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The Week in Review.

The Burglar.

SYDNEY is experiencing a veritable reign of terror by reason of the numerous burglaries that have taken place recently. Every day some new case has been chronicled of armed and masked men entering a dwelling place at night and confiscating whatever valuables they could lay hold of. One burglar, who was caught, was sentenced to imprisonment for life, but not even this exemplary sentence has deterred the marauders, who are rapidly creating something like a panic amongst the residents of the city and suburbs. The day following the passing of this sentence no fewer than five burglaries were reported. In three cases large sums of money were obtained; in one case the booty consisted of £500 worth of diamonds, and in another a man who was driving in a sulky was halted up by two armed men and robbed of £3. The police seem utterly powerless to cope with the outbreak, and citizens are arming themselves and taking other steps for protection from what seems to be little short of an organised war upon property. If the burglaries are continued, it is probable that a vigilance committee will be formed to protect the city at night.

The Mounted Rifles.

The most ardent anti-militarist must have had food for thought when he saw the recent march of the Third Auckland Mounted Rifles through the streets of the city last week. It would have been difficult to find a more healthy-looking lot of lads anywhere. Their training in camp had worked wonders. In the course of a few days they had acquired quite a military bearing, and, in spite of the fact that their horses were for the most part new to the work, they kept their lines as if to the manner born. It was quite evident that the training has been productive of nothing but good from an educational point of view. Compulsory training, quite apart from any question of its military value, has had an undoubted influence for good in teaching the lads habits of discipline, obedience, and self-reliance. Quite as much as our schools, the camp is forming good citizens. The behaviour of the men in camp was beyond all praise. They were keenly interested in their work, they took a real pride in their arms and accoutrements, and they evinced a willingness to learn and to be taught. From the General down to the veriest tyro all the visitors to the camp expressed their surprise at the rapid way in which the men had picked up their work.

Not a Machine.

That is where the New Zealand soldier excels. He is not merely a machine, but he displays a high degree of intelligence. He thinks for himself, and is quick to grasp the meaning of any new movement he may be taught. The country lad is a born rider, and can manage his horse under any circumstances. It would, of course, be absurd to expect from recruits the trained movements of an English cavalry regiment, but we feel quite safe in saying that very few Yeomanry regiments would have done better than did the men of the Mounted Rifles. Especially noticeable was the thoroughly healthy moral tone that pervaded the camp. Not that the men were saints; they were just clean, wholesome British lads with a true British contempt for all

that was unmanly or dishonourable. They were keenly alive to their duty, and showed an excellent spirit in carrying out the commands of their officers. Much was due to the tact and personality of those in command. There was neither too much discipline nor too much laxity. Nor was there any bad language in the real meaning of the term. The favourite expression was the quaint mediaeval adjuration "By our lady," used in the abbreviated and much less euphonious form which is so common in the colonies. In using the short form of the words, we are apt to lose sight of the religious significance of the phrase. It may be said that both in their military work and in the general tone of the camp the Third Mounted Rifles proved themselves worthy of the high honour which His Majesty the King has recently conferred on them.

Napoleon and the Tailor.

Soldiers are noted for the smartness and correctness of their dress, but not every great commander has been punctilious about his uniform. It is said that Napoleon was the despair of his tailor. According to Dr. Pommies de la Siboutie, the Emperor was constitutionally negligent in his attire, and it was not till one of his sisters admonished him that he put himself into the hands of the fashionable tailor of the day, Leger. And so the tyrant met his tyrant. Leger consistently ignored his Imperial patron's suggestions concerning his clothes. For instance, the Emperor wished the skirts of his tunics to be turned back like those of Frederick the Great. "I should not think of allowing such a thing, sire! You would look absurd, and my reputation would be lost. . . . I would not make you such a tunic if you offered me the whole of your Empire." And the Emperor laughed and gave way. Leger thought the Emperor not only indifferent, but niggardly. "He once asked me to put a patch on his hunting-breeches, where his hanger had worn a hole. I refused point blank." In the end the tailor gave him up. "My other customers," he said, "were worth more money to me. Murat, Prince Eugene, Borghese, Berthier, spent 40,000 to 60,000 francs a year on their own backs, besides the bills they ran up for their households." And so the great man failed to be a hero to his tailor.

Antarctic Sewing.

Sir Ernest Shackleton made an amusing speech recently at a meeting in South-wark in connection with the Girl Scouts movement. He said he believed that Boy Scouts sometimes found people when they were lost, and if the Girl Guides were going to do that, he hoped when he was lost they would find him. The education in cookery, and such like subjects, was very important. When they were away in the South Polar regions they learned how to sew, and he would back himself against any Girl Guide there to darn a stocking or put a patch on. He remembered once when his trousers gave way very badly he made a new leg by cutting a leg off another pair and sewing it on. But they learned to patch their clothes on the last expedition he was on, as they had no spare clothes. He did not suppose any of the girls present had ever had to darn a blouse at fifty degrees below zero, when they had to warm the needle by putting it into their mouths first. The only man who made a bad job of it was a learned professor, who sewed a button on over the edge.

The Sentence on Tom Mann.

The sentence of six months' imprisonment passed on Tom Mann for seditious utterances will be sure to provoke a storm of protest from the members of the Labour party at Home. The circumstances leading up to the sentence were these: Three men associated with a paper called the "Syndicalist" were arrested and tried for sedition on account of an article which had appeared in that paper calling upon the soldiers not to shoot if ordered to do so. These three men were convicted, and one was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and the other two to six months' with hard labour. Immediately the sentences had been passed there was such an outcry that the Government during the course of the following week reduced the sentences of six months to one month and the sentence of nine months was reduced to six months. The sentence of hard labour was remitted in each case. Many members wanted to know why the editor of the "Labour Leader," which had previously urged soldiers not to shoot men taking part in the strike, had not been similarly prosecuted. Mr Grayson had also given similar advice, and the awkward question was asked why he had not been prosecuted. Others wanted to know why Sir Edward Carson, who had incited the men of Ulster to resist Home Rule, had not been dealt with for treason. The Attorney-General was bombarded with these and similar questions, and as a result the sentences were reduced in the manner we have mentioned.

A Stickler for Grammar.

When Tom Mann was placed on trial he made a statement to the effect that he was willing to assume the responsibility for the advice given in the "Syndicalist" urging the soldiers not to shoot. He said that he would always give similar advice. He made a long statement in Court which was July taken down and read over to him. In the course of his statement he had said that the question at issue was his personal culpability for the article which had appeared. When the statement was read over to him he asked leave to amend the phrase "personal culpability" for "personal culpability in connection with," alleging that the use of the preposition "for" was bad grammar and sounded ugly. His counsel endeavoured to show that it was necessary under the Act that it should be proved that this particular article had been read by the soldiers, but as the accused was only placed on trial for attempting to influence the soldiers the plea of his counsel did not avail.

The Right of Free Speech.

The whole question is intimately bound up with the question of free speech. The Socialists claimed the right to say what they pleased, and the prosecution denied the right of any man to incite the soldiers to mutiny. Mr. Victor Grayson stamped the country defying the Attorney-General to prosecute him. Demonstrations were held in different parts of England, protesting that the right of free speech was being taken from the people. To these statements Sir Isaac Rufus replied that the right of free speech was limited by the Mutiny Act, and that it was a distinct offence to incite soldiers to be false to their allegiance. The soldiers were there to maintain law and order, and to protect the lives and property of citizens. The soldiers had nothing to do with the merits or demerits of any particular strike, but they had to see that lives were not jeopardised by the lawless action of the mob. The wisdom of this will be apparent to all right-thinking people. Soldiers are only called in to help the police in the event of the civil power being unable to cope with riotous behaviour. To urge the soldiers not to do their duty is, therefore, equivalent to inciting the police not to do theirs. Few outside the ranks of the criminal classes would have any sympathy with anyone who urged the police not to arrest a burglar or a murderer. The maintenance of law and order is the first duty of the Government, and anyone who attempts to interfere with the due carrying out of this duty can claim small sympathy from the community at large.

Motor Traffic.

In view of the numerous accidents and fatalities that have happened recently in connection with motor cars, it would seem that something ought to be done in the direction of regulating the speed at which the cars travel, and of seeing that only competent drivers are in charge of the cars. There is, of course, a speed limit, and in theory people exceeding this limit are prosecuted, but in practice most people seem to travel at any pace they please. To exceed the limit is not regarded by many persons as being in any way a serious breach of the law, but is looked upon by the large majority of motorists as a form of sport. In the case of private cars there is no regulation securing the competence of drivers. A boy of twelve may drive a private car, and there is no test of efficiency required. Nor is there any inspection of private cars, to ensure the proper working of the brakes. Private cars ought to be brought into line with licensed cars.

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