including Mr. Langley, engineer for the Great Eastern Railway Company, Mr. Robertson, superintendent, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Lovatt's representative, Mr. Liddle, agent in charge of the works, Mr. Sage, telegraph engineer, Mr. Wallick, C.E., Mr. Buckley, &c. The line will, in all probability, be opened for passenger traffic on May 2nd.

THE FORNCETT AND WYMONDHAM RAILWAY.

The short loop line just added to the Great Eastern system, will prove of great advantage to the district. Hitherto the only communication between the North and South of Norfolk has been by Norwich, connection in most cases having to be between Victoria and Thorpe Stations. Well on the sea coast, to Wymondham in the south of the county, a railway descended direct. A few miles off there was a direct line to London, but no means of reaching it either for goods or passengers, except by a tedious and roundabout journey through the city. The construction of the loop has changed all this, and North and Central Norfolk is now placed in direct communication with London, *via* Ipswich, the distance being several miles shorter than by the Cambridge route.

It was originally proposed that the line should be opened on the 1st of March, but unexpected delays occurred, and the opening consequently took place without the slightest ceremony, on Monday, the 2nd of May. The loop branches off from the main line at Forncett, the third station from Norwich, runs parallel with it for a quarter of a mile, and then diverges to the left, lay through **Hapton** and Ashwellthorpe, where there is a station, thence a short run to Wymondham. The line is double throughout, and we have no doubt will prove exceedingly valuable to the Company as a means of relieving the Cambridge route from the traffic ever increasing upon it, and will probably augment in still greater proportions when the Great Eastern opens its "joint" line to the coal-fields of the North. The passenger and goods traffic of Central and North Norfolk will speedily gravitate to the shortest route.

The sidings on the loop line are still incomplete, and for the present, through carriages are not provided on all trains. Heretofore the traveller compelled to go by rail from Ipswich to the market town of East Dereham, consumed, including the delay at Norwich, five or six hours in the journey, a journey now completed in less than two. A liberal train service has been arranged, including a special fast train from Ipswich on Dereham market day (Friday), and a through express train every evening in connection with the 5 o'clock from Liverpool Street, leaving Ipswich at 6.40, reaching Dereham at 8.19 p.m., and Wells at 9.15. The loop line has supplied a much needed link in the Great Eastern system, and the Directors and Manager are to be congratulated on the step they have taken.

HOUSEKEEPER COOK desires a Situation with a Lady or Gentleman, or in a very small family; highest character; unexceptionable references.—Apply to Mrs. Moore, **Hapton** Vicarage, Long Stratton.

**THE SPREAD OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.
SHOULD THE MARKETS TO BE CLOSED?**

On Saturday, a meeting of the General Committee appointed as the Local Authority for Norfolk under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, was held at the Shirehall, to consider the recent alarming spread of foot and mouth disease. There was a very large attendance of the committee from all parts of the county.

Mr. C. S. Read, who presided, stated that there were 28 fresh cases of foot and mouth disease, 2 of pleuropneumonia, but none of swine fever. Against the 28 fresh cases were to be set off 14 or 15 cases which had become free from disease, 12 of which were in the parish of Feltwell, where there was a most serious outbreak, so that the whole parish was made an infected place. By so doing they had prevented the spread of the disease in the county, and in the course of a month 12 out of the 18 cases at Feltwell had recovered. But, perhaps, he had better give the committee some idea of the extent to which the disease existed in the county. There were 7 cases in the Norwich district, 4 in the Yarmouth district, 13 in the Aylsham district, 9 in the Dereham district, 7 in the King's Lynn district—although round about the town the disease had pretty well disappeared—7 in the Swaffham district, 4 in the Loddon district, 1 in the Thetford district, 1 in the Downham district, 4 in the Burnham district, 17 in the North Walsham district, 4 in the Hapton district, 6 in the Wretton district (but they were all in Feltwell), 1 in St. Faith's

district, and 4 in the district of Saxlingham, Sperringham, Kelling, and Hempstead. There were thus 90 cases still in the county. He did not suppose they wanted him to go into the history of this outbreak, because they were well acquainted with it; but they might ask why this meeting of the General Committee had been called. First of all, the Executive Committee had always requested the attendance of the General Committee in the autumn, in order that they might have the benefit of their advice and criticism of what they had done; but they had been principally called together on this occasion for the purpose of considering this most serious outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which extended over almost the whole of the county, with the exception of some portion of the southern division and of the extreme west. Where the disease had been most prevalent all the summer—in the immediate vicinity and to the west of Lynn—there it had disappeared, and the consequence was that the Privy Council had once more opened Lynn market. But the Inspector of the Privy Council had been down to Norfolk, had taken note of the many outbreaks, and, he believed, had actually proposed to have certain small defined areas in the county declared infected. There was a desire, he thought he might say, on the part of the Privy Council, to declare the whole of the county once more an infected area, which, of course, meant shutting up all the markets in the county. A good many people had said to him, "I hope you won't shut up Norwich Hill." Goodness, gracious! he was neither lord dictator nor Lord President. It was the Privy Council who had that power, and they would exercise it when they thought proper. But on the

St. Philip's, Heigham, Day Schools.—On Thursday evening, before breaking up for the Christmas holidays, the distribution of prizes took place in the Girls' School-room, which was crowded on the occasion. The vicar, the Rev. S. Linton, first addressed the children, and then called on the Sheriff of Norwich (J. J. Winter, Esq.), to present the prizes. The Sheriff, after addressing both the children and the parents, distributed the prizes, and stated, as he resided in St. Philip's, Heigham, he wished to offer a Sheriff's Prize in the Boys' and Girls' Schools for the coming year. Music and singing, &c., by the school children followed. During the evening a presentation was made by the Rev. S. Linton, in the names of the children, teachers, and friends, to the late assistant mistress, Miss High, who had rendered good service to the school, and has now the charge of the school at Hapton. The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Sheriff, proposed by Mr. Holford, the Head Master, and seconded by the Rev. F. Phipps, the newly-appointed curate, cheers before separating being given, on the suggestion of the Sheriff, for Rev. S. and Mrs. Linton, Rev. F. Phipps, Miss Randall, of the Girls' School, Miss Wilkins, of the Infant School, and Mr. Holford.