

CABINET INTENDS TO KEEP FAITH WITH MARRIED MEN. (See P.2.)

DAILY SKETCH.

GUARANTEED DAILY NETT SALE MORE THAN 1,000,000 COPIES.

No. 2,186.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1916.

[Registered as a Newspaper.] ONE HALFPENNY.

VERDUN: FIRST OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

HOW THE FRENCH, WITHOUT HASTE OR WASTE, PREPARED FOR THE GREATEST BATTLE OF THE WAR.



The only civilian left in Verdun is a wine-seller who serves the passing troops.



This photograph of the main street in Verdun shows that though shell splinters have chipped some buildings no material destruction has been effected by bombardments.



Though few men line the French trenches every German move is closely watched.



Civilian inhabitants leaving the town at the behest of the French military authorities.



They loaded the wagons with the most valued of their household belongings.

These French War Office official photographs, the first to be received in London from the scene of the great battle, show how, in contrast with Germany's reckless waste of men and munitions, the French defenders of Verdun spare no efforts to conserve human life, civilians as well as soldiers, and the property of their people.

THE PLEDGE WILL BE BE CARRIED OUT.

Cabinet Action To Remove Fears Of Married Recruits.

'COMBING-OUT' THE STARRED SINGLE MEN.

Statement Expected From The Premier In A Few Days.

Action is being taken by the Government for the carrying out of the Premier's pledge to married men in both the letter and spirit.

I learn, says the writer of the London letter in the *Daily Dispatch*, that in a very few days, certainly before the end of next week, an official announcement will be made, possibly by Mr. Asquith in the debate on the Army Vote, which will remove the fears of the Army attested married men lest the pledge given them by the Prime Minister and Lord Derby should not be strictly adhered to.

DOUBTFUL CASES TO BE FOUGHT.

The lists of reserved and certified occupations are now being revised by the Government departments concerned, with a view to releasing every single man who can possibly be spared or replaced, and it is expected that the official announcement will show that many categories of workers formerly "starred" will be available for military service.

All doubtful cases before the appeal tribunals will be contested. The presentation of the appeals will be in the hands of a number of officers, most of whom have had some legal experience in civil life, who will proceed on unified lines now being drawn up.

There is likely to be a strong public demand for the extension of compulsion to the unattested married men, but it is probable that no step will be taken in this direction until it is seen how many fresh recruits the "combing-out" of the single men will provide.

THE NON-COMBATANT CORPS.

New Body Which It Is 'Deemed Expedient' To Form For The Period Of The War.

An Army Order issued last night announces that the Army Council deems it expedient for the period of the present war to authorise the formation of, and to provide rates of pay for, a corps to be entitled non-combatant corps.

The rates of pay of the men in this corps shall be those laid down for infantry of the line, but they shall not be entitled to draw working pay nor to draw proficiency pay, which is given for professional skill in arms.

OUR 4,000,000 ARMY.

Tribunal Chairman Says "We Are Breaking Faith."

The Army Estimates which are to be discussed next week in the House of Commons were issued yesterday. The number of men on the home and Colonial establishments, exclusive of those serving in India, is given at four millions.

"If I were a young man I would sooner be conscripted than attested. Conscription is being treated better, and we are breaking faith with attested men," said the Mayor of Peterborough at the local tribunal yesterday.

Reference was made at Enfield to a request for exemption on behalf of 1,500 unmarried munition workers. The Local Government Board had been written to and had replied that certificates of exemption should be given in justifiable cases.

The clerk said there were many single men in the factory and the authorities wanted to get rid of them shortly, so temporary exemptions were really all that was wanted.

The chairman said if the tribunal refused to grant the applications it would bring the Local Government Board to its senses. As it was they could do nothing.

At the Leicestershire Collieries Recruiting Court at Coalville yesterday the managers of three collieries told the military representatives that they would surrender for military service all inexperienced men taken on since August last year. Otherwise, out of 2,700 men employed at three pits, only 17 were refused exemption.

WE CAN STILL BUY CURRANTS.

It was officially notified in last night's *London Gazette* that from March 13 the importation of canned, bottled, dried and preserved fruits, except currants, is prohibited.

The prohibition does not apply to such goods as are the produce of any British dominions, colonies, possessions or protectorates, nor to any fruits which are imported under licence of the Board of Trade.

COMMONWEALTH PREMIER A P.C.

The King has directed that Mr. William M. Hughes, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, be sworn of the Privy Council.

FIRST AIRMAN M.P. IN BY 1,031.

Coalition Nominee Beaten In East Hertfordshire.

JOY OVER MR. BILLING.

In spite of the opposition of both the old political parties and a good deal of ridicule, Mr. Pemberton Billing, formerly squadron-commander in the Royal Naval Air Service, has got into Parliament at the second attempt.

Six weeks ago he was well beaten in Mile End. Now he has persuaded the electors of East Herts that he is the man needed at the moment to put some punch into the Government's air policy.

The figures announced yesterday were:—

Mr. Pemberton Billing (Independent) ... 4,590
 Captain Henderson (Coalition) 3,559

Majority 1,031

Originally orders had been given that the Hertfordshire Yeomanry were to be confined to barracks during the polling hours, but as the result of Sir Henry Dalziel's representation this decision was reversed, and the men voted.

The Unionist majority in the constituency was 80 in 1906, 1,692 in January, 1910, and 1,368 in December, 1910. The vacancy was caused by the resignation of Sir John Rolleston through ill-health.

The new member will take his seat in the House on Tuesday. It is expected that in the course of the week he will find an opportunity of airing his views on "How to win the war in the air."

The members of the Unionist and Liberal War Committees of the House of Commons threw up their caps, figuratively speaking, when the news reached them.

One of the first telegrams of congratulation to reach the airman M.P. came from Mr. F. Handel Booth, M.P., the honorary secretary and principal organizer of the Liberal War Committee.

"The result," said another prominent member of this group, "is the writing on the wall for the Coalition Government, which is always quite wise enough after the event but fatally lacking in bold initiative. It prefers parrying a blow to getting in its own blow first."

"Unless the Government wakes up and proceeds on the lines of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu's proposals in the House of Lords, Coalition candidates, in spite of having all the electoral machinery of both great parties at their disposal, are in for a rough time."

THE SKY MEMBER.

What Pemberton Billing's Election Means To The Government.

By Our Aeronautical Correspondent.

To say that there is great satisfaction in the aerial world at the return of Mr. Pemberton Billing to Parliament is to put the case very mildly. It is not so much the man or his ideas. The chief thing is that the Coalition Government has been defeated on a new issue—the recognition of aerial locomotion.

And what will Mr. Pemberton Billing do in Parliament? He has promised many grotesque things, such, for example, as stopping the Zeppelin raids forthwith. Of course, neither Mr. Billing nor anyone else in this country knows where all the Zeppelin sheds now are.

Nor will the new member be able to galvanise the Government into immediate action along some of the other lines laid down in his programme. The poor fellow has yet to learn the woes of the independent and isolated man in Parliament. Still, he has unlimited energy, and will make a plucky fight, which may be for the good both of Parliament and of himself.

The really significant point about the affair is that the Coalition Government should have been defeated so sensationally. This election shows how strong the public feeling is on the Government neglect of aeronautical matters. I believe that if other airmen contested elections in regions where Zeppelin raids have occurred they would beat the Coalition candidate in most cases.

DUNDEE JUTE KING DEAD.

Sir James K. Caird, the Dundee jute millionaire, is dead. He was noted for his generosity, and among his gifts were:—

- £100,000 Dundee's new Town Hall.
- £24,000 Shackleton Expedition.
- £24,000 Dundee Consumptives' Hospital.
- £10,000 Dundee Sanatorium.
- £10,000 Free Trade Union.
- £10,000 British Association.
- £5,000 Dundee Maternity Home.
- Mains Castle, with 271 acres, as a Dundee public pleasure resort.

Sir James was 79, and a close friend of Colonel Churchill's. Over 3,000 people are employed at his jute works.

NODEALINGS WITH HUNS.

A special committee of Swansea Corporation yesterday decided that no contract shall be entered into with any person of German or Austrian birth, or with any firm controlled by such persons.

FASHION NOTES FOR WOMEN

(Official).

Buy New Clothes Only When They Are "Absolutely Necessary."

WAIT TILL THE WAR IS OVER.

The National Organising Committee for War Savings has now turned its attention to clothes. In a statement appealing against extravagance in women's dress, issued last night, it says:—

Many women have already recognised that elaboration and variety in dress is bad form in the present crisis, but there is still a large section of the community, both among the rich and among the less well-to-do, who appear to make little or no difference in their habits.

New clothes should only be bought when absolutely necessary, and these should be durable and suitable for all occasions. Luxurious forms of, for example:—

- Hats, Stockings,
- Boots, Gloves,
- Shoes, Veils,

should be avoided. It is essential not only that money should be saved, but that labour employed in the clothing trades should be set free. Moreover, expenditure on dress deferred till peace has been secured will serve a useful purpose during the time of trade dislocation which must follow.

20-LB. WATCH-STAND.

Surrey Yeoman's Interesting Souvenir Of Ypres.

Trooper Painter, Surrey Yeomanry, who fought in the South African War and has been fighting for 11 months at Ypres, has brought to England an interesting souvenir of that much-shelled city. Before the war Trooper Painter was one of the messengers at the Lord Mayor of London's official residence.

The souvenir is a fragment of a German six-inch



shell, and weighs nearly 20lb. It has now been mounted and converted into a watchstand.

While a detachment of Yeomanry was on convoy duty the shell burst overhead and killed 17 men and six mules. Trooper Painter escaped, but only to be badly wounded in a subsequent bombardment. He has now been invalided home.

CHARGE AGAINST PRIVATE BANKERS

Two prominent Plymouth men, Mackworth Praed Parker and Captain Frederick T. Bullock, appeared before Mr. Justice Avory at Old Bailey yesterday on a charge of conspiring to defraud customers of Plymouth Naval Bank.

In opening the case, Mr. Foote said that the pair were partners in the bank, which failed, after an existence of 140 years, in August, 1914. The substance of the charge was that the pair, when they knew the bank was insolvent, for six years continued the bank for the purpose of obtaining money which they spent upon themselves. The deficiency was over £46,000.

Adjourned.

THE IRONY OF IT ALL.

While a Thelesden constable was engaged in detecting contraventions of the reduced lighting order, the police visited his house, and reported him for a summons for failing to use the illumination.

Eight-five summonses for offences in contravention of the lighting order were heard at Birmingham yesterday, five courts being occupied.

JUDGMENT AGAINST JAMES WELCH.

After hearing legal arguments, Mr. Justice Scrutton, in the King's Bench Division, yesterday gave judgment for the defendants, with costs in the action brought by Mr. James Welch, the well-known comedian, against Messrs. Anthony L. Ellis and John Herbert Jay for damages for alleged breach of contract in failing to employ him in the farce "A Little Bit of Fluff."

TWO KILLED IN PIT ACCIDENT.

Four men repairers, of Dowlais, were yesterday injured by a big fall of roof in No. 1 Bedlingog coal-pit, of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd. After some hours rescuing parties succeeded in extricating two alive. The two others, David Price and William Powell, married men, were got out dead.

BOMB FOUND BY CHILDREN.

An unexploded Zeppelin bomb has been found on the coast by some children playing in a farm. The bomb was embedded in the ground.

NO CHURCHILL PARTY.

The Captious Colonel Goes Back To The Trenches.

HIS POLITICAL PROSPECTS.

No Hope Of Attracting A Party To His Banner.

From Our Parliamentary Correspondent.

The Churchill incident is at an end, or, at any rate, is closed for the time being.

At this juncture of the war the colonel's command at the front will demand his presence in France, and it is stated that he has returned, or is almost immediately to return, to his military duties.

In political circles the prospects of his leading an active group in Parliament in the early future are regarded as remote.

He may in due course easily become a political free lance with whom the Government will have to reckon, but it is not thought likely that he would be able to attract to himself any considerable number of Parliamentary followers.

NAVY'S "NEGATIVE" STRATEGY.

New Sidelights On The Controversy Raised By Mr. Churchill.

New sidelights on the Churchill controversy will be given in an article in to-morrow's *Illustrated Sunday Herald*. A reply will be made to the Colonel's attack on the "negative strategy" of the Admiralty, and a character sketch given of Sir Henry Jackson, the First Sea Lord, whom he sought to depose in favour of Lord Fisher.

The rapid development of the fighting power of airships will be shown in an article on "Super-Zeppelins." A forecast will be given of the use to be made of aerial torpedoes, which will be launched against a city or town from a range of several miles.

Mr. A. Neil Lyons, in a sketch entitled "Up You Go," will give a vivid pen-picture of the departure of a draft from camp in France for the front.

The Rev. R. J. Campbell's article will deal with life's uncertainties, and faith's ennobling influence on character.

Mr. J. Cranfield Hicks, the well-known financial expert, will deal with the possibilities of bonus bonds in raising money for the war, and will make a novel suggestion.

LOST HIS EYE AT PLAY.

Action Against Education Authority Fails.

While Wilfred Chilvers (5) was playing at St. James's School, Notting-hill, the lance of a boy-soldier, brought to school by another pupil, entered his right eye, which had to be removed.

Yesterday, in the King's Bench Division, he sued, through his father, the London County Council and the managers of the school for alleged negligence of the teacher. This was denied.

After hearing the evidence of Mr. and Mrs. Chilvers and medical testimony Mr. Justice Bailhache held that there was no evidence of negligence to go to the jury. It was, he said, a most deplorable accident, but that was another thing from attributing blame to the teacher. "Such a thing might happen in any nursery with a couple of nurses looking after the children."

Judgment was entered for the L.C.C. and the managers, but no order was made as to costs, which were not sought.

VICTIMS OF HUNS' HAVOC.

Over 3,000 British Non-Combatants Killed By Germans.

According to the Prime Minister, the number of non-combatants killed in this country by the Germans since August 4, 1914, is 403, comprised as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Bombardment	49	39	39
Air Raids	127	92	57
	176	131	96

Afloat the number of non-combatants who have lost their lives in British merchantmen and fishing craft up to Wednesday last is, roughly, 2,750.

DIED WHILE HELPING A WOUNDED COMRADE.

It was while helping to attend a wounded comrade that Drummer Talbot Knight, of the 18th Battalion Manchester Regiment, was killed by a splinter of a shell. Knight was a native of Higher Crumpsall. Two of his brothers are serving. One is in Egypt with the Royal Scots, and the other is in the Sherwood Foresters.



Colonel Robert Baring (81), brother of Lord Cromer and Lord Revelstoke, left £155,210.

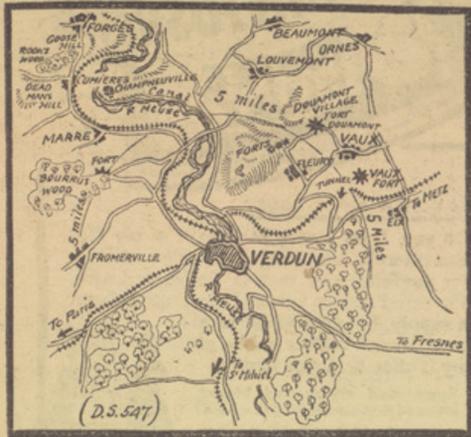
NEW GERMAN ATTACKS AT DOUAUMONT AND VAUX CRUSHED

FRENCH YIELD GROUND IN THE RAVEN'S WOOD.

German Lies Exposed About Captured Fort.

BERLIN ADMISSION.

"The French Obtained A Footing In Fort Vaux."



One of the most hopeful signs of the times is the persistent lying in the German official news.

When the Germans were sweeping through Poland and Serbia the fall of an important stronghold was announced in a few laconic words.

No stronghold has yet been taken in the present offensive, but the German news has a boast every day.

The claim to have captured the village and fort of Vaux, on the north-east of Verdun, had been already refuted by the facts, and is now destroyed by the enemy's admission.

He admits that "the French obtained a firm foothold in the fort."

The truth is that the Germans never captured it, and at the moment when they were claiming to have done so it had not even been attacked.

Attempts at Douaumont and Vaux yesterday had disastrous results for the Germans, but they succeeded west of the Meuse in regaining part of the Raven's Wood taken from them by the French on Wednesday.

GERMANS RETAKE POSITION AT GREAT SACRIFICE.

18,000 Men Launched In Attack On The Raven's Wood.

French Official News.

PARIS, Friday, 11 p.m.

In Artois the Germans to the west of the Lille road exploded a mine, the crater of which we occupied.

In the Argonne we shelled an enemy column marching in the direction of the Bois de Montfaucon.

To the west of the Meuse, where the bombardment was uninterrupted during the day, the enemy furiously assaulted our positions in the Raven's Wood.

Several attacks were repulsed in succession by our artillery, infantry and machine-gun fire, which caused great ravages in the enemy's ranks.

Notwithstanding losses utterly disproportionate to their objective, the Germans launched a final assault with effectives amounting to at least a division (18,000 men).

They succeeded in again occupying the part of the Raven's Wood we had retaken from them on Wednesday.

To the east of the Meuse the enemy twice attacked our trenches to the west of the village of Douaumont.

Stopped by our curtain fire and our machine-guns he was unable to approach our lines at any point.

An attack which was in preparation against the village of Vaux was held in check by the fire of our artillery, and could not be carried out.

It is confirmed that the infantry attacks made by the Germans yesterday against the village and against our trenches at the foot of the ridge of the Vaux fort cost them great sacrifices.

In the Woivre the enemy bombardment, which was vigorously countered by our batteries, was

intense against Eix, Moulainville, Villers, Sous Longchamps and Bonzee.

The Germans threw into the Meuse at St. Mihiel floating mines, which were fished up before they were able to cause any damage.

In Lorraine we wrecked by our destructive fire the enemy organisations on the front Halloville-Remenil.—Reuter.

"SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED."

French Bombarding Enemy's Reinforcements In The Rear.

PARIS, Friday, 3 p.m.

In the Argonne the French artillery cannonaded the German convoys signalled on the road from Montfaucon to Avancourt [on the way to the Verdun front].

To the east [towards Germany] and to the west [towards Paris] of the Meuse the situation has not changed in the course of the night.

The Germans attempted no infantry attack against the French positions.

The bombardment continued on both sides on the French front generally, violently on the left and the right banks of the Meuse and intermittently in Woivre.

In Alsace the French batteries overthrew the German trenches on Hill 425, east of Thann.

The night was calm on the remainder of the front.

On Wednesday our aircraft displayed particular activity. Numerous actions were fought by our machines, mostly over the enemy's lines.

During these aerial encounters 15 German aeroplanes were put to flight. Ten were seen to plunge vertically into their own lines, and according to definite information two German machines, one of which was a Fokker, were brought down in Champagne and three in the region of Verdun.

These machines fell into the German zone.—Reuter.

"LOSS OF FORT VAUX."

Germans Admit They Do Not Possess The "Armoured Fort."

German Official News.

Friday Afternoon.

On the eastern [? western] bank of the Meuse during the clearing of the Rooks' Wood and the enemy trenches at Béthincourt we took six officers and 681 men prisoners, and captured eleven cannon.

The wood of Ablain and the ridge to the west of Douaumont were taken from the enemy after stubborn fighting.

In the Woivre plain [towards Metz] we also pushed our line forward through the wood sector to the south-east of Damloup.

The French delivered strong counter-attacks against our new front to the east and south of the village of Vaux, as well as in the neighbourhood of the fort.

In the course of these attacks the French succeeded in again obtaining a firm foothold in the armoured fort itself.

Otherwise the attacks were repulsed with heavy losses.

Our battle airmen shot down two English aeroplanes, namely, one monoplane near Wyttschaete (south of Ypres) and one biplane to the north-east of La Bassée.

NORTH SEA DISASTER.

Loss Of 2 British Torpedo Craft With 45 Lives.

From The Admiralty.

Friday Afternoon.

H.M. torpedo-boat destroyer Coquette (Lieut. Vere Seymour, R.N.R., in command) and H.M. torpedo-boat No. 11 (Lieut. John A. P. Legh, R.N.) have struck mines off the East Coast and sunk.

The casualties were as follows:—

H.M.S. Coquette—one officer, 21 men.
Torpedo-boat No. 11—three officers, 20 men.

GERMANY'S PHANTOM FLEET.

A telegram from the Copenhagen correspondent of the Exchange quotes a newspaper that the Norwegian steamer Bergen met on Thursday in the south of the North Sea a German fleet consisting of fifty cruisers, dreadnoughts, and large destroyers of new construction. The largest ship was the new Dreadnought Hindenburg. One squadron was going easterly in the same direction as two airships.

A report received earlier this week from neutral sources states that on Monday a fleet of 50 large German warships, with armed trawlers, submarines, and two Zeppelins in attendance, was seen in the North Sea.

Sir George Vandeleur Fiddes, K.C.M.G., C.B., has been appointed Permanent Under-Secretary for the Colonies.

BIG BRITISH AIR RAID ON GERMAN BASE.

Artillery Activity About Loos And Hohenzollern Redoubt.

British Official News.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FRANCE.

Friday, 9.25 p.m.

Yesterday we carried out a successful aircraft attack against the hostile railhead and billets at Carbin. It is believed that considerable damage was done.

Thirty-one machines took part in the raid, and all returned safely.

As a result of a fight in the air a hostile machine and one of our own machines were brought down near Tournai.

Last night the enemy made bombing attacks against two of our craters near the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Both attacks were repulsed.

To-day there has been much artillery activity on both sides about Loos, the Hohenzollern Redoubt, and between Quinque Rue and Fauquissart.

North of the latter place we damaged a hostile mine shaft by our artillery fire.

FURTHER ADVANCE IN EAST AFRICA.

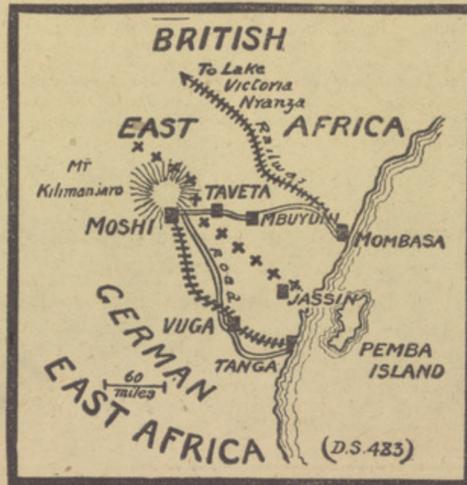
Two More Positions Captured In Germany's Last Colony.

War Office, Friday.

The Secretary for War states that information has been received from Lieut.-General Jan Smuts, commanding the British forces in German East Africa, that after the occupation of Chala yesterday General Van de Venter's force pushed on to Taveta and found it partially evacuated by the enemy.

Some Germans with a machine-gun surrendered to General Berange.

We now occupy Taveta. Simultaneously with the forward movement



of yesterday General Tighe commenced the bombardment of and attack upon the Salaita position, which place we now occupy. Operations continue.

INVASION OF MEXICO.

5,000 American Soldiers To Cross The Frontier After Villa.

NEW YORK, Friday.

An Associated Press telegram from Washington says:—It was decided at a Cabinet meeting to-day that General Villa and his bandits must be caught, even if American troops have to go after him. Formal orders for a punitive expedition for this purpose are expected later to-day.—Reuter.

WASHINGTON, Friday.

The following statement has been issued at White House:—

An adequate force will be sent at once in pursuit of Villa, with the single object of capturing him and putting a stop to his forays. This can be done, and will be done, in an entirely friendly manner with the aid of the constituted authorities in Mexico, with scrupulous respect for the sovereignty of that Republic.

Mr. Baker, the new War Secretary, has called on the Army General Staff to perfect plans for the Mexican expedition, and General Funston, who captured Aguinaldo, the leader in the Philippine revolution, has been asked for his advice. He will probably be appointed leader of the American forces, which are expected to number at least 5,000, taken from the border patrol.—Reuter.

5 a.m. Edition.

TURKEY WANTS PEACE.

Entente Powers Refuse To Treat Separately.

MYSTERY OF ENVER.

Rumour Of Greek Intervention With The Allies.

A significant statement, which may be described as semi-official, was issued yesterday afternoon by Reuter's Agency as follows:—

Notwithstanding all reports to the contrary, no definite information has been received in British official quarters with regard to any peace proposals from Turkey to Russia.

It is declared that while it would not be surprising that the severe blows which Turkey has received should have the effect of turning her attention in the direction of peace, yet it must be pointed out that the Allied Powers are bound together by engagements which preclude any one Power from making a separate peace.

Consequently any such proposals put forward by Turkey, to be successful, would have to be made to the Allied Powers as a whole.

In the absence of any reliable news no importance is attached to the reports regarding the attempted assassination or the death of Enver Pasha [the Young Turk leader who has been mainly responsible for the alliance with Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria].

Rome wireless news learns from Petrograd that the Russian Army which for some time past has been operating in Persia has so advanced in Mesopotamia as to be "practically in sight of Bagdad."

An article in the Athens *Patris*, the organ of M. Venizelos, attributes to General Danglis, ex-Minister for War, the statement that Greece should in present circumstances call up all the classes who have not yet been called up, as he considers the intervention of Greece in the war "most probable."

AYLMER'S FORCE FALLS BACK.

Lack Of Water Compels Retirement Of The Kut Relief Force.

Friday Night.

General Sir Percy Lake reports that General Aylmer was operating on Wednesday seven to eight miles from the Tigris, on the right bank, and in consequence of lack of water has been obliged to fall back on the river after having evacuated all his wounded.

GERMANY'S WAR AGAINST PORTUGAL.

Berlin's Action Against Republic Purely Provocative.

As announced in the late editions of the *Daily Sketch* yesterday morning Germany has declared war on Portugal.

The Portuguese Legation in London yesterday morning received news that a declaration of war was handed by the German Minister in Lisbon to the Portuguese Government at six o'clock on Thursday evening.

Sir L. Carnegie, British Minister at Lisbon, has telegraphed to the British Government stating that the German Minister has been handed his passports.

YOUTHFUL NON-COMS.



Coy.-Sgt.-Major Woodward, 9th Warwicks.



Sgt. Oliver Bissett, 6th Gordons.

Woodward is only 21 years old, and eighteen months ago was a private. Bissett, who is instructor of signalling, is eighteen.

MR. D. M. MASON'S 'LONELY FURROW.'

Mr. D. M. Mason, M.P., has resigned his membership of the National Liberal Club, the Eighty Club, and the various Liberal clubs of Coventry, as it is his intention to stand as an Independent candidate for Parliament for that city at the next election.



Miss Violet Abel Smith, a niece of Lord Inrgan, is marrying on Tuesday Capt. Charles Bulter, 60th Rifs.—(Val L'Estrange.)

FATHER'S GOOD-BYE.



With the calling up of the married groups pathetic home scenes like this one will be common. Mother will have to do her best on the small pittance allowed her by the Government.



Hon. Irene Molesworth, eldest daughter of Viscount Molesworth, is engaged to Mr. R. F. Gossett, East Yorkshire Regt.—(Lafayette.)



Miss Aline Mary Atchison, the fiancée of Capt. C. H. Harrison, Indian Army. She is a keen sportsman.—(Swaine.)

KHAKI HELPS WITH THE LAMBS.



The shepherd, who now wears khaki, gives the Sussex farmer a hand with some of the lambs. It is quite like old times.



Miss Olive Marion Cole's wedding to Capt. E. R. Atkinson, son of Brig.-Gen. G. Atkinson, is to take place in Paris.—(Kate Pragnell.)

SIR P. WATERLOW.



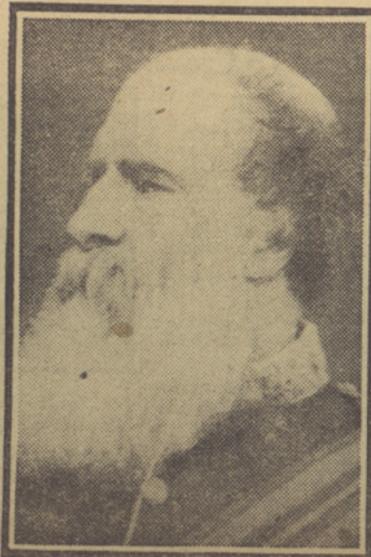
Sir Philip Waterlow leaving the Law Courts yesterday. An action for slander against him was withdrawn and judgment entered for him.

KILLED.

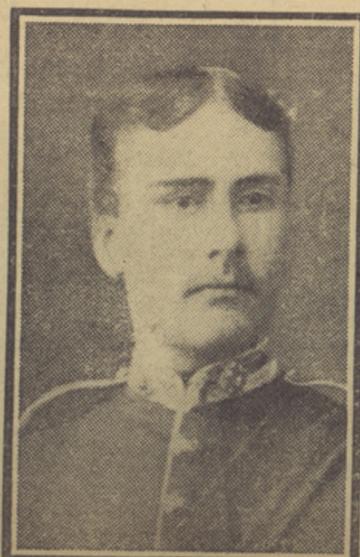


Lieut. W. A. Cliff-McCulloch, Royal Irish Rifles—killed—came home from Australia to join the Army.—(Lafayette.)

THREE GENERATIONS OF THE FIGHTING BIRDWOODS.



General Christopher Birdwood, the famous old Indian general. He was the grandfather of General Birdwood, of "Anzac."



General William Birdwood, his son, was the Commander-in-Chief of the Gack war of Baroda's forces.



Lieut. C. B. Birdwood, a great-grandson of General Christopher Birdwood, is serving with the Coldstream Guards.—(Lafayette.)



The CASH GIRL says:

"Oh yes, I get plenty of change in my life. But there's one thing I wouldn't change for anything and that is Toffee de Luxe. I'm sure I couldn't stand Sale Time without a supply, but an overdue meal-time doesn't matter if I've got my Toffee de Luxe handy."

Sugar and cream and butter, blended into one delicious whole!

Try also Mackintosh's Mint de Luxe, Cafe de Luxe, and Chocolate de Luxe, all very "de Luxe."



"I never get tired now."

Rowntree's
ELECT Cocoa

INCREASES ENERGY

ARE YOU RUPTURED?

If so, I will help you.

I want every man or woman who is afflicted with Rupture to write to me. I don't want you to send any money. Just send me your name and address (a postcard will do). I want to tell you the joyful news that I have discovered a positive cure for Rupture, and I can prove it to you. Not by what I say about my discovery, but by letters from thousands of one-time sufferers who have cured themselves in their own homes by means of my wonderful discovery. I want to send you some of these letters. Each one has the full name and address of the writer, and I will forfeit £100 (one hundred pounds) if every letter is not absolutely genuine. I want you to satisfy yourself that my discovery is a real cure for Rupture and not merely a makeshift Appliance such as trusses and the like. It will cost you nothing to test the efficacy of my wonderful discovery, as I will gladly send it on trial to any reader who mentions this paper. Address your letter (or postcard) to: Mr. D. M. Cooper, Manufacturer of Surgical Appliances, 290, Holborn Hall, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C. Mr. Cooper can be seen personally every day (except Saturdays) from 10 to 1 and from 2 to 4.—Adv.

THE WICKED LOTTERY.

A PROPOSAL was launched some time ago by a paper connected with the *Daily Sketch* by ties of sympathy, affection, and iron girders that the Government should issue a Premium Bond Loan. In some quarters this proposal has been taken up with enthusiasm, in others it has been repudiated with quivering disgust. Personally, the idea struck me as a jolly one, though I did not think it would have a decisive effect on the destinies of the Empire. But a prominent London daily thinks otherwise. It thinks (or says rather) that it would drag us all down to the gutter, and it voices this cranky opinion with such vehemence, such high-falutin' eloquence, such shocked solemnity, that I feel compelled to enter the lists on behalf of The Sporting Chance.

THE Premium Bond Loan is based on The Sporting Chance. The Government would issue the loan at 4 per cent., but only 3 per cent. would be paid as interest, the other 1 per cent. would be split up into larger and smaller prizes for the drawers of the lucky numbers. Now that seems to me great fun. It is observed by the paper in question that the loan would be directly aimed at the pocket and the imagination of the small investor. Quite so! and it is the only legitimate way of aiming at it. I have pointed out again and again that the man who is now for the first time earning a decent wage has every right to expect some fun for his money. This scheme would supply the fun, and at the same time collect the money. Then why argue?

BUT the Rev. Mr. Chadband will argue. Such a lottery is, he asserts, illegal, immoral, and what is worse, unnecessary. Which is like saying you object to murder—firstly because you don't want to be hanged, secondly because you don't want to be damned, thirdly because it isn't good business. A very noteworthy statement of the Chadband creed! Now as to the illegality. The King can do no wrong, and if the Government wants to have such a lottery, obviously it can have it. To call it immoral is to beg the whole issue. Why is it immoral? The Chadband school has made lotteries illegal, but it has not made the normal Briton think them wrong. To found our national finance on the fluctuations of the Stock Exchange is immoral, to indulge once in a way in a sporting flutter is no more immoral than for the Government to own racehorses, which it now proposes to do, with the grudging assent of Mr. Chadband.

BUT the poor old gentleman maunders on, confusing immorality with illegality, and proving that lotteries are wicked because in England they are forbidden. To raise money to pay for this war, "which we are fighting to safeguard the greatest moral issues, etc., etc., by means of a lottery would be a measure of moral debasement." And yet we are waging this war with the help of explosive bombs! "The appeal . . . would be to the gambling instincts . . . not to the noblest instincts of patriotism," cries Chadband. Fudge, my dear sir! The appeal is to patriotism as well as the sporting instinct, which is precisely the case with the appeal for men to join the Army. Only the Premium Bond is not such a terrible gamble.

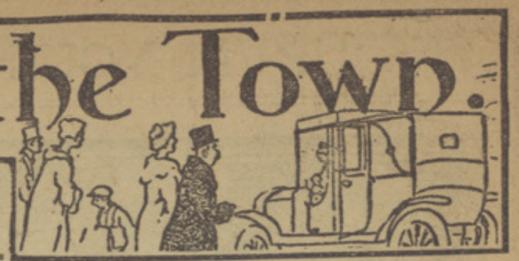
IN another column Mr. Chadband admits the need for much greater economy and much severer taxation. But he cannot abide the idea of the taxation being conducted without tears. In spite of (or because of) the restrictions on drinking the sale of strong drink has gone up. Then, says the kind soul, double the tax on spirits and put a 33 and 1-3 per cent. heavier tax on wines and beer. The sale of tobacco has gone up—then double the tax on tobacco. He means to pick the pocket of the small investor, but not, if he can help it, with the consent of the small man. He has suffered more or less gladly the many infringements of our liberties which have marked the period of the war. But a State lottery, good gracious! that would be indeed shocking. It would be almost as shocking as the tremendous gamble which has landed Mr. Pemberton Billing in the House of Commons as member for East Herts.

THE MAN IN THE STREET.



Echoes of the Town.

Lord Ronald Gower's House Parties—
Financier's Prophecy—Political
Power of Married Men.



The New Force.

I WONDER whether any of our mandarins has tasted the real significance of these great meetings of the married attested and the preparations among them to form themselves into associations. It is not so much during the war, but after the war that this will count. Can you get an inkling of what it will mean if all over the land the soldiers with a stake in the country are banded together as a social and political power? They will be the greatest political force ever known, and the professional politicians and their supporters will get very short notice.

Winston's Leave.

AS I HINTED yesterday, Winston Churchill arranged for an extension of his leave in order to think things over quietly, and also in order to find out how much support he really would command as an Opposition leader. There are always plenty of people to talk vaguely about support, but Winston is old hand enough to know that that is just the sort of support which is always out to dinner when the critical division comes. He'll want to be pretty sure.

An Urgent Order.

BY THE WAY, Winston's absence from his regiment raises the question what are the privileges of an officer who is also an M.P. Winston's presence here is all the more peculiar seeing that it is known in the clubs that all leave from the front has been stopped by an urgent order during the last few days.

Lord Ronald Gower.

LORD RONALD GOWER I knew at one time very well indeed. In him passes a notable Victorian figure and a man of a charm and culture rare enough nowadays. He was one of the few people whose conversation was a real delight and whose ample reminiscences never bored. If you met with his approval it was all plain sailing, but he could, for no apparent reason, take violent dislikes, and when he did he was rather a terrible old gentleman. The person who ventured to address him as "Ronnie" on too slight an acquaintance often had a dreadful time of it, although this was the name he insisted on his intimate friends using.



—(Elliott and Fry.)

A Dilettante.

BEFORE the financial crash (due to the machinations of a scoundrel and his own child-like ignorance of money matters) Lord Ronald had a wonderful life. Always something of a dilettante, he certainly never took the House of Commons seriously, but revelled in art, literature, and the conversation of the salon. He didn't confine himself to talking about these matters, either. His sculpture is considerable in both quality and quantity, and his art criticisms rank very high. He wrote several books, his *magnum opus*, in his own eyes, being a wonderful history of his beloved Stafford House, priced at £40 a copy.

Wonderful House Parties.

QUEEN VICTORIA was very fond of Lord Ronald, and he was a frequent visitor to Buckingham Palace, which is curious, for there was a lot of the Bohemian in him, and the late Queen abhorred Bohemians. Tennyson, Browning, most of the big nineteenth century figures he knew well, and he entertained wonderful house parties at Hammerfield, his fine place near Panshurst, which he had to give up when he was swindled of almost every penny. The wrench completely broke him up, and although he lingered on for a few sad years, which his adopted son Frank Hird strove to make cheerful, it was the end, and he knew it.

His Youthfulness.

LORD RONALD had a rather pathetic idiosyncrasy of imagining, up to within a few years of his death, that he was quite a young man. He liked to surround himself with men whose age was a third of his, go to the Empire, sup at the Carlton, and generally make a night of it as might any undergraduate. Not many years ago we were in Oxford together, walking about after nine o'clock. "By the way, we haven't gowns on," said Ronnie suddenly. "What fun if we meet the Proctor!" He was quite serious.

Another War Prophecy.

OH, these war prophecies! But it was no necromancer, with shaggy whiskers and a crocodile hanging from the ceiling, no hideous Witch of Endor, not even a Bond-street crystal-gazer, who told me that the war will end on either August 22 or September 19. It was a financial nagnate whose name you would all know.

Army "Business."

I KNOW SOMEONE who has been trying to collect an account of only a few shillings from the Army authorities. The debt was contracted five months ago by an authorised military officer. Its legality is not disputed, but account after account has had to be rendered, formidable documents have had to be filled up and signed; sent first to one administrative centre and then to another, but still payment seems as far off as ever. Probably all the amount due has been swallowed up already in clerks' time (if they place any value on that), stationery and postage. War economy!

Tastes Differ.

I KNOW OF a country town where before the war there did not exist a single nice tea-shop. When in the autumn of 1914 a number of regiments of the new Army hailing from a certain part of England were billeted in the place, many gentlewomen saw their opportunity, and opened smart tea-shops, which were always full of men—and pretty girls. Then these particular regiments left for the front, and others from another district came. But many of the tea-shops had to put up their shutters. The military taste did not run to tea. It was the "poobs," as the men called them, that now had their turn.

A Peg-like Letter.

A REFRESHING, sensible, and essentially "Peg-like" letter from Laurette Taylor, who is in her native New York. "I get most frightfully lonesome from England," she writes. "Why, I don't know, for I love my own country; but it seems rather uninteresting just now, and we're getting so frightfully rich and self-satisfied. I enclose a 'preparedness number of one of our own comic papers to show you we appreciate the fact that the joke is rather on us, and it will show you that some of us have the proper humility, thank God!"

Theatrical Wedding Off.

THE MARRIAGE announced between Margery Maude, daughter of Cyril Maude and Winifred Emery, and Thomas Achelis, it was stated yesterday, will not take place. Miss Maude is at present touring with her father as his leading lady in America, and the announcement of her engagement to Mr. Achelis, an American actor, whose stage name is Paul Gordon, was made only a few months ago, just after the engagement of her younger sister to General Congreve's son. Miss Maude made her debut in 1910 in "The Toymaker of Nuremberg," and in the States she has made good in "Grumpy" and "Lady Windermere's Fan," her mother's old part.



"Why Wait?"

A POLITICIAN noted for his palate where wine is concerned was dining with a peer noted for his excellent cellar. To his dismay he found his host had followed the Royal example of "no wine while the war lasts." Sadly he sipped his barley water, while his host explained what he would do if Zepps attacked London. "At the first sound I'll go straight down to my cellars," he said. "Why wait?" said the politician.

What?

A YOUNG, very headstrong, and very extravagant subaltern had got rather deeply in debt, and his father was giving him a good talking to. "Suppose," said he, "that I should be taken away suddenly, what would become of you?" "Oh, I'd stay here," the boy answered. "The question is, what would become of you?"

Trying It On The Pig.

I KNOW OF an enterprising inventor who gets lots of ideas for new frightfulness. He doesn't submit them at once to the W.O. or the Naval Inventions Board, but tries them on his pigs first. If the pigs squeal, he reckons the Hun will do the same, and off he goes to Whitehall with his drawings under his arm.

Less Tobacco.

THE great revenue rush which characterised last month has been succeeded by a comparative lull in Customs and Excise circles. Withdrawals of tobacco from bond, however, are still going strong. A large manufacturer is of opinion that there will be a slight increase in the duty, not with the object of securing more revenue, but in order to diminish the consumption of tobacco.

Theology And The Tribunals.

THERE is no truth in the rumour (probably started by a club wag) that the Government, in consequence of the knotty points of casuistry and theology raised before the local tribunals, intends to decree that a certain proportion of the members of each tribunal shall hold the degree of Doctor or Bachelor of Divinity. Members of tribunals are receiving anonymously a pamphlet entitled "Why I may not kill my brother."

Woman 'Cellist.

WOMEN 'CELLISTS are rare. One of them is Mme. Suggia, and a magnificent player she is. I heard her a week or two ago at the Æolian Hall, and I shall try to hear her again (and I advise everyone who can to do the same) on Friday next at Otto Beit's house in Belgrave-square. She is playing there in the afternoon at a concert in aid of the now famous "Star and Garter" fund. Mme. Suggia is not only a great 'cellist. She has the most interesting personality, is an authority on Italian literature, and is a beautiful woman.



—(Hoppé.)

Armletted Musicians.

I HAD AN enjoyable evening with the London String Quartet recently. All four of them wore armlets as they sawed away superbly at Dvorak and Mozart. We want more Chamber Music. Gervase Elwes was the vocalist.

What Will Happen?

WHAT IS TO happen in our big orchestras, the Queen's Hall orchestra, the London Symphony, the Beechamites and so on, when still more "callings up" take place? Already many of the members are armleteers, and few of them are conspicuously elderly or ineligible. I suppose women will take their places. Which will be a pity.

Women's Limitations.

DON'T LET IT be supposed that I'm casting any aspersions on women as instrumentalists. I don't wish for a better violinist than Mari Hall. But for some reason they never make good orchestral players, and cannot or will not attend to the conductor's beat as religiously as they should, and male players do. Sir Henry Wood tried women in his orchestra for some recent "Proms," but abandoned the plan. And now I expect some nasty letters.

War And Theatrical Contracts.

THE STAGE—especially the variety stage—will be hard hit by the calling-up, and I gather that considerable anxiety is being felt by the performers concerning their contracts. According to the *Performer*, Mr. Charles Gulliver, managing director of the London Theatre of Varieties, has announced that he will postpone all dates held by an artiste until such time as he is in a position to take up his engagements, and will then arrange fresh dates. In the case of a small company, if those members not called up can present an acceptable turn by themselves, or with new, ineligible colleagues, he will allow engagements to be kept, on terms to be mutually arranged, and when the called-up partners return he will give fresh dates in addition. It seems an excellent example for other proprietors, who, of course, for all I know, may be arranging something similar.

Ten Days' Holiday.

I FOUND George Graves rather weary, but in no way less witty, at the Lane last night. Weeks and weeks of pantomime, usually at the rate of two shows a day, need a bit of doing when one's part rarely allows one to leave the stage. So George is not exactly sorrowful at the fact that to-night is the last night of "Puss in Boots." But ten days is the longest holiday he will allow himself, or that contracts will allow him.

MR. GOSSIP.

IT'S 'UP' TO YOU NOW 'P.B.'!



Cheering the airman M.P. after his surprising triumph in East Herts. Will he be able to fulfil his election promises, or will he fall into a Parliamentary hot-air pocket?



How *Lustige Blatter* sees the British Government studying war economy. It might be how the East Herts electors see them after sending Pemberton Billing to Parliament.

TOMMY LIKES TO HELP THE SISTERS



Tommys at a wayside station in France give the sisters a hand. Our men think a lot of the brave women who are serving with the Red Cross.

BAD NEWS FROM THE SEA.



Lieutenant John A. P. Legh—who was in command of torpedo-boat No. 11 when she struck a mine off the East Coast—and his young wife.—(Swaine.)



Coquette, the torpedo-boat destroyer which has also been sunk by a mine, rescuing the crew of a schooner in distress.—(Exclusive Photograph.)

JUST A LITTLE TURN TO AMUSE THE BOYS.



Tom Ackers, the well-known juggler, who has enlisted, amuses his comrades by balancing a 6ft. barrack form on his chin.

LADY BEATTY



Lady Beatty at the opening for inspection of the Scottish hospital ship, St. Margaret of Scotland.

WAR-TIME ECONOMY



Masaccio's painting of "The Madonna and Child" by the National Gallery Trustees.

BOY PLAINTIFF.



Wilfrid Chilvers, the five-year-old plaintiff who lost his suit against the L.C.C. for damages for loss of his eye at school.

HELPING THE FRENCH.



Miss C. I. Brass.



Miss E. S. Burrows.

Two of the British women who are helping the Entente Cordiale Ambulance, which is doing such good work behind the French lines. They use their own car as an ambulance.—(Claude Harris.)

A CALL TO THE TWINS.



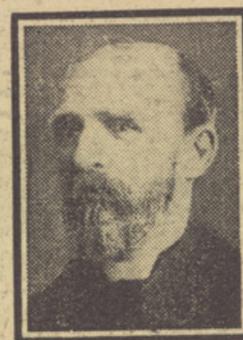
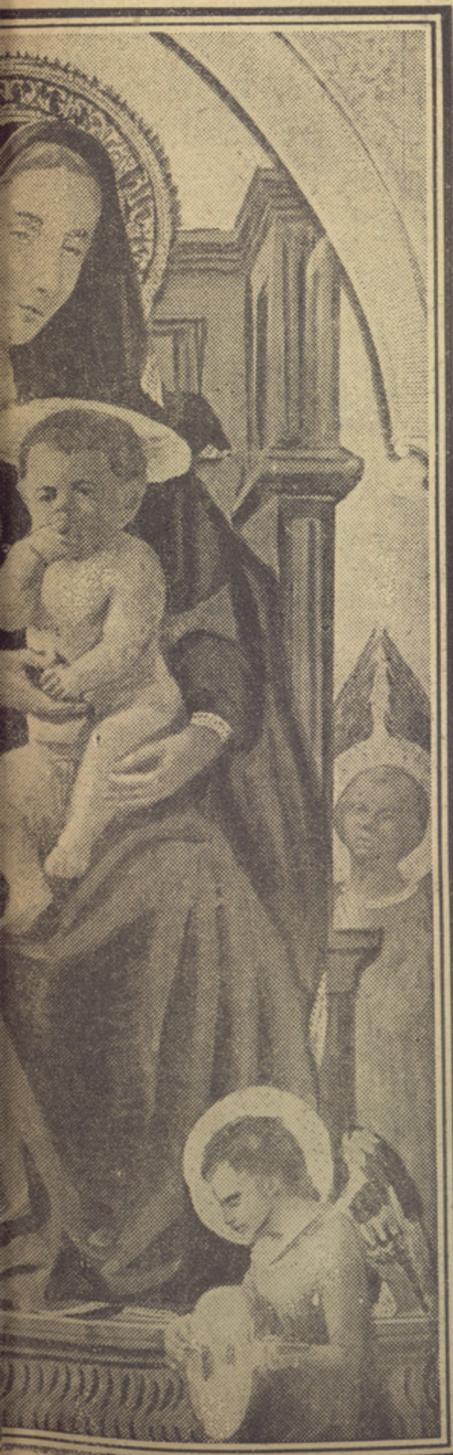
Ewart B. Waggott (left) and his twin-brother Granville.

NELSON'S MESSAGE WILL NEVER DIE



An official photograph of cleaning operations on a battleship. The Navy of to-day can be relied upon to live up to Nelson's famous message, as did the men who fought at Trafalgar.

NATIONAL GALLERY!



The Rev. Joseph Waggott.



Pte. G. Waggott, Argyll Highlanders.



Rifleman J. E. Waggott, K.R.R.



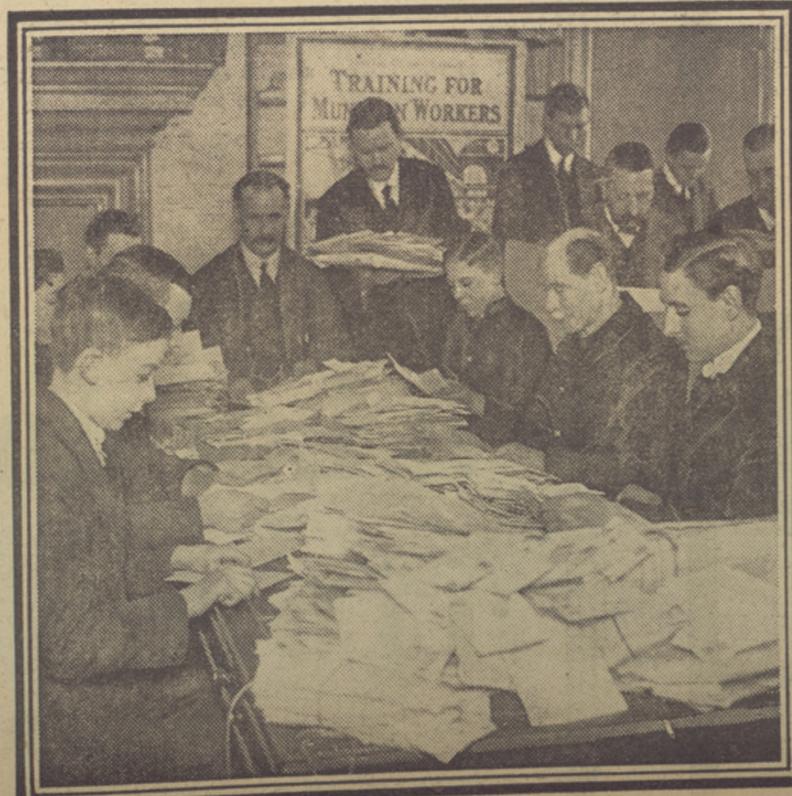
Mrs. J. Waggott.



Pte. Leslie Waggott, Royal Warwicks.

Three of the five sons of the Rev. J. Waggott, a Notts Methodist minister, are in the Army. The twins, who remain, attested, and their sister drew lots as to which of the two shall now go to the colours.

THE ROLL-CALL OF THE WILLING WORKERS.



Thousands of applications are daily received from married men willing to join the L.C.C. munition-making classes to release the single men.

WELCOME REST IN THE CHASE OF THE ARABS.



Water is precious in the desert where our men have been routing the Senussi and the Bedouin Arabs. Our picture shows horses being watered at a desert well.



SATURDAY AFTERNOONS at JELKS

attain wider fame with every week which passes.

Visitors tell their friends, the result being that each succeeding week-end the attendance has increased, until now one might legitimately describe Jelks' on Saturday as a

Come and take tea with us.

RENDEZVOUS FOR FURNITURE LOVERS.

ALWAYS ON VIEW £50,000 WORTH OF
HIGH-GRADE
SECOND-HAND FURNITURE
FOR CASH OR ON EASY TERMS.

Jelks' are the world's largest dealers in best quality second-hand furniture, and they have

AN EVER-CHANGING STOCK OF ABSORBING INTEREST.

"Jelks Saturday Afternoons" having become such a feature of London Life there has recently been installed a dainty tea-room, and

All Visitors are cordially invited to take Afternoon Tea on Saturdays, Provided Free

It is possible to spend several delightful hours at Jelks' in wandering peace fully through a veritable wonderland of furniture—apparently unlimited in variety, and not a single article in dubious taste. No one pressed to purchase. Why not go to Jelks' to-day? You will find your reward in the intense interest which their present wonderful display will arouse in you. If you should desire to make a purchase, Jelks' terms are cash or easy payments. 250,000 sq. ft. floor space.

If you cannot call, send for the free bargain list to-day.

W. JELKS AND SONS

(Established over Half a Century)

263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275,

HOLLOWAY ROAD, LONDON, N.,

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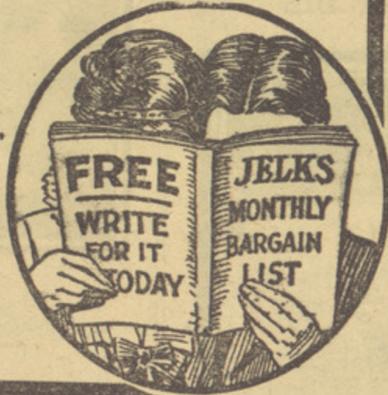
Bus Services Nos. 42 and 43a pass the doors. Holloway-rd. Tube Station (Piccadilly and Brompton Tubes).

SATURDAY BUSINESS HOURS: 9 a.m. till 10 p.m.

REMOVAL ESTIMATES FREE.

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Have you a Daughter? Have you a Sister?

If so, you **MUST** read

'A London Girl'

By **HAROLD BEGBIE**

IN TO-MORROW'S

'LLOYD'S NEWS'

IT IS a revelation that will come as a shock to many, only half aware of the pitfalls and the dangers that beset a young girl in a great city.

BUT however much it may distress, however much it may horrify, it must be read, and the lesson it will teach be taken to heart.

For IT IS TRUE!

'A London Girl'

IN

'LLOYD'S NEWS'

Is the story of "Baby," a girl like thousands of her sisters, plunged into an environment that holds out temptations on every hand. TRAGIC is her history and its ending after a period of feverish gaiety, the delusive sparkle of what is called "pleasure" in its mocking aspects.

THE STORY is told frankly, freely and by a master hand, for Mr. Harold Begbie has made a special study of the social problem which is represented by the poignant career of "Baby." "The pitiful tale is not overdrawn; it is all too true," says the Bishop of London.

YOU MUST READ

'A London Girl'

IN

'LLOYD'S NEWS'

TO-MORROW.

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW.



"OF EXCEPTIONAL FOOD VALUE,
7½d per ¼-lb."

Established 1847.

Allcock's Plasters

Eagle Mark.

*The World's Greatest
External Remedy.*



Coughs, Colds, Weak Lungs
Allcock's Plasters act as a preventive as well as a curative. Prevent colds becoming deep seated



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Relieved by using Allcock's Plasters. Athletes use them for Stiffness or Soreness of muscles.

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When you need a PILL

TAKE A **Brandreth's Pill**

Purely Vegetable.

(Est. 1752.)

For Constipation, Bilioussness, Headache, Dizziness, Indigestion, Etc.

SOLD BY CHEMISTS EVERYWHERE.

ALLCOCK MANUFACTURING Co., Birkenhead.



What Women Are Doing :

Royalty A Day Too Soon—
Lovely London Gardens—
To-morrow's Concerts.

By MRS. GOSSIP.

QUEEN Alexandra paid a real surprise visit to the Duchess of Somerset's sale for invalid kitchens, for she looked in the day before it took place.

The fact is that Ash Wednesday has always been the Duchess's day, but this year the date was changed, and when her Majesty arrived there was nobody to receive her.

The Duke was at the House of Lords, the Duchess doing a rest cure in her room, and the Duchess of Buccleuch and Countess Torby had been gone only a few minutes, after a strenuous day arranging their stalls.

Her Grace's Pictures.

Her Majesty, with whom was Princess Victoria, bought a cushion and some lace made by the Cretans, from Lady Egerton's stall, and some other things, but all was in confusion, with dust-sheets everywhere.

When the sale took place the next day it was an immense success, and there ought to be lots of good things in the kitchens for the invalids in consequence.

The Duchess of Somerset was in a black toilette. There were, by the way, some charming water colours by her Grace on sale. Among interesting and charming people selling or buying, or both, were Lady Margaret Scott, the Duchess of Buccleuch, Countess Torby, the Duchess of Abercorn, Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, and Lady Muriel Paget.

Clara Butt Will Sing.

At the Queen's Hall to-morrow evening Mme. Clara Butt sings in aid of the Three Arts Employment Fund. There will be some excellent music in addition.

Lady Alexander has consented to organise the

selling of programmes; she is a past-mistress in the art of making people have one. Lady Drogheda, the Baroness Percy de Worms, and Lady Southall, I hear, will be there as well.

Also Sunday.

There is also another in-aid-of concert to-morrow night, at Claridge's, given by the War Emergency Entertainments under Mr. De Lara's direction.

Lady Churston has promised to sing; she has been helping quite a lot of late at charity concerts. So has the Donna Ortensia di Mignano.

Mlle. Dorziat is also helping—she is so attractive both in acting and in appearance; Mrs. Claud Beddington and Captain Viscount Coke are other stars who will shine at Claridge's.

The Gardeneress.

The lovely gardens at Holland House have lost nearly all their young men gardeners, and in their stead the Dowager Countess of Ilchester (who has Holland House for her life) has engaged as head gardener Theodora Lockhart, elder daughter of the late W. E. Lockhart, R.A., the well-known portrait painter.

Miss Lockhart has studied every branch of gardening at an agricultural college in Scotland.

The gardens are historically interesting, besides being marvellous specimens of what can be done in the heart of London.

The First Dahlias.

They were originally laid out by Charles Hamilton, of Pain's Hill, for Henry Fox, which accounts for the fact that there are oaks and cedars of Lebanon to be found in them.

Lady Ilchester is devoted to her garden, and inherits the love of flowers from a great-uncle who was a renowned botanist. It was in these gardens that dahlias were first raised in England, and until forty-six years ago the park extended from Kensington to Notting Hill.

For The Star And Garter Fund.

I met Miss Mary Moore yesterday, very busy with arrangements for her matinée on Tuesday afternoon at the Criterion Theatre—she tells me that the seats are selling splendidly and that she expects a very distinguished audience. Miss

Moore hopes that everybody will be seated by 2.15, as there is a splendid programme, and she says: "Item No. 1 is just as good as Nos. 7 or 8." So don't be late.

A Lovely Gift.

Lady Kinloch, who is very artistic, was "at home" on Thursday afternoon at the Carlyle Studios, Chelsea, to show the work of well-known artists who have been badly hit by the war and to take orders for their work.

The great attraction is artistic furniture and decorative work painted and copied from the antique. A set of bedroom furniture in Wedgwood blue, painted in flowers with Cupid medallions inset and painted in grisaille, at once caught my eye. Lady Kinloch told me it has been purchased by Lord Shaughnessy, chairman of the Canadian Pacific Railway, for his daughter. It is an exact copy of one in the Victoria and Albert Museum, and is the work of a French artist.

If anyone would like to see the studio even now Lady Kinloch will be pleased to let them do so if they write to her at 20, Eaton-place.

British Women In Petrograd.

Dr. Beatrice Coxon has been appointed medical officer to the new hospital in Petrograd, started by Lady Buchanan and a committee of British women in the Russian capital. It is a maternity hospital, and is meant to deal with the thousands of distressed women refugees from Poland and the Baltic provinces who have been driven from their homes and seek shelter in Petrograd.

Dr. Coxon was awarded the Serbian Order of St. Sava in recognition of her services with Mrs. Stobart's medical unit in Serbia. She was formerly house surgeon at Alnwick Hospital, Northumberland.

"G. G.'s" Daughter.

Have you heard of "The Beans"? I don't suppose you have, but many a wounded Tommy could tell you all about them if you asked him, because they are so constantly entertaining him.

"The Beans" are a troupe of eight girls, all amateurs, and the originator is the clever and charming daughter of Mr. George Grossmith.

I had the pleasure of hearing and seeing them on Thursday afternoon at the Springfield War Hospital at Wandsworth, where they amused a number of wounded soldiers by the very excellent show they gave.

Good Bookings.

Miss Ena Grossmith sang and danced very delightfully, and has all the charm her father possesses, both on the stage and off. Miss Muriel Hannen is another of the troupe who has been most energetic in her work, and she also gave some excellent turns.

"The Beans" are booked up for months ahead at the various hospitals in and out of town. To-day they are giving an entertainment at Oxford. They have already given over 75 concerts.

A Lenten Dish.

Two hard-boiled eggs, 1 gill of bechamel sauce, 1 teaspoonful of chopped parsley, 1 dessertspoonful of chopped ham or lean bacon, 2 raw eggs, breadcrumbs, pepper and salt. Heat the sauce, but don't let it boil. Add the beaten-up yolk of egg and stir until it thickens, pour into a basin; add the hard-boiled eggs, chopped up, parsley, ham, pepper and salt. Stir up well and put out on a plate to cool. When cold shape into cutlets and dip in a beaten-up egg, then breadcrumbs, and fry in lard or margarine a light brown. Serve with tomato sauce or with fried parsley.

"Daily Sketch" Knitting League.

Contributions of woollies are acknowledged with many thanks from the following:—Auld Reekie, H. G. (Westcliff), Anonymous (Crumpsall), A Reader of the Daily Sketch (three), C. E. (Belfast), and Alrewas Vicarage. Belts are not so much asked for as socks.

Thanks From "Lizzie."

Commander Beasley, of H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, writes to thank the Daily Sketch Knitting League for "the very kind gift of scarves, which are much appreciated on board."

MRS. GOSSIP.



DUCHESS OF SOMERSET.
—(Lafayette.)



MISS ENA GROSSMITH.
—(Foulsham and Banfield.)

TOWN or COUNTRY

THE 'Ryder' way is the 'Right' way. The old wasteful method of buying far more seeds than actually required is rapidly giving way to the more rational and economical method of buying the best seeds in the convenient quantities offered by Ryders.

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are live seeds—tested and in every instance true to name. The great saving in initial expense effected by buying the 'Ryder Way' results also in a greater and more varied mass of bloom and in reliable Vegetables.

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Think Of Your Complexion

before going out on a boisterous day, think of the after effects of the biting wind and raw atmosphere—the discomfort and disfiguration—unless precautions are taken beforehand.

BEETHAM'S La-rola

applied regularly to the face and hands is the most efficient safeguard against injury to the complexion from keen weather. It is neither greasy nor sticky and is easily absorbed by the skin. Keep a bottle in your bathroom. You will find it an inestimable boon.

In bottles, 1/1½, from all Chemists and Stores.

M. BEETHAM & SON CHELTENHAM, ENG.

PALE COMPLEXIONS

may be greatly IMPROVED by just a touch of "LA-ROLA ROSE BLOOM," which gives a perfectly natural tint to the cheeks. No one can tell it is artificial. It gives THE BEAUTY SPOT! Boxes 1/-

EYEBROWLIN.

The Most Marvellous Eyelash and Eyebrow Grower of the age. See the difference perfect eyelashes make in your appearance! They will become beautifully long and silky! You can strengthen them by using EYEBROWLIN. It is the greatest preparation that has ever been placed before the public. A few applications work wonders. I invite every man and woman in the British Isles to get a jar and see how shapely and attractive they will grow. Send to-day for a jar, and in a week or two you will see the result. Price 2/6 post free, or 2 jars 4/6.—H. GILES, 34, West Strand, London.

FOR ECONOMY'S SAKE

use the food that contains much nourishment in it for little money. The delicious dishes (both savoury and sweet) made with Brown & Polson Corn Flour such as

- Corn Flour Baked Pudding,
- Sultana Pudding,
- Savoury Blancmange,
- Cheese Fritters,
- Macaroni Cheese,
- Corn Flour Omelette,

are economical because everything in them is good food-value for money.



Brown & Polson's "Patent" Corn Flour

In 1lb 1lb. & 3lb. packets. The 1lb. size is the most economical.

"WHAT IS TO BECOME OF FAMILY LIFE?"

Judge's Pertinent Query In Society Slander Case.

"I don't quite see the good of an action like this. It is a family dispute where a stepson is alleged to have said something to his step-mother. . . . What is to become of family life if people may not say things of this sort?"

This was the comment of Mr. Justice Darling in the King's Bench Division yesterday, when a Society slander action was brought. Mrs. Pattie Waterlow, who divorced Mr. Edward Waterlow, sued his father, Sir Philip Waterlow, for, it was alleged, having said to his step-mother, Margaret Lady Waterlow, "She (Mrs. Pattie Waterlow) was to blame. She divorced Edgar to marry someone else." Sir Philip denied having made such a statement.

Mr. Gordon Hewart, K.C., for Mrs. Waterlow, said that Margaret Lady Waterlow, the only witness, was in France, and could not attend Court. He therefore asked that her evidence might be taken on commission, or that the action be withdrawn, so that Mrs. Waterlow could proceed again when her witness was available. The meaning of the statement was unmistakable.

Mr. Justice Darling: I really do not think so. A woman who has cause for divorce may perfectly well have an inclination to marry somebody else and yet be perfectly innocent.

Mr. Hewart said his client had brought the action solely to clear her character.

No Ground For The Innuendo.

Sir John Simon, for Sir Philip Waterlow, described the application as wholly unmeritorious, and said that Mrs. Waterlow pleaded that the statement meant that she had been guilty of misconduct; that she had suppressed her guilt; that she had obtained dissolution of marriage in order to marry her paramour; and that she was not a fit person to associate with decent society.

Mr. Justice Darling said he did not think it fair to be said that the alleged slander meant what was suggested in Mrs. Waterlow's claim. The English language was not so compendious that the few words which Sir Philip was said to have used could mean what was suggested. To his (the judge's) mind the action had been brought with no good reason or solid foundation, and no useful purpose would be served by allowing it to stand.

Judgment was thereupon entered for Sir Philip, with costs.

WILDE TO BOX FOR WORLD'S TITLE.

Young Rosner, who is described as the flyweight champion of America, is coming to England to meet Jimmy Wilde, of Wales, for the flyweight championship of the world at Liverpool Stadium.

THE FOOTBALL CARD.

LONDON COMBINATION.—Chelsea v. Luton Town; Watford v. Fulham; Brentford v. Croydon Common; Reading v. West Ham United; Clapton Orient v. Crystal Palace; Tottenham Hotspur v. Queen's Park Rangers; Millwall v. Arsenal.

LEAGUE: MIDLANDS SECTION.—Bradford City v. Rochdale; Barnsley v. Huddersfield Town; Derby County v. Leicester Fosse; Grimby Town v. Sheffield Wednesday; Leeds City v. Bradford; Lincoln City v. Hull City; Stoke v. Notts Forest; Notts County v. Chesterfield; Sheffield United v. Rotherham County.

LEAGUE: LANCASHIRE SECTION.—Blackpool v. Burnley; Bolton Wanderers v. Preston; North End; Everton v. Stockport County; Manchester City v. Liverpool; Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United; Southport Central v. Bury.

SOUTH-WESTERN COMBINATION.—Southampton v. Portsmouth; Coventry v. Birmingham; Newport v. Cardiff City.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE.—Aberdeen v. Hearts; Adiricnians v. Raith Rovers; Ayr United v. Dundee; Celtic v. Hamilton Academicals; Queen's Park v. Clyde; Third Lanark v. Dumbarton; Falkirk v. Partick Thistle; Motherwell v. Kilmarnock; Morton v. St. Mirren; Hibernians v. Rangers.

ORDINARY MATCHES.—Nunhead v. R.G.A. (West Ham); Leytonstone v. R.G.A. (Hampstead); R.N.A.S. v. 3rd Scots Guards; Northampton v. 14th Essex Regt.; Coventry v. Birmingham; Grove House v. Harrodians (Whiteley Bequest, Final, replayed); Charterhouse v. Harrow.

RUGBY UNION.—United Hospitals v. 3rd Gloucester Regt. (Queen's Club); P. and P. Public Schools v. Australians (Richmond); M.T. Catford v. M.T. Grove Park (Bellingham).

NORTHERN UNION LEAGUE.—Bradford v. Brighouse Rangers; York v. Bramley; Hull Kingston Rovers v. Halifax (4); Dewsbury v. Oldham; Leigh v. Swinton; Huddersfield v. Rochdale Hornets; Leeds v. Wigan (4); Salford v. Hunslet.

'VARSITY RUGBY, BUT NO BLUES.

All Inter-Varsity sport has been at a standstill since the outbreak of war, but to-day Oxford will meet Cambridge at Rugby football at Cambridge. The former team is mainly composed of Rhodes scholars and the latter of medical students. Blues will not be awarded.

BILLIARDS (Close): Falkiner, 7,148; Newman (in play), 6,351.

Military athletic races will take place to-day at Forest Gate, Bournemouth, and Raynes Park.

MISCELLANEOUS SALES.

GRAMOPHONE.—£25 Model Drawing Room Cabinet, very dainty, height 4 feet, on wheels, beautifully inlaid, perfect tone, with selection of celebrated records, accept £5 15s. Approval with pleasure.—15, Upper Porchester-street, Hyde Park, London.

CYCLE TYRES AT 1914 "PEACE" PRICES. SOUNDS incredible—yet perfectly true. Previous big buying at old prices explains our offer. Grand opportunity to cut down your tyre bills. Secure FREE Copy of our large Complete Cycle Requisites Catalogue, and see for yourself. Magnificent choice of styles in Covers—all prices—whilst Air Tubes are wonderfully cheap. This is a genuine money-saving chance. Don't miss it. Stocks are big, instant delivery is guaranteed, but once cleared prices are sure to rise. Why not write TO-DAY? No time like NOW. Catalogue costs you nothing, but may save you pounds.

MOORHOUSE, LTD., 16, Padham, Burnley.

GARDENING.

MOBILISE THE GARDENS. The Board of Agriculture advises us to save money by making our gardens produce more food. This can only be done by sowing BEST SEEDS. Send NOW for DANIELS' ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE.—DANIELS BROS., LTD., NORWICH.

PERSONAL.

OFFICERS' WIVES or WIDOWS are offered by lady owning highest-class, newly-furnished and appointed Hotel (electric light, hot baths and every convenience), Residence and Full Board, consisting of Breakfast, Luncheon, Afternoon Tea, and 3-course Evening Dinner, for 50s. per week, in healthy seaside resort. There is genial society. Most rooms have sea views. Children not objected to, and would be taken also on special low terms. Box 21, "Daily Sketch," 46, Shoe-lane, London, E.C.

OFFICERS' UNIFORMS AND EFFECTS.—Largest second-hand stock in the world. Always reasonable. "GOLD-MAN'S UNIFORM CONCERN," DEVONPORT. (Uniforms bought.)

YOUNG ARMLETEERS.



Boys on duty in Government offices are now given armlets. They are very proud of their war-worker's badge.



Queen Alexandra attended a presentation of motor ambulances to the Russian Red Cross yesterday.



Capt. Pickthorn died on the bridge when he reached Boston after a five days' fight with a gale.

2,677,000 GERMAN LOSSES. 35,000 Officially Reported This Month.

The following figures are compiled from the German official casualty lists:—

DURING FEBRUARY, 1916.

Killed and died of wounds	7,301
Died of sickness	2,910
Prisoners	1,345
Missing	2,017
Severely wounded	5,217
Wounded	1,641
Slightly wounded	11,865
Wounded (remaining with unit)...	2,902

Total

These casualties, added to those reported in previous months, and including the corrections reported in February, 1916, bring the total reported in the German official lists since the beginning of the war to—

Killed and died of wounds.....	625,936
Died of sickness	36,538
Prisoners	117,045
Missing	213,386
Severely wounded	364,053
Wounded	250,342
Slightly wounded	958,153
Wounded (remaining with unit)	111,919

Total

2,677,372
These figures include all German nationalities—Prussians, Bavarians, Saxons and Wurtembergers. They do not include naval casualties or casualties of Colonial troops.

KING'S PROCTOR INTERVENES.

On the ground that a Mr. W. P. Delaforce constantly associated with a Mrs. Eva Black, the King's Proctor is endeavouring to prevent a divorce she has obtained against her husband being made absolute.

For the King's Proctor, in the Divorce Court yesterday, Mr. Hawke, K.C., said that Mrs. Black was born in Australia, and in 1898 married at Perth (W.A.) Frank Austin, who divorced her for infidelity. In 1908 she married Mr. Black and described herself as a widow. Four years later he left her, and she ultimately obtained a divorce.

Delaforce, an ex-Metropolitan policeman and a bankrupt, slept at Mrs. Black's flat. She and he had stayed at Maidenhead and hotels at Algeciras and Le Touquet. Usually they had adjoining rooms. Adjourned.

COAL FAMINE IN CARDIFF!

An extraordinary coal famine prevails at Cardiff, hundreds of houses being without fires yesterday.

"CALL UP ALL THE SINGLE MEN."

Attested married men, who attended a meeting in Coventry last night, expressed their willingness to carry out their obligation to serve, but strongly urged that every available single man should be called up.

[Read "The Pledge will be carried out" in column 1, page 2.]

The death has occurred at Castle Donington of Mr. Joshua Burton, solicitor, in his 91st year. He was believed to be the oldest council clerk in England.

HIGHER FARES ON THE "TUBE"?

Lord George Hamilton's Plain Talk To Shareholders.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the London Electric Railways yesterday, Lord George Hamilton said that Sir Robert Perks was for ever advocating an increase in fares. It was true that shareholders had been a long time "out of their money," but that was due to the promoters' estimates being far too optimistic.

Receipts had been over-estimated and expenses under-estimated, continued Lord George. The company, while not enjoying a monopoly, held a predominant position in the control of London's passenger transport. Further, the House of Commons was very jealous of any undertaking which came daily into contact with the comfort of the people raising its charges.

To raise fares in order to increase dividends would, he thought, lead to a public outcry and a decrease of passengers. Traffic in the metropolis was easy to lose and difficult to regain.

THE ELECTRIFIED "LOOP."

Electrical trains will run on the London and South-Western Company's "loop" line commencing to-morrow. A new station, for the convenience of riverside residents at Barnes, will be opened at Barnes Bridge.

SIX LONDON STATIONS TO CLOSE.

On and from Monday, April 3 next, the following London stations will be closed: Battersea Park-road, Camberwell and Clapham, and to South-Eastern and Chatham services only Wandsworth-road and Clapham.

Brixton Station will also be closed for passenger traffic to and from the City and intermediate stations, and Loughborough Junction for traffic to and from Victoria and intermediate stations, while the service of S.E. and C.R. trains now running to and from Moorgate-street will be temporarily discontinued.

This is done in order to make the best use of the engines, rolling stock and remaining staff.

MONEY MATTERS.

There was a sharp rise in the price of copper yesterday to £103 per ton, accompanied by a little more activity in Copper shares, and more especially those of the Australian companies, such as Hampden Cloncurry.

South African shares remained active, with Far Eastern Rand shares in continued demand. A minor feature was a run upon East Rand Mining Estates, market gossip stating that an Anglo-American syndicate has been formed to supply the company with the necessary capital to develop its properties.

Rubbers were firm, without showing much activity, the price of the raw material being 3s. 7½d. per lb.

There was a little stir in Russian Mining shares, Russo-Asiatic being bid for at 4 13-16 for the £1. This is a company which has a great future before it. Consols were quoted at 57½, and War Loan stock at 86½.

LIVERPOOL COTTON.—Futures closed steady; American 3 up to 1½ down; Egyptian quiet, 3 up to 7 down.

AMERICAN COTTON (close): New York, 2 to 4, and New Orleans, 1 to 3, points down. Tone steady.

OUR CIGARETTE FUND.

£1 5s.—Millars' Timber and Trading Co.'s Staff, London. 9s. 6d.—Vernon and Sons' Staff, Victoria Docks. 8s.—"Daily Sketch" Readers and Comps. 2s.—Mrs. Miller, Bearsden (60th cont.). 1s.—M. M. Stott, Notting Hill.

Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth, the Anglo-Australian banker, died worth £276,297.

CALL FOR PREMIUM BONDS.

City Men Ask Chancellor To Receive A Deputation.

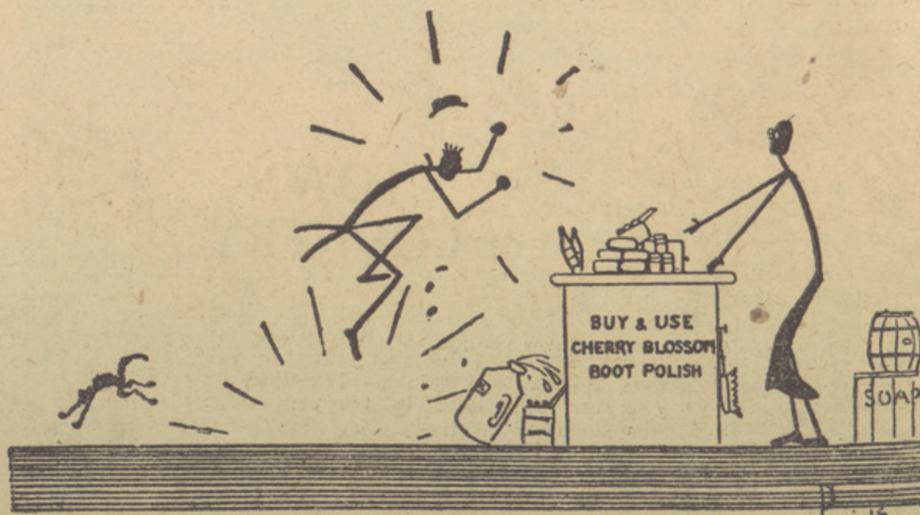
At an influential meeting of business men held in the City yesterday under the chairmanship of Sir William Plender the following resolution was passed:

That in the opinion of this meeting the Government be urged to take into early consideration the question of making an issue of premium or prize bonds, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer be respectfully asked to receive a deputation on the subject.

KEEPING OUT OF DANGER.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, after a visit to the Austro-Hungarian Emperor, has left (says Reuter) for Hungary (where he has private estates). This absence from his own country is a good sign for his enemies.

Cardinal Mercier has directed his auxiliary, the Right Rev. Bishop Dewaechter, to comply with the invitation of the authorities of St. Patrick's Church, Soho-square, to preach at High Mass on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Cardinal Bourne will be the celebrant.



Advice to Citizens.

Don't get annoyed and blame the poor shopkeeper when he has sold out of CHERRY BLOSSOM BOOT POLISH. It isn't his fault—there's always a rush on it, and transit delays are unavoidable.

Mansion Polish is just as splendid for Furniture, Floors and Linoleum as Cherry Blossom Boot Polish is for Boots and Shoes. Both polishes are sold by all Dealers in 1d., 2d., 4d. and 6d. Tins. Chiswick Polish Co., Ltd., Chiswick, W.



LOVE GOES ASTRAY

By Howel Evans



"The Man I Married!"

Closer and closer crept the woman, till at length she was bending right over Sheila. The girl could bear the strain no longer, and suddenly sat up. "Who are you, who are you? What do you want? What are you doing here?"

Sheila's eyes were taking in the woman's appearance now, and she recognised her as one of the lodgers in Mrs Jessop's house. She had been present when Sheila and Bill had returned, bringing poor injured Meg with them, and Sheila had noticed then how curiously this woman had eyed her.

"I—I thought I heard you cry out," said the woman rather hesitatingly, as if searching for some excuse, "and so I—I came in to see if I could do anything. I expect you're feeling rather nervous after all you've been through to-night, aren't you? Can I do anything for you?"

"No, thank you, nothing. I only want to be left alone to try to sleep. That's all, thank you."

Sheila lay down again and drew the clothes round her, and the woman left, after hoping she had not disturbed Sheila.

A troubled, restless night, a fitful sleep, then the dawn of another day, and Sheila saw herself in the little mirror, looking, as she thought to herself, so old, with hollows and dark rings under her eyes and a pale face and a troubled expression.

She didn't know that this added to her beauty, the beauty of resignation, of suffering, which so often merely chastens when we think it is sent to destroy.

When she was dressed she went to Meg's room, to find her friend, as she expressed it, "sittin' up and takin' nourishment."

"Awful bruise on my ribs, my dear. That brute 'andled me roughly. I can see 'is face now as plain as I saw it under the gas lamp—dark beard and moustache, and good-lookin', too, in a way. Yes, I could pick 'im out of a thousand, and as soon as I can 'obble, I'm off to the police-station to describe 'im."

"Meg, Meg," Sheila took her friend's hand in hers, and turned her own face away as if ashamed, "don't, please don't give information to the police. I begged Bill not to. I told him I'd tell you the reason, and that some day I might tell him, too. Meg—oh, I'm ashamed to my very soul—but the man—the man who struck you was—the man I married."

There was silence for a moment. Sheila felt she dare not look Meg in the eyes. Then she felt a rather rough hand touch her turned-away face very gently, and Meg pulled Sheila down to herself on the pillow and kissed her.

Meg The Cheerful.

"My dear, my dear, you've no call to feel ashamed," said Meg. "You couldn't 'elp it. It's 'im that's shamed, 'im for 'avin' treated you so badly. It's not you, my dear. But there, it's all right."

She changed her mood and began to speak in her old, chaffing manner.

"I've forgotten what 'e was like, my dear, if that will please you. I wonder 'oo the chap was as Bill laid out, the one as tried to get you. Oh, it's an old game, that is, sneakin' up be'ind and puttin' a 'ankerchief or a muffer over one's face. But, my dear—if it don't 'urt you to talk about it—what d'you think they was after?"

Sheila noted the delicacy with which Meg would not especially speak of her (Sheila's) husband.

"I—I don't know, unless he—he wanted to kill me. Perhaps it might be that. And I almost wish he would, Meg. I almost wish I might die."

"Now, I don't like to 'ear that, you know. You and me and Bill's all goin' to live together, and we're going to make a fortune. I shall put you in a nice white cap and apron be'ind the counter,

A Winter Diet

should include plenty of heat producers. The most wholesome and delicious are puddings made with Shredded ATORA Beef Suet, which needs no chopping. Sold in 1 lb. cartons 10½d., and ½ lb. cartons 5½d. Ask your grocer for it. Sole Manufacturers—Hugon & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—A.J.V.

THEATRES.

AMBASSADORS.—To-day at 2.30 and 8.30. "MORE." Brilliant Revue by Harry Gratton. DELYSIA, DOROTHY MINTO, MORTON, MORRIS HARVEY, etc. Evenings 8.30. Matinees Thurs. and Sat., at 2.30. Regent 2890

COMEDY THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Arthur Chudleigh. SECOND EDITION, "SHELL OUT!" by Albert de Courville and Wal Pink. Every Evening, at 8.45. Mats., Mors., Fri. and Sat., 2.45. Phone, Ger. 3724

STRAND.—"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE." Last 2 performances. To-day at 2.30. To-night at 8.

VARIETIES.

ALHAMBRA.—AUGUSTUS YORKE and ROBERT LEONARD. ODETTIE MYRTIL MANNY and ROBERTS. BEATRICE LILLIE and Alhambra Girls. THE QUAINTS. Imperia. Russian Dancers in ALEKO. Doors 8. Mats. Weds. and Sat., 2.15.

COLISEUM.—At 2.30 and 8 p.m. Augustus YORKE and Robert LEONARD in "Isadore, You Tell Her." Hall Caine's New Play, "THE IRON HAND." VIOLET VANBRUGH, LEE WHITE, and Jack Morrison, etc.

HIPPODROME, London.—Twice Daily, 2.30, 8.30 p.m. New Revue, "JOY-LAND." SHIRLEY KELLIOPP, HARRY TATE, YETTA RIANZA, BERTRAM WALLIS, CHARLES BERKELEY, and Super-Beauty Chorus.

MASKELVNE'S MYSTERIES St. George's Hall, Dury at 3 & 8. 1s. to 6s. Children half-price. Phone 1545 Mayfair.

PALACE.—BRIC-A-BRAC (at 8.35) VARIETIES at 8. MAT. WED. and SAT. at 2.

PALLADIUM.—2.30, 6.10, and 9.0. "THE PASSING SHOW," featuring ELLA RETFORD, FRED DUPREZ, CHRISTINE ROY. Varieties by LILY LENA, ERNEST HASTINGS, FIVE BOMBAYS, etc.

EXHIBITIONS.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION.—Life-like Portrait Models of HEROES OF THE WAR on SEA and LAND. Adm. 1s. Children 6d.

RUSSIAN EXHIBITION.—NOW OPEN. In aid of Jewish Refugees from Poland in Russia. CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, LONDON. March 4 to 18. 11 to 9.30.

and all you'll 'ave to do is to look pretty and 'and out the portions. There, what d'you think of that?"

"I think it's a beautiful idea, and I should just love to do it, especially for you, Meg."

"You are a kid!" said Meg. "As if I should let yer! A lady like you! Oh, ain't I stiff! And my ain't I a sight, too!"

Meg, you make me feel very angry with myself," said Sheila. "You're always so happy and jolly, and you always look on the bright side of things. You act on me like a tonic."

"Do I, my dear? That's all right, then! But, bless you, I ain't worried like you are. Not but anyway, whatever your trouble is you always bring it along to me, and I'll try and take a share of it and see if I can't laugh the beastly old thing away. But I'm gettin' up, now, though I don't feel exactly like it."

Meg was undoubtedly sore and bruised, and with the bandages and plasters on her face she didn't look beautiful, as she herself expressed it, but she kept up her spirits, and at length, with Sheila's assistance she was fully dressed.

"Now, then, we'll get away downstairs and 'ave some breakfast. By the way, my dear, excuse me askin' yer, but I ain't got no money till I get some of the Post Office, and we ought to be givin' Mrs. Jessop a bit to go on with, you know. She can't manage on nothin'. Can you do it, my dear? I'll share it with you afterwards."

"Oh, Meg, my dear Meg, I'm so sorry, but d'you know it's only just occurred to me that I haven't got a farthing. All the money I had was in my purse, and that went in the fire. I'm penniless. Just simply a pauper!"

Meg laughed as if in thorough enjoyment. "Oh, that don't matter!" she said. "I'll 'ave to borrow off Bill. Oh, I ain't above doin' that! We understands each other. 'E's goin' to get the rest of 'is money to-day. A nice little chap is Bill."

The Spy.

"Meg," said Sheila, "who's that dark-haired woman, a lodger here, who was downstairs last night when we came home? Something rather strange happened last night."

And Sheila related about the woman creeping into her bedroom.

"Oh, I know 'oo it was!" said Meg. "Jane Gladdytch. She's lived at nearly every 'ouse in the street at one time or another. Nobody can stand 'er for long. Sort of Nosey Parker she is. Works in one of the big stores just round 'ere."

"Whatever's a Nosey Parker, Meg?"

"One who puts 'er nose into other people's business, always pryin' and pokin' about."

Like a flash Sheila's mental horizon was lighted with a sudden illuminating thought.

"Then, Meg, I believe I know what she was in my room for! I believe she'd noticed that advertisement about me in the paper, and had come to see if I answered to the description, or if she could find out anything about me. Meg, I must go, I must run away from here. I won't let anyone find me. I should never feel safe if I went back home. I should never be safe from—from him. Oh, I'd sooner be walking about the streets penniless, homeless, than go back!"

"All right, my dear, don't take on so. I'll look after you. You shan't go back if you don't want to. I'll look after you, and we'll soon find out if that there Jane Gladdytch suspects anything."

But Jane Gladdytch had gone to her work at the stores close by, where she was employed from nine in the morning till six at night.

"Never mind, I'll put Bill on 'er track," said Meg. "E'll watch 'er and see if she sneaks off after 'er tea, when she comes 'ome. Or maybe she'll write?"

"Yes, yes, I expect she'll write," put in Sheila. "My aunt's full address at her country home was given, and this Gladdytch woman couldn't go down there. It's too far off—right down in Cornwall, you know."

"Um, that's rather awkward. Well, as I said before, we'll 'op it, change our address. And, my dear," Meg half whispered, "don't forget as there's to be a weddin' in less nor a month, and you've got to be my bridesmaid. You'll do that, won't you?"

"Yes," answered Sheila, thinking of how once she, in her girlish way, as all girls will, had imagined herself standing a bride at the altar, with a girl friend as bridesmaid—and her marriage had, after all, only been the civil ceremony in a stuffy office.

Sheila's Peril.

"Well, all right, let's go down and eat a good breakfast. And then, to make sure, my dear, we'll see about slippin' away from 'ere. You shan't be worried, you poor little girl. Why, little things like you oughtn't to be allowed out without a guide. There!" Meg laughed her cheerful laugh again.

"Don't you mind me. I'm one of that sort as can't 'elp speakin' out what they mean, but I always mean well for you, my dear. You look just like a pretty little flower out of place 'ere."

Meg didn't realise that she was speaking prettily, almost poetically. She was just speaking out of the pure goodness of her heart, and she laughed again as she put her arm through Sheila's to go downstairs.

"You're full of pluck, if you ain't as strong as I am," said Meg, laughing. "And see, I'm obliged to lean on you, so I ain't got all my own way."

It was about ten o'clock when Bill arrived, and Meg at once, with the instinct of true love, saw that something had happened.

His hands were trembling, his face was white, he seemed hardly able to collect himself and speak coherently, but at last he managed to blurt out:

"It's gone—it's gone, Meg, it's gone! All our money's gone, every cent of it!"

"All the money gone, Bill? What d'you mean by all the money gone? Where's it gone?"

"That backer o' mine, 'e was a fraud. 'E's bolted with the money, all of it! I was a mug. I told 'im to keep it till I wanted it, and asked 'im for a fiver to go on with. That's just what 'e wanted. I suppose 'e'd 'ave got it any'ow, but that give 'im plenty of time to get away. 'E's bolted, leaving me and lots of others in the cart. It's good-bye to the little shop, Meg. We shall 'ave to start all over again."

And then the eternal woman rose in Meg. What mattered money? They 'till had each other!

And, stiffly, laboriously, she rose and went and put her arm round the bowed shoulders of the little boxer as he sat doubled up in a chair with his face in his hands, and Sheila thought she had never seen anything so spiritually beautiful as tall, buxom Cockney girl, whose bandaged face winced with pain as she put her arm round her man, and mothered him and crooned to him in a voice that was just an anthem of love, of consolation.

"You're thinkin' of me, I know, Bill," she said. "But bless you, we shall be all right. D'you 'now I've got nearly forty pound in the Post Office? And we're goin' to get married just the same. I can stop on at my present place, and you can get a job as a teacher of boxin', I know. Oh, we shall be all right. But 'e was a swine, though, 'e ain't 'e, that backer of yours?"

"But the shop, Meg, the shop! We'd so looked forward to it, 'adn't we?"

And he turned his rugged little, tear-stained face to hers, and she bent down and kissed it.

"O' course we 'ad, and we shall look forward to it 'gain. We shall 'ave it one of these days, you see if we don't! And what are you lookin' so startled about, Sheila?"

Sheila had turned away to hide her tears of emotion, and her eyes fell on a paper lying on the table by her side. Something made her pick it up. It was a similar paper to the one in which she had seen the two advertisements about herself the night before.

Yes, there they were again; at least, they had been there, for one of them, the advertisement offering the hundred pounds reward, had been cut out!

Who could have done that? A glance from Meg and Bill assured her that it was not they who had cut the newspaper.

Again she felt that spies were about her. Again she felt herself threatened by some unseen peril. Again she thought of John Finch—and shuddered.

"He's been here," she reflected. "He and Jane Gladdytch are perhaps working together. Oh, what shall I do? What shall I do?"

(Another Splendid Instalment on Monday.)

MARVELLOUS VICTORY OVER VARICOSE VEINS

Wonderful New "Spirastic" Supports.

Old-Fashioned Dangerous Elastic Stockings Entirely Superseded.

A well-known Manufacturer of Surgical Appliances has made a marvellous discovery, which entirely revolutionises the treatment of Varicose Veins.

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