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No. 13,061. [REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.] TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1920. SIX PAGES. ONE PENNY.

GREY CAR MYSTERY.

SEQUEL TO THE BRUTAL MURDER OF A TAXI DRIVER.

DERELICT MOTOR AT SWANSEA.

MIDNIGHT TRAGEDY IN THE WILDS OF SALISBURY PLAIN.

As the outcome of the hue and cry which followed the discovery of the callous murder of a Salisbury taxi-driver named Spicer, on a lonely road in the wilds of Salisbury Plain, between the city and Andover, the grey car, driven by the unfortunate victim, was yesterday discovered abandoned in a secluded spot at Swansea.

So far, however, no trace has been found of the perpetrator of this sensational outrage, but the police are in search of a man, believed to be a sergeant-major in the army, who was the deceased man's last known fare.

AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER PASSENGER

A Salisbury correspondent says, according to present information, Spicer was the victim of foul play late on Saturday night or early on Sunday morning. On Saturday evening he was hired to take a party of five men and women from Salisbury to Bulford Camp, and on the return journey he picked up another fare at Amesbury. Who this second fare was is at present unknown, but Spicer is sa d to have informed an acquaintance at Amesbury that he was hired to drive to Andover. That journey would take him over one of the wildest parts of Salisbury Plain.

Nothing further was seen or heard of Spicer until about half-past nine on Sunday morning, when his body was found in a field at Thruxton, about five miles from Andover. Death had been caused by a bullet wound behind the left ear. There were marks on the body and face clearly indicating that Spicer had been brutally dragged, face downwards, for some distance along the road and through a hedge at the side of the road.

When he left Salisbury Spicer was known to have had a considerable sum of money in his possession—probably £10 to £20. This money, as well as his driver's licence, was stolen, and the pockets of his clothing were turned inside out. The police, however, do not regard robbery as the sole motive of the crime. The theory is that Spicer was shot on a lonely part of the road and afterwards conveyed to his own car to Thruxton, where the body was found.

According to medical opinion about eight hours must have elapsed between the murder and the finding of the body. The car driven by Spicer, a grey five-seater Darracq, had vanished, but the police were able to circulate the country with a full description, together with the registration number, almost as soon as the tragedy was reported.

There had evidently been an attempt by the murderer or murderers to obliterate such traces of the crime as they had made, for the dust from the roadside had been collected into a small heap and then sprinkled wherever there were patches of blood.

Spicer is described as a strong muscular man, and one well able to give a good account of himself in a fair contest. He drove a widow and one child.

It has been definitely ascertained that after depositing the fare which he had brought from Salisbury at Bulford village on Saturday night, Spicer picked up a soldier to drive to Andover Junction. The latter, who was seen by several people was dressed in khaki trousers and a British warm with a crown on the sleeve, denoting a company or sergeant-major's rank.

The man's description is as follows: Aged 35 to 40; height, 5ft. 8in or 5ft. 9in.; medium build and clean shaven.

A SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There was a sensational development yesterday afternoon, when an abandoned motor car corresponding in nearly all particulars to the Andover car was found in Brynmill-lane, Swansea. The discovery was made by Police-constable Peters at a spot near the Swansea Cross Hospital. It is stated that the car was not there two hours previously. Two soldiers are said to have been seen in the neighbourhood of the hospital earlier in the day, and the police are now actively searching for their whereabouts, but up to the present they have not been traced. A close watch is being kept on the ships and railway stations.

The car, painted French grey, corresponds with the published reports, the number and details being identical.

It is clear that the occupants were handicapped by tyre troubles, and were anxious to get clear of Swansea with all possible speed. One of the rear tyres is on the rims, and both rims and the corresponding tyre are very badly cut. It would seem that although the occupants had a spare wheel they did not have the necessary tools to fit it. There are holes in both sides of the motor hood and dents in the rear of the body, which might have been caused by bullets.

It is stated that Spicer bought a tin of petrol at Amesbury, enough for about 40 miles.

There is no reason why the car should have been abandoned at this spot, except that it is a particularly lonely locality, and would not be likely to be discovered for some considerable time. Another account says that mechanical trouble probably caused its abandonment.

Brynmill-lane is a quiet part of the western suburb of Swansea, and comparatively few people use it. Being near the Red Cross Hospital the fact of the car being unattended would not give rise to any undue speculation.

A search has been made up to the time of going to press.

LIMITED PETROL SUPPLY

One of the party Spicer drove from Salisbury to Bulford was Mr. Hether, and he rode on the front seat of the motor-car with deceased. He is an officer's batman, belonging to the Royal Field Artillery, stationed at Bulford.

"Two other soldiers," he told a *Daily Mail* correspondent, "and two women friends and myself had been spending the afternoon in Salisbury, and at 10 to 9 we hired Spicer to drive us home. At Amesbury Station, about 2 miles from Bulford village, Spicer was anxious about the petrol, and stopped to have a look at his indicator.

"When he pulled up a man came up and said, 'If he could have a lift to Andover. Spicer, however, pointed out that the car was full, but after he had dropped us at Bulford he would come back and pick him up. He then said he would wait. He was a small man, and as far as I could see in the darkness wore a British warm overcoat. I understood him to say he was a sergeant-major.

"We arrived home at Bulford village at 9.30, and Spicer after we had paid him left to pick up the man who had accosted him at Amesbury."

At Bulford village Spicer stopped at a small garage for petrol, and this was the last seen of him alive.

COLLIERY FIRE.

FOUR MINERS DIE FROM SUFFOCATION.

The Press Association states that four miners, including a father and son, have been suffocated through fire at the Third Bothwell Castle Colliery, Glasgow. Several others narrowly escaped.

COAL GAS POISONING.

NOTTM. LABOURER'S ALLEGED ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

Frank Hankers, 27, labourer, of Robber's Mill-road, was remanded for eight days at Nottingham Police-court to-day for attempting to commit suicide.

Sergeant Cowlion said he found accused lying on the floor at his home last night suffering from coal gas poisoning. Witness restored animation and then took the man in custody.

WHY DID BEER GO UP?

DERBY WOMAN'S 10s. FOR POLICE STATION QUERY.

Walking into the Derby Price Station at 11 p.m. on Monday, Mary Ann Reynolds, a married woman, of 1, Kim-street, demanded to know why the beer had gone up in price, and she was refused to go away. Only three days previously she had been in trouble.

This morning she was fined 10s. for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

FOUND IN THE TRENT.

BADFORD MAN'S FATE AT HOVERINGHAM.

A verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity" was returned at an inquest held at the Old Elm Tree Hotel, Hoveringham, on-Day, on Harry Wheatcroft, of 56, Mansfield-street, Old Basford, Nottingham, whose body was recovered from the Trent on Saturday.

It was stated that the man had been out of work, and for some time suffered from a cataract on the eye. The Coroner (Mr. F. B. Footitt) said no doubt these circumstances had preyed on his mind. The feet and hands were tied with cloth and rope.

SALARIES UP £3,000.

INCREASED PAY FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS.

The Notts. County Council-to-day adopted a report prepared by the Salaries and Establishment Committee with reference to the application of the scale of bonuses authorised for permanent and civil servants to the officers and clerks employed by the Council to meet the continued increase in the cost of living.

Having dealt with the whole of the salaries of the County Council employees in receipt of a salary of less than £1,000 a year, the committee recommended a revision, which represents a total annual increase, gradated on the salaries of the education staff, of about £3,000.

MILK 8D. A QUART.

PRICE REDUCED FROM SUNDAY NEXT.

It is officially announced that at a recent meeting of the National Federation of Dairymen Associations it was decided that on and from Sunday next the retail price of milk in London and other large towns should be reduced to 8d. a quart.

At their annual meeting, the Bolsover Farmers' and Dairymen's Association fixed the 8d. per quart, as the summer retail price of milk, and it was decided that this price should operate from May 2nd to September 4th inclusive.

HARNESSING THE TRENT.

NOTTINGHAM'S NEW ELECTRIC POWER STATION.

The question of the site for Nottingham's new electrical power station was under consideration yesterday at a meeting of the Electricity Committee of the City Council.

The site was chosen, and although it is not desirable at this juncture to indicate its precise whereabouts, it may be stated that it will be close to the city and near the river, so that use may be made of water power.

Many other sites were considered, some of them outside the city boundaries, but none of these was suitable, and after a consideration for the past year, the summer retail price of milk, and it was decided that this price should operate from May 2nd to September 4th inclusive.

WILL OF GABY DESLYS.

HER DESIRE FOR A BEAUTIFUL FUNERAL.

The late Mlle. Gabrielle Cairo (Gaby Deslys), left personal estate in Great Britain of the net value of £7,226.

To Mr. Harry Pilcer she left £50,000 francs and a life annuity.

In the will the testatrix states: "It is my wish to have a beautiful funeral, for which some 20,000 francs are to be expended."

A DERBY ESTATE.

Mr. Spencer Joshua Bradwell, of Town-gate, Bradwell, Derby, who died on December 19th last, left property of the gross value of £3,325 with net personalty of £53.

Probate of his will has been granted to his widow, Mrs. Nancy Frost Bradwell, and his son, Mr. Thomas Frost Bradwell, butcher, both of Town-gate.

SUNKEN U BOATS.

PRIZE MONEY FOR BRITISH SUBMARINE CREWS.

The Prize Court to-day heard claims for prize bounty in respect of the sinking of five German submarines.

Commander Robert Raikes of the British submarine 54 claimed to have destroyed UC10 and UB1, while Lieutenant Guy Doyly Hughes, of the British submarine E35 said he had sunk the U164 after two hours' action.

The prize money awarded totalled £1,010.

FIUME OUTBURST.

DRAMATIC CLOSE AT SAN REMO.

AUDIENCE SHOUT AT PREMIERS.

"ADRIATIC PAID FOR WITH HALF A MILLION DEAD."

At a concert yesterday evening at San Remo, attended by a large and distinguished audience, a demonstration was made in favour of the Italian occupation of Fiume.

When the orchestra struck up the Italian national anthem the audience rose and turned towards M. Millerand and Mr. Lloyd George in silence, shouting:

"Long live France. The Adriatic has been paid for with half a million dead. You gave an empire to Greece. You murdered your soldiers in the Straits of Athens."

Both Premiers smiled smiles of resignation. —Exchange.

This was the last public appearance of the Premiers before leaving San Remo.

REPLY TO GERMAN NOTE.

The Allies have addressed to Germany a stern Note in reply to the request that the strength of the German army should be raised to 200,000. They inform the Germans that such a request in view of German treaty infractions and delinquencies, and despite the fact that the Versailles Treaty must and be enforced, if necessary, by extended occupation of German territory.

The Allies do not, however, that they are ready to consider Germanys difficulties, and will invite the heads of the German Government to confer with the heads of the Allied Governments.

The Conference yesterday again discussed the manifesto in which Allied unity is once more affirmed.

The manner in which the Note deals with disarmament is very satisfactory to the French, who are in complete agreement with the decision to summon the Germans to meet the Allies at Spa on May 25th, for the discussion of the practical application of the reparation clauses.

Although the declaration states there is no intention on the part of the French to occupy German soil, the Supreme Council (according to the *Daily Mail*) has decided that they shall continue to occupy Frankfort until Germany fulfils the disarmament clauses of the Treaty.

The Supreme Council also approved of the final clauses in the Peace Treaty with Turkey, and a draft Note to President Wilson regarding Armenia was adopted.

"DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN."

MR. LLOYD GEORGE ON THE REMO DELIBERATIONS.

M. Sonnerein, the San Remo correspondent of the *Matin*, states that at the close of Sunday's sitting of the conference, Mr. Lloyd George was interrupted by representatives of the Press.

Mr. Lloyd George said that he compared himself a sort of "Daniel in the lions' den."

He (he said) had been criticised because no people would take the trouble to find out exactly what my ideas were. Only did I propose to withdraw military occupation against Germany, but I said that in certain cases they were absolutely necessary.

At the present moment we have received a revise of the Treaty. I would ask my trackers to read again the speeches I made in the House of Commons three weeks before the Ruhr affair, and the reply I made to Mr. Asquith and certain Labour members on the subject of revision. You will see from them that I was totally opposed to it. I could not be otherwise.

I should like to tell you what I said a moment ago at the Conference. After discussing matters between Britain and France find themselves in the most complete agreement. We have just had a conference with the Japanese representatives. The San Remo deliberations will mark a memorable date. We have reached results of far reaching importance to mankind to all. In reality, the weather has been some quite fine. Henceforward, when any misunderstanding between London and Paris are not far apart, and we shall talk matters over instead of criticising each other at a distance.—Exchange.

END OF THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference concluded last evening, all decisions having been taken. The Missions will leave to-day.

PRINCE LEAVES AUCKLAND.

THE INHABITANTS' HEARTY SEND-OFF.

The Prince of Wales had an extremely enthusiastic send-off when he left Auckland to-day by special train for Rotura. The streets leading to the station were blocked with crowds long before the hour of departure.

The arrival of his Royal Highness was the signal for an outburst of cheering which was maintained until the train steamed from the station. Five hours of Territorial guards formed a guard of honour on the platform. The inhabitants of every village on the route turned out and waved flags and cheered as the Royal train passed.

In the course of the day the Prince visited the city of Auckland, at which he has been represented in Parliament by Mr. Massey, Prime Minister, who accompanied H.R.H. to the centre of this rich country, which produces three crops of potatoes a year. Another city visited was Hamilton, which is also a prosperous agricultural centre. Here representatives of the Cambridge Township and Frontiersman Association presented addresses to the Royal visitor.

In both cities the Prince received and replied to official addresses of welcome.—Press Association.

GERMANS IN ANTWERP.

WAR MEMORIES RAISE INDIGNANT PROTESTS.

A *Times* Antwerp telegram says:

Notwithstanding the measures taken to prevent German visits to the battlefields, some eight thousand Germans have obtained permission to come to Antwerp.

Among them are many who, during the German occupation, showed such arrogance that their return has produced a veritable campaign against them, which has found expression in hostile articles in certain journals. It is not forgotten that these persons had during the war denounced or maltreated Belgians who happened to displease them.

CHURCH "SENSATION."

CLASS PROTEST AGAINST WORKERS' GIFT.

There was consternation among the parishioners of Paston, Peterborough, at the week-end because the cross and candlesticks given by three thousand railwaymen to Canon Donaldson, the rector, in recognition of his help and sympathy during the strike last year, had disappeared.

After a Polonged search the missing ornaments were found under the communion table, and on Sunday evening Canon Donaldson, speaking from the pulpit, strongly commented on their unwarranted removal.

Canon Donaldson in an interview stated that no damage was done to the cross. He regarded the act as a symbolism of the fact that a small group of people resented the claim of the masses of the people to the church.

"If the cross and candlesticks," he said, "had been presented by a millionaire they would have been left untouched, but because they were presented by 3,000 railwaymen of the district this unwarrantable act had been committed.

"There is a certain set of people who have been so accustomed to monopolising the Church that they cannot bear the thought that the masses are at last claiming their own. This putting of the cross and candlesticks under the altar was not an anti-ritualistic proceeding, but an anti-democratic demonstration."

Remarkable street accident in Nottingham. Remains of a high wall in North Road, The Park, which collapsed suddenly on Sunday, falling upon Albert Jas. Rogers, a twelve years old boy, and seriously injuring him.

"GRASPING" NOTTINGHAM.

COUNTY COUNCIL & EXTENSION SCHEME.

TRAMWAYS AND OMNIBUSES.

At to-day's meeting of the Notts. County Council, Ald. H. Mellish in moving the adoption of the Parliamentary Committee's report, which contained extensive references to the inquiry into the city extension scheme, remarked that no intimation had yet been received as to what decision the Ministry of Health were likely to come to on the inspectors report. One very satisfactory feature of the inquiry, was that no attempt was made to assail the administration of the County Council, or the various local authorities interested. In the event of an order being granted by the Ministry, the Committee asked for authority to oppose the Bill when it came up for Parliament.

Ald. Mellish expressed warm appreciation of the courageous ability with which Mr. Hampden had prepared the case for the County Council at the inquiry, and said they must also bear in mind the value of the co-operation of the different local authorities opposing the scheme.

The report dealt with the Nottingham Corporation Bill, which proposes to lay new tramway routes to Hucknall, Beeston, and Chilwell, and suggested that its promotion was auxiliary to the extension scheme, and nothing more. There was not the slightest intention to believe that the Corporation proposed to lay the tramways, the city's electricity system being insufficient to provide current for any extension. The County Council and the local authorities accordingly blocked the Bill with the question, the Committee on Standing Orders of the House of Commons never struck out certain clauses.

OMNIBUS BILLS.

Ald. Mellish said he understood that the provision to extend the time granted to a private company twenty years ago to construct tramways to Beeston had also been withdrawn. There were two Bills before Parliament seeking power to run omnibuses, namely, the Nottingham Corporation Bill to Hucknall, Beeston, and Chilwell, and the Sheffield Corporation Bill from Sheffield to Worksop. The Ministry of Transport have prepared model clauses in regard to omnibuses in Bills ways which Parliament will be asked to insert in these Bills, and under the circumstances it would seem to be possible to withdraw the County Councils' opposition.

Lord Galway mentioned that the question of extension of borough boundaries had received the serious consideration of the County Councils Association, which was urging that no provisional orders should be granted until the Government declared its policy on the question. He mentioned the Nottingham scheme as a meeting of the association, and everyone was struck by the grasping wish of the city to invade the county.

The Council expressed its approval of the report.

PUPIL TEACHERS' SALARIES.

NOTTS. COMMITTEE REVISE THE SCALE.

The rural pupil teachers' salaries are to be increased, and at this afternoon's meeting of the Notts. Education Committee it was reported that some of the teachers will receive an advance of £10 annually.

The revised scale is as follows: first year pupil teachers from £16 to £20; second year, £18 to £25; third year, £20 to £30; and fourth year, £25 to £35.

It was mentioned by Mr. T. L. K. Edge that the question of future school accommodation at Kirkby-in-Ashfield had been under consideration for some time. Owing to the way the scheme had been held up, but it was now necessary, if they were to purchase the site selected, that notice should be given to the County Council. The building proposed to be erected would provide for the education of 400 children.

It was decided that notice should be given, and the scheme proceeded with.

Mr. J. Godfrey reported that the school attendance returns for March showed the average number of children on the registers to be 46,036, with an average attendance of 41,851.

SWINE FEVER AT MANSFIELD.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACCUSED OF RESPONSIBILITY.

On the presentation of the report of the Diseases of Animals Committee at the Notts. County Council to-day, it was stated that the Order of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries declaring the boundary of Mansfield and the parishes of Mansfield Woodhouse, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Fulwood, Hucknall-Torkard, Teversal, and Skegby, to be swine fever infected area as from the 23rd July, 1919, was revoked on the 13th February, 1920.

The Chairman, Mr. R. M. Knowles, remarked that swine fever was a very difficult thing to eradicate. The Mansfield authorities seemed to resent any restrictions put on the removal of swine in their district, and brought pressure to bear on the Board of Agriculture to get the order revoked, the consequence being that the disease jumped up again.

BONUSES TO BRICKLAYERS.

SYSTEM THAT PUTS A PREMIUM ON LUXURY BUILDING.

The practice of paying bonuses to bricklayers is interfering seriously in some localities with the erection of houses. It is apparently the owners of the property and not the builders, who usually offer the bonuses, and the effect is to put a premium on work that may not be the most essential in the public interest.

Mr. Harold Shawcross, of Rochdale, the president of the National Housing Council, states that in two local areas outside the borough of Rochdale some other large industrial buildings are in courses of erection, and in order to secure the requisite labour the workmen were offered bonuses of £1 per week. The consequence was that 50 men who were employed on the housing schemes of the Rochdale Corporation went to this more lucrative employment.

The grievance is not Rochdale's alone, and at a private conference of representatives of Lancashire housing authorities last week it was resolved to urge the Minister of Health to prevent the payment of such bonuses. The only remedy at present lies with the local authority in whose area the building is being done, and if it does not take action the adjacent area which suffers is powerless.

AMAZING AMERICAN STORY.

BOY SHOT FOR REFUSING TO ATTEND CHURCH.

ABSENCE "A MARK OF DISGRACE."

The State of Maryland is in a state of turmoil over the tragic shooting of Roland Parks, a 17-year-old boy, by a policeman, because he refused to attend church as required by a unique ordinance of Tangier Island, where the incident took place.

Tangier, a small fishing community of 3,000 souls, situated in Chesapeake Bay, has been ruled from time immemorial by a strict Methodist sect. There is only one church on the island, and the minister is looked upon by the natives as a sacred being. Absence from church is not only a mark of disgrace, but according to an old-fashioned law passed in the Tangier Island Parliament and strictly maintained by the older generation of the island, it was unlawful, and the offender could be thrown into gaol.

In recent years (says the *Telegraph*) the younger elements, known as Liberals, many of which have travelled outside the limits of the island, have taken exception to the law, and at the forthcoming elections the religious ordinance will be the paramount issue. Young Parks was on the porch of his father's home when Officer Conover, the island's lone policeman, ordered him to go indoors or to church. Enraged with the spirit of revolt, Parks refused to do either, and in the struggle that ensued Conover drew his revolver and deliberately fired. Parks is lingering between life and death, but the majority of the older natives support the policeman in his action, and the town fathers will be liberally open to defend him when he is tried.

They contend that, without some compulsory method, not all the church attendance would consequate on strong-armers or pockets, and the religious life of the island would be submerged.

The citizens of Maryland are amazed at the existence of such a narrow and repressive law in their present day and country, and the police official is so strong that threats have been heard to the effect that, if the county civil jurisdiction with him, the public will take matters into their own hands. Meanwhile Conover has been admitted to bail, and has returned to Tangier where he has resumed his old duties, as determined as ever to see the church filled each Sunday, be the cost what it may.

FLOUR AND BREAD PRICES.

NOTTM. FOOD COMMITTEE ON ILL-ADVISED SCHEME.

At the last meeting of the Nottingham Food Control Committee the system of administering claims under the Flour and Bread Prices Order was considered.

Various cases were investigated, in which the system of allowance, commonly known as "the manufacture of "smalls" was illustrated. The committee were of the opinion that such system will lead to the loss of an enormous amount of money, which should otherwise accrue to the Ministry, and in the same time place traders, who were not fortunate enough to hold stocks on the 15th March, in a most unjust position.

UNFAIR SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION.

They therefore passed the following resolution:

"That, notwithstanding the fact that it is not in order to administer the scheme authorised by the Ministry of Food, with reference to the Flour and Bread Prices (Amendment) Order, it deems its duty on record a strong protest against the unfair system of administering compensation. Clear and indisputable evidence before them leads them to the conclusion that while many traders who should not rightly be called upon to pay rebate to the Ministry, will be compelled to do so, many others who admittedly are entitled to compensation will be unrepaid, and will not be called upon for payment. In view of the fact that committees have been asked to exercise strict economy, and further, in view of the fact that it is essential that no sources of revenue should be neglected which would tend to reduce the liabilities of the nation, the committee consider the scheme is both ill-advised and badly constructed."

This was forwarded to the Divisional Food Commissioner for the area, and the following reply has been received:

"I am in receipt of your letter of 17th instant enclosing resolution of the Nottingham Committee. It is admitted by the Ministry of Food that the concession in the Flour and Bread Prices Order, of work for Food Control Committees will seriously augment the compensation to be paid on flour used during the four weeks, 15th March to 10th April, but the concession was made by the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies, for whom the scheme is being administered."

FOOD COMMITTEES TO GO.

MR. McCURDY TO SUBSTITUTE DISTRICT OFFICES.

The 1,700 Food Control Committees are to be disbanded from June 30th. This is one of the new Food Controller's schemes for reducing expenditure.

The work of the committees will be undertaken by a new organisation, to be known as Food Offices, each having jurisdiction over the areas previously administered by two, three, or even more committees.

Another innovation by Mr. McCurdy is the organisation of Trade Advisory Committees, the spect of foods freed from control Jam was freed from control yesterday, and a committee of persons interested in this particular trade is to be formed to keep a watchful eye on the supply and distribution of this commodity. If the price rises, the Ministry reserves the right immediately to reimpose control.

Similar action will be taken with regard to meat, which is to be freed from control on July 6th.

SYRUP NOBODY OWNS.

Bermondsey Food Control Committee is calling the attention of local M.P.'s to a unclaimed syrup at the Surrey Commercial Docks, S.E.

The executive officer, Mr. J. Buckman, says he has seen hundreds, and been told there are thousands of barrels that have been there for three or four years. The syrup, he understands, came from Canada or the U.S.. Some of the barrels have burst from exposure.

STRAWBERRIES FOURPENCE EACH.

When strawberries are on sale at 4d. per lb. they may be deemed cheap, but when the wholesale value is 4d. each and more—that is quite another matter. At Covent Garden yesterday there were a few packages of Belgian hothouse strawberries.

The fruit, which was exceptionally large, realised 4d. a box of twelve, and in some instances nine fruits. Some were bought for the Coronation Dinner, Cost nothing.

RIOT IN PRISON.

SINN FEIN FLAGS THROUGH BROKEN CELL WINDOWS.

WORMWOOD SCRUBS' WAKE.

SERENADE OF IRISH AIRS FOR HUNGER STRIKERS.

Last night there was another demonstration outside Wormwood Scrubs prison by friends of the Sinn Fein hunger strikers within.

There was first a serenade of Irish airs, accompanied by a melodion, and then an outburst by the prisoners. Cell window smashing was followed by the appearance of a number of strikers at the grating, Republican flags being thrust through and waved to the crowd of onlookers in the street.

The Irish situation was again discussed in the Commons yesterday, when Lord Robert Cecil described it as a condition of anarchy that now existed, Mr. Jellet going further and characterising it as a repetition of the Bolshevism which had ruined Russia.

During a conflict between civilians and soldiers at Limerick last night Pte. Quin, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was shot, succumbing to his injuries.

MEGAPHONING TO PRISONERS.

Towards its concluding stages a demonstration organised by the Irish Self-Determination League outside Wormwood Scrubs Prison last evening numbered several thousand, and led to riotous scenes within the prison. At about 7.30 a small gathering of about 200, bedecked in the Sinn Fein colours, assembled near the central prison block and sang Irish airs, accompanied by a melodion.

The first sign that they had been heard within the prison walls (says the *Morning Post*) was the smashing of the glass in a cell window on the side and the thrusting forth of a Sinn Fein flag. Cheers from the demonstrators appeared to have stimulated those inside to further action, and within a short space of time a number of faces could be seen peering through the large hall window in one of the blocks, and the well-known "In Jail Lawless," provoked cheers from the demonstrators. At this point the general secretary of the Irish Self-Determination League made their appearance with several hundreds of supporters, and with the aid of a megaphone addressed a few words of encouragement with them as regard to the first inquiry, which had reference "to Jim Lawless," provoked cheers from the demonstrators. At this point a brief length of silence had been secured a shout came from the prison window, "All quiet on the Irish cells." Loud cheers greeted this pronouncement, followed by the singing of snatches from the "Soldiers' Song."

ANARCHY AND CHAOS LEADING TO BOLSHEVISM.

In Parliament last night Lord Robert Cecil moved the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to the continuous growth of crime and disorder in Ireland.

He said the position was as serious, if not more serious than it had ever been in Ireland within the last 200 years. The supremacy of the law no longer existed, and, partially, in large districts. During the first three weeks of this month there had been 15 murders, and as far as he could see the year was still increasing.

The most disquieting fact was that no arrests took place. In many districts not only the criminal, but the civil law was in abeyance. It was difficult to exaggerate the possibility of the Government, and the consequences of it, were, of course, the worst that ever had been before. The condition's were in the high approved lamentable.

If the Government failed after a reasonable time to restore reasonable conditions in Ireland, then they would be guilty of a crime.

Lord R. Cecil, in view of the statement made by Mr. Bonar Law, withdrew the motion.

FUSION BEFORE ELECTION.

ACTIVITY AT LEADING POLITICAL CLUBS.

Precautions are being taken to prevent anything becoming known prematurely as to the movement for a fusion of the two ranks of the Coalition into a united party (writes the London correspondent of the *Nottingham Guardian*) under a single leadership with a common organisation. I am in a position to state, however, that very important steps have been made in this, if not people think, quite inevitable direction. I hear that executives of the leading Liberal political clubs in London, representing Unionism and Liberalism, have held meetings, at which a modus vivendi was reached, and that an announcement may be looked for at an early date.

The conference to which the Scottish Coalition Liberals are submitting certain proposals, at Glasgow shortly, is expected to play no little part in the coming fusion movement. Little doubt is felt now that the fusion will be carried through before there is any prospect of another general election, and the defections on either side are not expected to be either numerous or important.

SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE FARMERS' CANDIDATE.

For some considerable time the question of the candidature of the Coalition party at the forthcoming general election has been exercising the minds of various factions in the Sleaford and Stamford Division. One of them is the National Farmers' Union, whose members locally are strongly of opinion that agriculture should be represented, and in consideration from the one selected as the candidate, they have put forward the name of Mr. Edward Clark, a tenant farmer and well-known public man in the Sleaford Division, who lives at Cobble Breham, near Stamford. The sitting member in the Coalition interest is Colonel the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P.

The position was advanced a stage yesterday when Mr. Clark propounded his views on Imperial and domestic politics. Among those present were the Marquis of Exeter, Lord Carrington, Colonel Amcotts, and Sir Lewis Florence Willoughby (wife of the member). Mr. A. D. Potter presided, and made it plain that no one in the Farmers' Union had the least feeling against their present member, but they as agriculturists, required someone who would look after their interests a little better than had been the case recently.

LIVED BEYOND HIS INCOME.

MATLOCK MAN AND DOLOMITE FIND.

The proposed formation of a limited liability company with a suggested capital of £100,000 to develop certain property at Brassington was narrated in the public examination at Nottingham of the Derby Bankruptcy Court to-day of Albert Ernest Swann, of Matlock.

At the age of 21 the debtor, who is now 47, came in for £9,000 under his grandmother's will. In 1902 he married Miss Florence Willoughby, (wife of the member). Mr. A. D. Potter presided, and made it plain that no one in the Farmers' Union had the least feeling against their present member, but they as agriculturists, required someone who would look after their interests a little better than had been the case recently.

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OIL v. COAL.

LOCOMOTIVES THAT RUN ON LIQUID FUEL.

Abundant, cheap and readily accessible coal supplies have hitherto constituted the chief or first inconvenience in this country within very narrow limits. But with the present soaring price of the precious "black diamond" the advantage commences to be a very doubtful one, and the fuel consumption of the world is now, of course, the most approved lamentable.

Future prices and supplies being beyond proper calculation, it is said, it will be wise to examine the question of the use of other fuels, which should future developments render its general use desirable. Oil is a fuel which is cheaper than coal, the weight of fuel, cheaper handling of fuel, increased heat of the fuel, and fuel, greater and more rapid adjustment of firing to each speed and gradient, and rapidity in getting up steam.

This oil is supposed to be "Liquid Coal," he said, "it has been proved by tests and experiments running into the thousands, on railways, notably in Mexico and the United States. This oil has been found that by adding water at the rate of 1 per ton for oil and 6 cwts for coal, it is for loading a tender. Steam can be raised by oil and no smoke moved in thirty-five minutes. Excessive consumption tests give figures such as 23.3 lbs. of coal to 10.3 lbs. of oil for doing the same work.

"In this country the Great Western Railway has two or three oil-fired engines, using the by-product of their gas plant. The score or so of oil engines in use at Swansea are all supplied with the residue of supplies. Another system of firing which is very popular in America is that employing pulverised fuel, i.e. coal crushed very fine and injected into the furnace by steam or air pressure, and in this way it is used in many of the most inexpensive coal is utilised. Two freight engines of the Great Central Railway are so fitted."

BELGIUM'S GRATITUDE.

THE BRUSSELS RETURNED TO BRITAIN.

Captain Fryatt's famous ship, the Brussels, has iron and copper-work rusted and decayed after her long submersion in the waters of Zeebrugge, was handed over to the Belgian Ambassador at Antwerp yesterday, a large crowd gathering on the quay and the adjacent promenade to witness the ceremony.

The Union Jack floated from the flagstaff on the Town Hall and from the tower of the cathedral, while the British and Belgian flags were flown together on the Brussels. Belgian soldiers and a detachment from the Royal Sussex Regiment presented arms when those taking part in the ceremonies passed.

In his speech, M. Poullet, the Belgian Minister of Marine, said he was happy to return Captain Fryatt's glorious ship to Britain as a proof of Belgium's everlasting friendship and gratitude. He also handed over the Belgian War Cross conferred on Captain Fryatt posthumously by King Albert.

Sir Francis Villiers, the British Ambassador, having returned thanks, the British colours were hoisted half-mast in place of the Belgian tricolour. The official party were later entertained to tea on board H.M.S. Dragon, which will escort the Brussels to English waters.

BRITISH LABOUR AND RUSSIA

DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE FROM LONDON.

The joint delegation of the Parliamentary Committee of Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party, which is visiting Russia to inquire into the economic and social conditions of that country under the Soviet regime, left London this morning, travelling via Hull and Copenhagen.

The deputation, which has been promised facilities in Russia by the Soviet Government, has among its members Mr. Margaret Bondfield, Mr. Robert Williams, and Mr. Philip Snowden.

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