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### LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Dec. 23, 1918.

MR. DOUGLAS HAIG.

It is difficult to write about Sir Haig, for his qualities, everyone feels them, cannot be put in any easy and popular market one can get to it, would be to say that, while a great genius for war like his is equally a master of his work—the incarnation of work—imperturbable, even irritatingly right, with a gift for simplification. He is himself to be hustled and is to be overworked, and the tremendous strain fallen hardest on him in his operations he has always been able to see things in their perspective and never lost sight. His candid friends are hard to say of him that his notable military career in his early regimental allocation he was first gazetted to regiment he did not take mess routine, and finding regimentally a little "out of himself, at a time when careers were not too seriously to take their profession very seriously. Be that as it may, the cavalcade come to look upon only with intense pride and special affection. But as he is even to-day in the line and thrust of the head, and his Scottish caution all his, and that caution and the western front have been match for General Allenby on the east. Turk and German for different treatment. He is a man of politics, and nothing to him take any part in the which seem to centre round generals since Marlborough's

WE SAY COLONEL!

Demobilisation shall we, in the Great War by his military and when in doubt say or will the new army officer to resume the "Mr." with "Our national reticence

prompts the latter course, but I note that cadets still in training are to be given the opportunity of completing their course and passing into the Reserve of Officers which would make them permanently commissioned. One presumes that as much will be offered to the patriotic men now holding temporary commissions. The right to their military title, if they choose to use it, will not cost the country anything. Cadets who do not wish to complete their course, by the way, are to return to the ranks and await their demobilisation in the ordinary course.

#### TRAINING WAR BRIDES.

Three or four months' training in housewifery and infant welfare, with a maintenance allowance during that time more or less equal to the ordinary munition out of work pay, is to be offered to all "war brides" in munition works, if the Government adopts the plan of the Women's Trades Union Advisory Council. There are 400,000 girl munition workers who hope to make homes soon for soldier or sailor husbands, and the Government is urged to train them for home life rather than let them congest the labor market. No munition hostels are being closed at present, and girls taking this course will be allowed to live in hostels or to come daily to training centres from Midland munition towns like Coventry. Thousands of Scotch and Irish girls are now going home, and welfare officers are arranging that their travel shall be comfortable. In London people are asking about the future of the Whitehall girl clerks. I understand that all girls at the Ministry of Munitions earning under £160 a year are entitled to the out-of-work allowance. Even the little girl messengers, of whom the Ministry employed 1,000, will receive twelve shillings and sixpence weekly for the stipulated three months, provided they attend continuation classes.

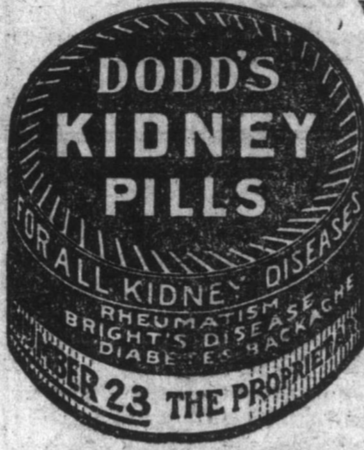
#### THE BATTLE CRUISER IDEA.

A writer in an evening's newspaper professes to be at a loss to know why

the Queen Mary, the Indefatigable and the Invincible went down at the battle of Jutland, and suggests that in some naval circles there is a tendency to regard the causes as deeply mysterious. Both the battle cruiser idea and the turns which its embodiment have taken from the laying down of the Invincible to the laying down of the Warspite and the Renown have no doubt had some hostile critics. But, so far as I know, the loss of the Invincible, the Indefatigable, and the Queen Mary has never been regarded by naval architects or authoritative commentators on naval affairs as in the least degree mysterious. Ships of the type may have definite tactical functions in battle, but they are not, and never were intended to lie in the line. Something has to be sacrificed in a ship for high speed, and in this case it is armoured protection. Obviously there is nothing in the suggestion that the three lost ships were the first of their kind, and therefore in a sense experimental. The Invincible certainly was the first, but the Indefatigable was our fourth and the Queen Mary our ninth.

#### ANOTHER SUNDAY PAPER.

The embargo on new newspapers having been lifted, the first of them since the prohibition will make its appearance on December 29. This is the "Sunday Express," which is being produced by the "Daily Express" people. Lord Beaverbrook, who was until recently Minister of Information, is understood to have a big interest in the business and to be putting his personal energies into the new venture. It is a rather curious fact that, while two daily papers (the "Standard" and the "Citizen") disappeared in the war, the new publications are all Sunday papers. The "National News," the "Evening Telegram," the "Sunday Pictorial," and the "Sunday Herald" were all started during the war. The "Sunday Express" will make the fifth. Furthermore, an old established Sunday paper in London is said to be reorganising itself as a picture journal on the lines of the "Sunday Herald" and the "Sunday Pictorial." The title of a famous London daily paper is also likely to be revived in the new year for a new venture backed by a strong firm. Other papers are also being arranged for, and there is especially a rash of new trade journals, the first corners



amongst these being generally devoted to boosting certain foreign countries as openings for British enterprises. One, for example, is called "Morocco" whilst another is devoted to Russia.

#### FURNITURE PRICES COMING DOWN.

Furniture, new and second-hand, soared in prices to tremendous heights during the war. The cessation of imports and the restrictions which war exigencies placed on manufacture, very quickly resulted in a big reduction of stocks, particularly of new articles, and a great fall was given to the second-hand trade. Either because of the scarcity of new furniture, or on account of the high figures demanded for the remaining articles, people who in other circumstances would not have dreamt of buying second-hand were compelled to resort to the dealers in order to secure articles which were necessary. The air raids and the demands of military service led to the closing of many dwellings and the disposal of the household goods. Small fortunes were made in record time, goods being resold in a few days at fabulous profit. Now, however, the circumstances have suddenly changed; many dealers have ceased to buy old furniture, and prices are falling largely, it would appear, because manufacture is expected to begin again at once on a large scale. There will, it seems likely, be a good market for moderately priced articles of durable quality in view of the thousands of men returning from the Army who will be setting up house for the first time. But the profiteering of the second-hand dealer will not continue much longer.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS AS A "CASINO."

Structural alterations on a somewhat extensive scale are being undertaken at the Palace of Westminster during the interval between the Parliaments, in order to meet various feminine demands. Before the dissolution there were contemplated mainly as affecting the admission of women as "strangers," but now that they are certain to be in attendance as members, the changes will need to be more extensive. The extremely confined space in which the House of Commons is built presents enormous difficulties in the way of the Office of Works. The Legislative Chamber itself was never sufficiently large from its earliest design after the Great Fire of 1534 to give seating accommodation to the 558 members originally assumed to be provided for, or the 670 under the Redistribution Act of 1885. Now that the total is raised to 707, the inadequacy of the provision will be decidedly more apparent; but it is in the direction of the smoking rooms, tea rooms, and other "clubbable" parts of the palace that the officials are finding the greatest difficulty. A serious-minded member of the Gladstone Administration, in 1892, when Mr. Herbert (now Lord) Gladstone, as First Commissioner of Works, successfully endeavoured to improve the social amenities of the building, exclaimed in the lobby in a sombre tone: "My dear sir, the House of Commons is being turned into a casino." What he would have said if he had lived to see the changes now being undertaken one leaves to the imagination.

### Harbor Grace Notes.

Three of our citizens passed away this week. Mr. H. W. Oke, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Oke; Mr. Edgar Stevenson and Mrs. Wm. Hunt, of the West End. Mr. Oke was a great favorite with everybody. He was employed in the grocery store of Mr. E. Simmons, where by his cheerful disposition he made friends with all with whom he came in contact. "Hal," as he was always called by his friends, although not of robust disposition, possessed a strong heart and determined will, and battled bravely with all the ailments that came his way. He took a great interest in all general topics, and it was surprising with what ease he could converse on many general topics, for one of his years. The funeral took place this afternoon. General sympathy goes out to the sorrowing relatives.

Mrs. Louise Hunt, wife of our old townsman, Mr. W. Hunt, aged 66 years died on Wednesday, after a few weeks illness. The funeral took place this afternoon. The aged husband has the sympathy of all our citizens.

#### CORRESPONDENT.

Hr. Grace, Jan. 17, 1919.

#### Royal Bank to Raise 2,000,000 Stock at \$150.

Sir Herbert Holt, President, Announces New Stock Issue at Very Attractive Terms Considering That Present Stock is Now Quoted at \$214 a Share—Declaration of Future Policy.

Montreal, Jan. 20. (Special).—Sir Herbert S. Holt, president of the Royal Bank of Canada, announced at the annual meeting an increase of \$2,000,000 in the capital stock, to be allotted to the shareholders of record January 31st, at the rate of \$150 per share. In referring to this new issue, Sir Herbert intimated that, circumstances permitting, the policy of increasing the capital on attractive terms to the shareholders would be continued in future. The stock of the Royal Bank is now selling at \$214 a share.

#### Obituary.

MRS. M. C. BUTLER, ST. GEORGES.

Sundays express delayed by the furious storm, reached here on Tuesday, bearing the remains of Mrs. M. C. Butler who died in North Sydney, on the 11th inst. of heart failure. The body was accompanied by Miss Annie Butler, eldest daughter of the deceased lady, and was met at the railway station by numbers of friends, and many of the general public, who wished to pay their tribute of respect to the departed.

The casket was taken to the home of her son Captain Thomas Butler, where the wake was held for one night, then, after a solemn High Mass in the Cathedral, St. George's, the remains accompanied by the grieving relatives and many friends were taken over the ice to Sandy Point and there interred by the side of her husband. Mrs. Butler was a near relative of the late Capt. P. Delaney, who was well known to all Newfoundlanders. She was born at Bay Roberts, fifty-five years ago, and came to the West Coast with her husband, James

Butler, of Port-de-Grave, about 25 years ago. Mr. Butler engaged in the shoemaking business, and also kept a general store. Their home was constantly visited by Captain Delaney and the other officers of the Grand Lake, Volunteer, and other ships of the old Coastal Service. To those who are now living, this notice will recall a memory of these happy days. After this, came tragic days. The husband was drowned returning from a business visit to Halifax. The family moved to St. George's. A daughter, Maud, a lovely girl was cut down, just as she was budding into young womanhood. Then came the war, the dreadful agony of suspense, and then the certain news of the death of her splendid young son, Ignatius, in the awful slaughter of the 1st of July, 1916. From this blow, the mother never fully recovered.

When the family moved to North Sydney, the question of Death was only one of time.

Mrs. Butler needs no eulogy. Her life was one of service. To aid and help others with her alert brain and skillful hands was to her a religion. She always bore up bravely under her severe afflictions and even in moments of deepest grief, could forget self in aiding others. May she rest in peace.

To her relatives in Bay St. George, her sons, and Magistrate McDonnell's family—and to her daughters in Sydney the writer offers his sincerest sympathy.

A. J. O'R.

ICECUTTING.—Mr. A. Williams of Forest House, started cutting ice on the 1st of July, 1916. From this blow, the mother never fully recovered.

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notes of sympathy, or in any listed during her recent home—adv