

our neighbors are now paying less for their commodities we are forced to sit idly by and watch the already high prices mount still higher.

OIL AS FUEL FOR DREADNAUGHTS.

For years one of the biggest questions confronting the British Admiralty was associated with fuel. The authorities recognized that oil possessed many advantages over coal, but were deterred from using it as a substitute owing to their inability to control sufficient oil reserves. A few days ago, an oil burning Dreadnaught the "Queen Elizabeth" was launched, being the first of its type to be constructed by Great Britain. This ship is regarded as the most powerful Super-dreadnaught afloat and is expected to attain a speed much greater than that possessed by any other war ship.

The fact that the British Admiralty has decided to use oil as a substitute for coal is of the highest importance. For years, the British Admiralty indulged in a feverish search for oil fields which they could control, but until very recently, their search was fruitless. Up to the present time, the amount of oil consumed by British naval ships amounted to but 200,000 tons; trifling when compared with the world's production of nearly 48,000,000 tons. It is expected now that the consumption of oil by British men-of-war will be largely increased. The researches carried on by the British Government have resulted in the discovery and development of valuable oil fields in Burmah and some other outlying parts of the Empire. However, up to the present time, Burmah has been the chief source of the British supply, that Province producing 99%, or 7,055,000 barrels out of the total British output of 7,116,000 barrels. The Canadian field has been looked over by the Imperial authorities, but our production of but 243,000 barrels last year does not present a very encouraging outlook from an Imperial navy standpoint.

The Scottish shale deposits now being developed are producing from 400,000 to 500,000 tons per year, which will become a very valuable asset.

At the present time, the United States, Russia and Mexico, in the order named, rank as the world's chief producers of oil. Last year, the output of oil in the United States reached a total of 222,538,000 barrels, or approximately 70% of the world's output. Russia produces in the neighborhood of 70,000,000 barrels. Mexico, which ranks third as an oil producing country with 16,000,000 barrels undoubtedly possesses very extensive deposits but production has been handicapped by the recent political trouble peculiar to that Republic. The other great oil producing countries are Roumania, Austria-Hungary, and the Dutch East Indian Islands.

In the United States, there are now nine battle-ships built, or being built, which use oil in combination with coal. There are in addition some forty destroyers which are exclusively oil burning ships. The indications are that Great Britain will follow the example of the United States and continue to build ships which will be propelled by oil instead of coal. The prospecting of possible fields by the British Government will be continued and, in addition. Great Britain will probably look upon oil in the same light as she now looks upon grain and will take steps to protect these commodities in time of war. In other words, it looks very much as if this was to be the age of oil.

Housing.*

By J. W. MACMILLAN.

A human being has long been supposed to consist of soul and body. Someone, perhaps after reading Sartor Resartus or attending a fashionable wedding, was moved to affirm, "Man consists of soul, body and clothes." But, in these last days, a newer and apter trichotomy is being disclosed, "Man consists of soul, body and living quarters." So intimate and penetrating is the influence of the house he lives in upon the inhabitant thereof that it may be said to be an integral part of his life.

At the National Conference of Charities and Corrections of 1908 one expert social worker, resident in Chicago, declared, "Two thirds of the delinquent children come from homes where dirty and ill-ventilated rooms predominate. Two thirds of the physically ill children from the same. One third of the mentally deficient from the same. One third of the shiftless mothers from the same. Two thirds of the deserting fathers from the same." This is not to say that bad housing is the one and only cause of these ills. It is but one of the vile polygamous brood from whom are born and bred the fell progeny of social ills. Not one of these dreadful children can identify its dreadful parents. But all the children are produced by all the parents. Not the least of these prolific parents is bad housing.

The average person spends half his time indoors. Add the hours of sleep and of eating, with incidental allowances, and you have that result. Certain classes, as homemakers, domestic, babies and invalids spend nearly all their time there. Increasingly large numbers of workers are engaged in indoor occupations, so that the shop, store, office of factory must be considered as part of the housing problem.

The Canadian climate may be patriotically described as the finest on earth. No doubt we make too little of it, and the zest of living would be heightened for us all if we had more sleeping porches and delighted more in God's out-of-doors. But the fact is that we are an indoor nation and likely to remain so. There is more sale for weather strips than for sleeping bags. Only during a few summer months do we take comfort in sitting or lying down outdoors. There is doubtless room for a fresh air propaganda which would relieve the pressure of the housing problem. But that has not yet come. In the meantime we live and die, for the most part, in houses. Are the houses of Canada fit to live and die in?

It is not altogether a problem of the congested city. What of lumber camps? Is it any wonder that small-pox hangs ever round them, where men lie in dark and

* The first of a series of articles on Human Welfare Work.