

BEACON FALLS
Top Notch Rubber Footwear

**TOP NOTCH
BOOT
BUDDY**



A Boot That's Different

It's patented, too—but we don't charge for that

This Boot is Top Notch in quality as well as in name. It's a better boot than you have ever had. Made of the finest Para rubber by an entirely new process.

Top Notch Rubber Boots look different and are different from the boots you have always worn. And they will give much better service.

If you want the latest and best thing in Rubber Boots, purchase a pair at once. We recommend them so enthusiastically because we know from experience that they will give you splendid satisfaction.

FOR SALE BY

Nicholle, Inkpen & Chafe, The Royal Stores Ltd., Fred Smallwood, Steer Bros., and Jesse Whiteway.

HALLEY & CO.

Mr. Merchant:

DO NOT FORGET that before you tell your customers that you cannot get what they want, that we have large supplies of everything pertaining to our line of business. We suggest that you always write or telephone us enquiring what we have in stock before admitting that it cannot be obtained.

We beg to remind you that we have now ready for your inspection our Fall Stock, bought under favorable circumstances. A visit will convince you of the values we are showing, and will be appreciated by us.

HALLEY & COMPANY
106-108 New Gower St.

HALLEY & CO.

ONIONS and GRAPES.

Now due per S.S. "Gracenia"
100 Cases Small Onions
50 Kegs Grapes.

GEORGE NEAL



CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

JUST a small amount invested in a perfectly safe place, for the protection of our family, or ourselves in old age.

D. MUNN,
Board of Trade Building,
St. John's,
Manager, Newfoundland.
AGENTS WANTED.

**THE ROUND TABLE
THE WAR AND ENGLISH LIFE.**

A Quarterly Review of the Politics of the British Empire—Republished Under the Above Heading

III. THE WORKING CLASS UNDER WAR CONDITIONS

PASSING from these problems to a wider field, an attempt must be made to give an account of the general condition of the working class under war conditions, since the economic situation in Great Britain has been much misunderstood and has been so markedly different from that in all the other European belligerent countries.

At the beginning of the war there was a general fear that the country would soon be faced with widespread destitution. The situation was so unprecedented, and credit, moreover, so uncertain, that manufacturers and merchants and the buying public, unable to see their way ahead, all curtailed their activities. Large numbers of workpeople were in consequence thrown out of employment, the unemployment rate in the registered trades for August, 1914, being over 7 per cent., nearly treble that for July, while Poor-law figures also showed an ominous increase. It was in these circumstances that the Prince of Wales's Fund was instituted and several million pounds collected for the distress anticipated during the winter. Extra expenditure by municipalities and public bodies and other forms of relief were freely recommended by competent authorities.

Seldom have the predictions of economists been so completely falsified. After the first shock was over employment revived, and by the end of November the unemployment rate was almost exactly what it had been in July. Since that time it has shown a steady decline and for many months it has been practically negligible.

This change in the situation was due to two factors on which the prophets had not reckoned. One was the depletion of the ranks of industry by the wholesale enlistment of men for the Army; at the beginning of the war no one had any conception of the military role which this country would be called upon to play. The second was the immense demand for munitions and equipment, which likewise exceeded all anticipation, both here and in Germany. The operation of both of these factors on trade and industry was not only direct but indirect and cumulative. The equipment required for the army and for our Allies affected not the munition trades only but a whole series of trades, boots, uniforms, hats, and so on, with ramifications extending throughout the country, with the result that the employment thus created increased the purchasing power of the people and thus further influenced employment. The withdrawal of men into the Army also tended to increase employment, for not only did they require great quantities of food and clothing—very often more and of a better quality than they had enjoyed previously—but the allowances paid to their wives often increased the purchasing power of working-class households. Thus after a few months of war, in place of the anticipated misery, there was a widespread improvement in economic conditions and the Committees set up to administer the relief fund found themselves with nothing to do.

Too much must, of course, not be made of the mere absence of destruction. The adjustment to war conditions has entailed hardships in many quarters, especially in the luxury trades and among the professional and middle classes and people living on fixed incomes, a large number of whom have definitely altered their whole standard of living. The working classes in good employment have had to suffer with them in their steady rise in the price of food and necessities. Food prices had risen by the end of September, 1915, in large towns to 42 per cent., in small towns and villages to 38 per cent., over the level of July, 1914. Rents have also increased in many places, especially in munition and other centres where trade is brisk, and where the sudden influx of new workers has caused overcrowding. The levelling down of the standard of life in the middle class has also

produced an unexpected demand for small houses which has tended to send up rents. So serious has this become that rent-strikes have sprung up spontaneously in a number of centres widely distinct in character, not only in Glasgow and Manchester, for instance, but in a quiet London suburb like Tooting, and a new light has been thrown on the Trade Disputes Act by the picketing of empty houses from which strikers have been evicted. The rapid spread of Tenants' Defence Leagues is an interesting symptom of the upward trend of working-class and working-class standards of life. No one who has followed the evidence in the enquiry set up to deal with the housing question in Glasgow can help feeling that these strikes have served to lay bare a very serious grievance.

(*The following extract is worth quoting: the witness before the Committee was Mr. Walker Smith, Controller of Housing and Town Planning and Chief Engineer to the Local Government Board for Scotland. The effects of the condition described as the drink question, and on the whole atmosphere of the labour situation on the Clyde can be imagined: "The witness said things were becoming extremely acute. Clydebank and Renfrew were more than full—they were overflowing, to the extent of some 16,000 workers at Clydebank, principally at the Dalmar Shipbuilding Works, and about 5,000 workers from Renfrew, from the boiler-makers' and machine tool works there. These workers travelled from and returned to Glasgow every day."

Lord Hunter: Is the provision of permanent houses in the area neighbouring Glasgow a physical impossibility?—I think it is at the present time. There is such an enormous influx that the permanent housing of these people, keeping a reasonable balance between supply and demand, would be physically impossible. One could not obtain the labour to do it. There is not the time to do it. It would take some years to do it, and in any case, even if it could be done physically, the cost at the present time would render it financially impossible.

The only place (the witness went on) where any additional houses could be obtained in large numbers in the Clyde valley at present was in Glasgow itself, and these numbered only 8,799, and he thought it was common knowledge that a very considerable number of houses in Glasgow were unfit for habitation.

The witness afterwards expressed the view that in the near future the whole of the existing accommodation must be taken up, and there would then be no open market in the ordinary sense of the term.)

After the failure of prolonged efforts to induce the Government to deal with prices a movement began early in the present year among the organized workers for the granting of "war-bonuses"—in other words, increases in rates of wages limited to the duration of the war, to meet the increased cost of living. The demand was not based, as it might have been on the bargaining power of labour in the unexpectedly powerful position in which the war had placed it, but on the heavy fall in real wages. Concessions have been made in a number of trades, notably coal-mining, the cotton trade, engineering, the boot and shoe industry, dock labour, and the postal and railway services. The Board of Trade estimates that up to the end of September, 1915, 4,500,000 workpeople had had their wages increased by over £750,000 a week. This estimate, which presumably includes young workers, many of whom are receiving very much over their normal rate of wages, works out at about 3s. 4d. a head, or, roughly speaking, 15 per cent. Thus, despite its bargaining power, labour has not succeeded in making up half of the increased cost of living, while many of the more helpless sections of the working class have not received any increase in money wages at all.

Nevertheless the general condition of the working class at the

present time may be described as one of widespread, if artificial, prosperity. Measured by all the ordinary tests, poor people seem to have an unusual amount of money to dispose of. Not much has been heard of working-class investment in the War Loan, probably because the wage-earners prefer the Savings Bank, with its easy withdrawal, with which they are more familiar; but what may be called the cheap luxury trades, the less expensive jewellery, pianos, amusements, etc., have been unusually flourishing, and the consumption of tea, tobacco, beer and spirits has gone up. These last are undeniable, it must frankly be said, deplorable symptoms of prosperity; but the greater part of the money is no doubt being spent in more useful channels, swelling the totals of the sales of clothes, food, and other necessities, where its effect cannot so easily be observed.

This prosperity, which undoubtedly contributes in some degree to maintain the morale of the country, is due to the fact that, whereas the rate of individual wages, measured in purchasing power, shows a decrease, the earnings of the family or group have increased. The increase is due to the combined operation of three chief causes. One is the prevalence of overtime, for which extra rates are, of course, paid. Secondly, there are the allowances paid by the State on behalf of the absent bread-winner. Thirdly, and most important of all, there is the absorption into profitable employment of large sections of the population, notably women and unskilled and relatively inefficient men, who normally would not have been earning good wages, and would not in most cases have been earning at all. It is not the individual wage but the group wage which makes or mars working class prosperity, and the whole country is now being temporarily assimilated to the conditions familiar in the cotton industry, where a relatively high standard of comfort is often maintained by the joint skilled earnings of several members of the family.

No figures can be given as to overtime. It must, however, be remembered that overtime rates are only too well earned, and that they often involve a tax on the workers' capital of strength. As to allowances, it was recently stated in the House of Commons that £2,000,000 a week was being distributed to the dependants of officers and men in the army and navy. The relief thus afforded is, of course, relatively greater where the customary standard is low, and the effect of the allowance in the rural districts and among the more ill-paid section of the urban workers' has undoubtedly been considerable. As regards the absorption of new workers, a recent official statement declared that the number of women in industrial employment had increased since the war by 6 per cent., or nearly 50,000, including clerical and commercial occupations. These numbers are certain to show an increasing upward tendency as more and more men are withdrawn into the Army and employers and workmen alike become more reconciled through familiarity to female employment.

Thus in Great Britain, alone among the European belligerent countries, partly owing to conditions inseparable from the voluntary system of enlistment, but mainly owing to our industrial supremacy, secured by the Navy, we have actually tended to improve, at any rate temporarily, the economic conditions of the poor; and the longer the war lasts the more powerful will this tendency become, for the new habits and standards will have time to become entrenched. While the German working-class household is faced with the tragic question of how to live, the English housewife is quite often faced with the novel question of how to spend. The poorly paid unorganised sections of the community, of whom too little is heard in normal times, the war has brought a marked, and probably a permanent, rise in the standard of life. Few people realize how low that standard has been. A recent enquiry on this subject by our leading statistician, Professor Bowley, produced results which, published at any other time, would have attracted widespread attention and surprise. He has shown that in the town of Reading, for instance, where organized labour is weak and working conditions unsatisfactory, over 50 per cent. of the working-class population were before the war earning under 24s. a week, or below what is calculated with the wisest expenditure to be the minimum standard of personal health and efficiency. (*Livelihood and Poverty, by A. L. Bowley and A. X. Burnett-Hurst, p. 35.) Such a

J.J. St. John

The TEA with strength and flavor is

ECLIPSE,
which we sell at **45c. lb.**

ROYAL PALACE BAKING POWDER
20c. per lb. Small Tins 5 cts.

SCOTCH OATMEAL, PATNA RICE, JACOBS' BISCUITS, HARTLEYS' JAMS,
1s. and 2s.

J. J. St. John

Duckworth St & LeMarchant Rd

FOR SALE!

LOCAL AND SCOTCH

Herring BARRELS

—Also—

Splayed HOOPS

for Brls. and Half Brls.

SMITH CO. Ltd.

Telephone 506.

state of things is indefensible in any self-governing and self-respecting community and could only be a source of demoralization and discontent. If these conditions have been swept out of existence by the war, nothing but good can result from it.

But the sudden rise in the standard has brought with it its own problems. Money quickly and easily made is apt to be quickly and easily spent; and the nouveau riche, whether an individual or a class, or a nation, has never been distinguished for excess of wisdom and discrimination. One of the vices of poverty is the ignorance and narrowness of horizon which result from it. It is idle to pretend that the money which has flowed into working-class pockets has always been laid out to the best advantage, or that workmen have thoroughly grasped the duty that they owe to their families, their class and, above all, to the nation to lay by as much of their money as possible and lend to the State. But it is one of the misfortunes of our social system that the vices of the poor, as of the rich, are so much more conspicuous than their virtues. The sight of a rich idler in his motor-car or of a working woman unsteadily emerging from the public-house may serve to blind us to the spirit of public service that the war has revealed among the aristocracy or to the wise husbanding of resources, the careful spending in winter clothing and boots and nourishing food, and gifts to relatives and friends at the front, that is common in English working-class homes. Taken all in all, the women of England, ill-equipped and overburdened as many of them are, have been worthy of their menfolk; and as the months go on, and what was at first a windfall becomes an accepted fact in the family economy, even the unwise spenders let their range of vision extend beyond the next street corner and learn, as the nouveau riche learns, how to spend their money on more permanent sources of satisfaction.

IMPORTANT WARNING!

The Rifle Range on the South Side Hill will be in constant use from daylight till dark for Musketry Practice until further notice. All unauthorized persons are therefore prohibited from approaching the Range within 200 yards from either side or within 1,000 yards of the Targets to the eastward. Any unauthorized persons so doing will be liable to arrest, besides incurring serious danger from rifle bullets. This prohibition does not extend to any part of the hills west of the 1,000 yards firing point.

(Signed),
JOHN SULLIVAN,
Inspector-Genl. Consty.
W. H. RENNIE,
Captain (in charge of Musketry Instruction).

15/15, w. 11



THE HEIGHT OF SATISFACTION

is reached at our market. You get the best of Meats, the right cuts, the correct weight, sanitary handling and good service. Can you ask more?

Come here when you are looking for satisfaction in
CHOICE MEATS.
M. CONNOLLY
Duckworth Street.

TEMPLETON'S

BEST VALUE
BIGGEST STOCK

HERRING NETS

**ANCHOR BRAND
ADVANCE BRAND**

LOWEST PRICES.
PROMPT DELIVERIES.

TEMPLETON'S

333 WATER STREET.



YOU WON'T BE ANNOYED by long waits for papers you need in a hurry and serious losses of important documents will be averted if you invest in

Glob:Wernicke

Filing Cabinets. We also recommend to you the safety, simplicity and security of the "Safe-guard" system of filing and indexing. Let us install an equipment for trial, free of expense or obligation.

PERCIE JOHNSON LIMITED.