

ROUND THE MARKET SQUARE

Blaydon's Champion Clog Dancer A.R.P. Statements. A Golden Wedding

It was a source of pleasure to me, at any rate, to hear of Consett Council's progressive step in issuing so comprehensive and careful survey of A.R.P. in this area. I have, for months stressed again and again the desirability of proper statements in place of the extempore style of a speech from notes. However good a speaker may be (and we have a few good ones in the Council Chamber) there can be nothing to beat the written word, especially in matters of importance as A.R.P.

I should like to say here that this column is written early in the week, often on the Friday previous to the Thursday when you buy the paper, so you have to allow for anything coming along in the nature of "stop press"

What is the truth behind the Council's statement? They say figures can't lie but everybody knows that figures can be made to prove anything. There is, though, the main fact which emerges and that is that volunteers are still needed.

Owing to red tape and other setbacks many who did vounteer found themselves apparently ignored. Now they know they will not be neglected and it is to be hoped they will get a friend who is needed and it is only shyness that keeps many away from active part. As a nation the English are rather retiring, hate to come into the public eye, and, if I might suggest some of our Councillors (who know the work) would ask some of their supporters (and non-supporters) to take active interest in National Service I think the results would be very encouraging.

I was sorry to hear of the death after five weeks' illness of Mr Joe Dailey, a champion of clog dancers, at his home at Townley Street, Blay-

don Haughs. He won the Durham and Northumberland Clog Dancing Championship in 1936 and 1937 on the first occasion at Stanley and the second time at Durham. When he had the chance of making the championship belt his own in 1938, at Gateshead, he was placed second, the only time he failed to win any competition he had entered.

He began to dance at Crawcrook at the age of eight to entertain a miner who had lost a leg, and he won a cup at Blaydon before he was nine. When he was nine he won another cup at the King's Hall, Newcastle. His father, Patrick Daley, was the champion clog dancer of Cumberland. He was an engine driver at Smith Pattersons, Ltd., Blaydon.

I met him often at charity affairs of which he was a generous supporter by the gift of his talents.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Robert Dixon of Stratford Terrace, Number One, Consett who were married on May 13, 1879 and have had 13 children, 11 of whom are still living.

Both Mr and Mrs Dixon are aged 80 and enjoy the best of health.

Five of their sons and two sons-in-law served in the Great War. The youngest son, Corporal Thomas H. Dixon, was killed.

They were married at the Stanhope ex-Primitive Methodist Church by the Rev. J Worsnap.

Since coming to Consett 48 years ago they have been regular worshippers at The Avenue Methodist (ex-Primitive) Church, Consett.

Born at Garrigill, Cumberland, Mr Dixon started work at the age of 10 years as a washer at the Alston lead mines for sixpence a day.

He worked until he was 74, spending nearly half a century as a steel-worker at the Consett Iron Works.