

## Two German Sentences

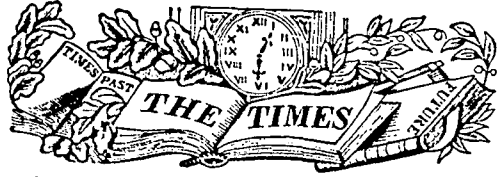
During the last few days two disquieting sentences have been passed by German Courts. On Friday the High Court of Breslau sentenced a foreigner who had been tried *in camera* to six months' imprisonment on a charge of "attempted treason." The name and nationality of the defendant were not made public, but the well-informed *Berliner Tageblatt* has stated that he is a Pole and that he was charged with reporting to his Government the proceedings at the great rally of the Stahlhelms who paraded before the former CROWN PRINCE of PRUSSIA at Breslau near the Polish border on May 31. The Stahlhelm is a strongly Nationalist body organized on military lines, still largely composed of ex-Service men and led by ex-officers who include members of the old ruling houses. Its root idea is that front-line service has produced a specially fine type of manhood—the "Richtmann," or gentleman—although the critics of this disputable proposition might suggest that the method of production is an expensive one. Its avowed objects are the revival of the martial spirit of Germany and the rescission, rather than the revision, of the Treaty of Versailles. But it is in no sense an official body. The Government of the Reich, which tried to suppress it in 1922 and must have known that the Prussian Government did temporarily suppress it in the Rhineland and in Westphalia in 1929, met a Polish protest against the Breslau rally and the provocative speeches delivered there with the reply that the Stahlhelm was a private association of ex-soldiers "with no military aims." Nevertheless on July 9 several German newspapers announced that a Pole and two Czech "agents" had been arrested for "spying" on the rally, and added that the Breslau police had expected foreign agents to attend the demonstration and had lain in wait for them accordingly. Our Berlin Correspondent pointed out at the time that, if the German Government's description of the Stahlhelm were correct, the position of foreigners watching its evolutions would be analogous to that of a German visitor to England who watched a meeting of the British Legion. The Breslau police, who are reported to have arrested three foreigners, and the High Court, which has condemned one of their number, clearly take a different view of the importance of this militarist organization; and their action will inevitably reinforce the misgivings excited in other countries by the recent contradictions of German policy.

These misgivings will be strengthened by the sentences of eighteen months' imprisonment imposed by the Supreme Court of Leipzig on the editor of a German Radical review and the author of an article on German aviation published in it. They were found guilty of the betrayal of military secrets, and the Court, before announcing the verdict, excluded the public on the ground that the summing-up, with its references to the incriminating article and the official secrets which, it found, had been disclosed, could not be publicly read without endangering the national security. Here again other Powers are confronted with a strange divergence between German official declarations and the verdict of a German Court. The Treaty of Versailles forbids Germany to maintain a military air force: the writer of the offending article, who was himself an air-pilot, had criticized the heavy expenditure of public money on aviation, and had hinted that some of this expenditure had been devoted to military rather than civil ends. The democratic Press of the Reich is clearly surprised by this attack on the liberty of the Press and alarmed by the inevitable effect of the verdict on foreign opinion. The *Vossische Zeitung* and other influential newspapers argue that these heavy sentences will give the impression abroad that the Reich has important military secrets to hide. There is ample justification for their criticisms. Following on the Breslau trial, which gives the impression that the Stahlhelm is a sort of auxiliary army enjoying the covert support of the Government of the disarmed Reich, comes the Leipzig trial with its suggestion that the German civil air-service is, if not a camouflaged air-force, at least designed for rapid conversion to military purposes. Too much, no doubt, may be made of the contrast between these sentences and the stock complaints that Germany through her loyalty to the treaty which has disarmed her is now defenceless amid the armed nations. But it is there to furnish other Powers with what their friends will call good reasons, and what their critics must admit are good excuses, for maintaining their present armaments. The Disarmament Conference is drawing near. Its success will depend largely on the confidence of the neighbours of Germany in her good faith. In a letter published in *The Times* on July 11 SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN urged the German Government and people to "cease to place obstacles in the path of the peace-maker" and to "set themselves seriously to discourage the *agents provocateurs* who have been busy in their midst, and to restore to Europe that confidence in their good will and good faith which recent events have done so much to destroy." The trials at Breslau and Leipzig have added additional force to his appeal.









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## Broadcasting Programmes (p. 4)

## Weather Forecast

ENGLAND, S.E.—Moderate south-westerly or westerly winds; mainly fair; moderate day temperature; mist or perhaps fog early and late. Further Outlook.—Mainly fair in the South and East; occasional rain or showers in the North and West. (p. 14)

## TO-DAY'S NEWS

Lord Derby presided at an "All-Lancashire Conference on Industrial Development" held in Manchester yesterday, when a movement was launched to secure new industries for the county. (p. 9)

The London County Council dealt yesterday with the Housing Accounts for 1930-31 and decided that the Council had by various reductions in rents of houses on Council estates "shown its willingness to give favourable consideration to the question of reduction of rents when financial considerations allow." (p. 14)

It is stated that the negotiations between the cotton manufacturers and the operative weavers on the more looms to a weaver system have again broken down. (p. 14)

The Preamble of a Statute was passed in Congress at Oxford yesterday enacting that Holy Scripture should no longer be part of the First Public Examination. (p. 14)

The decisions of the Ministry of Health on legal objections to the boundary proposals of the Surrey County Council were reported to a meeting of the council yesterday. (p. 9)

The ninth annual meeting of group representatives of the Hospital Saving Association was held last evening at Kingsway Hall. (p. 14)

Honorary degrees were conferred at Oxford yesterday on Professor Graham Wallas and Mr. W. W. Vaughan, lately Headmaster of Rugby. (p. 14)

Sir Norman Walker has been elected president of the General Medical Council in succession to Sir Donald MacAlister, who yesterday vacated the chair for reasons of health, after having occupied it for 27 years. (p. 9)

The trial was opened at the Central Criminal Court yesterday by Mr. Justice Charles, 27, and Leonard William Short, 27, charged with shooting, with intent to murder, Police-constable Patten when he attempted to arrest them for breaking into a sports pavilion at Thames Ditton. Charles admitted firing at the policeman, but said he did it merely to frighten him. (p. 9)

The annual report of the Electricity Commissioners notes that the depression in trade checked the rate of growth of the demand for electricity in the year under review, but in all the circumstances it is considered satisfactory that there was a net increase in output of 5 per cent. (p. 9)

In a lecture given last night before the British Science Guild on "Biology and Civilization," Dr. H. H. Dale referred to the reactions of the human body to great flying speeds. He also described the progress made in the study of rockets. (p. 6)

In the House of Lords yesterday the Merchant Shipping (Safety and Load Line Conventions) Bill was read a second time and debate arose on the outrages on British citizens in India. (p. 7)

In the House of Commons the Statute of Westminster Bill passed the Committee and third reading stages. (p. 7)

About 200 members of Parliament have already signed a memorial to the Prime Minister asking the Government to appoint a committee to review the whole question of the organization of the Post Office and to frame detailed proposals for its improvement. (p. 9)

The Order issued by the President of the Board of Trade under the Abnormal Importations Act comes into operation to-day. Official figures show that there has been a large increase in imports during November. (p. 12)

Fourteen British Indian delegates to the Round-Table Conference have issued a statement declaring that no political party of any standing in India will favour the introduction of provincial autonomy as the first instalment of constitutional reform, "with a mere promise of establishing responsibility on a Federal basis in the future." (p. 12)

The Federal Structure Committee of the Round-Table Conference yesterday began the discussion on Financial Safeguards under the new Constitution, Lord Reading being one of the speakers. Lord Sankey's Draft Report on Defence and External Relations was issued last night. (pp. 12 & 17)

Our Washington Correspondent says there is full and sympathetic understanding in high quarters there of the situation which led to the imposition of the British emergency Customs duties. (p. 11)

## LAW

Summary of Law Cases will be found on page 4.

## SPORT

The Warwick November Meeting was continued yesterday. (p. 5)

The South Africans beat Llanelli in a Rugby football match at Llanelli yesterday by nine points to none. (p. 6)

A Football Association XI beat Oxford University at Oxford yesterday by five goals to none. (p. 6)

The billiard match between Davis and McConachy was continued at Thurston's Hall, Leicester-square, yesterday. (p. 6)

## FINANCE AND COMMERCE

In "City Notes" comment is made on:—The Recovery in the Pound; Galloway Water Power Company's Issue; Anglo-Persian Dividend Decision; Floating Debt Reduction; Tate and Lyle's Fine Report; Imperial Smelting Corporation's Results; Lewis Berger and Sons' Meeting; Australian Merchants' Loss; and Movements in Prices of Wheat. (p. 18)

In Lombard-street money was again scarce. Discount rates were firm in tendency. The New York exchange fell sharply at the start and closed at \$3.62, but rallied later and was finally 94½. The French rate was finally 94½. A recovery occurred in Swedish currency. The Japanese and Argentine exchange were higher. Gold rose 1s. 8d. to 113s. 5d. per oz.; silver advanced ½d. to 18 11-16d. (p. 18)

The Stock Markets yesterday followed closely the fluctuations in sterling exchange, a sharp fall at the opening being followed by a recovery. Gilt-edged securities in one or two instances closed with small net gains. The Industrial market remained heavy in tone. Cables and Wireless stocks were depressed. South African Mining shares received support. In the Foreign market there was a demand for Chinese bonds. (p. 18)

## REMOVING ANOMALIES

The figures of unemployment continue to fall, but the increase of employment has not been equal in recent weeks to the statistical decline in unemployment. It is well known that during the last eighteen months the offer of easy money, in the guise of unemployment benefit, has attracted to the employment exchanges many thousands of persons not genuinely and normally in employment. A weeding-out of the married women not genuinely seeking industrial work is now in progress, and the stern requirements of economy have also led to a review of the conditions on which benefit is paid to seasonal and some other classes of workers. The effect of the regulations which carry out the provisions of what is popularly known as the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Act obscures at present the comparative value of the unemployment figures; but the process of rectification is statistically and financially wholesome. In the first fortnight of the application of the regulations 77,572 persons were disqualified for benefit. The reduction in the unemployment figures recorded to-day will be largely a consequence of further disqualifications, but it would be far from accurate to assume that all the disqualified persons cease to register their names at the exchanges. Some time must elapse before the exact results can be ascertained.

But neither the fact nor the number of the disqualifications should excite misgivings as to the justice of the action that has been taken. The disqualifications are not wholesale and indiscriminate but individual and after inquiry by courts of referees. All the disqualified persons are in one or other of four categories, but two of these categories are so very small that together they include only 163 persons. It was never anticipated that there would be many who "habitually" work for less than a full week and yet "by the practice of the 'trade' receive earnings of greater amount than the normal earnings for a full week of persons following the same occupation in the same district. That such persons should receive unemployment benefit at all was scandalous as well as anomalous. The Ministry's regulation is as strong as the law allows it to be, but not as strong as it ought to be, because it should not be permissible for men to draw benefit in any week when they receive a full week's wage even though the occurrence may not be "habitual." Nor was it anticipated that there would be very many working where their services are not normally required for more than two days a week and drawing benefit regularly for the remaining four days. There must, however, be more of this class of employed person than the figures have yet revealed. The custom of engaging week-end assistants has been increasing in some retail trades, encouraged by the use, legal but not equitable, of the unemployment benefit as a supplement to the inadequate weekly income. When the benefit thus becomes a wage subsidy it is being diverted from its proper purpose. For this reason the practice of arranging systematic short time on benefit will require to be examined sooner or later.

Nearly six thousand of the disqualifications are of persons who have only worked seasonally and whose record during the last two years shows that, because of personal disinclination or the industrial circumstances of the district, or some other continuing disability, they have not had, and are not likely to have, insurable employment to any substantial extent in the "off" season. The seasonal worker can no longer be assured of enjoying a winter of benefit as a reward for a few months of work in the summer. The greatest number of the disqualified are, however, married women, 71,567 having been deprived of benefit. It is important that there should be a clear understanding of the circumstances in which the decisions of the courts of referees have been given. In the first place the anomalies regulations do not apply to a woman whose husband is incapacitated from work or is unemployed and not in receipt of benefit. But if there be *prima facie* evidence that any other married woman is not really in the employed class, then she can be called upon to prove that she is normally in insurable employment and will normally seek to obtain her livelihood by means of such employment and can reasonably expect to obtain employment in the district where she lives. The *prima facie* test the Ministry of Labour's officials apply is a simple one. A woman who, since marriage, has paid less than fifteen contributions, or (if she has been married more than six months) less than eight in the preceding three months, is required to make good her claim. Of those who have already failed to do so as many as 30,000, it is reported, have not troubled to re-register at the exchanges. By their own admission, therefore, these 30,000 are not now even nominally seeking employment. The unemployment benefit had

indeed become in a large number of cases a marriage subsidy—a young woman's dowry provided unwittingly by the State. Since the spring of last year no one has had, until now, to prove a genuine search for work or a reasonable period of employment during the preceding two years. The laxity of the law has led to many abuses, and lest it should be supposed that the young married woman is hardly dealt with it should be kept in mind that there is still a six months' period in which the insurance officials cannot challenge her claim. A six months' dowry is therefore fairly secure and that is a handsome return for the contributions of her maiden years.

Some other consequences of lax conditions of benefit are statistically, if not financially, important. The number of the industrial population is made to appear larger than it really is and the amount of unemployment greater than it would be if there were not the dolo—properly so called—to induce many thousands of persons to retain a nominal and not an active place in the industrial field. The Ministry of Labour's annual enumeration of the insured population has shown an abnormal rise of the numbers in recent years. This is not due to an increase of the number of new entrants into industry; the tendency is rather for the number of juvenile recruits to decline. The explanation is that fewer people are passing out of the insurance scheme. If the rate of exit during the three years preceding 1928 had been continued in the three following years there would have been 394,000 fewer males and 237,000 fewer females within the insurance scheme last July. It is true that insurance has not been the only influence contributing to this result. There has been less emigration; fewer insured workers have entered into business on their own account; some have returned from business to insured employment and, because of the trade depression, fewer non-manual workers have passed above the £250 income limit. But when allowance has been made for all these things, the easier conditions of benefit are the principal reason why 630,000 persons have continued to be numbered as employed or employable. The Ministry of Labour says, without reserve, that these easier conditions attracted a renewal of claims from "large numbers" who had ceased to register at the exchanges; and it is certain that a great many married women, like the 71,000 now disqualified, obtained lucrative sinecures for little or no effort.

## Two German Sentences

During the last few days two disquieting sentences have been passed by German Courts. On Friday the High Court of Breslau sentenced a foreigner who had been tried in camera to six months' imprisonment on a charge of "attempted treason." The name and nationality of the defendant were not made public, but the well-informed *Berliner Tageblatt* has stated that he is a Pole and that he was charged with reporting to his Government the proceedings at the great rally of the Stahlhelms who paraded before the former Crown Prince of Prussia at Breslau near the Polish border on May 31. The Stahlhelm is a strongly Nationalist body organized on military lines, still largely composed of ex-Servicemen and led by ex-officers who include members of the old ruling houses. Its root idea is that front-line service has produced a special type of manhood—the "Richtmann," or gentleman—although the critics of this disputable proposition might suggest that the method of production is an expensive one. Its avowed objects are the revival of the martial spirit of Germany and the rescission, rather than the revision, of the Treaty of Versailles. But it is in no sense an official body. The Government of the Reich, which tried to suppress it in 1922 and must have known that the Prussian Government did temporarily suppress it in the Rhineland and in Westphalia in 1929, met a Polish protest against the Breslau rally and the provocative speeches delivered there with the reply that the Stahlhelm was a private association of ex-soldiers "with no military aims." Nevertheless on July 9 several German newspapers announced that a Pole and two Czech "agents" had been arrested for "spying" on the rally, and added that the Breslau police had expected foreign agents to attend the demonstration and had lain in wait for them accordingly. Our Berlin Correspondent pointed out at the time that, if the German Government's description of the Stahlhelm were correct, the position of foreigners watching its evolutions would be analogous to that of a German visitor to England who watched a meeting of the British Legion. The Breslau police, who are reported to have arrested three foreigners, and the High Court, which has condemned one of their number, clearly take a different view of the importance of this militarist organization; and their action will inevitably reinforce the misgivings excited in other countries by the recent contradictions of German policy.

These misgivings will be strengthened by the sentences of eighteen months' imprisonment imposed by the Supreme Court of Leipzig on the editor of a German Radical review and the author of an article on German aviation published in it. They were found guilty of the betrayal of military secrets, and the Court, before announcing the verdict, excluded the public on the ground that the summing-up, with its references to the incriminating article and the official secrets which, it found, had been disclosed, could not be publicly read without endangering the national security. Here again other Powers are confronted with a strange divergence between German official declarations and the verdict of a German Court. The Treaty of Versailles forbids Germany to maintain a military air force: the writer of the offending article, who was himself an air-pilot, had criticized the heavy expenditure of public money on aviation, and had hinted that some of this expenditure had been devoted to military rather than civil ends. The democratic Press of the Reich is clearly surprised by this attack on the liberty of the Press and alarmed by the inevitable effect of the verdict on foreign opinion. The *Vossische Zeitung* and other influential newspapers argue that these heavy sentences will give the impression abroad that the Reich has important military secrets to hide. There is ample justification for their criticisms. Following on the Breslau trial, which gives the impression that the Stahlhelm is a sort of auxiliary army enjoying the covert support of the Government of the disarmed Reich, comes the Leipzig trial with its suggestion that the German civil air-service is, if not a camouflaged air-force, at least designed for rapid conversion to military purposes. Too much, no doubt, may be made of the contrast between these sentences and the stock complaints that Germany through her loyalty to the treaty which has disarmed her is now defenceless amid the armed nations. But it is there to furnish other Powers with what their friends will

call good reasons, and what their critics must admit are good excuses, for maintaining their present armaments. The Disarmament Conference is drawing near. Its success will depend largely on the confidence of the neighbours of Germany in her good faith. In a letter published in *The Times* on July 11 Sir Austen Chamberlain urged the German Government and people to "cease to place obstacles in the 'path of the peace-maker' and to 'set themselves seriously to discourage the agents provocateurs who have been busy in their midst,' and to restore to Europe that confidence in 'their good will and good faith which recent 'events have done so much to destroy.' The trials at Breslau and Leipzig have added additional force to his appeal.

## Treatment and Research

The excellent progress of the Hospital Saving Association, to which reference was made at the annual meeting of group representatives yesterday, is further indication of the value attached by the public to the services of the hospitals. The movement is everywhere advancing in spite of adverse times. Thus, whereas in 1930 there were in existence 7,986 groups, the number is now 8,786. The number of contributors last year was \$10,144; this year it is 929,480 and the contributions have mounted, in the same period, from £438,354 to £516,415. This is a notable achievement seeing that throughout the year men have been discharged from work, firms closed, and groups disbanded. During the past year the Association has paid the large sum of £388,580 for hospital services. This payment represents, however, only a part of the service being rendered to the hospitals. The Association is the means of directing the achievements of medical science and thus of stimulating public interest in every effort to overcome ignorance and improve the means of healing. This office may not seem so important as, for example, the inculcation of independence and of a provident attitude towards the future; but those who know how necessary to the work of research is the support of an enlightened public opinion will not underestimate its value. Research has always been and must always be a chief function of every hospital which can afford the necessary equipment, for progress in the treatment of disease is nourished on the fruits of observation and discovery.

This truth finds an excellent illustration in the lecture delivered yesterday by Dr. H. H. DALE, of which a report appears in another column. Dr. DALE told again in detail the story of the work on rickets in this and other countries during the last ten years, and showed how clinical investigation, biological study, and the science of physics and chemistry have played their parts in a notable achievement. In the first place it was observed that rickets might be cured by certain foods, notably cod liver oil, and also by exposure of the patient to sunlight or to ultra-violet rays. These apparently widely different methods were related to one another by the discovery that there exists in the skin a substance capable, under the influence of sunlight, of producing an element now known as Vitamin D, which is present in the foods that cure rickets. A further stage was the discovery, in the National Institute of Medical Research, of the substance capable of being acted upon by sunlight. The name ergosterol was bestowed on it and it was prepared and put upon the market, thus affording a cheap and efficient method of treating rickets. Dr. DALE was able yesterday to describe the last stage of all—namely, the production of Vitamin D itself in a pure, crystalline form. He showed his audience "a little pinch of white crystals," a gramme of which, he stated, possessed a power of preventing or curing rickets equivalent to that possessed by about half a ton of cod liver oil. In "calciferol," as the new substance has been named, medicine evidently possesses a weapon of such admirable precision as has not formerly been known. It is a matter of congratulation that British workers, acting with the support of the Medical Research Council, have played a conspicuous part in this study.

## The Roses Round the Door

The correspondent whose admirable advice about planting creepers is published in this issue will not be surprised if his letter is received in some quarters with savage growls or with sneers chilling enough to shiver all the creepers in villadom. And has it come to this—for that is the recognized beginning of all such protests—has it come to this, that English domestic architecture is so ugly that vegetable growths should be employed to cover it up? There is an answer to that rhetorical question; and the answer is, Yes, it has. It came to that a good many years ago. And the effect has sunk so deep into the spirit of the people that it finds expression even in their popular songs. "The roses round the door Make me love Mother more"—without the help of such adventitious beauty even the fundamental emotions of the human heart will wither away under the ugliness or the dullness of the home. And thus it comes about that, when "every girl sees a home 'through her engagement ring,' that home has not only a bright pink roof but creepers up the walls. The desire for creepers does not always deserve to be so dramatically punished as it was in a song which was a favourite many years ago in Oxford Common Rooms:—

The House Agent had promised her a lovely tenement, Just a rustic cot, with creepers, at a very moderate rent. The creepers certainly were there, but not the sort she meant. Well, you know the sort of creepers that I mean! But the desire for even the most respectable sort of creepers is not unreservedly to be commended.

"The use of a mirror, we submit," wrote MACAULAY in a famous essay, "is not to be 'painted upon.' In the Aesthetic Era they differed from MACAULAY and painted blunders and all sorts of pretty things on their mirrors. The use of an elevation (as the architects call it), we submit, is not to be covered up with creepers. True, there may be more excuse for that than there is for painting on a mirror, which is not in itself ugly, or for painting over a pallid and pasty face, which is better cured by exercise and fresh air. Creepers are partly natural, and are in themselves beautiful. But it is not, or should not be, true that in most cases the beauty of the house we admire is not due to its architecture but to 'its draping of vines, roses, &c.' Now or old, the house should have been so designed that its own beauty will embrace and enfold that of the creeper. And creepers themselves gain much from their setting. Where does ampelopsis or Virginia creeper look more lovely than upon some noble old wall in Oxford? What cannot a wistaria lose by hanging below a mean roof and an ungainly chimney? Creepers are good; but their beauty must not be taken as any excuse for bad architecture.

## INDIA AND DOMINION STATUS

## MR. CHURCHILL'S VIEW

## A LOOSE TERM DEFINED

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—Lord Irwin misapprehends the direction of the criticism which, much to my regret on personal grounds, I made against him and those associated with him in Indian politics.

There are many speeches of public men and Ministers in the years immediately after the War about "Dominion status" for India. They may have been wise or unwise, practical or sentimental; but all were governed by the India Act of 1919. The preamble of this Act defines the policy and gradual development of self-governing institutions in India, and Clause 41 affirms the right of Parliament after a period of 10 years upon the report of a Statutory Commission to decide "Whether and to what extent it is desirable to establish the principle of responsible government, or to extend, modify, or restrict the degree of responsible government . . . existing in India."

In the 10 years several important things happened. The Montagu-Chelmsford reforms were not attended by an increase in good will even from those political classes they were designed to satisfy, nor by an improvement in the efficiency of Indian administration. On the contrary, degeneration alike in political feeling and in the quality of the administration of many services was obvious. The Statutory Commission, consisting of many all parties, after surveying the whole field, deliberately avoided mentioning the term "Dominion status" in their Report. They did this, not because it would be right to assign final limits to the progress in self-government of any of his Majesty's subjects; but because it was clear that no helpful advantage would follow from the use of such expressions at that time.

Moreover, in the interval a second situation had occurred. The Imperial Conference of 1926 had transformed the meaning attached to the loose term "Dominion status" in such a way as to abolish all conception of Imperial supremacy; and this change was subsequently to be prescribed in the rigid language of a statute.

It was at this juncture, when the Statutory Commission desired to exclude all mention of "Dominion status" from their Report, and when "Dominion status" itself had been fundamentally altered, that Lord Irwin and the Socialist Government he served went out of their way to make a new declaration reviving the term "Dominion status" and bringing it into the forefront of the immediate issues of Indian politics. The disastrous consequences of this first, that the Report of the Statutory Commission was fatally prejudiced before it was published; and, secondly, that "Dominion status," instead of being a vague, remote, and largely ceremonial aspiration, was something already in their grasp, not to be esteemed or valued, except as an admission extorted from Great Britain upon the path to independence.

This double disaster has poisoned alike the present and the future. Hopes have been aroused which are not going to be gratified; words and phrases have been used in a new atmosphere upon high, formal, responsible authority, which everyone knows do not accord with the realities of the Indian situation. Ground has been given for reproach, and Parliament is itself involved in profound embarrassment.

This is the burden which, in my judgment, rests upon those who have directed the recent course of Indian affairs.

Yours faithfully,  
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.  
House of Commons, November 24.

## NO DOG RACING AT THE OVAL

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The Duchy of Cornwall must be congratulated on the decision to abandon the idea of dog racing at the Oval.

At this historic ground our boys and young men are taught the splendid rules of the greatest game in the world. Rules, involving courage, tenacity, clear vision, quick decision, playing the game always. Rules, if taken as a guide for ordinary affairs of life, play a great part in promoting clean, healthy, and responsible citizenship.

To associate cricket with dog racing and its attendant evil of gambling would surely be a retrograde step. The souls of Kennington, and in fact all lovers of the game of cricket, are so concerned that the threatened undesirable association will not now take place.

Yours faithfully,  
HERBERT W. TWITCHE.  
53, Fentiman-road, Clapham-road, S.W.8, Nov. 24.

## CREEPERS AS HOUSE BEAUTIFIERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—Now that the time of year for planting is come, will you allow me to draw the attention of your readers to the enormous improvement which can be made even to the most hideous house by growing creepers up it?

If we examine a window of the old houses whose appearance we admire, we find that in most cases the house itself is not architecturally beautiful; its beauty is largely due to its draping of vines, roses, &c. And again when we see in a street of terribly dull and ugly new houses one which looks much less appalling than the rest, we find that it is simply because its owner has decorated it with creepers.

In spite of the increasing improvement in the style of small houses, in some districts, one unfortunately still sees more ugly than beautiful ones, and also monotonous streets with houses all exactly alike.

If only people would plant some of the very many different creepers, which can now be had quite cheaply, the improvement in the look of our country would be out of all proportion to the very small outlay entailed. There are so many to choose from, and so light—roses, clematis, virginian creepers, *pyrus japonica*, jasmines, pyracantha (which is making a glorious show this year with its orange-berried), vines, and most kinds of fruit trees which provide food as well as being ornamental. The interest and pleasure in choosing among so many charming possibilities, in planting and watching one's treasure grow, are other attractions to the scheme. Any nurseryman will advise as to what is the best to plant in a given place, and the cost of the work is too is not expensive, nor difficult to fix, and goes a long way to furnish a bare wall until the creepers get a hold, and is also an aid in supporting the plants that need it, so in short, allowing oneself to be all anxious to make the England of ours more beautiful—or we should be—for we have, alas! done so much to make her ugly; and I can think of no nobler expenditure in money and a little very pleasant labour.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
V. K. LE MAISTRE.

## A RECIPE FOR HAGGIS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—You allowed me not long ago to send you a recipe for dry curry, of which subsequent comments and correspondence showed wide appreciation. In view of the approaching national festival of St. Andrew may I now contribute a formula for haggis, not less deserving of veneration?

Take a mutton pound, wash it, and turn it inside out. Boil it together for half an hour the heart, lungs, and liver of a sheep. Chop the meat very finely except pieces of the liver, which (when quite cool) must be grated. Add a glass of whisky, a treasure grow, are other attractions to the scheme. Any nurseryman will advise as to what is the best to plant in a given place, and the cost of the work is too is not expensive, nor difficult to fix, and goes a long way to furnish a bare wall until the creepers get a hold, and is also an aid in supporting the plants that need it, so in short, allowing oneself to be all anxious to make the England of ours more beautiful—or we should be—for we have, alas! done so much to make her ugly; and I can think of no nobler expenditure in money and a little very pleasant labour.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
DAVID HUNTER BLAIR.  
Belmont Abbey, Hereford.

## THE STEEL AGE

## A REVOLUTION IN BUILDING

## FIRST-FRUIT OF RESEARCH

The Steel Structures Research Committee, of which Sir Clement Hindley is chairman, publishes to-day its first Report. (H.M. Stationery Office, 5s. net.)

By Sir Clement Hindley

It is remarkable that revolutions in this country take place without anyone being aware of them. Probably few people except those directly engaged in industry realize how great a revolution the use of steel has caused in the building industry. We stand and admire one of the huge industrial "houses" in London; we note the simple dignity given by its fine lines; we see apparently a self-supporting mass of masonry; and we forget the steel skeleton which was visible a few weeks previously. Yet, as Sir Frank Baines has pointed out, it is the steel frame which gives the building its true form, and the outside covering of masonry is really only part of the decoration. The same is true of a modern palace of amusement. How many of the audience in a super-cinema know that the magnificent proportions of the interior and the harmonious treatment of the exterior are due to the use of steel? How many of those seated in the balconies know that they are sitting on a steel bridge constructed on similar principles to those applied in, say, the Forth Bridge, and that it is this that makes possible "an uninterrupted view from every seat"?

Thirty-five years have passed since the first steel-frame building was erected in this country. Since then the application of steel to building construction has year by year increased until steel has become, in many important commercial buildings, practically the one indispensable material. Steel alone can carry the heavy loads and make possible the wide spans necessary to meet modern requirements, while facilitating the speed of erection imposed by the high site values current in industrial and business centres.

## THE APPEAL TO SCIENCE

Building is a first overhead charge upon every form of commercial or industrial enterprise, and the costs of building are reflected in almost every phase of our industrial life. A reduction in building costs would, therefore, be no small factor in stimulating trade and combating unemployment. So far as this becomes possible in steel-frame building through the introduction of improved principles of technique and practice, the natural desire of the steel industry to extend the use of steel in building construction will mean corresponding benefits to the nation. The far-sighted view that the evolution of improved technique could best be sought in the application of fundamental scientific principles was accepted some two years ago by the leaders of the steel industry. On their behalf the British Steelwork Association asked the assistance of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in dealing with the problems involved. The result was the setting up by the Department of the Steel Structures Research Committee, which has been charged with the duties of reviewing the present methods and regulations for the design of steel structures (including bridges), of investigating the application of the modern theory of structures to the design of steel structures, and, where possible, of making recommendations for the translation of the results achieved into practice.

The Committee represents a double bond of cooperation, first between the State and industry, and, secondly, between the professional and academic expert and the constructional engineer. On the one hand, the facilities and organization of the Building Research Station of the Department are at the service of the Committee, and the expenses of the research are met in part by contributions from the British Steelwork Association and other industrial interests. On the other hand, eminent authorities invited by the Department to become members of the Steel Structures Research Committee and its Panels are giving their services freely and jointly with representatives of the steelwork firms. As indicated in the first Report of the Committee now published, this interlocking of interests holds promise of rapid progress in the development of theory and in ensuring the reliability and acceptability of that theory and its ready application to everyday use.

Although the Report shows that an excellent start has been made on the far-reaching programme of research drawn up under the Committee's auspices, it must not be supposed that full advantage of the Committee's work can be taken for some time. One has only to watch a huge girder, weighing perhaps 80 tons, being slowly manoeuvred into position, and then to think of the light, almost wirelike, construction of the steel members used in modern aircraft and the tremendous forces they must be designed to withstand