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SETTLERS GET GRANTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

Grants to settlers are being made in New Zealand. Mr. Massey, the Prime Minister, informed the House that the Government Land Department last year advanced \$18,500,000 to settlers and local bodies of workers, including nearly \$10,000,000 from the State Advances Department. It was proposed to strengthen the Advances Fund by a further \$10,000,000 and extend the benefits of the system. Members agreed in the view that State advances had proved a most useful measure in assisting settlement and the provision of workers' homes.

BROADCASTS

SOVIET RUSSIA RENEWS CONSCRIPT ARMY.

A new Soviet decree has been published that all able-bodied men shall, on attaining 20 years of age, serve in the army as follows: Infantry and artillery, 1½ years; cavalry 2½ years; or air service, 4½ years.

FIND ANCIENT GOLD COINS AT BOULOGNE.

An earthenware jar containing fifty gold pieces struck under the French Kings Charles V, VI, VII (1364-1461), and Francois I. (1515-1547) have been dug up in the foundations of an old house in the Rue Damremont at Boulogne.

PHILIPPINES ASK FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

A resolution was adopted in the Philippine House of Representatives, Nov. 1, asking the United States to recognize the right of the Islands to independence. The resolution was referred to a committee. The resolution also requested a date for the summoning of a constitutional convention to frame a constitution.

TIMBER WOLVES CAPTURED IN THE SOO.

Two monster timber wolves have been caught in the township of Grand, back of Thessalon, Ont., by Omar Tallon, of Campbell's Camp, of the Bidwood Lumber Company. Noticing the great number of wolves there, Tallon thought he would try his luck for the bounty, set a dozen ordinary beaver traps suitably baited and was rewarded.

FLOODS IN BENGAL AFFECT 1,500 SQUARE MILES.

The floods in North Bengal have affected 1,500 square miles and 1,500,000 people. The loss of life appears to be relatively small, but many cattle have perished, crops have been destroyed as well as many villages. Thousands of half starved persons have taken refuge on railway embankments and other high ground and are being maintained by relief funds and Government grants.

COAL MINE ON FIRE FOR EIGHT YEARS.

Defying every device which has been tried to extinguish the flames, the old coal mine at Coal Spar, which caught fire eight years ago, is still burning, according to a report of a correspondent, at Calomia, Alta. A forest blaze which ravaged the Coal Spar district during the summer just passed has now been traced to the underground fire breaking through the soil.

HONESTY IS SOMETIMES THE BEST POLICY.

Guss Everard, motorman, residing at Port Arthur, is convinced that honesty is his own reward. He found a purse last week containing from \$18 to \$20 in silver, a Victory Bond for \$100 and a bank book showing a balance of nearly \$2,000, the purse lying on one of the seats of the car. He turned his find over to the utilities office in Port Arthur, and on Monday the young lady called for the purse. "Well, I'm glad I got it, anyway," was all that she said.

"DOUG" WILL GET UNIQUE GIFT ON "POPPY DAY."

An autograph album of great interest is being compiled for presentation to Earl Haig for sale on "Poppy Day," November 11, in aid of his appeal for ex-Servicemen. One page has been signed by the Prime Minister and every member of the Cabinet, while famous artists of every school are contributing original drawings. Eminent authors are writing in it extracts from their works, and it will contain the autographs of V.C.'s and leading men of every calling.

WORLD'S GREATEST TUNNEL IS NOW COMPLETED.

The colossal work of the Simplon tunnel has been completed. The last rail was laid and the final electric connections made in the second parallel tunnel. The new tunnel is opened, and international traffic henceforward will be greatly expedited. The new tunnel was pierced simultaneously with the first tunnel, which was opened for traffic on June 1, 1906. It remained a mere gallery cut through the rock until December, 1919, when the work of converting it into a parallel railway tunnel and track was begun. The tunnels are each twelve and a quarter miles in length, and the cost is about \$5,000,000.

DID BABY CRY "MOTHER" WHEN JUST BORN?

Doctors, though sceptical, are interested in the report that a baby in Mason City, Iowa, cried "Mother" three times five minutes after it had been born in a hospital. The mother, Mrs. Peter Zouten, declared the cry to be a repetition of the last word she uttered before going under the anaesthetic. The patient's sister and three nurses, also in the room at the time, swear that the voice rang out high and clear from the basket where the child lay. Another doctor says it is quite possible that the mother, partially under anaesthetic, developed ventroloquistic powers—Dr. Penzell, of the Sloan Women's Hospital, was emphatic in his denial of the possibility of such an occurrence.

GOOD NEWS FOR AULD REEKIE RATEPAYERS.

Good news to Edinburgh was announced by the treasurer at the Town Council meeting when he said the surplus on the assessment accounts at the close of last year, carried forward as a credit to the current year was \$159,000 more than the surplus a year ago. This sum represented 1½¢ per £1. The productive rental last year brought in \$225,000 more than was expected, and that productivity will be available again this year. They were advised that there was a further increase of about 2 per cent. in the assessable rental this year over last year's figures, they found that the borough assessment necessary for the current year was 3s 10d per £1—a reduction of 8d per £2 as compared with last year.

PILGRIMAGE TO GRAVE OF LATE MARIE LLOYD.

"The most extraordinary pilgrimage of modern times—a pilgrimage of laughter makers to a shrine of mourning—took place during the week-end," says the Express. "More than 120,000 people passed before the grave of Marie Lloyd in Hampstead Cemetery on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. A sea here of green turf that was the pride of the cemetery staff is worn to dust by the slowly moving feet of this pilgrimage of 'the gods.'"

Although she earned enormous salaries, Miss Marie Lloyd gave so generously that her estate is believed to be comparatively small. During her music hall career she earned more than 1,000,000, but nearly all her estate is mortgaged. Her purse was ever open, and much of this sum went to needy friends. On her death bed she made a last donation of 10s.

MATERIALISM MUST YIELD TO HOME FORCES.

During the week an international congress on morality has been sitting at Caxton Hall, Westminster. It opened with a private meeting at Lord Levenshulme's house, Hampstead, and the Premier telegraphed a message as follows: "I earnestly hope the conference may be attended with very real success. "Unless the peoples of the world are to be submerged by the wave of materialism that is sweeping over them we must call into play moral forces which alone can save and vitalize the nations."

TO START THE BRITISH ELECTION MACHINERY.

The man who will set the machinery of a General Election in motion if and when an appeal to the constituencies is decided upon will be Sir Claud Schuster, K.C.B., the Clerk to the Crown in Chancery, and Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor. He it is who makes out and issues all the writs and summonses to peers, and the writs for the election of members of the House of Commons.

Within an hour or two of the decision to dissolve Parliament the Clerk to the Crown makes himself responsible for the despatch of the writs to the various Returning Officers throughout the country. An official known as the Messenger of the Great Seal delivers them at the General Post Office and in the case of Metropolitan constituencies the delivery is by hand. This is the electoral machine put in motion.

FORGIVES ACCOMPLICE IN SON'S MURDER.

Here is a remarkable letter written by Frau Mathilde Rathenau, mother of the murdered German Minister, to Frau Tschow, mother of Ernst Tschow, who drove the car from which Dr. Rathenau was shot.

The letter was written on July 2, that is to say, ten days after the murder was committed. It runs as follows:

"In my unpeakable pain I stretch out my hand to you, you most suffering of women. Tell your son that I forgive him in the name and spirit of the murdered man, as may God forgive him if before an earthly justice he makes a full and open confession and repents, before the Justice of Heaven. Had he known my son, the most noble that the earth has borne, he would sooner have turned the murderer's weapon against himself than on him. May these words give you some peace."

LAST EVIDENCE OF CONSCRIPTION DESTROYED.

Conscription papers are to be destroyed in Great Britain. Instructions from the Ministry of Health to this effect have been received by local authorities through the United Kingdom. In destroying these papers and not selling them as waste material the local authorities are carrying out the invariable practice of Government departments when documents of a confidential nature are concerned. Files of such documents are kept at the War Office for a certain time, then they are sorted, and those of historical value are sent to the Public Record Office. Those that remain are destroyed on the premises, in a furnace in the basement. In the case of the documents in the hands of the military tribunals it was held that, although these tribunals sat in public, evidence came before them dealing with the

private lives of the individuals who were seeking postponement, or of release from war service. This being so, the rule as to the destruction of this class of document in Government departments was applied, and the selling of them for waste paper was forbidden.

FOUND ONE CONGENIAL SPIRIT ANYHOW.

"Here is a little recollection of my earlier days," writes Eden Philpotts when telling how he commenced his career. "My dear old friend Cousin Kernahan took me in my green youth on a Sunday evening to a reception of an American poet who loved to collect youthful adores about her. From this lady we received encouragement, and I remember how everybody told everybody else that their work was magnificent and they promised to attain the topmost bough of the Tree of Fame. Most of us had written one little book in covers, but our hostess enjoyed a wider measure of renown. "I stood impressed among these brilliant people, and there came to me a tall, thin American, who, like myself, was listening. 'And have you done anything supremely?' he asked me as I looked him up and down doubtfully. 'Not yet,' I replied. 'Thank God, Shakespeare no more have I,' he said."

BOOK BUYER HAS BIG WINDFALL.

Mr. William Keats, of Wootton road, Wimbledon, bought from a bookstall in Farringdon street, a 1914 London Directory for 10s.

Later his little boy was looking at the book at home, when he came across twenty-five £1 currency notes, ten 10s. notes, sixteen Canadian and twelve American dollar notes between the leaves.

MEMOIRS OF A DIPLOMATIST AFFORD GOOD STORIES.

Sir Rennell Rodd, the well known diplomat, tells some good stories in his newly published "Social and Diplomatic Memories." One relates to Count Herbert Bismarck, whose manners were horrible.

When the Czar visited Berlin in 1887, Count Herbert dashed down the station platform on the arrival of the train, and pushed aside some Russian officials, saying, "Pardon! I am Count Bismarck!" at which one of them heard to remark, "That explains but does not excuse."

Another story relates to Catherine of Russia, who had the habit of walking on warm spring evenings with her ladies in the private gardens of the Summer Palace. Noticing that one of the youngest and comeliest made a point of passing last through a certain little gateway and exchanging signs of confidence with the royal page whose duty it was to stand guard there, Catherine one night so arranged matters that she was herself the last to pass through the gateway.

As the page closed the gate he gave the last veiled figure a pinch behind, whereupon the Empress turned round with a little scream, exclaimed, "You insolent fellow! Who are you?" The page, with ready presence of mind,

replied, "If your Majesty's heart is as hard as the part I pinched, I am just!" He was forgiven and promoted.

PROGRAMME OF LABOR IN COMING ELECTION.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., speaking at Newport, sketched the programme of his party as follows: Labor has declared war against the organization of industry and society called private enterprise.

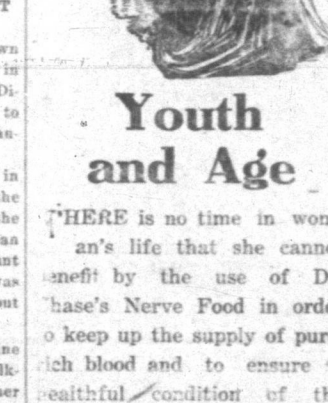
There must be a great extension of collective responsibility, especially with such national services as mines and railways.

We aim at securing for every member of the community, by the establishment of a national minimum, the requisite of healthy and mental citizenship.

A measure of control to the workers. Full employment or maintenance and the humanizing of all working conditions.

Financial reform, on the principle of ability to pay. To lighten the National Debt by a War Debt Redemption Fund, through a levy on accumulated wealth, beginning on fortunes in excess of \$30,000. To serve money on the fighting services and spend it on the children.

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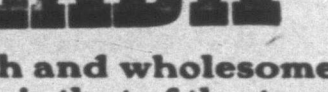


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