Weekly Observer

No. 14. NEWCASTLE WEST, NOVEMBER 20, 1915 PRICE ONE PENNY.

Our Poet's Corner.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS.

Oh! do not say the labour is too heavy;
Oh! do not seek to rest upon the oar!
For winds are treacherous and waves mighty,
And 'tis not thus that thou wilt reach the shore.
But ever "Onwards" hold thy painful journey,
And ever "Upwards" lift thy weary soul,
"Onwards and Upwards" till the race be finished,
"Upwards and Onwards" till thou reach the goal.

Throughout the ceaseless round of daily duties,
Whose very sameness wearies thee the more
Remember, that to pause is to go backwards
Take courage, then, and bend thee to the oar.
So walking in the world, and yet not of it,
Hold ceaseless converse with thy Lord above
And buoy thy humblest and most earthly actions,
For ever "Upwards" with an act of love.

Oh! when thy heart is desolate and weary,
With none to sympathise and none to love
Oh! lean thyself upon thy one Beloved,
Whose eyes are bent on thee from above.
Strong in the love that runneth and goeth—
The love that looks beyond earth's shadows dim—
The pure free love that tendeth ever upward,
Upward and Onward 'till thou come to Him.

T. MACENRI.

Abbeyfeale, 15/11/'15.

PADDY KENNEDY.

Air.—"The Wearin' of the Green."

Oh, my darlin' Paddy Kennedy, 'tis you that's straight and tall,
And like a man you took your gun at King and country's call;
And though we'll sorely miss you, we'll shed no bitter tears,
For we know you'll bravely do your part in the Munster Fusiliers.

With your knapsack on your shoulder and your rifle in your hand,
Sure you'll look as fine a soldier as the General in command;
And you're the boy will have no fear of enemy, shot or shells,
On the bloody plains of Belgium or going up the Dardanelles.

The other day I met Jack Daly, and he asked me if 'twas true,
That you had gone away to war that he'd be goin' too;
And that he'd join the Munsters and leave home without a sigh,
And side by side with you, his pal, he'd win the day or die.

Oh, we'll miss you from the harvest field and the saving of the hay,
No more with merry laugh and song along New Road, you'll stray;
Your joyous shout will not be heard for many a weary day,
No more from Newpark Cross at night, you'll slowly wend your way.

Wisha, blessings with you, Paddy, may you come back safe and sound,
For 'tis you that kept the cottage nice and tilled the plot of ground,
And laboured hard with spade and pick from early dawn 'till night,
And gave up all your wages for to keep the home fire bright.

Oh, Paddy, many and many's the time you proved a loving son,
And good luck will surely follow you when you go to fight the Hun,
And your manly form we'll see again when the war is o'er and won;
And grand medals you'll be wearin' for brave deeds of daring done.

J. POWER.

THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE.

[An incident of the Franco-German War].

Dead on the corpse-strewn battle plain
Where war's dread work is done,
She lies, amid the heaps of slain,
The pure and holy Nun;
She saw the stricken soldier fall,
And, ere the strife was o'er,
She rushed, unheeding blade or ball,
To staunch his flowing gore;
To gently raise his drooping head,
To cool his lips of flame,
To whisper, ere his spirit fled,
The Saviour's Holy Name.
And on from one to one to pass,
Midst those who living yet,
Lay groaning on the crimsoned grass
Their streaming blood had wet;
With saintly love and tenderness
Their suffering hearts to aid,
Whate'er the colour of the dress
Through which their wounds were made,
And—in whatever form of speech
They prayed to God above—
Unto their dying lips to reach
The emblem of his love;
But ah, the battle's thundering swell
Had rolled not far away,
And still the murderous missiles fell
Where death and dying lay;
Bullets, ill sped, came whistling by,
Huge shot tore up the ground,
And shells, like meteors from on high,
Spread fresh destruction round.
She flinched not while they hurtled past,
Nor turned her head aside.
But when her death-wound came at last
She blest her God and died.

NOTICE.

THE LANDS of KILMEEDY and CLOUNPASTEEN are POISONED, owing to Sheep-worrying.

Patrick Gilburn.

G. A. A.

MUNSTER COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Munster Council was held at Fix's Hotel, Thomas street, Limerick, on Sunday.

Mr. J. O'Brien (Clare), Chairman, presided Other members present—Messrs. P. Kenny (Clare), J. Jones (do.), James Quigley (Limerick), A. Quillinan (do.), Treasurer; M. O'Connell, Ardpatrick, Kilmallock, Hon. Secretary Limerick Co. Board; T. Irwin (Cork), Matthew O'Riordan (do.).

Mr. P. McGrath, Sec., Tipperary, read the minutes.

The Secretary said his idea with regard to the Wolfe Tone Tournament was to have the matches for the senior hurling between Tipperary and Waterford, and Clare versus the winner of Tipperary and Limerick in the junior hurling final, played on the same day.

The Chairman—And the two matches in the one place.

The Secretary—Yes; that is the only way to do it, as otherwise he could not get trains for a single match. He notified all the parties concerned to make preparations, subject to confirmation by the Council, to play on the 5th December, and they were all satisfied.

After some conversation it was agreed, on the proposition of Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Kenny, that both matches be played at Tipperary on December 5th, proximo, E. Tracey to be referee in the senior match, and in the junior match if Tipperary won; if Limerick won Mr. Thomas Simple to act as referee.

An appeal from Knockaderry Club was considered in reference to a question affecting a match between Knockaderry and Monegay, and the re-instatement of a member, William Haugh, of the Monegay Club, the charge originally made that he had played previously in a Cork match without permission. In the match between Monegay and Knockaderry, the score was 2 goals and 2 points for Monegay, and for Knockaderry 2 goals and 1 point. In the case of William Rieday, another member of the Monegay Club, he had been a member of the Templeglantine Club, but was transferred to Monegay on the Templeglantine Club ceasing to exist.

Mr. Quigley said the charge against Mr. Haugh was a breach of the rules by playing in a senior hurling match in Cork, and then in a Limerick intermediate match in the same year, 1915.

Mr. Quillinan asked was Mr. Haugh registered in Cork when he played with the Collegians against Blackrock.

Mr. Haugh, who was present, said he was not sure, but he was registered in Limerick.

Having gone into the case,

The Chairman said the decision of the Appeals Committee should be overuled, and the match Monagey v Knockaderry, awarded to the latter, as Mr. Haugh was not a legal player on the occasion of the match in question.

The Newcastle West Junior Football team appealed against a decision of the County Limerick Board in awarding a match played with Fedonagh at Knockaderry on the 8th August last to the last-mentioned team.

The Limerick County Board, at their meeting on the 4th September awarded the match to Newcastle West, on the ground that there were illegal players on the Fehonagh team, but on a counter appeal from Fehonagh heard by the Limerick County Board, on the 25th September, the same month, the Board ordered a re-play.

The Council, after hearing Mr. Ml. Nix, Newcastle West, the Chairman awarded the match to Newcastle West, strong comment being made on the action of the County Board in giving two contradictory decisions within the month.

Mr. Nix said he was a member of the Board for the past 25 years, and he was without a similar experience.

The appeal of Knockerra F.C. against the decision of the Clare County Committee upholding the objection of Coolmeen to the decision given on the football match played at Kilrush on September 5th last was heard. The match was won by Knockerra by 1 goal 1 point to 2 points for Clonmeen, but the latter objected on the ground of there being illegal players with the winning team, and the Clare committee accordingly on appeal awarded the match to them. Knockerra objected to this decision for two reasons, that they had no notice of the objection until too late to enter a counter objection, and next that they had insufficient notice of the day of the committee meeting.

It was decided to adjourn the matter for the consideration of the Clare County Committee, so as to give Knockerra representatives an opportunity of putting their case fully before them, a letter on the subject having miscarried.

Limerick Hurlers Defeated

The Cork hurlers had a decisive victory over a "scratch" Limerick team at the Markets Field, Limerick, on Sunday, in the first of the home and home challenge games. The attendance was rather small, and the contest was not up to expectations. This was not the fault of the County Board by any means, but it was due to the fact that about ten of the players, who had been selected, did not put in an appearance. The spectators were naturally displeased and disappointed at this and no wonder. At the time fixed for the starting of the game Limerick had to pick up a team and it was with difficulty a sufficient number of hurleys could be obtained for the fifteen players. Flaherty was by far the best on the Limerick side, and W. Harrington, W. Hough, D. Ryan, and W. Gleeson also distinguished themselves. Cork had the best of the play all through, and were well deserving of their victory when the full time whistle sounded.

Cork—6 goals

Limerick—1 goal 4 points.

The following did duty for Limerick:—P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), M. Harrington, W. Harrington, J. Whelan, S. Gleeson, W. Gleeson (Fedamore), T. Foley (Ballybrown), W. Haugh (Monegay), M. Connell (South Liberties), P. Ryan, D. Ryan, J. O'Brien (Young Irelands), J. Burke, J. Dunleа (Boher), M. Maher (Caherline).

Referee—Mr. P. Kenny, Clare.

State of the Crops.

[—:o:—]

The report of the Department of Agriculture on the state of the Crops, says that the closing weeks of September and the first half of October were very favourable for harvesting operations, and all the grain crops were saved and stacked in excellent order. In the middle of October, with the exception of occasional fields in very backward districts, the crop was all safely in stack or shed, and threshing has been proceeding briskly over most of the earlier counties. Stacking of the crops was carried out more expeditiously than usual, and the early completion of this brought most farmers well abreast of the work for the season. In many districts ploughing of stubble ground, preparatory to the sowing of catch crops as well as winter wheat and oats is general. Digging of the potato crop has begun on some farms, but will hardly be general till the end of October.

The following is the report on the condition and prospect of crops in Co. Limerick:—Wheat has been all harvested; some threshing has been done and the returns were good; the grain is of good quality. There is a slight deficiency in the bulk of grain from the oat crop; the corn is not very plump and is yielding rather light. White oats is fetching 1s. 1d. to 1s. 1½d., Black oats, 11½d. to 12d. per stone, but prices have a rising tendency. Barley, which is not much grown except for feeding purposes is short in straw; the grain return is fair. Rye has yielded well both in grain and straw. Potatoes are a good crop all round and digging is in full swing; yield will hardly be as good as last year; there are a few complaints of disease from some districts. Early sown turnips promise well, but those sown late are not so good; the crop is rather weedy and grassy everywhere; there have been a few cases of Finger-and-Toe attack. Mangels are a good crop and up to the average. A large area of catch crops has been sown and these are doing splendidly. Grass is plentiful and there is plenty of keep for stock. The latter are healthy and doing well. Cows kept up their supply of milk splendidly. Prices for all kinds of stock have been on the down grade for the past month. Pigs are paying well and on some farms extra sows are being kept to breed from next year. Geese and turkeys in some districts are somewhat scarcer than usual owing to mortality among the young birds in spring.

The following is the report on Fruit Crop in Co. Limerick:—There is a good crop of apples, and pears are well above average. Plums gave a heavy yield, but are not much grown. All fruit coloured well at the end of the season, but the crop was later in ripening than usual. American blight is very prevalent in some districts; Codlin moth did harm in some orchards. Fruit on old trees was injured by the Black Spot Fungus. Apples are selling locally at 1s. 3d. to 2s. per hamper of 2 stones; pears 2s. to 4s. per hamper; plums 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per stone.

DEATH OF AN ABBEYFEALE SCHOOL TEACHER.

The death of Mrs. Mary M. Harnett, N.T., which took place at her residence in New street, in her 37th year, is very widely and deeply regretted by her many friends and the public. Mrs. Harnett was one of the principals of the Dromtrasna National Schools, and during the discharge of her duties there which she conducted in a very careful and capable manner she endeared herself to those under her charge, and fully deserved the congratulations which her conscientious labours merited from her superiors. An ardent lover of Gaelic she was a constant attendant at the Gaelic classes and was unsparing in her efforts to inculcate a sound knowledge of the language on those entrusted to her instruction. The greatest sympathy is felt for her bereaved husband and family, to whom numerous expressions of regret and sympathy have been conveyed. The funeral cortege was of extremely large proportions, the interment being in the Abbey Cemetery. The burial service was read by the Very Rev. Canon Lee, P.P., and the Rev. D. O'Riordan, C.C. The chief mourners were:—Mr. Thomas Harnett, Dublin (husband), Mr. T. M. Harnett, Abbeyfeale (brother), Mrs. R. P. Harnett, Rathoran (sister), R. P. Harnett, J. Harnett (brothers-in-law), Mrs. T. M. Harnett (sister-in-law). A very large number of relatives and others from outside districts attended the obsequies. A number of beautiful wreaths covered the coffin.—Cor.

ABBEYFEALE MAN WOUNDED AT THE DARDANELLES.

Abbeyfeale, Saturday.

Private Richard Collins, a native of this town, lost his left arm at the Dardanelles as the result of the explosion of a shot, which killed some of his comrades at the same time. He is at present convalescing at the Walton Hospital, Liverpool. A short time ago Private Collins went to reside with his uncle, Mr. A. Coles, of Petone. A New Zealand paper to hand says:—"Private Collins, who has been reported wounded from the Dardanelles, was educated at St. Patrick's College, and after leaving school joined the staff of Messrs. McGrath and Willis, Barristers and Solicitors, of this city. When volunteers were called for soon after war was declared Private Collins was amongst the first to offer his services. He was accepted, and on his return from Samoa at once enlisted for service in Europe, in spite of the fact that he had only a few subjects to pass in order to obtain his LL.B. Degree. Private Collins is the only son of Mr. William R. Collins, merchant, Main street, a popular and much esteemed Abbeyfeale man."—Cor.

THE STORM IN WEST LIMERICK.

Abbeyfeale, Saturday.

A great rain storm, which towards the afternoon of yesterday developed into a blizzard of very great violence, blew from the N.N.E. over this district and dislocated all outdoor works. The Feale and its tributaries were flooded, and broke their banks in all directions. On the Railway Road the occupants of the houses near the Oolaghaun river were forced to abandon them owing to the flood.—Cor.

Rathkeale Union.

Mr. M. D. Conway (Chairman), presided, Also present were:—Messrs. J. Fitzgibbon, J.P.; D. J. Madden, J. Bridgeman, J. Cahill, M. Cowhey, R. O'Shaughnessy, J. Halpin, and P. O'Shaughnessy.

Adverting to previous correspondence on the subject, the Local Government Board wrote suggesting that the children in the Workhouse should be taken out for exercise on Saturdays "If they do not attend school on that day."

Mr. Cahill—How many children are there?

Assistant-Clerk—About ten or twelve.

The Master said it would be as easy to take the children out on Saturday as any day.

It was agreed to adopt the suggestion of the Local Government Board.

The Clerk read a list of surcharges made by the auditor, Mr. Cyril E. Browne, at his recent audit of the accounts of the Union. There were surcharges as follows, being payments in excess of the contract price for coffins, and eight Guardians were mentioned: 8s., 4s., 16s., 8s., 16s. Three members of the Board were also surcharged in the sum of £8, being an overpayment of salary to certain officers in excess of the approved scale in force, and sanctioned by the Local Government Board. The Auditor also surcharged three members in the sum of £13 13s. 7d. on the grounds that "the said sum was paid to a contractor for certain workhouse supplies in excess of the contract price to which he was legally entitled for goods delivered. The said sum purported to be compensation for loss sustained by the said contractor owing to the outbreak of the war, and the Auditor decided on the evidence that no such loss was incurred."

Mr. Madden said the Guardians would only learn by their mistakes. As regards the surcharge of £13 13s. 7d. he was glad to state that the contractor would pay that amount himself.

It was decided to appeal to the Local Government Board against the surcharges.

The Local Government Board also wrote sanctioning the Guardians' proposal to pay the maximum salary to Dr. Magner, who had given 30 years' service as Medical Officer of the Rathkeale Dispensary district.

Mr. Madden spoke on the advisability of confining the tea contract to suppliers within the Union, because they were paying to the rates. He proposed that such a course be adopted.

Mr. Liston—You will have less competition then.

Mr. Madden—Indeed you will not. You will have plenty even from the town of Rathkeale.

Mr. Liston—If we act on that course it will look bad in the eyes of the public. It will look bad to have the contract confined to a "ring."

The motion was passed unanimously.

District Council.

Mr. J. Fitzgibbon, Chairman, presided at the meeting of the District Council held subsequently.

Mr. J. J. Quaid, Secretary, Limerick Co. Council, wrote forwarding, by the direction of the Local Government Board, copy of the new declaration and scheme of direct labour for the period 1915-18, as approved by the Board on 16th September, 1915.

From the Local Government Board a letter was received stating that that body saw no objection to the repairs proposed to be executed to the cottages which Mary Nash and John O'Keeffe hold from the Council under the Labourers Acts.

Arising out of the question of the repairs to a labourer's cottage, Mr. Madden said the cost of repairing cottages annually came to a very large sum. At the last meeting the Guardians were unanimous in doing something to keep down this large sum—to keep down, what he termed, this unnecessary and abnormal expenditure, when they decided to repair no more cottages unless, of course, in very urgent cases. He had got a list from the Clerk stating the cost of such repairs for the past three years, and it disclosed an extraordinary state of affairs which if allowed to go on would place the Council in a very awkward corner. Now, from the list he learned that the cost of repairs for the past three years was £1,713 11s. 4d.

A Member—That is awful.

Chairman—What are you surprised at? I am not surprised, because I thought the amount would be more in fact.

Mr. Madden said that was an extraordinary amount to be expended in repairs and he would like to learn if the repairs affected were of a permanent nature. The cost of law proceedings in reference to cottages during the three years was £2 17s 8d, and allowing for collectors' poundage and insurance of cottages the total expenditure for the three years was £2,172 5s. 5d. The rents obtained for the period amounted to £2,988 17s. 4d. but the Council had to pay £6,848 18s. 4d. by way of repayment of loans. By adding this sum to the expenditure on the houses and their subtracting the amount received in rent, the Council would see that for three years the net loss on cottages was £6,032 6s. Well, surely these facts vindicated the Council's action at the last meeting, and would nerve them still further on to do all in their power to lessen this abnormal expenditure, especially at the present time when economy in all departments of life was so very necessary and advisable.

Chairman—It is an awful state of affairs surely.

The Engineer appealed to the Council to help him to keep down these amounts and only to order repairs in such cases as they were very necessary such as repairing roofs through which water was coming.

The matter then dropped.

NOTICE

THE LANDS of BALLYFRAWLEY and CHESTERFIELD are POISONED on account of Sheep being worried by dogs.

William Power,
Chesterfield.
nv6 3t

Our Letter Box.

ASHFORD VOLUNTEERS.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEEKLY OBSERVER.)

DEAR SIR—In your issue of November 6th I read a letter from Daniel P. Casey, Killeedy, Ballaugh, Chairman of the A.O.H., Ashford Division. In that letter he said my nationality was false. How does he claim my nationality to be false? Is it as I am an Irish Volunteer? I claim my nationality is as true as that of the Chairman of the A.O.H. Will he explain to the public how the Ashford Division A.O.H. is working under his presidency, or the reason they had at their last meeting but thirteen members out of a roll of nearly two hundred? Or does the Chairman of the A.O.H. claim that himself and his twelve brother-members represent the total strength of the Division? He says he will not shirk in his duty as to the starting of the Volunteers here, but he is shirking in his duty, or else his memory is leading him astray, when he says that the Volunteer Corps was formed in August, 1914, and that the Volunteers held their first meeting in August, 1914, as the Volunteer Corps was three months in existence at that time. Why does the Chairman of the A.O.H. strive to connect the Volunteer movement with the A.O.H., as the Volunteer movement is a purely non-political one, and if some of the collectors for the Defence of Ireland Fund were members of the A.O.H. they collected the money as Irish Volunteers and not as Hibernians. He says the Corps was affiliated in the course of time, but he conveniently forgets to state with whom, as the Corps was affiliated with the Irish Volunteers. He next states that when the Volunteer split came about a general meeting was held, and that it was unanimously decided to register with the Redmond Volunteers. I emphatically contradict that statement, as I was present at that meeting, and it was the unanimous decision of that meeting to remain neutral, and a resolution to that effect was drafted and copies of same were forwarded to Messrs. MacNeill and Redmond and the Press. Does the Chairman of the A.O.H. call that majority rule? As regards the September, 1915, meeting, he says it was never put to a poll, and he asks do I think that the Redmond Volunteers and subscribers were to be overridden by an irresponsible lot picked around the country. I claim that every person at the September meeting who was in favour of the Irish Volunteers was a subscriber to the Defence of Ireland Fund or a member of the Irish Volunteer organisation and they were not an irresponsible lot picked around the country; but I claim that the Chairman of the A.O.H. and other members of that body did their utmost to rig that meeting for the purpose of having a majority; but when they discovered that their attempts failed to find a majority for them they refused to put the matter to a poll. At that meeting they refused to listen to an explanation, and when the gentleman who presided at that meeting, although being one of the largest subscribers to the Volunteer Fund, rose to speak he was shouted down and he left the meeting disgusted. The Chairman of the A.O.H. also says that the trustees will not part with the money entrusted to them for to equip the Volunteers to keep Carson from carrying out his threats of destruction. I ask the Chairman of the A.O.H. is it the National Volunteers, under the presidency of J. E. Redmond, that will keep Carson from carrying out his threats of destruction and keep Home Rule on the Statute Book, with their dummy rifles, without bayonets, or ammunition. Does the Chairman of the A.O.H. think that every Irishman is a factionist unless he is a follower of J. E. Redmond and a member of the A.O.H.? If he does, he is not worthy to be a member of that Order, much less to be an Irishman. Daniel P. Casey also states that Mr. Redmond's followers in this parish are willing to submit to majority rule—majority got by fair play; but my opinion is they would not submit to any rule, as they proved at the September meeting. Thanking you for insertion in your next issue,—Truly yours,

A KILLEEDY NATIONALIST.

November 10th, 1915.

(TO THE EDITOR WEEKLY OBSERVER.)

DEAR SIR—As a reader of your valuable paper, and an admirer of your "Poet's Corner" in particular, I was rather perturbed by the footnote over the initials P. J. A. in your last issue. I presume these are the initials of our illustrious Carrickerry Bard, but whosever they are the writer of the note seemed to have allowed his enthusiasm run riot with his common sense in the following sentence:—

"This is a signal proof that the fighting spirit of Brian Conn, Hugh Owen, and Sarsfield is as vigorous to-day in Ireland as it was a thousand years ago."

Now may I ask who was Brian Conn, or Hugh Owen? My small knowledge of Irish history tells me who Sarsfield was, but it is stretching my non-too-elastic intelligence too far to ask me who were the other gentlemen. Brian Conn may have come from Ardagh, and Hugh Owen from Killoughteen for all that I know.

If your writer had in his mind, Brian Boru, Conn of the Hundred Battles, Hugh and Owen Roe O'Neill, why didn't he say so, but then of course he was speaking of "a thousand years ago," and with the exception of Conn, not one of the other old warriors, including Sarsfield, can yet place a thousand years to his credit.

Yes, I have made due allowance for "Poetic license" and all that, but my point is this—the names of historical celebrities, any more than historical facts, must not be served up to us in a jumbled condition, otherwise our country's glorious history may become in time in the hands of our boys and girls nothing more or less than a second edition of Æsop's Fables.—Yours faithfully,

KNOCKFIERNA.

Irish Party & Conscription

MR. DILLON'S VIEWS.

Acknowledging congratulations from the Ballaghaderreen A.O.H., on his speech at the Armagh Convention, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., refers to the treatment accorded intending Irish emigrants at Liverpool, remarking that "however wrong and mistaken some of them may have been in deciding to fly to America and desert their country at a crisis like this, they had a perfectly legal right to go, and in reading of the shameful insults to which they were subjected, one cannot forget the millions that went before them and whose flight from Ireland was made the subject of insult and exultation by the English Press and public of the days that are gone by."

"While it is undoubtedly a disgraceful act of cowardice and treason for the young Britishers who have fled from England during the last few weeks, the Irishman who refuses to fight for England in this war, no matter how mistaken he may be, in his judgment, cannot," says Mr. Dillon, "in view of the past history of his country and his race, be taunted as a coward." The real blame for the Liverpool scene must, he holds, be laid upon the newspapers and individuals who during the last six months have done everything in their power to destroy the faith of these young men in the counsel and leadership of the Irish Party." He trusts that the lesson will be taken to heart and that follies of a similar character will not be perpetrated in the future.'

Mr. Dillon, in reference to an "Irish Times" statement, declares that he "is still absolutely convinced that no British Government will attempt to enforce conscription in Ireland." He argues that the object of the "Irish Times" is to cripple Lord Wimborne's recruiting campaign. He also alludes to a letter of the Bishop of Limerick—not addressed to the "Irish Times," but "picked up by it out of the "Munster News"—"a very able and remarkable letter, but one which I can hardly imagine would be sought out for publication by any newspaper desiring to promote recruiting in Ireland." The controversy as to conscription should have been allowed to sleep—"at all events until a fair trial had been given to voluntary system. Col. Repington's article in the London "Times" in favour of raising at once 30 new divisions to be ready by August next or earlier, is cited by Mr. Dillon as involving a repudiation of the Premier's appeal for securing the men left after other national interests are supplied.

Lord Derby's scheme, Mr. Dillon emphasises, applies only to Great Britain, "as Lord Derby has no jurisdiction over recruiting in Ireland", but his lordship's statement of Thursday last he describes as "most injudicious and mischievous," and he adds that "no man has a right to say that the British people that conscription will be inflicted upon them until he has obtained the consent of the House of Commons. Mr. Dillon does not believe compulsion will be attempted in Great Britain, and he promises British Radicals that they may count on the co-operation of the Irish Party in any resistance that may be offered to the introduction of the Prussian system."

"But, whatever may be the result in Great Britain," concludes Mr. Dillon, "there can be no doubt as to the position in Ireland. The condition laid down in the Prime Minister's speech as essential to make compulsion or coercion in any shape practicable—namely, something approaching to general assent—is plainly outside the limits of possibility in Ireland."

Irish Land and Labour Association.

A BRANCH FORMED AT FEENAGH.

At a specially convened meeting of the labourers of the United Parishes of Feenagh and Kilmeedy at the request of Mr. Thomas Lundon, M.P., and the East Limerick Executive of the Land and Labour Association held on Sunday last, Mr. Richard Tobin presided, and explained the object of the Association, and said it was not for the purpose of starting a new Branch they were called together, but to reorganise the old Branch. They were in communication with Mr. Lundon, M.P., and the grand old advocate of labour, Mr. John Osborne, and from the gathering of that evening he was convinced that the old spirit which animated the sturdy sons of toil in the district would re-assert itself and that the labourers would band themselves together by joining the Association, so that the rights of labour may be upheld.

A discussion arose as to the advisability of forming a Committee, and it was decided that for the present only provisional officers be appointed, and Mr. Richard Tobin was selected President with Mr. James Flanagan, Secretary.

The Secretary was directed to communicate with Mr. John Osborne, with a view to selecting a proper day for a public meeting to be held when officers and Committee will be selected.

LIMERICK MARKETS FIELD ROW.

At a special Court held by Mr. P. J. Kelly, R.M., on Saturday, the five men John Grady, Thomas O'Grady, Edward O'Grady, John Leonard, and John Keogh, were brought up on remand on the charge of assault on Denis Byrnes at the Markets enclosure on the 17th ult. District-Inspector Craig was for the Crown, and Mr. J. H. Moran, solicitor for the defendants. Mr. Moran produced medical certificates from Dr Devane and Dr. Humphreys to show that the life of the injured man was out of danger, and he asked to have the accused allowed out on bail, which had already been measured by Mr. Kelly. The application was granted, and the accused allowed out on the bail already measured in £50, and two sureties of £25 each. Messrs. Owen Ryan, B.L., and Michael M'Grath were the securities. They entered into the necessary bonds, and on the further application of Mr. Moran it was decided that the magisterial investigation into the charge should be held on the 13th proximo.

MR. CHURCHILL'S DEFENCE.

ANTWERP, THE CRUISERS, AND THE DARDANELLES.

STATEMENT IN COMMONS.

Mr. Churchill made his expected statement in the House of Commons on Monday. His speech dealt with certain episodes and incidents in Admiralty war direction which occurred during his tenure of office, namely: The battles of Coronel and the Falkland Islands, the loss of the three cruisers, the attempt to relieve Antwerp, and the initiation of the naval attack on the Dardanelles.

With regard to the Coronel battle, he said that the head of the Admiralty was in full agreement with the head of the advisers of the Admiralty, and that the disposition was sound. He thought that could be proved without detracting from the gallant devotion of Admiral Cradock and of the fine story of blue-water operations.

With regard to the three Bacchantes, the charge that he overruled the naval authorities in keeping these cruisers out against their advice and that the disaster was personally due to him, was not true. He accepted the general responsibility, but not the invidious responsibility which fell on an incompetent Minister who overruled his advisers.

THE ANTWERP EXPEDITION.

The project of sending a relieving army to Antwerp did not originate with him. It was arranged by Lord Kitchener and the French Government. He was only consulted after the arrangements had advanced a long way, and not until large bodies of troops were actually moving or under orders. At midnight on October 2 he was summoned to a conference. He then learned that plans for sending a relieving army to the aid of Antwerp were already far advanced, and were being concerted between Lord Kitchener and the French Government, that they had not yet reached a point where definite offers and promises could be made to the Belgian Government, and that meanwhile, that afternoon, the Belgian Government had telegraphed their decision to evacuate the city. It seemed that at the moment when aid was available everything was going to be thrown away for the sake of three or four days' continuous resistance, and in these circumstances he offered to proceed to Antwerp at once to tell the Belgian Government what was being done, to ascertain the situation on the spot, and to see in what way the defence could be prolonged until either a relieving force could arrive or the impossibility of sending a relieving force could be established. His colleagues accepted his offer, and he crossed the Channel at once.

The next day, having consulted with the Belgian Government and with the British staff officers who were in Antwerp watching the progress of the operations, he made a telegraphic proposal, which was accepted by both Governments. He was informed by telegraph that a relieving army would be sent.

It was a great mistake to regard Lord Kitchener's effort to relieve Antwerp as an event which led only to misfortune. He believed that military history would hold that the consequences conduced extremely to the advantage of the Allies in the west.

The moving of British and French troops, though it did not save Antwerp, had the effect of causing a great battle to be fought on the line of the Yser instead of further south.

The decision to send the Naval Brigade was taken by the Government on his advice. If there is any blame for putting troops of that character into a business of that kind, that blame fell upon him. They had good non-commissioned officers and a sprinkling of trained professional officers. They had rifles and plenty of ammunition. They had been together for a couple of months or six weeks. They had acquitted themselves elsewhere on terms which would not do any discredit to the finest troops of the Regular Army. He was therefore justified, he contended, in proposing to the Government to use these troops, in spite of their want of training. All these matters could only be judged fairly in relation to the great emergency.

THE DARDANELLES.

Dealing with the Dardanelles, Mr. Churchill said that from the beginning it was recognised that a joint naval and military operation by surprise was the best way of attacking the Dardanelles. They were informed that no army was available, and further in the early discussions which took place in the Cabinet and also at the War Council, it was clearly the prevailing opinion that, even were they available they should not be used for attacking the Gallipoli peninsula. On the other hand, the need for action in the Eastern Mediterranean was constantly pressed from many quarters. As the result of all these representations he telegraphed in January to Admiral Carden, who was our Admiral blockading the Dardanelles, and who had been there since the Turkish declaration of war, and put to him the specific question: "Do you consider the forcing of the Dardanelles by ships alone a practical operation?"

The Admiral replied to the effect that the Dardanelles could not be rushed, but could be reduced by a regular and sustained bombardment. He put the same question simultaneously to Sir Henry Jackson, the present First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, and received from him an almost similar answer.

Admiral Carden was then asked to formulate his plans and to state his requirements, and did so. The plan was examined by the Admiralty War Staff, and Sir Henry Jackson expressed his full concurrence and advised in writing the attack on the outer forts being made as early as possible.

LORD FISHER.

Lord Fisher knew everything that was passing. He never expressed any opinion against the specific operation, or indeed against the operation at all at this stage. Sir A. Wilson was in favour of attacking the outer forts, but he felt that future progress must depend on the amount of Turkish resistance.

After these preliminary discussions Mr. Churchill said he brought Admiral Carden's plans before the War Council on January 13th. The meeting was attended by the powerful members of the Cabinet, by various high military officers, by the First Sea Lord, and by Sir A. Wilson. The War Council were immensely impressed with the political advantages of the plan if it could be carried out, and they pressed the Admiralty to find a way to carry it out. No one spoke against the method proposed. No expert advisers uttered any dissent. The whole plan of Admiral Carden was searchingly re-examined by the Admiralty War Staff and the various gunnery experts, and the general concensus of opinion was established in its favour on January 25.

Lord Fisher sent him a memorandum on naval policy. The memorandum did not question the practicability of the particular operation which we had long studied, but it deprecated reducing our margin in home waters and using fighting ships for bombarding purposes except in conjunction with military operations.

At no time did he receive from Lord Fisher any note expressing an adverse opinion. Early on the morning of January 28 he had an interview with Lord Fisher in the presence of the Prime Minister, and they discussed the whole situation. At this interview his recollection was that Lord Fisher agreed and consented to the purely naval attack upon the Dardanelles being made. The whole matter came up for final discussion at the War Council held later in the day, at which Lord Fisher and Sir Arthur Wilson were present, and as a result of a long discussion in which no adverse opinion was expressed the operation was definitely sanctioned. The first stage of the attack was successful beyond their hopes.

THE SHADOW.

In the early days of March, however, the progress became slower, and on the prospect of success a shadow began to pass. At the end of the first week in March the difficulties of sweeping up the minefields increased, and although final success was attained in silencing the forts, they were not able to inflict decisive permanent damage. The mobile armaments of the enemy began to develop and became increasingly annoying.

It was, therefore, decided that a gradual advance should be replaced by more vigorous measures, and Admiral Carden was invited to press hard for a decision and not to be deterred by inevitable loss.

These Admiralty telegrams were the results of close consultation between the First Sea Lord and himself, and like every other order of importance they bore the written authority of the First Sea Lord. Admiral Carden expressed himself in entire agreement with the spirit of the Admiralty telegram. March 17 was the date fixed for the attack. On the 16th Admiral Carden was struck down by illness, and on the advice of the First Sea Lord, Admiral de Roebeck, the second in command, was appointed to succeed him.

Meanwhile the Army, which earlier in the year they were told would not be available, was gradually assembled, and Sir Ian Hamilton arrived with his forces. It was decided to substitute for a purely naval operation a joint naval and military attack.

He had gone through all the story in order to show that the naval attack on the Dardanelles was a naval plan made by the naval authorities on the spot and approved by naval experts at the Admiralty, and was not a civilian plan foisted by a political amateur upon reluctant experts.

"But I must say," added Mr. Churchill, "that I did not receive from the First Sea Lord the clear guidance I was led to expect from him. If he did not approve of the operations he should have spoken out at the War Council.

"If the First Sea Lord had not approved these operations, if he thought they would lead to undue loss, it was his duty to refuse consent. No one could have prevailed against such a refusal, and the operation would never have begun. There was the time for resignation. He did not take that course."

In conclusion Mr. Churchill said there was no reason to be discouraged. We were passing through a bad time, and it would probably be worse before it was better; but that it would be better if we only endured and persevered he had no doubt whatever.

MR. DENMAN AND HIS PARTY.

At a special meeting of the council of the Carlisle Liberal Council, held on Monday to consider the attitude of the Hon. R. D. Denman, M.P. for the constituency, towards the war, the following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting of the Carlisle Liberal Association is of opinion that Mr. Denman no longer possesses the confidence of the Association, and requests the executive committee to take steps to select another candidate."

Mr. Denman is a prominent member of the Union of Democratic Control.

"DISMISSED THE SERVICE."

The "London Gazette" of Saturday contained the following announcement:—

Welsh Fusiliers.—Temp. 2nd Lieut. the Hon. Charles W. J. H. Blake is dismissed the service by sentence of a general court-martial.

The Hon. C. W. J. H. Blake is the only surviving son and heir of the fourth Baron Wallscourt of Ardfry, Oranmore, Co. Galway. He was born in 1875, and married in 1905.

DROVERS AND NIGHT LIGHTS.

Three bullocks were recently being driven after dark from Barnet to Tottenham. At Whetstone a motor-car came into collision with one of the animals, which was crossing the road at the time, and killed it.

Edward Turnbull, of Chiswick, who was sitting with the chauffeur, was thrown from the car. He fell on his head, fracturing his skull, and died a few hours later.

At the inquest held at Barnet on Monday the jury added to their verdict of "Accidental death" a rider to the effect that drovers, now the streets were darkened, should be compelled to carry a lighted lantern. They said it was a scandal that drovers should be free from restrictions as to the carrying of lights.

GERMAN LIE REFUTED.

The Secretary of the Admiralty has made the following announcement:—

"In German wireless Press message made on night of 12th instant, it is conjectured that British hospital ships are being used for conveying troops, munitions, and other war material.

"This is absolutely false. British hospital ships have always been, and will always be used in the conditions prescribed by the Geneva and Hague Conventions."

TWO NEW RECORDERS

The King, on the recommendation of the Home Secretary, has been pleased to appoint:—

Mr. Rigby Swift, K.C., M.P., to be Recorder of Wigan in place of Sir Lancelot Sanderson, K.C., who resigned on appointment as Chief Justice of Bengal.

Mr. T. Mordaunt Snagge to be Recorder of Ludlow in place of the late Mr. H. L. Greene, K.C.

CITY TEMPLE PASTORATE.

At the church meeting held at the City Temple, London, on Monday for the purpose of selecting a successor to Mr. R. J. Campbell, it was decided by a unanimous vote to invite Professor Hugh Black, formerly of Edinburgh and now of the Union Theological Seminary, New York, to the pastorate.

The Sunday afternoon quiet of the elder members of the Reynolds family in the living-room was broken in upon by sharp words from the den adjoining. "You shan't hang it there!" "I will!" "No, you won't. If you do I'll take it down." "But I won't let you." By this time mother and older brother interfered, preventing a tussle. And it was discovered that the cause of the argument was a beautifully illuminated Sunday-school card bearing the words, "God is love."

DRESS OF THE DAY.

A SMART BLOUSE.

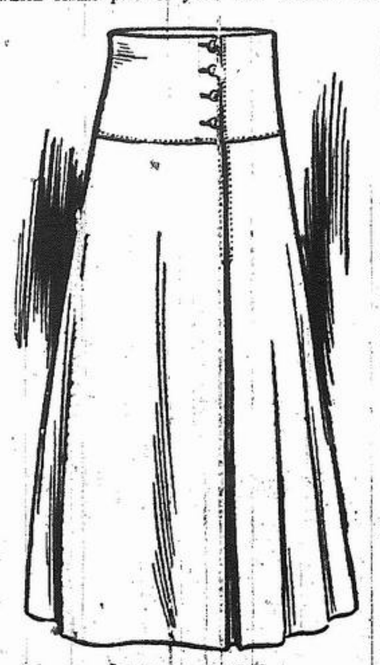
Smart blouses, as distinct from the severe tailored style, are more worn at present than they have been for a very long time, probably because they can be worn with an already existing skirt, and are therefore more economical than a complete new frock. Consequently, they are shown in a very great variety of style, material, and price. Our sketch shows one of the very newest and smartest of these blouses, a delightful little model which is carried out in coloured and ivory Georgette crêpe. The colour chosen should exactly match the skirt with which the blouse is to be worn, otherwise the toilette loses half its effect. The blouse is made with a small strap yoke on each shoulder, which is set in with an open seam. The fulness of the material is gathered on to this yoke both back and front. The blouse is open from neck to waist in front,

[Refer to X 649.]

and prettily shaped revers turn back from the opening. These revers are faced with the white or ivory crêpe, and are edged by a little pleated frill of the same crêpe. The opening in front is filled by a little vest of the same crêpe, which is ornamented down the middle by a row of tiny, crêpe covered buttons and by a few small tucks on either side. The neckband, which is made of the coloured crêpe, is high and plain, and is open in front. It is edged by a tiny pleated frill of the ivory crêpe which gradually widens until it is fully two inches in width at the back of the neck. A narrow velvet ribbon is carried round the bottom of the collar and tied in a smart knot in front. The sleeves are of the new bell shape, which promises to become so very fashionable. They are gathered a little at the top, where they are set into the blouse with an open seam, and are of rather more than three-quarter length, being finished at the bottom by a little hem-stitched border. Beneath these sleeves come full undersleeves of the ivory crêpe. These are gathered into little velvet bands and are finished by frills of the ivory crêpe.

A USEFUL SKIRT.

Economy is being advocated all over the country at the present time. But the housemother is fully aware that there are certain branches of household expenditure in which common sense places a distinct limit to economy. Thus, to cut down the quantity or quality of food below a certain line is the very poorest of economies; and besides this limitation, there remains not much else besides the clothes bill in which to effect these much-called-for economies. One of the most practical and genuine means of saving is the provision of a separate skirt for wear with blouses and shirts. If you take the skirt which forms part of your new costume for



[Refer to X 650.]

regular wear in the house, it is shabby and out of shape in a very short time. But a separate skirt, preferably of exactly the same colour as the costume, is very quickly slipped on when you return from a walk or call, and its use keeps your costume trim and smart to the very last. When you have a new costume made by the tailor always buy from him at the same time enough material for a second skirt, and this you make yourself. Then all the blouses, hats, and etceteras which match the costume may be worn equally well with the separate skirt. The sketch shows a skirt which is just the very model for the home worker. It is made with a round yoke, and has an inverted pleat down the middle of both front and back.

THE POPULAR TASSEL.

Tassels are among the most popular of the season's trimmings, and are often used in hitherto unexpected places. No self-respecting bag is considered complete without a tassel at the bottom, or one at each side of the opening. Many of the new muffs have large tassels at each side, in some cases one, in others two. Tassels are also used upon some of the new sleeves, whether in gowns or coats, and are very frequently seen upon the huge, turn-back cuffs which are often finish this shape of the latter. Quite a number of the new rest gowns and negligées have their fronts, and sometimes weighted by enormous silk tassels. Little tassels of cut steel beads are also used in some of the new coiffures, and with charming effect.

Paper patterns can be supplied, price 6½d. When ordering, please quote number, enclose remittance, and address to Miss Lisle.

"FLINT-KNAPPING."

No community in England can lay claim to a greater antiquity than Brandon, in Suffolk, world-famed for the excellence of the flint taken from the chalk found abundantly in the district. This flint has been worked for thousands of years, both for peaceful and warlike purposes. The workers are called flint-knappers. A single worker is still known as Jack Flint. The flint, in large blocks, is obtained from pits, circular in shape, and dropping to a depth of thirty-five feet. The only tools used to get out the flint is a one-pronged pick. It is then carted to the flint-knapper's—always a shed near the worker's house. A visit to Jack Flint will find him sitting beside a big, round block of wood. Near the edge, and into the top, is fixed a "stake" of iron, about half an inch thick, three inches broad, and projecting three inches upwards. Picking up a flint he examines it, and then hits it once gently with his hammer, and it breaks in half. Heredity and experience tells him where to hit. Each part is then halved in the same way, and this he calls "quartering." Each quarter is then "flaked." The flint is held close to the left knee, and the edge is tapped. Off comes a "flake," from two to five inches in length and an inch or so wide. Next comes the shaping into flints for guns. Each flake is picked up, held in the left hand, on the top of the "stake," and chipped into shape. The tool used is the "knapping" hammer—a flat strip of iron, about eight inches long, one inch broad, and a quarter of an inch thick. These gun-flints are exported to East Africa, South America, China, Oceania, and India chiefly, and used in muskets, carbines, horse-pistols, etc. Besides this is the industry of making "strike-a-lights" for the use of the troops in the trenches. These consist of a tin box, nearly three inches long, known as "tinder-boxes," and each containing a steel, a "fuse," and a gun-flint. The steel strikes on the flint. This causes a spark, which ignites the fuse—like a piece of tow—thus enabling the soldier to get a light when matches are not available, owing to wet and windy weather.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S SEAT

The big red bag without back or arms on which the Lord Chancellor sits when presiding over the deliberations of the House of Lords is called the woolsack. Its origin is curious. An Act was passed in Elizabeth's reign prohibiting the exportation of wool, and to keep this source of national wealth in their lordships' minds the kindergarten notion of making them sit on wool bags was tried. Nowadays when a new Chancellor is appointed he is said to be appointed to the woolsack, and to sit on the woolsack. Yet this red bag is not really in the House of Peers. It is considered out of bounds. In fact, the Lord Chancellor need not be a peer, although he generally is. Nevertheless, when he wishes to address the House as a peer, he leaves the woolsack and takes his own place on the benches. This peculiar theory about the woolsack being outside the chamber, although anybody and everybody can see that it is inside, accounts for the fact that when peers do not wish to vote they may simply withdraw to the woolsack, where, as they are supposed to be outside the House, they are not counted in the division.

SHORT SERMONS.

Three words comprise the shortest sermon on record, which was preached by the Rev. Dr. William Augustus Muhlenberg, in 1866, at the funeral of Robert Browne Minturn, philanthropist, and specially remembered as the founder of St. Luke's Hospital, in New York. The text, of normal length, was from Micah vi. 8, "What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?" and the sermon was contained in the three words of seven letters in all "So did he." Another remarkable short sermon was that of the Rev. Walter Kirwan, when preaching on behalf of Dublin Protestant orphans. When he entered the pulpit the Rev. Kirwan burst into tears. At length, turning towards the orphans in the gallery, he said, "My children, I cannot plead for you." And then descended the pulpit. It was found afterwards that the collection for the charity was one of the biggest ever taken up.

MILITARY ETIQUETTE.

Newly-commissioned officers are caused not a little embarrassment at times by relatives and others who persist in giving them their full military title in conversation and when addressing letters to them. This, it should be pointed out, is quite contrary to military etiquette, the rule being that military titles below the rank of captain are never used socially, nor naval titles below the rank of lieutenant. A subaltern is addressed in writing as "Esq.," with the name of the regiment, etc., following. A lieutenant in the Navy is "Esq., R.N." Not a few people, by the way, may have wondered why a private soldier, when meeting an officer, salutes sometimes with one hand and sometimes with the other. This is because it is correct for the soldier to salute with the hand farthest from the officer, so as not to hide his face in so doing. Thus, if he passes an officer on the left hand side, he would salute with the right hand, and if passing on the right hand side with the left.

SEARCHLIGHTS.

Most of us are familiar by now with the marvellous streams of light which shoot up into the sky every night, switching from side to side in their search for Zeppelins. These searchlights are among the most wonderful of the devices used in warfare. The candle-power of the lamp is, in some cases, about 25,000. Their precise range has not been determined, but on a clear night they can pick you out if you are very many miles away. There is a searchlight at the Eigerwant station, on the Jungfrau Railway, the beam of which is visible at a distance of sixty miles, and it is strong enough to enable a newspaper to be read twenty miles off. At night, grey or khaki is more easily seen by searchlight than the French red. When landing troops by night at the Dardanelles our own soldiers were more conspicuous than were the French. Nevertheless, the landings would have been infinitely harder had not the great shafts of light picked out the dangers and obstacles on shore.

How the war has stopped the income of Lady Teresa Holmes-Booth, the widow of an Englishman who was a major in the Austrian army, and died in 1907, was mentioned in the Bankruptcy Court. In addition to a pension of £80 from the Austrian Government, she had, until war broke out, an income of £300 a year from Austrian securities.

WAR COMMITTEE.

FIVE MINISTERS IN THE INNER CABINET.

The personnel of the new War Committee of the Cabinet has been announced by Mr. Asquith.

During the temporary absence of Lord Kitchener, the Committee will consist of the following Cabinet Ministers:—

The Prime Minister (pro tem. Secretary of State for War).
Mr. Balfour (First Lord of the Admiralty).
Mr. Lloyd George (Minister of Munitions).
Mr. Bonar Law (Secretary of State for the Colonies).
Mr. McKenna (Chancellor of the Exchequer).

Mr. Asquith added that the Committee would be assisted in its deliberations by the Government's expert advisers—naval, military, and diplomatic.

This Committee will be responsible for the general conduct of the war, with the limitation that no action involving change of policy shall be undertaken without the approval and consent of the full Cabinet.

QUEEN DECORATES INDIANS.

The Queen, who acted for his Majesty, received three Indian officers at Buckingham Palace on Friday, and conferred upon them decorations bestowed for gallantry at the front.

The Indians were in native attire, and drove to the Palace accompanied by British officers. Second-Lieutenant Rana Jodha Jang Bahadur, attached to the 39th Garhwal Rifles, who was accompanied by Colonel Sir James Dunlop Smith, has a particularly gallant record. On October 13, when in charge of a double company which was taking part in a feint attack by the Indian Corps, he displayed conspicuous gallantry in face of a galling fire from rifles, machine-guns, bombs, and grenades, though severely wounded in the neck.

On a previous occasion, though wounded in the arm by a rifle bullet, he declined to retire, and on September 25 he led his company right up to the enemy's wire entanglements, despite a hot fire from machine-guns.

The Queen, when investing him with the Military Cross, shook hands with him, and warmly commended his gallant conduct.

Subadar Major Arsla Khan, 57th Wilde's Rifles, Frontier Force, was the recipient of the Order of British India, 2nd Class, with the title of Bahadur, and also the Military Cross, in recognition of his services and gallantry rendered while serving in France. Subadar Nismatullah Khan, of the 1st (King George's Own) Sappers and Miners, received the Indian Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of gallantry while serving with the Indian Army Corps.

Her Majesty shook hands warmly with both officers after conferring the decorations upon them.

WOMEN AS SHELL-MAKERS.

Inquiries in well-informed quarters show that, although at first employers were reluctant to engage women to make munitions, the results have disproved their fears.

At one of the largest shell factories in the country (says the "Chronicle") the whole of the operations on 18-pounder high-explosive shell, from the forged blank to the finish of the shell, is done by girls, and an excellent output has been obtained after an almost insignificant period of training. One large establishment has increased its woman shell workers by about 2,500 in the last six months.

In some of the National shell factories women are being freely used, especially on the lighter kinds of shells. In one instance the shifts contain fifty women and ten men. In the north a firm has found it possible to employ women for inspecting, weighing, boring, facing and packing 2in. howitzer bombs, and for testing them under hydraulic pressure.

In the works of a famous firm it is said that when there is a momentary slackness the women worry the foremen until they are busy again. The superintendent of a well-known armament firm declares that girls are much more satisfactory than boys at repetition work. A boy usually wants to become a fully trained mechanic, and grows discontented if kept at one job indefinitely, whereas girls are willing to concentrate attention on attaining dexterity at a particular task.

DRINKING CONTROL ORDERS.

The hours of opening of public-houses in new areas are set forth in the "London Gazette." They are as follows:—

MIDLANDS AREA: Weekdays, 11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

WESTERN BORDER AREA: Weekdays, 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 to 9 p.m. In a portion of this area there is no Sunday opening.

PORTSMOUTH AND PLYMOUTH AND FALMOUTH AREAS: Weekdays, 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

PEMBROKE AREA: Weekdays, 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. No Sunday opening.

WEST RIDING AREA: Weekdays, 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 12.30 to 2.30 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

The usual prohibitions of treating, credit, and the long pull are included in the orders, together with a restriction of the period for the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption off the premises.

MISS ASQUITH'S MARRIAGE.

It is officially announced that the marriage arranged between Mr. Maurice Bonham-Carter and Miss Violet Asquith will take place on November 30 at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

The wedding of Miss Violet Asquith, the Premier's elder daughter, and Mr. M. Bonham-Carter, her father's private secretary, was to have taken place on July 27, but Miss Asquith was taken ill with an attack of typhoid, and the ceremony had to be postponed.

BEQUEST OF AN AEROPLANE.

Lieut. Thomas Lindsay Bainbridge, 5th Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers, and electrical engineer, killed on April 27 last, left estate valued at £32,446 gross, with net personalty £32,016. He left his shares in the Northern Aircraft Co. and his 100 h.p. aeroplane to W. Rowland Tong.

Six apprentices who stayed away from work one afternoon to play football were each fined 20s. at the Glasgow Munitions Tribunal.

Sentence of six months in the second division was passed at the London Sessions on Richard Quartley, railway carman, for theft. It was alleged that 350 articles were stolen from 40 kit bags sent home on the Great Western Railway to relatives of officers killed or wounded in France. A similar sentence was passed on Albert Fountain, licensed victualler, for "receiving." and Albert Allen, van boy, was bound over.

LORD KITCHENER.

REMARKABLE GERMAN TRIBUTE.

It is safe to say that no recent single Allied action has caused more uneasiness to the German General Command in estimating the probable development of affairs in the Near East than the sending of Lord Kitchener to the new theatre of war. The German newspapers have given great prominence to it, and have speculated in a score of directions as to its real meaning in a manner which indicates clearly what great importance is attached to his intervention. In no instance have they attempted, as has been done in regard to every other move on the Allied side, to treat it as a negligible matter. The most striking instance of this attitude is an article in the latest issue of the "Berliner Tageblatt," in which a remarkable tribute is paid to Lord Kitchener, likening him to Wellington as the embodiment of the military spirit of the British people. The following are quotations from the article, which the Rotterdam correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says is one of the frankest and most clear-minded articles that have appeared in the German Press:—

"Nothing is more stupid than to underestimate an adversary, and when England sends her best military man to the district in which possibly the war will be decided we have every reason to examine this man, his capabilities, his determination, as impartially as possible. To begin with, we cannot but admit that what Lord Kitchener has done in the course of this war as an organiser is deserving of the greatest respect. One must judge, not from the German but from the English point of view, for it is impossible to apply the same standard to the work of a German and an English Minister of War.

"A German Minister of War would be ashamed of himself if he needed so much time and trouble as Lord Kitchener has had to get together a similar force and prepare it for operations. No such improvisation is necessary in our case, but in England, where in times of peace preparations have never been made for land war on such a scale, it must be recognised that Lord Kitchener has created his armies and organisation out of nothing. It is easily understood, therefore, why leading classes are not to be shaken in their confidence in him. At least we can suppose that this man is not merely going on his journey with a definite mission, but carries with him plenipotentiary powers.

"Who is this man with whom we have to reckon in the development of the struggle in the Eastern Mediterranean? He is a typical representative of English militarism, which, notwithstanding all declamations, has always existed, and one had a similar representative, a man of the same stamp, in Wellington."

After reviewing Lord Kitchener's earlier military career the writer continues:

"He first became famous in the Soudan campaign of 1896-1898. All the mistakes made in the Soudan in the eighties he examined sharply and coolly, and carefully avoided them in his reinstating regaining of what had been lost. Slowly and carefully, without allowing himself to be forced by impatience at home, he prepared the campaign against the Mahdi, and carried it out methodically step by step and secured England's Egyptian possessions."

The writer next reviews his services in South Africa and attributes to him the breaking of the resistance of the Boers, and the fact that in this war General Botha took the side of the British Empire, so rendering a great service. He goes on:

"When this war began the choice lay between making Lord Kitchener head of the armies in the field or the chief organiser. Estimating that his services as organiser would be of greater value than in the field they chose the latter, and in this they were not wrong. His best effort in the past in the Soudan campaign was a triumph of technical, well-carried-out organisation over savage fanaticism. With railways and machine-guns Lord Kitchener's will triumphed over the death-despising people of the desert. Lord Kitchener, like Wellington, is completely oblivious to moral values, and determines his actions on grounds only of practicability."

After suggesting that probably the German commanders will not have to meet Lord Kitchener in the present Balkan field operations, the writer continues:

"What interests Lord Kitchener in the first degree is the security of Egypt, and, in the second place, the security of India. He will press all the people who are there into the service necessary to ensuring this security unmercifully. Every means will be right to him to oppose the danger of German communication with Constantinople, and if he believes Egypt to be threatened, he will concentrate there all the forces at his command, without worrying about Serbian, Russian, French, or Italian interests. And there he will be a despicable adversary. He will not withhold from his colleagues in the Ministry his undisguised opinion as to the errors that have been committed, and should he be convinced that discretion is not the better part of valour, but that it is the best means of success, and, therefore, the certain, boastfully announced undertakings are not to be recommended, he will withdraw his approval from them in no mistakable manner, and the then enlightened War Council of London will decide that it is of the same opinion."

EARL KILLED IN ACTION.

News has been received of the death of James Ogilvie Grant, eleventh Earl of Seafield, chief of the clan Grant, and a captain in the 5th Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders, killed in action.

A telegram was received by the family on Saturday morning from the chaplain of the casualty clearing station stating that Lord Seafield was "dangerously wounded" and "not recovering." This was confirmed later by a telegram from the Secretary of State for War announcing that death had taken place, and expressing very deep regret.

Lord Seafield has been expected on leave in London on Sunday, and on Friday morning the last letter was received from him, in which he wrote to his sister, Lady Nina Mowbray, "My leave is cancelled until a later date."

The Earl was born in Dunedin (New Zealand) in 1876. He fathered for some years fulfilled the duties of a lamplighter under the Oamaru Municipal Council. The seventh earl died in 1881, his son died three years later, and the death in 1888 of the ninth earl threw the title into the hands of the Oamaru municipal employé, a distant kinsman. He did not live many months to enjoyment of his new honour.

The Earl came to England some years ago, but always evinced a preference for life in his native land. He became a lieutenant in the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, and always took a keen interest in the development of the New Zealand Defence Force.

Vassili Bunkovski, a Russian seaman, who, in the presence of Russian, Greek, and Swedish mates in a British ship at Wallsend, cursed the King, French, Russian, and Italian flags, and said that English soldiers were no good, was sentenced to six months' hard labour at Wallsend. When he heard the sentence he began to cry.

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THE FATAL ROOM

BY

JAMES McELDERRY,

Author of "The Veil of Circumstance," &c.

CHAPTER XIV. (Continued).

THE "BAT AND BALL" INN.

I was at the door a mere fraction of a second after it had closed behind the mysterious Woman in Blue, and from the window beside it I could distinguish her outline faintly against the shrubs, moving quickly towards the gates at the far end of the park by the greensward bordering the gravel drive. The heavy door rasped a little on its hinges, but a glance sufficed to assure me that she had not heard it, and a moment later I was gliding through the shrubbery, keeping almost level with the swiftly-moving figure.

There was a faint light from the moon, but the night was close and misty, and once we gained the road I was compelled to follow almost upon her heels, taking the risk of discovery, lest I should lose sight of her and be compelled to return to Hollow with another confession of failure upon my lips. For a full half-hour she moved steadily forward, keeping now to the road, and by this time careless of the sound of her footsteps. Then a building of some sort loomed up before us, and I remembered that we must be by this time very near a small inn, which stood back from the road some twenty or thirty yards. She stopped, as though in doubt, and then turned sharply to the right, and as she did so I made out the swaying sign of the "Bat and Ball." Picking her way over the cobbled stones, she found a side-door, and passed through noiselessly without knocking or waiting for admittance.

I walked back a few paces and glanced anxiously up the road. There was no sign of Hollow. Had he mistaken the road we had followed and gone in an opposite direction? It was impossible for me to do more than keep an eye upon the front of the inn, and at any moment, for all I could tell, she might be escaping by the back. I drew back into the shelter of some outbuildings, and hardly had I done so when Hollow touched me on the arm.

"Well?" he asked.

In a few words I told him all there was to tell.

"We must take our chance," he said then. "I have left a bicycle in the hedge on the left-hand side about forty yards up the road. If it becomes necessary you had better ride like the wind to the 'George' at Eddlesham. I have had a small electric motor sent there—the worst kind for this country, but useful because it is absolutely noiseless. I know there is a car here, and it is possible that it may be hers."

I nodded. As Hollow ceased speaking the side door opened again, and the woman I had tracked came out, followed by a companion in whom I had little difficulty in recognising the man who, at that strange assembly in the house in Guelder Street, had called for volunteers to act as gaolers to his unknown prisoner. They moved towards a shed and began to drag out a heavy motor, and as they did so I explained the man's identity to Hollow. They left the car outside and went back to the house—I presumed to make themselves ready for a journey.

"I think the fates are fighting for us," Hollow said. "She can hardly be the fair prisoner, though. I am going to remove a pin from that car, in order to gain as much time as possible. You had better ride for all you are worth. Be careful how you pass the inn when you come back, and if I am not here, and you do not meet me on the road, follow the car. You will pick me up somewhere."

I crept back stealthily, and when, a few minutes later, I flashed past the inn on my way to Eddlesham, I saw that the car was still in the position in which they had left it, and that they had not come out. From behind the stables, Hollow hurled a pin triumphantly high over my head, and I saw it drop into an adjacent field.

It took me about twenty minutes to reach Eddlesham, and another twenty-five to arouse the landlord of the "George" and to get the car in working order. Hollow had left word that it would probably be called for upon some occasion about midnight, and so my request did not surprise the taciturn man who helped me to get it out. It had evidently done very little work and ran beautifully, and, deciding to chance a meeting with the local policeman, I dispensed with lamps and let the car rip.

I whirred all but soundlessly past the inn at which I had left Hollow barely an hour after I started out on the cycle, with my nerves by this time strung up into a keen enjoyment of the ride and all my faculties alert with a joyous anticipation of the chase. There was no sign of the car in the yard, but I could see the direction it had taken by the wheelmarks in the yielding sand of the road, and I picked up my friend a few hundred yards beyond.

"How much start?" I queried, my head down by this time and the wind whistling riotously past our ears.

"Five minutes," he said shortly. "The man, whoever he is, discovered the missing pin before he tried to start, and after some difficulty managed to replace it. Can't you go a little faster?"

"No," I laughed. "I want to see the end of this affair. A few miles more an hour and the end of it would be too swift and sudden to suit me."

Hollow crouched down, without replying, and I kept my eyes upon the road before me. A little afterwards he touched my sleeve.

"We are close behind them. I can hear the car distinctly. They won't hear us, and the mist will be an additional protection. All the same, I think it would be just as well if you slacken speed a shade. We must be going a good ten miles more than they are, judging by the way we have overhauled them."

I obeyed him, and for the best part of an hour we travelled a bare three hundred yards behind them, making all the time in the direction of London. Then, quite suddenly, they took a sharp turn to the left, slowing up as they did so, so that I had difficulty in not betraying the pursuit, and began at once to double on their tracks by a side-road that ran almost parallel with the one we had taken, at a little distance from it.

"So it is not to be Guelder Street—this time!" I ejaculated, between gasps.

"No. I hope this time it is to be the prison," said Hollow, grimly.

And then we ran on again in silence till we shot through a little village that I thought I recognised—a bare ten miles, I knew, from our starting-point. A short distance beyond we began to pass through a wood, and came out upon a high wall bordering the road. A little way along this they pulled up before what appeared to be a pair of heavy iron gates.

Running our car at once into a field at the edge of the wood, we crept forward under the shelter of the hedge. By the time we drew level with the gates a man had come forward, and the Woman in Blue had descended from the motor and, with her companion, passed through them. The gates clanged behind her, and, jumping on the motor, the man who had come out, and who appeared to be a chauffeur, set off immediately in the opposite direction to that from which we had come.

Waiting until he had disappeared, we made our way to the wall, and I managed to hoist Hollow upon my shoulders until he could get a grip of the top and draw himself up. Here he seated himself in the most leisurely manner imaginable, and for some fifteen minutes or so maintained absolute silence. I lighted a cigar and resigned myself to the inevitable with what patience I could call to my aid.

Presently he dropped lightly on the grass beside me, and I looked up questioningly.

"There is a large and apparently tenantless house in the middle of the grounds, which are very neglected," he said, "and as far as I can make out this wall runs round the entire park. It is about a mile or a mile and a half round. They have gone into the house, and I fancy that someone opened the door to them—probably one of your half-dozen desperadoes.

"I think, Vincent, you had better go back on foot to the little village we passed through, and try to find out all that is to be found out about this house and its present tenants, if there are known to be any. I don't think you need hurry to return. If anything happens and I have to take the car I will leave you a message concealed at the base of the gate-post at the entrance of the field in which we have left it. In case it should be impossible to get back to Eddlesham Court, I think it would be as well if you sent a wire to Petersen's in my name, asking them to send half-a-dozen men down to the Court this evening and to watch the house very closely and have everyone who leaves after dark followed. If we don't return till to-morrow one of the men they send had better remain till we do to make a report. I will stay here. I can see if anyone leaves the house, because we happen to have chosen the one spot from which it can be commanded."

I cursed a little under my breath. It was like Hollow to thrust me out of an adventure at just what might prove to be the crucial moment. But I went without grumbling. After all, it was Hollow who was the detective, and it was only for what I may call the "sporting element" in his cases that I joined him.

There was no one stirring in the village when I arrived there, though dawn had broken some hour or more. I breakfasted at an inn whose landlord looked promising, but several 'hours' judicious pumping resulted in my leaving it no wiser than I had entered it, except that I had stirred up a mine of information about the peccadilloes of tenants who had lived in the house with the walled park in former years—some of them nearly half a century before. I interviewed the village policeman in vain. Only very late in the afternoon, indeed, did I discover one thing—this from a beery individual who had occupied the post of gardener to a tenant twenty years before.

And he told me that the place, after standing empty for ten years, had been let by a firm of agents to a man who was reported to live the life of a recluse, and who had brought no servants with him. He had been, this man believed, in occupation of the house for but three months, and went out only under cover of dark in a motor which he drove himself.

I went back to Hollow in the end. With me I carried a small store of the best provisions I had been able to buy.

The car was still standing where we had left it, and I found Hollow perched in a tree which completely hid him from a chance passer-by and at the same time gave him a better view of the grounds than the wall had done. When I mentioned the provisions he laughed.

"My dear Vincent, if I had depended upon you, I should by this time be starving. As it is, I feel—well, decidedly comfortable."

I looked at him with astonishment.

"It would have been your own fault entirely. You must expect to pay something for the privilege of seeing all the fun," I said. "So it was for provisions that you went back to the corridor when you passed me on the stairs at the Court in such a hurry?"

"No. I went back to confirm a suspicion that our ethereal Woman in Blue had not the power to dissolve into thin air so readily as it appeared at first night. What is more, I found exactly the confirmation of my suspicion that I expected. The provisions were merely an afterthought."

"Then you have discovered the secret of the Fatal Room, and have said nothing to me until this moment?" I said angrily.

"Nothing is further from the truth, Vincent. I am merely on the point of discovering it. Meanwhile, you had better find a tree for yourself and fix yourself up as comfortably as possible. We can do nothing until dusk, unless events begin to move of their own accord, which, so far, they have not been pleased to do." said Hollow. "You will not, by the way, find sitting in a tree a very exciting pastime, Vincent."

CHAPTER XV.

A VISION IN THE NIGHT.

As night fell the mist again descended, enveloping the earth in a heavy pall through which every object loomed ghost-like. It was not a night I should have chosen for such an adventure as in all probability lay before us, had there been any question of choice in the matter. There was no moon to betray us; but against this the damp veil offered every opportunity to lose one's bearings, and I recognised that such a catastrophe might prove fatal to our plans and hopes.

We climbed down from our cramped positions somewhere about eight o'clock, and set off in the direction of the deserted-looking house into which the Woman in Blue and her companion had disappeared. The place was wrapped in darkness, and not even in the dim recesses of the hall could we see the glimmer of a light.

Four times we made the circuit of the house, and every slow and deliberate procession revealed once again the same fact. There was not a window upon the ground floor, or below its level, or within possible reach of us but was heavily barred and fastened beyond any power of ours to break through.

Thereafter we spent the best part of an hour reconnoitring, with the object of becoming thoroughly accustomed to the disposition of the grounds in case it became necessary to beat a hasty retreat. It was in the midst of this that I stumbled suddenly upon a small mound, and pitched forward heavily upon my face. When I got up I knew that my accident had been providential, for, in rising to my feet, I had discovered a knob which, when I pressed it, gave way and revealed what I judged to be a subterranean passage leading to the house.

I closed the door and whistled softly to Hollow, and at once he answered to my call. We had pushed back the door again, and were just about to enter the passage when there came to our ears the throbbing of a heavy motor on the drive.

Silently we crept back to the front of the house. To our amazement the whole place was now ablaze with lights. The motor drew nearer and nearer, and now I saw that it was a closed-in touring car. We sprang back into the shadows only just in time, as its brilliant lights threatened to discover us.

Then the hall door was thrown open as it drew up, and as the man who had accompanied the Woman in Blue came down the steps, the door of the motor swung open, and out of it stepped Walden.

And then!

Then, a second later, he turned and handed out a woman of regal carriage, whose face, smiling out from its crown of red-gold hair, was more beautiful than that of any dream-woman that art has given us or poet sung.

For some seconds I gazed, spellbound, at the wonder-woman who seemed suddenly to have come from out some other world, and then she moved a little so that the light fell more upon her, and the smile that rested lightly over her laughter-loving lips seemed to pass in a quiver of uncertainty, and the brightness of her starlike eyes dulled a little and was not. And instead there came, as she moved a step forward and the man who had come from the house stood before her, hesitation and a little wonderment and fear.

And then Walden had taken her arm, and she had gone reluctantly up the steps, and the motor had disappeared throbbingly into the mist whence it had come, and I turned to Hollow with a quickened breathing and a heart that thumped and threatened to burst its bonds. And I said, slowly:

"Surely she is the Spirit of All Beauty! You saw, Hollow! And her hair was of no colour that ever was on earth. You saw it, Hollow, how it burnt through that small, thin wrap that was as a cloud-veil between the earth and God!"

There was a space during which neither of us spoke, and all at once I leapt to my feet and began to run madly towards the door I had found, Hollow a dozen paces behind me, calling upon me fiercely, and uselessly to stop. I remember that when I gained the door I forced it back with hands that trembled so that they hindered me, and that at that moment Hollow came up with me, and clutched at my coat to detain me, and said: "Surely, Vincent, there is madness in your veins to-night."

And at that I laughed, gasping till in a sort of intoxication of the senses, and said: "Is not all life madness? Is it any wonder that I am mad in this hour when I have seen Her—in this hour which is the beginning—in this hour in which I am born?"

Hollow answered nothing, but came after me, groping down the dank and evil-smelling passage till, after what seemed an eternity, we came out into a deserted room that was all a blaze of light. Then he looked at me wonderingly, still panting with the run:

"You talk as though Dolores herself——"

But I broke in upon him angrily:

"Does one talk of a star while the sun yet lingers in the west?"

I think that he was right, and that very madness gripped me that night, for I remember little of what followed. Only I know that we stood in that room for some time—it was a room like nothing so much as a waiting-room of a doctor's—listening and listening for a sound that did not come. And then the consuming longing to find her—to be near her—came upon me again, and the knowledge that only death could come between me and the achievement of my desire and determination; and we passed from the little room and out into the hall.

There, as in the room we had left, the lights were on, flooding it in every corner. I know that I walked as in a dream, but that as we went across it, our footsteps echoing, for all our attempts to muffle them, weirdly through the silent house, I drew my revolver with a laugh, and that Hollow followed my example. At the end of the hall we stopped again and listened. There was not a sound to guide us as to the rooms in which our quest should end. I think that the Woman in Blue and her companion had passed from my mind by then.

We went on, beginning a search of the house that did not end for hours. Everywhere there were lights, and everywhere the evidences of occupation. Pictures of priceless value hung upon the walls, and the furniture would have ransomed an emperor. Here and there we came upon the little intimate things a woman loves to have about her, and from the rooms in which we found them we crept shamefully with a sense of guilt that I do not remember ever to have felt before.

But search as we might, nothing rewarded us. We began again, going through the rooms one after another, but with the same lack of result. Somewhere in the distance we could hear the throbbing of a dynamo—the source of all the brilliant lighting that made our task an easy one. But even that we could not locate. At last, in a room we had somehow overlooked, I came upon the wrap that had been over the head of the woman I had determined to rescue from Walden's clutches—the wrap through which her hair had burned as she stood on the steps before the door.

I folded it with something of the care one bestows upon relics that are sacred, and put it away in my pocket. Then we went back to the hall again to begin our search afresh. Somewhere, near at hand, we must find them now. There was a sound—behind me; and Hollow was a bare step in front. I gripped my revolver and began to swing round on my heel.

Before I had time to complete the movement someone sprang upon me, and a cloth was forced over my head. I fired—madly, but with as deliberate an aim as I could in the direction from which the man had sprung—fired and then fired again and again. And then I was forced backwards, and I remember nothing more.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE WOMAN WITH THE RED-GOLD HAIR.

I came to myself suddenly, with a dim consciousness that my throat was parched and my head aching as though something had cloven it in the region of my brain, to find Hollow bending over me and rubbing my hands. How long I had remained unconscious I did not know; but in a flash remembrance of the last night's happenings came to me, and I saw that it was broad daylight. I tried to smile, but the attempt was not a success, and Hollow threw back his head and laughed immoderately. I waited until he had finished, and then said:

"There are few jokes that do not gain by being shared, Hollow."

He became serious at once, and helped me to my feet. Then he said: "I shall hope for forgiveness in the fulness of time, Vincent; but really, it was so ludicrous that I couldn't help it. Besides, I was thinking of the end of our high adventure. To be thrown out here—at the mercy of the first tramp that cared to rob us, or the first policeman that cared to run us in for being drunk and disorderly, or having no visible means of subsistence! Let us only hope that it never succeeds in reaching the Temple. We should be the laughing-stock of the Bar."

I grinned feebly.

"Yes. No doubt it's irresistibly funny. Still—— Perhaps you'd tell me exactly where we are at the present moment."

"We are in the field in which we left the motor," he said gravely. "After our little accident—we were chloroformed or something—they carried us to the outskirts of the park, where they left us beside the road with this pleasantry pinned to my coat."

He passed over to me a sheet of paper on which were written the words: "The reward of interference is death. If you value your lives, go at once.—The Woman in Blue."

"Well?" I tossed the paper back to him as I spoke. "It sounds like melodrama of the first water; but intimidation always gets my back up. Go on with the story."

"That's all—at present. I carried you here when I came to myself; and the motor's waiting. I'd go back, only I don't think we'd gain much, and I can't leave Eddlesham Court altogether alone. Goodness knows what has happened here since we were, so to speak, put out of action. Walden may have returned to town. The Woman in Blue and our friend the head gaoler may have disappeared also. The captive—if the woman you raved over so was the captive alluded to—may or may not still be immured here. We leave for Eddlesham Court at once, my friend."

I looked round the field and then at the waiting motor dazedly. After a long silence, during which I had been thinking the whole thing out as best I could in my present state, I said:

"No, I do not think that we return to Eddlesham Court at once—together, at all events. In fact, I have not the slightest intention of returning to Eddlesham Court until I have either rescued the lady who is the subject of this abominable conspiracy of Walden's, or at least satisfied myself that she is not held a captive here or elsewhere."

"I appreciate the chivalry which prompts that vow, Vincent, but I do not think you have any reason to suppose that the lady who arrived last night was other than a free agent. It is possible that your view of the case is right, and that she is the person alluded to by the members of Walden's little band of men; still, are you justified in interfering?"

"Is anyone justified in not interfering to save any woman from the possibility of the most unthinkable and awful degradation and suffering? I say nothing of the particular woman in this case, merely to see whom is enough to stir the heart of any man less cynical than yourself—or perhaps I should say, less interested in another woman?"

It was a mean thrust, and I saw Hollow colour hotly. But he ignored it when he answered:

"My dear chap, don't think I have anything but admiration for your pluck. It was only my own abominable selfishness that prompted me to say—what I said. It is now nearly noon. I propose that we motor to the nearest town, where we can purchase revolvers to replace those they have taken from us. That will look like retreat. Afterwards, I go on to Eddlesham—you return here if you wish."

"Very well. I think your plan a good one. One can do nothing in the daylight, unfortunately, and nothing without revolvers—or a revolver, at least."

* * * * *

It was an hour after sunset when, by means of a tree Hollow and myself had used before, I drew myself up and dropped on the top of the wall surrounding the silent house in which I hoped to find the woman I had sworn to rescue. In my own mind that one look of fear I had seen dawning in her eyes had left no room for doubt that she, and she alone, had been the prisoner for whom Walden had provided gaolers from among his extraordinary assembly.

I had resolved to trust to luck and the turn of circumstances and my own ability to rise to them as they occurred. If I should fail—well, I had done my best, and if I emerged alive and unscathed I would make no mistake the third time. I had arranged with a chauffeur whom I could trust to be in readiness at the gates of the house at midnight—giving him the fullest instructions through the telephone. I must do my best to time the rescue, if I could effect it, to coincide with his arrival.

I dropped to the ground with a prayer on my lips that when the moment came I should be able to force an exit from the grounds, or that my companion would be active enough to take advantage of my help and clamber over herself. Five minutes later I had reached the house. This time I was in no hurry to find an entry, and, after making sure that the passage by which we had entered last time was securely barred against me, I began to make a leisurely but close examination of the house. Luckily it was too dark for there to be any risk of discovery from the inside. If someone were watching on the outside, I must take my chance.

It must have been a full hour later, just when I was beginning to despair of effecting an entry when the time came for me to make an attempt, that a faint cry, seeming to come from very far off, startled me into a sudden terror. I listened, placing my ear against the sill of the window nearest to me. At that instant it was repeated. The voice was that of a woman, and thrice in quick succession it came to me from within the house—a cry that seemed to thrill with a nameless terror and despair.

My limbs trembled beneath me as I moved swiftly from window to window, trying in vain to locate the voice. Again and again it came, and each time I seemed to be no nearer to it.

Silence fell again, and then the cries were repeated, and I distinguished an imploring call for help. I could no longer doubt that the voice was the voice of the Woman with the Red-Gold Hair—the woman I had sworn to rescue. And I was helpless—worse than helpless!

Again the cry arose on the night air. Somewhere in the dark and silent house a light flickered. I gripped one of the bars guarding the window before me, and pulled at it in a frenzy of strength and despair. It came away in my hand, with a piece of rotted wood attached to it. The powdered wood gave me hope. I began to work like a madman, while the sweat poured from me like running water; and in five minutes the last bar was in my hands, and my knife was forcing back the catch which held the window.

I pushed the lower sash up gently, an inch at a time. At last there was space sufficient to allow me to enter. I leapt over the sill and listened.

Far away I heard the cry again, and then a man's voice, raised in anger and unmistakably threatening.

(To be Continued.)

UNUSUALLY PUZZLING.

Although the steel and iron industry is now one of the mightiest of the world, and offers such opportunities for research that some of the greatest scientists study nothing else, there are many apparently simple puzzles about it that no one has been able to solve yet. Everyone who handles steel knows that it gets "tired" at times. After a piece of steel has been subjected to a severe strain for a certain period, it may suddenly show a decided weakness. Then experts say that it is tired; and so it is, for if it is allowed to rest a while, it regains its old strength. It has been found that a steel beam can be made stronger by increasing the load on it gradually—in other words, by exercising it, just as a man exercises his muscles when he wishes to make them stronger. Very often new steel will not pass tests that it should pass, but after a few weeks it is found to easily do so. Then, again, steel that was perfect when it was tested often cracks or becomes brittle, although other steel made at the same time, in the same way, remains perfectly sound. No one knows to-day why these things happen, but many people are trying to find out.

The Bishop of Salisbury has appointed the Rev. St. John Basil Wynne-Willson, headmaster of Marlborough College and examining chaplain to the Bishop of Salisbury, to the canonry of Fordington, in Salisbury Cathedral, vacant by the death of Canon Houghton.

In imposing £250 in fines for using a house for betting purposes, the sheriff at Paisley, Renfrewshire, said that he did not know why racing should continue at the present time, and it would stop if betting was put down.

THINGS THOUGHTFUL.

FULNESS OF LIFE.

Pray for and work for fulness of life above everything: full, red blood in the body; full honesty and truth in the mind; and the fulness of a grateful love for the Saviour in your heart.—Phillips Brooks.

LIFE'S TROUBLES.

Sometimes I compare the troubles we have to undergo in the course of a year to a great bundle of faggots, far too large for us to lift. But God does not require us to carry the whole at once. He mercifully unties the bundle, and gives us first one stick, which we are able to carry to-day, and then another, which we are able to carry to-morrow, and so on.—John Newton.

RIGHT ACTION.

We forget that right action is for the most part determined by a proportion between Eternal Principles and the changing conditions of a complex life. We cannot appeal to the past to relieve us from the responsibility of unwearied study of the moral history, and of the present state and of the possibilities of ourselves and of our fellow-men.—Westcott.

DIVINE LIFE.

So sometimes comes to soul and sense
The feeling which is evidence
That very near about us lies
The realm of spiritual mysteries.
The sphere of the supernal powers
Impinges on this world of ours.
The low and dark horizon lifts,
To light the scenic terror shifts;
The breath of a diviner air
Blows down the answer of a prayer;
That all our sorrow, pain and doubt,
A great compassion clasps about,
And law and goodness, love and force,
Are wedded fast beyond divorce.
Then duty leaves to love its task,
The beggar Self forgets to ask;
With smile of trust and folded hands,
The passive soul in waiting stands
To feel, as flowers the sun and dew,
The One true Life its own renew.

—J. G. Whittier.

WHAT WE WANT.

What we want to make us true men, over and above that which we bring into the world with us, is some sort of God-given instinct, motive and new principle of life in us, which shall make us not only see the right and the true and the noble, but love it, and give up our wills and hearts to it, and find in the confession of our weakness a strength, in the subjection of our own wills a freedom, in the utter carelessness about self a self-respect, such as we have never known before.—Charles Kingsley.

A GREAT ART.

Manners are an art. Some are perfect, some commendable, some faulty; but there are none that are of no moment. How comes it that we have no precepts by which to judge them, or, at least, no rule whereby to judge them, as we judge sculpture and music? A science of manners would be more important to the virtue and happiness of men than men would suppose. If virtue leads to good manners, so do they in their turn lead to virtue. Manners are an essential part of ethics.—Joubert.

THE RELIEF.

Thank God, bless God, all ye who suffer not
More grief than ye can weep for. That is well—
That is light grieving! lighter, none befell
Since Adam forfeited the primal lot.
Tears! what are tears? The babe weeps in its cot,
The mother singing—at her marriage-bell
The bride weeps—and before the oracle
Of high-faned hills, the poet has forgot
Such moisture on his cheeks. Thank God for grace,
Ye who weep only! If, as some have done,
Ye grope tear-blinded in a desert place
And touch but tombs—look up! those tears will run
Soon in long rivers down the lifted face,
And leave the vision clear for stars and sun.

—E. B. Browning.

A FIELD OF BATTLE.

We are here on earth not to contemplate but to transform created things; to found, as far as in us lies, the image of the "Kingdom of God" on earth—not to admire earth's contrasts. Egotism nearly always lurks beneath contemplation. Our world is not a spectacle; it is a field of battle, upon which all who in their hearts love justice, beauty, and holiness are bound—whether as leaders or soldiers, conquerors or martyrs—to play their part.—Mazzini.

THE ROSES AND THE THORNS.

Clouds and sunshine, sorrow and joy come to each one of us, and if we grasp the thorns tightly, as we are apt to do, we deserve the sore bruises we invariably get. And it sometimes happens that we leave a beautiful rose on one side because we are frightened at its stem of bristling thorns. It only needed a very little courage to pluck that rose, and the danger was of the smallest. So that the Queen of the garden may teach us from her most sacred lore we must approach humbly and gratefully and with a true desire to learn her hidden secrets.—Emily Ridgway.

DOUBT AND PRAYER.

Tho' Sin too oft, when smitten by Thy rod,
Rail at "Blind Fate" with many a vain "Alas!"
From sin through sorrow into Thee we pass
By that same path our true forefathers trod;
And let not Reason fail me, nor the sod
Draw from my death Thy living flower and grass
Before I learn that Love, which is, and was
My Father, and my Brother, and my God!
Steel me with patience! Soften me with grief!
Let blow the trumpet strongly while I pray,
Till this embattled wall of unbelief,
My prison, no my fortress fall away!
Then, if Thou willest, let my day be brief,
So Thou wilt strike Thy glory thro' the day.

—Tennyson.

GIVING ADVICE.

Giving advice is a very difficult matter; and, when one has looked round the world for a time and seen how the most cleverly designed enterprises fail, and how the most absurd often turn out well, one becomes chary of giving any advice. There is, at bottom, a certain restraint in him who asks for counsel, and an overweening feeling of superiority in him who gives it. One should only advise about matters in which one is prepared to co-operate.—Goethe.

THE GREATEST SORROWS.

It is upon the noblest creatures that the greatest weight of sorrow falls; as the broad branches of the cedar are broken by the snow, which falls away from other trees.—Arnold Toynbee.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]

One can well believe that the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, an office which is practically a sinecure, has proved uncongenial to Mr. Churchill, whose temperament ill accords with a life of inactivity, well-paid or otherwise. His resignation is, therefore, not to be wondered at, though there are some who hold that he should have sunk his own personal feelings and remained in the Cabinet, even though no place was found for him in the War Council of Five. His letter to Mr. Asquith shows keen disappointment at his exclusion, though he acknowledges the difficulties which the Prime Minister had to meet. The letter is, however, a dignified and manly epistle, which becomes Mr. Churchill very well. A strong man, vigorous, direct, and forceful alike in language and in action, the ex-Chancellor of the Duchy is not the man to content himself with a seat in the Cabinet without being directly concerned with the prosecution of the war, and with not even departmental duties to occupy his days. When one contrasts his position in the Coalition Government with his crowded hours of tremendous activity at the Admiralty during the first nine months of the war, one can well understand his overmastering wish to be with his regiment at the front instead of kicking his heels in London.

There is a great deal of sympathy for Mr. Churchill. Doubtless he has made mistakes—it is only the man who never does anything at all who never makes mistakes—but there is good ground for saying that not all the mistakes which certain people and certain newspapers charge to his account are rightly charged. The Antwerp expedition is one of the things for which he has been blamed, and only the other day in the House of Commons the Prime Minister declared that the whole of the Cabinet were responsible for that. As for the Dardanelles, we do not know the whole story yet, and when we do it is possible we shall see Mr. Churchill come very well out of that business also. There are other matters; and to read the articles which appear in one particular journal is to get the impression that Mr. Churchill is to blame for every naval mishap, from the torpedoing of a cruiser to the breaking of a tow-rope. This is persecution pure and simple, and silly and unreasonable persecution.

What the people of this country and the Empire must never forget is that it is due to Mr. Churchill that the Fleet was at its war stations in the North Sea as soon as war broke out. That splendid stroke gave us the freedom of the seas which we have never lost for a moment since. It has enabled our armies to go wherever they were needed, and our world commerce to be carried on as usual, while that of Germany was driven from the seas. What that swift victory has meant for the people of these islands there is no need to tell again, and what it will mean in the final crushing of the enemy will be seen one day. "Time," says Mr. Churchill," will vindicate my administration of the Admiralty." It may well be true, but so much we can see and know already. The pity of it is that things said rather than things done influence people's minds. Mr. Churchill's part in the greatest victory ever won by the British Navy is imperfectly realised, while nobody will forget that he once said the German Fleet would be dug out like rats out of a hole, and that he declared many months ago that we were within a few miles of a great victory in Gallipoli.

Horse Guards Parade is a very popular resort of Londoners and visitors to London these days. The German guns are by a long way the most attractive free show we have had for years, and while there are crowds to gaze at them on every day in the week, there are multitudes on fine Saturdays and Sundays. Throngs of people go through from Whitehall, and the mounted lifeguardsmen who are on duty at the Horse Guards have a crowd of women and children regarding them with respectful admiration. Those resplendent warriors are having the time of their lives. To the collection of guns on view have been added one of the naval guns taken from the Emden, a torpedo and an aeroplane, both of which once belonged to the enemy. It is a highly interesting exhibition. Some of the onlookers are certainly not experts in artillery. The other day a man reading the legend on one of the weapons stating that it was a German 77 m.m. gun, remarked to a friend, "What do the two m's stand for, Bill?" Bill considered a moment or two, and then said, "Oh, I know, they mean miles a minute!"

It is suggested that nobody should have more than three courses at dinner in these hard times. It may be remarked that a very large number of people never do have more, and generally make a fair meal of only two, even in ordinary times. Still, the suggestion should be interesting to the guests who dined at the Guildhall with the Lord Mayor the other day. It is really extraordinary that when the need for simpler and more economical living is being impressed upon us by our pastors and masters, the City fathers and their guests should have banqueted themselves after the immemorial fashion. The menu was an opulent affair, with turtle soup, barons of beef, capons Béchamel, and goodness knows what else besides. And the wines, too! I do not profess to be an expert in these matters, but I imagine by the list that the wine cost more than eighteenpence a bottle. There had been some expectation that the Mansion House banquet this year would be on a modest scale; if not exactly a dinner of herbs, that say, a cut of cold beef with pickles! But it was, after all, much as usual.

In spite of the fact that no "novelties" are being given at the Queen's Hall Symphony Concerts this season, there was a very good audience on Saturday afternoon. The management are finding that the classics draw very well indeed. The chief item in Saturday's programme was Beethoven's wonderful Seventh Symphony, as to the drawing powers of which there has never been any doubt. It was, needless to say, very finely played. Haydn's Violoncello Concerto in D was played by Madame Suggia, a Portuguese artist of great distinction. Weber's "Oberon" overture opened the concert, which ended with that to "Tannhauser," while the "Siegfried Idyll" was also included. The least familiar item was the delightful "Dance Rhapsody" by Delius.

A. E. M.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the statute 22 and 23 Vic., cap. 35, that all persons claiming to be Creditors against the estate of the said deceased, who died on the 9th day of July last, are hereby required on or before the 1st day of December next to furnish in writing particulars of such claims to the undersigned Solicitor for DAVID DOOLEY the Administrator of said deceased to whom Administration with the Will annexed was granted on the 6th day of November last forth of the District Registry at Limerick of the King's Bench Division (Probate) of the High Court of Justice in Ireland.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that after the said 1st day of December next the said Administrator will proceed to distribute the Assets of the said deceased having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had Notice.

Dated this 11th day of November, 1915.

J. P. LAVAN,
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The Earl of Devon has agreed with Vendor for the Sale of his FEE-SIMPLE INTEREST in said Lands under the Land Purchase Act, 1903, for the sum of £1,549—the Interest in lieu of Rent at 3½ per cent is £54 4s. 4d., and when vested the Annuity will be £50 6s. 10d.

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There is a pump in the yard which yields a plentiful supply of spring water

There is a terminable Annuity of £3 18s. od payable on 5th April and 10th November to the Board of Works for the hay barn. The annuity is paid to 10th November, 1915.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 1915.

The Utilisation of Peat.

AMONG the important matters overshadowed by the War is the perennial problem of the economical utilisation of peat. Yet the question is one in which the belligerent countries are directly interested, inasmuch as peat is found principally in high latitudes. Extensive deposits exist in Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Scandavia, Germany and Austria. Professor Morgan, Royal College of Science in Ireland, in an interesting article, deals with some of the chemical aspects of the peat problem, and points out that for more than a century the problem has received the attention of numerous scientific investigators and has been attacked from many different points of view.

Peat has long been employed as a domestic fuel, and Professor Morgan tells us that its industrialisation could be most efficiently brought about by gasifying it in gas producers, as this procedure would render feasible the recovery of several by-products. The economical utilisation of peat in the generation of gaseous fuel, even without recovery of by-products, is to-day an accomplished fact. It can scarcely be doubted that with efficient chemical control a larger plant of sufficient capacity to deal rationally with the ammonia, tar, and other products of the destructive distillation of peat, would lead to still greater economies in the employment of this important combustible.

Mr. George Fletcher, Assistant Secretary in respect of Technical Instruction in Ireland, discusses the problem of the utilisation of peat for industrial purposes, to which scientific men in many countries have turned their attion to search out a solution. This is not surprising, in view of the fact that the amount of combustible matter in the world's peat deposits exceeds that of all the known coalfields. For Ireland, the question is one of vital interest. Her coal deposits are small and relatively unimportant, while nearly one-seventeenth area of the country, i.e., over two and three-quarter million acres, is covered with peat, much of which is of excellent quality. This represents a vast amount of potential energy awaiting only a practical means of utilising it. Numerous attempts have been made to devise a profitable means of utilising it. Many of the schemes, Mr. Fletcher tells us, have been ill-considered, or worse, and capitalists are scarcely to be blamed if they are "shy" in regard to any new proposals. Yet a rich reward awaits the successful adventurer. It must not be forgotten that peat constitutes the only fuel for domestic purposes over the larger part of rural Ireland, but this does not not affect the utilisation of many large areas of bog as yet wholly undeveloped. Except for such utilisation the peat bogs can only be regarded as a natural disadvantage, as they occupy so large an area of what might otherwise be cultivable land. Attempts have been made and are still being made, to cultivate the surface of bogs, but over a large area of bog this must be regarded as impracticable.

Messrs. Hamilton Robb, who have a weaving industry in Portadown, a little over four years ago decided to try the experiment of establishing a (peat) producer gas plant, and it is a noteworthy and encouraging fact that the installation has been found to be entirely satisfactory, and to effect a considerable saving over anthracite which is most commonly employed as a fuel. The fuel used is peat, and this is cut from a bog some miles distant on the shores of Lough Neagh and dried in the open air by the usual method of stacking. It is stated that under working conditions, with peat at 5s. a ton, power can be obtained at the rate of one sixteenth of a penny per horse-power hour. An authorative statement as to the comparative cost of running the factory on coal and on peat, given by the engineer who installed the power plant shows a net weekly saving of £16 a week in favour of peat. The experiment has given complete satisfaction and the utilisation of peat has resulted in considerable economy.

It may be said that the conditions of Portadown are favourable, in view of the proximity of the peat bog to the weaving factory, and it is undoubtedly a very great advantage to be able to avail of water carriage from the bog to the factory. There are, nevertheless, without doubt many other places in Ireland where corresponding advantages could be availed of. Since the growth of the Industrial Development Association some twelve years ago a spirit of industrial enterprise has been manifested amongst our own people to a degree not hitherto shown, and let us hope that under a native Parliament the utilisation of peat for industrial purposes is a problem that is certain to receive that consideration which its importance merits.

Newcastle Picture Palace.

For to-night (Friday) the film, "The Jockey of Death," will again be screened, and judging by the way the film was received last night, the popular theatre will be filled to overflowing to-night. It is certainly a remarkable film, and fully justifies all that has been said about it. The remaining portion of the programme will be changed.

Next week's programme includes a very exciting detective drama on Monday night. The programme is made up of the usual laughable comedies, etc. Next Friday night's programme contains a splendid drama of the North entitled "O'Garry of the Royal Mounted," and a Chaplin comedy entitled, "Charlie in the Park."

Abbeyfeale Stabbing Case.

PRISONER AGAIN REMANDED.

On Tuesday the man McMahon, who arrested on a charge of stabbing Rev. Father Carr, C.C., at Abbeyfeale last fair day was brought up at a special Court, and further remanded for eight days when medical evidence as to the injuries will be given.

JOHN J. CREMIN, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O. has changed his residence from Grange House, to The Courtney Arms Hotel, Newcastle West. (—)

Carrickerry Notes.

CARRICKERRY FOOTBALL CLUB.

Some time ago the above Club sprang into existence, chiefly to enable the aspirants to Gaelic honours in the district to make perfect their training and to afford them wholesome physical exercise on Sundays. Its composition is undoubtedly good, and augurs well for the future of the combination. Recently, it may here be noted, the Carrickerry boys, on invitation, visited Kilcoleman to play a friendly match with Kilbrathern. The day was an ideal one, and the occasion the feast day or patron of the parish. The match from start to finish was excellent, and some good exhibitions of the game were displayed throughout, which would do credit to experts anywhere. Carrickerry won the match by the margin of a goal. Rev. Father O'Brien, C.C., Kilcoleman, acted as referee in a most praiseworthy manner. In a report of this match, published in one of the Limerick papers, it has been stated that the result was a draw. However, a member of the combination and one of the Carrickerry players, asserts that Carrickerry won by a goal, which forms the basis of above report.

NON-EMPLOYMENT.

Owing to present climatic conditions and a variety of other causes little or no employment is to be had at present in these parts, and in all probability the same monotonous state of things is likely to prevail during winter. A rumour has got abroad to which I referred in "Carrickerry Notes" of last week, to the effect that the labourers are not to be employed on the roads except on a small scale. I have learned since that such is not the case, and that as on former occasions the roads will be maintained by labourers, so that rumours based on hearsay merit no credulity, however seemingly accurate they are varnished.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN BARRETT, D.C.

Intelligence of the death of Mr. John Barrett, D.C., Glenduff, has been received here with regret. The deceased, since the inception of the Local Government Act, was a member of the Newcastle West Board of Guardians and District Council, representing the Robska Division, and he was also a member of the Glin School Board. To his brother, Mr. Thomas Barrett, P.M., Carrickerry, and the other members of the family we tender our sincere sympathy.

Charleville Notes.

Our Charleville Correspondent writes:—The attempted exodus of young men of military age which has been reported in the papers has been keenly debated in all circles here and has pretty generally been disapproved of and by many strongly condemned. The strong Imperialist urges that it is rank cowardice to leave the country at the present crisis and give your services even in a civil capacity to another state. The man with leanings towards the Sinn Fein policy argues that it is a bad thing for the country from the point of views of the nationality of the race as well as the working of the few industries that remain with us. The farmer has his own opinions which would be briefly that it is already difficult enough to work the land on account of the scarcity of labour, but it is, of course, questionable if that argument applies to the parts of Ireland from which the young male population are trying to emigrate. It is agreed on all sides that for the young people to leave the country at any time must in the end have a bad effect, although it must be conceded that at one time they were compelled to seek the success outside which bad government at home made it quite impossible for him to reach.

* * *

The conscription scare has not abated in the least, and the latest recruiting circulars issued by Lord Wimbourne rather imperatively calling upon each recipient to fill up and return at once the enclosed enlistment form have not contributed anything towards allaying the public fear of compulsory service. There is no doubt about the fact that despite the assurances of the Irish Party leaders the belief that conscription is coming is strong in the minds of the people, and until an emphatic "No" comes from an authorative Government source, it will remain. Up to this no such assurance has been given, and the utmost that can be inferred from Ministerial statements is that compulsory service will not be resorted to if it can be avoided. No doubt such words are capable of wide interpretation, and it is scarcely to be wondered at that young men of military age whom circumstances do not allow to join the army are filled with fears.

* * *

We are told that more men could be spared for military service if the women of the country took their place at what has always been regarded as work for men only, but it may be cited as an argument against the application of compulsion in those parts that there is not enough of local labour to be had by the farmers who have each year to attend hiring fairs at Kilmallock where they contact with servants who come from West Cork and all parts of Kerry.

THE

Government AND Conscription.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday,

Mr. Hohler wished to know whether, in the event of insufficient unmarried men offering themselves, other methods of enlistment foreshadowed by the Premier were methods of compulsion for those who failed realise their obligations.

Mr. Asquith replied that he could only repeat what he said on November 2nd—that it was his confident hope and belief that no question of resort to coercive methods would be found necessary (hear, hear), and that the appeal to the sense of patriotic duty now being so energetically pressed by Lord Derby and his Committee would elicit an adequate response from all classes, and specially from the young unmarried men of the country (cheers).

Asked by Mr. Whitehouse whether his speech of November 2nd still "held the field" as to the conditions he would require to be satisfied before compulsion could be introduced, Mr. Asquith said—"I am not aware of anything that has excluded or extended it since that date" There were cries of "No." when Mr. Whitehouse inquired whether there was not a discrepancy between Lord Derby's statement of last Thursday and the Premier's statement of November 2nd. "I am not aware that there is," said Mr. Asquith, "but that is rather a matter for argument."

THE MARRIED MEN.

The Chancellor inquired whether many married men had enlisted in the belief that they would not be called up until every unmarried man in the country had joined.

"I do not know," replied Mr. Asquith, "why that belief should be entertained (cries of 'You said so.') It is quite clear there must be cases which must be left to the discretion of the local tribunal in regard to which it might well be provided that unmarrien men ought not to go."

Mr. Sherwell asked whether the Premier was aware that the Glasgow Recruiting Committee published an advertisement in the "Glasgow Herald" on Monday under cover of the Royal Arms, with these words:

"Enlist before November 30; if you do not the Prime Minister has pledged himself and his Government that compulsory means will be taken" (cheers).

"If the hon. member will give notice, I will look into it," replied Mr. Asquith, and he repeated his former statement that "compulsion cannot be decided upon except with the consent of Parliament."

COMPULSORY METHODS.

In the course of the debate on the Consolidated Fund Appropriation No. 2 Bill which followed,

Mr. Whitehouse asked for the carrying out of the policy with regard to recruiting announced by the Prime Minister on November 2nd, when he declared that compulsion would not be applied except by general consent.

Mr. J. H. Thomas said the working classes had got sick of the miserable quarrelling which was going on between those who had been conducting the war. The assurances given by the Prime Minister had been used to suggest that compulsion must be resorted to after Nov. 30th. That was a violation of the agreement with the Labour Party, and Lord Derby knew it.

Mr. Bonar Law agreed that the debate was unfortunate in that it had taken place in the absence of the Prime Minister, who was engaged on duties connected with the war. It was only fair to Lord Derby to say that there was nothing in the circular, which was not issued with the approval of the Prime Minister. He could find no discrepancy between what was said by the Prime Minister and what appeared in the circular. He had the advantage of hearing the Prime Minister explain his views both in the Cabinet and in the House. The Prime Minister made it clear to them in Council. He said:

"I have the strongest possible antipathy to any compulsory system, and I do not believe it will be necessary. We have started this scheme under the auspices of Lord Derby. Are you prepared to give that scheme the best chance? If you do, in my opinion it will succeed, and all the disadvantages of dividing the nation will disappear."

He added:

"I am responsible for winning this war. I believe we will get the men that are necessary by this scheme. If not, what then: We must have the men to win the war."

In the House of Commons the Prime Minister said:

"If this scheme fails other means must be adopted."

Everyone who was opposed to compulion could feel perfectly certain that the Prime Minister would not recommend a change unless it were proved that the present system could not bring the men necessary to win the war. He did not use the word compulsion, but he said other means would have to be adopted. There had been a suggestion that unless every unmarried man who had no good excuse enlisted, then compulsion would be adopted. There was no such intention, and no member of the Government would ever propose such a thing. All that the Prime Minister meant was not that if a few men did not go, but if there was a general shirking of duty, then they would be made to go before the married men. The Prime Minister, more than any other man, was responsible for the success of this war now, and for the future of this country. Supposing he came honestly to this conclusion—and he (Mr. Law) thought it likely if we did not get the numbers under this scheme to win this war—that we needed these men and we must have them, what was he to do? Was he to consent to carry on the war under a system which he thought would not succeed? What would the House say?

He would say: "I believe this is necessary; I cannot be responsible for the conduct of the war without it. I believe my countrymen will back me, but if any section of them refuse—very well, let them take the responsibility of ending the war, for I will not." (Cheers).

Important To Farmers, Builders, Etc.

Great Reduction in Price of Galvanised Iron.

Now is the time to Buy for Winter Requirements before Market Advances Again.

WILLIAM PHELAN,

ST. ITA'S SAW & CORN MILLS,

Newcastle West.

Rathkeale Notes.

(A short history of the old borough town of Rathkeale and the Nationalists of the towns of Askeaton, Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, by Mr. William Hayes, Rathkeale, founder and organiser of the Memorial Celtic Cross and Organiser of Blessed Wells in West Limerick).

CHAPTER VI.

The great Liberator, Daniel O'Connell, proved on many occasions that he was a soldier and patriot who loved his country. When D'Esterre and his enemies thought to hound him, when he proved his independence, Fireball McNamara was his noble friend in these times. The great O'Connell had very little help in the House of Commons. The present Major General Lloyd, Beechmount, Rathkeale, whose grandfather, Barrister Lloyd, behaved a great friend to O'Connell in the House of Commons when his enemies plotted to attack him on his first entry into the House. Mr. Lloyd met O'Connell and acted a sincere friend to him, and led the Liberator into the House. His enemies were disappointed, and were astonished to see him getting on so well on his first entry into the House. His name will ever be honoured by his fellow-countrymen. The late Captain Mulqueen, of Askeaton, took a prominent part in the Insurrection, and was at Inchirourke. He knew all the particulars of what happened, and his patriotic friends sent him to give me a history of what occurred in these troublous times. All the members of his family were faithful followers of the cause which he so ably espoused.

The Bourkes of Ardmore were a leading family in these times. One member of the family was arrested for the part he took in the National movement, and was lodged in the jail at Rathkeale. As he was escorted some days after by large numbers of horse and foot soldiers, just opposite the Square of Rathkeale, a large number of friends marched through Chapel Lane, and the Cross Lane, and as the escort was passing the Square, his friends made a raid on the soldiers and rescued Mr. Bourke. They had a race horse awaiting for him, and he escaped. Molly Kullingham was shot dead on the Square.

(To be continued).

Listowel Sessions.

Before Messrs. H. R. Jones, R.M., and P. Healy.

Constable O'Sullivan charged Mr. Timothy Cronin, Lixnaw, with a breach of the Sunday Closing Act. He gave evidence of seeing three men on the defendant's licensed premises on Sunday, November 7th, one of whom was not a bona-fide traveller. The defendant was not on the premises himself at the time.

Mr. J. Moran, solr., who appeared for the defendant, pleaded guilty. He said two of the men found on the premises were friends of Mr. Cronin, and the other was a respectable resident of the village of Lixnaw. It was, he said, Mr. Cronin's first time being prosecuted, and he always conducted his premises in a most orderly manner.

Mr. M. J. Molloy, D.I., said he was aware of that fact of his own knowledge.

The defendant was fined 2s. 6d., and the man found on the premises 5s. and costs.

COLLECTION FOR THE POLES.

A collection in aid of the Poles is to be made on Sunday throughout the diocese in aid of the fund being promoted to help in relieving the distress caused the Poles by the war. The collection has the approval of the Holy Father and the Irish Hierarchy, including the Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer.

Castlemahon Hurling Tournament.

(TO THE EDITOR WEEKLY OBSERVER.)

DEAR SIR—I have read with surprise your account in last week's OBSERVER of the above tournament. As regards the match, Kilmeedy v. Castlemahon, you state that there was no decision arrived at over a disputed goal. I, as an outsider and a Gael, desire to say that Castlemahon won the match in the score—Castlemahon 1 goal 2 points to Kilmeedy's 1 goal 1 point. In the first half Castlemahon scored 2 points to nil for Kilmeedy, and immediately after starting the second half Kilmeedy scored 1 point, followed by a goal per Quaid for Castlemahon. This is the goal which you state was disputed. I could not see room for any dispute, because when the ball went between the posts the green flag was hoisted by an impartial umpire, who was immediately attacked by a crowd. I must also state that the time was up by five minutes before Kilmeedy scored their goal.—Yours truly,

JUSTICE.

J. S. PEGUM, F.R.C.S., has returned to South Quay, Newcastle West. (—)

Hospital Ship Sunk.

A RESCUING VESSEL SUNK.

The War Office reports that the hospital ship Anglia, struck a mine in the Channel on Wednesday and sank. The total number on board was 13 officers and 372 other ranks, of whom about 300 were saved by a patrol vessel. Another ship proceeding to the rescue was also sank by another mine. The names of those who lost their lives will be communicated to the next-of-kin, and made public without delay.

Marketing Poultry.

The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland desire to call attention to the fact that advertisements frequently appear in Irish newspapers intimating that traders in Great Britain are prepared to give or obtain good prices for poultry, game, etc. Circulars to the same effect are also distributed, and good current prices are usually quoted in them. These advertisements and circulars are issued in greater numbers as the Christmas season approaches. As they frequently relate to wholly unreliable firms, it is important that Irish vendors of poultry, etc., should not forward consignments without first obtaining satisfactory assurances, through the usual business channels, as to the commercial standing of the advertisers.

A method frequently adopted by dishonest traders handling such produce is to pay cash for the first consignment, which is generally a small one, and having thus gained the confidence of the consignor, to order forward larger quantities, which are paid for at a rate much below their real market value, or not paid for at all.

Another method is to canvass sellers, the canvasser travelling, perhaps, in a motor car, passing himself off as the representative of a flourishing firm doing a large trade and furnishing as references the names of Irish suppliers to whom he may have given satisfaction; for it is to be remembered that even thoroughly dishonourable dealers are often in a position thus to give references to bankers, railway officials or others who may have had satisfactory dealings with them.

The high prices obtainable for eggs and poultry, due to the shortage of foreign supplies and to increased freights, render it probable that dishonest traders will be more than usually active this season.

Forthcoming Auctions

On Thursday, 2nd December, Mr. Maurice Curtin, Auctioneer, will put up for auction the lands of Ballinoe, the property of Mr. George F. Sheehy.

On Thursday, 16th December, Mr. C. C. Harnett, Auctioneer, Newcastle West, will put up for auction the interest of Mr. David Dalton, in his valuable farm, situate at Dungeeha.

Particulars of both the farms will be found in our advertising columns.

Newcastle Sessions

Owing to pressure on our space the report of Newcastle Sessions is held over till our next issue.

Two Sudden Deaths near Newcastle.

On Tuesday a farmer named Michael Liston, who lived at Shanrath, near Castlemahon, died suddenly after partaking of dinner.

On Thursday evening Mrs. Sullivan, wife of Daniel Sullivan, a farmer residing at Ballymurrough, near Barnagh, died suddenly.

To the relatives of both the deceased the sympathy of a wide circle of friends will be extended in their deep affliction.

NEWCASTLE WEST MARKETS.

Reed, 11s. to 12s. per 120 sheaves.
Oats (black), 1s. 2d. per stone.
Oats (white), 1s. 5d. per stone.
Potatoes 5d. to 7d.

NEWCASTLE WEST PIG MARKET.

At the Newcastle West Pig Market held on Friday pigs (live weight) were sold at 58s. per cwt.; sows, 45s.

Bendigo Coil TOBACCO IS THE BEST.

W. & M. TAYLOR,
OFFICE AND FACTORY,
119, 120 & 121, FRANCIS ST., DUBLIN.

IF ANY MAN OR WOMAN

HAS A GOOD ... AND A BAD CORN
THEY CAN GET RID OF BOTH!!
BY PURCHASING A BOTTLE OF

DORENA CORN CURE 1/-

W. M. DORE, L.P.S.I., The Medical Hall, ... STREET, NEWCASTLE WEST.

OUR SHORT STORY.

THE SILENCE OF TOD OGILBY.

By F. J. RANDALL.

"Little imp, you!" said Mrs. Ogilby wrathfully. "If you'd only got a father with a bit o' backbone about 'im you'd do jest as you're told!"

Tod Ogilby sat swinging his legs and gnawing an apple core.

"I dunno as 'e won't do better in something 'e fancies, M'ria," said George Ogilby with a cough. "It ain't no good puttin' a chap in a trade 'e don't like."

"Don't like!" said Maria with explosive anger. "Why don't you like that errand-boy's place at the grocer's?" she said sharply.

"Want to be a page," said Tod.

"A page!" cried Mrs. Ogilby in exasperation. "Lot o' chance you got of bein' a page with them dirty boots and yourself not washed this mornin'. Slovenly little toad!"

"Anyway, 'e sticks to what 'e's always said, old gel," George pointed out. "It's a pity Mr. Markham won't give 'im a chance!"

Mr. Ogilby's son was considerably smaller than the average boy for his age; but what he lacked in inches he made up for in cunning. The local school had just disposed of him, much to the relief of the teachers.

"Look 'ere, m' lad," said Mr. Ogilby a little later, "you ain't doin' yourself no good by goin' agin your mother, y' know. A boy's best friend is 'is mother, Toddy. Now, jest clean your boots, and you shall go 'long with us to Miss Burrows' wedding party. And if you're a good, dootiful son, I'll speak to Mr. Markham agin about that page's place. But you'll 'ave to be smart to suit 'im my boy."

It seemed by subsequent events that Tod started to be smart that very afternoon—not in appearance, but by polishing his wits.

The Burrows' parlour was pretty full when they arrived. Everybody had long ago given up Miss Burrows as a failure in the marriage market, and attended solely to see what kind of curiosity was marrying her. Tod secured the horse-hair sofa for his party by informing the Pocknells, who occupied it, that a funeral was taking place outside. This was a lie, and on young Pocknell returning to the room he acquainted George Ogilby with his private opinion of Tod in a low, sulphurous whisper.

However, there was too much excitement in the room for Tod to come into further prominence for a time. There were songs to be sung, and various gambling games on a mild scale to be tried. Beyond getting an opportunity to roam freely among the eatables, Tod hadn't much chance to show his smartness. In fact, conversation was so free that nobody stood out very prominently, until Ted Burrows had to call attention to the fact that a half-sovereign was missing from the pool on the table.

"Perhaps you put it in your pocket, Ted," said Mr. Ogilby.

Ted favoured him with a look of scorn.

"The 'arf-sovereign," he said amid silence, "was placed on the table 'ere because I 'adn't got no change. It might 'ave got knocked off on the floor. I don't cast no suspicions on nobody. All I ask is, where 'as it got to?' Money ain't got legs! Where is it? that's what I want to know."

Mr. Burrows' next-door neighbour, who had hitherto sat in silence, now got up from his seat and proceeded to take a collection of articles from his pockets, shaking each one vigorously before laying it on the table, and pulling out the lining for inspection before replacing them.

"You've no need to do that, Bill," said Ted, a little hurt.

"I'm a clearin' of me character, Ted," said Bill, proceeding with the whole of his wardrobe. "Everyone satisfied, I 'ope?" he said. "Thanks. Then I'll jest go and 'ave a smoke outside until you get straight."

It was then that Mr. Burrows' roving eye fell on Tod Ogilby. Tod was unusually quiet. From Tod Mr. Burrows' glance turned to Mrs. Ogilby.

"I suppose your boy hasn't seen it?" he said pointedly.

"I beg pardon?" Mrs. Ogilby said with marked coldness.

"No offence," said Ted churlishly.

"There is offence, Ted," said Mr. Ogilby in mild reproof. "You are casting of a doubt on the lad's honesty. I don't see as 'ow Tod could know anything about it more than anyone else."

"P'r'aps not," said Ted. But he looked on Tod with decided suspicion. Then he suddenly did something extraordinary. Moving to a side-table he picked up a plate of pastry and held it out to Tod.

"'Ave a tart, my lad," he said generously.

Tod shook his head. It was the first time anyone present had known him to refuse eatables. Mrs. Ogilby gasped, and her husband turned pale. Mr. Burrows put down the plate slowly and looked significantly at them.

"What's that got to do with it?" gasped Tod's mother, with a tremor in her voice."

"I don't say 'as it 'as got anythink to do with it," said Ted. But he looked at everybody else with that same significant glance. "I don't say as it 'as,' he repeated. "All I'm agoin' to do is just to put a question, Tod, 'ave you see the 'arf-sovereign I lost?"

Again Tod shook his head.

Mr. Burrows now actually smiled.

"Well," said George Ogilby irritably, "that's good enough, isn't it?"

"It is," said Ted with concealed excitement, "'e's lost his tongue. 'E can't open 'is mouth to say 'e didn't see the money, and 'e can't open it to eat a tart. Now what do you make o' that?"

George Ogilby's intelligence seemed to become illumined. In a cold perspiration he turned to his son.

"'Aven't seen the money, 'ave you, Tod?" he asked.

Once more Tod shook his head

Mrs. Ogilby now realised with a gasp where the suspicion lay. With a swift dive she seized Tod and hauled him into the room.

"Where's that money, you little criminal?" she demanded.

Tod maintained a stubborn silence, shielding his head with one arm.

"I'll take 'im to the police station," said Mrs. Ogilby, reaching out for her bonnet. "Nobody shall accuse me of bringing the boy up to be a thief. If 'e's goin' to start with money, there's no knowing where 'e'll stop!"

Tod was marched off with Mrs. Ogilby holding one arm and Mr. Burrows the other, the disconsolate George following in the rear. The news, having by some subtle magic spread, a small crowd of urchins joined the procession, the swifter ones darting in front to get a look at the criminal.

Tod rather enjoyed the notoriety until they got outside the station, when he seemed to falter. But the combined efforts of his captors were successful in landing him within.

"Well," said the sergeant, "what's the trouble?"

"It was like this, sir," began George; "my boy——"

Mr. Burrows interposed. "Allow me, George, if you don't mind," he said with great politeness. "The fact is, sir, to-day bein' my sister's weddin', a few friends was invited to the party. We'd been 'aving a game of cards, and all of a sudden——"

"What's the charge?" said the sergeant briskly.

"You see, sir," said Burrows, "there was a 'arf-sovereign on the table, and——"

"Don't want to know what was on the table," said the sergeant, "or what was under it. What's the boy charged with?"

"Theft!" snapped Ted.

"The half-sovereign was lost, sir," said Mrs. Ogilby tearfully, "and couldn't be found nowhere. And Tod wouldn't speak, or anything, so we knew——"

"'E was 'iding it in 'is mouth," said Burrows.

"Ah!" said the sergeant, "I see. Open your mouth, boy."

Tod complied.

"Where's the half-sovereign?" asked the sergeant.

"Ain't seen it," said the boy complacently. "I was only doin' it for a lark. Didn't 'ave any money in my mouth at all."

The sergeant looked coolly at the three rather stupid people before him, and then addressed himself to Tod.

"You mustn't play larks like that, boy, you know," he said. "This is a very serious matter. If you didn't take the money, you must tell us who did."

Tod looked the sergeant over a little awesomely, and then turned a shifty eye on his parents.

"I know," he said; "it was father took it."

George Ogilby flushed hotly under the new gaze directed at him.

"Ted," he protested solemnly, "I never did. 'E's made a mistake. As true as I stand 'ere, Ted, I'm an innocent man. I didn't even know you 'ad 'arf a sovereign."

With many protestations, he turned out his pockets and revealed nothing more incriminating than a sixpence and some coppers, in addition to a pipe and some tobacco.

"You're not telling the truth, boy," said the sergeant; "ar, you sure it was your father?"

"No," said Tod; "I forgot. It was mother."

Mrs. Ogilby's anger was almost uncontrollable, and Tod only escaped the cuff she aimed at him by a sudden dive.

To prove her innocence, Mrs. Ogilby reluctantly placed herself in the hands of a female searcher, and returned unscathed from the ordeal. The sergeant thereupon ordered Tod to turn out his pockets, and, finding nothing, rated him soundly. He informed Mr. Burrows that no definite charge could be brought against the persons present, and advised him to make further investigations himself.

Mr. Burrows didn't wait to argue the matter. He took a brief farewell outside the station and went, leaving the Ogilbys to return home alone, which they did, the chief culprit following some distance in the rear.

George Ogilby was doing a bit of snobbing in the wash-house when Tod at last put in an appearance.

"Bit smart the way I done 'im over, father, wasn't it?" he said.

"Smart?" said George Ogilby huskily; "what was smart, boy?"

"Don't let on," said Tod in a whisper, "but when that 'arf a quid got knocked off the table it went in my boot. Findings is keepings, eh, father? 'Ere it is!"

He dived down with a grinning countenance and produced a half-sovereign from the neighbourhood of his right ankle.

Ogilby reached out for a strap, but Tod was off, over the fence, and across the meadow in the rear. His father followed; it was a stern chase, but Tod was just agile enough to scramble into a boat at the river's edge and push her off. George Ogilby's exasperation was too severe to be thwarted. He gave a leap and landed sufficiently heavily on the boat to upset her, and father and son received an impromptu bath.

It was about this time that old Mr. Markham came round the corner and took the path through the meadow.

"Good gracious me, Ogilby! whatever's all this? Why, boy," he said, addressing Tod, "does this mean that you have been giving your poor father trouble again?"

"Trouble, guv'nor?" said Tod, jerking a thumb at his dripping parent. "No fear! Why, 'e was nearly a drownding 'isself, and I just been a rescuing of 'im!"

Mr. Markham has one of those impulsive natures that do not stop to compare facts where heroism is concerned.

"Ogilby," he said, "is this true? Dear me, this is remarkable conduct on the part of your son. Really, I must—but get home and dry yourself, man!"

George Ogilby was too much amazed at Tod's effrontery to make any but an incoherent reply, and he squelched across the meadow, with Tod in the rear, trying to realise what he was hearing.

"This is something out of the ordinary, Ogilby," said Mr. Markham, "though I must admit that I always believed the lad had grit. I think you may consider that post I spoke about as settled for your son. Most remarkable!"

The Ogilbys looked a bit doubtfully at Tod when he first appeared in that page's suit. But, as George says, if the boy was born to be hanged, it don't matter much whether he's a page or a politician.

THREE STEAMERS SUNK.

Part of the crew—38 Lascars and seven Europeans—of the British steamer Clan Macalister, which had previously been reported as sunk, have been landed.

The steamer Rhineland has been sunk. One survivor has been landed.

The Rhineland was a steel screw vessel of about 1,500 tons, built in 1903 at Glasgow, and owned by the Liverpool and Hamburg Steamship Company, of Liverpool.

The British steamer Moorside, of 117 tons, has been sunk. There is one survivor.

STEEL HELMETS.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the war, in regard to the use of ancient devices, is the wearing by the troops of steel helmets, breastplates, and leg-shields, not unlike those used by the knights and crusaders of old, for protection against flying shrapnel. The French and Russians were among the first to protect their troops with helmets and breastplates of thin steel, copying the idea from the Japanese, who, at the siege of Port Arthur, covered their engineers, who were sent out to cut the wire entanglements, "with metal shields reaching as far down as the legs, strapped in front of their bodies." The Germans tried similar devices at Ypres, and several correspondents have related that the enemy used gigantic shields, each capable of sheltering four men. Two of these carried the shield, a third fired through a special opening, while the fourth threw hand-grenades. many of the French troops look like Cromwell's Ironsides when wearing the steel skull-caps and breastplates while delivering attacks with hand-grenades. The caps are light and bullet-proof, and are being rapidly added to the regular equipment of the French soldiers. They are painted grey-blue, harmonising with the French uniform, and give protection against spent bullets and shrapnel fragments, which inflict so many wounds in the head in trench fighting.

The authorities of the London Fire Brigade have announced that of 302 members of the force who are engaged in the war, fifteen have now been ascertained to have lost their lives.

The Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Westminster, and Sir Philip Sassoon, M.P., are not on Sir John French's staff, stated Mr. Tennant in Parliament. Sir Philip Sassoon was on the staff of General Sir Henry Rawlinson, where he had performed most valuable work.

GARDEN GOSSIP

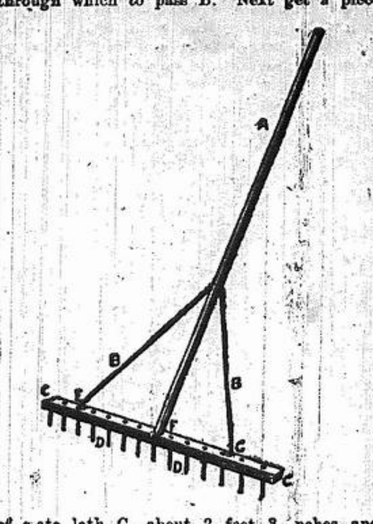
Herbaceous Borders.—Take up, divide, and replant old specimens, throwing away the dead or worn out central portion and planting the outside parts. Fill in all vacant spaces with daffodils, parrot tulips, Spanish irises, and other bulbs. Mark their site with a stake to avoid future disturbance. All decaying and partly illegible labels should be renewed.

* * *

In the Rock Garden.—There are many plants in the rockery which benefit by being lifted, divided, and replanted now. They are mostly strong growing kinds, which not only improve when replanted in fresh soil, but require reducing in size, as, in time, they overrun weaker neighbours. It may be worth while planting some of the pieces taken off, on the reserve border, to be used later in the flower borders or for spring bedding. Examples are arabis, alyssum, aubrietia, London pride, saxifraga wallacei, rhei superba and others, cerastium, dwarf alpine phlox, and iberis.

* * *

A Cheap Garden Rake.—The following useful tool can be made for the total cost of threepence. Procure A, a brush handle, and B, a piece of stout wire. About 18 inches from the bottom of A bore a hole through which to pass B. Next get a piece



of slate lath C, about 2 feet 3 inches and make holes E F, G. Then fasten the handle in F and the wire in E and G. Then get ten or twelve nails D, cut the heads off, and drive in C, at equal distances. The rake is then complete.

* * *

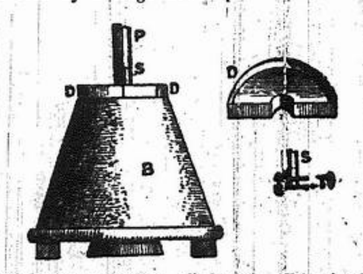
Ivy.—Old specimens may now be transplanted with safety, new ones purchased and put in, or cuttings taken. If buying new, a trial should be given to some of the variegated sorts, which are beautiful throughout the year. The Irish ivy is the sort to plant for quickly covering space. Cuttings of tips of the current year's shoot six to twelve inches long should be inserted on a sandy border, and well trodden home, or a cutting box may be utilised. No protection need be given in either case.

* * *

Cuttings of Shrubs.—This is the time to make up a bed of sandy soil in a sheltered border outside, and insert woody cuttings of many popular shrubs. The cuttings will vary from 1 to 1½ feet in length, two-thirds of which should be inserted firmly in the ground. The following are a few trees and shrubs readily propagated in this way: The golden and green-leaved privet, cherry laurel, flowering currant, forsythia, tamarisk (a popular seaside shrub), olearia, haastii (daisy bush), London plane, Lombardy and other poplars, willow, aucuba, elder, and the hardier sorts of roses, particularly the hybrid perpetual and rambling sections.

* * *

Heating a Small Greenhouse.—Our illustration shows a contrivance for heating a small greenhouse. It consists of an oil stove standing on the floor of the greenhouse, and covered by a large flower pot inverted and



P, pipe for carrying off fumes. This should be extended nearly to roof before passing outside.
D, D, tin dishes for water.
S, section of pipe which passes through pipe.
B, large flower pot covering oil stove, and supported on two bricks. Two holes should be drilled in base in order that section S of pipe may be bolted through to small plate T.
T, small plate to receive bolts.

resting on bricks. The hole in the pot should be enlarged sufficiently to admit of the lower section of the pipe being passed through it.

* * *

The Week's Work.—The moist condition of the soil allows wallflowers to be moved from transplanted quarters to flowering positions in beds and borders. Bulbs may be planted among them, the tulip and narcissus being the best. Plant snowdrops thickly 1 inch apart and 2 inches deep in groups or masses to give a good effect. Any suitable places, where they need not be disturbed, may be found for them. Plant a liberal number of crocuses wherever possible in positions where they can remain. Masses of separate colours give grand effects. Place the bulbs 2 inches apart and 3 inches deep. Thoroughly prepare the soil for roses by moving it to a good depth, trenching if need be, and mixing in good manure in the lower spits. Use little manure in the surface soil, but after planting a mulch over the roots will be beneficial. Should the ground be ready and the gooseberry and currant bushes at hand, plant 6 feet apart, employing clean young trees free from pests of any kind. In liberally manured deeply dug ground they will make good progress. Trees to be planted in isolated positions will require stations to be prepared for them, 6 feet in diameter and 2 to 3 feet deep. It is not desirable to bring the subsoil to the surface, but a good foot of it should be thoroughly broken up, manured freely and the good surface soil returned for planting in. Old beds of strawberries should no longer be retained. Dig up the plants and burn them. Trench the ground for another crop, as it is not advisable to plant strawberries at present on the same ground. Plants not older than three years may be retained, clearing off the old runners, shabby leaves, and pulling up strong-rooting weeds. Then mulch with manure. Spinach plants with the very largest leaves may be thinned out for present use in preference to the smaller plants which will winter better. Give frequent surface hoeing in dry weather, extracting strong weeds from among the plants.

IN THE POULTRY YARD.

By COCKCROW.

JACK FROST.

Jack Frost is really with us now! The mornings and evenings have a sharp "nip" in the air and the winds blow cold. We are all walking about with coat collars turned up and good, woolly, warm clothing on. But what about those birds of yours during the cold weather? You should be taking special care of them at the present time, and see that they do not suffer from the cold. It is the man who looks after his stock during the winter months who is going to pull in the cash, for it is a certainty that good prices will be obtained for eggs. It is the time when profits are to be made, and so it behoves all poultry-keepers to set to and get busy. The winter, so many imagine, is a time of rest, when they may sit by the fire with their feet on the fender and indulge in a book of the war and a pipe. But all poultry-keepers should be on active service among their flocks fighting battles with Jack Frost, the enemy. With care and diligence this enemy can be subdued. Of course, you cannot stamp Jack out, but you can at least be master of the situation. The birds can stand a good deal of cold, but if the cold is accompanied by a sharp wind, then great danger arises. The winds are most disastrous to poultry, and steps should at once be taken to keep them out of the run. Protection is easily afforded the birds by erecting a shield in front of the wire netting. This is made by joining together pieces of wood that will cover the entire front of the run. It should be so fixed that it can be raised and lowered to an angle required. See that the joints are exact so that no draughts can get to the birds, and let the timber be well-seasoned.

The Christmas Trade.

During the winter months many keepers will feel like giving up, but those people are most strongly advised to keep on with the birds, at least until the war is over. The cost of keeping a few birds has risen greatly, of course, but so has the price of eggs, and, therefore, in that respect poultry-keepers are not out of pocket. December is likely to find the foodstuffs even dearer than they are now, but, for all that, don't give up. The Christmas season is fast approaching, and although there will be no great demand for table-poultry this year, there will be a fair amount, and very shortly from now the birds intended for the table will have to be put on a fattening diet. It is useless to kill birds that are only half-fattened. People at Christmas time want flesh, not bones. The killers should be sifted out from those you intend to keep for egg purposes and kept in a separate run. Birds whose laying has dropped off and those that refuse to lay should be selected for the table. For fattening, maize can be given them. Maize at other times should be kept out of the run, for the simple reason that it puts on too much fat and keep the birds from laying. But this is exactly what you want with table birds, and therefore maize can be given them. Some chickens and young fowls are bound to be fattened up, although really this is not advised under the existing circumstances. They are put up to fatten at various ages, the process requiring from two to five weeks. In the very early months small ones sell well, and later on they must be fatted larger to yield a return. Most of the Sussex fatters confine the bird in barred or slatted pens about 3ft. long or wide, in which are penned five or six birds. Some fatters, again, place the rows of pens in the open air: except in very mild weather this exposure must retard the process.

Eggs in Winter.

All poultry-keepers should bear in mind the great fact that the Christmas market will be small this year, and that they should only kill birds that are past laying. There will be a great demand for eggs during the winter, and all poultry-keepers should realise this. But it is no use thinking you are going to get eggs during the next few months unless you keep a good winter laying breed. The hens must be of a highly productive strain, and bred, if possible, from several generations of good winter layers. The pullets which are to be kept for winter layers must be hatched neither too early or too late. The hens must not be more than two years old. To be sure of a good egg supply the birds must be fed in a proper manner. During the winter mornings a warm meal should be given them. This should consist of barley meal and sharps, scalded with boiling water, add a pinch of salt occasionally, and when the weather is very cold a little pepper. Vary the diet frequently. At mid-day house scraps together with wheat or barley should be given them. Just before roosting time give them barley or wheat, the latter being the best for them. Keep them always supplied with fresh water, and the drinking vessels clean. The frosty weather is an enemy to poultry-keepers, but with a little care and trouble they can win through all right, and these notes, it is hoped, will help many.

Minorcas.

The Minorca is by far the most popular and generally useful of the Mediterranean breeds of birds introduced into this country. For many years it was known in the West of England, before attracting much attention elsewhere or having any class of its own at exhibitions; but it began to get a "grip" on the people at last, and is now one of the most generally kept of all fowls. This is not to be wondered at when it is remembered that the fowl is hardy, of a colour that can be kept anywhere, a splendid layer, and its eggs probably the largest of all. The breed differs from the Spanish (though it was itself very generally known as "the black Spanish" for many years) in having the face red, the comb considerably larger and higher, and the wattles also longer and more pendulous; the ear-lobes only are white, and much smaller than in Spanish, the tail is larger and more flowing, the body larger and more massive, and the plumage with less green gloss. The head must be broad or the high comb cannot be carried firmly, and this should be evenly arched with a few large spikes. The ear-lobe should be narrow, called "almond" shaped. The hen's comb falls over, and her lobes are rather more rounded. The Minorca is generally regarded as a good table fowl, the flesh being white and plump. As a laying breed they are held in high esteem.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

X.—Cover the floor of your poultry-houses with straw, dried leaves, or sawdust to the depth of at least six inches for the hens to scratch in for their grain food during the very cold weather.

George.—Keep up the supply of green food. This, you will find, helps the fowls, increases your egg supply, and helps to keep down the cost of production.

Important reforms are in contemplation in regard to the procedure at naval courts-martial, where, at present, accused persons labour under great disabilities as compared with the position of alleged offenders against military law.

Second Lieutenant Lord Delamere, Reserve of Officers, Grenadier Guards, has been gazetted temporary captain.

TEA TABLE TALK.

Mrs. Despard, sister of General French, is said to have refused over 500 applications for Press interviews after her return from visiting her brother at the Front.

* * *

Miss Gladys Storey, daughter of Mr. G. A. Story, is the only official lady recruiter under the War Office. During her career as a recruiter she has told some very funny anecdotes. One refused of a recruit who wished to join the Horse Transport, and was asked if he knew much about horses. He replied: "Know much about them? I should think I did! Why, I backed two winners last week and two seconds this!" One young man of nineteen and a half came along to the recruiting office in his luncheon hour, and was very disappointed to find that his chest measurement was under regulation width. "Never mind, miss," he said; "I'm going home to stretch, and I'll come back in a month. Then, perhaps, they'll take me."

* *

Mr. Lloyd George's many engagements prevent him from keeping early hours, but Mrs. Lloyd George, as far as possible, adheres to hours that have been the rule of her home for years. Breakfast at 7.30, bed-time 10.30 p.m. To keep her husband company, Mrs. Lloyd George will often take a small second breakfast at 9 o'clock.

* * *

Lady Strathmore was a Cavendish Bentinck and a great granddaughter of the third Duke of Portland. She was only eighteen when she married. Glamis Castle, where she lives a great deal, is situated in the "How of Strathmore," between four and five miles west of Forfar. The more ancient part is of considerable antiquity and a print of it published in the time of Charles II. shows it to have been most extensive.

* * *

Miss Helen Gould, the well-known American millionaire, once gave a party to a number of little girls from a charitable institution. After the visitors had lunched their hostess showed them some of the beautiful contents of her house—rare books, carved Italian furniture, tapestries, and marbles. "Here," she said, "is a beautiful statue, a statue of Minerva." "Was she married?" asked one little girl. "No, my child," said Miss Gould, smiling. "She was the goddess of wisdom."

* * *

One of Princess Arthur of Connaught's most cherished possessions is her engagement ring of antique gold, shaped like a 9, inside of which are nine fine diamonds in the form of an anchor that signifies faith and fidelity. This ring brings good fortune to its owner, and used to belong to a member of the Duchess of Connaught's family.

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The novel manner in which Madame Patti, the famous prima donna on one occasion chose her partners at a dance is related by Mr. Leslie Ward, "Spy," in his Reminiscences. Mr. Ward went to a certain dance at Lancaster Gate. "Patti," he says, "was sitting in the middle of the room looking angelic, and surrounded by a host of admiring men. We were each given a miniature bugle. Patti had one also, on which she sounded a note, and whoever repeated it exactly was to gain her as a partner in the dance. The men advanced in turn, some blew too high, and others too low, until one and all gave up in disgust. At last my turn came; I was trembling with eagerness and excitement, and determined to dance with Patti or die . . . I hit the note . . . and gained my waltz! and the applause was great as I carried off my prize."

* * *

Two different kinds of tea are served at the Royal breakfast table—China tea, at 4s. 6d. per pound, for Queen Mary; Russian tea, at 6s. per pound, for His Majesty.

* * *

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland uses a special toilet preparation. Her Majesty's skin is beautifully fine, and she frequently takes what is known as a "lemon bath." The recipe is as follows: Cut five lemons into slices and put them to soak in a basin of water for an hour. Then add the lemon water to the water in the bath, and stir the whole vigorously. Don't use any soap whatever. This bath is not only excellent for the skin, but is a great invigorator and a very good cleanser, as is proved by the skin of the Queen of Holland.

* * *

Signora Eleanora Duse, the great Italian actress, had, in her young days, a life of struggle and hardship. With her parents she wandered about the country, appearing in humble theatres with a small troupe of performers, who often earned barely enough money to provide themselves with food. Signora Eleanora Duse is of a very nervous temperament. Save when acting or rehearsing, she spends her time in perfect rest. She receives no one except old friends, and only a few of these.

* * *

The Countess Benckendorff, wife of the Russian Ambassador in London, is a charming woman and very popular among London society. She is reputed to be one of the best lady bridge players about town.

* * *

Mrs. Anderson, like many other well-known women, prefers to retain her maiden name of Miss MacArthur. Into her private life when she goes home and is Mrs. Anderson, she tries to bring none of the worries that make her life a struggle against growing odds. Years ago, when she visited America, she told the Americans that the working-girl makes the best wife. "When she marries she chooses a man who can be both her sweetheart and her chum; she has gained the masculine privilege of selection."

* * *

Of English Society ladies who have distinguished themselves at the front, Lady Dorothie Fielding, daughter of the Earl of Denbigh, deserves special mention. For many months she has worked at nursing wounded Belgians, and to mark his appreciation of her self-sacrificing labours, King Albert some time ago bestowed on her the Cross of the Order of Leopold.

* * *

Laundry marks vary greatly in Europe. Most of us are familiar with those used in Britain, consisting of certain small letters or figures stitched in red thread. Not all Continental laundries are so considerate as some parts of France linen is defaced by having the whole name and address of the laundry stamped upon it, and an additional geometrical design to indicate the owner. In Bavaria every piece has a number stamped on in large characters. In other parts of Germany a small cotton label is attached by means of a hot-water-proof adhesive. In Bulgaria each laundry has a large number of stamps engraved with designs, and linen with Russian marks in Russia the laundries mark reads worked in arrow shapes. In some Russian towns the police periodically issue regulations for laundries, while in Odessa books of marks are furnished annually to the laundry proprietors, and these marks and no others may be used. By this system criminals and revolutionary agitators are often traced.

* * *

Madame Sarah Bernhardt has a wax replica in her bedroom which is absolutely filled with artificial legs. Half the leg makers of the world have sent her specimens for handiwork. She has a nickel leg. Madame Sarah Bernhardt has passed her seventieth year, having been born in Paris on October 23, 1845.

CLUB WINDOW.

There are many good stories told of the Prince of Wales's kindness to soldiers at the Front. One of the latest tells of how on one occasion he gave a tired soldier a ride in his own motor-car, and handed him a sovereign at the end of the journey. The Prince is still noted for his humorous sayings, and he is fond of joking with the soldiers. But it was when he was quite a little boy that his Royal Highness used to make the funniest remarks. One day, when he was a school, the Prince was asked by another boy what he felt like to be the eldest son of the Prince of Wales. "Surely it is a great responsibility?" he asked. "I've never thought of it in that way," replied little Prince Edward, with a smile. "It always seemed to me to be great luck, though, to be born the eldest son, because when you're the eldest you haven't got to wear any of your brothers' old clothes!"

* * *

Mr. Fordham, the well-known London police magistrate, is the only considerable landowner among the metropolitan magistrates. He owns 450 acres. From the Bench Mr. Fordham has got several recruits for the Army. A man charged with attempted suicide was asked by the magistrate if he would join the Army if released, and he promptly agreed.

* * *

Like all popular men, Sir Herbert Tree is inundated with begging letters of every description. On arriving at his theatre for rehearsal one morning some years ago, before he received his knighthood, a note was brought to him with the request that he would read it immediately. "Dear Mr. Tree" (it ran),—"I am an actor who has come down in the world. If you cannot send me down ten shillings at once I must end my sorrows in the river." Now, Sir Herbert possesses a kind of instinct in such matters. He can tell the genuine beggar at once. He took no notice of the note, and on leaving the theatre a little time later he was not at all surprised to see the one-time actor who was so intent on suicide holding up the door at the stage entrance. "Hullo," said the actor-manager, "I thought you were in the river?" "Well," came the cool response, "I did go down there, but when I saw the water I changed my mind. I've come back for the ten shillings."

* * *

Mr. Lloyd George, being by profession a solicitor, it is scarcely surprising to learn that he takes a keen interest in criminal cases. He will follow the evidence of a big murder trial very closely, and will afterwards describe, in course of conversation, what questions he would have put to the witnesses and what verdict he would have given if he had been on the jury. He is a great reader of newspapers. Very little escapes him, from foreign news to breach of promise cases, while in regard to books he loves most historical novels.

* * *

The Emperor of Austria's reign has been marked from beginning to end by a continuous series of crises, all of which have caused endless, wearing anxiety to the Emperor, and some of which have endangered the very existence of the Hapsburg monarchy. In his own family the Emperor has had much trouble to bear. His brother, the ill-fated Emperor Maximilian, was shot in Mexico after failing to found a new dynasty there. His only son, Crown Prince Rudolph, after worrying his father by his indescribably reckless life for fifteen years, committed suicide at the age of thirty-one in terribly tragic circumstances. His wife, the Empress Elizabeth, was cruelly assassinated by an Anarchist miscreant at Geneva, and then in 1914 the Heir-Apparent to the throne and his wife met their deaths at the hands of assassins. These four family tragedies alone would be sufficient to embitter most men. It may therefore be observed with truth that among the crowned heads of Europe the Emperor Francis Joseph is at once the most pathetic and unhappiest.

* * *

Lord Cowdray, who was Sir Weetman Pearson, took his title from Cowdray Park at Midhurst, which is a lovely place that he purchased from Lord Egmont's trustees. The present house was built early in the seventies, and it has a hall which is a reproduction of the famous Bug Hall, in the old Tudor House, which was destroyed by fire in 1793 before the eighth Lord Montagu (to whom it belonged) was drowned. There are splendid limes and avenues of chestnuts, and the park affords a most beautiful drive. Queen Elizabeth was most sumptuously entertained at Cowdray in 1591, and the spot is still pointed out where she shot deer with a crossbow, the animals being driven past the bower. Edward VI. was a guest at Cowdray forty years before. The ruins of the old castle are an interesting feature of the grounds.

* * *

Sir Henry Roscoe, the scientist, is eighty-three years of age. It was he who made Owens College laboratory one of the greatest in the world. His text books, "Roscoe's Chemistry," and the rest, have set thousands on the road to scientific knowledge. He has also been an M.P., and has made many notable scientific discoveries. Some years ago, on the completion of the jubilee of his connection with Owens, he was the recipient of congratulatory messages from every continent.

* * *

Very few people are aware that the Czar of Russia is only a colonel in his own army. This is due to the fact that he was only a colonel when the late Czar died, and, by the laws of Russia, a Czar cannot confer rank or titles upon himself, and, of course, none of his subjects can give him promotion. Earlier in his reign, the Czar was out riding on his bicycle one morning wearing the undress uniform of a colonel in a cavalry regiment. Presently, he passed a very pompous old general who had come from a far-off part of the Empire, and did not recognise the Imperial cyclist. The general, therefore, took no notice of him. The next minute he was greeted by a sharp shout and the words: "I say colonel, stop!" Wondering what was the matter, the Czar obeyed, and, dismounting from his machine, waited till the other overtook him. "Why don't my inferior salute me?" demanded the general angrily. Immediately the Czar stood to attention and brought his right hand up in salute. "I beg your pardon, general," he said. "I have been a short a time on the throne that I have not yet been able to meet all my subjects personally." The astonished general then recognised to whom he was speaking, and with a hurried salute muttered apology and quickly disappeared.

* * *

There was the right mettle in Theodore Roosevelt from his very start in life. When he was a boy he went to the far West for his health, and the rough cowboys there laughed at the spectacled youth and made fun of him. On this account, when he went inside a house to see the many chamois heads of the most unusual animals in the United States. Of course, young Roosevelt tried to mount one of these animals in the same manner as he was thrown heavily, his spectacles were broken and he was rather hurt. The cowboys laughed more; but they stopped when they saw the boy make for the wild animal again, only to be thrown a second time. But there was a third and a fourth attempt, and eventually, by sticking to it with grim determination and pluck, he succeeded in mastering the beast. After this the cowboys came more than anything else.

An old flour sack cut into four and hemmed makes excellent oven cloths. They are very strong and protect the hands from the heat.

To clean the irons, rub on a cloth upon which there is a little melted wax, then rub on powdered bath brick sprinkled on brown paper.

A little kerosene added to the water in which white clothes are boiled makes them very white. They must be rinsed in hot water afterwards.

To keep sandwich cakes from rising in the centre, spread the mixture away from the centre of the tin towards the sides. When baked it will be quite even and very light.

To waterproof boots, melt together two parts beeswax to one part of mutton fat. Apply this to the leather at night, and in the morning wipe well with a piece of flannel.

To remove fruit spots from cottons, apply cold soap, then touch the spot with a feather dipped in chlorate of soda. Dip the article immediately in cold water.

There is no need to make a toil of silver cleaning if every day the articles are washed in plenty of hot soap and water, and thoroughly rubbed dry before a fire.

In cleaning the brass round a keyhole it is almost impossible not to soil the surrounding wood, but to prevent this get a piece of cardboard about 4in. square, cut a hole in it the shape of the brass and put it over the keyhole when cleaning, and the wood will not be touched and soiled.

Boil Them First.

Potatoes bake much quicker if they are boiled for ten minutes in salt water before putting them in the oven. Afterwards place them in a hot oven and they will be ready for the table in half-an-hour.

To Remove Grease Spots.

Clothes covered with grease spots are easily cleaned by applying some spirits of hartshorn with a soft rag. Rub this well on the spots, then brush, and the grease will vanish.

Oily Bottles.

Glass bottles which have contained oil are very difficult to clean, but if required for any other purpose try the following way: Fill the bottle with ashes, and place it in a pan of cold water, which must be heated gradually until it boils. Let it boil for half an hour, then let the bottle remain in the water until cold, then wash in soapsuds, finally rinsing in cold water.

To Poach Eggs.

The beauty of a poached egg is for the yolk to be seen through the white, which should only be just sufficiently hardened to form a transparent veil for the eggs. Eggs for this purpose should not be quite new laid, but three or four days old; those quite new laid are too milky. You must have fresh eggs or it is equally impossible to have a well-poached egg. The egg should be first broken into a cup and when the water boils, pull back the saucepan and gently slip the egg into the water; a little salt should be added. When the white is set, take it up with a slice. Many cooks trim the edges of the whites, but there is no need if properly poached. The eggs may be laid upon buttered toast, or used as a garnish for bacon, ham, or a dish of nicely boiled spinach.

Home-Made Whitewash.

In these days of economy many householders are doing their own small repairs to the house. To make a good yet cheap whitewash, get two cakes of common whiting, a pound of size; a cake of laundry blue, and a spoonful of alum. Make the whiting into a thin paste by pouring warm water on it. Add the size, which should be melted beforehand in a saucepan on the fire; then the blue, previously dissolved in water; and, lastly, the alum. The mixture will bubble a little. When this is over, strain the mixture through a fine sieve. Then add the water to make it of the proper consistency for use.

To Clean Serge.

Damp the serge with a sponge and warm water. Then allow it to dry. If now it is well brushed with a soft brush over which a little oil of olives has been dropped, the gloss is entirely removed, and the serge presents a new appearance. Another way is to make a solution of spirits of wine two parts, strong ammonia one part; lay the serge on a bare wood table, then take a piece of old serge or flannel, dip into the ammonia mixture, and apply to the dirty parts, rubbing vigorously. To remove the glossiness, try a teaspoonful of powdered nut-galls in a cupful of hot water, and apply to the serge as before.

SOME USEFUL RECIPES.

Baked Fresh Herrings.—Scale and clean the herrings carefully without washing them; cut off the heads and fins, and remove the backbone. Sprinkle salt, pepper, and a little powdered mace over them, both inside and out. Lay them in a deep baking dish, and arrange the roes at the top. Cover the whole with vinegar and water in equal proportions, and put three or four bay leaves, or a few cloves, into the liquid. Bake for one hour. Dressed in this way, herrings are better eaten cold.

Tomatoes and Cheese.—Mix together six tablespoonfuls of breadcrumbs and the same quantity of grated cheese. Well butter a piedish and sprinkle the inside with a layer of crumbs and cheese. Wash and dry two pounds of tomatoes, then slice them thickly. Put a layer of tomatoes in the dish, then another layer of crumbs, then one of tomatoes, till the dish is full. The last layer should be of crumbs and cheese, and slightly thicker than the others. Put a few pieces of butter on the top, and bake in a quick oven for about thirty minutes. Add a seasoning of pepper and salt to the tomatoes.

Orange Cake.—For this cake you will require ½lb. butter, ½lb. castor sugar, ½lb. flour, two eggs, half a teaspoonful of baking powder, rind of one orange. Beat the butter to a cream, add sugar, then the flour. Beat the yolks of eggs, and add, and lastly the whites beaten to a stiff froth. Bake for half-an-hour in slow oven. When cold, cut in two and spread with marmalade, and ice the top.

A Dish of Sprats.—This is a cheap, tasty dish, if nicely cooked. Wash and dry well every sprat, dip each into flour, then place them side by side in a baking tin. Dust over a little pepper and salt; no fat is required. Set in a good oven. When cooked to a golden colour, dish them upon a hot dish, place little tufts of parsley at both ends of the dish and slices of lemon here and there. Send to table with a plate of nicely-cut bread and butter.

GREAT GALE.

FRENCH SHIP TURNS TURTLE.

The terrific gale which set in on Friday and continued during part of Saturday caused many shipping disasters and serious damage to property and flooding in the South of Ireland.

The most serious disaster at sea occurred on Saturday off the north coast of Guernsey, where the French steamer St. Malo went down with all hands.

The St. Malo (1,243 tons), which belonged to the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, left London on Wednesday. When off Guernsey the vessel was seen with a heavy list and flying signals of distress, but before help could reach her she turned turtle and sank.

On Sunday morning the bodies of three French sailors and ship's boat were found on the beach at Herm, and a second boat and eight other bodies were found on the west coast of Guernsey. It is feared there are no survivors.

The sloop Allan, of Barton-on-Humber, foundered in the Humber Channel near Chalderness, Barton. The crew of three are missing.

The Holt liner Oopack, of Liverpool, outward bound for Port Said, met the full force of the storm, and owing to the battering she sustained, causing her to roll heavily and her boilers to leak, she had to abandon the voyage and put into Queenstown for repairs.

While the steamer Iris was twenty-five miles west of Queenstown the chief stoker, Selby, was washed overboard and drowned, and a seaman who was caught by the same sea was washed overboard, but was landed back on deck by a returning wave.

A leading stoker of a naval vessel was washed overboard by a heavy sea and drowned.

SUBMARINE "E20" SUNK.

BRITISH LOSS IN THE SEA OF MARMORA

The Secretary of the Admiralty makes the following announcement:—

"Submarine E20, Lieutenant-Commander Clifford H. Warren, R.N., which was on detached service in the Sea of Marmora, has not communicated since October 30, and it is therefore feared that she is sunk.

"The enemy announce in their wireless Press message that three of her officers and six men of the crew are prisoners."

The Turkish official communiqué states that the E20 was sunk on November 5.

The E20 was one of the most modern English submarines, 195 feet long, and with a displacement of 800 tons. Its speed above water was 19 miles, under water 14 miles. It possessed eight torpedo-discharge tubes, two quick-firing cannon, and a crew of 30 men.

The E7 and the AE2 (Australia) are the other British submarines lost in the Dardanelles region, the latter being sunk in the Sea of Marmora. In each case the crew were taken prisoners.

PRINCE ALBERT.

SUFFERING FROM GASTRIC DISORDER.

The following announcement was issued on Sunday evening through the Press Bureau:—

Buckingham Palace, Nov. 14, 1915.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert is suffering from an obstinate gastric disorder, and he will have to stay in London for some weeks in order to undergo special treatment.

It will be remembered that Prince Albert, the second son of the King and Queen, was seized with illness in August, 1914, while serving as a midshipman aboard H.M.S. Collingwood in the North Sea. He was landed from the hospital ship Rohilla and entered a nursing home at Aberdeen, where, on September 9, he underwent an operation for appendicitis. He made an excellent recovery, and was so keen to rejoin his ship that early in December, 1914, he was examined by a Naval Medical Board, which, however, did not consider that he was then in a fit state of health, to resume duty. In February last he was approved by the Medical Board and he returned to his ship. The Prince will be twenty years of age on December 14.

LITTLE TROUBLED BY THIRST.

According to a traveller who has journeyed across the great Saharan desert, the Arabs there have an idea that Europeans are a sort of amphibious race, for only on this theory can they understand the great quantity of liquids we absorb as compared with themselves. To us two days, or even less, in the desert without water would mean madness or death. But the native will cheerfully march for three days at a stretch without drinking. He will even endure a fourth day's abstinence without much suffering, but after that the Arab's mind becomes clouded, and he will fasten himself to the saddle of his camel, trusting that the instinct of the animal will lead him to a pool of water. The authority, however, described as a fable the old story that the camel carries a reservoir of water in its body, and that the Arab when dying of thirst kills his camel in order to obtain the precious fluid.

TRAMCAR OVERTURNED.

An electric tramcar taking men to work ran away downhill in Birmingham and overturned after hitting an electricity standard. One man — Frederick Smith, a tube bender, aged twenty-three—was killed, and twenty-five others were injured. Eleven of them were kept in hospital. George Billingham, of Handsworth, had both legs broken.

John Owen, the driver, stuck to his post, and was buried under the wrecked car. His back was injured and he suffered severely from shock. The conductor, William Chadwick, was thrown down the steps from the top of the car and pinned down by footboards. He took part in the retreat from Mons, and was permanently injured.

The injured were removed by the light of policemen's lanterns and bicycle lamps.

Alderman James H. Rodgers, chairman of the Newcastle Tramways Committee, was sentenced at Newcastle Assizes to twelve months' second division imprisonment for misappropriating money and falsifying books of a money-lending concern of which he was managing director.

Girl taxi-drivers have made their appearance in Cardiff.

The staff of the Secretary's office, General Post Office, London, have collected and sent 3,458 razors to soldiers at the front.

Major E. J. Lamb, the marksman, who before he died asked to be buried as near Bisley as possible, was buried at Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey—about a mile from Bisley.

PREMIER'S DEFENCE.

STINGING REPLY TO CHARGE OF FALSEHOOD.

Mr. Asquith administered a stinging rebuke to Mr. J. M. Hogge, in the House of Commons on Thursday. Referring to the suppression of the "Globe," and to that paper's statement that Lord Kitchener had resigned, Mr. Hogge declared that he believed, in spite of what Mr. Asquith had said, that Lord Kitchener had tendered his resignation.

Mr. Asquith, who spoke with much warmth, said he was bound, after what had been said, to make a personal statement to the House. He had been charged with being a party to deliberate and inexcusable falsehoods. Mr. Hogge had said he believed Lord Kitchener had tendered his resignation. "Lord Kitchener never tendered his resignation," said Mr. Asquith, "neither to the King nor to myself, who are the only two people to whom he could tender it. Lord Kitchener never breathed one word of resignation.

"But the hon. gentleman repeats that statement after it has been contradicted by the Government of which I am the head in the most explicit and emphatic terms.

"The hon. gentleman, who professes to respect me, accuses me of being a party to a deliberate falsehood, intended to deceive the public of this country. He is not content with that, notwithstanding his respect for me. He proceeds to attribute to me another offence—a very grave offence, which was imputed to me by an hon. member of the House whom I do not see in his place. I think statements of the kind ought to be made on the floor of the House, and not in the columns of a newspaper."

Proceeding, Mr. Asquith said he had been charged with being guilty of an attempt to deceive the House, the allegation being that he did not tell the House on Tuesday (November 2nd) that Lord Kitchener was going on his mission.

The decision to send Lord Kitchener on his mission to the East was taken by the Cabinet on Thursday, two days after his speech, and the serious information which led the Government to take that decision was brought to their knowledge for the first time on Wednesday. Yet he was accused of having told a deliberate lie to the House of Commons.

He could assure the House that he did not speak in any angry spirit or any spirit of ill temper, but in the interests of the decency of public life he protested against charges of this kind, baseless allegations directed—he did not care as far as his own personality was concerned—directed against him as head of the Government of this country, and which were calculated, if believed—and of course they would be circulated throughout the length and breadth of the civilised world—to our Allies, to neutral countries, and even to our enemies—to do infinite harm.

SINGLE MEN FIRST.

COMPULSION BEFORE MARRIED MEN ARE CALLED.

The Press Bureau has issued a definite statement on the Derby recruiting scheme. It is stated clearly that unmarried men and men married since the time of registration, will be called to the colours before married men are called upon to fulfil their obligations. There has been some argument about the position of married men who volunteer under Lord Derby's scheme, but the following statement sets all doubts at rest:—

"Lord Derby is authorised by the Prime Minister to express his surprise that his statement in the House of Commons on November 2 should be considered in any way ambiguous.

"The Prime Minister on that occasion pledged not only himself, but his Government, when he stated that if young men did not, under the stress of national duty, come forward voluntarily, other and compulsory means would be taken before the married men were called upon to fulfil their engagement to serve.

"Lord Derby is further authorised to state definitely that if young men medically fit and not indispensable to any business of national importance, or to any business conducted for the general good of the community, do not come forward voluntarily before November 30, the Government will after that date take the necessary steps to redeem the pledge made on November 2.

"It must be clearly understood that no marriage contracted after registration day (August 15) will entitle any man to be relegated to the married groups.

"Whether a man is indispensable or not to his business will be decided not by the man or his employer, but by competent authorities and tribunals which are being set up to consider such cases.

"The instructions which will be issued to the local tribunals will make adequate provision for dealing with special or exceptional cases."

CLAIM TO OLD MASTERS.

In the Chancery Division, judgment was given in favour of the National Gallery trustees in an application brought by Major Arthur Layard, nephew of the late Sir Henry Layard, concerning a number of valuable old masters bequeathed in his uncle's will.

The testator gave to Major Layard his portraits (with one exception), while to the trustees of the National Gallery he gave the right to select pictures from his collection. It was contended on behalf of Major Layard that the trustees had included in their selection paintings which he said were portraits and were, therefore, part of the gift to him.

Sir Robert Finlay, K.C., for the National Gallery, said the testator was a connoisseur who devoted himself to collecting valuable paintings, and he arranged them at his Venice residence, portraits and other paintings not being separated, as a connoisseur would arrange a gallery. He argued that Major Layard's claim failed because he (counsel) had established that the bequest to Major Layard did not include anything except family portraits and those of friends.

Mr. Justice Astbury held that the testator did not intend to give the old masters to Major Layard.

It has been decided by the Gloucestershire and Somerset Farmers' Society to raise the wholesale price of milk by 2d. a gallon, and Bristol retailers will charge the consumer another 1d. per quart.

Mr. Henry Snooks, a railway bridge inspector, fell into the River Usk from the Great Western Railway at Newport and was drowned.

When two labourers were fined £2 each at Newcastle for card playing at Messrs. Armstrong and Whitworth's shipyard, the assistant manager said that the amount of card playing and gambling that went on was scandalous.

Judgment for £50 damages and costs was entered in the King's Bench Division against Messrs. Maple and Co., Ltd., the well-known furnishers, in the action brought by the landlord of a Hampstead house from which Maple's had removed furniture let by them on the hire-purchase system and liable to distress for rent.

LORD HALDANE.

SIR E. GREY WISHED TO RESIGN WITH HIM.

In the House of Commons both the Prime Minister and Sir Edward Grey paid high tributes to the services of Lord Haldane.

Sir Richard Cooper, member for Walsall, asked if Lord Haldane had been assisting in the administration of the Foreign Office; if so, in what capacity and since what date?

Sir Edward Grey, answering the question, said: I much regret that there has been no opportunity recently of making use of the services of Lord Haldane in connection with the Foreign Office. I should like to take this opportunity of saying that at no time has Lord Haldane taken part in the work of the Foreign Office, either before or during the war, except with the knowledge and consent of myself and the Prime Minister and his responsible colleagues. It is due to Lord Haldane to say this, in view of the attacks that have been made upon him. I personally regret the resignation of Lord Haldane, and regard it as a great loss to the public service. I expressed to the Prime Minister my desire to resign also, at the time, and had it not been a time of crisis in public affairs I should have done so. If Lord Haldane's services are available for any public work for which I am responsible I should consider it to be in the public interest to avail myself of them.

Later in the afternoon the Prime Minister, replying to another question by Sir Richard Cooper, asking if Lord Haldane had been assisting in the administration of the War Office, said: The answer is in the negative.

Sir J. D. Rees: While he was at the War Office did not the noble lord render great services?

Mr. Asquith: He rendered inestimable services.

VANISHED GERMAN SHIPPING.

Presiding at the annual meeting of the London Maritime Investment Company (Limited), Sir Owen Philipps said: "At the outbreak of the war the German mercantile marine consisted of 5,459,296 tons, as compared with 19,256,766 tons owned by Great Britain. Of the German tonnage, 230,000 have been captured by the British Navy and 38,000 have been captured by our Allies, 117,000 have been sunk, and 397,000 interned in ports of the British Empire, whilst the remainder, viz., about 4,677,000 tons of German shipping, have (with the exception of an insignificant number of steamers running in the Baltic) for more than a year been rusting in German and neutral harbours.

"The services rendered by our Navy in guarding these shores and those of our Allies, in securing the safe transport of men and material upon a scale so vast as to be hitherto unknown in warfare, and in protecting British commerce are incalculable, and, if not always so widely appreciated as they might be, can never be forgotten, at least by those interested, as we are, in the maritime industry of this country."

WAR STRAIN AND INSANITY.

At Wimbledon, Dr M. H. Taylor held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Lance-Corporal William Banks, Shropshire Light Infantry, whose dead body was found with a gunshot wound in the head on Wimbledon Common. The widow, who resides at Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, said her husband came home from the front on leave on October 29 and left on the 5th inst. to catch an afternoon train from Victoria Station for the front. He told her that it was like hell at the front, and that he had no desire to go back. She identified a letter as being in his handwriting, in which he said he lost his train, and added, "I am afraid to go back for fear of making myself a coward, so I am going the only way—the only thing left to me. I have found a cartridge in my pouch, so I am going to use it on myself. . . . They should not have let me come home, for I am no coward, and I should have done my best to have done my duty, but I can't go back now, for I should go mad for certainty." The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity."

FARMERS AND TRANSPORT DELAYS.

In view of the difficulties and delays which are liable to arise under present conditions in the transport of goods by rail, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries recommend farmers to place their orders for feeding stuffs and other farm requirements so as to allow ample time for delivery. Railway companies are contending with great difficulties owing to the exceptional demands upon their rolling stock, while prompt delivery by manufacturers is in many cases hampered by a shortage of labour. By placing their orders so as to allow ample time for delivery farmers will avoid inconvenience to themselves and will assist both the railway companies and the manufacturers.

LORD VERNON DIES AT MALTA.

News has been received at Sudbury Hall, Derby, that Lord Vernon has died of dysentery at Malta. He went to the Mediterranean with the Derbyshire Yeomanry, in which he was captain.

Lord Vernon was the eighth holder of the barony, an eighteenth century creation, and succeeded to the title in 1898. He was the owner of nearly 10,000 acres in Derbyshire and Cheshire.

Lord Vernon was one of King Edward's pages at his coronation. He was unmarried, and is succeeded by his brother, the Hon. F. W. L. Venables-Vernon, a lieutenant in the Navy.

TRANSPORT ATTACKED IN AEGEAN.

The War Office has made the following announcement:—

"On September 2 the transport Southland, from Alexandria, was torpedoed in the Ægean Sea, but reached Mudros under its own steam at 10 p.m. the same day.

"As a precautionary measure the troops were transferred to other transports. There were some casualties, already reported, amounting to 9 killed, 2 slightly injured, and 22 missing (believed drowned)."

The Southland is a Liverpool steamer of nearly 12,000 tons register, built in 1900, and owned by the International Navigation Co., Ltd.

Alderman Neville Chamberlain, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, has agreed, owing to the war, to receive £500 instead of the usual £1,000 voted to the office; and Dr. Harding, the new Mayor of Eastbourne, is to receive £190 instead of £300.

Licensing facilities at Swansea have been restricted to between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Gold watches from the Admiralty have been presented at the offices of the Leyland Line, Liverpool, to officers of the Armenian in recognition of their gallant conduct during an attack by a German submarine.

The Austro-Hungarian Government have asked the United States Ambassador to inform the British Government that the conditions at the Grossau (Lower Austria) internment camp are now improved.

OUR AIR SERVICE.

MR. BALFOUR ON DEFENCE OF LONDON

Replying to criticisms in the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour made a statement with regard to our aircraft service and to the defence of London against Zeppelin attacks.

Mr. Balfour said he did not think it ought to be assumed that the Germans had obtained a lead which we could not suppress. In this country there was the keenest desire among those concerned to improve the type, the power and the speed of our aircraft. As far as it was possible to speak with confidence it would be found that during the progress of the war our air service had not fallen behind that against which it was matched.

As regards organisation of the air service at home, it had to be remembered that when war broke out the air service was relatively in its infancy, and the very fact that the war broke out extended it enormously. For that reason it was decided that it must become part of the Admiralty equipment, and put under the same machinery as the other great Naval services.

On the question of the defence of London against Zeppelin attack, Mr. Balfour said everything was being done to increase the number of fliers and machines. They were making guns as fast as they could just as they were making aeroplanes and pilots as fast as they could turn them out. The Admiralty were also building a considerable number of lighter-than-air machines for the purpose of scouting. Our anti-aircraft defences were improving every day.

The aeroplane had not yet the range to enable it to proceed from these shores and become a menace to the enemy. The Zeppelins that attacked these shores came from places in the north of Germany where it was not easy for our aircraft to attack. The object of the Admiralty was to develop in all its phases the power and the skill of the air service.

MOTORIST'S FURIOUS RIDE.

How a motorist was nearly lynched by an angry crowd was told at Greenwich Police-court, when Andrew Johnson, aged eighteen, of Heytesbury House, Heytesbury, Wilts, a second-lieutenant in the R.F.A., was charged on six summonses with negligently driving a motor-car in Catford-road, Lewisham.

It was stated that there was a recruiting procession in Catford-road on September 11, when Johnson, driving recklessly, cut up the procession, knocked down three men, and charged a cordon of special constables. People ran after the motor-car, closed round it, and forced Johnson to draw in near the kerb. The police had to protect him, because, it was said, he might have been lynched. Both brakes on the car were tied with string.

Fines amounting to £27 5s. were imposed, and defendant's licence was suspended for a year.

GERMAN FIRM'S "FORESIGHT."

In the case of a property in the City of London which was let to a German firm in 1912 for a term of twenty-one years, a request was made by the lessee during the negotiations that the leases should be determinable at three months' notice in the event of war with this country, which at the time was regarded as an absurd a suggestion that it was not given serious consideration, said Mr. S. A. Smith in an address to the Auctioneers' Institute.

THE BERSAGLIERI.

The Bersaglieri are generally considered to be Italy's finest fighters. When on the march the men never walk as do other soldiers, but always go at a sort of quick trot. They are trained to cover long distances at great speed by means of this untiring "double" march. These 25,000 or so men belonging to one of the oldest branches of the Italian Army, are among the most perfectly drilled troops in the world. Every single Bersagliere, apart from being a man chosen for his endurance, is a fully-trained athlete, capable of doing any number of useful, as well as picturesque, evolutions that form part of his training, in addition to the usual military drills. The cyclist section of the Bersaglieri, when not mounted on their machines, carry them strapped to their backs, for each soldier's cycle is so constructed that it can be quickly taken apart and packed into a small compass, and just as quickly fitted together again. Perhaps the most glorious achievement in the records of the regiment was the splendid stand made by 8,000 Bersaglieri against 30,000 natives at the disastrous battle of Adowa, Abyssinia, when the Italians were defeated. Fighting more than three to one, the heroic Bersaglieri held their position for nearly two days without food or rest, and with very little water. But it is not only in war that Italy's green-plumed warriors excel, for they have many times rendered invaluable services during the disastrous earthquakes from which Italy has suffered.

THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.

This, the old 23rd Foot, raised in 1689, is one of the corps that fought in the rose gardens of Minden, the others being the Suffolk Regiment (old 12th), Lancashire Fusiliers (old 20th), the King's Own Scottish Borderers (25th), 1st Hampshire Regiment (37th Foot) and the 51st, now the 1st Yorkshire Light Infantry. The six regiments, assisted by two Hanoverian battalions, defeated the whole French Army, and captured 43 guns, 17 colours, and a large number of prisoners. On Minden Day (August 1) the men wear roses and the anniversary is observed as a holiday. The 23rd sport the "flash," three strips of ribbon hanging from the back of the collar. It is reminiscent of the old days when the pigtail was worn, being used to prevent the uniform from being soiled by the hair. Recently an attempt to deprive the Royal Welsh Fusiliers of their "flash" was made, but the War Office decided not to enforce the prohibition against wearing the "flash" with service dress uniform for the period during which full dress clothing is in abeyance. It is the proud boast of the regiment that the enemy has never seen the "flash." The Royal Welsh Fusiliers have suffered very severely in the war, and in this respect are maintaining regimental traditions. At Fontenoy, where the British had to retreat owing to their Dutch allies failing to fire a shot, the old 23rd left 323 officers and men on the field. At Albuera it had 329 officers and men killed and wounded, and one company emerged from the fight commanded by a corporal. At Waterloo the regiment had fearful losses, the colonel being killed, yet the close of the day found the 23rd in the victorious advance which swept away once and for all Napoleon and his army. The regiment boasts of many honours (twenty-eight) as well as the "Sphinx" superscribed "Egypt."

Major George Hamilton, M.P., has decided to hand over his salary as a member of Parliament to the fund now being raised by Prince Alexander of Teck and the Council of the Imperial Service College at Windsor for the education of sons of officers fallen in the war.

Laden with a valuable cargo of ore for Germany, the Swedish steamer Skandia was sunk in collision with the Norwegian steamer Freiholl outside Aalesund, Norway.

OFFICERS MURDERED IN PERSIA.

OUTRAGES BY INSURGENT TRIBESMEN

The Foreign Office issues the following for publication:

On July 12 a party of insurgent tribesmen advanced towards the country house of his Majesty's Resident and Consul-General outside Bushire.

Two British officers, Major Oliphant and Captain Ranking, who, with a party of Indian cavalry and infantry went to reconnoitre, came suddenly on a well-concealed party of the enemy, who, opening fire at close range, killed both officers and one sepoy and wounded two more. The enemy then advanced to attack; heavy firing then took place. A simultaneous attack was also planned for the same evening in another direction, but was abandoned.

On September 1 his Majesty's Consul-General at Ispahan, when out riding with an escort, was fired at. Mr. Grahame himself was wounded and his Indian orderly killed.

The British Vice-Consul at Shiraz, Gholam Ali Khan, was shot at and wounded in two places on September 7. The Vice-Consul died on September 8.

On October 23 the munshi (clerk) and a gholam (mounted servant) of the Consulate at Shiraz were shot at and wounded. The gholam died subsequently.

On August 25 the British and Russian Consuls at Kermanshah were returning to their post from Hamadan, and were at Kangavar. The German Consul from Kermanshah, with a force consisting of perhaps 200 men and two Maxims, occupied the surrounding hills, and informed the Governor that he would give three hours for the British and Russian Consuls to leave; failing this he would attack the town. The Consuls were forced to withdraw to Hamadan, whereupon the German and his forces left.

The object of this attack was obviously to keep the Consular representatives of the Entente Powers out of Kermanshah—the main means of entrance for German agents into Persia.

A report has now been received that his Majesty's Consul and the manager of the Imperial Bank of Shiraz have been made prisoners on orders from Teheran. As telegraphic communication with Shiraz is cut off, no confirmation or denial of this report has been received.

WEEDON RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Druitt, the Board of Trade Inspector, issued on Monday the report of his inquiry into the causes of the accident, which occurred on August 14 at Weedon to the Irish mail train from Euston to Holyhead, just after it had passed a train on the up line. Ten passengers were killed and twenty-one injured.

The Inspector states that all the circumstances attending the accident were of a most unusual character, viz., the working out of the split pin, the slacking back and falling off of the washer, and the coupling rod dropping and being bent outwards so as to damage the adjoining line. "I believe," he says, "this is the only case on record of an accident having occurred from this last cause."

He thinks there can be little doubt that the Irish mail was derailed through the down road being pushed out of alignment by the detached coupling rod of the engine of the 8.45 a.m. train from Birmingham.

The chief mechanical engineer of the company has had the engine failure record examined from January 1, 1911, and can only trace six cases of peg pins breaking or working out. This works out at one case for every thirty-six million miles run. Three of the cases occurred on engines whose coupling rods are identical with those of the engine attached to the Birmingham train. The Inspector points out that if the coupling rod had bent inwards instead of outwards it would have derailed its own engine.

He cannot help thinking, in spite of the fitter's evidence, that the split pin which was put in at Rugby was not quite properly adjusted. Doubtless the idea was not to delay the train, and for the same reason he does not blame the driver for letting the fitter to put in a pin taken from another engine.

MR. A. HENDERSON ON ECONOMY.

In reply to a request for his views on the Wimbledon Borough Council's proposal to close down the domestic economy centres Mr. Arthur Henderson, President of the Board of Education, writes:—

"Broadly speaking, I think the war renders the adequate provision of instruction in cookery more rather than less necessary as an element in the public system of education.

"The present need for economy in the use of food, and the position in which the country will be placed at the end of the war render it, in my opinion, very important that all means should be taken to spread among the population a knowledge of the best and most economical methods of preparing foods.

"I should regret, on economical as well as educational grounds, the closing of all cookery centres in any area, and I think that similar considerations apply, though not necessarily with the same force, to instruction in laundry work and housecraft."

DARDANELLES LOSSES.

Mr. Tennant (Under-Secretary for War), replying to Sir A. Markham in the House of Commons on Monday, said with regard to the statement that the losses at the Dardanelles were a thousand a day, the average was 795 for the whole period from May to October. The great bulk of these were the sick, ninety odd thousand, and 31,000 were killed, wounded, and missing. Of the sick they might expect 80 per cent. to return to the fighting ranks.

On October 15 Mr. Tennant gave the casualties up to October 9 as follows:—

	Officers.	Men.	Total.
Killed	1,185	17,772	18,957
Wounded	2,632	66,220	68,852
Missing	383	8,707	9,090
Total	4,200	92,699	96,899

Amongst the killed are those who died of wounds.

After twenty-six years at the Admiralty as Paymaster of Contingencies, Paymaster-in-Chief H. A. T. Cummins has retired from service.

A penny match-box was sold recently in Rome for £2,000 for the benefit of crippled Italian soldiers.

Owing to the demands of the military authorities for skilled telegraphists it is probable that a number of the less important telegraph offices in the London district will shortly be closed. It has not so far proved practicable to use women labour to any large extent for this class of work.

There are upwards of 1,000 soldier priests in the French Army, and the Rev. F. A. Cardew, chaplain of St. George's Church, Paris, speaking at Selwyn College, said he knew of three bishops who were serving as privates.

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