

at the moment to the utilization of nettle fibre as a substitute for cotton, and though experts seem to doubt that it ever could supplant cotton, they are doing their best to encourage the production of good nettle yarn as a matter of national importance. In a recent discussion in the Munchen-Gladbach Chamber of Commerce a reference was made to the proposed increase of the capital of the Nettle Cultivation Company from 175,000 to 5,000,000 marks (£250,000), and it was stated that the process of extraction of nettle fibre had improved greatly. Whereas formerly the amount obtained was only 3.4 per cent. of the weight of the nettle stalks, it had now risen to 10-12 per cent., and showed signs of increasing still further.

A Choir and a Half.

Rev. W. Sunday—"Billy Sunday"—is preparing for a great campaign in Chicago in March. Some idea of the scale of the mission may be judged from the fact that a choir of 6,000 voices is being gathered. Mr. Sunday is planning to make the Chicago meeting the climax of his evangelistic career. He was converted in Chicago, lived here for many years, and feels very kindly towards the city.

Teddy's New Phrase.

Mr. Roosevelt has made another contribution to the vernacular strength of the American language. He coined the phrases, "speak softly and carry a big stick," "malefactors of great wealth," and "race suicide." Now he has told an enthusiastic war gathering that had cheered an Australian soldier to the echo that "I want to see you shoot the way you shout." "Shoot the way you shout" is likely to become the motto for American recruiters.

No Treasure Trove.

A Portlade man who took possession of 69lb. of butter which had been washed ashore was fined £10 and £5 costs, it being held by the prosecution that the butter, though unsuitable as food, was valuable as fat. It was stated that some of the butter had to be rescued from seagulls.

Longing for Home.

There must be ninety in every hundred of the men abroad who longed for home, said Sir Evelyn Wood at the Harlow Convalescent Home, but they were marvellously contented, realising that they were fighting in the best causes.

The Need of Nerve.

Evidence has been given that the tramway accident at Dover in August was due to the driver—who was a discharged soldier—having completely lost his head at the critical moment. "Men discharged as unfit for military duties owing to nervous breakdown," says Colonel Pringle in his report, "are unlikely to prove suitable two months later, as drivers on difficult routes for which nerve and experience are necessary."

Another Scot.

Mr. Adamson, the Scottish miners' member for West Fife, has been elected chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party in succession to Mr. Arthur Henderson.

The Three Sure Ways.

Lord Sumner, speaking at the Æolian Hall, said that the only way to shoulder the enormous burden of taxation imposed on us by the war would be to produce as much as possible, to economise as much as possible, and to consume as little as possible. There would be, he thought, a partial resumption of trade between Germany and other nations after the war.

Huns All Alike Guilty.

"I believe 90 per cent. of the people of Germany are as guilty of the crimes that have been committed as the Kaiser himself," said Mr. Havelock Wilson, addressing a War Aims Campaign meeting at Middlesbrough.

A Lady Bank Teller.

A cafe proprietress at Godalming, who was found to have double her allowance of sugar stored in the shop and 143 lb. hidden in her house, was fined £25.

Miss Isobel King, of Hillhead, Glasgow, has the distinction of being the first lady bank teller in Scotland.