

British and Foreign

CRAZE FOR CHEAPNESS.
On the authority of one in the boot trade, every shop girl in London prefers shapely brown paper and a permanent cold in the head to the old-fashioned leather conviction of all classes. Here, perhaps, is the cause of Mr. Howell's recent complaint that all the poorer classes in England were afflicted with catarrh.—H. W. in The Outlook.

A TOUGH OLD BIRD.
If still the Sultan takes no heed, But keeps defiant, bold and perky, There's fear the Powers may have need At Christmas time to baste their Turkey! —The World.

ALL EYES ON ENGLAND.
We are on the eve of an historical battle to be fought by Great Britain. All the other powers will follow the contest with the greatest interest, for the verdict cannot fail to influence to very great degree the statesmen and economists of other countries who will soon be called upon to solve the identical question.—Piccolo della Sera, Naples.

MENACE OF THE TALL HAT.
Top hats are most dangerous. They confer upon their wearers a false air of virtue and trustworthiness, and enable them to perpetrate all sorts of villainies.—Weekly Dispatch.

IS EXERCISE OVER-RATED.
The tendency is to take too much exercise rather than too little. If you pay too much attention to the development of the body, the intellect and the soul will suffer.—Dr. Kingcote in Grand Magazine.

MR. JOHN BURNS.
The President of the Local Government Board has now the opportunity of his life. It is his first Ministerial appointment. His training on the L.C.C. should at any rate have made him familiar with various aspects of his new duties, and one of the earliest tasks will be to face the problem of the unemployed. In private he is popular, even among those whom he rebuses, for he constantly overshoots the mark.

STATESMAN AS WORKING CARPENTER.
Advises by the Australian mail state that the Hon. W. D. Johnson (who successively filled the posts in the late labor ministry of Western Australia, Minister for Railways, Minister for Pub-

lic Works and Water Supply and Acting Premier and Colonial Treasurer) has resumed his trade as a working carpenter in Kalgoolie, after losing his seat for that town. Mr. Johnson, who was six years in Parliament, and is now aged forty, cheerfully informed a newspaper interviewer that he was certain the return to manual labor would prove beneficial to him physically. Besides, he was as poor now as when he entered Parliament, and had been obliged to return to his trade to support his wife and family.

London, Jan. 1.—The Alien Act, passed at the last session of Parliament, came into force to-day. The first effect of the new law was that the immigration officers refused to permit the landing of twenty-four of forty-two immigrants from Germany.

The net result of all the changes in wages in Great Britain during the month of July, according to a London Board of Trade report, was an increase amounting to over \$22,000 a week. More than 183,000 wage workers were affected by the changes. About 137,000 received advances, while 46,000 sustained decreases.

In Victoria, Australia, all furniture, whether imported or manufactured, must be stamped with the maker's name and address, and such stamp must indicate whether the furniture was made by European or Chinese labor.

Mr. Sam. Woods, formerly a Labor M. P., but now in very delicate health, has been granted a pension of 30s. a week by the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation.

PREMIER AND UNEMPLOYED.
The deputation of workmen of London which waited on the Prime Minister, consisted of Mr. H. Quelch, chairman of the London Trades Council; Mr. James Macdonald, secretary of that body, and Alderman Banks of Poplar.

The deputation said the Unemployed Act was a mere machinery measure—it wanted the fuel and motive power—and they asked the Prime Minister whether he was prepared to take steps to get from the National Exchequer the means by which the act could be put into more effective operation. They urged that charity was inadequate.

The Prime Minister replied that they took him a little at a disadvantage, because he had just come into office and the Cabinet had not yet even met. He and his colleagues had, of course, the interest in the matter which came from reading the newspapers and watching

events; but they would now endeavor to obtain the assistance of the department in acquiring acquaintance with the view of the question from the side of official responsibility, and until that was acquired, it would be impossible for him to make any definite reply. He thought there was great force in all that the deputation had said as to the inadequacy of public charity, its danger in attracting people to congested centres, and the inexpediency of depending wholly upon it, however much we might admire and approve the action of those who contributed so generously. The might be sure that the Government would approach the question not only with keen sympathy, which was common to all of us, but with a desire to discover the sources of the evil and to prevent its recurrence.

Mr. John Burns said that the deputation might rest assured that during the very limited time that he had been at his present post he, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, had approached both the act, the regulations and the suggested amendment thereof with sympathy and with a practical desire to put promptly in motion what administrative agencies were already in existence and were under the control of the Local Government Board. The regulations were at this moment being commented upon by district committees and communications were being received at the Local Government Board thereon. The deputation might rest assured that whatever was possible, having regard to the limited powers of the Local Government Board, would be sympathetically and promptly carried out.

MAMMOTH CHRISTMAS CAKE.

A mammoth Christmas cake was made at a shop in Leytonstone, standing seven feet high and weighing 1,660 pounds. It is a model of "Barking Windmill," and the ingredients of its manufacture are 152 pounds butter, 152 pounds sugar, 325 pounds flour, 110 pounds raisins, 110 pounds currants, 110 pounds Sultanas, 3,000 eggs, 110 pounds peel, 40 pounds chopped almonds, 15 quarts milk, 100 pounds icing sugar and 120 pounds almond pastry.

LABORERS IN AUSTRALIA BADLY PAID.

A correspondent to the Daily Mail (England), writes that agricultural laborers are not paid so much as those in Britain. Australian prosperity since the break-up of the drought several months ago has increased by leaps and bounds. Some statistics sent us on Saturday by the Agent-General for Victoria show that his colony was never so flourishing as

now. Of the private wealth of Australia, amounting to \$982,000,000, Victoria claims \$311,000,000, which is an increase of \$2,500,000 over the previous twelve months. The total savings of the people of Victoria deposited in the banks amounts to no less a sum than \$50,000,000. Victoria exported during the year 1904 goods to the value of nearly \$23,000,000, whilst her production for the same period was valued at over \$31,500,000. Of this dairying and pastoral represents \$10,494,308, and manufactures \$9,185,238.

Henry Burnett, a representative of Chief Engineer Stevens, of the Panama Canal zone, arrived at Kingston, Jamaica, to engage several thousand laborers for work on the canal.

UNEMPLOYED.

At one end of a bench between the Blackfriars and Waterloo bridges crouched a boy of twenty and his wife, a girl of eighteen. Every few minutes the boy would be torn with a fit of coughing. The girl's arms were about him, for the shoulders of both were wrapped in her poor, thin shawl.

Big Ben boomed sullenly the hour of two, and a little later they heard the steady, strong tread of an approaching policeman. He stopped in front of their bench with the usual, "Now then! Come on!"

"Why can't yer let us be?" grumbled the boy.
"Shut yer mouth!" said the girl quickly, and, taking him by the arm, she dragged him along the gloomy, wind-swept pavement.

"Gawd, fer a drop o' gin!" said the boy.
The girl made no reply. She was thinking that it was the gin that had brought them to this. She was wrong. A feeble constitution, a feeble brain, and a feeble character were the inheritance that her husband had received from his parents. From the day of his birth the drink fiend had marked him for his own.

They stepped near Westminster bridge and the boy, leaning his arms on the parapet, stared at the shining water.
"Wish I'd got the pluck, old gal!"
"Don't talk silly, Jim. Come on!"
He refused to move; the river fascinated him. "Wish I'd got the pluck," he repeated, "on'y it looks ser bloomin' parky. An' there's another thing."
He looked at her sideways, ashamed.
"What's that?" she asked, shivering as she heard the noise of the waves swirling across the lower steps.
"You 'as ter go alone," said the boy.

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Arthur W. Holmes John Argue
Miss M. Carlyle Mrs. J. R. Brown


Their Office is in the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, ground floor. Any one having business with them, or desiring to know anything in regard to the Act under which they are employed, will please address them as above.

NELSON, MONTEITH,
Minister of Agriculture.

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