

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Aug. 13, 1917.

NO SPORT FOR THE KING.

I understand that the King and Queen will follow their war practice again this year and will refrain from visiting Balmoral, as was their invariable pre-war custom. They will not stay in town, but will go for a period to Windsor Castle, where His Majesty will be within easy reach of the seat of Government, and whence he can get to London in well under an hour should his presence be required. Incidentally, the King sets a splendid example in the matter of war-time self-denial. There is no keener sportsman than he, and few are more expert with the gun. He formerly enjoyed keenly his Sandringham and Windsor shooting and his salmon fishing in Scotland, but there will be no shooting this year. A Court official stated some months ago that not a single pheasant was, then to be found on the Sandringham estate.

AN ALL-SATURDAY SHOP HOLIDAY

The drapers' assistants of London are hoping that the example just set by two big firms of making Saturday a full holiday will spread. It is likely that many drapers' shops will follow the lead, but there are many difficulties in the way of the Saturday closing of shops that sell food and other perishable things. For this reason the multiple stores could not close all Saturday. The two firms concerned have adopted this as the best way of responding to the Coal Controller's appeal to business houses to cut down their consumption of fuel and light, as it costs them nearly as much to light and heat the shops for the half-day as it does for a full week-day. The saving of coal, gas and electricity will be very large. The change is to be put into operation at once, so as to give the staffs the full benefit of the holiday during the fine weather, and it is satisfactory to learn that there is to be no reduction in pay as a consequence. Saturday morning is not a very busy time at the West End of London, drapers' shops, many of whose customers have the week-end habit.

WOMEN IN WAR-TIME.

The most extraordinary outcome of the three war years, as far as women are concerned, was undoubtedly the formation of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps under the direction of the War Office. These thousands of women, working in base-towns abroad as army clerks, cooks, chauffeurs, or storekeepers, wear army uniforms, take the soldier's oath of allegiance, live under military discipline, are lodged and rationed by the army, cheerfully put up with rough army accommodation, and are doing such excellent work that the army urgently desires more women recruits. Mrs. Chalmers Watson, the woman at their head, is one of a group of highly placed women whose appointments have signalled an entire change in the Government's attitude to women and its recognition that women are the best directors of women's work. The first appointment was that of Miss Talbot as Director of the Women's Land Army, and this was immediately followed by the appointment of Mrs. Tennant as Director of the Women's Section of National Service, with Miss Violet Markham as her chief assistant, and other expert

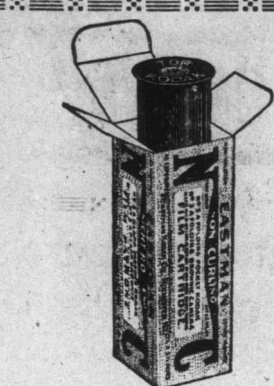
women as directors in Scotland and Ireland. The astonishing ability and energy displayed by women in such unexpected fields as the engineering parts of munition work and in ship-building have been fully demonstrated, and it is on record that one expert has declared that with the aid of women alone he could now build a battleship. Perhaps the most significant result of women's war work is to be found in the Women's Land Army, for a determined attempt will be made to retain and settle trained women on the land after the war is over. In the record of courage, endurance, and devotion shown by women in strange perils one recalls the scientist who inoculated herself with gangrene, the women in the cellar house at Pervyse who work always under fire, the chauffeurs in France, Serbia, Rumania and Russia, and munition workers staunch and collected under Zeppelin menace or in face of explosions.

ON LEAVE.

A new holiday pleasure in London is to watch the arrival of the leave trains, and the endless processions of battle-worn, travel-stained men who pour out of the station at Victoria. The crowd that stretches from the station entrance almost to the gates does not think of cheering, but it reads the regimental badges, nods approval at special names, criticises the men's appearance, and very rarely gets any response to an individual greeting. These men are straight from the heart of the battle or from the very shadow of the guns. They are loaded down with the heavy kit, their dented helmets crown the hump or dangle by their sides. They are clean. They have removed most of the Planders mud from their clothes, and though evidently dog-tired they look very fit; but their eyes have a strained, bewildered look, and one imagines the din of that frightful bombardment is still in their ears. They have one determination—to get to the pay office and then entrain for home, and as they hurry along in groups of twenty or so their eyes are fixed on their leader, some slip of a khaki girl. The Women's Reserve Ambulance has established a chain of volunteers at points along the road, and passes them from one to another as amateurs pass buckets at a fire, shepherding them past provenders who lie in wait and past confusing corners. The sight of some huge Guardsmen led by a girl in khaki but very business-like and efficient guide greatly amuses the crowd, who hardly realise that she may thus shepherd several thousand men a day. "Who's your guide, Len?" a soldier looking on will shout, and the Grenadier points contentedly at the girl, who smiles to herself. For the men appreciate the guidance, and in the tangle of street traffic exert each other urgently to "stick to her." The corps to which these girls belong has done much fine ambulance work in Zeppelin and aeroplane raids.

REVIVAL OF ARMOUR.

Interest is revived in the question of the utility of armour on the modern battlefield by the announcement that some of the German prisoners captured in the past few days wore steel breastplates. The armour consists of three plates—one padded at the breast, covering the front of the body from the throat to the lower ribs, and two smaller plates giving



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protection below the abdomen. Apparently the only German troops so equipped are the "snack" troops, machine gunners, and the garrisons of exposed posts. Two years ago Germans were found to be wearing a protective device consisting of scales of thin steel plate about 1-16 of an inch thick, attached to a garment of wire gauze, but this experiment proved an insufficient protection and caused terrible wounds. Details of the new armour are lacking, but it has been stated that a steel plate not less than a quarter of an inch thick, and weighing 7½ pounds per square foot, is necessary to stop a rifle bullet at a distance of 80 yards, and that the weight of such armour rules it out as impracticable. The new German armour is described as heavy in the hand, but not too heavy when worn. Many patterns of breastplates have from time to time been submitted to the military authorities of the Allies, but none to be worn by combatants has been found really practicable. One of the difficulties, apart from the weight of the armour, is that even with very substantial matting of the breastplate the impact of a bullet at short range would knock the wearer down and cause a severe bruise.

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Aequit Eskimo of Murder Charge.

After One Hour's Retirement Jury Brings in Verdict of "Not Guilty."

Edmonton, Aug. 17.—Sinnisiak, the Coppermine Eskimo, brought a distance of 2,200 miles from shores of the Arctic Ocean to answer to a charge of murdering Father Rouviere in 1915, was acquitted at 1.10 to-day. The jury was in retirement one hour before returning and making the announcement through their foreman, Jas. W. Mould, "not guilty."

Uluksuk, a fellow-villager of Sinnisiak's, who is charged with the murder of Father Rouviere, will be tried on Tuesday next. The trial of Sinnisiak, which has been in progress since last Tuesday morning, was brought to a conclusion by the addresses of C. C. McCaul, K.C., crown prosecutor, J. E. Wallbridge, K.C., counsel for the defence, and the chief justice of Alberta, who presided. Cross-examination of the accused was waived by Mr. McCaul, who announced that Sinnisiak's testimony corresponded in every detail to the confessions made at Bernard Harbor, when the preliminary hearing took place before Inspector C. D. La Nauze, R.N.W.M.P.

In summing up, his lordship said the fact that the accused was a poor, ignorant benighted pagan did not stand in the way of him receiving all the protection afforded by Canadian law. An eminent counsel had been retained for him by the Dominion of Canada and a jury of exceptionally in-

telligent men empanelled. But, it must be remembered that the prisoner is subject to the law, a law which does not state that because a man does not know he is doing wrong, he should not be punished.

Prisoner's Confession.

The chief justice pointed out that the entire case revolved itself around the prisoner's confession, in which the killing was admitted, and it was the jury's task to determine whether the act was culpable or justifiable homicide. There was no evidence that Father Rouviere had ever threatened the Eskimos, making a plea of self-defence out of the question.

Before closing the chief justice stated that he would be unwilling to see the death penalty handed out to this man, and in event of a verdict of murder being received, would be bound to recommend that the sentence of death be not carried out.

J. E. Wallbridge, for the defence, said it would have been kinder to have visited the Eskimo retribution of stabbing upon Sinnisiak immediately upon his arrest, than to have brought him out for trial, for the man has withstood perjury since being subjected to the warm climate. He did not know the men were priests; he only knew they were white men with rifles to be feared.

The killing took place through fear. It was not premeditated, for if the Eskimos had wished to take the lives of the priests there was no better opportunity than the previous night when all four slept together in a little snowhouse on the ice. In closing, Mr. Wallbridge said it would be the greatest crime in the world's history to condemn Sinnisiak to death for doing something he thought absolutely necessary, and which he had made no effort to conceal. The only evidence against him was his own statement of the crime.

The Gas Range!

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A good method of keeping butter from turning rancid in hot weather is to put it in brine. Take a jar and put water in, then add salt until you have a brine strong enough to float a potato. Put the butter in the jar, cover, and keep in a cool place.

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AT

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Artists and the War.

A friend of mine writes from Paris that one day, while driving through the forest of St. Germain, he came upon a convoy going to the front—six big 155 mm. guns "dragged by motors and all the personnel and ammunition tractioned by motor also, that automobiles of very strange aspect. They were painted in chromes and greens and blues and purples to represent rocks and trees and leaves and shrubs like scenery so as to be completely dissimulated from the enemy. My companion said. Regardez comme ils sont bien camouflés, and I said, "Well, I am glad that at last they are making use of the talent of the painters in a practical way."

Last summer, just after the battle of the Somme this same friend met a man he knew, the head of one of the great designing houses of Paris, wearing his uniform and proudly displaying on his breast, his croix du guerre avec palmes, the highest military honor. "You are back on leave?" he asked. "Yes and no," was the reply. "I am at present on post near Paris. I am camouflageur."

from a small forest, but lying straight and white over the fields, was closely watched. It became most important to get some big guns and many men over this road and into position by the 1st of July. So the camouflageurs got very busy and painted "three kilometres of white roadway bordered with green, and when the enemy aviators arose to reconnoitre they reported "nothing moving on the road from Amiens" while all day long for five long days, a continuous line of

artillery and thousands of troops passed under the painted roadway to take their assigned places for the great attack. So you see that we painters are worth something after all, and that this canvas was the result of genius as well as genius!"—From "Special Service for Artists in War Time," by Ernest Peixotto, in the Scribner.

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