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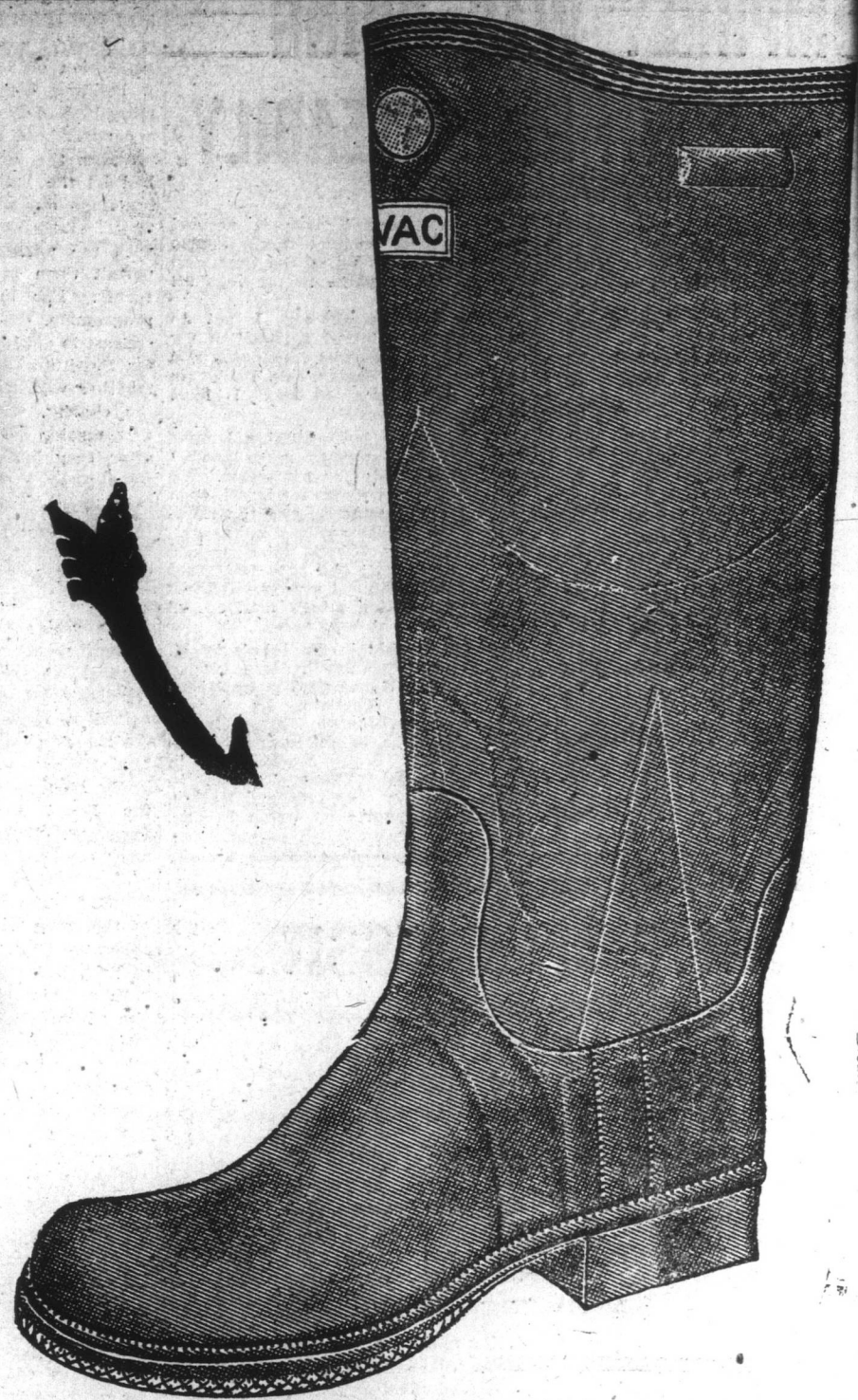
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3 yards wide, clean bright tile patterns. This will give satisfactory wear and must not be classed with cheaper grade coverings made of tar paper and paint. Feltext is made of felt, 60 per cent. Wool, 40 per cent. Cotton, and will not crack, peel or scale. It will wear well, look well and cost little. Price \$2.30.

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Claims a Seat in the House of Lords.

The British House of Commons has admitted women to its membership, and a woman now sits there, Lady Astor, who represents one of the divisions of the ancient City of Plymouth. An attempt is now being made to throw open the House of Lords to women who are peeresses in their own right—not because they are the wives of peers or hold courtesy titles as the daughters of peers, but because they hold their titles in their own right. Such a peeress is Lady Macdonald, and such is the Viscountess Rhonda, who has petitioned King George to order a writ to be issued summoning her to serve in Parliament as a member of the House of Lords. The petition raises the question of the right of a peeress to sit in Parliament, and the manner in which the question will be decided is being awaited with general

interest. Of course, those directly and immediately concerned are the present members of the House of Lords, who are concerned about the membership of their own chamber. Then there are about twenty-five peeresses, whose position is similar to that of Viscountess Rhonda, it will be open to them.

The Viscountess Rhonda is the daughter of the late Baron Rhonda (D. A. Thomas), the immensely wealthy Welsh mine operator, who was the British Food Controller during the war. Viscountess Rhonda inherited his entire estate and thus became one of the richest women of the British Empire. She is 37 years old and the wife of Sir Humphrey Mackworth, himself a wealthy man.

Viscountess Rhonda is a champion of the cause of British working women and president of the Women's Industrial League of Great Britain. Records show that in the Middle Ages a few peeresses of high rank were summoned to attend Parliament

A number of letters were retained, including a letter to Mr. Skinner from the Clerk of Clogheen Union requesting him to attend the Conciliation Board on behalf of the staff, and another private letter. The officer took the names and addresses and then stated that all except Mr. Little could leave. Mr. Little was taken into custody and was conveyed to the military barracks, where he was detained. Mr. Little's father was the first Premier of Newfoundland after Home Rule was conceded, and his uncle was Chief Justice of that country.

Extension Wristlet Watches, in Waltham and Jewelled Swiss, lever movements in gold, gold filled cases. Prices from \$20.00 to \$85.00. A splendid selection. See them at **LANGMEAD'S,** dec13,ed,td

as members of the House of Lords as then constituted. Viscountess Rhonda is, therefore, seeking to revive an old right, long in abeyance.

A Familiar Name.

We take the following from an exchange. The Mr. P. J. Little referred to is the son of the late Philip Francis Little, one of the Fathers of Responsible Government in this country, who was appointed to the Supreme Court on November 1st, 1888. He died in Ireland on October 23rd, 1897. Shortly after the death of Sir Joseph I. Little, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, Mr. P. J. Little, a nephew of Sir Joseph, and who was arrested as described below, visited St. John's, and remained here a considerable time, making himself very popular in the community. The facts are as follows:

WELL KNOWN DUBLIN MAN ARRESTED.

Mr. P. J. Little, Dublin, was arrested by the military when an Arbitration Court was about to sit at Clogheen Workhouse.

The Guardians and representatives of the Poor Law Officers' Association were to discuss matters in dispute regarding salaries and emoluments. Before the business commenced an officer entered the room and informed those present that he had instructions to be present.

Father Coffey, who was present, invited the officer to take a seat. Some minutes after Mr. P. J. Little entered the room. After a short consultation the members of the Conciliation Board decided not to proceed.

Pockets Searched.

Mr. W. J. Skinner, solicitor, Clonmel, and Mr. Casey, solicitor, Mitchells town, were present on behalf of the parties concerned. All were about to leave when the officer spoke to Father Coffey and said he had a duty to perform. He said he would allow Father Coffey to retire. The latter left, and the officer then searched those present, including the solicitors, closely scanning the contents of their pockets. Mr. Little's portmanteau was examined.

Child Welfare.

The Child Welfare Movement is neither sentimental nor emotional but is rather a completely practical question, dealing with the most pressing need of the British Empire; and indeed Newfoundland's scanty population cannot afford to disregard any longer this vital need of caring for its most valuable asset. Every one knows that we are only just awaking to a consciousness of the dreadful neglect of our infant population, and what is far worse, the neglect of the mothers who in large numbers have survived despite rather than because of any special care. This indictment does not of course apply at the present time to St. John's where nurses and doctors abound; but it is applicable both now and in the past to Greater Newfoundland. Hence the public ought to be brought to realize that they owe a duty to the child, and this can only be arrived at by discussions and canvassing by the leaders of this movement, and there ought to be lectures given by the women who are equipped with theory and furnished with practical experience, for they are especially fitted to bring home to the public mind the vital importance of saving the babies and of informing those of us who have not shown any interest in this matter that an efficient Child Welfare service means saving life by bringing to maturity numbers of children who otherwise were doomed to early death. This being the Feast of the Holy Innocents, seems a particularly appropriate season to make a plea for the little ones. Whilst visiting a new born baby on Christmas Day I was told by the nurse that she had lately assisted at the twentieth birth in a certain family, and a little previous she had been present in another family at the birth of the thirteenth. If these two mothers had been living in England or America these large families would have been hailed with

delight and prizes awarded, not because these mothers had simply fulfilled a law of nature but because their standard of productiveness is the highest known to the world, especially at this time of crisis when the value of individual life is so much emphasized. The care of the expectant mother has been much more before us than the care of the mother of the new born infant. One thing is clear, which is that the mother of a number of young children ought to be assisted and her burden lightened, for if it is so hard a task to meet the high cost of living in small families of ordinary means, how impossible it must be for poor mothers to rear a dozen or more children with even the most elementary attempts toward the decencies of life.—BETHEL.

St. John's, Dec. 27th, 1920.

Personal.

Mr. Eimo Ashbourne, son of W. Ashbourne, of Twillingate, arrived in the city by express this morning, and connected with the Sackem which sailed for Liverpool to-day. Mr. Ashbourne is the Newfoundland Rhodes scholar for 1920 and is an ex-pupil of the Methodist College. He is now en route to Oxford University where he will take up his four year's course.

Room Full of Amazing Riches.

In Teheran, the capital of Persia, is a lofty room, about the size of one of the smaller European cathedrals, which contains more hoarded-up riches than any other equal area in the world. writes a traveller, who has recently visited that country. It is the throne room of Persia, a sealed place, open only rarely to a favored few.

Opening from the grand staircase of the Shah's palace, the room looks on a beautiful court, musical with the sweet confusion of voices of myriads of birds and the splash of fountains, redolent of soft languorous odors. Just a block or two away is a street of misery, of poverty and sometimes famine. Yet in the Shah's courtyard, the palace or the throne room, there could be no remembrance of want; the senses are benumbed with the profusion of wealth.

The ceiling is faced with prisms of cut glass and from it hang half a dozen magnificent chandeliers, blazing with lustre and touched with various colors. On the floor are more than fifty rugs—I counted them—some of them hundreds of years old. There was one little thing that one could have carried off in one's hands, a rug with a tree rising from its base; looking at that I could really almost sympathize with the Persian's excuse for brigandage. And between wall and wall are tables, priceless tables and chairs, china and clocks, and articles of every description.

There was a great round silver tureen set in amethysts, which the Grand Duke Michael had given the

late Shah. On a stand were two huge gold samovars, gifts from Great Britain, and between them an ugly gold bowl given by the Kaiser. There were great elephant thrones, or howdahs, as tall as a man, carved work from Japan, embroideries and laces—all the crowded riches that imagination can conceive.

And here and there amid the glory is some cheap grotesque thing that looks as if it came out of a five-and-ten-cent store—a cheap vase, an ugly crockery figure, a knot of dusty artificial flowers.

The Climax of the Place.
But from the doorway what halts the eye, what is the climax of the place, is the peacock throne. It stands at the head of the room, a striking object even seen at a distance and in perspective. It is about the size and shape of a French bed, a structure with a floor, six broad legs, a headboard, sides, and at the foot three mounting steps.

It is covered with thick gold foil enameled in deep blues and greens. The headboard is a glory of color. At the top is a huge sunburst of diamonds, and underneath three emeralds, each about the size of a checker board square. At the two ends of the headpiece are two jeweled peacocks. Wherever one looks on the surface of this throne are to be seen jewels—diamonds and emeralds, pearls and sapphires, turquoises and rubies—set in with lavish profusion. At one side of the throne stands a chair on which the Shah is crowned, a chair heavy with gold foil and set with delicate and lovely pearls, graduated in all sizes.

But the gold foil of the chair is fastened on with common tacks! And the pearls are graduated. And on the throne the precious stones are side by side with semi-precious stones. An emerald may be cheek by jowl with the cheapest sort of flawed ruby. And even the best of the stones are badly cut, absurdly cut.

Symbolic, the whole thing seemed to me, of the state of Persia—the glory and lawdriness, lavishness and waste, riches and poverty.

RUMOUR UNFOUNDED.—There is absolutely no truth in the rumour circulated recently and stating that the Majestic Theatre was to be sold to another moving picture concern. The Majestic was formed into a limited company some months ago, the shareholders being Messrs. O'Neill, Coady and Whitten. All of these gentlemen deny all knowledge of the rumour.

Holy Cities.

Allabad is the holy city of the Indian Mohammedans. Benares is the holy city of the Hindus, as is Cuzco that of the ancient Incas. Jerusalem is the holy city of the Jews and Christians. Mecca, Medina and Damascus have first place in the affections of the Mohammedans.

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR DAND.
RUFF

TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

D'ANNUNZIO WOUNDED.
PARIS, Dec. 28.
Newspaper reports declared wound suffered by Captain D'Annunzio was received when fragment of shell dropped on his headquarters.

THE WOMEN TAKE A HAND.
ANCONA, Dec. 28.
Italian troops, attempting to dislodge Legionaries at Zera, were hindered by women, who formed a line in front of them and screamed, "Kill us first and then you can exterminate volunteers."

SEVERE STORM ON FRENCH COAST.
BREST, Dec. 28.
Storm of utmost violence is raging along Western coast of France. Sea very heavy even in roads of Brest harbor where vessel was sunk last night.

CALL TO CURTAIL NAVAL EXPENDITURE.
LONDON, Dec. 28.
Calls for Great Britain, Japan and United States to curtail naval expenditures by mutual agreement, were featured by London newspapers this morning. In following this course the journals give expression to the anxiety which prevailed here since receipt of reports of United States naval programme, an anxiety which may be traced to assumption that if United States builds big navy, Britain must do likewise.

COUNTRESS SENTENCED.
DUBLIN, Dec. 28.
Countess Gerogina Markevitch, who was tried by court martial on charge of organizing Sinn Fein Boy Scouts, a seditious society, was to-day sentenced to two years hard labor in prison.

DIGBY AT HALIFAX; HAD ROUGH VOYAGE.
HALIFAX, Dec. 28.
After encountering heavy weather, which delayed her for some hours, the Furber line Digby arrived here at eight o'clock this morning from Liverpool, via St. John's, Nfld. She had three passengers from the former port and one from St. John's.

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dec27,51

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