

Topics of the Day.

By Our London Correspondent.

"THE BRITISH ARMY ON TOUR— A MILITARY CIRCUS."

LONDON, September 22.

A SCHEME to familiarise the people both of this country and of the overseas Dominions with the daily life and actual conditions of service of all ranks in the British Army, to stimulate recruiting, and to give much needed help to several of the military charities, is now being elaborated by a board composed almost entirely of Army officers.

The details of the scheme have not been finally settled, but, broadly put, the idea underlying it is to take the British Army in miniature, on tour, first throughout the provinces, and then in Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and India. The organisation, the military details of which are being carried out by Colonel A. G. Burns, of the Indian Army, is to consist of 50 officers, 100 non-commissioned officers, and 1000 men, all of whom must have served with the colours. It is intended that every branch of the Army shall be represented—Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Army Service Corps, and the Royal Army Medical Corps—with the appropriate equipment, and that there should also be a naval detachment composed of men

The scheme has been submitted to the War Office with a view to enlisting the approval and support of the Department, and the matter is now under the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Army Council.

An adverse criticism of the scheme appears in this week's "Truth," which protests against the War Office sanctioning "the organisation of what is nothing more or less than a huge military circus by some amateur syndicate."

THE TRAGEDY OF THE TEACHERS.

England's social system is chiefly remarkable for its shocking want of system. The English are wont to declare that they "muddle through" sooner or later, and rather pride themselves on their indifference to logic and system. But the muddling through is not only a slow and wasteful process, but a very painful one for the victims. Consider, for example, the plight of England's unemployed school teachers, a mass meeting of whom is about to be held in London. Many distressing stories of their struggles to get work are being received by the recently-formed Unemployed Teachers Committee.

It seems that seven years ago there

6. Addressing envelopes at 3s per thousand.

7. Clerk to a bookseller at 15s a week.

8. Two men working as farm labourers.

9. Addressing circulars at 15s a week.

10. Bookroom clerk in the Civil Service at £56, of which 5s per week is deducted until the Government grant to the training college is repaid.

11. In desperate straits a girl has engaged herself as a governess in a small private school at £15 a year and 10s a week.

12. Two men are farm labourers.

13. A girl, whose widowed mother struggled eleven years to give her daughter a college course, is a lady clerk at 10s a week.

For a teacher's position at Willesden, there were 600 applicants, and in one London division there were 200 teachers waiting for one post. In some 300 or 400 cases under the committee's notice the applicants could not get places because they were Nonconformists. Meanwhile there are 63,000 unqualified teachers at work in the schools, and thousands of teachers are in charge of classes far too big for any one man or woman to deal with efficiently. The whole situation speaks eloquently of the lack of system.

AN EXTRAORDINARY WILL.

The opinion of a Spanish lady who recently died in London, concerning her relatives, has just been made public by reason of the proving of her will. It is expressed therein with considerable venom.

Protection of Animals, on the condition that they took care of her dogs and cats, and half that amount to the Little Sisters of the Poor, providing that any of them prayed as long as her body remained above ground, and followed her to the grave.

This is not the first time by any means that a will registered at Somerset House has disclosed a testator's opinion of his or her "nearest and dearest."

Some little while ago a testator living near Birmingham left his property to his daughter on condition that she paid to a person named the sum of 3½ for the purchase of a hempen cord or halter for the use of his dear wife, "which I trust she may make use of without delay."

Two years ago a railway official stated in his will that—

"My estate would have been considerably larger if it had not been for my unfortunate marriage with the princess of human — and the cleverest known legal daylight robber. My associations with this perambulating human vineyard crust I consider to have cost me considerably over £400."

HEART ALMOST STOPPED BEATING.

AWFUL SUFFERING CAUSED BY
BILIOUSNESS AND INDIGESTION.

BILE BEANS THE MARRIED WOMAN'S FRIEND.

Mrs. J. Day, of 122, Lord-st., Burnley, Melbourne, says:—"Severe attacks of biliousness and indigestion made me very miserable. These bouts brought on an accumulation of wind, which would press up against my heart and almost stop its beating. The pain was so intense I could scarcely breathe. Between the shoulders I would also have terrible pain, like the thrust of a knife. At times the biliousness would be so distressing that I would be prostrated for days, my system being racked by vomiting and straining, giving me a very bad time indeed. Of all the many remedies I took in my endeavour to get relief, none were successful until I commenced taking Bile Beans. This splendid medicine soon made a grand change for the better. After a course of Bile Beans the indigestion and biliousness were ended, and those painful attacks are things of the past. Bile Beans cured me completely. Now when ever I feel at all out-of-sorts a dose of two of my favourite remedy, Bile Beans, soon put me right."

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"CAR AHEAD!"

who have served in the Navy, with guns. A "permanent camp" is to be established at Watford, and here the men are to be trained for the display which will be given in every town or centre visited. This display will follow the lines of the Naval and Military Tournament held in London, and it will conclude with "The Charge of the Light Brigade" as a spectacle.

The tour is to begin at Birmingham on Easter Monday, April 17, 1911, and it is contemplated that it will extend over three years. That, at all events, is the period for which the men have to "enlist." The rate of pay has been fixed at £2 per week, with free kit, rations, and sleeping accommodation. It is estimated by the promoters, who are mostly military men, that the weekly expenses of the undertaking will amount to £2500, but they "confidently" expect that £200,000 will be easily raised as the result of three years' work at Home and in the colonies" for the purposes of the military charities. The profits of the tour, we are informed, are to be handed over to the trustees, and they alone will be charged with the duty of allocating the money. But apparently charity is not to have a look in until an unnamed group of investors, who are putting £50,000 into the scheme and drawing 10 per cent interest, have recouped themselves.

was a dearth of teachers. Then the London County Council attracted so many young men and women into the profession that the market was glutted. From one extreme the profession was brought to the other, with the result that now, for lack of system in regulating the supply, there are about 1000 teachers unemployed in London and between 4,000 and 5,000 in the provinces. All of these have been trained at a cost to the taxpayers of £300 each, not to speak of the sacrifice made by the parents during their children's seven years' studentship. Six thousand fully qualified teachers are coming into the profession every year for whom, according to their committee, no work can be found. The following cases show the straits to which certificated teachers are driven to obtain a bare living:—

1. After applying unsuccessfully 351 times for appointment as teacher, has taken a situation as governess at £20 a year.
2. Is working as printer's reader; made 150 applications for work.
3. After 210 applications, is working as a teacher on "supply," that is, teachers' odd days at so much per day.
4. B. Sc. had to accept an uncertificated teacher's post at £75.
5. Clerk in a clothing factory, 9s a week, hours 8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"As to my sisters, niece, nephew, brother-in-law, and cousin, nothing—nothing shall come to them from me, but a bag of sand to rub themselves with. None deserve even a good-bye. I do not recognise a single one of them. It is useless even to communicate my death to them; they have too much abused and lied against me."

As regards her husband, who survives her, the lady's opinion may be gathered from the restrictions she placed on the use of the thousand pounds she bequeathed him.

"He cannot touch this £1000, or do anything whatsoever. He must live on the interest which he will have from this sum, and if he remarries, from that day the income and the capital shall no longer be his."

"He may dispose of them only if he becomes a monk in an order, otherwise it is only income, and I repeat it—If my husband remarries, from that day neither capital nor interest shall be for him any more, and on the day, say, of his death, if he remains a widower, this £1000, with the rest of what remains of my estate, shall be to found a house of refuge for couples without children who cannot find means of housing, and who are in the most complete need of shelter."

Having vented her spleen on her relations, the testator became quite charitable. She left £400 to the Society for the

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