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That Autumn Fashions will be dominated by the prevailing need for simplicity and usefulness is plainly shown in the new Costumes now on view in our Showrooms.

Scotch Tweeds and Homespuns play "a greater part than ever in providing Material of undoubted durability, and the new color effects—especially the check designs—are decidedly pleasing. Your visit will be welcomed.

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Soap to cleanse and Ointment to heal. Sample each free of "Cuticura," Dept. 2, Malden, Mass., U.S.A.

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FRED W. PURVIS,
BANK CHAMBERS
10 KING STREET, SOUTH SHIELDS.

The Shields Daily News.

THURSDAY, October 16th, 1919.

WOODEN HOUSES.

The PRESS invites our attention with a great deal of persuasive power to what is and what might be in the way of wooden houses. We should not have given a second thought to the suggestion a few years ago, but we have learned to be receptive of new ideas, and this one is sure to be well thought out. Only we are very much in the dark in considering the questions of cost, durability, and effect upon future town development, and are likely to remain so until we do one of two things,—either take the hard and perilous road of practical experience, i.e. build plenty of wooden houses and see how we like them, or the more cautious method of preliminary investigation. In spite of Lord Fisher's stimulating creed "risk and strife are the bread of life" etc., we incline to the latter course. We believe that a representative and influential conference of architects, builders, and members and officials of municipalities, investigating the question in all its bearings, would soon be crystallised into an authoritative opinion either showing the usefulness of wooden houses as a means of relieving the present shortage, or preventing money and effort being spent on something unpractical.

For instance, there is the problem of cost. Wood is not a notoriously cheap article, and we are on the look-out for reduced costs of construction. Its suitability will depend on the production of standard size pieces in large quantities; perhaps something has been done during the war to develop this business, as the construction of huts for military and other purposes has been carried out on a large scale.

In Newfoundland, where ample resources of timber are available, not only the houses, but hotels, churches and schools are built of wood, and we are told that with proper repairs they last from 50 to 60 years, that they are warmer than brick houses—and more picturesque—and, in short, the Newfoundlander will ever sing, "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you-oo."

This is very charming to think about. But will English prejudice allow the erection of wooden houses instead of brick ones? Nothing but stern necessity would defeat the prejudice, we are sure. The stern necessity for any practicable measures for providing homes for the people has certainly arrived. That is why we should like to see this question settled by experts. The Colonial practise is to build the temporary settlements of wood, and when they begin to prosper to put up more permanent stone edifices. Queensland's fixed preference for wood is exceptional. Our English practise in new industrial towns and villages is to "knock up" brick houses with as much haste as possible. And they are permanent—worse luck—and become the sad and dreary rows which make so many of our towns and villages unattractive and even repulsive. Why not meet the immediate and temporary needs by wood houses, and follow them up in due course with buildings of brick or stone worthy of a great Imperial race!

"ITS INHERITANCE,"

Second crops of potatoes are being lifted in Cornwall.

Thirteen hundred German prisoners left Hull yesterday for Hamburg.

The Bamba Chiefs coming to see the King will live at a dak in Cleveland Square, Hyde Park.

A 18th century sword, found in the Thames, has been presented to the Guildhall museum.

Mrs Naylor, a Nottingham schoolgirl, of twelve, was visiting friends in Sheffield, yesterday, when she fell down in the street and expired within a few minutes.

The Prime Minister presided yesterday at a conference of Ministers held in the Home Secretary's room. Mr Churchill was also called to fulfil several engagements in that city.

It is generally expected in naval circles that Admiral Goodenough, C.B., will go to the Admiralty at the invitation of Earl Beatty (says the London correspondent of the "Daily Mail"). Admiral Goodenough had important commands at Helligoland bight, Dogger Bank and Jutland, experiences which cannot fail to quality him as a valuable help in framing our future naval policy.

General Lord Byng and Viscounts Cowdray yesterday received the freedom of the borough of Colchester. Lord Byng, who commanded the Third Army in France during the last stages of the war, in returning thanks, said he made no claim to have invented a tank or to have written reminiscences in which the abuse of one's colleagues formed an prominent part, an obvious reference to Lord French's "1914."

The principal feature of yesterday's proceedings at the Church Congress was a discussion on the attitude of the Church towards spiritualism. Interest centred mainly in the subject, and a speech by the Rev. J. A. V. Magee, son of a former Bishop of York, vigorously exposing the dangers of spiritualism was received with great enthusiasm. The Archbishop of Canterbury announced that the conference of Bishops at Lambeth next year will take the matter under consideration.

The "Morning Post" says: At the Peace Conference Mr Lloyd George was told that he would have to make his choice between Germany and Poland. Perhaps he might take the dilemma, and might say that the Prime Minister has to make his choice between Jerry and Poland. But certain it is that Germany is working against Poland and for the Bolshevik domination. But certain it is also, that Mr Lloyd George has only given to Poland a wavering and half-hearted support. The Allies at the present moment have agreed upon a policy that might save the situation. They propose a conference which shall make Eastern Galicia over to Poland and settle that vexed question once and for all. Only Poland withholds her assent. It is an open secret that the President, M. Paderewski, implored the Prime Minister to come to a decision on the subject.

The "London Daily Chronicle" says: This home market is so profitable and so convenient to supply that the Lancashire cotton industries to manufacture for export, instead of being stronger than in 1913, are weaker. As the individual may see the alternatives, why should he put himself to the trouble of satisfying foreign tastes when he can sell all his produce at good prices at home? But as soon as we pass from the individual standpoint to that of the community quite another set of considerations emerg themselves. There was a time when our export trade was more necessary to us than to-day. Its importance is both present and future. We require to expand our export trade and now in order to restore our exchanges, and to secure the supply of our indispensable food and raw materials, since, until we do so we can only obtain food and those raw materials at ruinous prices.

The "Daily News and Leader" says: With all the defects of modern journalism the success of its appeal to the masses is a very real gain to the commonwealth. Apart altogether from the promulgation of views which may be sound or unsound, the popular paper does at least put intellectual pabulum in possession of knowledge essential to them as citizens. It widens horizons from the county to the nation, from the nation to the world. It exposes to the public gaze the processes of Government and the processes of justice. In such a country as ours, which, unlike America, has grown that circuit from one end of the kingdom to another, it makes to an extent hardly realised for the consolidation of national society.

Summary of the News

With the approach of winter the campaign against the Red Terror in Russia is being speeded up. The North-Western Army of General Judenitch has begun definite operations against Gatchina, 40 miles south of Petrograd, 2,000 prisoners having already been captured, and the capital is expected to fall by the beginning of next month. General Denikin has also made another big stride on the road to Moscow, and has taken the important town and railway junction of Orel.

A Paris message says that the Supreme Council on 9th Oct. sent a Note to Germany and certain neutral countries asking their collaboration in ensuring a blockade of Soviet Russia. A further statement is at the Council decided not to publish the Note until they had received replies possibly favourable from non-committal statements of the British authorities when questioned on the point yesterday.

The prospect of a speedy setting up of a permanent Joint Industrial Council is said to be endangered in consequence of the Government's attitude on the question of carrying out without qualification the recommendations on hours contained in the report which the provisional Joint Committee submitted to the Government in April. It is stated that the chief stumbling block is in regard to the hours of agricultural workers, and, as the result of conferences which have taken place the workers' representatives of the council are not satisfied.

The "Times" Parliamentary correspondent says: It is highly probable when the Government produce the promised Coal Mines Bill it will be confined to the purchase of mineral rights by the State and the raising of the fund for the improvement of housing and social conditions of mining villages. The Government scheme for the nationalisation and reorganisation of the mining industry is virtually dead. The Cabinet have not yet taken a final decision on the matter but it is realised quite clearly that it will have to be abandoned.

Representatives of the Engineering Employers' Federation last night met Sir Robert Horne at the Ministry of Labour. It was stated by the secretary of the Federation that the conference was on a private footing and that no statement could be made. Belfast Ironfounders yesterday rejected by a large majority the suggestion for the settlement of the strike. Several thousand men are idle in Belfast through the dispute.

Glasgow Town Council's special committee on Housing yesterday approved a 5-year scheme, to be submitted to the Scottish Health Board, for erection of the 27,000 houses including 500 temporary houses.

The London Education Committee yesterday arranged to purchase a hospital nursing home, to be an open air school for about 50 eight week and debilitated London children. The premises for 50 girls and children will be sent there in batches.

The London "Evening Standard" says it has now been practically decided that the Duke of Northumberland is to be the next Viceroy of India.

"ARMY OFFICERS' DRESS MAY BE SIMPLIFIED.

But Kilt Not Likely to be Abolished.

The Army Council has under consideration a report of the committee that was appointed to consider and report on dress and uniform for the after-war army. It is understood that the terms of reference were very wide, strong views were expressed that officers' dress should be simplified with a view of effecting economy, and that the variety of orders of dress should be limited.

It is understood that no decision can possibly be reached until the Army Council has had time to consider the many recommendations made. It may be pointed out that contrary to what has been stated in some quarters, no minority report has been made.

Certain [illegible] will probably welcome the view entertained in certain circles that there is no likelihood that the kilt will be abolished.

SEVEN RESCUED AT SEA.

Pitiful Plight of Crew of Waterlogged Sailer.

The Grimsby trawler Cortina yesterday landed seven of the crew of the Finnish sailing ship Anna, which, becoming waterlogged in a North Sea gale, was on the point of foundering when picked by the trawler.

The Finns had so suffered from exposure that the men barely could help themselves when the fisherman bore down.

During the task of transhipping them, one of the distressed sailors fell between the two ships and was swept away.

FLIGHT TO AUSTRALIA.

Two Machines at Brooklands Ready to Start

A wire from Chertsey yesterday says: The England-Australia flight may commence any day now. The Sopwith Aviation Co. yesterday ready 8/8 Brooklands. They belong to the Sopwith and Martinsyde teams. In all probability the Sopwith, piloted by Capt Matthews, will be first away. Both machines have spent well in trial flights round Brooklands aerodrome. The Sopwith arrangements are complete, and the machine is ready to start.

BACK TO FATHERLAND.

1,300 Germans Repatriated From Hull.

Thirteen hundred German war prisoners were repatriated through Hull yesterday for Hamburg. There was no demonstration and the prisoners on the part of many that they were keenly anxious to return to the Fatherland.

Sailors for the most part, they looked fit, and it was a matter of comment that their physical condition was immensely better than that of British prisoners when they arrived home from captivity last year.

The Germans arrived in three special trains from Oswestry, Staffordshire and Shropshire internment camps, and embarked immediately on arrival. A German transport was waiting at Riverside Quay. Two other transports arrived the arrival of further contingents.

Amble Derelict Mystery Solved

A solution to the Amble derelict mystery has been found. It will be remembered that on Wednesday morning of last week a small steamer drifted ashore on the White House Sands at Amble without a crew and without a soul on board.

The steamer has been wrapped in mystery until a message came to Lloyd's agent, Amble, saying the vessel in question was "Ada Jane," with 60 tons of coal aboard, and was being towed from the Forth to Ostend by the steam trawler Dublin. She left Inverkeithing on the 8th inst. She broke away from her towage and drifted about the sea until she landed at Amble.

Boy Charged with Stabbing.

Andrew Davison (12) at Newcastle Children's Court yesterday was remanded on a charge of stabbing a playmate in the back with a knife during a quarrel. The injured boy was to lie to attend.

PENSION PROBLEMS.

How to Solve Them.

BY AN EXPERT.

A Foot-Note to the Strike and a Plea for Consistency—The Lower Deck Parliament—How Jack Airs His Grievances—The Repatriation of Canadian Soldiers and Their Dependents—The Position of the Stepmother.

Free Advice to Our Readers.

When I call to mind the fact that there was a large number of demobilised men among railway workers, I feel sure that they could not have realised a tithe of what was implied to the community by a lightning strike. If they had recognised what hardship and inconvenience such a step would bring to disabled ex-soldiers and to the dependents of the fallen, I am sure they would have insisted upon having their disputes about wages settled by negotiation.

* * * *

There is one outstanding consideration that all of us have to bear in mind. The signature of our country has been affixed to the Leaguo of Nations treaty. We have pledged our word to the world respecting the principles underlying that compact, made with the express determination to prevent future wars. The principle which we are pledged to support, embraces negotiations as the means of settling international disputes, and here it does that even if negotiations fall through, there shall be an interval of three months before war is declared.

* * * *

As a nation, we have to be consistent in all our actionsat home, or the world will regard our sincerity when, in international affairs, we declare that all disputes must be settled by the arbitrament of reason. Peace must be learnt in the industrial field, or the lessons fires for which the boys suffered to keep burning will be extinguished by anarchy. It is for reason together as reasonable men and always bear in mind the fact that the interest of the nation as a whole is greater than the interest of any one section, however powerful.

* * * *

Arrears of various kinds have accumulated in the work for which the Ministry of Pensions is responsible, as a consequence of the strike. There is nothing to be gained by recriminations them—in fact, I would forget this unhappy thing which came to pass. Where there are difficulties, difficulty, instant resort should be made to the Local Committee. Finally, let me remember that we are all in the same boat and that if it capsized disaster would overtake everyone on board, and not merely a few men in this or that class who may be disliked. For war is not said of old that we are all members of one body!

* * * *

From all I hear, the moral of the Navy was never before so good as it is to-day. This splendid feeling has been largely created by the various reforms brought about by the present Government. For instance, the Lower Deck Parliament as the Naval Welfare Committee is called, was formed with the object of enabling men to express their views direct to the Admiralty. This Committee recently concluded its sittings at Portsmouth. As a result, an Advisory Committee of eighteen Lower Deck ratings chosen from members of the Welfare Committee will assemble at the Admiralty at an early date. In this way, such grievance as may arise will be explained to the board by men who are personally familiar with them.

* * * *

While I am on the subject of Jack's interests, I wish to call attention to the fact that men discharged from naval service should register themselves under the National Registrations (Amendment) Act, 1918. Paragraph 4 of the instructions on the back of the protection and identity certificates issued to men on their dispersal is cancelled.

* * * *

As there may be Canadians, or friends of Canadians, among my readers, I publish the following information for their benefit, but the notice does not in any way refer to men who have taken their discharge in the United Kingdom. All men of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada, who have been granted indefinite leave and are waiting repatriation to Canada with dependants, should communicate immediately with the Officer Commanding No 1 Canadian Discharge Depot, Buxton, Derbyshire.

* * * *

The Canadian Government have decided that a special transport may be granted, subject to the conditions of the respective Royal Warrants up to parents' pensions to the stepmother of an officer, or a soldier, killed in action. The condition for this issue is that she has been in the place of a parent to the officer or soldier, and wholly or mainly supported him for not less than one year at a time before the commencement of the war.

* * * *

Don't worry. Get your Local Committee.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. R (Bayswater).—When the regrant regulations are complete rapid progress is being made with it—medical appeal boards will be set up to decide as a result of assessments of the degree of disablement by medical boards, ask your Local Committee to advise you whether this has yet been done for your area. If not, you had better wait.

P. F. (Herne Bay). Provided you feel your health is permanently impaired consequent upon of active service, you should see your Local War Pensions Committee, and no doubt they will have you medically examined. Your disablement pension, however, is not awarded as a recognition of a meritorious service, but as some compensation for physical impairment caused by war service.

S. H. (Deal).—According to the new scale you appear to be assessed at 30 per cent. degree of disablement. You do not mention children, allowances. Are you not receiving 20/6d for the first child, and 14/6d for each of the other? If your pension is not yet permanent, state your case at your next medical board.

R. R. (Faversham).—We fear 5d is quite correct. The adjustment of the pension and children's allowance to the new rate is made after your next of the allowance book. Arrears are paid without application.

Our Pensions Experts are anxious to assist sailors and soldiers and their wives and dependents in dealing with intricacies of the War Pensions System.

Address your queries to "Pensions Expert" c/o Editor of this paper. All essential facts should be stated as briefly as possible, such as name and rating of sailor, particulars of families and separation allowance and (in inquiries concerning civil liabilities) pre-war or pre-enlistment income, present or war income, and full liabilities. Do not send any documents, birth certificates, or discharge papers, etc.

Will correspondents please make a point of sending their regimental number, rank, name, and regiment?

SUPPER PARTY WEDDING.

Appeal in the Sensational "Lady Dolly Case."

An early hearing is to take place in Edinburgh of an appeal in the sensational "Lady Dolly" marriage case. The appellate by Margaret Campbelle Heather, or Blackwood, who declares that at a supper party at Inverkeithing, Fifeshire, she was married to John Colquhoun Blackwood, formerly a Captain in the Royal Artillery, but now an inmate of a Mental Hospital.

Her case was that at the supper party Captain Blackwood took from his pocket a ring and put on her finger a wedding ring inscribed with the words "Because of this—man is free." To us it was that the marriage never took place, and is contended that the ceremony was a farce and that on her behalf the story of the marriage was concocted.

Mr Gentle who yesterday asked for an early hearing of the appeal said that following the plaintiff's judgment the plaintiff and three other wife were arrested and indicted on a charge of perjury, conspiracy, and claims and a good many interests were involved.

THE COST OF MAKING A SUIT.

A Glasgow Complaint Dismissed.

The Glasgow Tribunal have been before them a complaint against the Kinnaird Co-operative Society regarding a charge of 8/3 12s for a suit of clothes. The manager of the society in charge of the department stated that the cloth cost 42 9s 8d, buttons, trimmings, etc., 41 4s 9d; cutting, etc., 10s; machining, 16s; lighting, heating, power, and workshop charges, 3s; payment to tailor for making the suit, £2 2s 10d; making altogether £7 8s 3d, to which was added 4/ 4s 9d, being at the rate of 37½ per cent. to cover warehouse, salesmen, rent, taxes and management charges, bringing the total to £9 12s. With a discount for cash, the price was thus £8 12. The profit on the suit would amount to between 5s and 9s. The committee dismissed the complaint.

South African Soldier Executed.

A British South African soldier, named Lyle, being the chief instigator of night murders committed in Courtrai, Passchendaele, Moorslede, Ypres, was shot this morning.—Reuter.

WORLD'S LABOUR.

British Delegates to Washington Conference.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM NORTH TO ATTEND.

The Ministry of Labour makes the following announcement:

The following is the official list of members of the British delegation to the International Labour Conference, which opens at Washington on 29 October:—

Government Delegates.

The Right Hon G N Barnes, M.P.
Sir Malcolm Delevingne, K B.

Employers' Delegate.

Mr D S Marjoribanks, C.B., Managing Director of Sir W G Armstrong, Whitworth and Co, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Workpeople's Delegate.

Mr G. H. Stuart Bunn, Esq.

The technical advisers who will accompany the delegates are as follows:—

Government Advisers.

Dr T M Legge, Chief Medical Inspector of Factories.
Mr G Galloway, Deputy-Chief Inspector of Factories.
Miss Constance Smith, Senior Lady Inspector of Factories.
Mr J F G Price, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour.
Mr H Mitchell, Assistant Industrial Commissioner, Ministry of Labour.

Advisers to Employers' Delegate.

Mr A. J. Ross, C.B.E., Messrs Hawkins Leslie & Co Ltd, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Mr Wilfrid Lewis Williams, C.B.E., Assistant Manager, London and North-Eastern Railway.
Mr G S Maginness, Assistant Manager, Messrs Kynoch, Ltd, Birmingham.
Dr Stephen Mitall, LL.D., of the Brimsdown Lead Co., Brimsdown.

Advisers to Labour Delegate.

Mrs Bertha Mansbridge.
The Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P.
The Right Hon. G. H. Roberts, M.P.
Mr A. Onions, M.P., Minister Federal Council Britain.
Mr T. Shaw, M.P., Weavers' Association.
Mr J. Sexton, G.B.E., M.P., Transport Workers.
Miss Margt Bondfield, Women Workers.
Miss M. Macarthur, Industrial Women's Organisation.
Mr Barnes and Mr Malcolm Delevingne called at the Scandinavian on the 10th inst. the remainder of the delegates leave for Washington on the 18th, with the exception of Mr Henderson, who will follow on the 25th, after the re-opening of Parliament.

BACK TO OLD LINES.

Return of Locomotives and Waggons From France.

Locomotives and waggons belonging to railway companies in this country, which were sent to France for service with the army, are now returned to their owners as rapidly as possible. Five hundred and fifty-eight engines and 30,763 waggons had been sent across the channel by the time of armistice. Of these, one-third has already returned.

The average rate of return at present is 90 waggons per week. It is hoped to increase this to 900 per week, in which case all missing waggons should be in the hands of the owners within the next 4 months.

FRANCE KEEPING HER POWDER DRY.

Preserving it at the Bottom of the Pyrenean Lakes.

Paris, Wednesday.

In the course of yesterday's debate in the Chamber, M. Lefevre mentioned the fact that France still had an immense amount of war material stored away in the Pyrenees.

It was intended, he said, to keep this material, as it was sufficient to carry on extensive warfare for six or eight months. Instead of destroying the powder, it had been arranged that it should be sunk in the Pyrenean lakes.

The Chamber received the news with M. Louis Marin mentioned that the inventor of this ingenious process of conserving powder was M. Lefevre himself.—Reuter.

WOMEN'S WAR WORK.

Is She Now to be Limited to Her Former Spheres?

In view of the fact that the Pre-War Practices Committee is to come into this work with the result it is claimed—that many thousands of women may find themselves unemployed, the Women's Industrial League is busy trying to open wider fields of employment for women.

The League's report on "Women in the Engineering and other trades" sets out in detail the objections made against their continued employment but as against them, publishes statistics and opinions as to the valuable and satisfactory nature of the work they accomplished, compiled from replies to a question addressed to over 5,000 employers who engage women on metal lathes and other important war work.

The League's final conclusions are set forth in the Minister of Labour and made and open to grave objections, the allowance for women's wages is proposed to be low, and the scheme continued to strictly only to the occupations of women before the war.

This leaves out of account many of the occupations in which women have proved their worth during in State services such as the W.A.A.C., W.R.N.S., A.S.A.F., and Land Army now in progress of disintegration, and in various civilian offices, shops, and works, for which they are ineligible. Incidental phraseology — being "combed".

THE TREWHAM ESTATE.

600 Acres Acquired by the Board of Agriculture.

At yesterday's sales of the Duke of Sutherland's Trentham estate at Stoke, the announcement was made that 604 acres had been sold to the Board of Agriculture on behalf of the staffordshire County Council for £27,000. Property sold by private treaty realised over £10,000. and the total sales up to yesterday amounted to £165,750.

SEALED ORDERS.

Tyne Steamer Found to Blame for Collision.

Mr Justice Hill, in the Admiralty Court, yesterday, delivered judgment in the cross actions arising out of a collision on the night of April 30 last, between the steamship Discovery, of Cardiff, and the steamship Highcliffe, of South Shields.

The Discovery, according to the allegations of the Highcliffe, had been in three separate occasions.

The Discovery was leaving Cardiff with sealed orders, and his Lordship found the Highcliffe came to blame, as she failed to keep out of the way as give way ship.

DOCKERS' DEMANDS.

General Revision of Wages: National Minimum.

The Executive of the National Transport Workers' Federation yesterday forwarded to all employers of dock and waterside labour throughout Britain an application for a general revision of wages with a view to establishing a national minimum standard and for various alterations in working conditions.

The employers are invited to attend a national conference to discuss the claims, and it is expected that the Transport Workers Federation that the National Negotiating Committee which drafted the labour agreement should act as convenors of the conference.

The demands include a minimum for day workers and piece workers of 16s per day on the basis of the national agreement for the 48-hour week.

The application also asked for a payment of 11s and a half for overtime, with a minimum of four hours, and that men working after 8 20 or 9 p.m. shall be paid a full night.

BIG TOBACCO INCREASE.

£242,000,000 Spent on Smoke in Two Years

The figures of the national tobacco bills for 1917 and 1918 have just been issued by the British Anti-Tobacco and Anti-Narcotic League.

The figures for 1918 show that there was a considerable increase in consumption over the previous year. The actual amount of tobacco used in this country during 1918 was 12,628,100 pounds more than in 1917—an increase of 3.29 per cent. The total expenditure for the two years was £242,000,000.

Attention is drawn to the effects of tobacco smoking on women, and to its bearing on the extinction of a race of healthy children. Dr Tidswell, of Torquay, has provided figures which show that, in the cases where parents are non-smokers, there is an increased birth-rate, an excess of males, and a lower infantile mortality among their children.

He concludes, therefore, that tobacco is a racial poison, and especially harmful to women.

SCOTTISH SHORTHORN SALES.

More Remarkable Prices.

KING AND PRINCE OF WALES PURCHASERS.

The series of sales of pure-bred shorthorns was continued yesterday at Aberdeen, 401 head from the inland herds in Scotland being sold. The average was £221 16s 5d, and the total amount realised £88,963 6s. The general average showed an increase of £70 compared with last year's sales. For females of choice breeding and high individual merit, phenomenal prices were ruling. The King and the Prince of Wales were among the buyers. Two hundred and seventy-four heifer calves averaged almost £250. Mr Cornelius paid 1,400 guineas for a heifer calf, also 1,250 guineas and 1,050 guineas for others. Other purchasers and prices were Mr G. B. Shields, Dolphington, 1,600 guineas; the Prince of Wales 1,000 guineas, Mrs Smith, of Pitodrie, 1,000 guineas; Mr Barnard, Mastrick House, 1,000 guineas; Mr Gray, Ireland, 950 guineas. Yearling heifers—Mr Drysdale Edinburgh, 1,600 guineas.

MANACLED MAN.

Strange Protest Mission to Downing Street.

There was a remarkable incident in Downing Street yesterday morning. A man bound in chains from head to foot had marched from Sherwood Street, Piccadilly, and arrived at No. 10 shortly after 11 o'clock to present a petition to the Prime Minister.

The man was a discharged soldier named Arthur Harry Wagstaff, of Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, and his object was to call attention to the grievances of his fellows. He stated that he had served in the R.G.A. for four years, and had been once wounded. Wagstaff added that he was making this protest personally on his own but for the benefit of the others.

In the course of his petition to the Premier he wrote: "I approach you bandaged and chained as you see me. As a lover of liberty what do you personally think of the picture I have adopted this scheme to attract public attention to the ill-treatment and the brutality which is administered to the men of my class who made such sacrifices in the interests of the country. They thought it was for democracy; instead of which they now find they have been shedding their blood in the interest of the profiteers, shirkers and greedy profiteers the world has ever known.

I approach you, sir, as the Goliath of the capitalists, seeing as we do how the country is a state of chaos and the men who made this great sacrifice in a state of starvation and want, with no houses to occupy, no work, and their wives and families down-trodden."

The incident passed off very quietly and there were only about a dozen people in the main street when Wagstaff made his protest. He was not interfered with by the police, and after waiting for a few minutes on the doorstep of No. 10, was told that an answer to the petition would be sent him in due course.

SUICIDE OF AN ITALIAN.

Sensation on Board an Atlantic Liner

A remarkable case of suicide from an Atlantic liner was investigated by the South-ampton Coroner yesterday.

An Italian named Amelio Ruffell was a passenger on the White Star steamer Adriatic, from New York, and on the arrival of the vessel at Cherbourg was refused permission to land on account of his passport received from America. He was brought on to Southampton with a view to his being sent back to the States. During the voyage he disappeared through a port hole, and when his body was subsequently recovered from the harbour was found fastened around his neck.

On his belongings being searched, two letters were found, one addressed to the captain of the ship, containing money, and the other to his mother, in which he said he thought he was to have the electric chair if he returned to New York. He added that in England he would be hanged because of a great robbery he had committed. He also declared that he intended to commit suicide.

A verdict of suicide while of unsound mind was returned.

THE HOUSING LOANS.

Official Rates of Interest.

The current issue of "Housing" issued by the Housing Department of the Ministry of Health, states that the following rates of interest will be charged as from September 1st on loans from the Local Loans Fund for Housing:—

Loans in respect of schemes not receiving subsidy under the Housing Acts.—To companies and private persons limiting their profits to 5 per cent. (or such higher rate of income tax), not exceeding 30 years, 5½ per cent.; not exceeding 40 years, 5¾ per cent. To companies and private persons not so limiting their profits—Not exceeding 30 years, 6 per cent.; not exceeding 40 years, 6¼ per cent.

Loans in respect of schemes receiving subsidy under the Housing Acts.—Loans to local authorities, secured on local rates, any period, 5¼ per cent.

Loans to public utility societies limiting their profits to 6 per cent. per annum, as defined by the Housing Acts, 1919 (subject to income tax).—Not exceeding 30 years, 5½ per cent.; not exceeding 40 years, 5¾ per cent.

It is proposed that for the present, and as a purely temporary measure until a permanent rate can be fixed—which will be done shortly—there shall be included in the mortgage in respect of any such loan whether to local authorities or public utility societies) a condition that the above rates are provisional only, and that when the final and permanent rates can be fixed, such revised rate to run from the commencement of the loan.

STATE ELECTRICITY.

Home Secretary on Future Development

"We require electricity in this country more than any other power," said Mr Edward Shortt, the Home Secretary, speaking on "State Electricity," at a meeting of the Eighty Club last night. It was raised in the development of agriculture, he continued, and in all the problems of industrial competition with other nations, as well as in those of transport and housing. Very few people who were engaged in industrial pursuits were not affected by the coal-supply question. It was necessary, for provision was to be made against the contingency like that of the past five years.

The country must be made self-supporting, the coal industry must be put on its mettles or by means of tariffs, but by making the system of production more efficient and more complete, and thus largely depended upon the cheap and organised production of electricity, and the extension of the effective transport could only be run by means of electricity, and the housing of the people in decent neighbourhoods was a question of transport.

One of the great problems before the country was the generating power for a smaller consumption of coal than at present, and the Government had done development of one-horse power per hour 7lbs. of coal and equivalent. With proper organisation and with proper use of all the scientific knowledge that the country possessed, it was quite possible to generate that amount of energy for something like 2lbs

A Bill was at present before the House of Commons, continued Mr Shortt, which it was thought would deal with the whole question of electrical development. It was not proposed to nationalise, but to set up a central body to formulate a policy for the country, with the view to the organisation of electrical supplies. The scheme was to operate as far as possible, that the local owners should be run by local people. There was no desire whatever to take away local control, enterprise, and energy.

THE LAST WORD.

Profiteering Alleged Against Elswick Undertaker.

A case of alleged profiteering was brought before the Elswick Burial Board at its meeting. An undertaker, it was stated, had been charging more than the regulation fee. The undertaker in question had been written to, but had promised to return the extra money, but claimed that he had charged it inadvertently. It was announced that the undertaker against whom the complaint was made was now out of business, and the matter dropped.

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