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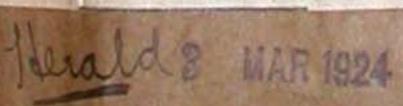
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ESPERANTO CLASS.

On Monday evening a class was formed at the Y.M.C.A. for the study of Esperanto, Mr. W. L. Waterman (the leader) stated that Esperanto was a language of recent growth. which was rapidly gaining adherents. who were studying it in the hope that it would become a commonly used universal language. The people. mostly in small groups, in nearly every country in th world, who were able to read, write and converse in Esperanto think if this could become general it would be a great help in the festering of good international relations. It was decided to take a twelm lesson course on Mondays. The class commenced with Y.M.C.A. students.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1.

Trade Pillars of Empire

(By Harry Thomson.)

The British Empire, it is said, was founded in a fit of absence of mind. It is certainly true that those most qualified to judge a century or more ago expected the Colonies ultimately to separate rather than cohere. They had the American precedent before their eyes. Yet, as we all know, although the political ties have become relaxed with the grant of self-government to the Dominions, the sentimental tie has become stronger. More to play with, One easily becomes tired significant, but less obvious, is the fact of them. But the real importance and that the economic tie has also grown. | meaning of the above figures can

sought to be won on the slogan "Pro- tain that from the British point of tection of the Home Markets." "Em- view they have never been adequately pire trade." "Empire preferences," and realised. They were stressed by none in particular the direct effect of such of the parties at the British general on English unemployment, were scar- elections. Yet the moral is surely obcely touched on. If not completely vious. It is that trade should increas-0 decisive, these things might yet have lingly be directed into Empire chano gone far to win the election for Mr. | nels. It is that anyone of the larger Baldwin. Their ignoring was fatal, in Dominions is a more valuable custoview of the fact that unemployment | mer than any of the European counoutshadowed every other political is- tries, and accordingly should be cultisue in England.

Mr. MacDougall's Figures

0 who went to Great Britain as one of 0 the Dried Fruits Delegation, has been Mr. Bruce's right-hand man throughout the Imperial Conference in all matters connected with trade and commerce. He recently compiled a set of o figures, taken from the British Board o of Trade Export Returns for 1922, o which show an extraordinary result. 0 They are too lengthy and detailed to 0 be quoted here, but the results may o be summarised.

Britain's total exports in 1922 were £824,000,000. Her largest customers were India (11.3 per cent), the United O States (9.3 per cent.), and Australia (8 o per cent.) in that order. These figures, o however, include re-exports-that is, 0 goods on which no labor (other than 0 handling) is employed in England. Omitting these, Australia supplants America and becomes the United Kingdom's second largest customersecond, that is, only to India, which has a population 60 times as great.

Australia's Percentage

The analysis can be pushed further, but always with this result—that as one selects groups of goods on which more and more labor is employed, Australia's percentage becomes increasingly higher.

For example, the proportion of manufactured woollens and worsteds taken by Australia is immensely higher than the proportion of woollen and worsted yarns. The same thing applies to the Empire as a whole. Aluminium is a striking example. Great Britain exports to the Empire only 4 per cent. of her total exports of crude aluminium. Of aluminium manufacturers, within the Empire.

Comparing, again, cotton yarns with finished cotton piece goods, the Empire percentage rises from 22 to 50. Australia with its six million inhabitants, eyed sojourn on English soil I conclude took very nearly as great a quantity of that the Frenchman was right when he cotton piece goods in 1922 as did China with its 400 millions. Similar comparisons can be given in a great many groups of manufactures-paper, railway materials, machinery are but ilustrations.

From Another Angle

The problem can be viewed from mother angle. Ignoring the fact that the highest figure for unemployment ever reached in England was attained six months before the Ruhr occupaion, that event has been blamed for he unemployment. Not a few people n England have been clamoring, "Get back to normal trade relations with Germany and Russia, and all will be well with British trade, and in partiular unemployment will cease."

The Board of Trade ngures for 1913 which is the last reliable basis of comparison) show that in that year Australia alone purchased £31,000,000 worth of manufactured goods from Great Britain as against £26,000,000 by Jermany. The German figures include more than £10,000,000 expended on varns, where the labor employed was comparatively small.

Now, take the case of Russia in the same year, 1913. New Zealand, with ts one million inhabitants, purchased almost exactly the same quantity of manufactured goods as the whole of Russia, with its population then of 176 millions. So far as employment of the British working man was concerned one New Zealander was worth nearly 200 Russians, and one Australian represented more to Britain than 100 Rus-

Important Figures

Figures at best are cold companions The recent British election was scarcely be exaggerated. It is quite cervated. It is, further, that if trade has anything to do with British unemployment then one extra Deminion cus-0 Mr. F. L. MacDougall, of Renmark, tomer is worth to the British labor markets, half a dozen new customers anywhere else in the world-

The corollary would seem to be from the English politicians' viewpoint, that a small preference given to a few of the Dominion products is not a great price to pay for a large preference on all British imports, as is given by all

the Dominions today.

A few hundred pounds spent by Australia House for propaganda on these lines would be almost as useful as weekly official representations at banquets in London.

HOME AGAIN

Englishman, after 10 years' absence, finds no change in country people. or in its

STIFF SHIRTS TABOO

(By Dr. H. Heaton)

"You'll find everything very changed, overything different." Such was the general comment with which people said farewell to us on our departure for however, 75 per cent. are absorbed England after a 10 years' absence. In fact, to study these changes at firsthand was one of our chief reasons for presenting nearly half a year's salary to the Commonwealth line of steamers. And yet, today, after a month's widesaid, "The more things change, the more they are the same."

One noticed it on the boat-an Australian-owned liner. The barber spoke pure pre-war Cockney, the engineers were often vociferously Scotch; the cigarettes were English and good, the tobacco English and rotten, the beer Bass', and-well, I have no pre-war experience on which to base a comparison. The Lancashire passengers still called the stuff you spread on bread "butter" and not "battah," and when a Yorkshire lass called someone "a girt gaumless brat" I felt that the King's English, as spoken in the Duchy of York had at least remained pure and undefiled. Most of the passengers had emigrated-I beg pardon, migrated-to Australia about a year before, had missed fire and fortune, and were returning disgruntled, exercising the Briton's right to grumble and "grouse."

Even the comic songs were unchanged in character; they still relied on matrimonial maladjustments, double entendres, and mothers in-law for their jokes. Here and there was a man with a sear on his face; people did not respond when you invited them to take their partners for the polka or lancers. But they will played whist instead of bridge, atole other people's deck chairs, got drume, dodged Divine service and boat drill, and complained about the behavior of other people's children, all in the good old pre-war way of Britons at sea.

PLEA FOR SUNSHINE.

The weather seemed to have altered a bit. The Bight was blue, the Indian Ocean calm as the River Tamar, the Red Sea cool and rainy, the Mediterranean was rough and grey, the Bay gently rocky, the Channel a millpond.



Dr. H. Heaton,

Director of Tutorial Classes of the Workers' Educational Association.

But on land the climate was abominably pre-war. Mild and muggy down south, cold, foggy, sooty, up north, with days devoid of sun. We did not mind the cold, in fact, we do not feel it, but, oh, for an export trade in Australian sunshine! And the Englishman's reply to his weather is still the same. He piles the grate up with a furnace-like coal fire, shuts out every breath of air, roasts, and asphyxiates himself. Then, semi-stupefied by heat and bad air, he goes off to a bedroom where the temperature is below freezing point, and gets chills and chilblains. His fear of fresh air indoors is often fear of his wife, for if you keep a window open in that sooty industrial area spring cleaning has to be done daily. But away from the factories it is just as bad. Men who have spent four years out in France are as devoted breathers of carbon dioxide as were their parents. I went to a conference at Oxford. The junior common room was hot, full of people and smoke. I opened a window, and the glorious oxygen came in; I stood up to speak and somebody slily shut the windom. In railway trains my wife wages a battle royal with other passengers for the control of the window strap. How a race brought up on CO2 ever came to capture the wide expanses of America or Australia is a puzzle to me. How it was ever able to capture anything is a bigger puzzle still.

COUNTRYSIDE UNCHANGED.

One runs through town and country, and little seems changed. The thatchroofed cottages, picturesque and insanitary, the pocket-handkerchief paddocks, too small for efficient working, the hedges occupying vast areas of fertile land, the stately homes, spacious parks, and high walls all round. In the towns the quarter inch layer of mud on the streets, the back-to-back houses with the doorstep on the footpath, the forest of chimney-pots creating fog and work for the doctor, the cloth-capped and bowler-hatted men, the flaring lights of the shops, the election posters-Vote for Protection, Higher Weges, and Lower Prices-the not quite truthful invitations to emigrate to some Dominion, the roast potato engine, the omnipotent Bobby, the lavish tobacco window display of Salmon and Gluckstein. Yes, and there is a sweet

old smell coming across the street What is it? through the mist. Certainly not eucalyptus. Fish and chips! Now I know we are in England, and that England is at heart unchanged. But I'm wrong. In the old days one could buy a "ha'porth of each," served on a piece of newspaper with vinegar and salt free; today the same serving costs fourpence. England has changed, for the worse.