

## Sir W. Crookes Active Age of 83 Still a Worker

Sir William Crookes, who received the Order of Merit a few years ago, recently celebrated his 83rd birthday. Except that the pointed beard and mustache have become quite white, Sir William has altered in appearance astonishingly little since middle age. Still wonderfully active, he has just joined the new inventions board at the admiralty, is busily engaged on the Royal Society and Chemical Society's committees and is hard at work on scientific research. He is also president of the Royal Society, the greatest scientific body in the world.

Though he must have used his eyes as much as any man living, he can read without glasses print that would tax the sight of men of half his years. The other day, for example, he took, as an interesting test, the "smallest dictionary in the world," that curious little thumbnail work reduced by photography to the merest mite of a book. He read with ease lines that others, even with the aid of glasses, could scarcely distinguish.

**Due to Hard Work**  
Had this grand old man of science a message, one wondered, for those who are younger?

"I really cannot tell them," he said, "what to do. But I consider that a good deal of my own present feeling and position is due to the fact that I have always been working tolerably hard and always doing something I take great interest in and am enthusiastic about. That, I think, keeps one's mind healthy and in a good state, and tends to keep one going."

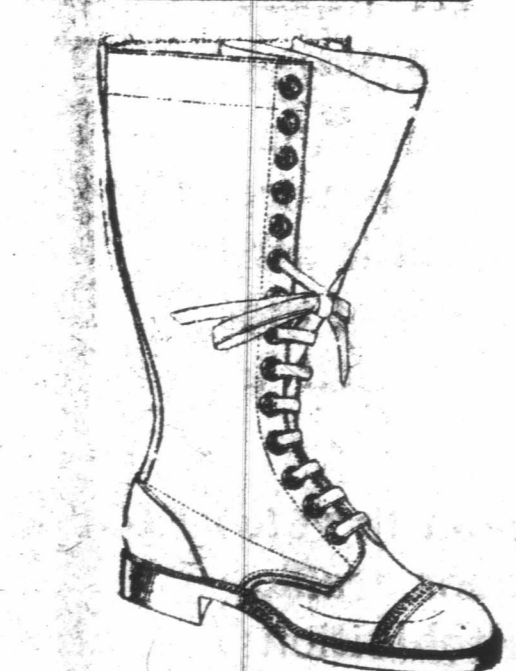
As to his appointment on the admiralty board of inventions, he said that he was asked some time ago if he would allow his name to be put down among others, and he accepted gladly.

"I cannot say," he replied to a question concerning the possibilities of great inventions for the navy, "for one must not prophesy; but when a number of scientific men are brought together and have a problem before them they are sure in some way or other to work it out. The difficulty in scientific research is to know exactly what is wanted. Once the problem is clearly stated, it is not very difficult to find the solution."

**Protection From Submarines**  
"So that, for example," he was asked, "one may hope for an invention that will protect vessels from submarines?"

"Yes," he replied, "I think so. Any number of suggestions have already been made, and there is a prospect that something may come of them. Of course," he added, "with regard to the utility of such an invention during the progress of the war slightly different construction, it may take a long time. But then we can-

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## Movement To Free Jews Of Russia

More than 300 delegates from Hebrew organizations over the country assembled at Cooper Union last night to launch a movement for the emancipation of the Jew in Russia after the war. A throng of 2,500 Jewish sympathizers welcomed the delegates, who will convene for business today. Their work will be to formulate a plan to induce the United States Government to demand equal rights for the Jew at the peace congress of nations expected to be held after the war.

The reception at Cooper Union was almost marred early in the meeting when a faction of Zionists demanded the platform for one of their number. He was Bernard Zuckerman, and was on the list of speakers, but he insisted to the chairman, A. L. Shipplacoff, that he needed more than the allotted five minutes in which to deliver his address. Mr. Shipplacoff refused to extend his time, and Zuckerman started to leave the platform.

His exit was the occasion of an outburst of protest from Zionists, and Mr. Shipplacoff rebuked them; but they would have taken the meeting out of his control if Meyer London had not come to his assistance. Mr. London scolded the unruly ones, and they finally subsided.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the National Workmen's Committee on Jewish Rights. Delegates were present from all Jewish centres of the country with the avowed purpose of considering the Jewish problem as it will present itself in Europe and in Russia, especially after the war. The hope to relieve the Jew from oppression with the aid of the United States and by arousing international Socialist organizations.

President Wilson and Congress will be asked to act on a precedent established at the Congress of Berlin in 1878, when Rumania was recognized as an independent power only on condition that it grant equal political, civil and national rights to all the races living within its borders.

Congressman Walter N. Chandler of the Nineteenth Congress District who was one of the speakers last night, urged even more extreme measures if Russia fails to grant Jewish emancipation.

"In my opinion," declares Mr. Chandler, "the representative of the United States will send to this peace congress ought to demand that these people be protected to the limit. If they are not, he ought to say that the Government will call into service every soldier and every gun to insure the protection of the Jewish people in those nations where they are being subjected to outrageous oppression."

Meyer London spoke upon the condition of the Jew in Russia. He said the opening session of the Duma brought forth a hopeful expression of sympathy from several prominent deputies. He said both the Church and the Social Democratic Party had failed dismally in preventing the war but it was to be hoped that they would quite finally in a demand for peace.

Not say not how long the war is going to last. My own view is that it will be a matter of exhaustion for one side or the other, and I think we can stand the strain longer than the enemy."

On his own discoveries Sir William did not care to dwell. "That is for others to judge," he said when asked what he considered to be the greatest of them all.

"I have had a good deal to do," he agreed, "with certain things that are playing some part in the present war, but others have done more, much more, and have gone farther."

**Wireless and X-Rays**  
One recalls, indeed, a remarkable article in the Fortnightly Review almost a quarter of a century ago in which he clearly foreshadowed "the bewildering possibility of telegraphy without wires, posts, cables or any of our present costly appliances," and showed how it could be worked.

Then there are the X-rays. Some persons have given him the credit of their discovery. The real facts, however, he explained are these:

"I was at work on a very similar subject in my laboratory that was leading up to them, but they were brought up by Roentgen and Lenard. "No doubt, if I had been able to give a few more months to the subject I should have been successful, but just as I was on the point of getting results I was called away on a scientific mission to South Africa. While I was there my assistant in England sent me a letter containing an account of the discovery. He started working upon it in the laboratory and sent me some photographs of the kind of skeleton hands that one sees under the X-rays. That was all I had to do with the discovery. The others deserve the credit for they did the work. I missed it, and there is no credit in missing a thing when it is in front of one's nose."

A man who invests his money in oil stocks is a well wisher.

## DIGGING LINES TO BAR ANY MOVE ON CALAIS

Near Neuport, Sept. 13 (via Paris, Sept. 14).—Artillery actions in the triangle formed by Dunkirk, Neuport, and Ypres have figured conspicuously in the official communications of the past week, but so farflung is the battle line that it requires that one be in the secrets of the General Staff or possess the knowledge of observers in biplanes or anchored balloons to determine where such activity is likely to be encountered.

On a day when the official statement referred to activity in the vicinity of Neuport, Steenstrate, and Boesinghe, an Associated Press correspondent motored here, there and everywhere in the territory, seeing and hearing bursting shells, but never getting within a mile of one. In a sadly demolished, uninhabited Belgian village an officer said:

"Yes, they bombard this place daily, usually about 2 o'clock."

With booming audible ahead, that was too long to wait, and the correspondent's car was driven on.

As he was concealed in the undergrowth on a high dune further along the line his glasses revealed the German lines, from which there came occasional white puffs from bursting shrapnel. Officers near by him were picking out of the sand pieces of a shell that had burst yesterday. Then a visit was paid to the spot where was concealed a big gun that already had done some firing.

"When are you going to fire again?" was asked of the Lieutenant. "Whenever they telephone, telling us what the range is and how many shots to fire," was the reply.

Artillery warfare in this sector is as casual a proceeding as the routine of a New York business office.

The big gun looked as peaceful as an old civil war cannon on a village green, and so it remained until a directing officer in the rear received reports of aerial observers, and by mathematical calculations, based on their photographs, outlined the next action. The individual artilleryist has no more idea of the result of his activity than a wireless operator transmitting electric sparks into the atmosphere.

Watching the artillery battle from the dune was like listening to the racket of a Fourth of July celebration in the next town. The reality of war is seized only when companies of soldiers return from the trenches saying, for instance, that they lost no men but that their neighbors had lost sixteen, or when an American ambulance chauffeur greets one on the roadside with, "There is no need to hurry; the man inside died before we could reach the hospital."

Even such an artillery action as that which today is the sole subject of the official communication does not serve to interfere with farming in this busy corner of Belgium. Peasants were working in the field nearer the German lines than army officers declared to be safe, even for troops, unless necessity sent them.

Within the sound of the artillery, French, Belgian, and British soldiers lie by thousands in hospitals, the capacity of which ranges from one with 2,000 beds down to one with 200, such as the one managed by Mrs. Mary Borden-Turner, of Chicago.

Whole brigades of soldiers are constructing second, third, and fourth line trenches back of the lines, and covering acre after acre with barbed wire.

For one soldier fighting, fifty evidently are working at intrenching, building roads, laying tracks, and building bridges in preparation to prevent a German advance through a country where every soldier is confident the Germans will never penetrate.

## "Swimming" His Way To China

Brantford, Sept. 14.—Harry Welsh, the one-legged swimmer of the Brantford Y.M.C.A., who is "swimming to China," has arrived at San Francisco. Upon his arrival at Shanghai he will become assistant to J. H. Crocker, the former Toronto and Brantford Y.M.C.A. physical director, who has developed some good Chinese athletes, notably sprinters. Mr. Crocker was preparing to take a Chinese team to the Olympic games at Berlin, arrangements for which have been upset by the war.

Welsh has been giving swimming exhibitions to pay his expenses en route. He escaped from a hostile band of Mexican revolutionists while performing in Mexico.

Often a man is not on speaking terms with his wife because she takes up all the time.

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