

# Falkland News - April 1923

7<sup>th</sup> April 1923

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Collection** - "Mrs Hunt has been able to forward £10 to the Blind Asylum as her collection in the burgh."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death - Ness** - "At Beechgrove, Falkland, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Catherine Dowie, widow of Robert Ness, late of Liquorstane, aged 81 years."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death** - "There passed away on Tuesday one of Falkland's old residents in the person of Mrs Robert Ness, who with her husband were long proprietors of the Liquorstane Temperance Hotel."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** - "The usual monthly meeting of the Town Council was held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday evening - Provost Hopkins presiding. There were also present Bailies Hunt and Robertson, Councillors Annan, Drysdale, Nellies, Grant, Horne, Adams, and Robertson. Reports from the various Committees were read and adopted. The Provost, on behalf of himself and the Council, wished Mr Francis Fernie, the Town Clerk's assistant, who is leaving to fill another situation in Edinburgh, every success. He (the Provost) was sure he would always remember his experience in Falkland. Mr Fernie, in a few words, thanked the Council for their good wishes."

Advert in *The Fife News*: **Cinema**



Advert in Fife News



Mary Pickford in 'Little Lord Fauntleroy'

### 14th February 1923

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Rural Library** - "A box of fifty new books has arrived for the Rural Library. These books are given out each Thursday evening from 6.30 to 7.00 and it is hoped that adult readers will take advantage of them."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Billiards** - "Kinglassie Welfare Institute team met Falkland's in the memorial Institute on Saturday, when the result was a win for the visitors. Scores: -

**Kinglassie**

**Falkland**

<i>J. Black</i>	120	<i>C. Oram</i>	93
<i>J. McIvor</i>	103	<i>D. Clark</i>	120
<i>A. Moir</i>	75	<i>T. Drysdale</i>	120
<i>R. Black</i>	120	<i>R. Nellies</i>	77
<i>J. Swain</i>	120	<i>T.D. Hopkins</i>	80
<i>J. Williamson</i>	120	<i>C. Drysdale</i>	73
	<b>658</b>		<b>563</b>

*Falkland paid a visit to Freuchie on Thursday last week, and returned victors. Scores: -*

<b><i>Falkland</i></b>		<b><i>Freuchie</i></b>	
<i>C. Oram</i>	100	<i>R. Robertson</i>	78
<i>D. Clark</i>	100	<i>E. Borthwick</i>	43
<i>T. Drysdale</i>	81	<i>D. Philp</i>	100
<i>R. Nellies</i>	100	<i>T. Livingstone</i>	98
<i>T.D. Hopkins</i>	100	<i>W. Livingstone</i>	81
<i>W. Strudley</i>	76	<i>W. Barclay</i>	100
	<b>557</b>		<b>500</b>

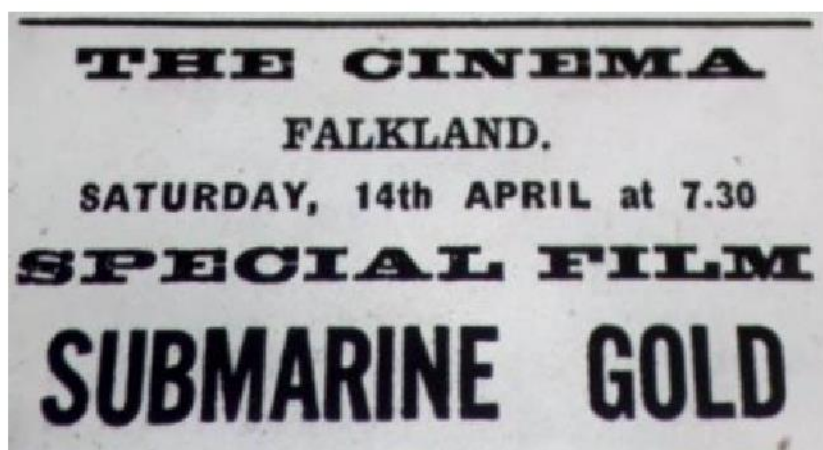
Extract from *The Fife News*: **Dance** - "*The Ladies' Club have handed over to the Cricket Club £9, the proceeds of their dance.*"

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Snow** - "*The Lomonds donned their white cloak on Tuesday, when there was a fall of snow in the district.*"

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golf** - "*The golf course was opened on Saturday. The Captain's team, led by Bailie George Robertson, beat the vice-Captain's team, led by Mr Walter Peggie, by one match. After the match, tea was served in the Golf House.*"

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football** - "The Victoria returned victorious on Saturday, from St Andrews, having beat the Rangers by 5 goals to 1."

Advert in *The Fife News*: **Cinema**



### 21<sup>st</sup> April 1923

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Whist Drive** - "A very successful whist drive was held in the Memorial Institute on Thursday evening last week - about 50 players taking part. Mrs Honden presided. The prizes were gained by the following: -

Ladies: 1 - Miss Polly Gavin, 2 - Miss Jean Findlay, 3 - Mrs T.D. Hopkins. Booby - Miss J.A. Gavin.

Gentlemen: 1 - Mr Wm. Strudley, 2 - Master Alex. Hopkins, 3 - Mr J. Archibald. Booby - Mr R. Dakers.

Guessing competition, Mr Wm. Strudley.

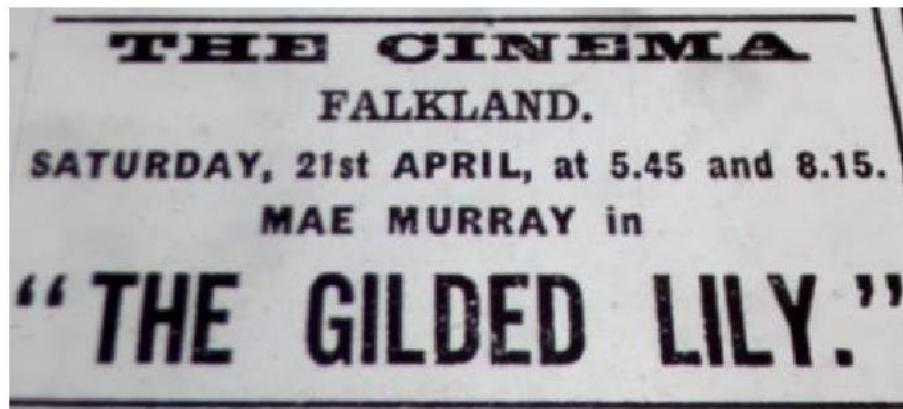
At the interval an excellent tea was supplied by the Ladies' Committee, after which a splendid musical programme was gone through by the following: -

Misses N. Forsyth, E. Grant, A. Edmiston, C. Cowan, and Messrs T. Drysdale, P. Robertson, G. Anderson, H. Lee, W. Strudley, H. Robson, and Mr Honden.

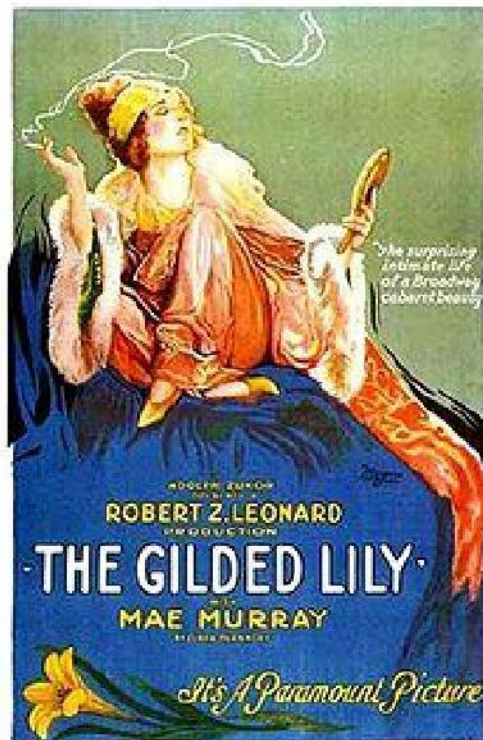
A vote of thanks was passed to the donors of prizes, also to the following: -

Mrs Brown, Mrs P. Robertson, and T. Drysdale for the excellent arrangements made for the company. It was agreed to have the final drive in a fortnight - Ladies v Gentlemen."

Advert in *The Fife News*: **Cinema**



Advert in Fife News



**The Gilded Lily (1921)**

**28th April 1923**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Store Dividend** - "At the Committee meeting of Falkland Equitable Co-operative Society, it was agreed to declare a dividend of 1s 8d per £1."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Putting** - "A match is arranged for to-morrow (Saturday) between Giffordtown Putting Club and Falkland memorial Institute, to be played on Strudley's Green, which is in a splendid condition."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** - "The members of the Club have been hard at practice in preparation for their match to-morrow (Saturday) at Springfield, when the following team is expected to travel: -

Provost T.D. Hopkins (Captain), John Venters, Robert Hopkins, Chris Drysdale, Tom Drysdale, Tom Schofield, William Stark, Jas. Shields, M. Robertson, Jas. Ross, and J. Allan."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Straying Horses** - "At a J.P. Court held at Cupar on Wednesday, before ex-Bailie Lamond, Hon. Sheriff Honeyman, and Mr F.W. Christie, Edenview, Cupar, John Docherty, a hawker, residing at The Myres, Falkland, was charged with permitting two of his horses to stray on the road. The police evidence was that the horses were allowed to go on the highway late at night, and there had been two accidents through motor cyclists running into them. The horses were ultimately found at Buckhaven. Accused said he pleaded guilty to a certain extent.

The Clerk (Mr R. Osborne Pagan, W.S.) - 'What is the extent?'

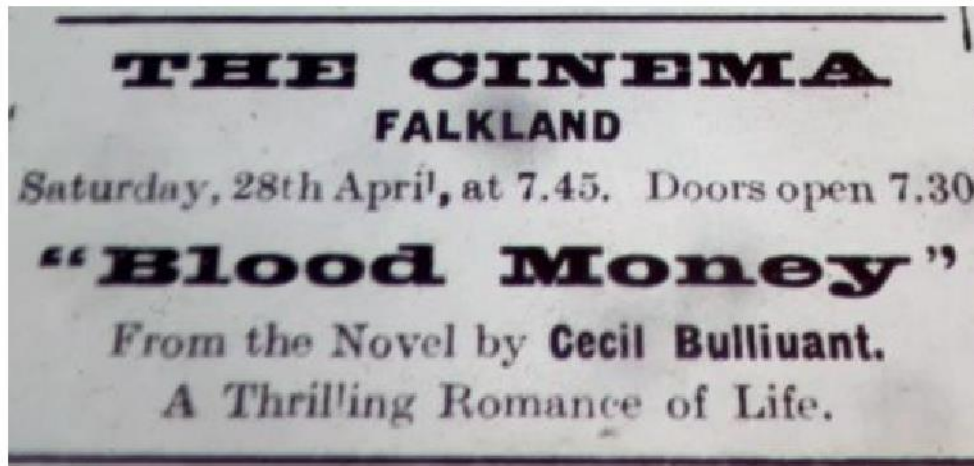
Accused said he tried to get stabling for his horses on 6<sup>th</sup> April, but was unsuccessful. He took his horses to the Myre, where he had to pay 3s 6d a night for them. As it was a cold night, he fastened them up with a piece of wire. The horses got out, and strayed on to the road.

Mr Christie - 'You could not have tied them up.'

Accused - 'It is the sweethearts that go down there. They take down the wire to get past.'

A fine of 10s, with 10s of expenses was imposed."

Advert in *The Fife News*: **Cinema** -



## Falkland News - May 1923

### 5th May 1923

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket - Springfield v Falkland** - "Springfield opened the season with Falkland as their visitors, and thanks to Garland's fine bowling, 7 for 12, and the stand made by this bowler and Glen, gained a good victory. Scores - Springfield 88 (J. Garland 32, W. Glen 22), Falkland 47.

*Bowling for Falkland* - J. Ross took 6 wickets for 35 runs.

*An excellent service of tea, under the management of Mrs Stewart, assisted by Misses A. Morgan, M. Wallace, and N. Donaldson, was greatly appreciated."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football** - "Howe of Fife football is losing another clever player in W. Middleton, Markinch, Victoria Rangers clever centre. He is emigrating to Australia, and sails on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst., to join his two brothers in business 'Down Under'. All are natives of Falkland."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Royal Wedding** - "The Royal wedding was honoured in Falkland on Thursday last week by the town bell being rung. Flags were hoisted at the Town Hall and several business and private residences. The schools were closed for the day."



## Royal Wedding

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Turnout of 'Specials'** - "A muster of the Falkland Special Constables took place on Thursday evening last week, under their chief, ex-Provost Jackson, and the local constable, when they had a march out, all looking fit and business-like."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Whist Drive** - "The last whist drive of the season was held on Thursday evening last week in the Memorial Institute, a good attendance being present. The following were the winners: -

Ladies - 1. Miss J. Kennedy. 2. Miss A. Meldrum. 3. Miss E.L. Kennedy. 4. Mrs Homden.

Gentlemen - 1. Mr J. Drysdale. 2. Mr A. Homden. 3. Mr S. Grierson. 4. Mr H. Robson.

At the interval tea was served by the Ladies' Committee, after which an excellent musical programme was gone through by the following: -

Misses Cowan, Forsyth, and Messrs T. Drysdale, A. Homden, T. Schofield, H. Robson, and J. Drysdale.

At the close a hearty vote of thanks was given to the donors of the prizes: -

Miss Strudley, Mrs Drysdale, Miss Findlay, and Mr Homden; also to Mrs Brown, Mr T. Drysdale, and Mr P. Robertson for the splendid arrangements made for the entertainment."



Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** - "The usual monthly meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday night - Provost Hopkins presiding. Also present were: -

*Baillies Hunt and Robertson, Councillors Annan, Skinner, Nellies, Drysdale, Horne, Adams, Chisholm, and Robertson.*

*The reports of the various Committees were read and adopted. Dr Morris, the medical officer of the burgh, sent in his report, which stated that the health of the burgh was of a high standard. The population stood at 788. Births for the year were 10, and deaths 11. Five petrol licenses and one for the slaughter-house were renewed."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Important Appointment of Falkland Gentleman** - "Mr Aeneas G. Gavin, only son of Mr George Gavin, Falkland Palace, has received an important appointment with the West African Trading Corporation, and sails for Calibar on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. In Mr Gavin's departure, the district will lose a good sportsman, and Stratheden will miss their clever goalkeeper. Our best wishes go with him."

Advert in *The Fife News*: **Motor Car For Hire**



Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death - Kerr** - "On 26<sup>th</sup> April, at Southbank, Falkland, and late of Hill Farm, Dunfermline, Margaret, youngest and last surviving daughter of the late Henry and Margaret Kerr, of Leadburn, Peeblesshire."

## 12<sup>th</sup> May 1923

Article in *The Fife News*: **Cricket - Kelty XI v Falkland:**

*"Falkland travelled to Kelty on Saturday and fairly upset Kelty XI. Bowling for Falkland - Jas. Allan had 7 wickets for 13 runs, and Jas. Ross 3 for 14 runs.*

*Score - Kelty XI - 31 (E. Allan 10). Falkland - 99 (J. Allan 21, R. Hopkins 17)."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Opening of Putting Green** - *"A good attendance was present on Thursday evening last week, when Dr Shand formally opened the putting green. In his remarks, he stated he was a great believer in all outdoor sports, as they were beneficial to old and young. He was sure the green would be a success, and be well supported both by the residents and visitors to the burgh. During the evening tea was served to the company by Mrs Strudley. At the finish of the game, a vote of thanks was given to the Doctor, also to Mr and Mrs Strudley for entertaining the company that evening."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Pinder's Royal Circus** - *"Pinder's Royal Circus paid a visit to the Myre on Thursday last week, when they had a fair attendance who enjoyed a splendid performance of horsemanship, etc. The children were pleased with the antics of Jumbo."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Co-operative Society** - *"The half-yearly meeting of the Falkland Equitable Co-operative Society (Ltd.), was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening. Bailie Hunt presided over a good attendance. The balance sheet was read and adopted. The proposer and seconder were Messrs James Oswald and Jas. Nelson. The sales for the past six months were: -*

*Grocery - £4,168 2s 8d, a decrease of £922 10s 4d; drapery - £840 17s 10d, an increase of £62 7s 9d. The increase of membership was 11.*

*Although there was a strong feeling against the decrease in dividend, after the President gave a full explanation, it seemed to satisfy those present. The service also came in for some strong comments, and it was agreed to close one hour for dinner and half-an-hour for tea at times when the business was quietest. The following were appointed to the Committee in place of those retiring: -*

*Messrs James D. Walker, Peter Robertson, and James Oswald."*

## 19th May 1923

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **Property To Let:**

*Falkland - To Let, with immediate entry, Dwelling-house, situated in favourable position, consisting of 2 Public Rooms, 7 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Scullery, and Outhouses, with 1 1/3 acres of Ground attached; premises suitable for purposes of a Temperance Hotel, Boarding House, or Poultry Farm. Apply to George Gavin, Estate Office, Falkland Palace, Falkland, Fife."*

Article in *The Fife News*: **Cricket - Rothes (Leslie) v Falkland:**

*"Falkland were in rampant form on Saturday when they beat Leslie by 79 runs. P. Robertson was top scorer with 45 runs. J. Ross bowled well and took 6 wickets for 22.*

*Score - Leslie - 59 (R. Barclay 14). Falkland - 138 (P. Robertson 45, T. Drysdale 41)."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Show** - *"At the fat stock show at Cupar on Friday, the first prize bullock was shown by Mr Alex. Shanks, Falkland Wood, and brought the top price of £47 2s 6d."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** - *"Falkland C.C. have as their visitors to Scroggie to-morrow (Saturday) Dunbog C.C. when a good game is sure to be witnessed."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Thunderstorm and Heavy Fall of Snow** - *"The weather vagaries of the week in the burgh were quite eclipsed on Tuesday, when Falkland was visited by a violent thunderstorm. A little after five o'clock the storm broke with a flash of lightning followed by a peal of thunder. The sky became overcast and the storm increased in intensity. The lightning became more lurid and frequent, and the thunder came nearer. The clouds broke, and the hailstones beat down. In a short time there were two inches of snow lying. The wet conditions continued throughout the evening."*

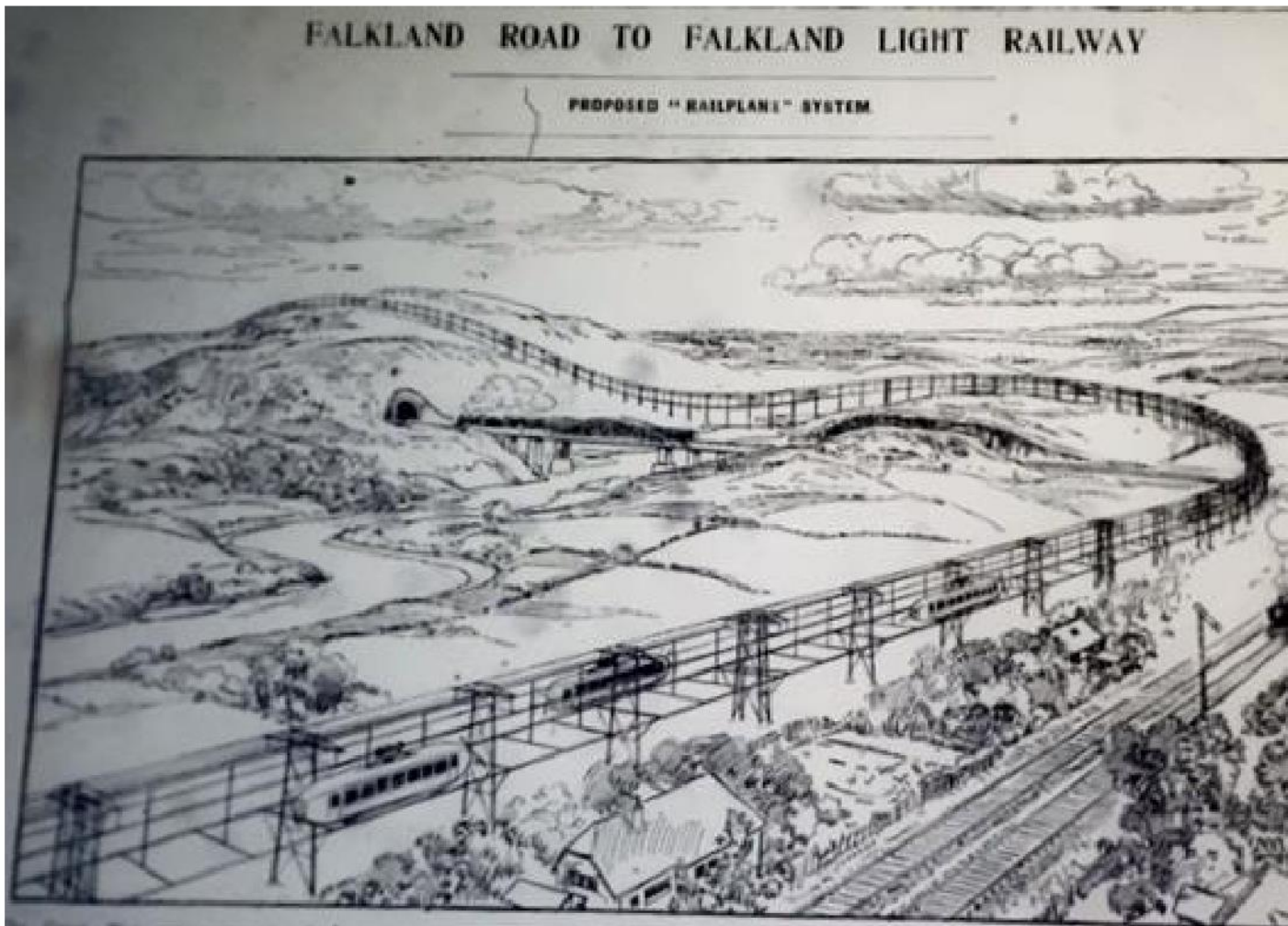
## Falkland 1900-2000

Year 1923

(As researched by Jack Burgess)

28th April 1923

Article in *The Fife News*: **Falkland Road to Falkland Light Railway: Proposed 'Railplane' System**



**Proposed 'Railplane' System to Falkland**

*"The Great War put a stop to the steps that were being taken by a Company of local gentlemen to construct a light railway from Falkland Road to Falkland. The sum of £7,000 was to be granted by the Light Railway Commissioners, and the County Council were to give a loan of £2,000. After the war, the cost of construction was found to be prohibitive, and the scheme was dropped.*

Recently, Mr George Bennie, a Glasgow engineer, approached the Ministry of Transport with details of his patent 'railplane' system, and was referred by the Ministry to the promoters of the Falkland light railway, among other schemes mooted in Britain. Mr Bennie has paid a visit to Falkland district, and he was in Cupar last week, accompanied by several Falkland gentlemen. He was most enthusiastic in explaining his 'railplane' system of transport, which is very ingenious, and involves a great saving in construction and running costs. Briefly, the system is a link between the existing land and air system of locomotion. Mr Bennie, when in Cupar, stated that he intended to drive the propellers of his carriages with engines made by the Wolseley Motors Ltd., Birmingham. The engine is the ordinary car pattern, the only alteration being that the controls are altered to make it suitable for an aerial car. This car may, if desired, be made to travel at the speed of two miles a minute, if the length of track permits. When, however, he was informed that the Fife Light and Power Tramways Company had a cable in Freuchie, Mr Bennie said that would simplify matters. His original idea apparently was to take electric current from the guiding rails of his track to drive electric motors which would work the propellers.

### **Uses**

When told that the Falkland light railway was mainly intended for the transport of agricultural products and goods, as well as passengers, Mr Bennie replied that his aerial cars were quite fitted to carry potatoes, etc. It is said that the London and North Eastern Railway Co. favour the scheme. Seeing the rails can be put over any land or hill, Mr Bennie holds that all the principal towns in Fife could easily be connected by his 'railplane'.

'The Electrical Times' last autumn contained the following descriptive article, which gives a clear idea of the Bennie 'railplane':

'There must be many engineers who have their doubts as to the soundness of the present ideas concerning high-speed railway traction. Need the electrical engineer necessarily copy the steam engineer? The deadweight per unit of passenger in the modern railway train is enormous; the faster the train travels, the more necessary is it to keep down the leading bogie so that it does not actually leave the track on down gradients. And the punishment of the track is terrible. We have always thought that

there was something totally out of proportion in a modern steam railway express, with its enormous locomotive punishing and pounding the rails at a speed of sixty miles an hour. Such thoughts lead one to take an interest in schemes that to some people and in some respects may at first seem almost fantastical. Why tie the vehicle down to the track by weight or by any other means? Why not let it even press upwards instead of downwards if necessary?

Mr Bennie claims that his aerial railway is a link between the existing land and air systems. He says that it is safer than the land railway, and as swift as an airship or aeroplane. It eliminates the main dangers of aerial travel without sacrificing the

*advantage of speed which the aircraft of today possesses over any form of road locomotion.'*

### **Structure and Mechanism**

*The structure and mechanism of the thing can be seen from the above illustration. A steel rail is carried on cantilevers supported from upright standards. The height depends on the object to be cleared. Suspended from the steel rail is a saloon car driven preferably by an electric motor, with air propeller operating in front. At the rear is another propeller. Both propellers, however, can operate for either forward or reverse speed. As the saloon car will not have to withstand the many shocks incidental to road travel, it does not require to be built in the same substantial manner as the railway saloon, but there is no reason why it should not embrace all the popular features of this class of land travel. We are told that it would accommodate fifty passengers, and would have a total weight of between six and eight tons.*

### **Reverse from Ordinary Railway**

*According to Mr Bennie's idea, with his aerial system, the cars will be so constructed that the greater the speed, the lighter the cars become; with the ordinary railway saloon, the greater the speed, the heavier the cars become; and heavy cars require a greater horse-power to drive them. Parallel to the overhead steel rail, but immediately below the saloon car, is another rail which is equipped with a device designed to keep the vehicle from swaying in its flight. Otherwise the car hangs free. Flight is really the correct word to use, because when the saloon is travelling under its own power at a speed of anything from 60 to 120 miles per hour, it is obvious that the load which it imposes on the overhead rail will be negligible. The rails will merely act as guides.*

### **Capable of Wide Adaption**

*A new system of transport on those lines might have advantages both from the engineering and from the economic points of view. It dispenses with much survey work, and renders unnecessary the work of tunnels, heavy cuttings, high embankments, bridges of large and small spans, as well as the cost of land and fencing. The interference with land suitable for cultivation is quite eliminated. Such a railway is capable of being adapted to widely varying conditions as regards configuration and contour of the land, and may be laid practically at ground level or at any convenient height above it. Such a system of transport should be less costly in respect of operation, capital outlay and maintenance than a modern railway, and would thus conduce to cheaper travel.*

*The carrying capacity and headway of such a railway are mainly dependent on the efficiency of the electrical signalling devices under which the system would be operated.*

### **An Adjunct to Existing Railways**

*Of course, one need not assume that the existing railways must be superseded. They will always have a use for freight purposes. The idea is that the new system could be grafted on to the present railway systems as an adjunct to their permanent way services. It might, for instance, be introduced as supplementary means of travel either to open up new districts or to give fast communication to popular resorts, such as Brighton, or for linking up large industrial towns. It could also be employed with beneficial effects to relieve the transport congestion which is becoming a pressing problem in big cities. This is a point that requires no elaboration."*