

### CHAMBERLAIN'S APPOINTMENT SAID TO BE BEST UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES

His Promotion to High Post  
Rapid; Topics of Empire  
Capital.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)  
London, August 30.—Mr. Neville Chamberlain is to be the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir William Joynson Hicks succeeds him at the Ministry of Health with Mr. Davidson, the Chancellor of the Duchy, giving such parliamentary assistance as may be necessary to the treasury. Efforts to accommodate Mr. McKenna or Sir Robert Horne alike failed for different reasons. Mr. Chamberlain's appointment is accepted as the best possible in the circumstances, although the more long-sighted with Party unity at heart would have preferred his brother. The new Chancellor of the Exchequer has been in parliament less than five years, so that his promotion in times other than those of war is altogether noteworthy. But, apart from parliament, he has had a tremendous experience in public affairs, and there is no doubting his exceptional ability. Parliamentary savoir faire will come with experience.

**A British Telegraph Rate.**  
To Lord Blyth in his campaign for restoring the penny post may a humble but interested spectator suggest that he should join with it a campaign for a universal British penny telegram

rate. I mean that it should be made possible to send a telegram to any part of the British Empire at a cost of a penny per word. This may startle those who have paid three shillings a word to telegraph to Australia, but after all if the dominions and possessions are given the penny halfpenny rate of the old country for postage (with a lessened weight) why should they not be given also the old country's telegraph rate (it may be with an increased minimum)? If we recognize a common telegraph rate for the man at John O'Groats, and in Whitechapel, it is not illogical to ask one also for all Britishers overseas. This has long been a cherished project of Imperialists who recognize what it means to Imperial sentiment and trade. The war interfered with the progress of the movement, but now that we are on the eve of the conference of Dominion prime ministers is the time for Lord Blyth or some one else.

**A Trade Opportunity.**  
In these days when we so badly want trade, every hint or suggestion is helpful. A friend has just returned after a twelve months' commercial tour in South America. He offers what seems to be two valuable points for consideration. The first is the opportunity offered to British merchants in view of the new U.S. tariff. This, by gradually increasing the cost of living, and is already compelling the Yankees to revise their tariff on goods from the United States. The second point is the desirability, even necessity, of improving our commercial representation. At present British merchants are too apt to entrust their representation to casual commission agents, paying them a few pounds towards expenses and for the rest leaving them to recoup themselves out of a percentage on sales. Unfortunately these men are seldom of the right stamp. They are not the sort of people usually made welcome at the clubs, the legations, or the presidencies. In his town my friend met only four representatives whom he would class as the right kind. One was the managing director of a Manchester cotton concern, the others represented an aerated water firm, a tobacco firm, and a firm of shipbuilders. The expense of proper representation is, of course, very considerable. Travel and living and

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entertainment expenses alone may amount to \$1,800 a year without any suggestion of extravagance. In the other hand this might be met by the combination of traders into groups, such as a hardware group, a soft goods group, a food group and so on, reducing the individual cost to a few hundreds per annum and, with the right men chosen, multiplying the volume of trade many times over.

A 2 1/2 mile walking match with full army kit and without the regulation army stops is a bit stiff, as there are now hundreds of thousands in this country to testify by personal experience. Mr. Gray, the member for Oxford, and Captain Ainsworth, the member for Bury, who performed this feat this week, may be congratulated on their stamina, but scarcely on their good sense. Mr. Gray, who ultimately won, is 42, and Captain Ainsworth, 48 years of age, so that they were upholding the flag of the veterans against the younger generation. But Captain Ainsworth had to be put to bed and Mr. Gray fainted, otherwise the youngsters might have been more impressed. The two M. P.'s however have the satisfaction of securing many votes among sporting enthusiasts, and obviously need not fear any walking the division lobbies may entail. Mr. Gray is a solicitor who made his modest fortune while still a young man. Captain Ainsworth is the head of a well-known Lancashire firm of dyers and bleachers. One is a Liberal and the other a Unionist, but both are Free Traders.

**No New Machinery.**  
One of the many disturbing factors in the present industrial depression would seem to be the non-renewal of machinery. In pre-war days a big firm as a matter of sound policy would automatically set aside six to eight per cent. of its machinery costs for renewals and additions. Up to this amount went old machines, no matter how serviceable, and in came the latest inventions. The machinery was kept up to date and British manufacturers could face the most modern competitors.

A big industrialist assures me that this allocation has disappeared, and that British industry is now working almost wholly on old machines. Taxation being what it is, he says that there is simply no money available for the old machinery replacements and additions, and manufacturers are simply compelled to abandon the old sound policy although they recognize that it is equivalent to living on capital. A pertinent comment on this is contained in three half-yearly industrial company reports published yesterday. Not one of them declares a dividend. Ingenious American Manufacturers.

American manufacturers are expressing great surprise that their British rivals are not properly grateful of the recent proposals of the latter should "take over" the surplus orders which the Americans find themselves unable to fill. In particular steel and locomotive manufacturers in the U. S. have accepted orders greatly in excess of their capacity to deliver, and they thought they would be conferring a favor on British manufacturers by offering to pass on the surplus. British manufacturers, however, fully realized that if they fell in with the arrangement they would be merely helping America to keep customers who ought to come to England for their goods, and they knew that these customers would ultimately have to come here. The American industrialist is now finding a new line, and is declaring that it is a "world necessity" that the British workmen should receive as high a wage and live as well as the American. This is hardly the warm-hearted philanthropy it might appear. It is merely that the American industrialist is beginning to realize that the astonishing increase in the cost of living caused in great part by the country's own protective tariffs has meant high wages, which must be brought down if he is to compete in the foreign market.

**Wireless in Crime.**  
Scotland Yard admits that it is adding a wireless motorvan to its installation, but denies that it is providing its detectives with portable wireless sets. That, however, is only a matter of time, and the discovery of a set that will be less evident than the usual plain-clothes man's boots. The van will be useful in communicating with spots where the telephone is not readily accessible, and when time may be the essence of the matter. But its great work will be in helping to regulate traffic from the air. Its value in this respect was proved at the last Derby, and the success achieved then has encouraged the organization of a permanent installation. Scotland Yard is never behindhand in calling for the aid of science. It already possesses or has at its command a laboratory equipment which a university would not despise. There are many things other than lost umbrellas behind its barred windows on the Thames embankment.

### WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.

New York, Sept. 14.—Mrs. Anna Lynch, 38 years old, a negro living in the rear of a dry goods store she conducted on the ground floor of a five-story tenement house at 322 East Fifty-fourth street, was found burned to death in bed after firemen extinguished a blaze which drove sixteen white families from their homes. Patrolmen O'Grady and Hodapp went through the building and roused the occupants of the various apartments, but overlooked the negro, not knowing there were living quarters in the rear of the store. Firemen who extinguished the blaze went into the building with Battalion Chief Barry and found everybody in the building had escaped by the roof and then crossing to an adjoining building or down the fire-escapes, with the exception of Mrs. Lynch.

### French Canadians In Louisiana Have Fine School System

Great Progress Marks Developments of the Last Twenty Years.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Descendants of the French Canadians, who still form a large part of the population of LaFayette Parish, Louisiana, on the rich bottom lands of the Mississippi River, have developed a system of schools which is the most progressive in that state, according to a Rural School Leaflet, published by the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Education.

Twenty years ago, the leaflet points out, 26 one-teacher schools constituted the entire educational system of the parish. Up to that time French was the principal language taught in the rural public schools. If fruits of these conditions may be judged by the 1921 census, they are the illiteracy of approximately a third of the white people of the parish, and almost three-fourths of the negroes. Interspersed among the Acadians, are settlers of Spanish descent from the days of the Spanish domination of Louisiana. In the western part of the parish is an

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English settlement established many years ago by immigrants from Georgia and the Carolinas. Immigration can in no way be blamed for the high rate of illiteracy, as only 0.9 per cent. of the population is foreign born.

**Chinese Embroidery.**  
A white silk jersey dress has a little Chinese embroidery in landscape design on one side of the corsage where the handkerchief pocket would be placed if it existed.

Dollars are supposed to be well made. But they won't last. You must keep making new ones.  
What some merchants give you for a dollar indicates they think the dollar is silver plated.

**Many Improvements.**  
Changed educational conditions are marked, the leaflet continues, by the use of English as the teaching medium in the schools, and the reduction of one-room schools of the parish to 19. Nineteen up-to-date consolidated schools now furnish 147 trained teachers for the parish enrollment of 4,460 within reach of all these children, for six of the consolidated schools provide four years of high school while three others supply two years. Daily transportation by motor bus or horse wagonette is furnished at a cost of 10 cents each per day to 1,400 children. Very few of the children have to be transported more than six miles.

LaFayette Parish is ranked by its superintendent as holding place educationally with the leading parishes in the State. With the exception of Orleans Parish, it is the most densely populated, though it is 74.5 per cent. rural; its only incorporation with more than 2,500 people is LaFayette City, 8,000 population. LaFayette Parish claims the honor of being the first in the State to vote a parish-wide tax for school maintenance, first to establish a consolidated school, and first to transport pupils at public expense.



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