

## PROSPERITY FOR BRITISH LABOR

WORKMEN ARE MAKING MORE MONEY THAN EVER

Comparatively Few are Saving or Investing Their Overplus of Wealth.

"Munitions" has come to be a magic word among the workers of Sheffield, two years ago it was outside the vocabulary of all but a few; to-day it is continually in the mouths of the men and women living in this typical great arsenal city. It stands with them for hard work but high wages, for unexampled prosperity, and for a comfortable sense that a halo of patriotism rests upon the labor of the day, says a Sheffield, England, letter.

Every second man in the city is "on munitions," and it is said locally that anyone with one leg and one eye can obtain employment. The change from peace to war industry has been on an almost incredible scale, and the ramifications of munition work are bewildering. A laborer in a brickyard finds himself unable to leave for other employment because the bricks made in the yard are used to line the furnaces of the great armament works. The Sheffield cutler—at one time the typical craftsman of the city—is busy with knives and forks for the army. A firm which repaired broken-down locomotives is manufacturing submarine machinery.

The men at type foundry who before the war made printers' furniture are now producing cartridge boxes. Rolling mills which once rolled nickel silver for metal teapots, are rolling brass and copper for the materials of war. Scores of firms are tackling work which a year ago was never within their calculations and many manufacturers have been astonished at the possibilities of their plants. People who thought in thousands have learned to think in millions. And everywhere there is activity and new enterprise—all directed upon the one end—munitions.

### Workers Not Saving.

Trades unable to contribute to the business of the war have been largely denuded of men. The young and fit went to the army months ago. Others have found that even a laborer's job in the armament shops gives them more money than their regular occupation. On the corporation tramcars one sees none but women conductors, and in many other services women are doing the work which was once performed by men. Apart from the local supply of labor thousands of workers have come to the city from other parts of the country, and housing accommodation is so strained that the Lord Mayor recently issued an appeal to citizens to take in this immigrant population as lodgers. The weekly outpouring of money in wages has swollen to a remarkable total, and the tradespeople who cater for the wants—and one must add in some measures the extravagancies—of the war workers, have had the best year within their memory. Enquiry does not suggest that any large part of the excess earnings is being systematically saved, although in the lack of thrift the Sheffielder is no worse than his mate in other towns where trade is good.

The more thoughtful among the artisans are putting an adequate share of their present high wages into the war loan or the savings banks best understood by their class. There is reason to believe that others are hoarding money in their homes, and a reasoned appeal might secure this money for the use of the State. In a great number of cases the only investment favored is the purchase of furniture. Wives who have long wished for sideboard or a sewing machine, or some other article which in ordinary times are beyond their means, are at last able to realize their ambitions.

### Buying Luxuries.

There is also a good demand—sometimes a foolish demand—for pianos. A man and woman walked into a shop on a recent Saturday night and asked the price of a piano in the window. "£26," was the answer given. "Is it a good 'un?" enquired the man. "It is a good instrument for the money," the dealer said. "Can't you send it up to ah'ouse?" came the next question. "Yes, when it is paid for," was the comment of the shopkeeper, who was not in the least expecting to do business. "Oh, that's aw'right," said the man. "Here's a pun note, and we'll bring 'er rahn tomorrow." The next morning the balance was paid and the piano was delivered. In the house to which it was taken the estimated value of the furniture in the house was considerably less than the price paid for the instrument.

Young mechanics are buying motorcycles, often with a sidecar attached, and hundreds of them may be seen on Sundays riding the machines on the Derbyshire roads. The wives of the munition workers take their share in spending. Women, who in the past have been able to buy only the cheapest clothes, are now ordering costumes costing £4 and even £6, guinea hats, and expensive shoes. The manager of a bootshop states that his commission on sales

during the past 12 months is the highest he has ever obtained. Jewelers are doing an extensive business in rings, gold bracelets, brooches, lockets, and other trinkets. Manufacturers of electro-plate, who released hundreds of men for the army in the early days of the war, when trade came almost to a standstill, find it difficult to execute the orders now pouring in. Another vanity is the purchase of elaborately mounted umbrellas. A working-class woman in a tramcar explained the possession of an umbrella which she said had cost 45s. by the simple remark, "Jack's on munitions."

## CANADA'S INLAND WATERS.

Lakes of the Middle West Only Now Being Appreciated.

Comparatively few persons have any adequate appreciation of the extent and value of the great inland water resources of portions of Canada. In this connection a few brief statements, respecting the lake of the Woods watershed will of interest.

The area of the lake of the Woods is 1,485 square miles. The area of Rainy lake is 345 square miles. Lake Winnipeg has an area of some 9,400 square miles, which is about 2,000 square miles larger than Lake Ontario. The area of the lake of the Woods watershed, 26,750 square miles, is only about five per cent. less than the area of the province of New Brunswick.

What is known as the Lake of the Woods Investigation is being conducted by the International Joint Commission, under the Boundary Waters Treaty, of 1909, between Great Britain and the United States. The chief purpose of the investigation is to secure the most advantageous use of the waters of the Lake of the Woods and of the waters flowing into and from that lake on each side of the boundary for domestic, sanitary, navigation, transportation, fishing, power and irrigation purposes; and also to secure the most advantageous use of the shores and harbors of the lakes and the waters flowing into and from the lake.

To indicate the volume of water corresponding even to one foot of depth on some of these lakes, on the Lake of the Woods a depth of one foot is equivalent to 41.1 billion cubic feet, while the corresponding volume for one foot of depth on Rainy lake is 9.6 billion cubic feet.

On the Lake of the Woods one foot of the lake of the Woods would supply 1,313 cubic feet per second for one year, while one foot depth on Rainy lake would supply 305 feet per second for the same period. Storing the runoff in Lake of the Woods, Rainy and other lakes can thus exert a marked beneficial influence upon water powers receiving supply from this watershed. The International Joint Commission, in making its recommendation respecting a proposed regulation of the Lake of the Woods, will consider the advantage which would result to power interests, and also take into account any disadvantages that may result to riparian owners living in Minnesota or elsewhere, whose lands, bordering on the lake, may, under certain regulations of levels, be subjected to damage by flooding.—A.V.W. in Conservation.

## TRIALS OF FARMER IN TOWN

Found It Hard to Separate Luxuries From Necessities.

A farmer sold his property to live in the city, because his city friends "wore good clothes, had money in their pockets, went to the movies, belonged to clubs and enjoyed a yearly vacation." He found, however, that the city man pays dearly for these luxuries.

"We came to know," he said, "that it was just as hard for the city man to get up at 7 o'clock in the morning as it was for the country man to get up at 5. Why so? Because he must not relax; he is ever on duty. He must smile at this person. He dares not notice any one's peculiarities or oddities or unreasonableness. The result is he must find his relaxation in the evening; therefore, the family rarely gets to bed before 10 or 11 o'clock, and 7 in the morning finds them just as sleepy and far less refreshed than 5 found him on the farm."

"We found going to work for somebody else every day in the year, except Sunday and perhaps a two weeks' vacation under somebody else as manager, didn't exactly suit our country spirit of freedom. We came to know that our friends saved scarcely a cent; and furthermore, one couldn't exactly see how they were extravagant. In the city it seems unbelievably hard to separate luxuries from necessities."

A Good Bargain. The old gentleman showed a good deal of displeasure. "It seems to me," he exclaimed testily, "rather presumptuous for a youth in your position to ask for my daughter's hand! Can you advance any good reason why I should give my consent?" "Certainly, sir!" promptly replied the suitor. "What?" pressed the old man. "I am, comparatively, modest and economical in my personal expenditure," replied the suitor, "and I think, sir, that, altogether, you will find me less costly to maintain than almost any other son-in-law you could select."

## SACRIFICES MADE BY BRITISH WOMEN

THOUSANDS DO STRANGE WORK TO HELP THE EMPIRE

Large Increase in Number of Women Medical and Dental Students.

The year that has just closed has been full of significance for women, though it has perhaps seen them but a little way—and that on industrial lines—towards the feminist idea of the open door to all kinds of work. Olive Schreiner's "I take all labor for my Province" was a brave watchword for a critical time. It has proved, however, in a great degree a measure only of the sacrifices women were prepared to make, and not of the rewards they were prepared to ask for in the year that has passed, says a recent London letter.

It may be that the coming year may see them called to replace men in the higher branches of the civil service and in administrative posts for which their education and training fits them. But whatever the year holds in the way of prizes, it is safe to say that the ideal of useful service will be foremost in the minds of the majority of women.

To summarize the year's changes in women's work is difficult. Though not in itself the first actual call, the appeal to women to volunteer for war service, issued by the Board of Trade on March 17, was a great incentive to women to offer themselves for paid work formerly done by men. The Government employed women largely. They were drafted into the Censor's Department and into the Census of Production. In the War Office, besides clerical work of every kind, they did certain remount work and the buying of hay, etc., and lately women have taken the place of men as cooks in camps and military convalescent hospitals. During the past week Scotland Yard has engaged a large number as substitutes for men from the Civil Service staff who have enlisted.

The London post-offices, women sorters and temporary postmen were a feature of the Christmas season. On the railways, in many cases the country has set the example to London. Women tramway and omnibus conductors were tried in Glasgow and other places before London considered them. Women have been cleaning railway carriages, acting as booking clerks and porters, working the signal boxes, and learning the language of rolling stock in secretarial posts throughout the kingdom. They have been lifting ships in dock, working lifts in business houses, and on the tube railways. To hear in a woman's voice the warning to "Stand clear of the gates" has almost lost its novelty, but the sight of a woman in uniform with a broom on the underground has a sense of fitness that makes one wonder it was not thought of before. The great banks have largely availed themselves of women's services, from the Bank of England to Cox's.

In agricultural work the substitution has gone on more slowly. Everywhere women gardeners, women farm bailiffs, and women to milk cows and do dairy work have been asked for, and many schemes for supplying these needs have been put on foot. But the great number of women of all classes who chose munition work, some from patriotic motives and others because it was well paid, lessened the number available for more prosaic work. The success of the women who undertook the comparatively new trade of welding for airplane work deserves a word to itself, but in all the process of airplane work, from the difficult mathematical problems arising out of the specifications to the proofing and stitching of the sails, women have been efficient. Mr. Lloyd George stated on December 20 that the number of munition workers was not yet large enough, and that 80,000 skilled and 300,000 unskilled would yet be needed; in the coming year it is very probable that the bulk of these will be women. The promise that a woman assessor would be appointed to every Munitions Court at which women or girls would be heard was one of the most notable happenings of the year and was due to the exertions of Miss Mary MacArthur.

In Medicine and Dentistry the war has led to a very large increase in the number of women medical and dental students. But one side of the scientific work of women that has passed almost unnoticed has been the enormous amount of work done under Government direction by women in laboratories in the making of synthetic drugs and anti-toxins: The invitation given to Dr. Garrett Anderson and to Dr. Flora Murray to take charge of a military hospital by Sir Alfred Keogh was also one of the events of the year.

There has been a small replacement of men in bakeries, women dealing with the baking of small bread. It is, however, prophesied as not unlikely that much of the confectionery bread trade will pass into the hands of women in the coming year. Women, too, have taken up herb-growing on a business basis to supply druggists who formerly had such things from enemy gardens. The voluntary work



FIGHTING AT CLOSE QUARTERS. French engaged in house to house fighting in one of the Souchez clean-ups.

done by women in every part of the country has been beyond praise. For Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, for the British Red Cross Society, and the Order of St. John, for the surgical supply depots, and the other great organizations, work parties were busy all the year.

Of the nurses themselves it is almost as difficult to speak as of the Army and Navy.

## PERSONAL POINTERS.

Gossip of Interest That Is Going the Rounds.

The best Royal pianist is probably Princess Victoria, who so often plays to her mother, Queen Alexandra. The piano used at Marlborough by Her Royal Highness is a magnificent instrument, bearing the inscription, "Victoria" from Papa and Mamma, 1895.

Cardinal Bourne, who recently visited the Front, could make himself understood in practically all the theatres of war, for he is a wonderful linguist, speaking six or seven languages with ease. They say it only takes him six months to pick up a working knowledge of any language.

Edison is credited with having invented several clever contraptions since the great conflict began. The occasion never finds him wanting. It was to take revenge on the gas company, who had cut off his gas for an overlooked bill, that he invented the incandescent burner, which is said to save money.

Mrs. Pankhurst has attained the distinction of being mentioned in the German papers as one of the most powerful war forces in England. The Welsh miners, among whom she is conducting a patriotic campaign, have taken most cordially to her, and where Cabinet Ministers have found them obstinate, she has found them most obliging.

Prophets of the war have had a bad time, but Lord Charles Beresford can claim that a forecast of his came true. Long before the Zeppelins attacked the metropolis, the breezy admiral said, "Don't underrate the Zeppelins and their carrying power. With a fair wind and other advantages, the Zeppelins will come to London."

No one follows the progress of the war with greater keenness than the Empress Eugenie, who, despite the fact that she has entered her ninety-third year, is very energetic. She has vivid memories of the great war of 1870 that lost her husband his throne, and France Alsace-Lorraine, and they must come back to the Empress, as she sees the wounded soldiers who are being cared for at her home at Farnborough.

Few Royalties have passed through so many vicissitudes as the Crown Prince of Serbia. Owing to his elder brother's pranks, the right of succession to the throne passed to him, and for a considerable time he has acted as Regent. On the outbreak of war he became Commander-in-Chief of the Army, by whom he is greatly beloved. Since he became heir to the throne he has participated in three Balkan wars.

The Latest Attachment. "Chiggs is always seeking new attachments for his motor car."

"He has one now that will hold him for a while."

"What kind is it?"

"One furnished by the sheriff."

Tom Hood, the punster, once described the meeting of a man and a lion, and in doing so he said: "The man ran off with all his might, and the lion with all his mane."

Extract from a schoolboy's Bible examination paper.—Q. "What does Scripture say of a lie?" A. "A lie is an abomination to the Lord, but a very present help in time of trouble."

## FROM OLD SCOTLAND

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HIGHLANDS AND BRAES.

What Is Going On in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

The factory erected by the Motherwell Tool Industry is now completed. Stonehouse has distributed seventy tons of coal amongst the dependents of the lads with the colors.

Three children aged eight, six and four years respectively, of John Hibernon, of Dundee, were burned to death in bed.

The spring salmon fishing season has now opened in many parts of Scotland and prospects of sport are stated to be excellent.

Scottish woollen and hosiery manufacturers announce substantial increase in price owing to the scarcity of raw wool and dyes.

Pite coal trade is dull and the demand exceeds the supply. There has been no improvement in the output of coal from the Pite ports.

The new Johnstone School which has accommodation for 750 pupils, has now been opened. The school was built at an estimated cost of \$35,000.

Having reached the age limit, Mr. Alexander Fleming, postmaster, Dunfermline, has retired after seeing forty-six years' service in the post office.

Official returns for 1915 by the Scottish Ironmasters' Association show that home requirements and export demand now considerably outstrip production.

Clyde seamen have been awarded an advance of \$1.20 per week on the wages at a conference held in Glasgow between the steamship owners and the Seamen's Union.

At a meeting of the Glasgow Corporation, it was decided to stop the allowances at present being paid to members of the staff now holding commissions in the army.

Sergeant William D. Gibbs, son of Mr. Gibbs, stationmaster, Fordoun, has had the French Military Medal conferred on him for distinguished service at the Dardanelles.

A canteen for the female night workers in the munition works of Messrs Beardmore at Paisley has been opened by Lady Beardmore. The canteen has seating accommodation for 500.

Mr. Peter W. Smith, son of Mr. David Smith, of Kirkcaldy, has travelled 14,000 miles to enlist. He held a farming appointment in Queensland, and at the outbreak of war came back to Kirkcaldy.

Sir Alexander McRobert of Cawnpore, has made a generous benefaction to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. He has been in the past a liberal donor and has now handed over securities which will yield an income of \$1,850 per annum.

The Rev. P. Lindsay Gordon, parish minister of Glenbervie, in addition to joining the French Red Cross for active service as a motor driver, has purchased and presented a handsome motor ambulance for use at the front.

Only a matter of Time. "She told Tom she simply could not make up her mind to be the wife of a poor man."

"But Tom isn't poor."

"No, but he soon would be if she married him."

"What is the child howling for now?" asked its father from the depths of his easy chair. "He wants his own way," snapped the mother. And with his mind on the latest war news the father replied: "Well, if it's his way don't you let him have it?"

## BARELY ENOUGH TO KEEP LIFE IN

DIET OF BRITISH PRISONERS IN GERMANY.

Daily Rations Reduced to a Minimum—Bread of Rye and Potatoes.

The official notepaper of the war prisoners' camp at Giessen, Germany, where large numbers of British soldiers are interned, now contains in displayed columns the dietary of the men. Giessen is generally regarded as one of the best of the German prison camps. Germany solemnly pledged herself under the Hague convention to allow prisoners of war the same food as was issued her own soldiers.

Now we have the German official account of what is actually given. There are three meals a day, breakfast, dinner, and supper, and a daily allowance of 10½ oz. of bread. Apparently the Germans have tried to discover the minimum on which life can be maintained.

In calculating the value of the German food it must be remembered that the bread is composed mainly of potatoes and rye, the "coffee" is burned barley, and the "beer" is in some cases horseflesh. The following is the diet:

Thursday: 1oz. cocoa, 1.2-5oz. sugar 7-10th of an ounce of starch meal.

Wednesday and Saturday: 1oz. potato meal, 2oz. starch meal, and 1-3oz. margarine.

On the remaining four days breakfast consists of coffee and sugar; 1oz. of coffee and 4½oz. of sugar for six men.

Dinner: Monday: 1oz. bacon, with potatoes and beans.

Tuesday: 3½oz. pork, with potatoes and beans.

Wednesday: 1oz. meat (unspecified), potato flour, potatoes, and 1oz. (over) dried vegetables.

Thursday: 3½oz. meat, sauerkraut and potatoes.

Friday: 5½oz. salt fish, potatoes, and 1-3oz. soup flavoring.

Saturday: Same as Monday.

Sunday: 4oz. of beef, 4oz. of white cabbage, about 1½lb. of potatoes.

Supper: Mondays: Herring and potatoes.

Tuesday: Same as Sunday.

Wednesday: 3½oz. rice, 1.2-5oz. sugar, 1½oz. dried fruit.

Thursday: Same as Monday.

Friday: Cheese and potatoes.

Saturday: Same as Wednesday.

Sunday: 3½oz. field beans, 7-10th of an ounce of starch meal, 7-10th of an ounce of margarine, and 7oz. potatoes.

If all the meat and fish allowed for each soldier for dinner for a week is added together it comes to just over fourteen ounces of meat (mostly salt), and 5¼ ounces of salt.

## FLOWER KIDNAPS INSECTS

Cup Holds Prisoner Until He Agrees to Transport Pollen.

Now we have a plant that kidnaps and holds for ransom. His victims are the bees. It takes a brave plant to kidnap a bee, but this plant does it regularly. He needs the bee to help him carry pollen from one flower to another. So he kidnaps the insect, holds it until he gets a promise that it will take away a load of pollen with it, and then he releases it. You're familiar with the plant, its climbing vine and its odd-shaped flowers. It is the Dutchman's pipe.

The shape of the flower gives it the name. They grow on long stalks and the flower part is a long tube, crooked and inflated at the base. It really looks like a pipe. The leaves are large and heart-shaped.

The bee flies into the narrow opening of the flower in search of honey, and find it. He drinks and drinks, until he is ready to go. But when he turns around he finds the way barred with scores of tiny daggers, pointing inward. As he came in the bee brushed his way by the daggers easily; but the door to the flower should have been placarded "Entrance only," for the daggers won't bend to let him out.

There he is a prisoner. He buzzes around frantically, shaking the golden pollen from the dagger points and gathering it on his wings. For two or three days he is held captive, until he collects all the pollen he can carry. Then the daggers whither and the bee finds his way out.

Hardly What He Expected. A noted miser, who felt obliged to make a present to a lady, entered a crockery shop for the purpose of making a purchase. Seeing a statuette broken into a dozen pieces he asked the price. The salesman said it was worthless, but he could have it for the cost of packing it in a box.

The miser directed it to be sent with his card to the lady, congratulating himself that she would imagine it was broken while on its way to her. He was at her house when the box arrived, but the effect was hardly what he expected. The tradesman had carefully wrapped each piece in a separate scrap of paper.

Why does a young man try to keep on the right side of his best girl when he knows her heart is on the left side?

## DARING DEEDS WIN VICTORIA CROSS

BRITISH SOLDIERS PERFORM BRAVE DEEDS

Three Corporals and One Private Awarded the Highest Honor.

A list of war honors issued by the British War Office is headed by the names of three corporals and one private who are awarded the Victoria Cross for acts of conspicuous bravery. Two of the recipients are Territorials. The list is as follows:

Corpl. Alfred A. Burt, 1st Herts (T.F.).—For most conspicuous bravery at Cunchy, September 27th, 1915. His company had lined the front trench preparatory to an attack when a large mine-thrower bomb fell into the trench. Corporal Burt, who well knew the destructive power of this class of bomb, might easily have got under cover behind a traverse, but he immediately went forward, put his foot on the fuse, wrenched it out of the bomb, and threw it over the parapet, thus rendering the bomb innocuous.

Daring Rescue.

Pte. John Caffrey, 2nd York and Lancs.—For most conspicuous bravery, November 16th, 1915, near La Brique. A man of the West Yorkshire Regiment had been badly wounded and was lying in the open, unable to move, in full view of, and about 300 to 400 yards from, the enemy's trenches. Corporal Stirk, Royal Army Medical Corps, and Caffrey at once started out to rescue him, but at the first attempt they were driven back by shrapnel fire. Soon afterwards they started again, under close sniping and machine-gun fire, and succeeded in reaching, and bandaging the wounded man, but just as Corporal Stirk had lifted him on Private Caffrey's back, he himself was shot in the head. Caffrey put down the wounded man, bandaged Corporal Stirk, and helped him back into safety. He then returned and brought in the man of the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Gave Life For Officer. Corpl. Alfred Drake, 8th Rifle Brigade.—For most conspicuous bravery on the night of November 23rd, 1915, near La Brique, France. He was one of a patrol of four which was reconnoitering towards the German lines. The patrol was discovered when close to the enemy, who opened heavy fire with rifles and a machine gun, wounding the officer and one man. The latter was carried back by the last remaining man.

remained with his officer and was last seen kneeling beside him and bandaging his wounds regardless of the enemy's fire. Later a rescue party crawling near the German lines found the officer and corporal, the former unconscious, but alive and bandaged. Corporal Drake beside him dead and riddled with bullets.

Dug-Out Wounded. Corpl. Samuel Meekosha, 16th W. York (T.F.).—For most conspicuous bravery near the Yser on November 19th, 1915. He was with a platoon of about 20 non-commissioned officers and men, who were holding an isolated trench. During a very heavy bombardment by the enemy six of the platoon were killed and seven wounded, while all the remainder were more or less buried. When the senior non-commissioned officers had been either killed or wounded Corpl. Meekosha at once took command, sent a runner for assistance, and, in spite of no less than 10 more big shells falling within 20 yards of him, continued to dig out the wounded and buried men in full view of the enemy and at close range of the German trenches. By his promptness and magnificent courage and determination he saved at least four lives.

THE DOGS OF BAGDAD. Thousands of Them Divide the City Up Territorially.

Bagdad has been called the "paradise of the pariah." Not even Constantinople, in the palm days of the Sultan Abdul Aziz, possessed so many of these, nondescript dogs, swarming to-day in its streets and alleys. They yelp and snarl, and guard all day over the heaps of rotting garbage, and the night is made hideous by their howling. Yet the natives seem rather to enjoy the noise.

Anyhow, the recent attempt to abate it. Some forty years ago a certain reforming Turkish Governor, as it is said, rid Bagdad of its dogs once and for all. He rounded up some 12,000 of them, and started to drown them in the Tigris at the rate of five hundred a day. But the half-breed boys had been so thoroughly possessed of the populace's love, that they insisted on the release of the remainder.

To-day the Bagdad dogs divide the city up territorially, each set firmly maintaining its monopoly of one tract against all comers. Lean, gaunt, and miserable-looking, they yet of some use as scavengers, though the reek that goes the garbage-littered streets is only too plainly how badly they are done.