



THURSDAY JULY 29 1937

Special Articles:

The Issues in China .. 15 & 16
Obituary: Admiral Sir Francis Hyde .. 16

Illustrations:

Royal Visit to Belfast .. 18

Correspondence:

Spanish Treasures (Mr. Arthur Loveday) .. 15
The Balfour Declaration (Mrs. Dugdale) .. 15
Horseflesh as Food (Mr. W. H. Dawson) .. 15
The "Abominable Snowmen" (Mr. Henry Newman) .. 15
Big Fish (Brigadier-General Sir Osborne Mance) .. 15
Special Areas (Mr. John Benn) .. 10
Work at Avebury (Mr. Alexander Keiller) .. 10
Play Scene in "Hamlet" (Mr. Robert Nichols) .. 10
Yugoslav Church Dispute (Major Harold Temperley) .. 10
A Veteran Daily Newspaper (Mr. H. S. Alexander) .. 10
Confiers in the Lake District (Mr. Reginald Lennard) .. 10
Lahore Cathedral (Bishop of Lahore) .. 10
Electric Telegraphy (Mr. T. S. Lascelles) .. 10
Nerves in Cricket (Mr. Edward Peake) .. 10
Points from Letters:—Col de l'Iseran; Archbishop Edwards; Roast Duck and Orange; Cobden's Match; Seats in the Parks; Red and Grey Squirrels; Hospital Administration; Pedestrian Crossings; The Liberal Vote .. 10

Index to News Pages:

BROADCASTING: PAGE 12

Arrangements .. 17
Auctions To-day .. 10
Court Circular .. 17
Crossword Puzzle .. 7
Ecclesiastical News .. 10
Entertainments .. 12
Estate Market .. 10
Finance .. 19-24
Home News .. 11
Imperial & Foreign .. 13
Law Notices .. 5
Law Report .. 4 & 5

Weather Forecast

ENGLAND, S.E.—Light variable or southerly winds; cloudy at times, but considerable bright intervals; average temperature.

Further Outlook.—Becoming showery, with a chance of thundery tendency developing in the South. (p. 16)

TO-DAY'S NEWS

HOME

The King and Queen received remarkable demonstrations of the loyalty of Ulster when they paid their State visit to Belfast yesterday. (p. 14)

The public hearing of the wage and other claims by the railway unions was concluded yesterday by the Railway Staff National Tribunal. On behalf of the companies it was stated that they did not yet have full information as to the effect on revenue of the increase in fares and freight charges granted by the Railway Rates Tribunal on Tuesday. (p. 11)

The renovation of Staple Inn, Holborn, includ-

The crick: yesterday was rem- ble for high scores. Paynter made 322 for Lancashire out of a total of 640 for eight wickets against Sussex at Hove. R. H. Moore made 316 for Hampshire against Warwickshire at Bournemouth. (p. 7)

A Surrey team beat Yale University by seven matches to three in the Golf match played at Walton Heath yesterday. (p. 6)

FINANCE AND COMMERCE

In "City Notes" comment is made on:—Good Response to New Issues; the Railway Rates Decision; Rhokana Corporation's Larger Profit; Hadfield's Debenture Conversion; Increased Colliery Dividends; Cinema Company's Prosperity; Tile Manufacturers' Higher Profits; and Freight Market Developments. (p. 19)

Dollars were firmer, the New York exchange closing at 54.97½. Spot francs recovered to 132 53-64½, and a sharp rally occurred in forward francs. Guilders were weak. Gold rose 2½d. to 139s. 9d. per ounce, £224,000 being sold. (p. 19)

The Stock Markets yesterday opened firm. Increased activity took place in Gold shares, which displayed all-round strength. Profit-taking neutralized an early rise in Home Railway stocks, and the Oil market was affected in the afternoon by reports of an impending cut in the price of petrol. Gill-edged securities and Industrial shares were firm. (p. 19)

ARMY POLICY

There has been published this week a report on Army policy, drafted by a private Committee under Mr. AMERY's chairmanship, as the prelude to a campaign towards arousing greater public interest in, and appreciation of, the part that the Army has to play in our scheme of defence. The new importance of air-power and the sustained importance of sea-power have tended to put the role of the Army in the background of national consciousness, even more than before the last War. That may be natural, since the distinguished soldiers who are associated with the report themselves recognize the "even greater importance of the Navy and the Air Force." The tendency has been increased, as the report also recognizes, by the superior attractions which these services have offered to the technically minded youth of this generation, especially while the Army was still unmechanized. Other factors contributing to the depreciation of the Army's role have been the retrospective doubts of the wisdom of the immense military effort on the Continent into which we drifted in the last War, and the still clearer reasons to question even the possibility of repeating such an effort without detriment to the maximum development of air and sea forces which is obviously required by our special situation. Past advocacy of the Army's needs has not always been wisely gauged. Such soldiers as have pressed its claims without due regard to other needs and to the question of proportion have themselves helped to raise an obstacle in the way of meeting what is essentially a strong case. For, while being careful to avoid the risk of an effort on land disproportionate to the strain of the other spheres and at their expense, there is also a danger of the Army proving inadequate to its necessary part in the whole. As this report reminds us

here is also a vagueness as to the scale and of the Field Force visualized, and the estimated cost of the various developments, and reforms which are suggested; and the ordinary reader may not find it easy to reconcile the references to "larger forces" with those to a "moderate cost." A clarification of such points would seem a necessary step in the task of gaining public and Parliamentary support. While just emphasis is given to the general growth of the Army's responsibilities abroad, there is hardly adequate explanation of the statement that in India "there is no possibility" in the near future of any reduction in the "strength of the British garrison: the need for reinforcement is more probable." The garrison there is practically as large as when it was reconstituted after the Indian Mutiny; and its relative increase by the much greater mobility it now possesses is a factor which at least requires consideration. The report also seems to give a weight which is scarcely justified by modern developments to the possibility of a major war beyond the frontier, and consequent calls on the forces at home, while holding out no hope that any of the British forces there could be used to deal with an Imperial emergency elsewhere. It would seem difficult to justify the present proportion of British troops allotted for the Field Army there, as distinct from internal security, unless they can be treated and trained as part of the Imperial strategic reserve.

The report will command general agreement when it urges a change of system whereby part of the strategic reserve at home should always be maintained ready to move, as an Imperial fire brigade, and remarks that "it is not too much to ask for the defence of an Empire covering nearly a fifth of the world's surface that the Central Reserve should be able to send anything up to two fully equipped divisions to any threatened point without mobilization." At the same time it would seem wiser to keep these apart from the Field Force organization for a major war, lest a call on either force upsets the readiness of the other. Furthermore, the divisions themselves might be made lighter and more adaptable to different purposes instead of having their organization governed, as at present, by the conventions of Continental warfare. It is possible to visualize the new flexibility of organization which the present Chief of the Imperial General Staff has recently developed in the tactical sphere being extended to the strategic sphere by having smaller "basic" divisions to which more fire power, motor power, and other technical aids could be added, according to the conditions of their mission, from a general pool. While such problems of organization are interconnected with the recruiting problem, this is in part a separate study. To it the more detailed half of the report of Mr. AMERY's Committee is devoted, and towards its solution many useful suggestions are made. Few at this stage will dissent from the conclusion that, if the situation is to be rectified, there must be a definite increase in the rates of pay offered. It is significant also that the Committee are agreed on the necessity of modifying the Cardwell system, and propose a varying length of service. The proposal for an Employment Corps of old soldiers, to relieve young ones of tedious fatigues and free them for training, is hardly less important. In the hope it gives of arousing public opinion of such needs, the report of the Committee justifies itself, and that work might be carried farther by the Army League which it foreshadows.

But a word of caution may not be amiss.

receive them at Stormont. A visit to H.M.S. Caroline and a drive through working-class East Belfast, its drab streets made almost brilliant by decorations, ended a splendidly successful Coronation visit to a very loyal city.

King Farouk's Investiture

To-day the young and popular KING of EGYPT will attain his majority and take the oath of loyalty to the Constitution and the nation. The occasion should not be described as a coronation. Egypt has no crown, and the ceremony will not be a religious or quasi-religious one, as was the girding of a Turkish Sultan with the sword of OSMAN by the head of the Mevlevi Dervishes. It will be an investiture of a Royal Minor with full sovereign rights, and the ceremonies which will accompany it will be exclusively civil and military. Cairo will be gaily decorated; the Egyptian Army will show that it preserves all its old smartness on parade; foreign visitors will be rare in the heat of July; but the notables of every province of Egypt from Assuan to El Arish will be present, and the affection with which the masses regard their young KING will fill the streets of Cairo. A delegation has arrived from the Sudan, where KING FAROUK's majority will be worthily celebrated.

It is not surprising that the Egyptian people are determined to make the most of the occasion. A young KING, beloved by his subjects, comes of age as the first monarch of an independent Egypt. During the last year the status of his country has been completely changed. An uneasy and unequal association with Great Britain has made way for an equal and honourable alliance. The long-standing connexion between Egypt and the Sudan has once again become a reality. Nothing now prevents the Egyptian Army being provided with the most modern armaments which the Government can afford. The Capitulations, which were a usurpation of the most essential attributes of Egyptian sovereignty, have given way to a transitional régime which does not offend national susceptibilities. The agreement with the Suez Canal Company has been advantageously revised; and, last but not least, Egypt has been unanimously welcomed into the League of Nations. Is it surprising that its people look forward to the new reign with high hopes?

The Polite Hop-Picker

The hop-picking season approaches, and the Ministry of Health has fortified its model by-laws with a pamphlet rich in good advice to growers of hops and of fruit and vegetables. There we may read of so many feet of floor space for each person, "counting two children under ten as one person"; of the right sort of floors and roofs; of concrete or cinder pathways; of ventilation and lighting and water-supply; of cooking and drying sheds; of family privacy—until we grow convinced that the hop-pickers of half a century ago would regard these successors of theirs as a lot of pampered, stand-offish "toffs." They were a rough lot in the not very old days, when they were not so well lodged as they are now, and a drop of comfort was the easy remedy for cold and wet and weariness. Local authorities and district visitors might be expected to shake shocked heads over some of the goings-on. But there were others, not of the true hop-picker breed nor yet mere visitors, but young writers or artists, perhaps, who went "hopping" from curiosity or from need

ANISH TREASURES
EVIDENCE OF THE DUKE
OF ALBAVAULTS BELOW THE BANK
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—Being especially interested in the correspondence in your columns about Spanish art treasures, I ventured to consult the Duke of Alba, who happened to be in this country. Apart from having had most of his priceless collection of pictures "saved" or "discovered" by the Reds in Spain, in the way so imitatively described in your columns by Mr. Stephen Spender, he has been for 21 years president of the Prado picture gallery board.

It was in respect of the latter collection that I wished for some facts, and I find that as long as two years ago special vaults were built in the new Bank of Spain across the street in Madrid in which even the biggest pictures could be stored at a depth of 33 metres below the surface of the ground, where they would be quite safe from the then quite improbable danger of war and bombing.

So the removal of these pictures to Valencia, Paris, or Moscow on the basis of safety cannot stand.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR F. LOVEDAY.

Aynhoe, Banbury, Oxon, July 26.

THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—A new stage has been reached in the evolution of the Balfour Declaration. That Declaration is not dead, and cannot die, after 400,000 Jews have settled in Palestine under its pledge, and while the hopes of millions in the Dispersion are centred with increasing intensity on the Promised Land.

It was characteristic of Lord Balfour that his policies were dynamic, and not static. Ireland is a case in point, and in fact bears some resemblance to Palestine. For many years Lord Balfour, in common with other Unionist leaders, hoped that economic prosperity would reconcile the South to continued Union. When he found this hope disproved, he was prepared to let the malcontents go, provided the rights and future of loyal Ulster were fully secured.

What were his ideas for the future of Palestine? He envisaged the ultimate emergence of a Jewish State, and hoped that the Arabs would become reconciled to it by the economic prosperity which he (rightly) expected Jewish work and colonization would bring to them.

The fact of those benefits has now been established beyond all doubt by the Report of the Royal Commission, but the political nature of Arab discontent is only the more apparent.

I cannot doubt that Lord Balfour's view would be that under these circumstances a further step must be taken in evolution, and that the time has come for setting up the Jewish State, though apparently it cannot be as he had hoped to see it develop. But the pledge would be broken were not the Jewish State given frontiers which would secure its vitality, and allow room for further considerable immigration; while, as in the case of Ireland, the malcontents must be allowed to go their own way.

Yours, &c.,

BLANCHE E. C. DUGDALE.

1, Roland Gardens, S.W.7, July 27.

THE ISSUES IN
CHINA

PLANS AND PUPPETS

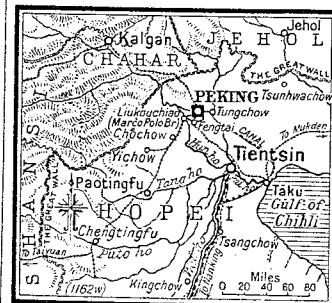
JAPAN'S ECONOMIC
ASPIRATIONS

The following article, written before the most recent developments, sets forth the background against which the present crisis in North China should be seen.

From Our Peking Correspondent

That a totally unimportant and unpremeditated incident in North China could bring China and Japan within measurable distance of full-dress war is only typical of the strange circumstances which exist here. Completely peaceful surface relations had marked a period of several months and yet this incident has created a crisis more serious than any of the many crises since Mukden was occupied in 1931.

The military situation here is an extraordinary one. Japan maintains in one Province in North China, Hopei, a force of over 7,000 men equipped with artillery, tanks, armoured cars, and aircraft. Nominally they are here under the terms of the



worn-out Boxer protocol to "maintain communication between Peking and the sea." Britain, America, France, and Italy maintain small Legation guards under the same document, but they do no more than add a touch of colour and dignity to their diplomatic missions. Japan's 7,000 are here to "show the flag" in territory where, she has clearly indicated, she has economic and territorial ambitions.

Japan's forces are scattered over a wide area. Tientsin, Tungchow, Fengtai, and Peking itself. It is no secret that their military exercises and training proceed as if it were Japanese territory. Manoeuvres in the streets by day or night in Peking are common. The river at Marco Polo bridge is used as a target for artillery fire regardless of the farming activities of the Chinese peasant. Tanks demonstrate in the streets of Peking. The international racecourse at Tientsin has more than once been occupied without a "by your leave." Japanese soldiers have summarily arrested Chinese in the streets of Peking and even in their houses, and Chinese and foreign civilians have frequently been manhandled by Japanese soldiers. Not long ago Japanese officials in Peking were required to apologize

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Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014

ing the building of a steel framework to support the Tudor facade, is now half completed. (p. 11)

Navy Week will open at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Chatham on Saturday afternoon. (p. 11)

Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, attended the opening of three blocks of working-class flats in Islington yesterday. (p. 11)

Our Aeronautical Correspondent describes the camp of the Oxford University Air Squadron, which is being held this year at Ford, Sussex. (p. 16)

Salary scales for architects employed by Government Departments, local authorities, and commercial undertakings have been approved by the Council of the R.I.B.A. (p. 11)

At the inquest yesterday on the body of the Mayor of Oxford (Alderman L. H. Alden), who was killed while crossing a road, the driver of the car was exonerated from blame. (p. 11)

The General Council of the T.U.C. decided yesterday to oppose the proposals of the Ministry of Transport concerning the reorganization of electrical distribution. (p. 9)

One man was killed and 17 were injured when a cage crashed at the Kilnhurst Colliery, near Rotherham, yesterday. (p. 14)

The price of petrol has been reduced by one halfpenny, to 1s. 7d. a gallon. (p. 14)

POLITICS

In the House of Lords yesterday the reform of the League of Nations was discussed. (p. 8)

In the House of Commons a debate took place on the cost of living. (pp. 8 & 9)

There will be a meeting of the Cabinet this morning to complete the business for which there was no time at yesterday's weekly meeting. (p. 14)

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN

Up to last night only Great Britain and Poland had handed in their replies to the British questionnaire on non-intervention, but the replies of all the other States are expected to-day. (p. 14)

While the battle west of Madrid has died down there has been fierce fighting on the Teruel front, where the Nationalists claim big advances. (p. 14)

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, speaking in Wellington yesterday on the work of the Imperial Conference, said that if Great Britain were in difficulties to-morrow "about the same would happen in the Dominions as happened last time." (p. 13)

The investiture of the King of Egypt takes place to-day and Cairo is packed to capacity with the crowds who have come in for the celebrations. (p. 14)

There was hard fighting by Chinese and Japanese for possession of towns in the Peking area yesterday, and losses on both sides are stated to be severe. Assurances were given in Tokyo that Japan was mindful of the safety of foreign nationals in Peking. (p. 14)

The Serbian Orthodox Church has excluded Cabinet Ministers from the funeral service of the Patriarch Varnava to-day. The Government have banned a proclamation in which the Patriarch was described as a great patriotic leader. (p. 13)

It is understood that the French Minister of Finance has promised further modifications of the price control decree, to meet the fears of the business community. (p. 13)

Fourteen persons were killed when a Dutch air liner crashed in flames near Brussels yesterday. (p. 14)

SPORT

The Goodwood Meeting was continued yesterday, when Mr. J. V. Rank's Epigram won the race for the Goodwood Stakes. (p. 6)

no effective use of sea and air power is possible without the cooperation of land forces which are required for the physical occupation of defended territory and to provide that security of the bases from which the other services must act.

And this danger is the more immediate one. The past two years have brought disturbing evidence of the difficulty which faces the Army, as it stands, in meeting emergencies. We cannot rely on emergencies being successive, or on their being confined to one area. Any sound scheme of Imperial defence, and Army organization, must reckon with the probability of simultaneous outbreaks in or threats to different quarters of the Empire simultaneously with a war in Europe. In correcting the fallacy that this country can make a maximum possible effort on land as well as at sea and in the air, we should not countenance the delusion that it can dispense with an Army so long as the other services are developed. For true economy of force the Army should be on a minimum scale; but the minimum cannot be small while the territory and bases to be defended are on their present scale. It is well that the public should realize how much these responsibilities have been increased since the last War while the forces available to maintain them have not been increased in proportion. Moreover we are proving unable to recruit our existing land forces up to their peace-time establishments. Establishments are in their nature a working convention, and these establishments may not have been re-adjusted to changing technical conditions; but whatever establishment prevails it is detrimental that strength should fall much below it. While the present shortage of some 20,000 men represents a deficiency of only about 12 per cent., which does not sound much, its reaction on the training and general state of the Army at home—which has to keep the units abroad filled—becomes far more serious in effect. When we hear of companies being able to raise only twenty men, and battalions less than a hundred, to go out on an exercise it is easier to appreciate the handicap of training, the blunting of keenness, and the consequent loss of efficiency. While there is room for a fresh and scientific inquiry into the scale of unit establishments and their adaptation to modern circumstances, vacant spaces in the ranks which are maintained must always be filled if the Army is to be fitted and ready for its functions.

It is to the problem of meeting these needs and to making them known that Mr. AMERY'S Committee has addressed itself. Its report gains significance from the chairman's connexion with the pre-war Esher Committee and his sustained interest in defence questions, as well as from the inclusion of such eminent soldiers as SIR PHILIP CLAVEL, SIR RONALD CHARLES, and LORD MILNER. If it does not go so far as would seem desirable into the basic problems of adjusting scale to functions and national resources and organization to scale, this limitation may be partly due to a natural reluctance on the part of men recently responsible for Army policy to press on their successors, now busy in the immediate repair of deficiencies, a course not previously initiated. It would be the more difficult to do so with a report published in this

Such organizations, if they are to justify themselves by their fruits, must do more than preach to the converted, while guarding against the greater risk of converting the neutral or doubtful to antagonism. Otherwise they may harm rather than help the cause they are formed to promote. To avoid such risks any Army League should be on the broadest possible basis. As the Army is the essential base from which the other services act, so the nation is the base of the Army. The truest service to the Army lies in consolidating this foundation. A people united on a moderate platform are a better support than the enthusiasm of a section only.

A Welcome in Ulster

Every one will regret that the visit of THEIR MAJESTIES to Belfast should have been attended by acts of incendiarism and sabotage on the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State. These were apparently the work of the ultra-Nationalist section of the secret society known as the I.R.A. (Irish Republican Army), a para-military organization, banned by both Irish Governments, which aims at establishing a revolutionary anti-British dictatorship over as many Irishmen as it can convert or terrorize. Since the murders of ADMIRAL SOMERVILLE and MR. O'FERRALL by I.R.A. gunmen MR. DE VALERA'S hand has been heavy on this irresponsible and criminal organization. The burnings of Customs huts on both sides of the border, and other demonstrations which immediately preceded the arrival of the KING and QUEEN at Belfast, were obviously designed as much to embarrass him as to advertise the hostility of the I.R.A. to the loyalists of the North.

It need hardly be said that these childish ebullitions had no effect on the jubilant greeting which the Northern capital gave to THEIR MAJESTIES. Enormous numbers of Irishmen from the Six Counties had poured into Belfast to greet their SOVEREIGN; visitors from England and Scotland and the Irish Free State swelled the throng; and their greeting to the KING and QUEEN was worthy of the occasion. At the City Hall the Northern Irish members of the Imperial Parliament and of the Senate and Commons of Northern Ireland were presented to the Royal visitors; then came the royal addresses, after which KING GEORGE in a brief and felicitous speech reminded his audience of the visit which he paid to Northern Ireland as Duke of York in 1924, and thanked the loyal people of the North for their splendid welcome. A drive by way of the pleasant town of Lurgan to the Government House at Hillsborough, where THEIR MAJESTIES lunched with the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF NORTHERN IRELAND and the DUCHESS OF ABERCORN, did not conclude the visit. Youth organizations have long attracted KING GEORGE'S special interest; they are numerous and highly efficient in the Six Counties, and the exceptionally fine display of Irish dances, physical drill, and demonstrations of campcraft given by 20,000 boys and girls assembled from all parts of Northern Ireland must have given him and QUEEN ELIZABETH rare pleasure. A visit to the University of Belfast followed; and it was a matter for general satisfaction that LORD CRAIGAVON, the veteran Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, whose head had prevented him from attending THEIR MAJESTIES throughout the whole programme, was able to

of a holiday with pay, and stuck it out through their contracted time, and came back with strange stories. Mothers, they declared, would leave their babies by the faggot-fire and forget to go and turn them when they were done on one side; the battle between Molly Seagrim and Goody Brown in "Tom Jones" was a sparring-match to some of the Saturday evening fights; many of the pickers were also stealers; and, as for the matrimonial arrangements, not the wildest stories about Hollywood (then unknown to fame) could beat them for swiftness and variety.

Some of it, no doubt, was true. Not even now do hop-pickers grow into plaster saints. But the people who make up the hopping parties live in their own homes a more civilized life than they used to; and, even without the Ministry of Health and the local authorities to watch over them, they would not be likely to relapse on holiday into savages. For the most part they are regulars, not casuals. They go year after year to the same place; and, having better quarters to live in, they take more care to make them nice and to keep them so. Yet, in spite of all the refinements, the drying-rooms, the crèches, the Red Cross stations and the rest, life in the hop-fields cannot be so standardized and so easy as to have sunk to a dead level. So long as the world lasts, some people will be sluts and some will be idlers; and of the well-intentioned some will learn to be good campers in a week, and some, with all the modern gadgets at command, will be duffers all their lives. There must still be scope for those rare ones who shine their brightest in such a community—men who quietly put things and people to rights; women shrewd of tongue and swift of wit, matriarchs to rule and mother a whole camp. Hop-picking is hard work; but it is work done in the open, with no machinery to spoil talking; no mechanization of the human agent to congeal the spirit of play. Those who hold that beer is best should find it better still for the thought of the jolly parties that pick the hops—men, women, and children let loose from their cramped town life, but discreetly watched over in their country freedom.

BIG FISH

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—With reference to Sir Arnold Hodson's letter about Nile perch of 300lb. weight or over, it may be of interest to your readers to be reminded that General Chesney, in 1868, referring to an expedition on the Euphrates, mentions passing an enormous fish lying high and dry on the bank: "It was at least 4ft. thick at the shoulders and 15ft. long, in fact, much longer than any shark I had seen, being more like a whale than anything else."

After quoting Pliny as having described carp which had attained this great size, he refers to a previous experience mentioned in a report over 30 years before, when he was told that in the Upper Euphrates, in a few cases, a fish had been taken of such dimensions that it was necessary to divide it and place it on two camels to be transported to Aleppo. (Military handbooks lay down that the proper load for a camel is from 250lb. to 300lb., depending on its size.) It is evident that Chesney was no fisherman from the fact that, in describing the incident over 30 years later, it was still only two camels! These specimens compare favourably with the "minnows" described in Sir Arnold Hodson's letter.

Yours truly,
H. O. MANCE.
Hill Top, Frith Hill, Godalming, Surrey.

TO EAT AS TOOD

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—It seems worth while—in order to prevent misunderstanding—to point out that the consumption of horseflesh in Germany has no necessary bearing on social conditions. The thorough-going investigation into the cost of living in that country made in 1906-7 at the instigation of Mr. Lloyd George brought to light the fact that the working classes of Western Germany in particular had a distinct preference for horseflesh, and were accustomed to pay more for it than for some other flesh foods. In France, too, horseflesh is largely consumed, and there the *boucherie hippocratique* often displays a massive sign bearing a horse's head.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. DAWSON.

Headington, Oxford.

THE "ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—May I, as the showman responsible for the introduction of the "Abominable Snowman" to the world of literature and art, say a word or two about this creature? He is about as much a fact as the Wild Man of Borneo. I think it was a member of the second Everest Expedition who, while the first while the expedition was still at work, said that on one occasion, at a height far above snow level and long after all signs of animal life had disappeared, tracks were seen in a ravine leading up a side gully. To him it seemed that the tracks were made by an animal, a wolf, but he added that some of the Tibetan porters insisted that the tracks were made by a wild man.

When this expedition returned to Darjeeling I went up to interview some of the members, and I asked questions about these tracks. The reply I got was that they were unquestionably made in the snow by some four-legged creature about the size of a wolf.

Later on I fell into conversation with some of the porters, and to my surprise and delight another Tibetan, who was given to me a full description of the wild men—how their feet were turned backward to enable them to climb easily and how their hair was so long and matted that, when going downhill, it fell over their eyes, so that they could hardly see. He added one or two other details. When I asked him what name was applied to these men, he said "Metoh Kangmi." Kangmi means "snowmen" and the word metoh I translated as "abominable." The whole story seemed a joyous creation, and I sent it to one or two newspapers. It was seized upon by cartoonists who drew abominable and grotesque figures and put them on the heads of well-known people.

Later, I was told by a Tibetan expert that I had not quite got the force of the word metoh. It did not mean "abominable" quite so much as "filthy" and "disgusting," somebody dressed in rags. There is an Urdu word, *dakaposh*, meaning somebody wearing filthy and tattered clothing. The Tibetan word means something like that, but is much more emphatic, just as a dirty Tibetan is much more dirty than anybody living in warmer parts of the world. When the full story of the Everest expedition was printed a sort of joking reference was made in it to the "Abominable Snowmen." None of the European members of the party took the story seriously. There was, however, a photograph of the tracks, and very obviously they could not have been made by any human being, whether his feet were pointed forwards or backwards.

The explanation of the "Metoh Kangmi" is, I am convinced, that in Tibet there is no capital punishment, and that men guilty of grave crimes are simply turned out of their village or monastery. I have heard a story of how in Sikkim officials volunteered to produce a snowman for the benefit of a certain traveller. The hill where he was supposed to live was beaten by a gang of villagers, and a man suddenly did dash out and was captured. He turned out to be an Indian who was spending his life in meditation and prayer. The very villagers who had beaten him out of his cave were the people who provided him with food every day. He continually looked a wild creature, with his matted locks and tattered clothing.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY NEWMAN.
3, Holmedale Road, West Chislehurst, July 27.

to Great Britain and the United States for the behaviour of Japanese soldiers towards English and American women.

It is surprising therefore that, with Japanese and Chinese troops cheek by jowl in several parts of Hopei, incidents such as the present one do not occur more often.

THE EXPENSE OF WAR

Despite these military displays Japan's position and influence in North China have been deteriorating for a considerable time, and the Japanese army leaders in China seem to have been puzzled about their next moves in the economic and military game. When the Liukou-chiao incident occurred it probably looked heaven-sent, for it is a commonplace in Oriental politics to make full use of all the occurrences that Providence provides and at critical times to improve on Providence. It has not proved very helpful this time. Japan was not prepared to add North China to Manchukuo by force. Had she intended to do so she would not have been at such pains during the past two years to try to create an independent State in North China, independent, that is, of Nanking. To occupy the provinces of Chahar and Hopei would be very expensive in men and money at a time when neither commodity is to spare in quantity.

Her aims have been economic rather than strictly territorial, but she has been able to make little progress. General Sung Cheh-yuan, as Japanese military and civil spokesmen have from time to time indicated, is not thoroughly satisfied that Marshal Chiang Kai-shek's troops would not be tolerated in the provinces of Hopei and Chahar; this has proved to be double-edged, as there is no policing force to be substituted for General Sung's army, unless it be a Japanese army of occupation, which now would spell certain war.

After Marshal Chiang Kai-shek General Sung has had the most difficult job in China. Had he been less loyal to China his task would have been easier. For two years he has staved off serious Japanese economic penetration and control in North China. He has saved the territory for China when he could, with advantages to himself, have gone over to Japan lock, stock, and barrel, as did Yin Ju-keng in East Hopei. Always a good soldier, he has proved himself a shrewd diplomat, meeting aggressive tactics with disarming charm and friendliness. It was generally expected, especially by Japanese, that General Sung would be able to do little to prevent Japanese economic occupation of North China, but the fact remains that in two years the Japanese have accomplished little, if anything, of value.

JAPANESE FAILURES

Plans were big; North China was to become a large Japanese cotton field, railways were to be built with Japanese money and materials by Japanese engineers, iron mines were to be reopened with Japanese money, big interests in coal mines secured, and air services between North China and Manchuria were to be established. Little of this has been accomplished. A trifle more cotton is grown by the Chinese farmer, at his own will, and not to the detriment of usual crops; the construction of one projected railway has been, according to Japanese report, on the point of starting for months, but nothing seems to get done. Nothing has been done about iron, and coal mines remain in the same hands. An air service of sorts is flown. It is a Sino-Japanese enterprise, into which the Chinese have put little more

Dunoon	14.1	—	30	66	Sunny
Dunstaffnage	12.0	—	49	63	Sunny

