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FOREIGN COMPETITION HURTS SHIPBUILDING IN BRITAIN

Ever Decreasing Number of Contracts for Old Country Yards—Employment of Chinese on Merchant Vessels.

LONDON, April 2.—The question of the increasing employment of Chinese labor on English trading ships, to which Mr. Fenwick Wilson, who recently exposed the dangers of Chinese immigration went so far as to state that during the year something like fifty per cent. of other Chinese or Lascars had taken the place of British labor on tramp steamers. A strong protest, too, was made by Mr. John Ward, who said that organized labor in this country would most strenuously oppose the ousting of British labor by Asiatics, a sentiment which was freely endorsed by the various speakers. The Board of Trade explained that his department had already made inquiries into the subject, and he had been informed by port officials that there was undoubtedly a tendency towards the employment of Chinamen in home ports. The request for a select committee to investigate the question made by Mr. Fenwick he hoped would not be pressed, as he was quite certain that the Board of Trade would be able to deal with the matter. The resolution was withdrawn and the matter ended for the time being. But unless some firm and effective steps are taken now to check the steady and growing influx of Chinese sailors on British ships, the matter may easily become too big to handle effectively. The reason for the employment of Asiatics in the place of British labor is obvious. They accept lower wages, and they also submit to a much cheaper and less comfortable life. The owners have not the same responsibility towards them as they have to British seamen in these days of cutting rates. Ship-owners have every incentive to economize at the expense of the seamen.

An English shipbuilder, whose necessity compels to keep a pretty sensitive finger on the pulse of trade, says that the current depression is the worst in twenty years. Many causes of this deplorable state of matters could, he admitted, be cited, but in spite of the arguments that were urged for the majority of them, two most disquieting facts of the situation persisted in worrying him. The average man is inclined to laugh at foreign competition in shipbuilding. That was because the trade was not so much about looking the facts in the face. The first fact which disquieted this shipbuilder was that in 1907 more ships were built in the United Kingdom for foreign owners than in 1906, and the second that more ships were built abroad in 1907

than in 1906. Not only were foreign shipbuilders cutting into England's business to a larger extent, but the British were more and more equipping foreign shipowners whose economic advantages were also numerous with the means of making British shipowners less and less profitable. British shipowners are not to be blamed for this, of course, but people who talked lightly about foreign competition should not be allowed to ignore this reaction of fact. Foreign competition was a stern reality. Dutch and German builders were actually quoting better prices for cargo steamers than the English were. Germany was cutting England out for river craft in South America and elsewhere. Even England's practical monopoly for the construction of torpedo craft was menaced, as the tenders for the Portuguese boats recently went to show. Not only were there German and French concerns in this competition, but Italian and American as well. Stage fright caused the sudden termination of a speech in the House the other day. Mr. H. Deir Walker moved the second reading of an Education Bill and was proceeding very satisfactorily with his maiden speech, when without any warning he concluded and sank into his seat, evidently suffering from extreme nervousness. The appalling sensation to the unaccustomed speaker of hearing his own voice has produced at times some curiously incoherent and wandering deliverances, but Mr. Walker was going ahead admirably when he suddenly looked around and collapsed. All quarters of the House murmured sympathetically "Hear, hear," but Sir Edwin Cornwall hastily procured a glass of water. Mr. Gulland brought another. Mr. Walker slipped and seemed to recover himself a little. Mr. Walker was able to rise and leave the House. The Foreign Office, and had always shown perfect presence of mind when face to face with his constituents. Before he stopped on the occasion referred to his hands trembled so violently that he could hardly hold his papers.

London is about to follow the Germans in the experiment of outdoor schools. In the report to the Education Committee of the London County Council, the Day Schools Sub-Committee state they are convinced, from experience gained from last year's experiment at Bostall Wood, Plumstead, and in the light of the results of the open-air schools conducted in Germany, of the desirability of a further and extended experiment being made by the Council during the present year. The Sub-Committee is anxious that the Council should recommend the experiment. A sum of \$10,000 has been allocated to this purpose as provisional money in the estimates for 1908-9.

SPRING SHOWERS, HOT AND GOLD, OFFER NEW PHENOMENA

Folk Deluged With Milk—Warm Rain Boils Eggs—Tom Connor Has Thrilling Experience Strolling in Cloudland.

RAINSBURG, Pa., April 1.—There was an unusual shower here this morning and one that attracted the attention of local scientists. During the heaviest downpour many persons noticed that instead of the drops being cold as they were when it first fell, it grew a trifle colder the drops changed into hailstones, which fell so fast that in a few minutes the ground was entirely covered. Those who went out with buckets and gathered up the hail discovered that what they first supposed to be water and ice was in reality congealed milk.

Hundreds of families collected enough milk to last for several days, and others, by adding sugar and a little vanilla, made a palatable ice cream. The mystery was explained later in the day, when it was learned that several creameries fifteen or twenty miles away had been wrecked by the storm, and the milk had been swept up into the sky by the force of the wind. It was said that at a village several miles from this place there was a shower of butter from the same cause. It cannot be confirmed.

EGGS BOILED HARD BY A WARM RAIN. WATERFALL, Pa., April 1.—The past two days have been remarkable for the number of warm rains which have fallen. The showers have been so hot that the ground is sending up clouds of steam, and all the early vegetables are having a forced growth as strong as if they were in a hothouse. One shower on Saturday was so hot that for a time conditions were so hot that it did not last long enough to do much damage. Not a great amount of rain fell, but what there was of it was almost at a boiling point. Chickens that could not find a place of refuge were scalded and their feathers fell off just as though they had been prepared for the market. There are any number of dogs that today look as if they had the mumps, all due to the hot rain. John McLarin, who was on his way to market with a basket of eggs was caught in the shower and forced to

abandon his wagon. He and his horse fled to a nearby barn. When the rain ceased and he went after his eggs, he found them all hard-boiled.

CHILD IS SCRAWLED BY PUSSEY WILLOW. STORMTOWN, Pa., April 1.—Matilda Henry, the 6-year-old daughter of James Henry, is suffering from the scratches of a wild pussy willow. The little girl had heard from her experience gained from last year's experiment at Bostall Wood, Plumstead, and in the light of the results of the open-air schools conducted in Germany, of the desirability of a further and extended experiment being made by the Council during the present year. The Sub-Committee is anxious that the Council should recommend the experiment. A sum of \$10,000 has been allocated to this purpose as provisional money in the estimates for 1908-9.

She had not gone far into the woods until she came across a bush, and started to pick off the branches. It was evident that she did not strike the pussy willow the right way, for one raised up its back and began to spit at a fearful rate. Matilda started to run away, but the pussy willow pursued her and scratched her arms and legs. She was suffering from a half hundred wounds when she ran into the kitchen where her mother was at work. Mrs. Henry chased away the wicked beast and bound up the cuts. Then she warned the little girl never to have anything to do with a wild pussy willow, but always gather the tame ones.

EVERYTHING GROW. SHOURTOWN, Pa., April 1.—On farmers said that the first of the "growing" rains arrived yesterday and continued this morning. A little observation confirmed the statement. Not only are there the lilac leaves out and the grass turned green, but Aunt Amanda Hoopes declared that her rheumatism gave her growing pains. Everything seems to be growing. There is a growing report a growing scarcity of eligible young women, and the girls say this is not so, but that the young men are growing shy.

Under the influence of the warm and genial rains the wheat has started to

grow, and this will mean growing bank accounts. There is a fine growth of local opinion sentiment, and the winter growth of whippers are being husked, as there is no longer any danger of catching cold.

WALKS ON CLOUDS; A PERILOUS TRIP. THUNDERBOLT, Pa., April 1.—Thomas Connor, who had such a narrow escape from death today, hesitated to tell your correspondent the thrilling details, because he thought some persons might not believe him. "I went to the mountain top," said Mr. Connor, "to gather arbutus, and was so busy that I did not notice a storm gathering. I had not observed that the storm had driven the clouds into the valley and packed them so tightly that they formed a vast plateau."

"I stepped off the mountain and started to cross the valley on the top of the clouds. It was soft, but it sustained me until I got to a spot where there was a rift in the clouds. One step more and I would have tumbled off the edge of the clouds and fallen a mile to the earth below. "By this time the sun was beginning to come out and the vast plain commenced to melt. At one time I sank to my waist in the white, downy mass, and only after the most strenuous efforts did I drag myself out and reach a cloud that was a trifle harder."

"Before I reached the mountain the

....ANNUAL.... Spring Sale OF DRY GOODS!

Saving From 25 p.c. to 35 p.c. in Many Departments.

Fancy Worsted Plaids,	23c yard
Scotch and Fancy Plaids,	45 and 55c yard
All Wool Cashmere, every color,	35c yard
Fancy Tweed,	17, 19, 25 and 30c yard
Plain colored Cloth, 44 inch,	30c yard
Heavy Tweed Suitings,	39 and 50c yard
Lustre, blue, brown and black,	30c yard
13c and 15c Fancy Flannelette,	only 10c yard
25c Wool Hosiery,	19c pair
30c plain and ribbed Cashmere Hose,	only 21c pair
60c Men's Underwear,	42c each
15c Tooke's Collars,	3 for 25c
35c Men's Neckwear,	19c each
\$1.00 Salem and Tooke's Shirts,	69c each
1.25 self-opening Umbrellas,	98c
1.25 Ladies' Umbrellas,	98c
1.00 " " " " " "	69c
75c " " " " " "	49c
95c Lawn Shirtwaists,	59c
30c Corset Covers,	19c
35c " " " " " "	25c
50c " " " " " "	39c
40c Ladies' Drawers,	29c
45c " " " " " "	35c
\$1.25 Sateen Underskirts,	98c
1.00 " " " " " "	85c
50c Children's Cloth Tams,	29c
75c D & A and P C Corsets,	59c pair
\$1.00 D & A and P C Corsets,	79c pair
Cream Table Linen,	25, 29, 35 and 40c yard
Bleached Damask,	30, 39, 42 and 50c yard
30c Bleached Sheetting,	23c yard
24c Unbleached Sheetting,	19c yard
12c English White Cotton,	9c yard
8c White Cotton,	6 1-2c yard
13c English Print,	only 10c yard
Art Cretonnes,	11, 14 and 20c yard
15 Dress Duck,	only 12c yard
Hamburgs and Insertions cheap.	
Clark's Anchor Thread,	5c spool
Neck Ruching,	5c for 3-8

Don't Delay, as This Sale is for a Short Time Only.

I. Chester Brown, King Square, South Side.

WED IN SECRET; SHE WILL SEEK DIVORCE

Mrs. Tuttle, Horsewoman, to Bring Suit, She Says in a Short Time

CHICAGO, April 2.—Mrs. William S. Tuttle, formerly Miss Ellen Rasmussen, equestrienne, known to every horse lover of the middle West and the winner of innumerable horse show contests, said today she is about to bring suit for divorce from her wealthy clubman husband. Although society had whispered that Mrs. Tuttle had separated from her husband, whom she wed in secret three years ago under romantic circumstances, the first positive declaration that a divorce suit would be brought was made by herself. "Yes, I am going to bring suit against Mr. Tuttle and it will be in a very short time," said this pretty blonde wife. Mrs. Tuttle is one of the best known of the exhibitors at the horse shows given at Oak Park, Lake Forest and the Coleman. She has often carried away the blue ribbon and her pluck in handling horses has won the universal admiration of Chicago horse lovers.



GERMANY'S NEW SYSTEM OF INSURANCE AND PENSIONS

A Great Step in the Direction of Social Reform—Everyone Will Profit, and Everyone Will Help to Maintain the Funds.

BERLIN, April 2.—Nothing in the social legislation of the past thirty years has given more satisfaction to Germans than the splendid series of Imperial Insurance laws covering accidents, sickness, invalidity, and old age. As the late president of the Imperial Insurance Department, Dr. Bodiker, used to say, they form a corona of legislative enactments which will redound to the glory of the new German Empire far more than her greatest military achievements. It was the old Emperor William I. who initiated this work of conciliation and social reform. Towards the close of 1881 he sent a rescript to Prince Bismarck solemnly stating that it was his imperial duty to impress upon the Reichstag the necessity of furthering the welfare of the working classes. "The Lord," said the pious old Kaiser, "has blessed our reign, and we would be happy if we could carry with us to the grave the consciousness of having given our country an additional and lasting assurance of internal peace, and the conviction that we have rendered to the needy that assistance to which they are justly entitled." The Kaiser then mentions insurance against industrial accidents, against sickness, and winds up with this reference to old age and invalidity: "Those who are disabled in the sequence of old age or invalidity possess a well founded claim to a more ample relief on the part of the state than they have hitherto enjoyed. To devise the fittest ways and means for making such provision, however difficult, is one of the highest obligations of every community based on the moral foundations of Christianity." It is one of the highest obligations of every community based on the moral foundations of Christianity. It is one of the highest obligations of every community based on the moral foundations of Christianity. It is one of the highest obligations of every community based on the moral foundations of Christianity.

On its recent march to the manoeuvring ground of Töberitz, the fourth regiment of Foot Guards took with it a kitchen van which has been experimentally constructed for the War Office. The chief constituent of the van is an enormous cauldron, in which soup can be prepared during the march, to be served out to the troops at once. If the experiments are favorable, the transportation kitchen will be generally introduced into the army.

MRS. SAGE MAKES CHILDREN HAPPY

Rich Woman Buys Them Home and Gives Back House After Appeal

NEW YORK, April 2.—Mrs. Russell Sage has recently been acquiring real estate surrounding her old home at Sag Harbor. One of the properties she acquired was that of William Moylan. Two little Moylan boys, who are not aware of the sale until it had been closed. When they learned that their home they loved so well, was to be sold, their grief was excessive. Finally, the father pledged himself to relay the house and move it to another site. The children then appealed to Mrs. Sage for her consent to the retention of the building, and it was her response which filled the Moylan household with joy.

AMUSEMENTS.

Nickel Pictures of High Grade. In pursuance of the policy, the popularity of which is attested by the ever increasing patronage, the Nickel management are ever on the lookout for the highest class of pictures and songs available.

For the week-end the feature picture is one of the Pathe hand-tinted productions, the title of which is The Three Sins. It deals with a youth of the Cavalier days during England's civil war, introducing a touch of romance that takes on quite a serious phase until it transpires that all his misadventures were really a myth, as they were the results of dreams. The Gent of Fire is an elaborated story of the old fairy story order, weird but sufficiently artistic to hold close interest to the last. For comedy there are the Adventures of Captain Kidd—the fierce "Kidd" of terrible mind, the terror of merchantmen of old but a happy saint in burlesque. In fact, regular Webster and Pell's presentation. A Good Joke is another funny one, not hilariously so, but just right to fill the bill. Mr. Beckley, who finishes his engagement on the 7th, will sing when Mandy Said Good-bye, a clever song that will surely be one of the season's hits.

Princess Has Best Show Today

Despite the inclemency of the weather last evening a large crowd turned out to see the amateurs perform and those who were present were well repaid for venturing out in the storm. The Koule Koule captured first prize. Frank McCaffrey, the funny sailor, won the second prize, and Miss Ellis, soloist, third. Miss May Alcorn, one of the youngest and best sopranos in Canada, captured the audience in her rendering of "My Heart's Toughest in Tennessee." The management have secured for their theatre four of the latest pictures at present before the moving picture world. "The Crimes of Loyalty" is one of the best dramas they have shown, and that is saying a whole lot, for in the past the best pictures have always been found at this up-to-date house. The Woodchopper King, another pretty picture, is a gem. The Crimes of Loyalty. The Baby Show. Howlin' Tom-cats, but this is funny. The whole shooting match is shown last if you don't laugh at this then we advise you to consult an M. D. Buying a Baby. A new line, How Many Will You Have, Please? is the question you may expect to hear some of these fine days if this picture gives any advance notice of the time. Percy Sayce, St. John's most popular bartolone, will sing, "Sweetest Days."