

SHARE IN PROFITS

Each Workman in Shipyard Allowed to Take \$50 in Stock.

Employees Agree Not to Strike, But Let Council Decide All Disputes—Sir Christopher Furness Praises Unions.

London.—Sir Christopher Furness, M. P., spoke eloquently recently of the success of his experiment, started last March, of a shipyard at West Hartlepool on co-partnership lines.

Under the scheme each man took ten five-dollar shares in the company (paid for out of wages), bearing four per cent. interest, with the addition of a bonus if the profits exceeded five per cent.

Sir Christopher, in reviewing the history of the experiment, quoted from the Working Man's Friend of over fifty years ago: "The liberty, happiness and glory of England and the world will be consummated as soon as good feeling shall be established between masters and those whom they employ."

The momentous fact was that the works council speedily got down to the true basis of the co-partnership—the basis of genuine comradeship—and realized that the more they could settle their little differences among themselves the better it would be for everybody.

He paid a tribute to the local trade union leaders who counseled the men to give the idea a trial. "The employment partners," he added, "have responded in a manner that could scarcely have been excelled, and they have upheld worthily, at a time when there were people who began to doubt whether they were not disappearing, the reputations which our various British qualities won for our country half a century or more ago."

Sir Christopher quoted from one of his early speeches on the scheme: "I fly to amity, as I hope that you will fly to amity, as a haven of refuge after a prolonged and worrying and sickening course of friction."

As a result of the friendliness between the management and the men there had been no friction justifying any serious mention. What was more important, the increasing closeness of the association had brought about a greater appreciation of the respective viewpoints and a more determined desire to meet each other's wishes.

The chairman of the works council, Mr. Purdon, now declared unhesitatingly: "Confidence reigns supreme among the members." Recalling the almost daily incidents of antagonism, strife and delay, the circumstances somber and squalid, with which they had an acquaintance so close and grim for several years, up to 12 months ago, surely few principles had enjoyed a justification so great in a time so short.

In a memorandum Mr. Purdon had said that a works council, such as they had, with the machinery that enabled the representative artisans and laborers to meet from time to time on terms of equality with the managers and foremen, was the true solution of a problem which has for years been among the most urgent, because among the most damaging, which have confronted captains of British industry.

Under the new regime the virtues of punctuality, assiduity, economy, and ingenuity had been exercised with a little more spirit and persistence than had been customary in late years. There had been fewer idle days, fewer "lost quarter days," and closer attention had been given to details.

Sir Christopher said that on almost the last evening he spent with his friend, the late Sir Alfred Jones, the latter remarked that the first notable thing he did as a young man was to deposit \$50 in a building society. That money he had never withdrawn. The \$50 which each man had invested in the co-partnership would, with compound interest at nine per cent., reach the total of \$3,715.87 in 50 years.

"I am not pretending," said Sir Christopher, "that all of you are going to be in work at Middleton or the harbor shipyard for, shall I say, another half century, but I do plead earnestly that we must never despair of small beginnings, since they have frequently endings great and glorious."

Platinum to Be Higher.

New York.—Refiners of platinum in the Maiden Lane district have received advices from Russia indicating that the czar's government shortly will put into effect a new plan for controlling the industry of mining platinum and will thereby effect an increase of 100 per cent. or so in the wholesale price.

Fascinating Marathon Dance.

San Francisco.—Six men and six women were taken to a local hospital the other day after dancing without interruption for fourteen hours and forty-one minutes at the first annual San Francisco "dancing Marathon." The six couples, on the floor at the close, divided a purse of \$140.

LAZY GERM FOUND IN POTATO

London Expert Says Innocent Tuber Causes Indigestion and Much Nervous Worry.

London.—It's the humble and democratic potato that gets a jolt from dietetic sharps. Medical opinion now has stamped it as the cause of many of the ills from which humanity suffers and a foe alike to long life and good temper.

"My advice is to eat potatoes right out of the diet," said one of London's prominent specialists in arraigning the tuber. "Persons who wish to be healthy in body and sunny and alert in mind, especially those leading sedentary lives, never should eat potatoes. They cause what is known as 'starch indigestion.'"

"They contain about 95 per cent. of water, and when they have been assimilated the result is very little nutrition, and that after a big tax on the alimentary system, by reason of the difficulty the digestive fluids encounter in breaking down the tough cellulose walls in which the starch grains are enveloped. The effect, therefore, of continually eating potatoes, is chronic dyspepsia, resulting in wear and tear on the system generally. Nervous worry and depression are the sure result, which shortens life."

"It's a curious thing that potatoes are much more indigestible than any other starch food. They are, as I see it, far more valuable for making motor spirits than for food, so why put them to such an unsuitable use as eating them. When a man is generally ill, the first thing the doctor does is to stop his use of potatoes, and rightly so, for they use up so much of his energy in the process of digestion. To repair the ravages made on the human body by these tubers, carrots should be eaten freely, for they stimulate the digestive processes."

BROKE ALL EATING RECORDS

Champion Consumes Ten-Pound Ham, Keg of Ale, Two Gallons of Beer and Water.

Washington.—Take one ten-pound boiled ham, the skin, fat and all but the bone included; two gallons of water, one keg of ale weighing 40 pounds when dry, and two gallons of beer; pour slowly into the maw of a human being in two hours and 45 minutes; let the mixture settle until assured of success, and the result will be a "gourmasher," the old-fashioned slang for gourmand.

That this is a guaranteed recipe was demonstrated here the other night when "Boots" Repetti, a genuine man trained in mastication and digestion at the Washington navy yard, made of himself a receptacle for stirring the above-mentioned ingredients without even a grunt.

Repetti devoured the record-breaking meal in the presence of nearly a hundred reputable witnesses, who vouched for the accuracy of the quantity of food and liquids he consumed in less than three hours. He devoured the gigantic repast to prove his claim to the title of champion long-distance eater of the east. He seems to be.

JEALOUS OF THE MAN-BIRD

French Hunters, Asserting Aeroplanes Frighten Game, Ask Closed Season Against Flyers.

Paris.—The St. Hubert club of France, which occupies itself with shooting, fishing and hunting, is agitating for a closed time for aeroplanes.

According to Comte Clary, the president of the club, airplanes of all kinds inspire all game with a feeling of such terror that they are driven from the neighborhood where an aeroplane or airship has passed.

It is not only the birds, but also ground game—deer, hares, rabbits and the like—which are influenced by the noise of the motor and the appearance in the air of what appears to them, Comte Clary says, as an enormous bird of prey.

The St. Hubert club is anxious that legislation should prevent aeroplanes from frightening young birds and game generally at the impressionable age.

In all probability the government of France will suggest that the game in time will become accustomed to aeroplanes as it has become accustomed to railway trains and motor cars.

Wine Place with Matpin.

London.—Ina Richmond, who has just been appointed manager of the gas works at Magherafelt, is the first of her sex to hold such a position. She has justified her appointment by coming to the rescue of the concern at a critical moment.

It was necessary to test the gas at a purifier, and the test valve was found to be choked. While the stokers rushed in different directions for a piece of wire with which to clean out the valve, Miss Richmond removed one of her hairpins, performed the necessary cleaning and was testing the gas when the stokers returned.

Woman Steps Judge.

St. Louis.—When Mrs. Blanche Childress answered Judge Jeff Poliard's "show me" request by slapping him on the nose during a trial in his court to demonstrate the treatment given her by her husband in a controversy, the judge told her that no further practical demonstrations were necessary.

TAKE DUTCH CENSUS

Enumerators in Holland Have Same Trouble as Elsewhere.

Facts Difficult to Get Because Many Persons Are Apparently Too Stupid to Give Information—Some Amusing Answers.

The Hague.—Cards with questions to be answered for the decennial census of Holland were distributed recently. About 6,000,000 cards were sent out. The experience of the census enumerators, like that in many other countries, is discouraging or amusing, according to the point of view one takes of the matter. It is discouraging if one thinks that education has been compulsory in the Netherlands for many years and that there is so little to show for it. For it is patent that all those 'heads of families' who had to fill in their own census cards and see to it that their other members of their family filled in theirs show a remarkable lack of education and even of plain common sense or intelligence.

Many were absolutely unwilling to fill in their cards; others really could neither read nor write or got hopelessly muddled in the questions and answers. Lots of the cards got lost or too much soiled for use. Some poverty-stricken people asked the enumerators whether they could "get soup on such a card" or whether they could "get work" on it. But few could understand the use of the cards or of the census, although the whole affair had been explained to the children in all the schools, so that they might be able to help their parents in filling out the cards.

Only in those cases where people were really unable, though willing, to do so were the census enumerators allowed to fill out the cards from dictation. Even then it was often difficult to make the people understand what was meant by every question or to get at the correct names, birth and marriage dates, the religious belief or business or employment of the people.

One old woman had answered the question, "What is your principal business or employment?" by writing: "Praying to God for my sovereign and my country." That she truly considered this her principal misison in life could be seen by referring to the census papers of ten years ago, when she had answered the same question in the same way.

Of course, there were many amusing mistakes made—for instance, when a father named as the chief business of his son of 14 years, "being an idiot." Another father gave his little daughter's chief employment as "eating." There seemed to be a good deal of difference of opinion among the people as to who is really the "head of the household." Some households were described as having as many "heads" as "members." In others the husbands had named their wives as the "heads."

USEFULNESS OF ZOO SIREN

It Calls Keepers to Rescue Marguerite, Virginia Deer, Who Tried to Join Elk.

New York.—The big siren which was lately installed in the Bronx zoo to signal the keepers the escape of any animal from its enclosure had its first tryout the other afternoon. Keepers ran from all directions to find out what was the trouble. Marguerite, one of the Virginia deer, had escaped from her yard and taken with her her fawn, now a sturdy youngster of some six months. The chain fastenings on her gate had been left loose and Marguerite in investigating it found the way to freedom suddenly opened.

She found her way into the elk enclosure before the keepers got trace of her. When they found her the big and ugly elk, Stanley, was making great efforts to break down the individual netting which his temper had earned for him in order to oust the interloper from his herd.

When they made their rounds next morning the keepers found that a gray fox, sent to them about a week ago from the northern part of the state, was dead. He had been put in a run way in which were several female foxes and a few young ones, all of which owed allegiance to an old dog fox. Evidently the old fellow resented the intrusion, for the torn-up ground and teeth marks on the throat of the newcomer showed that he had been killed in a fight.

DOG FEEDS IMPRISONED HOG

Canine Carries Corn to Animal Wedged Under Feeding Platform for Two Months.

Madison, Wis.—The mysterious disappearance of a Dane county hog, the loss of which, in view of a price of more than nine dollars a hundred for pork, has been the cause of lamentations on the part of its owner, was explained the other day when the porker, worn to a skeleton, was found wedged beneath its feeding platform. It weighed only 50 pounds.

Speculation was rife as to what had kept the animal alive for the two long winter months it was a prisoner. Then Mrs. Blanchard recalled seeing a puppy with an ear of corn in its mouth on several occasions going under the platform.

It is now thought certain the hog was kept alive by the food thus provided.

ILLNESS IN THE COMMUNITY

Just a Little Figuring Will Show Loss Occasioned by Wholly Preventable Diseases.

The man who has just recovered from a serious illness generally sits down and makes some sort of calculation of the cost, including actual loss of salary or business earnings, cost of medical attendance and so on. But it is seldom that such a computation is made in the case of a community. People in Pittsburg have recently caused just such a reckoning to be made in the case of a single disease—typhoid. This is wholly preventable and hence the cost involved represents an actual waste.

From personal investigation of the circumstances of 448 patients out of over 600 who had typhoid in Pittsburg during the year 1907 it was found that these lost in wages nearly \$27,000, and that the extra expenses of their illness were about \$25,000. Add to this the cost of the funerals of those who died and we have a total of \$56,252.50 for the actual ascertainable cost in cash of a year's typhoid in Pittsburg.

The indirect loss to the community was, of course, very much larger and the committee in charge of the computation places it at over \$3,000,000 for the year. Evidently it is cheaper to construct aqueducts, build dams and lay down filter beds than to foot the bills for the consequences of falling to do these things.

MARKET VALUE OF SEAWEED

Material Generally Little Thought of Is of Use in a Variety of Ways.

Seaweed is not much to look at, but seaweed does not depend so much upon beauty as upon more substantial merit to make itself worthy of attention. Various species of it are used in manufactures, and several varieties are edible, the most important of the latter being Irish or carrageen moss, used in the preparation of jellies—blanc-mange, for instance—dulse, or dilseck, very highly thought of in Scotland, particularly when roasted by wrapping about hot tongs, and kelp or tangle.

Irish moss and some other species, particularly eel grass and flat-stalk rock weed, have been found valuable as a cattle food, especially when boiled to destroy the rank taste, and mixed with meal. The eel grass and rock weed compare favorably with hay as regard the most important constituent—protein, containing 6.03 and 8.21 per cent., respectively. They are deficient in fat, but contain a large amount of ash.

The great bulk of the seaweed gathered, however, is used as a fertilizer, and the average seaweed contains large quantities of all the essential fertilizing elements. Allowing ten cents a pound for nitrogen, 2 cents a pound for phosphoric acid, and 4 cents a pound for potash—and these are as low prices as it is possible to procure these materials in any form—a ton of seaweed, containing 80 per cent. water, is worth as a fertilizer \$1.42 a ton.

One of Our Fallings.

The pretty girl stepped off the "L" train with a flush of annoyance on her face.

"That certainly was not a pleasant experience," she said to the girl who was waiting for her, as they walked away together. "There was I, crowded in beside two men so I could not possibly get away, and they were talking about people I know. One subject of their conversation is a politician, and they were saying all kinds of hard things about him. The other was—who, do you think? My own brother! Fortunately for them—and doubtless for me, too—they evidently like Bob, for they had only good things to say about him. I don't know what I should have done if they had been abusing him, too. I hope I could have kept still, but I am not sure. People ought to be careful what they say in public. They might be arrested for slander."

Woman Gold Digger.

Lady Sybil Grey is the latest distinguished gold digger. She accompanied her father, Earl Grey, governor general of the Dominion, on his recent trip to the Canadian Arctic gold fields. Near Dawson City, the capital of the Klondike, she pegged out a claim for herself with all the prescribed legal formalities and christened it the Sybil.

Her first panning out produced \$20 worth of gold, which she considers a very promising start. During the long arctic winter Lady Sybil will work her claim by deputy, but she says she will return next summer to supervise operations and examine results in person.

The Courtship Gate.

We have been shown a design for an upholstered front gate which seems destined to become very popular. The footboard is cushioned and there is a warm soapstone on each side, the inside step being adjustable, so that a short girl can bring her lips to the line of any given mustache without trouble. If the gate is occupied at 10:30 p. m. an iron hand extends from one gate post, takes the young man by the left ear, turns him around and he is at once started toward home by a steel foot. The girl can, if she likes, set this part at a later hour than 10:30.—Jones County (Ga.) News.

Misunderstood Metaphor.

Wigwag (describing a banquet)—The wine flowed like water.

Col. Bluegrass of Kentucky—Like water? Do you mean to say that nobody drank it?—Philadelphia Record.

HOLLY IS DYING OUT

Becoming Rare, Says Gardener, Who Is Proud of Exhibit.

Annual Raids for the Purpose of Christmas Decorations Are Fast Destroying the Plant—Rapidly Growing Scarce.

Chicago.—Some of the best-known gardeners in the city—including John Sells, head of the gardeners at the Garfield park conservatory—will tell you that the festive holly is slowly dying out. Although Christmas comes but once a year, the annual raids upon this plant are slowly destroying it.

That is one reason why John Sells is so proud of his holly as it grows in the West side hothouse. Just at the present time there is a midwinter flower show in progress at Garfield park, and not the least interesting of all its wonderful exhibits is a bunch of holly with the reddest, most fiery berries ever seen.

"It is fine to have holly growing here now," is the way Mr. Sells puts it, as he stands soliloquizing before the picturesque plant. "It is fine to have any kind of flowers just before Christmas, and good holly especially."

"For holly is becoming a very rare plant. There is less of it this season than there has been in many a season past. The reason? They are taking so much of it away, and not giving it a chance to grow."

Groups of the crowds which flock to the big conservatory stand before the plant in an awed manner, and whisper: "Yes, that's real holly!" For while there is still some of it left on South Water street, it is a real privilege to see it just as it grows in the northern woods.

What the Garfield park people call the "showhouse" of the huge conservatory has been filled with rare and beautiful plants for the midwinter exhibition. The "showhouse" is directly in the center of the group of buildings and every sylvan pathway eventually leads into it.

Here, with hard work, great care and "some luck," Gardener Sells has succeeded in gathering a collection of plants and flowers which are especially hard to grow in this climate at this time of the year. There is the begonia hybrid, called "Gloire de Lorraine," and also a collection of poinsettia, the red Mexican plant, all surrounded by thick borders of primrose. There is, also the cineraria hybrid from Cape Aster, and a beautiful bunch of narcissus.

Looking redder and brighter than holly, and growing in small, compact bushes, there is also a bunch of "Christmas pepper," a little scarlet fruit which is very hard to raise at this season.

Mr. Sells declares that the other rooms of the conservatory are at their best now, especially the "economics" room, with its orange, bay, lemon, fig, banana, alligator pear, plum, olive, St. John's bread, rubber and other trees. There are some lemons growing at the present time, and the banana tree has a big ripe bunch of fruit which is just ready to be eaten.

In full growth at the present time are the "pitcher plants," otherwise known as nepenthes, which are supposed to catch insects and devour them for their own sustenance. Gardener Sells is discouraging these ferocious habits and says the rare plants are thriving in spite of the absence of bloodshed.

HAY FAMINE BY BAD ROADS

Nebraska Dealers Ask \$16 for Grades Normally Sold for Six to Eight Dollars and Advance Is Paid.

Omaha, Neb.—The price of hay is soaring. Usually the best grade of wild hay retails in this market at from six to eight dollars per ton and tame hay two dollars more. During the past few days figures have taken a jump and anything in the way of hay readily brings \$16 per ton. The best grades sell at \$18, while alfalfa and clover fetch \$20.

The city is almost on the verge of a hay famine, and in the country the roads are not only bad, but they are constantly growing worse. More snow is on the ground now than at any time in the past twenty years, and it is impossible for the men who have hay meadows and hundreds of tons of baled hay in stock to get it to the stations for shipment to the city.

Local dealers say that if the bad weather continues they will not be surprised to see hay go to \$30 per ton.

Horse Walks Gilder.

Clayton, N. J.—James Mapes of Clayton has a horse that any circus might consider a valuable acquisition. Recently the horse ran away with a load of Christmas trees. When it reached Franklinville, three miles away, it did not need a large red flag and a sign "Bridge up," but ran across the opening on a nine-inch girder. When the wagon struck the edge the harness broke and the load of Christmas greens fell into the stream, but the horse never lost its footing and continued across the girder to the opposite side.

Sleeps with Twelve Generations.

London.—Frederick Augustus King, the last of a family which has held the same farm at Great Hopedfield Essex, for more than four hundred years, was buried in the churchyard where 12 generations of his ancestors lie.

SAWDUST FLOUR FROM WASTE

Another Movement Started in Sweden for the Conservation of Forest Resources—Of Much Value.

Washington.—Flour from sawdust is another step in the movement for the conservation of forest resources. The United States consul at Christiania, Norway, has sent to this government a suggestion along this line which may be of value to American lumbermen who are wrestling with the problem of sawdust waste.

The flour in question is not the kind which goes into the making of light, fluffy biscuits, and the other kind which are not light, or flaky pastry, but it is an ingredient of dynamite. It is not put forward as a new discovery, for it has been in use for several years in Europe, and to a small extent in this country.

The wood flour is ground in a cheap mill, very similar to those which grind corn and rye. Pine and spruce dust is used in Europe, and after passing through the stones and the boiling chest, it is sacked or baled for shipment. It is then worth \$12 to \$13 a ton.

The flour has a number of uses, one of which is in the making of dynamite. It is the absorbent for the nitroglycerine, which is the explosive ingredient. Wood flour is inferior to that made with infusorial earth as the absorbent; but it serves many purposes, and is cheaper. But dynamite is one of the smallest prospective uses for the product.

Linoleum makers mix it with linseed oil and give body to their floor coverings. It is not considered quite equal to ground cork for this purpose, as it is less elastic; but it is cheaper and meets requirements for medium grades.

The flour fills an important place in the manufacture of xylolite, a kind of artificial flooring, resembling wood in weight, and stone in other respects. It is used for kitchen floors, and in halls, corridors, cafes, restaurants, and public rooms. It is impervious to water, and is practically fireproof. It is floor material in some of the German war vessels. It is so used because it is not liable to take fire or splinter if struck by shells.

Many additional uses for wood flour will probably be found. The amount of sawdust to be had in this country is practically unlimited, and millmen will welcome any plan that will lessen the waste at the sawdust dump. Norway exports thousands of tons of this sawdust four years, and the United States takes some of it. Germany is a large manufacturer also, and has been for years. England is an extensive buyer, and much goes to France.

LOVE MAKING IS FORBIDDEN

London Manufacturers of Sweetmeats Establish Fund for Benefit of its Employees.

London.—In order to discourage love-making during business hours and to stimulate the industry of their employees, Barratt & Co., sweetmeat manufacturers of Wood Green, recently instituted an associates' co-partnership fund.

This scheme, Albert Barratt informed a Daily Mail representative the other day, has already worked wonders. There are 2,000 hands in the factory, mostly boys and girls, and Mr. Barratt set aside £10,000 in ordinary shares of the company in order that the dividends accruing might be distributed among a number of the employees of both sexes.

Some 300 are at present on the dividend list, made up for the most part of quite young girls and youths. They are selected for good behavior, attention to their duties and skill in their respective departments. Other workers will gradually be placed on the dividend list as they make themselves eligible.

Some of the fortunate "good-conduct lassies" will receive the dividend from as many as 200 shares, while others will have had parcels of between 50 and 175 allotted to them. Only the dividend goes to the workers, the shares, of course, remaining the property of the company.

Albert Barratt stated that the result had amply justified the venture.

RHEUMATIC CURED BY DREAM

Michigan Man, Unable to Walk, Has No Use for Crutches After One Treatment.

Owosso, Mich.—H. M. Post, a local hardware dealer, is now a firm believer in dreams. Previous to a week ago he had suffered with rheumatism in his left leg and at times was unable to walk.

A week ago his wife related to him how much another woman had been benefited by treatment by an osteopath, and during the day Mr. Post thought a great deal of it.

That night he dreamed that he had taken a treatment from the osteopath, and the next morning awoke cured of his ailment. Since that time he has not felt a trace of it and now recommends dreaming as a sure cure for almost any ills.

Skates After Surf Baths.

Asbury Park.—For several days Dr. William S. Cummings, a local resident, has been enjoying a skate on Fletcher lake after his usual daily bath in the ocean. After disporting about ten minutes in the surf he dresses, buckles on his skates and warms up on the ice. Dr. Cummings was formerly athletic instructor at Swarthmore college, Pennsylvania.