

Sydney Tram Strike.

The Sydney Tramway Employees' Union has decided to give strike pay to 230 men and boys still awaiting reinstatement after the strike.

The union adopted a resolution of confidence in Mr. Lawton, president of the union, and deprecating the attacks made upon him in connection with the strike.

Progress of Sydney.

The report of the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry shows that there were 40 more factories, employing 4429 additional hands in the State last year than the previous year. The new buildings erected in the city and suburbs were valued at between three and four millions sterling. The prospects of building and kindred trades are very bright.

For Defence.

Yachtsmen at Port Phillip have offered to form a naval reserve for defence purposes.

A body of 300 men who served in the Boer war has also been formed, and will be known as the South African reserves.

Weeding Out the Harmaid.

The Tasmanian A-assembly passed the Licensing Bill, which alters the hours of closing to 11 p.m., prohibits barmaids, excepting those at present employed.

Wily Chinese.

It is suspected that lately, despite the strictest precautions, Chinese are finding their way into Australia.

On the arrival of the steamer Prinz Waldemar nine were discovered cleverly stowed away, while two others were found on the steamer at Fremantle.

Union Label.

The High Court, by a majority, Justices Isaacs and Higgins dissenting, declared that clause seven of the Commonwealth Trades Mark Act, relating to workers' trade marks, on what is known as the unionist label, is invalid, and the union label is not a trade mark within the meaning of the law.

Chief Justice Sir Edmund Barton, in delivering judgment, declared that the clause was an attempt to regulate the internal trade of the States. It does not fall within, and is not incidental to any, express powers conferred on the Federal Parliament to regulate that trade, and except so far as these powers extend the power of the State is exclusive.

The Court made an order restraining the Registrar from continuing to keep a register of workers' trade marks.

Blown to Sea.

During a gale on August 3, a French-Canadian named Legros had a thrilling adventure. He was in a small boat off Newcastle, and got blown out to sea, passing a terrible night. The look-out on the steamer Colac heard cries before dawn, when 20 miles to the east of Newcastle, and have-to till daylight, when Legros was discovered and rescued.

Unprofitable Mining.

The chairman of directors of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, referring to the low prices received for lead, said that it was impossible to make both ends meet with lead below £13 15/-. It was pretty evident, on the present outlook, that the whole 124 per cent. increase of wages granted when lead was £18 a ton would have to come off. If the men were not agreeable there was nothing for it but to close down the mines.

A Pressless Parliament.

When the West Australian Assembly met, the reporting staff was informed that it was not intended to grant better facilities for Pressmen.

The reporters immediately withdrew, and the House, sitting for a few minutes only, passed the Address-in-Reply and adjourned.

Quite Erroneous.

The attention of some of the Sydney opticians has been called to a paragraph appearing in a Wellington paper of July 13, stating that chemists there intend to ask the Government to introduce a Eight-testing Bill on the lines of the New South Wales Act of 1906. There is no

such Act on the New South Wales statute book. The bill was introduced in the Legislative Council, but failed to get beyond the first reading.

At the Call of Fashion.

The Federal Government has promised action prohibiting the importation and exportation of certain skins and plumage in order to prevent the wholesale destruction of birds at the call of fashion.

Food Adulteration.

The Pure Foods Bill introduced in the New South Wales Assembly is substantially the same as the bill which failed to pass last year. The chief alteration provides for the prosecution of the manufacturer instead of the retailer of adulterated goods.

Work and Wages.

The chairman of Millar's Kauri and Jarrah Company, of Westralia, at the annual meeting, attributed the decline in profits, amounting to £40,000, to the recent strike.

The workmen now desired a co-operative scheme. The directors could not possibly consent to this, but offered an alternative scheme.

The workmen were less blameable than the agitators, members of the Labour party, with political propaganda.

Sweating and Child Labour.

The report of the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry discloses that a large amount of sweating and child labour still exists, especially among young girls in dress-making establishments and factories.

The report instances that girl learners, after working six months to two years without wages, have then been turned off, girls have been employed making boxes at fourpence per thousand.

The report further states that girls are employed in brick-yards digging clay and wheeling it in heavy barrows.

Bad Eggs in Confectionery.

A deputation to the Under-Secretary for Agriculture, N.S.W., asking for legislation dealing with the adulteration of bran, pollard, and other poultry foods and the regulation of the egg trade, declared that large quantities of bad eggs totally unfit for consumption, were used in connection with the confectionery trade.

THE OLD COUNTRY.

Copper is quoted at spot £61, three months £61 16/3. Lead is worth £13 12/6.

The London and North Western and Midland railways have agreed to a working alliance.

Brilliant weather prevailed for the August bank holiday. Nearly two million people left London for the various holiday resorts, and 400,000 visited the Exhibition.

Australian Wines in England.

The French members of the jury on colonial wines at the Franco-British Exhibition withdrew, because it was considered that many of the wines submitted bore indications which might mislead buyers as to the place of origin, such as Australian Burgundy.

The British jurors tested all the wines, and report that Australian winegrowers have made great strides, especially in the white varieties.

British Trade.

British imports for July decreased by 5,435,000, exports by 6,747,000, and re-exports by 1,077,000 compared with the previous July.

Unfaithful Stewards.

After 20 days' trial all the Mile End guardians accused of corruption were found guilty.

Mr. Justice Phillimore sentenced Alderman Hirst, three Mayor of Stepney, to pay a fine of £250 and to undergo two years' imprisonment. Warren was fined £250 and one year, and the others were fined £25, with various terms of imprisonment, ranging from six to 15 months, except Gilson, who was only fined £250.

Unique Service.

An impressive service of thanksgiving, in St. Paul's Cathedral, concluded the Lambeth Conference.

Over 200 archbishops and bishops, wearing invocation robes, formed a procession. The aged Bishop of Missouri preached the sermon. The Archbishop of Sydney (Dr. Saumarez Smith) was one of the celebrants of the Communion.

Mr. Chamberlain Better.

The medical journal "Lancet" says that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's medical advisers consider that he is greatly improved in health.

He is keenly interested in politics, and his mind is as alert as ever.

Arctic Explorers Perish.

Mr. Mylins Erickson, leader of the Danish expedition to explore Greenland, has, with two companions, been blown out to sea on an ice floe.

All are believed to have perished. The expedition had succeeded in charting the whole of the coast of north-eastern Greenland.

Old Wales.

A Royal Commission, with Professor Rhys as chairman, has been appointed to make an inventory of the ancient monuments and constructions in Wales, and specify those most worthy of preservation.

British Indifference to Art.

The third International Art Congress, for the development of drawing and art teaching, and their application, was opened last week at the London University.

Two thousand delegates from all parts of the world, chiefly teachers of art, attended.

Mr. Wm. P. Reeves (High Commissioner for New Zealand) and Mr. Geo. George (Director of the Auckland Technical School) represented New Zealand.

Lord Curzon, the president, commented sharply upon the absence of any official representative of the British Government, and their indifference to art teaching. He also dwelt upon the defects of the British system of art instruction, especially emphasising the great divergence between the teaching and what the market demanded.

Duke of Portland on the Press.

Addressing the Welbeck Tenants' Agricultural Society, the Duke of Portland thanked them for their kindness during the continuance of the "miserable and fraudulent" Druce case, and said that such ridiculous and extraordinary cases would never be possible but for Press sensationalism and the gullibility of the public.

Echo of the Jamaica Earthquake.

The Privy Council has refused to reverse the judgment of the Supreme Court of Jamaica relating to insurance claims arising out of the earthquake.

The Scottish Union and National Fire Insurance Company contended that the fires were caused by the earthquake, making the exemption clause applicable.

Respondents contended that the fires were accidental.

The appeal was dismissed. The Council's decision was received in Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, with a great demonstration of joy.

Pacific Cable Board.

Mr. Baxendale, late manager of telegraphs at Singapore, has been appointed London manager and secretary of the Pacific Cable Board.

Mr. Deakin, the Federal Prime Minister, has made strong representations that the Board's work should be put on a business footing.

The Cullinan Diamond.

The Cullinan diamond, which was presented by the Transvaal to the King, has been cut into two beautiful white stones.

One of these has been placed in the King's Crown and the other in the sceptre.

The Colonies and Preference.

The Free Trade Congress discussed the effect of the commercial policy on industrial and agricultural development.

After listening to historical retrospects contributed by representatives of Italy, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, France, United States, and Great Britain, Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P. (Liberal) said that the action of the colonies had killed any enthusiasm that there may have been for colonial preference. The colonies had given us to understand that, preference

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