

## LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, March 23, 1915.  
PRINCE OF WALES AT THE FRONT.

According to all accounts from the front the Prince of Wales is occasioning the liveliest satisfaction by his growing aptitude for trigonometry and other mathematical sciences employed for the determination of the height, circumference or proximity of positions or objects as affecting the enemy. In the matter of draughtsmanship, likewise, the Prince exhibits much keenness and ability, while in relation to gunnery he is constantly revealing the fact that he has not forgotten any of the training given him while pursuing his naval studies. His personal appearance for vigour and robustness will, it is further said, be a pleasing surprise when in the summer he returns to England for the celebration of his twenty-first birthday.

### MAKING THE UNIFORMS.

Within the last eight months the workers in the clothing trades have achieved wonders. Employers and workers accustomed to the ready-made and factory-bespoke trade have learned to make khaki uniforms, which is like saying that a brick-works has been turned into a porcelain factory. Workers used to paying a couple of pence for a thousand-yard bobbin of machine cotton now use silk and linen thread to the value of threepence on a single soldier's tunic. Many of the complaints made in September and October were due to this very point, workers not realizing that even after the apparently enormous cost of sewings was deducted they had more money for their labour than before. Gun patches, shoulder straps, patch pockets, belt hooks, and bandage pockets are no longer mysteries to them. The great orders for the detested but necessary blue uniforms arranged through the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the £3,000,000 contract for "simplified" khaki uniforms just completed by Robert Glanfield and Sons, have largely helped to bring this about, and for the last couple of months the Director of Contracts has, I believe, had scores of firms on his books taking direct contracts who had never seen khaki before the war. The trade is now expecting within the next five weeks the distribution of even larger contracts than any yet given out. The supply of woollen khaki is to be supplemented by the use of khaki-drill. Uniforms are being made for our Allies as well as ourselves, and to anyone in a position to realize the enormous supplies required for the armies in the field and in training, the recent orders that khaki uniforms for the various home defence volunteer corps of men over military age are not to be made of woollen cloth, seem a very proper precaution.

### ORGANISING WAR MATERIAL LABOR.

The British Government has at last settled down to attack the general question of supplies of war material in a thorough and systematic fashion. The amendment of the Defence of the Realm Act gives the State power to take over compulsorily private factories and also dwellings for housing the workmen. Lord Kitchener has also made an important speech on the necessity of organizing the work of manufacturing munitions of war and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George, has also delivered a notable speech on the same subject. I hear from reliable informants who know the engineering trade well, that organization of

workshops is greatly needed, and that with even a little more co-ordination of the work done in different shops, there could be almost immediately an enormously increased output. Engineering works which have been given orders for armaments of one kind or another, and have carried them out well enough to have them renewed, are still occupying a great part of their resources in work for private contracts of no military consequence. There is also, I am informed, great need for expert criticism to be at the disposal of the Government on the detailed ways in which the manufacture of shells and other war material is being carried on. It is said that certain machine tools, for instance, could be made by adapting existing machines without much trouble, but that the more costly and slower plan of having tools made completely from the beginning has been adopted. When the new system forecasted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer is in working order, these defects of organization should disappear, and the very fact that there is at present a certain amount of waste of energy makes it highly probable that a largely increased output could be quickly assured.

### BIRTH OF NEW TRADES.

Observers interested in the economic aspects of the war, inform me that nothing has been so surprising as the great smoothness and apparent ease with which the industries of the country have adjusted themselves to new and suddenly created conditions. No record of the multifarious changes and developments of trade is at present possible, but there is no doubt that the science of political economy will gain greatly from the evidence which should finally be available of the remarkable capacity for improvisation of which a highly organized industrial system has shown itself capable. It is not only that, as Lord Kitchener mentioned in his speech recently, ordinary works of various kinds have become armaments works, though an authentic case of which I heard to-day of a maker of biscuit tins who is now turning out cartridges is sufficiently astonishing. Everywhere in the country there are manufacturers and traders who have given up some hard hit business and seized some emergency opportunity of making profits in another line. There is the case of a tourist agent whose charming and benevolent trade was necessarily injured by the outbreak of war. But the Scarborough raid gave him an unexpected opportunity. He put himself in touch with girls' schools and other timorous institutions on the East Coast and facilitated their transfer to the other side of the island. Instances could be multiplied, doubtless, and certainly the ease of improvisation almost deserves to be described as a new economic fact.

### ITALY'S POSITION.

A correspondent who has long experience of Italy and many good sources of information there, suggests to me that the best course for us in this country is to read everything with regard to the intentions of the Italian Government with equal scepticism and to "wait and see." He has just had a letter from a friend in Italy, who is himself anxious for intervention on the side of the Allies, but warns him that the opposing influences are being underestimated. There is, he says, a body of opinion in political quarters in Italy which believes that Germany and Austria will in no case be decisively

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season's shades, will be much seen in conjunction with the grim "Battleship Grey." Much attention has been given of recent seasons as high as six shillings and sixpence per yard being charged for exquisite reproductions in cotton of the fashionable silk and woollen materials of the day. Last summer cotton "peau de poche" was the novelty. This year it is a cotton serge, which has been specially designed for tennis, boating and other outdoor sports, and which is to be known as "Joffre Serge." But the amazing medley of periods is perhaps the most interesting feature of the displays, which this year, by the way, rival those of Paris in the novelty of the creations exhibited. There are military and naval styles inspired by the uniforms of the Allies, there are the picturesque garments borrowed from their national dress of the Russian and Serbian peoples, and there are the 1820-1830 toilettes, quaintly pretty and quite practical when cleverly adapted, as they have been, to modern needs.

### A Volunteer

IN THE TRUE SPIRIT.

Stan Pike, a member of the Reserve Force of Volunteers, was found to be suffering with diphtheria yesterday and was removed to the Fever Hospital. If he is prevented from going with the next contingent Stan will, no doubt, be sorely disappointed, as he offered his services with the First Contingent, but owing to a physical defect was not accepted. He had the true spirit and went to hospital where he was operated on and the defect removed. He then went up and enlisted. It is hoped that his recovery will be speedy.

### Allan Line Service.

On next Saturday week, the 24th inst., the Allan Line service will be opened with either the Pomeranian or Sardinian leaving Liverpool for this port. The Mongolian, which made such history within the past few months, was expected to be the first boat to sail from the Old Country this season, but owing to her delay in dry dock at Halifax she did not get away from there for Glasgow until Friday last.

### Snap Shots.

J. C. PARSONS wishes to inform his friends and the public generally that he has taken over Parsons' Art Store, with the intention of going into the Photo Supply and Post Card business. In connection with Photo Supplies he is prepared to give his patrons the benefit of seventeen years practical experience in Photography, and consequently will keep nothing in stock, but what he can recommend, and has practical experience in the use of such. Having on hand a large and varied stock of supplies both for amateur and professional photographers, he is now in a position to cater to the general Photography trade. Customers buying Camera's, etc., can rest assured they will know how to use them before leaving the store. He also wishes to draw attention to his line of Real Photo Post Cards, which will include everything of interest in Newfoundland; also, Newfoundland Views mounted and unmounted. By strict attention he will endeavor to keep up the name Parsons' Art Store has got, viz., What happens to-day we have to-morrow. Having every facility for the taking and finishing quickly on Post Cards of local happenings, he respectfully solicits a share of the public patronage. ap8.14

### The Florizel.

The scaler Florizel has been ordered to abandon the voyage and come home. Mr. E. A. Bowring having wirelessed Capt. A. Keen to that effect yesterday afternoon. She should arrive at this port sometime this evening. The Florizel is supposed to have somewhere in the vicinity of 2,500 seals.

**\$18.50** Your Easter Suit need not cost you more. We are offering a splendid Indigo Blue Tweed Serge Suiting at \$18.50 for two weeks only. Leave your order in time for Easter. SPURRELL BROS., 365 Water Street. mar23, eod, 11

### Truckmen's Guard of Honour.

At a recent meeting of the Truckmen's Protective Union it was decided that in future on the death of a member that the officers would attend the funeral as a guard of honour. The new regulation came into effect yesterday afternoon when attending the obsequies of a late brother member.

"DESPERATE CAUGHT." The Furber Line's Roanoke sailed yesterday afternoon for Halifax. A seaman who deserted and who was on arrival here, was rounded up by the police and put on board before she left.

# THEY are HERE!

LADES.—There is now ready, and awaiting your inspection, the charming and choice selection of

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We also carry a full line of Farm and Garden Implements, including PLOWS, RAKES, HOES, FORKS, SPADES, Etc.

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Cream grounds  
and plain centres  
little patterns the  
Saturday and Mond

We call you  
Sma  
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HOUSE FURN  
AT SPECIAL

TABLE CENT  
These are very  
White Linen cent  
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Household  
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STAIR CARP

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