

training of an English boyhood fashions men into plucky and healthy soldiers, so does the friendly rivalry of the cricket field make our colonists willing and worthy defenders of the Empire. We have spoken chiefly of Australia, but we do not forget that India has sent us a Ranjitsinhji, and that the record of his triumphs and of his popularity has attached to the Crown the hearts of Indian princes and their subjects more closely and certainly than all the diplomacy of Governors-General and Political Residents and all the paraphernalia of official cultivation. Our West Indian colonies have been garnered into the inner circle of practical loyalty in the same sportive fashion, England sending its cricketers to them and welcoming their cricketers in turn. Such small matters may be the mainsprings of Empire. Our soldiers are the best in the world because they have learned to be plucky and ready of hand and eye in our national sports; our colonists are helpful comrades because they have shared our pastimes in peaceful days, and learned to know us as the friendly rivals of the cricket field.

The Wreckage of War.

Mr George Lynch, the war correspondent who was captured by the Boers, writing in the "Westminster Gazette," says:—"We are coming back to England in a ship laden with the human wreckage of war—the wounded, the maimed, the sick, who to their graves will carry maiming of their sickness. There are amongst these men, those who will crawl about the world lopsided, incomplete cripples, or those who will be perpetual victims to intermittent or chronic disease; but there is worse than any of these disasters to the victim. The man without a leg can get along with a crutch. The man who loses his sight from the carth shattering shell can at worst carry a label to tell that he was blinded in the war, and his fellow-countrymen will give him enough to keep on enjoying life through the channels of the four other senses, and he will still admit that it is good to be alive. Blindness is bad, but war deals worse blows than in the eye. It deals blows under which the reason itself staggers and is maimed. The lunatic asylum is worse than the hospital. We are carrying back nine men who have lost their reason at Magersfontein and other battles; two have been mercifully treated and have lost it completely—the padded cell must mean a certain unconsciousness; but the greatest, deepest pity of which the human heart is capable is evoked forth by those who are maimed in mind. Long lucid intervals of perfect sanity give them time to learn the meaning of the locks and bars. "Yes, I know; I went off my head after Magersfontein," one poor fellow tells you; another repeatedly asks, "Will they put me into an asylum when I go home?" What a home-coming! Sure enough it is to the asylum they are going. They will be lost to what friends or relatives they have in that oblivion of a living grave."

The Law of the Land.

The highest legal tribunal in the land has held today the Otago "Daily Times" right in its within the rights of the Arbitration Court, if it so chooses, to grant a monopoly of employment in industrial pursuits to members of trade unions, and virtually the effect of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act is to abolish in the colony freedom of contract as between an employer and a workman. The Act, in effect, as the Chief Justice has said, has abolished contract, and it has restored "status." It is only workmen with the "status" of unionists whom the Industrial Courts, which the Act has established, are entitled to hear; individual workmen and non-unionist workmen have no locus standi in an industrial dispute under the law. What this imports was well shown in an address which was recently delivered by Mr Samuel Brown, the employees' representative on the Arbitration Court. The members of the unions throughout the colony who have the requisite status to secure for them a hearing under the law do not number 11,000, but they are able to ask from the Court terms and conditions which affect about 600,000 bread-winners and dependents. That is the position at the present time. It is not one which, we should suppose, will be altogether agreeable to the largely preponderating class of unorganized workers in the colony.

Minor Matters.

A Marvellous Rescue.

It is rarely that a man falls overboard in mid-ocean and after eleven hours of torturing doubt is picked up by his ship after all hope has fled. Such happened in the case of an apprentice on board the ship Rurfilan, a well known visitor to Australian ports. The youth, whose name is Harry Warner, was out on the bowsprit when he slipped and fell into the sea. Writing of his rescue to his brother, he says that had it not been for Captain Arthur, of the Rurfilan, who persisted in keeping up a search after almost every man had given him up for dead, he would never again have been heard from. The ship was on a voyage to Santa Rosalia from Cardiff, and was near her destination when the accident happened. After the cry "Man overboard!" was raised a life buoy was thrown, yards were backed, and a boat left in search. In three hours she returned, only to report having been unsuccessful. Captain Arthur determined to work his ship back on the zig-zag principle. After eight hours of persistent searching with men aloft scanning the ocean, the life buoy with Warner hanging on it was sighted, picked up and two days later the rescued apprentice was himself again.

Patriotic Fund Squabbles.

The Picton City Fathers have (says a correspondent) decided—in spite of the protests of the collectors—to keep the money subscribed for the patriotic funds in their own hands, and use it as they think fit. Some of it belongs to the "more men" fund, having been thrown on the stage during the singing of "The Absent-minded Beggar," and collected by the sale of poems, and all of it was subscribed in a patriotic spirit to be devoted to one country and its needs, and therefore should be utilised for that purpose alone.

Russia and Corea.

The articles of a secret convention, said to have been recently concluded between Russia and Corea, have been published by a Korean newspaper as follows:—1. There shall be perpetual peace between Russia and Corea. 2. Corea shall be under the protection of Russia and Japan. 3. Limits shall be set to the right and privileges enjoyed by the Japanese in Corea. 4. The Empress of Corea shall be chosen from among the Russian princesses. 5. The Greek Church shall be the State religion of Corea. 6. A Russian subject shall be employed in the capacity of adviser to the Korean Finance Department; and, 7. a Russian subject shall be similarly appointed to the War Department. 8. The consent of the Russian Minister in Seoul shall be obtained with respect to all appointments, removals or changes of Korean officials. 9. The settlement of Russian subjects in Corea shall be encouraged. 10. All mining and forestry concessions in Corea shall be given to Russian subjects. 11. Russia shall have a naval port in Corea. 12. All Korean subjects shall remove their top-knots.

The correctness of this delightful little arrangement has, however, been denied by the Korean authorities.

A Good Sign.

The Waikawa (Picton) natives have issued the following proclamation subsequent to the toongi held over the death of Annie Nianga:—"We, the Elect of Te Aroha Nui, Waikawa, hereby give notice that, under the Seventh Rule of Jehovah, men, women, and children have strictly agreed not to take spirits of any kind; also, that any person, or persons, intoxicated, or having bottles of spirits on them, shall not be allowed to enter within our gates, or round about."

At the close of the toongi the following resolution was proposed and carried: "That the purchase of spirituous liquors should be strictly abolished among the natives now residing at Waikawa, and Waikau." The consumption of drink at these native functions has hitherto been appalling, and the degradation consequent on these scenes of debauchery has been a sore stumbling-block to the native race and their civilisation. It is a step in the right direction for native missionaries to clear the way to a higher standard of Maori life by showing them the evils of drink.

Treatment of Sailors.

The New Zealand "Times" says that during the hearing of the case against the Paparua firemen, who refused duty as a protest against the fare provided them, Mr. Henselden, S.M., referred to the frequent complaint that British sailors were becoming an unknown quantity, and pointed out the paramount necessity of feeding an Englishman well if it were desired that he should be kept in a seafaring life. His Worship said this was the first case that had come under his notice in which a New Zealand-owned company had been accused of providing its crews with inferior or insufficient food.

A Cat Who Fishes.

A Picton cat has developed an extraordinary talent for fishing, and the facts show that this particular cat has reasoning powers, which are the supposed attributes of mankind. She sits on the beach when hungry, and watches her opportunity to catch a small "tiddler." She doesn't eat the "tiddler," but she kills it, and forthwith places it carefully in the water. She then lies down alongside on the beach. Other fish, larger and altogether more to be desired, come up to feast on the tempting bait. Puss darts in a paw and out comes a fish. This little game goes on till puss has a sufficient supply to satisfy her delicate appetite for the time being. She indulges in her little feast, and then basks in the sunshine till hunger tempts her to repeat the performance. Her owner vouches for the truth of this story.

What the Nations Drink.

A report recently rendered to the British Parliament contains matter which ought to lead to a searching of hearts by the people of many nations. The report deals with the production and consumption of alcoholic beverages in Europe, the United States and the British colonies. In such a publication stupendous figures, although melancholy, are to be expected; but some of the facts here disclosed are astounding.

Take, for instance, the consumption of wine. In Great Britain each person consumes, on an average, less than half a gallon a year; in Germany, a little more than three-fourths of a gallon; in the United States, less than a quarter of a gallon; in France, more than twenty-four gallons! The total amount consumed in France, which has a population of thirty-eight millions, is more than nine hundred and forty million gallons a year—eight times as much as is used by the one hundred and sixty million people of Great Britain, Germany, and the United States taken together.

It is often said, the French drink wine while other nations drink beer or spirituous liquors. Of beer alone the statement is, indeed, partially true. The annual consumption per capita in Great Britain is about thirty-one gallons, in Germany twenty-seven gallons, in the United States thirteen gallons, and in France five and one-half gallons. But the French people consume more spirits per inhabitant than any of the other countries. The figures

are: For Great Britain one gallon, the United States less than one gallon, Germany a gallon and three-quarters, and France more than two gallons for each person.

The report also shows the interesting fact that the consumption of alcoholic beverages in Canada is smaller than in any other country from which statistics are obtainable.

Our own showing is not a bad one, but every earnest lover of his country will wish that it were better.

An Illiterate Letter.

Illiterate letters are not always amusing, but this one, forwarded to me from the north of Queensland, contains a curious conglomeration of orders:—"Dear Sir,— Let the boy have 10 pound of sugar one botole of castroll and tow sheep or if you could let us have beefe I would sooner have it one bag of oatmeal tow tins of gam 2 lb currins would you kindly send for a redigest form for to redigest the baby or would you see if Mr paticon has eny and you would kindly oblige me yours humble."

Our Treeless Streets.

Mr. C. L. Wragge, the Queensland Meteorologist, says that in all the thirty-two countries he has visited he was nowhere more struck by the absence of the aesthetic taste than in Australia. This remark, says the New Zealand "Times," was occasioned by a comment on the rarity of good avenues of trees in the streets and public places. In Europe properly-planted avenues are very common, and the Avenue of Liberty in Lisbon is one of the most beautiful Mr. Wragge has seen. He strongly advocates the beautifying of colonial cities by means of trees, and expressed his pleasure on learning of the existence of a City Beautifying Society in Christchurch.

Generous.

A very gracious speech is that recorded of a certain Scottish official, quoted by the London "Outlook."

When the Queen, during a stay in Scotland, visited the Tay Bridge, one feature of the attendant ceremony was the presentation of a beautiful basket of flowers.

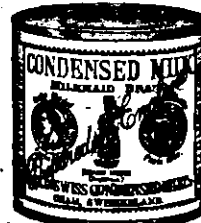
The Queen smiled as she took it, but Dundee was not yet satisfied that it had done all in its power. The Provost stepped forward with a low bow.

"And, Your Majesty," said he, "you need not return the basket."

Old-Time College Life.

Mr. Rusdall, a fellow of New College, Oxford, has lately written the history of this college. In it we find some curious facts, which can hardly fail to be of interest to Colonial "varsity men." New College was built a hundred years before the discovery of America, by Lord William de Wykeham, and was an expression of the most advanced ideas of education entertained in his day. So far as the architecture and plan of the buildings are concerned, the five centuries which have since elapsed have suggested but little that is better. English and American college builders still follow De Wykeham's model. But there is no better measure of the difference between the old time and the new than the contrast between the "thorough education" which he sought to give and that which boys now receive. The undergraduate in De Wykeham's time, in order to obtain his B.A. de-

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